

CRY HAVOC! (ASK QUESTIONS LATER)

EPISODE 2 - SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

Written by

David K. Barnes

Recording Script (Version 5.0)

www.davidkbarnes.com
Agent: micheline@steinplays.com

Cast

GAIUS ~ HARRY ROEBUCK

MARK ~ KAZEEM TOSIN AMORE

OCTAVIA ~ SARAH LAMBIE

QUINTUS ~ BENJAMIN GARRISON

LEPIDUS ~ ANDY SECOMBE

CILLO ~ KARIM KRONFLI

NASO ~ TOM CROWLEY

VARRO ~ ALASTAIR CHRISTIE

DRUSUS ~ PIP GLADWIN

GAIUS is giving a speech, his voice reverberating in the Senate chamber. His audience is utterly enraptured.

GAIUS

Fellow men of the Senate, Rome is strong. Our wars are over. At last we stand united. Though there is hardship on the way ahead, shall we not reap the benefit of our allies? I propose a summit with Cleopatra of Egypt, not to seek aid, but to demand what is owed to us by right! Friends! Romans! ... Er...

RUSTLE as he checks his NOTES.

GAIUS (CONT'D)

(to self)

Damn, what's the next bit?

A KNOCK at the door. Because we're not in the Senate, we're in Gaius's bedroom. We lose the impressive reverb.

GAIUS (CONT'D)

Oh, er. Come in.

The DOOR OPENS; it's LEPIDUS.

LEPIDUS

Hello hello! Morning Gaius! Thought I'd pop round to see if you wanted to walk to the Senate together?

GAIUS

Yes, alright. Lepidus, help me out. What comes after this? "Friends, Romans..."

LEPIDUS

Countrymen.

SCRITCH SCRITCH as Gaius writes it down.

GAIUS

Countrymen! Yes! Thank you. Good phrase. Where's it from again?

LEPIDUS

Mark said it.

GAIUS

... Mark?

LEPIDUS
Yes. In a speech.

GAIUS
... Right.

He SCRIBBLES the WHOLE THING OUT, SIGHING ANGRILY.

LEPIDUS
Always a winner, that one. I'm sure
he won't mind if you borrow-

GAIUS
(coldly cuts off)
No, you ruined it. Let's go.

DOOR SLAM.

TITLES AND THEME MUSIC

ANNOUNCER
'Cry Havoc (Ask Questions Later)'
created by David K. Barnes. Episode
2: 'Special Relationship'

2

EXT. SENATE HOUSE - MORNING

2

Pleasant morning weather. Atmos of CHATTING SENATORS waiting
to go in. Gaius RUMMAGING through SCROLLS in his satchel.

LEPIDUS
Look at this glorious weather!
Seems a pity to be at work. Who
called this silly meeting anyway?

GAIUS
We did.

LEPIDUS
Oh.

GAIUS
(muttering)
Where'd I put the charts...?

LEPIDUS
Other satchel.

Gaius keeps talking as he SEARCHES.

GAIUS

If we're going to make overtures to a foreign power, we'll need the backing of the Senate.

LEPIDUS

But we're in command. Aren't we?

GAIUS

This is still a Republic. And we'll get much further if we show respect and do things by the book.

LEPIDUS

If we play fair with them, they'll play fair with us, sort of thing?

GAIUS

Exactly.

LEPIDUS

Gosh you're good at this.

OCTAVIA

Him? Don't make me laugh.

OCTAVIA has slipped through the crowd to reach them.

GAIUS

Octavia? What are you doing here?

LEPIDUS

I'm afraid they don't let the fair sex into the Senate, you know.

OCTAVIA

I did know, thank you. I'm picking up what I can before they go in.

GAIUS

Picking up what?... What's that you're writing there?

OCTAVIA

The odd word, the occasional phrase. Nothing incriminating.

GAIUS

You're eavesdropping on their conversations, aren't you!

OCTAVIA

Of course I am. It's useful.

