Julius Caesar

William Shakespeare
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Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback’s Illustrated Classics™ was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world’s greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

• Establish a purpose for reading
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Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the Illustrated Classics™, you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.
Remember,

“Today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders.”
William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin. Historians aren’t sure of the exact date of Shakespeare’s birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, *The King’s Men*, appeared most often in the *Globe* theater, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theater, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.
IT WAS A HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ROME. CROWDS OF PEOPLE CHEERED THE
RETURN OF JULIUS CAESAR WHO HAD WON A BATTLE IN SPAIN.
But not everyone was happy. Two government officials, Flavius and Marullus, tried to send away some of the crowds.

Go home you lazy men!
Why are you here in holiday clothes instead of working in your shops?
Why, sir... I am a good shoemaker! But today I came out to see Caesar and celebrate with him.

For shame! He did not fight a foreign enemy, but the sons of a great Roman—Pompey.

Pompey, who fought to keep Caesar from making himself ruler of Rome! Pompey, whom you have often cheered for in these very streets!

How many times have you waited all day just to cheer Pompey as he passed by? Now you dress up to cheer the man who shed Pompey’s blood!

* those whose jobs involve the running of a city, state, or country
** from another country
That day happened to be a yearly holiday to honor the god Lupercus.* There was to be a foot race, and people had decorated all the statues in the city.

We must remove these decorations. They are an insult to the memory of Pompey!

Are we allowed to do that? After all it is the feast of Lupercal!

We don’t need such things to remind us of what Caesar has done. Before we know it, he will make himself king!

You go that way... I’ll go this way. Remove any of Caesar’s decorations that you see.

I’ll do it!

* a god who would bless the fields with good crops
Meanwhile, near the spot where the young Roman men would race, Caesar spoke to his wife, Calpurnia.

Stand right in Mark Antony’s way when he runs.

I will!

Then he spoke to Mark Antony.

Be sure to touch Calpurnia as you run. They say this will grant a woman many children.

I’ll remember!

Suddenly someone called out from the crowd.

Caesar!

Caesar! Beware the ides of March!*

Who calls Caesar? Speak! I am listening!

* The Roman month was divided into the kalends, the ides, and the nones; in March the ides fell on the 15th.
Who is that man?

A soothsayer* who tells you to beware the ides of March!

Bring him here! Let me see his face.

What do you say now?

Beware the ides of March!

The man is a dreamer. Let us go on our way.

* someone who predicts the future from signs and omens
As Caesar and his followers went off to the race, Cassius and Brutus, two noble Romans, stayed behind.

My dear friend, have I done something to anger you? You don’t seem very friendly lately.

No, no! It is not you.

I have some problems I must deal with; that is all.

You will do the right thing, I’m sure.

Just then a great shout went up from the crowd watching the games.

What’s happening?

I’m afraid the people are choosing Caesar to be their King!
If you fear it... then you don’t want it to happen!

Caesar has grown too great! He is a human being, and not a god!

Are you asking me to help you stop Caesar from becoming King?

Caesar is my friend, but Rome must be a republic,* not Caesar’s kingdom.

And if I am?

I will think of what you’ve said, and answer you later.

The games are over. Pull Casca aside when he passes by. He will tell us what happened.

* a government ruled by the people
Meanwhile, Caesar and his followers arrived at the place where Brutus and Cassius were talking.

I don’t like the looks of that Cassius.

Don’t fear him, Caesar. He’s not dangerous.

I don’t fear him, for I am Caesar! But what do you think of him?

As Caesar left, Casca came by in the crowd.

You pulled at my cloak. You want to speak to me?

Yes, tell us what happened. Why all the cheering?
You were there, weren't you?

If so, I wouldn't ask you what had happened!

Why, Caesar was offered a crown!

What?

You were there, weren't you?

If so, I wouldn't ask you what had happened!

He refused it... pushed it away, like this... and the crowd cheered!

What about the second shout?

What?

You were there, weren't you?

If so, I wouldn't ask you what had happened!

Why, Caesar was offered a crown!

What?

