“CLEOPATRA: QUEEN OF KINGS”

BY

SCOTT WOODMAN
FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT - EVENING

A vast and foreboding desert, nothing but emptiness for miles.

A vicious SANDSTORM blows across the desert sands.

Crawling through the desert, we see a YOUNG WOMAN, late teens, impossibly beautiful.

She looks tired, ragged and worn down as she fights against the fury of Mother Nature.

Before the YOUNG WOMAN, we see something appear. Almost like a mirage, an OLD WOMAN appears and the SANDSTORM begins to calm down.

The OLD WOMAN stands over the YOUNG WOMAN.

OLD WOMAN
Child, one such as you does not belong on the ground like a beast.

The YOUNG WOMAN is dazed and confused as she stares into the eyes of the OLD WOMAN.

YOUNG WOMAN
Who are you?

OLD WOMAN
I come before you to remind you of who you are.

The YOUNG WOMAN continues to crawl.

YOUNG WOMAN
I am no one.

The OLD WOMAN shouts at the YOUNG WOMAN.

OLD WOMAN
Rise!

The YOUNG WOMAN ignores her.

OLD WOMAN
I will not pick you up child. You must do that for yourself.

A GUST OF WIND suddenly blows up at the YOUNG WOMAN.
She begins to lift herself to her feet.

The YOUNG WOMAN looks at the OLD WOMAN. It is hard to discern her appearance in the low light.

    YOUNG WOMAN
    What do you want from me?

    OLD WOMAN
    For you to be able to find the strength that I know you possess. The strength to inspire, to lead, to rule.

The YOUNG WOMAN turns away.

    YOUNG WOMAN
    Then you know nothing of me.

The SANDSTORM slowly begins to return.

    OLD WOMAN
    In time, a man will appear to you. You will follow him and he will follow you and you shall live as gods.

The SANDSTORM is nearly in full swing again. The OLD WOMAN is walking into the distance.

The YOUNG WOMAN watches her leave.

    YOUNG WOMAN
    You are mad!

    OLD WOMAN
    Make them remember who you are.

The OLD WOMAN is gone.

The SANDSTORM is back to full force. The YOUNG WOMAN struggles to walk through it.

Suddenly, we can hear the HOOVES of HORSES running across the sand.

THREE MEN ON HORSEBACK appear through the wind and sand. They are shrouded in rags like Bedouin or nomads. The leader, DEMETRIUS, steps forward.

    DEMETRIUS
    Take her.
The other men dismount from their horses. They take the YOUNG WOMAN, who is too weak to fight. They ride off through the SANDSTORM.

CUT TO:

EXT. ENCAMPMENT - EVENING

A large tent enclosure in the desert wilderness.

INT. ENCAMPMENT - EVENING

A dark tent. We can hear activity coming from various areas in the encampment.

The YOUNG WOMAN awakens.

A LEERING MAN stands over her.

He picks her up.

He sniffs her.

LEERING MAN
You smell foul.

He gropes her breasts.

LEERING MAN
(CONT'D)
But you have your uses.

The YOUNG WOMAN struggles against his advances.

YOUNG WOMAN
Take you're disgusting hands off me you filthy dog!

LEERING MAN laughs.

He picks up a VIAL filled with a STRANGE LIQUID.

He forces the liquid down her throat.

LEERING MAN
This should make you more...agreeable.

The YOUNG WOMAN begins to look tired.
LEERING MAN carries her into a corner, the corner is full of DRUGGED WOMEN.

He drops her into the pile of flesh and then leaves.

The YOUNG WOMAN falls into a deep trance as the bodies of the other women mingle with her own.

CUT TO:

EXT. ENCAMPMENT - EVENING

In the distance we can see a huge procession of INFANTRY and CAVALRY. As they near, we see that they are ROMANS.

A GROUP of MEN exit the MAIN TENT, led by DEMETRIUS.

The lead Roman Soldier, RUFIO, rides towards the group.

RUFIO
Who is in charge here?

DEMETRIUS steps forward.

DEMETRIUS
I am.

RUFIO looks at the storm clouds brewing in the sky.

RUFIO
Your food and water will now become our food and water.

DEMETRIUS looks angered.

DEMETRIUS
Says who?

RUFIO empties a BAG OF GOLD COINS in front of DEMETRIUS.

RUFIO
Says Julius Caesar of Rome.

DEMETRIUS bows.
INT. ENCAMPMENT - EVENING

A large group of ROMAN SOLDIERS enjoy the hospitality of DEMETRIUS who has prepared a banquet.

RUFIO approaches DEMETRIUS.

RUFIO
Caesar wishes to confer with you.

DEMETRIUS
As Caesar commands.

INT. CAESAR'S TENT - EVENING

A luxurious tent, decorated in Roman riches. Seated at a table is JULIUS CAESAR, early fifties, powerful and noble looking.

DEMETRIUS enters.

CAESAR
Ah, our generous host! Please join me.

DEMETRIUS sits across from CAESAR.

DEMETRIUS
I had heard of your campaign here in the east great Caesar. However, there is not much in the desert for you to conquer.

CAESAR
Nothing but sand. I see you have made a home here for yourself in spite.

DEMETRIUS
Not of my choosing great Caesar.

CAESAR is curious.

CAESAR
Really?

DEMETRIUS
I am descended from the Seleucid dynasty.
CAESAR understands.

CAESAR
I see. Then perhaps you and I share common goals.

DEMETRIUS
If your goal involves the removal of Ptolemy from Alexandria then, yes, we share common ground.

The LEERING MAN enters the tent followed by an ASSORTMENT of DRUGGED WOMEN.

CAESAR looks upon the women.

CAESAR
Ah, your hospitality knows no bounds Demetrius.

The DRUGGED WOMEN begin to dance for CAESAR and DEMETRIUS.

Among the group, is the YOUNG WOMAN.

DEMETRIUS
Anything for you great Caesar.

SERVANTS pour wine for CAESAR and DEMETRIUS.

CAESAR
I hear Ptolemy has decided to renew past histories with your people.

DEMETRIUS
Yes, we seek only peace but since his rule, Ptolemy has continued to drive my people further back from these regions.

CAESAR
And I seek only the unification of the free world. But enough talk of business. I must retire for the evening.

DEMETRIUS points to the WOMEN.
DEMETRIUS
Perhaps Caesar would like his 
evening to end on a more 
pleasurable note?

CAESAR scans the WOMEN. He notices the YOUNG WOMAN.

CAESAR
Perhaps.

LEERING MAN takes a hold of the YOUNG WOMAN and 
escorts her into CAESAR'S PRIVATE AREA.

CAESAR
(CONT'D)
We shall reconvene in the 
morning Demetrius. Consider 
our options.

DEMETRIUS
As you command great Caesar.

DEMETRIUS leaves.

INT. CAESAR'S PRIVATE AREA - EVENING

The YOUNG WOMAN is seated on the edge of the bed. She 
is trance like.

CAESAR enters.

He sits next to the YOUNG WOMAN.

CAESAR
My, you are quite beautiful.

He strokes her face.

He runs his fingers through her hair.

She suddenly SLAPS CAESAR in the face.

YOUNG WOMAN
How dare you handle me in such 
a manner!

CAESAR seems amused.
CAESAR
I had heard tales of women such as you but now that I see you...

The YOUNG WOMAN backs away from CAESAR.

CAESAR
My dear...I mean you no harm.

She is very aggressive in her tone.

YOUNG WOMAN
I do not fear you.

CAESAR is surprised.

CAESAR
Then why do you recoil so?

YOUNG WOMAN
Because you smell.

CAESAR laughs.

CAESAR
Yes, well, days of travel through desert heat and sand does tend to gather a little sweat.

CAESAR now seems curious of the YOUNG WOMAN, observing her poise.

CAESAR
You carry yourself differently from the other women. Your poise is more elegant, more refined. Where are you from originally?

YOUNG WOMAN
I am from nowhere.

CAESAR
Do you have a name?

YOUNG WOMAN
I give my name only to those who are fit to hear it.

CAESAR stands up.
CAESAR
Very well, I must retire for the evening. I will send for a chaperone to escort you back to your encampment.

The YOUNG WOMAN changes her tone.

YOUNG WOMAN
Why have you come here?

CAESAR
Perhaps if you feel more inclined to offer a little information to me then I may in return offer some to you.

The YOUNG WOMAN hangs her head.

YOUNG WOMAN
My name is Cleopatra.

CAESAR
Cleopatra?

CLEOPATRA
(quietly)
Yes.

CAESAR
That name would not be welcome around here.

CLEOPATRA
No, it would not. And now, tell me, why you are here.

CAESAR
To spread the word of Rome. To enlighten the peoples of the world, uniting them under the common banner of freedom and knowledge.

CLEOPATRA
So, you are here to invade.

CAESAR
I said nothing of the sort.
CLEOPATRA
You need not. There are many people in this world who would wish to remain as they are and as they were, free of the intrusions from others.

CAESAR now looks very interested in CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
You sound very wise for a vagabond girl.

CLEOPATRA is angered.

CLEOPATRA
How dare you insult me so!

CAESAR takes hold of CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
Who are you? Where do you come from?

CLEOPATRA fights against his strength.

CLEOPATRA
Unhand me!

CAESAR let's go of CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
I am no fool. I know of Ptolemy and the exile from Alexandria of his sister, Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA hides her face, as if she is ashamed.

CAESAR holds a hand out to CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
I am not here to invade nor to force myself upon you. But I do seek settlement in areas of injustice.

CLEOPATRA looks at CAESAR.

CLEOPATRA
What do you mean?
CAESAR
I have heard the rumours of your brother and his cruelty. These people who shelter us now are also subject to his unfairness. I seek to rectify the situation. Rome was the executor of your father's will. He would not be best pleased at the decline in reputation.

CLEOPATRA looks concerned.

CLEOPATRA
These people will kill me if they discover who I am.

CAESAR
I forbid it. You are now under the protection of Rome. Demetrius will do as I command.

CLEOPATRA
You are certainly a man of many words, but action is the requirement here. Not talk.

CAESAR
And you shall have it.

CLEOPATRA closes in on CAESAR.

CLEOPATRA
Tell me great Caesar, why do you wish to help me?

CAESAR
I told you so.

CLEOPATRA
And I too, am no fool. A man of your great power does not travel half the world to settle squabbles not of his making. Egypt has many riches.

CAESAR
Indeed.
CLEOPATRA
Then we can settle upon this. Reseat me on the throne of Egypt, and you, in return shall have the foundation of Egypt with which to continue the growth of your great Rome.

CAESAR
You certainly do not waste time on negotiation. I admire that in a man, but from a woman doubly so. It is agreed then. I shall arrange for my servants to tend to your needs for the evening.

CLEOPATRA
Thank you.

CAESAR
I must now take my leave of you, your majesty. Good night.

CAESAR exits.

CLEOPATRA stands, she takes one of Caesar's robes and drapes it over her shoulders.

CUT TO:

INT. CAESAR'S TENT - MORNING

CAESAR is writing on parchment at his table. DEMETRIUS is seated across from him.

DEMETRIUS
To think, she was in my midst all this time and I never knew. The Queen of Egypt, dancing before me like a wanton harlot! Ha!

CAESAR
I will enjoy less of that talk Demetrius. Whilst Cleopatra is here, she will remain in my charge.

DEMETRIUS seems wary.
DEMETRIUS
What of Ptolemy?

CAESAR
If you are suggesting that we arrange some sort of deal...

DEMETRIUS
I'm merely considering our options.

CAESAR hears people approaching from outside.

CAESAR
I think we will discover momentarily just how limited our options are, Demetrius.

Entering the tent is RUFIO, he is followed by MARK ANTONY, late thirties, strong and handsome.

Following ANTONY is OCTAVIAN, early twenties, lanky and arrogant looking. OCTAVIAN is accompanied by his Admiral, AGRIPPA.

ANTONY
Hail Caesar!

CAESAR
Antony, what news do you bring?

ANTONY
As we had assumed, Pompey sought refuge in the house of Ptolemy.

CAESAR seems eager at hearing the news.

CAESAR
And?

OCTAVIAN stands in front of ANTONY.

OCTAVIAN
And he is dead Caesar.

CAESAR slumps in his chair.

ANTONY presents POMPEY'S RING to CAESAR.

CAESAR holds POMPEY'S RING in his hand.
CAESAR
(sighs)
Pompey.

OCTAVIAN is oblivious to CAESAR'S dismay.

OCTAVIAN
I thought it would please you Caesar?

ANTONY steps forward.

ANTONY
And so did Ptolemy. The circumstances behind Pompey's passing were...undignified.

CAESAR waves his hand.

CAESAR
I need hear no more.

OCTAVIAN is insistent.

OCTAVIAN
Great Caesar, Pompey was a traitor to you and to Rome. Do not pity him.

CAESAR snaps.

CAESAR
That is no reason to forget the man's memory. Yes, Pompey had his failings but he at least deserved an honourable end. Not to be bandied about as some kind of bargaining chip. Like some piece of meat to be auctioned between greedy farmers.

DEMETRIUS stands before ANTONY and OCTAVIAN.

DEMETRIUS
Ptolemy and his advisors are diseased men, not fit of the mind.
ANTONY
(to CAESAR)
What course of action then
great Caesar?

CAESAR sighs.

CAESAR
Why else have we travelled the
world Antony? To wage war.

OCTAVIAN seems pleased.

OCTAVIAN
Great Caesar, Agrippa has our
armada prepared, ready to
strike at the Egyptian fleet
based at Alexandria.

ANTONY is in disagreement with OCTAVIAN.

ANTONY
(to CAESAR)
My infantry can attack the
palace from the land.

ANTONY points to a map.

ANTONY
(CONT'D)
These positions will make
suitable vantage points for an
assault against the city.

CLEOPATRA (O.S.)
Then your men will be crushed
before they even have a chance
to flee.

Everyone turns to face CLEOPATRA as she enters the
tent.

She is now cleaned up and far more regal looking than
her previous appearance.

CAESAR rises.

OCTAVIAN is the only man who does not notice her
beauty.

OCTAVIAN
Who is this?
CAESAR bows before CLEOPATRA.

   CAESAR  
   Your majesty.

CLEOPATRA walks towards the map of Egypt.

   CLEOPATRA  
   I am Cleopatra, kindred of Horus and Ra, daughter of Isis and rightful heir to the throne of Egypt.

DEMETRIUS smiles through his teeth.

   DEMETRIUS  
   And sire of the Ptolemaic dynasty.

CLEOPATRA addresses DEMETRIUS sternly.

   CLEOPATRA  
   I, Demetrius, am not my brother. He has declared his own authority. Not mine.

ANTONY looks on, stunned by CLEOPATRA'S beauty.

OCTAVIAN looks ignorant, dismissive of CLEOPATRA.

   OCTAVIAN  
   Anyway, we have matters not befitting of a woman to discuss. So if you'll please.

CLEOPATRA is not amused by OCTAVIAN'S blatant sexism.

   CLEOPATRA  
   Matters that will see you the laughing stock of Ptolemy's forces.

CLEOPATRA points to the map.

   CLEOPATRA  
   (CONT'D)  
   Your map is as old as your antiquated ways.

OCTAVIAN is offended.
OCTAVIAN
How dare you address the heir
to Caesar in such a manner!

CAESAR interrupts.

CAESAR
Enough. Cleopatra, please,
indulge us.

CLEOPATRA points to various areas of the map.

CLEOPATRA
The positions you suggest for
attack are directly in the
path of garrisons belonging to
Ptolemy's mercenary hordes.

CLEOPATRA now points to different areas of the map.

CLEOPATRA
(CONT'D)
I suggest these areas in order
to flank the garrisons. This
will distract the enemy,
allowing a surprise attack on
the palace.

