

CRY HAVOC! (ASK QUESTIONS LATER)

EPISODE 3 - FISH FOR DINNER

Written by
Maud Dromgoole

Edited with additional material

by David K. Barnes

CAST

Kazeem Tosin Amore as Mark Antony Harry
Roebuck as Gaius Octavius Caesar Sarah
Agha as Charmian
Lara Sawalha as Cleopatra
Andy Secombe as Lepidus
Aaron-Louis Cadogan as Antyllus
Ryan Hopevere-Anderson as Man
Katie Seaton as Woman
Tom Crowley as Fisherman

CONTENT NOTES

- Abuse of Power (recurring theme)
 - Vomiting, emetophobia (including SFX)
 - Vicarious Embarrassment
 - Grief
 - Threats of violence/murder
 - Alcohol & Alcohol use
 - Historical Sexism
 - SFX: misophonia (belching/vomiting)
- ocean sounds, splashing, firecrackers,
flames)

The docks at Ostia. LAPPING OF WAVES, SEAGULLS, some distant CHATTERING of sailors and workers. MARK has been out all night and is drunkenly AMBLING along the WOODEN PIER. His tired teenage son ANTYLLUS FOLLOWS awkwardly behind him.

MARK

(singing)

*Pass around the wine me boys, and
never mind the score / Drink the
good old liquor down before we call
for more...*

ANTYLLUS

Dad...

MARK

*Come on, all together! For to see
who will not drinkee, drinkee be...*

ANTYLLUS

Dad! It's morning! The sun's coming up. We've been out all night...

MARK

You always say we never spend enough time together.

ANTYLLUS

No I don't.

MARK

(ignores)

So, I says, let's nip down the road to Ostia. Get some of that sea air into our nostrils. And Cleopatra is arriving in exactly one day's time. So you know what that means.

ANTYLLUS

That we should be well rested and ready to greet her?

MARK

That this is our last chance to get completely bladdered! You see, son of mine, from the second she gets here we cannot afford to lose our-

He BELCHES.

MARK (cont'd)
 - focus, not for a second, because
 the moment we do, she'll...

ANTYLLUS
 Kill us?

MARK
 (entirely serious)
 Worse. Seduce us. You know what she
 did to poor Julie.

Off, a BELL CLANGS as a VERY LARGE SHIP is coming into port.
 It gets slowly CLOSER under the rest of the scene, the BELL
 RINGING every so often.

ANTYLLUS
 Hey, dad.

MARK
 (ignores)
 Mixed him up good and proper till
 he didn't know WHAT he was doing.
 Next thing he's a different man!

ANTYLLUS
 Dad.

MARK
 And then he's a dead man. You want
 to end up like him, eh? Antyllus?

ANTYLLUS
 No Dad, but-

MARK
 She has ways. She can do it with a
 single look. She'll sneak up on you
 when you're not careful and then
 BAM! Seduced.

ANTYLLUS
 Sure Dad but you really need to
 look behind you.

MARK
 Why?

ANTYLLUS
 There's a ship. And I don't think
 it's one of ours.

MARK
 What are you talking about...

BELL RINGING closer now. We have the sense of a huge vessel casting a shadow over Mark and Antyllus as they stare up.

MARK (cont'd)

... oh.

ANTYLLUS

... Is that... could that be...

MARK

Yeah... It bloody could...
(gulps)
Cleopatra.

OPENING TITLES AND THEME

ANNOUNCER

Rusty Quill presents "Cry Havoc
(Ask Questions Later)" Episode 3:
"Fish for Dinner" by Maud Dromgoole

2 **EXT. CLEOPATRA'S SHIP, DECK - MORNING**

2

CHARMIAN on deck.

CHARMIAN

We've arrived, my lady. Ostia. The
seaport of the Romans.

Some FOOTSTEPS on WOODEN DECK as CLEOPATRA comes forward,
surveying the harbour.

CLEOPATRA

I know it well, Charmian... It
appears unchanged, and yet so much
has happened since I last set foot
here...

She SNIFFS back a few silent tears.

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

What's happening? My face is wet.

She TASTES.

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

Salty. Is there a leak?

CHARMIAN

Not quite. You're crying.

