

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

2-1-74

Now?

PHILOCALUS

DELPHINIA

NO! We need the third conundrum before he reads the letter! Meet me in my boudoir and leave Aesop to me.

(PHILOCALUS exits)

This race is so easy I could take a nap in the middle of it and still win.

(DELPHINIA hides behind a column. AESOP re-enters nervously)

AESOP

(Entering)

Lycaena? Lycaena?

(DELPHINIA has crept around so SHE is right behind him.)

DELPHINIA

Aesop?

AESOP

Delphinia?

DELPHINIA

Looking for someone?

AESOP

(Lying)

I'm just waiting for the third and final conundrum to arrive.

(CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD enters with a scroll)

START

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

The third and final conundrum has arrived.

DELPHINIA and AESOP

I'll take that.

(SHE reaches for it)

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

(Pulling away from her)

King Croesus has ordered me to deliver the third and final conundrum to the Official Conundrum Solver and only the Official Conundrum Solver.

AESOP

That would be me.

DELPHINIA

Well, the king told me to deliver the third and final conundrum directly to him.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

But he told me not to give it to anyone else.

DELPHINIA

(SHE grabs the scroll)

Give that to me and get out!

(THE CAPTAIN screams and runs off)

STOP

Don't worry. I'll keep it in the safest place I know.

(SHE puts it down the front of her dress into her cleavage. AESOP gulps)

Bye bye.

(SHE exits. AESOP expression says "What just happened?"
LYCAENA enters)

LYCAENA

Aesop?

AESOP

(Jumps)

I thought you'd never get here. Did you get all your things?

LYCAENA

Yes.

(SHE holds up the tiny handkerchief SHE used in the FURY DANCE)

AESOP

Good. Are you sure no one saw you?

LYCAENA

(Realizing he's shaken)

What's wrong? There's something wrong.

AESOP

There's nothing wrong. Absolutely nothing's wrong. We've got to hurry. You've got to get on that boat before anyone notices you're gone and warn the Samians.

LYCAENA

Right! Warn the Samians!