

CRY HAVOC! (ASK QUESTIONS LATER)

EPISODE 9 - KIDNAP!

Written by

Octavia Bray

Edited with additional material

by David K. Barnes

Recording Script (Version 5.0)

CAST

Sarah Lambie as Octavia
Benjamin Garrison as Quintus
Lara Sawalha as Cleopatra
Sarah Agha as Charmian
Ellie Dickens as Atia
Harry Roebuck as Gaius Octavius Caesar
Kazeem Tosin Amore as Mark Antony
Aaron-Louis Cadogan as Antyllus
Andy Secombe as Lepidus
Ryan Hopevere-Anderson as Sextus
Ahmed Aljabry as Sadiki
Mark Nicholson as Gracchus
Alastair Christie as Dion
Helen Gould as Auditionee
Ryan Hopevere-Anderson as Roman Messenger 1

Content Notes

- Abuse of Power (recurring theme)
- Bullying and taunting
- Food
- Alcohol & Alcohol Use
- Vicarious Embarrassment
- Sexual References & Innuendo
- Kidnapping
- Threats of violence
- SFX: Crowds, Eating and Drinking, misophonia, Sea & wind, creaking

A SWELL OF APPLAUSE all around us. CHARMIAN recounts her experience in The Crown Jules in tones of pride and wonder. Everything feels much bigger in this flashback.

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

It had never happened to me before.
So many eyes looking at me, not
through me. I was glad. I wanted to
be seen.

Her words as Jupiter RING OUT.

CHARMIAN

I, Jupiter, have come to manage the
affairs of mortal men!

The delighted GASPS of the audience. SMATTERING of APPLAUSE.

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

They delighted in my every word. The
effect I had upon them was
incredible.

CHARMIAN

Who but the gods can create harmony?

A greater WAVE of applause, with CHEERING.

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

And I knew then that... I liked this.
I liked it a lot. I really, really
want to do it again.

CHARMIAN

Go forward, and may we meet again!
Farewell!

Enormous, WORLD-SHAKING APPLAUSE! WHISTLING, HOOTING. Bigger than we heard in the episode. It's monumental for her.

Then it melts away, like a dream. And we're in...

Outside, a bright, sunny morning. BIRDS. BREEZE. Inside, Charmian is with SADIKI, another of Cleopatra's servants.

CHARMIAN

And that's how it was. I came up with a plan on the fly, I made up some words, I saved the show, and...

SADIKI

... The Queen discovered what you'd been doing.

CHARMIAN

(down to Earth)

Yeah. That wasn't part of the plan.

SADIKI

You mean you weren't going to tell her? But Charmian-

CHARMIAN

Of course I was! Sooner or later. I am loyal, I will always be loyal.

SADIKI

I hope so.

CHARMIAN

But how... how could I pass up on the opportunity to feel like that? How could anyone?

SADIKI

I am content with my duties.

CHARMIAN

Sure, Sadiki. You must love announcing guests all day.

SADIKI

The Queen trusts me. I would never take that for granted. I'm sure she won't let you out of her sight again.

A change in Charmian's tone. The magic dimmed.

CHARMIAN

Actually... she wants me to go back.

SADIKI

To that theatre? To those... people?

CHARMIAN

Mmm.

SADIKI

You don't look very pleased.

CHARMIAN

As she told me herself... it won't be
for the sake of art.

She recalls CLEOPATRA's words - a slight REVERB.

CLEOPATRA (V.O.)

Charmian, from now on you will report
to me every word that Octavia says.
She knows things, about her
government - and her brother. The
closer you work with her, the more
she'll confide in you, and any detail
no matter how small could be valuable
to us.

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

Yes, my lady.

CLEOPATRA (V.O.)

Do this and I may yet overlook your
lapse in judgement. And who knows, we
may one day have need of a... friend,
in such high places. One who'll do
whatever we ask, in return for
keeping their secrets. The most
effective weapon of them all... is
information.

We return to the present.

SADIKI

You've got off more than lightly! To
spy for the Queen is a great honour!

CHARMIAN

(resigned)
I know. Oh, I know.

