

CRY HAVOC! (ASK QUESTIONS LATER)

EPISODE 11 - WORKSHOP

Written by

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Edited with additional material

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Featuring

Sarah Agha as Charmian
Andy Secombe as Lepidus
Benjamin Garrison as Townsperson
Katharine Seaton as Shopwoman
Mark Thompson as Gracchus
Lara Sawalha as Cleopatra
Beth Eyre as Fulvia
Ellie Dickens as Atia
Kazeem Tosin Amore as Mark Antony
Harry Roebuck as Gaius Octavius Caesar
Aaron-Louis Cadogan as Antyllus
Ryan Hopevere-Anderson as Sextus
Sarah Lambie as Octavia

Content Notes:

- Kidnapping
- Food
- Arguments
- Alcohol & Alcohol Use
- Sexual References & Innuendo
- SFX: Waves & Wind, creaking, eating & drinking, misophonia, loud vocalisations

1 INT. PIRATE SHIP - NIGHT

1

Charmian recounts her exploits...

CHARMIAN

OK. So here I am, one Roman night,
in the hold of a pirate ship. You
might be asking, "How did you get
here?" Well...

SNAP TO:

2 EXT./INT. - MONTAGE

2

A ROMAN STREET!

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

First, I hit the streets to find
out where the pirates went...

TOWNSPERSON

They grabbed a boat and rowed in
that direction. Stole my chicken
too!

CHARMIAN

They stole your dinner?

TOWNSPERSON

My pet chicken, Gloria! I could
never eat her, you monster!

CHARMIAN

Sorry, my bad.

SNAP - A ROMAN SHOP! A bundle of THINGS dropped on a
COUNTER.

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

Then, I gathered supplies...

SHOPWOMAN

Here you go miss! But what do you
need with a rope, a grappling hook,
and skintight black clothing?

(beat)

And can I come?

CHARMIAN

Bless you, not today!

SNAP - THE SEA! Charmian SWIMMING WITH EFFORT.

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

And then I swam, and swam, and swam
some more, until I got to the ship.

SNAP - BOBBING UP AND DOWN in sea by the ship. THROWING the
GRAPPLING HOOK UP; Charmian GRUNTS with effort.

CHARMIAN (V.O.) (cont'd)

And then it took me, like, three
tries to get the grappling hook up
over the side. Then finally....

SNAP - SHIP'S DECK! A WET FLOP as Charmian rolls over the
edge of the ship and onto the deck. She BREATHES HEAVILY.

CHARMIAN (V.O.) (cont'd)

I was aboard! I tried to catch my
breath for a quick second. But...

HEAVY FOOTFALL of an approaching pirate. Then:

CHARMIAN (V.O.) (cont'd)

I knocked the pirate out.

THUD. PIRATE GROANS and COLLAPSES.

CHARMIAN (V.O.) (cont'd)

Grappling hooks have so many uses.

SNAP - SHIP'S HOLD! Charmian's SNEAKING FOOTSTEPS.

CHARMIAN (V.O.) (cont'd)

Then I went in search of the
hostages. And that's how I found...

LEPIDUS (V.O.)

Me!

3 INT. PIRATE SHIP HOLD - NIGHT

3

The CREAKING HOLD of the ship. Charmian has been talking to
Lepidus this whole time. He's in a big cage.

CHARMIAN

Yes Lepidus that's how I found you.

LEPIDUS

And thank goodness you've come!

CHARMIAN

Why, what's happening?

LEPIDUS

They forgot to include the plum sauce with my supper! If these pirates must fatten me up, I do wish they'd do it properly!

He THROWS DOWN some CUTLERY in protest.

CHARMIAN

Fatten you up? They're not cannibals.

LEPIDUS

You say that, my dear, but sea water does funny things to the mind! I should know, I've been drinking it for an hour.

He SLURPS a glass of sea water.

CHARMIAN

Where are the others? Where's Octavia?

LEPIDUS

No idea! The pirates threw me into this cage, gave me some cushions, and I've just been sitting here waiting to be rescued. And eating strawberries.

He EATS A STRAWBERRY.

LEPIDUS (cont'd)

(eating)

It's absolute torture!

CHARMIAN

I have to find Octavia.

LEPIDUS

But what about me?!

CHARMIAN

I'll come back for you, I promise. Everything's going to be OK.

A DOOR SWINGS OPEN, revealing GRACCHUS the pirate.

GRACCHUS

I wouldn't be too sure about that.

CHARMIAN

Ah.

