

fur parva

A drama in five scenes for the Latin Club of Winkfield St Mary's CE Primary School

by Anthony Hodson

With grateful acknowledgements to David Parsons and Guy Westwood, who spent a lot of time correcting the Latin!

Lūcius Octāvius, a
merchant banker

His wife Fābia

Caelia and Helena, their
(twin) daughters

Pappagus, a slave to
Lūcius

Amēlia, the little thief

Chloë, a slave, one-time
nanny to Amēlia

Dāria, the sick wife of
Marcus Licinius

An assassin (Pedōps)

Marcus Licinius, a sea
captain

Narrator



fur parva

The play is a fictional drama that is set in about 80BC - difficult times - in Ancient Rome.

A well-off family find that valuable artifacts are disappearing from their house. The twin daughters of the family decide that they will try to capture the thief, who must be very small to get into the house.

They stay up late, without their parents knowing, and they hear rustling. They capture the thief, but it turns out to be a very young girl. As her captors seem kind, the girl, Amēlia, begins to tell the sad tale of how she has been forced to steal. At this point the father, Lūcius rushes in. He wants to kill the thief at once, as is the custom, but the children bravely protect her, and he agrees to listen to her story. First, he sends a slave, Pappagus, to see if he can capture anybody who might be waiting for her outside.

Amēlia starts telling her story, and a little later, Pappagus appears with a terrified young woman. Amēlia runs to her and says "don't hurt her". She turns out to be a slave who had been owned by Amēlia's father Marcus (and had been Amēlia's nanny), until he was banished. Marcus, a sea captain, had been prosecuted for fraud by another merchant Polōnius, but the charge was trumped up. Marcus was found guilty all the same.

The story develops with Lūcius seeking the truth about Polōnius. He decides to prosecute him. This causes Polōnius to send an assassin to kill him; Amēlia foils the attack and is herself badly hurt, but meanwhile, Lūcius has time to draw his sword and to kill the assassin. Lūcius takes in Amēlia and her mother; the prosecution goes ahead, Polōnius is banished, and Marcus Licinius comes home to the great joy of his wife and child.

Here are some notes on the characters. There is a longer synopsis at the end of the play.

Lūcius Octāvius

Lūcius Octāvius is a wealthy banker, who lends money to other merchants to fund import and export ventures by sea. He is quite important, and knows how Roman public life works. When he is convinced that Marcus the sea captain, has been framed, he is courageous enough to prosecute the bad merchant who had framed Marcus and who had fraudulently run off with some of his, Lūcius's money.

Lūcius is a decent man, and, although he upholds traditional Roman values (including keeping the family women in their place), he is basically kind, and willing to listen (including to his

wife and daughters). He is much moved by the story of Amēlia, and is a good judge of character. He is about 35 years old.

Fābia, Lūcius's wife

Fābia is strong and kind, and (although women didn't get about much in those days) she is fairly well informed about what is going on in Rome. She is quite able to stand up to her husband, even though women did not have much of a voice in those days. She is about 28 years old.

Caelia and Helena

Caelia and Helena are twin daughters of Lūcius and Fābia. They are lively and brave. Being twins, they reinforce each other and work well as a team; they are also able to resist parental pressure. They sometimes finish each others' sentences. They are kind and curious about the world in which they live, although generally they don't have a great opportunity to go out and about, as Rome is quite a dangerous place. They are about 10 years old.

Amēlia

Amēlia is a rather remarkable child. She has suffered a complete disaster in her life when her father was banished. She is only 7 years old, but has had to become the head of the household when her father was forced to leave and her mother became seriously ill. She is forced to grow up fast, and to survive in a harsh world. To find food, she has to beg for apples or other fruit, and to steal if necessary. She is street-wise, and understands what is going on about her.

In spite of all her difficulties, she is a strong, loyal and decent character, although she is still a child at heart.

She soon becomes a favourite in Lūcius' household.

Chloë

Chloë is a Greek slave, who had been nanny to Amēlia, and helper to Amēlia's mother Dāria. She also had her world turned upside down when Marcus was banished and she was acquired by Polōnius. Her new master is greedy and dishonest. He forces his slaves to acquire artefacts for him, but gives them a little money if they are successful. Chloë doesn't like this, but hits on a plan that will help Amēlia and her mother, by using Amēlia to squeeze between pillars to get into people's houses, to steal Greek pots or other valuables. Chloë is about 22 years old.

Pappagus

Pappagus is the chief household slave for the Lūcius household. He is well educated, and is very well treated, and shows great loyalty to his master. He is a gentle giant, and is fond of the children, and Amēlia becomes a particular favourite of his, often

reading stories to her when she is recovering from her wounding. He is about 40 years old.

Dāria, mother of Amēlia

Dāria's husband Marcus has been banished, and her world has collapsed. Marcus's relatives don't want to have anything to do with him (or her) because of his disgrace. She herself is a provincial girl, and has no relatives in Rome. After Marcus was banished, she fell ill, and lost her unborn child. She is still bed-ridden, and very dependent on Amēlia. She does not know how Amēlia is able to find food, and is very ashamed when she finds out. She is about 25 years old.

Marcus Licinius

Marcus is a completely upright man, and a fine sailor. He is also proud and a little naïve. He had owned two ships, and owned a small farm outside Rome. Although not particularly wealthy, his assets are valuable enough for the wicked merchant Polōnius to want them. Polōnius tries a scam with a ship-load of bad grain, planning that the ship should sink at sea, drowning Marcus and leaving no evidence. But Marcus's skill at sea allows him to ground the ship and escape. Polōnius uses the grounding to prosecute him for fraud, and wins, causing Marcus to be banished, to his great surprise, and to lose all his possessions, Polōnius then acquires them. Marcus has to vanish at once, hoping that cousins in Rome will help out his wife Dāria and Amēlia. He failed to show humility during his trial, and this counted against him, but he is only too pleased to dress as a slave when Lūcius summons him during the trial of Polōnius, as he will see his wife again. He is about 35 years old.

An Assassin (Pedōps)

He is a Greek slave of Polōnius, and Polōnius's right-hand-man in crime. His name Pedōps means "Babyface" in Greek, but he is a really nasty piece of work, and well known as such to Chloë. It was he who had damaged Marcus's ship, in a way that would cause the ship to sink when it reached the open sea. He is quite happy to kill Lūcius after the prosecution of Polōnius is started, since a successful prosecution of his master will expose him also to trouble.

When Amēlia tries to stop him killing Lūcius, he is quite ruthless in trying to stab and kill her, and Amēlia is lucky to survive his attack. He is about 45 years old.

Narrator

The Narrator isn't really a part at all. He/she announces in English what each scene is about, and also comments on what happening, and what the dialogue is saying.

scaena prīma: domī Lūciī post crepusculum

Scene 1: in Lūcius's house in early evening

Lūcius and Fābia are sitting discussing things in their living-room. They do not at first realise it, but their twin daughters are standing near the doorway listening to their conversation

Lūcius and Fābia are sitting discussing things in their living-room. They do not at first realise it, but their twin daughters are standing near the doorway listening to their conversation.

Narrator

Lūcius, a Roman merchant, and his wife Fābia are enjoying a chat before going to bed, and are discussing the bad behaviour of today's youth. Their twin daughters are eavesdropping. Father is sure to say how much better things were when he was young.

Lūcius I was coming home this evening, when suddenly a running boy came by and pushed me. I don't think that he meant any harm, but he just looked at me as if I was of no concern, and ran on.

hesternō vēsperō reveniēbam, et iuvenis qui currēbat praeteriit et mē trūsit. nōn crēdō eum iniūriam voluisse, sed mē aspexit quasi mē floccī nōn fēcit, et celeriter percurrit.

Fābia You must be careful, my dear. Where was Pappagus? He's supposed to keep an eye on you when you go out.

necesse est tibi bene tē cūrāre, cāre. Pappagus ubi erat? officium eius est tē custōdīre.

Caelia I bet he'll start talking about how things were not like this when he was young.

certa sum eum mōx dictūrum esse rēs meliorēs fuisse sē iuvene.

Helena Sh! They'll hear!

tacē! audient!

