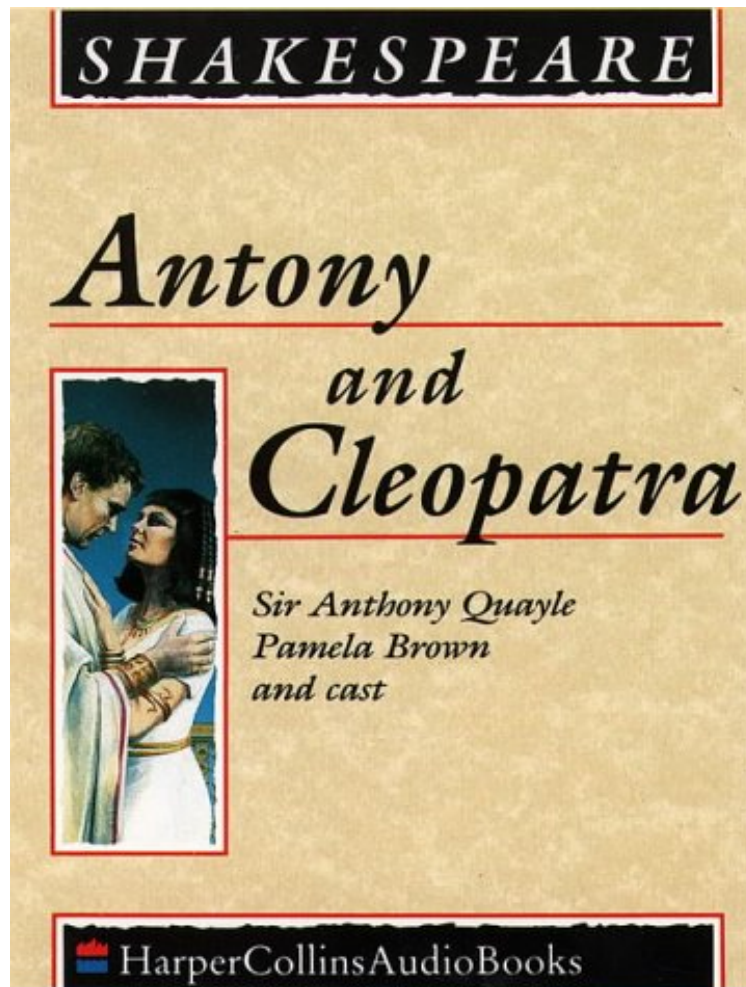


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Antony and Cleopatra: Complete Unabridged

William Shakespeare

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William Shakespeare : Antony and Cleopatra: Complete Unabridged before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Antony and Cleopatra: Complete Unabridged:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Discerningly-edited Edition By James R. McCall This is a review of a specific edition of Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" - namely the New Cambridge edition of 1990, edited by David Bevington. The book is a good size, and the print is easy to read. There are about 70 pages of front matter in this edition, and, on each page of the play, copious notes. Following the play's text, there is a discussion of general editorial choices and approaches, supplementing the specifics covered in notes. The front matter dutifully took up the sources of the play, its dating, structure, stage history, and a number of other topics. I found it occasionally a bit heavy going, as, in many sections, any straightforward statement seemed to be buried under a pile of citations from various critics. This was by no means always the case, and in such things as stage history I found the discussion brisk but

entertaining. The text was thoroughly annotated - too thoroughly for my taste. It did not get tedious, as in the Arden editions, but still, too many notes were devoted to specific editorial decisions, and too many supersized with references to other plays. I guess there is some interest in this, and one does not have to read the notes one does not want to, but it does tend to slow one down. This is good though, if one wants to delve. Moreover, virtually every word or passage that might cause difficulty is discussed and interpreted, which is certainly what one wants. In summary, I would say this edition is well worth having: it gives one most of the information one could conceivably need, does some interpretation, and explains the text helpfully. It does not include a transcription of Shakespeare's main sources (although this is done piecemeal in the notes), nor a plot and scene summary. These would have been nice, but are not necessary.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Enduring Accomplishment Concluded By Gregory F. Taylor
What a wonderful way to wrap up one of the greatest stories in history! McCullough begins just after the violent end of the Gracchi and concludes with the irrevocable end of the Republic. In between she has brought to life some of the most fascinating characters in world history: Gaius Marius, Lucius Cornelius Sulla (Felix!) and, of course, Julius Caesar. This is historical fiction come to glory! Working with minimal facts and well-reasoned extrapolations, she gives us fully realized characters acting within the limits of what is known. Everything that we know of Marius and Sulla would fit comfortably within a hundred pages, but she gives us an unforgettable 2000 before these characters take their preordained exits. With Mark Antony, she has vastly more to work with, since much that was written at the time survives, and many later writers focussed on this era. It is no mean achievement to make Octavian, the ultimate survivor, into a sympathetic character, and she endues Antony with nuance and spirit. Cleopatra is, perhaps necessarily, more of a blank slate, given how little is known of her thoughts and background, but the book brings her vividly to life. I truly hate to see the series finished, and would welcome a volume dealing with Augustus.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In depth character development and portrayal
By Kindle Customer
One of the most complete historical novels I've read so far (of several). Except for the lack of an epilogue to explain which portions were adapted from the recorded history versus modified to suit the prose, I recommend this especially for the in depth character analysis that portrays a dimension of the key actors in a way I haven't experienced with prior authors of this genre and period

The queen of the Nile meets her match in Mark Antony, and the lovers destroy each other - yet triumph in ruin - in this great romantic tragedy. The characterisation is subtle, the word music elaborately varied, and the construction swift and intricate. A great cast does it justice.

From the Publisher
Designed for school districts, educators, and students seeking to maximize performance on standardized tests, Webster's paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of Antony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare was edited for students who are actively building their vocabularies in anticipation of taking PSAT, SAT, AP (Advanced Placement), GRE, LSAT, GMAT or similar examinations. PSAT is a registered trademark of the College Entrance Examination Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation neither of which sponsors or endorses this book; SAT is a registered trademark of the College Board which neither sponsors nor endorses this book; GRE, AP and Advanced Placement are registered trademarks of the Educational Testing Service which neither sponsors nor endorses this book, GMAT is a registered trademark of the Graduate Management Admissions Council which is neither affiliated with this book nor endorses this book, LSAT is a registered trademark of the Law School Admissions Council which neither sponsors nor endorses this product. All rights reserved.

From the Back Cover
In its towering central characters, vast geographical and historical sweep, and its variety of style and mood, 'Antony and Cleopatra' is perhaps the most ambitious of Shakespeare's designs. Yet the degree and nature of its success remain surprisingly contentious, and performances of the play have seldom matched the extravagant expectations of its admirers.

About the Author
William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest playwright the world has seen. He produced an astonishing amount of work; 37 plays, 154 sonnets, and 5 poems. He died on 23rd April 1616, aged 52, and was buried in the Holy Trinity Church, Stratford.