SADIKI

Again, you don't look pleased...

CHARMIAN

I can follow orders, Sadiki. And you
can keep your opinions to yourself.

We hear Charmian's memory of OCTAVIA - with reverb.

OCTAVIA (V.O.)

Mia... You were amazing.

CHARMIAN (V.O.)

Oh! Well... So are you...!

OPENING THEME AND TITLES

ANNOUNCER

"Cry Havoc (Ask Questions Later)
Episode 9: "Kidnap!"

3 INT. THEATRE, QUINTUS'S OFFICE - MORNING

3

OFF, atmos of a SET BEING CONSTRUCTED. QUINTUS at work in his office, TICKING NAMES with a SCRATCHY QUILL on a PARCHMENT.

QUINTUS

Yes, he'd be good... not him... oh,
Felix would have been wonderful. Too
bad he died in the war.

SRATCHES a NAME OUT, as the DOOR BURSTS OPEN.

OCTAVIA

(furious)

Quintus! You! Scrolls!

QUINTUS

Octavia! Chair! Desk! Are we going to
keep naming things in the room, or
was there something you needed?

OCTAVIA

You put up scrolls telling people
about auditions for the new play!

QUINTUS

Oh, that. Yes, I did.

OCTAVIA

Quintus!!

QUINTUS

Pot plant! You know, you started this
game, but you're not very good at it.

OCTAVIA

Listen! We don't have a new play.

QUINTUS

You said you had something on the go.

OCTAVIA

It's a work in progress!

QUINTUS

Well, progress it more quickly. After The Crown Jules, the box office is red hot. If we don't feed the public's hunger for theatre, someone else will.

OCTAVIA

But I hardly have a story yet! All I know is that it's about the dread pirate Sextus and his motley crew!

QUINTUS

Love it. Sounds great.

OCTAVIA

You don't know that!

QUINTUS

You took the violent death of Julius Caaesar and turned it into a popular comedy. I'm sure you can do the same thing again with a bunch of pirates.

OCTAVIA

Well maybe I can, but when do you need it finished?

QUINTUS

This afternoon would be nice.

OCTAVIA

What?!

QUINTUS

Alright, tomorrow - but you're twisting my arm.

OCTAVIA

I've only got a few scenes! Can't we stage an old one to give me more time?

QUINTUS

The public wants you, Octavia! Every actor in the land wants to work with you too - just look at these names!

OCTAVIA

I've never heard of them!

QUINTUS

Raw, untapped talent!

OCTAVIA

You mean cheap.

QUINTUS

If we're lucky they won't even have agents. Takes so much less effort.

OCTAVIA

Wait a mo, is that Mark Antony's son? Antyllus? He's not auditioning is he?

QUINTUS

Hm? Oh yes - see, even the elite want to get in on the act!

OCTAVIA

But we don't want him! He's so wet!

QUINTUS

And very well connected! We'll stick him in the background, fifth pirate on the left, he won't do any harm.

OCTAVIA

No, Quintus, where's our integrity?

QUINTUS

More to the point, where's our script?
How am I meant to be a star performer and star director if my star writer won't provide me with a script?

OCTAVIA

You can't do this to me!

QUINTUS

I cannot allow your writer's block to keep me - I mean, us - from success. Play, on my desk, by tomorrow!

4 **INT. GAIUS' HOUSE, DINING ROOM - MORNING**

4

MARK, GAIUS and CLEOPATRA are deep in negotiations.

CLEOPATRA

Caesar, the other night you led me to believe that you and your colleague wished to negotiate in good faith!

GAIUS

We absolutely do! Don't we Mark?

MARK

Speak for yourself, I'm here for the food. Pass the grapes.

CLEOPATRA

If your stomach is all you care about then how about pomegranates?

MARK

Where?

CLEOPATRA

Egypt! Tons of big, juicy pomegranates could be yours every week if you'd concede me some land in Cyrene.

MARK

Ohhh, no no, that's where I have my summer house.

CLEOPATRA

You'd prioritise a summer house? Over food for your people?!

