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Julius Caesar By William Shakespeare



Synopsis

William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Are you looking for one of the best books of all time to read? Then you've come to the right spot! Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare is one of the best works of all time. Don't miss out on this great classic - read Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare today!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As an older adult that is somewhat isolated I started the study of Shakespeare on my own with just a big book that had annotations that were often more confusing than enlightening. It was rewarding but it was like plowing through a field full of big rocks. I found reading two or three scenes of an act with No Fear Shakespeare and then reading the corresponding section of Asimov's Guide to Shakespeare great fun. No Fear explains the nuances of language and setting while Asimov gives rich insight to the characters and events that makes it so easy to remember the varied characters and plot twists. I found this method makes Shakespeare infinitely more easy to not only get through but savor and enjoy. My plan is to get as much of No Fear Shakespeare as I can including all the plays that I have gone through so laboriously in the past and apply the No Fear/Asimov technique. I hope it works as well for you as it did for me.

We all know the story of Julius Caesar. The tragic event that led to chaos. Though it is a popular television and movie theme, we know it in large part due to Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare's

famed play. It includes moving scenes such as Caesar's infamous "Et tu Brute", and Marc Antony's moving "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears." This book, put together by Folger Shakespeare Library, helps to bring this story to life. This book, about 239 pages total, features "explanatory notes conveniently placed on pages facing the text of the play." While these notes may not answer every question you might come up with, I believe they are very helpful to the average reader (such as myself). These pages also provide plenty of room for anyone who prefers to annotate, or write down thoughts, in their books. Also featured on these pages is a scene summary for every scene. The scene summaries really helped me truly understand the Shakespearian language. I am very grateful I ordered this copy of Julius Caesar, since it has the tools necessary for the average reader to fully grasp what is happening. I picked it up right here on .com. I can hardly find negative aspects to this edition. The best I can come up with is that the words and phrases noted are not already underlined or marked somehow by the publisher. (I know, not a big deal.) The story is great, a must-read for all history buffs or even the casual reader. All-in-all, if you are looking to read Julius Caesar, or just some Shakespeare to impress your friends or teachers with, check out the Folger Shakespeare Library's edition of Julius Caesar. I highly recommend it. So, what are you waiting on? Get to it!

This series is great for students. The books are divided into three sections: the first section is a kind of history of Shakespeare and his plays, the second section is the actual play, and the third section is more of the details of the play, i.e. where the story came from, how it is performed, how to direct the play. All in all it was a great for teaching the works of Shakespeare.

I teach high school students and must say that this book has been a valuable resource throughout our unit on Julius Caesar. My students are finally grasping what is being read and have really enjoyed the reading thus far. If only there had been a reference tool around like this when I was in school!!! The title is absolutely right, there is No Fear in reading Shakespeare any longer.

Before I begin, I would like to point out three things. One, I am only a middle-school student (this was an honours class project); two, this is my first review; three, I am reviewing the unabridged, original dialogue version. Thank you. William Shakespeare is hailed as the greatest writer ever, yet (based on people I've met) very few people have read even a single one of his works. I expected it to be required reading in high school or, at the very least, college. Alas, it is not. This is a disappointment, as I truly enjoyed reading this play, my first encounter with Shakespeare. Julius

Caesar is a tale of honor and betrayal. Pompey, a beloved Roman leader, is defeated in civil war with Caesar. A small brotherhood, led by Marcus Brutus, is still devoted to him after his death, and wants nothing less than the assassination of their new leader. I had expected Caesar's death ("Et tu, Brutus? Then fall Caesar.") to be near the end of the book. However, it turned out to be within the third of five acts. The rest of the book is devoted to the attempts by Brutus's followers and Marc Antony (a dear friend of Caesar, and Brutus's enemy) to get the populace to believe in and follow that person's views, and turn them against the other people's ideals. Marc Antony, an orator with the ability to, in essence, brainwash an entire city with a short speech ("Friends, Romans, Countrymen, / Lend me your ears!"), convinces Rome to turn on Brutus's brotherhood. How their conflict is settled is, by far, the most captivating and entrancing parts of the play. With the plot discussed, I will move on to what makes this a challenging read: dialogue. Being a work from the Elizabethan Era, I (naively) expected words such as "forsooth" and many more words ending in "e". As it turned out, this was not the case. There were archaic words that would elicit cocked heads of confusion from the average person. My saviour from the confusion turned out to be the footnotes in one of the versions I read. The phrase "They fall their crests, and like deceitful jades / Sink in the trial" becomes "They let their necks droop and, like weary nags, fail the test" (Brutus, Act 2, Line 26/27). One is forced to scrutinise every single word, in order to receive a complete understanding of the goings-on. The unabridged version of Julius Caesar is definitely not a piece one reads in one's free time; rather, it should be considered a serious task. Once you put the book down, you transform from reader to philosopher. You will instinctively begin to ponder the issues in whatever part of the book that you have just completed. I, personally, read one act at a time, then closed my eyes (or reread the act) to mull over what had just transpired. I was left with a better understanding of that portion, and a greater respect for the genius of Shakespeare. Though this and the following sentences have nothing to do with the above review, I am obliged to put them in. My crusade in life is to get as many people as possible to read *Congo*, by Michael Crichton, and this is as good as any other place to post my propaganda. Please take the time to at least try the book.

As an experienced high school English teacher, I always advise my students and their parents to purchase a Folger's edition of Shakespeare's plays. The notes, summaries, and other commentary serve the novice Shakespearean reader well and make the classical allusions and denotations of unfamiliar and common words and phrases from the Elizabethan age much easier for 21st Century readers to understand.

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