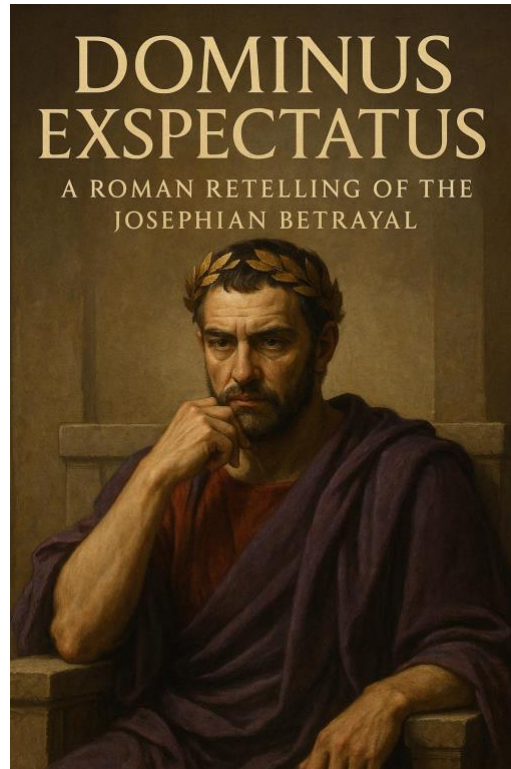


# Synopsis of Dominus Exspectatus

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## "Dominus Exspectatus"

*A Roman Retelling of the Josephian Betrayal*

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### Prologue: The Dreamer of Latium

In the province of Latium, within the House of Severus Aurelianus, there was born a boy of unusual insight: **Gaius Lucian Severus**. Youngest of twelve noble sons, Gaius bore dreams of rising far above his lineage—dreams wherein he stood crowned in purple, with stars and torches bowing to him.

His brothers—Cassius, Publius, Marcellus, and the others—mocked him, envying his brilliance and the favor he received from their father, **Tiberius Severus**, a senator of the Old Guard. Whispers of Gaius' dreams reached the ears of even the Vestals, who began to see him as touched by the gods.

But ambition invites betrayal.

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## Chapter I: Sold for Silver, Bound for Slavery

In the third year of Emperor Maximus Decimus' reign, the elder brothers conspired. While traveling along the Appian Way toward Capua, they seized young Gaius, stripped him of his imperial-blue cloak, and sold him in secret to a passing merchant of Numidia for **30 silver denarii**. They returned home with torn garments and a false tale of brigands.

Gaius, bound in chains, was taken through the Gates of Janus and auctioned in the Forum Slaverum. Purchased by **Domina Antonia of House Aurelia**, he became a house-servant in one of the wealthiest Roman estates.

Yet in the shadows of servitude, he rose.

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## Chapter II: The Rise of Gaius Lucian Severus

Within ten years, Gaius became **Strategos Privatus** to the Emperor himself, having prevented an assassination and exposed a Praetorian plot. His genius in logistics and prophecy earned him rank, title, and influence. Rome whispered a new name: **Dominus Exspectatus**—"The Expected Lord."

He rebuilt the grain system, secured alliances in Carthage and Germania, and governed the Imperial Treasury with divine foresight. He never once returned to Latium. Until the famine.

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## Chapter III: The Reckoning in Rome

As famine gripped Latium, the same brothers who had betrayed Gaius now traveled to Rome in desperation, unaware that the Dominus who ruled the inner sanctums of the Empire was their own blood.

They came to beg, humiliated and ragged, prostrating before the throne of the **Imperial Steward of Grain**.

Gaius recognized them at once. He said nothing.

Instead, he tested them—demanding their youngest, **Secundus**, and accusing them of treason against the Empire. When they returned with Secundus, and still failed to recognize their brother, Gaius stood and removed his imperial mask.

"I am Gaius Lucian Severus. The boy you chained and sold. The dreamer you tried to silence."

They fell to their knees.

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## Chapter IV: The Dogs of Rome Feast

But unlike Joseph, Gaius offered no forgiveness.

He summoned the **Magister Vindictae**, and declared the **Twelve Severan Sons** enemies of Rome. Their crimes were broadcast in the Forum Maximus: *Betrayal of blood, treachery of the Empire, and abandonment of sacred trust.*

By edict of **Lex Ultima Fraternitas**, not only the brothers, but their wives and children were **sentenced to death**. Their noble status stripped, their estates seized, and their names blotted from all Roman records.

On the **Ides of October**, in full view of the people, their bodies were **torn asunder by wild dogs** in the Colosseum—an event declared a holy sacrifice to the gods of Justice, Mars, and Saturn.

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## Epilogue: The Silent Throne

Gaius never spoke of his family again.

In the halls of marble, he ruled with unflinching authority, ensuring Rome's dominance through precision and fear. He established the **Codex Severum**, a system of oaths and punishments, encoded into imperial law for all time.

Yet those who served him closely whispered that at night, the Dominus stood alone at the balcony of the Palatine Hill, staring eastward—where the dreams of his youth once lived.

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