MARK

It was a fixer-upper. I poured a lot of labour into that house.

GAIUS

We may be wandering from the point.

ATIA potters about WATERING THE PLANTS.

ATIA

I have to say if there's been a point, then I haven't heard it.

GAIUS

Mother! What are you doing? Go away!

ATIA

I'm watering the plants.

GAIUS

These are very sensitive negotiations!

ATIA

Are they? She says something sensible, Mark yells at her, and you just sort of fold up in the middle.

GAIUS

Mother...

ATIA

Why don't you discuss anything useful? Like the pirates, for instance.

CLEOPATRA

Good point Atia. I hear Sextus Pompey and his pirate force are threatening your shores and creeping ever closer.

MARK

Nothing we can't deal with.

CLEOPATRA

The reputation of our navy is unsurpassed. We could wipe out the pirates for you in return for Judea and bits of Antioch.

GAIUS

I assure you that Rome can handle a pirate force of any size.

ATIA

If you handle the pirates the same way you've handled these negotiations, I expect the city will be overrun in a matter of hours...

GAIUS

(exasperated)
Mother, could you not?

MARK

Look, I've got an idea. I say we break early for lunch. Who's with me?

GAIUS

(frustrated sigh)

Octavia ENTERS under the above.

OCTAVIA

Did someone say lunch? Ooo, a buffet. Don't mind if I do.

She immediately STARTS loading up a PLATE.

ATIA

Stress eating again is it? Don't complain about your figure the next time they chisel a statue of you.

OCTAVIA

Piss off, mother.

GAIUS

Can't I get through a single morning with the Queen of Egypt without my whole family interrupting us?

OCTAVIA

Quintus is driving me up the wall about my new play and I just needed to "get away" from the work, you know?

GAIUS

No I don't know. I have never once got away from work, and I don't intend to start now. So could you leave us alo-

Interrupted by a piece of bread BEING SHOVED into his MOUTH. He MAKES NOISES OF PROTEST.

OCTAVIA

Chill out and eat some bread, Gaius.

She FALLS DOWN into a SEAT next to Cleopatra.

OCTAVIA (cont'd)

Ooof! That's better. Good morning, your majesty. Have I ever said how much I love the eyeliner?

CLEOPATRA

Not yet.

OCTAVIA

Very bold, very striking. How annoyed would you be if I borrowed the look?

CLEOPATRA

Very. Don't do that.

Mark LOADING A PLATE at the buffet.

MARK

Oi Gaius, do you have any peacock? All I can see here is ham.

GAIUS

Maybe that's because we're somewhat low on food right now.

CLEOPATRA

Well give me Judea and you won't be. Unless the pirates get you first.

OCTAVIA

Ooo yes, pirates! Do we have any hot gossip on that? I need inspiration.

GAIUS

Hot. Gossip.

OCTAVIA

Yeah, come on, what have those sexy, dastardly rogues been up to lately?

GAIUS

Pirates aren't sexy, Octavia. They're reckless, dangerous, and vulgar!

OCTAVIA

Yeah. That's hot. Right, guys?

CLEOPATRA

Oh absolutely.

MARK

I mean, yeah, fair.

ATIA

(knowingly, lusty)

I've known a few pirates in my time...

GAIUS

When did my dining room become a Bacchanal? Can we please get on with some important political discussion without being constantly interrupted?

LEPIDUS ENTERS, jauntily.

LEPIDUS

Hello everyone! Sorry I'm late!

GAIUS

Lepidus! What time do you call this?

LEPIDUS

Er, lunch time I think.

GAIUS

You were meant to be here hours ago!
I do apologise about this, your
Majesty.

CLEOPATRA

(stunned)
I hadn't noticed he was missing.

LEPIDUS

Hello Mark!

MARK

Wotcha mate, here's a plate.

LEPIDUS

Ta. What have we got here...

Lepidus and Mark FILLING UP PLATES.

GAIUS

Gentlemen, please!

CLEOPATRA

I can see why Rome scarcely has a leg
to stand on. You can't even manage
your own household.

