315 Cont.

He turns abruptly from the bed. He paces, hands clenched and twisting, trying to form into thoughts the tangled yearnings and fears and anger pounding at his brain..

ANTONY
Caesar....Caesar. Conquer and conquer, bring the world to its knees, you're not a Caesar - did you know that? Be braver than the bravest, stronger than the strongest, wiser than the wisest - still no Caesar. Do what you will, Caesar's done it first and done it better - fought better, ruled better, loved better.... run where you will - as fast as you can - there's no way out, you can't get out! The shadow of Caesar will cover you and cover the universe for all of time!

(He's far from Cleopatra now, across the room, seemingly unaware of her. She is sitting again, regarding him seriously. She had not foreseen this turn of events. It is no longer a matter of using Caesar to tease and lure Antony. What stands before her now is an agonized and tortured man. Painfully laying bare - for them both to see - the unique symbol Cleopatra has become of all that Caesar had been - all that Antony fears he can never become..)

Now he turns to her:

ANTONY
'Whenever you like', you said, 'come to Alexandria whenever you like'. 'Now, tonight', I said. 'I would like to come tonight'. To bow to the throne upon which Caesar put you. To talk - of a new treaty. Caesar's can't be improved. Copy it. Of Caesar's son. Of the dream you shared with Caesar that still fills your life - Alexander's design for a world to be ruled by you and Caesar...
(he shouts)
Where is Antony? Where is Mark Antony? Antony the Great - the Divine Antony! Here. He's here. One step behind Caesar - at the right hand of Caesar - in the shadow of Caesar..

Subdued now, and depressed, he sinks to the soft rug on the floor beside her bed. She looks down at him sombrely; he up at her..

Continued

315 Cont. 1

ANTONY
Tell me, how many have loved you since him? One? Ten? Anyone - ? No one - ? Have they kissed you with Caesar's lips, touched you with his hands - has it been his name you've cried out in the dark? And afterwards....alone - has he reproached you - and have you begged forgiveness of his memory..?

CLEOPATRA
(quietly)
You've come here, then - running over with wine and self-pity - to conquer Caesar...

ANTONY
To think of you is to think of him. To see you is to see him, it is his voice I hear when you speak -

CLEOPATRA
Perhaps - to destroy me..

ANTONY
For so long you have filled my life. Like - like a great noise that I hear everywhere in my heart. I want to be free of you. Of wanting you. Of being afraid..

CLEOPATRA
That Caesar would not permit it - ?

Antony reaches up, takes the necklace in his hand. Slowly, with it, he pulls Cleopatra down to him. Then, suddenly, he tears the necklace from her throat. They kiss. Their lips part - for an instant, their eyes meet..

ANTONY
But I will never be free of you..

Once more, they kiss..

DISSOLVE:

316 EXT. HILLSIDE - DAWN

Below, the deserted wharf - and Cleopatra's barge. Not a soul stirring in the first rays of the morning light..

317 INT. BEDROOM - BARGE - DAWN

The soft light of dawn, coming through the grilled "ports", permits only glints across their faces from time to time as they move and talk..

(Cleopatra and Antony lie together. For the first time in each of their lives, they have become lovers in the true sense. They have loved each other - and love each other.)

She lies over him, studying his face as he smiles up at her..

CLEOPATRA
When - ? Tell me..

ANTONY
From the first instant I saw you - entering Rome - on that monstrous stone beast - shining in the sun like a little gold toy. How I envied Caesar, I went suddenly sick with it. Not his conquests and triumphs - not his titles or the roaring of the mob - I envied him you..

She puts her lips against his cheek, kisses him softly as she speaks..

CLEOPATRA
When we met in Rome, I remembered you - and wondered that I could ever have forgotten..

ANTONY
Remembered me - ?

CLEOPATRA
Years ago. You were a young cavalry officer , stationed at the palace in Alexandria under the command of that fat Roman general - what was his name?

ANTONY
Gabinius.

CLEOPATRA
Gabinius. I was twelve years old - and I loved you..

Antony smiles, turns. They lie now in profile, lips almost touching..

Continued

317 Cont.

ANTONY
Nonsense..

CLEOPATRA
It's true..

ANTONY
Lovers always want so much never to have loved before -

CLEOPATRA
It's just possible, you know..

ANTONY
It becomes a competition - who loved whom first?

CLEOPATRA
I did..

ANTONY
If you noticed me at all in those days, you were probably terrified of me..

CLEOPATRA
With reason. Everybody knows that Romans cut up little children - and feed them to their horses..

They both smile. Then her smiles fades...she looks down at him once more:

CLEOPATRA
We'll make this our beginning. Beginning with this night, you must never envy Caesar - or anyone - anything again..

She brings her mouth down to his...

DISSOLVE:

318 INT. ROMAN SENATE - DAY

Antony's adherents sit to the left; those of Octavian to the right. Among the senators, now, are AGRIPPA (on the right) and GERMANICUS (on the left)..

OCTAVIAN stands before them, at the rostrum. Increasingly, with the passing of time, he has acquired an ease and authority of manner.

Continued

318 Cont.

OCTAVIAN
(is saying)
- and so it seems that the heart of our Empire to the East now beats in Alexandria. Are we to find this alarming?

Loud cries of "No!" from the left; "Yes!" from the right.

OCTAVIAN
(smiles)
For once I find myself in agreement with our noble colleagues on the left - Antony's loyal friends, faithful to the last..

A SENATOR
(of the left)
Together with the people of Rome - of all Italy!

AGRIPPA
(to his feet)
Rome! Italy! Nothing now matters to Antony but his Egyptian trollop!

Again, a storm of shouting..

OCTAVIAN
Hear him out -
(the noise abates)
Agrippa, after all, has had some knowledge, at first hand, of Cleopatra's - way - with Roman generals..

CLOSE - GERMANICUS

On the left. He has matured. He remains seated, merely lifts his head in query:

GERMANICUS
As I recall it, Agrippa, you acquired that knowledge - about the time Caesar sent you crawling back to Rome with your tail between your legs..

Approving laughter from those about him.

Continued

318 Cont. 1

AGRIPPA
(angrily)
I would crawl happily to Rome rather than remain panting after this cat in perpetual season!

Cheers from the right. Octavian quiets them:

OCTAVIAN
Agrippa, you grow too angry - too soon. What has Antony done - that should upset us? Left the business of Rome unfinished in Tarsus - neglected the rebellion in Palmyra - ignored the complaints of the Jews against Herod - paid no heed to the Parthians already in Mesopotamia, preparing to march upon Syria - forgot Rome and his duty to Rome - to hurry into Egypt after a discarded concubine of Julius Caesar?

Again mingled shouts of approval and disapproval. Octavian moves about, as he waits for them to subside..

OCTAVIAN
After all, this is nothing new. For so many years, Antony has fed upon the crumbs that fell from Julius Caesar's table..

AGRIPPA
I say they are deserving of each other - and let him stay in Egypt! Let him fritter away his life as he chooses - but not the possessions and Empire of the Roman people!

OCTAVIAN
(sudden sharpness)
The Roman people! What are possessions and glory to them? Is their Antony content? Then so are they! Does Antony sweep their Empire under Cleopatra's bed? His adoring Romans sigh - and remain content! Let him stay however distant for however long with never a thought for them - the Roman people hold him close to their hearts..

Continued

318 Cont. 2

He has paused beside Germanicus, who leans casually to speak to the Senator behind him.

GERMANICUS
Distant? Perhaps from Rome. But not from Caesar, I think - nor from Caesar's son..

OCTAVIAN
(quietly)
Germanicus, do you speak of me?

GERMANICUS
No, Octavian. I speak of Caesar.

OCTAVIAN
I am Caesar.

GERMANICUS
Only while Antony remains distant from Rome.
(loudly)
Antony - stay not too long in Alexandria!

Laughter from the left.

OCTAVIAN
(smiles)
Germanicus - stay not too long in Rome..

Germanicus rises abruptly, strides from the Senate. Laughter and cheers from the right, now. Octavian smiles thinly as he looks after him..

DISSOLVE:

319 EXT. PALACE - ALEXANDRIA - DAY

Beside the water, near the colonnade.. CLEOPATRA watches - as ANTONY fights a mock duel with CAESARION..

Caesarion uses a wooden sword and shield, as does Antony. The duel, though play, is fought seriously. Antony is instructing the boy..

Caesarion attacks; Antony deftly parries his thrusts:

ANTONY
Draw me in! - feint! - your wrist, keep your wrist stiff - your arm, your wrist, the sword, all one - and your shield up! Keep your shield up!

Continued

319 Cont.

In the course of the battle, Antony has retreated until he stands crouched before Cleopatra - his back to her..

Swiftly, Cleopatra tickles Antony. He drops his shield. Caesarion "strikes home". Antony lets his sword drop, falls. Caesarion jumps astride him, his sword at Antony's throat. Proudly, he looks over at his mother:

CLEOPATRA
Always keep your shield up - and always have a friend at your enemy's back - to tickle him..

She gestures sternly: "Thumbs down".

Caesarion promptly stabs at Antony's heart. Antony howls with pain, simulates terrible death throes. Caesarion, alarmed, drops his sword and throws himself on Antony..

CAESARION
Don't die! Please don't die - !

Antony laughs, rolls Caesarion over and roughhouses him. Cleopatra, enjoying it, makes the mistake of getting too close. Antony pulls her down, starts to tickle her in revenge. All three are in a happy tangle..

320 EXT. COLONNADE - DAY

In the b.g., CLEOPATRA, ANTONY and CAESARION continue their horseplay.

In the f.g., watching them sombrely, are SOSIGENES and RAMOS..

RAMOS
Lepidus is dead. The Senate has given his territories and powers to Octavian. He means to have it all..

SOSIGENES
And he will. If he can keep Antony away from Rome. What more - ?

RAMOS
Too much. Germanicus will tell you himself, when he's rested..

SOSIGENES
It's Cleopatra who must be told - if she will listen..

Continued

320 Cont.

RAMOS
But surely - after Germanicus has come all this way - she must know how important -

SOSIGENES
(breaks in)
Everything that was once most important to our Queen, Ramos - has now become least important..

In the b.g., Cleopatra, Antony and Caesarion stroll off together..

RAMOS
And if Octavian should take it all - there will be nothing left for Caesarion. Isn't she aware of that?

SOSIGENES
She used to be. She used to be very aware of that. But then - how can I put it? - she miscalculated..

He starts to stroll, Ramos beside him, in the opposite direction from the three in the b.g.

RAMOS
I don't understand..

