

"CAESAR & CLEO"

Written by

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Bruce Kane Productions

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"CAESAR & CLEO"

by Bruce Kane

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*(Stirring music up and under)*

ANNOUNCER

History Theatre On The Air.. is on the air. For tonight's episode we travel back to ancient Rome to recreate the final days of Julius Caesar, Rome's greatest emperor. Our dramatization is based on the recently discovered, two thousand year old writings of Colitus Ventriculitus, some time Roman poet, playwright, scholar, imperial adviser... and full time slave.

*(Music out)*

ROMAN CHORUS

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.  
But, if you're looking for a city that's gruff and grim and  
gritty, 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'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!

*(Crowd noise)*

CASSIUS

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

BRUTUS

Why Cassius, 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.

(CROWD CHEERS)

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.

(Crowd cheers)

BRUTUS

There was a time, Cassius, when we had the say.

CASSIUS

Yes, Brutus, there was 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.

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

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

Brutus, 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.

*(Music transition)*

COLITUS

Excellency.

ROMAN CHORUS

Yes, what is it Colitus?

COLITUS

The Senate approaches.

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.

COLITUS

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

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.

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.

CAESAR

I have no idea what you are talking about.

CALPURNIA

Don't play your "I'm almost a god" routine with me. I heard about you and the Queen of Egypt.

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. 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

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's her name, 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.

*(Musical transition)*

COLITUS

Caesar?

CAESAR

What is it?

COLITUS

Marcus Brutus requests an audience with Caesar.

CAESAR

What does that pain in the 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. It must be 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..

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 is coming to Rome???

CAESAR

Oh boy.

*(Transitional music followed  
by 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. 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. Her royal majesty.. The one. The only... Queen of Egypt... Cleee...ohhhhhh..patra.

*(Crowd cheers)*

CLEOPATRA

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

CAESAR

*(setting the record  
straight)*

I was wearing armor. She was wearing the smile.

CLEOPATRA

We took each other's measure. He would not be dismissed. He came prepared for battle. If you get my drift. 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.

*(Crowd cheers)*

CLEOPATRA

And when I'm good, I'm very good and I look fantastic in a sweater.

*(Crowd cheers. Musical  
transition)*

CAESAR

I'm trapped Colitus. Trapped. Trapped between Cleopatra's promise to open wide the gates of paradise and Calpurnia's threat to slam shut the gates of hell. What am I going to do?

COLITUS

Well, I might have a thought or two.

CAESAR

A thought is good. Two thoughts are even better.

COLITUS

I was thinking... 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

Marc Anthony, there is someone I want you to meet.

MARC ANTHONY

Someone the great Caesar wants me to crush. Rip limb for limb. Tie to a burning stake.

CAESAR

No. No crushing. No ripping. No staking. 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. And Marc Anthony.

MARC ANTHONY

Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR

Show up in one piece.

*(Musical transition. Crowd noise)*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Thank you. Thank you. And welcome to the Roman Forum. Everybody enjoying the show? Well, let's hear it then.

*(Crowd cheering)*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

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

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

Okay... Now hang on to your togas folks. We're not done yet. No sirreee. 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 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...

BOTH COMEDIANS  
... 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 laughs)*

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 laughs)*

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 laughs)*

BOTH COMEDIANS

Thank you. Thank you.

COMEDIAN #1

You've been great.

COMEDIAN #2

Remember to be good to each other.

COMEDIAN #2

And don't forget to tip your slave.

*(Crowd applauds)*

CAESAR

Hey, Brutus.

BRUTUS

Yes, Caesar?

CAESAR

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.

*(Ominous 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 always say.

CLEOPATRA

I bet you do.

CAESAR

Majesty.

CLEOPATRA

Yes, Caesar?

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 Baths.

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.

(MORE)

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

(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.

*(Musical transition)*

ROMAN CHORUS

Cleopatra's bedchamber. Later that evening.

CLEOPATRA

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

MARC ANTHONY

Not really, no.

CLEOPATRA

I think about it all the time.

MARC ANTHONY

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

CLEOPATRA

Too much sand. It gets in everything.

ROMAN CHORUS

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

BRUTUS

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

CASSIUS

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

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile back in Cleopatra's chambers.

CLEOPATRA

I want more, Marco. Much more. I want to be on top.

MARC ANTHONY

On top?

CLEOPATRA

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.

MARC ANTHONY  
Yes?

CLEOPATRA  
And you and he are talking.

MARC ANTHONY  
Okay?

CLEOPATRA  
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.

BRUTUS  
We have done that.

CASSIUS  
And let's say you and he are talking.

BRUTUS  
Okay.

CASSIUS  
And things are going swell.

BRUTUS  
Yes?

CASSIUS  
Suppose, just say, what if, he tumbled down a well?

CLEOPATRA  
Can't you see?