OCTAVIAN laughs.

OCTAVIAN
A foolhardy approach. My
assault from the sea is more
than adequate to defeat
Ptolemy.

CLEOPATRA
On the contrary, it is
overkill. You will waste time
and effort better suited to a
land attack.

OCTAVIAN
Nonsense!

ANTONY interrupts.

ANTONY
She could be right Octavian.

CAESAR enters the group.
CAESAR
Ptolemy is prone to bouts of hubris. He believes himself untouchable. He will not be as well defended on land as he is at sea. I will not risk the unnecessary destruction of the armada.

AGrippa bows before addressing CAESAR.

AGrippa
My lord, there will be no unnecessary destruction. The Egyptian flotilla will be devastated.

CAESAR is decided, swayed by CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
I have made my choice.

OCTAVIAN bows.

OCTAVIAN
Very well, your word is final my lord.

CAESAR
Antony, you and Rufio shall prepare your divisions for the attack.

DEMETRIUS bows before the group, including CLEOPATRA.

DEMETRIUS
I too, offer my services Caesar. I owe much to Ptolemy. I am eager to repay him in kind.

CLEOPATRA
I will lead your men into the attack.

CAESAR approaches CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
Your majesty, I must object to your involvement in this campaign.
CLEOPATRA
Object all you want Caesar. I have been denied my throne for far too long. I will not be denied any longer.

CUT TO:

EXT. ENCAMPMENT - AFTERNOON

We see the ROMAN INFANTRY and ROMAN CAVALRY preparing to march out.

ANTONY inspects the troops accompanied by RUFIO.

RUFIO
Do you believe Caesar is committing more than is worth for Egypt?

ANTONY
There is much to be gained in an alliance between Rome and Egypt Rufio.

ANTONY notices CLEOPATRA entering CAESAR'S TENT.

ANTONY
(CONT'D)
Much indeed.

INT. CAESAR'S TENT - AFTERNOON

CLEOPATRA enters.

CAESAR motions to his SERVANTS.

CAESAR
Please, leave us.

The SERVANTS leave.

CLEOPATRA
Your men do not hold me in high regard.
CAESAR
(sarcastic)
You must excuse us poor, uncivilized, Roman barbarian's majesty. We are too busy squabbling over scraps of meat and coins of silver and gold to be concerned with the place of women in society. Other than in preparing food and housecleaning of course.

CLEOPATRA takes a seat.

CLEOPATRA
I cannot say that such ignorance causes me any distress. My beliefs do not permit it.

CAESAR
And what are your beliefs?

CLEOPATRA
Whilst I was in the desert, a woman came to me in a vision. I thought her mad at the time but have since changed my opinion.

CAESAR
How so?

CLEOPATRA
She said that I would meet a man. A man who would help me rise from the ashes that I had reduced myself to. I now believe the old woman to be Isis, in human form.

CAESAR
Your god?

CLEOPATRA approaches CAESAR.

CLEOPATRA
Yes. She proclaimed that I would follow a man who would in turn follow me.

CAESAR nears CLEOPATRA.
CAESAR
I follow no-one other than my own free will.

CLEOPATRA laughs.

CLEOPATRA
And who says I was referring to you?

CAESAR stands close to CLEOPATRA now.

CAESAR
You enter my quarters as if you were already Queen. You flaunt yourself to me, begging my help in returning you to past glories reminiscent of your kings of old. Yet you do not offer me any gratitude in return.

CLEOPATRA stands firm before CAESAR.

CLEOPATRA
How dare you!

CAESAR grabs CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
No, how dare you!

CAESAR kisses CLEOPATRA.

CLEOPATRA pulls herself away.

CLEOPATRA
I thought women were good only for preparing food and housecleaning?

CAESAR holds CLEOPATRA firmly in his arms.

CAESAR
They have other uses also.

They kiss each other passionately.

CUT TO:
INT. OCTAVIAN'S TENT - EVENING

OCTAVIAN paces back and forth. His tent is decadent and opulent in its decoration.

AGRIPPA is seated at a table.

OCTAVIAN
I would think him a madman if he did not hold the will of all Rome.

AGRIPPA
But you know that is not so, sir.

OCTAVIAN
True, the Senate has been restless of late.

AGRIPPA
Brutus and Cassius grow weary of their positions. They believe Caesar wishes to be proclaimed Emperor soon.

OCTAVIAN takes a seat at the table.

OCTAVIAN
There will no sooner be a king in Rome than there will be in Egypt. I know what that whore thinks. Luring him into her spider's web of mysticism and deceit. I know her plans. She has already ensnared the will of Caesar. Even the fool Antony listens to her...counsel.

AGRIPPA
What do you suggest?

OCTAVIAN
We will take Egypt as Caesar commands. We will take her and burn her to the ground.

CUT TO:
INT. CAESAR'S PRIVATE AREA - EVENING

CAESAR and CLEOPATRA are in bed together.

CAESAR
I am envious of your youth.
This old body is not what it once was.

CLEOPATRA
You are strong.

CAESAR
But I will not last forever.

CLEOPATRA
Isis proclaims that you and I will live as gods.

CAESAR
And I am sure we will in the afterlife. It is the during life that I am concerned with.

CLEOPATRA
You have lived life well.

CAESAR
But yet I have no legacy to leave upon this world. It is Octavian who is to carry on my name.

CLEOPATRA
You have no son's?

CAESAR
More than anything do I desire a son to carry on my name. To carry the glory of Rome to the world.

CLEOPATRA holds CAESAR'S hand.

CLEOPATRA
Then it shall be so.

They kiss.
INT. CAESAR'S TENT - EVENING

ANTONY enters. He is greeted by a SERVANT.

ANTONY
I must speak with Caesar.

INT. CAESAR'S PRIVATE AREA - EVENING

CAESAR is now robed.

CLEOPATRA is still in bed.

ANTONY stands in the doorway, as CAESAR approaches
him, he sees CLEOPATRA in the bed. The two briefly
make eye contact.

CAESAR
Yes Antony, what is it?

ANTONY
Caesar, Octavian has returned
to his armada.

CAESAR
His childish strops tire me.
Let him huff as he pleases.
What of your divisions?

ANTONY
Rufio is preparing our men to
march. We shall be in
Alexandria within two days.

CAESAR
Good. Then let me not keep
you from your duties Antony.

ANTONY bows.

ANTONY
Thank you Caesar.

ANTONY leaves.

CAESAR returns to the bedroom. CLEOPATRA sits up in
the bed.

CLEOPATRA
Problems?
CAESAR
My nephew has seen fit to take
leave of his duties. We shall
set out for Alexandria come
dawn.

CLEOPATRA
And then I shall be Queen
again.

CAESAR
Indeed you shall.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY
The ROMAN INFANTRY march in formation as the sun beats
down heavily upon them.

DEMETRIUS leads his NOMAD WARRIORS.

The ROMAN CAVALRY is led by RUFIO.

In front of RUFIO, rides ANTONY.

At the front is CAESAR, on horseback, wearing his
ceremonial battle armour. CAESAR is wearing POMPEY'S
RING around his neck.

CLEOPATRA rides by his side. She is also wearing
battle armour.

EXT. RIVER NILE - AFTERNOON
The ROMAN ARMY reach the vast expanses of the River
Nile.

CAESAR looks on in amazement.

CLEOPATRA
Beautiful is it not?

CAESAR
Not as beautiful as you,
majesty.

CUT TO:
EXT. MEDITERRANEAN SEA - EARLY EVENING

A HUGE ARMADA of ROMAN WARSHIPS sit restlessly on the open sea.

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - EARLY EVENING

AGRIPPA, standing up on deck, scans the horizon.

He goes below deck.

INT. OCTAVIAN'S CABIN - EARLY EVENING

OCTAVIAN lounges, eating grapes and drinking wine.

AGRIPPA enters.

AGRIPPA
Sir, we are ready to begin upon your command.

OCTAVIAN
Then I command you.

AGRIPPA bows and leaves.

OCTAVIAN continues to eat and drink.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - EVENING

The ROMAN ARMY march over a hill and we finally see ALEXANDRIA, a large walled city.

It is glorious to behold, except for the FLAMES we can see licking at the city from the sea.

ANTONY
Fire! In the city!

RUFIO
Who attacks?

CAESAR looks furious.

CAESAR
Octavian.
In the distance, we see OCTAVIAN'S ARMADA on the harbour.

CLEOPATRA charges out towards the city.

CAESAR

Cleopatra, wait!

ANTONY rears his horse and rides out after her.

CLEOPATRA charges at great speed now, towards the city.

CLEOPATRA

My city will not burn!

CAESAR looks on at the city. RUFIO and some LIEUTENANTS prepare BATTLE FORMATIONS amongst the ROMAN ARMY.

CAESAR

(to RUFIO)

March out.

RUFIO nods and shouts commands to the LIEUTENANTS, who in turn command the ROMAN INFANTRY and ROMAN CAVALRY.

The ROMAN ARMY move onwards to the city.

DEMETRIUS shout orders to his troops. They are less structured in formation than the Romans but that does not make them any less dangerous.

ANTONY catches up with CLEOPATRA.

ANTONY

My lady, we must fall back behind the line!

He points towards the CITY WALLS, something is approaching ANTONY and CLEOPATRA. Fast. A HUGE CLOUD OF SAND is created by whatever it is.

We hear the sound of HUNDREDS OF HOOVES RUNNING. As the HUGE CLOUD OF SAND gives way, we see PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY. They charge towards ANTONY and CLEOPATRA.

CLEOPATRA rides out to meet them. ANTONY follows behind her.

She is a woman possessed. She draws her SWORD, hacking and slashing wildly into her attackers.
ANTONY does his best to keep them off CLEOPATRA'S back.

RUFIO, leading the ROMAN CAVALRY charge as fast as they can towards ANTONY and CLEOPATRA'S position.

They soon overtake ANTONY and CLEOPATRA, the ROMAN CAVALRY clashing against PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY like crashing waves upon rocks.

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA become lost in the sea of horse and man.

DEMETRIUS and his troops enter the fray.

ANTONY orders DEMETRIUS.

ANTONY
Demetrius! Take your men out on the left flank!

DEMETRIUS nods, understanding. He leads his men around PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY.

On the BATTLEMENTS of the city, BALLISTA'S are being loaded by PTOLEMY'S ARMY.

HUGE SPEARS are fired from the BALLISTA'S into the ROMAN INFANTRY. They pierce through three, five, six men at a time. The ROMAN INFANTRY must briefly break formation to avoid the huge missiles.

CLEOPATRA is still fighting wildly against PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY.

ANTONY grabs CLEOPATRA by the arm.

ANTONY
My lady, there will be a time for fighting but not when you are like this!

CLEOPATRA continues to strike out.

CLEOPATRA
I will not allow my people to die!

ANTONY reassures her.
ANTONY
And they shall not! But we
need your head on its
shoulders, where it belongs!

CLEOPATRA regains herself and nods.

She and ANTONY return to RUFIO and CAESAR at the rear
of the ROMAN ARMY.

CAESAR
(to CLEOPATRA)
My dear, are you okay?

CLEOPATRA
Not at all.

The BALLISTA assault continues from the city wall.
There appear to be hundreds lined on the BATTLEMENTS,
firing missile after missile into the ROMAN ARMY.

ROMAN ARCHERS return fire against the BALLISTA'S but
are outmatched by sheer firepower.

PTOLEMY'S ARMY roll out CATAPULT'S on the TOWERS of
the wall and propel LARGE ROCKS at the ROMAN ARMY.

We follow the LARGE ROCKS as they CRASH and SMASH into
Romans and Ptolemites alike. MEN and HORSES are
thrown through the air by the devastation.

CLEOPATRA looks to the LARGE GATE leading into the
city.

CLEOPATRA
We must breach the gates!

CAESAR
Send out the turtle.

ANTONY smiles.

ANTONY
Send out the turtle!

DEMETRIUS and his troops attack PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY from
the left flank, distracting their attention.

Soon, the TURTLE is revealed from the midst of the
ROMAN ARMY. It is a formation of at least ONE HUNDRED
SOLDIERS, protecting their bodies with their shields,
creating a shell around them not unlike that of a
turtle's shell.
Then another TURTLE emerges. And another. And another.

There are now FOUR TURTLES, marching forward.

The TURTLES smash through PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY and PTOLEMY'S INFANTRY. They CUT and STAB through spaces in their shields. PTOLEMY'S INFANTRY cannot pierce the shell of the TURTLE.

PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY charge at the TURTLES, but SPEARS are revealed through the body of shields, goring the HORSES as they approach.

The TURTLES march forward, taunting in defiance of PTOLEMY'S ARMY.

The TURTLES reach the LARGE GATE.

The front shielding of the FRONT TURTLE is lowered and BATTERING RAMS are revealed. They begin to smash through the gate.

ANTONY
We have them! Charge!

The combined ROMAN ARMY charges towards the LARGE GATE.

On the run, PTOLEMY'S CAVALRY and PTOLEMY'S INFANTRY begin to scatter, fear of the might of Rome has gripped them.

As the LARGE GATE is torn apart, the ROMAN ARMY begin to spill into the streets of the city.

DEMETRIUS leads his troops in first.

DEMETRIUS
To the palace! To the palace!
We shall have vengeance!!

As CLEOPATRA enters the city, she is shocked to see the fire raging through the LIBRARY OF ALEXANDER.

She sees CITIZENS fleeing in panic from the blaze.

CLEOPATRA
We must help them!

CLEOPATRA rides out to the flames.
A SMALL CHILD is separated from her MOTHER by the flames.

CLEOPATRA leaps her HORSE through the flames. She bravely swoops the SMALL CHILD into her arms and places her in the SADDLE.

CLEOPATRA returns the SMALL CHILD to her MOTHER.

MOTHER
    Thank you! Thank you!

ANTONY rides to the side of CLEOPATRA.

ANTONY
    It is much too dangerous here, we must retreat from the flames before they spread.

CLEOPATRA
    If my people suffer it then so shall I! Water! We need water!

CLEOPATRA rallies troops to action.

They gather as much water as possible to help douse the flames.

The battle continues in the streets of the city.

The PALACE is now swarming in the shapes and sounds of battle as DEMETRIUS leads his troops into combat against PTOLEMY'S ROYAL GUARD.

The fires in the city are now coming under control thanks to CLEOPATRA.

A united front of SOLDIERS and CITIZENS combine under CLEOPATRA'S leadership, bringing water to and fro.

CAESAR rides next to ANTONY. He admires CLEOPATRA as she continues to help put out the fires.

CAESAR
    A born leader.

ANTONY
    She simply cares for her people.
CAESAR
To think Antony, what Rome could do with a woman of her stature. Her glory.

ANTONY
Rome, Caesar? Or you?

RUFIO approaches CAESAR and ANTONY.

RUFIO
My lords, Ptolemy has been killed.

CAESAR
I did not give orders for this.

RUFIO
Demetrius, sir...

CAESAR
Very well, it is done, no more can be said of it. To the palace then.

CLEOPATRA returns to ANTONY and CAESAR.

ANTONY
Well done, my lady.

CLEOPATRA is distressed by the damage done to the city in the battle.

CLEOPATRA
There will need to be much rebuilding. People's homes, the great library...

CAESAR
In time. Now we must attend to other matters.

CLEOPATRA
Ptolemy?

ANTONY
Slain. Demetrius.
CLEOPATRA

I did not wish it, but
Demetrius and his people
deserved their vengeance.

They ride out to the PALACE.

EXT. PALACE - EVENING

We see a LARGE GROUP OF SOLDIERS, led by AGRIPPA and OCTAVIAN. They approach the PALACE.

