

When in Rome  
All Roads lead to Rome

BY  
Robert F Hughes

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Robert F Hughes  
Rob@robertfhughes.net  
818/281-7409

Annette Van Duren Agency  
annette@annettevandurenagency.net  
213-810-9965

FADE IN:

**EXT. THE ROMAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY**

Various shots of everyday Roman life play over the narration.

NARRATOR

In the mid second century Rome was at the height of it's power. The Roman army spread across Europe like a big iron thing that spreads out really far. A big car hood, perhaps. Rome's control reached as far north as England and Germany, to the east as far as the Euphrates river, south to Egypt and as far west as about two or three miles off shore. The Roman army, as a hole was a formidable, well disciplined machine.

DISSOLVE TO:

**EXT. GERMANIC FOREST, WINTER - DAY**

The Roman army stands rigid, at the ready as a cold snow blows down on them. Across a small plain, at the edge of the forest stands a huge army of Germanic tribesmen lead by the infamous King Hermann. The war delegation from both opposing armies walk to the center of the field to meet.

NARRATOR

But things weren't always so. During Germanic Punic wars, General Publius Belacosuious Scaurus Germanicus and his trusty sidekick Centurian Marcus Caninus Agrippa had come to a stalemate. The Germanic leader Hermann the German's cunning plan to stop the Romans at Germania was working. The generals agreed to one last war parlay before, what was to be the final battle.

King Hermann and his brother Hermann come face to face with Centurian Caninus and the Roman General Belacosious.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

The Roman General Publius Belacosuious Scaurus Germanicus, leader of the Germanic Punic Roman army, ruler of the eastern province of Germania and conqueror of the mud people of Vespasia will now speak to you in terms of war, King Herman. Please understand that this is the final Parley we will entreat.

(CONTINUED)

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HERMAN

Get on with it, you great fairy.

BELACOSUIOUS

Well met my savage friend. But your levity is unfounded. The success you have achieved thus far has been but an illusion.

HERMAN

What the Hades are you talking about? We've been kicking your golden ass since last harvest.

BELACOSUIOUS

Granted, but we are on the verge of revealing a new weapon that will turn the tide of this battle and reduce your army to ashes.

HERMAN

Really?

BELACOSUIOUS

Oh, your destruction is quite assured.

HERMAN

Is it?

BELACOSUIOUS

Very much so.

HERMAN

What is this great and boastful weapon?

BELACOSUIOUS

I can't tell you. It's a military secret.

HERMAN

Is it that new Balista I've heard so much about? Because those are really only effective on fortresses and we don't have...

BELACOSUIOUS

No.

HERMAN

No? Hum... Not those lead weights you've been putting on the javelins.

BELACOSUIOUS

Better than that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERMAAN

Better than the lead weights?..  
 (Disappointedly realizing) Oh, Gods not  
 those short stabby swords?

BELACOSUIOUS

Uha, could be.

HERMAAN

Those aren't new. You guys have been  
 using those for years.

BELACOSUIOUS

Well technically...

HERMAN

Cripes, how you foppish Romans go on  
 about your gods damned short sword.  
 You'd think you were the best people in  
 the world.

BELACOSUIOUS

Well, technically we do occupy most of  
 the known world.

HERMAN

Finland!

BELACOSUIOUS

What?

HERMAN

Finland! You don't occupy Finland.

BELACOSUIOUS

Yes we do.

HERMAN

No you don't. I looked it up.

BELACOSUIOUS

Look, can we get back to the parley here.

HERMAN

Some Parley. You drag me out to the  
 middle of this very cold field to brag  
 about your short sword and lie to me  
 about Finland.

BELACOSUIOUS

Well that is just an opening. We have to  
 start somewhere, don't we? We can't just  
 start negotiating without the opening  
 threat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERMAN  
negotiating?

BELACOSUIOUS  
Yes, I say my terms and you counter with yours, and eventually we come to an understanding that is mutually beneficial. Negotiating.

HERMAN  
OK then, what are your terms.

BELACOSUIOUS  
Give up now and allow us to enslave your entire race.

HERMAN  
Fair enough, and here are my terms.

Herman raises his bow and shoots Centurion Caninus in the neck at point blank range. The Centurion falls back out of the scene. The German army cheer and start banging their shields with their weapons.

BELACOSUIOUS  
Ah, yes. I see your point but, your negotiating skills need a little fine tuning. You seem to have jumped ahead somewhat.

Centurion Caninus stands back up with the arrow still sticking out of his neck. He draws his sword and cuts off King Hermann's brother's head and with a quick back stroke he severs the king's arm which falls into the mud at his feet.

BELACOSUIOUS (CONT'D)  
Now I think you can see the problem with your Negotiation. If your demand is too unreasonable it is likely to be met with a counter demand equally unreasonable.

HERMAN  
You make your point quite well. My compliments Centurian.

Hermann collapse. The Roman Army lets out a huge cheer.

BELACOSUIOUS  
Thank you. And now, Centurian since the negotiations seem to be at an end we should return to our lines.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Centurian signals a group of flagman on an outlying hill who displays large red flags. The entire Roman front line advances as one, slowly marching toward the German line. Their line is well ordered and strait. The Germans, in turn beat their shield and shout. Their army is barbaric and undisciplined. Eventually the entire German line runs full on toward the Roman line. The Germans break on the Roman shields like waves on a rocky cliff. They are dispatched by the Romans who continue to advance. Belacosuious and Centurian Caninus now stand next to the flagmen on the hill.

