

## Act One

### SCENE ONE

Alone, CAESAR onstage, at her podium.

CAESAR

“Tonight, we’ve reached a milestone in our nation’s march toward a more perfect union: the first time that a major party has nominated a woman for president. Standing here as my mother’s daughter, and my daughter’s mother, I’m so happy this day has come. Happy for grandmothers and little girls and everyone in between. Happy for boys and men, too – because when any barrier falls in America, for anyone, it clears the way for everyone. When there are no ceilings, the sky’s the limit. The truth is, through all these years of public service, the “service” part has always come easier to me than the “public” part. I get it that some people just don’t know what to make of me. America is once again at a moment of reckoning. Powerful forces are threatening to pull us apart. Bonds of trust and respect are fraying. And just as with our founders, there are no guarantees. It truly is up to us. We have to decide whether we all will work together so we all can rise together. Our country’s motto is e pluribus unum: out of many, we are one. Will we stay true to that motto? Now we are clear-eyed about what our country is up against. But we are not afraid. We will rise to the challenge, just as we always have. That is the story of America. And we begin a new chapter tonight. Yes, the world is watching what we do. Yes, America’s destiny is ours to choose. So let’s be stronger together. Looking to the future with courage and confidence” (Clinton, 2016).

## SCENE TWO

Senate exterior. Gathered are COMMONERS,  
female, carrying signs. Enter CASSIUS.

CASSIUS

(approaching COMMONER)

Why dost thou lead these people in the streets?

COMMONER

Sir, we make holiday, to see Caesar,  
and to rejoice in her triumph.

CASSIUS

Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings she home?  
What tributaries follow her to Rome,  
To grace in captive bonds her chariot-wheels?  
You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!  
Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,  
Pray to the gods to intermit the plague  
That needs must light on this ingratitude.  
Let no images be hung with Caesar's trophies.  
These growing feathers pluck'd from Caesar's wing  
Will make her fly an ordinary pitch,  
Who else would soar above the view of men  
And keep us all in servile fearfulness.

Enter CAESAR, CALPURNIA,  
SOOTHSAYER, BRUTUS, CASCA

CAESAR

Calpurnia!

CALPURNIA

Here, madame.

CAESAR

Stand you directly in Antonius' way,  
When she doth run her course. Antonius!

ANTONY

Caesar, madame?

CAESAR

Forget not, in your speed, Antonius,  
To touch Calpurnia; for our elders say,  
Those that are touched in this holy chase  
Shake off their sterile curse.

ANTONY

I shall remember:  
When Caesar says 'do this,' it is perform'd.

CAESAR

Set on; and leave no ceremony out.

SOOTHSAYER

Caesar!

CAESAR

Ha! Who calls?

SOOTHSAYER

Beware the ides of March.

CAESAR

What one is that?

BRUTUS

A soothsayer bids you beware the ides of March.

CAESAR

Set her before me; let me see her face.

CAESAR

What say'st thou to me now? speak once again.

SOOTHSAYER

Beware the ides of March.

CAESAR

She is a dreamer; let us leave her: pass.

ALL EXIT except BRUTUS and CASSIUS

CASSIUS

Will you go see the order of the course?

BRUTUS

Not I.

CASSIUS

I pray you, do.

BRUTUS

I am not gamesome: I do lack some part  
Of that quick spirit that is in Antony.  
Let me not hinder, Cassius, your desires;  
I'll leave you.

CASSIUS

Brutus, I do observe you now of late:  
I have not from your eyes that gentleness  
And show of love as I was wont to have:  
You bear too stubborn and too strange a hand  
Over your friend that loves you.

BRUTUS

Cassius,  
Be not deceived: if I have veil'd my look,  
I turn the trouble of my countenance  
Merely upon myself  
But let not therefore my good friends be grieved--  
Among which number, Cassius, be you one--

## CASSIUS

Then, Brutus, I have much mistook your passion;  
By means whereof this breast of mine hath buried  
Thoughts of great value, worthy cogitations.  
Tell me, good Brutus, can you see your face?

## BRUTUS

No, Cassius; for the eye sees not itself,  
But by reflection, by some other things.

## CASSIUS

Tis just:  
And it is very much lamented, Brutus,  
That you have no such mirrors as will turn  
Your hidden worthiness into your eye,  
That you might see your shadow. I have heard,  
Where many of the best respect in Rome,  
Except immortal Caesar, speaking of Brutus  
And groaning underneath this age's yoke,  
Have wish'd that noble Brutus had his eyes.

## BRUTUS

Into what dangers would you lead me, Cassius,  
That you would have me seek into myself  
For that which is not in me?

Shouting, offstage.

BRUTUS

What means this shouting? I do fear, the people  
Choose Caesar for their king.

CASSIUS

Ay, do you fear it?  
Then must I think you would not have it so.

BRUTUS

What is it that you would impart to me?

Shouting, offstage.

BRUTUS

Another general shout!  
I do believe that these applauses are  
For some new honours that are heap'd on Caesar.

CASSIUS

Why, man, she doth bestride the narrow world  
Like a Colossus, and we petty men  
Walk under her huge legs and peep about  
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.  
Men at some time are masters of their fates:  
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,  
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.  
Brutus and Caesar: what should be in that 'Caesar'?  
Why should that name be sounded more than yours?  
Write them together, yours is as fair a name;  
Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;

Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with 'em,  
 Brutus will start a spirit as soon as Caesar.  
 Now, in the names of all the gods at once,  
 Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed,  
 That she is grown so great? Age, thou art shamed!  
 Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!  
 When went there by an age, since the great flood,  
 But it was famed with more than with one man?  
 When could they say till now, that talk'd of Rome,  
 That her wide walls encompass'd but one man?  
 Now is it Rome indeed and room enough,  
 When there is in it but one only man.

#### BRUTUS

That you do love me, I am nothing jealous;  
 What you would work me to, I have some aim:  
 How I have thought of this and of these times,  
 I shall recount hereafter; for this present,  
 I would not, so with love I might entreat you,  
 Be any further moved. What you have said  
 I will consider; what you have to say  
 I will with patience hear, and find a time  
 Both meet to hear and answer such high things.

#### CASSIUS

I am glad that my weak words  
 Have struck but thus much show of fire from Brutus.



BRUTUS

The games are done and Caesar is returning.

CASSIUS

As they pass by, pluck Casca by the sleeve;  
And she will, after her sour fashion, tell you  
What hath proceeded worthy note to-day.

Enter CAESAR, SENATORS

CAESAR

Antonius!

ANTONY

Caesar?

CAESAR

Let me have men about me that are fat;  
Sleek-headed men and such as sleep o' nights:  
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;  
He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.

ANTONY

Fear him not, Caesar; he's not dangerous;  
He is a noble Roman and well given.

CAESAR

Would he were fatter! But I fear him not:  
Yet if my name were liable to fear,  
I do not know the man I should avoid  
So soon as that spare Cassius.

Such men as he be never at heart's ease  
Whiles they behold a greater than themselves,  
And therefore are they very dangerous.  
I rather tell thee what is to be fear'd  
Than what I fear; for always I am Caesar.  
Come on my right hand, for this ear is deaf,  
And tell me truly what thou think'st of him.

EXIT SENATORS and CAESAR. As she tries to  
leave, BRUTUS awkwardly grabs CASCA's  
sleeve.

CASCA

You pull'd me by the cloak; would you speak with me?

BRUTUS

Ay, Casca; tell us what hath chanced to-day,  
That Caesar looks so sad.

CASCA

Why, you were with her, were you not?

BRUTUS

I should not then ask Casca what had chanced.

CASCA

Why, there was a crown offered her: and being  
offered her, she put it by with the back of her hand,  
thus; and then the people fell a-shouting.

BRUTUS

What was the second noise for?

CASCA

Why, for that too.

BRUTUS

They shouted thrice: what was the last cry for?

CASCA

Why, for that too.

BRUTUS

Was the crown offered her thrice?

CASCA

Ay, marry, was't, and she put it by thrice.

CASSIUS

Who offered her the crown?

CASCA

Why, Antony.

BRUTUS

Tell us the manner of it, gentle Casca.

CASCA

It was mere foolery; I did not mark it. I saw Mark Antony offer her a crown;--yet 'twas not a crown neither, 'twas one of these coronets;--and, as I told you, she put it by once: but, for all that, to my thinking, she would fain have had it. Then she offered it to her again; then she put it by again: she swooned and fell down at it.

CASSIUS

But, soft, I pray you: what, did Caesar swoond?

CASCA

She fell down in the market-place, and foamed at mouth, and was speechless.

