



CLEOPATRA

book by Scott Guy
music by Raymy Krumrei
lyrics by Raymy Krumrei and Scott Guy
additional lyrics by Jeff Hanson

CAST

Cleopatra
Julius Caesar
Marc Antony
Romulus
Ganymedes
Saqqarah
Osis
Manaina

SCENE

Cleopatra's palace in Egypt
Caesar's palace in Rome

TIME

50 B.C.

SONGS

ACT ONE

Prologue	Cleopatra, Ganymedes
Lament for Auletes	Saqqarah, Osis, Manaina
What Do I See?	Cleopatra
A Man is Just a Man	Romulus, Ganymedes
You're Not	Caesar, Cleopatra
The First Time	Saqqarah, Osis, Manaina
The Weight of the World	Caesar
How Are We to Know?	Cleopatra
Behind the Door	Marc Antony
Behind the Door Reprise	Marc Antony
Eunuchs in Tunics	Romulus, Ganymedes
Betrayed	Caesar
I Can't Open My Heart to You	Cleopatra

ACT TWO

She Was	Marc Antony, Caesar
That's What Children Do	Manaina
As Good As It Gets	Osis, Saqqarah
Closer	Marc Antony
What Are Men About?	Cleopatra
What Are Men About Reprise	Cleopatra
Until It's Gone	Osis, Manaina, Romulus, Ganymedes, Marc Antony, Cleopatra
One Perfect Moment	Marc Antony, Cleopatra
Eunuch's Lament	Romulus, Ganymedes
One Perfect Moment Reprise	Marc Antony, Cleopatra

ACT ONEScene One

The servants' quarters of Cleopatra's palace in Egypt, 50 B.C. What appears to be two eunuchs square off in front of each other like puppies, in a game of tag. The one facing away from us will eventually turn out to be CLEOPATRA, but right now from the back, she looks and acts like an adolescent boy. **Prologue.**

CLEOPATRA

(call and response; part of the game)

I AM EGYPT....

ROMULUS

(call and response)

I AM ROME!

CLEOPATRA

SO IS IT LOVE -- OR --

IS IT....

ROMULUS

War!

(This is a cue to chase each other, which causes fits of giggles. It isn't long before CLEOPATRA tackles ROMULUS and pins him to the floor. HE roars with laughter.)

CLEOPATRA

Who's mightier, pharaoh or emperor?

ROMULUS

You are, you are!

CLEOPATRA

And who am I?

ROMULUS

Julius Caesar!

(SHE alternately tickles and punches him.)

CLEOPATRA

Say it! Say my name! Who am I?

ROMULUS

Julius Caesar!

(A grimmer, slightly older eunuch, GANYMEDES, enters, bad news written all over his face.)

Cleopatra. GANYMEDES

Ha, I made you say it! CLEOPATRA

I didn't say it, Ganymedes did. ROMULUS

I heard you. CLEOPATRA

Tell her, Ganymedes. ROMULUS

Cleopatra, it's your father. GANYMEDES

(CLEOPATRA grows serious, and lets loose her grip on ROMULUS, who scrambles out of her grasp.)

(delighted; concerned) CLEOPATRA
He's back!?

GANYMEDES
On the voyage from Rome, your father took poison. You're needed on the throne now.

(SHE picks herself up and follows GANYMEDES. ROMULUS looks stunned; follows after.)

ACT ONEScene Two

The scene shifts to an anteroom outside the pharaoh's bedchambers. Three HAREM GIRLS, dressed head to toe in black veils, indicate that CLEOPATRA is too late. CLEOPATRA bursts into tears, then hurries inside the chambers, followed sadly by GANYMEDES and ROMULUS. The harem girls rend their garments. **Lament for Auletes.**)

HAREM GIRLS

PTAH, RA, MAAT, SESHAT.
 PTAH, RA, MAAT, SESHAT....
 MOURN FOR EGYPT, EREBUS,
 MOURN OUR PASSING,
 MOURN FOR US.
 PTAH, RA, MAAT, SESHAT.
 PTAH, RA, MAAT, SESHAT....