They meet with CAESAR.

CAESAR dismounts from his horse and approaches OCTAVIAN.

CAESAR

Explain yourself.

OCTAVIAN

My lord, I had been tracking a contingent of Pompey's remnant. They were plotting an attack on the city. They set alight the flotilla in the harbour thus in turn burning the city.

CAESAR

(suspicious)

And this...contingent. Where are they now?

AGRIPPA

Perished, great Caesar. In the fire.

CAESAR stands before the entrance of the PALACE, his back to OCTAVIAN.

CAESAR

Octavian, you are to return to Rome at once.

OCTAVIAN is shocked.
OCTAVIAN
But Caesar, Egypt will require administration in its hour of need.

CAESAR
Do not question my authority Octavian! I have asked of you to return to Rome, do not have me insist.

OCTAVIAN bows.

OCTAVIAN
Very well, Caesar. I shall return at once.

OCTAVIAN signals to AGRIPPA. They leave the PALACE.

ANTONY approaches CAESAR.

ANTONY
Do you think Oct -

CAESAR
No more will be spoken of it Antony. I will also require of you to return to Rome soon. In my stead.

ANTONY
You are staying in Egypt my lord?

CAESAR looks at CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
For the time being, yes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PALACE - DAY

CLEOPATRA stands on the steps of the palace, looking out at the city.

She is approached by two advisors, TOTH and APOLLODORUS.
TOOTH
Your majesty! It fills my heart with joy to see you return to your people. Where you belong.

APOLLODOROUS
Much has changed since you were last here highness.

CLEOPATRA
Yes, and I intend to change it once more. For the better.

CUT TO:

INT. CLEOPATRA'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

A grand and overpowering chamber, its scale is enormous. There is a THRONE AREA at the far end of the chamber. Today, a glorious ceremony is taking place.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE are in attendance.

CLEOPATRA is seated on the throne.

Presiding over the ceremonies is CAESAR.

CAESAR
By the will of the Senate and the people of Rome, I hereby declare Cleopatra, kindred of Horus and Ra, daughter of Isis... Queen of Egypt.

CAESAR places the REGAL HEADDRESS upon CLEOPATRA.

Everyone, including CAESAR, kneel before her.

CAESAR
Hail Cleopatra! Hail the Queen of Egypt!

The PEOPLE cheer.

ANTONY looks at CLEOPATRA, she looks more beautiful than anything imaginable.

CUT TO:
INT. ALEXANDER'S TOMB - EVENING

CAESAR stands before the tomb of the legendary Alexander.

CLEOPATRA enters.

CLEOPATRA
Many times have I seen you stand before him.

CAESAR
He conquered the world at thirty two. I, at fifty two, now seek only for the world not to conquer me.

CLEOPATRA
What do you mean?

CAESAR
There are many in this world who would seek to destroy that which I have worked and fought so hard to achieve. Even in Rome itself, I am not without opposition. Squabbling delegates in the Senate fighting for power as a pack of hungry dogs would, fighting for a scrap of meat.

CLEOPATRA looks to the tomb.

CLEOPATRA
Alexander sought to rule the world from Egypt.

CAESAR
Yes, but I am not from Egypt.

CLEOPATRA
Does it matter where you are from? What matters are your dreams, your ambitions.

CAESAR
Age replaces ambition with cynicism. Believe me Cleopatra, ambition fades in time.
CLEOPATRA
But not kingdoms. A kingdom
united under the common banner
of freedom and knowledge. You
said it yourself. One world.
One people. It is your divine
right.

CAESAR seems hesitant.

CAESAR
I am an old man Cleopatra, the
ties that bind me have become
too entwined with the hopes
and dreams of others. Many in
Rome have opposed my desire to
rule as Emperor. My destiny
it seems will not be
fulfilled.

CLEOPATRA
Your destiny is no longer your
own. It also belongs to
me...and the life I now carry.

CAESAR looks surprised.

CAESAR
What do you mean?

CLEOPATRA
I am with child, Caesar. Your
child. A child that will
carry on your legacy. A son
to fulfil your destiny. Our
destiny.

CAESAR sounds hopeful at the thought.

CAESAR
A son to rule Rome after I
have passed.

CLEOPATRA
A son to rule Rome,
Egypt...the world.

They embrace each other.
EXT. ROME - FORUM - DAY

The streets of ROME are cluttered with activity.

In the FORUM, stands a GROUP of SENATORS, amongst them are OCTAVIAN, BRUTUS and CASSIUS.

CASSIUS
It is true then?

BRUTUS
A boy.

OCTAVIAN
He and his Egyptian whore have named their son Caesarion. Little Caesar! What better name for one to sit upon the throne of Rome.

BRUTUS
There is no throne of Rome. Nor shall there ever be. Rome is a republic, and it shall remain so. Caesar can choose to remain a god in Egypt if he desires, but let his godly intent remain there along with his bastard and his...Queen of the Nile.

OCTAVIAN points to ANTONY, who approaches the group.

OCTAVIAN
(to BRUTUS)
The right hand of god approaches.

ANTONY stands before OCTAVIAN.

OCTAVIAN
Anyway, why would Caesar shame us poor mortals with his godly presence when he can send his servants to carry his word? A word that would have the freedom of our great republic removed.

ANTONY glares at OCTAVIAN.
ANTONY
(to OCTAVIAN)
Mind your tongue Octavian, it will likely have your head removed.

OCTAVIAN
More likely your sword Antony, for it is sharper and quicker to obey the will of its master...wherever he may be. Rome? Egypt? Who knows.

ANTONY steps closer to OCTAVIAN. Intimidating.

ANTONY
Does the news of Caesar's son upset you?

OCTAVIAN
(defiant)
Of course not.

ANTONY
The way you talk suggests otherwise.

OCTAVIAN stands closer to the SENATORS.

OCTAVIAN
Antony, I use my words where they are worth most. To the people of Rome. Remember that.

ANTONY walks after OCTAVIAN as the group disperse.

ANTONY
(To OCTAVIAN)
Octavian, the air is clean and fresh today. Might I suggest that for once in your life you breathe it in. Deeply.

CUT TO:
EXT. ALEXANDRIA - DAY

We can now see the city in the full light of day. Its scope is magnificent.

The fire damage has long since been repaired.

We can see the great lighthouse, the PHAROS, out on the HARBOUR.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

CLEOPATRA looks out at the thriving city of Alexandria.

CAESAR approaches her.

In the background, we can see a young boy, CAESARION (aged 4-7), playing with the HANDMAIDENS.

CAESAR
(to CLEOPATRA)
Beautiful, is it not?

CLEOPATRA
There is no place greater.

CAESAR
Ah, but you have not seen Rome.

CAESAR points to CAESARION.

CAESAR
(CONT'D)
Our son has not yet seen Rome. Caesarion, come forth!

CAESARION runs to his father.

CAESAR
A lesson for you my son.

CAESAR reveals POMPEY'S RING.

He places it on CAESARION'S FINGER.
CAESAR
(CONT'D)
What you do not let go, no-one can take from you. Remember that little king.

CAESARION
Thank you father.

CAESAR
Run along now, play.

CAESARION returns to the HANDMAIDENS.

CAESAR
Look at him, born to become a leader of men.

CLEOPATRA
Born to become a king.

CAESAR
I told you, that word is not tolerated in Rome.

CLEOPATRA
What do we have to fear Caesar? We seek only to enlighten and share.

CAESAR
Sharing is not something my associates are prepared to consider nor do very well even when prompted. I receive news daily from Antony, the Senate is not pleased at the state of affairs here.

CLEOPATRA
Let them bicker amongst themselves. Bring the power of Egypt to the people of Rome, show them the will of gods. The way the world could be and will be.

CAESAR is clearly smitten with CLEOPATRA.

CAESAR
You are a woman after my own heart.
CLEOPATRA
I thought I already had it?

CAESAR
You do my dear. You do indeed.

They embrace and look out at Alexandria.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROME - FORUM - DAY

The sun blazes down as HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS of CITIZENS line the streets.

At the steps beneath the Senate building, a THRONE has been erected.

Standing next to the THRONE on one side is ANTONY, on the other is OCTAVIAN.

Behind the THRONE are seated the MEMBERS OF THE SENATE. BRUTUS is amongst their number. Sitting beside BRUTUS is CASSIUS.

The SOUND OF THE MOB is deafening.

Something approaches.

We can hear a DEEP RUMBLE.

Soon, through the ARCH OF TITUS appear ONE HUNDRED EGYPTIAN CAVALRY.

They are pulling something behind them.

It soon appears through the arch.

A FIFTY FOOT GOLDEN SPHINX, an elaborate float constructed to present the majesty of Egypt to the people of Rome.

Seated upon the SPHINX FLOAT is CLEOPATRA, decorated in her most beautiful royal finery. Next to her is CAESAR, sitting between them is CAESARION.

The CITIZENS ROAR AND CLAP in celebration.

CASSIUS does not look pleased.

CASSIUS
This is in poor taste.
BRUTUS
I see no complaints from the
mob Cassius. And in Rome, the
mob makes all the difference.
Not one man...or woman for
that matter.

The SPHINX FLOAT approaches the THRONE.

OCTAVIAN looks on, unimpressed.

ANTONY is stunned by CLEOPATRA.

The SPHINX FLOAT soon stops.

CAESAR, followed by CLEOPATRA and CAESARION walk down
the steps of the huge float.

CAESAR approaches the THRONE.

ANTONY and OCTAVIAN bow before him.

CAESAR takes his seat on the THRONE.

The CITIZENS cheer.

BRUTUS and CASSIUS look displeased.

ANTONY bows his head before CLEOPATRA and CAESARION.

OCTAVIAN bows only slightly.

CLEOPATRA and CAESARION kneel before CAESAR.

The CITIZENS cheer again.

CLEOPATRA gestures for CAESARION to approach the
THRON E.

CAESAR lifts CAESARION and places him on his knee.

There is an EVEN LOUDER CHEER from the CITIZENS.

OCTAVIAN tries to hide his disgust.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAESAR'S VILLA - EVENING

CAESAR'S VILLA is a beautiful sight to behold. It
overlooks the River Tiber and gives off a cool glow in
the evening light.
INT. CAESAR'S VILLA - MEETING CHAMBER - EVENING

CAESAR paces through the room. He looks impatient.

CLEOPATRA is seated in the middle of the room.

Surrounding her are MEMBERS of the SENATE, including BRUTUS and CASSIUS.

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA make eye contact. They smile ever so slightly at each other.

CAESAR
Must I ask the permission of the Senate every time the people of Rome require tending to? Like a child begging to his parents for a treat?

CASSIUS stands.

CASSIUS
Are you, Caesar, suggesting that the Senate no longer debate the welfare of Rome? Are you suggesting an end to the process of Roman law, an end to democracy?

CAESAR
No one has strived harder for Roman law and democracy than I. I make the law Cassius. I debate the welfare of Rome and its people! Else you can remove this meaningless title of dictator that you have pinned to me like some merit badge for good behaviour.

BRUTUS stands.

BRUTUS
Surely Caesar recalls the symbolic nature of the title bestowed upon him? Honouring himself above all men. Indicating your willingness to put your people before even you. To serve Rome.
CAESAR
I have served all of my life
in the name of Rome, Brutus.
I have brought half of the
world under the rule of Rome.
Most of you owe your fortunes
and your lives to me.

CAESAR sits on the THRONE.

CAESAR
(CONT'D)
And now, you will owe me as I
command. You will appoint me
Emperor of Rome.

The SENATORS stand in shock. ANTONY breaks the
silence.

ANTONY
(to CAESAR)
Might I suggest great Caesar,
the day has been long and the
hour is now late.

CASSIUS exits along with BRUTUS.

CASSIUS
(to BRUTUS)
Too late for Rome.

The SENATORS leave the room.

ANTONY bows before CLEOPATRA.

ANTONY
On behalf of all, gracious
majesty, I thank you for your
generous hospitality.

CLEOPATRA rises.

CLEOPATRA
They resent my presence here.
That is why they deny Caesar
what is rightfully his.

CAESAR laughs.

CAESAR
My divine right? Let us see
the Senate debate that.
CAESAR leaves the room.

ANTONY
(to CLEOPATRA)
Are you sure of what Caesar wants, of what he really wants?

CLEOPATRA
I do not speak for Caesar.

ANTONY
But your gods, it seem, do.
Goodnight, your highness.

ANTONY leaves.

CLEOPATRA stands alone.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAESAR'S VILLA - GARDEN - DAY

CLEOPATRA sits in the garden.

CAESARION plays with the HANDMAIDENS. He runs right into OCTAVIAN who is entering.

OCTAVIAN
Careful little Caesar, you’ll do yourself an injury.

CLEOPATRA stands.

CLEOPATRA
Caesar is not here.

OCTAVIAN
Yes, I can see that.

OCTAVIAN walks around the garden.

OCTAVIAN
(CONT'D)
So, how does the splendour of Rome compare to your Egypt?

CLEOPATRA
I consider both a home to myself and my son.

OCTAVIAN steps closer.
OCTAVIAN
You really shouldn't.

CLEOPATRA stands firm.

CLEOPATRA
I don't like your tone Octavian.

OCTAVIAN
Why, I'm merely implying that Caesar does not like to sit still these days. It seems he makes his home wherever he lays his sword to rest. Or is that Antony's sword? Or yours perhaps?

CLEOPATRA
I would like very much for you to leave now.

OCTAVIAN smirks.

OCTAVIAN
I shall not keep you...Queen. Tell uncle I was looking for him.

As he leaves, he gestures to CAESARION who runs through the gardens.

OCTAVIAN
(CONT'D)
Lovely little boy, isn't he? He shouldn't run very far. Rome is very large, many places to become lost and alone.

CAESARION smiles to OCTAVIAN.

CLEOPATRA looks fearful for the first time.

CLEOPATRA
Caesarion, come to me.

CAESARION runs to CLEOPATRA.

OCTAVIAN laughs to himself and leaves.

CUT TO:
INT. CAESAR'S THRONE ROOM - EVENING

CLEOPATRA is seated.

CAESAR, followed by ANTONY, enters the room.

CAESAR does not look pleased.

CAESAR
They test my patience Antony.

CLEOPATRA stands and approaches CAESAR.

CLEOPATRA
What has happened?

CAESAR laughs to himself.

CAESAR
They have declared me Emperor, dear. Emperor of all the world! Ha ha!

CAESAR sits on his throne.

ANTONY approaches CLEOPATRA.

ANTONY
The Senate have granted Caesar position of Emperor for anywhere other than Rome.

CAESAR sighs.

CAESAR
I am tired of these meaningless titles!

CLEOPATRA puts her hand on CAESAR'S shoulder.

CLEOPATRA
Do not let this defeat you Caesar. Accept the Senate's offer.

CAESAR shakes his head.
CAESAR
And to what end? What awaits 
me after this other than a 
pointless existence, 
satisfying men weaker than I? 
To redo everything that I have 
already done? I cannot.

CLEOPATRA now stands strongly before CAESAR, sounding 
like the true leader she really is.

CLEOPATRA
It is what you have never done 
that awaits you! What you 
have yet to conquer! Caesar, 
kings and gods are not 
elected! They are born!

ANTONY steps forward, energised by CLEOPATRA'S 
passion.

ANTONY
She is right, Caesar. Let me 
serve at your side, with our 
combined might we can conquer 
a world so powerful and great 
that we can achieve a dream 
even beyond that of Alexander!

CLEOPATRA admires the enthusiasm in ANTONY.

CAESAR shakes his head again. His will deflated.

