

A SHORT HISTORY OF DATING

By Matt Thompson

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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!

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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.*)

BY MATT THOMPSON

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

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