Lūcius Pappagus was just behind me, but it all happened very quickly. We were both expecting it to be a pick-pocket attack, but it wasn't.

Pappagus pōne mē erat, sed rēs celerrime ēvērunt.

Fābia Maybe he was just an ill-bred boy.

fortasse modo improbus puer erat.

Lūcius He was certainly that. When I was a boy, we were always respectful to our parents and older people.

vērō improbissimus erat. cum puer eram, semper seniōrēs honōrābāmus.

Helena *Cannot help laughing.*

Cannot help laughing.

Narrator

Now she has blown it! OK, let's tease those twins by suggesting awful medicine for bad behaviour.

Fābia *Hearing this, but pretending not to.* What young people need today is a good dose of brimstone and treacle, every day, to keep them polite.

iuvenēs debent cottīdiē pōculum sulfūris cum amurcā sūmere, ut comēs fiant!

Lūcius Cato said the drinking the urine of people who have eaten cabbage is very good for you; maybe if the twins took a dose of this every day, their behaviour would improve.

Catō dīxit bibere ūrīnam eorum quī brassicās vorāvissent optimum esse prō valetūdīne. fortasse geminae, sī hanc bibant, minus improbae sint?

Caelia and Helena together	No!!	MINIMĒ!!
Narrator		No!! The medicine is too disgusting to think about!
Fābia	Come here, you two! Now, if you don't go to bed and to sleep, I will seriously have to consider Cato's medicine for you. <i>Children come out.</i>	venīte, ambāe! nisi statim cubitum abieritis et obdormieritis, necesse erit mihi vōs cōgere ut medicīnam Catōnis bibātis! <i>Children come out.</i>
Caelia	But I hate cabbage.	sed brassicās ōdī.
Lūcius	You don't have to eat it. You leave it to someone else to do that.	nōn necesse est tibi ipsī eās vorāre. alius tibi illud fēcerit.
Helena	Yuck. I think I'm going to be sick.	iuc! crēdō mē vomitūram esse.
Narrator		I think I'm going to be sick!
Fābia	Off you go, now, both of you. And no more squeaks from you tonight! <i>Exeunt children, but they creep back.</i>	abīte nunc, ambae. et nōlō vōs iterum audīre! <i>Exeunt children, but they creep back.</i>
Fābia	But, seriously, Lūcius, I do think that there is something wrong here. You know that we had that beautiful Greek vase, showing Leda and the swan. It has completely gone. Two days ago it was there; now it isn't.	sed, sēriō, Lūcī, vērō crēdō aliquid insolitum ēvenīre. scīs nōs habuisse vās Graecum et formōsum quod Lēdam Cygnumque dēscrībit. tōtō ēvānuīt. abhinc duo diēs hīc aderat. nunc abest.
Lūcius	What about the slaves? Do they know anything about it?	servīne aliquid sciunt?
Fābia	I'm certain that it wasn't them. I did mention to them that it had gone, and nothing that they said gave any clue that they were involved.	prō certō habeō eōs nōn implicātōs esse. eōs certiōrēs fēcī illud vās ēvānuisse, et nīl quod dīxērunt mē facit rem dissimilem crēdere.
Lūcius	Maybe it was a burglar.	fortasse fūr erat.
Narrator		Fābia has noticed that a valuable vase has recently vanished. She knows it isn't her loyal slaves. If it was a burglar, it would have to be a very small one. Does Pappagus know anything about it?
Fābia	It would have to be a very small burglar, as it is quite impossible to get into our courtyard at night, with the front gate shut. There is only a tiny gap, and no one could get into that.	appāret eum fūrem parvulum fuisse. nōn potest intrāre in āream noctū, iānuā clausā. tam minima enim lacūna est ut nōn possit ullum accommodāre.
Lūcius	<i>Calls in Pappagus.</i> Pappagus, we may have had a burglar. Have you any knowledge of this?	<i>Calls in Pappagus.</i> Pappage, fortasse fūr nōs visitāvit. quid scīs dē rē?
Pappagus	No, sir. I have seen and heard nothing. But I'll be on my lookout.	domine, nihil vīdī et nihil audīvī. sed monitus vigilantissimus erō!

Narrator

Lūcius Thank you, Pappagus. *Pappagus exit.* Time to go to bed, my dear.

Fābia I'll just look in on the children, to see that they are settled. *Lūcius moves the table lamp to a niche on the back wall. Exeunt*

Narrator

Caelia and Helena shoot back to bed. Pause. Caelia and Helena return after a little while.

Caelia Did you hear that? If it was a burglar, it would be a very small one. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Narrator

Helena I'll wait up for an hour, and you can have a sleep. Then we'll change round.

Caelia And if either of us hears anything, we'll wake up the other.

Helena And we'll catch that little burglar together.

Caelia And then Mother and Father will think that we're not so bad after all.

Helena, Caelia Let's do it! *Signal assent to each other They get a rug and start their vigil.*

Pappagus knows nothing, but will be on the lookout.

sīc estō, Pappage. *Pappagus exit.* tempus adest dormiendum, amanda.

īnfantēs visitābō, ut prō certō habeam eās sōpitās esse. *Lūcius moves the table lamp to a niche on the back wall. Exeunt*

Bed-time for the grownups - after a last check on the young!

Caelia and Helena shoot back to bed. Pause. Caelia and Helena return after a little while.

nōnne illud audīvistī? sī fūr erat, solum parvulus fūr erat. cogitāsne tū id quod ego cogitō?

If it's such a small burglar, perhaps we can catch him? Then our parents will be very pleased with us!

ego exspectābō ūnam hōram, et tū dormī. tum officium commūtābimus

et sī altera quid audiet, alteram excitābit.

et unā illum fūrem parvum dēprehendēmus.

et tum māter paterque crēdent nōs optimās esse!

hoc faciāmus! *Signal assent to each other. They get a rug and start their vigil.*

scaena secunda: domī Lūciī, multā nocte **Scene 2: In Lūcius's house, later that night**

Narrator

It is dark. Both children are dozing. Amēlia enters, and starts feeling her way from left stage to right stage, along the wall opposite the lamp.

Caelia wakes up Helena, and points at the dark figure. Caelia indicates that she will go to the left, while Helena is to go the right. Caelia moves behind her

Caelia Stop!

The figure stops momentarily, then flees away to the right. Helena catches her. Caelia comes up, and also holds her. The figure stands there, petrified,

Later that night ...

It is dark. Both children are dozing. Amēlia enters, and starts feeling her way from left stage to right stage, along the wall opposite the lamp.

Caelia wakes up Helena, and points at the dark figure. Caelia indicates that she will go to the left, while Helena is to go the right. Caelia moves behind her

siste!

The figure stops momentarily, then flees away to the right. Helena catches her. Caelia comes up, and also holds her. The figure stands there, petrified,

then puts her face in her hands, and begins to cry.

Helena We caught our thief. Now what do we do?

Narrator

Caelia I don't know. Lets have a look at him. You hold him and I'll get the lamp. *Fetches the lamp from the other side of the room.*

Amēlia *Not loudly:* Spare me! Spare me!!

Caelia It's a little girl! Who are you?

Helena What are you doing here?

Amēlia I'm a little thief. I have to steal to get money, because my mother is ill. I have to feed her. Please let me go and I promise that I'll never come back. Please. Please.

Narrator

Caelia What happened to your father?

Amēlia They made him go away and I'll never see him again. Then the baby in my mummy's tummy came out, and it was dead, and my mother got very ill, and I have to look after her. Please let me go. She will die if I don't get back to her.

Helena How awful!

Caelia You mean that you look after your mother all by yourself? *Amēlia nods.*

Enter Lūcius, with his sword, with Fābia following behind.

Caelia Oh dear! Here's trouble.

Narrator

Lūcius What's all this noise? Why are you children doing out of bed? *Helena and Caelia stand in front of Amēlia.* Who are you hiding? *Loudly:* Pappagus, come here quickly.

Helena We caught the thief ...

Caelia ... except that it isn't really a thief.

Lūcius Thieves caught at night must die. It's just the way things are. Children, go back to

then puts her face in her hands, and begins to cry.

dēprehendimus fūrem. quid nunc faciēmus?