SOSIGENES
(smiles)
It can happen to generals, philosophers, slaves - even queens - and we blame or praise the gods. But whose fault is it when, quite unexpectedly, a Goddess falls hopelessly in love..?

He and Ramos walk out of FRAME. CAMERA HOLDS on the distant figures of Cleopatra, Antony and Caesarion..

DISSOLVE:

321 INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

CLEOPATRA sits upon her throne. Beside her, as Court Chamberlain, stands APOLLODORUS. Seated before the throne, in a semi-circle, are SOSIGENES, RAMOS and RUFIO. GERMANICUS is standing. Each, as he speaks, rises to his feet:

Continued

GERMANICUS
(is saying)
As you know, Antony's wife - Fulvia - raised an army to attack Octavian on Antony's behalf -

RUFIO
(quickly)
Without his knowledge - he knew nothing about it!

GERMANICUS
(nods)
In any case, she was defeated by Agrippa. Octavian pardoned her. He told the Senate - he felt that Fulvia's attack was the desperate act of an abandoned wife to shame her husband into returning from Egypt - and from you..

CLEOPATRA
(smiles)
But that I kept Antony here bewitched - and would not permit it..

GERMANICUS
Fulvia is now dead, your Majesty. Of a sudden illness, and fever..

A pause.

CLEOPATRA
How much of this is known to Antony?

GERMANICUS
All of it - and more. I have written him regularly. Letters and reports - dispatches by personal messenger..

CLEOPATRA
And what has he answered?

GERMANICUS
There have been no answers, your Majesty..

He looks at Sosigenes. Then he sits. Slowly, Sosigenes rises..

SOSIGENES
Your Majesty - it has been almost a year that Lord Antony has been with us -

CLEOPATRA
(a wry smile)
That long? The time has gone so quickly..

SOSIGENES
Never have our lives been more happy, more content. But for those of us concerned with the future -

CLEOPATRA
(quickly)
Are you implying that I am not - ?

SOSIGENES
(goes right on)
- it becomes less distinct, perhaps menacing..

CLEOPATRA
Because Octavian overflows the sewers of Rome with his filth about me? The good citizens must be bored with my villainy - they've heard it since Caesar's time..

SOSIGENES
Rome trades with Egypt to grow rich, and we with Rome to stay alive - where are the promised trade treaties? The promised military alliance?

CLEOPATRA
(growing anger)
Has this become an audience of reproach for your Queen? This is not your school room, Sosigenes - Lord Antony and I will not be scolded for neglecting our work!

SOSIGENES
(stands his ground)
At his arrival here, Lord Antony was fully empowered to make all treaties and alliances in the name of Rome..
(he turns to Germanicus)
Is the Roman Senate today - Octavian's Senate - prepared to approve any and all commitments made by Antony?

GERMANICUS
(rising slowly)
Your Majesty, the Roman people love their heroes. Octavian may call himself Caesar, whatever he likes Antony remains their idol. But they want him with them - in Rome. An absent hero loses votes..

/Now, Cleopatra just listens. Now, for the first time - and strongly - her ambition comes into conflict with her deep personal desires./

SOSIGENES
(sharply)
Octavian would regard it as a great personal triumph if the Senate were to reject a commitment by Antony?

GERMANICUS
He dreams of such things..

SOSIGENES
And if Antony were to return to Rome?

GERMANICUS
Such nightmares keep him from sleep..

RAMOS
Agrippa, by order of Octavian, is building a large fleet of warships. For what purpose?

RUFIO
(grimly)
There can be only one. Between Rome and Egypt, there is - water..

GERMANICUS
Your Majesty. I said I had received no reply from Lord Antony. But there was one. Written in his own hand. I received it only recently..
(Cleopatra eyes him seriously)
He wrote that, he was no longer interested in the matters I described to him. That he would not return to Rome. That he understood quite clearly what was at stake - what he could lose. But that he would not leave you..

321 Cont. 3

Silence. A pause. Cleopatra rises to her feet. Apollodorus taps with his staff.

The men, their eyes on Cleopatra, make way for her. Her expression impassive, she leaves the Throne Room through one of the side doors.

The men exchange glances, sink into their chairs..

DISSOLVE:

322 INT. CLEOPATRA'S APARTMENT - DAY

CLEOPATRA enters through the secret passage. She starts into the library, hesitates as she hears:

OFFSCENE - from the direction of her bath - the SOUND of splashing, and giggling voices..

Slowly, Cleopatra walks toward it:

323 BATH AREA - DAY

ANTONY lolls in Cleopatra's bath. He is shaving. Between razor-strokes, he turns his face up to a delighted BATH ATTENDANT who douses it with milk. She is flanked by TWO MORE BATH ATTENDANTS who also carry large crystal jars. They take turns in pouring the contents on Antony..

Antony becomes aware of Cleopatra's approach. Happily, he indicates his three milk maidens:

ANTONY
The milk of a cow - of a goat - and of an ass! Which, would you say, is best for softening the beard?

Continued

323 Cont.

CLEOPATRA
(quietly)
Is it true that Octavian shaves no more than once a week..?

She gestures. The attendants leave. Antony throws her a quick sharp look..

ANTONY
Even then. He has merely to face the wind - and let the fuzz blow away..

He ducks his head. When he comes up, they're alone..

CLEOPATRA
You knew, didn't you, that Germanicus was here from Rome?

ANTONY
Yes. Have you strong feelings about bearded men? I had one in my youth - bright red it was -

CLEOPATRA
Why haven't you seen him?

Antony picks up a large jewelled sponge, stares thoughtfully at it..

CLEOPATRA
When you go - must it be for a very long time?

Antony squeezes the sponge until it is dry..

ANTONY
I will take some of these with me - they don't have them. At least they didn't, when I was last in Rome..

Cleopatra, suddenly overcome by the thought of their parting, turns away abruptly. CAMERA with her, she crosses to look out over the garden area. She stops beside a large rack holding robes of Antony - costumes, scabbards, tunics, etc..

OFFSCENE, Antony can be heard getting out of the bath..

CLEOPATRA
While they were digging the foundation of my tomb, the workers found an old wall. Someone had scratched on it - hundreds of years ago - "You were not here last night, and I could not sleep. Will you be here tonight?"

Continued

323 Cont. 1

Antony, tying a heavy linen drying robe, comes into the SCENE. Cleopatra doesn't turn..

CLEOPATRA
Do you suppose they ever met again..?

Antony, behind her, takes her in his arms.

ANTONY
(quietly)
Everything that I shall ever want to hold or look upon or have or be - is here, now, with you..

Cleopatra, for an instant, loses herself in the almost drowsy contentment of his presence..

CLEOPATRA
I must not be sorry for myself..

ANTONY
Queens are sometimes no better at that than kings, or even princes..

CLEOPATRA
No one should rule others who cannot rule herself..

ANTONY
Those you rule are human. It can only help to find you're part human, too..

CLEOPATRA
It doesn't seem fair. What I feel I should have felt long ago. When I was very young, when I could have told myself that this was how love was - and how it would be. But to have waited so long - to know so suddenly, this late, how it hurts, how love can stab the heart..

She moves from him a step or two, forces herself to say what she must..

CLEOPATRA
Be careful with Octavian..

ANTONY
Let him be careful with me..

Continued

323 Cont. 2

CLEOPATRA
The Romans want no war between the two of you. And in any case you aren't ready - yet..

ANTONY
War? The world is filled with love - there will be no more wars..

CLEOPATRA
You must have your share - your titles and powers must be spelled out exactly. There must be no question of your complete authority in the East..

She can stand it no longer. She turns, holds him desperately..

CLEOPATRA
Antony, how will I live - ?

ANTONY
The same as I. One breath upon the other - each bringing us one breath closer..

CLEOPATRA
You take so much of me with you so far away, remember, remember - they'll want you to forget me, please..

ANTONY
Forget? How? I can never be more far away from you than this..

They kiss..

DISSOLVE:

324 INT. OCTAVIAN'S VILLA - ROME - NIGHT

OCTAVIAN and AGRIPPA. Octavian, seated, picks among grapes in a bowl at his side. Agrippa, wine in hand, stands by a charcoal brazier.

Octavian nibbles the seeds from a grape..

OCTAVIAN
Antony must notreturn to Rome..

He spits out the seeds..

Continued

324 Cont.

OCTAVIAN
Except, of course, with me. As brothers, hand in hand..

AGRIPPA
(smiles)
And who will hold your other hands?

OCTAVIAN
We will go to welcome him at Brindisium - see Germanicus and make the necessary arrangements. His legions shall be rewarded - have Germanicus make this known to them - with extra pay and grants of land..

AGRIPPA
And Antony? Will he be rewarded with what he has come to demand - ?

OCTAVIAN
He hasn't come to demand anything. Antony has been sent..

He's bitten into a bad grape. He spits it out.

AGRIPPA
(he drinks)
What is it she wants - ?

OCTAVIAN
(smiles)
Cleopatra - ? Eventually - ? She wants all there is, Agrippa - and all there will be..

AGRIPPA
Then Antony must want it, too..

OCTAVIAN
No. Antony's ambition has always been - like that of an enormous backward child. He has no yearnings, he holds out his greedy fists for what he can see - for anything held up before him that shines in the sun. And is content..

AGRIPPA
And she?

Continued

324 Cont. 1

OCTAVIAN
Will never know contentment. The mark of true ambition - wanting without limit. To begin with, the world. To conquer the world, she must first conquer the man who will conquer it for her. Julius Caesar. Murdered - and taken from her. She must start again. Who next? Mark Antony..

AGRIPPA
And if Antony should fail her?

OCTAVIAN
She will start again. To her last breath - she will start again. Such ambition, after all, is - like breathing - a natural function. But how exhausting it must be - for a woman..

AGRIPPA
And well it should be. As exhausting as bearing a child should be - for a man. These women who would be men! Our forefathers knew what they were about. One had the right to expose female babies at birth. If they were permitted to live, they kept their place or were sold into slavery -

(OCTAVIA comes in.
Octavian sees her;
Agrippa does not.
She listens, fascinated:)

- their duties were raising the young, their responsibility was the family - what more can a woman want, what more has nature equipped her for? Those were the laws upon which Rome grew to greatness! And what have we today? By the gods, the last war I fought was against a woman - Antony's wife! And the next war I fight may well be against -

OCTAVIAN
(interrupting neatly)
It may well be against my sister - and sooner than you think..

Agrippa turns. He is overcome with embarrassment. Octavia smiles at him sweetly..