MARK

Well, it's a big spread here! It's
called sharing the wealth. If you'd
ever heard of it, maybe you wouldn't
be so tight-fisted.

CLEOPATRA

(taken aback)
Ha ha, what?

OCTAVIA

Oh don't listen to him, he's like
this with everyone. Now about these
pirates-

GAIUS

Octavia, could you please just-

LEPIDUS

I say, do we have any honey?

Clink of plates as Mark PICKS UP A BOWL.

MARK

Here y'are.

ATIA

Oi, don't scoff all of it!

LEPIDUS

Sorry Atia.

GAIUS

Could we please focus on the job-?

LEPIDUS

You know, this lunch seems busier than it normally does, or is it just me?

MARK

(mumbling through food)

I dunno.

CLEOPATRA

This is a remarkable way to run a country.

GAIUS

(loudly)

OK, that's enough! Can everyone who isn't trying to negotiate vital matters of diplomacy go away so that we can get on with some work? Octavia, out. Mother, out.

ATIA

This is what happens when you don't neglect your children properly in their youth. They take on airs!

GAIUS

OUT!

Octavia GETS UP and EXITS with Atia (SHUFFLING FOOTSTEPS).

OCTAVIA

Come on, mother, let's leave little Gaius to his little games.

ATIA

I know when I'm not wanted.

LEPIDUS

Yes, so do I!

GAIUS

Sit down.

LEPIDUS

Oh, yes, sorry.

GAIUS

Right. Finally. Mark, Lepidus, your Majesty - your Majesty? Where is she?

CLINK of PLATE and FOOD by the buffet.

CLEOPATRA

Over here by the buffet. We're having lunch aren't we?

GAIUS

(tired, despairing sigh)

5 **EXT. ROMAN STREET - MORNING**

5

Octavia and Atia STEP OUT into a BUSY ROMAN STREET.

OCTAVIA

So mother, what are your plans for the rest of the day?

ATIA

Shopping. My favorite vendor has a new collection of erotic vases. Talk about quality! The most exquisite genitals ever painted.

OCTAVIA

I suppose I'll head back to the theatre. We're auditioning for the new play I haven't written yet.

ATIA

You'll get there, my dear.

OCTAVIA

Thanks mum.

ATIA

To the theatre, I mean.

OCTAVIA

Oh, right. Well, thanks anyway.

Octavia WALKS away down the street.

OCTAVIA (O.S.)

See you later!

ATIA

Right then, to the market. If I don't see at least one depiction of Proserpina going at it with Pluto, I shall take my business elsewhere.

She COLLIDES with GRACCHUS, a somewhat suspicious man.

ATIA (cont'd)

Oi, watch it!

GRACCHUS

Begging your pardon, ma'am. I'm just a humble traveler of no particular importance. Pay me no attention.

ATIA

I hadn't planned to pay you any attention whatsoever.

GRACCHUS

But now that we're acquainted, could you point me and my friend here to the, er, what's it...?

DION

Theatre of Pompey.

ATIA

Eh? Oh! Are you auditioning?

GRACCHUS

Er... yeah. Yeah, that's right.

ATIA

Octavia hasn't written it yet. I expect you'll have to improvise.

DION

(ears prick up)
Octavia, you say?

ATIA

Still, you're certainly dressed for it aren't you, under those big cloaks!

GRACCHUS

Eh? Oh, er-

ATIA

If I didn't know any better, I'd say you were actual pirates!

Atia CHUCKLES. Gracchus and Dion JOIN IN.

ATIA (cont'd)
 Anyway, she went down there, you
 might just catch her.

GRACCHUS
 Oh we will! Thank you, kindly!

ATIA (O.S.)
 Good luck!

Atia WANDERS AWAY.

GRACCHUS
 Well then, shipmate. Shall we?

DION
 After you, matey. I think this job
 could go very nicely...

6 **EXT. THEATRE, COURTYARD - MORNING**

6

Much quieter and more peaceful here than the streets.
 Quintus FLIPS through Octavia's PAGES.

QUINTUS
 Yes, these are fine for the moment.
 At least they'll have something to
 audition with.

