

A SHORT HISTORY OF DATING

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By Matt Thompson

Copyright © MMVIII by Matt Thompson

All Rights Reserved

Heuer Publishing LLC, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The writing of plays is a means of livelihood. Unlawful use of a playwright's work deprives the creator of his or her rightful income. The playwright is compensated on the full purchase price and the right of performance can only be secured through purchase of at least three (3) copies of this work. PERFORMANCES ARE LIMITED TO ONE VENUE FOR ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF PURCHASE.

The possession of this script without direct purchase from the publisher confers no right or license to produce this work publicly or in private, for gain or charity. On all programs and advertising this notice must appear: "Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC of Cedar Rapids, Iowa."

This dramatic work is fully protected by copyright. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without permission of the publisher. Copying (by any means) or performing a copyrighted work without permission constitutes an infringement of copyright.

The right of performance is not transferable and is strictly forbidden in cases where scripts are borrowed or purchased second hand from a third party. All rights including, but not limited to the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, broadcast, recitation, lecturing, tabloid, publication, and reading are reserved.

COPYING OR REPRODUCING ALL OR ANY PART OF THIS BOOK IN ANY MANNER IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN BY LAW.

PUBLISHED BY

HEUER PUBLISHING LLC

P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011

A SHORT HISTORY OF DATING

By Matt Thompson

SYNOPSIS: Cleopatra is the main contestant on the cheesy TV game show *Who Ya Gonna Date!* As Marc Antony and Julius Caesar clash over the Queen of the Nile, she recounts her two evenings out with the world's greatest rulers. In the end, we'll find out who gets a second date with the Cleopatra and who gets the boot! It's lots of fun Egyptian-style in this audience interactive favorite!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 MEN, 1 WOMAN)

GAME SHOW HOST (m).....Chuck, the smooth talking cheesy game show host. All smiles all the time!

CLEOPATRA (f).....Object of all desire as she looks for the perfect date. Very demanding and upfront personality.

JULIUS CAESAR (m).....Ruler of Rome. Escort #1 for Cleopatra.

MARCUS ANTHONY (m).....Object of Cleopatra's affection. Escort #2.

AT RISE:

One bar stool sits stage left while two more stools sit stage right. As the lights come up we hear Dating Show type music and applause as the very cheesy GAME SHOW HOST, dressed in a leisure suit, runs out.

GAME SHOW HOST: Hello everyone and welcome to "Who Ya Gonna Date!" The interactive dating show where you, the audience, gets to decide who's the right match! We have a very special guest on today's program. Let's find out a little bit about her. She likes long walks in the sand, adores cats, keeps a dozen pet snakes, and thinks the perfect man should own his own kingdom. All the way from the land of Osiris, let's give her a big warm "Who Ya Gonna Date" welcome to...Cleopatra!

Egyptian themed music plays as CLEOPATRA enters on a chaise lounge with several men fanning her. SHE is dressed in classic Egyptian attire complete with a large amulet around her neck. THEY set her down as SHE saunters over to her bar stool, stage left.

GAME SHOW HOST: Welcome back to the show, Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA: Thank you, Chuck.

GAME SHOW HOST: Okay, Cleopatra, now, the last time we had you on the program we asked you a slew of questions about who would be your perfect date. And we processed that information and sent you away on two dates with two different guys. Let's see who gets to move to round two. We all know how it works here at "Who Ya Gonna Date!" So, Cleopatra, tell us about your first escort.

CLEOPATRA: Okay, Chuck, can I just be honest here? The thing is, I just need to get a few things off my chest. Along with a 30 pound amulet of an ostrich!

THEY both laugh heartily.

GAME SHOW HOST: Nice. Now, your first date was with Julius, correct?

CLEOPATRA: That's right, my first date was with Julius.

GAME SHOW HOST: Well, let's bring him out here. All the way from the country that's shaped like a giant boot. Julius Caesar, everybody!

Music plays as JULIUS CAESAR enters dressed in classical garb and sits stage right.

GAME SHOW HOST: Welcome back to the show, Julius.

JULIUS CAESAR: Thanks, Chuck.

GAME SHOW HOST: Now, let's find out what happened out there in the wild world of dating. Cleopatra?

CLEOPATRA: Well, Chuck, when he knocked on the seventh outer door of my pyramid, I was doing my hair. My servant woman let him in. He's a bigger fella. Elegant dresser. Armani Toga.

GAME SHOW HOST: Now, did you guys go out to eat?

CLEOPATRA: Yes, he took me to The Oasis down on the Giza Strip. It wasn't that bad, but the place was SOOOO 24th Dynasty. Still, it was cute. Candles everywhere. Magic lamps, but I have to admit that I was a little disappointed. Julius couldn't even read the hieroglyphics on the menu, so I had to order for both of us. But, the thing that got me was that I couldn't believe that he actually took me to such a meat market. With all of that being said, there was a little incident...

GAME SHOW HOST: What happened?

