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PLAUTUS
II

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PLAUTUS

CASINA · THE CASKET
COMEDY · CURCULIO ·
EPIDICUS · THE TWO
MENAECHEMUSES

EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
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HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
LONDON, ENGLAND
2011

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First published 2011

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Library of Congress Control Number 2010924480
CIP data available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-0-674-99678-6

*Composed in ZephGreek and ZephText by
Technologies 'N Typography, Merrimac, Massachusetts.
Printed on acid-free paper and bound by
The Maple-Vail Book Manufacturing Group*

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To my wife and daughter



PREFACE

*Miser Catulle, desinas ineptire,
et quod uides perisse, perditum ducas.*

Poor Catullus, stop behaving like a fool; what you can see has been lost you should consider as lost.

In my school days, the opening lines from the eighth poem by Catullus were a favorite with lovesick teenage boys; now, many years later, I cannot look at them without thinking of generations of scholars who tried to reconstruct the lost Greek originals of our Latin plays. Much has indeed been lost, but reconstruction is not as futile a business as it might seem. Where it can contribute something to our understanding of Plautus, I have not hesitated to mention it in the introductions to individual plays. In the *Curculio*, for instance, signs of compression are clearly visible and the Greek original must have been longer and in places more explicit in its plot structure. I also thought it worth mentioning that the Greek original of the *Epidicus* is unlikely to have ended with a half-sibling wedding, even though claims to that effect can occasionally still be heard. In the *Cistellaria* it is some of the Latin plot that needs to be reconstructed, due to the deplorable state of the manuscript transmission. But on the whole I have tried to focus

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on the Latin texts we have and not on what is no longer available.

My work would not have been possible without support from many sides. Settimio Lanciotti and Walter Stockert sent me their excellent texts of the *Curculio* and the *Cistellaria*; I received the latter even before it appeared in print. Without these critical texts my work would have been much delayed. J. N. Adams answered many questions on grammatical problems. Colleagues in Urbino and Oxford gave me offprints of many relevant articles. But the greatest help came again from John Trappes-Lomax, who read the entire text and commented on every aspect of my work in detail. The book would not be what it is without his generous support.

While I was writing this book, my life underwent several drastic changes. I left the peace and tranquillity of All Souls College in Oxford and moved to Ghent, where I had to adapt to a different way of life and learn a new language well enough to survive my teaching duties and faculty meetings. Without the generous help provided by many new colleagues in Ghent this would not have been possible. Much support also came from my parents, my brother, and old friends. But as always the most important help was provided by my wife, to whom this book is dedicated. Our daughter also did her part: despite not yet being a year old, she was always well behaved and often keen to listen to a bit of Plautus in the original, if only in order to fall asleep more easily.

CASINA



INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The *Casina* is undoubtedly one of Plautus' most farcical creations. It remains unclear to what extent its bawdy character goes back to the lost but named Greek original, the *Kleroumenoi* ("Men Casting Lots") by Diphilus (ll. 31–32). Adaptations were certainly made, the more obvious of which I shall point out in what follows. Already in antiquity the play was named for its pivotal figure, Casina, a slave girl who does not actually come onstage at all. But it is possible that the Latin play was called *Sortientes* by Plautus, a direct translation of Greek *Kleroumenoi*; this all depends on how we interpret ll. 31–32: *Sortientes* could be the name of the Latin play, or it could be a translation of *Kleroumenoi* for the benefit of those in the audience who were not familiar with Greek.

As in other comedies, a father and his son are in love with the same woman, in this case the slave girl Casina. The father, called Lysidamus in the Ambrosian palimpsest and this edition, remains nameless in the Palatine manuscripts, which may reflect the original situation; scene headings containing the names of characters were added relatively late. Lysidamus sent off his son Euthynicus on a business trip in order to get rid of his rival. However, before he left, Euthynicus told his slave Chalinus to ask for the girl in marriage so that he, the young master, could en-

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joy her. Lysidamus also has a proxy: his slave Olympio, who is a somewhat crude overseer on the family's country estate.

As Cleostrata, the wife of Lysidamus, has her suspicions, she supports her son and Chalinus. Since she raised Casina, whom a slave brought home when he saw her being abandoned as a baby, she has a certain right to give her in marriage to whomever she wants. But Lysidamus as head of the household can overrule her. Naturally, he does not want his wife to be suspicious of his true motives, so he first tries to persuade her to give Casina to Olympio by discrediting Chalinus. When Cleostrata remains intransigent, Lysidamus promises Chalinus his freedom should he give up; Cleostrata does the same with Olympio. However, both slaves resist the temptation to give in. In the end Lysidamus, who does not dare to overrule his wife directly, decides to resort to casting lots as to who is going to marry Casina. This scene (ll. 353–423), during which Lysidamus makes several Freudian slips by saying that he wants to marry the girl, must go back to Diphilus, who named his play for it; but it is clear that Plautus has introduced changes. For instance, in New Comedy there are at most three speaking actors onstage, but in this scene there are four: Lysidamus, the two slaves, and Cleostrata. Since the three men are necessary in the scene, it is likely that Cleostrata is the person that Plautus added. At the end of the scene, Olympio and Lysidamus win and Cleostrata has to prepare the wedding.

Things take a turn for the better when Chalinus overhears a conversation between Lysidamus and Olympio. Lysidamus plans to tell his wife that he will accompany the couple to their country estate. In reality they intend to go

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next door; Lysidamus has persuaded his neighbor Alcesimus to send over his wife Myrrhina, a close friend of Cleostrata, so that she can help with the wedding preparations. Alcesimus wants to send everyone off so that Lysidamus can sleep with Casina in his house before they all go to the countryside. Chalinus immediately tells his mistress everything, and she can now counteract her husband's plans.

