

MARCUS SIDE ONE (SCENE FIVE)

CONTEXT: TITA'S SIBLING MARCUS, FINDS TITA'S DAUGHTER LAVINIA RAPED AND MUTILATED IN THE WOODS.

MARCUS

Who is this? My niece, that flies away so fast?—
Cousin, a word. Where is your husband?
If I do dream, would all my wealth would wake me.
If I do wake, some planet strike me down
That I may slumber an eternal sleep.
Speak, gentle niece. What stern ungentle hands
Hath lopped and hewed thy body? Why dost not speak to me?
Alas, a crimson river of warm blood,
Like to a bubbling fountain stirred with wind,
Doth rise and fall between thy rosèd lips,
Coming and going with thy honey breath.
But sure some villain hath deflowered thee,
And lest thou shouldst convict him cut thy tongue.
Ah, now thou turn'st away thy face for shame.
Shall I speak for thee, shall I say 'tis so?
O, that I knew thy heart, and knew the beast,
That I might rail at him to ease my mind.
Come, let us go and make thy mother blind,
For such a sight will blind a mother's eye.
Do not draw back, for we will mourn with thee.
O, could our mourning ease thy misery!

MARCUS SIDE TWO (SCENE NINE)

CONTEXT: AN ABSURD DINNER WITH THE ANDRONICI (TITA, HER SIBLING MARCUS, AND HER GRANDDAUGHTER).

MARCUS

Alas, the tender child, in passion moved,
Doth weep to see grandmother's heaviness.

TITA

Peace, tender sapling. Thou art made of tears,
And tears will quickly melt thy life away.

Marcus strikes the table with a knife.

What dost thou strike at, Marcus, with thy knife?

MARCUS

At that that I have killed, sister, a fly.

TITA

Out on thee, murderer! Thou kill'st my heart.
Mine eyes are cloyed with view of tyranny;
A deed of death done on the innocent
Becomes not Tita's sister. Get thee gone.
I see thou art not for my company.

MARCUS

Alas, Tita, I have but killed a fly.

TITA

"But"? How if that fly had a father and mother?
Poor harmless fly! And thou hast killed him.

MARCUS

Pardon me, sir. It was a black, ill-favored fly,
Like to the Empress' Moor. Therefore I killed him.

TITA

O, O, O!
Then pardon me for reprehending thee,
For thou hast done a charitable deed.