

CRY HAVOC! (ASK QUESTIONS LATER)

EPISODE 6 - BLOOD SPORTS

Written by

Rhys Tirado and Grace Knight

Edited with additional material

by David K. Barnes

Recording Script (Version 4.0)

Cast

Sarah Lambie as Octavia
Sarah Agha as Charmian
Lara Sawalha as Cleopatra
Benjamin Garrison as Quintus
Harry Roebuck as Gaius Octavius Caesar
Andy Secombe as Lepidus
Kazeem Tosin Amore as Mark Antony
Pip Gladwin as Drusus
Mark Nicholson as Rufus
Tom Crowley as Mascis
Lowri Ann Davies as Bassilla

Content Notes:

- Abuse of Power (recurring theme)
- Alcohol & Alcohol use
- Crowds
- Gladitorial Violence (including SFX):
Dismemberment, stabbing, general deadly
injury
- SFX: misophonia (drinking), drums, bone
breaks

If this were film, we'd blow the budget on this opening shot: an enormous arena full of spectators. Buzzing, excited CROWD OF SPECTATORS and a general festival atmosphere. MARK and GAIUS in the equivalent of a VIP box.

MARK

Listen to that crowd! This is what it's all about. Eh? Gaius? Eh?

GAIUS

Why are we here?

MARK

Why?! To watch the Games! You agreed we had to do something to keep the lads happy, didn't you?

GAIUS

Yes but-

MARK

This is what they want to see! Gladiators! A bunch of big ugly bastards beating each others' brains out. There might be some lions too.

Off, a LION ROARS.

MARK (cont'd)

Ooop, yep, there's one!

GAIUS

I'm sure they're all going to love it, it's good thinking on your part-

MARK

Thank you.

GAIUS

What I do question is why you booked it for the same day as the summit with Cleopatra!

MARK

Because we're going to do it here.

GAIUS

... Here? You want this to be the venue for a diplomatic summit?

MARK

Yeah. Two birds, one stone. She gets an eyeful of the might of Rome, and I don't have to miss the sport.

GAIUS

You don't think it might be difficult to talk about the finer points of grain supply with the mob baying for blood in the background?

MARK

Well, what were you gonna do?

GAIUS

Have a chat! In the office! Just sit around and get some work done!

MARK

That doesn't sound entertaining.

GAIUS

It's not meant to be! It's a summit! We talk about our problems and get them sorted out!

MARK

And that's what we're going to do, but also, lions.

GAIUS

Urghhhhh-!!!

LEPIDUS arrives with CLEOPATRA.

LEPIDUS

Afternoon chaps! Guess who I brought! I'll give you a clue: she's Egyptian!

GAIUS

Yes thank you Lepidus - it's an honour and a privilege to see you again, your Majesty.

CLEOPATRA

And you, Caesar.
(smile drops)
Hello Mark.

An awkward frostiness between her and Mark.

MARK

Yep. Right then, now you're here-
(calls to a slave)
Oi! You! Bang the drum.

A LOUD DRUM is banged, the CROWD grows QUIET. Mark addresses them, projecting effortlessly.

MARK (cont'd)

Romans! Our mighty Republic stands tall!

(MORE)

MARK (cont'd)
 Thanks to the army - incidentally
 the mightiest in the world - our
 enemies are well and truly
 vanquished!

FURIOUS CHEERS.

MARK (cont'd)
 Today we celebrate with games fit
 for heroes! For that is what you
 are!

CHEERS AND APPLAUSE

MARK (cont'd)
 And here to open them for us, a very
 special guest: our most esteemed
 ally, Queen Cleopatra of Egypt!

HUGE ROUND OF APPLAUSE, CHEERING, WHISTLING.

CLEOPATRA
 (projecting)
 Thank you, Romans!
 (to Mark)
 What do I do?

MARK
 Take the stick and whack the gong.

CLEOPATRA
 Ah.
 (projecting)
 Let the games... begin!