BRUTUS

'Tis very like; she hath the falling sickness.

CASSIUS

No, Caesar hath it not; but you and I,  
And honest Casca, we have the falling sickness.

CASCA

I know not what you mean by that; but, I am sure,  
Caesar fell down.

BRUTUS

What said she when she came unto herself?

## CASCA

Marry, before she fell down, when she perceived the common herd was glad she refused the crown, she plucked me ope her doublet and offered them her throat to cut. An I had been a man of any occupation, if I would not have taken her at a word, I would I might go to hell among the rogues. And so she fell. When she came to herself again, she said, If she had done or said any thing amiss, she desired their worships to think it was her infirmity. Three or four people, where I stood, cried 'Alas, good soul!' and forgave her with all their hearts: but there's no heed to be taken of them; if Caesar had stabbed their mothers, they would have done no less.

## BRUTUS

And after that, she came, thus sad, away?

## CASCA

Ay. There was more foolery yet, if I could remember it.

## CASSIUS

Will you sup with me to-night, Casca?

## CASCA

No, I am promised forth.

## CASSIUS

Will you dine with me to-morrow?

CASCA

Ay, if I be alive and your mind hold and your dinner  
worth the eating.

CASSIUS

Good: I will expect you.

CASCA

Do so. Farewell, both.

CASCA exits.

BRUTUS

What a blunt woman is this grown to be!

CASSIUS

This rudeness is a sauce to her good wit,  
Which gives men stomach to digest her words  
With better appetite.

BRUTUS

And so it is. For this time I will leave you:  
To-morrow, if you please to speak with me,  
I will come home to you; or, if you will,  
Come home to me, and I will wait for you.

CASSIUS

I will do so: till then, think of the world.

BRUTUS exits.

## CASSIUS

Well, Brutus, thou art noble; yet, I see,  
 Thy honourable metal may be wrought  
 From that it is disposed: therefore it is meet  
 That noble minds keep ever with their likes;  
 For who so firm that cannot be seduced?  
 Caesar doth bear me hard; but she loves Brutus:  
 If I were Brutus now and he were Cassius,  
 He should not humour me. I will this night,  
 In several hands, in at his windows throw,  
 As if they came from several citizens,  
 Writings all tending to the great opinion  
 That Rome holds of his name; wherein obscurely  
 Caesar's ambition shall be glanced at:  
 And after this let Caesar seat him sure;  
 For we will shake her, or worse days endure.

## SCENE THREE

CASSIUS stands stage right, typing on his  
 phone. COMMONERS and SENATORS alike  
 cross the stage, on phones. A projection can  
 show notifications continuing coming in, reading  
 the following bulletins.

## CICERO

Good even, Casca: brought you Caesar home?  
 Why are you breathless? and why stare you so?

## CASCA

Are not you moved, when all the sway of earth  
Shakes like a thing unfirm? O Cicero,  
I have seen tempests, when the scolding winds  
Have rived the knotty oaks, and I have seen  
The ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam,  
To be exalted with the threatening clouds:  
But never till to-night, never till now,  
Did I go through a tempest dropping fire.  
Either there is a civil strife in heaven,  
Or else the world, too saucy with the gods,  
Incenses them to send destruction.

## CICERO

Why, saw you any thing more wonderful?

## CASCA

A commoner--you know her well by sight--  
Held up her left hand, which did flame and burn  
Like twenty torches join'd, and yet her hand,  
Not sensible of fire, remain'd unscorch'd.  
Besides--I ha' not since put up my sword--  
Against the Capitol I met a lion,  
Who glared upon me, and went surly by,  
Without annoying me: and there were drawn  
Upon a heap a hundred ghastly women,  
Transformed with their fear; who swore they saw  
Men all in fire walk up and down the streets.



And yesterday the bird of night did sit  
 Even at noon-day upon the market-place,  
 Hooting and shrieking. When these prodigies  
 Do so conjointly meet, let not men say  
 'These are their reasons; they are natural;'  
 For, I believe, they are portentous things  
 Unto the climate that they point upon.

CICERO

Indeed, it is a strange-disposed time:  
 But men may construe things after their fashion,  
 Clean from the purpose of the things themselves.  
 Come Caesar to the Capitol to-morrow?

CASCA

She doth; for she did bid Antonius  
 Send word to you she would be there to-morrow.

CICERO

Good night then, Casca: this disturbed sky  
 Is not to walk in.

CASCA

Farewell, Cicero.

CICERO exits. CASSIUS looks up from his  
 phone.

CASSIUS

Who's there?

CASCA

A Roman.

CASSIUS

Casca, by your voice.

CASCA

Your ear is good. Cassius, what night is this!

CASSIUS

A very pleasing night to honest men.

CASCA

Who ever knew the heavens menace so!

CASSIUS

Those that have known the earth so full of faults.

For my part, I have walk'd about the streets,

Submitting me unto the perilous night,

And, thus unbraced, Casca, as you see,

Have bared my bosom to the thunder-stone;

And when the cross blue lightning seem'd to open

The breast of heaven, I did present myself

Even in the aim and very flash of it.

## CASCA

But wherefore did you so much tempt the heavens?  
It is the part of men to fear and tremble,  
When the most mighty gods by tokens send  
Such dreadful heralds to astonish us.

## CASSIUS

You are dull, Casca, and those sparks of life  
That should be in a Roman you do want,  
Or else you use not. You look pale and gaze  
And put on fear and cast yourself in wonder,  
To see the strange impatience of the heavens:  
But if you would consider the true cause  
Why all these fires, why all these gliding ghosts,  
Why birds and beasts from quality and kind,  
Why old men fool and children calculate,  
Why all these things change from their ordinance  
Their natures and preformed faculties  
To monstrous quality,--why, you shall find  
That heaven hath infused them with these spirits,  
To make them instruments of fear and warning  
Unto some monstrous state.  
Now could I, Casca, name to thee someone

Most like this dreadful night,  
That thunders, lightens, opens graves, and roars  
As doth the lion in the Capitol,  
Someone no mightier than thyself or me  
In personal action, yet prodigious grown  
And fearful, as these strange eruptions are.

CASCA

'Tis Caesar that you mean; is it not, Cassius?

CASSIUS

Let it be who it is: for Romans now  
Have thews and limbs like to their ancestors;  
But, woe the while! our fathers' minds are dead,  
And we are govern'd with our mothers' spirits;  
Our yoke and sufferance show us womanish.

CASCA

I heard them say the senators tomorrow  
Mean to establish Caesar as a king;  
And she shall wear her crown by sea and land.

CASSIUS

I know where I will wear this dagger then;  
Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius:  
Therein, ye gods, you make the weak most strong;  
Therein, ye gods, you tyrants do defeat:

If I know this, know all the world besides,  
That part of tyranny that I do bear  
I can shake off at pleasure.

CASCA

So can I:  
So every bondman in her own hand bears  
The power to cancel her captivity.

CASSIUS

And why should Caesar be a tyrant then?  
Poor girl! I know she would not be a wolf,  
But that she sees the Romans are but sheep:  
She were no lion, were not Romans hinds.  
Those that with haste will make a mighty fire  
Begin it with weak straws: what trash is Rome,  
What rubbish and what offal, when it serves  
For the base matter to illuminate  
So vile a thing as Caesar! But, O grief,  
Where hast thou led me? I perhaps speak this  
Before a willing bondman; then I know  
My answer must be made. But I am arm'd,  
And dangers are to me indifferent.

CASCA

You speak to Casca, to such a Roman  
That is no fleeting tell-tale.

Hold, my hand:

Be factious for redress of all these griefs,  
And I will set this foot of mine as far  
As who goes farthest.

CASSIUS

There's a bargain made.  
Now know you, Casca, I have moved already  
Some certain of the noblest-minded Romans  
To undergo with me an enterprise  
Of honourable-dangerous consequence;  
And the complexion of the element  
In favour's like the work we have in hand,  
Most bloody, fiery, and most terrible.

CASCA

Stand close awhile, for here comes one in haste.

CASSIUS

'Tis Cinna; I do know her by her gait;  
She is a friend. Cinna, what haste you so?

CINNA

To find out you. Who's that? Metellus Cimber?

CASSIUS

No, it is Casca; one incorporate  
To our attempts. Am I not stay'd for, Cinna?

CINNA

I am glad on 't. What a fearful night is this!  
There's two or three of us have seen strange sights.

CASSIUS

Am I not stay'd for? tell me.

