

CLEOPATRA AFTER LIFE

By Naomi Noir

January, 2013

Naomi Noir Productions

contact@naominoir.com

(607) 229-6722

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - DAY

Blood pours down the ample bosom of a young woman in a clingy white dress.

It drips down her body and onto her sandals.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Droplets of blood lead to the same sandals as they part a sea of dancing bare feet.

IRAS, 30, pushes her way through half-naked slaves who feed each other food and wine in pleased frenzy.

She makes her way to the end of the room and breaks free of the throng of bodies.

Iras clasps her hands and bows her head.

IRAS
Lord Antony.

MARK ANTONY, 50, sits on a throne wearing the robes of an Egyptian King and a three-day beard.

Beside him, an empty matching throne.

Antony does not look up as he grabs a hunk of meat from the table before him, opens his already full mouth, and rips in.

MARK ANTONY
(chewing)
About time. It's just like Cleo to
take all the slaves with her to
piss.

Antony swallows his food down with great gulps of wine until his glass is drained.

Antony holds out his cup with one hand.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)
To the brim.

With the other he continues to stuff food into his mouth.

IRAS
Your Lord Antony. I-

MARK ANTONY

In victory you deserve wine, in
defeat you need it, so pour me my
damn glass.

IRAS

But your Lord-

MARK ANTONY

I said wine!

Antony looks at Iras for the first time.

Beat.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)

Why are you covered in blood?

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY

Her ear pressed to the wall, Queen CLEOPATRA, 40, stands just
outside the throne room.

Beside her in dress identical to Iras, CHARMION, 30, holds a
blood-coated bowl.

Cleopatra flinches as glass shatters against the other side
of the wall.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Red wine drips down the wall.

The dancers stand frozen, mid-pleasure, staring at Antony.

MARK ANTONY

What are you looking at? Just
because your queen is dead doesn't
mean you still can't still eat her
food! Just because our every last
ship sank to the bottom of the
ocean doesn't mean you can't still
drink her wine! Hell, just because
she abandoned me to be captured
doesn't mean you can't still dance
on her grave!

The dancers whisper amongst each other.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)
Come on! Dance, baboons, dance! I
am your king!

The dancers slowly start to pick up where they left off.

A loud resounding "BOOM!" echoes throughout the palace.

Dancers trip over each other to get out of the room as mass
panic ensues.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY

Cleopatra and Charmion flatten themselves against the wall as
the dancers pour out of the throne room.

MARK ANTONY (O.S.)
What are you so afraid of? It's
just a bunch of blood-thirsty
Romans breaking in the door to kill
you all!

None look back as they run down the long hallway into the
depths of the palace.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The last of the dancers scurries out of the room.

All but two male slaves who kiss, blissfully unaware of the
chaos around them.

MARK ANTONY
Fine, run! It's more fun anyway
when the prey has a head start.

Iras backs away.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)
You stay.

Iras continues to back away.

Mark Antony pulls his sword from its sheath.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)
You stay or that blood will be your
own.

She stays.

BOOM!

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY

Cleopatra peeks into the throne room.

CLEOPATRA'S P.O.V.:

Mark Antony stands, bare chested, facing the point of a sword braced up against a pillar by Iras.

Iras struggles to hold the sword still.

MARK ANTONY

In my chambers is a purse
containing Roman coin. Will you
place one in my mouth when I'm...

Iras nods.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)

Good girl. Keep the rest for
yourself... if you make it out
alive.

Beat.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)

Did she say why she didn't wait for
me?

Iras shakes her head 'no'.

MARK ANTONY (CONT'D)

No, I suppose she didn't.

Mark Antony grabs the pillar with one hand and Iras with the other.

BACK TO SCENE:

Cleopatra grips the wall with one hand and Charmion with the other.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Mark Antony takes a deep breath.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY

Cleopatra takes a deep breath.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Mark Antony begins to thrust himself onto the sword.

BOOM!

The sound startles Iras causing the sword to slip down slightly.

The sword is driven into Antony's stomach rather than his heart.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY

Cleopatra winces as Antony's moans of agony echo down the hallway.

No longer able to bear it, she runs into the throne room.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Cleopatra dashes over to Antony writhing on the floor.

Iras stands in shock, still holding the bloodied sword.

Cleopatra props his head onto her lap.

Antony looks up at Cleopatra in confusion.

MARK ANTONY

You-

CLEOPATRA

You refused to negotiate with him.
I had no choice.

MARK ANTONY

-promised.

Mark Antony dies.

Charmion places her hand on top of Iras'.

Iras loosens her grip on the sword and it clatters to the floor.

CLEOPATRA
I had no choice.

BOOM!

Cleopatra places Mark Antony's head back onto the ground and closes his eyes.

