

Synopsis

The story begins in the strange world of ancient Rome, 2000 years ago.

Marcus Gorileeus arrives at his home clutching his butt in pain. He soon discovers that his room has been given to the mysterious Dogneetus. It is also implied that as a result of Dogneetus' arrival, Marcus will be kicked out of his family.

On route to welcome Dogneetus at the shipping yard, Marcus and his servant Pandus run into a stork who tells them that Dogneetus is famous for her wall paintings (frescoes). They also pass by a shop where Marcus almost steps on a footprint left by the emperor. Since Marcus does not understand the significance of the footprint, the shopkeeper (Terry) explains that the emperor is the most powerful and incredible person in the world.

While Pandus and Dogneetus are waiting in the shipyard, a dog approaches and jumps into Pandus' arms. The dog introduces herself as Dogneetus, and tells Marcus that she is not replacing him in the family. She is in fact his new painting master. Upon learning this, Marcus is excited to have a guest in his home. It is also revealed that Dogneetus is a Stoic.

As Marcus and Pandus are giving a tour of their home to Dogneetus, a blackbird delivers a letter to Dogneetus. Dogneetus is horrified by the letter and tells the blackbird that she "refuses".

The next day Marcus is surprised by a new student in his private class, Crocodus. Crocodus annoys Marcus, and in the process possibly reveals that she does not know how to read.

Marcus tells Dogneetus about Crocodus later that day and she begins to explain to him what Stoicism is. Later that week, Dogneetus asks Marcus to use Stoicism to analyze a painting of the emperor. Marcus fails, and Dogneetus explains that the painting represents the fact that the emperor has no children and thus must choose an heir to succeed him.

A kangaroo approaches Dogneetus and delivers a box with a letter and a gold paintbrush. Dogneetus is again horrified upon reading the letter and he rips it to pieces. Marcus picks up a fragment of the letter and learns that it was written by Salamandus.

Crocodus' father shows up at Marcus' house to see Dogneetus. He works for Salamandus and has come to ask Dogneetus if she will work for Salamandus. Dogneetus refuses. Marcus finally learns that Salamandus is trying to recruit Dogneetus to paint a fresco that will impress the emperor and persuade the emperor to select Salamandus as his heir.

Crocodus torments Marcus in class again, but this time Marcus uses Stoicism to calm himself. Marcus deduces that Crocodus cannot read, and possibly suffers from dyslexia, an ailment that Pandus also suffers from. Pandus and Crocodus have a breakthrough in a dyslexia exercise, and Crocodus for the first time is grateful. The moment is interrupted by the city sirens erupting.

Crocodus and Marcus race to the roof and discover that there is an army outside the city gates. Crocodus realizes the army belongs to the emperor. The emperor has returned to Rome.