We caught him. Now what do we do?

ego nesciō. eum spectēmus. tū eum tenē, et ego lucernam adferam. *Fetches the lamp from the other side of the room.*

Not loudly: parcite mihi! parcite mihi!

puellula est! quis es?

quid hīc facis?

fūr parva sum. necesse est mihi fūrārī ut pecūniam habeāmus, quod māter aegra est.

It's just a little girl. Who is she? She says she has been forced to steal by an awful family disaster.

quid patrī ēvēnit?

imperavērunt eī ut abīret, nec unquam posthāc eum vidēbō. tum īnfāns in abdōmine mātris exīit et mortuus erat, et māter aegerrima facta est, et oportet mē eam cūrāre. mihi licetne īre, sis? māter moriētur nisi ad eam reveniam.

dīrum est.

dīcisne tē sōlam mātrem cūrāre? *Amēlia nods.*

Enter Lūcius, with his sword, with Fābia following behind.

ēheu. nunc incommodum habēmus.

Oh dear, it's the grown-ups. Here's trouble!

quid est hic clāmor? cūr vōs īnfantēs nōn in cubilī estis? *Helena and Caelia stand in front of Amēlia.* quid cēlātis? *Loudly:* Pappage, venī celeriter!

fūrem dēprehendimus ...

... sed vērō nōn fūr est.

fūrēs noctū dēprehensī interficī debent. mōs est, plānē. īnfantēs, ad cubiculum redīte,

your room and I will deal with the situation.

Helena We won't let you.

Caelia It's only a little girl.

Narrator

Lūcius *Angrily:* Stand aside, children. At once. *Children stand their ground. Pappagus enters.* I'll get Pappagus to drag you both back to your room if you won't go. *Pappagus moves towards the children.*

Amēlia Please don't kill me. I'm very very sorry.

Caelia *Bravely:* We won't let you kill her.

Helena She is very small, and she was telling us why she was here. She is a friend now.

Caelia She has to look after her mother.

Lūcius I've heard that one before.

Fābia Lūcius, she is very tiny. Let us at least hear what she has to say. You can't kill such a small child. The Gods would never forgive you.

Narrator

Lūcius *After a pause.* You're probably right. Let's have a look at her. *Puts away his sword, and looks at the child.* She is far too small to have come on her own. She must have a grownup who sent her in.

Pappagus Sir, shall I go out quietly and see if I can find someone lurking outside? *Lūcius nods. Pappagus exits.*

Narrator

Helena Her father was sent away and her mother is ill, so she has to steal, to live.

Lūcius *To Amēlia* You're lucky it was the children who caught you. If it had been Pappagus or me, you'd be dead now. *Amēlia sobs quietly.*

Amēlia I'm so sorry.

Fābia Was your father banished?

et rem cūrābō ego.

nōn tē permittēmus.

solum puellula est.

Lūcius wants to kill the thief, as was the custom. The twins try to stop him.

Angrily: absistite, īnfantēs! statim. *Children stand their ground. Pappagus enters.* imperābō Pappagō ut vōs trahat ad cubiculum vestrum nisi abstiteritis. *Pappagus moves towards the children.*

nōlī mē interficere sī vīs! valdē paenitet mē!

Bravely. nōn tē permittēmus eam necāre.

parvula est, et explicābat quāre hīc adesset. amīca nunc est.

necesse est eī mātrem cūrāre.

omnēs illud dīcunt.

Lūcī, vērō mīnima est. saltem audiāmus narrātiōnem eius. nefās est tantillam īnfantem interficere. deī nōlint tibi veniam dāre.

Fābia sensibly cools the situation. Let us at least hear her story.

After a pause. fortasse ita est ut dīcis. eam inspiciāmus. *Puts away his sword, and looks at the child.* prō certō minor est quam ut sōla vēnerit. nōnne adultus quīdam eam immīsīt.

domine, licetne mihi tacitē exīre ut inveniam aliquem eam extrā exspectantem? *Lūcius nods. Pappagus exits.*

Pappagus goes out to look for the child's accomplice.

imperāvērunt patrī eius ut abīret et māter aegra est, ergō ut vīvat necesse est eī fūrārī.

To Amēlia fēlīx es quod geminae erant eae quae tē dēprehendērunt. sī ego vel Pappagus fēcisset, mortua sīs. *Amēlia sobs quietly.*

valdē mē paenitet.

paterne expulsus est?

Amēlia I think so.

Lūcius What is the name of your father?

Amēlia His name is Marcus Licinius, and he's the best father in the whole world.

Lūcius Marcus Licinius. Yes, I remember him. He's a sea captain. He was prosecuted for fraud, and found guilty, and banished and all his possessions taken away.

Amēlia He didn't do anything wrong. He's a good man.

Narrator

Enter Pappagus, with Chloë

Pappagus I found this woman outside. She said that she was out with her child, who got lost. I told her that she must come in and explain herself. She didn't want to come, but here she is.

Narrator

Chloë Please let me go. I haven't ... *Amēlia runs to her.*

Amēlia *To Lūcius:* Please don't do anything to her, sir.

Lūcius So you two were stealing together. Do you realise what the punishment is for stealing? *To Chloë* And who are you?

Chloë Sir, I'm truly sorry. I don't know how to explain.

Fābia Are you this child's mother?

Chloë No. The child is Amēlia, daughter of Marcus Licinius who is a sea captain, and his wife Dāria. I am Chloë and I was a domestic slave of Licinius. He and his wife were very kind to me, but then he was banished because people said that he'd deliberately sunk his ship. All his belongings were confiscated, and we were acquired by Polōnius, and he is bad and he makes us steal.

Narrator

sīc cogitō.

quid nōmen patrī est?

Marcus Licinius est, et optimus pater in orbe est.

Marcus Licinius. vērō eius meminī. nāvarchus est. fraudis accusātus et damnātus est, et expulsus est, et omnia bona eius publicāta sunt.

nunquam peccāvit. probissimus est.

The child is called Amēlia. Her father is Marcus Licinius, known to Lūcius, but banished for fraud, and all he possessed was confiscated. But he did nothing wrong, says Amēlia.

Enter Pappagus, with Chloë

hanc mulierem extrā invēnī. dīxit sē ambulāre cum īnfante suā, quae nunc perdita est. eam iussī mēcum intrāre ut sē explicāret. nōlēbat intrāre, sed hīc est.

Pappagus found this suspicious woman outside.

sine mē abīre, sī vīs. nīl fēcī ... *Amēlia runs to her.*

To Lūcius: tibi ōrō nē eam noceās, domine.

ita vōs duae unā fūrābāmini. nōnne fūrtī poenam scītis? *To Chloë* et quis es?

domine, vērō paenitet mē sed nōn possum clārē explicāre.

nōnne māter huius īfantis es?

minimē. Amēlia est, filia Marcī Licinī, quī nāvarchus est, et Dāriāe uxōris. Chloë sum, et ancilla Dāriāe eram. benignissimī mihi erant. tum Marcus expulsus est quod Polōnius dīcēbat eum ex industriā nāvem onerāriam mersisse. omnia bona publicāta sunt, et nōs servī ā Polōniō adquisitī sunt. Polōnius malus est, et cōgit nōs fūrārī.

The woman is Chloë, Amēlia's ex-nanny. She explains that Amēlia is the child of Marcus and Dāria. Marcus had been banished and his slaves, including herself, had been acquired by the wicked merchant Polōnius.

Lūcius I know Polōnius well in business. He's a successful merchant.

Chloë Perhaps in business he is pleasant, but really he is horrible.

Fābia Why are you using a small child to help you to steal? That is very wicked.

Chloë Amēlia and her mother really need money. If we obtain a Greek jar or other nice thing, Polōnius sometimes gives us money. I give most of what he gives me to Amēlia for herself and her sick mother, in return for her helping me. She is so little that she can get into buildings where a grown-up cannot come in. I know it's wrong, but we don't have much choice.

Caelia You won't hurt her will you, father

Lūcius Why can't Amēlia's mother look after herself? And what happened to Marcus's family? Don't they help?

Chloë I don't know much except what Amēlia has told me. Dāria was pregnant when Marcus was banished, and she lost the baby and became very ill, and has to be looked after. Marcus' cousins refused to help at all. Dāria is from Tusculum, and she has no relatives in Rome. Although Amēlia is a small child, she has done everything.

