# Coriolanus

Simone Cecire

## Luogo (ambientazione)

Rome and Corioli

## Anno di pubblicazione

Between 1605 and 1608

## Epoca

Ancient Rome

## Soggetto (descrizione dell’opera e del luogo)

Coriolanus is a tragedy based on the life of the legendary Roman leader Caius Martius Coriolanus. Shakespeare worked on it during the same years he wrote Antony and Cleopatra, making them his last two tragedies.

The character of Coriolanus is one of the least defined and described by Shakespeare.

The entire opera is largely based on a transaltion of a Plutarch’s (an ancient greek philosopher) biografy of Caius Martius Coriolanus.

The tragedy is divided into five acts.

ACT I:

In the ancient Rome there is a shortage of food. Caius Martius, a young and arrogant general, hates the plebeians (who are angry about the shortage).

At the same time the Volscians want to attack Rome, so the Senate sends Caius Martius to repress the invasion leaded by Tullus Aufidius.

ACT II:

Caius Martius epicly defeats the Volscians in the city of Corioli and earns the title of «Coriolanus».

Back to Rome he’s appointed as a Consul and his mother pressures him to accept. The people ratify his election but afterwards two tribunes (who represent the plebeians) want to reverse the decision.

ACT III:

Caius Martius, now known as Coriolanus, denies the right of the plebeians to recive corn supplies. Despite the encouragement of the senators and his mother, he can’t keep with the people, so he’s expelled from Rome. Not knowing where to go he decides to join the Volscians in the city of Antium. Aufidius respects his enemy and welcomes him in the army. Togheter they plan their revenge on Rome.

ACT IV:

In Rome the tribunes and people are happy about Coriolanus’ exile until they hear that he has joined forces with Aufidius to destroy the city. They send several embassies to dissuade him, but he rejects them all. Finally, Volumnia (his mother) , Virgila (his wife), and Coriolanus's young son go to talk with him. Coriolanus can’t resist his mother’s pleas and agrees to make peace.

ACT V:  
Aufidius is angry about Coriolanus’ betrayal and with his soldiers kills him.  
Once his anger is gone he takes part to his funeral to remember him as a worthy warrior.

The whole story takes place in the modern municipality of Rome: from Genzano di Roma (where the historians suppose was located the city of Corioli) to the city of Rome.  
Many places mentioned in the story, like the Curia Iulia, the ancient senate house, can be visited nowadays inside what is called “Archaeological Park of the Colosseum”, in Rome.

Sources:

<https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespedia/shakespeares-plays/coriolanus/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coriolanus>

<https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corioli>

<https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/corioli_(Enciclopedia-Italiana)/>

<https://www.comune.genzanodiroma.roma.it/>

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<https://www.cosavederearoma.com/curia-iulia/>

## Immagini (elenco)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gMpp5jfm9dJF4vLX0MKCa-r9BtMnnPXv/view?usp=sharing> (3D model of Curia Iulia: the ancient senate house)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GQfdPlMypm7xEIIfvR48qBAtFge-PF_F/view?usp=sharing> (Curia Iulia now)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rzlfr74bQuP56NgT8IoFB9eIxHeDZTX9/view?usp=sharing> (Photo of Genzano di Roma, where historians suppose was located the city of Corioli)

## Personaggi principali

**Romans:**

* **Caius Marcius** – later surnamed **Coriolanus**
* **Menenius Agrippa** – Senator of Rome
* **Volumnia** – Coriolanus' mother
* **Virgilia** – Coriolanus' wife
* **Young Martius** – Coriolanus' son
* **Sicinius Velutus** – tribune
* **Junius Brutus** – tribune

**Volscians:**

* **Tullus Aufidius –** general of the Volscian army
* **Conspirators with Aufidius**