



Shakespeare, William. *Cymbeline: a Tragedy in Five Acts*. London: Printed at the Chiswick Press, 1896. Folger PROMPT Cymb. 20

Directors make many choices when staging a play. Lines may be cut or added, speeches reassigned to different speakers, and events reordered. Some playbooks, such as this one owned by the famous actress Ellen Terry (1847-1928), record such decisions as they were made for a specific production. These are known as prompt-books. In this case, the book presents *Cymbeline* as arranged for the stage by Henry Irving (1838-1905) for a production at London's Lyceum Theatre in 1896. Irving and Terry both added lines in more than a dozen places, and there's a note from Irving to Terry at the end of Act IV Scene 2: 'This seems to me a better exit & more happy & cheerful -- & comedy'.

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