Narrator

Lūcius Everybody thought that Marcus deserved to be banished.

Chloë Sir, I know that he was innocent, because I know what happened to Marcus's ship. He had a cargo of grain that he was carrying for Polōnius. Polōnius didn't want the shipment to be successful, so he arranged for the ship to sink.

Lūcius That's a very serious allegation - how do you know? I made him a loan to make that shipment, and I lost every penny of it, so I'm very interested in the truth.

Chloë Polōnius has a foreman slave called Pedōps, who is really wicked. All of Polōnius's slaves hate him, and they watch him, so they know what he does. They have told me that they know that Pedōps deliberately damaged Marcus boat so that it would sink at sea when it got rough. He was boasting about it.

Narrator

Caelia How horrible! If the ship sank, Marcus would drown.

nōvī Polōnium. cum eō negōtium ēgī. mercātor dīves est.

fortasse in negōtiīs bonus est, sed vērō crūdēlis est.

cūr parvā īnfante utēbāris ad fūrandum? improbissimum est.

Amēlia māterque pecūniā egent. sī adipiscor vās Graecum vel alium bellum, Polōnius interdum nōbīs pecuniam dōnat. ego dōnō maiōrem partem Amēliae prō ipsā et mātē, in vicem auxiliī. tam minūta est ut possit intrāre domum quam adultus nōn potest intrāre. sciō rem malam esse, sed pauca sunt quae possumus facere.

nōnne nōn vīs eam nocēre, ō pater?

cūr māter Amēliae nōn potest se cūrāre? et nōnne cōnsōbrīnī et cetera familia adiuvāre possunt?

sciō ea modo quae Amēlia dīxit. Dāria gravida erat cum Marcus expulsus est, sed īnfāns mortuus est, et Dāria aegerrima erat. opus est eī semper cūrārī. nemo ē familia Marcī vōlēbat eās adiuvāre. Dāria Tusculāna est et nullōs familiāres Rōmae habet. quamquam Amēlia parvula est, cum omnibus difficultātibus contendit.

Dāria, Amēlia's mother had lost her baby and become ill, and now Amēlia was looking after her all by herself

omnēs crēdebant Marcum dignum esse poenae expulsionis.

domine, sciō Marcum innocentem esse, quod sciō quid acciderit nāvī Marcī. onus frūmentī prō Polōnio portabat, sed Polōnius nōlēbat nāvigationem fēlicem ēvenīre. ita nāvem demergendam cūrāvit.

accusātiō gravissima est. quōmodo scīs? mūtuum dedī prō nāvigatione, et pecūnia mea omnis perdita est, itaque interest mihi veritātem invenīre.

Polōnius servum dūcem habet, Pedōpem nōmine, quī pessimus est. ōdīō est omnibus servīs, quī vigilat ut cognoscant omnia quae facit. mihi dīxērunt Pedōpem nāvī Marcī nocuisse, ut undae maris facerent eam dēmergī. glōriābātur dē consīliō.

Marcus had been convicted of a trumped up charge of sinking his ship, when in fact he had saved all hands by running it aground when it began to sink. This was all the doing of the wicked Polōnius.

dirum est! sī nāvis submergeretur, Marcus aquā periret

Chloë	I know that Marcus managed to run the ship ashore before it sank. I don't know exactly what happened then, but Dāria told me that Polōnius prosecuted Marcus saying that he had deliberately sunk his ship to commit a fraud, and the jury had found him guilty.	sciō Marcum coēgisse nāvem ad ōram antequam submergerētur. nesciō quid tum ēvēnerit, sed Dāria mihi dīxit Polōnium Marcum accusāvisse quod prō fraude nāvem propriam dē industriā demersisset, et Marcus damnātus est.
Narrator		<i>As Polōnius's slave now, Chloë knows that Polōnius himself arranged for the ship to sink. The twins can't understand how grownups can be so thick as to believe Polōnius's law-suit.</i>
Helena	If I had a ship, I'd rather run it ashore than drown.	sī nāvem mergentem haberem, cogerem eam ad ōram nē aquā peream.
Caelia	So would I. What's wrong with that? Grownups can be quite stupid sometimes.	ego quoque. nōnne prūdēns est? adultī nōnnumquam stultī sunt.
Lūcius	It looks as if Polōnius has some explaining to do. But we must get evidence. In court, Chloë, you and the other slaves cannot testify against your master, so we'll have to find other evidence. Perhaps Amēlia's mother can help.	rēs explicandae ā Polōniō sunt. sed necesse est testimōnia invenīre. nōn licet tibi, Chloë, et aliīs servīs testimōnium dāre contrā magistrum; itaque necesse est nōbīs nova testimōnia invenīre. fortasse māter Amēliae potest nōs adiuvāre?
Fābia	Chloë, I think that I believe your story.	Chloë, cogitō mē narrātiōnī tuae crēdere.
Lūcius	Amēlia, will your mother be able to talk to us?	Amēlia, māterne nōs adiuvāre poterit?
Amēlia	She isn't very well, but I think she will be able to do so.	aegra est, sed crēdō eam posse.
Narrator		<i>Chloë's story seems plausible, so Lūcius agrees to let her and Amēlia go, and to investigate further.</i>
Lūcius	It is against my better judgement, but I'm going to let you go, both of you. Chloë, take Amēlia back home, and then go home yourself, and don't tell anybody what happened this evening.	contrā iūdicium est, sed ambās liberābō. Chloë, Amēliam domum redde, et ipsa revenī. dīc nēminī quid hīc ēvēnerit.
Chloë	I'll probably get beaten for not coming back with something.	fortasse ferienda sum quod nīl fūrāta sum.
Lūcius	Amēlia, tomorrow morning come back here. You can then take Pappagus back to your house. He will talk to your mother and hear her story, and report back to me. Here is a little money so that you don't have to steal for a while.	Amēlia, crās māne hūc revenī. tum dūcēs Pappagum domum tuam ut colloquātur cum mātre et historiam propriam eius audiat. hīc pecūnia est nē necesse sit tibi fūrārī.
Helena	Can we go with Pappagus and Amēlia...	volumus Pappagō et Amēliā comitārī ...
Caelia	... to see Amēlia's mother??	... ut visitēmus mātrem Amēliae.
Fābia	Will it be safe?	tūtōne est?
Lūcius	People don't mess with Pappagus ! The children will be safe. Now, go now, Chloë and Amēlia. And remember, Amēlia. Come here tomorrow morning.	Pappagum nēmō perturbāre potest! īfantēs cum eō vērō tūtae erunt. nunc īte, ō Chloë et Amēlia. et mementō, Amēlia. adestō crās māne!
Narrator		<i>It is arranged that Amēlia will take them to see her mother in the</i>

Amēlia	I will sir. And thank you for sparing me. And thank you for sparing Chloë. Thank you sir. <i>To the twins:</i> You saved me. <i>Embraces them.</i>
Pappagus	I'll see them on their way. <i>Exit Chloë, Amēlia and Pappagus.</i>
Fābia	Now, Caelia and Helena, you put yourselves in great danger. What if the thief had been a dwarf with a knife? You could have been killed.
Caelia & Helena	<i>Looking very crestfallen:</i> We're very sorry. We just wanted to show you that children today can be good.
Narrator	
Lūcius	<i>Laughs</i> You're very brave and kind children. You were not wise, but I'm proud of you both. Now, off you go back to bed. <i>Fābia pats them. Exeunt all.</i>

scaena tertia: domī Dāriae
Scene 3: in Dāria's house

Dāria is lying on a mattress on the floor. She is propped up on a pillow. Enter Amēlia, followed by Pappagus and the twins.