BELACOSUIOUS (CONT'D)

You see Centurian, that short, stabby sword is a real ass-kicker. I know it's not exactly new but these barbarians continue to be surprised by it.

SENATOR CRASSUS

Your permission to join the fight sir?

BELACOSUIOUS

Oh, by all means, have a ball. When you're done you might want to pop by the medical tent and have that looked at.

Belacosuious makes a general gesture to the arrow still sticking out of Centurian's neck. Centurian Canis salutes and marches off. (The Roman salute is from the chest with sword in hand.)

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. BELACOSUIOUS' FARM - NIGHT**

A somewhat older Belacosuious lounges on a couch and continues telling his story to his visiting friend Senator Crassus and his nephews; Gaius Custos Morum and Quintus Cyanthus Vinosusis. Centurian Caninus, like a faithful watchdog, stands near.

BELACOSUIOUS

(Telling the story of the battle.)

...And so we fought. But, what Herman failed to realize that day was that while the Roman sword, itself, wasn't exactly new, the five legions that arrived that morning carrying them were.

VINOSUSIS

So you won the day?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR CRASSUS

Why of course he did, my boy. Your uncle's punitive victory over King Herman is well documented. It secured the outlying Germanic province from further uprisings for at least six months.

BELACOSUIOUS

True. We pretty much killed everyone over the age of ten. That sure slowed them down. Still, even with our decisive victory the day had a dark cloud over it.

SENATOR CRASSUS

True. It was the day the Legion's eagle Standards were stolen.

BELACOSUIOUS

The very symbol of Rome's strength, nicked while we were preoccupied with our genocide.

SENATOR CRASSUS

The eagles remain missing, to this day.

BELACOSUIOUS

We tried to question the German captives but, alas, they were all too dead to give us any decent information.

CUSTOS

(to Vinosusis)

Those eagles must be worth a butt load of denarii.

BELACOSUIOUS

Where you keep your money is your business, but The eagles true value is largely ceremonial. It serves as a good luck symbol to the legions. But rest assured, the person who recovers them would never have to worry about money.

CUSTOS

You hear that vin?

VINOSUSIS

Let me guess, you think you have a chance to recover the missing eagles?

CUSTOS

Not me, us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VINOSUSIS

You're loopy, you know?

SENATOR CRASSUS

Oh, foolish boy, a young man's efforts shouldn't be devoted to treasure hunting. They should focus on their future, On education!

BELACOSUIOUS

Indeed, my old friend. Which brings me to the reason I've invited you here tonight. My nephews have been stuck here on my farm for quite some time. In that time they have been taught letters by my Greek slave Carbo and the fine art of war from Caninus here. But, alas, there isn't much more that they can learn isolated here in Velletri. What they need is to go to Rome and make their own way.

SENATOR CRASSUS

But they would need a patron. Two young men in the big city would never make it, no matter how much Caninus has taught them.

BELACOSUIOUS

Quite so, that is why I was hoping that you would sponsor them.

Crassus reacts by sucking in an olive and getting it caught in his wind pipe. He begins to choke.

SENATOR CRASSUS

(Choking sounds) aak. Geef! clack!

BELACOSUIOUS

Oh, come on. They're not that bad. You have a big house they could sleep round the back in that shed.

CUSTOS

No uncle, I think he's giving his answer in some sort of code.

Crassius begins to wave his arms around and point to his throat.

BELACOSUIOUS

Charades? Oh, fantastic! I'll go first. Sounds like, waving arms. Arms? Harm? Charm?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

CUSTOS

Wave? Behave? No, that's not it. Throat.  
Boat? Coat? Finger. Point.

BELACOSUIOUS

Pointing. You're pointing at something.

CUSTOS

Sounds like point? Joint?

BELACOSUIOUS

Poke? Yes? Poke? Sounds like poke.

CUSTOS

Smoke?

BELACOSUIOUS

Rope?

Vinosus casually walks over to the senator and slaps him hard on the back. Crassus spits out the olive.

VINOSUSIS

I believe the word you were looking for was "choke". "Choke". Well I'm sorry you didn't get it but we have some lovely parting gifts for you. Charlie, tell them what they've won.

Crassus recovers and looks at Vinosusis.

SENATOR CRASSUS

My boy, you just saved my life.

VINOSUSIS

You see, this is the reason we shouldn't eat while laying down. That and it's tough on the upholstery.

Vinosus casually walks back to his couch and lays down.

CUSTOS

Hey good job cuz!

SENATOR CRASSUS

How can I repay you for saving me? I guess I have no choice now but to sponsor you. Boys pack your things we're going to Rome!

CUSTOS

Alright!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR CRASSUS

You want to pick up that olive there. I wasn't done with it.

BELACOSUIOUS

So the word wasn't rope?

CUT TO:

**EXT. THE ROMAN ROAD TO ROME - DAY**

The drunken senator is carried in a sedan chair by several large scantily clad male slaves. A small band follows playing lilting music. Custos and Vinosus follow on horseback. Behind them follows Centurian Cannis, also on horseback. The Senator sings as they travel slowly down the road.

SENATOR CRASSUS

Oh, there once was a Samaritan from Syria who's cod piece smelled of Wisteria. The reason for which, said the dirty old snitch Is so that I can get neertayeah. La la la la Cesar's butt sits on purple cushions...