CAESAR
There was a time when Rome 
would have begged of me to 
rule absolute, but I was too 
stubborn or stupid to accept.

CLEOPATRA tries to reassure CAESAR.

CLEOPATRA
Caesar, what is Rome now 
except one jewel in a crown of 
many.

CAESAR snaps.
CAESAR
Rome is everything!
Everything to me! Please,
both of you, leave me. I wish
to be alone a while.

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA exit.

CAESAR sits in silence.

CUT TO:

INT. ROMAN BATH - EVENING

OCTAVIAN bathes, accompanied by VARIOUS SENATORS,
including BRUTUS, CASSIUS and DECIMUS.

OCTAVIAN
Has he accepted the offer?

BRUTUS
He will attend the Senate
tomorrow. Then we shall know.

OCTAVIAN
And if he refuses?

CASSIUS
I have said it before and say
it again. Rome is a republic,
no one man is an empire! We
shall hold firm by our beliefs
even if Caesar does not share
them!

BRUTUS nods his head in agreement.

OCTAVIAN leaves the pool.

OCTAVIAN
Nevertheless, I will become
involved. It would be
difficult for me to
remain...impartial. Good
evening gentlemen.

CUT TO:
EXT. CAESAR'S VILLA - GARDEN - MORNING

CLEOPATRA sits in the early morning light.

She watches as CAESARION plays on a WOODEN ROCKING HORSE.

ANTONY enters.

    ANTONY
    May I join you, majesty?

    CLEOPATRA
    Please do.

ANTONY sits next to CLEOPATRA.

    CLEOPATRA
    You have known Caesar longer than I. Did last night seem strange to you also?

    ANTONY
    Yes, it is not becoming of Caesar to give in so easily to the demands of others. Saying that, he has fought so very hard for these very same people. And for which he is rewarded very little, other than the meaningless titles he despises so.

ANTONY takes notice of CAESARION.

    ANTONY
    He is a strong boy. Egyptian and Roman blood. Quite a mixture. He will make a good leader.

    CLEOPATRA
    He will. The gods have said so.

    ANTONY
    You have strong beliefs in your gods?
CLEOPATRA
Of course, they have guided me throughout my life by their divine wisdom.

ANTONY
In my experience, there is not much luck to be had in hoping for divine intervention when the cold steel of a sword is inches from your heart.

CLEOPATRA
You hold little faith then?

ANTONY
Only in myself, majesty. Only in myself. Highness, forgive me, but I find that instead of looking to the skies above for guidance or hope even, it pays better to look a little closer to home.

CLEOPATRA
Right now, I am not sure of where my home is. I have tried very much for Caesar's sake to be happy here in Rome.

ANTONY
And you are not?

CLEOPATRA
There are many...individuals who it would seem go out of their way to make my time here very difficult. I should feel happy here with Caesar and my son, but right now, I feel very alone.

ANTONY points to CAESARION.
ANTONY
(CONT'D)
You have a strong son. He
looks to you for that
strength. Be not alone for
the love he holds for you
could blossom a thousand
flowers for a thousand years.
He has you to thank for that
love. Care not what these
fools think. Octavian,
Cassius. The only love they
know is dependant upon how
much they pay. Or are paid.
You are stronger than that.

CLEOPATRA
Thank you, Antony.

ANTONY
No, your majesty. Thank
yourself. Each of us has the
strength within us to overcome
anything. You just have to
know where to look.

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA smile at each other.

CAESAR enters the garden, accompanied by SERVANTS.

CAESAR
There you are!

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA rise.

CLEOPATRA
You seem different this
morning.

CAESAR
Yes, I slept rather well last
night. I have decided to
reject the offer of the
Senate.

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA look shocked.

ANTONY
You are sure, Caesar?
CAESAR
Of course I'm sure, I've never been more sure of anything in my life. The Senate must accept my role as Emperor of Rome.

CAESAR takes CLEOPATRA aside.

CAESAR
Since you came into my life you have changed me. Awoken my eyes to possibilities hitherto unseen.

CLEOPATRA
What do you mean?

CAESAR
You told me of your vision. Of your prophecy from the gods. That you would follow a man and he in turn would follow you. To become gods themselves.

CLEOPATRA smiles.

CLEOPATRA
Yes. I am so far from home now that I sometimes forget of myself.

CAESAR
Cleopatra, the whole world will be our home now. And our son...the future.

CAESARION runs to CAESAR.

CAESAR
(to CAESARION)
And you my little king, little Caesar, do you remember what I once told you? What you do not let go -

CAESAR points to POMPEY'S RING on CAESARION'S hand.

CAESARION
No-one can take from you.
CAESAR laughs.

CAESAR
Spoken like a true king. Run along now and play. Upon my return this evening I shall read more to you of the great Alexander.

CAESARION
Goodbye father.

CAESAR
Goodbye my son.

CAESARION returns to the WOODEN ROCKING HORSE.

CAESAR walks to ANTONY.

CAESAR
Come Antony, let us have this over and done with.

CLEOPATRA holds CAESAR'S ARM.

CLEOPATRA
Be careful.

CAESAR
Gods fear nothing. You have taught me that much. Goodbye my love.

CLEOPATRA
Goodbye.

They kiss each other.

CAESAR leaves.

CLEOPATRA approaches ANTONY.

CLEOPATRA
Do not leave his side.

ANTONY BOWS AND LEAVES.

CUT TO:
EXT. SENATE - DAY

CAESAR and ANTONY approach the entrance to the grand SENATE building.

ANTONY
(to CAESAR)
The fate of all Rome lies in your hands Caesar.

CAESAR
Then let us not dawdle.

They climb the steps.

DECIMUS appears and approaches ANTONY.

DECIMUS
Antony! Antony! I must speak with you at once!

DECIMUS takes ANTONY to one side.

CAESAR continues to the SENATE.

ANTONY
(to DECIMUS)
Is this really necessary?

DECIMUS
It is a matter of great urgency. Come.

ANTONY
Very well.

DECIMUS and ANTONY leave.

As CAESAR enters the SENATE, he is greeted by BRUTUS and CASSIUS.

BRUTUS
Welcome, Caesar.

The doors to the SENATE are closed shut as CAESAR enters.

CUT TO:
INT. CAESAR'S VILLA - AFTERNOON

CLEOPATRA sits with CAESARION. Together they study books and an ATLAS ENCASED IN GLASS which is on the TABLE.

    CLEOPATRA
    And one day my son, you shall rule all of this.

    CAESARION
    I wouldn't know what to do with it all, mother.

CLEOPATRA laughs.

    CLEOPATRA
    You will one day. You will. You are as wise as your father.

    CAESARION
    And as strong as you, mother?

    CLEOPATRA
    You have more strength within you than I could ever know, dear Caesarion. You have strength enough for all the world.

RUFIO enters. He looks distressed.

    RUFIO
    My lady...

    CLEOPATRA
    (to CAESARION)
    Go off and play now my child.

CAESARION leaves.

RUFIO hurriedly approaches CLEOPATRA.

    CLEOPATRA
    What is it Rufio?

    RUFIO
    My lady...my lady. Caesar. Caesar has been murdered.

CLEOPATRA is speechless. She slumps to the floor.
RUFIO tries to help her to her feet.

CLEOPATRA
I...I...do not believe it.

RUFIO
It is true. Killed in the Senate by Brutus, Cassius and other senators who now flee.

CLEOPATRA
Where is Antony?

RUFIO
He seeks them now even as we speak.

CLEOPATRA takes a seat at the TABLE.

RUFIO
(CONT'D)
My lady...can I do anything for you?

CLEOPATRA
No. Thank you Rufio. You may leave.

RUFIO bows and then leaves.

CLEOPATRA sits for a moment and then SMASHES the ATLAS ENCASED IN GLASS against a wall.

She breaks down into tears.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROMAN - FORUM - EVENING

HUNDREDS OF CITIZENS are gathered as CAESAR'S BODY is set at a FUNERAL PYRE.

ANTONY, accompanied by many CENTURIONS and SENATORS, throws a LIT TORCH onto the PYRE.

The FUNERAL PYRE ignites. The flames illuminate the forum in the darkness.

The CITIZENS are cheering and crying in equal measure, their sounds soon become a cacophony, drowning out the sound of funeral fire.

In the shadows, we can see CLEOPATRA.
She wears a DARK ROBE which shrouds her face.

She stands alone as she watches her great Caesar burned.

CUT TO:

EXT. HARBOUR - EVENING

CLEOPATRA'S GOLDEN BARGE is being loaded by SERVANTS with SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT and FURNITURE.

The majestic PURPLE SAIL of the barge blows lightly in the breeze.

CLEOPATRA is being attended to by HANDMAIDENS.

She looks out at the sea.

ANTONY appears behind her.

ANTONY
Why do you run away?

CLEOPATRA
In Egypt we build monuments worthy of the gods themselves to honour our dead kings. Here you burn them. I have never felt more alone than I do now.

ANTONY
You have nothing to fear. I will protect you and Caesarion both.

CLEOPATRA
(scathing)
Protect us! Ha! I know that you declared Octavian as rightful heir to Caesar. He must be delighted.

ANTONY tries to justify.

ANTONY
It was Caesar's will! If Octavian had not been named, how long do you think it would have been before they came for you and your son?!
CLEOPATRA turns her back to ANTONY.

CLEOPATRA
What does it matter now? The
dream of Caesar's was murdered
along with him. I have
nothing now except for my
people in Egypt. Where I
belong.

ANTONY holds CLEOPATRA'S arm as she tries to walk to her ship.

ANTONY
And what if Caesarion could
lay claim to Caesar's legacy?

CLEOPATRA
Ha! Who in Rome would settle
that dispute?

ANTONY
I will present it to the
Senate myself if I must.

CLEOPATRA
You would be laughed out of
court!

CLEOPATRA continues towards her ship.

ANTONY watches as she walks away.

ANTONY
Is this how Cleopatra, Queen
of the Nile, stands before her
enemies? In defeat, cowering?
That is not the woman I saw in
Egypt, fighting so hard to
protect her people. Defiant,
strong. A goddess.

CLEOPATRA stops in her tracks, her back to ANTONY. We can see tears swell in her eyes.

CLEOPATRA
I thank you for your kindness
Mark Antony. Farewell.

She boards her ship.

ANTONY watches as she leaves.
EXT. MEDITERRANEAN SEA - EVENING

CLEOPATRA'S FLOTILLA sails out across the rocky waters.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S BARGE - EVENING

CLEOPATRA looks out at the fading coastline of Italy. She cradles CAESARION in her arms. She weeps to herself.

FADE TO BLACK

CUT TO:

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - DAY

We move across the skyline of Alexandria.

INT. ALEXANDER'S TOMB - DAY

CLEOPATRA stands before the tomb. Next to her side is her advisor, TOTH.

TOOTH
The crops have prospered since your return highness. Truly, the gods shine down upon us.

CLEOPATRA seems distant.

Another advisor, APOLLODOROUS, enters.

APOLLODOROUS
News reaches us of Rome, highness. The triumvirate has suffered a blow. Octavian has forced Lepidus into exile. It seems he is now only one step away of assuming sole control of Rome. His ambition, it would seem, knows no bounds. Antony's legions do not have strength enough if Octavian forces his hand.

CLEOPATRA does not seem concerned.
CLEOPATRA
And what business is this of mine?

APOLLODOROUS steps forward.

APOLLODOROUS
Majesty, with the wealth of Egypt behind him, Antony could take the fight to Octavian. It will not be long before Octavian convinces the Senate that Egypt poses a threat to Rome's stability. We must be prepared for such inevitability.

TOTH interrupts.

TOTH
Talk of such things is not wise. Rome should be an ally of Egypt. Warmongering leads to only one fate.

CLEOPATRA begins to walk away. Disinterested.

CLEOPATRA
I have little interest in the affairs of Rome.

APOLLODOROUS
But highness, it could bring Caesarion one step closer to his rightful place as heir to the Roman Empire.

CLEOPATRA
Caesarion's rightful place is here. In Egypt. With me.

CLEOPATRA now seems curious to APOLLODOROUS' eagerness.

CLEOPATRA
(CONT'D)
I sense an ulterior motive behind your eagerness to inform me of Roman politics Apollodorous. What is your real reason for disturbing me?
APOLLODOROUS bows.

APOLLODOROUS
My apologies, majesty. Mark Antony wishes an audience. He is on his way to Alexandria even as we speak.

CLEOPATRA laughs.

CLEOPATRA
To beg at my feet? To crawl before me, begging forgiveness, when it was he who allied himself to Octavian's destiny and not Caesarion's? I will entertain Antony, if only for my own personal amusement.

CUT TO:

INT. CLEOPATRA'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

Seated on TWO THRONES are CLEOPATRA and CAESARION (now aged 10-14). They are surrounded by SERVANTS and ADVISORS, including TOTH and APPOLODOROUS.

Approaching the throne is ANTONY accompanied by RUFIO, another General CANIDIUS and a SMALL GROUP OF SOLDIERS.

ANTONY stands before the joint rulers of Egypt.

CLEOPATRA looks unimpressed.

CLEOPATRA
The great Mark Antony. Defender of the people. Defender of Rome. Champion of the late, great Caesar. On whose authority do you stand before the rule of Egypt?

ANTONY
By the Pro Consul of Rome.

CLEOPATRA
Ah, the Pro Consul of Rome. And you are the lap dog?

ANTONY is insulted.
ANTONY
How dare you!

CLEOPATRA
No, how dare you! You come to me under a pretence, when all you really want from me is wealth. You are a whore Antony. Is Caesar's name worth so little to you now? That you come before me now expecting gratitude, accepting Rome's offer of allegiance? In the name of Octavian, the great Caesar Octavian?! Oh yes, I have heard his blasphemies travel afar.

Everyone in attendance seems uncomfortable at the lack of CLEOPATRA'S restraint.

ANTONY remains calm.

ANTONY
Might we discuss of this in private?

CLEOPATRA
Might we? Perhaps. I shall treat you to the wealth of Egypt. A glorious banquet in your honour, Mark Antony.

CUT TO:

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PRIVATE CHAMBER - EVENING

A huge chamber, luxurious beyond comparison. Bedroom, study and dining room in one.

ANTONY is seated across from CLEOPATRA at a LARGE DINING TABLE.

A SERVANT pours wine for the two.

The SERVANT leaves.

There are TWO EMPTY PLATES in front of ANTONY and CLEOPATRA both.

ANTONY
Are we to dine this evening?
CLEOPATRA
But of course.

CLEOPATRA removes TWO PEARL EARRINGS.

CLEOPATRA
I received these as a tribute from Eastern Kings.

She removes the PEARLS from the EARRINGS.

They shine miraculously in the light.

ANTONY
They are marvellous. They must be worth a hundred servants at least.

CLEOPATRA SWALLOWS a PEARL and takes a drink of wine.

ANTONY is stunned.

CLEOPATRA
At least.

CLEOPATRA takes the remaining PEARL and places it on ANTONY'S PLATE.

ANTONY stares at the PEARL.

CLEOPATRA looks amused.

CLEOPATRA
Are you not hungry?

ANTONY
I cannot eat this!

CLEOPATRA
Of course not. You hold wealth above all. To me, it is without worth. It is nothing. To you it is everything.

ANTONY stands.

ANTONY
I did everything I could for you. I stood before the Senate, I laid claim for Caesarion. I tried with all my might.
CLEOPATRA
Your might it seems was not strong enough. Not as strong as your greed. A three way split of the empire. My, it surely must have tested your might then! And this, triumvirate, you call it? This three way rule. Tell me why you agreed so easily to share with the likes of Octavian?

ANTONY hammers his fist down on the table.

