

Side 3
START >>>

051 OTHO

Hey, look who it is! Tarcisius the Great. Where are you going?

052 **TARCISIUS**

I don't have time to talk, Otho.

053 CORNELIUS

What about a game of knucklebones? I bet you couldn't beat me now.

WALLA: BOYS EGG TARCISIUS ON

054 **TARCISIUS**

I have somewhere I need to be.

Tarcisius tries to walk away, but Otho gets in his face.

055 OTHO

What are you, scared?

056 CORNELIUS

Nah, he just can't stand me being the king of knucklebones now.

057 **TARCISIUS**

(quietly, to his friend)

There's more to life than winning, Cornelius.

058 CORNELIUS

Ha! That's just something losers tell themselves.

059 **TARCISIUS**

Have you forgotten who taught you how to win in the first place?

WALLA: APPRECIATIVE "OOH" FROM THE BOYS

060 OTHO

So prove you can still win, then!

061 **TARCISIUS**

I told you, I don't have time.

062 CORNELIUS

Not even for one game? Where you gotta go that's so important, anyway?

063 **TARCISIUS**

I'm running an errand for Damascus.

064 OTHO

I bet you're going to those creepy catacombs. I heard Damascus got arrested there for being a Christian.

065 CORNELIUS

Is that true, Tarcisius? Is your family... Christian now?

066 **TARCISIUS**

Damascus isn't in prison.

067 OTHO

But he's still one of those creepy cannibals, eating the flesh and blood of his god.

068 **TARCISIUS**

It isn't cannibalism! Don't speak about what you don't know!

069 CORNELIUS

(horrified)

It is true...

070 **TARCISIUS**

Cornelius, it's not what you think.

071 OTHO

No, it's definitely worse.

072 **TARCISIUS**

Never mind. You wouldn't understand. I have to go.

<<< END

Tarcisius hurries off.

073 OTHO

(calling after him)

Run away, you flesh-eating Christian! We'll be watching you!

SFX: DRAMATIC LYRE MUSIC TRANSITIONS TO:

7 **INT. CATACOMBS - DAY**

SFX: WATER DRIPS. VOICES ECHO.

Bishop Stephen meets with Tarcisius.