1:

Brother,

I ask that you do the following for me. Men will come to you, unsavory men, and ask to be castrated. Complete their desires, but do not charge them. Instead, keep a tally, and I will reimburse you for your troubles once the Republic is restored.

In love,

Vibius

2:

Brother,

To date, I have performed 126 castrations per your request. I know you asked that I wait until the Republic is restored to seek compensation, but I have fallen on hard times and need money. In fact, one of the men you sent to me beat me so severely I had to seek the aid of another doctor. Can you find it in your heart to pay me for the work done so far?

In love,

Calpurnius

3:

Calpurnius,

I do not have the money to send now. Business is difficult. I ask that you contact my associate and fellow believer Mancinus Sura. I have spoken to him, and he has agreed to loan you the money you need. Contact him soon and do not speak to anyone else about what you are doing, or our cause of restoring the Republic.

Vibius
4:

Senator Sura,

My name is Gaius Mons. This letter serves as my formal introduction to you. As I understand it, we both share a hatred of the Empire, albeit for different reasons. You desire the power men of your stature once had. I despise it because it brought the worship of my beloved from Phrygia to this abominable sewer on the Tiber. I wish to offer my services as a powerful sorcerer to your cause. All that I ask in return is for 30 women. Class doesn't matter. They will be fodder for my power. Arrange this, and the Empire will be no more.

Gaius Mon

5:

Gaius Mons,

I have no idea what you are intimating. How dare you suggest that I would seek to overthrow Claudius! If I knew where to find you, I'd make sure you never breathed another word of this.

Sura

6:

Senator Sura,

You can find me at my estate in southern Gaul, a day's journey northeast of Masilia. It is there that the women will need to be shipped. I have arranged for a warehouse in Rome and several guards. Along with this message, I have included a sample of my power. No doubt you have noticed it, seeing as how it's as large as Hannibal's elephant. It is the child of my goddess and will serve you well and faithfully. Unless you cross me.

Gaius

7:

Gaius,

Your power is truly mighty if you can command this beast. My agents report that your estate is well furnished and apportioned, so you are a man of character. I believe we can help you secure the women you need, providing the following proviso is met. You are not to touch any women that have value to me or my partners Vibius Junius Salinus, Decimus Flavius Afer, and Numerious Tarquinius Cato. I believe the sloth Carnifex will hire out some of his gladiators for your use. He's a doddering fool who can be easily duped.

Sura
On the sixteenth day of our journey, the scouts returned with notice of a strange group of natives. We slowly approached and heard them repeatedly calling, “Chuma, sleeping master of Earth, awake!” Dressed in simple clothes, these natives danced around sacrificed monkeys while chanting their cries. There must have been a fire nearby because black soot began to fall and land on our shoulders and heads. After the ceremony concluded, Xanthippus approached the natives and inquired as to what they were doing. They told our guide that they are praying to their god, Chuma. He lies sleeping under the earth and in the sky. It is through Chuma that the forests overflow with food for their villages. When we returned through that spot several days later, there were signs of devastation. We encountered one of the villagers, and Xanthippus approached him. This villager told us that they destroyed the men we saw worshipping because Chuma is a god of evil and responsible for the death of many villagers. His rain killed many.

Gaius Ptolemicus will steer you in the right direction. He can be found in Syrene at the bazaar.

Your brother,
C.N.

You are to recover the scrolls.
Failure will not be tolerated.
Your brother,
C.N.