

## Mosaic Motherhood

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CIL III.2267 D(is) M(anibus). | Candidae coniugi bene me|renti ann(orum) p(lus) m(inus) XXXX qu(a)e me|cum vixit ann(os) p(lus) m(inus) VII | qu(a)e est **cruciata** ut pari|ret diebus IIII et non pe|perit et est ita vita fu|ncta. Iustus conser(vus) p(osuit).

To the Spirits of the Departed. For Candida, my most deserving wife, about 30 years old, who lived with me for about 7 years, who was tormented trying to give birth for nearly 4 days. She did not give birth and thus died. Iustus, her fellow slave, erected (sc. this memorial).

CIL VI. 41062, 31-33 Diffidens fecunditati tuae [et do]lens **orbitate mea**, ne tenen[do in matrimonio] (32) te spem habendi liberos [dep]onerem atque eius caussa ess[em infelix, de divertio] (33) elocuta es – vocuamque [do-]mum **alterius fecunditati** t[er]tradituram...

You were despairing of your fertility and pained over my childlessness. So that I would not, by keeping you in marriage, have to put aside any hope of having children and become unhappy on that account, you mentioned the word “divorce.” You would, you said, turn our house over to another woman’s fertility...<sup>1</sup>

CIL VIII 20288 = CLE 1834 = ILCV 3436)

D(is) M(anibus) s(acrum). Rusticeia Matrōna v(ixit) a(nnos) XXV. **causa meae mortis partus fatu[m]que malignum**. set tu desine flere mihi kariss[ime coniux] [et] fil(ii) nostri serva com[munis amorem]. [- -- ad caeli] transivit spi[ritus astra] [- -] maritae [- -].

To the sacred shades. Rusticeia Matrōna (the matron?) lived 25 years. The cause of my death was childbirth and a malignant fate. But you stop crying for me, most dear husband and guard the love our mutual son. -- my spirit has passed over to the stars in heaven -- wife.

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<sup>1</sup> Edition and translation by Josiah Osgood *Turia: A Roman Woman’s Civil War* OUP (2014), 164-5.



Wellcome Images 2

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<sup>2</sup> Image credits, clockwise from top left:

Mater Matuta, Capua 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> c. BC Collections of the Museo nazionale etrusco di Villa Giulia

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ae/Mater\\_Matuta%2C\\_VI\\_a.C.%2C\\_02.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ae/Mater_Matuta%2C_VI_a.C.%2C_02.jpg) Clay-baked uterus.

Roman votive offering, Wellcome Collection. <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/n8u3p2jn>; Terracotta Votive Statuette of a Swaddled Infant, Getty Museum <http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/6694/unknown-maker-votive-statuette-of-a-swaddled-infant-etruscan-3rd-2nd-century-bc/>;

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