CLEOPATRA

No. I'm not am I?... Holy Isis, I'm streaming like the Nile.

CHARMIAN

Maybe it's because you haven't been here since Julius Caesar's murder, and... it's hard for you?

CLEOPATRA

Oh. Oh gods how pathetic.

CHARMIAN

No, no.

CLEOPATRA

Of course it is. He came! He saw! I conquered! Egypt secure, even bore him a son, and then...

CLICKS FINGERS.

CHARMIAN

Yeah.

CLEOPATRA

It's the same the world over. You butter up the man in power. Make progress. Then some other people want power, and get some knives, and before you know it you're back where you started. Back home with nothing to show for it but a son and a bleeding corpse.

CHARMIAN

Should we have brought the boy? To see where his father came from...

CLEOPATRA

Certainly not, he's safer back in Egypt. Besides this is a work trip.

CHARMIAN

Of course.

CLEOPATRA

Caesar is dead. Let's make new friends. And Rome needs our help whether it wants it or not, so...

CHARMIAN

- it's a chance to win some concessions and show them who's boss?

CLEOPATRA

Excellent, you're learning. Let's focus. Who's on the list?

CHARMIAN

Well, there's Lepidus. He's old but wise, most experienced for sure. Gaius Octavius, the new Caesar - he's the politico, learned and hungry too. And Mark Antony, the war hound. Fierce and brave.

CLEOPATRA

(reciting)

Old and wise, hungry and learned, fierce and brave. Great. Hand me that diadem.

CHARMIAN

My lady.

CLEOPATRA

One of them is bound to be out in front. But who, Charmian? Who can we do business with? Who do we really need on side?

CHARMIAN

Shall we go and find out?

3 **EXT. OSTIA, DOCKSIDE - MORNING**

3

On the PIER next to the ship...

ANTYLLUS

Uh, Dad, what do we do?

MARK

She's early! She's a whole day early! ... What did I tell you? ... She sneaks up on you and then...

He BELCHES.

MARK (cont'd)

I don't feel well.

ANTYLLUS

Dad?

Mark THROWS UP on the pier, Antyllus JUMPS BACK.

ANTYLLUS (cont'd)

Woah! Dad! You - urghhhh.

MARK

(coughs)

I'm fine. I'm OK! I'm fine!

ANTYLLUS

She can't see you like this! Hide!

MARK

(bleary)

Hide?

ANTYLLUS

Behind the crates! Quickly, before-

Mark STUMBLES behind some crates as Charmian calls down.

CHARMIAN (O.S.)

Greetings, fair Roman. I speak on behalf of her majesty Cleopatra, Queen of the Nile, Pharoah of Egypt, and the living image of the divine Isis.

ANTYLLUS

(nervous)

Er... Hello!

CHARMIAN (O.S.)

With whom am I speaking?

ANTYLLUS

Er... er...

Mark speaks from behind a crate.

MARK

Don't tell her.

ANTYLLUS

What?

MARK

Don't tell her!

ANTYLLUS
 (calls)
 I can't tell you!

CHARMIAN (O.S.)
 What?

MARK
 No don't say that!

ANTYLLUS
 I'm... no one! No one at all!

CHARMIAN (O.S.)
 My queen sent word of her impending
 arrival. We had expected a welcome
 befitting her majesty.

ANTYLLUS
 Oh. ... Sorry! ...
 (to Mark)
 Dad, what should I say?

CHARMIAN (O.S.)
 Where are the Triumvirate?

MARK
 They're not bloody ready are they?

ANTYLLUS
 (calls)
 They're not bloody ready are they?

MARK
 No, what is wrong with you?!

ANTYLLUS
 (calls)
 No what is wrong with you?

MARK
 Antyllus!

CHARMIAN (O.S.)
 I'm sorry, what?

4 **EXT. CLEOPATRA'S SHIP, DECK - CONTINUOUS**

4

We shift back to the ship's deck.

CHARMIAN
 (call)
 Could you repeat that please?

CLEOPATRA
 Charmian, what on Earth's going on?

CHARMIAN
 I don't know. There's nobody here.
 (calls down)
 Is there to be a reception in my
 lady's honour?

ANTYLLUS (O.S.)
 Oh, er... Hang on a moment.

