

# ♀ Iulia Paula

## *The Rejected*

<b>Age</b>	adolescent
<b>Social Status</b>	patricia (noblewoman)
<b>Position</b>	first wife, now ex-wife of Elagabal
<b>Friends</b>	Seia Orbiana, Aurelia Faustina, Flavia Pollitta
<b>Love Interest</b>	Pomponius Marsus
<b>Main Theme</b>	humiliation, shame, regaining confidence, intrigues, vengeance



When the Syrian Elagabal became emperor, his grandmother arranged a marriage with you, a noble Roman woman. Soon your husband showed his true colors. He disowned you because you were not perfect enough for him and married the vestal virgin **Severa** instead, what a fucking bitch! This was a sacrilege that upset the Romans since vestal virgins must remain chaste and casting aside a wife because of a "body mark" is considered tyranny. Elagabal also never shared a bed with you, so you were unable to give him an heir, all the while he just became more and more eccentric. Despite your divorce, you have to appear regularly in court and endure the humiliations of the courtiers. You know that you will break if you don't change something. You must take revenge for the humiliation inflicted on you and seek allies, like your good friend **Orbiana** or **Pollitta**. To win **Faustina** as an ally, you must first work to destroy her dream as empress. Together you will manage to repay the injustice done to you.

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*Your fate has carefully been crafted by the Parcae (three goddesses of fate). 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.*

### BEGINNING (FIRST SCENE)

The game begins with the exclamation "The Emperor demands the gladiators". **Lucretia** leads the gladiators, all magnificently decorated and oiled, into the hall. The emperor is delighted and invites his court to enjoy his precious gifts, he forces even you. But no matter what you do, it does not suit the emperor. He accuses you of being a lying whore who did not appreciate all the good he offered her. In a rage, Elagabal orders Lupus to whip and humiliate you once again in front of everyone.

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 I (Friday night)

You are devastated and think about suicide. **Canis**, the nurse of the gladiators, has to doctor you and allows you a change of perspective. He is unfree and must suffer his fate, but you are rich and noble, the humiliation must make you stronger. Your best friend **Orbiana** also speaks well to you, and together you want to ensure that justice is done. In return for Canis' help in your difficult hour, you promise him a favor.

You need allies. Orbiana wants to win the virtuous **Marsus** as a new husband for you, but you don't want to rush. You are afraid of the emperor's revenge if you marry again, and you don't want to appear to be doing it out of desperation. Nevertheless, there is something about Marsus, that catches your interest. Sometimes your eyes meet and you wonder whether he might be interested in you too. Your friend **Flavia Pollitta** has told you that she wants to list all the distasteful, ungraceful, shameful, and wrong doings that happen at court and around the emperor to confront his grandmother **Maesa** later. You reassure her that she is doing the right thing and have the feeling that you have a strong ally in her.

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## ACT II (Saturday morning & noon)

**Orbiana's** attempts to bring you and **Marsus** closer seem to be working. You understand that you need allies. Marsus is a high ranking officer, a good match, and below your status. So you keep the upper hand even in a marriage. As you get to know him better you begin to appreciate his honesty and idealism, and realize you are so much alike. His brother was executed, and he has enough reason to hate the imperial house. Marsus is torn between his feelings and loyalty to the emperor. Get him to slowly come over to your side (the dark one).

Finally, you ask permission from the imperial family and get married (before lunch).

At the same time you're looking for a good match for Orbiana, and who better than **Alexander**? You hear that **Immodestius** and **Catullus** are working to make Alexander Caesar, instead of some filthy slave stuffing the emperor's lock. Help them!

Together with your friends **Pollitta** and **Orbiana**, you look for more allies to harm the emperor. You know from **Canis** how bad things are for the gladiators. Together you are floating the idea of how to get the slaves to revolt (or be on a safe side if it happens), so you cautiously consult Canis, who puts you in touch with the torturer **Lupus**. Lupus promises you support, but in return he demands that you arrange a meeting with the honorable **Clodia Laeta**. You can't rely on the wretched slave, however, because after the meeting he no longer remembers his promise. He says they will only get his sword if one of the women gives herself to him voluntarily. You are shocked and refuse. Lupus gives you some time to think about it, but if you continue to refuse, he will betray you to **Helia**.

You know that **Faustina** is capable of anything, she has already sacrificed her husband to become empress. Once her hatred for the emperor is awakened, you can be sure of her as a loyal ally against Elagabal. You must therefore get them into a humiliating divorce. If that means you have to work with your arch-enemy **Severa**, who has also been dropped by the emperor, then so be it. Who but the two of you know that the emperor is a priest rather than a ruler? For a divine emperor, only a divine union under the eyes of the grateful people can be a worthy act of siring divine offspring. Faustina, as a conservative Roman, would never be part of such a hierogamy (holy wedding). Now, all you have to do is make sure it happens.

Marsus is shocked by how you enjoy Faustina's humiliation and disowns you. Despite all the intrigue, you realize that you care about the virtuous Marsus. You want him back.

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

**Faustina** is now your ally against the emperor. At the meeting of the women's senate (at the beginning of the act), you and the other women try to convince the empress-grandmother **Maesa** that **Alexander** would be a better choice as an emperor if she wants to prevent an uprising. In the women's senate, **Voluptas** reveals that your friend **Pollitta** is having an affair with the upstart **Zoticus**. You doubt her motives. Is she really the morally impeccable friend you thought she was? You must confront her! You can't afford losing her as an ally and friend. You can't let all the immorality at court keep Pollitta and you apart. After all, she's like a sister to you.

Pollitta, **Orbiana** and you are still being blackmailed by **Lupus**. More than ever, however, you need the gladiators' support as tensions continue to rise. After Pollitta's terrible exposure in front of the Women's Senate, she tells you that she has nothing left to lose. Her marriage in ruins, her honor lost, she acquiesces to Lupus' deal. You want to stop her, but part of you is glad she's doing it and not you. Lupus tells you that **Hierocles** is also one of the conspirators. He is getting fed up with the nobles and their false promises, he also wants to take his fate into his own hands and can be won over to the women's cause.

**Faustina** is like you, she thirsts for revenge on the imperial house. Together with Pollitta and Orbiana, you initiate her into the conspiracy and introduce her to Hierocles, Lupus and Canis, who you will rely on in the event of an uprising.

You promise the gladiators to influence **Marsus** and get the soldiers on your side. This is not the only motivation for you to win him back, because you really fell in love with him and only realized it when it was too late. In return, you want the gladiators to assassinate **Severa** as well as the emperor. You have no more hate for anyone else than for her. Hierocles promises you this.

You keep each other informed about the current situation until the uprising.

Orbiana and Alexander marry, which is greatly celebrated. Will **Marsus** and you get back together? You try to win him back and he makes you squirm for a long time, but in the end it's your honesty about your feelings that makes him forgive you and take you back.

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