

- Cultural materialist critics have also looked at the play and they aim to examine a literary text for what it reveals about the political struggles of the past whilst using it to challenge assumptions about hierarchy and power relations in the present. In other words, these critics look for the political messages behind a text and relate these to modern day conflicts.
- Until recently, most critics of Ford's work assumed that he was apolitical - that is politically neutral.
- Martin Butler says that during the Caroline era, "The playwrights were dramatising the conflicts and tensions at work in their society...voicing [people's]...grievances, anxieties and frustrations." Certainly Ford obliquely faults British society.
- Terri Clerico argues that "'Tis Pity" reflects the fact that Ford's society was changing from one based on inherited status to one dominated by wealth. Social mobility was increasingly common, which is to say that a person could be born into one class and could rise or fall into another.
- Therefore, Clerico justifies the union between Annabella and her brother as "a defensive act...Incest comes to emblemise the desire to congeal class alliances, to conserve the purity of class membership". Obviously the immediate audience of the play would be the upper class and would have feared social mobility.

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