(MORE)

CHARMIAN (cont'd)
 (feebly)
 Would you believe I'm a member of
 the crew that you haven't noticed
 before?

GRACCHUS
 Come here!

He DARTS FORWARD and GRABS Charmian. She YELPS.

GRACCHUS (cont'd)
 I think the Captain will want to
 talk to you...

OPENING THEME AND TITLES

ANNOUNCER
 "Cry Havoc (Ask Questions Later)"
 Episode 11: "Workshop"

4 INT. GAIUS'S OFFICE - NIGHT

4

GAIUS, MARK and FULVIA have been working late...

MARK
 All right, how about this?

GAIUS
 (tired)
 Go on.

MARK
 While you're keeping Pompey and the
 pirates busy, I get off my raft,
 swim to the ship's stern, clamber
 up the hull, and find the hostages.
 Then I sneak them off the boat and
 sail away to safety! Job done!

FULVIA
 What about Gaius?

MARK
 Eh? Oh, he can fend for himself.

GAIUS
 Thanks.

FULVIA

Darling we've gone through every daring rescue attempt there could possibly be, and while I love your optimism-

MARK

I've also got this one where I'm lowered from above and they think I'm a god.

Pause.

MARK (cont'd)

We'll need scaffolding.

GAIUS

IN THE SEA?!?

FULVIA

(sharp intervention)

For goodness sake, could we try and stay calm, please?

ATIA enters with a TRAY OF DRINKS.

ATIA

'alho everyone.

MARK

(mumbled)

Y'alright.

FULVIA

(mumbled)

Atia.

GAIUS

What now, mother?

ATIA

Seeing as how the night's getting on, I thought I'd mix you up a few drinks to keep you all going.

Puts the tray DOWN on the table.

MARK

Finally! She does something useful!

Mark takes a goblet, DRINKS, and SPITS IT OUT.

MARK (cont'd)

What is this?!

ATIA

Posca. It's sour wine mixed with lots of vinegar, and some-

MARK

I know how you make posca!

ATIA

Well it's an energy drink isn't it.
You need to stay awake.

MARK

Oh yeah? And you need to get fu-!

FULVIA

DARLING, no. Remember what she did
to you last time.

ATIA

And I'd do it again.

GAIUS

It's dead of night and we still
haven't got a plan worth a damn!

MARK

If your sister hadn't bloody well
got herself kidnapped-!

GAIUS

My sister? What about your son?

MARK

He was lured into that cesspit of a
theatre by your sister, and look
what happened to him! My poor boy -
my precious son and heir!

FULVIA

I had no idea you felt that way
about him. I'm quite touched.

MARK

Just because I don't coddle the boy
doesn't mean I don't love him!

ATIA

To be fair, one's children can be
very disappointing.

GAIUS

That's no way to talk about
Octavia.

ATIA

I wasn't.

GAIUS
(sighs)

FULVIA
You two won't like hearing this...
but I think you should consider
Cleopatra.

MARK
... You mean adopt her?

FULVIA
No! Ask for her help with the
hostages!

GAIUS
I beg your pardon?

MARK
I'd rather die!

FULVIA
With our army still effectively on
strike, she's the only one with the
means to handle a pirate vessel -
or enough cash to handle a ransom.

MARK
Absolutely not! Give her an inch
and we'll never hear the end of it.

FULVIA
Oh I'm sure she can be reasonable,
and she's quite pleasant company.
(aside, thinking back)
Very pleasant, actually...

MARK
(confused, didn't hear)
You what-?

GAIUS
I shudder to say these words, but I
agree with Mark. Reaching out to
Cleopatra now would fatally
undermine our negotiations.

ATIA
She's running rings around you as
it is.

GAIUS
Yes, thank you.

MARK

So we're agreed: no Cleopatra.

FULVIA

That's a shame. Because she'll be here at any moment.

MARK

What?

GAIUS

What?

The DOORS OPEN as CLEOPATRA sweeps into the room.

CLEOPATRA

(smug)

Well hello everybody. I hear you're having a few problems. Let's see what we can do.

5 **EXT. PIRATE SHIP, DECK - NIGHT**

5

OCTAVIA and ANTYLLUS are reading out some new lines. It's otherwise a calm night, GENTLE LAPPING of waves.

OCTAVIA

(low voice)

"Sextus, you rogue! You're despicable, dishonest and devious!"

ANTYLLUS

"You forgot debonair! Have at you!" Swish swish swish and the senator's toga falls down-

OCTAVIA

"Ahh! It's chilly!"

