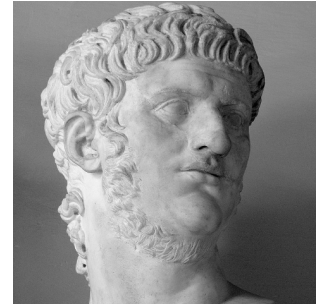


♂ Marius Maximus

The Gossipmonger



Age	in his fifties
Social Status	patricius (nobleman)
Position	senator, storyteller, bon vivant
Love interest	Clodia Laeta
Friends	Manilius Immodestius
Main Theme	masochism, hedonism, backstabbing others

The bon vivant of Rome is the bon vivant of the known world! If no scandalous doing is to be found, you incite it. If outrage is about, you are the first to know about it. If disgracefulness takes place, you make sure the whole city hears of it. You don't shy away from the excess- no, you seek it. Together with your friend **Immodestius** you're stepping closer to the abyss, drawing joy from it. Behind the facade, however, is a wounded soul. The woman you love is out of reach for you, and yet so close. You have held the highest offices of state and have been collecting juicy details and anecdotes about the private lives of emperors for years. You want to write an entertaining biography of the emperor and thus make your name significant beyond your death. You have many informants among the slaves of the palace who provide you with information about the latest outrages of Elagabal. No rumor is too bizarre for you not to spread.

Rumors for you to spread during the game:

- The emperor Elagabal prostitutes himself in taverns and brothels.
Guests in the palace already had lions waiting in their rooms, which then tore them apart.
- Elagabal reads the future from the guts of infants.
- In a banqueting room, he buries his guests in violets and other flowers so that some are smothered to death, unable to crawl out to the top.
- When the emperor marries Faustina, who knows if she's pregnant from Bassus (Friday night)
- The emperor has married his lover Hierocles, while he's still married to Faustina. Elagabal loves being called Hierocles's mistress, wife, and queen (Saturday morning)
The emperor wears makeup and wigs, prefers to be called a lady and not a lord, and offers vast sums to any physician who could provide him with a vagina.
- Elagabal forced senators to watch while he danced circling the altar of his Syrian god to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals.
- The most sacred relics from the Roman religion were transferred from their respective shrines to the Elagabalium, a temple dedicated to the Syrian god. This includes the fire of Vesta so that no other god could be worshipped except in association with Elagabal.
- In order to increase his piety as high priest of the god Elagabalus atop a new Roman pantheon, the emperor had himself circumcised and swore to abstain from swine.

Your fate has carefully been crafted by the Parcae. Since you can't escape it, it is paramount to us that you, the player, have as much agency as possible in negotiating your relationships and your path to destiny.

ACT I (Friday night)

Senator **Bassus** has ambitions, he seems to want to succeed Elagabal on the throne. He tries to get the senatorial elite on his side and offers you high office if you support him in a rebellion against Elagabal. You get in on Bassus' game and try to get more information out of him, but you know that Elagabal isn't questioned enough yet. But now you have something on Bassus and blackmail his wife **Faustina**. You take pleasure in her suffering and know that you can eliminate a competitor in the senate. When Faustina takes the bull by the horns and accuses Bassus himself of treason, you take on the role of the prosecutor in court and demand the death penalty. **Comazon** offers to be your star witness. But that's not all. Pollio defends Bassus and accuses Faustina of being the mastermind. The imperial family demands that Pollio also be sentenced to death, with you as the prosecutor.

to be filled in before the game (homework)	to be filled in at the workshop
<i>What ideas do you have to play the scene as cool as possible?</i>	<i>How would you like to play the scene?</i>
<i>What would go too far for you?</i>	<i>No-goes</i>

ACT II (Saturday morning & noon)

20 years ago you were supposed to be married to the young **Clodia Laeta**. You met her at a symposion when she was 13 and therefore already marriageable. You drank a lot and flirted with each other, and you fell hard for Laeta. When you got drunk, a desire for her overtook you. You both became impetuous and had sex in a chamber, where you were discovered by ultra-conservative **Fuscus**, who was also a guest at the party. You were chased out of the house, the engagement dissolved, the shame too great to go through with the marriage as planned. Laeta was forced to join the Order of the vestal virgins. Your heart was broken and your love for the now unattainable Laeta never extinguished. Yet here at court you meet again, and you wonder if her love for you never died either? Is there something else that binds you together? The emperor does not honor the sanctity of the vestal virgins. Can't you ask him to release Laeta from service early?

to be filled in before the game (homework)	to be filled in at the workshop
<i>What ideas do you have to play the scene as cool as possible?</i>	<i>How would you like to play the scene?</i>
<i>What would go too far for you?</i>	<i>No-goes</i>

ACT III (Saturday afternoon, after Elagabal's divorce of Faustina)

Laeta and you have a child, who reveals himself to you. How can this be? And whose fault is it that you could never be a family?

It's time for you and Laeta to finally confess your love that has outlasted time.

Hippolyte tried to kill the heir to the throne, **Alexander**. She must be brought to justice for this, and who better be prosecutor than you? This time it's easy, because no one is willing to be her defending lawyer. **Claudius** serves you as a witness for the prosecution. Hippolyte is sentenced to death (damnatio ad gladium) and thrown into the dungeon. Her execution is to be carried out by the gladiators after the great battle in honor of Alexander, but the riot breaks out. Will you manage to be on the right side?

to be filled in before the game (homework)	to be filled in at the workshop
<i>What ideas do you have to play the scene as cool as possible?</i>	<i>How would you like to play the scene?</i>
<i>What would go too far for you?</i>	<i>No-goes</i>

IUS at the court of Elagabal

In a trial about high treason, a senator must lead the court as a judge. He may appoint up to two other senators as associated judges to consult with him on the verdict. Anyone, usually appointed by the imperial family, can be a prosecutor. The accused may defend himself or have a lawyer speak for him.

Procedure

The judge sits on the curule seat and thus begins the trial. The priests then hold ritualized sacrifices. The prosecutor explains in brief words what is on trial. The lawyers come forward, introduce themselves, and swear by Iuppiter, the protector of the innocent, or by Iuppiter, the punisher of the guilty.

The lawyers basically speak to the audience and the imperial family, because convincing them also usually influences the judge's opinion. The court trial is first and foremost a show. The lawyers now begin to take turns denouncing and insulting each other in order to look better.

The judge sets the speaking times and who may begin.

After that, the lawyers begin their pleas, call witnesses (slaves are only allowed to testify under torture, performed by Lupus), or present evidence.

Once the hearing of evidence is over, the judge has to pass the sentence (sententia). The judgment is immediately final, no appeal can be made.

Penalty

damnatio ad gladium

Sentencing to sword fighting, therefore to fight against a regular gladiator in the arena. The condemned is not entitled to armor or shield, he only gets a sword in his hand. A pardon on victory is unusual.

damnatio ad ludum gladiatorium

Conviction to the gladiatorial games. The condemned loses his freedom and must become a regular gladiator. In the course of his career, he can regain freedom.

damnatio ad crucem

Sentencing to crucifixion. The goal is not only death, but also humiliation and deterrence. The delinquent is usually tied or nailed to the cross. Relatives often bribe the guards to give the delinquent the coup de grace.

damnatio memoriae

Destruction of memory, an additional punishment for particularly serious offenses. The deceased is denied a proper burial, his name is erased everywhere and the surviving relatives are no longer allowed to mention it.