



Herb and Lois Walker's

SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

Julius Caesar, Junior

A "Shortened Shakespeare"

by Lee Karvonen

Teacher Version

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JULIUS CAESAR, JUNIOR

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for this piece, first read-aloud and clap through the sections as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast!

This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance. After you have established the beat, it is time to start interpreting, experimenting, and having fun with the words by varying tempo, volume, inflection, and expression. Be careful not to allow the development of a "sing-song" delivery while rehearsing and performing this script.

STAGING

This script may be staged as either a Readers Theater Reading or as a Traditional Play: **If you are staging it as RT**, hang signs around each characters neck telling the audience the name of that character. (**JULIUS CAESAR, MARK ANTONY, BRUTUS, CICERO**, etc.). Since most RT productions do not involve much stage movement, ask some of the other characters who have smaller parts to hold up large signs at the proper moments to inform the audience which stage movements are happening at the time. (**CAESAR AND ANTONY EXIT, CAESAR AND ANTONY EXIT, CINNA ENTERS, CASCA STABS AND THE OTHERS FOLLOW, CASSIUS DIES, CAESAR'S GHOST ENTERS**, etc.)

CAST: JULIUS CAESAR, MARK ANTONY, BRUTUS, CICERO, CASSIUS, CASCA, CALPURNIA, FLAVIUS, MARULLUS, SOOTHSAYER, PORTIA, LUCIUS, 2 SERVANTS, PLEBEIANS 1 & 2, OCTAVIUS, CINNA, METELLUS, CAESAR'S GHOST

SCENE ONE

FLAVIUS: BEHOLD THE CITY STREETS ALL CHOKED WITH THE
FOLKS OF ROME
AND ALL OF THEM OUT TO WELCOME JULIUS
CAESAR HOME.

MARULLUS: WHERE WERE THEY WHEN POMPEY CAME HERE
AFTER A BIG WIN?
YET THEY'RE HERE TO CHEER THE GUY WHO
BASICALLY DID HIM IN.

FLAVIUS: LET US CHASE THEM OFF THE STREETS BEFORE
CAESAR GETS HERE.

MARULLUS: THAT'S GOOD! HE DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR ANY
LOUDER CHEERS.

SCENE TWO

SOOTHSAYER: CAESAR, MIGHTY CAESAR, BEWARE THE IDES OF
MARCH.

CAESAR: WHO IS THAT WHO'S SPEAKING UNDERNEATH THE
ARCH?

SOOTHSAYER: BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH, O CAESAR; PERIL IS
AT HAND.

CAESAR: YOU ARE DREAMING, OLD GUY, CAESAR'S NOT
AFRAID OF ANY MAN!

SCENE THREE

CASSIUS: HEY, BRUTUS, CHECK WHAT'S HAPPENING.
CAESAR'S FLYING HIGH
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I JUST DON'T LIKE
ABOUT THAT GUY.

BRUTUS: O, CASSIUS, CAESAR IS MY MAN. I LOVE HIM LIKE
A BROTHER.

CASSIUS: BUT WOULD YOU SAY, IN ALL OF ROME, THERE IS
JUST NO OTHER?

BRUTUS: I WILL ADMIT HE'S OVER-RATED, BUT HE IS A
GOOD MAN
AND I WILL SUPPORT HIM AS LONG AS I
REASONABLY CAN.

CASSIUS: OVER-RATED! OVER-PROUD! HE IS OVER US!
ALL OF ROME JUST LAPS IT UP AND MAKES OF HIM
A FUSS.
YOUR NAME IS JUST AS GOOD AS HIS; IT ROLLS
RIGHT OFF THE TONGUE
AND YET HE IS AN OLD MAN; ROME NEEDS
SOMEONE YOUNG!

BRUTUS: I FEAR ROME CHOOSES HIM FOR KING; I CHOOSE
DEMOCRACY.

CASSIUS: IF CAESAR IS PROCLAIMED OUR KING, WE ARE NO
LONGER FREE!

ONCE HE CHALLENGED ME TO SWIM A RIVER
BUT HE NEEDED A HAND,
HE ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT,
AND I HAD TO GET HIM TO LAND!

