

# The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry, Donne to Marvell: Unveiling the Treasures of 17th-Century English Verse

The 17th century witnessed a remarkable blossoming of English poetry, producing a galaxy of brilliant poets who left an indelible mark on the literary landscape. Among them, John Donne and Andrew Marvell stand as towering figures, their works embodying the complexity, wit, and emotional depth that characterized the era. 'The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry, Donne to Marvell' is an authoritative guide to this extraordinary period in English literature, providing a comprehensive overview of the major poets and themes of the time.

## John Donne: The Metaphysical Master

John Donne, the enigmatic and influential poet, is widely regarded as the father of metaphysical poetry. His verse, characterized by its intellectual complexity, passionate intensity, and unconventional imagery, challenged poetic conventions and opened up new avenues of expression. This Companion explores the full range of Donne's work, from his early love poems to his profound religious sonnets, shedding light on the subtleties and complexities of his poetic vision.



## The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry, Donne to Marvell (Cambridge Companions to Literature)

by David Eldridge

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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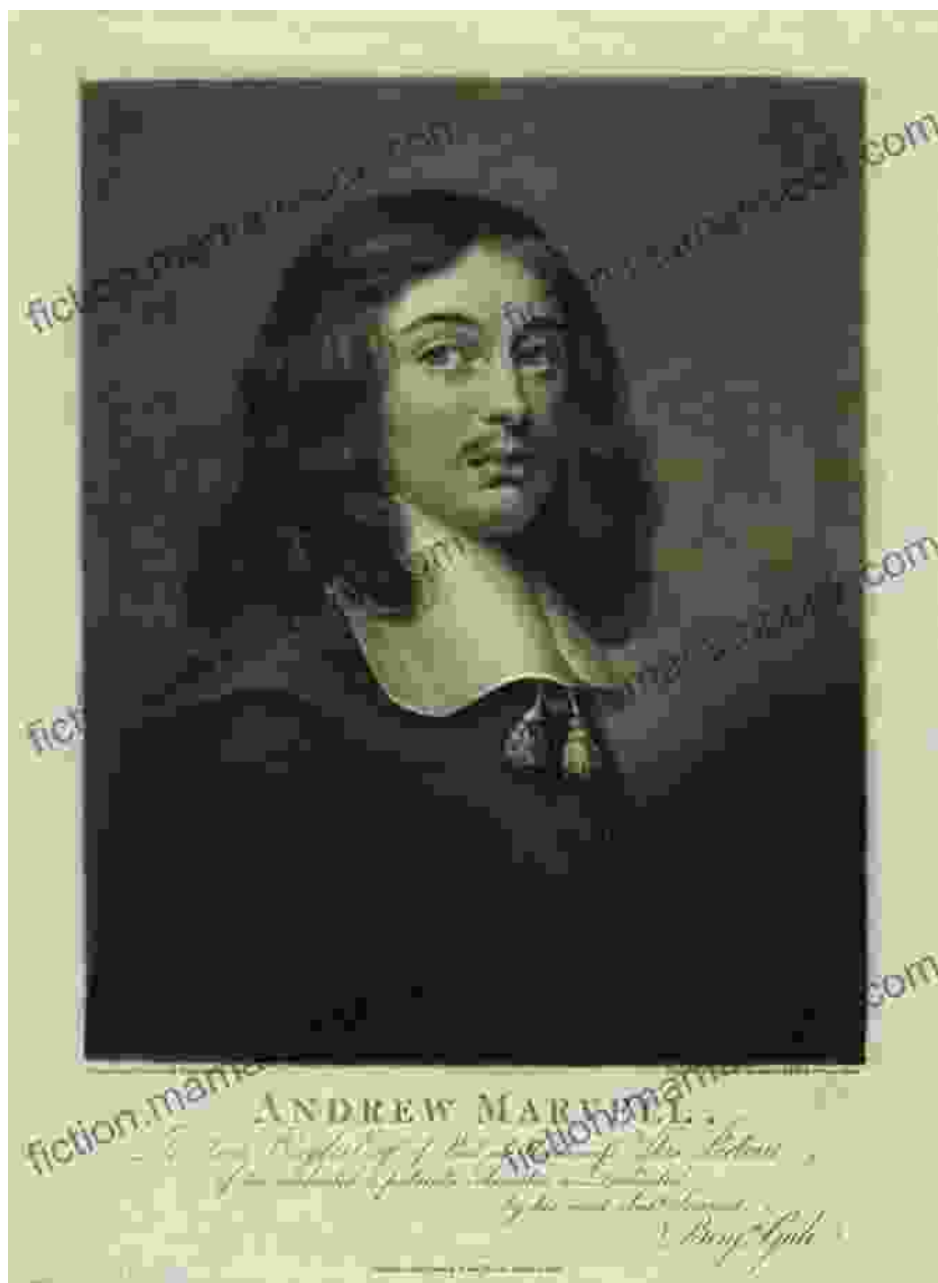
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Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 328 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



