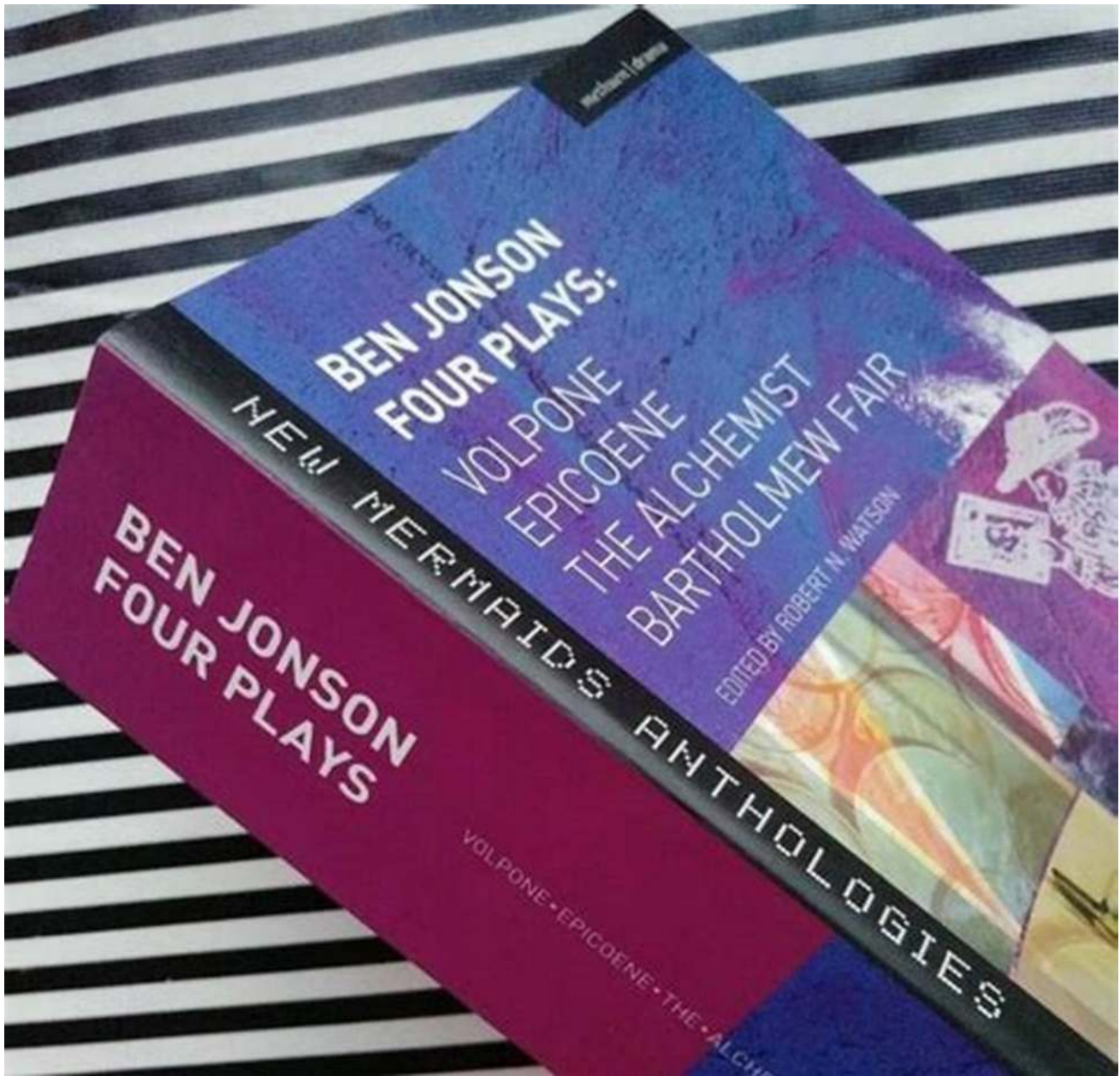


# Unveiling the Brilliance of Ben Jonson: Exploring Four Plays from the New Mermaids Collection



*"Discover the genius of Ben Jonson, as we delve into the captivating realm of his Four Plays from the New Mermaids collection. Brace yourself for an*

***irresistible journey through highly acclaimed works, each filled with wit, intrigue, and thought-provoking themes that transcend time."***

Are you hungry for captivating literature that both entertains and challenges your perceptions? If so, venture forth into the enchanting world of Ben Jonson. The New Mermaids collection offers an extraordinary glimpse into the theatrical mastery of this legendary playwright. In this article, we will dive deep into the untamed depths of Jonson's genius, examining four of his most notable plays. Get ready to be enthralled by timeless plots, riveting characters, and thought-provoking themes that continue to resonate with audiences centuries later.



