Although given relatively few lines, Shakespeare’s female characters loom surprisingly large on stage and in our imaginations. Since their first performances onstage by boy actors, Shakespeare’s “women” have both shaped and been reshaped by changing ideas about women. *Women in the Age of Shakespeare* introduces readers to the traditions and ideas that Shakespeare drew upon in creating his great comedic and tragic heroines. The volume also explores the lives of Elizabethan and Jacobean women, surveys the history of stage and film adaptations, provides an overview of scholarly responses and creative revisions by poets and fiction writers, and concludes with a collection of rare primary documents by and about early modern women. *Library Journal* calls this book “meticulous but accessible.”