Continued

324 Cont. 2

AGRIPPA
My - my Lady Octavia! We were merely speaking, your brother and I, of our ancestors and their strange customs - I had no idea you were listening..

OCTAVIA
My brother - and my husband while he lived - taught me well, my Lord Agrippa. I never listen when men talk..
(to Octavian)
Has my Lord Brother any further duties for me tonight? Am I to be exposed on a hilltop - or may I just go to bed?

OCTAVIAN
(smiles)
These grapes are over-ripe. I may sell you as a slave - to Agrippa..

OCTAVIA
(to Agrippa)
He intends to cheat you, my Lord..

She bends to kiss Octavian's cheek..

AGRIPPA
Whatever I may have said of women, my Lady, had no application to such as you, believe me..

OCTAVIA
You were speaking of Mark Antony's wife..

OCTAVIAN
(steering the conversation skillfully)
Actually, we spoke of Antony, himself. Had you heard that he was returning?

Octavia covers her reaction to the news.

OCTAVIA
No. Is he?
(she busies herself with the grapes)
These grapes <u>are</u> dreadful - slavery is too good for me..

Continued

324 Cont. 3

Octavian eyes her speculatively..

OCTAVIAN
He will come first to Brindisium. Agrippa and I intend to honor his arrival in a great ceremony. Antony must be made to know how dear to the hearts of Rome - of all of us - he is and has been..

OCTAVIA
(carefully)
He has been away for a very long time..

OCTAVIAN
Perhaps we can persuade him to stay with us even longer. Perhaps, Octavia, if you were to come to Brindisium - you could help..

OCTAVIA
You may have forgotten. It is no more than six months since -

OCTAVIAN
(bluntly)
Begging the pardon of Agrippa and our ancestors, I do not agree that a young widow must retire from life. You have not left my house since your husband died. If only for the sake of your health, the change alone -

OCTAVIA
(smiles)
Then, begging the pardon of my Lord Agrippa and our ancestors, I would look forward very much to - the change..

She bows politely to both men. She leaves the room. A moment. Agrippa refills his goblet.

AGRIPPA
(slowly)
Nothing - no one - could possibly shine more brightly in the sun. Not only Antony - I know of no man who would not hold out his greedy fists for Octavia..

Continued

324 Cont. 4

OCTAVIAN
After all, what greater pledge could I offer of my good will toward him? And how could Antony more clearly show his love for peace and Rome - than by accepting?

AGRIPPA
To refuse could mean only that he insists upon war..

OCTAVIAN
For which he is no more ready than we - yet.

AGRIPPA
(drinks)
And Cleopatra?

OCTAVIAN
Are you suggesting that we invite her to the wedding?

AGRIPPA
Do you remember Julius Caesar after his return - and those months, at the end, when she was in Rome? There was a poison in his heart, in his brain - yes, I know, the falling sickness - but more than that, Cleopatra..

OCTAVIAN
I remember well..

AGRIPPA
Antony is no Caesar.

OCTAVIAN
I am grateful for that..

AGRIPPA
Granted that he marries Octavia - will he forget Cleopatra? Will she permit him to forget?

OCTAVIAN
Most probably not.

AGRIPPA
Then - what will happen to Octavia - and to her marriage?

Continued

324 Cont. 5

OCTAVIAN
Do you remember a time when Julius Caesar feared Pompey? When he was weak - and Pompey strong? Caesar, you will recall, gave Pompey his daughter as wife -

AGRIPPA
It was a happy marriage. If Julia had not died -

OCTAVIAN
(breaks in)
Whatever it was and however it ended - by the time it was over, Caesar was strong. He no longer feared Pompey..

AGRIPPA
Your sister, I think, deserves better..

OCTAVIAN
So do I. But she will not agree.
(he rises)
There is something about Antony which escapes you and me, Agrippa - but for which women will forsake the living and forget the dead..

They start out.

AGRIPPA
There is no lady in Rome more gentle, more virtuous, more loved -

OCTAVIAN
(breaks in, smiling)
Exactly. And - if it should come to pass - what would Rome then think of a man who would abandon Octavia - for Cleopatra. Good night, Agrippa..

Agrippa goes. Octavian returns to his grapes..

DISSOLVE:

325 EXT. PALACE - ALEXANDRIA - NIGHT

The palace is dark. In the forecourt, except for the moonlight, no illumination other than one or two large burning torches or braziers. A FEW PALACE GUARDS patrol..

Continued

325 Cont.

They react to the SOUND of clattering hooves:

A MOUNTED COURIER gallops in. He dismounts quickly. A GUARD rushes up to him. They both run into the palace..

326 INT. CORRIDOR - PALACE - NIGHT

APOLLODORUS, in a robe, hurries the exhausted COURIER to Cleopatra's apartment. THE GUARDS step aside. They go in..

327 INT. CLEOPATRA'S LIBRARY - NIGHT

One lamp is lit. EIRAS brings wine to the COURIER, slumped in a chair. SOSIGENES hurries in. He is no sooner there than APOLLODORUS prods the courier to his feet. They all look off:

CLEOPATRA, obviously just awakened and wearing a robe, hurries from her bedroom area followed by CHARMIAN. She enters the library. The courier drops in full obeisance, speaks from that position:

COURIER
Have I permission to speak - ?

CLEOPATRA
(sitting)
Tell me quickly -

COURIER
A galley came to Pelusium with news from Rome - Lord Antony and Octavian Caesar have met and sealed a great pact! Antony has taken ten more legions and all of the East as his domain! Egypt will be declared the ally of Rome!

Cleopatra rises in triumph..

CLEOPATRA
It is done - !

The courier remains where he is. Sosigenes looks at him curiously..

SOSIGENES
There is more..

COURIER
No. No more, my Lord..

Continued

327 Cont.

APOLLODORUS
(to Cleopatra)
He is afraid. He has heard that tongues which bring unhappy news are sometimes cut out..

CLEOPATRA
(smiles)
This man, if he chooses, may have his tongue dipped in gold..
(to the courier)
Is there anything more? Tell it without fear..

COURIER
Forgive me, divine Majesty. There - there has been a marriage..
(Cleopatra listens, smilingly)
A marriage of state. Between Octavia, the sister of Caesar - and Lord Antony..

The others react sharply. The smile remains, as if painted, on Cleopatra's lips. Only her eyes change..

CLEOPATRA
(softly)
Nothing else - ?

COURIER
They are presently in Athens. Sometime - within the year - Lady Octavia is to return to Rome. Lord Antony will come to Alexandria, to negotiate the alliance of Rome and Egypt..

In response to a gesture from Sosigenes, he shuts up. There is a pause. Cleopatra's expression is a mask of stone. Sosigenes and Apollodorus exchange quick looks. Apollodorus indicates to the courier to get to his feet. Sosigenes and Apollodorus take him away..

Charmian and Eiras, not looking at Cleopatra, wait..

CLEOPATRA
(quietly)
Leave me.
(They start toward the bedroom)
No. Completely alone..

Charmian and Eiras follow Apollodorus, Sosigenes and the courier out of the apartment. Cleopatra is alone.

328 HIGH FULL SHOT - APARTMENT - NIGHT

There is only the dim light from the temple, one lamp in the library, one lamp in the bedroom. CLEOPATRA remains standing where she was - in the library.

Now, slowly, she emerges. A tiny figure, alone, in the vast apartment.

She advances to the top of the steps. Immobile for an instant. Then, as if she had been holding her breath since the first impact of the news, she exhales. Her lips are thin with hate and anger..

(The rejection which she has just experienced has had almost a physical impact upon her - as if suddenly her heart had been literally torn. It must be remembered that this is her first emotional rejection - by the first man she loved, the first man she trusted, the first man before whom she has let herself be without defenses..)

It begins to manifest itself, in physical movement. She paces, restlessly, rubbing and pressing her hands together in frustration..

She hesitates. She looks out - as if to a great distance. Suddenly she shouts - frighteningly - as if it were her last chance to be heard by him wherever he is..

CLEOPATRA
Antony!

A pause. Cleopatra then turns as if to return to her bedroom. She stops, turns back. She goes toward the dressing room.

329
330 OUT

331 INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

She reaches the racks holding Antony's clothes, armor, etc., - much of which he has left behind. Still lost in her anger at the gods, she pulls from a hanging scabbard - one of Antony's daggers..

Continued

She turns to return to the temple - then back again - as if in sudden realization that she is in Antony's presence..

And now begins the attempt to exorcise Antony from within her tortured heart by destroying physical memory of him..

His robe, to begin with. The robe he wore when he said goodbye to her. She slashes it to shreds. Whatever else of his is at hand. The costume he wore when they met at Tarsus. What she cannot cut, she hurls aside. The crystal milk jugs - she smashes. Perfume he admired, wine goblets he used, anything he may have touched or smiled upon - she sweeps her dressing table clean -

And then the bed. Her catharsis reaches its climax when - with Antony's dagger - she attacks the bed upon which she and he had loved so much and so often. Savagely and repeatedly, she slashes at it as if Antony lay there...

Then - suddenly terrified by the very image which had been the object of her rage - she lets the dagger drop from her hand. She stares down at the torn and mutilated bed. Now, for the first time, she starts to cry. As a brutally rejected little girl might cry..

Sobbing heartbrokenly, she sinks beside the bed. She pulls the torn, battered sheets within her arms as if asking them for forgiveness. She buries her face in them..

DISSOLVE:

332 INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

CAMERA is on MARK ANTONY as he strides swiftly toward the throne room itself. He is in a towering rage. He is followed by RUFIO and TWO additional OFFICERS. CAMERA PANS THEM TO:

333 FULL - THE THRONE AREA

CLEOPATRA sits in formal regalia on her throne - flanked by personages reflecting her temporal power..

APOLLODORUS, as Chamberlain. SOSIGENES. RAMOS and OTHER GENERALS. PRIESTS, MINISTERS, etc..

ANTONY does not wait. He shouts angrily as he approaches the throne:

ANTONY
For three days now I have waited for an audience with you - alone!

Cleopatra - a block of ice - turns inquiringly to Apollodorus. He addresses Antony, now come to a stop before the throne.

APOLLODORUS
What is the purpose of your audience?

ANTONY
Get out, all of you - I wish to see her Majesty privately!

APOLLODORUS
You stand before the throne of Egypt -

ANTONY
I know where I am!

APOLLODORUS
You will state the purpose -

ANTONY
Matters I have no intention of discussing publicly!

CLEOPATRA
(can't stay out)
I do not grant private audiences to unidentified persons!

