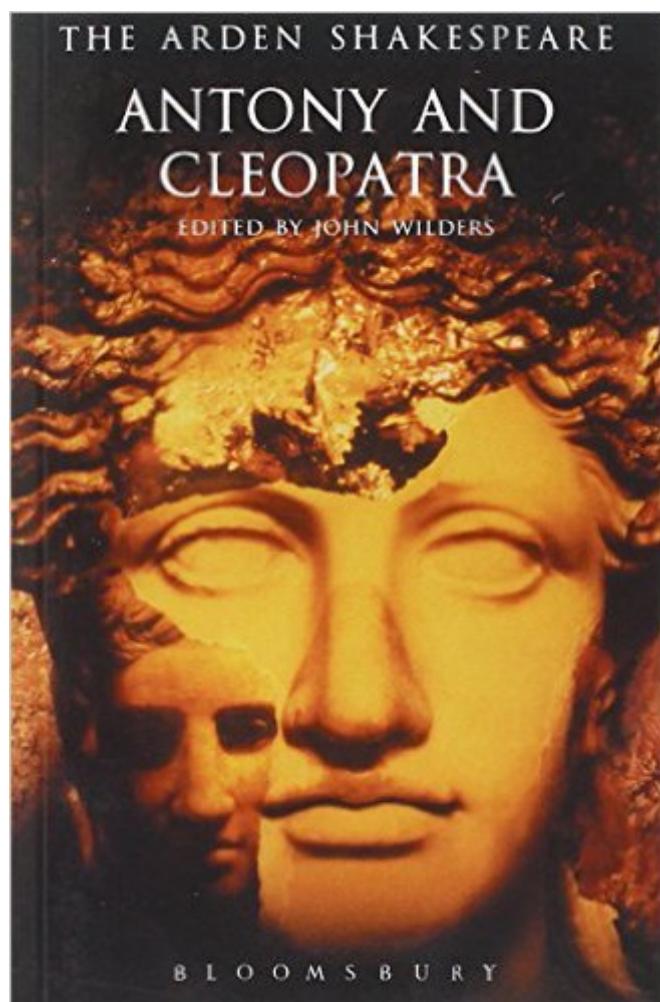


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Antony And Cleopatra (Arden Shakespeare: Third Series)



Synopsis

John Wilders - literary advisor to the BBC TV Shakespeare series - brings thorough scholarship and a practical understanding of performance needs to this new edition. Clarity, accessibility and rigour are the hallmarks of an edition which will provide invaluable guidance for all its readers. "This edition has a very helpful introduction and good clear text, as well as the exceptionally excellent and detailed notes." Dr Michael Herbert, St Andrews University 'A useful treatment of a complex play' Barry Gaines, University of New Mexico, *Shakespeare Quarterly*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a play full of fascinating characters who are themselves full of pride, avarice, lust, and lies. Octavian, the youngest of the triumvirate with Lepidus and Antony, proves out why he is Caesar with a cold efficiency that makes all tyrants proud. Antony, Herculean character though he claims to be, plays the fool for Cleopatra, and Cleopatra plays the role of Cleopatra with smoke and mirrors. Her famous suicide is actually her triumph and apotheosis of the character she created. Poor Pompey refused to seize the reins of power through dishonorable murder, and yet receives the same from those he spared. And how many of the attendants to the principles themselves die in this play? We have poisonings, beatings, and death from shame. This edition is quite fine as we expect from Arden. The notes are extremely helpful to understand the locations and context of this play with its wide-ranging locales and dozens of scenes that fly from place to place. Of course, the notes that help with the language and text emendations are wonderfully done. The longer notes are put in

the back. The first quarter of the book is an extended essay on various aspects of this play that ranges from its origin, performance issues and how they were handled over the centuries, and problems of the text. It is a wonderfully useful essay that added a lot to my enjoyment of reading the play. This is part of the third Arden series of the Shakespeare plays and is very readable and I enjoyed it a great deal.

The Arden Shakespeare are both scholarly and inviting to read. *Antony and Cleopatra* is an underappreciated and under-read play; it is "essential Shakespeare," among the great plays such as *Hamlet*, *Lear*, *Macbeth* and *Othello*.

This is a vastly underrated play. It is excellent and terribly complex; it features Shakespeare's take on this famous relationship, one of the first power couples. It plays off Plutarch's Lives, so having background with that is helpful. Cleopatra is one of Shakespeare's best female characters.

OK, it is fictional but who buys this & doesn't already know the plot? More strange review questions from to get here but the book is excellent, commentary top-notch and overall condition great. I just bought this so I wouldn't have to lug my RSC Shakespeare into bed each nite!

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