VINOSUSIS

At this rate we'll never get there. Whoever heard of taking a sedan chair all to Velletri and back?

CUSTOS

Hey, maybe that's the way they do things in the big city. Besides he's got plenty more slaves if he has a blowout.

VINOSUSIS

Do you suppose all city dwellers are like him?

CUSTOS

What do you mean, rich?

VINOSUSIS

No. You know.

CUSTOS

No I don't know. What?

VINOSUSIS

The way he...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUSTOS

Are you referring to the fact that he acts like a woman and always talks about kissing boys?

VINOSUSIS

No, I'm talking about the drinking.

CUSTOS

Granted, that is a little disturbing. But hey, we've got to learn to roll with it if we're going to be big, fat Roman citizens. Besides, What's the worst thing that could happen?

At that instant an arrow sticks in Centurian Caninus' neck. He falls off his horse.

LUTE PLAYER

Bandits! Run!!

The band and the sedan chair slaves scatter, dropping the chair and their instruments as they run in all directions. Arrows whistle through the air and bring them down as they run. Caninus stands, arrow still sticking in his neck, and draws his sword.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

Draw your swords lads. Class is in session.

The boys draw their swords causally.

VINOSUSIS

If getting drunk all the time is how Roman citizens behave, I'm not sure I want to even be a Roman.

Custos unhooks his shield from the saddle.

CUSTOS

I told you, free and easy. If you don't want to drink then don't. No one will think the less of you. I sure won't

Caninus moves closer to the boys, with his back to them. He looks into the bushes surrounding them.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

They're probably out of arrows. I'll wager there are about ten of them, by the number they've shot at us. Get ready for the charge.

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CONTINUED:

Almost on cue the bandits burst from the bushes. The leader is in front on horseback.

CENTURIAN CANINUS (CONT'D)

OK, in the case of the leader he has foolishly chosen a short sword to use from horse back. What should we do, Custos?

CUSTOS

Use the horses size as an advantage and keep low.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

Very good. Anything you want to add Vinosus?

VINOSUSIS

About what?

CENTURIAN CANINUS

The horse.. and his stride.

VINOSUSIS

Oh, right. Move toward the oncoming horse and strike during it's half stride when the rider is at his most vulnerable.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

Very good boys.

Cannis dashes forward and rolls under the horseman sword. He springs to his feet and with a backward slash beheads the horseman. The head flies between the boys as they talk.

VINOSUSIS

Do you think there will be girls in Rome?

CUSTOS

Of course. What, do you think there wouldn't?

VINOSUSIS

I mean girl our age.

CUSTOS

Sure. Millions of them.

Cannis watches the horse run off with the headless rider still in the saddle. He picks up the dropped shield of the rider and faces the on rushing men.

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CONTINUED:

CeNTURIAN CANINUS

OK, boys, I make nine of them. Now, in most cases I've instructed you on how to hold your position and use the enemies momentum against him. But in the case of four or more opponents, which we have here, you are going to have to move around a little more. So I want you to watch my footwork closely. We'll have a Q. And A after.

Caninus jumps to the side and slices the sword arm off the first bandit as he runs past. He spins and sticks his sword right into the neck of the next bandit as he runs in. With one movement he pulls the sword out of the neck of the second bandit and cuts the head off the first bandit who is standing near looking at his arm on the ground. The head flies between the boys who watch from horse back. As the boys chat about girls Caninus dispatches the rest of the bandits from OS.

CUSTOS

Don't tell me you're worried about girls.

VINOSUSIS

Well, no. Of course not. I know all about girls.

CeNTURIAN CANINUS

Remember boys quick and fast. If you spend too much time with one, you give the next one an advantage.

CUSTOS

Since when do you know anything about girls?

VINOSUSIS

Since, like forever. Remember Lucia?

CUSTOS

Lucia Dentata, what about her?

VINOSUSIS

Let's just say that I know all about girls and leave it at that.

CeNTURIAN CANINUS

But, also remember to take your time. You don't want to rush through them too fast. Because it will all be over too soon, and where's the fun in that?

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CONTINUED:

CUSTOS

Lucia Dentata? Not even remotely! She is way out of your league.

VINOSUSIS

She was not.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

Here's one for you Vinosusis. Heads up.

A bandit stumbles back into Vinosusis' horse. Vinosusis raises his sword and places the tip on the bandit's clavicle and drives down. There is a huge squirt of blood and the bandit drops down out of the picture.

CUSTOS

OK then, what did the two of you do? Did you give her the old "Roman hands"?

VINOSUSIS

It would be ungentlemanly for me to elaborate.

CUSTOS

Just what I thought. Nothing!

CENTURIAN CANINUS

One for you Custos.

A bandit jumps into the scene and swings his sword at Custos who blocks with his sword. And swings his shield into the bandit's face. The bandit drops and Custos leans over from the saddle and hacks mercilessly at the fallen bandit (off screen). Custos sits back up with blood all over his face and his helmet is missing.

CUSTOS

Besides, she never said anything about you when I was doing her.

VINOSUSIS

There is no way you ever...

CUSTOS

Whoa, hey. Stop, stop. Where's my helmet?

VINOSUSIS

I think it fell off with that last thing you did there.

CUSTOS

Oh, right there it is. Caninus? When you're finished there would grab my helmet there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Caninus, standing on a pile of bodies pulls his sword from the eye of a kneeling bandit, who flops down into the pile. Caninus looks down at the dead man.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

Call me.