**Andrew Marvell: The Cavalier Poet**

Andrew Marvell, a prominent figure in the Cavalier movement, brought a unique blend of wit, political satire, and lyrical beauty to his poetry. This Companion examines the full breadth of Marvell's work, from his witty love lyrics to his incisive political verse. It explores the ways in which Marvell's poetry reflects both the social and political upheavals of his time and the enduring themes of human experience.



Andrew Marvell, the Cavalier poet

## **Major Themes and Movements in 17th-Century English Poetry**

Beyond the individual poets, this Companion explores the broader themes and movements that shaped 17th-century English poetry. It examines the rise of metaphysical poetry, with its emphasis on intellectual exploration and unconventional imagery. It also discusses the Cavalier movement, with its focus on wit, courtly love, and political satire. The Companion provides a comprehensive overview of the literary landscape, offering insights into the cultural and historical contexts that influenced the poetry of the time.

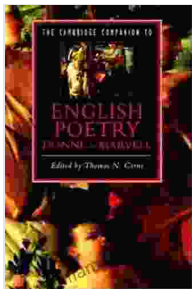
## **Critical Perspectives and Modern Scholarship**

This Companion also engages with modern scholarship and critical perspectives on 17th-century English poetry. It explores the ways in which contemporary literary theory and historical research have deepened our understanding of the poetry of Donne, Marvell, and their contemporaries. The Companion presents a balanced overview of different critical approaches, providing readers with a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the field.

'The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry, Donne to Marvell' is an indispensable resource for students, scholars, and anyone interested in exploring the rich tapestry of 17th-century English poetry. With its in-depth analysis of major poets, detailed exploration of themes and movements, and engagement with modern scholarship, this Companion offers a comprehensive and accessible guide to one of the most vibrant and innovative periods in English literary history.

## **References**

- Gardner, Helen. 'John Donne: The Elegies and the Songs and Sonnets.' Oxford University Press, 1965.
- Margolies, David. 'Andrew Marvell: The Critical Heritage.' Routledge, 2008.
- 'The Cambridge History of English Literature, Volume 4: The Early Seventeenth Century.' Ed. David Norbrook. Cambridge University Press, 2002.



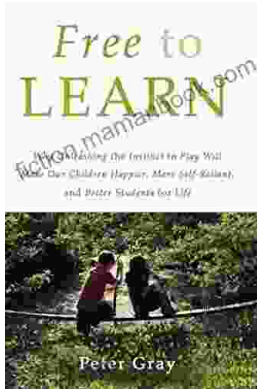
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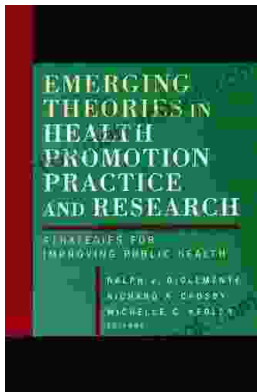
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