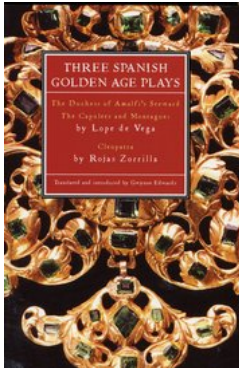


## Cleopatra by Rojas Zorrilla



Whereas Shakespeare's earlier *Antony and Cleopatra* focused more on the war and politics of the story, Zorrilla's 1640 play concentrates on the themes of love and jealousy, than war and politics. Essentially a revenge tragedy, we see Antony and Cleopatra's undying love for each other and the censure it provokes from others. Cleopatra is presented by Zorrilla as a virtuous and moral woman, uninterested in love until she meets Antony. The play also begins well before Antony and Cleopatra have met, when he and Octavian are returning to Rome after being defeated by the King of Persia and Cleopatra respectively. The play is a study of male friendship and loyalty, and of love betrayed.

*Cleopatra* was first performed in 1640.

<b>Genre:</b>	Romantic drama	<b>Fee:</b>	£40 plus VAT, per performance
<b>Cast:</b>	m6 f4 (plus soldiers)	<b>Scripts:</b>	ISBN 9780413773750 £16.99
<b>Set:</b>	various settings	<b>Length:</b>	3 acts
<b>Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com">amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com</a>		

### EXTRACT

**Antony**

Well? What can it be, this private matter?

**Octavian**

It is quite difficult. I find  
It quite embarrassing. My words  
Stick in my throat.

**Antony**

Have courage, Octavian.

**Octavian**

It is not easy to be bold  
When what I have to say is proof  
Of cowardice.

**Antony**

I can't think what  
You mean. You aren't the kind of man  
To run away from danger.

**Octavian**

It's even worse.

**Antony**

I don't believe it.

**Octavian**

The fact is, when  
I first set eyes on Cleopatra . . .

**Antony**

You were attracted by her beauty!

**Octavian**

If only that were so! I was  
Attracted, as you say, but in  
The palette of our feelings attraction is  
A common colour which, depending on  
The circumstances, may become  
More vivid or pale.

**Antony**

And in your case?

**Octavian** More vivid. I am obsessed by her.

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**If you enjoyed this, you might like:**

- *The Truth* by Terry Pratchett (m25 f10)
- *Early Bird* by Leo Butler (m1 f1)