(Singing concludes. A silence. The harem girls gain sudden composure. Comic contrast.)

SAQQARAH

(shrug)

Well. Another dead pharaoh, another lament. I'm thinking of giving it up.

(SAQQARAH takes off her mourning veil. She's 60, if she's a day. Stark white hair. OSIS takes off her veils; scratches her scalp voraciously. OSIS is 50 and gray.)

OSIS

Got to be grateful the last pharaoh required veils in the harem, huh?

MANAINA

You can't just give up, Saqqarah. It's all we know, it's all we do!

(MANAINA takes off her veil; she's still young and naïve.)

SAQQARAH

Just face it. We're out of a job, girls.

OSIS

We could hope for a second assassination in a row.

SAQQARAH

Assassination? Cleopatra's father swallowed poison.

MANAINA

No!

SAQQARAH

Please. When the pharaoh went to Rome to beg for money, they offered it to him only on the condition that he accept a Roman high-priesthood. So instead he poisoned himself, the coward, leaving us all in the lurch.

OSIS

I agree with you, Saqqarah.

MANAINA

I think it's noble.

OSIS

Hmm. No, I guess I agree with Manaina.

SAQQARAH

Leaving Egypt with no money and no navy, that's noble? Now it's just a matter of time before we have to surrender to Rome.

OSIS

Why didn't I study Latin when I had the chance?

SAQQARAH

Osis, you've never studied anything in your life.

OSIS

Well, it's not too late to start.

SAQQARAH

Honey, for us, it's too late to do anything.

(CLEOPATRA enters on the arm of ROMULUS, red-eyed and numb. GANYMEDES reads from a scroll.)

SAQQARAH

Let's get out of here; I've had enough mourning for one morning.

(The harem girls leave.)

CLEOPATRA

Oh, can't that wait, Ganymedes?

GANYMEDES

It's a proclamation from Julius Caesar. He's coming to visit. He wants to annex Cyprus from you.

CLEOPATRA

Annex Cyprus? I don't know even know what that means.

ROMULUS

He wants to take some land away from Egypt.

CLEOPATRA

Well, we'll just tell him he can't have it, that's all.

ROMULUS

It doesn't work like that, Cleopatra.

GANYMEDES

You don't just tell Caesar what he can and can't do.

CLEOPATRA

Then we'll send our navy and force him.

ROMULUS

Navy?

GANYMEDES

There is no navy.

ROMULUS

Well, there is a navy.

GANYMEDES

But it's at the bottom of the sea.

ROMULUS

Which is not really where you want it.

CLEOPATRA

There is no navy? How can there be no navy?

GANYMEDES

Forgive me, Cleopatra, your father drove Egypt into debt and servitude to Rome. Your people are starving and your military's given up hope.

ROMULUS

Probably something to do with the navy at the bottom of the sea.

GANYMEDES

You're not helping.

ROMULUS

Cleopatra, the sooner you surrender, the better it'll be for all of us. Or at least for me, and that's all I'm really worried about.

CLEOPATRA

Why didn't you tell me? We've confided in each other since we were children.

GANYMEDES

Your father didn't want you to worry.

CLEOPATRA

Wasn't that nice of him?

GANYMEDES

So....

(GANYMEDES hands CLEOPATRA the scroll. SHE bats it away.)

ROMULUS

There's nothing we can do, Cleopatra. It's just a matter of time before we Egyptians are forgotten.

CLEOPATRA

No.

GANYMEDES

He's right. Forgotten just like the Etruscans before us.

ROMULUS

Who?

GANYMEDES

Exactly. Can anyone remember the name of a single Etruscan king? A single Etruscan song?

ROMULUS

A single Etruscan?

GANYMEDES

Same with the Sumerians.

ROMULUS

Same with the Assyrians.

GANYMEDES

Same with the -- oh, what was the name of the people, you know, the really ancient ones?

ROMULUS

Babylonians?

GANYMEDES

No, before that. The ones with the feathers.

ROMULUS

Feathers, feathers

GANYMEDES

Messa, Thessa -- Messa -- there was a volcano, and, some myths.