CINNA

Yes, you are.  
O Cassius, if you could  
But win the noble Brutus to our party--

CASSIUS

Be you content: good Cinna, take this paper,  
Where Brutus may but find it.

CASSIUS hands CINNA his phone. She reads  
aloud.

CINNA

“Caesar is a threat to the republic. A vote for her is a vote for worldwide  
economic slavery and evil, endless war!”

Well, I will hie,  
And so bestow these papers as you bade me.

CINNA exits.

CASSIUS

Come, Casca, you and I will yet ere day  
See Brutus at his house: three parts of him  
Is ours already, and the man entire  
Upon the next encounter yields him ours.

CASCA

O, he sits high in all the people's hearts:  
And that which would appear offence in us,  
His countenance, like richest alchemy,  
Will change to virtue and to worthiness.  
For it is after midnight; and ere day  
We will awake him and be sure of him.

SCENE FOUR - EXTERIOR BRUTUS' HOUSE

BRUTUS paces alone onstage.

BRUTUS

What, messenger, ho!  
I cannot, by the progress of the stars,  
Give guess how near to day. Servant, I say!  
I would it were my fault to sleep so soundly.  
When, Lucius, when? awake, I say! what, Lucius!

Enter SERVANT

SERVANT

Call'd you, my lord?



BRUTUS

Get me a taper in my study, Lucius:  
When it is lighted, come and call me here.

SERVANT

I will, my lord.

Exit SERVANT

BRUTUS

It must be by her death: and for my part,  
I know no personal cause to spurn at her,  
But for the general. She would be crown'd:  
How that might change her nature, there's the question.  
It is the bright day that brings forth the adder;  
And that craves wary walking. Crown her?--that;--  
And then, I grant, we put a sting in her,  
That at her will she may do danger with.  
The abuse of greatness is, when it disjoins  
Remorse from power: and, to speak truth of Caesar,  
I have not known when her affections sway'd  
More than her reason. But 'tis a common proof,  
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,  
Where to the climber-upward turns her face;  
But when she once attains the upmost round,  
She then unto the ladder turns her back,  
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees  
By which she did ascend. So Caesar may.  
Then, lest she may, prevent.

And, since the quarrel  
 Will bear no colour for the thing she is,  
 Fashion it thus; that what she is, augmented,  
 Would run to these and these extremities:  
 And therefore think her as a serpent's egg  
 Which, hatch'd, would, as her kind, grow mischievous,  
 And kill her in the shell.

SERVANT returns with a phone in her hand. She  
 holds it up to show it's locked.

SERVANT

The taper burneth in your closet, sir.  
 Searching the window for a flint, I found  
 This paper, thus seal'd up; and, I am sure,  
 It did not lie there when I went before.

Pause.

BRUTUS

Is not to-morrow the ides of March?

SERVANT

I know not, sir.

BRUTUS

Look in the calendar, and bring me word.

SERVANT

I will, sir.

Exits again.

BRUTUS

(reading)

“There is blood on her hands of thousands of people and millions of dollars of blood money in her campaign... She is owned by Big Money. Caesar is a threat to the republic. A vote for her is a vote for worldwide economic slavery and evil, endless war! Hashtag, never Caesar..... Hashtag, People for Brutus..... Shouldn't Caesar be more worried about her health? Looking like a failure..... Hashtag, People for Brutus..... Shame on the Senate for betraying Brutus.... Brutus is a true leader.... Media wants us to think that the people are for Caesar but we support Brutus.... hashtag, Brutus for Rome” (Facebook, 2016).

SERVANT returns. BRUTUS jumps.

SERVANT

Sir, March is wasted fourteen days.

Knocking.

BRUTUS

'Tis good. Go to the gate; somebody knocks.

SERVANT exits again.

BRUTUS

Since Cassius first did whet me against Caesar,

I have not slept.

Between the acting of a dreadful thing

And the first motion, all the interim is

Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream.

SERVANT returns.

SERVANT

Sir, 'tis your brother Cassius at the door,

Who doth desire to see you.

BRUTUS

Is he alone?

SERVANT

No, sir, there are more with him.

BRUTUS

Do you know them?

SERVANT

No, sir; their hats are pluck'd about their ears,

And half their faces buried in their cloaks,

That by no means I may discover them

By any mark of favour.

BRUTUS

Let 'em in.

SERVANT exits yet again.

BRUTUS

They are the faction. O conspiracy,  
Shamest thou to show thy dangerous brow by night,  
When evils are most free? O, then by day  
Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough  
To mask thy monstrous visage? Seek none, conspiracy;  
Hide it in smiles and affability:  
For if thou path, thy native semblance on,  
Not Erebus itself were dim enough  
To hide thee from prevention.

Enter CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS, and  
CINNA. MESSENGER enters briefly behind  
them and awkwardly exits again.

CASSIUS

I think we are too bold upon your rest:  
Good morrow, Brutus; do we trouble you?

BRUTUS

I have been up this hour, awake all night.  
Know I these men that come along with you?

CASSIUS

Yes, every man of them, and no one here  
But honours you;

and every one doth wish  
You had but that opinion of yourself  
Which every noble Roman bears of you.  
This, Decius Brutus.

BRUTUS

She is welcome hither.

CASSIUS

This, Casca; this, Cinna.

BRUTUS

They are both welcome.  
What watchful cares do interpose themselves  
Betwixt your eyes and night?

CASSIUS

Shall I entreat a word?

CASSIUS and BRUTUS move to the side,  
whispering.

DECIUS

Here lies the east: doth not the day break here?

CASCA

No.

CINNA

Pardon, ma'am, it doth; and yon gray lines  
That fret the clouds are messengers of day.

## CASCA

You shall confess that you are both deceived.  
Here, as I point my sword, the sun arises,  
Which is a great way growing on the south,  
Weighing the youthful season of the year.  
Some two months hence up higher toward the north  
He first presents his fire; and the high east  
Stands, as the Capitol, directly here.

CASSIUS and BRUTUS return.

## BRUTUS

Give me your hands all over, one by one.

## CASSIUS

And let us swear our resolution.

## BRUTUS

No, not an oath: if not the face of men,  
The sufferance of our souls, the time's abuse,--  
If these be motives weak, break off betimes,  
And every man hence to their idle bed;  
So let high-sighted tyranny range on,  
Till each man drop by lottery. But if these,  
As I am sure they do, bear fire enough  
To kindle cowards and to steel with valour  
The melting spirits of women, then, countrymen,  
What need we any spur but our own cause,  
To prick us to redress?

what other bond  
Than secret Romans, that have spoke the word,  
And will not palter?

CASSIUS

But what of Cicero? shall we sound her?  
I think she will stand very strong with us.

CASCA

Let us not leave her out.

CINNA

No, by no means.

BRUTUS

O, name her not: let us not break with her;  
For she will never follow any thing  
That other men begin.

CASSIUS

Then leave her out.

CASCA

Indeed she is not fit.

DECIUS

Shall no one else be touched but only Caesar?



## CASSIUS

Decius, well urged: I think it is not meet,  
Mark Antony, so well beloved of Caesar,  
Should outlive Caesar: we shall find of her  
A shrewd contriver; and, you know, her means,  
If she improve them, may well stretch so far  
As to annoy us all: which to prevent,  
Let Antony and Caesar fall together.

## BRUTUS

Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius,  
To cut the head off and then hack the limbs,  
Like wrath in death and envy afterwards;  
For Antony is but a limb of Caesar:  
Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers, Caius.  
We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar;  
And in the spirit of men there is no blood:  
We shall be call'd purgers, not murderers.  
And for Mark Antony, think not of her;  
For she can do no more than Caesar's arm  
When Caesar's head is off.

## CASSIUS

Yet I fear her;  
For in the ingrafted love she bears to Caesar--

BRUTUS

Alas, good Cassius, do not think of her:  
If she love Caesar, all that she can do  
Is to herself, take thought and die for Caesar:  
And that were much she should; for she is given  
To sports, to wildness and much company.

CASCA

There is no fear in her; let her not die;  
For she will live, and laugh at this hereafter.

Clock sounds in the distance.

BRUTUS

Peace! count the clock.

CASSIUS

The clock hath stricken three.

CINNA

'Tis time to part.

CASSIUS

But it is doubtful yet,  
Whether Caesar will come forth to-day, or no;

For she is superstitious grown of late,  
 Quite from the main opinion she held once  
 Of fantasy, of dreams and ceremonies:  
 It may be, these apparent prodigies,  
 The unaccustom'd terror of this night,  
 And the persuasion of her augurers,  
 May hold her from the Capitol to-day.