With an EFFORT, she SWINGS the STICK and SOUNDS the GONG.

MARK
 (to crowd)
 Crack on!

EXCITED CHEERING AND CLAPPING from the SPECTATORS. Off,
 GATES OPEN, and GLADIATORS enter the stadium.

CLEOPATRA
 Not bad, Mark.

MARK
 Hm? Yeah?

CLEOPATRA
 You're a decent speaker when you've
 still got your clothes on.

GAIUS
 What did she say?

MARK

Nothing! Nothing.

LEPIDUS

Have you ever seen the gladiators
before, your Majesty?

CLEOPATRA

No, and such a pity to miss them
now. Shall we depart for the summit?

GAIUS

Oh, er, well... actually...

MARK

Hey look, they're bringing out
Gabbara! Over sixty fights without
so much as a broken arm!

(to the others)

Come on you three, sit down, sit
down! This is going to be amazing!

CLEOPATRA

... Ah. I see.

GAIUS

(embarrassed)

Shall we sit, your Majesty?

MARK

(yelling)

Gabbara! Over here, son! Gabbara!

CLEOPATRA

(sighs, under breath)

... Romans.

OPENING TITLES AND THEME

ANNOUNCER

"Cry Havoc (Ask Questions Later)"
Episode 6: "Blood Sports"

2 INT. TEMPLE OF POMPEY - AFTERNOON

2

A busy rehearsal space. ACTORS bustling around. A CLAP OF
HANDS as QUINTUS addresses them.

QUINTUS

Alright everyone, let's get this
rehearsal started! I want you all to
find a space, and you're going to
start walking...

The ACTORS start WALKING AROUND the stage.

QUINTUS (cont'd)

That's right, you're going to
balance the energy in the room...
Fill the space, keep filling the
space... If you see a space, just
walk into it...

(calls)

Octavia!

OCTAVIA (O.S.)

Yes?

QUINTUS

You'll join us when you can, dear?

OCTAVIA (O.S.)

Oh absolutely!

We pull focus away from the warm-up to OCTAVIA and CHARMIAN,
practising lines in a small nook.

OCTAVIA

That was a lie, I hate the warm-ups.
Mia? ... Mia?

CHARMIAN

(forgotten her alias)

Hm? Oh sorry. Mia. Yes.

OCTAVIA

You've been a member of the company
since, like, lunchtime, so I'm not
expecting you to be word perfect
yet.

CHARMIAN

I have an excellent memory.

OCTAVIA

I'm sure, but it's a big part, and
you can't read, so I'm saying-

CHARMIAN

Shall we carry on?

OCTAVIA

Oh. Sure, OK.

QUINTUS (O.S.)

Now try leading with your feet...

OCTAVIA

Right, carrying on the big speech...
(reading)

"Oh, what a curse to resemble so
great a man as Caesar! I wish I had
the face of some ordinary fool.

(MORE)

OCTAVIA (cont'd)

Then I could sell my figs without people trying to build statues of me. What a city! What a people! What a life."

CHARMIAN

"Oh what a curse to resemble..."
Wait, so this play, it's about the death of Julius Caesar?

OCTAVIA

Sort of. A fig-selling slave who bears a resemblance to Julius Caesar comes to Rome on the day Caesar is murdered. Cue panic, confusion, hypocrisy! It's a satire on modern politics.

CHARMIAN

Then why make your centre-point a dead man? Your play's out of date before it even reaches the stage.

OCTAVIA

... Wow. Um. Harsh. What are you trying to say?

CHARMIAN

Why not base it around your brother? Or Mark Antony?

OCTAVIA

Um, because it might be hard to write with my thumbs nailed to the wall?

CHARMIAN

That bad, eh?

OCTAVIA

My brother puts up with my "little hobby" because he doesn't think it's important enough to bother fighting me over it. But if he ever did...

CHARMIAN

He's not a tolerant man?