Cleostrata begins to stir up trouble for her husband by telling him that Alcesimus refused to send his wife over, while telling Alcesimus, who is actually keen to help Lysidamus, that his wife is not needed. The ensuing argument between Lysidamus and Alcesimus does not last long, though, and Myrrhina goes next door. Next Pardalisca, a slave girl working for Cleostrata, comes out, seemingly in panic. She tells Lysidamus that Casina has a sword and intends to kill her future husband. Again Lysidamus, fearing for his life, makes Freudian slips. Then the wedding preparations are drawn out for so long that Lysidamus decides to leave with the couple without having a wedding dinner. The women bring out a very special bride—Chalinus wearing a concealing veil.

It has sometimes been argued that the wedding involving a male bride is a Plautine insertion. It is true that a number of ritual elements have a distinctly Roman character, and these must be Plautine. For instance, the bride is admonished to cross the threshold carefully in order to avoid stumbling, a bad omen (ll. 815–17); and more generally, Greek brides were not given advice for their married life on the big day, while Chalinus/Casina gets much advice, albeit unrealistically anti-male. On the other hand, there are Greek elements in the ceremony that must go

back to the original, for Plautus would not have introduced unfamiliar customs himself. Thus it was common in Rome for the husband to wait in his own home for the bride, who was accompanied by three boys and the guests. In the *Casina*, Greek customs are followed: the bride and groom go to their new home, accompanied only by a close friend, here Lysidamus.

When the women have left, Lysidamus and Olympio take Chalinus to their neighbor's house. We hear about what happened inside when Olympio comes out; unfortunately the text is damaged from l. 870 onward. Olympio's speech (from l. 875 onward) is witnessed and commented on by Cleostrata, Myrrhina, and Pardalisca, who come out again to watch the "wedding games" (cf. ll. 759-62). Thus we again have more speakers onstage than the Greek original would have allowed. Olympio tells us that, not wanting Lysidamus to have sex with his bride before him, he went into a room and tried to sleep with her, but fled after getting a beating.

In l. 937 Lysidamus enters, followed by Chalinus, which means that there are now six speaking actors onstage, a state of affairs impossible in a Greek play. Lysidamus tells of his experience, which closely resembles that of his companion: he was beaten with the walking stick that old men in Roman comedy habitually carry. In the end he is pardoned by his wife.

Schoell was probably right in giving the epilogue to Pardalisca. She foretells the future: *Casina* will be discovered to be the neighbor's daughter and therefore freeborn, and she will marry Euthynicus. From ll. 64-66 we can draw the conclusion that this was still a vital part of the Greek original. Plautus probably cut out these scenes in

CASINA

order to expand on the farcical elements, but it remains difficult to say how much is Plautine expansion and how much is Diphilean original.

The date of the Plautine play is relatively certain because of the mention of Bacchanalian revels; admittedly such references occur in several plays and are generally not very important, but in the *Casina* it is said that these days no such revels take place (l. 980). This seems to be a reference to the *Senatus consultum de Bacchanalibus* of 186, which severely curtailed such ceremonies. If the play was written after 186, it was one of Plautus' last plays, perhaps the very last, since he died in 184. The frequent use of song supports such a view, as it is well known that Plautus expanded the sung passages later in his career.

The prologue was written on the occasion of a later production. Since it is said that the older spectators got to know the play in Plautus' lifetime while the younger ones do not know it (ll. 11–14), we can assume that the prologue was written around 165–150. It would help us to date the prologue with greater precision if we knew what is meant by the worthless "new coinage" mentioned in l. 10. Perhaps the writer of the prologue did not intend to refer to any type of coin in particular, but only to the frequent devaluations in general. But a very attractive alternative hypothesis has been advanced. Silver coins were no longer minted after 170; instead, bronze was used. Silver coins were then reintroduced in 157. If the writer of the prologue was conservative and critical of the new type of coins, he could in our passage be referring to their reintroduction, in which case the prologue would date to 157 or shortly thereafter.

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CASINA

ARGVMENTVM

Conseruam uxorem duo conserui expetunt.
Alium senex allegat, alium filius.
Senem adiuuat sors, uerum decipitur dolis.
Ita ei subicitur pro puella seruolus
Nequam, qui dominum mulcat atque uilicum.
Adulescens ducit ciuem Casinam cognitam.

CASINA

PLOT SUMMARY

Two fellow slaves are keen to marry a fellow slave girl. Their old master commissions one, his son the other. The lot favors the old man, but he is deceived by tricks. A wicked slave is palmed off on him instead of the girl. He beats up his master and the overseer. The young master marries Casina after she is recognized as a citizen.

PLAUTUS

PERSONAE

OLYMPIO seruos
CHALINVS seruos
CLEOSTRATA matrona
PARDALISCA ancilla
MYRRHINA matrona
LYSIDAMVS senex
ALCESIMVS senex
CHYTRIO coquos

SCAENA

Athenis

CASINA

CHARACTERS

OLYMPIO a slave; overseer on Lysidamus' country estate

CHALINUS a slave; more faithful to Lysidamus' son than to Lysidamus himself

CLEOSTRATA a married woman; wife of Lysidamus

PARDALISCA a slave girl; works for Cleostrata

MYRRHINA a married woman; wife of Alcesimus

LYSIDAMUS an old man; in love with Casina

ALCESIMUS an old man; neighbor of Lysidamus

CHYTRIO a cook; hired to prepare the wedding banquet

STAGING

The stage represents a street in Athens. To the left it leads to the countryside, to the right to the city center. On the street are the houses of Alcesimus, to the left, and of Lysidamus, to the right.