DECIUS

Never fear that: if she be so resolved,  
 I can o'ersway her; for she loves to hear  
 That unicorns may be betray'd with trees,  
 And bears with glasses, elephants with holes,  
 Lions with toils and men with flatterers;  
 But when I tell her she hates flatterers,  
 She says she does, being then most flattered.  
 Let me work;  
 For I can give her humour the true bent,  
 And I will bring her to the Capitol.

CASSIUS

Nay, we will all of us be there to fetch her.

BRUTUS

By the eighth hour: is that the uttermost?

CINNA

Be that the uttermost, and fail not then.

## CASSIUS

The morning comes upon 's: we'll leave you, Brutus.  
 And, friends, disperse yourselves; but all remember  
 What you have said, and show yourselves true Romans.

## BRUTUS

Good Senators, look fresh and merrily;  
 Let not our looks put on our purposes,  
 But bear it as our Roman actors do,  
 With untired spirits and formal constancy:  
 And so good morrow to you every one.

All exit but BRUTUS. He sits and pulls out his  
 phone, beginning to type.

## BRUTUS

“Together, we will lead our country back to safety, prosperity, and peace.  
 We will be a country of generosity and warmth. But we will also be a  
 country of law and order..... Never.... Caesar.....” (Trump, 2016).

## SCENE FIVE - CAESAR'S HOUSE

CAESAR paces, visibly exhausted.

## CAESAR

Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night:  
 Thrice hath Calpurnia in his sleep cried out,  
 'Help, ho! they murder Caesar!' Who's within?

A SERVANT enters.

SERVANT

Madame?

CAESAR

Go bid the priests do present sacrifice  
And bring me their opinions of success.

SERVANT

I will, madame.

SERVANT exits. CALPURNIA enters.

CALPURNIA

What mean you, Caesar? think you to walk forth?  
You shall not stir out of your house to-day.

CAESAR

Caesar shall forth: the things that threaten'd me  
Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see  
The face of Caesar, they are vanished.

CALPURNIA

Caesar, I never stood on ceremonies,  
Yet now they fright me. There is one within,  
Besides the things that we have heard and seen,  
Recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch.  
A lioness hath whelped in the streets;  
And graves have yawn'd, and yielded up their dead;

Fierce fiery warriors fought upon the clouds,  
In ranks and squadrons and right form of war,  
Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol;  
The noise of battle hurtled in the air,  
Horses did neigh, and dying men did groan,  
And ghosts did shriek and squeal about the streets.  
O Caesar! these things are beyond all use,  
And I do fear them.

CAESAR

What can be avoided  
Whose end is purposed by the mighty gods?  
Yet Caesar shall go forth; for these predictions  
Are to the world in general as to Caesar.

CALPURNIA

When beggars die, there are no comets seen;  
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of rulers.

CAESAR

Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death but once.  
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;  
Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
Will come when it will come.

SERVANT re-enters.

CAESAR

What say the augurers?

SERVANT

They would not have you to stir forth to-day.  
Plucking the entrails of an offering forth,  
They could not find a heart within the beast.

A knock. SERVANT exits.

CAESAR

The gods do this in shame of cowardice:  
Caesar should be a beast without a heart,  
If she should stay at home to-day for fear.  
No, Caesar shall not: danger knows full well  
That Caesar is more dangerous than he:  
We are two lions litter'd in one day,  
And I the elder and more terrible:  
And Caesar shall go forth.

CALPURNIA

Alas, my love,  
Your wisdom is consumed in confidence.  
Do not go forth to-day: call it my fear  
That keeps you in the house, and not your own.  
We'll send Mark Antony to the senate-house:  
And she shall say you are not well to-day:  
Let me, upon my knee, prevail in this.

CAESAR

Mark Antony shall say I am not well,  
And, for thy humour, I will stay at home.

SERVANT returns with DECIUS BRUTUS.

DECIUS

Caesar, all hail! good morrow, worthy Caesar:  
I come to fetch you to the senate-house.

CAESAR

And you are come in very happy time,  
To bear my greeting to the senators  
And tell them that I will not come to-day:  
Cannot, is false, and that I dare not, falser:  
I will not come to-day: tell them so, Decius.

CALPURNIA

Say she is sick.

CAESAR

Shall Caesar send a lie?  
Have I in conquest stretch'd mine arm so far,  
To be afraid to tell them all the truth?  
Decius, go tell them Caesar will not come.

DECIUS

Most mighty Caesar, let me know some cause,  
Lest I be laugh'd at when I tell them so.



## CAESAR

The cause is in my will: I will not come;  
That is enough to satisfy the senate.  
But for your private satisfaction,  
Because I love you, I will let you know:  
Calpurnia, my husband, stays me at home:  
He dreamt to-night he saw my statua,  
Which, like a fountain with an hundred spouts,  
Did run pure blood: and many lusty Romans  
Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it:  
And these does he apply for warnings, and portents,  
And evils imminent; and on his knee  
Hath begg'd that I will stay at home to-day.

## DECIUS

This dream is all amiss interpreted;  
It was a vision fair and fortunate:  
Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,  
In which so many smiling Romans bathed,  
Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck  
Reviving blood, and that great men shall press  
For tinctures, stains, relics and cognizance.  
This by Calpurnia's dream is signified.

## CAESAR

And this way have you well expounded it.

## DECIUS

I have, when you have heard what I can say:  
And know it now: the senate have concluded  
To give this day a crown to mighty Caesar.  
If you shall send them word you will not come,  
Their minds may change. Besides, it were a mock  
Apt to be render'd, for some one to say  
'Break up the senate till another time,  
When her husband shall meet with better dreams.'  
If Caesar hide herself, shall they not whisper  
'Lo, Caesar is afraid'?  
Pardon me, Caesar; for my dear dear love  
To our proceeding bids me tell you this;  
And reason to my love is liable.

## CAESAR

How foolish do your fears seem now, Calpurnia!  
I am ashamed I did yield to them.  
Give me my robe, for I will go.

BRUTUS, CASCA, CINNA, and METELLUS

CIMBER enter.

## CAESAR

Welcome, Metellus Cimber.  
What, Brutus, are you stirr'd so early too?  
Good morrow, Casca. Cinna. What is 't o'clock?

BRUTUS

Caesar, 'tis stricken eight.

CAESAR

I thank you for your pains and courtesy.

Enter ANTONY.

CAESAR

See! Antony, that revels long o' nights,  
Is notwithstanding up. Good morrow, Antony.

ANTONY

So to most noble Caesar.

CAESAR

Bid them prepare within:  
I am to blame to be thus waited for.  
Now, Cinna: now, Casca: what, Metellus!  
I have an hour's talk in store for you;  
Remember that you call on me to-day:  
Be near me, that I may remember you.

METELLUS CIMBER

Caesar, I will: and so near will I be,  
That your best friends shall wish I had been further.

CAESAR

Good friends, go in, and taste some wine with me;  
And we, like friends, will straightway go together.

## SCENE SIX - SENATE

SOOTHSAYER sits. ARTEMIDORUS paces,  
looking at her phone. Screen projects  
Artemidorus' message

## ARTEMIDORUS

'Caesar, beware of Brutus; take heed of Cassius;  
come not near Casca; have an eye to Cinna,  
mark well Metellus Cimber: Decius Brutus loves thee not.  
There is but one mind in all these men, and it is  
bent against Caesar. If thou beest not immortal,  
look about you: security gives way to conspiracy.  
The mighty gods defend thee! Thy lover,  
'ARTEMIDORUS.'  
Here will I stand till Caesar pass along,  
And as a suitor will I give her this.  
My heart laments that virtue cannot live  
Out of the teeth of emulation.  
If thou read this, O Caesar, thou mayst live;  
If not, the Fates with traitors do contrive.

Enter CAESAR, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, DECIUS

## CAESAR

The ides of March are come.

## SOOTHSAYER

Ay, Caesar, but not gone.

ARTEMIDORUS

Hail, Caesar! read this schedule.

ARTEMIDORUS runs to CAESAR and places  
her phone in CAESAR's hand. As CAESAR  
begins to curiously look, DECIUS comes and  
puts her own phone on top of it.

DECIUS

Casca, madame, doth desire you to o'erread,  
At your best leisure, this her humble suit.

ARTEMIDORUS

O Caesar, read mine first; for mine's a suit  
That touches Caesar nearer: read it, great Caesar.

CAESAR

What touches us ourself shall be last served.

ARTEMIDORUS

Delay not, Caesar; read it instantly.

CAESAR

What, is the woman mad?