Caninus wipes his sword on a dead mans garment and climbs down off the pile. As he walks to the boys he sheaths his sword and picks up Custos' helmet.

CENTURIAN CANINUS (CONT'D)

Well done, Vinosusis. Quick and clean. Very Roman. Custos you started off well by shielding with your sword and using the shield to attack, they never see that coming, but you're wasting you're energy, hacking away like that. Plus it's hard on your sword. Look at that thing, two new notches.

CUSTOS

Sorry, Caninus.

VINOSUSis

Uha, Caninus. You've got a little something there.

Vinosus makes a general gesture toward the arrow still sticking out of Centurian's neck.

CENTURIAN CANINUS

I'll get that taken care of as soon as you boys are settled in. Listen, it's going to be dark soon so if you are going to plunder the bodies you'll want to get started.

The boys slide from their horses and dash over to the mound of bodies like kids in a toy store. Caninus watches them dash off.

CENTURIAN CANINUS (CONT'D)

I'm going to miss those boys. (shouts)  
Hey Custos that last one had a nice pair of sandals. He looked like he was your size.

SENATOR CRASSUS (O.S.)

Paullus?

Caninus turns and sees Senator Crassus sticking his head out of the curtain of his sedan chair.

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CONTINUED:

SENATOR CRASSUS (CONT'D)

Paullus! It's time to stop. I have to make water.

DISSOLVE TO:

**EXT. THE SHACK OUT BACK - DAY**

Establishing shot of the shack out back. It is in back of a lavish Roman house. Basically, it is the place where all the broken statues and furniture get tossed. Vinosus and Custos look around.

VINOSUSIS

See this is where being a cynic really pays off.

CUSTOS

Are you kidding this is great! Look at all the cool stuff. Come on let's check out the inside.

Custos pushes the door open.

CUT TO:

**INT. THE SHACK OUT BACK - DAY**

From the inside a huge pile of garbage gets pushed aside as the door is forced open by Custos.

CUSTOS

OK, not at all what I expected.

Vinosus enters. The room is filled with busted statues and military equipment.

VINOSUSIS

I never thought I'd miss the outside.

CUSTOS

Looks like we have a little cleaning up to do before we can start inviting the girls over.

VINOSUSIS

I've seen cleaner vomitoriums.

CUSTOS

This big bag will make a great hammock. You can use that old boat as a bed. And we can use this old busted statue of the dying Gaul as a table. Check it out, we

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

can keep our forks in this little hole here.

Custos sticks his finger in the Gaul's wound.

VINOSUSIS

I guess if we push some of this stuff out of here we could make a go of it.

CUSTOS

There you go. Now you're getting it. But don't get too used to it. Now that were in Rome we'll be moving up and out real soon.

The boys push stuff around and start cleaning the place up as they talk.

VINOSUSIS

Any idea what Senator Crassus has in mind for us?

CUSTOS

Well, we are citizens now and we do have a very powerful sponsor, I guess it's politics for us.

VINOSUSIS

Politics? Like a senator?

CUSTOS

No, not at first. We have a few hurtles to jump before we get there. Besides we're way too young. We'll probably be tax collectors or pay masters for a Roman Consuls or some Provincial governor. In rare cases we'd probably be given some military command.

VINOSUSIS

Really, you think so?

CUSTOS

Sure that's what Carbo told me. And who better to know the Roman Political system than an old Greek slave. Say, whatever happened to Caninus?

VINOSUSIS

He took off for the Fornix Arch the second we got here.

CUSTOS

Really? Do you think he's gonna...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VINOSUSIS

Naw, he said something about a prostitute.

CUSTOS

Now, that sounds like a plan! Let's go hit Crassus up for some denari and see what kind of trouble we can get into.

VINOSUSIS

I hope Caninus gets that arrow removed before he tries anything gymnastic.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CAPITOLINE HILL - DAY**

The Roman Senate is just about to go into session.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, the senate is about to meet and deal with the affairs of state. But the senators linger in the rotunda discussing the affairs of the senators.

PRATICUS

How now Crassus. Welcome back. I trust you had a profitable trip to Velletr. How is our old friend Belacosuious?

SENATOR CRASSUS

Just as tenacious as ever.

PRATICUS

And how is it with your new young wards? They've only been in town a short time and yet their exploits are already legendary.

SENATOR CRASSUS

They have appetites bigger than a Gaul's ego.

PRATICUS

Ah, youth.

SENATOR CRASSUS

What did I miss while I was away? I understand that the Egyptians are late with their corn shipment.

PRATICUS

Indeed, the port of Ostia is blockaded by a slave revolt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR CRASSUS

Not the Sarticans again.

PRATICUS

Yet another wave of them. They're like locus, every seven years or so they get an attitude about not being whipped and gum up the whole works down there.

SENATOR CRASSUS

Sounds like we'll have to send someone down to round them up.

PRATICUS

Is it dangerous?

SENATOR CRASSUS

Not really. All one has to do is approach the group and ask them which one is Sparticus. At that point it's just a matter of tacking up anyone who stands up. It's not really a job of respect.

PRATICUS

Crucifixion is a messy business. I pity the poor bastards who get the job. Do you have anyone in mind.

SENATOR CRASSUS

As a matter of fact I do.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PORT OF AUSTIA - DAY**

A line of crucified slaves follows the road to half way up the hill. Where there are a bunch of slaves and two lone Roman soldiers nailing up a victim.

