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## Julius Caesar's Women

The symbol of the woman is ♀, which can be considered a shield and spear. In the tragedy of Julius Caesar, there are only two women, Calpurnia and Portia. They are different from each other as one is the wife of Caesar and the other is the wife of a killer. They each contribute something to the story but not as much as the men. Why you may ask, well because in the Roman times women were lesser than men. But let us not get off track and talk about Calpurnia and Portia.

Calpurnia was Caesar's wife and a very beautiful woman. She has curly blond hair with blue eyes. She is very willing to Julius and lives solely for the purpose of him. One of her strengths was that she was very in contact with her prophetic dreams. She would have dreams of Caesar's statue with pores spewing blood (which was very detailed as he was stabbed 33 times). She also warned her husband of these dreams and he responded with complying with her demand as he really loved his wife and also respected her opinion. She was the only person who could really change her husband with her words. Calpurnia's warnings were able to delay Caesar's death but ultimately he was murdered.

Portia's husband was also killed. Portia was the opposite of Calpurnia. She has dark brown hair with dark brown eyes. Portia was a highly intellectual woman. Portia was raised and married into an aristocratic family. Portia is also very outstanding and stubborn. She is not the typical weak-minded woman that cannot think for herself (not that all women are weak-minded). Portia would not let herself fall into the same category as other women and went against stereotypes. She was not seen as an equal to Brutus as Calpurnia was to Caesar. When Portia told Brutus to stay home, he disregarded her warnings. So when she killed herself, she was alone then and ever since the beginning.

In conclusion, women had no major roles in the play except to warn their husbands. They were rarely seen and spoke. Calpurnia and Portia are nothing alike mentally and physically. Calpurnia was the typical damsel-in-distress and Portia was a strong-minded woman. Calpurnia contributed her dreams to prevent Caesar's death and Portia contributed her provocation to the stereotype of women in Roman times. At the end, they both ended lonely without their husbands.