CASSIUS

What, urge you your petitions in the street?  
Come to the Capitol.

CAESAR moves towards stage right with other senators--enter CASCA, ANTONY, CINNA, CICERO. ARTEMIDORUS desperately looks to SOOTHSAYER, who just exits.

ARTEMIDORUS

I wish your enterprise to-day may thrive.

CASSIUS

What enterprise?

ARTEMIDORUS

Fare you well.

ARTEMIDORUS exits.

BRUTUS

What said she?

CASSIUS

She wish'd to-day our enterprise might thrive.

I fear our purpose is discovered.

BRUTUS

Saw you how she made to Caesar?

CASSIUS

Casca, be sudden, for we fear prevention.

Brutus, what shall be done? If this be known,

Cassius or Caesar never shall turn back,

For I will slay myself.

BRUTUS

Cassius, be constant.

METELLUS CIMBER enters and draws  
ANTONY and CICERO to her, showing them a  
newspaper, and leaves them to discuss.

CASSIUS

Metellus Cimber knows her time; for, look you, Brutus.  
She draws Mark Antony out of the way.

CICERO and ANTONY move to the side.

CINNA

Casca, you are the first that rears your hand.

CAESAR rises and moves to the center. The  
other SENATORS ring around her, except  
ANTONY and CICERO.

CAESAR

Are we all ready? What is now amiss  
That Caesar and her senate must redress?

METELLUS CIMBER

Most high, most mighty, and most puissant Caesar,  
Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat  
An humble heart,--

METELLUS kneels.

## CAESAR

I must prevent thee, Cimber.  
 These couchings and these lowly courtesies  
 Might fire the blood of ordinary men,  
 And turn pre-ordinance and first decree  
 Into the law of children. Be not fond,  
 To think that Caesar bears such rebel blood  
 That will be thaw'd from the true quality  
 With that which melteth fools; I mean, sweet words,  
 Low-crooked court'sies and base spaniel-fawning.  
 Thy brother by decree is banished:  
 If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him,  
 I spurn thee like a cur out of my way.  
 Know, Caesar doth not wrong, nor without cause  
 Will she be satisfied.

## METELLUS CIMBER

Is there no voice more worthy than my own  
 To sound more sweetly in great Caesar's ear  
 For the repealing of my banish'd brother?

## CAESAR

I could be well moved, if I were as you:  
 If I could pray to move, prayers would move me:  
 But I am constant as the northern star,  
 Of whose true-fix'd and resting quality  
 There is no fellow in the firmament.



The skies are painted with unnumber'd sparks,  
 They are all fire and every one doth shine,  
 But there's but one in all doth hold her place:  
 So in the world; 'tis furnish'd well with men,  
 And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive;  
 Yet in the number I do know but one  
 That unassailable holds on her rank,  
 Unshaked of motion: and that I am she,  
 Let me a little show it, even in this;  
 That I was constant Cimber should be banish'd,  
 And constant do remain to keep him so.

CASSIUS moves towards the audience. Lights  
 on audience.

CASSIUS

We'll leave it to a democracy. All those in favor of Metellus Cimber, raise  
 your hands.

CAESAR

Hence! wilt thou lift up Olympus?

CASSIUS

All those in favor of Caesar, raise your hands.

CAESAR

Doth not Brutus bootless kneel?

CASCA

Speak hands, for me!

CASCA first, then the other Conspirators and  
BRUTUS stab CAESAR.

CAESAR

Et tu, Brute? Then fall, Caesar.

CAESAR falls, dead.

CINNA

Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!  
Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets.

CASSIUS

Some to the common pulpits, and cry out  
'Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!'

BRUTUS

People and senators, be not affrighted;  
Fly not; stand stiff: ambition's debt is paid.

CASCA

Go to the pulpit, Brutus.

DECIUS

And Cassius, too.

CASSIUS

Where's Cicero?

CINNA

Here, quite confounded with this mutiny.

METELLUS CIMBER

Stand fast together, lest some friend of Caesar's  
Should chance--

BRUTUS

Talk not of standing. Cicero, good cheer;  
There is no harm intended to your person,  
Nor to no Roman else: so tell them, Cicero.

CASSIUS

Where is Antony?

METELLUS CIMBER

Fled to her house amazed:  
Men, wives and children stare, cry out and run  
As it were doomsday.

BRUTUS

Fates, we will know your pleasures:  
That we shall die, we know; 'tis but the time  
And drawing days out, that men stand upon.

CASSIUS

Why, he that cuts off twenty years of life  
Cuts off so many years of fearing death.

BRUTUS

Grant that, and then is death a benefit:  
So are we Caesar's friends, that have abridged  
Her time of fearing death.

DECIUS

What, shall we forth?

CASSIUS

Ay, every man away:  
Brutus shall lead; and we will grace his heels  
With the most boldest and best hearts of Rome.

A servant enters.

BRUTUS

Soft! who comes here? A friend of Antony's.

SERVANT

Thus, Brutus, did my master bid me kneel:  
Thus did Mark Antony bid me fall down;  
And, being prostrate, thus she bade me say:  
Brutus is noble, wise, valiant, and honest;  
Caesar was mighty, bold, royal, and loving:  
Say I love Brutus, and I honour him;  
Say I fear'd Caesar, honour'd her and loved her.

If Brutus will vouchsafe that Antony  
May safely come to him, and be resolved  
How Caesar hath deserved to lie in death,  
Mark Antony shall not love Caesar dead  
So well as Brutus living; but will follow  
The fortunes and affairs of noble Brutus  
Thorough the hazards of this untrod state  
With all true faith. So says my master Antony.

BRUTUS

Thy master is a wise and valiant Roman;  
I never thought her worse.  
Tell her, so please her come unto this place,  
She shall be satisfied; and, by my honour,  
Depart untouch'd.

SERVANT

I'll fetch her presently.

Exits.

BRUTUS

I know that we shall have her well to friend.

CASSIUS

I wish we may: but yet have I a mind  
That fears her much; and my misgiving still  
Falls shrewdly to the purpose.

BRUTUS

But here comes Antony.

Enter ANTONY.

ANTONY

O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?  
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,  
Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well.  
I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,  
Who else must be let blood, who else is rank:  
If I myself, there is no hour so fit  
As Caesar's death hour, nor no instrument  
Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich  
With the most noble blood of all this world.  
I do beseech ye, if you bear me hard,  
Now, whilst your purpled hands do reek and smoke,  
Fulfill your pleasure. Live a thousand years,  
I shall not find myself so apt to die:  
No place will please me so, no mean of death,  
As here by Caesar, and by you cut off,  
The choice and master spirits of this age.

## BRUTUS

O Antony, beg not your death of us.  
Though now we must appear bloody and cruel,  
As, by our hands and this our present act,  
You see we do, yet see you but our hands  
And this the bleeding business they have done:  
Our hearts you see not; they are pitiful;  
And pity to the general wrong of Rome--  
As fire drives out fire, so pity pity--  
Hath done this deed on Caesar. For your part,  
To you our swords have leaden points, Mark Antony:  
Our arms, in strength of malice, and our hearts  
Of brothers' temper, do receive you in  
With all kind love, good thoughts, and reverence.

## CASSIUS

Your voice shall be as strong as any man's  
In the disposing of new dignities.

## BRUTUS

Only be patient till we have appeased  
The multitude, beside themselves with fear,  
And then we will deliver you the cause,  
Why I, that did love Caesar when I struck her,  
Have thus proceeded.

## ANTONY

I doubt not of your wisdom.  
 Let each one render me their bloody hand:  
 First, Marcus Brutus, will I shake with you;  
 Next, Caius Cassius, do I take your hand;  
 Now, Decius Brutus, yours: now yours, Metellus;  
 Yours, Cinna; and, my valiant Casca, yours.  
 My credit now stands on such slippery ground,  
 That one of two bad ways you must conceit me,  
 Either a coward or a flatterer.  
 That I did love thee, Caesar, O, 'tis true:  
 If then thy spirit look upon us now,  
 Shall it not grieve thee dearer than thy death,  
 To see that thy Antony making her peace,  
 Shaking the bloody fingers of thy foes,  
 Most noble! in the presence of thy corpse?  
 Had I as many eyes as thou hast wounds,  
 Weeping as fast as they stream forth thy blood,  
 It would become me better than to close  
 In terms of friendship with thine enemies.

## CASSIUS

Mark Antony,--

## ANTONY

Pardon me, Caius Cassius:  
 The enemies of Caesar shall say this;  
 Then, in a friend, it is cold modesty.



