



Marlowe & Chapman

## Hero and Leander

By Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593) and George Chapman (1559?-1634)

The wonder-decade of the English drama was suddenly interrupted in 1592, when serious plague broke out in London, forcing the closure of the theatres. Leading playwrights took to penning languorously erotic poetry to make ends meet: so we have *Venus and Adonis*, *The Rape of Lucrece* - and Marlowe's blazing masterpiece, *Hero and Leander*.

Marlowe's poem became more notorious than either of Shakespeare's, due not only to its homophile provocations but also to the scandal attaching to every aspect of Marlowe's brief life, violently ended in a mysterious brawl, leaving the poem in an unfinished state.

The edition read here includes the wonderful continuation by George Chapman, a versatile playwright: tragedian as well as author of Jonsonian metropolitan comedies: in short, an all-round literary craftsman, whose Homer translation was famously admired by Keats.

Total running time: 03:37:07; read by Martin Geeson. Dedicated Proof-Listener: Betty M. Meta-Coordinator/Cataloging: Leni.

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