



# Antony and Cleopatra

*Andrew Matthews , Tony Ross (Illustrator)*

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The stories come originally from the highly successful gift collection The Orchard Book of Shakespeare Stories. Also included are useful notes on the themes within the stories and a background to the Globe theatre. Andrew Matthews's vibrant and accessible retellings, coupled with expressive and funny illustrations by Tony Ross, provide an introduction to this important part of our cultural heritage in the most enjoyable way. Perfect for school use KS2-4, the notes highlighting themes in the specific stories will help to focus discussions.

## Antony and Cleopatra Details

Date : Published 2003 by Orchard Books

ISBN : 9781841213385

Author : Andrew Matthews , Tony Ross (Illustrator)

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Genre : Classics, Fiction, Childrens, Chapter Books

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# From Reader Review Antony and Cleopatra for online ebook

## Anu says

Anyone can read this regardless of age group. Furnishes enough details without missing out the major parts.

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## Tanya Rashid says

Read it after my 8 year old brought it back from school for her ar reader level. She understood it well enough and I think it was a good book to get kids into the start of reading Shakespeare :-)

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## Sarah Hall says

Excellent way to introduce Shakespeare to children. loved it!

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## Florence says

I thought that it was a bit complicated( too many characters ) the same with Macbeth.

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## Haleema says

Amazing!! Bought the Shakespeare stories for my 7 year old to introduce her to his works, even though I have only ever read Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth myself. Just had to read these books as they are a child friendly way of putting forward some of Shakespeare's classics and I'm glad I did! I see what the fuss is about xxx

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## Katina says

Not the version I want to read to my seven year old. Contains graphic details of the horrors of the burning ships and the suicides of Antony and Cleopatra. Otherwise a good introduction for an older audience to both history and Shakespeare. Black and white pictures throughout.

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## Den says

Another Shakespeare book I have found at school. I never liked Shakespeare when I was at school but after watching a few plays at the theatre I have decided to see what his stories were on about - although only in a simplified children's version.

I had heard of this one but did not really know much about it. Mark Anthony and Cleopatra are both headstrong people but fall deeply in love with one another. He moves to Egypt to live with her and they raise a family. BUT life moves on and to keep the Roman world united he must marry Caesar's sister, despite it only being a marriage of convenience. He returns to Egypt, only to have Caesar use it as an excuse to start war.

He then has to fight a Roman army, against the advice of his generals and Cleopatra's meddling means a big loss to his side.

He then tries to commit suicide but fails but is fatally wounded. he is taken to Cleopatra and dies in her arms. She could then tell Caesar she killed him, but she doesn't, instead she uses an asp and chooses a noble death. Their loyalty to each other shows throughout the book.

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## **Holly says**

Short simplified version of Shakespeare's play. Read this ahead of studying Antony and Cleopatra for A Level English Literature. The illustrations are fantastic but the plot isn't great. This may be an abridged version but we skipped Antony and Cleopatra actually falling in love. There was no reason for why Antony was fighting Octavius Caesar. Everything felt too vague and unclear - if this is meant to introduce Shakespeare to younger children, then the author could at least cover the plot correctly. Hoping that perhaps film adaptations and the real play will be better than this.

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## **Ng Man Lok Matt says**

---no spoiling included---In this story, the writer uses first person to tell the readers the story, the writer is a loyal helper and also a warrior working for Antony, who is one of the three rulers of Rome, he has the land in the East of Rome. The day of the meeting of Cleopatra, the queen of Rome, and Antony has come. Cleopatra has a gold face and black hair. They were married not long after their first meeting, but Antony had to marry Octavius, another ruler's sister because they had a contract. Antony told the writer to head back east after meeting his brothers (the other rulers) in the central of Rome. After Cleopatra has noted that, she became furious at the writer and the story continues.

I recommend this book to less sensitive people and probably teenagers. It does not have a clear moral which is different to other stories of William Shakespeare, but it is still very interesting.

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## **Sara says**

3.45 Stars

A great introduction to another Shakespeare classic: Antony and Cleopatra for the junior reader or for those wanting a general understanding of it, before reading the real thing/play (like me). Plus it is complemented by pictures/drawings/illustrations, that are drawn well and get the message across though sometimes is a bit vague (and at times not very imaginative). How the story is told, in 2nd person by Servius (Antony's Bodyguard) is interesting and engaging but the choice of wording is not very original or unique, boring at times. Would read again

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**PJ Wenzel says**

This wasn't as good as others have been in the series.

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**Alyssa says**

I thought its a really good book but it was a bit easy for me but i bet the adult ones would be way to hard.

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**Marie says**

I want to read more Shakespeare's but didn't know where to start so I bought the kids versions of his works. They are easy to understand and have some nice illustrations to look at, plus the covers are in my opinion so cute.

Interesting with a lots of action but not really my cup of tea...

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**Leanne says**

Was interested mainly in the setting of this story although I did like it over all too.

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**Amber Kreis says**

A nice, quick read for our family read aloud. Gives my older two an insight of what's to come when they read Shakespeare later on.

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