

"CAESAR & CLEO:

Written by

Bruce Kane

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Bruce Kane Productions

bk@kaneprod.com

"Caesar and Cleo" is a script in hand, live on stage recreation of an old time radio broadcast or a brand new comedy/dramatic podcast. The play is written to be performed by actors at microphones reading from scripts.

The set may be as minimal as a row of chairs for the actors and two or three microphones for them to speak into. The set can be as elaborate as a full recreation of a recording studio or anything in between.

The cast can be a full compliment of actors or a minimal number playing all the parts and changing their vocal characteristics to represent the characters they are playing.

Because the actors will be reading from scripts rehearsal times can be reduced although performances should be honed before going on stage.

Sound effects and music can be performed live on stage or recorded and played back electronically. The latter may provide you with more variety and flexibility.

However you choose to mount your production of "Caesar & Cleo," it is a comedy, so hopefully you will have as much enjoyment performing it as the audience will have watching you perform it.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JULIUS CAESAR - Dictator of Rome, late 50's

COLITUS VENTRICULITIS - Adviser and slave to Caesar, mid 20's

CLEOPATRA - Queen of Egypt, ambitious, sexy, mid 20's

CASSIUS - Ambitious Roman Senator

BRUTUS - Verbose Roman Senator

CALPURNIA - Caesar's shrew of a wife, mid 40's

ROMAN CHORUS - Provides choral narration and takes on all the other speaking parts.

"CAESAR & CLEO"

by Bruce Kane

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(LIGHTS UP. THE CAST ENTERS, SCRIPTS IN HAND, AND TAKE THEIR PLACES. THE ANNOUNCER AND STAGE MANAGER APPROACH THE MICROPHONES.)

STAGE MANAGER

We go in three... two... one.

(STAGE MANAGER POINTS. STIRRING MUSIC UP AND UNDER)

ANNOUNCER

History Theatre is on the air with another dramatization of an historical event that shaped the very world we live in. Tonight's story comes to us in a most unusual way. In March of 1998, workers in the city of Rome, Italy excavating a site for a new McDonald's Restaurant, unearthed a sealed clay vessel. In it were several ancient papyrus scrolls. After undergoing vigorous analysis and scientific testing, scholars authenticated them to be from the time of Julius Caesar. They provide us with a first person account, unknown until now, of the final days of the great Roman leader. Tonight, History Theatre is proud to bring you "Caesar And Cleo," based on the two thousand year old writings of Colitus Ventriculitis.

(MUSIC TRANSITION)

COLITUS

My name is Colitus Ventriculitis and this my story of Cleo and Caesar, the Egyptian queen and the Roman geezer. I rewrote the story and knocked off the rust to bring you a tale full of greed, war and lust.

(MORE)

COLITUS (cont'd)

There's double dealing, murderous plots and enough scheming and lying to tie you in knots. You might find events somewhat distorted and all of the facts not as reported. But, I was there at the very start, right up to the end when it all fell apart. You'll meet all the figures of great renown, who drove the empire right into the ground. My story begins in the city of Rome, forty four b.c. and the final days of the great J.C. That's Julius Caesar.

ROMAN CHORUS

Rome, Rome, Rome, Rome
 Rome, Rome, Rome, Rome.
 If you're looking for a city that's warm and clean and pretty, try Pompeii. If you want to settle down in some lovely little town, rent a cottage on the bay. If you find a place that's quiet where you'll eat a healthy diet, why go ahead and buy it. But, if you're looking for a city that's gruff and grim and gritty. All roads lead to Rome. If you're searching for a place where you can't find breathing space. All roads lead to Rome. If you crave a daily struggle just trying to survive. If you need a constant challenge just to stay alive. All roads lead to Rome. If you want to find excitement where you'll never face indictment. If you want to take your chances without facing consequences. If you're a seller not a buyer, a taker not a giver. Then you really should consider that paradise that sits on seven hills. But before you do, we're warning you, be sure to write your will.

VARIOUS CITIZENS

It's Caesar! Caesar is here! Caesar has returned!

(SFX: CROWD NOISE)

CASSIUS

Look, Brutus, Caesar has returned to Rome. The mob greets him as though he were a God.

BRUTUS

Why man, he doth bestride the narrow world like a Colossus and we petty men walk under his huge legs and peep about to find ourselves dishonourable graves.

CASSIUS

Brutus.

BRUTUS

Yes, Cassius.

CASSIUS

Why can't you talk like everybody else?

CITIZEN

Quiet... Quiet. Caesar speaks.

CAESAR

Citizens... Citizens of Rome.
Please... Please.

(the Crowd quiets
down)

After six long but profitable years of marauding and conquering, I can finally say that we, or more accurately I, now rule the world. Or, at least, the good parts.

(SFX: CROWD CHEERS)

CAESAR (cont'd)

As I look upon your smiling faces, empty stares and hollow gazes, I see how much I missed your unquestioning adoration, willing supplication and total abdication to my every whim and wish.

COLITUS

The man's an egomaniac. With luck he'll have a cardiac and I can get my freedom back.

CAESAR

Every temple I defaced, every town that I erased, every village that I pillaged, I did it all for you.

CITIZEN

For us... He did it for us.

CAESAR
And the glory that is Rome.

(SFX: THE CROWD CHEERS)

BRUTUS
There was a time when we had the say.

CASSIUS
A time we had it all our way.

BRUTUS
We did it for the Senate

CASSIUS
We kept it close to home.

BRUTUS
We did it for the ruling class.

CASSIUS
And the glory that is Rome.

CAESAR
I ravaged every castle, made every
prince my vassal. And I did it all
for you and the glory that is Rome.

(SFX: CROWD CHEERS)

COLITUS
Being Caesar's whisperer, always in
his ear. I tell him what he needs to
know and what he wants to hear. He
calls me his adviser, which doesn't
make me any wiser. It's not a role I
asked for. It's not a job I sought.
It was something that he handed me,
the day that I was bought.

CAESAR
I emptied every treasury, left them
all in beggary, but not in total
poverty, an act of generosity, which
you must admit was very big of me.

BRUTUS
He's taken all our power and kept it
for himself.

CASSIUS
All we do is cower. He put us on the
shelf.

CAESAR

People everywhere adore me. It's the law. There are none that can ignore me, that's for sure. Where ever they assemble, people see my face and tremble, because I had it carved on every building, wall and temple.

COLITUS

If he doesn't free me. If I don't escape. I'll belong to Julius Caesar till they put me in my grave. I may be his advisor, but I'm also Caesar's slave.

CAESAR

While you live your lives in misery. I'll go down in history.

CASSIUS

I have a simple plan to rid us of this man. It's really rather brilliant and easy to unpack. One day when he's not looking Brutus, you stab him in the back.

BRUTUS

Kill Caesar? I kill Caesar and the mob will tear me limb from limb.

CASSIUS

A small price to pay for liberty, wouldn't you say?

ROMAN CHORUS

We live in abject squalor. Ten people to a room. He lives in perfect splendor, protected in his womb. But it really doesn't matter that Caesar just grows fatter. We're citizens of Rome and we control the world.

COLITUS

They'll see nothing of the treasure that he looted beyond measure. They believe he really loves them. They think he really cares. They live in self delusion. They're buying all his wares. But it really doesn't matter, that there's nothing on the their platter. They're citizens of Rome and they think they run the world.

