

SFX: TARCISIUS HURRIES UP, FOOTSTEPS GETTING FASTER. OTHO AND THE BOYS' FOOTSTEPS PURSUE.

082 OTHO (CONT'D)

We saw you come out of the catacombs. Where are you going now?

Tarcisius doesn't speak, just keeps hurrying along.

Side 2

START >>>

083 CORNELIUS

What, you're not even going to answer us? Do you think you're too good for us?

084 OTHO

What are you carrying?

Tarcisius doesn't respond.

085 CORNELIUS

Come on, Tarcisius, we know you're carrying something!

086 OTHO

We can see you clutching it close to your chest.

087 CORNELIUS

Let us see!

Cato hurries up, slightly winded.

088 CATO

Leave him alone, Cornelius! He's on an important errand.

089 CORNELIUS

Oh, so you're in on this, too? What's he carrying, Cato?

090 CATO

I don't know! Damascus just said he needs to deliver it right away.

Otho grabs Cato and shakes him.

091 OTHO

Tell us what it is, you little rat!

092 CATO

I d-don't know! It's a mystery!

093 TARCISIUS

Hey! Leave Cato alone!

094 CORNELIUS

So you'll defend Cato, but you
won't even talk to me?

095 OTHO

Let's find out what it is. Take it
from him, boys.

WALLA: BOYS CLAMOR, GRABBING FOR TARCISIUS'S
ROBE.

096 TARCISIUS

No - get off! I can't throw pearls
to pigs!

097 OTHO

Pearls? Are you carrying pearls?!

098 CORNELIUS

Did you just call us pigs?!

WALLA: BOYS CONTINUE TO CLAMOR, GRABBING FOR
TARCISIUS.

099 CATO

Stop! Let him go!

100 CORNELIUS

No wonder you refuse to play
knucklebones with us, if you think
we're all swine!

101 OTHO

Yeah, you think you're too good for
knucklebones? Here's a knucklebone
for you!

SFX: OTHO PICKS UP A SMALL STONE AND THROWS IT
AT TARCISIUS, HITTING HIM ON THE SHOULDER.

WALLA: BOYS BREAK INTO NASTY LAUGHTER

102 BOY 1

Yeah, I've got another knucklebone
for you!

103 BOY 2

And here's another!

WALLA: BOYS BEGIN PICKING UP STONES AND THROWING
THEM AT TARCISIUS, SHOUTING:

104 OTHO

Show us the pearl!

105 BOY 1
Give it up, Christian!

106 BOY 2
We want to see!

107 CATO
(frantic)
Stop it! Let him go!

108 OTHO
Go away, rat!

SFX: OTHO PUSHES CATO TO THE GROUND.

109 CORNELIUS
Otho, what are you doing? Stop!

110 OTHO
Out of the way, Cornelius. Get
Tarcisius, boys!

SFX: THE BOYS HOOP AND HOLLER AS THEY GATHER
AROUND TARCISIUS, THROWING STONES. TARCISIUS
GRUNTS AND DROPS TO THE GROUND, SURROUNDED BY
THE MOB OF BOYS.

111 CORNELIUS
(over their laughing)
Stop it! He's already down! Leave
him alone!

Cato runs off, hollering:

112 CATO
Help! Somebody help!

113 CORNELIUS
Stop, get away from him - you're
going to crush him!

◀◀ END

SFX: THE CLAMORING OF THE BOYS WARPS, BEGINNING
TO FADE OUT AS WE MOVE TO TARCISIUS' POV. HE'S
IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIRCLE OF BOYS WHO ARE
KICKING, PUSHING, THROWING STONES.

ALL THE SOUNDS BEGIN TO WAVER. THEN: THE SOUND
OF A HEARTBEAT, GETTING LOUDER. STUTTERING.

114 TARCISIUS
Jesus, I love you...

SFX: THE HEARTBEAT STOPS.