PROLOGVS

PRO saluere iubeo spectatores optimos,
 Fidem qui facitis maxumi—et uos Fides.
 si uerum dixi, signum clarum date mihi,
 ut uos mi esse aequos iam inde a principio sciam.
 5 qui utuntur uino uetere sapientis puto
 et qui lubenter ueteres spectant fabulas;
 antiqua opera et uerba quom uobis placent,
 aequom est placere ante <alias> ueteres fabulas:
 nam nunc nouae quae prodeunt comoediae
 10 multo sunt nequiores quam nummi noui.
 nos postquam populi rumore intelleximus
 studiose expetere uos Plautinas fabulas,
 antiquam eius edimus comoediam,
 quam uos probastis qui estis in senioribus;
 15 nam iuniorum qui sunt non norunt, scio;
 uerum ut cognoscant dabimus operam sedulo.
 haec quom primum acta est, uicit omnis fabulas.
 ea tempestate flos poetarum fuit,
 qui nunc abierunt hinc in communem locum.
 20 sed tamen apsentis prosunt <pro> praesentibus.
 uos omnis opere magno esse oratos uolo
 benigne ut operam detis ad nostrum gregem.
 eicite ex animo curam atque alienum aes <foras>,
 ne quis formidet flagitatorem suom:

7 antiqua *P*, anticua *Camerarius*8 *alias add. Ritschl*

CASINA

PROLOGUE

Enter the SPEAKER OF THE PROLOGUE.

SPEA I give you my greetings, best of spectators, you who hold
Good Faith in highest esteem—and vice versa. If I've
spoken the truth, give me a clear sign, so that I may know
right from the start that you are well-disposed to me. I 5
think people who drink old wine are wise, and so are
those who enjoy watching old plays. Since you like old
works and words, it's only right that you like old plays
above others. Why, the new comedies coming on stage
now are worth even less than the new coinage. Since we 10
learned from what everybody says that you're very keen
on Plautine plays, we're staging an old comedy of his
which found the approval of those of you who are among
the older generation. For those of the younger genera- 15
tion don't know it, I'm sure. But we'll do our best to get
them to know it. When it was first staged, it surpassed all
other plays. In that era the cream of poets lived, who've
now gone away to the place to which all men go. But even 20
so they benefit us in their absence as if they were present.
I want to appeal earnestly to you all to pay benevolent at-
tention to our troupe. Throw worries about your debts
out of your mind, let no one be afraid of his creditor. The 25

13 antiquam *P*, anticuam *Camerarius*

20 pro *add. Seyffert*

23 foras *add. Foster*

PLAUTUS

- 25 ludi sunt, ludus datus est argentariis;
 tranquillum est, Alcedonia sunt circum forum:
 ratione utuntur, ludis poscunt neminem,
 secundum ludos reddunt autem nemini.
 aures uociuae si sunt, animum aduertite:
 30 comoediai nomen dare uobis uolo.
 “Κληρούμενοι” uocatur haec comoedia
 graece, latine “Sortientes”; Diphilus
 hanc graece scripsit, postid rursum denuo
 latine Plautus cum latranti nomine.
 35 senex hic maritus habitat; ei est filius,
 is una cum patre in illisce habitat aedibus.
 est ei quidam seruos qui in morbo cubat,
 immo hercle uero in lecto, ne quid mentiar;
 is seruos—sed abhinc annos factum est sedecim
 40 quom conspicatust primulo crepusculo
 puellam exponi. adit extemplo ad mulierem
 quae illam exponebat, orat ut eam det sibi:
 exorat, aufert; detulit recta domum,
 dat erae suae, orat ut eam curet, educet.
 45 era fecit, educauit magna industria,
 quasi si esset ex se nata, non multo secus.
 postquam ea adoleuit ad eam aetatem ut uiris
 placere posset, eam puellam hic senex
 amat efflictim, et item contra filius.
 50 nunc sibi uterque contra legiones parat,
 paterque filiusque, clam alter alterum:

27 neminem poscunt *P*, *transp. Camerarius*

50 nunc sibi Ω , *transp. Camerarius*

CASINA

games are on, and we have played a game with the bank-
 ers. It's calm, it's the halcyon days¹ throughout the forum.
 They're being reasonable: during the games they don't
 demand anything from anyone, but after the games they
 don't return anything to anyone. If your ears are empty, 30
 pay attention: I want to give you the name of the comedy.
 This comedy is called *Kleroumenoi* in Greek, in Latin
 "Men Casting Lots." Diphilus wrote it in Greek, and af-
 ter that Plautus with the barking name² wrote it again in
 Latin. (*pointing to the house of Lysidamus*) A married 35
 old man lives here. He has a son, and that son lives to-
 gether with his father in that house. He has a certain
 slave who lies in illness, or rather, to tell you the truth, in
 bed. This slave—but it was sixteen years ago when he saw 40
 a girl being abandoned at the start of twilight. He went
 right up to the woman abandoning her and asked her to
 give the girl to him. He persuaded her and took the baby
 away. He brought her home directly, gave her to his mis-
 tress, and asked her to look after her and raise her. His 45
 mistress did so and brought her up with great care, as if
 she were her own daughter, not much differently. After
 she reached such an age that she could attract men's at-
 tention, this old man fell madly in love with her, and, in
 opposition to him, his son did so too. Now each of them, 50
 father and son, is preparing his legions against the other

¹ The time when kingfishers were believed to hatch their eggs in
 nests floating on the calm sea (14–28 December, one week before and
 one after the winter solstice). This period is mentioned because it was
 proverbially calm and quiet, not because the play was actually staged
 during it. ² *Plautus* is also the name of a type of basset hound
 with soft, broad ears.