Narrator	
Caelia	It's a bit smelly in here
Helena	Sh - that's rude
Amēlia	Mother, here is Pappagus. He is the head of Mr Lūcius's household, and has come to ask you some questions. He is very kind.
Dāria	Good morning, Pappagus.
Pappagus	Good morning, madam.
Dāria	I am ashamed that you must see me when I am not well. Amēlia told me about last night. I was appalled - I didn't know that she had to be a thief so that we could live. I am very sorry that she tried to steal from Mr Lūcius. I would rather die than that it

morning.

vērō aderō, domine. et tibi grātiās agō quod mihi Chloēnque pepercistī. grātiās agō, domine. *To the twins:* mē servāvistis. *Embraces them.*

cūrābō ut iter tūtō faciant. *Exeunt Chloë, Amēlia and Pappagus.*

et nunc, ō Caelia et Helena, vōbīs periculī gravis occasiōnem dedistis. quid ēvēnisset sī fūr pūmiliō cum pugiōne fuisset. fortasse interfectae essetis.

Looking very crestfallen: valdē nōs paenitet. solum volēbāmus vōbīs monstrāre infāntēs hodiernōs optimōs esse posse.

The twins are ticked off for risking themselves - and praised for being both brave and kind, if unwise!

Laughs fortissimae et benignissimae estis. nōn prūdentēs erātis, sed mē vōs ambae valdē iuvātis. nunc cubitum ite! *Fābia pats them. Exeunt all.*

Dāria is lying on a mattress on the floor. She is propped up on a pillow. Enter Amēlia, followed by Pappagus and the twins.

Amēlia brings Pappagus and the twins back to the room where she lives with her mother Dāria. The twins are a bit shocked by the poor conditions, and Dāria is ashamed of this and also of Amēlia's thieving, about which she had known nothing before.

por - hīc olet.

tacē - inurbāna es!

ō māter, hic dominus Pappagus est, quī dūx est domūs dominī Lūciī. advēnit ut tē interroget. benignissimus est.

salvē, Pappage; exspectātissimus es.

salvē, ō domina

puget mē quod necesse est tibi mē vidēre cum invalida sum. Amēlia confessa est dē ultimā noctē. cōsternātissima eram - sciēbam haudquāquam Amēliam crēdidisse necesse esse fūrārī ut essēmus. māllem mortua esse quam ut illud iterum ēvēnīret.

should happen again.

Narrator

Amēlia Mother, I will warm you up some water to drink.

Caelia We will help you.

Helena Yes, it would be fun.

Pappagus Mr Lūcius does not want to worry about the past. Chloë told us that she thought that Marcus's ship had been damaged by Polōnius' slave Pedōps, so that it would sink in the open sea. Is that true?

Dāria I know that is true, Sir. Marcus has a fisherman friend who has a fishing boat near where he put the ship ashore. He himself saw the injury to the ship and I know that he would be happy to tell you what he knows.

Narrator

Pappagus I think that Mr Lūcius will want to see him himself. Why did Marcus lose the case?

Dāria He was sure that everybody would think it ridiculous that he would run his ship ashore in order to make a profit. And he refused to wear sackcloth and ashes for the trial. So maybe they thought that he wasn't humble enough, and that he was hiding something. Of course, he wasn't.

Narrator

Helena Why did he have to wear sackcloth and ashes for his trial when he had done nothing wrong?

Pappagus It's the custom. I am told that there have been many times when a case has been lost just for this.

Caelia That's silly.

Pappagus, acting for Lūcius, has been asked to find out more from her mother about Marcus and his banishment.

māter, aquam calefaciam ut bibās.

nōs adiuvābimus.

iucundum esset.

dominus Lūcius nōn vult dē rēbus praeteritīs sē vexārī. Chloë nōbīs dīxit sē crēdere Pedōpem, servum Polōniī, nocuisse nāvi Marcī ut pulsāta undīs maris altī dēmergātur quid scīs dē hāc rē?

sciō rem vēram esse, domine. Marcus amīcum cognoscit quī piscātor est et quī nāvem tenet prope naufrāgium. hic ipse vīdit iniūriam nāvis, et poterit libenter rem confirmāre.

Dāria tells of the fisherman friend of Marcus who knows what really happened in the shipwreck.

dominus Lūcius volet ipse rem vidēre et cum piscātōre colloquī. cūr nōn excūsātus est Marcus?

certus erat nēminem crēditūrum esse eum suam propriam nāvem in litus pepulisse ut lucrum ē naufrāgiō faciat. et nōlēbat cilicium cum cineribus gerere. fortasse iūdicēs nōn crēdēbant eum satis humilem esse, et ergō aliquid celāre. scilicet nihil celābat.

Marcus thought the case against him was ridiculous, and refused to wear the customary sackcloth and ashes for his trial. This counted against him. The twins think that this is silly. He lost the case, and had to go into exile, without even saying goodbye.

cūr oportēbat eum cilicium cum cineribus gerere cum nōn peccāvisset?

mōs est. rūmor est multās actionēs ab hāc causā perditās esse.

stultissimum est.

Dāria	Well, he did lose the case, and they told him that, if he didn't leave immediately, they would kill him. So he just left and didn't even say goodbye. He just sent a note back with a friend. <i>Weeps</i> . Then I was very ill.
Amēlia	Mother, drink this.
Dāria	Thank you, my dearest daughter.
Pappagus	If the fisherman has good evidence, I think that Mr Lūcius will start a case against Polōnius because he certainly seems to have been fraudulent. Mr Lūcius will be angry because he lost a lot of money to him.
Narrator	
Dāria	That's good, Pappagus. But please tell Mr Lūcius to be very careful. Polōnius is a very bad man.
Pappagus	We must go now. I know that Mr Lūcius will keep you advised what is going on. Meanwhile, he told me to give you some money. He wants me to see you often, and to give you more money when you need it.
Dāria	Thank you for coming, and please thank Mr Lūcius for all that he is doing.
Pappagus	I will. Now, please get better. <i>To Amēlia, very kindly</i> : You are a good girl really. Please stay very good, or I shall have to be very angry! And I can be really fierce.
Narrator	
Amēlia	I will be very good, sir, I promise. But I don't think that you are a fierce sort of person.
Pappagus	Oh, but I can be! <i>(Pulls a horrid face. The twins laugh, and Amēlia laughs too - for the first time. Dāria smiles)</i> <i>Exeunt all except Dāria and Amēlia.</i>

ēheu, damnātus est, et iusserunt eum magistrātūs vel statim abīre vel interficī. itaque statim abīit, nec poterat "vālē" dīcere. mīsit mihi epistulam per amīcum. maxima offensiō mihi erat. *Weeps*. tum aegerrima eram.

māter, hoc bibe.

tibi grātiās agō, cārissima.

sī piscātor testimōnium bonum habet, crēdo dominum Lūcium actionem moturum contrā Polōnium, nam id quod fēcit certē fraus erat. dominus īrātus erit quod pecuniam multam ob eum perdidit.

Pappagus thinks that Lūcius will prosecute Polōnius if the fisherman's evidence is sound.

bene est, Pappage. sed ōrō tibi ut dominum Lūcium monēres ut cautissimus esset. Polōnius vir pessimus est.

neesse est nōbīs nunc abīre. sciō dominum tē certiōrem factūrum esse quid eveniant. intereā, mihi imperāvit ut tibi pecuniam dōnem. mē vult tē saepe visitāre, et tibi pecuniam dāre quāndōcumque eō egēs.

tibi grātiās agō quod vēnistī, etiam dominō Lūciō ob omnia quae facit.

hoc agam. et validior fiās. *To Amēlia, very kindly*: tū vērō bona es. cūrē ut optima sīs nē īrāscar. et nōnnunquam saevissimus sum!

Pappagus tells Amēlia to be really good or he'll be very angry. But Amēlia already knows that he is a big softy!

prōmittō mē optima fore. sed nōn crēdō tē posse saevissimum fierī.

at sīc possum fierī! *(Pulls a horrid face. The twins laugh, and Amēlia laughs too - for the first time. Dāria smiles)*

Exeunt all except Dāria and Amēlia.

scaena quarta: in āreā Lūciī

Scene 4: in Lūcius's courtyard

Enter Pappagus, with Dāria and Amēlia. He is supporting Dāria. He gets a chair for Dāria to sit on, at right stage.

Pappagus I do hope that you will be comfortable in this chair. Would you like me to bring you a

Enter Pappagus, with Dāria and Amēlia. He is supporting Dāria. He gets a chair for Dāria to sit on, at right stage.

spērō tē commodissimam futūram esse in haec sellā. nōnne vīs mē vīnum tibi ferre?

little wine? Lūcius wanted you to come to hear the latest news.

