

Thomasina:

Is it Cleopatra? — I hate Cleopatra! Everything is tuned to love with her. New love, absent love, lost love — I never knew a heroine that makes such noodles of our sex. It only needs a Roman general to drop anchor outside the window and away goes the empire like a christening mug into a pawn shop. If Queen Elizabeth had been a Ptolemy history would have been quite different - we would be admiring the pyramids of Rome and the great Sphinx of Verona. But instead, the Egyptian noodle made carnal embrace with the enemy who burned the great library of Alexandria without so much as a fine for all that is overdue. Oh, Septimus! —can you bear it? All the lost plays of the Athenians! Two hundred at least by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Eurpides — thousands of poems — Aristotle's own library brought to Egypt by the noodle's ancestors! How can we sleep for grief?