PLAUTUS

pater allegavit uilicum qui posceret
 sibi istanc uxorem: is sperat, si ei sit data,
 sibi fore paratas clam uxorem excubias foris;
 55 filius is autem armigerum allegavit suom
 qui sibi eam uxorem poscat: scit, si id impetret,
 futurum quod amat intra praesepis suas.
 senis uxor sensit uirum amori operam dare,
 propterea una consentit cum filio.
 60 ille autem postquam filium sensit suom
 eandem illam amare et esse impedimento sibi,
 hinc adolescentem peregre ablegavit pater;
 sciens ei mater dat operam apsentem tamen.
 is, ne exspectetis, hodie in hac comoedia
 65 in urbem non redibit: Plautus noluit,
 pontem interrupit, qui erat ei in itinere.
 sunt hic inter se quos nunc credo dicere:
 "quaeso hercle, quid istuc est? seruiles nuptiae?
 seruin uxorem ducent aut poscent sibi?
 70 nouom attulerunt, quod fit nusquam gentium."
 at ego aio id fieri in Graecia et Carthagini,
 et hic in nostra terra in <terra> Apulia;
 maioreque opere ibi seruiles nuptiae
 quam liberales etiam curari solent;
 75 id ni fit, mecum pignus si quis uolt dato
 in urnam mulsi, Poenus dum iudex siet
 uel Graecus adeo, uel mea causa Apulus.
 quid nunc? nil agitis? sentio, nemo sitit.
 reuortar ad illam puellam expositiciam:
 80 quam serui summa ui sibi uxorem expetunt,

72 terra in Apulia Ω, terra, <terra> in Apula *Seyffert*, terra in <terra>
 Apulia *Lindsay* 79 illam puellam Ω, *transp. Pylades*

CASINA

behind the other's back. The father has commissioned his overseer to ask for her in marriage. He hopes that if she's given to him, he'll have night watches ready for himself outside, behind his wife's back. The son, on the other hand, has commissioned his orderly to ask for her in marriage. He knows that if he succeeds he'll have the object of his love within his stable. The old man's wife has realized that her husband is bent on a love affair and for this reason she supports her son. But after the father realized that his son was in love with that same girl and was a hindrance to himself, he sent off his lad abroad. Even so, his mother knowingly supports him in his absence. In case you're waiting for him, he isn't returning to the city in this comedy today. Plautus didn't want him to, he demolished a bridge on his way. There are people here who I believe are now saying to each other: "Please, what's that? A slave wedding? Are slaves going to marry or ask for a wife? They've brought us something new, something that doesn't happen anywhere in the world." But I insist that it does happen in Greece and Carthage, and here in our land in the land of Apulia. There, an even greater effort is made for slave weddings than for those of free men. If anyone wishes to, let him bet a pitcher of honey-wine against me that this isn't the case, provided that the referee is a Carthaginian or a Greek, or an Apulian for all I care. Well then? No takers? I see, nobody is thirsty. I'll return to that abandoned girl. The girl whom the slaves seek as their wife with all their effort will turn out to be

PLAUTUS

85 ea inuenietur et pudica et libera,
 ingenua Atheniensis, nec quicquam stupri
 faciet profecto in hac quidem comoedia.
 mox hercle uero, post transactam fabulam,
 85 argentum si quis dederit, ut ego suspicor,
 ultro ibit nuptum, non manebit auspices.
 tantum est. ualete, bene rem gerite, [et] uincite
 uirtute uera, quod fecistis antidhac.

ACTVS I

I. i: OLYMPIO. CHALINVS

OL non mihi licere meam rem me solum, ut uolo,
 90 loqui atque cogitare sine ted arbitro?
 quid tu, malum, me sequere?
 CHAL quia certum est mihi,
 quasi umbra, quoquo tu ibis, te semper sequi;
 quin edepol etiam si in crucem uis pergere,
 sequi decretum est. dehinc conicito ceterum,
 95 possisne necne clam me sutelis tuis
 praeripere Casinam uxorem, proinde ut postulas.
 OL quid tibi negoti est mecum?
 CHAL quid ais, impudens?
 quid in urbe reptas, uilice hau magni preti?
 OL lubet.
 CHAL quin ruri es, in praefectura tua?
 100 quin potius quod legatum est tibi negotium,
 id curas atque urbanis rebus te apstines?
 huc mihi uenisti sponsam praereptum meam:
 abi rus, abi diirectus tuam in prouinciam.

87 et uincite P, uincite A

CASINA

both chaste and free, a freeborn Athenian, and indeed she won't commit anything in the way of fornication, at least not in this comedy. But soon, when the play has reached its end, I suspect if anyone gives her money 85 she'll marry him willingly and won't wait for the augurs. That's all. Farewell, be successful, and be victorious through true bravery, as you've done so far.

Exit the SPEAKER OF THE PROLOGUE.

ACT ONE

Enter OLYMPIO from the left, followed by CHALINUS.

OL Aren't I allowed to talk and think about my business 90 alone, as I like it, without you as my witness? What the hell are you following me for?

CHAL Because I'm resolved to follow you like a shadow wherever you go. Yes, even if you want to go on to the cross, I'm determined to follow you. So figure out the rest, 95 whether or not you can snatch Casina away as your wife with your machinations behind my back, as you count on doing.

OL What business have you with me?

CHAL What do you say, you shameless creature? What are you crawling around for in the city, you worthless overseer?

OL I feel like it.

CHAL Why aren't you in the country, in your own territory? 100 Why don't you rather look after the business that was assigned to you and stay away from city matters? You've come here to steal my betrothed from me. Go to the country, go to your own province and be hanged!