VINOSUSIS

This crucifixion sure is a messy business. I hate doing this. If I hit my fingers with this mallet one more time I'm going to just loose it.

CUSTOS

Here, let me do the pounding for a while, you hold the nails.

VINOSUSIS

How could Crassus allow them to take us into the army?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUSTOS

I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that he might have had something to do with it. I'm going to go out a little further on the same limb and suggest that he had a lot to do with it. In fact, I'm going to go so far out on this limb of mine that I am now hanging on the end of the tiniest leaf, telling you that there's a pretty good chance this whole mess was his idea.

VINOSUSIS

How are we going to get out of this?

CUSTOS

We can't.

VINOSUSIS

Come on, that doesn't sound like you.

CUSTOS

I'm serious. We can't just run away. They'll catch us and we'll end up like Sparticus here.

DERRICK

My name is Derrick.

CUSTOS

(to Derrick)

Oh, Pardon me. (To Vinosusis) We'll end up like this nameless shit-hook here.

VINOSUSIS

Maybe we are looking at this the wrong way. After all we are in command, sure it's just a small crucifixion detachment but it's a command. Maybe we should suck it up and just try to be the best soldiers we can be. Then in twenty years or so we can retire...

CUSTOS

Retire? Do you know the average life of a Roman soldier is only slightly longer than that of a fire fly. The best, and quickest way to retire from the Roman Army is to die.

DERRICK

I have information.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUSTOS

And I've got this big hammer which I'm going to use on you if you don't shut up.

DERRICK

But you are using it on me.

CUSTOS

(thinking out loud)

We can't run and we can't stay. I guess we'll just have to move up. The more people we get under us the less we'll have to do.

VINOSUSIS

Get promoted? How?

CUSTOS

Are you kidding? They promote people all the time. All we have to do is something heroic.

DERRICK

I know where the stolen eagles are.

CUSTOS

See, now that's a good idea. If we could find the location of the eagles we could...

Both Custos and Vinosusis freeze, look at each other.

CUT TO:

**INT. INTERVIEW TENT - NIGHT**

Close on a glass sitting on the table. a pitcher is lowered and a glass is filled.

On the boys.

CUSTOS

So tell me... Derrick, was it?

Custos pushes the glass of water closer to Derrick

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

You mentioned a little something about some eagles.

Wide. We see Derrick sitting in a chair next to the table with the cross still nailed to his hands. As he talks he tries to pick up the glass. He knocks stuff over with the other side of the cross.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK

I overheard some slaves talking about a ship from Germania. One of them stowed away below deck and came upon the eagles wrapped in flower sacks. One night there was a storm and the ship floundered. It ran aground on a small island in the Adriatic, several miles off the coast of...

VINOSUSIS

Talk damn you!

Vinosusis slaps the water glass off the table.

CUSTOS

What are you doing? He was talking.

VINOSUSIS

Oh, right sorry.

Custos unrolls a map on the table.

CUSTOS

Look, Derrick. Here is a map of the area around Grease. Can you point to the island.

Derrick tries to point but he can't. The cross is just too clumsy.

DERRICK

No, I can't.

VINOSUSIS

You're beginning to piss me off Derrick.

CUSTOS

You'd better do what he says. Because when he gets mad he... Hey wait a minute. I thought I was going to be the bad cop.

VINOSUSIS

No, we said I'd be the better candidate because of my size.

CUSTOS

I never agreed to that.

DERRICK

Look, fellas! It's not that I don't want to point. It's just that I can't. See?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He shows then the cross and the nails.

CUSTOS  
Do you at least know the name of the  
island?

DERRICK  
No, but that's is right by your finger.

VINOSUSIS  
What this one?

DERRICK  
Yes.

The boys lean in close and read the name of the island  
together.

VINOSUSIS and CUSTOS  
Lesbos.

They both sit up and look at each other.

CUSTOS  
Lesbians.

VINOSUSIS  
I've got a bad feeling about this.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SHIP DECK - DAY**

Custos, Vinosusis sit on a pile of barrels and nets aboard  
the ship The Adriatic Princess. Derrick, still nailed to  
the cross is leaning on the rail nearby. A storm is raging  
and waves crash on to the deck. As the waves recede they  
take cargo, parts of the ship and sailors with them. Custos  
and Vinosusis are oblivious to the danger.

NARRATOR  
With the slave rebellion squelched Custos  
and Vinosusis Board the ship Adriatic  
Princess and make their way to the  
forbidden Island of Lesbos. But Neptune  
has other plans for them.

CUSTOS  
You know Vin, we should do this more  
often.

A large shark slides across the deck on a wave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

Hey, look, Buddy. A big fish!

Custos notices that Vin is a little pensive.

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

You know, I saw a turtle out here and he was as big as a Shield.

VINOSUSIS

(vacantly)

No kidding...

Derrick on his cross washes past them on the deck.

DERRICK

Little help please.

CUSTOS

(to Vinosusis)

Hey, what's wrong with you anyway? Are you worried about the Lesbians?

VINOSUSIS

No.

CUSTOS

What's eating you?

VINOSUSIS

It's the date.

CUSTOS

It's not Friday the thirteenth is it?

VINOSUSIS

No it's just that...

CUSTOS

Come on cuz out with it.

VINOSUSIS

Well, we're subject to events, that is our reality, right?

CUSTOS

Yeah, so.

VINOSUSIS

And these events when placed in the order of their happening denote a chain of events that could be used to measure time against.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

CUSTOS

I guess.