Dāria You are very kind, Pappagus. That would be very good. Thank you.

Amēlia Can I go with you, Pappagus? *Exit Pappagus and Amēlia*

Narrator

Enter Caelia and Helena

Helena Hello, Dāria. I do hope that you're feeling better.

Caelia Did Amēlia come? We want to show her a game.

Dāria Hello, twins. Yes, she went off with Pappagus, but she'll be back soon.

Narrator

Twins sit down and start to put out game to left stage

Enter Lūcius, followed by Fābia, with Pappagus and Amēlia. Pappagus gives Dāria some wine.

Amēlia *To Lūcius.* I wanted to give the wine to Mother, but Pappagus wouldn't let me carry it.

Lūcius Never mind, my dear. Now, go and play with the twins.

Caelia Amēlia, we wanted to show you this game.

Helena Pappagus was teaching it to us. *Pappagus sits down with the children, looking towards the wall. Starts to show the children the game.*

Lūcius Dāria, I wanted to tell you that I went to see Marcus's friend the fisherman. He showed me the wreck of Marcu's boat, and the saw-marks in the timber. He also showed me some of the grain cargo. It had already germinated before shipment, and was completely valueless as a cargo.

So Polōnius was shown to be dishonest, and two days ago I started to bring a court case against him.

Dāria Sir, thank you very much. What do you think will happen now?

Lūcius volēbat vōs venīre ut nuntium ultimum audiātis.

benignissimus es, Pappage. illud velim. grātiās tibi agō.

licetne mihi tē comitari, Pappage? sīs? ut tē adiuvem. *Exit Pappagus and Amēlia*

Amēlia and Dāria (who is better) have been asked to come to Lūcius's house to hear the latest news, and Amēlia has gone off with Pappagus to get wine for her mother.

Enter Caelia and Helena

salvē, Dāria. spērō tē nunc validiōrem esse.

nōnne Amēlia adest? volumus eī quendam lūdum monstrāre.

salvēte geminae! adest, sed Pappagum adiuvat.

The twins have a game to show Amēlia

Twins sit down and start to put out game to left stage

Enter Lūcius, followed by Fābia, with Pappagus and Amēlia. Pappagus gives Dāria some wine.

To Lūcius. volēbam vīnum matrī ferre, sed Pappagus nōlēbat mē id portāre.

rem mitte, cāra. nunc cum geminīs lūde. tē exspectant.

Amēlia, volumus hunc lūdum tē monstrāre.

Pappagus nōbīs eum docēbat. *Pappagus sits down with the children, looking towards the wall. Starts to show the children the game.*

Dāria, volēbam tibi dīcere mē piscātōrem Marcī amīcum invīsisse. monstrāvit nōbīs naufrāgium Marcī, et vestīgia serrae in matēriā nāvis. etiam monstrāvit frūmentum ex onere nāvis. iam gemmāverat antequam impositum est, et erat nullī pretiī]. Polōnius monstrātus est perfidissimus esse, et abhīnc duo diēs incēpī eum fraudis accusāre.

bene est. sed quid nunc ēveniat?

Narrator

Lūcius The Senate will appoint a judge and a jury. It will meet in a few days time. Then I and my prosecutors will try to convince them that Polōnius is bad, and Polōnius will try to convince them that he is good. Then they make a decision, and they will punish Polōnius if they think he is guilty. Of course, we will win, and I will ask them to restore Marcus. [So, if all goes well, Marcus and all you own will be given back to you.]

During Lūcius's speech, enter Assassin, at the door. Looks around; sees Lūcius and moves towards him. Amēlia sees him, and stands up. As Assassin gets close to Lūcius, he draws his dagger. Amēlia runs towards him and grabs his legs.

Amēlia Stop!

Assassin By Poseidon, you little brat! *Stabs Amēlia in the upper chest. She raises her hand to hold the dagger, then falls to the ground holding her wound, but letting go of the dagger, which the assassin pulls away from her. Lūcius draws his sword, turns round and runs the Assassin through with it. The Assassin falls to the floor, a little way from Amēlia.*

Meanwhile, children and Pappagus rise up in horror. Fābia runs to attend to Amēlia. Dāria also rises from her chair, and moves to Amēlia.

Lūcius Quick, Pappagus, get the Doctor. *Pappagus rushes off.* Fābia, keep her quiet. You must press on the wound with your hand to stop the blood.

To the assassin Who are you?

Assassin Polōnius will get you, even if I don't. *Dies*

Narrator

Amēlia Mother, am I going to die?

Dāria No, of course not, my dearest. *Comforts her.*

Lūcius *To Dāria:* She really saved my life. But I think that she will be OK if she doesn't lose too much blood.

Lūcius reports that he has seen the wreck of Marcus's ship, and there are definite signs of fraud. So he has started to bring a case against him, and he explains the procedure to Dāria.

senātōrēs iūdicēs nominābunt, et mōx eōs convocābunt. tum ego et accūsatorēs aliī conābimur iūdicibus persuādere Polōnium nocentem esse. Polōnius cum dēfēnsōribus suīs conābuntur eīs persuādere sē innocentem esse! tum iūdicēs iūdicium facient, et, sī Polōnium damnābunt, eum pūnient. scilicet, diem vincēmus, et iūdicēs orābō ut Marcum veniam dent, et omnia reddant. [tum, sī bene ēveniet Marcus cum dīvitīs tibi reddētur.]

During Lūcius's speech, enter Assassin, at the door. Looks around; sees Lūcius and moves towards him. Amēlia sees him, and stands up. As Assassin gets close to Lūcius, he draws his dagger. Amēlia runs towards him and grabs his legs.

siste!

per Poseidōn, vermicula, mitte! *Stabs Amēlia in the upper chest. She raises her hand to hold the dagger, then falls to the ground holding her wound, but letting go of the dagger, which the assassin pulls away from her. Lūcius draws his sword, turns round and runs the Assassin through with it. The Assassin falls to the floor, a little way from Amēlia.*

Meanwhile, children and Pappagus rise up in horror. Fābia runs to attend to Amēlia. Dāria also rises from her chair, and moves to Amēlia.

celeriter, Pappage, medicum addūc. *Pappagus rushes off.* Fābia, fac ut cubet. necesse est tibi vulnus manū premere ut sanguinis missiōnem supprimās.

To the assassin: quis es?

Polōnius tē caedet etsī nōn ego. *Dies*

It's Polōnius's man!

māter, moriar?

minimē, cārissima. mōx valida eris. *Comforts her.*

To Dāria vērō vītam meam servāvī. sed fortasse convalēscet nisi nimium sanguinem amiserit.

Caelia *In tears* You are *not* to die!

Helena *Also much upset* No, you mustn't. We still have to teach you this game!

Narrator

Lūcius Dāria, I want you and Amēlia to be our guest for as long as you like.

Fābia I will help you nurse her here, and the Doctor will come often.

Caelia And Amēlia can play with us every day when she is better.

Amēlia That will be nice. I'd like that. *Falls asleep. Everybody looks horrified.*

Fābia *Looks carefully at Amēlia.* She's alive and I think that she'll be fine. *Twins want to say "euge" but realise that they must not.*

Narrator

In tears nōn licet tibi morī.

Also much upset id nōn sinō. primum necesse est nōbis hunc lūdum tibi docēre.

The twins won't let Amēlia die! Lūcius understands that Amēlia saved his life, and insists that Dāria and Amēlia must be his guests as long as they like.

Dāria, volō tē Amēliamque convīvas nostrās esse, dum vultis.

ego tē adiuvābō eam hīc cūrāre, et medicus saepe eam vīset et tē.

et Amēlia poterit nōbīscum lūdere cottīdiē cum valida erit.

bene est. hoc velim. *Falls asleep. Everybody looks horrified.*

Looks carefully at Amēlia. cor bene geritur et sanguinis missiō melior est. valida erit. dormiat. *Twins want to say "euge" but realise that they must not.*

She's still alive, and she should be OK.



scaena quinta: domī Lūciī

Scene 5: in Lūcius's house

Dāria is sitting in a chair. Pappagus is nearby reading to Amēlia, whose left arm is in a sling.