PLAUTUS

- OL Chaline, non sum oblitus officium meum:
 105 praefeci ruri recte qui curet tamen.
 ego huc quod ueni in urbem si impetrauero,
 uxorem ut istanc ducam quam tu deperis,
 bellam et tenellam Casinam, conseruam tuam,
 quando ego eam mecum rus uxorem abduxero,
 110 ruri incubabo usque in praefectura mea.
- CHAL tun illam ducas? hercle me suspendio
 quam tu eius potior fias satiust mortuom.
- OL mea praeda est illa: proin tu te in laqueum induas.
- CHAL ex sterculino effosse, tua illaec praeda sit?
- 115 OL scies hoc ita esse.
- CHAL vae tibi!
- OL quot te modis,
 si uiuo, habebo in nuptiis miserum meis!
- CHAL quid tu mi facies?
- OL egone quid faciam tibi?
 primum omnium huic lucebis nouae nuptae facem;
 [postilla ut semper improbus nihilique sis,]
 120 postid locorum quando ad uillam ueneris,
 dabitur tibi amphora una et una semita,
 fons unus, unum ahenum et octo dolia:
 quae nisi erunt semper plena, ego te implebo flagris.
 ita te aggerunda curuom aqua faciam probe
 125 ut postilena possit ex te fieri.
 post autem ruri nisi tu aceruom <erui> ederis
 aut quasi lumbricus terram, quod te postules
 gustare quicquam, numquam edepol ieiunium
 ieiunum est aequae atque ego te ruri reddibo.

107 istanc *BJ*, istant *VE*, istam *A*
 126 erui *add. Leo*

119 *uersum secl. Guyet*

CASINA

- OL Chalinus, I haven't forgotten my duty. I've put someone 105
 in charge on our country estate who'll look after it prop-
 erly despite my absence. If I achieve what I've come here
 for, to the city, that is, to marry the woman you are in love
 with, the pretty and tender Casina, your fellow slave,
 when I've taken her to the country with me as my wife, 110
 then I'll permanently sleep in the country, in my own ter-
 ritory.
- CHAL *You should marry her?* I'd rather die by hanging than let
 you get hold of her.
- OL She's my booty, so you might as well put your neck in a
 noose.
- CHAL You creature dug out from a dung heap, she should be
 your booty?
- OL You'll know that this is so. 115
- CHAL Curse you!
- OL In how many ways I'll torment you at my wedding, as
 truly as I live!
- CHAL What will you do to me?
- OL What will I do to you? First of all you'll carry the torch for
 this new bride. [Then, in order that you're worthless and
 useless for good,] Then, when you come to the country 120
 estate, you'll be given one jug and one path, one spring,
 one copper pail, and eight vats. Unless they're constantly
 full, I'll fill you with lashes. I'll make you so properly
 stooped from carrying water that you could be turned 125
 into a crupper. But afterward, at the farm, when you'd
 like to taste some food, Hunger itself is never as hungry
 as I'll make you at the farm, unless you eat a heap of

PLAUTUS

- 130 postid, quom lassus fueris et famelicus,
noctu ut condigne te cubes curabitur.
- CHAL quid facies?
- OL concludere in fenstram firmiter,
unde auscultare possis quom ego illam ausculer:
quom mi illa dicet, "mi animule, mi Olympio,
135 mea uita, mea mellilla, mea festiuitas,
sine tuos ocellos deosculer, uoluptas mea,
sine amabo ted amari, meus festus dies,
meus pullus passer, mea columba, mi lepus,"
quom mi haec dicentur dicta, tum tu, furcifer,
140 quasi mus, in medio pariete uorsabere.
nunc ne tu te mi respondere postules,
abeo intro. taedet tui sermonis.
- CHAL te sequor.
hic quidem pol certo nil ages sine med arbitro.

ACTVS II

II. i: CLEOSTRATA. PARDALISCA

- CLEO opsignate cellas, referte anulum ad me:
145 ego huc transeo in proximum ad meam uicinam.
uir si quid uolet me, facite hinc accersatis.
- PAR prandium iusserat senex sibi parari.

137 te amari *P*, amari te *A*

140 pariete Ω , parieti *Guyet*

CASINA

vetch, or earth like a worm. Then, when you're tired and starving, an effort will be made that at night you sleep the way you deserve. 130

CHAL What will you do?

OL You'll be fastened firmly in the window frame, so that you can hear it from there when I kiss her. When she says to me, "my sweetheart, my dear Olympio, my life, my honey, my joy, let me kiss your eyes, my pleasure, let me please love you, my day of delight, my little sparrow, my dove, my hare," when these words are said to me, then you, you criminal, will wriggle in the middle of the wall like a mouse. Now so that you won't presume to give me a reply, I'm off inside. I'm fed up with your talk. 135 140

Exit OLYMPIO into the house of Lysidamus.

CHAL I'm following you. You definitely won't do anything here without me as witness.

Exit CHALINUS into the house of Lysidamus.

ACT TWO

Enter CLEOSTRATA from her house.

CLEO (*into the house*) Seal the pantries and return the ring to me. I'm going next door here to my neighbor. If my husband wants anything from me, do fetch me from here. 145

Enter PARDALISCA from the house of Lysidamus, handing over the signet ring.

PAR The old master had ordered that lunch should be prepared for him.

PLAUTUS

CLEO st!

149-
50 tace atque abi; nec paro neque hodie coquetur,
quando is mi et filio aduorsatur suo
152-
54
155 animi amorisque causa sui,
flagitium illud hominis! ego illum fame, ego illum siti,
maledictis, malefactis amatorem ulciscar,
ego pol illum probe incommodis dictis angam,
faciam uti proinde ut est dignus uitam colat,
Accheruntis pabulum,
160 flagiti persequentem,
stabulum nequitiae.
nunc huc meas fortunas eo questum ad uicinam.
sed foris concrepuit, atque eapse eccam egreditur!
non pol per tempus iter huc mi incepti.

II. ii: MYRRHINA. CLEOSTRATA

165-
66 MYR sequimini, comites, in proximum me huc. heus uos,
ecquis haec quae loquor audit?
ego hic ero, uir si aut quispiam quaeret.
168-
69 nam ubi domi sola sum, sopor manus caluitur.
170-
71 iussin colum ferri mihi?

CLEO Myrrhina, salue.

172-
73 MYR salue mecastor. sed quid tu es tristis, amabo?

174-
75
176-
77 CLEO ita solent omnes quae sunt male nuptae:
domi et foris aegre quod siet satis semper est.
nam ego ibam ad te.