ANTYLLUS

- and Sextus scoops Tullia up in his arms. "I told you we should've gone back to my place!"

OCTAVIA

"Better late than never! Take me to your ship!"

ANTYLLUS

"Your wish is my command, lady!" And they leap over the balcony, rappel down the wall, and escape into the night.

OCTAVIA

End of act one!

SEXTUS LAUGHS and APPLAUDS.

SEXTUS

Bravo! Bravo!
 (whistles)
 Now that is a play!

OCTAVIA

You like the changes?

SEXTUS

Yes! I may come off as bloodthirsty
 in real life, but I'm really more
 of an intelligent scoundrel.

OCTAVIA

You'll still be defeated at the
 end - got to write for your
 audience some of the time.

SEXTUS

Oh sure, absolutely - but at least
 I escape to fight another day, with
 a parting quip!

ANTYLLUS

"One for all, and all for me!"

SEXTUS

That's it! And Antyllus, your
 acting is really coming along! You
 even scared me at times!

ANTYLLUS

It's being around you, I guess -
 helps me get into character!

SEXTUS

Tell you what, go and help yourself
 to a bottle of my best grog.

ANTYLLUS

Thanks, Captain!

Antyllus happily WALKS OFF.

OCTAVIA

Any other notes?

SEXTUS

There's the line on page fifteen
 about me ravishing a fair maiden.

OCTAVIA

Oh yes?

SEXTUS

It's just I would never ravish a woman without her enthusiastic consent.

(suggestive)

And believe me, the consent is always enthusiastic.

OCTAVIA

I'll bet. So I should make it clear that the fair maiden wants to follow you into your den of sin?

SEXTUS

Exactly, and then we get our ravish on. Actually I was going to ask if you fancied a quick one?

OCTAVIA

Ah, thanks for the offer, but I'm only into women.

SEXTUS

Oh, fair, say no more! Well actually, no, tell me everything.

OCTAVIA

Ha! There's not much to tell. I used to cut a swath through Rome, but recently...

SEXTUS

Go on...

OCTAVIA

There's been someone I've wanted to focus on more... exclusively. Which is kind of new for me.

SEXTUS

Wow! I've never met a girl who made me want to settle for monogamy.

OCTAVIA

I know! I hardly recognize myself. We haven't even - well, anything, together. But I really like this girl. She's charming, sensitive, thoughtful - and an amazing actress! You should have seen her in my last play.

SEXTUS

Aye, talent is sexy.

OCTAVIA

The problem is, I can't tell if she feels the same way about me.

SEXTUS

Oh come on. Just ask!

OCTAVIA

It's not that simple. I'm me, and this woman is a commoner.

SEXTUS

Is that all? Listen, if this girl makes you feel like this, there's nothing common about her. Besides, I've got loads of tips for connecting with the poor folk.

OCTAVIA

Do you really?

SEXTUS

Yes! They can't get enough of me; I'm sure you've heard the shanties.

OCTAVIA

Oh what's the one that goes something like
(singing)
"The dread pirate Sextus is truly the bestest--"

SEXTUS

(singing)
"Even though of our goods he is wont to divest us."

OCTAVIA

... Gosh, those shanties are a big mouthful aren't they?

Antyllus RETURNS, SWIGGING from a bottle.

SEXTUS

Antyllus!

ANTYLLUS

(coughing)
This grog packs a punch.

SEXTUS

Aye that'll put hairs on your chest! Mind you, I heard how you stood up to my crew when they 'acquired' Octavia in the theatre.

OCTAVIA

That's one way of putting it.

SEXTUS

Very impressive, lad. There's a lot more to you than meets the eye.

ANTYLLUS

Wow. I don't think I've ever impressed anyone before.

SEXTUS

We were just indulging in a spot of karaoke - you want in?

ANTYLLUS

Do I!

OCTAVIA

Blimey, this pirate cruise could actually do you some good!

A wooden door OPENS and Gracchus emerges.

GRACCHUS

Excuse me, Captain.

SEXTUS

Not now, Gracchus! We're about to have a sing song.

GRACCHUS

Pardon the interruption, but you've got an unexpected visitor, in the hold...

6 INT. GAIUS'S OFFICE - NIGHT

6

The argument is ongoing - Gaius and Mark both talking at Cleopatra.

GAIUS

Your Majesty, it is entirely out of the question, and furthermore-

MARK

I'd rather stuff a tree up my arse and pretend to be a forest than let Egypt-

Cleopatra DROPS into a CHAIR.