OCTAVIA

(dry laugh)

No. He has Views, and he doesn't understand why other people don't share them. But enough of my family problems. We should get back to-

CHARMIAN

No! This is useful.

OCTAVIA

How?

CHARMIAN

Oh. Well... If I understand the present political situation, I can evoke it in my performance. That's why you chose a dead guy for your subject, right? So you can talk about the present without getting...

OCTAVIA

Thumb-nailed? I dunno, it's still pretty controversial...

CHARMIAN

But you're so close to the heart of power. You must realise how unique your perspective is.

OCTAVIA

Yeah, I suppose that's true. I just never really think of Gaius like that. Maybe because he never actually seems to get anything done.

CHARMIAN

He's not a good leader?

OCTAVIA

I dunno. In some ways. Gaius is really smart. Like, *really* smart, and he's great at philosophy, and he's actually willing to do paperwork, which is more than you can say for some Triumvirs I could mention. But he's... he doesn't know how to make people like him, or get on his level. And he's horrible at compromise.

CHARMIAN

What about Mark Antony?

OCTAVIA

Ha! Everyone loves him, no matter how many times he gets trashed and pisses in the street. And apparently he's a really good military tactician but... well, give him a stylus and he'll probably try to eat it.

CHARMIAN

(laughs)

So how do they work together? If they're so different?

OCTAVIA

They don't! I can't imagine them
running a Republic together.

CHARMIAN

I can't imagine them running a pet
shop together.

Octavia LAUGHS. Quintus approaches.

QUINTUS

Laughing at your own jokes, Octavia?
Or getting sidetracked?

OCTAVIA

We're on schedule, Quintus.

QUINTUS

Mmm, looks rather like sitting
around and chatting, doesn't it?

OCTAVIA

She'll know the lines, have faith.

CHARMIAN

I've learnt some already.

QUINTUS

Oh really?

OCTAVIA

Mia, you haven't had time-

CHARMIAN

Shall I demonstrate?

QUINTUS

This should be good. Up on the stage
you get, then.

CHARMIAN

OK.

Charmian WALKS over to the STAGE and ascends a few steps.
The actors MUTTERING to each other.

BASSILLA

Looks like someone's in trouble...

MASCIS

Amateurs, can't trust 'em...

They QUIETEN down. Charmian gives a word perfect and rather
well acted rendition.

CHARMIAN

"Blessed Artemis! What did I do to
offend you?"

(MORE)

CHARMIAN (cont'd)
 Half the people want to praise me,
 the other half want to bury me! Oh,
 what a curse to resemble so great a
 man as Caesar. I wish I could have
 the face of some ordinary fool. Then
 I could sell my figs without people
 trying to build statues of me. What
 a city! What a people! What a life!"

Stunned silence.

CHARMIAN (cont'd)
 How was that?

IMPRESSED CLAPPING from the actors.

OCTAVIA
 You... you memorised it.

CHARMIAN
 You asked me to.

OCTAVIA
 But... I only read it to you once,
 and you... remembered every word!

CHARMIAN
 I told you I had an excellent
 memory.

OCTAVIA
 (stunned laughter)
 Well Quintus, what do you say now?

QUINTUS
 It's a neat trick.

OCTAVIA
 Oh come on, it's more than that!
 Admit it, she's good!

QUINTUS
 I want to really put her through her
 paces - if she's up to the
 challenge?

OCTAVIA
 Mia?

CHARMIAN
 OK. Bring it on!

3 **EXT. GLADIATORIAL ARENA - AFTERNOON**

3

VIOLENT FIGHTING in the arena, enjoyed by RAUCOUS
 SPECTATORS.

MARK

(yelling)

YES! Break his spine, Gabbara! Snap
it like a twig!

OFF, a SPINE SNAPS bloodily. CHEERS FROM SPECTATORS.

MARK (cont'd)

He did it!! Snapped the guy in half!

LEPIDUS

Oh well played!

Lepidus gives an enthusiastic GOLF CLAP. (A lull in the
background action, spectators talk amongst themselves.)