He refused it... pushed it away, like this... and the crowd cheered!

What about the second shout?

What?

Three times, Antony tried to place a crown on Caesar's head... and each time Caesar looked more sad. But the crowd cheered when he turned it down!

And the third?
The people love him as a dictator,* but they are not yet ready to accept him as a king.

By the way, Casca, will you dine with me tomorrow?

If you wish to talk to me privately, come tomorrow. I'll wait at home for you.

Good! I'll be there.

If I still live... and your dinner is worth eating! For now, farewell.

So Brutus left, and Cassius stood alone.

Tonight... I will see that letters are tossed through Brutus' window.

They'll seem to be from leading citizens** hinting that Caesar will make himself king. I'll have Brutus on my side yet!

* a leader given full power in times of trouble
** members of a city or country who have the right to vote
That night a terrible storm raged, but Casca was out in it.

Never till tonight have I seen a storm dropping such fire on us!

A lion... but he is too frightened to attack me!

It is a sign from the gods! They are angry with the men of Rome!
Casca! I recognized your voice.

Who’s there?

I like it! I’ve been walking and enjoying it.

Cassius! What a night this is!

A Roman!

But men should fear and tremble when the gods warn us of their anger!

Honest men should not fear. The gods grow angry only with tyrants!**

You mean Caesar, don’t you?

* knew by seeing or hearing

** rulers who refuse to follow the law and often treat their people harshly
I hear the senators* plan to make Caesar king tomorrow!

The Roman people are weaker than I thought if they need a king to rule them.

But perhaps you serve Caesar gladly! If so, I am ready to defend myself!

No, no! I feel as you do! And I will join you if you have a plan against him.

I do! In fact, I’m on my way to meet some other noble Romans to discuss** it. Will you come?

I am with you!

---

* men who are elected to help rule a city or a country

** talk over
But wait! Here comes someone!

It is Cinna. He is one of us!

I came to find you! We are waiting at the meeting place!

If you could only win Brutus to our side! All the people love him and believe in him.

He thinks as we do, Cinna. I am sure he will join us soon.

These letters will help persuade* him. Toss one in at his window, the others where only he can find them.

All right. I will meet you later.

Come Casca. Before it is day, we shall see Brutus at his house. By then he will be one of us!

*urge or encourage someone to believe or to do something
**Julius Caesar**

At that very hour, Brutus was walking in his garden. He could not sleep.

Lucius, wake up! Come here!

You called, sir?

You called, sir?

Take a candle into my study, Lucius. When it is lighted, come and call me.

I will, sir.

Alone again, Brutus tried to sort out his thoughts.

Caesar can be stopped only by death. But is it right to kill him?

The candle is lighted. And in your study, near the window, I found this.
Go back to bed, Lucius. But wait! Isn’t tomorrow the Ides of March?

I don’t know, sir. I’ll look at the calendar.

Meanwhile, Brutus read the unsigned letter.

“Brutus, wake up! Shall Rome be ruled by one man?”

What, Rome? My ancestors* drove Tarquin** from the streets when he was called a king!

Oh, Rome, I make you a promise! I, Brutus, will speak... and strike... if it be needed!

---

* members of one’s family who lived long ago
** Tarquinius Superbus, the last king of Rome, who was driven from the city by his people
JUST THEN, THE SERVANT LUCIUS RETURNED.

YOU ARE RIGHT, SIR. IT IS THE FIFTEENTH OF MARCH.

GOOD. NOW GO TO THE GATE. SOMEONE'S KNOCKING.

SIR, IT IS YOUR FRIEND CASSIUS. . . AND SOME OTHER MEN I COULD NOT SEE.

LET THEM COME IN.

GOOD DAY! DO WE WAKE YOU?

NO. I'VE BEEN AWAKE ALL NIGHT. DO I KNOW THESE MEN?
Yes, every one. This is Trebonius. These are Casca, Cinna, and Metellus Cimber. All of them honor you!

They are all welcome.

What troubles keep you awake tonight, Cassius?

May I speak to you privately?

