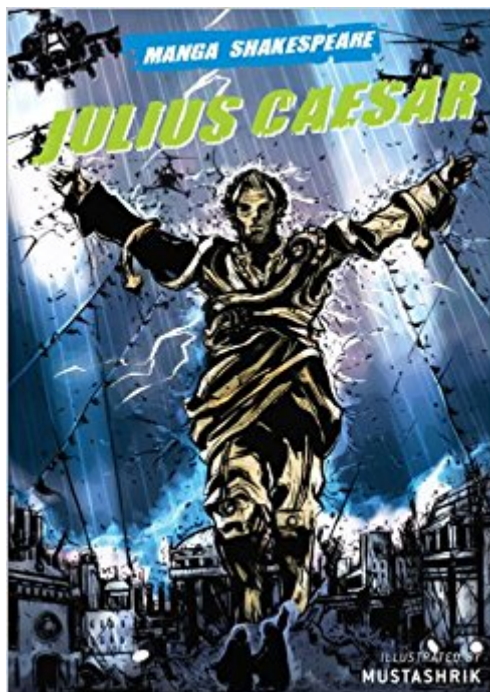


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Manga Shakespeare: Julius Caesar



Synopsis

Praise for Manga Shakespeare ALA Best Book for Young Adults ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers “Reluctant readers who appreciate manga and who would not think of picking up the work of Shakespeare are sure to gravitate toward these titles. Even if the text puts them off, they will be drawn to the illustrations. These adaptations would make wonderful additions to any school or public library’s manga collection. VOYA “Refreshingly clear, this adaptation is recommended for all libraries serving teens.” Kirkus Reviews “This fresh new way of looking at a classic will draw new readers to Shakespeare, hopefully to discover that his plays are really quite entertaining.” YAbookscentral.com Shakespeare’s most commonly studied plays, now the latest additions to the innovative Manga Shakespeare series. In Shakespeare’s enduring tale of ancient Rome, Julius Caesar is at the height of his powers—but there are men plotting his destruction. Is Caesar a tyrant or a dynamic leader? Are his enemies greedy or noble? The Manga Shakespeare adaptation of this important work maintains the language and the fierce political intrigue of the original while including a fresh perspective through the style of modern manga. F&P level: Z

Book Information

Series: Manga Shakespeare

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams; 1 edition (August 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810970724

ISBN-13: 978-0810970724

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,051,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Theater #559 in Books > Children’s Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga #739 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Historical & Biographical Fiction

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 - 11

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up – In these additions to the series, characters are introduced with full-color illustrations accompanied by a play quotation revealing the essence of each cast member. Both adaptations use excerpts from Shakespeare's words paired with black-and-white art to dramatize the action. Although the books are categorized as manga, pages are read from front to back, left to right. Caesar is set in a contemporary world filled with cell phones and motorcycles. The artist's imagery, such as the serpent in Brutus's home and the puppets in Cassius's hands, adds depth and layers of meaning to the text. Stage directions, noted in boxes at the top of panels, help readers to follow the story. While the style of artwork appears "busy" for manga, the artist's rendition of faces accurately captures each character's feelings in this emotionally charged adaptation. Macbeth is set in a postapocalyptic world, with crumbling cities, alien beings who serve as "witches," and men with Charles Atlas-like bodies. Bold, dynamic male figures reinforce the notion of mutations in both body and emotion. The setting introduces some anachronisms. Sophisticated communication devices seem at odds with armor-clad riders carrying swords and traveling on horseback. Although segments of well-known speeches are included, the abridgment seems choppy. Numerous, briefly introduced characters and abrupt scene changes make it difficult to follow the story line. However, readers familiar with the play may appreciate this futuristic adaptation.

– Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Starred Review Abrams's generally high-quality Manga Shakespeare line reaches its pinnacle thus far with Julius Caesar, the bard's tragedy of conspiracy, warfare, and bloody revenge. Abridged text is spread out to render it less intimidating, and the most dramatic scenes are given plenty of room to breathe. Rome itself is portrayed as a YA-friendly mixture of classical architecture and modern weapons of war, the citizens dressed in Flash Gordon fashion and Judge Dredd headgear. What truly shines in this work, though, is the superlative visualization by newcomer Mustashrik. Working in stark white and inky black, he has created a spare but intense landscape that mirrors the emotions of the characters, and combines a sense of dreamlike isolation with a minimal backdrop that suggests a stage on which the drama is normally enacted. Using shadow, he has managed to make the assassination simultaneously graphic yet subtle, and by alternating tight focus and long shots, and using a thick brush to exemplify expressions, he has fittingly crafted a visual tour de force of Mark Antony's speech. Especially for the more artistically minded, this is a raw, striking, and powerful introduction to Shakespeare. Grades 8-12.

--Jesse Karp

Amazing. My students are reading this right now and they love it - especially good for visual learners! Once we reviewed the characters - a lot in the first act and when new people are introduced - it really clicked for them. Will definitely buy more Manga and recommend to other teachers!

I really enjoyed Manga Shakespeare: Julius Caesar adapted by Richard Appignanesi, and illustrated by Mustashrik Mahbab. Very manga, very strongly done (with very little alteration/addition to the text, but with a futuristic setting). Extra bonus points in my book for depicting Portia as pregnant (which I believe is supported both by the text and history).

I showed my students the manga versions of Shakespeare's tragedies, and several of them borrowed these editions to read overnight. I plan to keep a deep inventory of these versions in my classroom's bookshelves so that my students might continue to become "hooked on Shakespeare."

Love Manga style.

Exc.

The sixth of the Manga Shakespeare is the darkest of them. The drawing and selection of lines goes for the war torn look. The constant circling gunships and look of Mad Max tell the story in Shakespeare's words and has some depth with the art work, but it is harsh. I found myself stumbling sometimes on the language due, to being distracted by the drawings, a bit disconcerting, but some art is that way. You may need to read it twice to understand more of the artwork. Not for the youngest manga fans

I am lobbying to get a classroom set of these books for my 10th grade regular English class. Unlike a lot of graphic novel adaptations, this one does not paraphrase. Instead the writer uses salient excerpts, which, when put together with the illustrations, makes the story accessible to the student with average to low reading abilities. I love the introduction of characters and plot in the beginning of the book. There is a full color picture, name, a real description (i.e., "Brutus, defender of the republic) with a quote to illustrate the personality of the character (i.e., "I love the name of honour

more than I fear death.").

I am a teacher, and I bought this book to help my students understand Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. The drawings helped my students grasp the story, and the language still sounds authentic and not dumbed down. I would suggest this book as a companion text for any teenager who is trying to understand Julius Caesar.

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