CLEOPATRA

So, this is what passes for
entertainment in Rome, is it?

GAIUS

I apologise, it is rather gory.

CLEOPATRA

Gory I can handle. But where's the
finesse? This is just hacking at
each other until something falls
off.

MARK

Is anything good enough for you?

GAIUS

MARK!

(clears throat)

Ha ha ha! So, your Majesty, I cannot
express how glad I am to finally sit
down with you and discuss matters of
state.

CLEOPATRA

We could have done it at the banquet
but you didn't want to.

GAIUS

(damn it)

... Right, well, here we are doing
it now, and as Mark said, Egypt
remains our esteemed ally -
especially under your leadership.

CLEOPATRA

I'm truly glad to hear it, Caesar.

GAIUS

I well know of your reputation for
wisdom and sound judgement, and
popularity with your people.

CLEOPATRA

Thank you.

MARK

Brown noser.

GAIUS

And of course - shut up Mark - of course there is a long and noble history of collaboration between our people. Right, Lepidus?

LEPIDUS

Oh absolutely! Can't count the number of times Egypt's bailed us out!

GAIUS

Ah, yes, but what I meant-

LEPIDUS

Not that they had a lot of choice, given the way we used to threaten them with-

GAIUS

Lepidus!!

LEPIDUS

Yes, old man?

GAIUS

Could you go away and get some snacks?

LEPIDUS

Oh, certainly! Anything for you, your Majesty?

CLEOPATRA

I'll pass.

LEPIDUS

Righto. Back in a tick.

Lepidus WALKS OFF.

GAIUS

Where were we?

CLEOPATRA

Lepidus was just reminding us of all the times Rome has used Egypt as its private money box.

GAIUS

Mm. But also, er, obviously, there are the many services Rome has had the honour of performing for Egypt.

CLEOPATRA

Your father's support in dealing with my brother for example.

GAIUS

Yes! Yes, exactly. And before that, your father also called on Rome to-

CLEOPATRA

Yes, it's a long and tangled history, which we both know off by heart.

GAIUS

Ah. Yes. Um, well, coming right to it, then... You won't know this, but Rome is facing a few, er... minor... minor... problems, and, er, it would do us no end of good to know that we can rely upon your continued - or even additional - support. In the way of. Er. Grain and money and stuff.

(clears throat)

CLEOPATRA

Oh, Caesar! Is that all it is? Of course you can!

GAIUS

(relieved)

Wonderful! I knew we could!

CLEOPATRA

What are friends for?

GAIUS

Exactly!

CLEOPATRA

I'm sure we can find something that Rome would be willing to trade with us.

GAIUS

... Sorry, that Rome can trade?

CLEOPATRA

In exchange for our support in getting you over this little bump in the road, yes.

GAIUS

Ah. You... want something in return.

CLEOPATRA

Naturally. After all, there's no such thing as a free lunch is there? Even between friends...

GAIUS

(bleak)

No... I suppose there isn't...

4 **EXT. ARENA, SNACK STALLS - DAY**

4

A CROWD milling about, street vendors selling food.

LEPIDUS

I say, excuse me? Is this the queue for the dried fruit?

RUFUS

Yeah.

LEPIDUS

Thanks awfully.

RUFUS

'Ere, settle an argument - do you reckon this is all a distraction?

LEPIDUS

I'm sorry?

DRUSUS

Oh, don't get him started. It's his big conspiracy theory that the games are a distraction, and Mark Antony's never giving us our money.

LEPIDUS

Oh. My.

RUFUS

We've had to find a side hustle to make ends meet! Nearly made us late for the games, there was this girl kicking up a fuss in a shop-

DRUSUS

Never mind all that - I'm telling you, Mark won't let us down.

LEPIDUS

No, er, I'm sure he won't.

RUFUS

So you trust him, do you? Him and what's-his-name?

LEPIDUS

Who?

