Bruce Kane's
"I, COLITUS"

By Bruce Kane

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JULIUS CAESAR - dictator of Rome

COLITUS - Caesar's number one advisor and slave

BRUTUS - Roman Senator

CASSIUS - Roman Senator

CALPURNIA - Caesar's wife

CLEOPATRA - Queen of Egypt

ELDER COLITUS - Colitus as an old man

ROMAN CHORUS - minimum of three members, one of whom is female. In addition to their participation in the Chorus, the members will play all the other parts in the play.
SETTING

The entire play takes place is one set consisting of Roman columns, three curtains of blue, yellow and green and a round bed.

COSTUMES

The time is Rome in 42 B.C. Everybody is costumed in togas... some hort, some long. Cleopatra is dressed like Elizabeth Taylor in the movie.
BRUCE KANE’S
“I, COLITUS

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The Author’s name must be equal to or larger than the Director's, but never smaller than that of the Director. The above billing must appear as follows: Bruce Kane’s “I, COLITUS”

WARNING: No one shall make any changes to this play for the purpose of production. Publication of these plays does not imply its availability for production.
BRUCE KANE’S
“ I, COLITUS”

THE ELDER COLITUS ENTERS carrying
an armful of papyrus. He walks
slowly to center stage.

ELDER COLITUS
My name is Colitus Ventriculitis. In my younger days I was
Julius Caesar’s number one advisor, a role I did not covet
nor seek but was thrust upon me. At the time, I was also
Caesar’s number one slave, another role I did not covet nor
seek but was thrust upon me. The story you are about to see
is my account of the days leading up to Caesar’s fateful
meeting with the Roman Senate on the Ides of March. In my
experience there is nothing that true students of history
value more than depictions of political intrigue, raw
ambition, betrayal, murder and, of course, sex. And, like all
successful historians I have built my account on personal
observations, first hand accounts, second hand accounts, self
serving accounts, rumors, half-truths and scurrilous lies.
The rest I just made up.

The ROMAN CHORUS ENTERS. Elder
Colitus hands each member a
scroll and then slowly exits. The
Roman Chorus takes it place. Each
member unrolls a scroll. They
begin.

ROMAN CHORUS
(stentorian)
This the tale of Cleo and Caesar
The Egyptian Queen and the Roman geezer
(switching to Hip Hop)
We polished the story and knocked off the rust
To be bring you a tale full of greed and lust.
Our play begins in Rome you see
Cause that’s where Caesar was in forty two B.C.
From offstage we hear the sound of trumpets and marching feet and crowds cheering. BRUTUS AND CASSIUS ENTER.

BRUTUS

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

CASSIUS

(Shakespearean)

Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colussus, and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.

BRUTUS

Cassius.

CASSIUS

Yes, Brutus.

BRUTUS

Why can’t you talk like everybody else?

CASSIUS

All I’m saying is that since Caesar became dictator, he has destroyed our beloved Republic. I simply want things to return to the way they once were.

BRUTUS

Yes, when we ran things.

CASSIUS

Exactly. And there is a way.

BRUTUS

What are you suggesting, Cassius?

CASSIUS

That you kill Caesar.
BRUTUS
Me? Why don’t you kill Caesar?

CASSIUS
I would... I would... But the mob thinks of me as just another lazy aristocrat. Jealous of Caesar’s power.

BRUTUS
Chalk one up for the mob.

CASSIUS
But you... you’re Brutus. The noblest Roman of the all.

BRUTUS
Well, that’s true.

CASSIUS
You kill Caesar and it’s a blow for truth, justice and the Roman way.

BRUTUS
The mob loves Caesar. I kill him and they’ll tear me limb from limb.

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

BRUTUS
Quiet, Caesar approaches.

CAESAR ENTERS accompanied by the younger COLITUS

ROMAN CHORUS
(applauding)
Huzzah... Huzzah... Huzzah.

The Chorus encourages the audience to join in the “Huzzahs.”
COLITUS
Master, may I have a word with you?

CAESAR
Not while I’m being huzzahed.

COLITUS
It is important excellency.

CAESAR
Make it quick Colitus. I’ve got cities to sack, countries to crush and people to enslave. And then I need some lunch.

COLITUS
Excellency, you once said that as soon as you conquered the known world, you would grant me my freedom.

CAESAR
I said that?

COLITUS
I wrote it down.
(refers to a scroll)
As soon as I conquer the known world I will grant Colitus his freedom.

CAESAR
That was when I didn’t think I had a chance in hell of pulling it off. Besides, what is this obsession you have with freedom, Colitus?

COLITUS
I’ve never been free, Caesar. It sounds like fun.

Brutus and Cassius cross to Caesar.

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
Pray, tell us noble Caesar, how did the conquering go?

CAESAR
You know how it is. A country here, a kingdom there and pretty soon you rule the world.

BRUTUS
And how was Egypt, Caesar?

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

CASSIUS
Yes, we heard you met Cleopatra.

CAESAR
Like I said...

(reflecting)
Magnificent those pyramids. Now tell me, noble Brutus, what is this I hear about the Roman 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
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.

