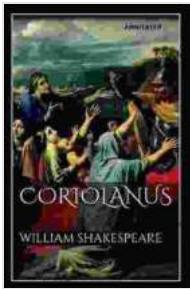


# Coriolanus by William Shakespeare: An Annotated Masterpiece

*Coriolanus* is a tragedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written between 1605 and 1608. The play is based on the life of the Roman general, Gaius Marcius Coriolanus, who was banished from Rome after he led a successful military campaign against the Volscians. Coriolanus then joined forces with the Volscians and led an army against Rome.



## Coriolanus: (Annotated) by William Shakespeare

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2797 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 39 pages
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Screen Reader	: Supported
Paperback	: 195 pages
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*Coriolanus* is a complex and challenging play, full of rich language and symbolism. The play explores themes of pride, ambition, and the nature of heroism. It is also a play about the relationship between the individual and the state.

## Characters

The characters in *Coriolanus* are complex and multifaceted. The title character is a brilliant military leader, but he is also arrogant and proud. He is unable to compromise or forgive, and his pride ultimately leads to his downfall.

Other important characters in the play include:

- **Volumnia:** Coriolanus's mother, a strong-willed and ambitious woman who pushes her son to achieve greatness.
- **Aufidius:** A Volscian general who is Coriolanus's greatest enemy. He is a cunning and ruthless warrior who is determined to destroy Coriolanus.
- **Menenius Agrippa:** A Roman senator who tries to mediate between Coriolanus and the people of Rome. He is a wise and compassionate man, but he is unable to prevent Coriolanus's downfall.
- **The Tribunes:** Two Roman tribunes, Sicinius Velutus and Junius Brutus, who accuse Coriolanus of treason and have him banished from Rome. They are ambitious and opportunistic politicians who are willing to sacrifice the good of Rome for their own personal gain.

## Themes

*Coriolanus* explores a number of complex themes, including:

- **Pride:** Coriolanus's pride is his greatest flaw. He is unable to accept criticism or compromise, and his pride ultimately leads to his downfall.
- **Ambition:** Coriolanus is driven by ambition, both for himself and for Rome. He wants to be the best general in Rome, and he is willing to

do whatever it takes to achieve his goals.

- **The nature of heroism:** Coriolanus is a hero to the people of Rome, but he is also a flawed and complex character. He is capable of great acts of heroism, but he is also capable of great cruelty.
- **The relationship between the individual and the state:** Coriolanus is a powerful individual, but he is also subject to the laws of the state. He is unable to reconcile his own ambition with the needs of the state, and this conflict leads to his downfall.

## Historical Context

*Coriolanus* is based on the life of the Roman general, Gaius Marcius Coriolanus. Coriolanus was a brilliant military leader who led Rome to victory in several wars. However, he was also a proud and ambitious man, and he was eventually banished from Rome. Coriolanus then joined forces with the Volscians and led an army against Rome. He was eventually defeated by the Romans, and he was killed by Aufidius.

Shakespeare's play is based on Plutarch's *Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans*. Plutarch's account of Coriolanus's life is a complex and nuanced portrait of a flawed but ultimately tragic hero. Shakespeare's play is a faithful adaptation of Plutarch's account, but it also contains a number of original elements. Shakespeare's play is more sympathetic to Coriolanus than Plutarch's account, and it explores the character's inner life in more depth.

## Analysis

*Coriolanus* is a complex and challenging play, but it is also a rewarding one. The play is full of rich language and symbolism, and it explores a

number of important themes. The play is also a powerful indictment of the dangers of pride and ambition.

One of the most striking things about *Coriolanus* is its language. The play is full of powerful and evocative imagery, and the characters speak in a highly stylized and rhetorical manner. The language of the play helps to create a sense of grandeur and tragedy.

Another important aspect of *Coriolanus* is its symbolism. The play is full of symbols, both large and small. For example, the play's central conflict is often seen as a symbolic representation of the conflict between the individual and the state.

*Coriolanus* is a tragedy, but it is also a play about hope. The play's final scene is a powerful reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for redemption.

*Coriolanus* is one of Shakespeare's most powerful and complex tragedies. The play explores a number of important themes, including pride, ambition, and the nature of heroism. The play is also a powerful indictment of the dangers of pride and ambition.

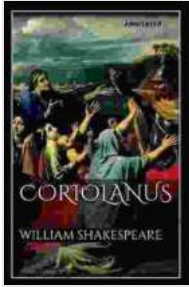
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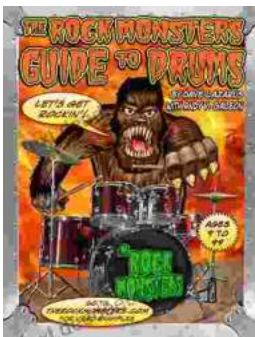
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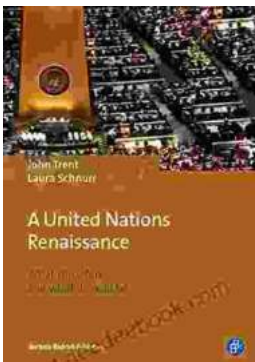


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