MYR et pol ego istuc ad te.

sed quid est quod tuo nunc animo aegre est?
180-
81 nam quod tibi est aegre, idem mi est diuidiae.

163 ipsa A, ea ipse P, eapse Bothe

176-77 sit Ω, siet Schoell

CASINA

CLEO Hush! Be quiet and be off. 150

Exit PARDALISCA into Cleostrata's house.

CLEO I'm not preparing any and it won't be cooked today since he's opposing me and his son for the sake of his pleasure and love, that disgrace of a man! I'll take revenge on that lover with hunger, with thirst, with harsh words, and with harsh treatment, I'll torture him thoroughly with uncomfortable words, I'll make sure he leads the life he deserves, this fodder for the Underworld, seeker of disgrace, heap of infamy. Now I'm going here to my neighbor to complain about my lot. (*stops to listen*) But the door has creaked, and look, she's coming out herself! I haven't come here at a suitable time. 160

Enter MYRRHINA from her house.

MYR (*into the house*) Follow me, girls, next door here. Hey there, you, can anyone hear what I'm saying? (*as two maids appear in her door*) I'll be here (*points to Cleostrata's house*) if my husband or anyone else is looking for me: when I'm at home alone, sleep deceives my hands. Didn't I tell you to bring me my distaff? (*the maids go back in*) 170

CLEO (*in a sad voice*) Hello, Myrrhina.

MYR Hello. But what are you upset about, please?

CLEO This is what all women are like who are unhappily married. At home and outside there's always enough that's distressing. In fact, I was coming to you. 175

MYR And I to you. But what is it that distresses you now? What distresses you disturbs me. 180

PLAUTUS

- CLEO credo, ecastor, nam uicinam neminem amo merito magis
 quam te
 183 nec qua in plura sunt
 183^a mi quae ego uelim.
- MYR amo te, atque istuc expeto scire quid sit.
- 185-
86 CLEO pessumis me modis despiciatur domi.
 MYR hem, quid est? dice idem—nam pol hau satis meo
 corde accepi querellas tuas—opsecro.
- CLEO uir me habet pessumis despiciatam modis,
 190 nec mihi ius meum optinendi optio est.
 MYR mira sunt, uera si praedicas, nam uiri
 ius suom ad mulieres optinere hau queunt.
- CLEO quin mihi ancillulam ingratiis postulat,
 quae mea est, quae meo educta sumptu siet,
 195 uilico suo se dare,
 195^a sed ipsus eam amat.
- MYR opsecro,
 tace.
- CLEO nam hic nunc licet dicere:
 197-
98 nos sumus.
 MYR ita est. unde ea tibi est?
 nam peculi probam nil habere addecet
 200 clam uirum, sed quae habet, partum ei hau commode
 est,
 quin uiro aut suptrahat aut stupro inuenerit.
 hoc uiri censeo esse omne quicquid tuom est.
- CLEO tu quidem aduorsum tuam amicam omnia loqueris.
- 204-
5 MYR tace sis, stulta, et mi ausculta. noli sis tu illi aduorsari,
 206-
7 sine amet, sine quod lubet id faciat, quando tibi nil domi
 deliquom est.

CASINA

- CLEO I do believe you; I'm quite right not to be fonder of any neighbor than of you, and there is none who has more qualities in her that I'd wish for for myself.
- MYR I'm fond of you and I'm keen to know what is the matter.
- CLEO He despises me terribly at home. 185
- MYR Oh, what's that? Say it again, please—I haven't fully got your complaints in my head.
- CLEO My husband holds me in terrible contempt, and I have no opportunity to obtain my right. 190
- MYR That's strange, if you're telling the truth: it's husbands who can't obtain their right from their wives.
- CLEO No, he demands to give my slave girl, who is mine, who was brought up at my expense, to his overseer, against my will; but he himself is in love with her.
- MYR Please, be quiet. 196
- CLEO But surely now I can speak here: we're alone.
- MYR That's true. Where do you have her from? A decent woman ought not to have any property of her own behind her husband's back, but a woman who does hasn't acquired it in an acceptable way, but is stealing it from her husband or got hold of it through sexual liaisons. I believe that everything that's yours is your husband's. 200
- CLEO You're speaking against your friend with every word you utter.
- MYR Do be quiet, silly, and listen to me. Just don't oppose him, let him love, let him do what he likes, since you don't lack anything at home. 205

196–98 *partes sic distribuit Acidalius* (tace . . . sumus et unde ea tibi est *dat Myrrhinae P, reliquom Cleostratae*)
200 et *P, set Seyffert*

PLAUTUS

- 208-₉ CLEO satin sana es? nam tuquidem aduorsus tuam istaec rem
loquere.
- MYR insipiens,
- 210-₁₂ semper tu huic uerbo uitato aps tuo uiro—
- CLEO quoi uerbo?
- MYR "i foras, mulier."
- 213 CLEO st! tace.
- MYR quid est?
- CLEO em!
- MYR quis est, quem uides?
- CLEO uir
eccum it. intro abi, appropera, age amabo.
- MYR impetras, abeo.
- 215 CLEO mox magis quom otium <et> mihi et tibi erit,
igitur tecum loquar. nunc uale.
- MYR ualeas.