AND ONCE IN SPAIN HIS SICKNESS STRUCK
AND MIGHTY CAESAR SHOOK.
HE CRIED FOR WATER LIKE A GIRL,
AND GOOD HE DIDN'T LOOK!

BRUTUS: ANOTHER SHOUT! I FEAR THE PEOPLE HONOUR
HIM SOME MORE.

CASSIUS: ARE WE TO SIMPLY WATCH HIM RISE, OR DO WE
CHANGE THE SCORE?
HE STANDS ABOVE US LIKE A GOD; WE CREEP
ABOUT BELOW.
THE FAULT'S NOT IN OUR STARS, BUT US, THAT WE
ARE DOWN SO LOW.
WHAT DOES HE EAT THAT MAKES HIM GREAT,

WHILE WE ARE ONLY MEN?
WHEN WILL THE NAME OF BRUTUS BE GREAT TOO
ONCE AGAIN?

BRUTUS: I HEAR YOU, CASS, BUT GIVE ME TIME TO THINK
ON WHAT YOU'VE SAID.
I'LL SLEEP ON IT, BUT I'LL SAY NOW, YOUR STORY
HAS SOME CRED.

(Brutus exits.)

CASSIUS: WELL, BRUTUS, YOU CAN BE PERSUADED; THAT IS
CLEAR TO ME.
A LITTLE MORE PERSUASION, THOUGH, BEFORE
YOU TRULY SEE.
TONIGHT I'LL SPREAD SOME HYPE IN BRUTUS'S
HOUSE TO LET HIM THINK
THAT MANY DIFFERENT CITIZENS WOULD GIVE
BRUTUS THE WINK.
FOR BRUTUS IS A NOBEL ROMAN, BUT HE IS JUST
TOO NICE.
I MUST PERSUADE DEAR BRUTUS THAT HE MUST
PAY THE PRICE!

SCENE FOUR:

CAESAR: ANTONY, I'D HAVE ABOUT ME THOSE MEN WHO ARE
FAT.
YOND CASSIUS' LOOKS ARE LEAN AND HUNGRY;
AND I DON'T LIKE THAT.

ANTONY: DON'T FEAR HIM, CAESAR; HE IS NOBLE, NOT DANGEROUS AT ALL.
ANOTHER NOBLE ROMAN WHO WILL ANSWER CAESAR'S CALL.

CAESAR: FEAR MEANS NOTHING TO ME, BUT I WISH HE WERE MORE FAT.
TO TOP IT ALL, HE THINKS TOO MUCH, THE SKINNY, LITTLE RAT!
AND THE MAN JUST HAS NO CULTURE; MUSIC NEVER HITS HIS EAR.
YOU KNOW THAT I FEAR NO ONE, BUT IF I DID, IT'S HE I'D FEAR.

(Caesar and Antony exit.)

CASSIUS: HEY, CASCA, WHAT WENT ON TODAY WHEN CAESAR HIT THE TOWN?

CASCA: ANTONY OFFERED HIM THE CROWN AND THRICE HE TURNED IT DOWN.

CASSIUS: THREE TIMES THE CROWN WAS OFFERED, AND CAESAR THRICE SAID NO?

CASCA: HE DID, BUT EACH TIME HE REFUSED, HE WANTED IT, I KNOW.
THE PEOPLE, THEY JUST ATE IT UP, EACH TIME

THAT HE REFUSED
AND THEY SET UP SUCH A ROAR, THEIR BAD
BREATH, IT ABUSED.
POOR CAESAR, AND HE FAINED FROM THE
HALITOSIS STORM.
TO FAINT BEFORE THE MASSES IS USUALLY BAD
FORM.
WHEN HE CAME TO, HE THEN OFFERED ME HIS
KNIFE TO CUT HIS THROAT.
OF COURSE, I DIDN'T, BUT, YOU KNOW, THE
CROWD GAVE HIM ITS VOTE.

SCENE FIVE:

CICERO: HEY, CASCA, CAN YOU TELL ME WENT ON IN TOWN
TONIGHT?

CASCA: CICERO, IT WAS SO STRANGE, I CAN'T BELIEVE MY
SIGHT.

