

“māter Gracchōrum”

adapted from

Easy Latin Plays

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Cornēlia
amīca Cornēliae, mātrōna Rōmāna
Gaius Gracchus, filius Cornēliae
Tiberius Gracchus, alter filius Cornēliae
Semprōnia, filia Cornēliae
Blossius
Mārcus Octāvius
servī et ancillae
cīvēs Rōmānī
tribūnī
senātōrēs

prōlogus. apud Cornēliam.

(multīs ante annīs)

Cornēlia; amīca; liberī Cornēliae

[intrat amīca Cornēliae]

Cor. salvē, mea amīca!

am. salvē et tū!

Cor. quid agis hodiē?

am. mē optimē **habeō**, quod marītus mihi **ōrnāmenta** nova nūper dedit. vīsne tū
haec ōrnāmenta mea īnspicere?

Cor. libentissimē haec videō!

[Cornēlia ōrnāmenta amīcae īnspicit]

Cor. pulchra **quidem** sunt. sed ego ōrnāmenta habeō pulchriōra.

am. ubi sunt? illa vidēre volō.

Cor. nōndum haec vidēre potes. sed, dīc mihi, quōmodo **sē habet** marītus tuus?

am. bene est, grātiās. sed cūr illa vidēre nōn possum? ubi sunt?

Cor. et māter tua? estne in urbe?

am. adest. sed ōrnāmenta—

Cor. et pater? adhūc **aeger** est?

am. convaluit. ōrnāmenta autem—

Cor. nōnne frāter tuus mīlitat?

am. mīles est. sed ista—

Cor. ubi **stipendium facit**? pater meus, **ut** scīs, fuit **imperātor** clārissimus.

am. in Āfricā nunc pugnāt. ego autem volō—

Cor. pater meus quoque in Āfricā pugnāvit! ibi Hannibalem, hostem nōbīs
īnfestissimum, vīcit.

am. nōs omnēs iam dē Scipiōne illō scīmus! sed, amīca, dīc—

Cor. scīsne quōmodo Hannibal pugnāre solēret?

am. elephantīs, certē. deditne pater tibi—

Cor. vērūm est, elephantīs Hannibal pugnāre solēbat! sed pater meus elephantōs
quoque vīcit. elephantum umquam vīdistī tū?

am. numquam vīdī. sunt autem magnī, **ut** crēdō. itaque **ēburnea** habēs—

Cor. a!, quid audiō?

[vōcēs puerilēs audiuntur]

Cor. ecce, adsunt! ōrnāmenta mea!

[intrant trēs liberī Cornēliae]

am. ubi sunt ōrnāmenta tua? ego liberōs videō, nōn gemmās aut aurum.

Cor. haec ōrnāmenta sunt mea. duodecim iam **peperī**; novem nunc sub terrīs iacent, sed hīc adsunt Tiberius, **maior nātū**, Gāius, **minor**, et Semprōnia, soror eōrum. quid **opus est mihi** gemmīs, tālia ōrnāmenta habēns? dīcite mihi, ō liberī meī, quid hodiē in **lūdō didicistis**?

[liberīs dē lūdō dīcentibus, fīnitur scaena]

aeger: *sick*
certē: *certainly*
convalēscō: *to get better*
discō: *to learn*
ēburneus: *ivory, made of ivory*
elephantus: *elephant*
imperātor: *general*
īfestissimum: *most hostile*

liberī: *children*
lūdus: *school*
maior nātū: *older*
mē habeō: *I am, I'm doing*
mīlitō: *to be a soldier*
minor (nātū): *younger*
nōndum: *not yet*
opus est mihi: *I need*

ōrnāmenta: *jewels*
pariō: *to give birth to*
puerīlis: *of children, children's*
quidem: *in fact, indeed*
sē habet: *he is, he's doing*
stīpendium faciō: *to do military service*
ut: *as*

scaena I. apud Cornēliam.

(multis post annis)

Cornēlia; C. Gracchus; ancillae; Ti. Gracchus

Gaius. māter mea, cūr **cessat** Tiberius? quid agit? sōlus iam semper ego in Campō Mārtiō mē exerceō, vel in silvīs **ferās agitō** sōlus.