You and me. CASSIUS  
 Cleopatra and Anthony. CLEOPATRA  
 I'll be a god. CASSIUS  
 I'll be a goddess. CLEOPATRA  
 I've got the brains. CASSIUS  
 I've got the bodice. CLEOPATRA  
 What do you say, Brutus? CASSIUS  
 What do you say my little Markie warkie? CLEOPATRA  
  
*(Musical transition. Knock on door)*  
 Charmian, see who it is. CLEOPATRA  
 Yes, majesty. CHARMIAN  
 Who is it? (at door)  
 It's me. Julie. CAESAR  
 Majesty? CHARMIAN  
 Yes? CLEOPATRA  
 It's someone who calls himself Julie. CHARMIAN  
 Oh boy. CLEOPATRA  
 Who is it? MARC ANTHONY



CLEOPATRA

It's Caesar. 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. Count to ten... Eye... Eye, Eye... Eye, Eye, Eye... Eye Vee... Vee... Vee Eye... Vee Eye Eye... Vee Eye Eye Eye... Eye Ex... Ex.

*(Door opening)*

CHARMIAN

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. 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

Be that as it may...

CLEOPATRA

No, not the babbling Babylonian barbers, nor the amorous Armenian artists nor my nineteen Neopolitan neighbors. Not one of them counted.

CAESAR

I'm losing count myself.

CLEOPATRA

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?

CAESAR

Well, no, not...

CLEOPATRA

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...

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 can only imagine.

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, not to think of you.

CAESAR

I'm sure it must have been...

CLEOPATRA  
Then...

CAESAR  
There's more???

CLEOPATRA  
Did I mention the poet?

CAESAR  
No, I don't think so. I would have remembered.

CLEOPATRA  
He came from the Peloponnese to worship at my knees. His poems were quite exotic, and his songs, well, most erotic.

CAESAR  
I don't doubt it.

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  
I can see that.

CLEOPATRA  
Then there was...

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 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

Let's just say, one day when you and she are out walking.

CAESAR

Oh, please.

CLEOPATRA

And you and she are talking.

CAESAR

Well, she's talking, anyway.

CLEOPATRA

And while you stop to listen to some balladeers and, she, somehow, magically, disappears.

CAESAR

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

CLEOPATRA

Capri?? You must be kidding.

CAESAR

Great Zeus. I'm crazy about you.

CLEOPATRA

Who isn't?

CAESAR

I need you.

Who doesn't? CLEOPATRA

I must have you. CAESAR

Who hasn't? CLEOPATRA

What? CAESAR

Take me, I'm yours. CLEOPATRA

Oh, Cleo. CAESAR  
(rising passion)

Oh, Caesar. CLEOPATRA  
(more rising passion)

Oh, Cleo. CAESAR  
(really rising  
passion)

*(Loud knocking on door)*

Oh, god. CLEOPATRA

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

It's my wife. I've got to get dressed. CAESAR

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

Shall I count to X, majesty? CHARMIAN

No, just let her in. CLEOPATRA

*(Door Opening)*

Okay, where is he? CALPURNIA

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 is he? Oh... You might as well come out. I can see your feet sticking out from under that curtain.

MARC ANTHONY

Yes, ma'am

CALPURNIA

(surprised)

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 nosticated. The augurs have augured and the soothsayers have both 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

She came to Rome..?

MARC ANTHONY

She came to Rome...

CAESAR

Yes?

MARC ANTHONY

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.

CAESAR

Rule the world?

MARC ANTHONY

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.

*(Musical transition)*

CAESAR

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

Really? That's your solution?

CAESAR

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

COLITUS

May I remind Caesar that Cleopatra wants 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

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

CAESAR

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

COLITUS

That's it. So long, goodbye and farewell otherwise known as the big kiss off.

Caesar.

SERVANT

What is it now?

CAESAR

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

COLITUS

What do those two bozos want now?

CAESAR

There is only way to find out.

COLITUS

Okay, send in the clowns.

CAESAR

Noble Caesar.

BRUTUS

Don't bother, they're here.

CAESAR

Noble Caesar.

CASSIUS

Noble Cassius. Noble Brutus.

CAESAR

We bring good news, Caesar.

CASSIUS

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...

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 Caesar 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 a 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. 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.

*(Musical transition)*

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.

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 goblets 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 hung out with Pluto and 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.

*(Sound of a body hitting the floor.)*

COLITUS

Oh, clumsy me.

*(Musical transition)*

ROMAN CHORUS

Caesar's Palace, two days hence.

BRUTUS

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Easy... Easy, Brutus. 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... Right. 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. A signature here. A signature there and right there an initial.

CLEOPATRA

I have to admit it does look very official. I don't believe it. I can't conceive it. I just don't understand. Things were going so well. I had Caesar right here in my hand.

COLITUS

Marc Anthony blabbed.

CLEOPATRA

Oh. That'd do it.

COLITUS

You've been exposed. Caesar knows. Your plans are kaput. Your 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, always very 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, your options inhibited. If you choose 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.

CASSIUS

(whispering aside)

Or though we can say the same for Caesar.

CAESAR

The corridors of time?

BRUTUS

Yes, Caesar the corridors of time.

CAESAR

And live forever, you say?

BRUTUS

Yes, Caesar... Forever.

CAESAR

Well, let's not keep the gods waiting.

*(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 one more 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  
(swooning)  
Oh, Colitus.

COLITUS  
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA  
(admiringly)  
Your pillow.

COLITUS  
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA  
It's so...

COLITUS  
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA  
(breathless)  
It's so well upholstered.

*(Concluding music)*

ANNOUNCER  
You've been listening to History Theatre On The Air. Please join us again next week when we, once more, travel back in time to an event that altered and illuminated our times. Or, maybe not.

THE END