

CRY HAVOC! (ASK QUESTIONS LATER)

EPISODE 16 - DAGGERS

Written by

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Edited with additional material

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## Cast

MARK ~ KAZEEM TOSIN AMORE  
GAIUS ~ HARRY ROEBUCK  
CLEOPATRA ~ LARA SAWALHA  
LEPIDUS ~ ANDY SECOMBE  
FULVIA ~ BETH EYRE  
CHARMIAN ~ SARAH AGHA  
OCTAVIA ~ SARAH LAMBIE  
ANTYLLUS ~ AARON-LOUIS CADOGAN

DRUSUS ~ PIP GLADWIN  
RUFUS ~ MARK THOMPSON

## Content Notes:

- Sexual References & Innuendo
- Knives
- Discussions of: Blackmail, murder

A blissful morning. Outside, BIRDS SING at the window. The COCK CROWS. MARK wakes up in bed, STRETCHES, YAWNS.

MARK  
(dozy, happy)  
Mmm... Morning Cleo... Cleo...?

He opens his eyes when she doesn't reply.

MARK (cont'd)  
Cleo?

CLEOPATRA responds from a desk nearby; RUSTLING OF PAPYRUS, SCRATCHING of a QUILL PEN etc.

CLEOPATRA  
(doing work)  
Over here. And don't call me Cleo.

MARK  
Oh. You're awake. And working.

CLEOPATRA  
Naturally. I've got a lot on today.

MARK  
(he doesn't)  
Oh, yeah. Me too.

Cleopatra TURNS IN HER CHAIR to face him.

CLEOPATRA  
(professional mode)  
We have a lot to discuss.

MARK  
Yeah, but... I'm still in bed.

CLEOPATRA  
(doesn't care)  
Yes I can see that - you realise  
that a triumvirate is an  
inefficient way to run an empire?

MARK  
It's actually a Republic.

CLEOPATRA  
Now come on, Mark, don't be coy. We  
all know what Rome really is - or  
at least, what it may become.

MARK

Right... Do you want breakfast?

CLEOPATRA

No.

MARK

More sex?

CLEOPATRA

(firm)

The night is over; what should concern us now is the future.

MARK

(startled)

Oh, OK.

CLEOPATRA

Mark, listen to me. Rome cannot function with three rulers, and especially not the three of you.

MARK

You think so?

CLEOPATRA

Where's the impetus, where's the vision? I've been here for weeks and I've seen nothing but stasis. Julius acted, he got things done.

MARK

He was killed.

CLEOPATRA

(exasperated)

Yes, maybe he was clumsy - but his intentions were sound! If you want power, you've got to take it.

Mark SITS UP.

MARK

OK. I'm listening.

CLEOPATRA

Lepidus is a coward by instinct. Gaius is a coward by logic. But then there's you: the only one of them capable of taking action.

MARK

That's true enough... You reckon I should be the senior partner?

CLEOPATRA

You're not thinking big enough.

MARK

... You mean sole ruler? Me? Look, it's a nice idea, but Rome doesn't go in for monarchy. And besides, we could probably retire Lepidus on an island somewhere, with a garden, but Gaius isn't going to stand aside and let me rule, is he?

CLEOPATRA

No...

MARK

He's in it for the long haul. Trust me, I've seen the charts. I've heard the maths.

CLEOPATRA

(thinking)

You may be right...

She throws her hands in the air; tossing out an idea.

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

Well, there's nothing else for it. You'll have to kill him.

Pause.

MARK

What.

CLEOPATRA

Kill him.

MARK

Kill Gaius?

CLEOPATRA

Yes. It's a simple enough job. My family does it all the time.

MARK

You... you want me to...

Beat. He SWINGS HIS LEGS OUT OF BED, and sits on the edge.

MARK (cont'd)  
Wow. I did not see this  
conversation coming.

Pause. He's stunned. Thinking. Then:

MARK (cont'd)  
Where's my toga.

He GETS UP and FINDS HIS CLOTHES.

CLEOPATRA  
Where are you going?

MARK  
To get some food, and go for a  
walk, and, er, you know, forget  
this talk ever happened...

CLEOPATRA  
Mark, don't be scared.

MARK  
(anxious)  
Scared! Who's scared! It's just  
you're doing work on a weekend,  
it's thrown me off.

He SLIPS INTO HIS TOGA.

