

"I, COLITUS"

A Roman Comedy
In Rhyme and Verse

Written by

Bruce Kane

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CHARACTERS

Elder Colitus Ventriculitis..... Very old

Colitus Ventriculitis..... Younger version

Julius Caesar..... Dictator of Rome

Cleopatra..... Queen of Egypt

Brutus..... Roman Senator

Cassius.... Roman Senator

Calpurnia..... Caesar's wife

Marc Anthony..... Roman General

Roman Chorus..... Non singing chorus. The Roman version of the Greek Chorus.

All parts, other than the principals listed above, will be played by members of the Roman Chorus

THE SET

The action is designed to move continuously without stopping, therefore the set should be suggestive rather than literal... Roman columns, chairs, a bed, a door and three curtains, red, yellow and blue should do it.

"I, COLITUS"

A Roman Comedy
in Rhyme and Verse

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(LIGHTS UP)

*(The Roman Chorus is already
on stage)*

ROMAN CHORUS
(announcing with
great import)

Colitus Ventriculitis.

*(The Elder Colitus
Ventriculitis enters)*

COLITUS

My name is Colitus Ventriculitis.
This is 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.
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 forty four b.c.
and the final days of the great J.C.
That's Julius Caesar to you.

(The Elder Colitus exits)

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.

(MORE)

ROMAN CHORUS (cont'd)

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.

*(At this point the members of
 the Roman Chorus become the
 Roman Mob.)*

CHORUS MEMBER #1

It's Caesar! Caesar is here!

CHORUS MEMBER #2

Caesar has returned!

*(JULIUS CAESAR ENTERS like a
 conquering hero greeted by the
 cheering mob. He is
 accompanied by the YOUNGER
 COLITUS VENTRICULITIS. CASSIUS
 and BRUTUS ENTER unnoticed by
 the mob.)*

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?

CHORUS MEMBER #3

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.

(The Mob cheers)

CAESAR

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.

CHORUS MEMBER #4

For us... He did it for us.

CAESAR

And the glory that is Rome.

(The Mob 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.

(The Mob 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.
It 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 I think 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,

(MORE)

CAESAR (cont'd)

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 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,
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, Colitus. I wrote it myself.

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.

(Cassius and Brutus approach)

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

(knowingly)

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 spend that 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. 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 take this 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 is nothing you can do.
 Don't try to make amends.
 You'll never satisfy her,
 no matter what you say.
 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

None that I can see.

(The CRAZY OLD MAN ENTERS)

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.

*(They all exit. CALPURNIA
ENTERS)*

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 capture 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 and Colitus enter)

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 perqs.

CALPURNIA

I've heard about the perqs.

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. 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'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.

(Calpurnia exits)

CAESAR

Well, Colitus. Now, do you see?
If you want to go
where you want to go
whenever you want to go.
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 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 enters)

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 blank expressions.

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. Yes, my options. 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.

(Brutus exits)

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.

(They all exit)

ROMAN CHORUS

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

(Brutus and Cassius enter)

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

Well, for one thing, you're no fun at parties.

(They exit.)

(Caesar and Colitus enter)

(Sounds of 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... Clee...ohhhhhh..patra.

(Sounds of CROWD CHEERING)

(CLEOPATRA STRIDES IN like a pop star making her entrance on stage)

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.
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.

(Sounds of crowd cheering.)

CAESAR

Big trouble.

CLEOPATRA

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

(Cleopatra exits)

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. I sometimes think. 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 ENTERS)

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.

(They exit. Cassius and Brutus enter and sit. Cleopatra enters and sits. Caesar, Colitus, Marc Anthony and Calpurnia enter and takes seats. The MASTER OF CEREMONIES bounds in)

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

(Everyone cheers)

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 changes "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 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."

(Two Roman Comedians bound in)

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 laughs: They comedians
do a little dance)*

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. The comedians
do a little dance)*

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.

(Comedians do a little dance)

BOTH COMEDIANS

That's our 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.

COMEDIAN #1

But in any case.

BOTH COMEDIANS

Be sure to tip your slave.

(The Comedians dance off)

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.

(Cassius and Brutus exit)

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
 (very impressed)
 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.

(Calpurnia exits)

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.

(Cleopatra and Marc Anthony enter)

ROMAN CHORUS

Cleopatra's bedchamber. Sometime later.

