

SFX: DAMASCUS HURRIES OFF.

064 TARCISIUS
Maybe I should become a courier...

065 CATO
Yeah, me too!

066 CORNELIUS
(mutters to Cato)
Copycat.
(normal voice)
Tarcisius, I thought you were going
to take over your family's food
stall.

067 TARCISIUS
I don't wanna bake bread forever.
Besides, ever since Damascus
started work as a courier, he's
been different. Like he's got
something now he didn't have
before. He's...brighter, somehow.

068 CATO
Brighter?

069 TARCISIUS
Yeah. Like when you add a log to a
fire. It's like he's...gained
something.

070 CORNELIUS
Fine. You both go off and be fire-
brained couriers like Damascus.
I'll stay here and be the king of
knucklebones. Maybe Otho will play
me, if you won't.

SFX: OTHO AND HIS FRIENDS APPROACH.

071 CATO
Hey, Otho!

072 OTHO
Hey, rat.

073 TARCISIUS
Don't call him that!

074 OTHO
What else do you call an orphan?

Side 1
START >>>

075 TARCISIUS
Cato is my friend.

076 OTHO
Yeah, well, you should be careful
who you choose as a friend. It's
bad enough who you've got as a
brother.

077 TARCISIUS
What about my brother?

078 OTHO
Oh, nothing. Just that I heard he's
been seen hanging around with
Christians.

079 TARCISIUS
You take that back! My family's not
Christian!

080 OTHO
You were, though, weren't you?
Wasn't your father a Christian,
before he went missing?

081 TARCISIUS
(teeth gritted)
We are not Christians.

082 CATO
Damascus was probably just making a
delivery to Christians! He's a
courier, you know? He'll deliver
anything to anybody!

083 CORNELIUS
(mutters to Cato)
You are not helping.

084 OTHO
Really? Do you think he'd even
deliver flesh and blood?

085 TARCISIUS
What are you talking about, Otho?

086 OTHO
Haven't you heard? The Christians
are cannibals. They eat the body
and blood of their god!

087 CATO
Ewww, gross!

088 TARCISIUS
That's not true. The Emperor
wouldn't allow cannibals.

089 OTHO
Of course he wouldn't. That's why
he's locking all the Christians up.

090 CORNELIUS
Go away, Otho. We were about to
play knucklebones.

091 OTHO
That's why I came. To challenge the
king of knucklebones.

092 TARCISIUS
I'm not playing you after that,
Otho.

093 OTHO
Not even for a silver coin?

◀◀◀ END

SFX: OTHO TAKES OUT A SILVER COIN AND FLIPS IT.

094 CATO
(gasps)
A whole silver coin?!

095 TARCISIUS
I'm playing Cornelius.

096 CORNELIUS
Finally!

097 CATO
I'll play you for the silver coin,
Otho!

098 OTHO
(laughs scathingly)
Yeah, right. You haven't got
anything to bet.

099 CATO
I've got a honey cake!

SFX: CATO PULLS A WRAPPED PACKAGE FROM HIS
POCKET.

100 OTHO
That's not worth a silver coin.