A SLAVE HELD UP HIS HAND ON FIRE AND YET IT
DIDN'T BURN,

A LION PASSED ME ON THE STREET; IT GAVE ME A
QUITE A TURN;

OTHERS SAW MANY MEN ON FIRE;

SO MUCH THAT'S UNNATURAL, IT MADE ME
PERSPIRE!

CICERO: SOUNDS LIKE IT'S "GOOD NIGHT" FOR ME; DOES
CAESAR COME TOMORROW?

CASCA: HE ASKED ANTONY TO PICK HIM UP.

CICERO: THEN I WILL BID YOU MORROW.

(Cicero exits.)

CASSIUS: HEY, CASCA, WHAT IS HAPPENING? I THINK
YOU'RE IN THE KNOW.
WHAT IS UP WITH CAESAR? I FEAR HE WANTS TO
GROW
IN POWER AND IN PRESTIGE; I FEAR HE WOULD BE
KING.
HE'S NOT THE MAN THAT I WOULD WANT IN
CHARGE OF EVERYTHING!

CASCA: SO CAESAR DOESN'T SEIZE YOU; TOMORROW THE
SENATE MAKES HIM KING.
APPARENTLY THIS NEWS IS NOT THE NEWS
THAT WILL MAKE YOU SING.

CASSIUS: THESE ROMANS ARE BUT SHEEP AND SO BIG
CAESAR IS A WOLF.
IT'S TIME THAT WE CONSIDER WE SHOULD CROSS
A GREATER GULF.
I BEAR A BLADE IN MY HAND WITH WHICH I CAN
CONTROL MY LIFE,
BUT THERE IS A MUCH BETTER PLACE WHERE I CAN
PLACE MY KNIFE!

CASCA: I AM WITH YOU, CASSIUS, JUST AS FAR AS YOU
WOULD GO.

CASSIUS: OTHERS WAIT TO JOIN WITH US; IN THE MORNING
BLOOD WILL FLOW!

(Cinna enters.)

CASCA: HERE CINNA COMES TO JOIN WITH US, PERHAPS TO
GIVE US NEWS.

CINNA: HEY, CASCA, FOLKS ARE WAITING YONDER FOR THE
BOTH OF YOU.
IF CASSIUS COULD WIN BRUTUS TO OUR CAUSE,
THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

CASSIUS: BRUTUS WILL BE ONE WITH US BEFORE IT GETS
TOO LATE.
HE'S LEANING NOW, JUST NEEDS A NUDGE, AND
SOON HE'LL BE WITH US
AND TOGETHER ALL WE ROMANS WILL RAISE QUITE
A FUSS!

SCENE SIX

BRUTUS: I GUESS WE HAVE TO MURDER HIM, THOUGH I LIKE
THE MAN
BUT I CANNOT DEPEND ON HIM, WHEN HE MOVES
TO THE VAN.

TO NOT FORGET WHERE HE CAME FROM, AND SO
RESOLUTELY
FOR ABSOLUTE POWER, IT DOES TEND TO CORRUPT
ABSOLUTELY.

(Lucius enters.)

LUCIUS: SIR, YOND CASSIUS IS AT THE DOOR AND HE IS
NOT ALONE,
WITH MEN WITH FACES COVERED AND SO THEY
ARE UNKNOWN.

BRUTUS: BID THEM ENTER, LUCIUS, CONSPIRACY'S AFOOT.
THESE ARE THE KIND OF ROMANS UP WITH WHICH
I SHALL PUT.

CASSIUS: WE ENTER, NOBLE BRUTUS, OUR CAUSE BEGINS
TONIGHT
AND OUR CAUSE INSPIRES US BECAUSE WE KNOW
WE'RE RIGHT!

LET'S SWEAR AN OATH TO DO THIS DEED, TO KEEP
ALL OF US TRUE.

BRUTUS: O CASSIUS, THAT IS SOMETHING THAT THERE'S NO
NEED TO DO.
FOR IF WE'RE ALL TRUE ROMANS AND PLAN TO
STOP THIS KING,
THEN WE KNOW ALL WE NEED TO KNOW TO CARRY
OUT THIS THING.

