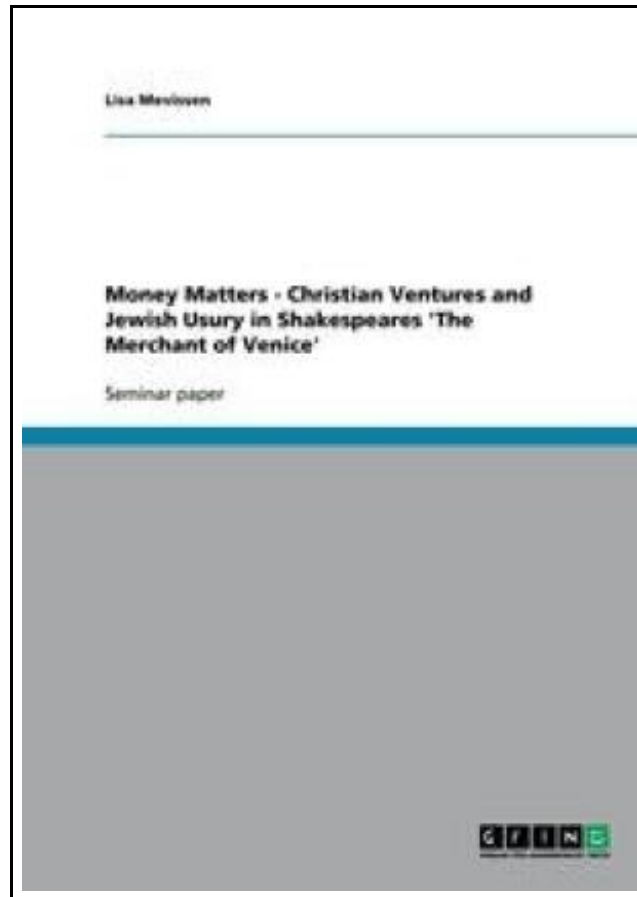


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MONEY MATTERS - CHRISTIAN VENTURES AND JEWISH USURY IN SHAKESPEARE'S 'THE MERCHANT OF VENICE'



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GRIN Verlag Jun 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x6x7 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,0, RWTH Aachen University (Lehrstuhl für Anglistische Literaturwissenschaft), course: William Shakespeare: The Tempest and the Merchant of Venice, language: English, abstract: In Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice' we are confronted with a lot of opposites: friendship versus hatred, male versus female power, mercy versus justice or Judaism versus Christianity; just to name a few examples. By contrasting these opposing themes, Shakespeare evolves a lot of problems, which raise unsolvable questions. If we take for example Shylock, we constantly change our opinion about him: on the one hand we dislike him for he is villainous, greedy and merciless, and on the other hand we pity him because of his losses and his isolation in society. Yet, one cannot make a clear-cut statement about him for he bears opposing characteristics in his attitude. So, one can see, Shakespeare does not only depict opposites, but he also creates opposing opinions about the same topic in our heads. Thus, the oppositions he shows in his play should be looked at more carefully. Therefore, I want to focus on the contrast between Jewish usury and Christian ventures, for the conflict between both groups constantly leads to essential problems in the play. As a preliminary step, I want to look at the historical background, an important impact, which influenced the play's final conception. In the following, I want to compare the attitudes of Christians towards Jews and vice versa. In addition to that, in this paper I want to concentrate on the instance that complicates the tension between Christians and Jews: money. Money binds both opposing...



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