

SYNOPSIS

Synopsis of Antony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare

Mark Antony, the triumvir of the Roman Empire, spends his time in Egypt, and has an affair with a beautiful queen, Cleopatra. A message arrives informing him that his wife, Fulvia, is dead and Octavius Caesar asks him to Rome because Pompey is raising an army to rebel against the triumvirate and Antony decides to return to Rome. Caesar condemns Antony for neglecting his duties as a statesman and a military officer in order to live a decadent life by Cleopatra's side. When Antony has arrived, he and Caesar have a quarrel and Lepidus tries to end it.

Antony and Caesar make an agreement that Antony will marry Caesar's sister, Octavia. Cleopatra has heard about the news of Antony's marriage, which makes her jealous. But Cleopatra is sure that Antony will come back to her.

One day Caesar comes to Cleopatra and promises that her kingdom will be passed down to her sons if she betrays her lover. Unfortunately, Antony hears about that and he vows to kill Cleopatra. In order to protect herself, Cleopatra hides in her monument and sends word that she has committed suicide.

Hearing that news, Antony really regrets what he has done and he wants to join his queen in the afterlife. He commands his attendant to kill him. Antony then falls on his own sword, but the wound is not immediately fatal. He is carried to Cleopatra's monument, where the lovers are reunited briefly before Antony's death. Cleopatra realizes that Antony really loves her. She cannot live without him and wants to be together with her lover. Finally, she kills herself by using several poisonous snakes to bite her.

Synopsis of Caesar and Cleopatra by G.B Shaw

The story begins when Caesar finds Cleopatra while she is sleeping in a sphinx. And Cleopatra realizes that she has to get closer to Caesar because he has power in Rome. In order to get a hand from Caesar in her difficulties, Cleopatra uses her naivety to manipulate Caesar to get what she wants.

Cleopatra succeeds in carrying out her plan on Caesar. She gets back her palace Alexandria. Caesar makes an agreement with Ptolemy XIII, Ptolemy Dionysus, Pothinus (the king's guardian), and Theodotus (the king's tutor). Cleopatra begins to be jealous because she is afraid that Caesar will be on Ptolemy's side. She kicks out Ptolemy XII from the kingdom of Egypt; in addition, she gets her position back as a ruler of Egypt.

After several months, there is news that Pothinus is murdered. Actually, Cleopatra has asked Ftateeta to kill Pothinus, but she pretends that she does not know anything. In the end, Caesar knows about it and he is very angry with Cleopatra, but Caesar's anger can be overcome by the naivety of Cleopatra.

Rufio (Caesar's second-in-command in Egypt) cannot accept what Cleopatra has done and how she manipulates Caesar. Rufio kills Ftateeta, Cleopatra's nurse. Cleopatra is so mad that she comes to Caesar to tell him about this assassination. Caesar apologizes to her; moreover, he promises her to send Marc Antony to Alexandria to accompany her.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHORS

Biography of William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-on-Avon in 1564 and died in Stratford in 1616. William Shakespeare was the son of John Shakespeare and Mary Arden, the daughter of an affluent landowning farmer. Shakespeare was educated at the King's New School in Stratford, a free school chartered in 1553, about a quarter of a mile from his home. Grammar schools varied in quality during the Elizabethan era. He left his family about four years after his marriage to Anne Hathaway at the age of eighteen. She gave birth to a daughter, Susanna, and twins, her son Hamnet and her daughter Judith.

They came up to London to seek to better the family fortunes. By the early 1590's Shakespeare was firmly established in the theater. At the same time his financial status was improving.

Shakespeare produced most of his works between 1590 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories, genres he raised to the peak of sophistication and artistry by the end of the sixteenth century. Next he wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including Hamlet, King Lear, and Macbeth, considered some of the finest examples in the English language. In his last phase, he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights

(Source: Merriman, C.D)

Biography of George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950)

George Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin, the son of George Carr Shaw and Lucinda Elisabeth (Gurly) Shaw. His mother died in 1913.

In 1866 the family moved to a better neighborhood. Shaw went to the Wesleyan Connexional School, and then moved to a private school near Dalkey, and from there to Dublin's Central Model School. Shaw finished his formal education at the Dublin English Scientific and Commercial Day School. At the age of 15, he started to work as a junior clerk. In 1876 he went to London, joining his sister and mother. Shaw did not return to Ireland for nearly thirty years.

In 1876 he went to London, Shaw began his literary career by writing music and theatre criticisms, and novels, including the semi-autobiographical Immaturity, without much success. In 1884 Shaw joined the Fabian Society, a middle-class socialist group and served on its executive committee from 1885 to 1911.

In 1895 Shaw became a drama critic for the Saturday Review. These articles were later collected in *Our Theatres in the Nineties* (1932). Shaw also wrote music, art and drama criticisms His music criticisms have been collected in *Shaw's Music* (1981). In 1898 Shaw married the wealthy Charlotte Payne-Townshend. In 1925 he was awarded the Noble Prize for Literature. Shaw died at Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, on November 2, 1950. During his long career, Shaw wrote over 50 plays. (“George Bernard Shaw”)