

Antony and Cleopatra is a tragedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written sometime between 1603 and 1607. It was first printed in the First Folio of 1623. The plot is based on Thomas North's translation of Plutarch's Life of Marcus Antonius and follows the relationship between Cleopatra and Mark Antony from the time of the Parthian War to Cleopatra's suicide. The major antagonist is Octavius Caesar, one of Antony's fellow triumvirs and the future first emperor of Rome. The tragedy is a Roman play characterized by swift, panoramic shifts in geographical locations and in registers, alternating between sensual, imaginative Alexandria and the more pragmatic, austere Rome.

Antony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare [Collins edition]

PERSONS REPRESENTED. M. ANTONY, Triumvir. OCTAVIUS CAESAR, Triumvir. M. AEMILIUS LEPIDUS, Triumvir. SEPTIMIUS POMPEIUS, Triumvir. DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS, friend to Antony. VENTIDIUS, friend to Antony. EROS, friend to Antony. SCARUS, friend to Antony. DERCETAS, friend to Antony. DEMETRIUS, friend to Antony. PHILO, friend to Antony. MAECENAS, friend to Caesar. AGRIPPA, friend to Caesar. DOLABELLA, friend to Caesar. PROCULEIUS, friend to Caesar. THYREUS, friend to Caesar. GALLUS, friend to Caesar. MENAS, friend to Pompey. MENEKRATES, friend to Pompey. VARRIUS, friend to Pompey. TAURUS, Lieutenant-General to Caesar. CANIDIUS, Lieutenant-General to Antony. SILIUS, an Officer in Ventidius's army. EUPHRONIUS, an Ambassador from Antony to Caesar. ALEXAS, attendant on Cleopatra. MARDIAN, attendant on Cleopatra. SELEUCUS, attendant on Cleopatra. DIOMEDES, attendant on Cleopatra. A SOOTHSAYER. CLEOPATRA, Queen of Egypt. OCTAVIA, sister to Caesar and wife to Antony. CHARMIAN, Attendant on Cleopatra. IRAS, Attendant on Cleopatra. Officers, Soldiers, Messengers, and other Attendants.

SCENE: Dispersed, in several parts of the Roman Empire.

ACT I. SCENE I. Alexandria. A Room in CLEOPATRA'S palace. [Enter DEMETRIUS and PHILO.] PHILO. Nay, but this dotage of our generals o'erflows the measure: those his goodly eyes, that o'er the files and musters of the war have glow'd like plated Mars, now bend, now turn, the office and devotion of their view upon a tawny front: his captains' heart, which in the scuffles of great fights hath burst the buckles on his breast, reneges all temper, and is become the bellows and the fan to cool a gipsy's lust. [Flourish within.] Look where they come: take but good note, and you shall see in him the triple pillar of the world transform'd into a strumpet's fool: behold and see. [Enter ANTONY and CLEOPATRA, with their trains; Eunuchs fanning her.] CLEOPATRA. If it be love indeed, tell me how much. ANTONY. There's beggary in the love that can be reckoned. CLEOPATRA. I'll set a bourn how far to be beloved. ANTONY. Then must thou needs find out new heaven, new earth. [Enter an Attendant.] ATTENDANT. News, my good lord, from Rome. ANTONY. Grates me:--the sum. CLEOPATRA. Nay, hear them, Antony: Fulvia perchance is angry; or who knows if the scarce-bearded Caesar have not sent his powerful mandate to you: Do this or this; take in that kingdom and enfranchise that; perform't, or else we damn thee. ANTONY. How, my love! CLEOPATRA. Perchance! Nay, and most like:--You must not stay here longer,--your dismissal is come from Caesar; therefore hear it, Antony. --Where's Fulvia's process?--Caesar's I would say?--Both?--Call in the messengers. --As I am Egypt's queen, thou blushest, Antony; and that blood of thine is Caesar's homager: else so thy cheek pays shame when shrill-tongued Fulvia scolds. --The messengers! ANTONY. Let Rome in Tiber melt, and the wide arch of the rang'd empire fall! Here is my space. Kingdoms are clay: our dungy earth alike feeds beast as man: the nobleness of life is to do thus [Embracing]; when such a mutual pair

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Exeunt MARK ANTONY and CLEOPATRA with their train. DEMETRIUS. Is Caesar with Antonius prized so slight? PHILO. Sir, sometimes, when he is not Antony. Antony and Cleopatra are among history's most famous lovers. The story of their affair, their war, their defeat and, finally, their suicides has. After the murder of her lover Caesar, Egypt's queen Cleopatra needs a new ally. She seduces his probable successor Mark Antony. This develops into real love. Antony and Cleopatra, tragedy in five acts by William Shakespeare, written in 1607 and published in the First Folio of from an authorial draft in a more . Plot summary of and introduction to William Shakespeare's play Antony and Cleopatra, with links to online texts, digital images, and other resources.

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