- CASSIUS: WE MUST JUST NOT KILL CAESAR, BUT GET MARK ANTONY TOO
FOR HE IS TRUE TO CAESAR AND WHO KNOWS WHAT HE MIGHT DO?
- BRUTUS: THAT WOULD SEEM TOO BLOODY; WE JUST WANT SACRIFICE.
TO GO ON TO BE BUTCHERS SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE NICE.
- CASSIUS: YET I FEAR HIM, BRUTUS; MUCH MISCHIEF COULD HE DO.
- BRUTUS: YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, CASSIUS; WHAT TROUBLE COULD HE BREW?
- CASSIUS: OKAY, BUT WHAT IF CAESAR FEARS TO VENTURE OUT TODAY?
THEY SAY HE'S SUPERSTITIOUS NOW; DOES HE HAVE FEET OF CLAY?
- BRUTUS: DECIUS WILL OVERCOME HIS FEARS AND BRING HIM OUT TODAY
AND THEN WE CAN DISPATCH THE MAN WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY.

SO LET US MEET AT EIGHT O'CLOCK, CLOSE TO THE
ROTUNDA
AND THEN WITH SIX OR SEVEN BLADES, WE'LL
NEATLY PUT HIM UNDER!

(The co-conspirators exit. Portia enters.)

PORTIA: O BRUTUS, SOMETHING BOTHERS YOU, BUT YOU
WON'T TELL YOUR WIFE.
IT MAKES ME THINK YOU WEREN'T SINCERE WHEN
YOU SAID "I DO" FOR LIFE.
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, TO HELP
YOU IF I CAN.
YOU KNOW I'D NEVER TELL A SOUL, NO MATTER
WHAT THE PLAN,
FOR I'M MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER, I ASK THAT YOU
CONFIDE IN ME
OR OF MY LOVE AND VIRTUE YOU WILL MAKE A
MOCKERY.

BRUTUS: O PORTIA, YOU I DON'T DESERVE; YOU ARE MY
BETTER HALF.
I WOULD BE INVINCIBLE IF YOU WERE ON MY
STAFF.
JUST LET ME GET THE DOORBELL, THEN I'LL TELL IT
ALL TO YOU.
DEVOTION SUCH AS YOURS DEMANDS YOUR
HUSBAND MUST BE TRUE!

SCENE SEVEN

CAESAR: O, MY WIFE, CALPURNIA, YOU HAD A DREADFUL
NIGHT.
AT LEAST THREE TIMES YOU CRIED OUT THAT I HAD
LOST A FIGHT.
YOU SAID, "THEY MURDERED CAESAR!" YOUR
SHOUTS DISTURBED MY SLEEP.
THOSE ARE THE KIND OF NEGATIVES I WISH YOU
WOULDN'T PEEP.

CALPURNIA: YOU WILL NOT LEAVE THE HOUSE TODAY; MY FOOT
I'M PUTTING DOWN!

CAESAR: BUT, DEAR, I HAVE TO GO TODAY; TODAY I GET
THE CROWN!

CALPURNIA: BUT MURDER'S ALWAYS FATAL! IT'S MUCH SAFER
IN THE HOUSE.

CAESAR: I CANNOT HAVE THE PEOPLE THINK THAT I AM JUST
A MOUSE.
THE TROUBLES DO NOT WORRY ME, FOR THEY
DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
AS SOON AS THEY SEE CAESAR'S FACE, THEY'LL BE
IN A TRANCE.

CALPURNIA: BUT, CAESAR, I AM WORRIED, THERE'VE BEEN
STRANGE THINGS IN THE STREETS.
PLEASE STAY HOME AND CUDDLE WITH ME
BETWEEN THE SHEETS.

CAESAR: COWARDS DIE A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE THEY
MEET THEIR END.
THE VALIANT WILL DIE BUT ONCE, AND DEATH WILL
BE THEIR FRIEND.

CALPURNIA: LET ANTONY GO IN YOUR PLACE AND SAY YOU ARE
UNWELL.
IT COULD BE TRUE 'CAUSE OFTEN TIMES YOU'VE
REALLY HAD A SPELL.

