

073 ADRIAN
Oui, Governor.

074 CLAUDE
Mother, see you at dinner. It has
been quite lonely without you.

DRAMATIC ITALIAN TRECENTO MUSIC.

10 INT. PALASTRELLI ESTATE - ROCCO'S CHAMBER - DAY

A GENTLY KNOCK ON A WOODEN DOOR. A SLOW CREAK AS
THE DOOR OPENS.

Side 1
START >>>

075 **GOTHARD**
(low)
Rocco?

076 ROCH
(weak)
Gothard, please enter.

DOG BARKS TWICE.

077 **GOTHARD**
Amico has been at the foot of your
bed for months now.

078 ROCH
He's a faithful companion.

079 **GOTHARD**
Yes. Very loyal. And I think he
likes his new name. Don't you,
Amico?

DOG BARKS ONCE.

080 ROCH
It's very kind, Gothard, but you
didn't have to change his name for
me.

081 **GOTHARD**
It was necessary. I believe Amico
was sent by God to find you in the
wilderness. Otherwise, you would
have died alone in that hut.

082 ROCH
And when he licked my wounds, he
miraculously healed me of the
pestilence.

083 **GOTHARD**

A miracle, indeed. The servants assigned to your care say you're making slow, but steady progress.

084 **ROCH**

Your staff has been most helpful.

085 **GOTHARD**

They did bring something to my attention about you. They were discussing the unusual bright red birthmark on your chest - in the shape of the cross of our Lord.

086 **ROCH**

Yes. My Grandmère believes it was a sign from God, after my parents prayed to have a child.

087 **GOTHARD**

It's the symbol of the Crusaders. Which leads me to believe that you have more to do on this earth. That God saved you, Rocco, for a reason.

088 **ROCH**

I've been searching my whole life for God's purpose for me. I was given the gift of healing, but I wasn't able to heal my parents or myself.

089 **GOTHARD**

Maybe your purpose isn't to be a pilgrim but return to your home. You told me of your uncle back in France.

090 **ROCH**

Yes, Uncle Claude. He's the one who made me see that my selfish actions claimed the lives of my parents.

091 **GOTHARD**

And you gave all of your power to him?

092 **ROCH**

He offered to take it.

093 **GOTHARD**

Exactly. I don't know your uncle, but what if that was his plan all along. To take the governorship from you.

094 ROCH

My Grandmère did warn me about my uncle. But I don't believe he would be that evil.

095 **GOTHARD**

Power makes people do unscrupulous things. Not everyone is as loyal as a dog.

096 ROCH

If they were, the world would be a much better place. Isn't that right, Amico?

THE DOG BARKS.

097 **GOTHARD**

Well, you don't have to make any decisions today. You may stay and convalesce at my estate as long as you need.

<<< END

098 ROCH

Grazie, Gothard. But I'm sure my Grandmère's wondering what has become of me.

TRANQUIL ITALIAN TRECENTO MUSIC.

11 EXT. MONTPELLIER MANOR - GARDEN - DAY

WARBLERS AND STARLINGS SING.

Cateline sits peacefully in the garden, as Adrian enters.

099 ADRIAN

Madame? I don't want to disturb you. It's almost time for you to dine with Monsieur Claude.

100 CATELINE

Yet another meal in complete silence. Thank you for telling me.
(a beat, then...)
Adrian, do you think he's dead?