

ANTONY & CLEOPATRA

Character Notes

MARK ANTONY

A once fierce and feared soldier who rules the Roman Empire along with Octavius Caesar and Lepidus. When the play opens, Antony is madly in love with Cleopatra and has neglected his duties as a ruler in order to live in Egypt. He is torn between his sense of duty and his love for Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA

A highly attractive woman who is both Antony's lover and the queen of Egypt. Shakespeare makes it clear that the queen does love the general, though her emotions are as volatile as they are theatrical. Regardless of whether her audience is her handmaid or the emperor of Rome, she always offers a top-notch performance.

OCTAVIUS CAESAR

Octavius rules the Roman Empire with Antony and Lepidus. Relations between him and Antony are strained as he believes that Antony neglects his duties while in Egypt. He is very ambitious and his careful reasoning enables him to avoid Antony's romantic folly.

MARCUS AEMILIUS LEPIDUS

The third of the three rulers and the weakest, both politically and personally.

OCTAVIA

Octavius Caesar's sister. Octavia marries Antony in order to cement an alliance between the two rulers. He remains in love with Cleopatra and continues to visit her. This enrages Octavius Caesar.

ENOBARBUS

Antony's most loyal supporter who stays faithful to his master even after Antony makes grave political and military missteps.

EROS

An attendant serving Antony whose love for his master compels him to refuse Antony's order that Eros kill him.

SCARUS

A brave young soldier serving under Antony. Scarus garners fantastic wounds in battle and begs for the opportunity to win more.

AGRIPPA

One of Caesar's officers. Agrippa retreats from Antony's unexpectedly powerful forces.

PROCULEIUS

One of Caesar's soldiers, who proves untrustworthy.

CHARMIAN

Cleopatra's faithful attendant.

DIOMEDES

A servant of Cleopatra's who brings to Antony the message that Cleopatra has not committed suicide.

THE SOOTHSAYER

An Egyptian fortune-teller who follows Antony to Rome and predicts that his fortune will always pale in comparison to Caesar's.

PHILO

Follower of Mark Antony.

DEMETRIUS

Follower of Mark Antony.

GALLUS

Follower of Caesar.

MAECENAS

Follower of Caesar.

IRAS

Cleopatra's attendant.

MARDIAN

Another of Cleopatra's attendants, a eunuch.