RUFUS

Oh, you know. The other one who's in charge. Scrawny, gets seasick.

LEPIDUS

Gaius Octavius Caesar?

RUFUS

That's the one! I'd love to get five minutes alone with him.

FIST in PALM, PUNCHING.

DRUSUS

(chuckling)

Five minutes with that little weed? What you gonna do with the other four?

RUFUS

Give the same to his best mate Mark, if they don't pay us. Double our wages by the end of the month, that's what they said. And they'd better.

DRUSUS

Hang on though. TRI-umvirate. Doesn't that mean there's three of them?

LEPIDUS

(clears throat)

Uh, well, um...

RUFUS

Never heard about a third one. Though he'd deserve a kicking too!

LEPIDUS

(panicking)

Er, m-m-maybe the third one is the State of Rome itself? A metaphor?

DRUSUS

Oh yeah, that could be it.

RUFUS

Seriously though, think about it. If they had all the money, they'd have paid us, right? No point making us wait. They must be broke.

DRUSUS

But if you're right, what could we do about it anyway?

RUFUS

We could take them to the cleaners, mate. We're an army!

LEPIDUS

Well, then you'd be straight back into another civil war that you wouldn't get paid for, so, well...

RUFUS

Not if we slaughtered the lot of 'em.

LEPIDUS

... Yes, that would solve it, er...

DRUSUS

A lot of effort though.

RUFUS

Yeah. Still, it's a plan B. Let's hope they pay us, eh?

Drusus and Rufus CHUCKLE.

LEPIDUS

(weakly)

Ha ha ha... ha... oh corks.

5 INT. THEATRE OF POMPEY - AFTERNOON

5

Quintus and Charmian are improvising a scene together on the stage; FOOTSTEPS as they move.

QUINTUS

You. What are you doing here? You're supposed to be at the banquet, serving the guests.

CHARMIAN

I was instructed to get more grapes from the vineyard.

QUINTUS

Fine. But be quick. Queen Cleopatra grows impatient.

CHARMIAN

Cleopatra?

QUINTUS

Just remember to slip in the poison as soon as you can. We cannot risk being discovered.

CHARMIAN

Uh... Uh...

OCTAVIA

You're doing great, Mia. Just say what feels right.

CHARMIAN

OK.

(speaks coldly)

You... look pale.

QUINTUS

I do?

CHARMIAN

Tell me, when did you last have a sip of water?

QUINTUS

Not long ago. You were the one-

CHARMIAN

Yes. I was the one who gave it to you. Are your knees weak yet?

QUINTUS

... What have you done?!

Quintus FALLS TO THE GROUND. Charmian paces around him.

CHARMIAN

Following me around, breathing down my neck, pointing out every slight error. I grew sick of you.

QUINTUS

(coughing)

You... you didn't!

CHARMIAN

Your arms and legs should be tingling now. You'll be dead in a few minutes.

QUINTUS

But that was meant for Cleopatra!

CHARMIAN

What has she ever done to me? You, however, have been a constant pain in my side. No... your death will be far more satisfying to me.

QUINTUS

(weakly)

You are... a monster!

CHARMIAN

Only a monster can recognize another. Sleep now... mother. Rest knowing that I have succeeded you well.

QUINTUS

... And scene!

Actors CLAPPING, Quintus stands.

CHARMIAN

How'd I do?

QUINTUS

For a first attempt at improv, that was surprisingly-

OCTAVIA

Amazing! Mia, how do you feel?

Charmian is genuinely having so much fun.

CHARMIAN

(quiet, then louder)

I feel... incredible. My heart! It's beating so fast, haha! I didn't know acting could be so fun. I... I didn't know anything could be so fun!

OCTAVIA

(squeals happily)

I knew it! You're an actor! Right to the bone! You're the kind of actor that makes my fingers simply itch to write more words for you!

QUINTUS

(jealous)

She's got talent, darling, but let's not go mad.

OCTAVIA

Quintus, grab us some wine. This calls for celebration!

