

# THE TROUBLE WITH WORDS

## *A Third Case for Richard Palmer, Investigator*

When Shakespeare's intensely personal sonnets are published, only one thing is clear: none in the triangle of author, male muse or dark lady is best pleased – and each has a score to settle.

Richard Palmer is working as a censor, making sure that playhouse scripts do not offend political sensitivities. He works for the irascible, old-school Master of the Revels, Edmund Tilney and his designated successor, the altogether smoother Sir George Buc.

Buc has heard that William Shakespeare is working on a new play in collaboration with a novice writer. Who is George Wilkins? Buc wants to know; the landlord of Palmer's local in Clerkenwell and a brothel-keeper with a taste for violence, which touches someone close to Palmer. So he too has a score to settle.

Plague closes the playhouses on and off for two years. What are the actors to do and what does it mean for the censors? In the murky world of Jacobean publishing, an unauthorised issue of private sonnets by the best-selling writer of the age is bound to make waves...

### *About the author*

Chris Crowcroft travelled the world as an army brat. Educated at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover and St. Catherine's College, Oxford, after teaching English in Verona he made a career in the arts and in politics. He is a former trustee of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church, Holy Trinity, where Shakespeare lies buried in Stratford-upon Avon.

### *Readers' reviews of Palmer's first case: Shakespeare in Trouble*

- 'A stunning debut' – John McLaren
- 'A must-read' – Peter Bassano
- 'An intriguing twist on the Shakespeare tale' – Simon Tait, ai magazine
- 'May we see Palmer on another case? I hope so' – Andy Sawyer, Foundation

### *Readers' reviews of Palmer's second case: Fire, Burn!*

- 'Inspired. Shakespeare in Trouble was brilliant, but this is even better' – John McLaren
- 'Fast-moving storyline that was so gripping I just couldn't put the book down' – P. G. Delduca
- 'Gripping read' – Peter Bassano
- 'The saturnine Master Palmer – digging out history with a modern spade' – Simon Tait
- 'An immensely readable and exciting detective tale' – Tony Snapes, USA

*Front cover:* original title page with the mysterious dedication to Mr W.H. from Shakespeare's Sonnets, published 1609 by Thomas Thorpe.

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THESE.INSVING.SONNETS.  
M<sup>r</sup>.W.H. ALL.HAPPINESSE.  
AND.THAT.ETERNITIE.  
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