Brutus and Cassius exit

CAESAR
What can I say, Colitus? They love me. The Roman Senate loves me.

COLITUS
If you say so Caesar.

CAESAR
Do I detect a note of skepticism, Colitus?

COLITUS
I have no idea what Caesar is talking about.
CAESAR
Tell me the truth, Colitus.

COLITUS
Is that an order, Caesar?

CAESAR
Of course, it’s an order.

COLITUS
In that case, the Senate hates Caesar.

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
And 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 that counts in all of Rome.

CAESAR
Because I am the only that is a god.

COLITUS
Officially, only a candidate for 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.

COLITUS
If Caesar says so, then it must be so.

CAESAR
You know Colitus, sometimes you can be a real pain in the ass.

COLITUS
You could always set me free.

CAESAR
What’s next on my schedule?

COLITUS
(checks his notes)
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. Home and Mrs. Caesar.

CAESAR
Perhaps I could ravage another country. Some out of the way place nobody has ever heard of.

COLITUS
No excellency, you pretty much ravaged them all.
CAESAR
Any revolts I could quell?

COLITUS
All is peaceful.

CAESAR
Damn.

COLITUS
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
You’ve never been married, have you Colitus?

COLITUS
No, excellency.

CAESAR
I envy you.

COLITUS
But I am a slave. How could you envy me?

CAESAR
You’re an unmarried slave. To you Calpurnia is only a woman. But to me she is the most daunting force of nature the gods ever placed on the face of the earth.

COLITUS
Mor daunting than the Cyclops?

CAESAR
Much more daunting. And with better eyesight.
COLITUS
More formidable than the Alps?

CAESAR
And harder to cross.

COLITUS
But how can this be Caesar? How can one small woman be so daunting? So formidable?

CAESAR
Easy Colitus. She is a wife.

A CRAZED OLD MAN ENTERS.

OLD MAN
Beware the Ides Of March. Beware the Ides Of March.
(wandering off)
Beware the Ides Of March. Beware the Ides Of March.

Exits

CAESAR
Colitus, make a note.

COLITUS
Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR
Find out what the hell the Ides Of March are.

Caesar and Colitus exit.
CALPURNIA, Caesar’s wife ENTERS
COMPLAINING to her off-stage slaves

CALPURNIA
No, no, no. The orgy mats do not go next to the buffet table. We do not want people eating on the mats or vice versa. Especially Vice Versa. The man is an animal.
ROMAN CHORUS
Meet Caesar’s 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.

CAESAR
Is that any way to greet your husband upon his return from six years of war? Six years pillaging? Six years of ravaging and plundering?

CALPURNIA
Y’know Julius. You’re not getting any younger. Maybe it’s time you looked around for another line of work.

CAESAR
But I rule the known world. Where else am I going to find something that pays this well. Not to mention 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 it?

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
(to Colitus)
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.
CALPURNIA
I’ll find out the truth. I always do. Didn’t I find out about you and Celia the Sicilian slut? And how about your little fling with Phyllis, the philandering Philistine? You may have forgotten about Mary the merry Macedonian, but I haven’t. And what about..?

CAESAR
I’m telling you nothing happened.

CALPURNIA
If I find out that so much as a look passed between you and what’shername, I’ll make your life a living hell. When I’m through with you being strung up and eviscerated by the Germanic hordes will look like a day at the beach.

She storms off. Caesar calls after her in a rhythm borrowed from the old blues song “Caledonia.”

CAESAR
Calpurnia. Calpurnia. What makes your big head so hard?

ROMAN CHORUS
(throws in a final beat)
Huhhhhhh!!

CAESAR
This could be a problem, Colitus. A big problem.

COLITUS
In what way excellency?

CAESAR
Conquering the known world has left me in debt up to my eyeballs. Without the political backing and financial support of Calpurnia’s family...
I understand, excellency. You’ll be back mucking manure in Macedonia.

A SLAVE ENTERS and whispers to Colitus.

CAESAR
What is it now?

COLITUS
Brutus requests an audience with Caesar.

CAESAR
What does he want?

COLITUS
There’s only way to find out.

CAESAR
Alright... Alright... Send in him in.

Colitus nods to the Slave who exits. A moment later Brutus enters.

Noble Caesar.

CAESAR
Noble Brutus.

COLITUS
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
Not to worry, Brutus. We already have a dictator. Me.

BRUTUS
That is the concern, Caesar. The Senate believes 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 you were meeting with Cassius.

BRUTUS
Brutus, Madame. I’m Brutus.

CALPURNIA
You sure about that?
BRUTUS
Yes, madame. Quite sure.

CALPURNIA
Oh well, all you senators look alike to me.

CAESAR
Have I told you how lovely you look today, my dear? Doesn’t Caesar’s wife look lovely Brutus?

BRUTUS
Caesar’s wife has never looked lovelier. The beauty of her face shines like the morning sun. The grace of her shoulders makes Venus herself sigh with envy. Her neck is a marvel that rivals the finest alabaster.

(staring at her cleavage)
And the fullness of her... of her...

CALPURNIA
Yes, Brutus? You were extolling the fullness of my...?