## Ben Jonson: Four Plays (New Mermaids)

by Ben Jonson (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 9044 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 740 pages



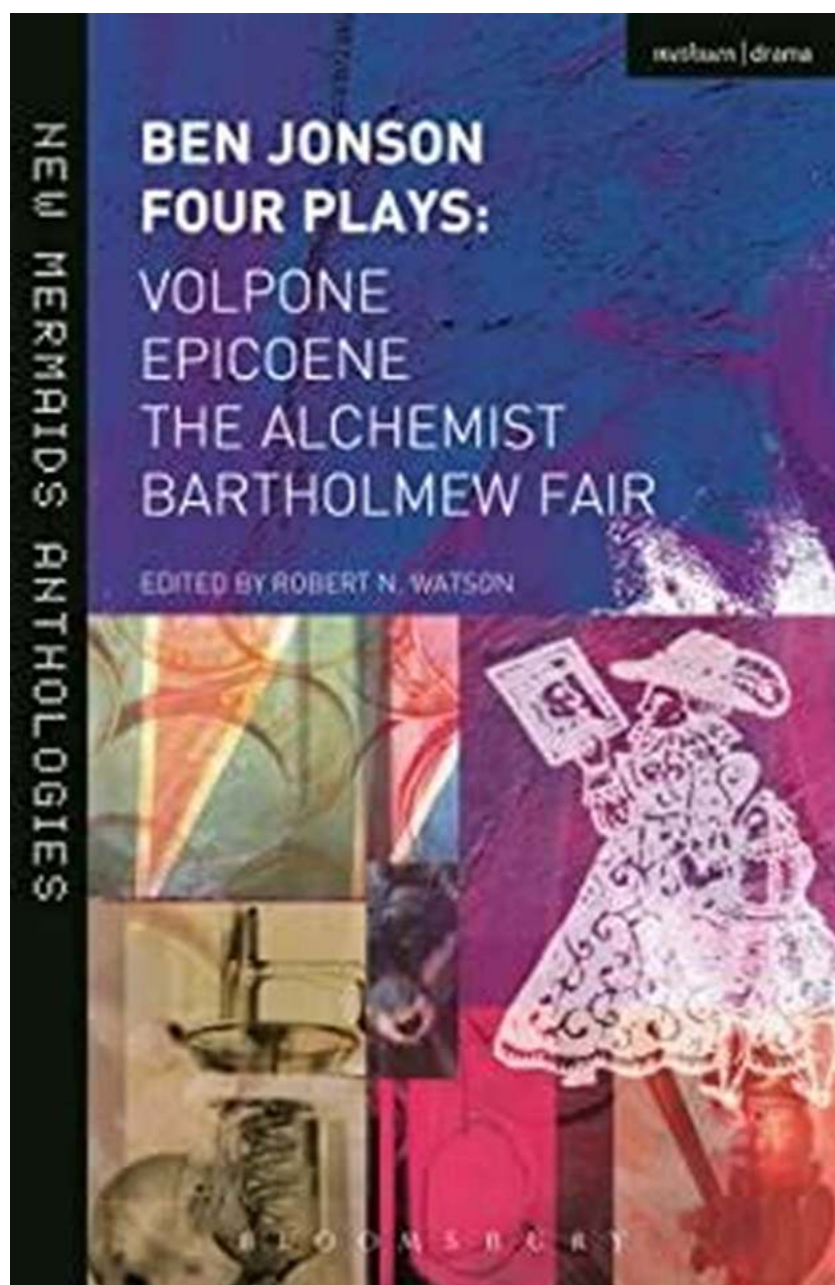
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### 1. "Volpone" - A Masterpiece of Greed, Deception, and Moral Ambiguity

Step into the dark and twisted world of "Volpone," a play that masterfully intertwines satire and morality. Explore the depths of human greed through the character of Volpone, a cunning Venetian nobleman feigning illness to attract the

riches of others. In a world peppered with deceit, no one is safe from the avaricious grip of this unparalleled anti-hero. Jonson's wit laces each line, leaving audiences spellbound by the cunning wordplay and unyielding examinations of human nature.

