

Julius Caesar

William Shakespeare

TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE



— Cast of Characters —

JULIUS CAESAR Roman statesman
and army general

OCTAVIUS Roman statesman; later
called Augustus Caesar, first emperor of
Rome

MARK ANTONY Roman statesman,
general, friend of Caesar.

LEPIDUS Roman politician

**BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CASCA,
TREBONIUS, LIGARIUS, DECIUS,
METELLUS CIMBER, and CINNA**
Plotters against Caesar

CALPURNIA Caesar's wife

PORTIA Brutus's wife

CICERO and **POPILIUS** Senators

— Cast of Characters —

FLAVIUS and **MARULLUS** Public
defenders

CATO, LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, and
MESSALA Supporters of Brutus

ARTEMIDORUS Teacher

PUBLIUS Old man

STRATO and **LUCIUS** Servants to
Brutus

PINDARUS Servant to Cassius

THE GHOST OF CAESAR

**A FORTUNE-TELLER, SENATORS,
CITIZENS, SOLDIERS, SERVANTS,
COMMONERS, and MESSENGERS**

Introduction

It is 44 B.C. in Rome. Julius Caesar is an army general. He has defeated a rich Roman noble named Pompey. It was a bloody battle. The people are celebrating Caesar's win as the play opens.

Some people who supported Pompey are afraid of Caesar. They think he is greedy for power. They think he wants to become king. This would mean the end of the great Roman Republic. To protect their power, they start to plot against Caesar.

ACT 1

— Scene 1 —

(A street in Rome. Flavius, Marullus, and certain commoners enter.)

FLAVIUS: Go home, you lazy men. Is this a holiday? Don't you know you can't walk around here doing nothing? You need a sign that tells your trade. Tell me, what is your job?

COMMONER 1: I am a carpenter, sir.

MARULLUS: Where are your tools? Why are you wearing your best clothes? And, you, what do you do?

COMMONER 2: I repair shoes, sir. I mend bad soles. If you are feeling bad, I can fix you.

MARULLUS: What do you mean by that?
Are you joking?

COMMONER 2: It's no joke, sir. I can
repair your shoes.

FLAVIUS: Why aren't you in your shop?
Why did you bring these men onto the
streets?

COMMONER 2: To wear out their shoes.
Then I'll get more work. Really, sir, we
came to join the party. Caesar has won
the battle.

MARULLUS: Why are you so happy?
What has he won? You have no common
sense! Don't you remember Pompey?
You often waited all day just to see him.
He was a great man. You shouted out with
joy when you saw him. And now you
celebrate his bloody death. Run home!
Fall on your knees! Pray that you will
not be punished.

FLAVIUS: Go! Gather all men who feel the same way you do. Go to the river and weep!

(All the commoners leave.)

See how they vanish. They feel guilty. You go that way toward the Capitol. I'll go this way. Take down any banners that honor Caesar.

MARULLUS: Can we do that? You know it's a feast day.

FLAVIUS: It doesn't matter. Take down the banners. I'll send the commoners home. You do the same. We need to stop Caesar before he becomes too powerful.

(Flavius and Marullus leave.)

— Scene 2 —

(A public place. The sound of trumpets. Caesar enters, followed by Antony, Calpurnia, Portia, Decius, Cicero, Brutus, Cassius, and Casca. A crowd follows, among them a fortune-teller.)

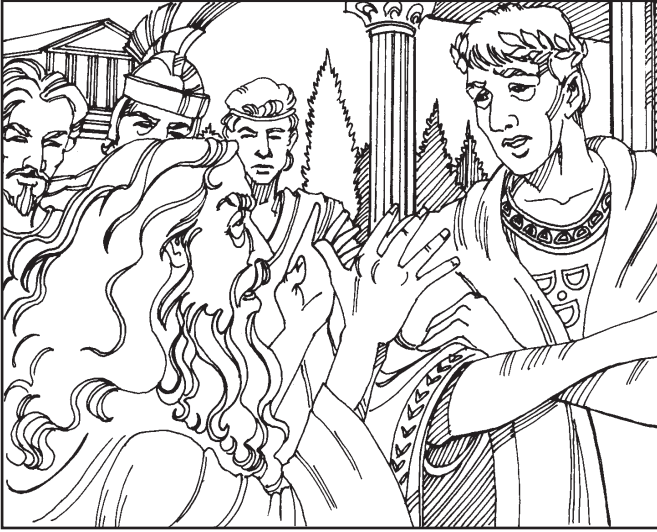
CAESAR: Calpurnia!

CALPURNIA: I'm here.

CAESAR: Stand in Antony's way when he runs by. Antony! Touch Calpurnia as you race past her. Childless women who are touched in this holy race will be able to have children. The elders say so.

ANTONY: I will touch her. When Caesar says "Do this," it is done.

(Trumpets sound.)



FORTUNE-TELLER (*from the crowd*):
Caesar! Beware the Ides of March.

CAESAR: Who said that?

BRUTUS: A fortune-teller warns you to be
careful on March 15.

CAESAR: Let me see his face.

CASSIUS: You, come here!

FORTUNE-TELLER: Beware the Ides of March.

CAESAR: He's a dreamer. Let's get away from him.

(All but Brutus and Cassius leave.)

CASSIUS: Will you go watch the race?

BRUTUS: I'm not interested in sports. But don't let me stop you, Cassius. I'll leave, and you can watch.

CASSIUS: Brutus, you seem to want to stay away from me lately.

BRUTUS: No, Cassius. I've got a lot on my mind. Don't worry about me. I'm sorry. You are a great friend to me.

CASSIUS: I should have asked you sooner. Can you see the great person you are?

BRUTUS: Only by reflection.