COLITUS

Like that.

ROMAN CHORUS

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

(Cassius and Brutus enter)

COLITUS

And like that.

(Caesar and Colitus exits)

CLEOPATRA

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

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 and Brutus begin to exit)

CASSIUS

What do you say, Brutus? You with me?

(They exit)

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...?

*(Cleopatra signals. Two Roman
Chorus Members roll in front
of Cleopatra and Marc Anthony)*

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 and Colitus enter)

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.

(Caesar knocks on Cleopatra's door. She calls out from behind the curtain)

CLEOPATRA

Charmian...

(Charmian enters)

CHARMIAN

Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA

See who's at the door.

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.

(We see the Blue Curtain ripple to indicate Marc Anthony moving behind it)

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.

(Charmian opens the door)

CHARMIAN

Her majesty will see you now.

CAESAR

(to Colitus)

Wish me luck.

COLITUS

You're gonna need it.

(Colitus exits. Caesar enters and Cleopatra steps out from behind the curtain.)

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

That's not why...

CLEOPATRA

No, not the babbling Babylonian barbers, nor the amorous
Armenian artists nor my nineteen Neopolitan neighbors.

CAESAR

Cleo, we have...

CLEOPATRA

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.

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.
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.

CAESAR

I can only imagine.

CLEOPATRA

But when he was through,
it was all I could do.

CAESAR

Not to think of me. I get...

Then...

CLEOPATRA

There's more???

CAESAR

Did I mention the poet?

CLEOPATRA

A painter and a poet?

CAESAR

I am a patron of the arts.

CLEOPATRA

Obviously.

CAESAR

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

CLEOPATRA

No doubt.

CAESAR

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.

CLEOPATRA

Cleo, we have to talk.

CAESAR

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

CLEOPATRA

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.

CAESAR

Why? Because I am Egyptian and you are Roman?

CLEOPATRA

No, that isn't it.

CAESAR

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?? 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.

*(Cleopatra pulls Caesar behind
the curtain.)*

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

CAESAR
I'm not wearing the scepter.

CLEOPATRA
(ecstatic)
Ohhhh, Caesar.

(We hear a knock on the door)

CAESAR
Were you expecting someone?

CLEOPATRA
Usually.

CALPURNIA (O.S.)
Julius. Open this door. I know you're in there.

CAESAR
It's my wife.

CALPURNIA (O.S.)
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.

*(We see the yellow curtain
ripple to indicate that Caesar
is behind it.)*

CHARMIAN
Shall I count to X, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
No, just let her in.

*(Charmian opens the door.
Cleopatra steps out from
behind the curtain)*

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 steps out naked
except for a pillow he holds
in front of himself)*

MARC ANTHONY

Yes, ma'am

CALPURNIA

Marc Anthony???

MARC ANTHONY

Yes, Madame.

CALPURNIA

What are you doing here??

MARC ANTHONY

Fluffing the pillows?

*(Caesar steps out. He is also
naked, holding a pillow in
front of him)*

CAESAR
 Marc Anthony???

MARC ANTHONY
 Caesar!!

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

ROMAN CHORUS
 Blackout.

(The Stage goes dark.)

CAESAR
 And not a second too soon.

(In the darkness, everyone exits)

(Lights back up on the Roman Chorus)

ROMAN CHORUS
 Meanwhile in the Roman Senate.

(Cassius enters. The Roman Chorus form up as the Roman Senate)

CASSIUS
 Gentlemen... The augurs have augured. The prognosticators have both progged and nosticated 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?

(Cassius throws up his hands in frustration and exits. The Roman Chorus reforms)

ROMAN CHORUS
 Meanwhile, back at Caesar's Palace.

*(Caesar, Marc Anthony and
Colitus enter)*

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

(nervously)

The queen came to Rome...

CAESAR

Yes? She came to Rome..?

MARC ANTHONY

She came to Rome...

CAESAR

Yes? 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 and she wants me to help her.

CAESAR

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

CHORUS MEMBER #1

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. Just go.

MARC ANTHONY

Noble Caesar.

(Marc Anthony exits)

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

(to audience)

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,
your 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?