Brutus and Cassius whispered together for a few moments. Then...

He is with us!

Shake hands with me, friends, one by one.
Yes, we will swear to carry out our plan!

No, not an oath!*

Our honest word, honestly given, is enough for any true Roman.

Shall no man be touched but Caesar?

A good point. I think Mark Antony should die too!

No, no!

We are not butchers! We don’t kill in anger. We act for the good of all.

Besides, Mark Antony can do no more to hurt us than Caesar’s arm could, if his head were cut off!

* a very solemn or serious promise
Listen! The clock strikes three.

It is time we left.

But suppose Caesar does not go to the Capitol today? The omens* are bad, and he has become very superstitious.**

Don’t worry, I know what to do. I’ll get him to the Capitol.

Then we will meet by eight o’clock.

Agreed! We’ll all be there. Goodbye, Brutus.

* mysterious signs that are supposed to warn of future events
** believing in all sorts of supernatural signs
Soon after the men had left, Brutus was joined by his wife Portia.

Portia! You should not be up and out in the cold morning air.

NOR SHOULDN'T YOU. WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT TROUBLES YOU?

All night you have walked and sighed. Earlier, when I asked what troubled you, you were cross with me.

IT IS ONLY THAT I AM NOT FEELING WELL!

Don't kneel, dear Portia!

I wouldn't have to, if you would keep your marriage vows.

Am I only someone to fix your meals and share your bed... or am I truly your wife, a part of you, to share your secrets?

You're my true wife, as dear to me as my heart's blood!
I AM LOYAL, BRUTUS, AND I CAN KEEP YOUR SECRETS!

BUT WAIT... SOMEONE’S AT THE GATE! GO INSIDE QUICKLY, AND WE’LL SPEAK LATER.

MY DEAR LOVE, I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!

ACROSS THE CITY, AT CAESAR’S HOUSE, IT HAD BEEN A STORMY, WAKEFUL NIGHT AS WELL.

NEITHER HEAVEN NOR EARTH HAS BEEN PEACEFUL TONIGHT.

AND THREE TIMES IN HER SLEEP, CALPURNIA CRIED OUT: “HELP! THEY MURDERED CAESAR!”
Troubled, Caesar called a servant to his side.

Go and tell the priests to make sacrifices*, and let me know what they say.

At once, sir.

As the servant hurried away, Caesar’s wife Calpurnia came into the room.

Caesar! You must not go out of the house today!

I’ve never believed in signs and omens... but awful things have been seen during the night.

Ghost-soldiers fought in the clouds, dead men left their graves, spirits screamed in the streets. I’m afraid!

These signs are for everyone, not just for me. I am not afraid. Death will come when it will come!

* offerings to the gods
Just then Caesar’s servant returned with news from the priests.

The signs show that you should not go out today.

I will not listen! I am Caesar... and stronger than danger. I will go!

Tell the senators it is my fear that keeps you here! Send Mark Antony to the Capitol. He will say you are not well today.

All right, Calpurnia. Mark Antony will tell them I am not well. At your wish, I will stay at home.

Please, Caesar... no!
Just then Decius arrived. . . the plotter* who had said he would see to it that Caesar came to the capitol.

**Good day, Caesar! I’ve come to take you to the capitol.**

You are just in time to take a message to the senators. I will not come today.

**Say he is sick.**

No, no. I have no need to lie.

**Simply tell them I will not come. That is enough.**

But because you are my friend, I will tell you the real reason. It is Calpurnia, my wife, who keeps me at home.

**I had such terrible dreams last night!**

* someone who plans evil
I saw Caesar's statue, like a fountain, spouting blood. And many Romans came smiling, and washed their hands in it!

She has begged me on her knees to stay at home today.

Her dream is right, Caesar, but you have not understood it correctly!

Your statue spouting blood means that Rome will receive strength and greatness from you. That is what the dream means!

You see, the senators plan to give you a crown today! If you do not come, they may change their minds.
SOME WILL LAUGH, AND SAY, “WAIT UNTIL ANOTHER TIME WHEN CAESAR’S WIFE HAS BETTER DREAMS!”