CASSIUS

I blame you not for praising Caesar so;  
But what compact mean you to have with us?  
Will you be prick'd in number of our friends;  
Or shall we on, and not depend on you?

ANTONY

Therefore I took your hands, but was, indeed,  
Sway'd from the point, by looking down on Caesar.  
Friends am I with you all and love you all,  
Upon this hope, that you shall give me reasons  
Why and wherein Caesar was dangerous.

BRUTUS

Or else were this a savage spectacle:  
Our reasons are so full of good regard  
That were you, Antony, the child of Caesar,  
You should be satisfied.

ANTONY

That's all I seek:  
And in the pulpit, as becomes a friend,  
Speak in the order of her funeral.

BRUTUS

You shall, Mark Antony.

CASSIUS

Brutus, a word with you!

Taking BRUTUS' arm.

CASSIUS

You know not what you do: do not consent  
That Antony speak in her funeral:  
Know you how much the people may be moved  
By that which she will utter?

BRUTUS

By your pardon;  
I will myself into the pulpit first,  
And show the reason of our Caesar's death:  
What Antony shall speak, I will protest  
She speaks by leave and by permission,  
And that we are contented Caesar shall  
Have all true rites and lawful ceremonies.  
It shall advantage more than do us wrong.

CASSIUS

I know not what may fall; I like it not.

BRUTUS

Mark Antony, here, take you Caesar's body.  
You shall not in your funeral speech blame us,  
But speak all good you can devise of Caesar,  
And say you do't by our permission;

Else shall you not have any hand at all  
About her funeral: and you shall speak  
In the same pulpit whereto I am going,  
After my speech is ended.

ANTONY

Be it so.  
I do desire no more.

BRUTUS

Prepare the body then, and follow us.

ALL exit but ANTONY.

ANTONY

O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,  
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!  
Thou art the ruins of the noblest one  
That ever lived in the tide of times.  
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!  
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy,--  
Which, like dumb mouths, do ope their ruby lips,  
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue--  
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;  
Domestic fury and fierce civil strife  
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;

Blood and destruction shall be so in use  
And dreadful objects so familiar  
That mothers shall but smile when they behold  
Their infants quarter'd with the hands of war;  
All pity choked with custom of fell deeds:  
And Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,  
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,  
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice  
Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war;  
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth  
With carrion men, groaning for burial.

A servant enters.

ANTONY

You serve Octavius Caesar, do you not?

SERVANT

I do, Mark Antony.

ANTONY

Caesar did write for her to come to Rome.

SERVANT

She did receive her letters, and is coming;  
And bid me say to you by word of mouth--  
O Caesar!--

## ANTONY

Thy heart is big, get thee apart and weep.  
Passion, I see, is catching; for mine eyes,  
Seeing those beads of sorrow stand in thine,  
Began to water. Is thy master coming?

## SERVANT

She lies to-night within seven leagues of Rome.

## ANTONY

Post back with speed, and tell her what hath chanced:  
Here is a mourning Rome, a dangerous Rome,  
No Rome of safety for Octavius yet;  
Hie hence, and tell her so. Yet, stay awhile;  
Thou shalt not back till I have borne this corpse  
Into the market-place: there shall I try  
In my oration, how the people take  
The cruel issue of these bloody men;  
According to the which, thou shalt discourse  
To young Octavius of the state of things.  
Lend me your hand.

Exit with Caesar's body.

## Act Two

### TRANSITION

On stage at rise are BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS BRUTUS, METELLUS CIMBER, and CINNA, standing in a row, heads down. With them are three puppeteers. Each of the senators is “activated” by their puppeteer, who during this also helps them to clean the blood from their hands. Projected: news updates.

### CASSIUS

“My America is one where all are great. There is not, at the head, one that is grown greater than the rest, one with absolute power. They would be too strong and must be reigned in. Who knows what could happen if such a woman were allowed to take command? The risk is too great. That is why I killed Caesar” (Milano, 2017).

### DECIUS BRUTUS

“My America is a place where everyone is equal. We will not be divided again and we will stand tall as a better country. A better community. Our voices will not be silenced and we will be heard. That is why I killed Caesar” (May, 2017).

Exit with puppeteer.

### METELLUS CIMBER

“My America is strong and protects its people... and it is falling apart. Because of this, I have done everything in my power to protect it. I will help the citizens by whatever means necessary. I am determined to make us great again. And that is why I killed Caesar” (Flanagan, 2017).

Exit.

CASCA

“My America is one with opportunities for all people-- true equality. Women and men serve together. What has come to pass is behind us now. I am prepared to continue my service to the senate. All that is left to do is look forward with confidence. That is why I killed Caesar” (Grevas, 2017).

Exit with puppeteer.

CINNA

“My America is one where I can raise my kids knowing they will be safe and free from terror and fear. That America would not be possible with a power hungry woman running it. She was a liar who was able to deceive us all but finally, my fellow senators and I were able to do something about it. That’s why I killed Caesar” (Latham, 2017).

Exit with puppeteer. OCTAVIUS CAESAR and MARK ANTONY emerge, standing on opposite sides of the stage.

OCTAVIUS CAESAR

“My America is a land where all people and I are free to do, say, and be whatever we want. Is that the way America is now? No.”

BRUTUS

My America is a place where the people can stand, hand-in-hand, unafraid. It will be a nation where the people have the power, not the elite.

MARK ANTONY

My America is not together. What would have been a transforming leader has fallen out of hatred and jealousy.

BRUTUS

Now we speak not of Caesar nor oppression, because for now, there are neither.

OCTAVIUS CAESAR

America should be full of people desiring to simply be greater than what they are now, and I am afraid.

BRUTUS

I am so happy to be ushering in a new age where the people are free. Now, servants and masters are free to walk hand-in-hand and rejoice in the splendors of our nation as equals.

MARK ANTONY

Although I believe that it is important to stand up for what you believe in, there is a fine line between right and wrong and what we act on.

ANTONY and OCTAVIUS exit simultaneously without seeing each other, opposite sides of the stage. During this, CINNA and CASCA emerge with the lectern and place it in front of BRUTUS, and exit again.

BRUTUS

This makes me tremendously happy and excited for the future. That's why I killed Caesar.



## SCENE ONE - SENATE EXTERIOR

BRUTUS stands onstage. Some commoners will be planted in the audience.

BRUTUS

“We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people. Together, we will determine the course of America and the world for many, many years to come. We will face challenges, we will confront hardships, but we will get the job done. Today's ceremony, however, has very special meaning because today, we are not merely transferring power from one administration to another or from one party to another, but we are transferring power from the Senate house and giving it back to you, the people. The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories. Their triumphs have not been your triumphs. And while they celebrated in our nation's capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land. That all changes starting right here and right now because this moment is your moment, it belongs to you. The ides of March will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again” (Trump, 2017).

COMMONER 1

We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied.

## BRUTUS

Then follow me, and give me audience, friends.  
And public reasons shall be rendered  
Of Caesar's death.

## COMMONER 2

The noble Brutus is ascended: silence!

## BRUTUS

Be patient till the last.  
Romans, countrymen, and lovers! hear me for my  
cause, and be silent, that you may hear: believe me  
for mine honour, and have respect to mine honour, that  
you may believe: censure me in your wisdom, and  
awake your senses, that you may the better judge.  
If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of  
Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar  
was no less than his. If then that friend demand  
why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer:  
--Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved  
Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and  
die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live  
all free men? As Caesar loved me, I weep for her;  
as she was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as she was  
valiant, I honour her: but, as she was ambitious, I  
slew her. There is tears for her love; joy for her  
fortune; honour for her valour; and death for her  
ambition.

Who is here so base that would be a  
bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended.  
Who is here so rude that would not be a Roman? If  
any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so  
vile that will not love his country? If any, speak;  
for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

COMMONER 2

None, Brutus, none.

BRUTUS

Then none have I offended.

ANTONY enters with CAESAR'S coffin.

BRUTUS

Here comes her body, mourned by Mark Antony: who,  
though she had no hand in her death, shall receive  
the benefit of her dying, a place in the  
commonwealth; as which of you shall not? With this

COMMONERS

(alternating per line)

Live, Brutus! Live! Live!

Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

Give him a statue with his ancestors.

Let him be Caesar.

Caesar's better parts  
Shall be crown'd in Brutus.  
We'll bring him to his house  
With shouts and clamours.

BRUTUS

My countrymen--

COMMONER

Peace! Silence! Brutus speaks.