Cornēlia. frāter tuus, mī fili, **prō patriā** nostrā cōgitat et labōrat. num vīs patris vestrī filium, Āfricānī **nepōtem, dēgenerem** esse? num ille **vēnātiōnēs** cūrābit, **dum** miserī sunt cīvēs Rōmānī?

[clāmōrēs audiuntur]

populus *[extrā]*. euge, euge! salvē, Gracche! ecce Tiberius, **tribūnus plēbis!**

C. cūr, māter...?

Cor. **exaudī!** quid audiō? quid clāmant?

[intrat Tiberius]

Ti. salvē, māter! salvēte!

Cor. mī fili, quid audiēbam? quid clāmābat populus?

Ti. māter mea, populus Rōmānus mē tribūnum plēbis creāvit!

Cor. tū ergo, mī fili, servābis Rōmam! senātuī obstābis, cīvibus favēbis!

ancillae. **macte virtūte!** euge!

Ti. nuper in Ītaliā reveniēbam. iter faciēns per Viam Appiam, multum dolēbam. ubīque servōs vidēbam, miserōs hominēs et **turpēs gregēs** custōdientēs, ubi agricolae Rōmānī ōlim habitābant et suōs **quisque** agrōs **colēbat**. nunc, ēheu, omnēs agrōs dīvitēs habent; cīvēs Rōmānī in urbe in **paupertāte** ac **vitiīs versantur, optimātium** clientēs.

Cor. hoc ergō tibi erit **opus**, mī fili.

Ti. **lēgem feram iūstissimam.** agrōs pauperibus reddam; iterum suum quisque fundum colet.

Cor. [*Gāium alloquēns*] hūc, puer ! audīsne ? ego et tū **testēs** sumus. Tiberius populō Romanō agrōs Ītalōs **restituet**, et **prīstinos** Rōmānōrum **mōrēs**.

agitō (3): *to hunt*

alloquor (3): *to address, speak to*

cessō (1): *to delay*

colō (3): *to cultivate, till*

dēgener: *unworthy of the family*

dum: *while*

exaudiō (4): *to listen (up)*

fera: *wild beast*

grex, gregis: *flock, herd*

iūstus: *just, fair*

lēgem ferō: *I pass a law*

macte virtūte!: *bravo! well done!*

mōs, mōris m: *custom, habit; (pl.) character*

nepōs: *grandson*

optimātēs: *the "best people,"*

those who support the rights of the aristocrats

opus, operis n.: *task, job*

patria: *native country, homeland*

paupertās: *poverty*

prīstinus: *former, previous*

prō: *for, on behalf of*

quisque: *each person*

restituō (3): *to restore*

testis: *witness*

tribūnus plēbis: *tribune of the plebs*

turpis: *disgraceful, unsightly*

vēnātiō: *hunt*

versor (1): *to live in, be engaged in*

vitium: *vice, crime*

scaena II. in forō.

Ti. Gracchus; M. Octāvius; cēterī tribūnī; cīvēs

cīvēs [*inter sē sermōnem habentēs*]. tacēte! veniunt tribūnī plēbis. audīte Gracchum!

Ti. cīvēs Rōmānī, mox **suffrāgia ferētis**. ego **agrōs** Ītalōs cupiō inter cīvēs omnēs, ut anteā, distribuī – **privārī** eōs quī plus habent agrī quam **quīngenta iūgera**. M. Octāvius **vetat**; tribūnus plēbis plēbem **prodit**.

[*Octāviō dicit*] Marce Octāvī, rursus tē moneō. dēsine etiam nunc populī **voluntātem** impedīre!

[*Octāvius tacet*]

cīvēs Rōmānī, suffrāgia ferte ! **cēseō** Octāviō **magistrātum abrogandum**. quid sentītis ? placetne ?

cīvēs. placet.

Ti. Marce Octāvī, magistrātus tibi est abrogātus. abī! [*cīvibus*] expellite eum!