THEY’LL WHISPER, “THE MIGHTY CAESAR IS AFRAID.”

YOU MAKE CALPURNIA’S FEAR SEEM FOOLISH.

I AM ASHAMED THAT I AGREED WITH HER. I WILL GO! BRING ME MY ROBE.

THEN, AS CAESAR GOT READY, OTHERS ARRIVED.

HERE IS PUBLIUS, COMING TO WALK WITH ME. AND BRUTUS!
GOOD DAY, CAESAR!

WELCOME, PUBLIUS! AND YOU, BRUTUS, YOU’RE OUT EARLY.
CASCA, CAIUS LIGARIUS... COME IN!

AND HERE’S ANTONY—UP EARLY EVEN AFTER A NIGHT OF MERRY-MAKING!

DEAR FRIENDS, THANK YOU FOR COMING! HAVE SOME WINE, AND WE’LL ALL GO TO THE CAPITOL TOGETHER.
As the plotters waited to go with Caesar to the Senate,* other people were trying to find ways to warn him.

One of these was Artemidorus.

Brutus, Cassius, Casca... I know they mean to harm Caesar, but they'll never let me near enough to warn him.

I'll write a note and try to give it to Caesar as he passes. If he reads it, he may yet live!

Another was the old soothsayer who had warned Caesar about the Ides of March.

I see great harm coming to Caesar. I must warn him again to take care!

I must find a place he will pass on his way. I will speak to him once more!

* the building in which the senators met for government business; the Capitol
Meanwhile, Caesar set out, not knowing he was surrounded by plotters. As they neared the Capitol, the soothsayer stepped out of the crowd. Caesar spoke to him.

You see, the Ides of March have come.

Yes, but not yet gone! Oh, Great Caesar, beware!

Then Artemidorus rushed up to Caesar.

Hail, Caesar! Please read this petition,* I beg you!

This is not the time for such things.

But this concerns you, and now!

All the more reason to wait. I must put the people’s business before my own.

* a paper asking for a favor
So, Caesar moved on to the Capitol, never thinking of danger. But some of the plotters were nervous. *

Look! Is Popilius warning Caesar of our plot?

Don’t worry! Caesar is still smiling.

If our plan is discovered, I’ll kill myself!

Everything’s working as we planned it! See, Trebonius is drawing Mark Antony away from Caesar.

* upset, jumpy
Finally Caesar called the senate to order. The plotters gathered around him. Suddenly... Hands, speak for me!

Are you with them, too, Brutus? Then die, Caesar!
As Caesar fell, the crowd panicked,* but the plotters cheered.

Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny** is dead!

Tell the people we have made them free again!

We mean no harm to any Roman! No one should be frightened!

Caesar’s death was a sacrifice, not a murder. We must bathe our hands and our swords in his blood and go through the streets crying, “Peace, freedom, and liberty!”

* became frightened and tried to run away all at once

** harsh rule
Just then Mark Antony’s servant drew near.

My master sent me to kneel at your feet, Brutus, with a message.

Then speak.

“I honor Brutus,” my master said, “as I honored Caesar.”

If you will make clear to Antony why Caesar deserved to die, then he will honor Brutus living more than Caesar dead. And he will follow you faithfully.

Antony is a wise and brave Roman! He may safely come here, and I will answer all his questions.

I’ll tell him at once.
Almost at once, Antony arrived. Welcome, Mark Antony!

I don’t know what you plan to do. But if I must die, no place would be better than here by Mighty Caesar.

We may seem cruel and bloody to you now, but our hearts are not. Pity for the Roman people made us do what we did.

We wish you well. And when we have calmed the fears of the people, I will explain why I, who honored Caesar also, struck him down.

Very well. Then I would like to take his body to the marketplace and speak at his funeral.*

You shall, Mark Antony.

Brutus, a word with you!

* a religious service for someone who has died
DON’T LET HIM SPEAK BRUTUS! HE’LL STIR UP THE PEOPLE!

