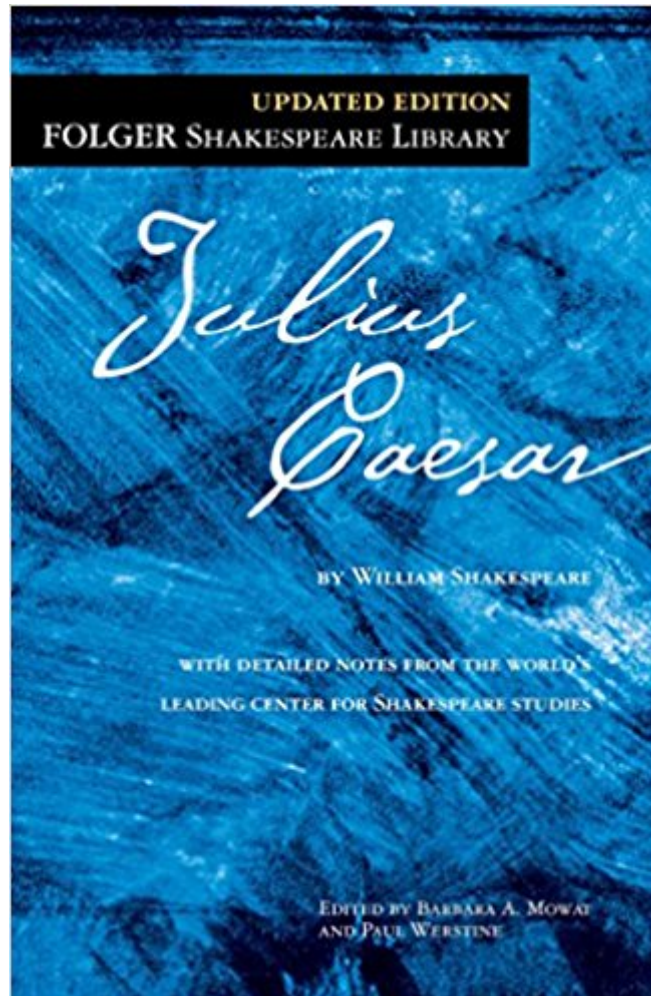




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# Julius Caesar (Folger Shakespeare Library)



## Synopsis

Shakespeare may have written *Julius Caesar* as the first of his plays to be performed at the Globe, in 1599. For it, he turned to a key event in Roman history: Caesar's death at the hands of friends and fellow politicians. Renaissance writers disagreed over the assassination, seeing Brutus, a leading conspirator, as either hero or villain. Shakespeare's play keeps this debate alive. The authoritative edition of *Julius Caesar* from The Folger Shakespeare Library, the trusted and widely used Shakespeare series for students and general readers, includes:

- Freshly edited text based on the best early printed version of the play
- Newly revised explanatory notes conveniently placed on pages facing the text of the play
- Scene-by-scene plot summaries
- A key to the play's famous lines and phrases
- An introduction to reading Shakespeare's language
- An essay by a leading Shakespeare scholar providing a modern perspective on the play
- Fresh images from the Folger Shakespeare Library's vast holdings of rare books
- An up-to-date annotated guide to further reading

Essay by Coppélia Kahn

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is home to the world's largest collection of Shakespeare's printed works, and a magnet for Shakespeare scholars from around the globe. In addition to exhibitions open to the public throughout the year, the Folger offers a full calendar of performances and programs. For more information, visit [Folger.edu](http://Folger.edu).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

William Shakespeare was born in April 1564 in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, on England's Avon River. When he was eighteen, he married Anne Hathaway. The couple had three children – an older daughter Susanna and twins, Judith and Hamnet. Hamnet, Shakespeare's only son, died in childhood. The bulk of Shakespeare's working life was spent in the theater world of London, where he established himself professionally by the early 1590s. He enjoyed success not only as a playwright and poet, but also as an actor and shareholder in an acting company. Although some think that sometime between 1610 and 1613 Shakespeare retired from the theater and returned home to Stratford, where he died in 1616, others believe that he may have continued to work in London until close to his death. Barbara A. Mowat is Director of Research emerita at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Consulting Editor of Shakespeare Quarterly, and author of *The Dramaturgy of Shakespeare's Romances* and of essays on Shakespeare's plays and their editing. Paul Werstine is Professor of English at the Graduate School and at King's University College at Western University. He is a general editor of the *New Variorum Shakespeare* and author of *Early Modern Playhouse Manuscripts and the Editing of Shakespeare* and of many papers and articles on the printing and editing of Shakespeare's plays.

The additional content is really interesting but the actual textual notes are limited. I just got a copy of the Arden Hamlet and I feel it provides a great deal more in-text notes and analysis. That said, this edition is valuable for the compilation of well chosen discussions included and I do recommend it.

Another wonderful classic beautifully bound in a lovely treasured keepsake by Collector's Library. Having almost 20 of their books, I am always so pleased add another to my "Collector's Collection." Gilded edges, lovely illustrations at a very reasonable price. Who could ask for anything more?