Pause as Antyllus consults his dad. Some dim MURMURING.
 Then:

ANTYLLUS (O.S.) (cont'd)
 Yes! A grand banquet. Up the road.

CHARMIAN
 (calling)
 Up the road?

ANTYLLUS (O.S.)
 In the city, I mean! In fact... we
 should be getting along there now!
 I mean, I should be getting along,
 not we. Just me. Er. Bye!

Off, two pairs of FOOTSTEPS shuffling along the wooden pier.

CLEOPATRA
 Now what?

CHARMIAN
 He's walking away from us. With a
 wooden crate. The crate has feet.

CLEOPATRA
 A crate with feet?

CHARMIAN
 Yes, look. I suspect there's
 someone hiding in it.

CLEOPATRA
 This is ridiculous. They send a
 complete idiot to greet me, they
 seem totally unprepared...!

CHARMIAN
 Perhaps it's a move? A sort of
 power play? To make you feel like
 you're not all that.

CLEOPATRA

Well in that case, I will be hosting my own reception. And by the time I'm done with the Romans, none of them will have any doubt as to whether I am 'all that.'

5 INT. GAIUS'S OFFICE - MORNING

5

GAIUS is RIFLING through DOCUMENTS.

GAIUS

(muttering)

Nothing... nothing... there's nothing! Absolutely nothing!

KNOCK at open door.

LEPIDUS

Morning Gaius!

GAIUS

What? Is it morning already?

LEPIDUS

Yes, look!

He quickly OPENS THE CURTAINS.

GAIUS

(recoils from light)

Aaahhh!

LEPIDUS

Another all-nighter was it? How are the sums?

GAIUS

They're bad, Lepidus. Very bad.

LEPIDUS

What about this welcome banquet for Cleopatra? Rather looking forward to it, I must say!

GAIUS

Well I'm not. How can we host a banquet when we haven't any food?

LEPIDUS

Oh corks, that is a conundrum. And here I was already prepared.

GAIUS

Prepared?

LEPIDUS

Thought I'd put on a show when she arrives, so I bought these! They're from the east, but the chap in the market called them 'Roman candles'.

He SHAKES a small WOODEN BOX of fireworks.

LEPIDUS (cont'd)

Should light up the whole of Ostia! He said they make a big noise too.

GAIUS

I think we're going to need more than a few bangs to brighten up this banquet. At least we have another day to try and solve it.

LEPIDUS

Well actually-

RUNNING FEET as Mark and Antyllus BURST IN, PANTING.

MARK

Gaius, Gaius!!! The snake has struck!

GAIUS

What?

MARK

The Sphinx has pounced!

LEPIDUS

Oh I love a good riddle!

ANTYLLUS

He's trying to say Cleopatra is here! She's docked at Ostia!

GAIUS

What?! But she can't have!

MARK

She bloody well can, mate!

GAIUS

Lepidus, you read her message! You said we had three days!

LEPIDUS

Yes, but I was counting the day we received the message.

GAIUS

... Not the three days following the message?

LEPIDUS

No the three days started with the day we got the message.

GAIUS

You mad man, no it didn't!

LEPIDUS

I'm confused, let's write this down-

GAIUS

Aughhhhh!

He THUNKS his HEAD down on the DESK.

GAIUS (cont'd)

(muffled)

We're ruined.

MARK

Pull yourself together! We need a banquet now and we need it now! If we lose face in front of Cleopatra, we'd never live it down.

LEPIDUS

I suppose she'd walk all over us.

MARK

Exactly. So we host a Roman banquet on Roman soil, our city, our rules. Set the playing field.

GAIUS

Really, and what do we serve?

MARK

I dunno! Lepidus, what do you want to eat?

LEPIDUS

Ooo, I haven't had fish in a while.

GAIUS

That's because no one can afford it! We had to tax the fishermen and now they've ramped up their prices.

MARK

Why did we tax the fishermen?

GAIUS

To try and pay the soldiers.

LEPIDUS

But we're asking Cleopatra for the money to pay the soldiers.

GAIUS

Yes.

LEPIDUS

Then she can pay for the fish!