GAIUS
It's outrageous.

OCTAVIA
Old men like to gossip, Gaius.
You'd be surprised what you can
learn if you keep your ears open.

LEPIDUS
I say, like what?

OCTAVIA
That man over there has caught a
rash in a very unfortunate place.

LEPIDUS
You mean in the bath?

OCTAVIA
No I meant on his-

GAIUS
Stop! If that's the level you're
playing at, we don't want to know.

LEPIDUS
Yes we do.

OCTAVIA
Fair enough, brother mine. And
there was I about to reveal what
they're all saying about you...

Beat. Gaius looks around furtively. Then CLOSER and HUSHED:

GAIUS
About me?

OCTAVIA
Mmm. But seeing as you disapprove-

GAIUS
(hastily)
OK I don't disapprove, keep it up.

OCTAVIA
You want to know?

GAIUS
Yes yes, OK, come on. What are they
saying about me?

OCTAVIA
... Nothing.

GAIUS
Nothing?

OCTAVIA
Nothing. At all.

GAIUS
(happy then sad)
Oh! ... Oh.

OCTAVIA
Well on the bright side they're not going to kill you. Not yet anyway.

LEPIDUS
Cheer up, Gaius. There's nothing wrong with not being talked about!

OCTAVIA
There is if you're a politician.

GAIUS
Yes, thank you.

LEPIDUS
So what does it mean?

OCTAVIA
They think he's a pushover-

GAIUS
I said YES, thank you! What makes you so interested in politics all of a sudden anyway?

OCTAVIA
That's my business.

The SENATORS begin SHUFFLING inside.

LEPIDUS
Looks like they're going in, old chap. Time to shake a leg!

GAIUS
Where's Mark? He said he'd be here.

OCTAVIA
He is here. He's inside.

GAIUS
(surprised)
Really? He got here before us?

OCTAVIA

Long before you. At about three o'clock in the morning, they think.

GAIUS

Three in the morning?

OCTAVIA

That's when he broke in with some friends and passed out drunk. Oh, the Senate may need a new carpet.

GAIUS

(big sigh)

OCTAVIA

Enjoy your meeting!

Octavia WALKS off, merrily.

GAIUS

This is all we need.

LEPIDUS

Very tricky, yes. Hard to find a good carpet these days.

GAIUS

No, I didn't mean...

(gives up)

Let's get this over with.

LEPIDUS

Buck up, friend! You'll have the Senate eating out of your hands!

GAIUS

You think so?

LEPIDUS

Absolutely, old boy, absolutely!
... What are we doing again?

GAIUS

Urgh.

3

INT. 'CAFE' - MORNING

3

The equivalent of an ancient Roman cafe, where Octavia and QUINTUS are meeting for the equivalent of an ancient Roman coffee. Quiet background HUBBUB. Octavia approaches Quintus, a sly and droll freedman of the theatre.

OCTAVIA
 Hey Quintus. Hope I haven't kept
 you waiting long.

QUINTUS
 (arch but friendly)
 Well I'd say less than half an hour
 - a new personal best!

They both KISS each other on the cheeks - MWAH, MWAH!

QUINTUS (CONT'D)
 I took the liberty of ordering for
 us by the way. You're paying. Wine?

OCTAVIA
 Bit early in the morning for me.
 Just the one cup.

QUINTUS
 (knows she'll have more)
 Of course, dear.

He POURS DRINKS, while speaking.

QUINTUS (CONT'D)
 So. What manner of bewitching angel
 kept you occupied this morning?
 Hired a new girl have you?

OCTAVIA
 Yes, but she's an early riser.

Quintus gives the aural equivalent of a raised eyebrow.

OCTAVIA (CONT'D)
 As it happens, I just came from the
 Senate house.

QUINTUS
 Giving your brother some moral
 support? That's unusual.

OCTAVIA
 Hey. I love Gaius. I just don't
 like him very much.