BRUTUS
(breathing heavily)
The fullness of your... Of your...

CALPURNIA
Yes, Brutus?

BRUTUS
(catching himself)
Your day, madame. Yes, the fullness of your day. Your many good deeds set an example for all of our wives.

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 raising 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 enjoys watching Caesar squirm

BRUTUS
Perhaps I can return at a later time when Caesar has had the opportunity to consider his options.

CAESAR
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. Farewell, noble Caesar.

Brutus exits

CAESAR
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 that you expected.

Caesar follows Calpurnia out.

CAESAR
Calpurnia... Calpurnia.

Colitus turns the audience with a “Do you believe these two?” look and exits.

ROMAN CHORUS
And now our plot begins to thicken
As the pace of the conspiracy doth quickly quicken.

Brutus and Cassius enter

CASSIUS
Well? Did you meet with Caesar?

BRUTUS
Yes, yes. I met with Caesar.

CASSIUS
What did he say about restoring the Republic.
BRUTUS
Screw the Republic. Do you know he’s having a homecoming orgy?

CASSIUS
Sure. Everybody knows.

BRUTUS
Then why wasn’t I invited? After all, I am Marcus Brutus, the noblest Roman of them all.

CASSIUS
That may be so, but you’re still no fun at parties.

BRUTUS
Just once I’d like a shot at that buffet table. Those orgy mats.

(lustfully)
Calpurnia.

CASSIUS
Calpurnia?

Brutus and Cassius exit. Caesar and Colitus enter. Caesar sits upon a throne like chair.

Sounds of trumpets, marching boots, crowds cheering.

ROMAN CHORUS
(stentorian)
Cleopatra enters Rome.

CHORUS MEMBER
Boy, does she enter 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.

*HERALD ENTERS and bangs his staff three times.*

HERALD
Presenting her serene majesty...

*CLEOPATRA SLINKS IN*

CLEOPATRA
That’s serene and beautiful you Roman moron. Serene and beautiful.

HERALD
Serene and beautiful...

CLEOPATRA
And don’t you forget it.

HERALD
Cleopatra.

CAESAR
Members of the Roman Senate, I give you the Queen of Egypt.

*The Roman Chorus turns into the Roman Senate and pounces on Cleopatra.*

CAESAR
(pulling them off)
It’s a figure of speech. I’m not actually giving her to you. Get back... Get back...

*(freeing Cleopatra)*
You must excuse the Senators, majesty. They’ve been in session for a very long time.
CLEOPATRA
That’s quite alright. There’s nothing I like better, than a good... caucus.

ROMAN CHORUS
Welcome to Rome oh lovely Queen
Your charm and beauty were unforeseen
For you we’d gladly break all laws.

CLEOPATRA
In that case fellas, I’m all yours.

The Chorus Members lift Cleopatra to their shoulders;

CAESAR
It’s another figure of speech, you blue blooded yo yos.

The Chorus starts to carry Cleopatra off

CAESAR
You... Casca... Get your hands off her majesty’s royal tush.

The Chorus carries Cleopatra off

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
You do know what it means if Calpurnia turns on me?

COLITUS
Yes, you’re back to shoveling sh...

CAESAR
Yes, yes, yes. And any chance of you gaining your freedom is kaput.

COLITUS
Perhaps I might have a thought or two.

CAESAR
I thought so. There’s nothing like a little self interest to focus the mind, is there?

COLITUS
Perhaps if Caesar’s wife thought the Queen of Egypt was interested in someone other than Caesar.

CAESAR
Cleopatra interested in someone other than Caesar? Preposterous.

CHORUS MEMBER #1
You called Caesar.

CAESAR
Called what?

CHORUS MEMBER #1
My name, excellency.

CAESAR
I didn’t call your name. I just said preposterous.

CHORUS MEMBER #1
Yes, Caesar.

CAESAR
Yes, what?
I don’t know Caesar.

Then what do you want?

Caesar called me.

I called you? Preposterous.

Yes, Caesar?

Who is this man, Colitus?

He’s Preposterous.

You’re telling me.

That’s his name, excellency.

Preposterous?

Yes, Caesar.

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

Caesar?

What?
I don’t know. Caesar called my name.

No, I didn’t. I just said ludicrous.

That’s my name.

Ludicrous?

Yes, Caesar.

That’s preposterous.

No, I’m Preposterous.

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

Yes, Caesar.

Out!!! Now where was I?

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

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

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

That shouldn’t be hard.
This man must be capable of spending time with Cleopatra without falling under his spell.

A man like that would have to be...

Loyal.

Trustworthy.

And brain dead.

But, where would I find such a man.

MARC ANTHONY ENTERS.

Friends, Romans, countrymen lend me your ears.

Perfect.

Thank you Zeus. I owe you one.

Ladies and gentlemen
Meet Marc Anthony
He can crush an army
Or stem a mutiny.

Noble Caesar.
ROMAN CHORUS
In the midst of battle
He’s strong as an ox
With very broad shoulders
And the brains of a lox.

CAESAR
Just the man I was looking for. I have an assignment for you. But, first, I must be sure of your absolute loyalty in this matter.