QUINTUS

In the middle of rehearsal?

OCTAVIA

I'm sure the cast won't object.

Actors MURMUR AFFIRMATIVELY (including BASSILLA and MASCIS)

QUINTUS

Oh very well... Come along, dears.

Quintus WALKS AWAY with the other actors, under...

CHARMIAN

You care very much about your art, I think, my lady.

OCTAVIA

Call me Octavia, please!

CHARMIAN

I wonder, Octavia... forgive me, but ... why theatre?

OCTAVIA

What do you mean?

CHARMIAN

You understand politics, you're rich, you're talented. There must be other paths you could follow? Paths your brother might respect you for?

OCTAVIA

Get married and bear sons, you mean? Yeah, I daresay that's what I'll end up doing, once Gaius has decided who he wants to pack me off to.

CHARMIAN

No, I didn't mean... I mean, you could take office, work in-

OCTAVIA

(bitter laugh)

Pull a Cleopatra, you mean? I don't know what things are like where you're from, but here, women aren't allowed official office. And besides, why would I want to sit on a bench with a bunch of windbags who never get round to actually doing anything?

CHARMIAN

OK. But why this?

Octavia considers.

OCTAVIA

You want to know why people *really* look down on us? Well, maybe not me so much, but the rest of the players? It's because they're just regular people. Scratching out a living, some of them even criminals. But together? Together we make something *special*. Together we have a voice, and people come here to listen to it. I watch my peers in the audience, entertained and moved by people they'd normally see as totally beneath them. We get under their skin. These actors... these people, they're heard on stage when they wouldn't be anywhere else. I want to be a part of that.

CHARMIAN

(smiling)

Yeah... Yeah, I get that.

OCTAVIA

And now you're one of them, Mia. One of us! The audience aren't going to know what's hit them. You're gonna be a star!

CHARMIAN

A star?... Yeah. That'd be fun...!

6 **EXT. GLADIATORIAL ARENA - AFTERNOON**

6

ROARING CROWD enjoying the games. Some FIGHTING, LIONS ROARING, REACTIONS FROM CROWD etc. In the box...

CLEOPATRA

Renewed sovereign status for Egypt with Rome's official recognition of my title. Oh, and obviously that status would extend to my heirs.

GAIUS

I see, yes...

CLEOPATRA

I want military support in the case of an uprising from my sister. And the loan of several legions to subdue the rioters in the south.

GAIUS

We could maybe lend a hand...

CLEOPATRA

Oh, and naturally I'd want a return of Egyptian territories. Judea, Damascus, Syria... My staff can let you have the full list.

GAIUS

But that... that would put you in control of the whole Eastern Mediterranean!

CLEOPATRA

Back in control. Yes. Oh, and could you declare war against King Herod?

GAIUS

What?! We can't!

CLEOPATRA

Oh please. He's just dreadful. He'd be no great loss, I assure you.

Mark SHIFTS in his seat as he turns.

MARK

OK, I have something to say.

GAIUS

Oh hey Mark, decided to actually make a contribution?

MARK

Just a little one, yeah.

CLEOPATRA

Which is?

MARK

Which is, your majesty: are you out of your tiny mind?

GAIUS

Mark-!

MARK

If we hand over all that land, we'll get crucified in the street!

CLEOPATRA

Alright. As an alternative, I would like my son, Caesarion, officially recognised as my heir and the true-born son of Julius Caesar.

MARK

(laughing)

What?!

GAIUS

I... that's a joke, isn't it?

CLEOPATRA

Not at all.

GAIUS

But I'm the son of Julius Caesar.

CLEOPATRA

You're a son of Julius Caesar, but mine has the benefit of having had his, ah, personal touch.

GAIUS

You know we can't acknowledge him! Not legally, not politically!

CLEOPATRA

I'm not asking you to give him the Republic. Just give him a job, in government, with a salary, some honours, and his father's estate...