GAIUS

To get her money we need the summit, to start the summit we need to receive her, to receive her we need the banquet, for the banquet we need the fish, to have the fish we need the money, and to have the money we need the summit! So we can't get our money until we hold the banquet that we can't bloody afford in the first place!!

Beat.

LEPIDUS

Complicated job this, isn't it?

MARK

Now look, if a bunch of fish is all we need, you can leave that to me!

GAIUS

What, how?

MARK

Never you mind. I get the fish, you sort the banquet, and Lepidus is going to make sure she gets there. Alright?

GAIUS

Alright...

LEPIDUS

Alright!

MARK

Right then! Antyllus! We're going
to the docks!

ANTYLLUS

(plaintive)

But we just came from there!

MARK

Buck up boy! Shake a leg!

He CHARGES OFF, SINGING.

MARK (cont'd)

*Pass around the wine, me boys and
never mind the score, Drink the
good old liquor down before we call
for more...!*

ANTYLLUS

(sighs)

Come on then, Lepidus.

GAIUS

And take your 'Roman candles' with
you. Try not to burn anything down.

LEPIDUS

OK chap! Anything I can do to help!

6 **EXT. OSTIA, DOCKSIDE - AFTERNOON**

6

A CROWD has gathered to see the boat; MURMURING EXCITEDLY.

ANTYLLUS

She's definitely drawing a crowd.

MARK

Yeah, no wonder there's a food
shortage; no one's doing any work.
Where's all the fishermen?

ANTYLLUS

Hey, what about that guy? Weren't
you drinking with him last night?

MARK

Yeah! Let's give it a try.

They WALK AWAY and up to a FISHERMAN.

MARK (cont'd)

Hallo Mr Fisherman Friend!

FISHERMAN

Morning.

MARK

You remember me, Mark Antony, war hero - look, to cut a long story short, I need some fresh fish.

FISHERMAN

I'm sorry sir, no can do.

MARK

But you're a fisherman.

FISHERMAN

Without any fish.

MARK

What, swam away did they?

FISHERMAN

Nah, sold 'em all!

ANTYLLUS

But aren't they super expensive?

FISHERMAN

Yeah! I made an absolute killing! Two hundred denarii for a morning's work! I won't have to lift a finger for a whole year!

MARK

What?! OK, who else is there?

FISHERMAN

No one sir, they've all sold out. Best morning we've ever had.

MARK

You're joking. Who paid those kinds of prices for fish?

FISHERMAN

She did.

A wave of GASPS and EXCITED CHATTER from the CROWD.

CLEOPATRA (O.S.)

(warm, commanding)

Greetings, good people of Rome! And thanks for all the fish!

Some CHEERS and CLAPPING from the crowd.

MARK

Damn it! That devious witch!

ANTYLLUS

Looks like she beat us to it.

MARK

We're not licked yet.

(to fisherman)

Look, I need you to sell me some fish. Catch it now if you have to.

FISHERMAN

How many do you want?

MARK

Whatever you sold her, double it.

FISHERMAN

Double?! You'd need every fisherman in Ostia!

MARK

Then get them.

FISHERMAN

But they're all off down the pub celebrating! By now they won't be able to tell one end of a rod from another. There's no way you could get that much fish today.

ANTYLLUS

Dad, what are we going to do?

MARK

... Uh... Hey, you.

FISHERMAN

Yeah?

MARK

... How quickly could someone learn how to fish?

7 **EXT. CLEOPATRA'S SHIP, DECK - AFTERNOON**

7

Off, dock ATMOS. Cleopatra's SERVANTS are HURRYING TO AND FRO, collecting fish, preparing a reception, etc.

CHARMIAN

Well my lady, the Roman people seem to like you.

CLEOPATRA

Yes, just not the ones who matter.

CHARMIAN

Not yet. You'll win the Triumvirs round. In fact... yes, it looks like one of them is boarding now.

CLEOPATRA

Which one?

CHARMIAN

Lepidus, the old and wise.

CLEOPATRA

Alone? Hmm. Perhaps they've been fighting it out to decide who gets the honour of greeting me.

CHARMIAN

Yes that's probably it.

Lepidus CROSSES the deck towards them.

LEPIDUS

Your Majesty! Hello! It is my pleasure to welcome you to Rome!