CAESAR

And now, I'd like all of you to join me in reciting the Roman creed.

COLITUS

The Roman creed, excellency? There's actually a Roman creed?

CAESAR

Wait till you hear it. I wrote it myself. The mob loves it.

CAESAR/ROMAN CHORUS

As Romans we crave justice. We mean it to our bone. To treat each Roman fairly from the Tiber to the Rhone. It's a creed we all live by. We have it carved in stone. To live in peace and celebrate the glory that is Rome.

COLITUS

(to Caesar)

In other words Caesar, another pile of patriotic...

CAESAR

Exactly.

COLITUS

The Senate approaches, Caesar.

CAESAR

What do these bozos want?

BRUTUS

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Noble Brutus.

CASSIUS

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Noble Cassius.

BRUTUS

Welcome back to Rome, Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

It is good to see you again, noble Brutus. And you noble Cassius.

CASSIUS

And the conquering went well, did it, Caesar?

CAESAR

You know how it is. A country here. A kingdom there and pretty soon you rule the world. Or, at least, the good parts.

BRUTUS

And how was Egypt, Caesar?

CAESAR

Someday you must make the journey, Brutus. If only to see the pyramids. Magnificent those pyramids.

CASSIUS

Yes, we heard you met Cleopatra.

CAESAR

Like I said. Magnificent those pyramids. Now tell me, noble Cassius, what is this I hear about the Senate making me a god?

CASSIUS

Some do talk of making you a god, Caesar.

CAESAR

Really?

BRUTUS

Some talking of making you immortal.

CAESAR

Immortal. Is that true, Cassius?

CASSIUS

Yes, Caesar. Immortal. And as soon as possible.

CAESAR

Well, then, it's good to be home. We must dine together soon.

BRUTUS

At your pleasure, Caesar.

CAESAR

Until then noble Brutus.

BRUTUS
Until then noble Caesar.

CAESAR
Until then noble Cassius.

CASSIUS
Until then noble Caesar.

CAESAR
What can I say, Colitus? They love
me. They're idiots, but, still, the
Roman Senate loves me.

COLITUS
The truth is Caesar, the Roman Senate
hates you.

CAESAR
The Senate hates Caesar? Why would
you say such a thing?
(scoffing)
The Senate hates Caesar.

COLITUS
Well, sire, you did destroy the
Republic.

CAESAR
Only to save it.

COLITUS
You took away the right of citizens
to vote.

CAESAR
Which only gave them more time to
fornicate. Remember, Colitus, a
fornicating citizen is a happy
citizen.

COLITUS
But now yours is the only voice in
Rome that counts.

CAESAR
Because I am the only one that is a
god.

COLITUS
Officially, only a candidate for a
god.

CAESAR

But, I'm a shoo-in to win. Any senator who votes against me will lose his fortune, his home and all he holds dear.

COLITUS

And why is that Caesar?

CAESAR

Because I will take it away from him. That's what gods do. They giveth and then the taketh away. Now, what's next on my schedule?

COLITUS

Let me check my notes. Oh yes... Home and Mrs. Caesar.

CAESAR

(fearfully)

Did you say, Mrs. Caesar?

COLITUS

Yes, Excellency. Mrs. Caesar.

CAESAR

You're sure about that.

COLITUS

It's right here on your schedule. I'm afraid Mrs. Caesar is next.

CAESAR

You're afraid???

COLITUS

No offense intended, but Mrs. Caesar is, after all, only a woman.

CAESAR

Only a woman? Only a woman?? To you she may be "only a woman" but to me she is the most daunting force of nature the gods ever placed on the face of this earth.

COLITUS

More daunting than The Cyclops?

CAESAR

And with better eyesight.

COLITUS
More daunting than The Alps.

CAESAR
And harder to cross.

COLITUS
How can this be excellency?

CAESAR
The explanation is quite simple.
She's a wife. Listen to me carefully,
my unmarried friend. If you want to
do what you want to do, whatever your
intent. If you want to live your life
in a palace or a tent. If you want to
go where you want to go, without
anyone's consent.

COLITUS
Yes?

CAESAR
Then follow this advice my friend.
Take a nap, take a lunch, take a hike.
But never take a wife.

COLITUS
Really?

CAESAR
Really. Say you want to sleep the day
away being non constructive. Or you
want to spend the day in bed being
reproductive.

COLITUS
Okay.

CAESAR
If you want to lead your life free of
woe and free of strife. Take a boat,
take a walk, take a vote, but never
take a wife.

COLITUS
Never?

CAESAR
Never. Go ahead and have a whirl with
a girl every other Sunday.

COLITUS
Just Sunday?

CAESAR

Find a busy mistress who can fit you in on Monday. Play hide and seek the rest of the week with Mary, Jane and Veronique. But, if you're wise, you'll follow my advice. Take your time, take your cue, take your pulse, but never take a wife.

COLITUS

I don't know, Caesar.

CAESAR

It's okay to kanoodle with a tasty German strudel. But when she says "Let's get a poodle," to stick around in futile. So, just tip your hat and toodle.

ROMAN CHORUS

But never, never, never, never make that girl your wife.

COLITUS

But Caesar, I've always wanted a wife.

CAESAR

A wife will disapprove of you. She'll hate all of your friends. There's nothing you can do. Don't even try to make amends. You'll never satisfy her, no matter what you say. And you'll never mollify her, so just get the hell out of the way. Don't try to woo or sway her with flowers or a song. She's a wife and always right and you are always wrong.

COLITUS

But there must have been some good times for you and Mrs. Caesar, excellency.

CAESAR

Early on.

COLITUS

What changed?

CAESAR

The day we took our wedding vows
beneath those green and leafy
boughs, I looked into her eyes so
still and softly whispered, "Yes, I
will." She stared me down with an icy
frown and replied "Oh, no you won't."
So listen to me pally. Better ship
out on a galley. Go begging in an
alley. If you want to dally, dally
but never, never, never, never, never
take a wife.

COLITUS

Be that as it may, excellency, Mrs.
Caesar is still next.

CAESAR

I suppose there's no way to get out
of it, is there.

COLITUS

It doesn't seem that way.

CRAZY OLD MAN

Beware the Ides of March. Beware the
Ides of March. Beware the Ides of
March.

CAESAR

Colitus, make a note.

COLITUS

Yes, excellency.

CAESAR

Find out what the hell the Ides of
March are.

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

CALPURNIA

No, no, no! The orgy mats do not go
next to the buffet table. We don't
want people eating on the mats or
vice versa. Especially Vice Versa.
The man is an animal.

ROMAN CHORUS

Meet Caesar' wife. Her name is
Calpurnia. Mess with her and she's
sure to burn ya.

CALPURNIA

Doesn't anybody here speak Latin?
Great Zeus, almighty, it's hard to
find good slaves these days.

ROMAN CHORUS

She'll smile, she'll bow, she'll
scratch your itch. But get in her way
and she's one scary...

CAESAR

Calpurnia, my beloved wife.

CALPURNIA

You're late. Where the hell have you
been?

CAESAR

Is that any way to greet your husband
upon his return from six years of
war. Six years of battle. Six years
of pillaging and plundering? God, I
love my job. The power, the
privilege, the perks.

CALPURNIA

I've heard about the perks.

ROMAN CHORUS

Caesar fought his way through hell
And then he rang ole Cleo's bell.

CALPURNIA

It's true, isn't?

