1. At the Theatre

But hunt for them, especially, at the tiered theatre: that place is the most fruitful for your needs. There you’ll find one to love, or one you can play with, one to be with just once, or one you might wish to keep. As ants return home often in long processions, carrying their favourite food in their mouths, or as the bees buzz through the flowers and thyme, among their pastures and fragrant chosen meadows, so our fashionable ladies crowd to the famous shows: my choice is often constrained by such richness. They come to see, they come to be seen as well: the place is fatal to chaste modesty. These shows were first made troublesome by Romulus, when the raped Sabines delighted unmarried men. Then no awnings hung from the marble theatre, the stage wasn’t stained with saffron perfumes; Then what the shady Palatine provided, leaves simply placed, was all the artless scene. The audience sat on tiers made from turf, and covered their shaggy hair, as best they could, with leaves. They watched and each with his eye observed the girl he wanted, and trembled greatly in his silent heart. While, to the measure of the homely Etruscan flute, the dancer, with triple beat, struck the levelled earth, amongst the applause(applause that was never artful then) the king gave the watched for signal for the rape. They sprang up straightaway, showing their intent by shouting, and eagerly took possession of the women. As Doves flee the eagle, in the new-born lamb runs from the hostile wolf, so they fled in panic from the lawless men, and not one showed the colour she had before. Now they all fear as one, but not with one face of fear. Some tear tear their hair; some sit there, all will lost; one mourns silently, another cries for her mother in vain; one moans, one faints; one stays, while that one runs;the captive girls were led away, a joyful prize, and many made even fear itself look fitting. Whoever showed too much fight, and denied her lover, he held her clasped high to his loving heart, and said to her”Why mar your tender cheeks with tear? As your father to your mother, I’ll be to you.”Romulus, alone, knew what was fitting for soldiers: I’ll be a soldier, if you give me what suits me. From that I suppose came the theatres’usual customs: now too they remain a snare for the beautiful

1. 在剧院里

你尤其应该多逛逛剧院，特别是那种分成多层的大型剧院，你总会在那里找到你心中所爱。无论是寻找红颜知己，抑或是一夜欢情，还是你一生的珍爱，剧院都不会让你失望而归。蚂蚁们成群结队运输着他们心仪的美食，蜜蜂们群集在芳香的花朵上欢歌载舞，时髦女郎也是这样，剧场是她们最喜欢的地方，这里的美女多到让我挑得头昏目眩。与其说是她们来看戏，还不如说她们才是剧场里最美丽的演员: 多少女孩在这里变成了真正的女人啊！说起在剧院寻找爱情，还得归功于罗马的创城者[罗慕洛](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BD%97%E6%85%95%E6%B4%9B/10197030" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)。为了给他的战士找妻子，[罗慕洛](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BD%97%E6%85%95%E6%B4%9B/10197030" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)邀请了萨宾族的姑娘们来罗马看戏。那时的剧院上空并没有遮阳篷， 舞台上也没有藏红花做的香水，唯一的装饰品是帕拉丁山上的多彩树叶. 萨宾族的姑娘们看戏时只能席地而坐，没有华丽的头饰，姑娘们只能用树叶保护她们美丽的秀发。罗马的战士们纷纷在观众中寻找他们最喜欢的姑娘，一旦找上了心仪的那位，那小心脏就激动得跟小兔子一样砰砰直跳。当动听的伊特鲁里亚笛声开始响起，演员们用三次节拍的节奏跳起了那优美的舞姿，萨宾姑娘们的掌声也达到了高潮！正在这时，国王[罗慕洛](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BD%97%E6%85%95%E6%B4%9B/10197030" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)发出了进攻的暗号，战士们终于抑制不住那压抑已久的爱恋，疯狂扑向萨宾族的姑娘们。正如鸽子看到了老鹰，纷纷展翅逃窜，新生的小羊看到了恶狼， 立即转头狂奔，萨宾族的姑娘们看到那些蛮横的战士向他们扑来，全都吓得脸色惨败。有的疯狂撕扯自己的秀发， 有的被吓得不省人事。这个无声地抽泣，那个徒劳地呼喊着妈妈。有的人呜咽着， 有的人昏厥。有的人惊呆了，有的人夺路而逃。而那些被俘获的女子，是[罗慕洛](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BD%97%E6%85%95%E6%B4%9B/10197030" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)给战士们的婚床奖赏，有许多姑娘因为那泪容而更添了风味。姑娘们反抗得越剧烈，战士们就把姑娘们抱得越紧，战士们说：“为什么用眼泪来损害您那美丽的面容呢？ 正如天下所有的夫妻一样， 让我们来尽享床第之欢吧！”，啊！[罗慕洛](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E7%BD%97%E6%85%95%E6%B4%9B/10197030" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)，全天下的国王成千上万，但只有您最懂得战士们的心声！我心甘情愿为您帐下小卒，因为只有您才能给予我爱情的奖赏。我想这就是为什么至今剧院仍然保存着那个习俗：现在剧院里仍然是捕猎美人的绝佳陷阱。

注释:

1、公元前7、8世纪，罗马国王努米托雷被其胞弟阿姆利奥篡位驱逐，其子被杀死，女儿[西尔维娅](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E8%A5%BF%E5%B0%94%E7%BB%B4%E5%A8%85/6569" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)被阿姆利奥惩罚做了战神[马尔斯](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E9%A9%AC%E5%B0%94%E6%96%AF" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)庙的圣处女来永绝后患。但是[西尔维娅](https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E8%A5%BF%E5%B0%94%E7%BB%B4%E5%A8%85/6569" \t "/home/rzxct/文档\\x/_blank)与人私通，生下孪生兄弟罗慕洛和雷莫，并谎称是与战神马尔斯所生。阿姆利奥把这两个孪生婴儿抛入台伯河。落水婴儿幸遇一只母狼用奶汁哺喂成活，后被一猎人养育成人。后来，两兄弟长大后异常强壮，成为恶少年首领，他们带领这些恶少年杀死了阿姆利奥，并迎回外祖父努米托雷重登王位。但是由于两人好武轻文，不受约束，受附近居民讨厌，所以努米托雷把台伯河畔的7座荒芜的山丘赠给他们让他们居住，罗慕洛兄弟带领他们建造了罗马城。这时，罗马城只有男人，没有女人，为了解决这个问题，所以罗慕洛借节日之机，在罗马举行演出，邀请萨宾族的姑娘们来看戏，并乘机抢掠萨宾女子为其战士们的妻子。一年后，这些姑娘已经生出了孩子之后，萨宾人前来进攻，并成功攻进城内，这时，萨宾姑娘们跑出来保住了她们的父兄的腿，说：“一边是我们的丈夫和孩子，一边是我们的父亲和兄弟，如果你们想来救我们，那么去年我们刚刚被劫掠时，你们为什么不来呢？”于是萨宾族人停止了战斗，并集体搬进罗马城居住，并推举一人与罗慕洛共同执政。