ROMULUS

Oh, that's helpful.

GANYMEDES

Domesticated horses, no wait, that's...did you already say Assyrians?

ROMULUS

You see, Cleopatra? That'll be Egypt next.

CLEOPATRA

I can't let that happen.

GANYMEDES

I don't think you can stop it.

CLEOPATRA

I have to try. I will not let Egypt slip away without a fight. Do you hear me? I will not.

(SHE sings. **What Do I See?**)

CLEOPATRA

LOOK AT ME, A BLOODLINE OF WEAKNESS SO FAR.
LOOK AT YOU, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

WHAT DO I SEE? CAN THESE BE MY COMPANIONS?
WHERE ARE THE STRONG LOYAL FRIENDS I ONCE KNEW?
YOU ARE EGYPTIAN.
YOU WANT TO BE ROMAN.
THAT WILL NOT DO.

WHAT DO I SEE? YOU'VE FORGOTTEN OUR GLORY?
IS IT ECLIPSED IN THE SHADOW OF ROME?
WHY ARE THE PEOPLE
SO DISILLUSIONED?
EGYPT'S OUR HOME.

THE LIGHT OF OUR NATION REDUCED TO A GLIMMER,
A FLICKERING FLAME IN OUR FOREFATHERS EYES.
WITH EACH GENERATION THE FLAME BECOMES DIMMER.
WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN IT FINALLY DIES?

WHAT WILL I SEE WHEN I LOOK IN A MIRROR?
WHEN I BECOME WHAT I'M DESTINED TO BE
WILL I BE, SADLY,
JUST A REFLECTION
OF THOSE BEFORE ME?

I WON'T WALK THE ROAD THAT OUR FATHERS HAVE TAKEN
I CANNOT ALLOW OUR GREAT PAST TO BE LOST
I'LL TAKE UP THE LOAD THAT TILL NOW WAS FORSAKEN.
I'LL PRESERVE EGYPT WHATEVER THE COST.

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

WHAT DO I SEE WHEN I LOOK TO THE FUTURE?
I SEE THE DIGNITY WE HAD BEFORE
PRIDE IN OUR HISTORY
THAT IS THE EGYPT
I WILL RESTORE.

I WILL MAKE SURE THAT
THE WORLD WILL REMEMBER
EGYPT FOREVERMORE.

(Blackout.)

ACT ONE

Scene Three

OSIS, SAQQARAH and MANAINA gazing across the harbor.

OSIS

I give her two years.

MANAINA

Ooo, that's not much time. Two years to bring back all of Egyptian literature and painting, and architecture and music?

OSIS

I meant two years before someone assassinates her.

SAQQARAH

Oh, who cares. Sometimes I look out over this harbor of Alexandria, and I think, why not just keep walking?

MANAINA

But -- if you kept walking, you'd drown.

OSIS

Always in there thinking, aren't you, Manaina?

SAQQARAH

Let's jump. You with me, Osis?

OSIS

Right behind you.

MANAINA

Wait! Wouldn't you rather live? Learn something new? Be around when Egypt defeats Rome at last?

OSIS

I've always thought I'd make a good historian.

SAQQARAH

Oh, make up your mind, Osis, life or death?

OSIS

They're both such awful choices.

SAQQARAH

Got a coin?

OSIS

I know how we can get one....

(OSIS leads them off. Lights change to:)

ACT ONE

Scene Four

(The servants' quarters. CLEOPATRA stands on a stool while ROMULUS fits her for a gown and headdress.)

CLEOPATRA
So, Ganymedes, I've been thinking. Caesar's coming tomorrow to annex Cyprus, right?

GANYMEDES
Tomorrow or the next day, yes.

ROMULUS
Can't wait till he gets here. Maybe I'll ask him if I can book return passage with him. I'm thinking of moving to Rome.

CLEOPATRA
I have an idea.

GANYMEDES
You are not thinking of moving to Rome.

ROMULUS
I am. The fashions alone. I'll look very stunning in a tunic with a nice open-toed sandal, don't you think?

GANYMEDES
They'd kill you as a foreigner.