CLEOPATRA  
Whenever a decision was needed,  
Gaius has dithered and delayed. He  
isn't respected by the people or  
the Senate. Look at the mess of  
things he made at the orgy!

MARK  
Yeah, I know, but... I mean, last  
night was fun, right? You and me?  
It was... good, yeah?

CLEOPATRA  
Adequate, yes, why?

MARK  
I - well - I appreciate this highly  
stimulating, hypothetical chat, but  
maybe we should keep this as more  
of a casual thing.

CLEOPATRA  
I thought it was a casual thing.

MARK

I meant the politics.

CLEOPATRA

What?! There's nothing casual about politics, you ought to know that by now! Rome could be yours, and Egypt would support you-

MARK

YES WELL, is that the time, blimey, lots to do, people to see...

CLEOPATRA

Mark!

MARK

See you, Cleo! Er, Cleopatra. Bye.

He OPENS THE DOOR and HURRIEDLY EXITS.

CLEOPATRA

Damn it! Can't anyone around here be practical?

(huffs)

The sad thing is, he's still the best option going... Ah well. If you want something done...

She STRIDES TO THE OPEN DOOR.

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

CHARMIAN!

Charmian HURRIES IN.

CHARMIAN

Yes, your majesty?

CLEOPATRA

Charmian, let's get to the point: you're on very thin ice, so if you want to prove your loyalty to me-

CHARMIAN

I do, really! I'll do anything! Please! Whatever you ask!

CLEOPATRA

Good. Then listen, and listen carefully: Gaius Octavius Caesar.

CHARMIAN

Yes?

CLEOPATRA  
 (close)  
 Tonight you're going to kill him.

OPENING TITLES AND THEME TUNE

ANNOUNCER  
 "Cry Havoc (Ask Questions Later)"  
 Episode 16: "Daggers"

2 **EXT. CLEOPATRA'S HOUSE, GARDEN - MORNING**

2

Mark pads out into the ornamental garden, WALKING SWIFTLY.

MARK  
 (muttering)  
 One minute you're going to an orgy,  
 the next you're launching a coup...

GAIUS (O.S.)  
 Mark!

GAIUS is HURRYING OVER to him.

MARK  
 Oh, not now...  
 (to Gaius)  
 Morning, Gaius. If you want to have  
 another hissy fit, I'm preoccupied.

GAIUS  
 Yes, I'm sorry about that. Really.  
 I let the side down.

MARK  
 You nearly turned the whole senate  
 against us! Everyone who's anyone  
 was at the orgy last night and you  
 single-handedly pissed them off! If  
 it hadn't been for me-!

GAIUS  
 I know, I know. I ended up walking  
 the streets all night. Thinking.

MARK  
 Thinking again. So soon.

GAIUS  
 Yes, and I've had an idea.

MARK

I'm sick of your ideas.

He MAKES a MOVE, but Gaius BLOCKS HIM.

GAIUS

Wait, wait! Last night, we tried to be sneaky and it didn't work, right? Well, then it hit me.

MARK

I wish something would.

GAIUS

My idea. Just one word...

Impressive beat.

GAIUS (cont'd)

Rhetoric.

MARK

... Rhetoric.

GAIUS

Simple and to the point. The one thing we haven't tried yet is straight down-the-line honesty.

MARK

And you want to start now?!

GAIUS

We should appeal to the senate as citizens, as patriots. All we have to do is present our arguments - and that's where you come in!

MARK

Me?

GAIUS

We both know you've got a way with the people, I admit that, so with both of us behind this we're bound to succeed. What do you think?

Pause.

MARK

I think you're a twat. Goodbye.

Mark STRIDES AWAY. Gaius STRUGGLES TO KEEP UP with him.

GAIUS  
But we need to do this, together!

MARK  
No we don't! We've done it your way  
ever since we came to power and all  
it's done is make things worse.

GAIUS  
With respect, I'd say you're being  
rather pessimistic. If we knuckle  
down, we've got a decent chance.

MARK  
Oh thank goodness for that! I can  
feel the weight lifting off my  
shoulders as we speak!

GAIUS  
Come on Mark-!

Mark STOPS.

MARK  
I don't need you, Gaius! No one  
does! Carry on like this and you're  
going to get yourself whacked. And  
you're not taking me down with you!

He STRIDES OFF for good. Gaius calls after him.

GAIUS  
Mark! Wait! You can't walk away  
from this!