OCTAVIA
 If you gave me a few more days, I
 could make them better than 'fine'.

QUINTUS
 I don't need better than fine,
 Octavia. I need "in existence." Which
 these pages are. Now, come along. We
 have hopefuls waiting.

Charmian APPROACHES.

CHARMIAN (O.S.)
 (calls)
 Octavia!

OCTAVIA
 Oh, hey! Mia!
 (to Quintus)
 I'll catch you up.

QUINTUS

Well don't be long. And she has to audition like the rest.

OCTAVIA

No she doesn't. Quick, piss off.

QUINTUS

Charmed.

DOOR OPENS and Quintus GOES INSIDE.

OCTAVIA

Mia! Are you here for auditions?

CHARMIAN

(not quite with it)
Auditions? What auditions?

OCTAVIA

Are you OK?

CHARMIAN

Yes. Sorry. I've got a few things going around my head, is all.

OCTAVIA

You and me both. I mean, physically? I am fine. Mentally, emotionally, and spiritually though? No. Not a bit.

CHARMIAN

What's wrong?

OCTAVIA

This play isn't ready. I had to bang out a few scenes this morning, and they are mediocre. I am mediocre.

CHARMIAN

You're not mediocre.

OCTAVIA

They're so superficial! Everyone will realise I'm a hack. Maybe I am!

CHARMIAN

You're not a hack.

OCTAVIA

I should go back to being a hand model for the muralists--

CHARMIAN

Octavia stop it.

Charmian GRABS Octavia by the shoulders.

CHARMIAN (cont'd)

You are talented, you are brilliant,
and you have no right to be treating
yourself like this. Understand?

OCTAVIA

Charmian. You're touching me.

CHARMIAN

What? Oh, sorry.

She HURRIEDLY PULLS BACK. Awkward. It's cute.

OCTAVIA

No no, don't worry.

CHARMIAN

Just needed to grab you... stop you
talking...

OCTAVIA

(nervous laugh)

Yes.

CHARMIAN

And um. I enjoyed being in your first
play, like, a lot. I... hope I can
win a part in this one too.

OCTAVIA

Win a part? You've got one!

CHARMIAN

Really?

OCTAVIA

Mia, you light up the stage! I wanted
to tell you how brilliant you were,
but you vanished before I could.

CHARMIAN

(uncomfortable)

Yeah. I, erm, saw someone I knew.

OCTAVIA

Well, I hope they showered you in
compliments!

CHARMIAN

They said I had... potential.

OCTAVIA

More than that. I saw you on that stage. You love it, you're a natural. You're star material.

CHARMIAN

(happy)

I am?

OCTAVIA

Mia, just talking with you now makes me feel like I can do this. You're a star, and you're my star. I mean our star! The company's star.

CHARMIAN

You mean-

OCTAVIA

Lead role. For sure. No audition required. It's yours.

CHARMIAN

I've never been a... star, before.

OCTAVIA

It's easy, just be you. You'll have lots more lines, obviously.

CHARMIAN

You'd have to help me with them.

OCTAVIA

Yes. Lots of rehearsal time together.

CHARMIAN

Long nights.

OCTAVIA

Close quarters.

Big sexy pause. DOOR SNAPS OPEN.

QUINTUS

Octavia!

Octavia JUMPS OUT OF HER SKIN.

OCTAVIA

Aaagh!

QUINTUS
Auditions! Now!

OCTAVIA
Yes! Coming! I guess I'll see you at
rehearsal tomorrow?

CHARMIAN
(remembering mission)
Actually, couldn't I hang around with
you? Nearby? Help out? With anything?

OCTAVIA
I'm dying for some liquid courage to
get me through these auditions?

CHARMIAN
Sorry?

OCTAVIA
Wine. Could you? There's a place over
there - tell them to put it on my
tab.

CHARMIAN
Oh, sure. Right away.
(leaving)
Won't be long!

OCTAVIA
Nor will I!

Charmian HURRIES OFF.

OCTAVIA (cont'd)
(to self)
Nor will I? Pull yourself together.