CLEOPATRA

Enough! It's clear to anyone with half a brain that you haven't any solution for the hostage crisis.

GAIUS

We've some ideas in the works.

ATIA

Yes, we got up to "let's rescue them" and then came up short.

GAIUS

Mother!

ATIA

Alright I'm going! Cleopatra, dear, would you like an energy drink?

FULVIA

Say no.

CLEOPATRA

I'm fine, thank you Atia.

Atia SHUFFLES from the room, under:

CLEOPATRA (cont'd)

If you can simply admit that you need my help, then we could get on with saving some lives.

MARK

No! I don't need to bargain with Egypt in order to rescue my son.

FULVIA

Mark, don't be so pig-headed.

CLEOPATRA

In exchange for renewed recognition of my dynasty's rights - and let's throw in Armenia while we're at it-

MARK

That's a whole country!

CLEOPATRA

- Egypt can easily provide the ransom money for you. Of course, I could always summon a navy to destroy the pirates instead, though there's no guarantee your hostages would still be alive by then...

GAIUS

Your terms are unacceptable.

CLEOPATRA

My terms are the best you have. Look around, Caesar. Open your eyes, Mark. You have no money. You have no men. We're going around in circles because you refuse to accept the truth that's right in front of you, which is that not only am I your best option, I am your only option.

MARK

(blustering)

But I - I... Fulvia, do you see what you've done? You've let a viper into our midst!

FULVIA

A viper who can deal with pirates.

MARK

Rome can deal with pirates! Just... not right now.

CLEOPATRA

Well, Caesar? What do you say?

MARK

Gaius?

Gaius sighs deeply.

GAIUS

I see little choice... but to accept your offer.

MARK

What?!

CLEOPATRA

Finally!

GAIUS

However, we'll have to run it by the Senate. We'll convene first thing in the morning.

CLEOPATRA

Really?!

FULVIA

Oh come on...!

CLEOPATRA

You can't wait that long! The pirates could be slicing them up for sport this very moment!

MARK

Yeah, whatever we do, it has to be now! Antyllus and Octavia need us!

FULVIA

And Lepidus.

MARK

Who? Oh yeah, him too.

GAIUS

I'll send a messenger to summon them as soon as possible - but I can't allow such a monumental decision to be made without approval.

FULVIA

Jove in the heavens, you don't need the Senate! You're a triumvir!

GAIUS

But not a dictator. I will not make the mistakes that Julius made.

(finding it hard)

I'm sorry. There's a proper way of doing things. Even when family is involved.

Gaius LEAVES the office, Mark angrily calling after him.

MARK

Gaius! You're going to get them killed! Gaius!

He KICKS the TABLE.

CLEOPATRA

You Romans are so inflexible. In Horus's name, how did you manage to take over the world?

FULVIA

By accident, mostly.

7 INT. PIRATE SHIP, STOREROOM - NIGHT

7

A dank room in which Charmian is being kept.

SEXTUS

So. You're my visitor?

CHARMIAN

(brave face)

And you're my jailer. Good to meet you, Captain. I'd get up but, er...

She CLANKS her CHAINS. Sextus DRAGS A CHAIR and SITS.

SEXTUS

Sorry it took so long to drop by. It's a busy job running a piracy enterprise. The boys been treating you all right?

CHARMIAN

Yes, they've made it quite clear that it would be futile to escape, and the weapons I was shown were very threatening.

SEXTUS

I'm thrilled to hear it. Now, you know who I am - the dread pirate Sextus - so let's cut to the chase. Who are you and why are you here?

CHARMIAN

That's a long story.

SEXTUS

Start with your name. What is it?

CHARMIAN

(merest hesitation)

Mia.

SEXTUS

That sounded like a fib.

CHARMIAN

More like a stage name.

SEXTUS

The stage? Huh. You don't happen to know an Octavia by any chance?

CHARMIAN

What? Where is she? Is she alive?

SEXTUS

What's it to you?

Charmian strains against her CHAINS.

CHARMIAN

If you've hurt her, I'll pull out
your eyes and feed them to the
jackals!

Sextus puts two and two together.

SEXTUS

Hang on hang on hang on...
(laughs)
Are you the commoner?

CHARMIAN

What?

SEXTUS

Sorry, I meant, are you the woman
that Octavia's been so taken with?
... You are, aren't you!

CHARMIAN

She's taken with me? Nooo. Really?
I mean, what have you heard, tell
me everything. Omit no detail.