ANTONY
(stiffly)
I am Marcus Antonius -

CLEOPATRA
I know <u>who</u> you are. <u>What</u> are you - at the moment - ?

ANTONY
Envoy of Rome, pro-consul of all the Roman Empire to the east of Italy -

CLEOPATRA
An impressive title -

ANTONY
Worthy, perhaps, of a private audience -

CLEOPATRA
But without a treaty of alliance with Egypt you could not hold the territories under your command - true?

ANTONY
(eyes her curiously)
Possibly..

CLEOPATRA
Then, Lord Antony, you come before me as a suppliant..

ANTONY
If you choose to regard me as such..

CLEOPATRA
I do. You will therefore assume the position of a suppliant before this throne. You will kneel.

ANTONY
(aghast)
What?

CLEOPATRA
On your knees..

ANTONY
You dare ask the pro-consul of Rome -

CLEOPATRA
I asked it of Julius Caesar! I demand it of you..

She has hit Antony hard. He kneels..

CLEOPATRA
Now. What is it you want?

ANTONY
An alliance between Egypt and Rome. Which you want as much as I..

CLEOPATRA
With this difference. Without it, I still have Egypt. You have nothing..

She holds out a hand to Sosigenes. He puts a scroll in it. She refers to it..

CLEOPATRA
You may have the treaty you ask for -
(Antony brightens)
- on the following conditions. By your authority as pro-consul of Rome, you will cede to Egypt immediately the following territories:
(she reads)
Judea, Jordan, Armenia, Phoenicia, the provinces of Sinai and Arabia, the islands of Cyprus and Crete -

Continued

Antony leaps to his feet, interrupting:

ANTONY
You ask for one-third of the Roman Empire!

CLEOPATRA
Put it another way. I give you two-thirds..

ANTONY
Most generous. I cannot accept!

CLEOPATRA
I suggest you deliberate further - perhaps consult with your superior in Rome..

ANTONY
My superior - ?

CLEOPATRA
Octavian. Caesar Octavian..

Thin-lipped with anger, Antony whirls and starts out. Cleopatra calls after him..

CLEOPATRA
(sharply)
You have not been dismissed!
(Antony stops, turns back)
You are now dismissed.

Antony continues on his way..

DISSOLVE:

334 EXT. MAUSOLEUM - ALEXANDRIA - DAY

The afternoon of the same day. The tomb is nearly finished, the structure rising high now, and partly scaffolded.

Some ELITE GUARDS near the entrance, an indication that Cleopatra is inside. WORKERS squat in groups - waiting to resume their labors..

ANTONY, followed by RUFIO and his OFFICERS (same as at audience), paces impatiently before the entrance. Suddenly he strides up to the guards. He whips out his sword - hands it to the CAPTAIN of the guards. The captain takes it, nods - and Antony enters the mausoleum..

335 INT. MAUSOLEUM - DAY

The interior, too, is nearly completed. Some scaffolding, materials, tools, etc., in evidence..

The statue of Caesar is in place..

ANTONY enters, CAMERA PANNING him in. His entrance surprises CLEOPATRA, who stands in the centre of the tomb. CHARMIAN, EIRAS and TWO MORE HANDMAIDENS in attendance.

He glares at her. She eyes him coolly, crosses to stand before the statue of Caesar..

ANTONY
I found Octavian stronger than I thought - I had no choice - if you could have seen the show of love he put on - the Romans prayed to me for peace, he had them pray to me for peace - !

CLEOPATRA
You must have enjoyed that. Playing God..

She drops an offering into the brazier before the statue. A puff of smoke..

Antony turns on Charmian, Eiras and the others..

ANTONY
All of you - out. Her Majesty and I will speak in private..
(they don't move)
Out! Before I chop you up and feed you to my horses!

They don't move.

CLEOPATRA
That's how Romans frighten little girls. They like to frighten little girls. Wait outside..

They leave..

ANTONY
I married Octavia at her brother's insistence, before all of Rome - as a gesture of good faith, a guarantee of peace, a bargain sealed -

CLEOPATRA
With a kiss? Or did you simply shake hands on your wedding night?

Continued

335 Cont.

ANTONY
The people of Rome were celebrating the marriage, were rejoicing in it even before I arrived - how could I refuse?

CLEOPATRA
By saying no. As you have said no to my demands -

ANTONY
They're impossible, unreasonable - the conditions one lays down to a helpless enemy..

CLEOPATRA
You're not helpless - yet.

ANTONY
I cannot cede to you the territories you want! It could lead to an open break between Rome and me!

CLEOPATRA
Why do you think I have asked for them..?

She walks out of the SHOT. Antony calls after her:

ANTONY
It would be playing into Octavian's hands - what he hopes for - it would not be wise!

STRAIGHT CUT TO:

336 CLOSE - CLEOPATRA - INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

The evening of the same day..

CLEOPATRA walks into the SHOT - snapping down at ANTONY who is OFFSCENE..

CLEOPATRA
What is wise? To hand over Rome - Italy - the world - to Octavian? To grovel publicly before his authority - take his sister to wed and to bed - as if to approve every claim he makes? As if to beg forgiveness for having stayed so long with your Egyptian harlot!

Continued

336 Cont.

She walks away from him. CAMERA TILTS DOWN to reveal ANTONY staring after her..

STRAIGHT CUT TO:

337 INT. CLEOPATRA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - ANTONY

The night of the same day..

CAMERA SHOOTING DOWN AT GARDEN AREA. ANTONY strides into SHOT, shouts up and OFFSCENE:

ANTONY
What has angered you? That I dealt with Octavian however I could - or that I married his sister to do it! Politics or jealousy - which?

CLOSE - CLEOPATRA - TOP OF STEPS

From her bedroom - attired for the night - she strides into CAMERA, shouts back down at him:

CLEOPATRA
Both! And damn you for not understanding either!

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

He mounts the steps as the battle rages..

ANTONY
It would not occur to me to look to you for instruction!

CLEOPATRA
Which is why you've come back chained to Octavian like a slave - !

ANTONY
Slave - !

CLEOPATRA
Such an exquisite set of chains - soft-spoken, virtuous, she sleeps fully-clothed, I hear - !

Continued

337 Cont.

ANTONY
I've come back, that's all that should concern you!

CLEOPATRA
Should it? How long before your master snaps his fingers and you run to him - or her?

ANTONY
(quietly)
I have only one master. My love for you..

He tries to take her in his arms. She moves from him... as if almost frightened by his touch. And she speaks as much to herself - as to him:

CLEOPATRA
No. Your master must not be love, never love. Give yourself to love, and you give yourself to forgetfulness of who you are and what you are - and what you want..

ANTONY
And what you want - is worth so much more?

CLEOPATRA
I will not have love as my master..

ANTONY
Then you will not have love.

CLEOPATRA
Nor will I have Octavian - !

ANTONY
Never fear. He won't be.

CLEOPATRA
How confident you are. Has Octavian a master?

Continued

ANTONY
(nods)
His ambition. To rule the Roman world as emperor and God..

CLEOPATRA
The Roman world - to begin with. And what stands in his way?

ANTONY
You and I..

CLEOPATRA
To begin with. And my son - the rightful heir to the name and glory of Great Caesar. Octavian has already stolen those - he will now destroy, in his sister's name, the love Rome has for you. And, by your marriage to her, has made of me unmistakeably your whore! Never fear Octavian? It is he, I think, who, by now, must be unafraid..

Antony sinks despondently onto a couch.

ANTONY
Show me a city, and I will tell you how to take it. Let me face an army. I will smell out its weak points - and hit hard where they are. But sit me down and talk in whispers of this and that - with an emphasis here, and a shrug there - and I am soon confounded and defeated..
(he lifts his eyes to her)
Meaning to do the best - I suppose I could not have done worse..

Continued

The abject directness of his confession is touching. Cleopatra crosses to sit beside him..

CLEOPATRA
There is still time..

ANTONY
Let some one ask me what I want. It is to live with you - in peace and love..
(he smiles)
Do you have conditions for total surrender?

CLEOPATRA
First - as Caesar did - you will marry me according to the Egyptian ritual..

ANTONY
That is not a condition - but a reward..

CLEOPATRA
You will declare, by your authority, Caesarion to be King of Egypt. We will rule together in his name..

ANTONY
Granted happily..

CLEOPATRA
And you will cede to Egypt all of the territories I have demanded -
(Antony tenses)
You must! If only to assert your own authority and power - ! Otherwise - inevitably, in time we will lose everything. Can't you see that?

Antony looks at her. He smiles - and shakes his head..

ANTONY
I can see nothing but you..

They kiss.

DISSOLVE TO:

338 INT. ROMAN SENATE - DAY

Dramatically, OCTAVIAN spills a leather sack of coins upon a table before his chair. He picks one up..

OCTAVIAN
Cleopatra, Queen.
(he turns it over)
Marcus Antonius, Autokrat.
(he tosses it aside)
A new title bestowed upon our Antony by his gracious queen. Autokrat. From the Greek. One of her many native tongues. Absolute sovereign..
(sudden sharpness)
But not quite king! No. Antony himself has proclaimed his own king - the autokrat's autokrat, if you will - Cleopatra's son! Named by her after the Divine Caesar - but who can say by what unknown father it was sired, on what forgotten night..?
(impassionedly)
How well she knows Rome, this witch of the Nile! How well she knows that we, loving Antony, will forgive him what from other men would drive us to war!

AGRIPPA
(to his feet)
I am no longer content to forgive Antony! To marry this Egyptian according to their barbaric rites -

GERMANICUS
(to his feet)
Meaningless under Roman Law! Great Caesar himself -

OCTAVIAN
Yes! Bit by bit Antony crawls behind his memory - but tell us, Germanicus! Did Great Caesar also toss one-third of the Roman Empire into Cleopatra's undoubtedly deserving lap?

AGRIPPA
This marriage is an expression of contempt for Rome - the ceding of our territories an act of aggression against Rome! I demand that Antony be instructed at once to revoke his marriage and return to us our Eastern possessions!

338 Cont. 1

A storm of approval overwhelms the Senate - and the silent small group of Antony's supporters..

OCTAVIAN
(smiles)
How little after all, it seems, Cleopatra knows Rome..

QUICK DISSOLVE:

339 INT. THRONE ROOM - PALACE - DAY

CAESARION occupies the highest of three thrones; those for CLEOPATRA and ANTONY being lower than his. (Note: this is now the third Caesarion.)

All present in full state regalia. ANTONY, from his throne, is speaking to the ROMAN AMBASSADOR who stands before them, flanked by LICTORS..

