The King is coming. Enter one bearing a coronet; then Lear; then the Dukes of Albany and Cornwall; next, Goneril, Regan, Cordelia, with Followers. What art thou? Kent. A very honest-hearted fellow, and as poor as the King, Lear. If thou be'st as poor for a subject as he's for a king, thou art poor enough. What wouldst thou? Bring your club to Amazon Book Clubs, start a new book club and invite your friends to join, or find a club that's right for you for free. Explore Amazon Book Clubs. Kindle. Order now and we'll deliver when available. Order now and we'll deliver when available. We'll e-mail you with an estimated delivery date as soon as we have more information. Your account will only be charged when we ship the item. Details. Buy a copy of The Tragedy of King Lear at Amazon.com. (c) 2003-2012 LiteraturePage.com and Michael Moncur. All rights reserved. For information about public domain texts appearing here, read the copyright information and disclaimer. King Lear is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare. There are two versions, but modern editors usually conflate these to produce a single play. Both versions are based on the mythological Leir of Britain. King Lear relinquishes his power and land to two of his daughters. He becomes destitute and insane and a proscribed crux of political machinations. The first known performance of any version of Shakespeare's play was on St. Stephen's Day in 1606. The three extant publications from which modern King Lear is driven to the brink of madness by his own actions when he disinherits his youngest daughter, the lovely Cordelia, because of her inability to express her love for him. Having divided his realm between his remaining daughters, Goneril and Regan, Lear is betrayed by his two foolish and deceitful children, and is left to wander the heath with only his Fool, his servant Caius, and the madman Tom O'Bedlam for company. Shakespeare’s innovative use of character, language, and experimentation with romance as tragedy served as a foundation for later playwrights and dramatists, and some of his most famous lines of dialogue have become part of everyday speech.