She GOES IN, DOOR CLOSES.

7 **INT. AUDITORIUM - MIDDAY**

7

A little while later. Octavia and Quintus afflicted by a
heinous audition. ECHOES OUT on the BARE STAGE.

AUDITIONEE
Arrgh. And stab! I die! Thank you.

QUINTUS
Oh no. Thank you for that... display.

As the auditionee WALKS OFFSTAGE...

QUINTUS (cont'd)

I'd say that's a... maybe.

OCTAVIA

What is happening? Where's our usual crop of actors with actual talent?

QUINTUS

Gone home to prepare against impending piracy. We're getting the ones with nothing to live for but the stage.

OCTAVIA

You're telling me *she* lives only for the stage? The one we just saw vocalise a stabbing.

QUINTUS

Yes, it turns out having other things to live for might actually improve one's craft...

(calls)

Next!

OCTAVIA

Mia can't return quickly enough with that wine...

A nervous but excited ANTYLLUS BOUNDS onto the STAGE.

ANTYLLUS

Octavia! It's me!

OCTAVIA

(not fussed)

Oh. Antyllus. Hello. Great to see you.

ANTYLLUS

I can't believe I'm here, doing this! It's like a dream come true!

QUINTUS

And what made you want to throw your laurels into the ring?

ANTYLLUS

Well I'm a huge fan, I've seen all your productions! I even keep them on Blu-Ray.

QUINTUS

Blu-Ray?

ANTYLLUS

A servant, from Numidia. He memorises all your plays and performs them for me when I'm bored.

QUINTUS

Oh! We ought to monetise that.

ANTYLLUS

But then I saw The Crown Jules... that was something else! I just knew I had to try! To give my acting debut, doing your words, Octavia! You're amazing!

OCTAVIA

Oh, well! Um. Thank you. Let's... see what you've got for us!

ANTYLLUS

(centring himself)
OK!... OK...

He CLEARS HIS THROAT. BREATHES. Gets in the zone. RUSTLE of AUDITION SIDE. Then he launches into a wooden audition.

ANTYLLUS (cont'd)

Tremble in fear before me, all who look upon my visage. For I am the dread pirate Sextus, and your town is forfeit! Now hand over your valuables... please!

Beat. Octavia and Quintus exchange thoughtful "hms."

QUINTUS

That wasn't... awful...

OCTAVIA

Wasn't it?

QUINTUS

(to Antyllus)
OK dear, let's run it again, but this time: brutal. Fierce! And lose the 'please'. Pirates aren't polite about pillaging towns.

ANTYLLUS

Oh, sure.

QUINTUS

Now try again and... scare me!

ANTYLLUS

OK.

Beat. DEEP BREATH and then... the exact same audition.

ANTYLLUS (cont'd)

Tremble in fear before me, all who
look upon my visage. For I am the-

QUINTUS

No, no, no! This is the dread pirate
Sextus! Look at him funny, and he'll
pop out your eyeballs and eat them
like grapes! Is there no one around
here who knows how to be a pirate?

GRACCHUS and DION RUSH THE STAGE and THROW OFF THEIR CLOAKS.

GRACCHUS

Well actually, I reckon we might be
the pirates you're looking for!

SHWING of a CUTLASS.

DION

We've been practising for a long
time.

SHWING of ANOTHER CUTLASS.

OCTAVIA

Yes! You, in the amazing costumes!
Let's see what you can do!

GRACCHUS

You heard the woman, shipmate.

DION

I sure did, matey.

CHUCKLING DASTARDLY, they QUICKLY ADVANCE, GRAB Octavia, and
Gracchus THROWS HER over his SHOULDER.

OCTAVIA

Whoop! Wow! Yes! This is exactly the
energy we've been looking for!

QUINTUS

Um, Octavia...

OCTAVIA

I love to see an actor take
initiative!

ANTYLLUS

Octavia...

OCTAVIA

Though I do have notes, namely, this rope is a little tigh--

HAND OVER HER MOUTH. MUFFLED CRIES.

QUINTUS

Octavia. I think these may be actual pirates.