CLEOPATRA

Aemilius Lepidus, your reputation proceeds you.

LEPIDUS

I say, does it?

CLEOPATRA

Yes, such as how you... how you... and then of course you... er...

(hushed)

Charmian?

CHARMIAN

(hushed)

I've got nothing.

CLEOPATRA

You're looking well.

LEPIDUS

Oh! Thanks awfully! You're a bit of a knockout yourself!

CLEOPATRA

... Thank you. I couldn't help but notice the 'modest' reception to my arrival here in Italy.

LEPIDUS

Ah, sorry, bit of a mix up. But not to worry, we're sorting it all out for you right now. Laying on din dins tonight in the capital.

CLEOPATRA

Din dins?

LEPIDUS

Yes, you know. Grub. Nosh!

CHARMIAN

(quiet)

I think he means dinner.

CLEOPATRA

Oh! You needn't trouble yourself. As you can see, we've purchased seabass, swordfish, conga eels...

LEPIDUS

I say, that's jolly decent of you. And there was Gaius worrying about the cost!

CLEOPATRA

(interesting)

Was he really?

LEPIDUS

I suppose we ought to start taking it to the banquet? It's only about fifteen miles up the road.

CLEOPATRA

Ah, I think you misunderstand us - I should like to hold the banquet here, on my vessel.

LEPIDUS

Oh. Oh no. That won't do at all.

CLEOPATRA

You're declining my invitation?

LEPIDUS

No, no no - but surely you'd like to sample some good old fashioned Roman hospitality!

CLEOPATRA

I'm well acquainted with Roman hospitality. You'll remember my close relationship with Julius Caesar. Wonderful host, fantastic friends.

LEPIDUS

Exactly, it'll be just like that!

CLEOPATRA

Then they stabbed him to death.

LEPIDUS

Ah. Yes they did. Er.

CLEOPATRA

Not very hospitable.

LEPIDUS

Yes. We did take umbrage with that ourselves, actually.

CLEOPATRA

Oh yes I know, but you'll forgive me if I'm a little wary. I feel you understand me. Am I right?

LEPIDUS

(no)

Er. Yes. Completely!

Cleopatra CLAPS HER HANDS TOGETHER.

CLEOPATRA

I knew you would! Then we'll have the banquet on my ship after all!

LEPIDUS

Oh, no, I didn't mean to say-

CLEOPATRA

Charmian, tell the kitchens.

CHARMIAN

At once, my lady!

LEPIDUS
 (to self)
 Oh gosh. I hope Mark's having
 better luck than I am...

8 **EXT. OSTIA, DOCKSIDE - AFTERNOON**

8

Dock ATMOS, nearby CROWD OF ONLOOKERS still cooing over Cleo.

MARK
 Look, fishing can't be that
 complicated, can it?

FISHERMAN
 We're trained men! I've been doing
 it everyday since I was nine.

MARK
 So you're saying a child could do
 it.

FISHERMAN
 What? No-!

ANTYLLUS
 Dad, what are you up to?

MARK
 My boy, it's simple. Give a man a
 fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach
 a man to fish - or rather lots of
 men, and women, and children...

ANTYLLUS
 You mean...?

Mark addresses the crowd.

MARK
 OI! Listen up you lot!

The crowd QUIETENS.

MARK (cont'd)
 Now I don't go in for much of that
 educated public speaking, but-

WOMAN
 Are you Mark Antony?

MARK
 I most certainly am.

WOMAN

Oh wow!

MAN

You're my hero!

MARK

That's only natural.

The crowd love him; EXCITED MURMURING.

MARK (cont'd)

I know that big old boat from Egypt
is an eye-catcher... but how would
you lot like to earn a few coins,
AND do your bit for Rome? Eh?

9 **EXT. CLEOPATRA'S SHIP, DECK - AFTERNOON**

9

Servants PREPARING the banquet - CUTLERY, PLATES, GOBLETS
etc. Lepidus FOLLOWS Cleopatra, trying to remonstrate.

CLEOPATRA

This is all looking most inviting.
Wouldn't you say, Lepidus?

LEPIDUS

Rather - but you see I still wonder
if it might not be a better idea-

CLEOPATRA

I do have another question for you.