ANTONY
Let it be known that the territories in dispute were subjugated by Julius Caesar! There can be no question that the right to rule over them is the heritage of his son - and, in the name of the Mighty Caesar, I grant to King Ptolemy Caesarion that right! And let it be known that the greatness of Rome lies not in what she takes - but in what she gives..

He nods to APOLLODORUS, who raps with his staff. CLEOPATRA and CAESARION rise. The Ambassador, about to answer, must be still.

Grimly, he and his lictors make way, as Caesarion, followed by Cleopatra and Antony, leave the throne room..

QUICK DISSOLVE:

340 INT. OCTAVIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

OCTAVIAN, AGRIPPA and TWO OR THREE SENATORS. They sit together. Octavian rises as he speaks. He moves into a CLOSEUP.

OVER THIS ARE SUPERIMPOSED the ensuing SCENES as he describes them:

Continued

OCTAVIAN
Rome's greatness lies in what she gives, he says, then calmly gives what is not his. And Cleopatra takes, and will take more - and war will come. She knows - and I know - that war will come. But I will not speak for it - nor will I speak against Antony. I must be forced into war, the people of Rome must force this war upon me - they must storm the doors of the Senate crying for it! To begin with, let it be known everywhere what Antony has said - and that I have remained silent...

THE SUPERIMPOSED INSERTS BEGIN:

341 SHOT ONE: EXT. FORUM - DAY (A secluded spot). ENVOYS - some mounted, some on foot - being handed scrolls by AGRIPPA. They hurry away with them..

OCTAVIAN
(Over SCENE)
Let secret envoys be sent to all the lands he has ceded to her - with word that Rome will not oppose revolt against Egypt..

342 SHOT TWO: EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. MOUNTED COURIERS riding through various terrains..

OCTAVIAN
(Over SCENE)
Send couriers to every garrison under Antony's command. Offer promotion to his officers, if they will come to me...the men will follow.

343 SHOT THREE: EXT. ROMAN STREETS (FORUM SET). OFFICIALS tack up proclamations on walls and doors. Angry reactions from citizens of all stations..

OCTAVIAN
(Over SCENE)
Proclamations are to be posted throughout Rome. In ceding these lands to Egypt, Antony has deprived Rome of necessary tribute. Taxes must therefore be increased for Roman citizens..

344 SHOT FOUR: INT. ROMAN HOUSE (PART OF A ROOM).

OCTAVIA at a writing desk, writing on wax tablets..

OCTAVIAN
(Over SCENE)
At my request, Octavia will write once more to Antony. Of her love, her loneliness and humiliation - she will beg for his return to her, and for peace with Rome. Her message will be taken to him by the most noble and respected citizens of Rome. Let Antony turn his back on her - and on them - if he will...

Octavian's face leaves the SCENE. Only Octavia's remains, tearfully doing as she has been told..

DISSOLVE:

345 EXT. PALACE - FORECOURT - ALEXANDRIA - DAY

About HALF DOZEN distinguished and venerable ROMANS wait. About them, and on the steps, ANTONY'S OFFICERS. Among them, RUFIO..

SOSIGENES, standing to one side between the pillars, watches..

ANTONY, alone, comes out of the palace. He carries a scroll..

THE LEADER of the group approaches the platform respectfully. ANTONY, dressed in full military regalia, looks down at him. Antony seems remote, deliberately aloof and cold..

LEADER
Mark Antony, do you have an answer to the message we have brought from the Lady Octavia?

Antony hands the scroll to Rufio, who brings it to the venerable old man..

ANTONY
By the laws of Rome, bear witness, all of you, to what I say. You are to tell the Lady Octavia that I divorce her..

Reactions from the group. Antony continues, as if by rote, looking not at them but over their heads..

Continued

ANTONY
According to Roman law, therefore, in my name say to her: Octavia, take what belongs to you and leave my house. Take what belongs to you and leave my house. Take what belongs to you and leave my house. It is done.

He turns away abruptly, re-enters the Palace..

The group of senators, saddened and shocked, turn to depart. The eyes of their leader meet those of Rufio. Rufio is the first to look away..

Sosigenes. He has observed the scene with great concern. Thoughtfully, he enters the palace..

346 INT. CLEOPATRA'S SITTING ROOM - DAY

Present are CLEOPATRA, RAMOS, APOLLODORUS - and other EGYPTIAN military personnel.

The room has acquired a military character. There are many maps, charts, and particularly - models of ships..

Antony is apart from the others; pouring himself a drink.

CLEOPATRA
(is saying)
- if we move quickly, the Romans will not know we have crossed the Mediterranean until we land in Greece.
(to Ramos)
You and General Rufio will start embarking the troops at once..

RAMOS
Yes, your Majesty -

He and the others salute. With Apollodorus, they start out..

ANTONY
(suddenly)
If it is decided to move our armies to Greece -

CLEOPATRA
(quickly)
It has been decided -

ANTONY
- my men do not travel well by sea. They fight on land, they move on land -

CLEOPATRA
Your men will do as they are told! As mine will!

ANTONY
My men will do as they are told - by me!
(he drinks, smiles)
However, since I do as I am told...

Cleopatra is extremely conscious of the other men waiting. She smiles at them..

CLEOPATRA
The final decision will, of course, be Lord Antony's and I am sure that - in time - he will make it. That is all.

They leave. Antony finishes his drink..

CLEOPATRA
(quietly)
It would be wiser, I think, not to disagree in the presence of our officers.

ANTONY
Your officers. What final decision have you decided I am to make - ?

CLEOPATRA
Why do you oppose transporting our armies to Greece?

ANTONY
Because I do not want war against Rome..

CLEOPATRA
One hundred thousand men led by Mark Antony. Octavian is no fool - he won't fight..

ANTONY
He won't want to, he'll have to. Instantly. On the spot where they land..

CLEOPATRA
Rome will not declare war against you!

SOSIGENES has come in during the above. He senses the tension between them.

SOSIGENES
I do not agree.

Cleopatra turns on him, sharply..

CLEOPATRA
I have not asked for your opinion!

SOSIGENES
Not for some time. Not since I doubted the necessity for building three hundred ships -

CLEOPATRA
The way to prevent war is to be ready for it!

SOSIGENES
Have three hundred warships ever been built for war - without war?

CLEOPATRA
We shall have what we want without it!

She turns from him. Sosigenes remains quiet and determined..

SOSIGENES
Your Majesty. Please hear me. I think we are very near the edge. Strings are being pulled, and not by us. We are being managed and maneuvred without our choosing. These riots in Jordan, Armenia, Cyprus - they must be related, and have a meaning. The deputation sent on behalf of Lady Octavia - chosen from the most highly revered men of Rome. Why? They can carry back to their people nothing but Lord Antony's - forgive me - insulting and unnecessary divorce of her - and rejection of them..

Antony makes no comment. He drinks..

CLEOPATRA
(quietly)
It was done at my bidding. The responsibility is mine..

ANTONY
(softly - into his cup)
The doing was mine..

Cleopatra turns back to Sosigenes..

CLEOPATRA
What do you propose?

SOSIGENES
Let me go to Rome. Let me approach Octavian - if possible, the Roman people - and assure them we want peace. If there is a way for us to live in peace - let me try to find it..

Cleopatra looks to him. Then to Antony, who looks up from his drink with interest..

CLEOPATRA
Go then. Go to Rome..

Antony silently toasts the scholar. Sosigenes bows, starts out. Cleopatra turns after him - suddenly troubled. She senses the danger of his journey - a result of her utter commitment to ambition..

CLEOPATRA
(calling)
Sosigenes!
(he pauses)
Take care..

Sosigenes smiles, and goes on. Cleopatra looks after him..

ANTONY
He's very dear to you, that old man. Your concern and worry are written all over you - forgive me, but it's a kind of love you're showing..

CLEOPATRA
Let them talk. Let them negotiate all they want. Time is on our side, we can only grow stronger -
(in sudden concern)
A man like Sosigenes. A man who has made the world better for his having lived in it - would anyone hurt him?

ANTONY
(smiles)
Come here..

Cleopatra goes to him. He takes her in his arms.

ANTONY
If war will come, why then it will come. But to decide upon war - to choose it as one might an entertainment for the night - this is no longer possible for me..

CLEOPATRA
Until we have what we want. Until we can hold it secure -

ANTONY
I have what I want, I hold it secure this minute. And I no longer even dream of wanting more -

CLEOPATRA
Antony -

ANTONY
Be quiet, we're alone now. I'm speaking. For the first time, I cannot wait to wake from sleep into life - my dreams have become pitiful and dull. For the first time, it seems to me, I want terribly to be alive..

DISSOLVE:

347 EXT. ROMAN SENATE - DAY - FULL

A shouting MOB OF ROMANS covers the steps of the Senate, and spills down into the Forum. Crying out for war against Egypt, on the porch of the Senate they pound their fists against the closed bronze doors..

348 CLOSER - BOTTOM OF SENATE STEPS - DAY

A group of litters. Surrounded by the shouting, swirling MOB. In one of the litters, SOSIGENES waits patiently..

From the crowd about the litter, hooded, emerges ARCHESILAUS the sculptor. He moves close to Sosigenes. He removes part of his hood. Sosigenes smiles in recognition. Archesilaus is wet with fear..

SOSIGENES
There is no one more stubborn than a Roman Greek - except perhaps an Egyptian Greek..

ARCHESILAUS
My learned friend, once more I beg of you. The crowd is beyond reason, believe me -
(lower)
- and so is Octavian. If he would not see you at his home -

SOSIGENES
He bid me wait for him outside the Senate House..

ARCHESILAUS
And for more than two weeks he has passed you by every day -

SOSIGENES
He knows I am here. If I should wait each day for two more years, and he pass me by each day for two more years - at least for that time there will be no war...
(he smiles)
...but there is no need for you to wait with me that long. Nor even any longer. Thank you for your help..

ARCHESILAUS
It's just that - violence - and mobs frighten me..

Continued

348 Cont.

SOSIGENES
(nods)
As the center of the earth is raging fire - so the center of man is anger, covered by a thin crust of humanity..

He leans back on his cushioned seat. Archesilaus hesitates, then goes. He is lost in the mob..

349 INT. SENATE - DAY

The great NOISE from the mob outside, the POUNDING on the doors of the Senate, can be heard throughout the scene - as an obbligato to what is said and done..

OCTAVIAN stands, dramatically posed, in the corridor leading to the Senate entrance. As he speaks, he makes his way back to his chair. CAMERA PULLING BACK AND UP to disclose the chamber packed with SENATORS. Some even stand between the columns..