CLEOPATRA
Did you hear me?

ROMULUS
And I find I'm developing a taste for pasta.

CLEOPATRA
Will you listen to me? What if, instead of giving Cyprus to Caesar, we ask him to give us a navy instead?

(The EUNUCHS burst out laughing.)

CLEOPATRA
Don't laugh. It's my first political idea.

GANYMEDES
That's how your father got us into this mess; borrowed money from Rome to finance a navy.

CLEOPATRA

I don't mean borrow. I mean, just ask Caesar to give us some ships. I'll tell him it's in his best interests, so our enemies to the East won't conquer us and then come after him.

GANYMEDES

Parthians. You can't say "our enemies to the East" -- he'll think you don't know what you're talking about.

CLEOPATRA

I don't know what I'm talking about.

ROMULUS

If you want a navy from him, it's not what you say that's going to matter. If you know what I mean.

CLEOPATRA

I don't. Oh!

(The EUNUCHS nod knowingly.)

GANYMEDES

Seduce him, Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA

Ganymedes!

ROMULUS

Veni-vidi-vici him. Right where it's going to do the most good.

CLEOPATRA

I've never seduced a man in my life, and you expect me to start with the emperor?

ROMULUS

Don't be afraid. We'll show you what to do.

CLEOPATRA

Because, being eunuchs, you're so experienced.

ROMULUS

You'd be surprised.

CLEOPATRA

Yes, I would. I'll send someone to find those harem girls we let go.

GANYMEDES

One of the privileges of being a eunuch, is you're so trusted to linger in someone's bedroom.

CLEOPATRA

Really?

GANYMEDES
The things we've seen! Show her, Romulus.

ROMULUS
You show her.

GANYMEDES
You show her.

CLEOPATRA
(shrieks with impatience)

ROMULUS
All right, we'll both show you.

GANYMEDES
How to seduce a man

ROMULUS
Watch and learn!

(Music begins.)

(THEY sing. During the song, they demonstrate enticing moves and drop-dead looks, out-doing the other one with comically-sexy walks and searing postures, playacting with complete abandon and joy.

They model fashionable Roman jewelry and robes and hold them up to CLEOPATRA. **A Man Is Just a Man.**)

GANYMEDES
STROLL IN WITH THE SLIGHTEST SASHAY;
A NOD AND A GLANCE BACK HIS WAY.
BARE MINIMUM ANKLE DISPLAY
WILL MAKE ANY MAN'S MIND GO A BIT ASTRAY.

GO SLOW AS HE STARTS TO UNWIND.
HE'LL LEAD. STAY A LITTLE BEHIND.
ACT COY, CALMLY COOL AND REFINED
LIKE YOU HAVEN'T A CLUE WHAT IS ON HIS MIND.
JUST SHOW THE MAN A SHOULDER AND YOU'LL TAKE HIS BREATH AWAY.

ROMULUS
HE DOESN'T WANT A SHOW, HE WANTS A ROMAN HOLIDAY.

GANYMEDES
WELL, I WOULD RECOMMEND YOU SIMPLY BAT YOUR EYES A BIT.

ROMULUS
IF YOU WANT A QUICK SUCCESS YOU GOTTA SHOW A LITTLE --

GANYMEDES
Skin.

ROMULUS

Skin? That wasn't exactly what I was going to say.

GANYMEDES

Subtle, almost undetectable. No man can resist it, I'm telling you.

ROMULUS

Can you resist it?

GANYMEDES

Well....

ROMULUS

I rest my case. I got a better idea.

DRINK WINE IN SMALL SENSUOUS SIPS
WHILE LICKING YOUR LICK-ABLE LIPS
AND THRUSTING THOSE THRUSTABLE HIPS;
TRACE HIS NECK WITH YOUR FEMININE FINGERTIPS

SEND SIGNALS THAT HE CAN'T IGNORE.
BE TEMPTING; HE'LL COME BACK FOR MORE.
YOU HAVE TO CONVINCE HIM THAT YOU'RE
AN UNCONQUERED LAND THAT HE WANTS TO EXPLORE.