CAESAR

Is what true?

CALPURNIA

Don't play your coy little "I'm
almost a god" routine with me.

CAESAR

Cleopatra and I just had dinner
together.

CALPURNIA

And you expect me to believe that?

CAESAR

It's true. Cleopatra is the Queen of
Egypt.

(MORE)

CAESAR (cont'd)

After destroying her army, jailing her generals and laying waste to her country, buying her dinner was the least I could do. It's called diplomacy.

CALPURNIA

Are you trying to tell me you didn't dock your man of war in the Egyptian delta?

ROMAN CHORUS

Big Julie led his troops to war while Cleopatra begged for more.

CALPURNIA

I'll find out the truth. I always do.

CAESAR

I'm telling you nothing happened between me and Cleopatra.

CALPURNIA

If I learn that even so much as a look passed between you and what'sername, I'll make your life a living hell. When I'm through with you, being strung up and slowly eviscerated by the Germanic hordes will look like a day at the beach.

CAESAR

Calpurnia. Calpurnia. Well, Colitus. Now, do you see? If you want to go where you want to go whenever you want to go. And if you want to do what you want to do with whoever you want to do it to. If you want to live a life, that's free of stress and free of strife. Take a walk. Take a run. Take a hike. I'm begging on my knees. Someone, somewhere, somehow take my wife...please.

COLITUS

Caesar?

CAESAR

What is it?

COLITUS

Marcus Brutus requests an audience with Caesar.

CAESAR
What does that pain in my gluteous
maximus want now?

COLITUS
Perhaps he has word about the Senate
making you a god.

CAESAR
In that case, send him right in.

BRUTUS
Noble Caesar.

CAESAR
Noble Brutus.

BRUTUS
I have been sent by the Senate to
discuss a matter of great concern to
the Empire.

CAESAR
You know I am always happy to address
matters of concern to the Empire.

BRUTUS
Generosity is always a sign of great
leadership, Caesar.

CAESAR
Yes, it is and I have generosity up
the wazoo. Don't I Colitus?

COLITUS
Yes, Caesar. Up your wazoo.

CAESAR
And what concerns the Senate today,
noble Brutus?

BRUTUS
The dictatorship, Caesar.

CAESAR
The dictatorship. Not to worry,
Brutus. We already have a dictator.
Me.

BRUTUS
That is the concern, Caesar. The
Senate believes...

CAESAR

Yes, the Senate believes?

BRUTUS

Well, how should I put it? It's the people, actually... The people want a return to the Republic.

CAESAR

Did you hear that Colitus? The Senate believes the people want the return of the Republic.

COLITUS

I heard, Caesar. The Senate believes the people...

CAESAR

There's no need to repeat it. I was being rhetorical.

CALPURNIA

Julius, we really have to talk about the guest list for your homecoming orgy. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize Cassius was here.

BRUTUS

Brutus, madame. I'm Brutus.

CALPURNIA

Are you sure?

BRUTUS

Yes, madame. Quite sure.

CALPURNIA

Oh well, all you senators look alike to me. Maybe it's the togas.

CAESAR

Brutus and I were just discussing a matter of concern to the Senate. Please continue Brutus.

BRUTUS

It's concerning your relations with Egypt.

CALPURNIA

Relations with Egypt? You're having relations with Egypt??? I knew it.

CAESAR

The country. He's talking about the country.

BRUTUS

The Senate is impatient to know what you plan to do? There are rumblings that Cleopatra has been talking to enemies of Rome. We hear she is winning hearts and minds.

CALPURNIA

Hearts and minds. At least she's raised her sights.

CAESAR

Everything is under control, Brutus. No need to worry about Cleopatra.

BRUTUS

Then why is she coming to Rome?

CAESAR

What the hell are you talking about???

BRUTUS

Her fleet was spotted sailing in this direction.

CALPURNIA

Cleopatra in Rome???

BRUTUS

I thought you knew, Caesar. Perhaps I should return at a later time when Caesar has had the opportunity to consider his options.

CAESAR

My options. Yeah... Good idea.

BRUTUS

If you will excuse me now, Caesar, I must return to the Senate. We're taking up the issue of making you a god.

CAESAR

A god? Moi? That means me. I picked it up in Gaul.

CALPURNIA

From what I hear, that wasn't all you picked up in Gaul.

BRUTUS

I can see my work here is done. With Caesar's permission.

CAESAR

Yes, of course...Go. Go. Did you hear that Calpurnia? Your husband is going to be immortal.

CALPURNIA

If what Brutus said about Cleopatra showing up in Rome is true, you may be communing with the gods sooner than you expected.

(TRANSITIONAL MUSIC)

ROMAN CHORUS

Later, in the alley behind the store of Rufus the sweat merchant.

CASSIUS

Well? Did you meet with Caesar?

BRUTUS

Yes, yes, Cassius. I met with Caesar. Do you know he's having a homecoming orgy?

CASSIUS

Everybody knows. What did he say about restoring the republic?

BRUTUS

Everybody knows?

CASSIUS

Anybody who's anybody. About the republic?

BRUTUS

Are you going?

CASSIUS

Wouldn't miss it. Now, did you tell Caesar...?

BRUTUS

Why wasn't I invited?

CASSIUS

To what?

BRUTUS

To Caesar's orgy.

CASSIUS

For one thing, you're no fun at parties.

(SFX: TRUMPETS, MARCHING FEET, CHEERING CROWDS)

ROMAN CHORUS

Cleopatra enters Rome!

CAESAR

Is this damn parade every going to end? I conquered Asia Minor in less time than it's taking this woman to show up. I've had to pee for an hour.

COLITUS

It shouldn't be long now Caesar.

CAESAR

Does anybody know what she's doing here?

COLITUS

Perhaps things were said back in Egypt. Promises made.

CAESAR

Of course promises were made.

COLITUS

Perhaps her majesty misconstrued their intent.

CAESAR

Oh no. The intent of my promises was very clear. What she misconstrued was my intent to keep them.

COLITUS

Cleopatra may be a queen, but she is also a woman.

CAESAR

How do you know so much about women, Colitus?

COLITUS

The gap between woman and slave is not as wide as one might think.

CAESAR

As if running the world wasn't enough, I can't have that woman traipsing around loose in Rome. There's no telling what kind of havoc she could cause.

COLITUS

Her presence does present certain problems.

CAESAR

I suppose I could send a detachment of centurions to guard her.

COLITUS

You tried that once. We didn't see them for a month.

CAESAR

I could put her in shackles.

COLITUS

You tried that once, as well. We didn't see you for a month. Look, excellency. Her majesty approaches.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ladies and gentlemen. Direct from Alexandria. Making her first appearance in Rome. Presenting her royal majesty.. The one. The only... Queen of Egypt... Cleee... ohhhhhh..patra.

(SFX: CROWD CHEERING)

CLEOPATRA

Hello, Rome. My name is Cleopatra. I come here from the Nile. That's where I met Caesar, wearing nothing but a smile.

CAESAR

I was wearing armor. She was wearing the smile.

CLEOPATRA

We took each other's measure. He would not be dismissed.

(MORE)

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)
 He came prepared for battle. If you
 get my drift. We sized up one
 another. Felt each other out. As he
 came rising through the ranks, I
 encircled both his flanks. When all
 was said and we were done, we stopped
 to watch the rising sun. It was hard
 to tell just who had lost and who had
 won and who had conquered who.