QUINTUS
 I was chatting with a pretty young
 thing in the pub; he told me the
 soldiers are protesting outside the
 Senate this afternoon. Something
 about not being paid.

OCTAVIA

Oh a protest, that's fun! I'll go back and check it out. I only went there to see what the gossip was.

QUINTUS

I could have given you that! 'The One With the Asses.' It's the biggest hit we've ever had. Everyone in Rome loves us!

OCTAVIA

They love you. Quintus Metellus: the thinking man's crumpet.

QUINTUS

(preening)

Well I suppose it was one of my best performances! By turns touching, ennobling, and droll.

OCTAVIA

(sardonic)

What about the bit where your bum gets set on fire?

QUINTUS

Got the biggest laugh in the show. I've got the magic touch, darling.

He DRINKS his wine.

OCTAVIA

(sighing slightly)

So, what do you suggest we do next?

QUINTUS

I say we shake things up a bit.

OCTAVIA

Yes, finally! How?

QUINTUS

Something by Terence, I think.

OCTAVIA

(very bored noise)

QUINTUS

Like 'Phormio', that's popular. It's got a great part for me in it.

OCTAVIA

Couldn't we do something different?

QUINTUS

You mean 'The Mother-In-Law'? Yes
if you want a play nobody likes...

OCTAVIA

Not another Terence, or a Plautus,
or any of the same old thing from
the same old men! I'm bored,
Quintus!

QUINTUS

Bored?

OCTAVIA

Excessively, painfully bored.

QUINTUS

How can you be bored?! Have you
seen the ticket sales? Honestly
I've no idea why I bother.

OCTAVIA

You're doing a wonderful job, I
couldn't ask for a better actor,
director, accountant-

QUINTUS

Dogsbody...

OCTAVIA

But now that we've got that
audience, isn't it time we chanced
our arm at something... fresh?

QUINTUS

Fresh, what do you mean, fresh?
... Oh no...

OCTAVIA

What?

QUINTUS

Not new writing. Please, Octavia.
Anything but that.

OCTAVIA

(as if swearing)
Why not, for Sulla's sake!

QUINTUS

Nobody wants new writing! They want
to know what's going to happen!
That's what theatre is!

OCTAVIA

Quintus...

QUINTUS

Octavia, listen. Even if we knew an entirely unknown playwright who magically happened to be a new Menander in the making, we'd have to commission him, and get him to draft it and write it and do it again - and you know what writers are like, taking forever, and they're always complaining-

OCTAVIA

I already have the play.

QUINTUS

... You have the play?

OCTAVIA

Yes.

QUINTUS

The new play? From the new playwright?

OCTAVIA

Yes.

QUINTUS

And is it so transcendently good that it's worth risking everything we've ever made just to put it on?

OCTAVIA

Yes.

QUINTUS

... Well who wrote it?

OCTAVIA

Me.

4

INT. SENATE HOUSE - MORNING

4

A nervous Gaius is speaking to 200 faintly bored SENATORS.

GAIUS

And er... and so, fellow Senate men - men of the Senate, sorry - Rome is, um... strong. As always.

A senator YAWNS.

GAIUS (CONT'D)
Our wars are over. And er. At last,
we all stand, you know. United.

MARK
(muttering)
Wish I hadn't bothered waking up...

GAIUS
You spoke, Mark?

MARK
No no, you just... carry on.

A senator calls out from the benches.

CILLO
Does he have to?

Some senators CHUCKLE. Gaius leans over to Lepidus.

GAIUS
(hushed)
Lepidus, why can't I do this?
What's wrong with me?

LEPIDUS
Perhaps it'd help if you imagined
them all naked?

GAIUS
I don't want to imagine that.

LEPIDUS
It's what I do. Passes the time.

Another senator calls out from the benches.

NASO
Can't we get on with it? We all
have places we'd rather be.

Many senators MURMUR in agreement.