ANTONY
Do not speak to me of matters you have no involvement in! Rome tore itself apart after Caesar's death. What could I do? What could I do? Octavian's allies are many. I had no choice but to offer my support to Octavian!

CLEOPATRA
And now that Octavian has chased away your last remaining ally, Lepidus, you come crawling back to Caesar's last hope? Caesar's Egyptian whore Queen.

ANTONY is now enraged.

ANTONY
I showed you nothing but respect! Respect! When the swine's of Rome looked down upon you, I was there to hold you high! To hold you as the goddess Caesar proclaimed you.

CLEOPATRA sits down.

CLEOPATRA
And therein lays the problem. I am no goddess. I believed in the vision of my gods. That Caesar and I would live eternal. They were wrong. I am no goddess.
ANTONY resumes his seat. And his calm.

ANTONY
You are a woman. Nothing more. Nothing less.

CLEOPATRA
And what are you Antony?

ANTONY hangs his head in shame.
Averting his gaze from CLEOPATRA.

ANTONY
A coward.

CLEOPATRA looks ANTONY in the eyes.

There is an indescribable electricity between the two. A magnetism.

A chemistry that was not evident even between Cleopatra and Caesar.

CLEOPATRA
I remember the first time I saw you. I was very young. You had helped my father, Auletes, reclaim his throne. You were a hero. I was very much impressed.

ANTONY
And I was very much younger.

CLEOPATRA
(smiling)
Now you are starting to sound like Caesar.

ANTONY
If only I was half the man. Caesar taught me everything I know. He was like a father to me. I would love for nothing more than to see his dreams fulfilled.
CLEOPATRA
There is nothing to stop you. Antony. I remember the passion in your voice when you spoke to Caesar of exceeding the dreams of even the great Alexander. I realise now that the dream did not die with Caesar. It lives on in people like you and me. Antony, I will offer you the wealth of my kingdom. In return, offer Caesarion your share of Rome.

ANTONY laughs.

ANTONY
And declare war against Octavian in the process?

CLEOPATRA
How long before he declares it against you?

ANTONY
And you, Cleopatra, what do you get out of this?

CLEOPATRA
To see the future of this world as Caesar had hoped. A world united. A world as one.

ANTONY
I see why Caesar admired you so. You have such passion. Your eyes hold hope and...faith.

CLEOPATRA
I thought you did not have faith?

ANTONY is now looking deeply into CLEOPATRA'S eyes.

ANTONY
Well, I suppose it's like I told you one time. You just have to know where to look.

ANTONY leans forward. He kisses her. CLEOPATRA hesitates slightly, but soon let's herself go.
They kiss passionately, throwing themselves onto the LARGE DINING TABLE.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER NILE - AFTERNOON

An exotic looking FISHING BOAT sails on the Nile.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - AFTERNOON

ANTONY and CAESARION are fishing in the Nile.

CLEOPATRA sits and watches them. She is tended to by her HANDMAIDENS and SERVANTS.

CAESARION catches a fish.

ANTONY
Little Caesar. You impress even me! That's the sixth fish you have caught this afternoon and yet I have caught none!

CAESARION laughs.

CAESARION
That's because you hold the fishing rod like a sword! You should not be fighting the fish! Let the fish come to you.

ANTONY looks back at CLEOPATRA.

ANTONY
He has much of his father in him.

CAESARION hooks another fish.

ANTONY
Ah, another one! Show me little Caesar, I am but a simple brute with a sword.

CAESARION places ANTONY'S hands around the rod.

CAESARION
Hold like this.
CLEOPATRA whispers into the ear of one of her SERVANTS.

The SERVANT smiles and leaves.

CAESARION continues to teach ANTONY.

    CAESARION
    Now, you must be patient.

ANTONY throws a glance to CLEOPATRA.

    ANTONY
    Definitely not one of my virtues.

Suddenly, ANTONY'S fishing line tugs.

    ANTONY
    I...I've got one!

ANTONY and CAESARION both pull on the line. A LARGE FISH is pulled up.

    ANTONY
    My goodness! He's enormous!

Except the fish isn't moving.

CLEOPATRA is joined again by her SERVANT, who appears somewhat wet.

ANTONY prods the fish.

    ANTONY
    (to CAESARION)
    I'm sure their still supposed to be alive when you pull them out of the water!

    CAESARION
    This one looks ready to cook!

ANTONY looks at CLEOPATRA and smiles.

    ANTONY
    Indeed.

CLEOPATRA laughs and smiles back.

    CUT TO:
EXT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - EVENING

CLEOPATRA and ANTONY walk around the huge mausoleum.

ANTONY
So, these are the great monuments you build to honour your kings.

CLEOPATRA
Or Queens.

ANTONY smiles.

ANTONY
Or Queens. I must be very privileged. Seeing all the great secrets of Cleopatra.

They walk around to the back of the mausoleum.

ANTONY
Here, let me show you another one.

CLEOPATRA pushes a stone in the wall of the mausoleum.

A SECRET DOOR opens.

They enter.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - BURIAL CHAMBER - EVENING

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA emerge into a marvellous room decorated in gold, laden with Egyptian treasure.

In the centre, is a LARGE SARCOPHAGUS.

ANTONY is awestruck.

ANTONY
Truly befitting of the Queen of Kings. This is where you will be laid to rest when your time comes?

CLEOPATRA
Both of us. If you wish it.

ANTONY kisses CLEOPATRA.
ANTONY
I wish it.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - EVENING

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA emerge from the BURIAL CHAMBER into the main chamber of the mausoleum.

It looks like the wealth of Egypt is kept here.

ANTONY approaches a FRUIT BASKET.

ANTONY
(to CLEOPATRA)
Hungry?

CLEOPATRA sees ANTONY open the FRUIT BASKET.

CLEOPATRA
No! Don't open that!

As ANTONY opens the lid, an ASP rears, ready to strike.

CLEOPATRA runs over to the FRUIT BASKET.

CLEOPATRA
Do not move.

She stares at the ASP, drawing its gaze from ANTONY.

She almost seems to be controlling it, the snake begins to coil itself back up and return inside the FRUIT BASKET.

CLEOPATRA replaces the lid.

ANTONY wipes the sweat from his brow.

ANTONY
Fond of snakes are you?

CLEOPATRA
They are revered in Egyptian society. It is said that if one is to receive the bite of an asp that they shall be granted immortality.
ANTONY
Well, I'd rather not put that to the test.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROME - DAY

Business as usual in Rome. Large rain clouds appear, briefly blocking out the sun.

INT. OCTAVIAN'S HOME - DAY

A flamboyant residence full of BUSTS OF OCTAVIAN. Ego centric.

OCTAVIAN is being attended to by many FEMALE SERVANTS. The height of decadence being displayed before our eyes.

Enter AGRIPPA, followed by his captain GALLUS. GALLUS is a brooding hulk of a man. Not much for talking.

They are escorting Cleopatra's advisor, TOTH.

OCTAVIAN
Ah, the Alexandrian.

TOTH bows before OCTAVIAN.

TOTH
Caesar.

OCTAVIAN
My ears do bleed every time you speak to me. Please be brief.

TOTH produces a SILVER COIN.

OCTAVIAN examines the coin. His expression soon turns to one of anger.

OCTAVIAN
This is the final insult.

TOTH looks like a dog expecting a treat.

TOTH
My family and I? We may have the villa you promised?
OCTAVIAN stands.

OCTAVIAN
Indeed you may, Toth. You have served your Caesar well.

TOTH kisses OCTAVIAN'S hand repeatedly.

TOTH
Thank you great Caesar, thank you!

OCTAVIAN
(disgusted)
Yes, yes, enough. You're not in Egypt anymore. We have manners here.

TOTH bows and then leaves.

AGrippa
What now?

OCTAVIAN grins.

CUT TO:

INT. SENATE - DAY

Every tier of the Senate is crammed full of SENATORS. Amongst them is a prominent senator, GERMANICUS.

This morning's debate is being held by OCTAVIAN.

OCTAVIAN
Rome has reached the end it would seem.

GERMANICUS
What do you speak of August Caesar?

OCTAVIAN
I speak of the people who would see her name and glory fall for the sake of their own. I speak of the people who desert their birthright, their heritage in order to honour the heritage of others. I speak of the traitor Mark Antony!
GERMANICUS
This is not true, Mark Antony
is a hero of the Roman people!
Avenger of Julius Caesar!

OCTAVIAN
True, he did avenge the death
of my illustrious predecessor.
Antony, it would seem, is
quite intent on following in
the footsteps of the great
Julius Caesar. Would it shock
you, fellow Romans, to learn
that Antony has taken the
Egyptian slut for his wife?

A DISPLEASED SENATOR stands.

DISPLEASED SENATOR
Nonsense! We will not have
the same problems we had
before!

GERMANICUS mediates.

GERMANICUS
If Mark Antony has taken
Cleopatra for his wife then
what right do we have to
oppose that? He is his own
man. He at least has that
right.

OCTAVIAN
But not the right to give
Roman land to the bastard who
has no rights under Roman law.

GERMANICUS
What?

OCTAVIAN presents a SACK.

He empties the SACK out onto the SENATE FLOOR.

DOZENS OF SILVER COINS pour out.

GERMANICUS examines one of the coins.

It is a ROMAN DENARI bearing the face of Antony and
Cleopatra.
OCTAVIAN
It seems this is legal tender now in various Roman provinces. Yes, it seems an Egyptian owns one third of our great Republic. The Egyptian whore Queen has tangled yet another of Rome's heroes into her web of deceit and lies. She is a witch! A witch. And soon this witch will come for you all. All of Rome. Unless we take action now!

The DISPLEASED SENATOR is looking through the COINS.

DISPLEASED SENATOR
This is an outrage!

The SENATORS stand, angered by this news. They now become very rowdy.

GERMANICUS punches his arm in the air.

GERMANICUS
There can be only one course of action.

OCTAVIAN bows before the Senate.

OCTAVIAN
The people of Rome demand it. And I will deliver it.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOTH'S VILLA - EVENING

A serene looking villa in the countryside.

The downpour of rain is tremendous. CRASHES of lightning followed by the LOW RUMBLING GROWL of thunder.

We see HORSES and CENTURIONS approaching the villa.
INT. TOTH'S VILLA - BEDROOM - EVENING

TOTH sleeps with his WIFE.

A BABY is cradled in a COT.

TOTH'S eyes open.

OCTAVIAN hovers menacingly above him.

    TOTH
        Caesar?

OCTAVIAN plunges his SWORD into TOTH'S heart. TOTH suddenly gasps for air as the life is sucked out of him.

We see some CENTURIONS enter accompanied by the brute GALLUS.

    OCTAVIAN
        (to CENTURIONS)
            Egypt is an enemy of Rome.
            Leave none alive.

OCTAVIAN leaves as the CENTURIONS draw their weapons.

TOTH'S WIFE awakens.

She screams as she sees her dead husband.

GALLUS stands above the BABY in the COT. He draws his sword.

EXT. TOTH'S VILLA - EVENING

OCTAVIAN climbs up onto his HORSE.

From inside the VILLA we can hear the sound of CHILDREN screaming.

AGrippa approaches OCTAVIAN.

    OCTAVIAN
        Have the armada ready for launch. Prepare for war.

They ride out together.

The screaming from TOOTH'S WIFE stops.
EXT. ALEXANDRIA - HARBOUR - DAY

CLEOPATRA and ANTONY walk out along the harbour. There is a huge assembly of ships docked. They are approached by RUFIO, CANIDIUS and Antony's ship captain, MARCUS.

MARCUS marvels at the size of the fleet.

MARCUS
It is true then?

ANTONY embraces MARCUS in a hug.

ANTONY
I'm afraid so, my old friend.

RUFIO
To be at war with Rome is madness.

CLEOPATRA
Octavian declared war first Rufio. Not us. We merely answered the call.

CANIDIUS
Then do we invade Italy? Take the fleet straight to Rome?

ANTONY
We will meet them at Actium. If Octavian wants war, then we shall give him a war worthy of remembrance. Marcus, you shall serve with me, my good friend. Rufio, Canidius. You already have your orders.

RUFIO and CANIDIUS bow. They leave, followed my MARCUS.

CLEOPATRA
I want to stand by your side.
ANTONY
No. You must remain at the rear of the fleets. Hold the line. One thing I have learned about war, it does not pay to wear your heart on your sleeve. Swords first, hearts second.

CUT TO:

EXT. ACTIUM - DAY

FOUR HUNDRED WARSHIPS sit on the sea of Actium. This is ANTONY'S ARMADA. Comprising of Roman and Egyptian ships, they are led by ANTONY'S WARSHIP.

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAY

ANTONY looks out at the armada.

CLEOPATRA stands by his side.

ANTONY
That it has come to this. I am full of sorrow.

CLEOPATRA
This is not of your making.

ANTONY
Perhaps.

RUFIO approaches with CANIDIUS.

RUFIO
The fleet is ready.

CANIDIUS
They will be here by dawn.

ANTONY
Then we shall meet them.

CANIDIUS points out to various areas of the ocean.

CANIDIUS
Agrippa will try to outflank us. A vice manoeuvre.
RUFIO
He will use this as a
distraction, whilst he leads a
detachment out to reach Egypt.

ANTONY
He shall not set foot on
Egypt's shores. Rufio, you
will take your fleet on the
left flank and force them
back. Canidius, you will take
the right flank and push their
ships into Rufio's fleet. I
shall feign a withdrawal, but
will then take my fleet behind
Agrippa, pushing him into our
combined fleets. We will
crush them into each other.

CLEOPATRA
And Octavian, will he rear his
head?

ANTONY
He is a coward. He will not
show his head lest I remove
it.

CUT TO:

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

The ocean is calm. The sun rises bringing with it a
golden sheen to the cold blue water.

On the horizon, we can see OCTAVIAN'S ARMADA. There
are at least THREE HUNDRED SHIPS. They are smaller in
size than their opponents but are faster and more
nimble.

There are THREE SECTIONS of ships, one hundred ships
per section.

ROMAN FLEET ONE is on the left and ROMAN FLEET THREE
is on the right.

ROMAN FLEET TWO, led by OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP, is in the
centre section.

The flag of OCTAVIAN'S INSIGNA, A GOLDEN EAGLE, blows
in the wind.
EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP -DAWN

ANTONY sees OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

ANTONY
You are full of surprises...Caesar.

MARCUS approaches ANTONY.

MARCUS
Antony. We are in position now to fall back.

ANTONY
Captain, move the fleet out now! Straight down the middle towards that bastard!

MARCUS looks confused.

MARCUS
But my lord, that was not part of our plan?!

ANTONY
I am changing the plan!

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

ANTONY'S ARMADA is split into FOUR SECTIONS.

ANTONY'S FLEET is in the centre. RUFIO'S FLEET and CANIDIUS' FLEET to his left and right respectively.

CLEOPATRA'S FLEET brings up the REAR FLANK.

ANTONY'S WARSHIP begins to move out, followed by his fleet.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

CLEOPATRA looks out at the vastness of the Roman fleet.

She is approached by her commander, RAMOS.
RAMOS
My lady, lord Antony, he moves out ahead of the fleet.

CLEOPATRA
Why? He was supposed to fall back, to convince Agrippa that he was retreating.

EXT. RUFIO'S WARSHIP - DAWN

SOLDIERS use MIRRORS to communicate between the ships. Flashing light like not unlike a Morse code.

RUFIO watches as ANTONY'S WARSHIP races out.

RUFIO
(surprised)
What is he doing?

EXT. CANIDIUS' WARSHIP - DAWN

CANIDIUS spots the reason ANTONY'S WARSHIP moves with haste. He spots the central warship with the GOLDEN EAGLE flag.

CANIDIUS
Octavian. He is here.

