Contents

Acknowledgments	page vii
Chapter 1 Shakespeare and English poetry	y 1
Versification and meter	4
Shakespeare and early modern poetry	11
Chapter 2 Shakespeare's banquet of	
sense: Venus and Adonis	19
Carnal and verbal pleasure	21
Wordplay and foreplay	24
Love and lust	31
The death of Adonis and the birth of erotic	
unhappiness	34
Chapter 3 Constraint and complaint in	
Lucrece	38
Tarquin and predatory lust	40
Lucrece: resistance and complaint	46
Founding the Roman republic	54
Chapter 4 Mysteries of the Sonnets: Dedication, publication, sequence,	
characters	57
Publication and dedication	57
The temptations of autobiography and sequence	60
Characters and reception	64

vi Contents

Chapter 5 Time and mortality in the	
Sonnets	69
Time and progeny	69
Time and poetry	76
Time and love	80
Time and the afterlife	84
Chapter 6 Friendship and love, darkness and lust: Desire in the Sonnets	88
The master-mistress: Sonnet 20	9(
The marriage of true minds: Sonnet 116	92
Olympian restraint: Sonnet 94	96
The Dark Lady	98
Love and appetite	103
Love and disease	105
Chapter 7 Solitary and mutual flames: A Lover's Complaint and "The Phoenix and Turtle"	112
A Lover's Complaint	113
"The Phoenix and Turtle"	122
Chapter 8 Fantasies of Shakespearean	
authorship	130
The Passionate Pilgrim	132
John Benson, editor	134
Occasional verse	135
Passionate pilgrims: "Shall I die?" and the	
Funeral Elegy	140
Notes	144
Further reading	152
Index	157