

The ruling class has all the power, the plebeians are rioting in the street, and a brooding hero is about to swoop in to save the day. (Maybe.) Nope, it's not *Dark Knight Rises*: it's Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, set in 491 B.C.E., when early Republican Rome has just transitioned from being ruled by a monarch to a government run by elected officials. With the last tyrant king (that would be Tarquin) tossed out on his rear end, there's a power vacuum and everyone is scrambling for, well, power. *Coriolanus* doesn't actually give us definitive answers.