That's it. COLITUS

Caesar. CHORUS MEMBER #3

What is it now? CAESAR

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

What do those bozos want now? CAESAR

There is only way to find out. COLITUS

Okay, send in the clowns. CAESAR

(Brutus and Cassius enter)

Noble Caesar. BRUTUS

Don't bother, they're here. CAESAR

Noble Caesar. CASSIUS

Noble Cassius. CAESAR

Noble Caesar BRUTUS

Noble Brutus CAESAR

We bring good news, Caesar. CASSIUS

I could use some good news. CAESAR

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
(MORE)

BRUTUS (cont'd)

taken. 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.

(Brutus and Cassius exit)

CAESAR

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
(to audience)

So a handful of dunces
who don't know where up is,
have decided to make him 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.
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 (O.S.)
Julius!!!

CAESAR
That frightens me.

(Calpurnia enters)

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.

(She exits)

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.

(Caesar exits)

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.

(Colitus exits)

ROMAN CHORUS

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

*(The Grotto host enters to
getter an arriving Caesar)*

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

(exiting)

Wine for the mighty Caesar.

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 enters)

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..

*(Colitus puts his arm around
 Caesar to support him. They
 start walking)*

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.
 That's it.

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.

COLITUS

I'm sure he is.

CAESAR

I partied with Bacchus.
It got somewhat raucous.
He is, after all, god of the wine.

COLITUS

I've heard that.

CAESAR

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 can imagine.

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.

*(Colitus unrolls some scrolls
and hands Caesar a quill pen.
He begins to sign)*

That's right. And here. And right here... Good. And your initials here... And we're done. Now you can lie down.

*(Colitus lets go of Caesar who
does a face plant onto the
bed. Colitus pulls the curtain
hiding the bed and exits.)*

ROMAN CHORUS

Caesar's Palace, two days hence.

(Brutus and Cassius enter)

BRUTUS

Noble Caesar.

CASSIUS

(calling out)

Nobel Caesar. Noble Caesar... Are you here?

*(Caesar enters with an
Olympian headache)*

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
Of course. Immortal.

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

CAESAR
Anything to get rid of this headache.

(They exit)

ROMAN CHORUS
Meanwhile, in Cleopatra's chambers.

(Colitus and Cleopatra enter)

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.
(shows her the
scrolls)

Right here. Signed by Caesar himself. I am a free citizen and a duly designated emissary of Rome.

(MORE)

COLITUS (cont'd)

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.
Right 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

If I might make a suggestion.

CLEOPATRA

I don't need a coach.
I'll make my approach.
Modest and reticent.
Restrained and hesitant
and always the least bit evasive.
I know how to do it.
When I put my mind to it,
I can be very persuasive.

COLITUS

I think this time...

CLEOPATRA

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 to stay,
there's only thing to say.

CLEOPATRA

Yes? What's that?

COLITUS

Caesar will lock you away.

CLEOPATRA

(thinks for a moment)

I'll start packing.

COLITUS

I'll help you. We sail with the tide.

*(Cleopatra and Colitus exit as
Caesar, Brutus, Cassius enter)*

ROMAN CHORUS

Meanwhile, back in the Roman Forum.

(The Crazy Old Man enters)

CRAZY OLD MAN

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

(He wanders off)

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?

CASSIUS

Yes, Caesar... Live forever. In history, at least.

CAESAR

Well, what are we waiting for?

(They exit. Elder Colitus enters)

ELDER COLITUS

On the fifteenth of March, to be exact,
Julius Caesar played his final act.
Through guile and cunning and a need to survive,
I, on the other hand, made it out alive.
I can see by your faces
you're dying to see,
just what it was that happened to me.

*(As the Elder Colitus exits,
the curtain is pulled back
revealing Cleopatra on the bed
in a come hither pose.)*

CLEOPATRA

(sing songy)

Oh Colitus...

COLITUS

*(from behind the
blue curtain)*

Yes, majesty?

CLEOPATRA

I'm waiting.

COLITUS

Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA

You can come out now.

COLITUS

Yes, majesty.

*(Colitus steps out naked
holding a large pillow in
front of himself)*

CLEOPATRA
(impressed, very
impressed)

Oh, Colitus.

ROMAN CHORUS

Curtain.

*(The curtain is placed around
the bed.)*

ROMAN CHORUS

Lights.

(The stage lights dim)

CLEOPATRA

Your pillow, Colitus.

COLITUS

Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA

It's so...

COLITUS

Yes, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
(swooning)

It's so well upholstered.

THE END