

Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 5

Disclosure No. 2

Situation: When Guiderius is arrested for killing Cloten, a prince, Belarius feels forced to come forward and acknowledge that his two sons are really the King's sons, "blood of your begetting." Belarius presents himself as quite the class act.

BELARIUS: I am too blunt and saucy. Here's my knee.

He kneels.

BELARIUS: Mighty sir, these two young gentlemen that call me father and think they are my sons are none of mine. They are the issue of your loins, my liege, and blood of your begetting.

CYMBELINE: How? My issue?

BELARIUS: So sure as you your father's.

Belarius to Cymbeline

I'm the Belarius for unknown reason
You banished, being accused of treason;
The harm was my suffering. 'Twas my sense
To aid these boys these twenty years gone bye,
Marrying Euriphile as recompense,
She being the nurse who stole them when I
Banished. Disloyalty, charged you of us,
Led to my treason. Your loss gave purpose
To my stealing them. But here are your sons,
And I must lose two of the world's sweetest
Companions, they being heavenly ones
Worthy of inlaying the sky, the best
A man could have. This is Guiderius;
This your younger son, true Arviragus.

He weeps.