

# SPARTACUS

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I. The first century BC. Thrace. The Roman General Marcus Licinius Crassus is leading a triumphant campaign. Among his many prisoners of war are Spartacus and his beloved Phrygia. The two lovers are separated at the slave market. During an orgy at Crassus' villa, Phrygia, who has in the meantime become Crassus' favourite slave, is mocked by mimes and courtesans. But this arouses the ire of the jealous courtesan Aegina. To entertain his guests, Crassus orders two gladiators, one of whom is Spartacus, to fight to the death. Spartacus wins, but he is distraught at having been forced to kill. He can no longer bear his imprisonment and decides to regain his freedom at any cost, inciting the other gladiators to revolt.

II. Shepherds and other citizens rally around the revolutionaries. Spartacus is declared their leader. Tormented by the thought of Phrygia as a slave, Spartacus goes looking for her. In Crassus' villa they pledge their love to one another. They hide when the guests arrive for Crassus' celebration in honour of his many triumphs. It becomes clear that Aegina is out to seduce Crassus in order to boost her social status. During the celebration, Spartacus' men surround the villa. Crassus is taken prisoner and challenged to a duel with Spartacus. Crassus stands no chance against him, but Spartacus shows mercy.

III. Crassus is beside himself at the affront and Aegina encourages him to avenge himself. Aegina takes charge. She and her ladies in waiting sneak into the revolutionaries' camp, seduce the men and get them drunk, leaving them easy prey for Crassus' troops. Fighting alone against the Roman army, Spartacus, too, dies after a courageous struggle. A devastated Phrygia mourns the death of her lover.