BRUTUS

Good countrymen, let me depart alone,  
And, for my sake, stay here with Antony:  
Do grace to Caesar's corpse, and grace her speech  
Tending to Caesar's glories; which Mark Antony,  
By our permission, is allow'd to make.  
I do entreat you, not a man depart,  
Save I alone, till Antony have spoke.

COMMONERS

(alternating per line)

Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.  
Let her go up into the public chair;  
We'll hear her. Noble Antony, go up.

ANTONY

For Brutus' sake I'm beholding to you.

## COMMONERS

What does she say of Brutus?  
She says, for Brutus' sake,  
She finds herself beholding to us all.  
'Twere best she speak no harm of Brutus here.  
This Caesar was a tyrant.  
Nay, that's certain:  
We are blest that Rome is rid of her.

## ANTONY

You gentle Romans--

## COMMONER

Peace! let us hear what Antony can say.

## ANTONY

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;  
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise her.  
The evil that men do lives after them;  
The good is oft interred with their bones;  
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus  
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:  
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,  
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.  
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest--  
For Brutus is an honourable man;  
So are they all, all honourable men--  
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.

She was my friend, faithful and just to me:  
But Brutus says she was ambitious;  
And Brutus is an honourable man.  
She hath brought many captives home to Rome  
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:  
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?  
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:  
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:  
Yet Brutus says she was ambitious;  
And Brutus is an honourable man.  
You all did see that on the Lupercal  
I thrice presented her a kingly crown,  
Which she did thrice refuse: was this ambition?  
Yet Brutus says she was ambitious;  
And, sure, he is an honourable man.  
I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,  
But here I am to speak what I do know.  
You all did love her once, not without cause:  
What cause withholds you then, to mourn for her?  
O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,  
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;  
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,  
And I must pause till it come back to me.

COMMONER

Methinks there is much reason in her sayings.

COMMONER

If thou consider rightly of the matter,  
Caesar has had great wrong.

COMMONER

Has she, masters?  
I fear there will a worse come in her place.

COMMONER

There's not a nobler man in Rome than Antony.

COMMONER

Now mark her, she begins again to speak.

ANTONY

But yesterday the word of Caesar might  
Have stood against the world; now lies she there.  
And none so poor to do her reverence.  
O masters, if I were disposed to stir  
Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,  
I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,  
Who, you all know, are honourable men:  
I will not do them wrong; I rather choose  
To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,  
Than I will wrong such honourable men.  
(lifting a phone)  
But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar;  
I found it in her closet, 'tis her will.

COMMONER

We'll hear the will: read it, Mark Antony.  
The will, the will! we will hear Caesar's will.

ANTONY

Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it;  
It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you.  
'Tis good you know not that you are her heirs;  
For, if you should, O, what would come of it!

COMMONER

Read the will; we'll hear it, Antony;  
You shall read us the will, Caesar's will.

ANTONY

Will you be patient? will you stay awhile?  
I have o'ershot myself to tell you of it:  
I fear I wrong the honourable men  
Whose daggers have stabb'd Caesar; I do fear it.

COMMONER

They were traitors: honourable men!

COMMONER

They were villains, murderers: the will! read the will.



ANTONY

You will compel me, then, to read the will?  
Then make a ring about the corpse of Caesar,  
And let me show you her that made the will.  
Shall I descend? and will you give me leave?

COMMONER

You shall have leave.

COMMONER

A ring; stand round.

COMMONER

Room for Antony, most noble Antony.

ANTONY

Nay, press not so upon me; stand far off.

She opens the coffin.

ANTONY

If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.  
Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through:  
See what a rent the envious Casca made:  
Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd;  
And as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,  
Mark how the blood of Caesar follow'd it,  
As rushing out of doors, to be resolved  
If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no;

For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel:  
 Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him!  
 This was the most unkindest cut of all;  
 For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,  
 Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,  
 Quite vanquish'd her: then burst her mighty heart;  
 O, now you weep; and, I perceive, you feel  
 The dint of pity: these are gracious drops.  
 Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold  
 Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here,  
 Here is herself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors.

#### COMMONERS

O piteous spectacle!  
 O noble Caesar!  
 O woful day!  
 O traitors, villains!  
 O most bloody sight!  
 We will be revenged.  
 Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay!  
 Let not a traitor live!

#### ANTONY

Stay, countrymen.

#### COMMONERS

Peace there! hear the noble Antony.  
 We'll hear her, we'll follow her, we'll die with her.

## ANTONY

Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up  
 To such a sudden flood of mutiny.  
 They that have done this deed are honourable:  
 What private griefs they have, alas, I know not,  
 That made them do it: they are wise and honourable,  
 And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.  
 I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts:  
 but were I Brutus,  
 And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony  
 Would ruffle up your spirits and put a tongue  
 In every wound of Caesar that should move  
 The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

## COMMONERS

We'll mutiny.  
 We'll burn the house of Brutus.  
 Away, then! come, seek the conspirators.

## ANTONY

Yet hear me, countrymen; yet hear me speak.

## COMMONER

Peace, ho! Hear Antony. Most noble Antony!

## ANTONY

Why, friends, you go to do you know not what:  
 Wherein hath Caesar thus deserved your loves?

Alas, you know not: I must tell you then:  
You have forgot the will I told you of.

COMMONERS

Most true. The will! Let's stay and hear the will.

ANTONY

Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal.  
She hath left you all her walks,  
Her private arbours and new-planted orchards,  
On this side Tiber; she hath left them you,  
And to your heirs for ever, common pleasures,  
To walk abroad, and recreate yourselves.  
Here was a Caesar! when comes such another?

COMMONER

Never, never. Come, away, away!  
We'll burn her body in the holy place,  
And with the brands fire the traitors' houses.  
Take up the body.

COMMONERS exit, taking the coffin with  
them. Octavius's SERVANT arrives.

ANTONY

Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot,  
Take thou what course thou wilt!  
How now, fellow!

SERVANT

Ma'am, Octavius is already come to Rome.

ANTONY

Where is she?

SERVANT

She and Lepidus are at Caesar's house.

I heard her say, Brutus and Cassius

Are rid like madmen through the gates of Rome.

ANTONY

Belike they had some notice of the people,

How I had moved them. Bring me to Octavius.

They exit.

## SCENE TWO

ANTONY, OCTAVIUS, and LEPIDUS sit  
together, organizing their next moves.

ANTONY

"We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families. The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us

OCTAVIUS

"We will send a bold message to our new administration on their first days in office, and to the world, that women's rights are human rights.

We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us. We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us.

LEPIDUS

“This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all. HEAR OUR VOICE” (Women’s March on Washington, 2017).

Projected behind them, “WOMEN’S MARCH”

### SCENE THREE

BRUTUS sits onstage, on his phone. The screen is up so that we can see what he sees. CASSIUS enters.

BRUTUS

Hark! He is arrived.

CASSIUS

Most noble brother, you have done me wrong.

BRUTUS

Judge me, you gods! wrong I mine enemies?

And, if not so, how should I wrong a brother?

CASSIUS

Brutus, this sober form of yours hides wrongs;  
And when you do them--

BRUTUS

Cassius, be content.

CASSIUS

That you have wrong'd me doth appear in this:  
You have condemn'd and noted Lucius Pella  
For taking bribes here of the Sardians;  
Wherein my letters, praying on his side,  
Because I knew the man, were slighted off.

BRUTUS

You wronged yourself to write in such a case.

CASSIUS

In such a time as this it is not meet  
That every nice offence should bear his comment.

BRUTUS

Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself  
Are much condemn'd to have an itching palm;  
To sell and mart your offices for gold  
To undeservers.

CASSIUS

I an itching palm!  
You know that you are Brutus that speak this,  
Or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.

BRUTUS

The name of Cassius honours this corruption,  
And chastisement doth therefore hide his head.

CASSIUS

Chastisement!

BRUTUS

Remember March, the ides of March remember:  
Did not great Julius bleed for justice' sake?  
What villain touch'd her body, that did stab,  
And not for justice? What, shall one of us  
That struck the foremost woman of this world  
But for supporting robbers, shall we now  
Contaminate our fingers with base bribes,  
And sell the mighty space of our large honours  
For so much trash as may be grasped thus?  
I had rather be a dog, and bay the moon,  
Than such a Roman.

CASSIUS

Brutus, bay not me;  
I'll not endure it: you forget yourself,  
To hedge me in;



I am a soldier, I,  
Older in practise, abler than yourself  
To make conditions.

BRUTUS

Go to; you are not, Cassius.

CASSIUS

I am.

BRUTUS

I say you are not.

CASSIUS

Urge me no more, I shall forget myself;  
Have mind upon your health, tempt me no further.