Oct. mox tū poenās dabis, quī lēgēs Rōmānās et tribūnum **sacrōsanctum**, ita violās.

suffrāgium ferō: *to vote*
ager: *territory, land*
privō (1): *to take away*
quīngentī: *five hundred*
iūgerum: *an acre*
vetō (1): *to forbid*
prodō (3): *to betray*

voluntās: *will*
cēseō: *to think, propose*
magistrātus (4): *office*
abrogandum: *should be taken away*
sacrōsanctus: *inviolable, sacrosanct*

scaena III. in forō. vesperī.

cīvēs; Ti. Gracchus; filius praetextātus

cīv I. quid tū sentīs? num Gracchus...

cīv II. hoc **equidem** sentiō. Gracchus ... sed ecce! **inde** venit ipse.

[*intrat Ti. Gracchus cum filiō*]

Ti. cīvēs! amīcī! mihi sī **crās** erit **ultimus** diēs, excipite hunc, filium meum
cārissimum. hodiē vōbīs hunc trādō; crās animam meam fortasse prō vōbīs
dēpōnam.

cīvēs. vīvēs, Gracche—vīvēs et superābis! iterum eris tribūnus! euge! euge! salvē,
Gracche!

[*exeunt*]

anima: *life*
crās: *tomorrow*
equidem: *I, for my part*
inde: *from over there*

praetextātus: *wearing a boy's bordered toga*
prō: *for, on behalf of*
ultimus: *last*
vesper: *evening*

scaena IV. in Capitōliō.

cīvēs; rŭsticus; senātorēs; tribŭnī; Ti. Gracchus.

rŭst. salvēte, amīcī! **nŭper rŭre** in urbem advēnī. dīcite mihi! quid hīc agitur?

cīv. I. comitia habent; tribŭnōs plēbis creant.

rŭst. quī petunt? cui favet populus?

cīv. I. Tibērius Gracchus petit iterum esse tribŭnus.

rŭst. quid? nōnne lēgēs id **vetant**?

cīv. I. vetant **sānē** lēgēs, sed populus favet Gracchō.

cīv. II. nŭper ille agrōs Ītalōs cīvibus **pauperibus** reddidit.

rŭst. bene ēgit. **iŭre** illī populus favet.

cīv. III. immō lēgēs violat petēns iterum tribŭnus esse. mihi **displicet**.

cīv. II. crēscit clāmōr!

rŭst. quid agitur?

[intrans senātorēs, tribŭnī, Gracchus contendētēs. Gracchus cadit.]

ager: field, land

comitia: elections

crēscō: to grow

displicet: to be displeasing

hīc: here

immō: *that's completely wrong! NO!*

iŭre: rightly, justly

nŭper: recently

rŭs: the country

rŭsticus: a countryman.

sānē: indeed, absolutely

vetō: to deny

scaena V. apud Cornēliam.

Cornēlia; ancillae; Blossius, amīcus Tiberiī; cīvēs

Cornēlia. ubi est Tiberius? summō **amōre** hodiē eum exspectō.

ancillae. audī, domina! venit!

Cor. num ille venit? cūr nōn clāmat populus?

[intrans Blossius, amīcus Tiberiī, et cīvēs]

Bl. salvē, Cornēlia!

Cor. salvē, amīce! quid mihi nūntiās?

Bl. ēheu, nūntiōs trīstissimōs referō.

Cor. quid? nihil mihi trīstissimī nūntiare potes, nisi filius meus **sē turpem praebuit.**

Bl. Cornēlia, Tiberius mortuus est. senātōrēs eum necāvērunt, quod populum adiuvābat.

Cor. ā... **prō patriā vērō** mortuus est. intrāte, ō amīcī cīvēs! vōs enim salūtāre volō.

[intrans cīvēs lacrimantēs]

Cor. salvēte, ō amīcī filiī meī, quī nunc **beātissimus** est! **avē atque valē**, mī filiī! hodiē laetissima sum; tē maximē et laudō et amō. **ter quaterque** nunc **beāta** sum quod pater meus Hannibalem superāvit; quod marītus meus in Hispāniā **glōriam** bellī comparāvit; quod ūnus ē filiīs hīc mortuus iacet, **prō patriā** necātus; et quod alter filiū quoque **prō patriā vīvet et labōrābit!** et nunc ad templum contendō, ut dīs immortalibus grātiās agem, ego, Scipiōnis filia, Gracchī uxor, māterque Gracchōrum!