MARC ANTHONY
You question my loyalty, excellency. I, who would pluck out an eye for you? I, who would rip off his nose and give it to you for a birthday present?

(Caesar is becoming ill)
I, who would take this very sword and cut out his own liver and hand it to you still pulsing with life.

(Caesar is visibly nauseous)
I, who would sever...

CAESAR
Enough... Enough... I get the picture. Boy, do I get the picture. Marc Anthony, there is someone I want you to meet.

MARC ANTHONY
Someone you want me to crush, excellency. Someone you want me to rip limb from limb? Someone whose innards you want me to rip out with my bare hands and drape them around Caesar’s neck like a necklace?

Caesar is trying desperately not to throw up.

CAESAR
No... No... Quite the opposite. This mission calls for tact, gentility and diplomacy of the highest order.

(as an aside)
Look who I’m talking to.

(to Marc Anthony)
If you so much as lay a finger on this person, I’ll personally cut it off up to your elbow.
MARC ANTHONY
I would deem it an honor to have my finger chopped off to my elbow by the mighty Caesar. For you excellency, I would pluck out an eye.

CAESAR
Again with the eye plucking. Just meet me at the amphitheatre tomorrow for the matinee.

MARC ANTHONY
Oh, I love a good matinee.

CAESAR
It’s not that kind of matinee.

Brutus, Cassius and Cleopatra enter and take seats. Caesar, Colitus and Marc Anthony join them. Finally, the MASTER OF CEREMONIES bounds in.

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

Encourages the audience to cheer and clap

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 Cleopatra. Clee...0

(gets audience to join in)
Clee...0 Clee...0 Clee...0. And how about a shout out to our very own dictator Julius “I Rule The Known World” Caesar. (crowd applause)
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.”
Two members of the Roman Chorus bound on stage as two Roman comedians.

COMEDIAN #1
Thank you. Thank you.

COMEDIAN #2
It’s great to be back in Rome. We just did two weeks in Pompeii and I’m happy to say our reception there was nothing short of volcanic.

They link arms and dance around.

COMEDIAN #2
And speaking of Rome, Brutus. Who was that lady I saw you with last night?

COMEDIAN #1
That was no lady, Cassius. That was your wife.

They dance around. Caesar and the others find this hilarious.
Brutus and Cassius are steaming.

COMEDIAN #2
Hey, noble Brutus.

COMEDIAN #1
What is it noble Cassius?

COMEDIAN #2
I just got three new slaves for my wife.

COMEDIAN #1
Congratulations.

COMEDIAN #2
Best trade I ever made.
The comedians dance around. Everyone but Brutus and Cassius find it hilarious.

CASSIUS
They mock us and Caesar allows this?

BRUTUS
He encourages it.

COMEDIAN #1
Hey noble Cassius.

COMEDIAN #2
What is it noble Brutus?

COMEDIAN #1
Did you know that four years ago I ran for Senator.

COMEDIAN #2
What do you do now?

COMEDIAN #1
Nothing. I got elected.

The comedians dance around to laughter and applause.

COMEDIAN #2
Thank you. You’ve been a great audience

COMEDIAN #1
We’ll be here all week.

COMEDIAN #2
Tell your friends.

COMEDIAN #1
And don’t forget to tip your slave.

They bound off
CAESAR
(to Brutus)
Hey, Brutus. Nothing... I got elected. Is that funny or what?

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

Brutus and Cassius exit.

Cleopatra joins Caesar, Calpurnia and Marc Anthony. Colitus stands nearby.

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 kneels

MARC ANTHONY
Majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Oh, I like him already.

Caesar nods at Colitus. The plan is working.

MARC ANTHONY
May I rise highness?
CLEOPATRA
Looks to me like you already have.

CAESAR
Stand up Marc Anthony.

Marc Anthony stands

CAESAR
Your majesty. We’re so pleased that you could attend.

CLEOPATRA
You know there’s nothing I like better than a good matinee.

MARC ANTHONY
I was just telling Caesar the very same thing.

Cleopatra rubs Marc Anthony’s bicep.

CLEOPATRA
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
Ohhh, we have so much in common.

Colitus signals Caesar to remind him why they are there.

CAESAR
I was going to suggest that perhaps Marc Anthony might like to show her majesty the glory of Rome.

CLEOPATRA
Oh, 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 Colisseum where she could witness, first hand, lions tearing a human being limb from limb.

CLEOPATRA
Oh my, that sounds like oodles of fun.

She takes Marc Anthony’ arm as they exit.

CLEOPATRA
Tell me, Marco... Have you ever played “Toga, toga, who’s got the toga?

They exit

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.

She exits

CAESAR
Some great plan.

COLITUS
From the moment you suggested it, I knew it would never work.

Caesar and Colitus exit. A moment later Brutus and Cassius enter.
BRUTUS
Caesar has mocked me for the last time. Cassius, you were right.

CASSIUS
I was? About what?

BRUTUS
We must kill Caesar.

As they exit

CASSIUS
We? We? We implies you and me. And I never said we. What I said was... you. You should kill Caesar. Not that we should kill Caesar. I was very clear on that point.