The golden spear of war is in its place..

OCTAVIAN
Hear them, Noble Fathers! They are less patient than you, their patience has come to an end - the Roman people now cry out - 'enough'!
(he starts toward the Senators)
We can wait no longer while Egypt plots our destruction! Enough!
(The Senators remain oddly silent)
Cleopatra's fleet, launched by her decision, has sailed for Greece - scores of Egyptian ships, packed with Roman legions bribed and seduced into treason against Rome! Just as Antony was drugged and deluded - by whatever poisons and powers this witch can call upon - into surrendering Roman territories, nullifying Roman laws, desecrating the memory of our Divine Caesar and the honor of Mark Antony himself - as well as that of Octavia, my sister...
(he pauses before the spear)

Continued

OCTAVIAN (Contd)
The golden spear of war. The people of Rome have caused it to be brought here - by their Tribunes - from the Temple of Mars, and placed before us. They ask that, by the will and command of the Senate, I carry it out to them. As a sign that Rome is at war with Egypt...

He pauses. There is complete silence. AGRIPPA is obviously under orders to keep quiet. GERMANICUS and those about him watch apprehensively. Octavian smiles grimly..

OCTAVIAN
These walls must not believe their ears, to hear such silence. From the right - from the left. The call of the Roman people can be clearly heard; yet the Roman senate has no answer...
(he returns to his chair)
Shall we, then, just sit - and listen..?

He sits calmly. A pause. A SENATOR rises, sombrely - from the right. One of Octavian's supporters..

SENATOR
There is not one of us, August Caesar, who would not willingly make war upon Cleopatra. But how? Without also making war upon Mark Antony - loved by Rome, and loving Rome..?

Octavian nods, as if in agreement..

OCTAVIAN
Loved by Rome. And loving Rome..

Slowly, he draws from his toga an ornamental scroll..

OCTAVIAN
I have here - the last will and testament of this Antony who so loves Rome..

A murmur spreads among the Senators, as they react and comment to each other. Germanicus rises slowly to his feet.

Continued

GERMANICUS
Antony's will and testament - was it not entrusted to the safekeeping of the Vestal Virgins? Then to have it, you must have taken it by force from the holy temple!

The shocked murmur increases among the Senators. Octavian nods..

OCTAVIAN
A grievous sin for which I pray the Gods will forgive me, but which I admit freely. I, too, love Rome. More, perhaps, as you will see, than even Antony. For I have sinned in the name of Rome, whereas he -

He rises suddenly to his feet, dramatically unfurls the scroll. It unwinds on the Senate floor, stopping at the feet of Germanicus..

OCTAVIAN
Read for yourselves how dearly Antony loves you, loves Rome! In this, his last will - under his seal! Only lately brought from Egypt and deposited in our Holy Temple - at Antony's request - by the distinguished Sosigenes. An extraordinary mission for an extraordinary man - so wise, so close to Cleopatra, so trusted by her. He has come - he says in gentle tones - to plead for peace, for understanding, for <u>time</u>! His pockets sagging with Egyptian gold to bribe and corrupt and degrade even more the glory and honor of Rome!
(he yells at Germanicus)
Read in Antony's will! At the end! Commit to memory the last request of your beloved Antony - it bears witness to his love for Rome!

Germanicus picks up the will, starts to read the end of the scroll. Octavian continues to the others:

OCTAVIAN
When he is dead, it says - after Mark Antony has died - it is his wish that he be buried in - his beloved Alexandria!

Continued

OCTAVIAN (Contd)
(A sensation. The Senate to its feet. Expressions of disbelief and shock..)
Can such treason be charged to any Roman in recorded history? When was there a Roman who fell for Rome on whatever foreign battlefield but that his dying prayer was for some part of him to be returned to Roman soil? But Mark Antony - so beloved by his legions and loving them, so beloved by Rome and loving Rome - where would he lie for all of eternity? In Egypt, among Egyptians, beside his Egyptian whore!
(to Germanicus)
Is what I say the truth? Do I speak the truth!

Slowly, lifelessly, Germanicus nods. He lets the scroll slip from his fingers, sinks to his seat. The rumble in the Senate becomes an angry one..

OCTAVIAN
And <u>still</u>, my countrymen, I do not put the blame upon Antony - for this request is not his but Cleopatra's! Not Antony's last testament - but Cleopatra's ultimate humiliation of him and of us! Will you now command me to take up this golden spear - ? Will you now direct me, according to our custom, to hurl it toward our enemy to the death - not Antony of Rome, but Cleopatra of Egypt!

AGRIPPA
(a sudden, savage shout)
War!

The shout is taken up, the Senate roars for war - even those surrounding the crushed Germanicus..

As Octavian grabs the golden spear, they flock down from their seats, still shouting. Holding the spear high above his head, Octavian strides from the senate followed by the others. Germanicus sits alone..

350 EXT. SENATE PORCH - DAY - FORUM

THE MOB on the porch and steps remains as insistent and excited as before. PRAETORIAN GUARDS struggle in vain to keep them from the Senate doors..

At the foot of the steps, not only Sosigenes' litter, but others are surrounded by the swirling crowd..

351 CLOSE - SENATE DOORS - DAY

They open. OCTAVIAN, followed by the SENATORS, carrying the golden spear high and ceremoniously, comes out. The crowd cheers madly - and falls away before him as he makes his way down the steps to the rostrum..

He waits a moment for the yelling to subside..

OCTAVIAN
I hold before you the Golden Spear of War! Put into my hand, without dissent, by the command and will of the Senate of Rome! And now it is you - the people of Rome - who must direct me! Where is the enemy? Where is Egypt? Show me the way!

The crowd roars savagely. Hands point to the South and East. Octavian poises the spear. He hesitates, as he sees OFFSCENE:

352 OCTAVIAN'S P.O.V. - DAY

Sosigenes' litter, at the foot of the steps, and the crowd surround it..

SOSIGENES gets out of his litter, starts to force his way through the crowd and up the steps toward Octavian..

CLOSE - OCTAVIAN

As he stares down at Sosigenes. With his free hand, he points:

OCTAVIAN
There! There is Egypt!

MEDIUM - SOSIGENES

Pushing his way through the crowd. Suddenly those around him stare and move away. He stands alone, exposed, on the steps..

He looks up toward Octavian, shakes his head in disbelief. He holds out his hand as if to call for attention..

CLOSE - OCTAVIAN

As he throws the spear..

Continued

CLOSE - SOSIGENES

He is hit. He staggers, clutching the shaft of the spear as though to draw it out. He falls.

353 FULL SHOT - SENATE STEPS

The crowd, roaring in triumph, swarms about Sosigenes' body. OCTAVIAN stands alone on the rostrum.

THE FRAME FREEZES TO A STOP. Once more, the colors fade in the "frieze" effect...

EFFECTS DISSOLVE TO:

354 EXT. ACTIUM - DAY - (GLASS SHOT)

CLEOPATRA'S palanquin borne by slaves, with an ESCORT of the Elite Guard. CLEOPATRA enthroned. The frame is frozen in the "frieze" effect, and over it the historical text:

NARRATOR
"...and so once more, the Romans warred upon each other. And just as Antony had foretold, the forces of Octavian came to meet them on the spot where they landed - which was at Actium, in Greece...

The stop frame moves into action. The palanquin is brought forward, and lowered to the ground, and Cleopatra is helped out of it.

As she walks, CAMERA PANS WITH HER revealing a HIGH SHOT of the bay of Actium, with the massive array of warships below.

A heated discussion is HEARD OFF as she approaches:

355-356 EXT. ACTIUM - COMMAND POST - DAY

The conference is dominated by ANTONY, at the "topo" table. Across from him is EUPHRANOR, a battle-scarred Rhodian admiral. In attendance are RUFIO, CANIDIUS (a high-ranking Roman General), RAMOS, other OFFICERS..

Antony is addressing Euphranor, in belligerent sarcasm, as CLEOPATRA enters the scene. All except Antony bow, then return their attention to the argument. Cleopatra moves unobtrusively to one side and listens..

ANTONY
(Heard OFF - over 354)
The great Admiral Euphranor of Rhodes! You no longer command a pack of mongrel pirate vessels, manned by pickpockets and wharf rats - ours is the largest fleet of the finest ships ever built! Carrying the Roman legions of Mark Antony!

EUPHRANOR
(Heard OFF - over 354)
Romans, rats, pirates or the Gods themselves, your ships are too large to begin with! And why must the decks be packed with 20,000 men and their armor -

ANTONY
Because battles are fought and won by men!

EUPHRANOR
At sea they are fought and won by ships! Even empty, these tubs of yours cannot be manoeuvred!

ANTONY
You will not be required to manoeuver them!
(quiet finality)
Your orders, Admiral, will be to hold against Agrippa's attack..

EUPHRANOR
And if Agrippa does not attack?

ANTONY
I'll force his hand. I know Agrippa..

EUPHRANOR
By land. I know him by sea..

Antony gestures. Rufio, Ramos, Canidius - one or two others - draw near the table. Antony uses the <u>model ships</u> to illustrate:

ANTONY
With my command ship and two escorting vessels, I shall break the Roman Center. I have one objective. Octavian's flagship - and Octavian. You will engage his entire line - keep them away. Your reserves to the extreme right and left. Once I am on Octavian, you will close in - for the kill...

He finishes proudly, takes a long drink from a goblet held by a SLAVE. Euphranor is not impressed.

EUPHRANOR
A classic plan of attack - for land armies. Agrippa will offer thanks to all the Gods in all the heavens if you commit yourself - and us -

ANTONY
(quietly)
I have committed myself. And you. And my ships. And my men.

EUPHRANOR
(aghast)
But - but - my Lord - water is fluid - ships drift - they're hit, there are gaps - winds rise suddenly -

ANTONY
The action will begin with the rising of the sun, tomorrow -

EUPHRANOR
Lord Antony, hear me! Your battle plan is very brave, very simple - you might bring it off on land - but there are ten, a <u>hundred</u> reasons to debate its wisdom upon the sea!

ANTONY
(explodes)
I have an enemy who faces me on land with fewer troops, on sea with fewer ships - let <u>him</u> debate the wisdom of <u>his</u> position! I have a happy choice - whether to destroy him wet or dry. I have chosen wet...
(he turns on Euphranor)

ANTONY (Cont'd)
And I think it best, Euphranor, that you report to Queen Cleopatra aboard her vessel - in the harbor. There, if you like, you may point out to her the hundred reasons why my brave simplicity has failed. In any case, you are relieved of your battle command.