amor, amōris: *love*
avē atque valē: *hail and*
farewell!
beātus: *lucky, blessed*
patria: *his country*
prō: *for, on behalf of*

sē turpem praebuit: *has*
turned out to be a bad
person
ter quaterque: *three, no,*
four times
vērō: *but, however*

vīvet et labōrābit: *will live*
and work

Glossary

ā: <i>oh!</i>	creō (1): <i>to elect</i>	faciō (3): <i>to make, do</i>
abeō (irr.): <i>to go away</i>	crēscō: <i>to grow</i>	faveō: <i>to favor, support + dat.</i>
abrogandum: <i>should be taken away</i>	cui: <i>dat. sing. of quī, here "whom"</i>	fera: <i>wild beast</i>
ad: <i>to</i>	cum: <i>with</i>	filia: <i>daughter</i>
adest: <i>is present, is here</i>	cupiō (3): <i>to desire</i>	filius: <i>son</i>
adhūc: <i>still</i>	cūr: <i>why</i>	fortasse: <i>perhaps</i>
adiuvō: <i>to help</i>	cūrō (1): <i>to care about</i>	frāter: <i>brother</i>
advenīre: <i>to arrive</i>	custōdiō (4): <i>to guard</i>	fuit: <i>was</i>
aeger: <i>sick</i>	dē: <i>about</i>	fundus: <i>farm</i>
ager, agrī m: <i>field, land, territory</i>	dedit: <i>gave</i>	gemma: <i>gem</i>
agitō (3): <i>to hunt</i>	dēgener: <i>unworthy of the family</i>	glōria: <i>glory</i>
agō (3): <i>to do, render</i>	dēpōnō (3): <i>to lay down</i>	grātiās: <i>thanks</i>
agricola: <i>farmer</i>	dēsīnō (3): <i>to stop</i>	grex, gregis: <i>flock, herd</i>
alloquor (3): <i>to address, speak to</i>	dī immortalēs: <i>the immortal gods</i>	habēō: <i>to have</i>
alter: <i>the other</i>	dīc, dīcite: <i>tell!</i>	habitō (1): <i>to live</i>
amīca: <i>friend</i>	dīcō: <i>to say</i>	haec: <i>this, these</i>
amīcus: <i>friend</i>	discō: <i>to learn</i>	hīc: <i>here</i>
amō: <i>to love</i>	displīcet: <i>to be displeasing</i>	hodiē: <i>today</i>
amor, amōris: <i>love</i>	distribuō (3): <i>to distribute</i>	homō: <i>person, human</i>
anteā: <i>before</i>	dīves, dīvītis: <i>rich</i>	hostis: <i>enemy</i>
apud: <i>at the house of</i>	dō: <i>to give</i>	hūc: <i>(to) here</i>
audiō (4): <i>to hear</i>	doleō: <i>to hurt, be in pain, be grieved</i>	hunc: <i>him, this [man]</i>
audiō: <i>to hear, listen</i>	domina: <i>mistress</i>	iaceō: <i>to lie (dead)</i>
aurum: <i>gold</i>	dūcō: <i>bring</i>	iam: <i>now, already</i>
aut: <i>or</i>	dum: <i>while</i>	ibi: <i>there</i>
autem: <i>however, but</i>	duodecim: <i>twelve</i>	id: <i>it, that</i>
avē atque valē: <i>hail and farewell!</i>	ēburneus: <i>ivory, made of ivory</i>	illa: <i>that, those</i>
beātus: <i>lucky, blessed</i>	ecce: <i>look!</i>	ille: <i>that man, he</i>
bellum: <i>war</i>	ēgī: <i>pres. perf. of agere to do</i>	illī: <i>dat. sing. of ille</i>
bene: <i>well</i>	ego: <i>I</i>	immō: <i>that's completely wrong! NO!</i>
cadō: <i>to fall</i>	ēheu: <i>oh no!</i>	impediō (4): <i>to hinder, get in the way of</i>
cārus: <i>dear</i>	elephantus: <i>elephant</i>	imperātor: <i>general</i>
censeō: <i>to think, propose</i>	enim: <i>for, since</i>	in (+ abl.): <i>in, on</i>
certē: <i>certainly</i>	eōrum: <i>their, of them</i>	in (+ acc.): <i>(in)to</i>
cessō (1): <i>to delay</i>	eos: <i>them, those</i>	īnfestissimum: <i>most hostile</i>
cēterī: <i>the other</i>	ergō: <i>therefore</i>	īnspiciō: <i>to look at</i>
cīvis: <i>citizen</i>	eris: <i>you will be</i>	inter: <i>among</i>
clāmō (1): <i>to shout</i>	erit: <i>it will be</i>	intrō (1): <i>to enter</i>
clāmor: <i>a shout</i>	est: <i>is</i>	ipse: <i>he himself</i>
clārissimus: <i>very famous</i>	et: <i>and; also, too</i>	iste: <i>that, those</i>
cliēns, clientis: <i>client</i>	etiam: <i>even</i>	ita: <i>thus</i>
cōgitō (1): <i>to think about</i>	euge: <i>hooray! yay!</i>	itaque: <i>and so</i>
colō (3): <i>to cultivate, till</i>	eum: <i>him, that man</i>	iter, itineris n.: <i>journey</i>
comitia: <i>elections</i>	exaudiō (4): <i>to listen (up)</i>	iterum: <i>again</i>
comparō: <i>to obtain</i>	excipiō (3): <i>to receive, take on</i>	iūgerum: <i>an acre</i>
contendō: <i>to hurry, struggle</i>	exerceō: <i>to train</i>	iūre: <i>rightly, justly</i>
convalēscō: <i>to get better</i>	expellō (3): <i>to drive out</i>	iūstus: <i>just, fair</i>
crēdō: <i>to believe</i>	exspectō: <i>to wait</i>	labōrō (1): <i>to work, labor</i>
	extrā: <i>outside</i>	laetus: <i>happy</i>
		laudō: <i>to praise</i>