MARK (O.S.)  
Watch me!

GAIUS  
Fine! Be that way! I can write a  
speech! I'll save Rome all by  
myself! And then you'll be sorry!

MARK (O.S.)  
Piss off!

GAIUS  
No! No, you piss off! See? I can  
dish it out! ... I can do anything.

## 3 INT. MARK'S HOUSE - MIDDAY

3

Main living area. Off, PALATINE HILL ATMOS drifting in.  
ANTYLLUS is entreating FULVIA.

ANTYLLUS

But Mum! You know everyone! Surely  
you could find me an acting agent?

FULVIA

Antyllus, no son of mine is going  
to be an actor. If you must work at  
all then get a proper job.

ANTYLLUS

What, like a doctor or teacher?

FULVIA

No! Something respectable! You'll  
go into politics and that's that.

Off, FRONT DOOR BURSTS OPEN. Mark PROWLs into the hall.

MARK (O.S.)

Twat, twat, twat, twat, twat, twat,  
twat! Oh, I could kill him!

FULVIA

(calls)

Mark?

(to Antyllus)

Run along, dear, your father and I  
have things to talk about.

ANTYLLUS

(sulking)

OK...

He WALKS OUT, PASSING Mark as he COMES IN.

ANTYLLUS (cont'd)

Dad.

MARK

Son.

FULVIA

What's all the banging about for? I  
thought you'd be hungover.

MARK

It's Gaius! He was at the orgy!

FULVIA

Oh, gods, he wasn't?

MARK

He made a prick of himself, yelled at the guests, and then he comes bouncing up to me with another of his stupid ideas! Fulvia, he's going to get us all killed!

FULVIA

He's a liability, I told you.

MARK

Yep, I should have listened. You're right. And he has got to go.

FULVIA

... When you say 'go', you mean you agree he's got to... go?

MARK

Abso-bloody-lutely. Even Cleopatra wants him dead.

FULVIA

She actually told you that?

MARK

(swagger)

Well, you know. Pillow talk.

FULVIA

No...! You didn't! Well well well! Join the club.

MARK

Yeah! ... Wait, what-?

FULVIA

When the time comes, having Egypt on our side could make all the difference. And if she's sick and tired of Gaius...

MARK

Now's the time to strike! I'm sure I could get the army to hang on for just a bit longer - I'll say Gaius was the one holding everything up!

FULVIA

They might believe it, but you'll still have to pay them soon.

MARK

Oh Cleo can help us, I'll handle her. The thing is to get rid of Gaius, once and for all!

FULVIA

Oh Mark, I'm so happy! I knew this day would come!

They KISS, happy and excited.

FULVIA (cont'd)

Have you given any thought on who you want to use? Because I have.

MARK

Well actually-

FULVIA

Usually for a job like this, I'd get someone like Cygnus the Beast-fighter or the Piso brothers - I saw them last night, they pass on their best - but in this case, it might be better to use someone from out of town. Make it look like an accident, like a chariot-jacking gone wrong or something.

MARK

No.

FULVIA

No?

MARK

No faked accidents and no assassins. I'm doing it myself.

FULVIA

What?! ... Now Mark, darling, let's be sensible about this.

MARK

I'm no coward. I'm a soldier, and he's my enemy.

FULVIA

So what's your plan then? Stab him to death in the Senate then give a big speech afterwards? You know where that leads, don't you? You know exactly where that leads.

MARK

Don't worry, I'll be discreet.

FULVIA

Let me talk to some people, please.

MARK

My mind's made up! I want to see my hands around his throat, and my knife in his guts! Today is the last he'll ever see. I hope he's spending it wisely...

4 INT. GAIUS'S OFFICE - DAY

4

GAIUS

Take a seat, Lepidus! We are going to write the greatest begging letter in the history of the world!

LEPIDUS SITS as Gaius GATHERS PAPERS.

LEPIDUS

Ah, goodo. But, er, shouldn't we include Mark too?

GAIUS

Oh Mark this, Mark that! Why don't you marry Mark?

LEPIDUS

Well, he's never asked me, so-

GAIUS

We don't need Mark, we're doing this ourselves.

Gaius STRAIGHTENS HIS PAPERS.

GAIUS (cont'd)

Now. The secret to rhetoric lies within the teachings of Aristotle.

LEPIDUS

Didn't I know him?

GAIUS

No, you didn't.