LEPIDUS
Now come on everybody, none of us
want to be here, but my colleague
knows what he's saying!

CILLO
He hasn't said anything.

LEPIDUS
Well give him a chance can't you!

GAIUS
(sighs)

An annoyed, hungover Mark addresses the Senate.

MARK
Look, the sooner we let him finish,
the sooner we can all get home to
our beds, alright?

CILLO
It's midday.

MARK
Piss off. Gaius, all yours.

GAIUS
(to Senate)
... However, while Rome is mighty,
it does - on occasion - face
certain... problems. Concerns. Of
manpower. Of economic freedom.
These are not insurmountable, but-

NASO
Can someone translate this?

MARK
We're broke.

NASO
What?!

Concerned senatorial RHUBARB RHUBARB.

GAIUS
Please, let us not panic-!

MARK
According to Gaius, we need cash
and we need it quick. That's the
problem in a nutshell.

CILLO
Then solve it!

NASO
Yes, you wanted to be in charge!

Senators still loudly RHUBARBING.

GAIUS
Senators! Please! Senators!

MARK
OI!

Senators SHUT UP.

MARK (CONT'D)
Thank you. Gaius?

GAIUS
(to Senate)
I do have a plan. Though there may
be hardship on the way ahead, shall
we not reap the benefit of...

A nervous beat. This is it.

GAIUS (CONT'D)
... our allies?

NASO
(off, suspicious)
Which ones?

GAIUS
Er, well. I propose a... summit.
You see. With...
(quickly)
Queen Cleopatra, and, er-

GASPS, angrier RHUBARBING. More calls from the benches:

VARRO
Cleopatra?!

CILLO
You want to go begging to her?

GAIUS
No! Not begging! To-to-to d-d-
demand that which we are-

VARRO
You couldn't demand sweets from a
baby!

Senators JEER.

GAIUS
Well I'm sure I could, but the
point to bear in mind-

VARRO

To think that Rome could go
grovelling to Egypt!

NASO

To a woman!

CILLO

Mark Antony, surely you cannot
agree with this plan?

MARK

No. I'm with you lot.

GAIUS

Mark!

MARK

They're right, Gaius. Why beg from
Egypt when we can... CONQUER IT
INSTEAD!!

Senate CHEER.

MARK (CONT'D)

See? They like my idea.

GAIUS

(gritted teeth)

A word please, Mark. In private.
Lepidus, hold the fort.

Gaius MARCHES Mark away.

LEPIDUS

Oh, right, yes, er... Great work
this morning, everyone! Tell you
what, let's break for lunch, and
sort this out in an hour or so eh?

Senators all MURMUR HAPPILY; they like lunch.

5

INT. SENATE HOUSE, SIDE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

5

Gaius HUSTLES Mark into a side room, as off we hear senators
SHUFFLING OUT of the main chamber.

MARK

Oi! Stop pushing, you bony little-

Door SLAMS SHUT.

GAIUS

Right, you listen to me, Mark: we are not invading Egypt.

MARK

But I want to!

GAIUS

No!

MARK

Look, we need food and gold, and we need them from Egypt. I accept it, you convinced me. You're quite clever when you try.

GAIUS

(unsmiling)

Thank you.

MARK

So why bother with the chitchat when we can head to Egypt and get it sorted the old fashioned way?

GAIUS

You mean blood and violence.

MARK

It's a classic but it works.

GAIUS

OK, there are two reasons why we shouldn't do that. One, and I have said this before: we haven't paid the armies for the last war!

MARK

Oh come on, we'll win 'em round.

GAIUS

(knows they won't)

Will we though?

MARK

We pay them an advance, something small to tide them over. You, me, Lepidus - we're hardly short of a denarius or two are we?

GAIUS

We're rich men, Mark, but we're not that rich. We'd be bankrupt before we even left the port.

MARK

And we'd make back fifty times the investment from plundering Egypt! So would the army! Bing bang bosh, everyone's a winner. Except Egypt.