lēgem ferō: *I pass a law*
 lēx, lēgis: *law*
 libentissimē: *very happily*
 liberī: *children*
 lūdus: *school*
 macte virtūte!: *bravo! well done!*
 magistrātus (4): *office*
 magnus: *big*
 maior nātū: *older*
 marītus: *husband*
 māter: *mother*
 maximē: *very much, the most*
 mē habeō: *I am, I'm doing*
 mea: *my, of mine*
 meus: *my*
 mihi, dat. of ego: *to me*
 miles: *soldier*
 mīlitō: *to be a soldier*
 minor (nātū): *younger*
 miser: *wretched, poor, miserable*
 moneō: *to warn*
 mortuus: *dead*
 mōs, mōris m: *custom, habit; (pl.) character*
 mox: *soon, next*
 multum (adv.): *a lot, very much*
 necō: *to kill*
 nepōs: *grandson*
 nihil: *nothing*
 nisi: *unless, except if*
 nōbīs: *to us*
 nōn: *not*
 nōndum: *not yet*
 nōnne: *surely*
 nōs: *we*
 noster: *our*
 nova: *new*
 novem: *nine*
 num: *surely ... not*
 numquam: *never*
 nunc: *now*
 nūntiō: *to announce*
 nūntius: *news*
 nūper: *recently*
 obstō (1): *to block + dat.*
 ōlim: *once*
 omnēs: *all*
 optimātēs: *the "best people," those who support the rights of the aristocrats*
 optimē: *very well, excellent*
 opus est mihi: *I need*
 opus, operis n.: *task, job*

ōrnāmenta: *jewels*
 pariō: *to give birth to*
 pater: *father*
 patria: *his country*
 pauper: *poor*
 paupertās: *poverty*
 per (+ acc.): *through, along*
 petō: *to seek, to be a candidate*
 placet: *to be pleasing*
 plus . . . quam: *more than*
 poenam dare: *to pay the penalty, be punished*
 populus: *the people*
 possum: *I am able*
 potes: *you are able*
 prīstinus: *former, previous*
 privō (1): *to take away*
 prō: *for, on behalf of*
 prodō (3): *to betray*
 puer: *boy*
 puerilis: *of children, children's*
 pugnō: *to fight*
 pulchra: *pretty, beautiful*
 pulchriōra: *more beautiful*
 quī: *who*
 quid agis: *how are you?*
 quid agitur: *what's happening*
 quid: *what*
 quidem: *in fact, indeed*
 quīngentī: *five hundred*
 quisque: *each person*
 quod: *because*
 quōmodo: *how?*
 quoque: *also*
 quoque: *also*
 reddō (3): *to give back*
 referō: *to bring, deliver*
 restituō (3): *to restore*
 reveniō (4): *to return, come back*
 Rōmānus: *Roman*
 rursus: *again*
 rūs: *the country*
 rūsticus: *a countryman*
 sacrōsanctus: *inviolable, sacrosanct*
 salūtō: *to greet*
 salvē: *hello*
 sānē: *indeed, absolutely*
 sciō: *to know*
 sē habet: *he is, he's doing*
 sē turpem praebuit: *has turned out to be a bad person*
 sē: *himself, herself, itself, themselves*