How can a reviewer give Shakespeare a three-star review, other than all those high school students who prefer to write two sentence 1-star reviews because they were forced to read it? Ah, there's the rub, to coin a phrase, but I am NOT giving Shakespeare 3-stars: rather the edition I have just read, and even less than three stars for the manner in which it displays the editions. It is just flat confusing, and wrong. Since I started my effort to read all of Shakespeare, at the pace of one work a month, I have been purchasing all the works for Kindle reading. The edition I purchased does have a cover which corresponds with the cover (currently) displayed on Amazon – the statue in the fountain, with the portico in the background. But the edition is

(maddeningly!) incomplete. The last few pages are missing! At least the confirmation was comforting. A couple other reviewers gave it a 1-star review for incompleteness, and not because they were forced to read it. And who could quibble with that? Then there is the matter that at least two other hardcopy editions are displayed on the same page, and the “editorial reviews” that are associated with the Kindle edition seem to have absolutely nothing to do with the edition since they speak of “copious and concise explanatory notes” et al., with the other review mentioning appendixes that relate to Plutarch, Montaigne, et al. And none of this exists in the edition I purchased, admitted for only 99 cents... but still. If this was a page on Wikipedia, there would be three separate whisk brooms, with the admonition that “this page needs to be (really!) cleaned up. Oh yes, was there an actual play involved in all the above grouching? Definitely, and I must have read 95% percent of the complete play, which poses its own sort of dilemma in terms of recording the play as “read.” It is yet another classic story historically based of power, corruption, intrigue, and death. The death of Julius Caesar marked a key transition in Roman history, from Republic, in its faded forms, to Empire. As with so much Greek and Roman drama, Shakespeare commences with a prophecy warning of the ides of March. A prime plotter against Caesar, Cassius, brings in Brutus (of “et tu?” fame) and seeks the “respectability” of bringing in the “silver hair” of Cicero. There are refreshingly “modern” and straightforward details such as Cassius relating incidents from his youth together with Caesar, a swim in the Tiber (in which the latter almost drown) to an illness in Spain, all proof, he says, that Caesar is not a god. There is a discussion among the plotters about killing Mark Anthony too, but then the consensus is that it would be too much like a butchery, and not a “seasoned excise” of this ugly boil upon the Republic. Caesar is killed, literally on the floor of the Senate, obviously long before those ubiquitous metal detectors. He is killed half way through the play, so the remainder is devoted to the (naturally inevitable?) falling out among the plotters, including a key division between Cassius and Brutus. Anthony performs a brilliant funeral oration, that seems to argue on the justice of the killing, but actually turns the tide against the plotters. He allies himself with Octavius, who would become Emperor. At one level, an “exhausting read” of intrigue and perfidy that makes “hanging chads” a much preferable method for power transitions. Who would have thought I’d say that? The plotters do lose out in the end... if I only

knew what that actually end was! 3-stars, reflecting a "triangulation" between an excellent play and an incomplete edition that did not live up to its advertising.

This review is for the kindle version of the Arden Third Series Revised Hamlet. Great book with helpful notations/comments/essays. Only complaint is that the play's text is both black and blue (links to notations) on Kindle fire. This can be kind of an eyesore while trying to read. Perhaps if Bloomsbury could change the color?

More stars needed. This is the original of them all, and you'll see why when you read it. How could one human being have created such a sublime piece of work? Commenting on it seems utterly ridiculous, and I only do it because you cannot consider yourself literate until you've given yourself the gift of reading it. Masterful storytelling, mystery, psychology, family, love, loyalty, absurdity, revenge, misunderstanding, sword fights, nation building, ennui, more, more more, it's here. And it's influence is everywhere today, movies, TV, novels, and the stuff of headlines. Picked it up again after a few decades and still could not put it down.

Reading Hamlet for my college literature class and the translation is incredibly helpful. Showed it to my teacher and she's considering using it next semester. Great deal, worth much more than \$3.

its great if u need help getting through any shakespeare and making sure you understand it. however it was a bit of a pain in class to have to keep turning the page so much more frequently. the way the book is set up is that on the left page you have the original script and on the right is the modern language version...its also a bit difficult to write notes on the page if you are looking to do that. but it does serve its price mark purpose

If you are a fan of Shakespeare you will enjoy most of these classical books that he has written. I know a few people have actually had trouble, and in some cases even myself with what was going on in an 'act or scene' but on the left side they break it down in a little note on what is what. It basically acts (the left side) as a study guide on certain things if you get lost, what is what, what is going on, what just happened etc. It takes something that isn't normally used and helps you understand it if you are having some issues. The book itself came very well packed, the pages were not bent, or the cover. It was well written with no errors that I have ran across, and the text is readable. It is a good size for anyone, though a little smaller then the average book it can still work

out just fine. The cover itself is practical but very interesting in itself, and smooth so you won't get anything sticky or annoying to deal with. It is easy to keep track of where you are at so if you have bookmarks or so on use them. Not hard to lose at all, and great condition.

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