GAIUS

(sarcastic)

Oh, very simple, yes.

MARK

I can't think why Rome's never got round to it before.

GAIUS

Because it's a terrible idea! Which brings me to my second point. Do you know exactly how much grain we already buy from Egypt, let alone spices and incense and every other luxury under the sun?

MARK

I don't do numbers.

GAIUS

Why not?

MARK

There's millions of them.

GAIUS

Numbers?

MARK

Yeah.

Beat.

MARK (CONT'D)

Does my head in.

GAIUS

OK in that case the number is lots. Lots of grain. Enough that any disruption would lead to mass starvation and riots in Rome within a couple of months.

MARK

But we're already facing that now.

GAIUS

So we don't need to make it worse!

MARK

But the Senate are well up for a scrap in there, you heard 'em.

GAIUS

Of course they are! They love beating up foreigners! Up until they can't afford to feed the people, and get strung up from the nearest flagpole. Because during a war you probably destroy half the stuff you went there for in the first place, there's thousands of deaths on both sides, and even if you do win have you thought about the bureaucracy that's involved?

MARK

No.

GAIUS

It's a nightmare!! If you think my accounting's a headache, just see how the Egyptians do it! It'd take you months to work it out. Years!

MARK

So you're telling me that we've never tried to conquer Egypt because the maths is hard?

GAIUS

Of course! Wasn't it obvious?

He's broken through at last. He can afford to soften.

GAIUS (CONT'D)

Mark, everything comes down to maths. It always has. Do you really want to deal with more maths?

MARK

(horrified)

No.

GAIUS

Well then.

A beat as Mark takes it all in. Then...

MARK

(quieter)

No invading Egypt?

GAIUS
No invading Egypt.

MARK
(disappointed)
Right... So... What do we do
instead?

GAIUS
We talk.

MARK
But that's boring.

GAIUS
(smiling, satisfied)
Yes it is, Mark. Yes it is.

6 INT. 'CAFE' - MIDDAY

6

Slightly more HUBBUB than before. QUINTUS is reading the play, a few noises. He LAUGHS quietly.

OCTAVIA
Have you finished it?

QUINTUS
(shushing)
Ah ah ah!

He reads more. Then LAUGHS louder.

QUINTUS (CONT'D)
Oh very good... Very good...

He puts down a SCROLL.

QUINTUS (CONT'D)
Well. It's a masterpiece.

OCTAVIA
Really?

QUINTUS
No. But it is funny. I'm impressed.
How long have you been writing it?

OCTAVIA
Six months here and there. You're
the first to see it. Tell me the
truth. I'm open to any feedback.

QUINTUS
The plot needs work.

OCTAVIA
No it doesn't.

QUINTUS
Look I love a Roman farce as much
as the next director, but this...!

OCTAVIA
Is entirely rooted in reality.

QUINTUS
It's ridiculous.

OCTAVIA
Reality is ridiculous. Just look at
the Senate, look at my brother. The
more important they think they are,
the more insipid they become -
inventing drama out of nothing.

QUINTUS
A civil war, dear.

OCTAVIA
A general kills another general -
so what? Rome's still here. The
citizens keep working, the slaves
keep on slaving. It's a joke!

QUINTUS
Not to the slaves, I'm sure...

OCTAVIA
They understand it most of all!

QUINTUS
Oh really! I bet some of your best
friends are slaves.

OCTAVIA
Well, there's you.

QUINTUS
Excuse me, dear. I earned my
freedom. Services to theatre.

OCTAVIA
But you think the play's good?

QUINTUS

Yes, Octavia, the play is good!
Frankly, I'd love to perform it.
Such a pity that we can't.

He SIPS HIS WINE, unconcerned.

OCTAVIA

What? Why not?

QUINTUS

Why not? You've written a comedy
about the death of Julius Caesar!

OCTAVIA

Yes?

QUINTUS

And you don't think that might be a
touchy subject?