sed: *but*
 semper: *always*
 senātor: *senator*
 senātus: *senate*
 sentiō (4): *to feel, think*
 sermō, sermōnis m: *conversation*
 servō (1): *to save*
 servus: *slave*
 sī: *if*
 silva: *forest*
 solēret: *was accustomed, usually*
 sōlus: *alone*
 soror: *sister*
 stīpendium faciō: *to do military service*
 sub: *under*
 suffrāgium ferō: *to vote*
 sum esse: *to be*
 summus: *highest, greatest*
 sunt: *they are*
 superō (1): *to conquer, win, defeat*
 suus: *his own*
 taceō: *to be silent*
 tālis: *such*
 tē: *you*
 templum: *temple*
 ter quaterque: *three, no, four times*
 terra: *earth*
 testis: *witness*
 tradō (3): *to hand over*
 trēs: *three*
 tribūnus plēbis: *tribune of the plebs*
 trīstis: *sad*
 tū: *you (sg.)*
 turpis: *disgraceful, unsightly*
 tuus: *your, yours*
 ubi: *where*
 ubīque: *everywhere*
 umquam: *ever*
 ūnus ē: *one of*
 urbe: *city*
 ut: *as*
 ut: *so that, in order to*
 uxor: *wife*
 vel: *or*
 vēnātiō: *hunt*
 veniō (4): *to come*
 vērō: *but, however*
 versor (1): *to live in, be engaged in*

vērūm: *true, the truth*
vester: *your (pl.)*
vetō (1): *to forbid, deny*
Via Appia: *the Appian Way*
videō: *to see*
vincō: *to conquer, defeat*

violō (1): *to outrage, corrupt*
vīs: *you want*
vīsnē: *do you want*
vitium: *vice, crime*
vīvet et labōrābit: *will live and
work*

vīvō (3): *to live*
vōbīs: *dat. plur. of tū*
volō: *to want*
voluntās: *will*
vōs: *y'all*
vōx: *voice*

māter Gracchōrum Vocabulary to Learn

1. ager, agrī m.: *field, territory*
2. bene mē habeō: *I am well*
3. cēseō cēnsēre cēnsuī cēnsus: *to believe, think, be of the opinion*
4. crās: *tomorrow*
5. crēscō crēscere crēvī crētus: *to grow, increase*
6. discō discere didicī: *to learn*
7. dum: *while; until; so long as*
8. iūs, iūris n.: *right, (natural) law*
9. lēx, lēgis f.: *law, statute*
10. lūdus, lūdī m.: *school, game*
11. mōs, mōris m.: *custom, habit; (pl.) character, morals*
12. nepōs, nepōtis m.: *nephew; grandson; descendant*
13. nōndum: *not yet*
14. opus est mihi + abl.: *I need*
15. opus, operis n.: *task, work*
16. pauper, pauperis m./f.: *a poor person*
17. prodō prodere prodidī proditus: *to betray*
18. quidem: *in fact, indeed*
19. quisque, quidque: *each one, each thing*
20. turpis turpis turpe: *base, shameful, dishonorable*
21. vērō: *but, however*
22. vetō vetāre vetuī vetitus: *to forbid*
23. vitium, vitīi n.: *vice, fault, crime*
24. voluntās, voluntātis f.: *will, desire*

25. Optimātēs, Optimātium m.pl.: *the Optimates* (the conservative, traditionalist party who supported the interests of the aristocrats and the Senate above all)
26. tribūnus (plēbis), tribūnī (plēbis) m.: *tribune* (of the people; an official charged with protecting the interests of the common people)