They exit. Cleopatra and Marc Anthony enter trailed by a HANDMAIDEN.

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

MARC ANTHONY
Who doesn’t?

CLEOPATRA
I think about it all the time. Do you think about it all the time?

MARC ANTHONY
Well, no. Not all the time.

CLEOPATRA
I think about it all the time. You know Marco, if Caesar was out of the way, so to speak, someone else would have to rule the world.

MARC ANTHONY
But Caesar is not out of the way.
CLEOPATRA
Yes, he’s very much in the way. But what if he wasn’t?

MARC ANTHONY
But, he is.

CLEOPATRA
But what if he wasn’t?

MARC ANTHONY
But he is.

CLEOPATRA
But what if he was dead?

MARC ANTHONY
But he isn’t.

CLEOPATRA
But what if you killed him?

MARC ANTHONY
Then he’d be dead.

CLEOPATRA
So what do you say?

MARC ANTHONY
Say?

CLEOPATRA
About you killing Caesar?

MARC ANTHONY
Me killing Caesar?

CLEOPATRA
With Caesar out of the way, we could rule the world.

MARC ANTHONY
We?
CLEOPATRA
Yes. We. Us. You and me. Rule the world.

MARC ANTHONY
Well, I don’t know about that, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Oh don’t be so formal Markie. Please... Call me Cleo.

MARC ANTHONY
I couldn’t do that your majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Sure you could. Go ahead... Try it... Cleo.
(He tries but can’t bring himself to do it. Cleopatra switches to baby talk)
Is the big, thwong general just a teensy weensy bit afwaid?

MARC ANTHONY
After all, you are a queen

CLEOPATRA
But I am also a woman or haven’t you noticed?

MARC ANTHONY
I noticed. I definitely noticed. You don’t get to lead a Roman army without learning the difference between a man and a woman.

CLEOPATRA
And you do like women, don’t you, Markie?

MARC ANTHONY
Oh, yes your highness. I like women a lot.

CLEOPATRA
Do you like pretty women?

She blows in his ear.
MARC ANTHONY
(squirming)
Who doesn’t like pretty women?

CLEOPATRA
Do you like...?

She nibbles on his ear.

MARC ANTHONY
I don’t think you should be doing that, your highness.

CLEOPATRA
Would you rather I did this?

Starts to remove his tunic

Your majesty!!!

She pushes him onto the bed. And begins undressing him.

MARC ANTHONY
I am just a soldier. You are a queen. I have my orders and Caesar’s orders are law. Laws that cannot be broken. Caesar has decreed that a man convicted of lying is to have his tongue cut out. A thief is to have his hand cut off.

CLEOPATRA
And if Caesar would cut the tongue from a liar and sever the hand of a thief, what do you think Caesar would cut off a man who made love to his woman?

MARC ANTHONY
Oh god, I don’t even want to think about it.

The Handmaiden draws a curtain around the bed.)

CLEOPATRA
Damn.
MARC ANTHONY
Problem, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
Do all you soldiers have to wear you sword to bed?

MARC ANTHONY
But, highness... I'm not wearing a sword.

CLEOPATRA
(swooning)
Oh... Marc Anthony.

(Caesar and Colitus enter downstage)

CAESAR
(being incredibly noble and self serving)
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
The burden of leadership, it’s called Caesar.

CAESAR
Sometimes a man who strides the world like a colossus must put aside the stirings 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 River, 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 was weighed so heavily on you.

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

Caesar and Colitus exit

ROMAN CHORUS
Back in Cleopatra’s bedchamber thirty minutes later.

CHORUS MEMBER #1
Okay ten minutes later.

CHORUS MEMBER #3
How about three minutes later?

MARC ANTHONY (BEHIND CURTAIN)
And how was it for you, majesty?

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
How was what for me?

A loud knocking on Cleopatra’s door. From behind the curtain surrounding Cleopatra’s bed we hear...

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Not now. I’m busy. Or I was.

CAESAR (O.S)
Cleo, baby. It’s me.

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Oh boy.

MARC ANTHONY (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Who is it?
CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
You’re boss.

CAESAR
Cleo, is there someone in there with you?

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Quick, take this pillow and hide behind the blue curtain.

We can detect movement behind the blue curtain to indicate Marc Anthony is now behind it.

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
(calls out)
Just a minute.

(to the Handmaiden)
Charmian.

HANDMAIDEN
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Count to ten and then let him in.

HANDMAIDEN
Yes, majesty.

(begins counting)
Eye... Eye, Eye... Eye, Dye, Eye... Eye Vee... Vee... Vee
Eye... Vee Eye Eye... Vee Eye Eye Eye... Eye Ex... Ex.

Charmian escorts Caesar in as Cleopatra emerges from behind the curtain adjusting her tiara.

CAESAR
Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA
(throws herself into Caesar’s arms)
Oh, Julie. You don’t know how much I’ve missed you.
CAESAR
Please, Cleo... This can never be.

CLEOPATRA
Why? Because I am Egyptian and you are Roman?

CAESAR
No, that’s not it.

CLEOPATRA
Because you are the most powerful man in the world 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 us apart?

