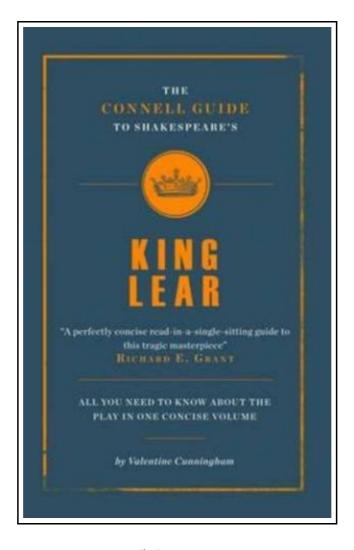
## The Connell Guide to Shakespeare's King Lear



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## THE CONNELL GUIDE TO SHAKESPEARE'S KING LEAR



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Connell Guides. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Connell Guide to Shakespeare's King Lear, Valentine Cunningham, Jolyon Connell, What is King Lear about? What is it that breaks down in Lear? How important are the gods? How Christian is Lear? What do we make of Bedlam Tom's gibberish? Why is Edgar so important? To what extent is Nature being questioned? How does Shakespeare show us a world reduced to "nothing"? Does the play undermine language itself? How sympathetic is Shakespeare's treatment of women in Lear? Where does Lear leave us in the end? How does Lear look forward to Beckett and the Theatre of the Absurd? The horrors of King Lear appalled Dr Johnson and exasperated A.C. Bradley, the most influential of all commentators on Shakespeare. Yet, like subsequent critics, they could not deny the play's greatness. For all his reservations Bradley conceded that it was the "fullest revelation of Shakespeare's power" - up there with Aeschylus's Prometheus Bound, Dante's Divine Comedy, Beethoven's symphonies and Michelangelo's statues. With his customary eloquence and passion, the distinguished critic Valentine Cunningham shows what it is that Shakespeare is driving at in Lear and how this extraordinary tragedy about a foolish old king who goes mad leads directly to Samuel Beckett and the Theatre of the Absurd.



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