

017 TARCISIUS
I'm here. Let's go!

018 LIVIA
(calling out)
Tarcisus has dates and berries in case you boys get hungry later. Be back by early evening. The streets of Rome aren't as safe as they once were. Tarcisus -- are you listening to me?

019 TARCISIUS
I am. And nobody knows these streets better than me! Bye, Mamma.

020 CATO
(mouthful of bread)
Bye 'Arcisius's 'amma.

021 LIVIA
Don't get into trouble!

Livia's gone.

022 CORNELIUS
What are we going to do today, Tarcisus?

Side 1
START >>>

023 **TARCISIUS**
Let's play some three-by-three on one of the game boards by the amphitheater, and then see if anyone's hanging by the fountain for a game of ball. All of Rome is our playground! Adventure awaits.

Cato lags behind.

024 CATO
(mouth still full)
'Ate up fer me!

025 CORNELIUS
All right, Tarcisus. You won at three-by-three, you got to captain our team in the ball game... but I'm gonna win at knucklebones!

026 CATO
(laughs)
Yeah, right! Nobody beats the king
of knucklebones.

027 TARCISIUS
The king of knucklebones was my
brother.

028 CORNELIUS
Well, when I beat you, then I'll be
the new king.

029 CATO
Hey, you said you were gonna show
us that trick you learned from your
brother!

030 TARCISIUS
It's not really a trick. More like
a strategy.

031 CORNELIUS
(feigning indifference)
Oh yeah?

032 TARCISIUS
So, for knucklebones you have to
pick a stone to throw in the air,
right? And then you pick up as many
of the stones on the ground as you
can before catching the throwing
stone in your other hand.

033 CORNELIUS
(feigning boredom)
We know the rules, Tarcisius.

SFX: TARCISIUS PICKS UP TWO STONES.

034 TARCISIUS
Which of these stones would you
pick to throw: the lighter one, or
the heavier one?

035 CATO
(eager)
The lighter one!

036 CORNELIUS
(bored)
Because you can throw it higher.

037 TARCISIUS
Here, Cato, you take the lighter
stone.

038 CORNELIUS
Hey, I challenged you first!

039 TARCISIUS
This is just for practice. Let's
toss our stones and see how many
knucklebones we can each pick up
from our own pile.

040 CATO
Okay!

041 CORNELIUS
(grumpy)
Fine, I'll judge. One, two...

042 TARCISIUS, CATO, CORNELIUS
Three!

TARCISIUS AND CATO EACH TOSS THEIR STONES, THEN
FRANTICALLY PICK UP KNUCKLEBONES.

043 CORNELIUS
Cato's stone definitely went
higher...

TARCISIUS CATCHES HIS STONE. A SECOND LATER,
CATO MISSES, HIS STONE DROPPING TO THE GROUND.

044 CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
But he dropped his stone, as usual.

045 CATO
Aw, man! I picked up one more
knucklebone than you, Tarcisius.

046 TARCISIUS
But you didn't catch your stone.

047 CATO
My stone drifted!

048 TARCISIUS
And that's the trick.
(lowers his voice)
Pick a heavier stone to toss in the
air. You can control it better.

◀◀◀ END

049 CORNELIUS
Huh...