LEPIDUS

Tall chap. Awfully brusque.

GAIUS  
Aristotle died three hundred years ago.

LEPIDUS  
Ah. Couldn't have been him then.

GAIUS  
No.

LEPIDUS  
Unless... No.

GAIUS  
So the building-blocks, the points of intellectual attack, are logos, ethos and pathos.

LEPIDUS  
(uncertain)  
Aha.

GAIUS  
It is logical that the senators should come to the aid of Rome. It is right for them to come to the aid of Rome. And if they come to the aid of Rome then none of us will get killed.

LEPIDUS  
You know, dear old Julius was good at speeches. Always got a reaction.

GAIUS  
I remember.

LEPIDUS  
Right up until they stabbed him to death. Maybe he's got an old speech lying around we could use?

GAIUS  
No, we can do this, Lepidus! We can stir the blood, prove our worth! Banish the shadow of Julius Caesar!

LEPIDUS  
If you say so, old chap.

GAIUS  
I do! Now put your rhetorical hat on, and let's get to work!

## 5 INT. CHARMIAN'S ROOM - EVENING

5

Many hours later. Charmian in her room, sat on her bed, mentally preparing herself for the task ahead.

CHARMIAN  
(deep, slow breaths)

Cleopatra WALKS IN. Beat.

CLEOPATRA  
Charmian?

Charmian JUMPS TO HER FEET.

CHARMIAN  
My lady.

CLEOPATRA  
The sun is setting. Are you ready?

CHARMIAN  
(she isn't)  
Yes.

CLEOPATRA  
You don't sound it. You'd better not be thinking of Octavia...

CHARMIAN  
(she is)  
I'm not! Just... preparing myself.  
You honour me with this mission.

CLEOPATRA  
I know I do. You jeopardised our work last night. I should have you thrown to the jackals - but there's nobody else with such a talent for going unnoticed. When you're not prancing around a stage, of course.

CHARMIAN  
Of course...

CLEOPATRA  
Gaius Octavius assumed a rank and title he didn't deserve - but he could still be dangerous. Kill him and Mark takes command. He's got no head for money and no time left to pay off his troops - so he meets our demands, we bail him out, and everyone gets what they want. Yes?

CHARMIAN  
 (bleak)  
 Yes. Everyone.

CLEOPATRA  
 I want you in and out of that house  
 like a shadow. And when it is done  
 and you are safely back here, we  
 will forget your... indiscretions.

Cleopatra UNSHEATHES a small DAGGER.

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)  
 Take this blade.

CHARMIAN  
 My lady.

Charmian TAKES IT reluctantly.

CLEOPATRA  
 You have killed before, I'm sure?

CHARMIAN  
 Yes. When I had to. I thought I'd  
 left that behind me.

CLEOPATRA  
 I thought I could place my trust in  
 you. Prove to me that I still can.

She EXITS, footsteps ECHOING. When she's safely gone,  
 Charmian exhales a LONG, PAINED SIGH.

6 **EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - EVENING**

6

Quiet evening atmos. The FRONT DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

MARK  
 ... OK. Looks quiet. See you later.

FULVIA  
 Remember, find a quiet place to  
 hide, observe the patrols, wait  
 till it's dark-

MARK  
 Darling, I know. I've got this.

FULVIA  
 Do you have a dagger?

MARK

Yes.

FULVIA

Take a spare.

She PROFFERS a KNIFE, but he refuses it.

MARK

Fulvia!

FULVIA

Alright alright. I'm just excited.

Mark sounds much less confident than he did a few scenes ago.

MARK

Right, well. Er... I'm off then. I suppose.

FULVIA

I'm proud of you, darling. You're doing the right thing.

MARK

(uncertain)

... Yeah. Er... See you.

Mark TRUDGES OFF.

FULVIA

Good luck.

**7 INT. GAIUS'S OFFICE - LATE EVENING**

7

Gaius SCRIBBLES FURIOUSLY on a long roll of parchment. Lepidus is napping, SNORING SOFTLY.

GAIUS

(getting to the end)

"And is that not... in the end... when all is said... and done..."

A tired OCTAVIA walks in.

OCTAVIA

Hey Gaius, I'm going to-

GAIUS

Ah ah ah! "... What it is... to be... a... Roman..." There! Done! Lepidus, wake up! It's finished!

LEPIDUS  
 (waking)  
 Eh, er, what, um...

OCTAVIA  
 What's finished?