CAESAR: I GUESS ANTONY WOULD BE BELIEVED IF HE SAID
THAT I WAS SICK.
OKAY, CAL, I'LL STAY AT HOME; I'LL PLAY YOUR
LITTLE TRICK.

(Decius enters.)

DECIUS: CAESAR, WORTHY CAESAR, THE SENATE WAITS FOR
YOU!

CAESAR: I'D LOVE TOO, BUT I CANNOT GO; I HAVE A LITTLE
FLU.

NO, I'M KIDDING, DECIUS; I WILL NOT COME
TODAY.

IT'S NOT I CAN'T; I WILL NOT; THAT'S WHAT YOU
CAN SAY.

DECIUS: BUT, CAESAR, YOU MUST TELL ME MORE; YOU MUST
TELL ME WHY.

THE SENATORS WILL PRESS ME HARD; I CANNOT
TELL A LIE.

CAESAR: CALPURNIA HAS HAD A DREAM; MY STATUE
STREAMED WITH BLOOD
AND ROMANS BATHED THEIR HANDS IN IT, THERE
WAS SUCH A FLOOD.
AND SO SHE FEARS A MURDER PLOT AND BEGS ME
STAY AT HOME
AND I HAVE TOLD HER I WILL STAY AND WILL NOT
GO TO ROME.

DECIUS: BUT SHE HAS GOT THE MEANING WRONG! IT
MEANS THAT YOU'LL SUSTAIN
ALL ROMANS WITH REVIVING BLOOD; THERE'S NO
NEED TO COMPLAIN!

CAESAR: CALPURNIA, YOUR FOOLISH FEARS ARE NOTHING
TO ME NOW,
SO I'M OFF TO THE SENATE 'CAUSE MY DAY WILL BE
SO WOW!!

SCENE EIGHT

PORTIA: O, I FEAR THIS DAY AND, YES, I FEAR WHAT IT
WILL BRING.
LUCIUS, GO THE SENATE; LET YOUR FEET HAVE
WINGS.

LUCIUS: MADAM, WHEN I REACH IT, WHAT WILL YOU HAVE
ME DO?

PORTIA: TELL ME HOW MY BRUTUS LOOKS; IF HE LOOKS
WELL TO YOU
AND TELL ME WHAT GREAT CAESAR DOES, AND
WHO BEGS HIM FOR A FAVOUR.
I MUST KNOW IF MY BRUTUS FROM HIS PURPOSE
NOW WILL WAVER.

(Soothsayer enters.)

IS CAESAR AT THE CAPITOL?

SOOTHSAYER: HE'S NOT ARRIVED THERE YET
AND I HAVE A MESSAGE THAT GREAT CAESAR SURE
MUST GET!
THE CROWDS AROUND HIM ARE SO THICK THAT I
COULD BE TRAMPLED.
I WILL GO AHEAD AND GRAB A PLACE THAT'S NOT
SO SAMPLED.

(Soothsayer exits.)

PORTIA: BRUTUS HAS A PLAN FOR CAESAR, CAESAR WON'T ENJOY.
LUCIUS, RUN AND TELL MY LORD I'M WELL; THAT'S A GOOD BOY
AND BRING ME WORD OF WHAT GOES ON, HEED BRUTUS AND HIS WAYS.
I HAVE A SINKING FEELING THAT IS NOT HOW THIS THING PLAYS.

SCENE NINE

CAESAR: THE IDES OF MARCH HAVE COME, AND YET, THERE IS NO ILL ON ME.

SOOTHSAYER: THEY'VE COME, BUT HAVEN'T GONE, MY LORD; I WOULDN'T SAY YOU'RE FREE.

BRUTUS: TREBONIUS, NOW ARTIMEDORUS, BOTH APPROACH THE MAN,
EACH WILL PLEA HIS SUIT TO GET WHATEVER THAT HE CAN.
AND NOW POPILIUS LENA HAS THE EAR OF OUR GREAT LORD.
HE WISHED US WELL, BUT CAN WE TRUST HIM? IS HE NOW ON BOARD?