He nods in dismissal. He finishes his goblet, signals for it to be re-filled. Euphranor makes no reply. He salutes formally, and goes..

Canidius and Rufio exchange brief glances. Rufio speaks up quietly:

RUFIO
This final commitment. Of yourself, your ships, of all of us - to fight Octavian at sea. When did you decide, my Lord?

ANTONY
Forgive me, Rufio. I had every intention -

RUFIO
(cuts in)
Canidius and I have worked hard for many months. We have organized and trained an army of almost 200,000 men from twenty different countries -

ANTONY
They will not be wasted! After victory at sea -

RUFIO
(will not be silenced)
Of which, tonight, twenty thousand foot-soldiers and cavalry will be herded and whipped onto the decks of these ships - to be dragged out to sea tomorrow, puking and afraid - <u>why</u>, my Lord? <u>Why</u>?

ANTONY
(savagely)
Because <u>I</u> have decided it will <u>be</u> so!

CANIDIUS suddenly speaks up..

CANIDIUS
Are you sure - ?

RUFIO
(warningly)
Canidius!

CANIDIUS
You will not say it - and it must be said!
(to Antony)
Are you sure, my Lord, it is you who have decided it will be so?

A sharp, hidden reaction from Cleopatra. Antony does not look at her. He looks steadily at Canidius..

ANTONY
(quietly)
If not I - then who?

CANIDIUS
You and I have fought in many campaigns - on land. I have watched - and learned from you - as you made your men ready for war. As you studied the field of battle -

ANTONY
(pointing)
I have studied this one. I find one wave very much like another..

CANIDIUS
Euphranor would not agree with you. Nor can I picture Mark Antony upon that battlefield. I see water - upon which none of us have fought. I see great floating hulks - built at the command of Egypt's Queen. Manned by mercenaries of many Eastern countries - paid by Egypt's Queen. I have never known women - even Queens - to be present at councils of war. Since the arrival of your legions from Egypt - by sea, at her command - Mark Antony's generals have not once met with him except in the presence of Egypt's Queen.

CANIDIUS (Cont'd)
Am I now to face the greatest army ever to carry your battle standard - an army equipped and fed by Egypt's Queen - to order 20,000 of them dragged out to fight at sea, while the rest stand on the hilltops and cheer - at the command of Mark Antony?

There is a pause. Antony struggles to control his rage.

ANTONY
(slowly; tight with anger)
'Egypt's Queen' has a name. She may be referred to - by those worthy of the privilege - as 'Queen Cleopatra'. Or - as 'Her Majesty'. If her name - in any form - passes your lips again, Canidius, I will kill you..
(he takes a deep swallow of drink)
Enobarbus - you - and Rufio. Three men to whom I would have entrusted my life, at any time. Enobarbus, as you know, has gone over to Octavian. Why don't you follow him? Octavian will welcome you with great honors, great riches - and female-free councils of war that stink of masculinity! If you like, crawl safely to Octavian! Go, if you like!
(Canidius doesn't move. Antony turns on Rufio)
You - Rufio! Your chance to serve another Caesar - take it!
(Rufio, hurt almost to tears, turns away abruptly)
Any of you - all of you!

There is no move. Ramos speaks up, quietly:

RAMOS
I would consider it an honor to fight beside Lord Antony - at any time, anywhere..

ANTONY
Spoken like a Roman, Ramos..
(He finishes his goblet, holds it out to be refilled)
And you shall fight at my side. In Rufio's place. Rufio, you will remain with Her Majesty aboard her vessel..

RUFIO
As you command.

ANTONY
Canidius, you will remain with the land forces. Cheering from a hilltop, if you like..

CANIDIUS
As you command.

ANTONY
Exactly. As I command. You are all dismissed.

Without another glance at them, he crosses to sprawl on a seat. The men leave. Cleopatra and Antony are alone..

She crosses to him. She smiles down proudly..

CLEOPATRA
There never was - there never will be - a commander of men to equal Mark Antony..

ANTONY
Shall we drink to that..?

Without looking up, he drinks..

CLEOPATRA
Will they do as you say?

ANTONY
(nods)
To the letter. As if my wishes were theirs. Like the rest of humanity, an army cannot exist without a chain-of-obedience. The least powerful is told by the next most powerful - who is told by the next most powerful - and so on up -
(he looks up, now)
to the all powerful. You.

CLEOPATRA
(smiles)
We. They do as we think best..

ANTONY
You. I never wanted war with Octavian. I wanted peace with you. But I made your wish mine. Not wanting it, I could still understand it. But now - to risk fighting him at sea when we are certain to defeat him on land - it is my feeling neither one of us thinks it best. Nor I cannot understand why you insist. But since you must have it so - it will be so. The chain-of-obedience being what it is - and I being what I have become...

He finishes off his goblet. He rises..

CLEOPATRA
(stunned)
Nor do I understand. Just now - as I stood here and listened - everything you said and did -

ANTONY
(breaks in)
- was everything you would have wanted said and done. For my part - such as it is - Euphranor is right. And Canidius. And - Rufio....did you see his look when he turned away from me..?

He reaches for more wine, thinks better of it..

CLEOPATRA
But it was just last night - that you agreed with me! That we have Octavian's army pinned against the sea! That to destroy his fleet - his possible escape - <u>first</u>, and <u>then</u> his army - would mean total, final victory! You agreed with me!

ANTONY
Last night! And the nights that went before - and tonight, if it pleases you - in your arms I would agree that we could walk, hand in hand, across the Bay of Actium..

Continued

CLEOPATRA
(bitingly)
So once more, it seems, I am charged with witchcraft. Apparently, however, you suffer from it only after sundown..

ANTONY
(shakes his head)
I live for the night. My only complaint is that day insists upon breaking in on it..

He starts out. Cleopatra, in sudden emotion:

CLEOPATRA
Antony!
(he pauses)
What has happened - ?

ANTONY
To me - ? You have happened to me..

He continues out. Cleopatra is alone. She looks after him - concerned and confused by many emotions. She forces her attention to the business at hand..

She crosses to the topo table. She stares down at the tiny model ships, studies them for an instant. She finds Octavian's flagship. She lights one of a bunch of tapers (from a nearby burning ceremonial brazier). She touches Octavian's flagship. It flares up..

DISSOLVE:

356-A EXT. AGRIPPA'S GALLEY - ROMAN FLEET - NIGHT

A MATTE SHOT. In the f.g., Agrippa's command vessel, armed to the teeth with men and weapons. In the b.g., other vessels of the fleet..

357 INT. AGRIPPA'S FLAGSHIP - GREAT CABIN - NIGHT

The large work-table is covered by a map showing the disposition of the forces at Actium. In the b.g., Agrippa's sleeping quarters. And a table with food..

At the work-table, AGRIPPA. OCTAVIAN stands a bit to one side..

Agrippa is staring down at a wax tablet - trying to reconcile it with the battle array on the map..

AGRIPPA
(bewildered)
I can't understand it. Euphranor is no fool..

OCTAVIAN
If - let us say that Euphranor has gone mad or been persuaded against his better judgement - they do attack as indicated, are you quite sure of victory?

AGRIPPA
As surely as the sun crosses the heavens - we can win as we please. But - my Lord Caesar, may I speak my mind?

OCTAVIAN
If it does not displease me..

AGRIPPA
What I find most difficult to believe is - the decision to fight us at sea. Why should they?

OCTAVIAN
You know that as well as I - and the rest of the world. Queen Cleopatra wants the battle fought at sea..

AGRIPPA
(bluntly)
On land, they would win..

OCTAVIAN
You begin to displease me -

AGRIPPA
(rising)
Antony knows that - as you, and I, and the world knows it! On land, he would win! Why does he fight at sea?

OCTAVIAN
Because Cleopatra wants it so..

AGRIPPA
Is that enough? Are the wants of a woman - even Cleopatra - enough to make a man change wrong, as he has always known it, into right?

OCTAVIAN
There are such men..

AGRIPPA
Then Cleopatra must be a fool..

OCTAVIAN
Whatever else she is - which is everything a woman can be - Cleopatra is not a fool..

AGRIPPA
Then she must know that Antony's way - on land - will lead to victory. Why must she have her way?

OCTAVIAN
She is probably convinced that, either way, Antony will win. This makes her wrong - but not a fool..
(He begins to nibble at a platter of food)
Let victory come by Cleopatra's way - at her insistence upon her way - and the future world will be hers. And Antony - will have been the means to the end. But let Antony be victorious his way - then her future becomes.... in Antony's world, she will be what? The Great Antony's - queen. Cleopatra might find that increasingly unsatisfactory; increasingly - temporary, even. Antony has a way of letting queens slip through his fingers - of dropping the old as he reaches for the new...

An AIDE enters, carrying another wax tablet - for Octavian. He presents it and leaves..

AGRIPPA
(shakes his head - sits)
Well...I can speak only of what I know. And I know that no man who has ever fought at sea - least of all a canny pirate like Euphranor - would consider this battle plan..

OCTAVIAN
Very true. It seems the plan is Antony's own..
(He tosses the tablet on the table)
Euphranor has been removed from his command. Antony, himself, will lead his ships. At dawn tomorrow..

Agrippa stares at the tablet, exhales through pursed lips..

AGRIPPA
(softly)
I have never been a devout man. I can hardly believe that the Gods favor me so..

OCTAVIAN
(eating)
They know that you fight in my name..

AGRIPPA
(bemused)
It won't even be fighting, more like trapping - a bull. He plans to come straight for your ship - and you - does he..? To break through - very simple, just as he would on land - we'll let you through, Lord Antony, we'll let you through...

The cabin lurches suddenly...Octavian grabs the table.

OCTAVIAN
What was that - ?

AGRIPPA
(lost in his work)
A little wave. He'll expect us to hold on both flanks - that's what we'd do on land - while he opens the center - but we won't be on land, Lord Antony. No... we won't hold at all...

The cabin lurches again.

OCTAVIAN
Is there a storm coming up..?

AGRIPPA
(not looking at him)
Another little wave. We'll fall back before you - our ships are smaller, faster - just out of range of your ballistas and fire - we'll let you through in the center, deeper and deeper...

Octavian pushes aside the food, crosses to sit on a chair - upright. Agrippa becomes increasingly happy as he works - starts to chuckle...

DISSOLVE TO:

357-A EXT. DECK - CLEOPATRA'S BARGE - NIGHT

Our first glimpse of it converted to the command vessel of Cleopatra's fleet. The topographical table, all of the other devices of command are in evidence. But unmanned..