A SHIP CAPTAIN approaches CANIDIUS.

SHIP CAPTAIN
General, what orders?

CANIDIUS
We will proceed as planned. Send the fleet out to meet the right flank.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

CANIDIUS' FLEET moves out to the right flank to meet ROMAN FLEET THREE.
EXT. RUFIO'S WARSHIP - DAWN
RUFIO looks frustrated, confused at Antony's actions. He shouts to his CAPTAIN.

RUFIO
We have our orders. Take the left flank!

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN
RUFIO'S FLEET moves out to the left flank to meet ROMAN FLEET ONE.
ANTONY'S WARSHIP followed by his fleet continues on into the centre, straight towards OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP and ROMAN FLEET TWO.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S WARSHIP - DAWN
CLEOPATRA watches as the fleet break out into their battle formations.

RAMOS
My lady, what do you command?

CLEOPATRA
We must hold this position at whatever cost. That fleet must not reach Egypt.

RAMOS
Yes, my lady.
RAMOS moves out, shouting orders to his men.

CLEOPATRA looks out at ANTONY'S WARSHIP.

CLEOPATRA
Antony.

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAWN
ANTONY does not remove his gaze from OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP. There is a look of solid determination in his eyes.
MARCUS approaches. He is pleading in his tone.

    MARCUS
    My lord, at least let me order
    half our fleet into our
    original position.

ANTONY snaps.

    ANTONY
    No!! If we kill Octavian
    here, now, we can end this war
    before it even begins!

MARCUS looks unconvinced.

INT. OCTAVIAN'S CABIN - DAWN

The DOOR to the cabin opens. AGrippa enters.

OCTAVIAN sits with his feet up on a table, relaxing while TWO WOMEN play HARPS.

    AGrippa
    Great Caesar. Antony has
    taken the bait.

    OCTAVIAN
    Then turn the ocean red with
    the blood of treachery,
    Agrippa.

AGrippa bows and leaves.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

RUFIO'S FLEET moves closer to ROMAN FLEET ONE.

EXT. CANIDIUS' WARSHIP - DAWN

The SHIP CAPTAIN approaches CANIDIUS.

    SHIP CAPTAIN
    Rufio's ships are in position
    General.
CANIDIUS
We can not crush this armada together, not with Antony in the middle. What is he thinking!

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN
ANTONY'S FLEET clashes with ROMAN FLEET TWO.

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAWN
ANTONY shouts orders to his men.

ANTONY
Fire ballista's!!

BALLISTA'S are fired from the warship at the enemy.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN
We see HUGE SPEARS firing from ANTONY'S FLEET into ROMAN FLEET TWO.

However, ROMAN FLEET TWO is made up of smaller and faster ships. They are able to sail quickly in order to avoid too much damage.

EXT. RUFIO'S WARSHIP - DAWN
RUFIO watches as ANTONY'S FLEET engages with the enemy.

RUFIO shouts to his CAPTAIN.

RUFIO
Bring the archers out! We cannot use the ballista's for fear of hitting Antony's fleet.

The CAPTAIN nods.

We soon see ARCHERS lining the sides of the ship.
They open fire upon ROMAN FLEET ONE.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

HUNDREDS OF ARROWS are loosed from RUFIO'S FLEET into ROMAN FLEET ONE.

We see ROMAN SOLDIERS falling from their ships as they are hit with the arrows.

Meanwhile, ANTONY'S FLEET continues its reckless assault on ROMAN FLEET TWO.

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAWN

The BALLISTA'S continue to fire. And they mainly miss their targets.

   MARCUS
   My lord, they are too fast.
   We cannot do damage enough!

ANTONY shouts to MARCUS.

   ANTONY
   Then we shall slow them down.
   Overshoot with the ballista's!

MARCUS nods in acknowledgment.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

Now the HUGE SPEARS from ANTONY'S FLEET begin to make contact with the ships of ROMAN FLEET TWO.

They violently pierce the hulls of the ships, breaking and splintering wood in all directions.

In the distance, we see CANIDIUS' FLEET moving towards ROMAN FLEET THREE.
EXT. CANIDIUS' WARSHIP - DAWN

CANIDIUS shouts to the SHIP CAPTAIN.

CANIDIUS
Do as Rufio. Use the archers!

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

The ARCHERS of CANIDIUS' FLEET open fire on ROMAN FLEET THREE.

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAWN

They are closing on OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

ANTONY
Faster! Faster! Row this tub faster!!

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

We can now see a large aerial perspective of the battle.

There is chaos and mayhem everywhere. The blue of the ocean water can barely be seen for the barrage of boats assailing each other.

RUFIO'S FLEET is forcing ROMAN FLEET ONE back.

CANIDIUS' FLEET is unable to perform the intended plan of pushing the Roman fleet into each other and now tries to push them back instead.

OCTAVIAN'S ARMADA seems more concerned with leading ANTONY'S ARMADA astray, like a game of tag.

ANTONY'S FLEET is in the midst of chaos amongst ROMAN FLEET TWO.

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAWN

They are right on OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

ANTONY
Ram them! Ram their fleet!
EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

ANTONY'S FLEET has encircled ROMAN FLEET TWO.

The large ships of ANTONY'S FLEET begin to ram the smaller ships of ROMAN FLEET TWO.

Behind this carnage, we can see CLEOPATRA'S FLEET. They are waiting.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

CLEOPATRA watches the mayhem unfold.

CLEOPATRA
(to RAMOS)
Something is not right. The Roman's offer little contest.

RAMOS points into the distance, we can now see a fourth Roman fleet appear, led by a LARGE FLAGSHIP. This fleet, ROMAN FLEET FOUR, is made up of about TWO HUNDRED SHIPS.

EXT. CANIDIUS' WARSHIP - DAWN

There is pandemonium as fire is returned between opposing ships.

CANIDIUS spots ROMAN FLEET FOUR.

They are heading straight for CANIDIUS' FLEET.

CANIDIUS
More Roman ships attack!

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAWN

SOLDIERS throw large HOOKS and ANCHORS into the hull of OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

They begin to raise planks in order to board.

While this is happening ARCHERS from both ships fill the air with arrows.
The SOLDIERS try and duck out of the way but many are hit.

ANTONY gets ready to board OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP. He draws his sword.

INT. OCTAVIAN'S CABIN - DAWN

OCTAVIAN continues to sit in a state of utter relaxation.

We can hear the sounds of battle surround him but he appears unperturbed.

The TWO WOMEN continue to play gentle music on their HARPS. OCTAVIAN reads to himself the affairs of Rome.

    OCTAVIAN
    (to himself)
    Drop the levels of taxation in the eastern district?! Are they mad?! Honestly, I turn my back on Rome for one second and they seek to drain us dry!

OCTAVIAN laughs to himself.

EXT. ANTONY'S WARSHIP - DAWN

ANTONY in full swashbuckling mode, swings from a rope onto -

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - DAWN

ANTONY lands on deck. He is followed by his SOLDIERS who climb aboard.

ANTONY cuts his way through the ENEMY ARCHERS and ENEMY SOLDIERS, making his way to Octavian's cabin.

INT. OCTAVIAN'S CABIN - DAWN

OCTAVIAN is smooching with the TWO WOMEN, pouring wine over them.
EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

Again, we have another aerial perspective of the battle.

RUFIOS FLEET successfully keeps ROMAN FLEET ONE at bay.

CANIDIUS' FLEET appears muddled amongst ROMAN FLEET THREE. We can see ROMAN FLEET FOUR closing to join with ROMAN FLEET THREE. As it does, at least ONE HUNDRED SHIPS split off and head towards CLEOPATRA'S FLEET.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

CLEOPATRA sees the ships headed for her fleet. She shouts to RAMOS.

CLEOPATRA
Prepare for battle!

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - DAWN

ANTONY hacks and slashes his way through the enemy, truly demonstrating his skill with a blade

INT. OCTAVIAN'S CABIN - DAWN

OCTAVIAN continues to laugh and play with the TWO WOMEN.

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - DAWN

Blood splashes and limbs fly as ANTONY cuts a swathe of devastation down to where the main cabin is.

Seizing his sword handle in a tight grip, ANTONY approaches the CABIN DOOR. He can feel his hour is at hand. He kicks the door open.
INT. OCTAVIAN'S CABIN - DAWN

The door opens.

OCTAVIAN casually turns his glance towards the door.

Standing in the doorway is not Antony as we expected but is instead AGRIPPA.

AGRIPPA
My lord, I have dispatched half of our fleet to join the battle. We head now for their rear flank. Egyptian ships.

OCTAVIAN
Cleopatra. Good.

OCTAVIAN exits the cabin and climbs up the stairs to -

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

We can see the battle raging in the distance.

We now realise that this ship belongs to ROMAN FLEET FOUR and not ROMAN FLEET TWO as we were led to believe.

OCTAVIAN
Agrippa, bring me Egypt.

AGRIPPA smiles.

AGRIPPA
With pleasure.

They speed towards CLEOPATRA'S FLEET.

INT. CABIN - DAWN

ANTONY stands in the cabin, surrounded by FIVE PRAETORIAN GUARD, led by GALLUS.

These men are the best of the best and ANTONY knows it. They draw their swords.

They simultaneously launch into attack towards ANTONY.
ANTONY defends himself in the confined space as best he can. He parries each attack, unable to return the violent gestures as the onslaught is too much.

ANTONY picks up a TABLE to block the attacks.

GALLUS, the brute, lunges with his sword and carves through the table but becomes stuck.

Using this to his advantage, ANTONY kicks the table, sending GALLUS flying into the PRAETORIAN GUARD.

GALLUS kills a PRAETORIAN GUARD in anger.

In the confusion, ANTONY manages to kill one of the guards leaving only three.

ANTONY quickly dives out of the cabin and runs back up to deck.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

ROMAN FLEET TWO has now surrounded OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

HUNDREDS OF ROMAN SOLDIERS begin to pour out of each ship onto the deck of OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - DAWN

The battle rages. MARCUS is now amidst the conflict, rallying the SOLDIERS as they continue to defend themselves.

ANTONY is chased onto the deck by GALLUS and the remaining PRAETORIAN GUARD.

They continue to fight, their bodies lost in the tide of soldiers in combat on the ship.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

We see CANIDIUS' FLEET. His large ships are sinking into the ocean as they are overwhelmed. They are in trouble and are being obliterated by the combined forces of ROMAN FLEET THREE and half of ROMAN FLEET FOUR.
They fire CATAPULTS at the ships of CANIDIUS'S FLEET. The hulls are blasted apart by the force of the CATAPULT attack.

EXT. CANIDIUS' WARSHIP - DAWN

CANIDIUS is fighting with ROMAN SOLDIERS who have boarded his vessel. His men are outmatched by the sheer number of ROMAN SOLDIERS.

    CANIDIUS
    We are lost!

CANIDIUS is violently stabbed to death by several ROMAN SOLDIERS.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

RUFIO'S FLEET is still in a stable position, fending off ROMAN FLEET ONE.

EXT. RUFIO'S WARSHIP - DAWN

RUFIO looks sorrowful as he sees the devastation which has been unleashed.

CANIDIUS' FLEET is destroyed.

ANTONY'S FLEET is devastated, their leader lost amongst the carnage.

RUFIO reluctantly orders his CAPTAIN.

    RUFIO
    Retreat. Fall back.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

We see RUFIO'S FLEET begin to fall back.
EXT. OCTAVIAN'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

OCTAVIAN and AGRIPPA survey the battle.

AGRIPPA
We have them on the run.

OCTAVIAN seems unconcerned as to the rest of the fleet.

OCTAVIAN
Antony is aboard my warship you say?

AGRIPPA
Yes sir.

OCTAVIAN
Then burn it.

AGRIPPA looks shocked.

AGRIPPA
But sir, our own men will be killed.

OCTAVIAN
A noble sacrifice to destroy the traitor of Rome. Burn it.

AGRIPPA gives orders to his men.

Using mirrors, they signal the other fleets of the armada.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

ROMAN FLEET THREE and half of ROMAN FLEET FOUR are upon the remnants of ANTONY'S FLEET and ROMAN FLEET TWO.

They begin to fire CATAPULTS containing BLAZING FIREBALLS.

The FIREBALLS smash into every ship in their path, igniting flames not only upon the ships but also on the water, so strong is their power.

OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP is hit.
EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - DAWN

FLAMES ERUPT onto the deck, many soldiers are caught in the blaze and burn, running about madly, jumping from the ship into the water.

ANTONY is fighting for his life. He catches a PREATORIAN GUARD off balance and runs him through.

GALLUS lunges forth and slashes ANTONY across the leg.

ANTONY recoils in pain.

GALLUS lifts his sword to strike another blow but is blocked by MARCUS, who intervenes.

A HUGE FIREBALL smashes down onto the deck, killing the remaining PRAETORIAN GUARDS. GALLUS dives out of the way. MARCUS pushes ANTONY out of the way.

    MARCUS
    My lord, our fleet is finished. We must retreat.

FLAMES surround them.

    ANTONY
    Retreat to where?

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

CLEOPATRA watches as the ocean burns.

She sees ROMAN FLEET FOUR, led by OCTAVIAN'S FLAGSHIP heading for them.

She is in turmoil. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP is sinking, consumed by flames.

    CLEOPATRA
    Ramos! Set sail for the fire. We must rescue as many as we can.

    RAMOS
    But my lady, Octavian will slip through!

CLEOPATRA sighs.
CLEOPATRA
Yes, I know. But if we do not act now then there will be no-one left to defend Egypt!

RAMOS
Are you sure you do this for the right reasons majesty. To abandon all for one man...it is -

CLEOPATRA
Say no more Ramos. Do as I command.

RAMOS bows and gives orders to his men.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

We begin to see CLEOPATRA'S FLEET move out, towards the raging fires of battle.

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

AGRIPPA watches as CLEOPATRA'S FLEET move towards the battle.

AGRIPPA
Cleopatra, she leaves.

CLEOPATRA
Let her. Let her burn with her lover.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

OCTAVIAN'S FLAGSHIP and ROMAN FLEET FOUR leave the battle and head out to sea.

CLEOPATRA'S FLEET is closing in on the carnage.
EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - DAWN

The ship is slowly sinking.

The deck is now consumed in fire and water.

SOLDIERS are now more concerned with saving their own lives than taking the lives of others.

Except GALLUS, who continues to pursue ANTONY and MARCUS up the MAST of OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

GALLUS is like an animal, he hacks and hacks relentlessly. MARCUS is kicking at GALLUS as ANTONY continues to climb, looking for a way to escape. He spots CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP approaching.

OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP is tugged at violently from the pull of the ocean. It sinks further into the depths.

ANTONY and MARCUS slip from the MAST, catching a hold of the RIGGING.

GALLUS leaps from the MAST onto the RIGGING.

It's two against one now as they sword fight on the ship's RIGGING.

GALLUS, with his sheer strength, cuts through the rope and cleaves a chunk out of MARCUS.

MARCUS screams and falls from the RIGGING, plummeting into the fiery ocean below.

    ANTONY
    Marcus!!

ANTONY is now enraged. He swings wildly for GALLUS.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN

CLEOPATRA stands with her sword drawn as they approach the burning hulk that was once OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP.

CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP pushes through the remains of burning hulls and flags, almost untouchable. A golden fist punching through the wreckage.

Her SERVANTS and SOLDIERS help any survivors from ANTONY'S ARMAMDA up onto the ship.
CLEOPATRA spots ANOTNY, fighting with GALLUS upon the RIGGING.