CAESAR
 Oh boy, am I in trouble.

CLEOPATRA
 When I'm good, I'm very good and when
 I'm bad, I'm better.

(SFX: CROWD CHEERING.)

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)
 When I'm good, I'm very good and I
 look fantastic in a sweater.

(SFX: CROWD CHEERING)

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

CAESAR
 I'm trapped Colitus. Trapped like
 I've never been trapped before.
 Trapped between Cleopatra's promise
 to open wide the gates of paradise
 and Calpurnia's threat to slam shut
 the gates of hell.

COLITUS
 I'm afraid domestic disputes are a
 little out of my league, excellency.

CAESAR
 I thought being a slave gave you
 insight into women.

COLITUS
 Being a slave gives me insight into
 being used, abused, ignored and taken
 for granted. After that you're on
 your own.

CAESAR
 What am I going to do, Colitus?

COLITUS
 Well, perhaps...

CAESAR

Perhaps?

COLITUS

I might have a thought or two.

CAESAR

Go on. Spit it out.

COLITUS

I was thinking...

CAESAR

Thinking is good. What were you thinking?

COLITUS

What if Mrs. Caesar thought the Queen of Egypt was interested in someone other than Caesar.

CAESAR

Cleopatra interested in someone other than Caesar? Preposterous.

PREPOSTEROUS

You called Caesar.

CAESAR

Called what?

PREPOSTEROUS

My name, excellency.

CAESAR

I didn't call your name. I just said preposterous.

PREPOSTEROUS

Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR

Yes, what?

PREPOSTEROUS

I don't know Caesar.

CAESAR

Then what do you want?

PREPOSTEROUS

Caesar called me.

CAESAR
I called you? Preposterous.

PREPOSTEROUS
Yes, Caesar?

CAESAR
Who is this man, Colitus?

COLITUS
He's Preposterous.

CAESAR
You're telling me.

COLITUS
That's his name, excellency.

CAESAR
Preposterous?

COLITUS
Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR
Who would give a child such a name?
It's ludicrous.

LUDICROUS
Caesar?

CAESAR
What?

LUDICROUS
I don't know. Caesar called my name.

CAESAR
No, I didn't. I just said ludicrous.

LUDICROUS
That's my name.

CAESAR
Ludicrous?

LUDICROUS
Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR
That's preposterous.

PREPOSTEROUS
No, I'm Preposterous.

CAESAR

Get out of here... All of you. Out...
Get out. Ridiculous.

RIDICULOUS

Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR

Out!!! Now where was I?

COLITUS

Concocting a marvelously devious plan
to convince Mrs. Caesar that
Cleopatra's interests lie other than
in Caesar.

CAESAR

Of course. What have I come up with
so far?

COLITUS

You're looking for a man that
Caesar's wife can believe has
attracted the attention of the Queen.

CAESAR

That shouldn't be hard. If he's
breathing, she's interested.

COLITUS

This man, whoever he is, must be
capable of spending time with
Cleopatra without falling under her
spell. He must be dedicated.

CAESAR

Loyal.

COLITUS

Brain dead.

MARC ANTHONY

Friends, Roman, countrymen. Lend me
your...

COLITUS

Perfect.

CAESAR

Marc Anthony. Just the man I was
looking for. I have an assignment for
you.

MARC ANTHONY
Anything for mighty Caesar.

CAESAR
But, first, I must be sure of your
absolute loyalty in this matter.

MARC ANTHONY
Caesar doubts my loyalty? For Caesar
I would sacrifice my life.

CAESAR
That's good to...

MARC ANTHONY
For Caesar I would fall upon my
knife.

CAESAR
Please, no knife fall...

MARC ANTHONY
For Caesar, I would even take a wife.

CAESAR
Now that's what I call loyal.

MARC ANTHONY
For Caesar, I would gladly pluck out
my eye.

CAESAR
(sickened)
Please, no eye plucking.

MARC ANTHONY
For Caesar I would amputate my thigh.

CAESAR
Enough. Enough.

MARC ANTHONY
I would do this out of loyalty to
Caesar and because I'm just that
kinda guy.

CAESAR
That's good to...

MARC ANTHONY
If Caesar made the least suggestion,
I would gladly rip out my intestine.

CAESAR

I think I'm getting nauseous. Marc Anthony, there is someone I want you to meet.

MARC ANTHONY

Someone I should crush for the mighty Caesar?

CAESAR

No. No crushing. Absolutely no crushing. Marc Anthony, this mission calls for tact, gentility and diplomacy of the highest order. If you so much as lay a finger on this person, I'll personally chop it off up to your elbow.

MARC ANTHONY

It would be an honor to have my finger chopped off to my elbow by the mighty Caesar.

CAESAR

Marc Anthony, just meet me at the amphitheater tomorrow for the matinee.

MARC ANTHONY

Oh, there's nothing I like better than a good matinee.

CAESAR

It's not that kind of matinee.

MARC ANTHONY

(disappointed)
There's another kind?

CAESAR

And Marc Anthony.

MARC ANTHONY

Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR

Show up in one piece.

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

(SFX: CROWD NOISE)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
 Thank you. Thank you. Everybody
 enjoying the show? Well, let's hear
 it then.

(SFX: CROWD CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES (cont'd)
 What a great audience. So many
 celebrities here today. Right here in
 the front row... Direct from Egypt.
 Let's hear it for the Queen
 herself... Cleopatra. Clee...O

(Crowd chants "Clee..O, Clee..O")

MASTER OF CEREMONIES (cont'd)
 And how about a shout out to our very
 own dictator, Julius "I Rule The
 World, At Least The Good Parts"
 Caesar.

(CROWD CHEERS)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES (cont'd)
 Okay... Now hang on to your togas
 folks. We're not done yet. No
 sirree. We said they'd be back and
 here they are. Those masters of
 mayhem. Those puncturers of political
 posturing. Put your hands together
 for the comedy stylings of "The Two
 Senators."

(VAUDEVILLE TYPE MUSIC)

COMEDIAN#1
 Thank you. Thank you.

COMEDIAN#2
 It's wonderful to be here.

COMEDIAN#1
 It's awesome to be home.

COMEDIAN#2
 In this zany, wacky city, we like to
 call Rome.

COMEDIAN#1
 Say, Brutus.

COMEDIAN#2
 Yes, Cassius.

COMEDIAN#1
Who was that lady I saw you with last night.

COMEDIAN#2
That was no lady. That was your wife.

(CROWD LAUGHTER)

COMEDIAN#1
Hey, noble Brutus.

COMEDIAN#2
What is it noble, Cassius?

COMEDIAN#1
I just got three new slaves for my wife.

COMEDIAN#2
Congratulations.

COMEDIAN#1
Best trade I ever made.

(CROWD LAUGHTER)

CASSIUS
They mock us Brutus and Caesar allows this.

BRUTUS
Allow it? He encourages it.

COMEDIAN#2
Hey, noble Cassius.

COMEDIAN#1
What is it noble Brutus.

COMEDIAN#2
Did you know that four years ago I ran for the Senate.

COMEDIAN#1
What do you do now?

COMEDIAN#2
Nothing. I got elected.

(CROWD LAUGHTER)

BOTH COMEDIANS
That's our little show folks. The
time has come to say.

COMEDIAN#1
(mock seriousness)
When life serves you lemons.

