At twenty-three, Michelle Ephraim was failing at everything. The only child of reclusive Holocaust-survivor parents who were dismayed by her literary studies, she found herself dumped by her boyfriend and bombing out of graduate school. Then, one night, she crashed a Shakespeare recitation party. Loopy from vodka and never having read a single line of Shakespeare, she was transfixed. Shakespeare, she decided, was the lifeline she needed.

**Michelle Ephraim** is professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, author of *Reading the Jewish Woman on the Elizabethan Stage*, and coauthor of *Shakespeare, Not Stirred: Cocktails for Your Everyday Dramas*. Her essays and humor pieces have appeared in *McSweeney’s Internet Tendency*, *Cleaver*, the *Washington Post*, *Tikkun*, *Lilith*, and the *Moth Radio Hour*.