EXT. OCTAVIAN'S WARSHIP - DAWN
The flames have caught onto the RIGGING now, burning it quickly.
ANTONY and GALLUS climb to avoid the flames, still fighting each other.
GALLUS loses his footing and plummets into the flames below.
ANTONY leaps from the rigging towards the PURPLE SAIL of CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP. He stabs his sword into the sail, sliding down it.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S FLAGSHIP - DAWN
ANTONY tears his sword through the purple cloth and hits the deck.
CLEOPATRA turns to face him.
As she does, GALLUS, now a human fireball, climbs up onto the deck, screaming, charging towards CLEOPATRA and ANTONY.
ANTONY runs towards him but CLEOPATRA can handle herself.
She quickly spins with her sword, decapitating the burning GALLUS. He drops to the deck. RAMOS and some men kick his burning body overboard.
ANTONY looks out at the ocean.
Fires rage as ships sink into the waters below. The air is filled with thick black smoke. So much destruction and all for nothing.
ANTONY slumps.

        ANTONY
        I have failed.

CLEOPATRA pulls him to his feet.
CLEOPATRA
Not while Alexandria stands.
Not while Cleopatra and Antony
still live. Not while the
dream of Caesar still
survives. Ramos?

RAMOS
Yes, majesty?

CLEOPATRA
Set sail for Egypt. It's time
to end this.

EXT. ACTIUM - DAWN

The battle now over, CLEOPATRA'S FLEET set sail
towards Egypt.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - HARBOUR - EVENING

We can see the remains of RUFIO'S FLEET docked in the
harbour.

CLEOPATRA'S FLEET is docking.

ANTONY walks out along the dock. He sees RUFIO
approaching.

ANTONY punches RUFIO in the face.

ANTONY
Coward! What do you think you
were doing!

RUFIO
(angered)
No, Antony! No! What were
you doing?! We had a plan of
attack which you broke as soon
as you saw Octavian.

ANTONY
I am well aware of what I did
Rufio. Octavian was not part
of the plan. I took a chance,
which is more than I can say
for you.
RUFIO regains his composure, remembering that he is talking to his superior.

RUFIO
Yes, lord Antony. I can only say that I was concerned for the lives of my men.

ANTONY
And their loss will be remembered appropriately.

RUFIO bows his head.

RUFIO
Yes.

RUFIO walks away.

CLEOPATRA appears behind ANTONY.

She puts her hand on his shoulder.

ANTONY
He's right. I was a fool. So many lives lost in a moment of madness.

CLEOPATRA
It is too late now to dwell on it. They were brave men who died for what they believed in. They died for you Antony?

ANTONY
And not because of me?

CLEOPATRA
And if you had a second chance? Would you do the same?

ANTONY does not answer.

CLEOPATRA walks on.

ANTONY stands in the middle of soldiers tending wounds. His army is a wreck.

CUT TO:
INT. CLEOPATRA'S THRONE ROOM - EVENING

APPOLLODOROUS approaches ANTONY and CLEOPATRA.

APOLLODOROUS
Octavian is based on the island of Samos. He is preparing a large army.

CLEOPATRA
We have two full legions here.

ANTONY looks in despair.

ANTONY
It is not enough. Octavian has allies from here to Rome. We cannot match his strength.

CLEOPATRA
But we will nevertheless. We will meet Octavian.

CUT TO:

EXT. PALACE GARDEN - MORNING

CLEOPATRA and CAESARION sit in a small garden area. In the centre of the garden grows a LARGE TREE.

ANTONY is watching them both from a distance.

CAESARION
I wish I had known my father better.

CLEOPATRA
You already have much of him in you.

CAESARION
I am sad that he is not here.

CLEOPATRA points to a FRAIL LEAF which blows from a branch of the LARGE TREE.

CLEOPATRA
Your father was like that leaf there.

CAESARION
What do you mean?
CLEOPATRA
That leaf has neared the end of its life. It is ready to fall.

CAESARION
But, is that not a sad thing?

CLEOPATRA
Let's ask the leaf.

CLEOPATRA stands next to the FRAIL LEAF.

CLEOPATRA
Little leaf. Are you sad?

CLEOPATRA turns to her son and shakes her head.

CLEOPATRA
(CONT'D)
The leaf is not sad.

CAESARION
Why?

CLEOPATRA
Because the leaf has lived its life well, passing its strength and nourishment into this great tree. And this great tree will stand for a long time yet.

The FRAIL LEAF falls from the tree and joins a small pile of LEAVES on the ground.

CLEOPATRA
(CONT'D)
You see, now the leaf lies with others. They have all helped to make the tree strong. The leaf would be very happy.

CLEOPATRA puts her arm around CAESARION.

ANTONY watches and smiles to himself.

CUT TO:
INT. CLEOPATRA'S PRIVATE CHAMBER - DAY

ANTONY looks out at Alexandria.

CLEOPATRA approaches.

    CLEOPATRA
    You seem distant.

    ANTONY
    Have I been a fool Cleopatra? Have I doomed us all? The
    people expect me to act as a god would but I am no god. I
    am not even Caesar.

    CLEOPATRA
    You are a man. Nothing more. Nothing less.

APOLLODOROUS enters.

    CLEOPATRA
    Majesty, an emissary from the army of Octavian wishes an
    audience.

CLEOPATRA looks at ANTONY.

    ANTONY
    Bring them before us.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S THRONE ROOM - AFTERNOON

CLEOPATRA is seated with CAESARION and ANTONY. Standing to their side is RUFIO and APOLLODOROUS.

Approaching the throne is DEMETRIUS accompanied by some of his NOMAD WARRIORS and a small detachment of ROMAN SOLDIERS.

    CLEOPATRA
    Demetrius. The king with no home.

    DEMETRIUS
    I do not declare myself to be any king, majesty.

ANTONY points to the ROMAN SOLDIERS.
ANTONY
But you declare yourself an ally of Octavian?

DEMETRIUS
I ally myself only with those who have this kingdom's best interests at heart.

CLEOPATRA laughs.

CLEOPATRA
And you believe this of Octavian? That he has your best interests at heart?

DEMETRIUS
The wealth of my people has increased tenfold since we allied ourselves with Rome.

ANTONY
Money is not everything Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS steps closer.

DEMETRIUS
Great Caesar offers-

CLEOPATRA
I will not hear that name mentioned in association with your...master.

DEMETRIUS
Octavian...offers the great Cleopatra, Queen of Kings, a chance to end this dispute.

CLEOPATRA
Continue.

DEMETRIUS
Bring him the head of Mark Antony and he shall cease all hostilities against Egypt.

CLEOPATRA looks at ANTONY.
CLEOPATRA
Demetrius, go to your master
and tell him that I will see
my own head upon a spike
before I treat with the likes
of him.

DEMETRIUS smiles.

DEMETRIUS
I was hoping you would say
that.

DEMETRIUS nods to his NOMAD WARRIORS.

They suddenly spring into action and kill the ROMAN
SOLDIERS.

DEMETRIUS bows at the feet of CLEOPATRA.

DEMETRIUS
I am yours to command majesty.

ANTONY steps forward.

ANTONY
How many men do you have?

DEMETRIUS
I command one thousand men. A
mere pip in the field of
Octavian's tens of thousands.

ANTONY
How soon can they be here?

DEMETRIUS
As soon as humanly possible.

ANTONY
Then bring them as fast as
humanly possible.

DEMETRIUS bows and begins to leave with his NOMAD
WARRIORS.

CLEOPATRA
(to DEMETRIUS)
Thank you Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS turns.
CLEOPATRA
No, majesty. Thank you. You have restored the honour and glory of Egypt. For that, I am eternally grateful.

DEMETRIUS and his men leave.

INT. ANTONY'S CHAMBERS - EVENING
ANTONY sits looking at a MAP OF EGYPT.
RUFIO enters and approaches ANTONY.

RUFIO
My lord, do you really believe that this will work? Octavian musters all of Rome behind him.

ANTONY
If Octavian falls then his numbers will count for nothing.

RUFIO
(doubtful)
And then what? You and Cleopatra will simply pick up the reigns and resume control?

ANTONY
Rufio, just have your men ready for battle. Leave the politics to me.

RUFIO
Politics was never your speciality sir.

ANTONY
True, but politicians rarely have to stand on the battle field. I will. And I will make it count.
INT. CLEOPATRA'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - EVENING

CLEOPATRA watches as CAESARION sleeps.

ANTONY enters.

ANTONY
He looks so peaceful.

CLEOPATRA
I wish I could say the same.

CLEOPATRA walks over to the window and looks out at the city.

SOLDIERS are preparing for battle.

CLEOPATRA
(CONT'D)
The city is so quiet tonight. Yet, I find no peace in it. For I know the quiet precedes the noise of war. The sound of death. I do not want it Antony. I did not want any of this.

ANTONY
Are you saying that you regret all of this? That you regret Caesar? Myself? Caesarion?

CLEOPATRA
Of course not! I loved...I love you all. My people. My blood. My very soul. And tomorrow, it will stand for nothing!

ANTONY grasps a hold of CLEOPATRA.

He has a strong look of determination in his eyes.
ANTONY
Not while we still stand.
Remember your words? Not
while there is breathe in us
even to strike out. Yes, I
know that Octavian outnumbers
us. But let us lead by
example. What we do not or
cannot finish, others surely
will! I told you once that
the strength was within us
all. Not in the hands of
gods, or kings or queens. In
the hands of simple men.

CLEOPATRA
And women.

ANTONY
(smiling)
Yes. And women. We all have
that strength.

CLEOPATRA
We just need to know where to
look.

ANTONY points out through the window.

ANTONY
And tomorrow, my love, it is
out there. Our destiny is out
there. That is where we will
find it.

ANTONY and CLEOPATRA embrace and kiss each other.

CLEOPATRA
I love you.

ANTONY
And I love you too. With all
of my heart.

CUT TO:
EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

Outside the city is the army of Antony and Cleopatra, TWELVE THOUSAND STRONG, consisting mainly of INFANTRY but also a strong CAVALRY presence.

The army is led by ANTONY and RUFIO.

    RUFIO
    I see the nomad has deserted you.

    ANTONY
    Have faith, Rufio.

ANTONY rides out. RUFIO follows.

The TWELVE THOUSAND STRONG ARMY march out into the sand dunes of the DESERT.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

ANTONY and RUFIO ride up a LARGE SAND DUNE, as they come over the dune they see it -

We can not see the sand of the desert anymore for it is alive with the might of OCTAVIAN'S ARMY. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS STRONG, stretching for as far as the eye can see.

    RUFIO
    This is madness Antony! We should fall back to the city. At least there we can use its walls to hold them off.

    ANTONY
    I told you Rufio, I need only see Octavian, and then we can end this once and for all.

    CUT TO:

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - DAY

The city is deserted bar the EGYPTIAN ARMY which is lined on the walls and patrolling in the streets.
INT. CLEOPATRA'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

CLEOPATRA is looking out at the eerily quiet city. CAESARION stands by her side. APOLLODOROUS enters.

APOLLODOROUS
Majesty, Antony has met Octavian's forces. They shake the earth with their march.

CLEOPATRA
We will hold this city. Octavian shall not enter it.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

OCTAVIAN in battle armour leads his horse out into a clear spot of the desert, accompanied by his GENERAL. ANTONY and RUFIO approach them. Both armies remain still.

OCTAVIAN
Rufio. Rome has need of you.

RUFIO looks at ANTONY.

RUFIO
I'm sorry.

ANTONY rides towards OCTAVIAN. As he does, we can hear the TWELVE THOUSAND STRONG ARMY behind ANTONY march.

They march straight past ANTONY, and join up with OCTAVIAN'S ARMY.

ANTONY remains calm.

OCTAVIAN dismounts from his horse and approaches ANTONY.

ANTONY dismounts.
OCTAVIAN
I have granted Rufio leniency. I will offer you the same. I will not kill you. Instead, I shall parade you and your whore to all the territories of Rome. There you shall be mocked and shamed until you can no longer bear to look upon one another again. The shame will be so great that you'll wish I killed you. You see? I, the great Caesar, am a forgiving...king. A god even.

ANTONY
Would he forgive you though Octavian? The true Caesar?

OCTAVIAN
I am the true Caesar.

ANTONY points back in the direction of the city of Alexandria.

ANTONY
No, the true Caesar is there. In Alexandria.

OCTAVIAN begins to circle ANTONY.

OCTAVIAN
Well, that will be dealt with accordingly.

ANTONY
And Julius Caesar, was he dealt with accordingly?

OCTAVIAN
Your insinuations are tinged with the bitterness of a sore loser, Antony.

OCTAVIAN is standing behind ANTONY.

ANTONY
Your hands may not have held the dagger that killed him, but you played your part. Of that I have no doubt.
Suddenly OCTAVIAN PLUNGES A CONCEALED DAGGER into ANTONY' back.

ANTONY drops to the ground, gasping for air.

OCTAVIAN
You have no doubt do you?
Well, I have no doubt about
the fate of your Egyptian
Queen and her son. Perhaps I
will take her as my mistress
and her son as I my dog.

OCTAVIAN steps closer to ANTONY, playing with the DAGGER.

OCTAVIAN
(CONT'D)
I read your will Antony. In
it you wrote of how you wish
to be buried by her side,
here, in great Alexandria. A
Roman funeral here in Egypt.
For that, I would indeed be
happy to play my part.
Believe me when I say this
Antony, I would rather see
myself dead than see your last
will and testament granted.
I'll see you dragged to the
farthest reaches, spat on and
despised with all the venom
you so richly deserve. You
will never rest in peace with
her! Never! I would rather
die than see it!

ANTONY suddenly LUNGES forth, his SWORD drawn in a
blur.

The blade catches OCTAVIAN on the neck, slicing into
his skin.

OCTAVIAN staggers back, blood dripping from the flesh
wound.

The strength has fallen from ANTONY as he collapses
onto the sand.

In the background, we can hear a DISTANT RUMBLE, like
thunder.
OCTAVIAN looks over the sand dunes. The sound is not thunder.

It's DEMETRIUS' ARMY, ONE THOUSAND STRONG, mainly consisting of CAVALRY. ANTONY weakly smiles.

OCTAVIAN pulls himself back onto his horse and returns to his own troops.

OCTAVIAN shouts to his GENERAL.

OCTAVIAN
Wipe these vermin from the face of the earth!

The GENERAL shouts orders, which are repeated by COMMANDERS throughout OCTAVIAN'S ARMY.

They begin to move.

DEMETRIUS watches, he is not intimidated. He is willing to sacrifice his life.

He draws his sword and rears his horse.

DEMETRIUS
Charge!!!

DEMETRIUS' ARMY charge out to meet OCTAVIAN'S ARMY. The odds are not good for DEMETRIUS.

SWORDS, SPEARS, SHIELDS and BODIES are broken in the massive clash of flesh upon steel. However strongly they are outnumbered, DEMETRIUS' ARMY fight with a passion not shared by OCTAVIAN'S ARMY.

Separated from battle, ANTONY crawls weakly through the sand dunes.

He sees someone on horseback approaching him from the battle.

It is DEMETRIUS. He is pierced with TWO ARROWS. He reaches down for ANTONY, helping him up onto his horse.

DEMETRIUS
Go, be with your people.

DEMETRIUS jumps from the horse and makes sure that ANTONY is secure in the saddle.
ANTONY
Thank you, my friend.

DEMETRIUS slumps to the ground, the life draining out of him.

DEMETRIUS
Go!

He hits the horse.
The horse carries ANTONY away from the battle.

CUT TO:

INT. CLEOPATRA'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

CLEOPATRA waits patiently with her HANDMAIDENS and CAESARIAN.

APOLLODOROUS enters.

APOLLODOROUS
Your highness, our scouts bring news of the battle.

CLEOPATRA
(hopeful)
Antony?