COMEDIAN#2
Don't get your toga tied in knots.

COMEDIAN#1
Live life to the fullest.

COMEDIAN#2
Just learn to pick your spots.

COMEDIAN#1
It doesn't matter what you choose.

COMEDIAN#2
Sooner or later you'll pay your dues.

COMEDIAN#1
So, ride that wave. Go misbehave.

COMEDIAN#2
Be a lover or a knave. But in any
case.

BOTH COMEDIANS
Be sure to tip your slave.

(CROWD APPLAUDS)

CAESAR
Hey, Brutus. Nothing... I got
elected. Is that funny or what?

BRUTUS
(through clenched
teeth)
Yes, Caesar. Very funny.

CASSIUS
Caesar has ridiculed us for the last
time, Brutus.

BRUTUS
Perhaps if we talked with him.

CASSIUS
No more talk. It's time for action.

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

CLEOPATRA

Mighty Caesar.

CAESAR

Your majesty, may I present my wife Calpurnia.

CLEOPATRA

Madame. An honor. Caesar did speak of you... once or twice.

CALPURNIA

Sorry I can't say the same.

CAESAR

And this is Marc Anthony, my most trusted general.

MARC ANTHONY

Majesty.

CLEOPATRA

Well, hello Marc Anthony. Tell me General, how do you stay in such magnificent condition.

MARC ANTHONY

Nothing like a little looting and pillaging to tone the body. I can't tolerate a man who's gone soft.

CLEOPATRA

Ohhhhh, Marc Anthony, we have so much in common.

CAESAR

Uh... majesty.

CLEOPATRA

Yes?

CAESAR

I was going to suggest that perhaps you'd like to have Marc Anthony show you the glory of Rome.

CLEOPATRA

Ohhhhhh, I'd love to experience the glory of Rome.

CAESAR

I was talking about the Circus
Maximus, the Roman Forum.

CLEOPATRA

That, too.

MARC ANTHONY

Perhaps her majesty would enjoy a
visit to the Coliseum where she can
witness first hand, lions tearing
human beings limb from limb.

CLEOPATRA

Oh, that sounds like oodles of fun.
(as they exit)
Tell me, Marco, have you ever played
"Toga, toga, who's got the toga?"

CAESAR

Don't they make a lovely couple?

CALPURNIA

Nice try, Julius. If you think I'm
buying any of this, someone tied your
toga too tight. Either she's history
within the week or you'll be making
history in ways you never dreamed of.
See you at supper, dear. Don't be
late.

CAESAR

Well, that didn't work.

COLITUS

From the time you suggested it, I
thought it was iffy.

ROMAN CHORUS

Caesar now faced his biggest dilemma.
Cleopatra was turning into one big
problema.

CAESAR

Who the hell are they?

COLITUS

The Roman Chorus, excellency. A
theatrical device we appropriated
from the Greeks. Along with their
gods, their art, their fashion, their
women and pretty much everything else
that wasn't nailed down.

CAESAR

Are they really necessary?

COLITUS

They do help with transitions.

ROMAN CHORUS

Cleopatra's bedchamber. Sometime later.

CLEOPATRA

Tell me Marc Anthony, do you ever think of ruling the world?

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile, behind the shop of Titus the dung merchant...

BRUTUS

Rule the empire, Cassius? You mean us? You and me?

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile, back in Cleopatra's bedchamber.

CLEOPATRA

That's what I said. Rule the world. Don't tell me you haven't thought about it Marco.

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile back behind the shop of Titus the dung merchant.

CASSIUS

Caesar has mocked us for the last time. Soon, Brutus very soon, Caesar will be gone and Rome will have a new dictator.

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile back in Cleopatra's chambers.

MARC ANTHONY

Why would you want to rule the world, majesty? You already rule Egypt.

CLEOPATRA

Too much sand. It gets in everything. I want more, Marco. Much more. I want to be on top. I have the talent.

CASSIUS

I want to be on top, Brutus. I own
the patent.

CLEOPATRA

I'll do what I have to do.

CASSIUS

Have my cake and eat it too.

CLEOPATRA

Life will be so very sweet.

CASSIUS

When the whole wide world is at my
feet.

CLEOPATRA

I want to be on top.

CASSIUS

I want the prime position.

CLEOPATRA

I want to be on top.

CASSIUS

That's my ambition.

CLEOPATRA

Call the shots.

CASSIUS

Run the show.

CLEOPATRA

Me up there.

CASSIUS

The world below.

CLEOPATRA/CASSIUS

I want to be on top.

MARC ANTHONY

One problem, majesty. Caesar rules
the world. At least, the good parts.

CLEOPATRA

This is where you come in.

MARC ANTHONY

Me, majesty?

CLEOPATRA

You, my handsome friend. Let's say one day when you and Caesar are out walking. And you and he are talking. Suppose, perhaps, what if he went sailing off a cliff?

BRUTUS

And just how do you plan on reaching this top, Cassius?

CASSIUS

That's where you come in, my noble friend.

BRUTUS

Me?

CASSIUS

One day, let's say, you and Caesar are out walking. And let's say you and he are talking and things are going swell. Suppose, just say, what if, perhaps he tumbled down a well?

CLEOPATRA

Can't you see?

CASSIUS

You and me.

CLEOPATRA

Cleopatra and Anthony.

CASSIUS

I'll be a god.

CLEOPATRA

I'll be a goddess.

CASSIUS

I've got the brains.

CLEOPATRA

I've got the bodice.

CASSIUS

What do you say, Brutus? You with me?

CLEOPATRA

What do you say my little Markie warkie?

MARC ANTHONY
I'll have to think about it, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Well, while you're thinking, why
don't we get more comfortable.

MARC ANTHONY
What did you have in... Oh, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Oh, yes.

MARC ANTHONY
Oh, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Tell me something, Marc Anthony.

MARC ANTHONY
Yes, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
Do all Roman soldiers wear their
sword to bed?

MARC ANTHONY
But, majesty, I'm not wearing my
sword.

CLEOPATRA
(swooning)
Ohhhhhh.... Marc Anthony.

ROMAN CHORUS
Meanwhile, outside Cleopatra's
bedchamber.

CAESAR
It's a burden, Colitus, but sometimes
a leader must sacrifice his own wants
and desires for the good of the
people he rules, subjugates and
generally screws over.

COLITUS
I believe it's called the burden of
leadership, excellency.

CAESAR
Sometimes a man who strides the world
like a colossus must put aside the
stirrings in his heart..

COLITUS

Not to mention his loins.

CAESAR

I wasn't going to mention that.
Sometimes it is the greater good that
takes precedent over...

COLITUS

Caesar is stalling, isn't he?

CAESAR

Next to crossing the Rubicon,
ordering Cleopatra back to Egypt is
the hardest thing I've ever done.

COLITUS

I didn't realize that crossing the
Rubicon and plunging the empire into
civil war weighed so heavily on you.

CAESAR

It was plunging into the Rubicon that
weighed heavily on me. I can't swim.

(SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR)

CLEOPATRA

Charmian, see who it is.

CHARMIAN

Yes, majesty.
(at door)
Who is it?

CAESAR

It's me. Julie.

CHARMIAN

Majesty?

CLEOPATRA

Yes?

CHARMIAN

It's someone who calls himself Julie.

CLEOPATRA

Oh boy.

MARC ANTHONY

Who is it?