CASSIUS: HE'LL TELL CAESAR OF OUR PLANS; HE'LL PUT THEM ON THE SHELF.

IF HE TELLS CAESAR, THEN – WELL, I WILL HAVE TO KILL MYSELF!

BRUTUS: CASSIUS, DON'T BE A SISSY, FOR POPILIUS LENA SMILES.

CAESAR HASN'T CHANGED HIS FACE; SO LENA DOESN'T RILE.

CASSIUS: TREBONIUS KNOWS HIS TIME FOR HE'S LURED ANTONY AWAY.

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO POSSIBLY FOIL OUR PLAN TODAY!

CINNA: CASCA, YOU MUST BE THE FIRST TO STRIKE A BLOW FOR ROME.

METELLUS: O, MIGHTY CAESAR, SAY THE WORD AND BRING MY BROTHER HOME.

MOST HIGH AND MIGHTY CAESAR WHOSE WORD CAN MEAN THE LAW,
PLEASE FORGIVE AND PARDON; SAY HIS BANISHMENT IS NAUGHT.

BRUTUS: I KISS YOUR HAND, DEAR CAESAR, BUT NOT IN FLATTERY.

PLEASE REPEAL HIS SENTENCE; HE LIVES IN
MISERY!

CAESAR: IF WORDS COULD SIMPLY MOVE ME, THEN I'D BE
LIKE YOU,
BUT I AM CONSTANT AS THE STARS, CONSISTENT
AS THE DEW.
I CANNOT BE UNFAIR OR WRONG, SO HERE I TAKE
MY STAND -
YOUR BROTHER, PUBLIUS CIMBER, IS FOREVER
BANNED!

CASCA: SPEAK, MY HANDS, FOR ME; STRIKE CAESAR FROM
BEHIND!

(Casca stabs and the others follow.)

CAESAR: ET TU BRUTE? YOU TOO, BRUTUS?! MY LOVE FOR
YOU WAS BLIND!
THEN FALL NOW, CAESAR, FOR THE HEART IS GONE
FROM YOU.

CINNA: LIBERTY! AND FREEDOM! TYRANNY WILL NO
LONGER DO!

CASSIUS: RUN AND TELL THE PEOPLE! FREEDOM RULES
TODAY!

BRUTUS: YES, PROCLAIM IT TO THE PEOPLE! THERE IS NO
DEBT TO PAY!

(Trebonius enters.)

CASSIUS: TREBONIUS, WHERE IS ANTONY?

TREBONIUS: FLED TO HIS HOUSE AMAZED!
THE MURDER HAS SURPRISED HIM; THE LAD IS
CLEARLY DAZED.

BRUTUS: OKAY, EVERYBODY; WASH YOUR ARMS AND
SWORDS IN BLOOD,
THEN WE'LL SHOW THE PEOPLE, IT WAS FOR THEIR
OWN GOOD.
WE'LL SHOUT OUT PEACE AND FREEDOM AND
LIBERTY FOR ALL,
TO PROVE IT WAS ALL FOR THE BEST THAT CAESAR
HAD TO FALL.

SERVANT: O BRUTUS, ANTONY BIDS YOU TO LET HIM SAFELY
COME
TO SEE THE CORPSE OF CAESAR, TO SEE WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE.

BRUTUS: TELL HIM HE HAS FRIENDS HERE; AND NOTHING HE
NEEDS FEAR.

SERVANT: I WILL TELL HIM, BRUTUS, TO COME SAFELY NEAR.

(Antony enters.)

BRUTUS: WELCOME, WELCOME, ANTONY! YOU ARE
WELCOME, MAN,
COME AND SEE YOUR CAESAR; AND WHERE HIS
BLOOD RAN.

ANTONY: O CAESAR, YOU ARE BROUGHT SO LOW; I MUST LIE
WITH YOU!

BRUTUS: O ANTONY, THAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU MUST
NEVER DO.
WE ALL WISH NO HARM TO YOU; OUR ONLY
THOUGHT IS LOVE.
WE WANT YOU TO STAY WITH US, NOT JOIN
CAESAR UP ABOVE.

