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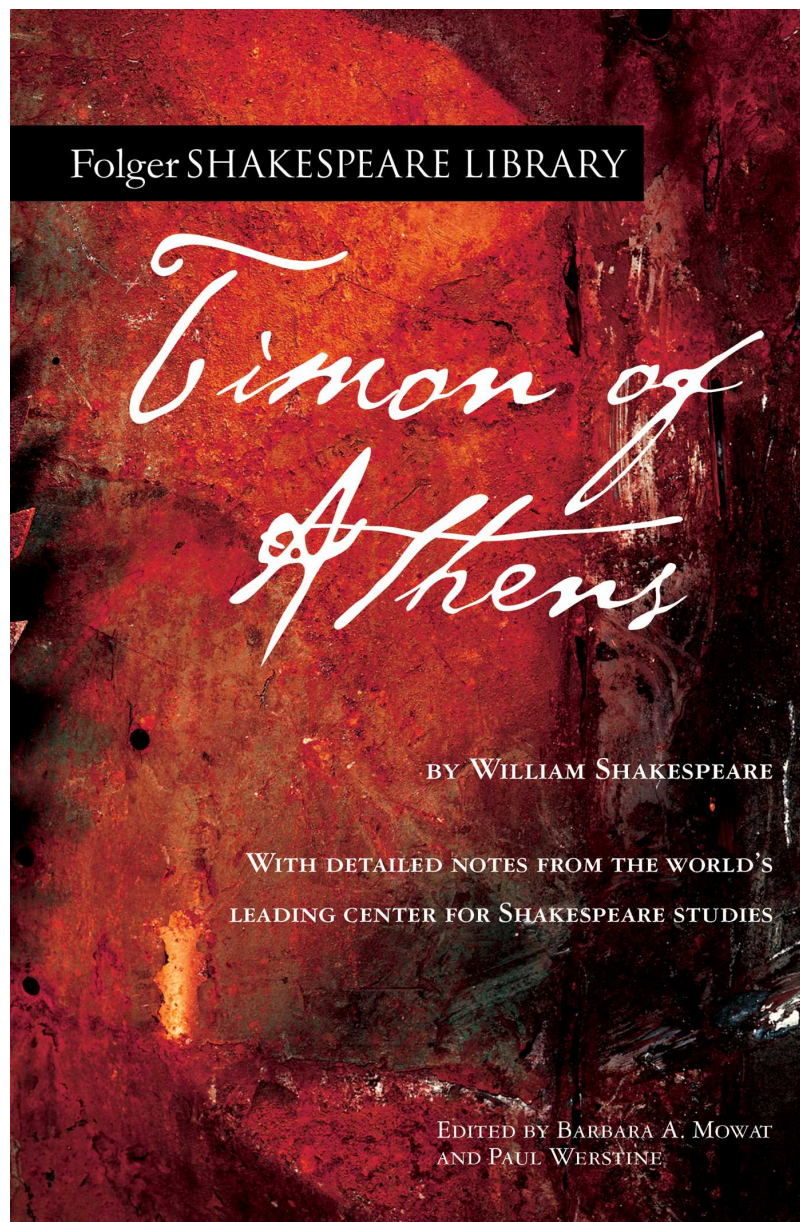
Timon of Athens

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WITH DETAILED NOTES FROM THE WORLD'S
LEADING CENTER FOR SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

EDITED BY BARBARA A. MOWAT
AND PAUL WERSTINE

Timon of Athens
by William Shakespeare



Synopsis:=====

The authoritative edition of *Timon of Athens* from The Folger Shakespeare Library, the trusted and widely used Shakespeare series for students and general readers. The real Timon of Athens lived there in the fifth century BCE, making him a contemporary of Socrates and Pericles. Shakespeare presents Timon as a figure who suffers such profound disillusionment that he becomes a misanthrope, or man-hater. This makes him a more interesting character than the caricature he had become to Shakespeare's contemporaries, for whom "Timonist" was a slang term for an unsociable man. Shakespeare's play includes the wealthy, magnificent, and extravagantly generous figure of Timon before his transformation. Timon expects that, having received as gifts all that he owned, his friends will be equally generous to him. Once his creditors clamor for repayment, Timon finds that his idealization of friendship is an illusion. He repudiates his friends, abandons Athens, and retreats to the woods. Yet his

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