CLEOPATRA

It's Caesar. He's here. Charmian,
tell him I'll be right there.

CHARMIAN

Her majesty will be right with you.

MARC ANTHONY

I have to get dressed.

CLEOPATRA

No time for that. Just cover yourself
with this pillow and hide behind the
blue curtain. Charmian.

CHARMIAN

Yes, majesty?

CLEOPATRA

Count to ten and then let him in.

CHARMIAN

(counting)

Yes, majesty... Eye... Eye, Eye...
Eye, Eye, Eye... Eye Vee... Vee...
Vee Eye... Vee Eye Eye... Vee Eye Eye
Eye... Eye Ex... Ex.

(SFX: DOOR OPENING)

CHARMIAN (cont'd)

Her majesty will see you now.

CLEOPATRA

Oh, Julie. You've come. At last. You
don't know how much I've missed you.

CAESAR

Really?

CLEOPATRA

Ever since you sailed away I've done
everything I could to forget you. And
heaven knows I've tried. But no one
could compare to my Caesar.

CAESAR

No one?

CLEOPATRA

Not one that mattered. Not the manly
Mesopotamian minister. Not the
gorgeous Greek gladiator. Not even
the assiduous Assyrian astronomer.

CAESAR

That's not why...

CLEOPATRA

No, not the babbling Babylonian barbers, nor the amorous Armenian artists nor my nineteen Neopolitan neighbors. Not the sixteen Sicilian sailors. No, my love, not even the thirty Thessalonian thespians. Not one of them counted.

CAESAR

I'm losing count myself.

CLEOPATRA

Oh, they were good but they weren't Caesar. Do you want to know what torture it was for me not to think of you? Do you want to know how I suffered just to blot the memory of you from my mind. Well, do you?

CAESAR

No, not...

CLEOPATRA

Then, I'll tell you. Down through the ages, according to the sages, our fate is written in the stars. So I was told by a handsome Greek who came to read my charts.

CAESAR

I fail to see..

CLEOPATRA

As he ascended, our fortunes blended, my venus aligned with his mars. And, I tell you true, it was all I could do, not to think of you.

CAESAR

It must have been difficult. But, that's not...

CLEOPATRA

Then there was the young Adonis who one day came upon us, with shoulders carved from marble and a torso even more so. A youth unschooled and callow and perhaps a little shallow. But, it really didn't matter, cause he worshiped Cleopatra.

(MORE)

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)
He only lived to please her and
please her he did sir. But, I tell
you true when he was through, it was
all I could do, not to think of you.

CAESAR
Well, that's all good and well...

CLEOPATRA
Then there was the painter from
Palmyra.

CAESAR
A painter?

CLEOPATRA
From Palmyra. He painted me and
reacquainted me with the wonder of
his skills.

CAESAR
I bet he did.

CLEOPATRA
He sculpted me, exulted me. It's hard
to believe what that man could
achieve with two quills and the
stroke of a brush. But when he was
through, it was all I could do.

CAESAR
Not to think of me. I get...

CLEOPATRA
Then...

CAESAR
There's more???

CLEOPATRA
Did I mention the poet?

CAESAR
A painter and now a poet?

CLEOPATRA
I am a patron of the arts.

CAESAR
Obviously.

CLEOPATRA
He came from the Peloponnese to
worship at my knees.

(MORE)

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

His poems were quite exotic, and his songs, well, most erotic.

CAESAR

No doubt.

CLEOPATRA

He spoke of love. He sang of passion. It set my skin afire. He talked and talked until I thought he'd never fulfill my desire. But when he came through and boy, he came through, it was all I could do not to think of you.

CAESAR

Cleo, we have to talk.

CLEOPATRA

Talk? Talk? Is that all you dictators do is talk?

CAESAR

I know how difficult it's been for you. But before we go any further... Well, it's this way. You and I can never be.

CLEOPATRA

Why? Because I am Egyptian and you are Roman?

CAESAR

No, that isn't it.

CLEOPATRA

Because you are Caesar and I am but a humble queen?

CAESAR

No, that's not either.

CLEOPATRA

Then what is it? What difference can be so monumental that it keeps up apart?

CAESAR

Well, for one thing I have a wife.

CLEOPATRA

That is big. But, easily remedied.

CAESAR

Calpurnia would never divorce me.

CLEOPATRA

Divorce? Divorce is for peasants. For serfs. For plebes. Not for you and me. Not for gods. For gods, there are other remedies.

CAESAR

Remedies?

CLEOPATRA

Remedies. Let's just say, one day when you're out walking and you and she are talking. Suppose, perhaps, what if she went sailing off a cliff.

CAESAR

How about this? Why don't I set you up in a lovely villa on Capri? I could pop down on weekends. Great Zeus. I'm crazy about you.

CLEOPATRA

Who isn't?

CAESAR

I need you.

CLEOPATRA

Who doesn't?

CAESAR

I must have you.

CLEOPATRA

Who hasn't?

CAESAR

What?

CLEOPATRA

Take me, I'm yours.

CAESAR

Oh, Cleo.

CLEOPATRA

Oh, Caesar.

CAESAR

Oh, Cleo.

CLEOPATRA
Oh Caesar. Is that Imperial scepter
or are you just glad to see me?

(SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR)

CAESAR
Were you expecting someone?

CLEOPATRA
Usually.

CALPURNIA
Julius. Open this door. I know you're
in there.

CAESAR
It's my wife.

CALPURNIA
Open up.

CAESAR
I've got to get dressed.

CLEOPATRA
No time for that. Just cover yourself
with this pillow and hide behind the
yellow curtain.

CHARMIAN
Shall I count to X, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
No, just let her in.

(SFX: DOOR OPENING)

CALPURNIA
Okay, where is he?

CLEOPATRA
Where is who, madame?

CALPURNIA
You know very well who. The great and
horny Caesar.

CLEOPATRA
Why would you think he was here?

CALPURNIA

Because he has a weakness for over developed women with underdeveloped minds.

CLEOPATRA

Well, you would know better than me, madame. You're the one he married.

CALPURNIA

And don't you forget that. Now, where the hell is he? A ha! Just as I thought. Come out of there. I can see your feet sticking out from under that curtain.

MARC ANTHONY

Yes, ma'am

CALPURNIA

Marc Anthony???

MARC ANTHONY

Yes, Madame.

CALPURNIA

What are you doing here??

MARC ANTHONY

Fluffing the pillows?

CAESAR

Marc Anthony???

MARC ANTHONY

Caesar!!

CAESAR

What are you doing here? Where are your clothes? And why is your pillow bigger than mine?

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile in the Roman Senate.

CASSIUS

Gentlemen... The prognosticators have progged and nosticated. The augurs have augured and the soothsayers have soothed and said. They all agree. Caesar meets his fate on the Ides of March.

LUCIUS
One question, noble Cassius.

CASSIUS
Yes, noble Lucius

LUCIUS
What the hell are the Ides Of March?

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

MARC ANTHONY
You must believe me, Caesar. Nothing
happened

CAESAR
You were stark naked.

MARC ANTHONY
Aside from that.

CAESAR
Give me one good reason why I should
believe you.

MARC ANTHONY
Because I know why her majesty has
come to Rome. And it wasn't for the
lasagna.

CAESAR
What are you talking about?

MARC ANTHONY
The queen came to Rome...

