

SHAKESPEARE THEORY.

American theatre critic Calvin Hoffman has a theory that Shakespeare wasn't really Shakespeare - and gets permission to open a tomb in St. Nicholas' Church, Chislehurst, to test it.

Major Marston Townsend owns the chapel where the tomb of Sir Thomas Walsingham lies. The theory is that poet Christopher Marlowe was not killed in a pub brawl as everyone thought at the time, but lived on in hiding under Walsingham's protection, and wrote the immortal plays using Shakespeare's name as a front.

Calvin Hoffman and his wife hoped to find manuscripts in the Walsingham tomb which would prove the theory. But they are disappointed. There's nothing in the tomb but sand - not even Walsingham's body. So the tomb is sealed up again.

This setback does not disprove his theory, Hoffman claims. He'll go on trying to find the Walsingham Family papers. Meanwhile we'll go on believing that Shakespeare was Shakespeare, and not Christopher Marlowe!