A boy and a girl arrive on stage panting for breath.

Eugina Myron, Myron wait. I don't think that I will ever beat you in a race again. You are getting faster and faster and I'm left behind.

Myron Eugina, it is so good to see you and be with you. Father returning to war has given us a chance to be together. The whole school is free so that we can cheer our fathers on.

Eugina One day you will be as strong and as brave and as fast as our father. I am so proud of him, he fights and returns each time. The other soldiers look up to him.

Myron and one day you will be as strong, fast and clever as our mother. You will run the family business and make money. No slave will get the better of you and you will lead the other women in decision making and keeping Sparta safe in the absence of all the men.

Eugina Are any other boys beating you at wrestling or running. Please tell me that you are the strongest.

Myron no boy my age can beat me. The older boys make me suffer but it will make me stronger in the end.

Eugina We must run quickly, we mustn't miss a moment with father. He'll be gone all too soon.

A girl walks across the stage. Her brother appears and calls to her.

Dameon Constanta, Constanta, wait. Why are you out on your own? Where is our slave. You mustn't be seen to be alone.

Constanta Rebia has just gone to buy new thread. Mother and I have run out of all the colours we need to complete the shawl we are sewing. I wanted to be free and so came with Rebia. I want to see father as he goes off to war. I don't want to sit indoors and miss all that happens. Have you seen him?

Dameon He is at home making sure that all is ready for him to leave and that others can take care of the business while he is gone. Mother is sitting quietly. I'm sure that she believes he will not return this time. She says he is not getting any younger!

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Constanta Why are you not at school? Your arithmetic is so poor you shouldn't miss your lessons. You'll be no use to father if you can not keep the accounts. I could help but am not allowed to learn. Please Dameon, you will teach me, won't you.

Dameon Yes, of course I will. Let us go and see the slaves working on father's equipment and then we can go up to the Parthenon and pray to Athena. She must keep father and all the other men, safe.

Constanta We must never forget Athena, Athens' own Goddess. She is so good to us. Never forget that she gave us the Olive Tree.