CAESAR
I have a wife.

CLEOPATRA
That is big. But, I don’t care. Every since you left Egypt I haven’t looked at another man.

CAESAR
Not one?

CLEOPATRA
Not one. Not one that mattered. Not one that compared to my Caesar. Not the manly Mesopotomian minister. Not the gorgeous Greek gladiator. Not even the assiduous Assyrian astrologer.

(Caesar starts to speak. She cuts him off and continues)

No, not the babbling Babylonian barbers, nor the amorous Armenian artists nor the pulsating Palmyrian painters.

(Caesars tries to speak again) 

No... No... Not even my nineteen Neopolitan neighbors... Nor the sixteen Sicilian sailors. No, my love, not even the thirty Thessalonian thespians. Not one of them counted.
I’m losing count myself.

Remember the good times, we had? Playing “Toga, toga, who’s got the toga?”

Those were good times. But that’s not why I’m here. Cleo, we have to talk.

Is that all you dictators ever do... is talk? Now why don’t you come to bed my little Caesar wheezer.

Well..... Maybe just a quick one.

I wouldn’t expect anything else.

She pulls him behind the curtain and onto her bed. Caesar’s toga comes flying out.

Oh, Caesar. Is that the imperial scepter or are you just glad to see me?

I’m crazy about you.

Who isn’t?

I want you.

Who doesn’t?
CAESAR (BEHIND CURTAIN)
I must have you.

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Who hasn’t?

Another knock on the door.

CAESAR (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Expecting someone?

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Usually.

CAESAR (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Send them away.

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Go away.

COLITUS (O.S)
Excellency, it’s me. I must talk to you on a most urgent matter.

CAESAR (BEHIND CURTAIN)
It’s Colitus. You’d better let him in.

CLEOPATRA (BEHIND CURTAIN)
Great. We can make it a threesome. I’ll send out for figs.

Cleopatra emerges adjusting her tiara.

CLEOPATRA
Let him in.

Charmian escorts Colitus in.

CLEOPATRA
I’m sorry to disturb you at such a delicate moment, majesty.
CLEOPATRA
That’s okay. I wasn’t doing anything, anyway. What is it?

Colitus whispers in Cleopatra’s ear. She walks behind the curtain.

CLEOPATRA
It’s your wife.

CAESAR (BEHIND CURTAIN)
What about her?

CLEOPATRA
She’s on her way.

CALPURNIA (O.S)
Open up. I know you’re in there.

CAESAR (BEHIND CURTAIN)
I’ve got to get out of here.

CLEOPATRA
Too late. Take that pillow and hide behind the yellow curtain.

From the rustling of the yellow curtain we know Caesar has taken up his position.

CLEOPATRA
(to Colitus)
You. What’s your name, again?

COLITUS
Colitus.

CLEOPATRA
Whatever. Hide behind the red curtain.

Colitus gets behind the red curtain.
Cleopatra nods to the Handmaiden who escorts Calpurnia in.

CALPURNIA

Where the hell is he?

CLEOPATRA

And who would that be madame?

CALPURNIA

You know very well who. My husband... The great and horny Caesar.

CLEOPATRA

Why would you think your husband was here?

CALPURNIA

Because he has a weakness for overdeveloped women with underdeveloped minds.

CLEOPATRA

You’d know more about that than I would. After all, you’re the one he married.

Calpurnia spots bare feet sticking out from under the blude curtain.

CALPURNIA

A ha. Just as I thought.

She pulls back the curtain to reveal a naked Marc Anthony covered only by a pillow.

CALPURNIA

Marc Anthony!

MARc ANTHONY

Yes, Madame.
CALPURNIA
What are you doing here?

MARC ANTHONY
Fluffing the pillows?

CAESAR
(from behind curtain)
Marc Anthony???

Caesar steps out covered only by a strategically placed pillow

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

The Handmaiden pulls the curtain around all of them.

ROMAN CHORUS
Meanwhile, in the alley behind the shop of Flavious, the Dung Merchant, the conspirators conspire conspiratorially.

Brutus and Cassius enter.

CASSIUS
I’ve spoken with the others.

BRUTUS
And?

CASSIUS
They’re all in.

BRUTUS
Great news.

CASSIUS
When do you plan to rid Rome of this tyrant?

(off Brutus’s look)
Okay. Okay. When do we rid Rome of this tyrant?
BRUTUS
I’ve consulted the oracles. All signs point to... the Ides of February.

CASSIUS
The Ides Of February are not good for me.

They’re not?

CASSIUS
No... The wife’s mother is coming up for the weekend.

BRUTUS
Okay... How do the Ides Of March work for you?

CASSIUS
The Ides Of March. Yeah, that works for me.

BRUTUS
Then the Ides of March it is.

Brutus and Cassius exit. Caesar, Colitus and Marc Anthony 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
The queen came to Rome...

He hesitates

CAESAR
Yes? She came to Rome...

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

CAESAR
To kill Caesar? 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 take your place, excellency. She wants to rule the world.

CAESAR
She told you that?

MARC ANTHONY
Actually she wanted me to kill you, so we could rule Rome together.