ANTONY: YOUR GENEROSITY'S EXCEEDED ONLY BY YOUR
LOVE FOR ME.
HERE, LET ME SHAKE EACH HAND OF YOURS, A
SHAKE FOR LIBERTY.
O CAESAR, HERE YOU LIE IN DEATH, BLOODY FROM
YOUR WOUNDS
AND YOUR KILLERS WOULD BELIEVE, EACH IS A
BLESSED BOON.

IF I HAD EYES TO MATCH YOUR WOUNDS, MY
TEARS WOULD DROWN US ALL.
TO SHAKE THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO STABBED,
MAKES ME SEEM RATHER SMALL.

CASSIUS: MARK ANTONY, WE NEED TO KNOW, WILL YOU BE
FRIENDS WITH US?
OR WILL YOU TRY TO KILL US ALL, AND THUS
BETRAY OUR TRUST?

ANTONY: I'LL LOVE YOU ALL, BUT PLEASE, TELL ME. WHY DID
CAESAR DIE?

BRUTUS: OUR REASONS WERE ALL GOOD ONES. WOULD I
TELL YOU A LIE?

ANTONY: THAT IS ALL I NEED TO KNOW; YOUR REASONS
WILL BRING PRAISE.
MAY I SPEAK AT HIS FUNERAL, AND TALK OF FINER
DAYS?

CASSIUS: DON'T LET HIM DO IT, BRUTUS; HE'LL TURN THE
FOLKS ON US!

BRUTUS: O CASSIUS, I'VE GOT THIS HANDLED; DON'T MAKE
SUCH A FUSS.
ANTONY, I WILL SPEAK AT FIRST, TO EXPLAIN
WHAT WE HAVE DONE

THEN AFTER, YOU'LL ADDRESS THE CROWD, BUT
THERE WILL BE NONE
OF BLAMING US FOR WHAT WENT ON; IT WAS FOR
THE GOOD OF ROME,
SO ONLY SPEAK OF CAESAR, THEN YOU CAN BEAR
HIM HOME.

ANTONY: I'LL DO THAT ABSOLUTELY; YOU CAN COUNT ON
ME.

BRUTUS: THEN PREPARE HIS BODY AND GO ON AFTER ME.

(The conspirators exit.)

ANTONY: HERE ARE THE RUINS OF THE GREATEST MAN WHO
LIVED,
BUT SHAKING HIS KILLERS' HANDS, I CANNOT
FORGIVE.
WHEN I GET MY CHANCE TO SPEAK, I'LL LET LOOSE
THE DOGS OF WAR
AND THIS FOUL DEED SHALL BE AVENGED, THIS
DEED THAT I ABHOR.

(Servant enters.)

ANTONY: YOU SERVE OCTAVIUS CAESAR, DO YOU NOT? SO
WHERE IS HE?

SERVANT: HE'S A FEW MILES OUT OF TOWN TONIGHT. O
WHAT'S THIS THAT I SEE?

ANTONY: CAESAR'S BODY BATHED IN BLOOD. ROME'S NOT
SAFE TONIGHT.
TELL YOUR MASTER THAT FOR NOW, HE SHOULD
STAY OUT OF SIGHT.

SCENE TEN

BRUTUS: ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN, AND LOVERS, I LOVED
CAESAR AS MUCH AS YOU.
AS HIS BEST FRIENDS WOULD DO FOR HIM, THAT
IS ALSO WHAT I'D DO.
IF CAESAR STILL WERE LIVING, YOU WOULD ALL BE
SLAVES.
AS HE'S DEAD, YOU'RE FREE MEN; THAT IS MY
GREAT SAVE.
WITH LOVE, I WEEP FOR CAESAR, BUT HE WAS AN
AMBITIOUS MAN,
SO THAT IS WHY I KILLED HIM, THOUGH I WAS HIS
BIGGEST FAN.
FOR IT WAS NOT THAT I LOVED CAESAR LESS, BUT
THAT I LOVED ROME MORE.
HAVE I OFFENDED ANYONE BY SPILLING CAESAR'S
GORE?
IF I HAVE, HERE IS MY SWORD, I'LL STICK IN MY
CHEST.