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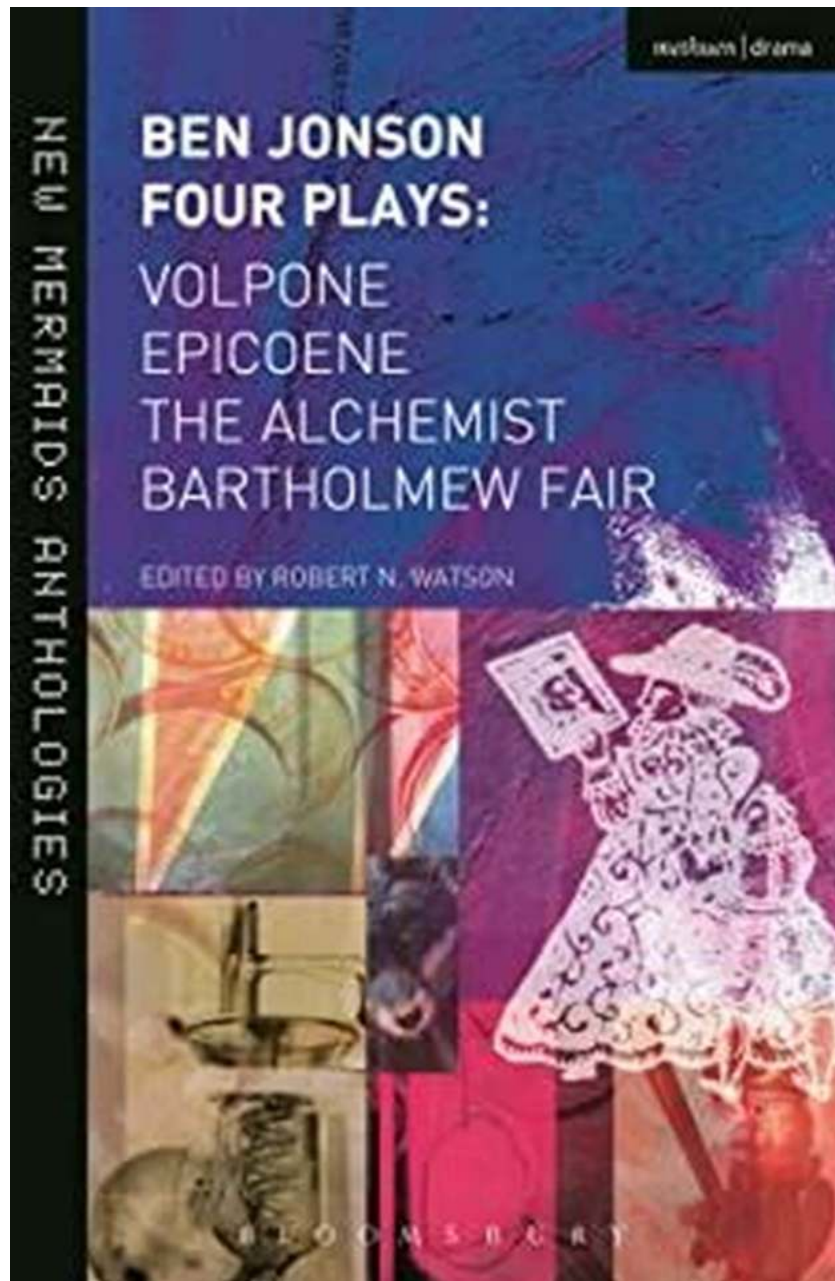
One of the most captivating aspects of "Volpone" is the morally ambiguous nature of the characters. They blur the lines between right and wrong, forcing audiences to question their own values and beliefs. With every twist and turn, Jonson guides us through a web of intrigue, greed, and ultimately, poetic justice. Prepare to be ensnared in the deceptive machinations of "Volpone," a play that holds a mirror up to society and compels us to confront our own darkest desires.

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## **2. "The Alchemist" - Unlocking the Mysteries of Human Ambition**

Enter the world of alchemy, where the pursuit of power and wealth drives even the most virtuous to the edge of reason. "The Alchemist" unveils a kaleidoscope of eccentric characters, each harboring secret desires and hidden agendas. Led by the conniving duo of Subtle and Face, this play takes audiences on a rollercoaster ride through the underbelly of Jacobean London.