OCTAVIA

It doesn't make fun of his death!
It makes fun of the government.

QUINTUS

(sarcastic)
Oh yes, that's much safer!

OCTAVIA

It's a satire on mass hysteria!

QUINTUS

That's exactly what we'll get -
they'll tear us to pieces! And what
will your brother do when he hears
about a comedy making fun of his
government and his family?

OCTAVIA

It's my family too - that gives me
the right! The play's new, it's
exciting, it has something to say.

QUINTUS

Which is we want to be executed.

OCTAVIA

Gaius wouldn't dare.

QUINTUS

Ho ho, you'll just get a slap on
the wrist - but the rest of us get
thrown to the lions.

OCTAVIA

Oh stop it, you have my patronage
and protection. Can't you trust me
for once! It took me a year to
convince you that women could play
women better than men could.

QUINTUS

And the jury's still out on that.

OCTAVIA

Quintus!

QUINTUS

Look, we slip in the occasional
jest, but the further we take it-
(beat, sighs)
Oh what's the use? You could order
me to do it if you had to.

OCTAVIA

(truthfully)
You know I never would.

Beat.

QUINTUS

Look me in the eye and tell me this
is going to work.

OCTAVIA

Standing ovations. Ticket sales
through the roof. Your autograph on
every wax tablet in Rome. "The
Palatine Players, telling it like
it is!" We're going to do what
nobody else has ever done before.

QUINTUS

And find out if there's a damn good
reason for it... Fine. FINE. When
do we start?

7

INT. SENATE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

7

Mark is addressing the Senate, who give him rapt attention.

MARK

Friends! Romans! Countrymen!

LEPIDUS

(close, to Gaius)
Told you, always a winner.

GAIUS
 (close, to Lepidus)
 Yes yes, alright.

MARK
 As I was saying, why beg from Egypt
 when we can conquer it instead?

Senate CHEERS.

MARK (CONT'D)
 But, upon further reflectiion, why
 conquer Egypt when we can simply...

The words don't come easy.

MARK (CONT'D)
 ... talk to them.

A few CONFUSED MUTTERINGS from the benches.

MARK (CONT'D)
 After all, though we could - if we
 so wanted - crush their forces and
 bring the kingdom to its knees-

GAIUS
 (clears throat)
Maths.

MARK
 ... would it not be better to...
 give it a miss this time round?

CILLO
 Are you feeling alright?

MARK
 Yep.

NASO
 You don't sound it.

MARK
 (gritted teeth)
 I'm fine. Let's subjugate Egypt
 another day. Have something to look
 forward to, eh?

CILLO
 So what do we do in the meantime?

Some contemptuous "YEAH!"s from the benches.

MARK

I'll tell you what we do, gents. I propose a summit with Cleopatra of Egypt, not to seek aid, but to demand what's owed to us!

Some enthusiastic "YEAH!"s from the benches.

MARK (CONT'D)

We've helped out Egypt often enough in the past! Well now they can do something for us! What do you say?

FURIOUS AGREEMENT from the benches.

MARK (CONT'D)

ARE YOU WITH ME?

Huge roar of AGREEMENT, turning into EXCITED CHATTER under...

LEPIDUS

Oh, he played that well. Such a way with words.

GAIUS

(sighs)

MARK

Right fella, that's what I call a mandate. Better get to work.

GAIUS

Yep. Lepidus, send a letter.

LEPIDUS

Can do!

GAIUS

To Queen Cleopatra, something about the Special Relationship between our nations, ecetera ecetera, and invite her to Rome at her earliest convenience. Which will be in a month or so. That should *just* about give us time to prepare, I'd have thought.

MARK

If you say so.

GAIUS

We need to stall the army in the meantime, so if we can-

LEPIDUS

Oh actually that reminds me, a messenger came in with a note.

GAIUS

Who from?

LEPIDUS

Cleopatra.

GAIUS

... A message from Cleopatra?

