Aesthetic Judgment and the Audience in Cymbeline
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This chapter presents Cymbeline as a play that dramatizes tensions between lyrical performance and the bad audience. Focusing on the figure of Cloten, the chapter sees him as a kind of Midas-like figure: one who judges poorly in the face of musical beauty. The chapter also argues that the poetry of the Roman lyricist Catullus features prominently in the play: as a source for speeches, but also as a model for a distinctively urbane Roman lyric tradition in a play politically concerned with the relationship of ancient Britain to the Empire.