II. iii: LYSIDAMVS. CLEOSTRATA

- LYS omnibus rebus credo ego amorem et nitoribus nitidis
anteuenire
nec potis quicquam commemorari quod plus salis plus-
que leporis [hodie]
habeat; coquos equidem nimis demiror, qui utuntur
condimentis,
- 220 eos eo condimento uno non utier, omnibus quod praes-
tat.
nam<que> ubi amor condimentum inerit, quouiuis placi-
turam <escam> credo;

208-9 ista *B*, istam *VJE*, istaec *Bothe*

213 est *P*, st *Gruterus* hem *P*, em *Müller*

215 mihi et tibi erit *BVE*, et michi erit et tibi *J*

217 ego amorem credo *P*, *transp.* *Hermann*

CASINA

- CLEO Are you in your right mind? You're speaking against your own cause.
- MYR Stupid, always avoid this word from your husband.— 210
- CLEO (*interrupting*) Which word?
- MYR "Go away, woman."³
- CLEO (*looking around*) Hush! Be quiet.
- MYR What is it?
- CLEO There!
- MYR Who is it, who can you see?
- CLEO Look, my husband's coming. Go inside, be quick, come on, please.
- MYR Yes, yes, I'm going.
- CLEO Soon when both you and I have more time I'll speak to 215
you. Goodbye for now.
- MYR Goodbye.

Exit MYRRHINA into her house.
Enter LYSIDAMUS from the right.

- LYS (*to the audience*) I believe that love surpasses all things and neat neatnesses and that nothing can be mentioned which has more wit and charm. I'm highly surprised that cooks, who use spices, don't use this one spice which sur- 220
passes all others. Yes, I believe that everybody will like a dish which contains love as a spice. Nothing without love

³ The regular divorce formula.

218 hodie *del. Guyet*

221 que *add. Camerarius inierit BVJE¹, inierit E³M escam add. R.*
Klotz

PLAUTUS

nec salsum nec suaue esse potest quicquam, ubi amor
non ammiscetur:

fel quod amarum est, id mel faciet, hominem ex tristi le-
pidum et lenem.

hanc ego de me coniecturam domi facio magis quam ex
auditis;

225 qui quom amo Casinam, magis niteo, munditiis Mundi-
tiam antideo:

myropolas omnis sollicito, ubiquomque est lepidum un-
guentum, unguor,

ut illi placeam; et placeo, ut uideor. sed uxor me excruciat
quia uiuit.

tristem astare aspicio. blande haec mi mala res appellan-
da est.

229 uxor mea meaque amoenitas,

229^a quid tu agis?

CLEO abi atque apstine manum.

230 LYS heia, mea Iuno, non decet

230^a ess' te tam tristem tuo Ioui.

231 quo nunc abis?

CLEO mitte me.

LYS mane.

231^a CLEO non maneo.

LYS at pol ego te sequar.

232 CLEO opsecro, sanun es?

LYS sanus quom ted amo.

CLEO nolo ames.

LYS non potes impetrare.

CLEO enicas.

LYS uera dicas uelim.

CLEO credo ego istuc tibi.

CASINA

mixed in can be well-seasoned or sweet. It turns bitter gall into honey, a grumpy man into a charming and mild one. I draw this conclusion from myself, from my own case, rather than from hearsay. Now that I'm in love with Casina, I'm better groomed, I surpass Neatness herself in neatness. I keep all perfumers busy; wherever there's a pleasant ointment, I use it in order to please her. And I do seem to please her. But my wife's torturing me by being alive. I can see her standing here, grumpy. I must address this bad bit of stuff coaxingly. (*turning to Cleostrata, trying to caress her*) My wife and my pleasure, how are you? 225

CLEO Go away and keep your hand off me.

LYS Goodness, my Juno,⁴ you shouldn't be so unfriendly to your Jupiter. Where are you off to now? 230

CLEO Let go of me.

LYS Wait.

CLEO I won't wait. (*turns to go*)

LYS But I'll follow you.

CLEO Please, are you in your right mind?

LYS I am, since I love you.

CLEO I don't want you to love me.

LYS You can't succeed.

CLEO You're killing me.

LYS (*aside*) I wish you were telling the truth.

CLEO (*overhearing him*) I believe you in that.

⁴ Wife of Jupiter, the king of gods (who is notoriously unfaithful).

225 quam P, quom Reiz inicio BJ, initio V, innitio E, niteo Gulielmus mundicianti deo BJ, muntianti deo E¹, munditianti deo VE², munitiam antideo Camerarius

232 quam P, quom codices Langiani

PLAUTUS

- 235 LYS respice, o mi lepos.
 CLEO nempe ita ut tu mihi es.
- 236 unde hic, amabo, unguenta olent?
- 236^a LYS oh perii! manifesto miser
 237 teneor. cesso caput pallio detergere?
 ut te bonus Mercurius perdat, myropola, quia haec mi
 dedisti.
- CLEO eho tu nihili, cana culex, uix teneor quin quae decent te
 dicam,
- 240 senectan aetate unguentatus per uias, ignaue, incedis?
 LYS pol ego <eam> amico dedi quoidam operam, dum emit
 unguenta.
- CLEO ut cito commentust!
 ecquid te pudet?
- LYS omnia quae tu uis.
- CLEO ubi in lustra iacuisti?
- LYS egone in lustra?
- CLEO scio plus quam tu me arbitrare.
- LYS quid id est? quid [tu] scis?
- CLEO te sene omnium se<num homi>nem neminem esse
 ignauiozem.
- 245 unde is, nihili? ubi fuisti? ubi lustratu's? ubi bibisti?
 mades mecastor: uide palliolum ut rugat!
- LYS di me et te infelicient,
 si ego in os meum hodie uini guttam indidi.
- CLEO immo age ut lubet bibe, es, disperde rem.