GANYMEDES

DON'T LISTEN TO OUR FRIEND HERE;
YOUR APPROACH SHOULD BE DEMURE.

ROMULUS

I GOTTA RECOMMEND DO SOMETHING BLATANT TO BE SURE.

GANYMEDES

NO! IF YOU WANT TO KEEP A MAN
THEN YOU SHOULD NEVER MOVE TOO QUICK.

ROMULUS

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP A MAN
THEN YOU SHOULD STROKE HIS GREAT BIG --

GANYMEDES

Ego.

ROMULUS

Right. Ego.

GANYMEDES

We've heard Caesar has a very big one.

ROMULUS

And your flattery can make it bigger.

GANYMEDES & ROMULUS

IT'S OH SO VERY SIMPLE
IF YOU STAY WITH MY PLAN.
THE GAME HAS BEEN THE SAME
SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN:
A WOMAN HAS TO USE
WHATEVER MEANS THAT SHE CAN
AND UNDERNEATH THE ROBE
A MAN IS JUST A MAN.

ROMULUS

Present company excepted, of course.

CLEOPATRA

So you think Caesar would like it if I just--

(SHE tries to imitate some of the eunuch's moves.
Rather unsuccessful and awkward.)

GANYMEDES

He'll melt!

ROMULUS

He'll drool!

GANYMEDES

He'll wither!

ROMULUS

Well, maybe not wither.

GANYMEDES

You're right, sort of the opposite.

CLEOPATRA

(still practicing the moves)
I don't know what I'm doing.

GANYMEDES

Here, watch. I'll be Caesar and, Romulus, you be Cleopatra.

ROMULUS

I want to be the man.

GANYMEDES

You should have thought of that a long time ago.

(Music/dance break as the eunuchs role-play the
seductress and the emperor.)

CLEOPATRA

He's going to laugh at me.

No, he won't.

GANYMEDES

It's not funny. It's arousing.

ROMULUS

And I'm supposed to take your word for that?

CLEOPATRA

No, you have to see it from his eyes. Role-play with us.

GANYMEDES

(getting up)
 All right.

CLEOPATRA

You be Caesar.

GANYMEDES

(sitting down)
 Oh.

CLEOPATRA

I'll be you.

ROMULUS

So will I.

GANYMEDES

We'll both be you.

ROMULUS

ROMULUS/GANYMEDES

Cleopatra, seductress of the Nile!

(SHE begins to like it, and laughs, strutting along with them as they "sell" the number.)

GANYMEDES/ROMULUS/CLEOPATRA

IT'S OH SO VERY SIMPLE
 IF YOU STAY WITH MY PLAN.
 THE GAME HAS BEEN THE SAME
 SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN:
 A WOMAN HAS TO USE
 WHATEVER MEANS THAT SHE CAN
 AND UNDERNEATH THE ROBE
 A MAN IS JUST A MAN.
 YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO LISTEN TO US LIKE IT OR NOT.
 DIPLOMACY COMES DOWN TO USING WHAT YOU GOT!
 THE LANGUAGE IS THE SAME IN EGYPT, ROME OR JAPAN.
 'CUZ UNDERNEATH THE ROBES
 EVEN CAESAR IS JUST A MAN.

(The EUNUCHS give CLEOPATRA a final pose. Blackout.)

ACT ONEScene Five

The main receiving chamber of the palace.
Tapestries, tables, candlesticks. The
three harem girls sneak in.

MANAINA

I don't feel good sneaking in like this.

OSIS

I'm with Manaina, let's go.

SAQQARAH

Look, you want a job at the palace, or not?

OSIS

I'm with Saqqarah, let's stay.

MANAINA

Do you ever make up your own mind?

OSIS

(to SAQQARAH)

I don't know, do I?

(ROMULUS and GANYMEDES enter, wearing opulent
"receiving" outfits, carrying some bowls of flowers
to the tables.)

GANYMEDES

Did you do Cleopatra's hair?

ROMULUS

I did it. Will you stop worrying about her? She'll be fine. Honestly,
Ganymedes, you're more like her father than her father was.

