

Antony and Cleopatra

4.4

Enter Antony and Cleopatra, with Charmian and others

ANTONY *(calling)*

Eros, mine armour, Eros!

CLEOPATRA Sleep a little.

ANTONY

No, my chuck. Eros, come, mine armour, Eros!

Enter Eros with armour

Come, good fellow, put thine iron on.

If fortune be not ours today, it is

Because we brave her. Come.

CLEOPATRA Nay, I'll help, too.

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What's this for?

ANTONY Ah, let be, let be! Thou art

The armourer of my heart. False, false! This, this!

CLEOPATRA

Sooth, la, I'll help. Thus it must be.

She helps Antony to arm

ANTONY

Well, well,

We shall thrive now. Seest thou, my good fellow?

Go put on thy defences.

EROS Briefly, sir.

10

CLEOPATRA

Is not this buckled well?

ANTONY

Rarely, rarely.

He that unbuckles this, till we do please

To doff't for our repose, shall hear a storm.

Thou fumblest, Eros, and my queen's a squire

More tight at this than thou. Dispatch. O love,

15

That thou couldst see my wars today, and knew'st

The royal occupation! Thou shouldst see

A workman in't.

Enter an armed Soldier

Good morrow to thee. Welcome.

Thou look'st like him that knows a warlike charge.

To business that we love we rise betime,

20

And go to't with delight.

SOLDIER A thousand, sir,
Early though't be, have on their riveted trim,
And at the port expect you.
*Shout within. Trumpets flourish. Enter [Captains]
and Soldiers*

CAPTAIN
The morn is fair. Good morrow, General.

SOLDIERS
Good morrow, General.

ANTONY 'Tis well blown, lads. 25
This morning, like the spirit of a youth
That means to be of note, begins betimes.
So, so. Come, give me that. This way. Well said.
Fare thee well, dame. Whate'er becomes of me,
This is a soldier's kiss.
He kisses Cleopatra

Rebukable

30

And worthy shameful check it were to stand
On more mechanic compliment. I'll leave thee
Now like a man of steel. You that will fight,
Follow me close. I'll bring you to't. Adieu.
Exeunt all but Cleopatra and Charmian

CHARMIAN
Please you retire to your chamber?

CLEOPATRA Lead me. 35
He goes forth gallantly. That he and Caesar might
Determine this great war in single fight!
Then, Antony±±but now! Well, on.
Exeunt