

The Drag

Age in his twenties

Social Statuspatricius (nobleman)Positionartist, actor, singerLove interestManilia Voluptas

Family Manilius Fuscus (father),

Manilia Voluptas (sister),

Flavia Pollitta (mother)

Friends Marius Maximus, Catull **Main Theme** incest, lust, immorality, art



You love to provoke and to overstep the mark. The old-fashioned Roman nobility brings odium on you, but you enjoy it, knowing that you're well appreciated by the court. Sexuality is something fluent for you, and like the emperor himself, you push all limits. As the most opalescent queen, you love the spotlight, and no other artist, singer, or actor is able to hold a candle to you.

Your sister Voluptas and you had a difficult childhood. Your parents, Fuscus and Pollitta, are the most prudish people imaginable. As soon as you could, you rebelled against them. This led to much frustration and suffering in the family and eventually estranged you completely. Yet you do care about them. You even particularly care what they think of you, namely only the worst. You want to expose them to the public, you want to get back at them for your messed-up childhood.

Since Elagabal's rise to power, Voluptas and you have been in good company. The court not only tolerates your excesses, but they also love it. At last, you can pursue your passion for being an actor and artist. You can be who you really are and not be forced into the tight corset that your oppressive father intended for you.

You wear makeup and wigs as you please. When you feel like a silk robe, you put it on or wear nothing at all, joking that only smart people can see your fine clothes. Life at court gives you unimagined freedom, and slowly you become the muse from hell that deep down you always wanted to be.

You are the commentator of the gladiatorial fights and are therefore in exchange with Sirius, the organizer of the games. You love this opportunity to be the center of attention.

Here's a play you can perform with your fellow actors:

≡ Elagabal: Schauspiel

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)

In your youthful rebellion, nothing is too stupid for you to shock your prudish parents. You are tired of being accused of immoral behavior by Pollitta and Fuscus. To shock them, you start cuddling with your sister Voluptas. You always had a crush on her, can you go further?

To provide variety, you keep bringing in all kinds of gladiators for playfights and partying. What other boundaries can you cross?

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



ACT II (Saturday morning & noon)

You never imagined that your father **Fuscus** would one day come to you and ask you for a favor. You are to organize a saucy spectacle, hard to believe. Together with your friend and colleague **Catull** you will produce a scandal. **Hierocles** has risen to become the Emperor's favorite and Toyboy. In the play, the audience will be shown what abominations he does with the emperor in the private chamber. In the process, Hierocles is to play himself; as a slave, he can be forced to do so. Fuscus assures you that Mamaea will take care of it. Catullus wants the slave **Timor** for the role of the emperor. Never before could you reach so many important people with one of your works. You will also get noble help from the former wife of Elagabal: **Iulia Paula**. What an honor that she supports this masquerade so much. It has to be a spectacle!

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



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

Catull, who has worked his way up from the gutter, tells you that he wants nothing more than to become a senator. You find the idea so funny that you can't help but support him. You flirt with **Helia** and persuade her that Catull and you could make the erection of the sacred stone of Emesa a huge spectacle. You will put on a show, while the priestesses dance around the altar beating cymbals. Catull plays the god Elagabalus, who overthrows Iuppiter, personified by you, from his throne and forces Iuppiter to kneel before him.

Helia is thrilled and you keep whispering to her that she should make Catull a senator. How nice it would be to stand on the stage next to such an important personage and thus further trample on the traditions of your wretched father.

At the great gladiatorial combat in the evening, everyone will be watching. It's a perfect chance to present a play before the fights. And don't forget, you are the commentator of the fights, so get to know more about it and help **Sirius** to organize it, so it can be a true spectacle. Catull will for sure help you too, he wants to have a special role in the games and will embarrass himself in front of everybody.

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

When the revolution breaks out, your world collapses. It was Elagabal who gave you the freedom to be as you want. Without your emperor, there is no more reason to live.



Pairing in the final games (Act III, Saturday evening after dinner and Hippolyte's trial):

Quarter finals:

Timor vs. Catull Goha vs. Pollio Hierocles vs. Gordius Perdita vs. Sirius (Timor wins) (Goha wins) (Hierocles wins) (Perdita wins)

Semi-finals:

Timor vs. Goha Hierocles vs. Perdita (Goha should win, but Timor wins instead) (Hierocles wins)

Finale (planned):

Hierocles vs. Goha

Finale (actual):

Hierocles vs. Timor

Hippolyte's "execution"

(after her speech: riot)