Narrator

Dāria is sitting in a chair. Pappagus is nearby reading to Amēlia, whose left arm is in a sling.

We are in Lūcius's house, and Pappagus is reading the story of the Three Bears to Amēlia.

Pappagus

Reading from "Aurea et Trēs Ursī" ... then she went into a room where there were

Reading from "Aurea et Trēs Ursī"... tum Aurea intrāvit cellam ubi tria pōcula

three bowls of porridge on a table. There was a large bowl. Goldilocks tasted it, but it was too hot.

There was a medium-sized bowl, but it was too cold.

But when she came to the smallest bowl, it was just right, so she ate it all up!

Enter Lūcius, stands in the door, listening and smiling

Amēlia Wasn't Aurea naughty to eat the little bear's porridge? Poor little bear.

Pappagus You will soon hear what the bears thought of it.

Dāria *Kindly:* She *was* naughty, but perhaps Aurea was so hungry that she couldn't help eating it.

Amēlia I think she *was* naughty all the same.

Narrator

Lūcius *Lūcius comes forward.* I liked that story, too.

But I have some very good news to give you. In the trial of Polōnius, the Jury has just found him guilty. This means that he will be banished, and all his possessions confiscated. He must leave Rome today, or he will be killed.

What is better is that Marcus has been found not guilty. All his possessions that were taken away will be given back, and he will also get some of Polōnius's possessions.

Amēlia Does that mean that father will come back? And Chloë?

Lūcius Yes. And you will never be hungry again.

Dāria Hurray. I hope we don't get given the horrible Pedōps, who wrecked Marcus's ship

Lūcius I'm pretty certain that he was the one who tried to kill me. But if not, he will be punished severely, unless he escapes with Polōnius.

But now, I have a wonderful surprise for you.

Narrator

pultis erant in mēnsā. primum pōculum magnum erat. Aurea id gustāvit, sed puls nimium calda erat. secundum pōculum māgnitūdinis mediae erat. Aurea hoc gustāvit, sed puls nimium frīgida erat. sed cum tertium pōculum gustāvisset, perfectum erat, itaque omnem pultem vorāvit.

Enter Lūcius, stands in the door, listening and smiling

nōnne Aurea improba erat cum pultem ursī minimī vorāret? infēlix ursulus!

mōx audiēs quid ursī cogitent!

Kindly: vērō improba erat, sed fortasse Aurea ita ēsūriēbat ut nōn posset sē retinēre.

ego crēdō eam improbam fuisse nihilōminus.

I think Goldilocks was naughty to eat up the little bear's porridge.

Lūcius comes forward. ipse amābam illam fabulam.

sed bonum nuntium habeō tibi dicendum. in rē Polōniī, iūdicēs commodum eum damnāvērunt. ita statim expulsus est, et omnia bona publicāta sunt. necesse est eī Romā exīre nē interficiātur.

et optimum nuntium est iūdicium Marcum innocentem esse. omnia publicāta bona eius reddentur, et nonnulla bonōrum Polōniī eī dōnābuntur.

nōnne ergō pater meus reveniet? et Chloë?

ita vērō. et nunquam iterum ēsūriēs.

euge. sed spērō nōbīs nōn donātum irī illum Pedōpem horribilem, quī nāvem Marcī afflicāvit!

prō certō habeō Pedōpem eum esse quī mē necāre temptāverit. sī tamen ille sīcārius nōn erat, et adhūc vivit, inclementer pūniētur, nisi cum Polōniō fūgerit. sed nunc aliquid improvīsum et optimum tibi habeō.

Lūcius announces: We won the court case, and Polōnius will be banished, and Marcus's possessions will all be given back, and now I have a wonderful surprise for you. It is Marcus, back from his banishment.

Enter Marcus with Fābia and the twins. Gently kneels down near them.

Marcus My dearest ones, I am so happy to be back. But I so very sad to see you ill, my dearest wife. And, Amēlia, I heard from Lūcius the story of how you saved his life and were wounded . You were so brave and I'm very happy that you are getting better. But I am truly sorry that I allowed you both to have these misfortunes, and I am so ashamed that I did not think clearly about what would happen to you if the trial went badly.

Dāria I can hardly believe that it is you. I have so much to talk to you about, that I don't know where to start. I have longed for you to be back, but sometimes I thought that I'd never see you again.

Amēlia *Overcome by all this.* Father, my father!

Pappagus quietly exits, with twins, knowing that this is a special time for her and her mother.

Dāria My little girl.

Marcus Lūcius, I am truly grateful to you.

Lūcius Many thanks to your daughter for saving my life!

Now, you and Dāria and Amēlia have lots to talk about by yourselves. But, before we go, I want to invite you to be our guests until your own affairs are sorted out. And I have a business proposition that we can discuss.

Narrator

Fābia You will have a larger room.

Marcus salutes Lūcius

Marcus I don't know how to thank you enough.

Lūcius and Fābia exit

Dāria Lūcius and Fābia and the twins have been so kind and hospitable, and Pappagus has done all he could to make us happy and comfortable. Lūcius asked his doctor to see us frequently, and he looked after Amēlia's wound, and me too, and we are both much better.

Enter Marcus with Fābia and the twins. Gently kneels down near them.

cārissimae, laetissimus ultrā verba sum quod vōbiscum adsum. sed tristificātus sum quod aegra es, ō uxor dulcissima. et, ō Amēlia audīvī ē Lūciō quōmodo vītā eius servāveris, et vulnerāta sīs. vērō fortissima erās, et gaudeō cum validior sīs. me paenitet mē sīvīsse vōs calamitātēs sufferre , et piget mē quod nōn putāvī quid vōbīs eveniat sī actiō male caderet.

paene crēdō tē adesse. tot rēs habeō dē quibus tēcum loquī volō ut nesciam quōmodo incipiam. semper dēsiderāvī reditum tuum, sed interim crēdidī mē tē nunquam iterum vīsūram.

Overcome by all this. pater, ō mī pater!

Pappagus quietly exits, with twins, knowing that this is a special time for her and her mother.

puellula mea.

Lūcī, plūrimās grātiās tibi agō.

plurimās grātiās agō filiae tuae quae vītā meam servāvit. nunc tū et Dāria et Amēlia dē rēbus multīs volētis confabularī. sed antequam abeō volō vōs invitare convīvas nostrōs fierī usque dum res vestrās digesseritis . et volō negotium inter nōbīs prōpōnere.

Marcus thanks Lūcius, who points out that his daughter saved his life. They must all continue to be guests at his house as long as they need, and Marcus will be a business partner.

cubiculum maius vōbīs erit.

Marcus salutes Lūcius

nōn potest satis grātiās tibi agere.

Lūcius and Fābia exit

Lūcius et Fābia et geminae benignissimī et hospitālissimī sunt. etiam Pappagus ēgit omnia ut nōs fēlicēs commodōsque faciat. Lūcius medicum suum petīvit ut nōs saepe vīseret, et vulnus Amēliae cūrāvit, et mē et valdē validiorēs sumus.

Marcus I hope that now we will be able to rebuild our life together. We'll have a son, and we'll call him Lūcius.

Narrator

Amēlia I will have a new brother?

Dāria I hope so.

Amēlia But it might be a little sister. Then we'll call her Lūcia

Marcus *Laughing* That's right. Lūcia is a nice name.

Amēlia Can we have her soon? She can play with my dolls, but I don't have any. I'd like to have some dolls, and then we can share them.

Dāria We will see. *Starts talking happily to Marcus.*

Amēlia *Jumping up* Caelia! Helena! Come quickly! We're going to have a baby!

Narrator

Enter Caelia and Helena

Caelia *Running in, but uncertain* Already? I thought it took longer than that to make a baby, doesn't it, Helena.

Helena I thought so too, but I don't really know. But Amēlia, we're so happy for you!

Narrator

Amēlia And it will be called after your father. *Calls out loudly* Mr Lūcius!

Rushes off stage and returns dragging Lūcius with her good arm. Fābia and Pappagus follow.

Amēlia *To Lūcius:* We're going to have a baby and it will be called Lūcius after you, except that it'll be Lūcia if it's a little girl!