"Ben Jonson Four Plays New Mermaids - The Alchemist"



Jonson's exquisite command of language lends itself perfectly to the rapid-fire comedy in "The Alchemist." While laughter will echo throughout the theater, beneath the surface lies a poignant exploration of the human condition. As the characters pursue their elusive dreams, we are compelled to question the lengths we are willing to go to for our own ambitions. Prepare to be captivated by Jonson's trademark wit, as "The Alchemist" immerses you in a world where

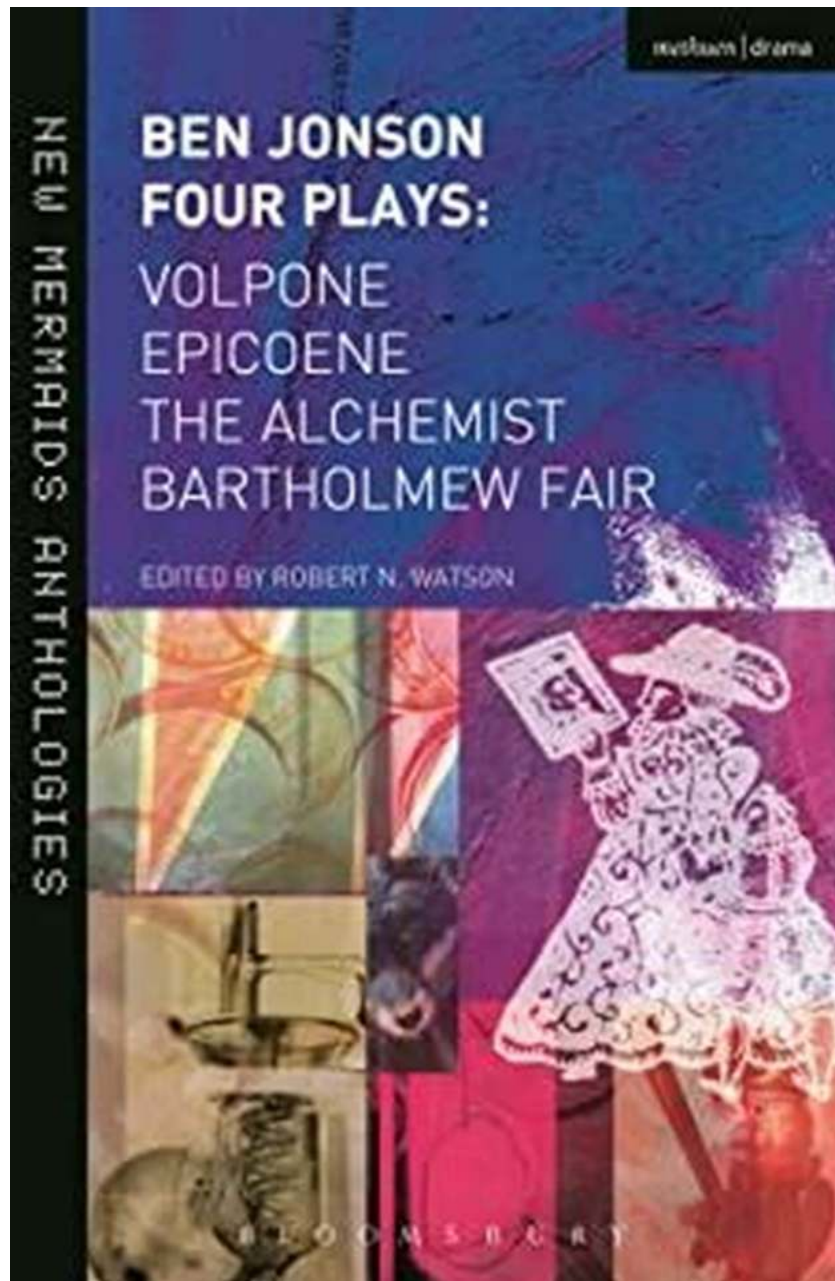
appearances are often deceiving, and the quest for power can lead to unexpected consequences.

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### **3. "Epicoene" - A Hilarious Deep Dive into the Complexities of Gender**

Delve into the colorful streets of London as Jonson paints a hilariously satirical portrait of a society grappling with notions of gender and identity. In "Epicoene," audiences encounter a young woman named Epicoene, who disguises herself as a boy, ultimately shedding light on the fluid nature of gender roles. Jonson's razor-sharp social commentary exposes the absurdity of societal norms, challenging traditional expectations at every turn.