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

A member of the Roman Chorus steps forward.

CHORUS MEMBER #3
Deceitful, tricky, scheming, designing, wily, underhanded, conniving, sneaky and crafty.
CAESAR
Exactly. Thank you, Thesaurus.

MARC ANTHONY
Caesar must know of my loyalty to Caesar. For Caesar I would gladly pluck out an eye...

CAESAR
Again with the eye plucking... Go.. Go...

MARC ANTHONY
Noble Caesar.

CAESAR
Just go.

Marc Anthony exits.

CAESAR
(thinking out loud)
What am I to do? What am I to 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 close 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 you friends close and your enemies closer.

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

CAESAR
Alexandria? Send Cleopatra back to Alexandra?? Do you know how long it take 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?

A Chorus Member whispers in Colitus’s ear.

CAESAR
What is it now?
Senators Marcus Brutus and Gaius Cassius to see the great Caesar.

What do those bozos want now?

There is only one way to find out.

Okay... Send in the clowns.

Don’t bother, they’re here.

Noble Caesar.

Noble Brutus.

Noble Caesar

Noble Cassius.

What can I do for you gentleman?

We bring good news Caesar.

I could use some good news.
BRUTUS
The Senate has voted to make you a god.

CAESAR
(ecstatic)
A god??? Did you hear that Colitus? I’m going to be a god.

COLITUS
Congratulations, Caesar.

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

BRUTUS
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 become a god.

CAESAR
Julius the God. I love it. I will be ready, gentlemen. Until two days hence.

BRUTUS
Until two days hence, noble Caesar.

CASSIUS
Until two days, hence noble...

CAESAR
Yeah... Yeah...

Caesar waves them out. Brutus and Cassius exit.

CAESAR
How about that? A god. What do you think Colitus? Do I look godlike?
COLITUS
Not being a religious man myself, I am not exactly qualified to comment on what is god like and what is not god like.

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.

CAESAR
Sounds like religion to me.

COLITUS
Caesar, if I may speak?

CAESAR
Not this silly freedom business again.

COLITUS
No, excellency. It concerns what is going to happen two days hence.

CAESAR
I’m going to become a god. That’s what going to happen two days hence.

COLITUS
Is Caesar absolutely convinced that’s what Brutus and Cassius have in mind?

CAESAR
Why wouldn’t they?
Colitus

It’s well known that the Senate opposes you.

Caesar

The Senate opposes me? Ridiculous.

Chorus Member

You called Caesar?

Caesar

Out!!!

Colitus

I am concerned not only for Caesar’s safety.

Caesar

And I appreciate that.

Colitus

But for the safety of those close to Caesar.

Caesar

Those close to Caesar? Who are you talking about?

Colitus

Well, for instance... me.

Caesar

There is nothing to be worried about, Colitus. The Senate doesn’t frighten me.

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

CALPURNIA
That bunch? They couldn’t make a sandwich if you spotted them two slices of bread and a head of lettuce.

CAESAR
Nevertheless... 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, in two days hence, I’ll be the widow of a god.

She exits

CAESAR
I need a drink.

Caesar exits in one direction. Colitus exits in the other direction.
ROMAN CHORUS

So off Caesar went
To the neighborhood grotto
Opened a vat
And drank himself blotto.

Caesar staggers holding a pitcher. He’s blotto. He calls out, slurring his words

CAESAR

Colitus... Colitus.

Colitus enters

COLITUS

What is it Caesar?

CAESAR

I have been to the mountaintop, Colitus.

Colitus takes the pitcher.

COLITUS

By the heavens, how much of this did you drink?
(turns the pitcher over... it’s empty)

All of it.

Colitus puts the pitcher down. He drapes Caesar’s arm over his own shoulders to prop him up

CAESAR

Did you hear me, Colitus?

COLITUS

Let’s sober you up. Come on. Walk with me.
(They begin walking)

That’s it. That’s it.
CAESAR
I have been to the mountaintop.

COLITUS
And which mountaintop would that be, Caesar?

CAESAR
Olympus.

COLITUS
Of course. Olympus. And how was Olympus?

CAESAR
Olympian.

Caesar stops for a moment.

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

They continue walking.

CAESAR
I met Zeus.

COLITUS
Zeus? Really?

CAESAR
He runs the whole show up there. Nice guy, Zeus. And Neptune.

COLITUS
You met Neptune?

CAESAR

COLITUS
Mercury.
But only for a second.

Of course.

Oh, Colitus.

Yes, excellency.

I saw goddesses.

Goddesses.

Goddesses. And you know what?

What?

There’s a reason they call them goddesses. And you know what else I saw?

I can’t imagine.

I saw Aphrodite in her nighty.

_Giggles like a schoolboy._

That must have been quite a sight.

I can’t wait to become a god. You know what they call it when you’ve been to the mountaintop, Colitus?
COLITUS

Delusional.

CAESAR

What? No. They call it... I don’t know what they call it. But they must call it something.

ROMAN CHORUS

With Caesar in his present state
Colitus angled to set the bait.
To land himself a new assignment
And free himself
From his long confinement.