(sees the women)

Who the hell are you?

SAQQARAH

My noble lord Romulus --

ROMULUS

Flattery. I hate 'em already.

SAQQARAH

We were the pharaoh's harem girls.

ROMULUS

You're kidding, right?

GANYMEDES

What do you want?

SAQQARAH

Me, I want never to see another sunrise. But my two friends want their jobs back.

ROMULUS

Harem girls. For a young queen and two eunuchs. You've done a lot of thinking about this, have you?

GANYMEDES

How'd you get in here?

SAQQARAH

Well, the euphemism is that the guard let us in.

ROMULUS

All right, well, here's another euphemism for you. You're fired.

MANAINA

Please. I'll do anything. Milk the goats, herd the sheep.

ROMULUS

In the palace.

OSIS

Maybe the Queen needs a Royal Historian?

GANYMEDES

Can you write?

OSIS

Would I need to?

GANYMEDES

All right, that's it. Come with me.

MANAINA

Please. We're desperate.

GANYMEDES

Aren't we all these days? Follow me.

SAQQARAH

Oh, what does it matter? We're all but shriveled and dead, let the Romans erase us from history and get it over with.

ROMULUS

You're not a very cheery woman, are you?

SAQQARAH

Sort of a hazard of the trade.

(ROMULUS escorts the disgruntled harem girls from the room. GANYMEDES fusses with the flowers, when he notices something underneath one of the tables. It's CLEOPATRA, cowering, but dressed in a resplendent receiving gown. GANYMEDES moves the table.)

GANYMEDES

Cleopatra. What are you doing?

CLEOPATRA

Uhh...practicing that seduction you taught me?

GANYMEDES

You're acting like a child.

CLEOPATRA

I'll be fine as long as no one announces Caesar.

(Trumpets without. ROMULUS comes running in, panicked.)

ROMULUS

It's Caesar!

(Second flourish.)

CLEOPATRA

I'm not ready! Whatever you do, don't tell him I'm here!

(CLEOPATRA hides behind a wall tapestry. CAESAR's ADJUTANT enters.)

GANYMEDES

(aside, to ROMULUS)

Fawn!

ROMULUS

Feign.

GANYMEDES

Fine.

(ROMULUS and GANYMEDES hurl themselves to the ground in dramatic prostration.)

ADJUTANT

The great and glorious Julius Caesar, emperor of all the Roman Empire. All hail.

(CAESAR enters. Majestic, but an aging 50.)

CAESAR

I was told I would find the Pharaoh Cleopatra here.

ROMULUS

Who told you that? Did you tell him that, Ganymedes?

GANYMEDES

I've been here the whole time. Must have been you.

(Unfortunately, in her zeal to hide, CLEOPATRA causes the tapestry to come off its hooks, and it rumples CLEOPATRA to the floor. SHE rolls herself in it into a corner in an attempt to hide out of sight.)

ROMULUS

(beat; speechless)

Uhhh. Ganymedes?

CAESAR

Someone's underneath there.

ROMULUS

No!

GANYMEDES

It's impossible!

ADJUTANT

I'll look, my lord.

(The ADJUTANT peels back a corner of the tapestry and finds CLEOPATRA's bare leg. SHE pulls the corner back over her. HE peels back another corner, and the two stare at each other, face to face.)

CLEOPATRA

(sultry)

Hello.

(CAESAR strides over to CLEOPATRA.)

CAESAR

Lady Pharaoh, I presume.

CLEOPATRA

Yes. This is the way we greet all our foreign dignitaries. A traditional Egyptian tapestry greeting.

CAESAR

Very well. I will be brief. I gave word I would annex Cyprus, but I have come to reclaim Egypt as well.

ROMULUS

(aside, to GANYMEDES)

Kind of saw that coming, didn't we?

(During the following proclamation, to the eunuchs' horror, CLEOPATRA begins imitating the eunuch's seduction-lessons, while still wrapped in the tapestry.)