LEPIDUS

Er, yes?

CLEOPATRA

Where will I be staying during my
visit?

LEPIDUS

Ah, that I do know! We're putting
you up in Caesar's old villa, just
outside the city!

CLEOPATRA

Caesar? As in, Julius?

LEPIDUS

There's nobody else there, so we've
given it a spit and polish-

CLEOPATRA

Yes, I don't believe I'll be very comfortable. Too many memories.

LEPIDUS

Oh but I assure you, the villa is perfect. Plenty of room, whacking great garden. It has all the mod cons. Like a bath.

CLEOPATRA

Even so...

LEPIDUS

Why, my own place is very similar, so I know what I'm saying when-

CLEOPATRA

Of course! Yes! What an elegant solution! I accept your invitation!

LEPIDUS

Aha! Sorry?

CLEOPATRA

(calls)

Charmian!

Charmian CROSSES THE DECK.

CHARMIAN

My lady?

CLEOPATRA

Lepidus has requested that we stay with him at his villa. How kind!

LEPIDUS

Oh but-

CHARMIAN

I'll instruct your retinue to make their way to the residence.

CLEOPATRA

Lepidus, I cannot thank you enough. I can tell we're going to be the best of friends.

LEPIDUS

(folding)

Oh. Well. My pleasure. I suppose you can move your things in on the way to our banquet? Perhaps?

CLEOPATRA
Really, Lepidus? This again?

LEPIDUS
Were it up to me it'd be different,
but Mark and Gaius are dreadfully
keen on doing it their way...

CLEOPATRA
Oh. So they lead do they?

LEPIDUS
No, it's the three of us.

CLEOPATRA
But you said if it were up to you.

LEPIDUS
Figure of speech.

CLEOPATRA
Then can't you persuade them?

LEPIDUS
You see, they're going to a lot of
effort, what with the food and the
er, and the er, the food, and and-
look, I even bought Roman candles!

He SHAKES THE BOX. Objects inside.

CLEOPATRA
Oh how thoughtful! We can light
them for dinner. Charmian?

CHARMIAN
Thank you, sir. Most kind.

She TAKES the box from LEPIDUS.

CLEOPATRA
Put them out on the tables.

LEPIDUS
Eh? No, no, you don't understand...

Suddenly, CROWD SINGING drifts from the harbour.

CROWD
*Pass around the nets my boys and
cast out your lines...*

CLEOPATRA
Wait.

LEPIDUS

Eh?

CROWD

*Pull the good old fishies in and
then we'll fish for more...*

CLEOPATRA

What is that horrible noise?!

LEPIDUS

Sounds like singing to me...

10 **EXT. OSTIA, DOCKSIDE - CONTINUOUS**

10

Mark is in the midst of an ENORMOUS CROWD, all energetically FISHING - CASTING LINES, SPLASH, PULLING IN FISH etc

MARK & CROWD

*Fish fish, you Roman boys! And sing
and fish some more!*

MARK

Yes! That's the way to do it! Keep fishing, everybody! Until the sea's got nothing left!

He WALKS a bit down the pier to ANTYLLUS.

MARK (cont'd)

How you doing, son?

ANTYLLUS

I caught something!

A TINY FISH FLAPPING ABOUT.

ANTYLLUS (cont'd)

It's quite small...

MARK

Ha! Not bad for a first try! Like this lot - what they lack in experience they make up for with a can-do attitude.

ANTYLLUS

Plus you lied to them.

MARK

Antyllus! 'Lied' is a dirty word.

ANTYLLUS

Accurate though.

MARK

I did them a deal. We teach 'em how to fish, and in return we keep half of whatever they catch! They get fish, we get fish.

ANTYLLUS

Yeah but you told them they can sell their fish for fifty denarii.

MARK

They can. In theory.

ANTYLLUS

But Cleopatra's bought all the fish she needs, and nobody else can afford it. When they find out, won't they be cross with us?

MARK

Yeah, but we'll be gone by then. We'll be at the banquet.

ANTYLLUS

But don't you feel guilty?