CLEOPATRA: Well, as I said, we went to dinner. We sat down. I ordered my favorite, broiled monkey heart, and Caesar ordered his usual, a salad... Of course. And when our food came, the waiter placed it down in front of us, and uh... Well, it was just horrendous.

GAME SHOW HOST: How do you mean?

CLEOPATRA: First off, the waiter's fez fell into my crocodile soup. Then my dragonfly appetizer came soaked in blood sauce. And my Camel Carpaccio arrived cooked. It was just a disaster, so I immediately ordered the waiter executed, and to my complete surprise, Julius stepped in and showed mercy and spared his life. And I have to admit, I was a little disappointed. How are you supposed to rule a kingdom, let alone a restaurant, without discipline? I think that he was just trying to be nice and show off or something. Chuck, I just don't know.

GAME SHOW HOST: I see. Julius, how did the night unfold for you?

JULIUS CAESAR: Well, you see, Chuck, mercy is a rarity in the empire, so I thought that I would show Cleo something that was very unique. I had heard of this "mercy" thing after my raids on Germania.

GAME SHOW HOST: So you gave him the old thumbs up? (*Does a thumbs up gesture.*)

JULIUS CAESAR: That's right. I thought it was a nice gesture on my part, but obviously some people just don't appreciate politics.

GAME SHOW HOST: And we all know that we should never discuss politics at the dinner table. Then what did you guys do?

CLEOPATRA: (*Disappointed.*) Well, we ate, and we talked, but all he could talk about was himself. "I have to conquer Gaul, I've got to conquer Greece, I've got to find new gladiators because they keep dying," blah, blah, blah. I mean, this guy was very self-absorbed.

GAME SHOW HOST: Okay, let's get to the nitty gritty...did he kiss you?

CLEOPATRA: Chuck, this guy couldn't keep his hands off my asp!

GAME SHOW HOST: And then where did you two go?

JULIUS CAESAR: Well, Chuck, I had a big evening planned for us. I had my Roman navy escort the two of us to Rome.

CLEOPATRA: (*Aghast.*) 300 ships. An escort of only 300 ships, Chuck. Can you believe that? That was it! Only 300!

JULIUS CAESAR: I thought it was a nice gesture.

CLEOPATRA: (*Appalled.*) A nice gesture? I'm the queen of Egypt! 300 ships! I'm worth at least a 1000 ship escort, minimum. I mean who do you think I am? Helen of Troy?

GAME SHOW HOST: Okay, so you got to Rome, and then where did you go?

CLEOPATRA: We ended up going to the game. The Coliseum was packed, but I do have to say that we did get some very nice seats in the Emperor's box.

GAME SHOW HOST: Julius, how was the game? Who was playing?

JULIUS CAESAR: It was a good game. It was the Lions versus the Gladiators.

GAME SHOW HOST: Who were you rooting for?

JULIUS CAESAR: I'm a die-hard Gladiators fan.

GAME SHOW HOST: And Cleopatra?

CLEOPATRA: I was rooting for the Lions.

GAME SHOW HOST: So you guys saw the game. Did you do any gambling?

JULIUS CAESAR: As you know, Chuck, I'm always investing in new real estate. Cleopatra and I did have a personal wager going between the two of us.

GAME SHOW HOST: And who won the game?

JULIUS CAESAR: The Gladiators. It was an upset.

CLEOPATRA: I did lose Luxor and the Valley of the Kings, but I do have to say that Julius was nice enough to hold off the invasion until a later date.

GAME SHOW HOST: I see. Tough break on that one. Now, anything else happen there at the stadium?

CLEOPATRA: Well, Chuck, there was another incident. As we were walking out to our chariot, this guy, I don't remember his name...

JULIUS CAESAR: Brutus.

CLEOPATRA: Yes, Brutus came up to us and started arguing with Julius about the Ides of...something.

GAME SHOW HOST: Now, Julius, did you see this guy from afar or what?

JULIUS CAESAR: Well, I'll tell you, Chuck, I have to admit I never even saw it coming.

GAME SHOW HOST: Sounds like this guy was in total de-Nile! Am I right? *(HE laughs.)* And then what happened?

CLEOPATRA: (*Argumentative.*) There was a huge scene in the parking lot! Spectators everywhere. Julius, you kept egging him on, "Et tu! Et tu Brute! Et tu!" I'm surprised he didn't pull a knife out and stab you right then and there.

GAME SHOW HOST: Really? Julius, what do you have to say about that?

JULIUS CAESAR: (*Smiling.*) I admit sometimes I get a little overzealous.

GAME SHOW HOST: But you're still here. For now.

CLEOPATRA: But Chuck, I could have been hurt. I just felt like he didn't even care about my feelings. What queen wants to get assassinated in a parking lot of a coliseum?

GAME SHOW HOST: Sounds very interesting. Now, Cleopatra, as you know, we always have options here on our dating show, so as usual, we set you up with two guys. Who was your second date with?

CLEOPATRA: Well, Chuck, I have to tell you, this guy I could really fall on a sword for.

GAME SHOW HOST: His name is Marcus Anthony. Let's bring on Marc. Marc, come on out here.