CAESAR

Your father, as you know, borrowed an enormous sum of money from me to finance a navy, but he defaulted on the loan without constructing a single boat. And before he died, in order to clear the debt, in his will he bequeathed Egypt to Rome. I have here a parchment -- what are you doing?

CLEOPATRA

Go on, I'm listening.

ROMULUS

(sotto, to CLEOPATRA)

Psst! Lose the carpet...!

(ROMULUS and GANYMEDES make "ixnay-the-arpetcay" signs, but, still in the tapestry, CLEOPATRA struts towards CAESAR.)

CAESAR

(accepting a parchment from ADJUTANT)

This parchment formally annexes Egypt to Rome.

CLEOPATRA

Quite a powerful parchment. Let's walk over there where the light is better.

(CLEOPATRA sashays across the room, summoning her very sexiest moves, which are unpracticed and awkward.)

CLEOPATRA

(as she passes the ADJUTANT; sultry again)

Hello again....

(The ADJUTANT blushes. The eunuchs surreptitiously try to give CLEOPATRA some adjustments to her performance.)

CAESAR

Lady Pharaoh, will you sign this annexation, or shall I take your country by force?

CLEOPATRA

Wait. I have one more thing to say.

(SHE stalks CAESAR, until she is directly face-to-face with him. HE is utterly impervious.)

CLEOPATRA

(undulating)

This is doing nothing for you. It's supposed to work from Egypt to Rome to Japan. No?

(drops all pretense)

All right, I give up. I've never seduced anyone before and --

(loudly, directly to the eunuchs)

-- *it's clearly not working!* So I'm sort of at your mercy here.

(A large grin creeps over CAESAR's face.)

CAESAR

Leave us.

ADJUTANT

Not a wise idea, sire.

CLEOPATRA

Don't worry, I don't have any assassins' knives on me. Romulus, will you show this man your gardens?

ROMULUS

Delighted! Oh. You didn't mean that metaphorically.

(to the ADJUTANT)

Will you follow me, sir? Hey, too bad the previous Pharaoh hasn't paid back his debt. We have a saying for that in this country.

ADJUTANT

What's that?

ROMULUS

Egypt-ya.

GANYMEDES

(to the ADJUTANT, as they're escorting him off)

Don't worry. He's harmless.

ROMULUS

Harmless? I'm not harmless.

GANYMEDES

Yes, you are.

ROMULUS

I could be harmful.

GANYMEDES

Right.

ROMULUS

I could be.

GANYMEDES

And I could be a hippopotamus, but I'm not.

ROMULUS

You are too.

GANYMEDES

Am not.

ROMULUS

Are too.

(THEY're gone, leaving CAESAR alone with CLEOPATRA.)

CLEOPATRA

I'm sorry. I don't...know what I'm doing. I should be bowing and groveling or something, shouldn't I? I'm offending you, aren't I?

CAESAR

On the contrary. How old are you, Cleopatra?

CLEOPATRA

(beat; then:)

I'm in my third reincarnation.

CAESAR

(charmed)

Very good. I like you. You're very honest. Let's have honesty between us, shall we?

CLEOPATRA

All right. Honesty it is. I think I look terrible wrapped in a tapestry.

(SHE sheds the tapestry.)

CAESAR

(trying not to stare at her beauty)

I'm afraid I'm in my last reincarnation, Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA

Come on, you're still young and vigorous.

CAESAR

Honesty, now.

CLEOPATRA

(beat; then:)

You're still vigorous.

CAESAR

That's better. I know you can't possibly find me appealing.

CLEOPATRA

Sure I can. You're much more handsome in person than you are on your coins.

CAESAR

Oh, those coins! I never should have had them made. If it's not my face half-worn away from so many million thumbs, it's scratches on my chin, or dirt up my nose.

CLEOPATRA

Why'd you let them choose your left side when it's your right which is far more noble?

CAESAR

They didn't choose the left side. I did.

(SHE takes CAESAR's chin in her hands and examines his face.)

CLEOPATRA

Well. Big mistake.

CAESAR

Cleopatra, I want you to sign this parchment so I can commence annexing Egypt to Rome. What do you want from me?

