
**Review of *The Death of Caesar: The Story of History's Most Famous Assassination*, by Barry S. Strauss (New York: Simon and Shuster, 2015).
Chase A. Kramer**

Chase Kramer is a senior history major from Highland Park, IL.

The events surrounding Julius Caesar's assassination in March 44 BC long have interested scholars and general audiences alike. Yet the story of the killing has been repeated so many times in historical fiction and drama that many only remember the incident through Shakespeare's play and other fictional accounts. Reading Cornell University Professor Barry Strauss's *The Death of Caesar*, however, readers can finally get a more realistic take on one of the most pivotal events in Roman history.

Most impressive, the author meticulously dispels the imaginative dramatizations and myths that poets and fiction writers have spun out of a single bloody event. In their place, Strauss knits together accounts from sources closest to the time such as Plutarch and Suetonius. This provides a better understanding on the motives and points of view of conspirators like Brutus and Cassius, as well as some major players like Decimus, who is not as remembered as other conspirators.

However, at the same time, the vast number of sources Strauss uses can sometimes leave the reader confused. This is not surprising given the multitude of diverse sources Strauss weaves together, none of which can convey the whole story, but each of which has important elements of truth related to one of history's most important moments.

Regardless, this book is highly recommend for anyone who wants to study a notorious subject on which much has been written but much remains hidden behind myths and fictional stories. While Strauss' work can be challenging to follow, it offers a new and modern look at the stunning murder of one the ancient world's most colorful individuals.