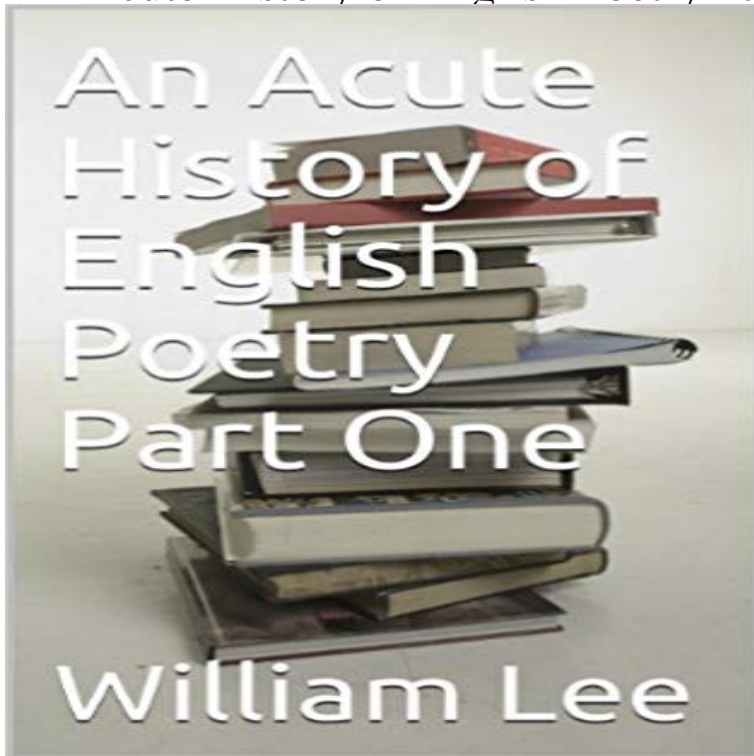


An Acute History of English Poetry Part One



This is a delightfully light-hearted and deliciously funny look at the history of English poetry from Anglo-Saxon times to the pre-romantic period. In it, the author takes high-spirited and irreverent pot-shots at all the sacred cows of the canonical tradition of English literary history and criticism. His objects of satire are, clearly, far more criticism and critical attitudes rather than the poets themselves, although they, too, can come in for some pretty scathing treatment as well. Some of his ideas are outrageously over-the-top, such as his preposterous biography of Shakespeare or his considerations of Milton's Paradise Lost, but in spite of this, there is a great deal of solid information for the uninformed reader to very much enjoy and also a great deal for the highly informed expert in the field to laugh out loud over, sometimes in spite of himself. With its fast, racy pace, then, this is a bright, clear and cheery introduction to the history of English Poetry, for those not yet in the know, which will prove invaluable in helping both the student and the general reader to orient themselves towards a deeper and more serious approach to the field, and it is a work of sheer delight, relaxation and entertainment for those already competent in the field

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