SEXTUS

Well, far be it from me to betray a
confidence, but let's just say that
you're living rent free in that
lass's head right now.

CHARMIAN

(happy)
Yeah?

SEXTUS

Yeah! And it warms the heart to see
her feelings are reciprocated.

CHARMIAN

(flustered)
Wh-shut up! What do you mean?

SEXTUS

Come on! You came here to rescue
her, admit it!

CHARMIAN

... Maybe.

SEXTUS

Oh, this is beautiful! A love story
for the ages, happening on my ship!

CHARMIAN

Well, hold on there. Love. Seems
too soon to be using that word.

SEXTUS

(singing)
Octavia and Mia sitting in a tree-

CHARMIAN

Stop it!

SEXTUS

I recognize the symptoms. Desperate
acts, stars in the eyes. The same
look I see on the faces of the
women I leave behind at every port.
And the men, actually.

He GETS UP and starts UNLOCKING Charmian's chains.

SEXTUS (cont'd)

Let's get you out of those chains.

CHARMIAN

You're setting me free?

SEXTUS

You're still a hostage, don't get
me wrong, but it's pretty chill. At
least if you're part of the cool
hostage group.

CHARMIAN

Who's in the uncool hostage group?

SEXTUS

Lepidus. Nice guy, but he's just
for small doses, you know? Now
c'mon - let's get you in with the
rest of the gang!

8 EXT. PIRATE SHIP, DECK - NIGHT

8

Same atmos as before. Antyllus wrapping up a jaunty song.

ANTYLLUS

(singing)

There's no place like it / Not
remotely is there like it / Yes
noooo place like Roooooome!

Octavia CLAPPING.

OCTAVIA

Not bad! If you can dance too,
you'd be a triple threat. Maybe I
could write a story told entirely
through songs...

(beat)

Nah, musical theatre? That'll never
take off.

ANTYLLUS

Yeah, and Dad's mad enough that I
want to be in theatre without me
singing on stage as well!

OCTAVIA

Really? He never struck me as such
a stick in the mud.

ANTYLLUS

He wants me to be a soldier. You
know, take after him. But I'm just
not made for that.

OCTAVIA

Does he put you down?

ANTYLLUS

No, it's just that... I can tell
I'm disappointing him.

OCTAVIA

You're sensitive. He isn't.

ANTYLLUS

All the kids at school used to
tease me. Push me around. Dad said
I should show them who's boss, but
it's not my style, y'know?

OCTAVIA

You know what I do when my brother
criticizes me?

ANTYLLUS

What?

OCTAVIA
I ignore him. And then I work out
my frustration on the page.

ANTYLLUS
Yeah?

OCTAVIA
Pour that into your art, Antyllus.
Let it power your performances.
Whatever those twats at school used
to say, make that criticism work
for you. We'll all support you.

ANTYLLUS
I've never really had friends
before.

OCTAVIA
You do now, Antyllus.

ANTYLLUS
Thanks.

A DOOR OPENS nearby, as Sextus and Charmian appear on deck.

SEXTUS
Octavia! I've found somebody else
who wants to be in your play.

OCTAVIA
Who do you... Mia!

Charmian RUSHES to Octavia. They CLUTCH each other's arms.

CHARMIAN
Octavia! You're really okay!

OCTAVIA
Mia! I can't believe it's you! What
on earth are you doing here?

CHARMIAN
Trying to rescue you. And the
others, obviously.

OCTAVIA
How's that working out for you?

CHARMIAN
Well I got captured. So, not well.

SEXTUS

But we all appreciate the effort,
eh lass? Tell you what, why don't
you grab a drink over there and
relax? My boatswain mixes a mean
cocktail. Antyllus will show you.

ANTYLLUS

Sure!

CHARMIAN

If I'm going to be stuck here a
while, don't mind if I do.

(beat)

Octavia. It really is... I mean...
seeing you again is great.

OCTAVIA

You too.

Charmian and Antyllus WALK AWAY ACROSS THE DECK.

OCTAVIA (cont'd)

I don't get it... She came out all
this way to rescue us? By herself?

SEXTUS

That's the girl, isn't it? The one
who makes you weak at the knees?

OCTAVIA

Was it that obvious?

SEXTUS

As obvious as the way she feels
about you.

OCTAVIA

What? No. Really?

SEXTUS

She swam all the way here to rescue
you. Swam! With a grappling hook!

OCTAVIA

Oh my gods.

SEXTUS

I'm pleased for you, truly. It'll
be good for you to have somebody
during the who-knows-how-long
you'll be on this ship.

