GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!

By Craig Sodaro

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PUBLISHED BY

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Poor Juno! Jupiter, king of the gods, has been ignoring his wife lately. But leave it to Julius Caesar to come up with a plan to get their marriage back on track - make Jupiter jealous. Unfortunately, when Jupiter finds out that Caesar has been playing marriage counselor, the king of the gods punishes Caesar by sending him back to earth in human form to find out what true love is all about. Caesar's job is simple - make sure Diana Flinchart, a sophomore at Rome College, is happy.

But this is a tall order! Diana is pledging Chi Chi Nu Sorority, headed by the campus goddess, Lisa Lennox, who is going with Dexter, the "Big Man on Campus." Diana's father, the dean of the college, wants her to be happy and equates happiness with lots of friends - particularly Dexter. Imagine how happy Dean Flinchart is when Dexter asks Diana to the spring formal.

Of course, sparks fly when Lisa finds out and when Caesar learns Dexter's real motives for asking Diana out. The web of love becomes so tangled Cupid and Minerva together can't help Caesar untie the knots. Even Cleopatra is reduced to human form once again to help Diana and save Caesar from a second lifetime. A magical comedy about myths, youth, and love.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10 m, 12 w, 5 flexible - doubling possible.)

THE IMMORTALS:

JUPITER: King of the gods.
MINERVA: Goddess of wisdom.
JUNO: Queen of the gods.
JULIUS CAESAR: Dead Roman emperor.
CUPID: God of love.

THE MORTALS:

LISA LENNOX: Leader of Chi Chi Nu Sorority.
VINCENT: An art major.
DEXTER: Lisa's boyfriend.
ALEX: Dexter's friend.
GREG: Another friend.
DEAN FLINCHART: Dean of Rome College.
DIANA FLINCHART: His daughter, a sophomore pledge of Chi Chi Nu.
JENNY: A pledge.
BREANNE: Another pledge.
MARNIE: An active member of Chi Chi Nu.
HILLARY: Another.
DAPHNE: Another.
DOTTIE: Another.
ANNETTE: Another.
TELEPHONE REPAIRMAN
TV REPAIRMAN
COMPUTER REPAIRMAN
WASHING MACHINE REPAIRMAN
CLEOPATRA: Queen of the Nile.
BRUNO: Thug #1.
BORIS: Thug #2.
BART: Campus security officer.

SETTING

THE HEAVENS: Played before the curtain. A few clouds here and there with perhaps a white pillar or two to remind us of ancient times.

THE CHI CHI NU SORORITY HOUSE: The living area, with a door or hallway USL leading to the outside. Wing entrance DSL leads to bedrooms. Wing entrance DSR leads to kitchen and dining areas along with a back door. Windows and fireplace USC give the room a homey atmosphere. Chi Chi Nu flag hangs above the mantel. Couch extends out from fireplace with coffee table between. Screen stands USR in corner. Desk with telephone sits DSR. Television sits facing UPS on floor DSL.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

ACT I
Scene 1: The heavens, the present.
Scene 2: Chi Chi Nu Sorority House, immediately after.
Scene 3: Chi Chi Nu Sorority House, the following evening.

ACT II
Scene 1: The heavens, a short time later.
Scene 2: Chi Chi Nu Sorority House, two days later.
Scene 3: Chi Chi Nu Sorority House, that night.
Scene 4: Chi Chi Nu Sorority House, the following night.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Jupiter's palace, somewhere in the heavens [before the curtain]. JUPITER paces angrily SL. MINERVA enters SR.)

JUPITER: *(To HIMSELF.)* How COULD she?! After all these millennia!
MINERVA: So, like whatdaya want, Jupie, baby?
JUPITER: Minerva! You've got to help me!
MINERVA: Not again! All I ever do is help you out of tough spots. I'm sick of it!
JUPITER: But you're the Goddess of Wisdom.
MINERVA: Yeah, so?
JUPITER: How do I find out who's been sending thunderbolts to Juno!
MINERVA: Oh ... so there's been a bit of hanky-panky goin' on, huh?
JUPITER: I'll kill whoever it is!
MINERVA: Oh, duh! We're immortal around here, Jupie!
JUPITER: All right, then, I'll send whoever it is into Pluto's underworld to writhe in pain and isolation forever and ever!
MINERVA: Now that sounds more like it! You got one of them thunderbolts?
JUPITER: Right here ... *(HE hands MINERVA a golden, glittery thunderbolt. She examines it.)*
MINERVA: Ah ha ... uh oh ... ah ha! Just as I thought.
JUPITER: What? What?
MINERVA: It's a thunderbolt.
JUPITER: I KNOW that! And unless you start acting more like the Goddess of Wisdom, I'll demote you to Goddess of Animals with more than four legs!
MINERVA: Don't get your laurel leaf lopsided, Jupie. It's a left-handed thunderbolt.
JUPITER: A southpaw?
MINERVA: Yeah...and this little message here ... "Love always" ... is written in Latin, you know, that dead language?

JUPITER: Most appropriate for the perpetrator!
MINERVA: One more thing ... "always" is spelled wrong.
JUPITER: A lefty who speaks Latin, but can't spell. Who could that be?
MINERVA: Yeesh! You want me to spell it out?!
JUPITER: I don't have time for Scrabble, Minerva.
MINERVA: Look, I'm the Goddess of Wisdom, not the head squealer around here. Tail Juno and you'll find out who's been sending her this stuff.
JUPITER: Tail Juno? How can I do that?
MINERVA: Am I the only one around here with a brain? Hide behind a cloud, for cryin' out loud! Now, I gotta split. I'm bowling with Mars tonight and you know how hot under the collar he gets when he's kept waiting! He'll probably start a war or something if I'm late! *(SHE exits SR.)*
JUPITER: Hide behind a cloud? Where am I supposed to get a cloud?! *(JUPITER exits SL as JUNO enters SR.)*
JUNO: Psssst! The coast is clear! *(CAESAR enters sheepishly from SR.)*
CAESAR: Art thou certain, Juno?
JUNO: Do you see anybody here?
CAESAR: Nay, but pray my heart beats wildly.
JUNO: And so what if he does find you, Julius? It's not like he can kill you or anything.
CAESAR: Once was enough for me.
JUNO: You did get poked, didn't you?
CAESAR: Et tu, Brute?
JUNO: I always loved those last words. So ... short.
CAESAR: I was just about out of breath ... and blood.
JUNO: Well, I really do want to thank you for helping me out.

(JUPITER, behind a "cloud," enters SL.)

CAESAR: Your most menial wish is my command, Your Goddess-ship.
JUNO: Just call me Juno. After all, you've been sending me thunderbolts for a century now.
CAESAR: Art thou certain he has taken notice?

End of Freeview

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