MARC ANTHONY enters to a flurry of music, dressed in classic costume. HE sits down next to JULIUS.

GAME SHOW HOST: Thanks for coming back on, Marcus.

MARC ANTHONY: No problem, Chuck.

GAME SHOW HOST: Now, Cleopatra, what made this guy so special?

CLEOPATRA: (*Lovestruck.*) I gotta say, Chuck. Marc, he was really sweet. He was very punctual. A few minutes early, in fact. He picked me up, and we went for a moonlight cruise along the Nile.

GAME SHOW HOST: Now that sounds nice.

CLEOPATRA: Oh, it was so romantic! And he was a true gentleman. We went dancing at a new nightclub where we met a friend of his, Tuthankhaman, and we ended up dancing all night. I taught him to walk like an Egyptian. And then Marc got us into the V.I.P. tomb in the back where they had the most wonderful spirits. I had seven of my servants taste some poisons to see how lethal they were.

GAME SHOW HOST: And how many servants survived the tasting?

CLEOPATRA: Only two.

Big cheesy laugh from ALL.

GAME SHOW HOST: That sounds like fun.

CLEOPATRA: Oh, we just laughed all night, Chuck.

GAME SHOW HOST: Then what happened?

CLEOPATRA: After we left the club, we sat on the Sphinx for about three hours and just basked in the moonlight.

GAME SHOW HOST: And then where did you go, Marc?

MARC ANTHONY: Lend me your ears, Chuck. We ended up going back to my barge.

GAME SHOW HOST: Hmmm hmmm.

CLEOPATRA: But he was a perfect gentleman. His bachelor barge was so cute. His togas were strewn across the floor, his sandals were everywhere, and we ended up talking the whole night. We found out that we both prayed to the same sun god, Ra.

GAME SHOW HOST: *(In a very cheesy, getting the audience involved sort of way.)* Ra! Ra! Ra!

CLEOPATRA: He's just a very thoughtful, spiritual kind of guy. Thinks things through. Always considerate. I could see myself being with him for a very long time.

GAME SHOW HOST: Any other moments you would like to share?

CLEOPATRA: I think there are some more moments we would not like to share if you get my continental drift.

GAME SHOW HOST: Are we talking about love here?

CLEOPATRA: *(Coy.)* Maybe.

GAME SHOW HOST: As a famous wise man once said, "If love is blind, then why is lingerie so popular?"

EVERYBODY laughs in a very cheesy way.

GAME SHOW HOST: I think that was a wise guy speaking, rather than a wise man.

No one laughs but the GAME SHOW HOST.

GAME SHOW HOST: Anyhow, Marc, your thoughts on the date with this sable-haired Lady of the Nile?

MARC ANTHONY: Chuck, she was just great. Very beautiful woman. Piercing eyes. Knows how to hold a kingdom together. She's left me essentially speechless.

GAME SHOW HOST: I'm with you on that. She's a tough dinner date, but you look like you're up to the challenge. Okay, well, now it's your turn, audience, to decide who Cleopatra will go out with again. Will it be that swaggering centurion, Julius Ceasar, or the military leader with the heart of gold, Marcus Anthony? Let's find out with our state of the art applause-o-meter. If you think Cleopatra should go out on a second date with Julius Caesar, let's hear your applause!

GAME SHOW HOST walks over to JULIUS CAESAR and puts his hand over CAESAR's head. Very little applause. GAME SHOW HOST then holds his hand over MARC ANTHONY. .)

GAME SHOW HOST: And now Marc Anthony?

A lot of applause. This can be done live or with SFX.

GAME SHOW HOST: Okay, it looks like the results are in! Marcus Anthony is the winner of a second date with the queen of Egypt, Cleopatra. Come on over here, Marc!

MARC gets up from his chair and walks over to CLEOPATRA, who stands up. THEY hug each other.

GAME SHOW HOST: So it looks like Cleopatra and Marcus Anthony will go out on a second date and requite their love for each other yet again. Marc, how does that sound to you?

MARC ANTHONY: Sounds great, Chuck. I can't wait.

GAME SHOW HOST: Cleopatra, do think this is true love?

CLEOPATRA: You know, Chuck, only history will tell.

GAME SHOW HOST: Very true. Julius, sorry it didn't work out for you this time around, but we've got some nice parting gifts for you – a Georgio Foreman grill to keep you lean on the battlefield.

JULIUS CAESAR: Thanks, Chuck.

GAME SHOW HOST: *(Out to the audience.)* And thanks to all of you. When it looks like all is lost in the far-reaching corners of your heart, don't turn out, tune in to...

ALL: "Who Ya Gonna Date!"

GAME SHOW HOST: Bye, bye, everybody!

Post show music plays as ALL the players stand around and mime conversations.

VOICEOVER: *(Off stage.)* "Who Ya Gonna Date" was taped before a live studio audience. If you'd like to become a participant on our program just call 555-DATE. That's 555-DATE. Good night everyone, and may love find you at the most unexpected moment.

THE END