GAIUS  
 My speech to the Senate! It's taken  
 all day, and it's twenty feet long,  
 but if this doesn't win 'em round  
 then nothing will! Want to hear it?

OCTAVIA  
 Tempting but I'd rather die. I'm  
 going to bed. 'Night both.

Octavia WALKS OUT. Lepidus SHIFTS TO STAND UP.

LEPIDUS  
 I might make a move myself...

GAIUS  
 Stay right where you are. You need  
 to hear this.

LEPIDUS  
 (bleak)  
 Do I?

Gaius SHAKES OUT THE LONG PAPYRUS SCROLL DRAMATICALLY.

GAIUS  
 "... Do It For Rome! Or: An Appeal  
 for Economic Patriotism by Gaius  
 Octavius Caesar."  
 (clears throat)  
 "Preface to the Introduction..."

LEPIDUS  
 (sighs bleakly)

8 INT. OCTAVIA'S BEDROOM - LATE EVENING

8

A BREEZE BLOWS through the open window, curtains SWAYING  
 SOFTLY. Octavia's FOOTSTEPS approach. She WALKS INTO her  
 bedroom, CLOSES THE DOOR, and KICKS OFF HER SHOES under:

OCTAVIA  
 (muttering)  
 Poor Lepidus... Guess he's really  
 paying for his room now...

A MOVEMENT near the window; a footstep. Octavia is alert.

OCTAVIA (cont'd)  
Hello? Who's there?

Charmian STEPS FORWARD.

CHARMIAN  
It's me.

OCTAVIA  
Charmian?... What are you doing  
here? How did you get in?

CHARMIAN  
Big open window...

OCTAVIA  
Oh yeah. Well. What do you want?

CHARMIAN  
... To see you.

OCTAVIA  
Why?

CHARMIAN  
To apologise.

Octavia's stern demeanor melts away. She CROSSES to Charmian.

OCTAVIA  
Apologise...? No, Charmian, no. You  
were doing your job, I was a brat.

CHARMIAN  
Well, yes.

OCTAVIA  
Worse than a brat. Oh look, I'm  
sorry. I want to keep seeing you.

CHARMIAN  
I want that too.

OCTAVIA  
Well then! There's got to be a way.

CHARMIAN  
There isn't. That's why I'm here,  
and apologising. Because after  
tonight... we won't meet again.

OCTAVIA  
What? You're leaving Rome?

CHARMIAN  
If I'm lucky.

OCTAVIA  
(hurt)  
Wow.

CHARMIAN  
No! I didn't mean... I don't know  
what's going to happen to me. I  
can't tell you more than that.

OCTAVIA  
Wait, are you in danger, from her?  
Because of me?

CHARMIAN  
Come on, I wanted this as much as  
you did. It's not your fault.

OCTAVIA  
No, Charmian, listen, I've got to  
put things right for you.

CHARMIAN  
You really can't.

OCTAVIA  
Like, maybe - maybe I can take you  
away from her? Make her an offer?

Beat.

CHARMIAN  
An offer.

OCTAVIA  
Yes!

CHARMIAN  
You mean buy me.

OCTAVIA  
Yes! Well, no, it's not buying you;  
it would be buying your freedom.  
You could do whatever you wanted.

Beat.

CHARMIAN  
I don't want to be bought.

She MOVES to leave.

OCTAVIA  
 (flustered)  
 No, Charmian, I don't mean - I just  
 want to help, I want to be with  
 you! I'm... not used to feeling  
 like this! I don't know what to do!

CHARMIAN  
 Feeling like what?

OCTAVIA  
 Powerless!

Pause.

OCTAVIA (cont'd)  
 Can you stay a while?... Please?

Pause.

CHARMIAN  
 Yes. I can stay for a while.

9 INT. GAIUS'S OFFICE - NIGHT

9

Gaius has been reading for hours.

GAIUS  
 "That is why we may stand tall,  
 side by side, as comrades, as  
 countrymen. And is that not, in the  
 end, when all is said and done,  
 what it is to be ... a Roman?"

He PUTS THE SCROLL DOWN.

LEPIDUS  
 What time is it?

GAIUS  
 Two in the morning.

LEPIDUS  
 Yes, it did feel rather late...

GAIUS  
 So? What do you think?

LEPIDUS  
 Oh, er... Good! Yes. Very good.

GAIUS  
 "Very good." Is that all?