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As the plot unfolds, "Epicoene" subverts expectations and invites audiences to reflect on the limitations placed on individuals based on their gender. Through witty dialogue and uproarious situations, Jonson leaves no stone unturned in his exploration of the fluidity of identity. The laughter that erupts from the audience is a testament to Jonson's ability to use humor to spark critical conversations about complex social issues. Prepare to be thoroughly entertained and fiercely provoked by the brilliance of "Epicoene."

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#### **4. "The Devil is an Ass" - A Dark Comedy of Morality and Deception**

"The Devil is an Ass" is a dark comedy that shines a light on the folly and naivety of human nature. Set amidst the chaos of Jacobean London, Jonson presents a cautionary tale of greed and deception. The protagonist, Fitzdottrel, is a gullible and bumbling man who unwittingly finds himself entangled in a world filled with con artists and charlatans.

"Ben Jonson Four Plays New Mermaids - The Devil is an Ass"





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Through an irresistible blend of slapstick humor, intricate wordplay, and razor-sharp wit, Jonson invites us to explore the true nature of humanity. As Fitzdottrel falls deeper into his own web of mistaken identity and gullibility, we are forced to confront our own susceptibility to manipulation. Beneath the laughter lies a

poignant examination of human frailty, reminding us that even the most well-intentioned can fall prey to the allure of deceit.

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## - A Journey into the Timeless Realm of Ben Jonson

Ben Jonson's Four Plays from the New Mermaids collection are a testament to his enduring genius. From the morally nuanced "Volpone" to the gender-bending comedy of "Epicoene," each play offers a peek into Jonson's masterful blend of wit, social commentary, and timeless themes. His works continue to captivate and provoke thought, leaving audiences spellbound centuries after their original performances. As you immerse yourself in Jonson's theatrical brilliance, be prepared to be entertained, inspired, and compelled to reflect upon the complexities of the human condition.



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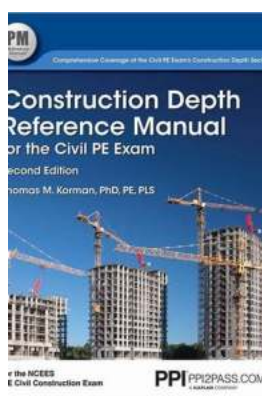
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Bringing together four of the most popular and widely studied of Ben Jonson's plays, this anthology focuses on the city comedies for which Jonson is best known today: The Alchemist (edited by Elizabeth Cook), Volpone (edited by

Robert N. Watson), Bartholmew Fair (edited by G.R. Hibbard) and Epicoene or The Silent Woman (edited by Roger Holdsworth).

Today Jonson's works are widely considered to be amongst the best produced in his period. The new by Robert N. Watson explores the plays in the context of early modern theatre, culture and politics, as well as providing a guide to the language, characters and themes. On-page commentary notes gloss the text in greater detail, making this the ideal edition for study and classroom use.



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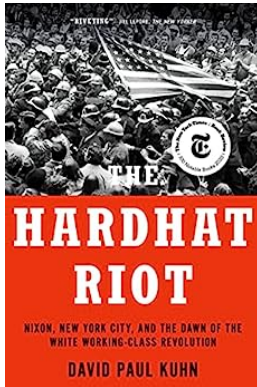
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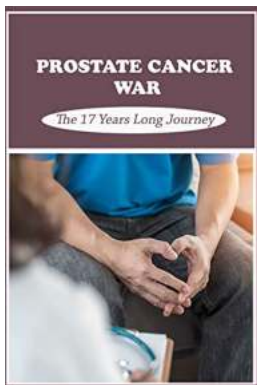
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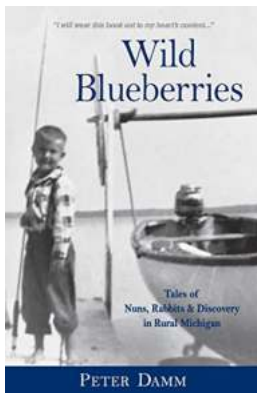
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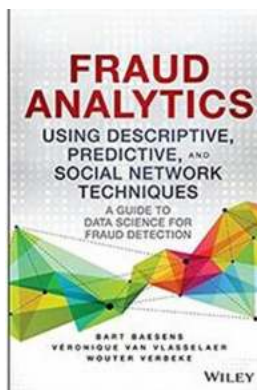
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