LEPIDUS

Yes. You two were having a chinwag and I didn't want to interrupt-

GAIUS

What's it say??

LEPIDUS

Oh, er...

He UNFURLS a small scroll.

LEPIDUS (CONT'D)

Tumti tumti tum - ah, yes, she says she's on holiday, cruising along the Mediterranean, and she'd like to drop in and see us? I say, that's convenient, eh!

GAIUS

When does she arrive?

LEPIDUS

(reading)

'By the time you receive this' um, er... In about three days.

GAIUS

What?!

LEPIDUS

I said about three days-

GAIUS

We can't do that! We're not ready! The planning, the schedules, the food - Mark, what do we do?!

MARK

Don't look at me, you wanted her here.

Outside, many SOLDIERS have been AMASSING. They chant.

SOLDIERS
(off, repeating)
Where's our money? Where's our
money? Where's our money?...

GAIUS
Wait, what's... what's that? ...
Sounds like a protest.

LEPIDUS
Yes, I think it's the soldiers. I
heard a rumour this might happen.

GAIUS
So why didn't you tell me?!

LEPIDUS
I thought it might depress you.

Senatorial MURMURING becomes CONCERNED.

CILLO
They've surrounded the Senate
House!

GAIUS
That's it. We're finished, we're
all finished.

MARK
No we're not. Leave this to me!

Mark STRIDES ENTHUSIASTICALLY from the Senate house.

GAIUS
Mark? What are you doing? Mark?

EXT. SENATE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Huge mass of SOLDIERS outside the Senate House.

SOLDIERS
Where's our money? Where's our
money? Where's our money? (etc)

They keep chanting as Mark EMERGES.

MARK
OK, OK! Less of that! We heard!

DRUSUS

(off)

It's Mark Antony! Shhhh!

They SHUSH. Tense pause.

MARK

We have spoken with the Senate.
Both myself and the son of the
Divine Julius.

(over his shoulder, quiet)

Get out here.

GAIUS

(off)

I don't think they'd want me to-

MARK

(snaps)

Gaius!

Gaius reluctantly JOINS HIM.

GAIUS

Afternoon. Everyone.

MARK

As I said, we have spoken with the
Senate about the reward for your
outstanding victory at Phillipi!
Money, land, luxuries! All of these
will be yours!

The soldiers CHEER.

MARK (CONT'D)

... You just need to wait.

CONFUSED MURMURS from the soldiers.

DRUSUS

(off)

Wait?

MARK

Afraid so. Turns out that Rome's
strapped for cash right now.

DRUSUS

(off)

But you promised us!

The soldiers start to get ANGRY en-masse.

GAIUS

Mark...

MARK

AND I WILL KEEP THAT PROMISE!
Because I'll tell you what I'll do!

Soldiers HUSH.

MARK (CONT'D)

If you can tighten your belts and
be patient for a short while more,
then me and my friend Caesar here
will personally make sure...

GAIUS

Mark, what are you-?

MARK

(speaking over)

WILL PERSONALLY MAKE SURE that you
all get DOUBLE what we promised you
- and you'll get it by the end of
the month!

GAIUS

... What.

MARK

(to soldiers)

How's about that then?

Beat. Enormous CHEER from the soldiers. Then:

SOLDIERS

Mark! Antony! Mark! Antony!

They keep CHANTING, under...

MARK

Well. I think they liked that.

GAIUS

Mark, what have you done?

MARK

Just saved our necks. You're
welcome.

GAIUS

You promised them double! We can't
even pay them what we already owe!

MARK

Then make sure this Cleopatra plan
of yours works. And quickly.

GAIUS

And if it doesn't?!

MARK

Then we're dead. But don't worry,
lad. I'm right behind you.

He CLAPS Gaius on the BACK.

MARK (CONT'D)

Pint?

SOLDIERS

Mark! Antony! Mark! Antony! Mark
Antony! Mark! Antony!...

END OF EPISODE 2