GAIUS

WHAT?!

MARK

Mate.

GAIUS

That's my estate! I want it!

CLEOPATRA

Fine, then give me half of Greece and we'll call it quits.

GAIUS

Now look. We can't agree to these terms. I'm sorry. Maybe in a few years, when things are more settled, we can review it all.

CLEOPATRA

No problem.

GAIUS

Really?

CLEOPATRA

Yes, and maybe in a few years I can give you all that money you want.

MARK

But we need it now!

Off, AN AMAZING DEATH. The crowd suddenly ROARS IN APPROVAL

MARK

What? What did I miss? ... SHIT!!!

GAIUS

What is it?

MARK

Gabbara! He's down! He's dead! And I missed it, because I was stuck listening to you two!

CLEOPATRA

If you find the Games more interesting than negotiations-

GAIUS

Of course he doesn't.

MARK

Yes I do! Listen Cleo-

CLEOPATRA

Don't call me that.

MARK

You goaded Julie into making the worst mistake of his life, and now you're sticking your oar in here. Well I'm not putting up with it!

GAIUS

Mark...

CLEOPATRA

I'm sorry, do you think I wanted Julius to be assassinated?

MARK

I dunno what you want!

GAIUS

Mark, show some respect!

MARK

Fine. I'm sorry, *your majesty*. Or should I call you a goddess? That's what you are, right? A walking deity. Maybe your divine insight can tell you what I'm about to say next.

CLEOPATRA

If you've got an accusation to make, go ahead.

GAIUS

Don't you dare-

MARK

You put the idea of becoming
Dictator for Life into Julie's head.

CLEOPATRA

Oh please.

MARK

That's what got him killed - my best
friend! You did that! You left him
wide open!

Cleopatra GETS UP.

CLEOPATRA

OK, I've heard enough. I didn't
travel half way across the world to
listen to your violent ramblings.

GAIUS

Your majesty, please, I-

CLEOPATRA

Julius Caesar was a brilliant man,
and it seems he was the only one.
You have my terms. Let me know when
you're willing to discuss them.

She SWEEPS OUT of the box.

GAIUS

Your Majesty, if you would just...
(sighs, then angry)
... Mark.

MARK

(angry)
What?

Lepidus APPROACHES, with bags of fruit.

LEPIDUS

Hello, chaps. I brought snacks! Oh,
and by the way, I think we might
want to prioritise paying those
soldiers. They're getting a bit
cross...!

ROAR of the SPECTATORS at another BRUTAL KILLING.

7 INT. CLEOPATRA'S QUARTERS - EVENING

7

SOFT HARP MUSIC.

CLEOPATRA

What a day. Felt more like a week...

Charmian ENTERS HAPPILY, FOOTSTEPS.

CHARMIAN
Your majesty!

CLEOPATRA
Charmian. Fetch me a beer. And take
one for yourself.

CHARMIAN
Thank you.

Charmian POURS the beer under:

CHARMIAN (cont'd)
Productive day, my lady?

CLEOPATRA
Hardly! It's a wonder Rome doesn't
burn down on a weekly basis. Gaius
won't cooperate and Mark won't stop
shouting. At least he kept his
clothes on this time.

CHARMIAN
Clearing a low bar. Your drink.

She hands Cleopatra a GOBLET OF BEER.

CLEOPATRA
Thank you. How about you, my little
spy? Do you have stories for me?

CHARMIAN
A reasonable amount on Mark Antony,
but even more on Octavius Caesar.

CLEOPATRA
Indeed? Your source?

CHARMIAN
Oh...

(pause)
Various places around the city.
Taverns, the public baths. People
like to talk here.

CLEOPATRA
Don't they just. Well, you can give
me a summary after my bath.

CHARMIAN
Should I run it for you now?

CLEOPATRA
Yes. Oh, and Charmian? Good work
today. I knew I could trust you.

CHARMIAN

... Thank you, my lady. I hope you
always will.

END OF EPISODE