Beat.

OCTAVIA

(laughing nervously)

Yeah, but... it's not like you plan to hold us forever, though, right? You're not like other pirates. You're a cool pirate!

SEXTUS

Yeah, no, totally. But that doesn't mean I'm soft. I've got a reputation to maintain.

OCTAVIA

What does that mean?

Sextus takes a SLOW STEP CLOSER to Octavia. His voice remains gentle when he speaks, but there's a slight chill.

SEXTUS

Surely I don't need to explain how a ransom works? Yours is due midday tomorrow. If I don't get paid, you get... waylaid. A permanent addition to my merry crew.

OCTAVIA

... I really thought you would let us go.

Another panther-soft step.

SEXTUS

Octavia, darling. Nobody leaves this ship without my say so. That's just how it is. After all... I am the dread pirate Sextus.

9 **EXT. GAIUS'S GARDEN - NIGHT**

9

A chilly night in the garden. Distant sounds of ROME, a city that never quite sleeps. INSECTS in the TREES. FOOTSTEPS on MARBLE as Cleopatra approaches Mark.

CLEOPATRA

Mark?

MARK

Oh, it's you. What do you want?

CLEOPATRA

Your wife suggested we might have a word together.

MARK
Meddling again.

CLEOPATRA
For some reason she speaks of you
very highly. You're a lucky man.

MARK
Well. Yeah. She's amazing. Big fan.

Beat.

CLEOPATRA
Your colleague is beginning to ride
my final nerve.

MARK
Ha. You and me both.

CLEOPATRA
Oh yes?

MARK
He's always pointing out problems
like "running things past the
Senate", but never pointing out
solutions like "screwing the
Senate-

CLEOPATRA
"And doing what we want
anyway."

MARK
"And doing what we want
anyway."

MARK (cont'd)
Exactly. You get it. You totally
get it.

CLEOPATRA
Not bad for a viper, eh?

MARK
(uncomfortable)
Yeah, well. That was when I didn't
know you had the measure of Gaius.
(beat)
He's a fathead.

CLEOPATRA
The fattest head.

MARK
He thinks he knows it all. But it's
all up there, nothing in here.

He THUMPS his CHEST.

CLEOPATRA

All brain and no heart makes for an excellent advisor, but...

MARK

No leader. I won Rome for us single-handedly while Gaius hid in tents with his little parchments. When it comes down to it, he's just not a man of action. But I am.

CLEOPATRA

Is that so?

MARK

If it were up to me, we wouldn't be sitting around here waiting for our family to get butchered by pirates.

CLEOPATRA

But it is up to you, isn't it?

Beat.

MARK

Listen, I didn't want to admit it before, but we need your money. We do. I just wanted to be the one to rescue my son.

CLEOPATRA

There's no reason that can't still happen.

MARK

Oh yeah?

CLEOPATRA

If we put our minds to thinking up a plan - and don't let the fathead stop us from carrying it out...

They both CHUCKLE, then pull themselves up short.

MARK

We're not... getting along, are we?

CLEOPATRA

Mm. I'm as disturbed as you are. Let's not make a habit of it.

10 INT. GAIUS'S OFFICE - NIGHT

10

Gaius looking fruitlessly over some documents.

FULVIA

You know, Gaius, if you can't throw your weight around and show a bit of leadership, then you ought to step aside for someone who can.

GAIUS

The last man to throw his weight around with the Senate got stabbed to death by that same Senate.

FULVIA

So you're scared, basically?

GAIUS

Prudence is an important quality of leadership, that's all. A little caution goes a long way.

FULVIA

Too much of it goes absolutely nowhere.

GARDEN DOORS open as Mark and Cleopatra re-enter; outside night atmos drifting in.

GAIUS

Ah, there you are. You two finished complaining about me?

MARK

Just about.

CLEOPATRA

Any news?

GAIUS

You'll be pleased to know that we're able to convene the Senate earlier than anticipated, so we should know where we are in-

MARK

Don't need 'em, mate.

GAIUS

Sorry, what?

MARK

We don't need them. While they all
get a good night's kip, we're going
to act - and save those hostages.

GAIUS

But we haven't got a plan!

MARK

Oh yes we have.

CLEOPATRA

We've come up with a proposition
for you.

GAIUS

We?

FULVIA

We?

FULVIA (cont'd)

You mean the two of you?

CLEOPATRA

Indeed. It's not going to be easy,
but we believe it might just
work...

END THE EPISODE