She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

Cleopatra opens her eyes a woman of supreme composure and absolute authority.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
Let them in already, they're
ruining my front door.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY

The massive doors open to several hundred Roman soldiers gawking at Cleopatra as they aim a massive ramming rod directly at her.

Cleopatra remains perfectly poised.

CLEOPATRA
Gentleman, now which of you is
Octavian?

The soldiers part, and OCTAVIAN, 30, frail as he is pale, enters the room.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
Octavian.

Cleopatra extends her hand for Octavian to kiss. It is covered in blood.

Octavian looks at it disdainfully.

Cleopatra withdraws it.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
Yes, I do apologize for my
appearance, and for not answering
your knock sooner, but I have been
otherwise occupied with the death
of Lord Antony, Roman Consul to the
East and King of Egypt.

OCTAVIAN
(to his men)
See that it is true.

A dozen men push past her.

CLEOPATRA
Let it be known that he died
honorably.

OCTAVIAN
If you consider abandoning his
country, his men, his wife, and his
children to indulge in his every
perverse fantasy, honorable, so
then shall he be remembered.

The soldiers snicker at his remark.

Cleopatra looks from their rot-toothed smiles to the massive
dents in her metal door.

She approaches Octavian.

CLEOPATRA
You must be terribly hot and
thirsty from all that pounding at
my door.

Cleopatra places her hand on Octavian's arm.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
Why don't you come to my chambers
for a glass of cooled wine whilst
I... wash up.

Octavian examines her hand with clinical curiosity.

OCTAVIAN
I see that you are attempting to
seduce me so that you may retain
your power.

Cleopatra removes her hand.

Octavian starts to circle around her.

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
First, no doubt, you will bed me.
In a matter of weeks I will mistake
your-

Octavian brings his hand to Cleopatra's ass, almost touching, but not quite.

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
-talents-

Octavian's men watch hungrily.

She stands strong.

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
-for love.

Octavian continues to walk around Cleopatra, hovering his finger over her body as he does so.

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
Within a year you will bare me a
child, two to be safe, if one
should fall ill and die.

His finger runs along her stomach...

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
Having given me an heir you will
insist that our child be bequeathed
power and land.

Down her arm...

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
After a few years of barely seeing
my Roman wife, I will dissolve the
marriage and declare you co-ruler
of Rome as well as Egypt.

Over her breast...

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
In five years time you will not
only have saved your crown, and
that pretty head that it sits upon-

Across her neck...

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
-but have a vast empire at your
mercy.

Octavian stops in front of Cleopatra, his finger just under her chin.

OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
All because you're a good lay.

He presses it firmly into her soft flesh.

Cleopatra draws a short breath.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEOPATRA'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Snake bites into breast.

Cleopatra lies in all her finery upon her bed.

CLEOPATRA
Pity.

Cleopatra reaches out and clasps the hand of Mark Antony's dead body laid beside her.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
I was looking forward to wringing
his pale little neck in his sleep.

Iras places a golden ankh in Cleopatra's free hand.

Charmion adjusts her crown.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
(short on breath)
No matter. Soon we will be
together.

Cleopatra's hand goes limp and slips loose of Antony's.

Charmion lets out a sob.

IRAS
Shh, the guards.

Iras takes Charmion into her arms.

Knocking at the door.

IRAS (CONT'D)
It's time.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEOPATRA'S CHAMBERS - MOMENTS
LATER

Iras extracts a snake from a basket.

She holds the snake to her breast.

Pounding at the door.

Beating of her heart.

The door rattles.

The snake bites.

GUARD (O.S.)
Open this door!

Iras holds the snake out to Charmion.

CHARMION
Will you...?

Iras holds the snake to Charmion's chest.

Charmion gasps.

INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEOPATRA'S CHAMBERS - MOMENTS
LATER

The snake slithers past Iras and Charmion as they sit propped against the bed, kissing passionately.

They hear guards burst through the door, but still they kiss.

Until Charmion can kiss no more.

Iras looks up at the guards.

IRAS' P.O.V.:

Several ROMAN GUARDS look down at her.

They yell something at her which she cannot understand.

One of the guards points a sword at her.

The sword goes in and out of focus.

BACK TO:

Iras' eyes close.

SEQUENCE 2

EXT. NETHERWORLD - RIVER NILE - BOAT - NIGHT

Iras' eyes open, reflecting a milky way of stars.

The face of Cleopatra rises into view.

CLEOPATRA
Live forever.

Iras lies on her back looking up at Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
O you who are in charge of the
hours, make a path for Charmion-

Iras turns to see Charmion lying stiffly beside her.

CLEOPATRA (CONT'D)
-that she may pass within the
circle of Osiris and live forever.

Charmion opens her eyes with a start and breaths in deeply.

She looks around in bewilderment.

CHARMION
Where...?

Cleopatra looks down.

CLEOPATRA
Welcome to the afterlife.