CLEOPATRA

I want you to finance an Egyptian Navy so I can prevent you from annexing Egypt to Rome.

CAESAR

(amused)

Very good.

CLEOPATRA

Shall we shake on it, then?

CAESAR

No, I'm afraid I can't do that.

CLEOPATRA

Emperor. Caesar.

CAESAR

Julius.

CLEOPATRA

Julius, really? Julius it is. We have a problem, Julius.

CAESAR

What's that, Cleopatra?

CLEOPATRA

Well, I don't quite know how to put this.

(THEY sing. **You're Not.**)

CLEOPATRA

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HEARTLESS
SIMPLY MADE OF STONE.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD TAKE WHAT YOU WANTED
AS IF IT WERE ALL YOUR OWN.

CAESAR

Don't believe everything you hear. Rome was actually built in two days, you know.

CLEOPATRA

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE RUTHLESS,
HAVING NO REMORSE,
RAVAGING THE COUNTRIES YOU CONQUER,
CONTROLLING THEM ALL BY FORCE.

CAESAR

Ah, this is what you mean by honesty.

CLEOPATRA

I think we're off to a good start.

CAESAR

We were.

CLEOPATRA

What do you mean?

CAESAR

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE CHILDISH,
TIMID AND UNSURE.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TRYING MY PATIENCE,
ANNOYINGLY INSECURE.

CLEOPATRA

(jokingly)
And am I insecure? Am I? Am I?

CAESAR

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE INBRED

CLEOPATRA

Inbred!

CAESAR

OVERLY REFINED.

CLEOPATRA

Better.

CAESAR
WILLFUL AND UNDISCIPLINED,
LETTING EMOTIONS CONTROL YOUR MIND.

CLEOPATRA
I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE CONTENTIOUS,

CAESAR
A PERSON WHO GETS OVERWROUGHT,

CLEOPATRA/CLEOPATRA
FULL OF YOURSELF AND PRETENTIOUS.
BUT YOU'RE NOT.

CAESAR
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SHAMELESS
LIKE AN ADOLESCENT KID.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD TRY TO SEDUCE ME.
THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT, YOU DID.

CLEOPATRA
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ANCIENT
SHUFFLING THROUGH THE DOOR
NODDING OFF IN MID-CONVERSATION
AND DROOLING ON THE FLOOR.

CAESAR
I have spittoons for that.
I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE UNGRACIOUS;

CLEOPATRA
UNHAPPY WITH ALL THAT YOU'VE GOT;

CLEOPATRA/CAESAR
PETTY AND PROUD AND PUGNACIOUS
BUT YOU'RE NOT.

CLEOPATRA
About that navy.

CAESAR
Yes.

CLEOPATRA
What do you need for it?

CAESAR
Need? I don't need anything. Anything I want I can just take.

CLEOPATRA
All right. What do you want, then?

CAESAR
What I want...no, what I want is something you can't give me.

CLEOPATRA

Try me.

CAESAR

Rome has a long legacy, you know. And there's -- I come from a lineage which is linked to the gods. I'm to be an immortal god after my death. I don't know if you knew that.

CLEOPATRA

Talk about your tenure.

CAESAR

Yes, but it doesn't do anything for me as a mortal. As a man, I mean. I want an heir, Cleopatra. But my wife and all my women have failed me.

CLEOPATRA

It's not you who have failed them?

CAESAR

No. It isn't.

CLEOPATRA

And if I were to succeed where they have not? If I were to give you an heir.

CAESAR

Then I would finance your navy.

CLEOPATRA

Have we struck a bargain?

CAESAR

I believe we have.

CLEOPATRA

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ROUND AND FLABBY,
A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WITH A POT.
BALDING AND GENERALLY CRABBY....

CAESAR

(awkward pause; then:)

But....

CLEOPATRA

You're not crabby.

CAESAR

We're going to get along famously!

CLEOPATRA/CAESAR

SURPRISED BY WHAT I'M FEELING,
BECAUSE I REALLY THOUGHT
YOU'D BE UNAPPEALING.
BUT YOU'RE NOT.

(Blackout.)