Fābia *To Lūcius:* See what you have done! You have given Amēlia her childhood back.

Narrator

spērō nōbīs vītam renovātum īrī. filium habēbimus, et Lūcius nominābitur.

They will have a son and call him Lūcius. Amēlia can't wait - but perhaps it will be a girl, and will have to be called Lūcia?

egone vērō novum frātre[m] habēbō?

hoc spērō

fortasse sorōr parva erit. itaque Lūcia nominābitur.

Laughing: ita vērō. Lūcia nōmen pulchrum est.

nōnne mōx eam habēbimus. tum cum pūpīs meīs lūdere poterit, sed nullās habeō. velim pūpās habēre, tum eās partīrī poterimus.

fortasse. *Starts talking happily to Marcus*

Jumping up Caelia! Helena!! celeriter venīte! īnfantem habēbimus!

Amēlia calls in the others to hear the good news about the baby!!

Enter Caelia and Helena

Running in, but uncertain: num iam? crēdēbam tempus ad infantem creandum maius esse. nōnne vērū[m] est, Helena?

sīc crēdidī, sed vērō nesciō. sed, ō Amēlia, laetissimae sumus prō tē!

The twins are a bit doubtful that all this baby business can happen so quickly, but they are very pleased.

et īnfāns nominābitur prō patre vestrō. *Calls out loudly:* domine Lūcī!

Rushes off stage and returns dragging Lūcius with her good arm. Fābia and Pappagus follow.

To Lūcius: īnfantem habēbimus et Lūcius nominābitur prō tē, sed potius Lūcia erit sī puellula erit!

To Lūcius: ecce quid fēcistī. Amēliae pueritiam reddidistī!

Lūcius, you have given Amēlia back her childhood.

Adults smile and look happy. Children dance round, but as Amēlia is damaged, the twins change to joining hands and dance and sing around Amēlia. Here is the little song that they sing.

O Child inside,
Mother's little treasure,
We are waiting for you,
We already love you.

All join in the song.

Adults smile and look happy. Children dance round, but as Amēlia is damaged, the twins change to joining hands and dance and sing around Amēlia. Here is the little song that they sing.

īnfāns intīme,
mātris gāzule,
exspectāmus tē,
iam amāmus tē.

All join in the song

īnfāns intīme

īn-fāns int- i - me, mātris gāz- u - le, exspect-ā-mus
tē, tra - la, Ō iam am- ā-mus tē!

Amēlia To the audience: Now we are all happy

Narrator

To the audience: nunc laetissimī omnēs sumus.

Now we are all happy, says Amēlia. And Dāria did have a healthy son called Lūcius, and Amēlia and her parents were overjoyed and they all lived happily ever after!

FINIS

fur parva - synopsis

Scene 1 Evening in Lucius Octavius' house

Lucius Octavius, a merchant-banker in Rome in about 80BC, is talking to his wife Fabia about the state of Rome at the time, and how lawless it seems to be getting. Items of value have even recently disappeared from the house. It seems as if a thief has been getting into the house, but it must be a very small thief, since the house is fairly secure.

Their twin daughters Caelia and Helena are listening to this conversation, unknown to their parents, and decide that, as it's a small thief, they can tackle him. So they decide to take turns being awake, just in case the thief comes.

Scene 2 At night in Lucius' house

The house is quiet until there is a rustling, and a small figure appears in the dim light. The two children, who have both dozed off, wake up and shout "Stop"! The little figure runs, alarmed, into Helena's arms, and is caught. One continues holding him, while the other gets the lamp. The children realise that it is a very young girl. "Who are you?" the children ask. The young girl, Amelia, is very frightened, but, as her captors seem kind, she starts to tell them about herself, and how she has to look after her sick mother by stealing.

At this point Lucius appears, alarmed by the shout, armed with his sword, followed by Fabia. He says "Thieves by night must die. Go to your rooms!" The two children, say "No father. It is only a little girl. We must find out who she is." The father insists angrily, but the children stand their ground. Mother says "perhaps they are right?". The father reluctantly agrees. His head-slave, Pappagus, goes outside the house to see if there is anybody waiting for the child.

The children tell what they have found out so far, and Amelia, very frightened, tearfully says who she is.

The slave Pappagus brings in a woman, who was outside the house. The child tries to run to her. - clearly the two of them have been thieving together. The father demands an explanation.

The woman, Chloë, explains that she is a slave, and had been Amelia's nanny, until the child's father Marcus Licinius was banished. Lucius realises that he had slightly known Marcus, a ship captain. He himself had loaned money to another merchant, Didius Polonius, to ship grain to Sicily using Marcus's ship. The ship had sunk, and Polonius had prosecuted Marcus for fraud saying that he had deliberately sunk the ship. Marcus had been found guilty, banished and all his possessions confiscated. Chloë says that she knew that Polonius had himself arranged to have the ship sunk. Afterwards, she herself had been acquired, with Marcus's other possessions, by Polonius. He paid her and other slaves a little money if they acquired valuable artefacts for him. She had started to use Amelia to help steal such things, but had given her most of the money to keep herself and her mother.

Lucius decides that Polonius must be investigated, and gives the little girl some money. He tells the slave-woman to take the little girl safely back to her mother, and not say anything about the night's escapade. The little girl is to come back in the morning, and Lucius will send Pappagus back with her to see her mother.

Scene 3 - In the mother's room

Pappagus has gone (with the children) to talk to the little girl's mother, Daria. She confirms Chloë's story, and says that her husband Marcus had been framed. But Marcus was an excellent seaman, and, when the ship began to sink, he ran it aground, so no lives were lost. He knew a fisherman who worked near the wreck of the ship, and could inspect it. Polonius' prosecution had made great play of the fact that Marcus had deliberately run the ship aground, but the defence had not had time to put together a good case. Marcus had suffered banishment and confiscation of all he owned, leaving them destitute. Cousins had not wanted to help. She, the mother, had miscarried, and had been very ill, and still wasn't well, but was getting better. Pappagus gives her money for food, and says that his master had personally lost money in the wreck affair, because he had part-financed it, and will now investigate to see whether he should prosecute Polonius.

Scene 4 - Two weeks later, in Lucius' courtyard

Amelia and her mother have come to Lucius' house, at Lucius' request.

Lucius is explaining to the mother that he has found from the fisherman that the ship had been damaged to make it sink, but, more importantly, that Polonius's grain cargo being taken by the ship had been valueless. He had started proceedings to prosecute Polonius.

Suddenly, a man comes up behind him, and pulls out a dagger to stab him. Amelia has seen this about to happen, and runs to grab the man around his legs. The man swears and stabs her. Lucius turns round and kills him with his sword. Dying, he indicates that he is Polonius's man.

A doctor is called for Amelia, who is badly but not fatally hurt. Lucius is very grateful that she has saved his life, and says that she and her mother must stay with them until the whole matter is settled.

Scene 5 - Some days later in Lucius' House

Pappagus is reading a fairy-tale to Amelia, who is recovering well, when Lucius comes in with good news of the court case. Polonius has been banished, and his belongings confiscated. Marcus has been exonerated, and all his possessions restored.

But now there is a more wonderful surprise. As soon as the prosecution was started, Lucius had sent for Marcus, anticipating success, and Marcus had come back to Rome dressed as a slave.

Marcus now enters, and there is a touching reunion. Marcus says is deeply grateful to Lucius Octavius. The rest of the family now leave to give them time together. Marcus hopes that they will have a son that he can call Lucius. Amelia is greatly excited by the prospect of a small brother - or will it be Lucia? She calls in the family to have a happy celebration.

Infans Intime

Anthony Holton Dec. 2005

Handwritten musical score for the first system of 'Infans Intime'. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in treble clef, a piano accompaniment in treble clef, and a bass line in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: 'in fānis intī-me mātris gāz-u-'. There are some handwritten annotations, including 'LH' above the piano staff and a large slur over the piano accompaniment.

Handwritten musical score for the second system of 'Infans Intime'. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in treble clef, a piano accompaniment in treble clef, and a bass line in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: '-le exspect-ā-mus tē tra la ō iam a-mānus tē'. The piano accompaniment features a prominent bass line with eighth notes. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

not last time