It is very late at night. There are SOME GUARDS at their stations. EIRAS stands to one side. APOLLODORUS and RAMOS to another, watching over:

CLEOPATRA. Her face set and strained, she paces slowly by herself, a cloak pulled about her against the damp of the late night air..

She pauses suddenly, listens alertly:

CLEOPATRA
Is that the sound of oars - ?

RAMOS
The creaking of a ship, your Majesty..

Cleopatra continues her pacing. As she draws abreast of Eiras, Eiras yawns suddenly. She turns away in embarrassment. Cleopatra smiles a little..

CLEOPATRA
Eiras - you needn't wait up..
(to Apollodorus)
How many hours until dawn?

APOLLODORUS
Between four and five, I think..

CLEOPATRA
(attempted lightness)
Lord Antony has always had - so little sense of time..

She moves away again. CHARMIAN comes up from below. Concerned, she hurries to Cleopatra - who turns to her expectantly:

CLEOPATRA
Is she ready - ?

CHARMIAN
The High Priestess - cannot come to the temple, your Majesty..

CLEOPATRA
Why not?

CHARMIAN
She seems to be - ill. Very ill..

CLEOPATRA
Did you tell her I wanted her at once?

CHARMIAN
It was like - speaking to stone. She cannot hear -

CLEOPATRA
(starts away)
She 'll hear me -

CHARMIAN
Not even the High Priest!
(Cleopatra pauses)
He spoke to her..

CLEOPATRA
What did she say?

CHARMIAN
Nor can she talk. She sits staring out - at nothing. I touched her cheek. It was cold and without life - like marble..

CLEOPATRA
(quietly)
Something has been revealed to her. A sight so terrifying that she cannot look upon anything else. So terrifying that she cannot speak of it - and cannot hear the voices of those who would want to know..

She starts in. Charmian moves, as if to follow. Cleopatra shakes her head.

CLEOPATRA
Wait here, with Eiras..

357-B INT. BELOW DECKS - BARGE - NIGHT

CLEOPATRA descends the passage leading to her apartment. TWO GUARDS are on duty. She dismisses them with a gesture..

She hesitates, then goes in..

358 INT. BELOW DECKS - BARGE - TEMPLE - NIGHT

CLEOPATRA approaches the temple slowly, with some apprehension. Except for the fire which burns low in the pit, there is little other illumination..

(Note: In the b.g. dressing of the set, there must now be evidence - his clothes, etc. - that Antony shares these quarters with Cleopatra.)

She enters the temple, makes an obeisance to Isis. She then turns to kneel on the cushion before the fire. Staring down into it, calling upon the powers she has believed in and trusted, she prepares herself for the image of what the morrow will bring...

CLEOPATRA
Great Isis of a thousand names,
You that are, have been, and shall be,
Within whom Time itself exists -
So that past and present and future
are as one -
The fire burns, the fire burns.
Grant that I, whose form you take
upon this earth, shall see -
shall see...

The fire flares - it sputters into vari-colored flames. Cleopatra stares into it..

CLEOPATRA
Help me to see - help me...

The fire remains - fire..

CLEOPATRA
(tensely, desperately)
I cannot see....help me - I
cannot....

Only the SOUND of the flames. Suddenly - from behind Cleopatra - the SOUND of a low, amused, feminine chuckle. Startled, Cleopatra turns:

A - CLOSE - ISIS

The shadows of the fire dance behind her. Her glance seems strangely, sardonically amused. But there is no more laughter from her..

B - CLOSE - CLEOPATRA

About to turn to the fire once more. Suddenly - from one of the Animal Gods at the side - the SOUND of a high, amused, male chuckle. She turns to it:

C - CLOSE - ANIMAL GOD

The same shadow effect behind it, with the same sardonic look of amusement. But the chuckle now seems to come from the other side - this time, mingled with the feminine chuckle..

D - CLOSE - CLEOPATRA

Frightened, and with growing fear - as one after another, in varying tones and pitches, the animal gods seem to chuckle tauntingly at her. Desperately, she turns from one to the other as the laughter mounts - with Isis' laugh always predominant...

E - CLOSE - ANIMAL GODS AND ISIS

Individual and group shots of the bizarre faces filling the screen, mocking Cleopatra - as their laughing builds, and the flames mount in the pit..

F - FULL - TEMPLE

In terror, now, her hands pressed to her ears, Cleopatra rises to her feet. Suddenly and sharply - the flames go out. Cleopatra is in darkness. The laughter has reached its climax. CAMERA MOVES IN SWIFTLY TO:

G - CLOSE - CLEOPATRA

She tries to scream - and cannot...then, as if from a distance at first, cutting through the laughter:

RUFIO'S VOICE
(urgently)
Your Majesty! Your Majesty!

The laughter cuts off abruptly. Cleopatra closes her eyes. Then opens them again:

359 INT. LOWER DECK - BARGE - NIGHT - HER P.O.V.

RUFIO, APOLLODORUS, and RAMOS can be dimly made out, worriedly looking at her. She returns their look, impassively..

RUFIO
Word of Lord Antony..

CLEOPATRA
Have you found him?

RUFIO
Where he can be found. I'll take a few staff officers -

CLEOPATRA
Not his officers. Nor his men. They mustn't know. We'll go after him ourselves..

Apollodorus has become conscious of the dark, smoking, pit in the temple. He indicates it..

APOLLODORUS
The temple fire is out..
(Cleopatra nods)
I'll send one of the priests, at once, to light it again.

CLEOPATRA
Leave it as it is. Dead..

Abruptly, she leads the men out of the apartment..

DISSOLVE TO:

360 DOCK AREA - NIGHT - ACTIUM

CLEOPATRA, accompanied by RUFIO and APOLLODORUS, with RAMOS discreetly following in the rear, passes among the men loading the galleys.

The activity is at its height now, and EGYPTIAN OVERSEERS are using whips on their men. One of them makes the mistake of slashing A ROMAN LEGIONNAIRE, who viciously pulls the Egyptian to himself by the whip itself and wraps the whip around his throat, throttling him with it. They are torn apart..

The party passes on. Past irate Romans, being herded toward the galleys by officers. One of the men breaks away, rushes up to CANIDIUS who stands watching impassively..

ROMAN
My Lord - has Antony gone mad! We are from the cavalry!

Continued

CANIDIUS
(firmly)
This is your horse now - get on board!

The Roman is dragged off. Canidius stares after him..

DISSOLVE TO:

361 INT. TAVERN - ACTIUM - NIGHT

A waterfront dive. Squalid, and crowded. In the b.g., a few stone steps leading down from the street level..

Unsavory types - both male and female. Quite a few mercenary soldiers - neither Roman nor Egyptian - in their bizarre costumes. THREE OR FOUR NATIVE MUSICIANS squat on the floor..

In the center of the room, ringed by the rough tables with customers seated and standing, is ANTONY. He holds a loaded wine-skin on his shoulders..

He is declaiming for the pleasure of the company. They find it enjoyable. The SCENE begins with a ROAR of LAUGHTER at him. While they laugh, he drinks sloppily from the skin - the wine running down his chin. He wipes it with the back of his hand...

He continues what has been a list of suggested epitaphs for himself...

ANTONY
Or - inscribe this upon my tomb!
"Antony of Perugia, I lie below.
Stranger, if you will, spit upon
me and go away - only go away!"

Another laugh. He sways, and grins foolishly..

ANTONY
Or - "Alexander was Great! Caesar -
Divine! Here lies Antony - pass
the wine..."

More laughter. He squirts at a girl. She squirts back.

In the b.g., CLEOPATRA, RAMOS, RUFIO and APOLLODORUS make their entrance. Unobserved by Antony. Apollodorus stays by Cleopatra, as Rufio and Ramos make their way toward Antony..

ANTONY
Or - I shall scratch upon the wall
of my tomb: "You were not here
last night - and I could not
die. Will you come tonight?
(a sudden, savage
shout)
Where are you? I cannot die!
I cannot die!

CLOSE-UP - CLEOPATRA, in reaction. Tears come to her eyes - she hides her face even more..

The crowd is quiet, now - puzzled by his savage outburst. Antony squirts the musicians. Rufio and Ramos draw near to him..

ANTONY
Play something sad and suitable -
for remembering and forgetting.
What was - and was not - and
will never be. What I had - and
have not - and will never have.
For being so far - from everywhere
and everyone - music for being
alone in the universe - and
afraid....Mark Antony! Where
is Mark Antony!

Rufio stands beside him. Befuddled, he stares at him...

ANTONY
Rufio..? Rufio, will you help
me to remember? There was a time...
was there a time when I was your
friend, when I loved you? I
think you must now be angry with
me...or is it I who am angry,
help me to remember - I must
have time to remember - let us
go, you and I, in search of time...
(half-turning,
he sees Ramos)
...Ramos? Ramos, do you know
Brutus? I will take you to him -
he too loves honor, loves Rome -
but you, Ramos, are the most
Roman Roman....Brutus, I think,
is dead.

He turns from Ramos, sees:

APOLLODORUS - near the entrance. CLEOPATRA, beside him, has her face covered, is turned away..

Continued

ANTONY
He, too? The faithful hound,
and mournful unrequited lover?
(shouting)
Count your tears as blessings!
Unwanted love is the most
lasting - !
(to Rufio)
Then - where is she? If you are
here - and you - and the royal
heel-sniffer...then where is - ?

Rufio claps a hand over his mouth. He and Ramos take Antony under the arms and start him out. Antony struggles drunkenly, the patrons protest - a minor riot is imminent...

Apollodorus shelters Cleopatra. From within her cloak, she hands him a purse of coins. He showers it out over the customers. They scramble greedily for them..

Cleopatra and the others make their way out with Antony..

DISSOLVE TO:

362 INT. LOWER DECK - BARGE - NIGHT

APOLLODORUS and RAMOS deposit ANTONY upon the bed. He is completely out. They make him comfortable..

RUFIO stands with CLEOPATRA:

RUFIO
The orders for tomorrow - for
this morning. Do you wish
them changed?

She shakes her head.

CLEOPATRA
It is too late - for any changes..

Ramos and Apollodorus join them..

CLEOPATRA
Get whatever rest you can -
all of you..

They bow and go out. She is alone with Antony. She crosses to the bed, looks down at him. His cuirass has been loosened, his boots unlaced; he is sprawled on his side of the bed - leaving hers vacant..

Cleopatra pulls off his boots, then struggles to get him out of the cuirass. He doesn't stir...

Continued