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ROME: EPONA'S STORY

ROME explores a day in the life of Epona, a young Roman girl growing up on a soldier settlement farm in Florencia. It is 46BCE & Julius Caesar rules Rome.

Epona speaks as she milks the family donkey Asina; she speaks of her brother Marcus, a praetorian guard under Caesar, her dead sisters Fortunata Minor & Juno & the dead twins that she had nicknamed Romee & Remeo after the mythical founders of Rome; Romulus & Remus.

Epona speaks of their rich & newly deceased neighbour Trimalchio & their slave Marcipor, a highly educated Greek philosopher now forced to plough her father's fields.

She speaks of her mother, the imperious Fortunata with ideas above her station, & her father Marcus: "I was a centurion you know", who had served under Pompey the Great: "The greatest Roman ever you know!"

Epona is 13 & bound in marriage to Trimalchio's son & heir Quintus, who is 28.

Epona dreams as she fulfils her daily chores. She dreams of being a queen like Cleopatra or a Goddess like Artemis; free from the Earthly restrictions of her sex in an unfair world: a world where her baby sister was cast, nameless, to die in the wilderness for being born a girl in a poor family:

"I called her Juno, because even though nobody wanted her in this life, I know that Juno is loving her in the next".

Major themes of the play:

- **Women:** The status & treatment of women and girls.
- **Daily life of Romans & slaves:** Everyday life of farmers, townsfolk & slaves.
- **Towns:** Soldier settlement & the formation of small towns.
- **The Bathhouse & Triclinium:** Features of a Roman town & a Roman house.
- **Religion & Deities:** Worship, prayer & ritual regarding Gods & Goddesses.
- **Rituals:** Birth, marriage & death.
- **Significant individuals:** Julius Caesar, Cleopatra & Pompey.
- **The Legion:** Rank, tactics & warfare.
- **Medicine:** Doctors, quacks, cures & beliefs.
- **The original Mediterranean Diet:** Fancy feasts & everyday peasant food.

Suitable: Years 7- 12. Duration 55 Minutes + Question Time (Optional)

Cost: \$6.60 per student (\$6 + .60c GST)

Teacher Notes Provided

Minimum Cost (100 students or less): \$660 (\$600 + \$60 GST).