CAESAR
Yes? She came to Rome..?

MARC ANTHONY
She came to Rome... to kill Caesar.

CAESAR
Do you believe this Colitus?
Cleopatra came to Rome to kill
Caesar. It makes no sense. Why would
Cleopatra want to kill Caesar?

COLITUS
Why does any woman want to kill any
man?

CAESAR
Besides that?

MARC ANTHONY

She wants to rule the world and she wants me to help her.

CAESAR

She's no good that woman. She's... She's... What are the words I'm looking for.

SERVANT

Deceitful, tricky, scheming, designing, wily, underhanded, conniving, sneaky and crafty.

CAESAR

Exactly. Thank you, Thesaurus.

MARC ANTHONY

Caesar knows of my loyalty.. For Caesar I would gladly pluck out my eye.

CAESAR

Again with the eye plucking... Go.

MARC ANTHONY

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Just go. What am I to do, Colitus? What can I do?

COLITUS

It seems Caesar has no choice.

CAESAR

It seems I have no choice.

COLITUS

There is only one thing Caesar can do.

CAESAR

There is only one thing I can do.

COLITUS

Send Cleopatra back to Egypt.

CAESAR

Keep a closer eye on Cleopatra.

COLITUS

(to himself)

A tower of strength.

CAESAR

That way I can check up on her from time to time... to time... to time... to time.

COLITUS

May I remind Caesar that Cleopatra is out to kill you?

CAESAR

What is it you once told me, Colitus? Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

COLITUS

Cleopatra wasn't exactly the enemy I had in mind. Excellency, in your heart of hearts, you know you must send Cleopatra back to Alexandria.

CAESAR

Alexandria? Send Cleopatra back to Alexandria?? Do you know how long it takes to get to Alexandria?

COLITUS

The longer Cleopatra is at sea, the less of a threat she is.

CAESAR

I'm not talking about the time it takes her. I'm talking about the time it will take me.

COLITUS

But Caesar has emissaries in Egypt who rule in Caesar's name. You would have no reason to sail to Egypt.

CAESAR

No reason? No reason?? Have you seen the tush on that woman? Where do I start? Watch her depart. Go with my head or go my heart.

COLITUS

Let's face facts excellency, it's not your heart that's causing all the commotion.

CAESAR

What can I do, Colitus. What can I do?

COLITUS

When your choices are limited, you
actions prohibited, you're feeling
dispirited, you options inhibited,
there is no other way. Nothing else
that you can say, but so long,
goodbye and farewell.

CAESAR

That's it? So long, goodbye and
farwell?

COLITUS

That's it.

SERVANT

Caesar.

CAESAR

What is it now?

COLITUS

Marcus Brutus and Gaius Cassius
request an audience with his
excellency.

CAESAR

What do those bozos want now?

COLITUS

There is only way to find out.

CAESAR

Okay, send in the clowns.

BRUTUS

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Don't bother, they're here.

CASSIUS

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Noble Cassius.

BRUTUS

Noble Caesar

CAESAR

Noble Brutus

CASSIUS

We bring good news, Caesar.

CAESAR

I could use some good news.

BRUTUS

In a special session of the Roman Senate a motion was placed before that esteemed body. Vigorous conversation followed in which there was an exchange of ideas and positions were stated. A motion was then brought forward to end debate and take a vote. That motion was then debated...

CAESAR

Can you get to the point before my toga goes out of style.

CASSIUS

What Brutus was so eloquently and endlessly saying is that the Senate has voted to make Caesar... a god.

CAESAR

A god???

CASSIUS

Yes, Caesar. A full fledged, twenty four carat, carved in marble, float on a cloud... god.

CAESAR

Did you hear that Colitus? I'm going to be a god.

COLITUS

Congratulations, excellency.

CAESAR

A god. I am so, like, perfect for that job. Tell me, Cassius, when will all this god stuff take place?

CASSIUS

Two days hence, Caesar.

CAESAR

Two days hence. I like the sound of that. Two days hence.

CASSIUS

At the appointed hour, a delegation will arrive to escort you to the Senate where you will officially be elevated to the pantheon of the gods.

CAESAR

Julius Caesar the god. It has a nice ring to it. Julius Caesar the god. I like it. I will be ready, gentlemen. Until two days hence.

BRUTUS

Until two days hence, noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Noble Brutus.

CASSIUS

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Noble Cassius.

CASSIUS

How about that? Julius Caesar the god. What do you think Colitus? Do I look godlike?

COLITUS

Not being a religious man myself, I am not exactly qualified to render an opinion.

CAESAR

Not a religious man?

COLITUS

No, excellency.

CAESAR

How can you say such a thing?

COLITUS

It takes the edge off any belief in superior beings that might have your welfare as their prime concern when you spend your entire life bowing, scraping, begging and pleading.

CASSIUS

Sounds like religion to me. In two days hence I will be a god.

COLITUS

Is that all there is to it,
excellency?

CAESAR

That's it. The Senate selects me,
then it elects me. And just like that
I'm a god.

COLITUS

That's it?

CAESAR

That's it. There's no test that I
know of. I just have to show up and
I'm Julius Caesar the god.

COLITUS

So a handful of dunces who don't know
where up is, have decided to make you
a god.

CAESAR

When I'm a deity, people will pray to
me. Fall on their knees to me. Pledge
me their fealty. Eternal and
mythical, magical, mystical, Julius
Caesar the god.

COLITUS

With all due deference, excellency,
you're a soldier, a general... a
dictator. But being a god is whole
other matter.

CAESAR

Being a god, it's the very best job.
There's really nothing to do. Bask in
the praise, astound and amaze and
work in mysterious ways.

COLITUS

Gods must have some things they do or
people wouldn't constantly seek their
intervention.

CAESAR

Well, perhaps someone's prayer floats
through the air and somehow reaches
your ear. You decide to explore it or
choose to ignore it. Who cares if the
beggar complains? You don't have to
answer or give a damn, sir. You don't
even have to explain.

(MORE)

CAESAR (cont'd)

It's a job I was made for, bought and paid for. Julius Caesar the god.

COLITUS

Excellency, are you absolutely sure the Senate doesn't have something nefarious up its sleeve?

CAESAR

The Senate doesn't frighten me, Colitus.

CALPURNIA

Julius!!!

CAESAR

That frightens me.

CALPURNIA

Oh, there you are.

CAESAR

Have you heard the good news?

CALPURNIA

Cleopatra has left for Egypt.

CAESAR

I'm going to be a god.

CALPURNIA

You a god? That's a laugh.

CAESAR

Colitus will tell you.

COLITUS

It's true madame.

CAESAR

In two days hence, the Senate is going to make me a god.

CALPURNIA

That bunch? They couldn't make a sandwich if you spotted them two slices of bread and a head of lettuce. You a god? Give me a break.

CAESAR

In two days hence you will no longer be just the wife of the Roman dictator, you will be the wife of a god.

CALPURNIA

And if Cleopatra isn't on the first
boat out of town, I'll be the widow
of a god.

CAESAR

I need a drink.

COLITUS

Be careful, Caesar. You know what
wine does to you.

CAESAR

Colitus, sometimes you can be a real
old lady.

COLITUS

To travel that portal to become
immortal, to take his place up on
high. He just doesn't see it, for him
to achieve it, by definition, Julius
Caesar must die. If he goes we all
go, everyone close and nearby. There
is no mystery. I'll soon be history.
I need a good plan before it all hits
the fan and it happens in two days
hence.