VINOSUSIS

With that in mind it's safe to assume time moves forward, right?

CUSTOS

What's your point cuz?

VINOSUSIS

Well, have you ever noticed that the years on the calendar go backward?

CUSTOS

Yeah, so?

VINOSUSIS

Doesn't that strike you as being slightly odd? I mean, what happens when we hit year zero?

CUSTOS

Well, maybe time is relevant to the observer only. In your case, your perceptions and these events are highly localized. If you took the time to take everything into consideration, like the past and the future, you might find that time does not move forward but is part of an existent space time continuum that you are privileged to be observing only a very small portion of.

VINOSUSIS

That's not good enough. I think I'd like a less flippant answer.

CUSTOS

Then why don't you ask the Captain. Here he comes now.

VINOSUSIS

OK I will.

The captain slides across the deck on a wave. His leg is in the shark's mouth up to the hip.

CAPTAIN

Aaaaah! For the love of Gods! Help me!!  
Oh, Neptune truly hates Me!

As the captain yells and slides, Vinosusis tries to talk to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VINOSUSIS

Excuse me Captain. We're subject to events, that constitutes our reality And these events when placed in the...

The Captian and the shark are washed over the rail.

Vinosusis pauses and looks at Custos.

VINOSUSIS (CONT'D)

How long is this trip anyway?

CUSTOS

If we have good wind, about two months, give or take.

VINOSUSIS

Is it reasonably safe to assume that the trip would take significantly longer without a captain?

CUSTOS

Not if we sink right away.

VINOSUSIS

I'm beginning to think this isn't the ship for us.

CUSTOS

Awa, come on. Things are sure to get better once we leave the harbor.

Cut wide to reveal that the ship is still tied to the dock.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CAPITOLINE HILL - DAY**

The Roman senate is just about to go into session.

PRATICUS

Crassus. My compliments to you for cleaning up that slave revolt so quickly.

SENATOR CRASSUS

It was nothing. Vinosusis and Custos are born leaders. Apparently, they aren't finished yet. They wrote me and told me that they commissioned a ship called the Adriatic Princess to take them to Greece.

PRATICUS

Oh, My. Did you say the Adriatic Princess?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR CRASSUS

Yes, why.

PRATICUS

I just heard it was lost in a storm. I am so sorry my dear friend. They were so young and full of life.

SENATOR CRASSUS

Don't worry old friend. It's not a total loss. I guess I can start using the shed for junk again.

CUT TO:

**EXT. THE BEACH OF LESBOS - DAY**

Vinosusis and Custos lay side by side on the beach unconscious. Custos is the first to awaken. He sits up and looks around. He looks down at his cousin and shakes him..

CUSTOS

Hey, Vin. Wake up. We're here.

Vinosusis sits up slowly and looks around.

VINOSUSIS

Shipwrecked? How cliché.

CUSTOS

Come on get up. Let's find out where we are.

VINOSUSIS

I'd say were we're on the Isle of Lesbos.

CUSTOS

What makes you say that?

VINOSUSIS

All those lesbians standing around pointing spears at us.

Custos turns and looks at them. There are at least thirty warrior women pointing spears at them.

CUSTOS

Now how do you suppose I missed them?

Custos looks up at the women.

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

Morning ladies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Custos looks at Vinosusis.

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

This shouldn't turn me on should it?

VINOSUSIS

You're a sick, sick man cuz.

CUT TO:

**EXT. ROYAL TERRIS OF LESBIAN PRIESTESS - DAY**

Bound by their hands and feet the boys are lead into the throne room of the high Priestess of Lesbos who is a big boned woman, scantily clad and a bit of a slob. The boys are forced to their knees in front of her throne where they can see up her skirt.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Who has sent you here?

CUSTOS

We were shipwrecked and we washed up on your (noticing that she isn't wearing anything under her skirt) ...Uha, thing... Beach.

Vinosusis leans close to Custos and whispers to him.

VINOSUSIS

Custos, what the heck is wrong with you?

CUSTOS

Look at the Priestess.

VINOSUSIS

Yes I saw her.

CUSTOS

Look at her skirt.

VINOSUSIS

Yes very striking, lots of shells and, Oh my gods! Would you look at that thing!

Angle on Priestess.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Are you sure you weren't sent from Rome to spy on us?

CUSTOS

Believe me no one in Rome would want to see what we just saw.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VINOSUSIS

Yeah, I mean even if we told anyone what we've seen they just wouldn't believe us.

The Priestess stands and raises her staff.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

These two must be purified.

VINOSUSIS

Good idea, maybe some cool water to flush the burning sensation out of my eyes.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Bring them to the Ewe of Steel.

VINOSUSIS

What's that?

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

A most hideous torture device.

CUSTOS

Worse than making us look at the old chatter box there?

CUT TO:

**EXT. THE COURTYARD OF THE EWE OF STEEL - DAY**

Sitting in the courtyard is the mare of steel; a giant 20 foot sheep-shaped sculpture. There is a ladder leading up to its head which has been fashioned into a small platform. The spine of the device is a sharpened piece of metal that leads down to the ground. At the base of the Ewe's tail sits two baskets.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Behold the Ewe of Steel. Our most discriminating purification device. When the hatch is released the victim will slide down this 20 foot sharpened spine and then fall into these two baskets at the bottom.

VINOSUSIS

Charming.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Do you mock the power of our purification process?