IT WILL DO US MORE GOOD THAN HARM TO SHOW THE PEOPLE THAT WE WANT TO HAVE A PROPER FUNERAL FOR CAESAR.

DON’T WORRY, CASSIUS. I WILL SPEAK FIRST AND EXPLAIN EVERYTHING WE HAVE DONE.

WELL, I STILL DON’T LIKE IT.

SO IT WAS ARRANGED. THE PLOTTERS WENT AWAY AND MARK ANTONY WAS LEFT ALONE WITH CAESAR’S BODY.

I SWEAR THAT BEFORE THIS IS OVER, I WILL AVENGE* YOU! BLOOD, SUFFERING, AND WAR WILL TEAR ITALY APART!

OH, CAESAR, FORGIVE ME FOR BEING MEEK AND GENTLE WITH THESE BUTCHERS. THEY HAVE KILLED THE NOBLEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED!

* get even for something, seek revenge
As Antony grieved for Caesar, a servant came to him from Octavius, Caesar’s nephew and adopted son. Caesar wrote to your master, telling him to return to Rome! Is he near? Only a few miles away. But—is this Caesar?

It is. But before we weep, we must make plans. Return to Octavius and tell him what has happened. Now come, give me a hand with Caesar’s body.

We must carry him to the marketplace. I will see from my speech how the people will answer this murder!

*mourned, felt sorrow at someone’s death*
Meanwhile at the Forum,* Brutus was explaining to the people why Caesar had been killed.

I loved Caesar, but I loved Rome more. Caesar loved power too much, and that is why we killed him.

If you want to live as slaves, you should hate us, yes. But if you want to be free Romans, you must praise us.

The people cheered at Brutus’ words.

Long live Brutus! Caesar was a tyrant! Rule us in Caesar’s place!

Just then Mark Antony arrived with Caesar’s body.

Good Romans, do honor to Caesar’s body, and listen to Antony’s funeral speech. I alone will leave.

* a central meeting place in the city of Rome
Saying this, Brutus departed, and Antony began to speak.

The noble Brutus has told you Caesar was too ambitious... and Brutus is an honorable man.

But three times you saw me offer Caesar a crown, and three times he refused it. Is this ambition?

He loved you very much, and you loved him once, too, with good reason.

As Antony recalled**, Caesar's great deeds, the feelings of the crowd began to change.

But wait—I've said too much. I must not wrong the honorable men who have killed Caesar.

They were murderers! O noble Caesar!

---

* wanting or trying to get power

** reminded someone of
BE CALM, MY FRIENDS! LISTEN TO CAESAR’S WILL!

WE’LL HEAR IT! WE’LL HEAR THE WILL!

TO EVERY ROMAN MAN, HE LEAVES SEVENTY-FIVE DRACHMAS.*

TO YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN HE LEAVES HIS LANDS, WALKS, AND GARDENS ON THE RIVER TIBER. WHEN SHALL COME ANOTHER MAN LIKE THIS?

NEVER! NEVER!

MOST NOBLE CAESAR! WE’LL BURN HIS BODY IN THE HOLY PLACE! WE’LL AVENGE HIS DEATH!

* about $150
WE’LL FIND THE TRAITORS!* WE’LL BURN THEIR HOUSES! WE’LL KILL THEM!

NOW LET IT WORK. MISCHIEF** TAKE YOUR COURSE.

AS THE MOB MOVED AWAY, OCTAVIUS’ SERVANT WALKED UP TO ANTONY.

OCTAVIUS IS IN ROME... AT CAESAR’S HOUSE.

I WILL GO STRAIGHT TO VISIT HIM.

THEY SAY BRUTUS AND CASSIUS HAVE RIDDEN LIKE MADMEN OUT OF ROME!

THEY MUST HAVE HAD SOME WARNING OF HOW THE PEOPLE FEEL.

* people who have done evil to their own country
** evil works, violence
Once Caesar was dead, Brutus and Cassius had hoped to take control of Rome peacefully. But Antony’s speech changed everything. They would have to fight a battle to decide which side would rule.

Mark Antony and Octavius made their plans in Rome.