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile, Caesar went off to the
Grotto and drank himself blotto.

GROTTO HOST

Mighty Caesar. Welcome. We are
honored by your presence. What brings
the mighty Caesar to our humble
establishment.

CAESAR

(slightly looped
already)

Troubles, my friend. I've got
troubles with a capital theta.

GROTTO HOST

What could possibly be troubling the
mighty Caesar? An impending invasion?

CAESAR

If only.

GROTTO HOST

A revolution in Gaul?

CAESAR
I should be that lucky.

GROTTO HOST
Ah... Of course... It can be only be
one thing. A woman.

CAESAR
Make that two women.

GROTTO HOST
Then you've come to the right place,
my friend. There is no better way to
forget your troubles than right here
at the Olympus Bar and Grill.

CAESAR
So this is the Olympus Bar and Grill.
I've heard speak of it.

GROTTO HOST
After two drinks every man is a god
and every woman a goddess. What can
we get you, noble Caesar? Food? Wine?

CAESAR
Wine and lots of it.

GROTTO HOST
Wine for the mighty Caesar.

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

ROMAN CHORUS
Several hours and god knows how many
casks of wine later...

CAESAR
(mumbling in his
stupor)
Two days hence... Two days hence.

COLITUS
Oh, there you are Caesar.

CAESAR
Zeus? Is that you?

COLITUS
Zeus? No, it's me. Colitus.

CAESAR
Colitus?

COLITUS
Yes, Caesar, Colitus.

CAESAR
You're sure you're not Zeus?

COLITUS
Positive.

CAESAR
You look like Zeus.

COLITUS
I'm definitely not Zeus.

CAESAR
Colitus... Colitus...

COLITUS
Yes, excellency? What is it?

CAESAR
I have been to the mountaintop,
Colitus.

COLITUS
By the heavens, how much did you have
to drink?

CAESAR
Did you hear me, Colitus?

COLITUS
Let's sober you up. Come. Walk with
me back to the palace..

CAESAR
I have been to the mountaintop,
Colitus.

COLITUS
And which mountaintop would that be
Caesar?

CAESAR
Olympus.

COLITUS
Of course. Olympus. And how was
Olympus?

CAESAR
Olympian.

COLITUS

Keep walking. Come on. One foot in front of the other.

CAESAR

You know what they call it when you've been to the mountaintop?

COLITUS

Delusional?

CAESAR

What? No. They call it... Well, they must call it something.

COLITUS

Just keep walking.

CAESAR

I met all the gods, Colitus.

COLITUS

Of course you did.

CAESAR

I hung out with Zeus. For a god he's a card. I partied with Bacchus. It got somewhat raucous. He is, after all, god of the wine. I shot arrows with cupid. Felt kind of stupid. Then duo'd on fluto with Pan.

COLITUS

Duo'd on fluto.

CAESAR

I saw Aphrodite, dressed in her nighty. A most incredible sight.

COLITUS

I bet it was.

CAESAR

It was hard not to stare, goddesses everywhere. One in every size, shape and height. Oh, I gotta lay down.

COLITUS

Not quite yet, excellency. We still have some items of state to complete.

CAESAR

Items of state?

COLITUS

Just a few papers that require your signature.

CAESAR

Papers? What papers?

COLITUS

Oh, the usual. Raising taxes. Crushing peasants. Jailing kings. You know, the fun stuff. Just sign here. That's right. And here. And right here... Good. And your initials here... And we're done. Now you can lie down.

(SFX: NOISE OF CAESAR HITTING THE FLOOR. CAESAR SNORES)

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

ROMAN CHORUS

Caesar's Palace, two days hence.

BRUTUS

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Easy... Easy... It feels like they're holding chariot races in my head.

CASSIUS

It is our honor and privilege to escort the mighty Caesar to the Roman Senate on this your day of days.

CAESAR

What day of days? What are you talking about?

BRUTUS

Today is the day you join the gods.

CAESAR

The gods?

BRUTUS

The gods.

CASSIUS

Today is the day Julius Caesar becomes immortal.

CAESAR

Immortal, you say?

BRUTUS

Immortal.

CAESAR

Oh yeah... Immortal. Anything to get rid of this headache.

CASSIUS

We must hurry. We don't want to keep the gods waiting.

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile, in Cleopatra's chambers.

CLEOPATRA

Return to Egypt?

COLITUS

Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA

There must be some mistake.

COLITUS

I'm afraid not, highness. These orders come directly from Caesar. I am authorized to accompany you back to Alexandria.

CLEOPATRA

Accompany me? You? A slave?

COLITUS

No longer majesty. You can see for yourself. Right here. Signed by Caesar himself. I am a free citizen and a duly designated emissary of Rome. It's all very official. A signature here, a signature there and right there an initial.

CLEOPATRA

I don't believe it. I can't conceive it. I just don't understand. Things were going so well. Just as I planned. I had Casear right here in the palm of my hand.

COLITUS

Marc Anthony blabbed.

CLEOPATRA

Oh.

COLITUS

You've been exposed. Caesar knows what you proposed. Your plans are kaput. You're scheme has been cooked. Your passage to Egypt's been booked.

CLEOPATRA

Nonsense... Take me to Caesar.

COLITUS

Might I suggest...

CLEOPATRA

I don't need a coach. I'll make my approach, modest and reticent, restrained and hesitant and enticingly evasive. I know how to do it. When I put my mind to it, I can be very persuasive. I'll play his game. Deny every claim. Make every charge look shoddy. And when I am through, what do you think he will do, believe Marc Anthony... or this body?

COLITUS

I'm sure you'd make a very good argument, majesty. But your choices are limited, your actions prohibited, you options inhibited. If you choose to stay, there's only thing to say.

CLEOPATRA

Yes?

COLITUS

Caesar will lock you away.

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile, back in the Roman Forum.

CRAZY OLD MAN

Beware the Ides of March... Beware the Ides of March... Beware the Ides of March.

CAESAR

Any of you know what the hell the Ides of March are?

CASSIUS

Yes, Caesar. Today is the Ides of March.

CAESAR
 Today? Really?

BRUTUS
 From this day forward the name of
 Caesar and the Ides Of March will
 echo down the corridors of time and
 live forever.

CAESAR
 The corridors of time?

BRUTUS
 Yes, Caesar the corridors of time.

CAESAR
 And live forever, you say?

BRUTUS
 Yes, Caesar... Forever.

CAESAR
 Well, what are we waiting for?

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

COLITUS
 We all know what happened that day in
 mid-March, when Caesar's fate was
 sealed. He met his end at the hands
 of his friends. But that's not where
 our story ends. With all due
 discretion, that leaves just one
 question. Whatever happened to me?

CLEOPATRA
 Oh Colitus...

COLITUS
 Yes, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
 I'm waiting.

COLITUS
 Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
 You can come out now.

COLITUS
 Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Oh, Colitus.

COLITUS
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Your pillow.

COLITUS
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
It's so...

COLITUS
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
It's so well upholstered.

(MUSICAL TRANSITION)

ANNOUNCER
The Roman Empire was never the same after that fateful day in March. And, I think, we can safely say, neither was Colitus. Join us again next week as we travel back in time for another dramatization of those events that alter and illuminate our times. I'm your announcer Wayne Foley and we're history.

THE END