The Melancholy Muse: Chaucer, Shakespeare, And Early Medicine

Carol Falvo Heffernan

Melancholy is so much part of human experience that it is no surprise that, in its clinical dimension, it has been written about by physicians for hundreds of years, from antiquity into the 20th century. Shakespeare utilizes melancholy characters in several plays, not all of whom are given to villainy. Sometimes, the malcontent or melancholic could be utilized for comedic effect as a misplaced character in a comic world (Lyons 30). Such a character would serve as the butt of jokes and be mocked for his continuous satirizing in the face of mirth and celebration (Lyons 30). For instance, Shakespeare’s most famous melancholic, Jaques from As You Like It, says: Invest me in my motley. Give me leave To speak my mind, and I will through and through Cleanse the foul body of th’infected world, If they... The Melancholy Muse: Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Early Medicine. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University. 1995. Print. The Melancholy Muse book. Read reviews from world’s largest community for readers. Melancholy is so much part of human experience that it is no surprise ... Start by marking The Melancholy Muse: Chaucer, Shakespeare, And Early Medicine as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Currently Reading. Read, The Melancholy Muse: C by Carol F. Heffernan. Other editions. Want to Read saving... Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Rate this book. Clear rating.