MARK

Markets move, my boy, nothing I can do about that. The way I see it, they were poor and hungry this morning. Come sundown they'll still be poor but they'll each have a nice fish dinner on the table. And more importantly, so will we.

SMALL EXPLOSIONS START POPPING over on Cleopatra's ship; the ROMAN CANDLES are going off.

ANTYLLUS

Hey dad.

MARK

Yes son?

ANTYLLUS

Cleopatra's ship is on fire.

MARK

Eh?

The crowd STOP FISHING. Some SHOUTS. GASPS. OOs. AHHS.

MARK (cont'd)

Huh. Well, she does like to make an entrance.

11 **EXT. CLEOPATRA'S SHIP, DECK - AFTERNOON**

11

Chaos on deck! FLAMES, SPITTING FIRE. LOUD POPPING RAT-A-TAT RAPID CRACKLING OF BAMBOO SHOOT. (More like firecrackers rather than rocket fireworks!)

Panic as crew and servants YELL, GASP etc.

CLEOPATRA

Charmian!! What did you do?!

CHARMIAN

I lit the candles that Lepidus gave us, and then the spitting flames, and that awful noise-!

LEPIDUS

They're not candles! The chap called them firecrackers.

CLEOPATRA

Why did you give them to us?!

LEPIDUS

I didn't!!

CLEOPATRA

Charmian! Put them out, before the whole ship goes up in flames!

LEPIDUS

No no no! They'll burn themselves out soon! Trust me, please! You've no need to panic!

CLEOPATRA

Your toga's on fire.

LEPIDUS

What was that?

CLEOPATRA

Your! Toga! Fire!

Lepidus's TOGA is indeed on fire. He realises and HOPS ABOUT.

LEPIDUS
Oh. Oh! Oh no, oh dear! Aahhh!
Ahhhh! Ahhhh! (etc)

CLEOPATRA
Charmian! Charmian, get this man
some water, now!

LEPIDUS
(panicked)
Please! Don't trouble yourself! I
know where I can find some!

He RUNS to the side of the boat.

CLEOPATRA
What? Don't jump over the-!

LEPIDUS
Ahhhhhh....

He JUMPS overboard. Beat. SPLASH.

CLEOPATRA
... Charmian?

CHARMIAN
Yes my lady?

CLEOPATRA
We are not doing business with him.

12 **EXT. OSTIA, DOCKSIDE - CONTINUOUS**

12

More GASPS and EXCITED CROWD CHATTER.

ANTYLLUS
Dad? Did Lepidus just hurl himself
into the sea?

MARK
Ye-es.

ANTYLLUS
'Kay. Can he swim?

MARK
Oh I'm sure he can.

ANTYLLUS
Are you?

Beat.

MARK
Hold my fish.

SLAP of a FISH into Antyllus's hand. Mark RUNS, DIVES and SPLASHES into the water. GASPS from GATHERING CROWD.

ANTYLLUS
Dad!... Dad?

WOMAN (O.S.)
What's happening?

MAN (O.S.)
Did anyone see?

Dramatic pause.

Then SPLUTTERING as Mark and Lepidus SURFACE. Some SPLASHING.

LEPIDUS
(gasps, splutter)

MARK
I've got him! I've got him!

MAN (O.S.)
I said he was a hero didn't I!

CHEERS from the crowd.

LEPIDUS
Help! Help! Fire! Crackers!

MARK
Shut up, you daft old coot!

LEPIDUS
I'm drowning! I'm drowning!

MARK
Well stop it!

ANTYLLUS
(calling down)
Dad! Are you OK?

MARK
Don't ask stupid questions and
throw us a bloody rope!

ANTYLLUS
Oh, er. Does anyone have one?

CLEOPATRA (O.S.)

I do.

The crowd GASPS and PARTS. Slow FOOTSTEPS as Cleopatra walks towards us. Stops. She throws a rope down to the still just-about-floating Mark and Lepidus; SPLASH.

ANTYLLUS

(awed)

Thank you! Er, your Majesty.

CLEOPATRA

(stern)

Don't mention it.

(calls down)

Greetings Mark Antony.

MARK

(feeling silly)

Hello, Cleopatra...

CLEOPATRA

When you and your colleague have finished your swim, I believe you owe me a banquet.

END OF EPISODE