CUSTOS

Oh, no. It looks very effective.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VINOSUSIS

Yeah, you sure know how to please a man.

LESBIAN PRIESTES

You look like you need a demonstration.

CUSTOS

Not necessary, really.

The Lesbian Priestess turns and calls out to her guards.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

You.

On the line of guards the smallest one looks around, then points up to the guard next to her.

SMALL GUARD

I think she wants you.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

No, you. Small one. Come here.

The small guard approaches.

SMALL GUARD

Yes, Priestess?

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Do you love your queen.

The small guard looks at the Ewe of steel then back to the priestes.

SMALL GUARD

Yyyyyyees...

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Then ride the ewe of steal.

The small guard breaks into a nebbishy routine ala Bob Hope.

SMALL GUARD

You know, love is a very subjective word. There are many kinds of love. Maybe we're not talking about the same kind of love. You wouldn't want me to go up there if I was just fond of you, would you? Or had just a minor crush?

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Take her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Two larger guards grab the small guard and march her toward the Ewe of steel. Vinosusis looks at Custos

VINOSUSIS

That thing looks like it could slice a person in half.

CUSTOS

That's love for you.

At the top of the slide the small guard is perched on top of the ewe of steel, on her knees.

SMALL GUARD

Listen, no disrespect Priestess, but when this is over you're welcome to kiss the basket most of my ass is in.

On the Priestess and the boys.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Release the hatch.

There's a thud and the three of them cringe and turn away. a long drawn out squealing violin bow sound as the small Guard slides down (os)

SMALL GUARD (O.S.)

Oh, ow. That really smarts. Oh, why me. Hey Yow.

The sound stops and they all look back up. The sound starts again and they all turn away again.

SMALL GUARD (CONT'D)

Oh, there's more. Hey. Oooo that's not good for the old you know what. OOOh. Ow.

The sound stops and they all look up.

CUT TO:

The small guard stands at the bottom of the slide unharmed.

SMALL GUARD (CONT'D)

Well, that wasn't as bad as I thought. You know I don't think we got our monies worth out of this thing.

The Lesbian Priestess turns and looks at the boys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

I have changed my mind. You have reached us on a very special day, the festival of Thesmorphism, you will both be part of our festival.

CUSTOS

I've heard of this festival. It's roughly a week of female partying, right?

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

You are well informed.

CUSTOS

(to Vinosusis)

This is cool. All they're going to do is get good and drunk and howl at the moon, woman style.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

And sacrifice a virgin male.

CUSTOS

...And sacrifice a virgin male.

VINOSUSIS

Uha, Cuz.

CUSTOS

Imagine being that poor dumb bastard. (realizing that Vinosusis is a virgin)  
No.

VINOSUSIS

Yep, 'fraid so.

CUSTOS

How can that be? What about Lucia Dentata?

VINOSUSIS

Well, I made it all up.

CUSTOS

You can lie to me, your cousin, but in front of the high Priestess of virgin sacrifice you gotta get all truthful?

VINOSUSIS

Sorry.

CUSTOS

You're sorry? Do you realize you're going to die a virgin?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

No. He will enter the festival a virgin.  
But he will be sacrificed as a full man.

VINOSUSIS

What do you mean?

CUSTOS

I think she means that as part of the  
ceremony you're going to get laid.

VINOSUSIS

Who by?

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

By every woman on this island.

All the Lesbians in the temple let out a great amorous  
shout and beat their spears on the ground

CUSTOS

All these women? But that would kill him!  
There is no way...

VINOSUSIS

Whoa, hold on. Let the lady talk.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

The Goddess Demeter will now receive her  
sacrifice. Thesmophoria has begun.  
Ladies, let the canoodling begin.

CUSTOS

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Hold on a second. You  
are all going to get busy with him? I  
thought you were Lesbians.

LESBIAN

(Heavy sigh) Look. We live on the island  
of Lesbos. We are Lesbians. That whole  
woman on woman thing, that's a different  
kind of lesbian. We don't do that.

DISTANT FEMALE VOICE

I do!

CUSTOS

Oh, Sorry. It's an honest mistake. I  
mean, the name...

VINOSUSIS

Yeah, they are spelled the same.

The Priestess turns to one of her lieutenants.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

You see. I told you it was a bad name for the island. This kind of shit is going to be biting us in the ass for the next thousand years. Nice going.

LESBIAN LIEUTENANT

Sorry, priestess.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

Yeah, you're sorry. You're going last.

CUT TO:

**EXT CAPITOLINE HILL - DAY**

The Roman senate is just about to go into session.

PRATICUS

Senator Crassus I heard your young wards are still alive.

SENATOR CRASSUS

I received a letter from Custos just yesterday. It seems they have been on the island of Lesbos, where Vinosusis was the honored guest of the high Priestess during the festival of Thesmprphia.

PRATICUS

A rare honor indeed.

SENATOR CRASSUS

Yes it seems that young Vinosusis has made a great sacrifice for Rome. What sacrifice I know not as Custos failed to elaborate. But he will be coming back to Rome in a month and we will find out all the details then.

CUT TO:

**EXT. LESBIAN SHIP TIED TO THE DOCK IN LESBOS - DAY**

Custos leans on the rail looking down at the Lesbians on the dock. The high Priestess addresses the crowd.

LESBIAN PRIESTESS

The citizens of Lesbos will long remember the sacrifice made by Quintus Cyanthus Vinosusis during the festival of Thesmprphia.