BRUTUS

Away, slight man!

CASSIUS

Is't possible?

BRUTUS

Hear me, for I will speak.  
Must I give way and room to your rash choler?  
Shall I be frighted when a madman stares?

CASSIUS

O ye gods, ye gods! must I endure all this?

## BRUTUS

All this! ay, more: fret till your proud heart break;  
Go show your slaves how choleric you are,  
And make your bondmen tremble. Must I budge?  
Must I observe you? must I stand and crouch  
Under your testy humour? By the gods  
You shall digest the venom of your spleen,  
Though it do split you; for, from this day forth,  
I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter,  
When you are waspish.

## CASSIUS

Is it come to this?

## BRUTUS

You say you are a better soldier:  
Let it appear so; make your vaunting true,  
And it shall please me well: for mine own part,  
I shall be glad to learn of noble men.

## CASSIUS

You wrong me every way; you wrong me, Brutus;  
I said, an elder soldier, not a better:  
Did I say 'better'?

## BRUTUS

If you did, I care not.

CASSIUS

When Caesar lived, she durst not thus have moved me.

BRUTUS

Peace, peace! you durst not so have tempted her.

CASSIUS

I durst not!

BRUTUS

No.

CASSIUS

What, durst not tempt her!

BRUTUS

For your life you durst not!

CASSIUS

Do not presume too much upon my love;  
I may do that I shall be sorry for.

BRUTUS

You have done that you should be sorry for.  
There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats,  
For I am arm'd so strong in honesty  
That they pass by me as the idle wind,  
Which I respect not.

I did send to you  
For certain sums of gold, which you denied me:  
For I can raise no money by vile means:  
Which you denied me: was that done like Cassius?  
Should I have answer'd Caius Cassius so?

CASSIUS

I denied you not.

BRUTUS

You did.

CASSIUS

I did not: he was but a fool that brought  
My answer back. Brutus hath rived my heart:  
A friend should bear his friend's infirmities,  
But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.

BRUTUS

I do not, till you practise them on me.

CASSIUS

You love me not.

BRUTUS

I do not like your faults.

CASSIUS exits, leaving BRUTUS alone again,  
on his phone. As he sits and begins to speak,  
CAESAR and a crowd of women emerge.

BRUTUS

Let me see, let me see; is not the leaf turn'd down  
Where I left reading? Here it is, I think.  
How ill this taper burns! Ha! who comes here?  
I think it is the weakness of mine eyes  
That shapes this monstrous apparition.  
It comes upon me. Art thou any thing?  
Art thou some god, some angel, or some devil,  
That makest my blood cold and my hair to stare?  
Speak to me what thou art.

CAESAR

Thy evil spirit, Brutus.

BRUTUS

Why comest thou?

CAESAR

To tell thee thou shalt see me at Philippi.

BRUTUS

Well; then I shall see thee again?

CAESAR

Ay, at Phillippi.

BRUTUS remains for a minute, still on his  
phone. Lights out.

## SCENE FOUR

On at rise are all cast members except Brutus, driven away, and Cassius. Cast members will get signs (placed onstage, or just offstage). A few of these signs will be handed out by Caesar herself. Everyone plays a commoner except Antony, Lepidus, Octavius, and Caesar. On lines of Shakespearean dialogue, Caesar “activates” the actor as in the earlier transition. Projected: inspirational women, chosen by cast members.

## COMMONER

Do you not know I am a woman? when I think, I must speak. (As You Like It).

## LEPIDUS

“My America is strong, brave, and never steps down from a fight. I will continue my service to the capital, fighting for what is right, for what I believe this country needs to grow” (D’Andrea, 2017).

## COMMONER

But screw your courage to the sticking place,  
And we'll not fail. (Macbeth).

## COMMONER

“My America is one that expects the most of itself and those that lead it. Now is a time to strive for greatness, to be greatness without reaching for the biggest and brightest star, we cannot become one. It will take all of us, working together for each other” (Stofan, 2017).

## COMMONER

Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie,  
Which we ascribe to Heaven. (All's Well That Ends Well).

## COMMONER

“My America is one where people can truly get along. Not just grudgingly tolerate one another because the government said to. Everyone is treated equally, as human beings, regardless of what sub categories they may fall under” (Flanagan, 2017).

## COMMONER

Though she be little, she is fierce. (A Midsummer Night's Dream).

## MARK ANTONY

“My America is strong. Strong enough to withstand endless adversity. Strong enough to support the dreams, ambitions, and health of everyone inside its borders. Strong enough to forge prosperity out of sorrow, to give hope to millions of people who have lost it” (Stahl, 2017).

## COMMONER

Now go we in content  
To liberty, and not to banishment. (As You Like It).

CAESAR exits.

## OCTAVIUS CAESAR

“Longing can only take me so far though and I know that. That is why I am here. I want to fight for the rights that are true and fair.

Bitterness will not get the best of me, longing will be changed to action, and my knowledge and words will strengthen me in my fight to make my America everyone's America. I will not stand idly by being silent and merely swaying in the background. So come at me with all you have. I dare you" (Shannon, 2017).

## SCENE FIVE - SENATE EXTERIOR

Moves directly from the previous scene.

### OCTAVIUS

Now, Antony, our hopes are answered:  
 You said the enemy would not come down,  
 But keep the hills and upper regions;  
 It proves not so: their battles are at hand;  
 They mean to warn us at Philippi here,  
 Answering before we do demand of them.

### ANTONY

Tut, I am in their bosoms, and I know  
 Wherefore they do it: they could be content  
 To visit other places; and come down  
 With fearful bravery, thinking by this face  
 To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage;  
 But 'tis not so.

### LEPIDUS

Prepare you, generals:  
 The enemy comes on in gallant show;



Their bloody sign of battle is hung out,  
And something to be done immediately.

BRUTUS

They stand, and would have parley.

OCTAVIUS

Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?

ANTONY

No, Caesar, we will answer on their charge.  
Make forth; the generals would have some words.

BRUTUS

Words before blows: is it so, countrymen?

OCTAVIUS

Not that we love words better, as you do.

BRUTUS

Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.

ANTONY

In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words:  
Witness the hole you made in Caesar's heart,  
Crying 'Long live! hail, Caesar!'

OCTAVIUS

Come, come, the cause: if arguing make us sweat,  
The proof of it will turn to redder drops. Look;  
I draw a sword against conspirators;

When think you that the sword goes up again?  
 Never, till Caesar's three and thirty wounds  
 Be well avenged; or till another Caesar  
 Have added slaughter to the sword of traitors.

BRUTUS

Caesar, thou canst not die by traitors' hands,  
 Unless thou bring'st them with thee.

OCTAVIUS

So I hope;  
 I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.  
 Defiance, traitors, hurl we in your teeth:  
 If you dare fight to-day, come to the field;  
 If not, when you have stomachs.

On the projection screen, all 21 current female  
 Senators. First commoner flips sign, which says  
 “Out of 100 seats, only 21 seats in the U.S.  
 Senate are filled by women.”

COMMONER

I have no other but a woman's reason. (Two Gentlemen of Verona).

On the projection screen, pictures of Mazie  
 Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Kamala Harris, and  
 Catherine Cortez Masto. A sign that says “There  
 are four women of color in the Senate.”

COMMONER

Frailty, thy name is woman! (Hamlet).

On the projection screen, pictures of female representatives in government now, next to all of the men. A sign flipped that says “SUPPORT EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT”

COMMONER

O most pernicious woman!

O villain, villain, smiling, damnèd villain! (Hamlet).

On the projection screen, all of the women next to all of the men. A sign flipped that says “GET INVOLVED.” Other cast members carry cards that have printed on them groups that support equality in government-- sheshouldrun.org, Emily’s List, etc.

COMMONER

Think you I am no stronger than my sex.

BRUTUS

(slowly removing the America pin  
from his lapel)

Caesar, now be still:

I kill'd not thee with half so good a will.

Exit Brutus, slowly.

Lights down. CAESAR emerges, and returns to her podium.

CAESAR

“This loss hurts, but please never stop believing that fighting for what's right is worth it. It is, it is worth it. We need you to keep up these fights now and for the rest of your lives. And to all the women, and especially the young women, who put their faith in this campaign and in me: I want you to know that nothing has made me prouder than to be your champion. Now, I know we have still not shattered that highest and hardest glass ceiling, but someday someone will — and hopefully sooner than we might think right now. Our best days are still ahead of us. Because, you know, I believe we are stronger together and we will go forward together. And you should never, ever regret fighting for that” (Clinton, 2016).

END PLAY