LEPIDUS  
 Oh, don't get me wrong, I enjoyed it! You could cut an hour or two from the middle, but it's cogent, well-articulated and convincing.

GAIUS  
 You really think so?

LEPIDUS  
 Yes and you delivered it extremely well. It's an excellent speech for, may I say, an excellent plan.

GAIUS  
 It is, isn't it!

LEPIDUS  
 In fact I'm boggled we didn't try it sooner! The best way to get the senators to give us all their money is simply to ask them for it!

GAIUS  
 Yes!

Beat. Sudden doubt.

GAIUS (cont'd)  
 Yes... You know, it suddenly sounds a bit daft when you say it back to me. Come to think of it, Mark really wasn't keen at all...

LEPIDUS  
 Oh, you know Mark. He prefers the direct approach.

GAIUS  
 Some would argue that asking for the money is the direct approach.

LEPIDUS  
 Yes but he'd have sprinkled a few threats in there to keep it interesting.

GAIUS  
 Interesting.

LEPIDUS

I tell you, Gaius, it's a splendid idea. You know, to be honest, it's the sort of thing I'd think of!

GAIUS

... You would?

LEPIDUS

Absolutely. And, look at me, I'm a sensible sort of fellow, aren't I?

GAIUS

... Mmm.

LEPIDUS

If it gives you any confidence, It has the Lepidus stamp of approval!

GAIUS

Right.

Beat.

GAIUS (cont'd)

You know what, maybe I'll sleep on it. Give it another look tomorrow.

LEPIDUS

(yawns)

If you're sure, m'boy. Things always look rosier in the morning.

GAIUS

You going to bed?

LEPIDUS

No, think I'll curl up right here. Put the candle out won't you?

GAIUS

Sure... Goodnight, Lepidus...

Gaius EXITS, wracked with doubt, as Lepidus snuggles down.

10 **INT. OCTAVIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

10

GENTLE BREEZE plays on the CURTAINS. Octavia SLEEPS, SOFTLY. Charmian lies awake next to her.

CHARMIAN

(quietly)

... Octavia... Octavia?

OCTAVIA  
(asleep, murmurs)

Charmian gingerly SLIDES OUT OF BED and CREEPS across the floor, barefoot. She PICKS UP her CLOTHES and looks back at the sleeping Octavia.

CHARMIAN  
(quietly)  
I'm getting dressed now, Octavia.  
And then I'm going to slip outside.  
And close the door. And when I've  
done what I came here to do...  
you'll never want to see me again.

Octavia STIRS gently in her sleep, MURMURING SOFTLY. Beat.

CHARMIAN (cont'd)  
(softly)  
Goodbye, Octavia. I'm sorry.

11 **EXT. GAIUS'S HOUSE, GARDEN - NIGHT**

11

A peaceful night. CRICKETS. A NIGHT BIRD CALLS. Two guards APPROACH each other - DRUSUS and RUFUS.

DRUSUS  
Hey Rufus.

RUFUS  
Hey Drusus. Anything to report?

DRUSUS  
Nah. All quiet. Caesar's light went out a while ago, look.

RUFUS  
If I'd known guard duty was this easy, I'd have left the army years ago. Shame it's just a temp job.

DRUSUS  
Yeah. Been nice to have something to do for a few nights.

RUFUS  
If they don't pay us all soon...

DRUSUS  
I know, I know. Well. 'Night Rufus.

RUFUS  
'Night Drusus.

They PASS and WALK ON. RUSTLE IN BUSHES as Mark STEPS OUT.

MARK

Enterprising lads... Right, Mark.  
Here we go. Time for action.

12 INT. GAIUS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

12

Gaius is SLEEPING fitfully.

GAIUS

... no... we need money... no  
time... never time...

Suddenly, two hands GRIP the window ledge. GRUNTING WITH EFFORT, Mark CLAMBERS OVER THE SILL and into the room.

MARK

(quietly to self)  
Right then.

He CREEPS across to the bed, as Gaius murmurs in his sleep.

GAIUS

... got to get this done... before  
dinner...

MARK

He can't even relax in his sleep!  
Poor sod. Ah well. He'll be out of  
his misery soon enough.

UNSHEATHES DAGGER - SHING!

GAIUS

... too much... all too much...

Gaius ROLLS OVER in his SLEEP.

MARK

Oh, don't face away from me! I  
don't want to stab you in the...