(CONTINUED)

## CONTINUED:

The crowd cheers. Custos looks down behind the rail. Laying on a stretcher is the very still body of Vinosusis, eyes still open. Custos Reaches down and places his hand over Vinosusis' eyes. Vinosusis springs to life and slaps his cousin's hand away.

VINOSUSIS  
What are you doing.

CUSTOS  
Closing your eyes.

VINOSUSIS  
Leave my eyes alone. I was just thinking.

CUSTOS  
Hey, cuz you should see this. They're talking about you.

VINOSUSIS  
Tell them to leave me alone.

Back on the priestess

LESBIAN PRIESTESS  
Vinosusis has left an impression on our hearts as well as... well, you know.

Another cheer goes up from the crowd.

LESBIANS  
Woooooooooo!

LESBIAN PRIESTES  
For this sacrifice we thank him. I mean, we really thank him!

A big cheer goes up from the crowd.

LESBIANS  
Wooooo!

LESBIAN PRIESTESS  
As a token of our appreciation we offer him these gifts in the hopes that he will grace us with his presence at next year's festival.

Two Lesbians approach the boat with the Golden eagle standards that were lost in the battle of Germania. As Custos talks they board the ship and place them at Vin's side. Before leaving they both flirt a little with him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LESBIAN #1

Bye Vinny.

LESBIAN #2

Call me.

VINOSUSIS

Yeah, sure thing honey.

CUSTOS

Hey, the eagles. I almost forgot about them. That sure was nice of those Lesbians. You want to say a few words?

VINOSUSIS

No more talking, no more canoodeling. please. No more nothing.

Custos steps to the rail and addresses the crowd.

CUSTOS

Ladies of Lesbos. I guess that covers most of you.

He points to a large woman in the crowd.

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

Maybe, not you. You minx!

The Large woman giggles and blushes.

LARGE WOMAN

Hee-hee.

CUSTOS

My cousin thanks you all humbly for the gifts that you have bestowed on him. And he promises that next years festivities will be even more fruitful than this years.

A huge cheer goes up as the ship unties from the dock and begins to drift away. Custos sits down next to Vinosusis and the eagles.

CUSTOS (CONT'D)

How are you holding up there cuz?

VINOSUSIS

I feel like butter that's been spread over too much bread.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUSTOS

I gotta tell you, cuz, You did some pretty impressive work back there. I think you might have converted most of that island.

They sail into the sunset.

DISSOLVE TO:

**EXT. ROMAN FORTRESS IN BRITANICA - DAY**

The gray British sky rains down on the Roman Magistrate Flatchulus and his greek slave Uranus.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile up in Britanica, Flatchulus, after serving as Magistrate in Londinium for a decade is dreaming of returning to Rome and trying desperately not to, "go native" like most of his staff.

FLATCHULUS

Uranus, I will take wine now.

URANUS

Sure you wouldn't just like a pint and a packet of crisps?

FLATLCHULUS

Gods, this country is killing me. There's no sun. Their women have the completion of a cave fish. And we are plagued by the constant chatter of a very pale race going on about sheep. And I can't remember the last time I was dry.

URANUS

Shall I throw another Druid on the fire sir?

FLATCHULUS

If you think it would help.

URANUS

(signaling to the guards to bring in another Druid.)  
Sir, we still need to address the reports.

FLATLCHULUS

You address them. Here's my address book. I'm going to go lie down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

URANUS

Sir you are lying down.

FLATLCHULUS

Am I Uranus, Am I?

URANUS

Yes sir. But, the reports sir?

FLATCHULUS

What reports?

URANUS

From the field sir, the 11th reports that they still haven't located the Eagles.

FLATCHULUS

Oh, that. Oh, that fool errand. I don't know why Cesar thinks the Eagles are here. I mean, why would something stolen by the Germans end up here in Jolly old Soggy-land? He should just make some new ones.

URANUS

Should they keep looking, sir?

FLATCHULUS

Of course. As long as Cesar pays them they are to do as he says no matter how ridiculous.

URANUS

We've also got the plundering report sir.

FLATCHULUS

What's the take this week, a slightly moist hen?

URANUS

Two sir, and some Heather.

FLATCHULUS

I've been meaning to ask you about that. Exactly what is Heather?

URANUS

A small shrub sir, about 20 to 30 centimeters high. Lepidoptera feed on it.

FLATCHULUS

Lepidoptera? Butterflies?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

URANUS

Yes sir.

FLATCHULUS

And why are we collecting so much of it.

URANUS

Well the druids hold it in very high regard, sir.

FLATCHULUS

Do these infernal Druids have a thing for butterflies?

UrANUS

Not that I've noticed, sir.

FLATCHULUS

Of course they don't. All they ever seem to want to do is to compose poems and bark at the fucking moon. You know, normally I wouldn't have the time or energy to pursue such an idiotic line of questions. But, I figure it's either this or focus on how god damn cold I am. Proceed with your foolishness. What else does your little report say?

Uranus

Well, sir. The locals have made a statuette in tribute to your greatness.

Flatchulus

Don't tell me, it's made entirely of heather.

URANUS

Uncanny, Sir!

FLATCHULUS

What else is there to report?

URANUS

Well sir, two young men have washed up on the shore down in South Hampton. They say they are Roman citizens but they wear the garb of the natives of Lesbos.

FLATCHULUS

Dressed as Lesbians? Now you got my attention!

CREDITS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: