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TWO SHINNING STARS OF THE YUAN PLAYS



Architeg, Inc., United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Dou E Yuan Dou E Yuan is based on a Han dynasty folk tale, A Filial Woman of Donghai. Guan Hanqing used the story as a framework for criticism of the evils of contemporary society. In her childhood, Dou E was sold to the Cai family to be brought up to marry their son. Soon after they married, her husband died. Dou E and her mother-in-law, who had also become widowed, were dependent on each other for survival. Donkey Zhang, a local hoodlum, pressure the pair to marry him and his father, respectively. When the two women spurned his offer, Donkey Zhang tried to poison Dou E s mother-in-law, but killed his own father by mistake. Zhang put the blame on Dou E. The muddle-headed local prefect had Dou E flogged. Dou E had no choice but confessed to the murder, then Dou E was finally executed, and Donkey Zhang got off scot-free. Facing death, Dou E cried out, The lives of the poor, though virtuous, are short, while the evil enjoy prosperous and long lives. It is unjust. Even Heaven and Earth bully the weak and fear the strong! The earth cannot tell the good from the evil, and Heaven has wronged an innocent person. Dou E s words expressed Guan Hanqing s noble spirit of not yielding to his own hard destiny. The Romance of the Western Chamber The Romance of the Western Chamber tells that a young scholar Zhang Sheng went to the capital city to take the highest imperial examination. When he stayed in a temple, he met Cui Yingying, daughter of the then Prime Minister and fell in love with her. At...

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