CAESAR

I gotta lay down.

COLITUS

Not quite yet, excellency. We just have a few items of state to complete and then you can sleep as long as you like.

CAESAR

Items of state?

COLITUS

Just a few papers that need signing.

CAESAR

Papers? What papers?

Colitus produces some scrolls and a quill pen.

COLITUS


(Caesar signs)

And right here.

(Caesar signs)

And just one more.

(Caesar signs)

Now that wasn’t so hard.
Colitus lets go of Caesar who does a face plant onto the bed. Colitus exits with a bounce in his step.

ROMAN CHORUS
(loudly)
Two days hence.

Caesar sits up and grabs his head in pain.

CAESAR
Great Zeus almighty. Keep it down.

ROMAN CHORUS
(quietly)
Two days hence.

Brutus and Cassius enter

BRUTUS
Noble Caesar.

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

CASSIUS
Noble Caesar, it our honor and privilege to escort you to the Roman Senate on this your day of days.

CAESAR
What are you talking about?

BRUTUS
Today is the day you ascend to Olympus.

CASSIUS
The day you become... (dramatically) immortal.
CAESAR
Immortal... Oh yeah... Right... Immortal... Sure, no problem.
Lead the way.

BRUTUS
Oh no, Caesar... After you.

They exit. A moment later 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.

CLEOPATRA
I must speak with Caesar immediately. I’m sure I can convince him otherwise. I can be very persuasive when I put my mind to it.

COLITUS
It’s not your mind that’s the problem.

CLEOPATRA
I demand you take me to Caesar.

COLITUS
I’m afraid that’s not possible, majesty. Caesar is meeting with the Senate as we speak. However, I am authorized to accompany you back to Alexandria.

CLEOPATRA
Accompany me? You? A slave?
COLITUS
No longer a slave, majesty. A citizen of Rome and personal emissary from Caesar, himself. You can see for yourself.

  Shows her the scroll signed by Caesar.

CLEOPATRA
I don’t understand. Caesar would never send me off with out a final... “goodbye.” If you get my drift.

COLITUS
Oh, yes majesty. Your drift if very hard to miss.

CLEOPATRA
Something must have happened. Somebody has been filling Caesar’s mind with lies and untruths. Somebody out to undermine Caesar’s faith in me. Somebody jealous of my...

COLITUS
Marc Anthony blabbed.

CLEOPATRA
Oh.

COLITUS
Caesar knows of your plan to... how should I put it... execute a hostile takeover. With the operative word being “execute.”

CLEOPATRA
I deny everything. Besides, who is Caesar going to believe, Marc Anthony or this body?

COLITUS
I’m sure you’d present a very compelling case, majesty. But when it comes to getting his throat slit, Caesar is somewhat old school.

CLEOPATRA
Old school?
COLITUS
You know. An eye for an eye.

CLEOPATRA
An eye for an eye?

COLITUS
A tooth for a tooth.

CLEOPATRA
A tooth for a..?

COLITUS
An arm for an arm.

CLEOPATRA
I’ll start packing.

Cleopatra hurries off with Colitus right behind. The Crazy Old Man enters and wanders around aimlessly until Caesar, Brutus and Cassius enter.

CRAZY OLD MAN
Beware the Ides of March... Beware the Ides of March...
Beware the Ides of March.

Wanders off.

CAESAR
Anybody know what the hell the Ides of March are?

CASSIUS
Yes, Caesar. Today is the Ides of March.

CAESAR
Today? Really?

BRUTUS
Yes, Caesar. Today.
CAESAR
You know what that means, don’t you?

CASSIUS
Perhaps Caesar will enlighten us.

CAESAR
It means that from this day forward the Ides of March is a date that will echo down the corridors of history and live forever.

BRUTUS
You have no idea, Caesar. You have no idea.

They exit.

ROMAN CHORUS
On that sad and fateful day.
The Senate did the mighty Caesar slay.
While Cleopatra found a new distraction
And got herself a little action.

Cleopatra enters.

CLEOPATRA
Oh, honey bunny.

From behind the green curtain we hear.

COLITUS
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
It’s time for a little “Toga, toga, who’s got the toga?”

COLITUS
Yes, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
You can come out from behind that curtain.
COLITUS
If you say so, majesty.

CLEOPATRA
Oh, I do say so. I do indeed.

Colitus steps out. He’s stark
naked except the GIANT PILLOW he
holds in front of himself.

CLEOPATRA
(swooning)
Oh, Colitus.

Yes majesty?

COLITUS
Your pillow.

Yes majesty.

COLITUS
It’s so...

Yes, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
It’s so... well upholstered.

Colitus steps back behind the
curtain. The entire cast, except
for Colitus and Elder Colitus,
return to address their final
lines directly to the audience.

ROMAN CHORUS
That is our story.
You may not believe it.
It’s up to you.

To take it or leave it.

You may find my life
Somewhat distorted.

And all of the facts
Not as reported.

To all who consider

Becoming a despot.

We leave you with this.

Our one clear and best thought.

In spite of all
Your conniving and planning.

Your story will be told.

By the last man standing.

CURTAIN