APOLLODOROUS shakes his head.

APOLLODOROUS
No, my lady. I'm sorry. Octavian's army now march upon our city.

CLEOPATRA stands firm despite the bad news.

CLEOPATRA
Apollodorous, take Caesarion. I want you to leave the city with him.

APOLLODOROUS nods.

APOLLODOROUS
He will be safe with me, majesty.

CLEOPATRA kneels beside CAESARIAN.
CLEOPATRA
Be brave, my son.

She kisses POMPEY'S RING on the finger of CAESARION.

CLEOPATRA
(CONT'D)
Be strong. For your people.
For me. I love you.

CAESARION
I love you too, mother.

APOLLODOROUS escorts CAESARION from the throne room.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - THE WALL - DAY

RAMOS is preparing his troops upon the battlements of the great wall which surrounds Alexandria.

They stand by BALLISTA'S and CATAPULT'S, ready.
Waiting.

In the distance we see the sandy horizon turn black. The black horizon grows closer as we reveal it is OCTAVIAN'S ARMY.

RAMOS hesitates as he becomes aware of the size of the opposition.

RAMOS
May the gods have mercy upon our souls.

CLEOPATRA (O.S.)
Gods will not decide the outcome of this day.

RAMOS turns.

CLEOPATRA is now in full battle regalia.

She marches out to the main battalion of troops upon the wall.
CLEOPATRA
No, gods will not decide our fate. Our fate is in our own hands. Our fate is decided by mere mortal hands and by mere mortal will. Our destiny is forged by mortal men and women. Men and women who stand defiant even before the might of a false god. Free men and women standing united for a free world!

The SOLDIERS shout and cheer.

SOLDIERS
(in unison)
Hail Cleopatra! Hail the Queen of Kings!

CLEOPATRA
No! Hail yourselves...and let the enemy be the one to beg for mercy. Remember this my people! What you do not let go, no-one can take from you!

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

OCTAVIAN'S ARMY approach.

They begin to break off into FOUR DIVISIONS, surrounding the four walls of the city.

The GENERAL is shouting orders to his men.

OCTAVIAN is sat upon his horse at the rear of the army. He has a SCARF wrapped around his neck. It is blood stained from his wound.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - THE WALL - DAY

CLEOPATRA paces the length of the wall.

RAMOS is ordering his men.

RAMOS
Archers ready!
The EGYPTIAN ARCHERS load arrows into their bows.

RAMOS
Prepare the ballista's!

The BALLISTA'S are loaded.

RAMOS
Prepare the catapult's!

The CATAPULT'S are loaded.

CLEOPATRA draws her sword.

CLEOPATRA
Prepare for war!

RAMOS shouts to his men.

RAMOS
Fire! Fire!

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

SPEARS are fired from the BALLISTA'S.

BOULDERS and ROCKS are fired from the CATAPULT'S.

They collide with OCTAVIAN'S ARMY.

OCTAVIAN remains calm. His GENERAL rides next to him.

GENERAL
Sir, our frontline is too close. They are being crushed. We must move them out of range.

OCTAVIAN
And you and I General? Are we out of range?

GENERAL
Well, yes sir.

OCTAVIAN
Then that is all that matters. Continue the attack as planned.
GENERAL
We are readying the siege ladders.

OCTAVIAN
Very well. I want turtles equipped with battering rams to take the gates.

GENERAL
Yes, sir.

As the attack from the wall continues, TEN TURTLES emerge from the army.

Some are hit with SPEARS and BOULDERS, breaking the shields.

Arrows bounce harmlessly from others.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - THE WALL - DAY
CLEOPATRA sees the TURTLES approach the wall.

CLEOPATRA
Their going to use ladders!

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY
SIEGE LADDERS emerge from the remaining TURTLE formations.

The SIEGE LADDERS are placed against the wall.

The troops from the TURTLES begin to climb the ladders.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - THE WALL - DAY
EGYPTIAN ARCHERS try to shoot as many men from the SIEGE LADDERS as possible.

RAMOS sees more and more TURTLES emerging from OCTAVIAN'S ARMY.

RAMOS
There are too many!
ROMAN SOLDIERS begin to climb up onto the walls.

CLEOPATRA fights wildly. Swinging her sword into the enemy, unafraid.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

The TURTLES continue to emerge from OCTAVIAN'S ARMY.

There are now HUNDREDS of SIEGE LADDERS being placed against the wall.

TURTLES have reached the gate and are breaking through with their BATTERING RAMS.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - DAY

HUNDREDS OF EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS run through the streets, running to each of the four gates which are being assailed.

The soldiers try and brace the gates with LARGE BEAMS OF WOOD.

      EGYPTIAN SOLDIER
      We must hold them! We must hold the gates!!

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - THE WALL - DAY

The wall is now swarming with ROMAN SOLDIERS.

The BALLISTA'S and CATAPULT'S are now unable to be fired as the men manning those machines find themselves defending their own lives against the Roman horde.

CLEOPATRA and RAMOS continue to fight against the onslaught.

CLEOPATRA is pushing SIEGE LADDERS down from the wall.
EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

The SIEGE LADDERS fall into the mass of ROMAN SOLDIERS gathered at the base of the wall.

OCTAVIAN and the GENERAL watch CLEOPATRA on the wall. She is truly marvellous.

GENERAL
She fights well.

OCTAVIAN
For a woman.

The CANOPUS GATE is cracking under the sheer brute force of hundreds of ROMAN SOLDIERS.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - DAY

The CANOPUS GATE gives way, collapsing and crushing all in its path as it falls.

EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS begin to fight in the streets with the ROMAN SOLDIERS who pour in like rats.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - THE WALL - DAY

RAMOS sees the GATES OF THE CITY. They have all been breached. ROMAN SOLDIERS are pouring in.

RAMOS
They have broken through!

The wall is now swarming in Romans. The Egyptians are outnumbered.

CLEOPATRA
Down to the streets! We must not let them take the city!

CLEOPATRA climbs down a LARGE ROPE LADDER and throws herself into the battle below.
EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

OCTAVIAN'S ARMY begin the hard push, shoving their way in through the gate.

OCTAVIAN calmly watches the proceedings as if he was attending a day in the Senate.

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - DAY

The battle rages.

The Egyptians clash against the full might of OCTAVIAN'S ARMY. The streets are like a sea of Romans.

CLEOPATRA is now on horseback. She is stunning as she charges through waves upon waves of Romans. Hacking and slashing, it appears that nothing can stand in her way.

She rallies Egyptians left, right and centre.

However, it seems for every ten Romans who fall, another twenty appear in their place.

RAMOS rides next to CLEOPATRA.

   RAMOS
   The city is lost, majesty.
   You must seek refuge.

CLEOPATRA is no fool. She accepts the inevitable.

   CLEOPATRA
   Draw them away from the streets. Keep them away from the people.

   RAMOS
   Where shall we lead them to?

   CLEOPATRA
   The mausoleum.

CLEOPATRA rides out towards her mausoleum.
EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

OCTAVIAN'S ARMY surround the walls of the city.

The GENERAL approaches OCTAVIAN.

GENERAL
We have taken the city my lord. We are pushing the Egyptian forces back. The Queen has taken refuge.

OCTAVIAN
Tell your men to fall back. Do not attack. I will deal with Cleopatra myself.

The GENERAL rides into the city.

AGRIPPA appears on horseback, accompanied by some SOLDIERS. He approaches OCTAVIAN.

OCTAVIAN
Agrippa, my old friend. How goes the war at sea?

AGRIPPA laughs.

AGRIPPA
What war?

AGRIPPA orders one of his soldiers.

AGRIPPA
Bring them up.

OCTAVIAN
What do you have for me Agrippa?

AGRIPPA
A gift. We caught these two trying to escape.

The soldier returns with the two captives, APOLLODOROUS and CAESARION.

OCTAVIAN approaches APOLLODOROUS.

OCTAVIAN
(to APOLLODOROUS)
This is her son?
APOLLODOROUS remains silent.

OCTAVIAN
Very well.

OCTAVIAN orders a soldier.

OCTAVIAN
(CONT'D)
Soldier, it would appear that this man has no further use for his tongue. Take him away and cut it out.

The soldier leads APOLLODOROUS away.

OCTAVIAN kneels down next to CAESARION.

OCTAVIAN
My, you have grown into a strong one.

OCTAVIAN notices POMPEY'S RING on CAESARION'S finger.

OCTAVIAN
That's a nice ring. I knew someone once who had one similar. Who gave it to you?

CAESARION
It was a gift from my father. Caesar.

OCTAVIAN chokes slightly at the mention of the name.

OCTAVIAN
Well, you know what they say. Two Caesars is one Caesar too many.

Behind OCTAVIAN'S back, we can see the DAGGER he used to stab Antony. It is caked in dry blood.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

The remaining Egyptian forces hold defensive positions around the structure.

The ROMAN SOLDIERS wait at the gate to the mausoleum.
INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

CLEOPATRA stands with her HANDMAIDENS.

RAMOS looks out at the ROMAN SOLDIERS.

RAMOS
Why do they wait?

CLEOPATRA
Octavian. He is coming. Go out to your men Ramos. They need you.

RAMOS
Yes majesty.

RAMOS exits the MAUSOLEUM.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

As RAMOS leaves the MAUSOLEUM, we see OCTAVIAN approach the gate accompanied by PRAETORIAN GUARDS.

RAMOS orders one of his soldiers.

RAMOS
Open the gate.

The gate to the mausoleum opens.

OCTAVIAN enters.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALEXANDRIA - CANOPUS GATE - DAY

The remains of the Canopus gate are guarded by a small group of ROMAN CENTURIONS.

From the distance we see a ROMAN CENTURION approach on horseback. We cannot see his face as he approaches the LEAD CENTURION.

LEAD CENTURION
Halt!

The ROMAN CENTURION on horseback slows his horse.
ROMAN CENTURION
I bring news from Rome to the
great Caesar Octavian. It is
of the utmost importance that
I relay this message to his
Excellency in person.

The LEAD CENTURION looks at the ROMAN CENTURION, who
sags uncomfortably in his saddle.

LEAD CENTURION
Very well. Proceed into the
city.

The ROMAN CENTURION enters the city.

CUT TO:

INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

OCTAVIAN admires the treasure which surrounds him. His PRAETORIAN GUARD stand watch over the door.

OCTAVIAN
Quite a monument you have
erected in your name.

CLEOPATRA
It serves one's memory better
than a funeral pyre.

OCTAVIAN
Cleopatra, here are the terms.
I saw how you fought today,
how your people look upon you.
To make a martyr of you would
not do me any favours.
However, I do not intend any
form of relationship,

negotiation or reconciliation
with you. You are not in a

position to barter. I hold
the lives of your people in my

hand.

CLEOPATRA
Get this over with.
OCTAVIAN
I will make a slave of you. I will publicly humiliate you and destroy any semblance of respect you might have garnered during your tenure as lover of Rome and saviour of Egypt. I will see to it that history does not remember it the way it was. Your name will mean nothing. A fallen goddess.

CLEOPATRA
I have learned one thing Octavian. I know now that I am no goddess. That Julius Caesar and Antony too, were not gods. We are just human beings. Human beings who aspire to live the dreams of gods. A human being can be killed, their memory and reputation destroyed. But a dream cannot. Not while other people believe in it.

OCTAVIAN
Your sentimentality bores me. Save it for the weak. You have learned of Antony then? I am truly sorry that he has fallen this day. It must be terrible for you to know that you will not be buried side by side. That his corpse rots and festers amongst the dead of so many of your kin. Have you come to a decision yet? Would you prefer a slow and meaningless death instead? As Antony did?

CLEOPATRA remains calm. She does not let the insults of OCTAVIAN get to her.
CLEOPATRA
I will make my decision when I am ready. My people will be safe?

OCTAVIAN
Yes. I give you my word.

CLEOPATRA notices OCTAVIAN'S HAND. Upon his finger is POMPEY'S RING. She chokes briefly, realising what this means.

CLEOPATRA
And my son? You will grant him rule over the people of Egypt?

OCTAVIAN
Indeed. I will see to it myself before my return to Rome. Your son will rule in your stead.

CLEOPATRA
Very well, I will prepare myself. I will need time.

OCTAVIAN points to her sword.

OCTAVIAN
I am not a fool. Relinquish all your weapons. I do not want you harming yourself in any way. I will not be denied the pleasure of degrading you.

CLEOPATRA
Very well.

CLEOPATRA throws her sword to the floor.

The PRAETORIAN GUARD remove any more weapons they find in the mausoleum.

CLEOPATRA
I am at least granted permission to dress myself in the appropriate attire?

OCTAVIAN grins.
OCTAVIAN
Of course.

He signals to the PRAETORIAN GUARD.

They leave the mausoleum, closing the door behind them.

CLEOPATRA signals to her HANDMAIDEN.

CLEOPATRA
Bring me the fruit basket.
And my burial robes.

The HANDMAIDENS begin to dress CLEOPATRA in her BURIAL ROBES.

Another HANDMAIDEN brings the FRUIT BASKET to CLEOPATRA.

CLEOPATRA removes the lid.

She places her hand inside the FRUIT BASKET.

She grits her teeth as she receives the bite of the ASP.

CLEOPATRA
(to HANDMAIDENS)
Bring me to my burial chamber.

The HANDMAIDENS open the door to the BURIAL CHAMBER.

CLEOPATRA leads the way inside.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - BURIAL CHAMBER - DAY

As CLEOPATRA enters she sees the ROMAN CENTURION who rode in on horseback bearing news for Caesar.

He is slumped against the LARGE SARCOPHAGUS.

He removes his helmet.

It is ANTONY.

CLEOPATRA runs to him.

CLEOPATRA
Antony! Antony!
She holds him.

CLEOPATRA
(CONT'D)
I was told you were dead?!

ANTONY
I am.

ANTONY reveals the wound in his back, blood has leaked out onto the floor of the chamber.

ANTONY
I live only to hold you in my arms one last time...my Queen.
You are all that is left to me. All that matters to me.
I die for you Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA starts to feel the grip of the poison coursing through her veins.

CLEOPATRA
And I for you Antony.

ANTONY
Together again. A King and a Queen.

CLEOPATRA
A man and a woman.

They kiss each other gently one last time before they die in each other's arms.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

OCTAVIAN looks impatient.

OCTAVIAN
Enough waiting.

He leads his PRAETORIAN GUARD into the mausoleum.
INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

OCTAVIAN is shocked as he enters.

HANDMAIDENS lay about the floor. Dead.

OCTAVIAN steps towards the BURIAL CHAMBER entrance.

The LEAD PRAETORIAN points to the ASP on the floor.

OCTAVIAN kicks it away.

He pushes open the door to the BURIAL CHAMBER.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - BURIAL CHAMBER - DAY

OCTAVIAN drops to his knees as he sees the sight before him.

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

RAMOS and several EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS barge their way past into the mausoleum.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S MAUSOLEUM - BURIAL CHAMBER - DAY

As RAMOS and the EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS enter they see the following.

OCTAVIAN, on his knees in a heap of disbelief.

TWO HANDMAIDENS lay slumped at the base of the SARCOPHAGUS.

OCTAVIAN
(to RAMOS)

Is this well done of your lady?

RAMOS and the EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS kneel before the SARCOPHAGUS.

RAMOS
Extremely well done. And so befitting a Queen of Kings.
Inside the SARCOPHAGUS lay ANTONY and CLEOPATRA, hand in hand.

Untouchable. Immortal.

TITLE CARD:
"Be it known, that we, the greatest, are misthought
For things that others do; and, when we fall,
We answer others' merits in our name,
Are therefore to be pitied."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

FADE OUT:

THE END