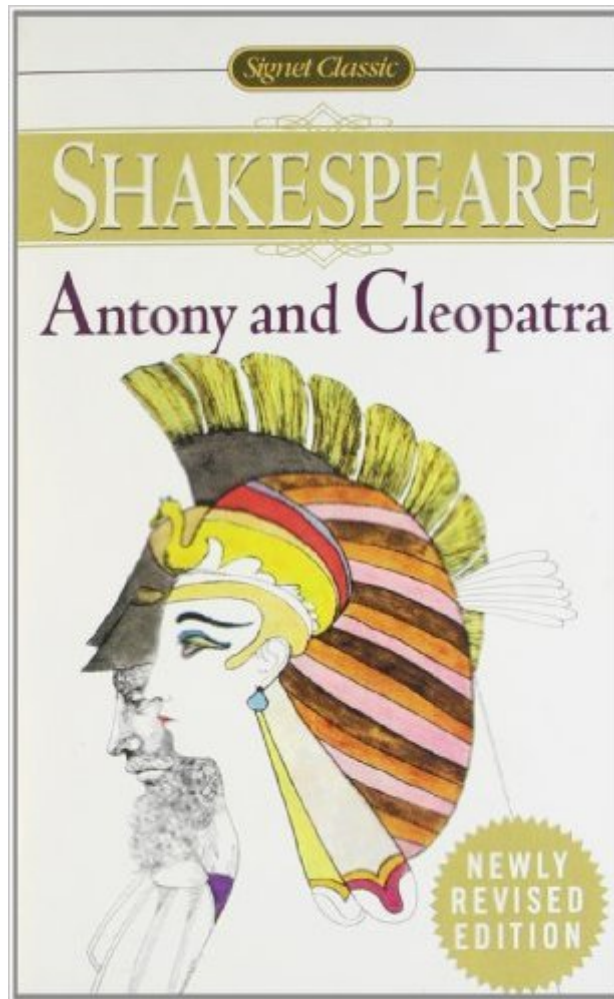


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The Tragedy Of Antony And Cleopatra (Signet Classics)



Synopsis

The Signet Classics edition of the tragedy that features one of Shakespeare's greatest female characters. A magnificent drama of passion and war, this riveting play presents the complicated relationship between the seductive, cunning Egyptian queen Cleopatra and the Roman leader Mark Antony, a man torn between an empire and love. This revised Signet Classics edition includes unique features such as:

- An overview of Shakespeare's life, world, and theater
- A special introduction to the play by the editor, Sylvan Barnet
- A selection from Plutarch's Lives of Noble Grecians and Romans, the source from which Shakespeare derived Antony and Cleopatra
- Dramatic criticism from Samuel Johnson, A. C. Bradley, John F. Danby, and others
- A comprehensive stage and screen history of notable actors, directors, and productions
- Text, notes, and commentaries printed in the clearest, most readable text
- And more...

Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Signet; Revised ed. edition (October 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0451527135

ISBN-13: 978-0451527134

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.8 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #353,903 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > European > Italian](#) #565 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Shakespeare > Works](#) #1527 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater](#)

Customer Reviews

In the history of femme fatales, Cleopatra is still the queen -- she wasn't pretty, but she had charm, wit and power. And she's the center of Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra," a play that follows the tragic affair between Cleopatra and her second high-profile Roman lover. The tragedy is undermined by the fact that Cleopatra and Antony aren't very likable people, but the story does have an empire-ending grandeur. Mark Antony has been neglecting his duties as a Roman soldier ever since he fell in love with the Egyptian queen Cleopatra. But eventually Octavian calls him back to Rome, and Antony is even pressured into marrying Octavia's sister -- which unsurprisingly throws

a wrench into his relationship with Cleopatra. She's only soothed by the assurances that Octavia is ugly. In the meantime, tensions between the Romans and the increasingly Egyptophilic Antony are getting worse, until finally they break into full-out war -- despite the prophecy that Antony will lose if he fights Octavian. And the tempestuous love between Cleopatra and Antony takes a terrible turn as Egypt is about to fall... "Antony and Cleopatra" is sort of a sequel to "Julius Caesar," and it's also half epic romance and half tragedy. On one hand, it's all about the passionate, stormy love affair between Antony and Cleopatra; on the other, it's also about the final crash of an empire that had endured for thousands of years, and its last monarch. Shakespeare manages to fill the story with a sense of epic grandeur, and his writing really gets across that these conflicts and people are deeply important.

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