

031 CATO

Wait! Aren't we going to play
Knucklebones?

032 TARCISIUS

(calling back)

We will! Tomorrow! I promise!

Tarcisius is gone.

033 CORNELIUS

Look at him run... It's like he saw
a ghost.

SFX: RAPID LYRE MUSIC SLOWS AND ENDS.

8 INT. TARCISIUS'S HOME - DAY

Tarcisius and Livia dine.

SFX: CERAMIC POTTERY CLATTERS ON A WOODEN TABLE.

Side 1

START >>>

034 LIVIA

(trying to hide tension)

Your brother must be out with his
sweetheart again. That's every
night this week.

(a beat)

And now you have this far-away look
in your eye. You haven't touched
your food. What's wrong with you,
Tarcisius?

035 TARCISIUS

Nothing, Mamma...

036 LIVIA

You've been so quiet since you
rushed in here earlier. Are you
ill?

037 TARCISIUS

No. Just not hungry.

038 LIVIA

There's a lot of young people who
would be happy to have this meal.
Like your little orphaned friend,
Cato. That poor boy -- both of his
parents have gone missing...

Nothing.

039 LIVIA (CONT'D)
Are you listening to me?

040 TARCISIUS
What did you say, Mamma?

041 LIVIA
(sighs)
I know what you're worried about,
Tarcisius.

042 TARCISIUS
(shocked)
You do?

043 LIVIA
Yes. You see the Emperor's guards
dragging off people in the street.
Well, you don't have to worry about
that. As long as we don't do
anything against the laws.

<<< END

044 TARCISIUS
Yes, Mamma.

SFX: TENDER LYRE MUSIC UP FOR TRANSITION TO:

9 INT. TARCISIUS'S HOME - BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tarcisius lies in bed.

SFX: THE WOODEN DOOR TO THE ROOM SLOWLY OPENS
AND CLOSES AS DAMASCUS ENTERS, LIGHT-FOOTED.

A beat, then...

045 TARCISIUS
(whispering)
Damascus?

046 DAMASCUS
(whispering)
Go back to sleep.

047 TARCISIUS
I need to talk to you.

048 DAMASCUS
It's late, Tarcisius. We can talk
in the morning.

049 TARCISIUS
But you're always gone when I wake
up. I miss you being here.
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