Brutus and Cassius are raising armies. We must get our own forces together. And we must try to learn their plans. There are enemies on all sides.

Outside Rome, Brutus and Cassius commanded a large army. They met one day at Brutus’ camp.

I have word that Antony and Octavius are leading a strong force to Philippi.

I hear the same.

We must march there to fight them.

No, no! It’s better for them to march to us, tiring their soldiers!

Not so, for they can add new soldiers to their army as they travel. They will be stronger if they come here.

Then we will do it your way. But I don’t like it.
COME! IT IS NIGHT AND TIME FOR US TO REST.

YES. LET’S NOT ARGUE EVER AGAIN.

WHEN CASSIUS HAD LEFT, BRUTUS MADE READY FOR THE NIGHT.

IF YOU ARE NOT TOO SLEEPY LUCIUS, PLAY ME A TUNE.

IT IS MY DUTY, SIR.

LUCIUS PLAYED, AND NODED, AND FELL ASLEEP.

THIS CANDLE BURNS BADLY... OR IS IT MY EYES? WHO COMES HERE?
What are you? An angel? A devil? You make my blood freeze and my hair stand on end.

I am your evil spirit, Brutus. You will see me again... at Philippi!

At that, the ghost disappeared, and Brutus woke Lucius and the guards.

Lucius! Did you cry out in your sleep? Did you see anything?

No, Sir!

Nothing, Sir!

Nothing!

After this, Brutus spent an uneasy night. The next day, on the plains of Philippi, the two armies met to do battle.

Our hopes are answered! They’ve come down from the hills to fight on the plains.
They are coming, and their flag is out!

Good. Octavius, lead your men against the left part of the field. I’ll take the right.

Words before blows,* countrymen.**

But before the battle began, the leaders met to talk.

You love your words more than we do, Brutus.

But good words are better than bad blows.

With your bad blows you give good words Brutus. . . like the hole you made in Caesar’s heart while crying, “Long live Caesar!”

* hits, strikes (in a battle)

** fellow citizens
I draw my sword against all plotters! It will not be put away again until Caesar’s wounds are avenged... or until I fall in battle!

Come, Antony, we challenge you! If you dare to fight, meet us on the battlefield!

With this, Antony and Octavius moved away. Brutus spoke with his lieutenant**, Lucilius; Cassius with his aide, Messala.

Today is my birthday, Messala, and the signs are bad. I do not like to stake everything on one battle!

* dare
** the man next in charge
Cassius spoke of these fears to Brutus.

If we lose this battle, what then, Brutus? Are you willing to be led through the streets of Rome a captive?*

But this day must end what the Ides of March began. Whether we shall ever meet again, we don’t know!

No, Cassius! Brutus will never go to Rome in chains!

Forever and forever fare—

well, Cassius!

If we do meet again, why, we shall smile!

Forever and forever farewell, Cassius! If we do not, it is right that we say our goodbyes now!

* prisoner, loser of a battle
The battle went on all day.

Ride, Messala! Give these orders to the troops across the field.

I see a weakness in Octavius’ wing*. A sudden attack will beat them.

But on another part of the battlefield, things were not going well for Cassius.

My own men were running away, Titinius. I had to kill the flag bearer and take the flag from him!

Brutus gave the command to attack Octavius too early. We are surrounded** by Antony’s men!

---

*a group of men in battle, part of an army

**hemmed in on all sides
Just then, Pindarus, one of Cassius’ men, rushed up.

Retreat, sir! Get away! Antony has captured your tents!

Those are my tents burning?

They are, sir.

Titinius... quick! Ride out and learn whether those nearby troops are friends or enemies.

I’ll be right back!

Look out over the field, Pindarus! Tell me what is happening!

Titinius is riding toward some horsemen... they surround him... they shout with joy! They’ve captured him!

* go back
** in this case, soldiers on horseback
TITINIUS, MY DEAR FRIEND... I SENT HIM TO BE CAPTURED!