GRACCHUS

That's right, lad. And unless you want to join her, you'll stay right where you are.

QUINTUS

Yes sir, mister pirate sir.

OCTAVIA

(muffled)
Quintush!!!

ANTYLLUS

You can't take Octavia! She's not just a lady, she's an artist! If you don't put her down at once, then I'll-

BONK as he's BOPPED ON THE HEAD. COLLAPSES.

DION

Who's the kid then?

QUINTUS

Antyllus, son of Mark Antony the Triumvir of Rome, mister pirate sir.

OCTAVIA

(muffled)
Quintush!!!

GRACCHUS

What do you know, a bonus hostage. I'll carry this one.

He PICKS UP Antyllus under...

GRACCHUS (cont'd)

Now don't follow us, lad. Or it'll be so much the worse for these two!

QUINTUS

No sir, go ahead. Have a nice day!

The pirates ESCAPE with their hostages.

OCTAVIA

(muffled)

Quintishh! QUINTISHHHH!!!

They're gone. Silence in the theatre.

QUINTUS

Well. That's one way to win a part.

OPPOSITE DOOR OPENS. Charmian ENTERS.

CHARMIAN

Octavia! They only had red, I hope that's OK... Um... Where's Octavia?

8 **INT. GAIUS' HOUSE, DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON**

8

Gaius, Mark and Lepidus alone, tired.

MARK

Is it me, gents, or are these negotiations a massive drag?

LEPIDUS

Each day I find myself more exhausted.

MARK

You skipped most of it! And you didn't even tell me so I could bunk off too!

GAIUS

Look you two, negotiations are hard, but trust me, we are making progress.

MARK

Yeah?

GAIUS

Well. Things aren't getting any worse.

MARK

(scoffs)

Great.

GAIUS

Yes, I'd say that as long as we hold on, the tide will definitely turn in our favor any moment now.

A MESSENGER BURSTS IN through the DOORS.

MESSENGER

I bear urgent news for Caesar! Your sister has been kidnapped by pirates!

GAIUS

WHAT?!

MARK

Ouch. Tough break. But hey, at least she can't write any more jokes about you!

MESSENGER

I also bear urgent news for Mark Antony!

MARK

... Ah nuts.

9 INT. PIRATE SHIP, SEXTUS'S QUARTERS - AFTERNOON

9

WOODEN QUARTERS, nearby LAPPING OF WAVES. We hear the pirates DRAGGING their hostages through the ship and INTO THE ROOM.

Octavia's and Antyllus's MUFFLED CRIES.

GRACCHUS

Right, take their gags out.

DION

Why? They're already loud enough.

GRACCHUS

We can entertain ourselves with hearing how they beg for their lives. At sea, no one can hear them scream.

GAGS TAKEN OUT.

OCTAVIA

(splutters)

I'm sure you're trying to be menacing, but it'll take more than a few words to terrify *me*. Antyllus!

ANTYLLUS
 (terrified)
 Yes?

OCTAVIA
 I hope you're getting all of this.

ANTYLLUS
 Getting this?

OCTAVIA
 Every moment of this must be
 committed to memory, because once
 we're rescued... this is going to
 make great theatre!

SEXTUS
 I'm sorry. Did you say, rescue?

SHARP, INTIMIDATING FOOTSTEPS into the room. Whoever this
 is, they're totally awesome and they're not fucking around.

SEXTUS (cont'd)
 I wouldn't say that "rescue" is a
 word that's really on the table. In
 fact, who knows if you'll ever leave
 this ship intact.

OCTAVIA
 Don't you mean alive?

SEXTUS
 There are plenty of ways you might
 leave my ship alive. But intact is
 never guaranteed. It's an unpleasant
 business, but I do have a reputation
 to uphold.

OCTAVIA
 (fearful tone)
 What sort of reputation?

SEXTUS
 I might need an ear or an arm or two,
 to make sure people get the point.
 You see, I'm not just any pirate.

Another STEP TOWARDS US for emphasis.

SEXTUS (cont'd)
 I'm the dread pirate Sextus.

END OF EPISODE