Beat. The words hit home.

MARK (cont'd)

... in the back. Oh Gods. Why did  
it come to this, eh? Why did you  
have to be such a prick? Honestly.  
Why can't you be just a little bit  
less insufferable? You'd do a  
pretty good job otherwise. You  
know. With my help...

Resolve weakening. He pulls himself together.

MARK (cont'd)

No come on Mark. You've got to. You can't chicken out now. Just because he's young, and asleep, and unarmed and can't even defend himself... Oh this is so messed up. Divine Bacchus, if you're up there: what should I do?

Suddenly, the BEDROOM DOOR'S HANDLE TURNS.

MARK (cont'd)

Oh, crap!

He HURRIEDLY ducks behind the bed. The DOOR OPENS SOFTLY, and Charmian CREEPS IN, CLOSING IT BEHIND HER.

GAIUS

... Rome... stay away... stop crowding me...

Charmian CREEPS TOWARDS THE BED. She DRAWS HER DAGGER.

CHARMIAN

(quietly)

May the Gods forgive me for what I am about to do. It is not my will. But I do this in the name of my country and my queen.

Mark STANDS.

MARK

Could we talk about this first?

CHARMIAN

(surprised)

Aaargh!!!

Gaius JOLTS AWAKE.

GAIUS

Aaargh!!!

MARK

Aaargh!!!

GAIUS

(dazed)

What? Mark? ... Who's this?

Charmian drops her DAGGER to the FLOOR

CHARMIAN  
I - I'm no one! Please!

GAIUS  
(yells)  
Guards! Guards!

HEAVY FOOTSTEPS run down the corridor outside.

MARK  
No, don't worry! I'll handle this!

Mark GRABS CHARMIAN.

CHARMIAN  
No! Let me go! LET GO!!

GAIUS  
Mark, what are you doing here?!

MARK  
I'll explain later!

The guards KICK OPEN THE DOOR.

RUFUS  
Stop! Nobody move!

DRUSUS  
General Antony? We didn't know you  
were here-

MARK  
And what sort of response time do  
you call this?! If it weren't for  
me, this man would be paste by now!

GAIUS  
Look, what's going on? Who is she?

CHARMIAN  
I told you, I'm nobody!

MARK  
She's an assassin. See? She dropped  
her dagger when you woke up.

GAIUS  
An assassin...? She looks oddly  
familiar... Who are you? Speak!

CHARMIAN  
You cannot make me.

MARK

Don't worry, Gaius. They always talk tough at first.

CHARMIAN

Do your worst, Roman. I will not betray myself or my master!

Lepidus POPS IN.

LEPIDUS

Morning! Couldn't sleep with the hubbub. Oh hello Charmian! Does Cleopatra know you're here?

CHARMIAN

(as if swearing)  
Ah, Set.

GAIUS

Lepidus, you know her?!

LEPIDUS

Well of course I do! She stayed in my house. She's Cleopatra's right-hand, aren't you my dear?

CHARMIAN

Er...!

GAIUS

So! Cleopatra's right hand would plunge a dagger in me, eh? Thank you, Mark. If it wasn't for your quick-thinking, I'd be a dead man.

MARK

... Yeah. Er. No problem.

GAIUS

I'm glad you're still on our side! How'd you get onto her?

MARK

Ah, well. You know. Ways and means.

A drowsy Octavia ENTERS.

OCTAVIA

What's all the noise about? Can't a woman get some rest without...

(sees Charmian - gasps)  
... Charmian!

CHARMIAN

No!

GAIUS

Octavia? Do you know this girl?

OCTAVIA

What, no. Yes. No. What's happened?

GAIUS

She tried to assassinate me.

OCTAVIA

She did what?!

GAIUS

Guards - take her away. And tell no one of this. Understand? No one.

DRUSUS

Caesar.

RUFUS

Caesar.

OCTAVIA

Charmian, why?!

CHARMIAN

(distraught)

I'm sorry.

DRUSUS

Come on, you.

They MANHANDLE Charmian OUT OF THE ROOM.

LEPIDUS

Gosh, what a night this has turned out to be! Are you alright, Gaius?

GAIUS

I'm fine, Lepidus. In fact, I'm better than fine. This is the first lucky break we've had in ages!

MARK

How d'you mean?

GAIUS

At last Cleopatra's made a mistake! And we're going to make her pay!

**END OF EPISODE**