COME DOWN, PINDARUS. WHEN I SPARED YOUR LIFE* IN BATTLE, YOU SWORE TO DO WHATEVER I TOLD YOU. NOW DO WHAT I SAY, AND YOU WILL BE FREE.

TAKE THIS SWORD, THE SAME ONE THAT KILLED CAESAR. WHEN MY FACE IS COVERED, THRUST** IT DEEP INTO MY CHEST.

I WILL DO IT, BUT I WOULD RATHER NOT BE FREE IN SUCH A WAY!

SADLY, PINDARUS DID AS HE WAS ORDERED.

CAESAR, YOU ARE AVENGED!

* did not kill someone, kept someone from being killed
** push, strike
JUST THEN TITINIUS RETURNED WITH MESSALA. HE HAD NOT BEEN CAPTURED AFTER ALL!

SO FAR, THE BATTLE IS A DRAW.* CASSIUS’ TROOPS WERE BEaten BY ANTONY, BUT BRUTUS WON OUT OVER OCTAVIUS.

THAT WILL COMFORT, CASSIUS. I LEFT HIM HERE SOMEWHERE.

ISN’T THAT CASsiUS ON THE GROUND?

OH NO, MESSALA; THAT WAS CASsiUS! HE IS NO MORE.

I’LL TAKE THIS SAD NEWS TO BRUTUS.

CASsiUS MUST HAVE THOUGHT WE COULD NOT WIN!

OH, CASSIUS! YOU SENT ME OUT... I MET OUR FRIENDS, DIDN’T YOU HEAR THEIR SHOUTS? NO, YOU MISUNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING... YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE ENEMIES WHO CAPTURED ME!

* even on both sides
** did not understand, made a mistake
Brutus gave me this victory wreath to bring to you, and you shall have it now. But as for me, it is time for me to die.

Forgive me, gods! This is how a noble Roman must act, Cassius’ sword shall find Titinius’ heart!

Not long afterward, Messala returned with Brutus.

Where does Cassius’ body lie?

There... with Titinius grieving beside it.

He is not grieving. Titinius is dead!

Julius Caesar, you are still mighty! Your spirit walks, and turns our swords against ourselves.
Friends, I owe more tears to this dead man than you shall see me pay.

For now, take the bodies away. There is still a battle to be fought.

Meanwhile, on another part of the field, Antony’s soldiers were winning.

Give up, or you will die!

I give up.

A noble prisoner! Go and tell Antony.

Where is Brutus?

Safe, Antony! No enemy will ever take the noble Brutus alive!

Here he comes!
At that very moment, not far away, Brutus was beginning to see that he could not win.

Last night Caesar's ghost appeared* to me. I know my time has come. Who will help me to die?

Clitus? Dardanius?

I'd rather kill myself!

I, sir? Not for all the world!

Just then the trumpets sounded. Enemy troops drew near.

Run, sir! Quickly!

You go, and I will follow. Good Strato, stay by me.

*as used here, came back from the dead as a spirit and revealed who he was.
Hold my sword, and turn your face away while I run upon it. Will you, Strato?

Give me your hand, first.

Fare you well, dear sir!

Farewell, good Strato. Caesar, you are avenged!

When Antony and Octavius arrived soon afterward, only Strato remained.

How did my master die, Strato?

I held the sword, and he ran upon it.

Brutus was the noblest* Roman of them all!

The battle was over, and Antony’s side had won. But even so, he was sad at Brutus’ death.

All the others acted because they envied** Caesar. Brutus alone did what he believed was right!

His body shall lie in honor in my tent. We will give him all the respect a noble Roman soldier deserves!

* best, most honest, most sincere

** were jealous of

THE END
A triumphant Caesar enters Rome after defeating the sons of his old enemy, Pompey. Jealousy and fear over Caesar’s reforms reveal a brewing conspiracy to assassinate him. As the plot thickens, Caesar’s wife is plagued by terrible nightmares and begs him not to go to the Capitol. But Caesar shrugs off her fears and is accompanied to the Senate by the conspirators thus sealing his fate. Caesar’s loyal friends rally to avenge his death and preserve his legacy.