240 senecta *P*, senectan *Schoell*

241 eam *add. Leo* commendatus est *BVJ¹E¹*, commentatus est *J²Ec*,
 commentust *Pylades* 243 tu *del. Geppert*

244 omnium senem *P*, omnium se<num homi>nem *Spengel*

246 adest *P*, mades *Schoell*

CASINA

- LYS Look back at me, my delight. 235
- CLEO (*turning round, with sarcasm*) Yes, just as you're mine.
Please, where does the smell of perfumes come from?
- LYS (*aside*) Oh, I'm dead! Poor me, I'm caught in the act.
Why am I slow to wipe my head with my cloak? May good
Mercury⁵ ruin you for giving me this stuff, perfumer.
- CLEO Hey there, you worthless creature, you gray-haired gnat,
I can barely keep from calling you what you deserve. Are 240
you promenading the streets in your old age perfumed,
you good-for-nothing?
- LYS Well, I was assisting a certain friend while he was buying
ointments.
- CLEO (*aside*) How fast he's come up with it! (*to Lysidamus*)
Don't you feel shame for anything?
- LYS For everything you wish.
- CLEO What dens of vice did you throw yourself into?
- LYS I in dens of vice?
- CLEO I know more than you think I do.
- LYS What's that? What do you know?
- CLEO That there isn't any more worthless old man than you
among all old men. Where are you coming from, you 245
worthless creature? Where have you been? Where did
you whore? Where did you drink? You really are tipsy.
Look how your cloak is all crumpled.
- LYS May the gods curse me and you, if I've put a drop of wine
into my mouth today.
- CLEO Go on, drink as you like, eat, throw away your money.

⁵ The god of trade.

PLAUTUS

- 249- LYS ohe, iam satis, uxor, est; comprime te; nimium tinnis,
50 relinque aliquantum orationis, cras quod mecum litiges.
sed quid ais? iam domuisti animum, potius ut quod uir
uelit
fieri id facias [potius] quam aduorsere contra?
- CLEO qua de re?
LYS rogas?
- 255 super ancilla Casina, ut detur nuptum nostro uilico,
seruo frugi atque ubi illi bene sit ligno, aqua calida, cibo,
uestimentis, ubique educat pueros quos pariat <probe>,
[potius] quam illi seruo nequam des, armigero nili atque
improbo,
quoi homini hodie peculi nummus non est plumbeus.
- CLEO mirum ecastor te senecta aetate officium tuom
260 non meminisse.
- LYS quid iam?
- CLEO quia, si facias recte aut commode,
me sinas curare ancillas, quae mea est curatio.
- LYS qui, malum, homini scutigerulo dare lubet?
- CLEO quia enim filio
nos oportet opitulari unico.
- LYS at quamquam unicust,
265 nihilo magis ille unicust mi filius quam ego illi pater:
illum mi aequiust quam me illi quae uolo concedere.
- CLEO tu ecastor tibi, homo, malam rem quaeris.
- LYS subolet, sentio.
egone?
- CLEO tu. nam quid friguttis? quid istuc tam cupide cupis?

253 potius *del. Pylades*

256 probe *add. Geppert*

257 potius *del. Ussing*

264 unicus est ille *P*, ille unicust *Geppert*

CASINA

- LYS Hey there, my wife, it's enough now. Control yourself. 250
 You're making too much noise. Save some speech for something to argue about with me tomorrow. But what do you say? Have you tamed your passion now, so as to do what your husband wants done rather than oppose him?
- CLEO What about?
- LYS You ask? About the slave girl Casina, so that she can be given in marriage to our overseer, a useful slave and one 255
 where she'll be well supplied with wood, hot water, food, and clothes, and where she can properly raise the children she bears, rather than that you give her to that useless slave, the worthless and troublesome soldier's servant, who doesn't have so much as a lead coin in his private funds today.
- CLEO It's strange that you don't remember your duty in your 260
 old age.
- LYS How so?
- CLEO Because, if you were doing the right and proper thing, you'd let me look after the female slaves, which is *my* job.
- LYS Why the hell do you want to give her to the shield-bearer?
- CLEO Because in fact we ought to help our only son.
- LYS But even though he's our only one, he's no more my only son than I am his only father. It's more appropriate for 265
 him to make a concession to my wishes than for me to make one to his.
- CLEO You're looking for trouble, my good man.
- LYS (*aside*) She's got wind of it, I can feel it. (*to Cleostrata, nervously*) I?
- CLEO Yes, you. Why are you stuttering? Why do you desire that match so eagerly?

PLAUTUS

- LYS ut enim frugi seruo detur potius quam seruo improbo.
 CLEO quid si ego impetro atque exoro a uilico causa mea
 270 ut eam illi permittat?
 LYS quid si ego autem ab armigero impetro
 <ut> eam illi permittat? atque hoc credo impetrassere.
 CLEO conuenit. uis tuis Chalinum huc euocem uerbis foras?
 tu eum orato, ego autem orabo uilicum.
 LYS sane uolo.
 CLEO iam hic erit. nunc experiemur nostrum uter sit blandior.
 275 LYS Hercules dique istam perdant, quod nunc liceat dicere.
 ego discrucior miser amore, illa autem quasi ob indus-
 triam
 mi aduorsatur. subolet hoc iam uxori quod ego machinor:
 propter eam rem magis armigero dat operam de indus-
 tria.

II. iv: CHALINVS. LYSIDAMVS

- LYS qui illum di omnes deaeque perdant!
 CHAL te uxor aiebat tua . . .
 280 me uocare.
 LYS ego enim uocari iussi.
 CHAL eloquere quid uelis.
 LYS primum ego te porrectiore fronte uolo tecum loqui;
 stultitia est ei te esse tristem quouis potestas plus potest.
 probum et frugi hominem iam pridem te esse arbitror.

271 ut *add. Guyet*

283 te esse *J*, esse *BVE*

CASINA

LYS So she's given to a worthy slave rather than a worthless one.

CLEO What if I persuade the overseer and talk him into giving her up to that man for my sake? 270

LYS But what if I talk the orderly into giving her up to the other? And I believe I shall succeed.

CLEO Agreed. Do you want me to call Chalinus out here on your instructions? You ask him, and I shall ask the overseer.

LYS Yes, I'd like that.

CLEO He'll be here in a minute. Now we'll test which of us is more persuasive.

Exit CLEOSTRATA into her house.

LYS May Hercules and the gods destroy her, which I can say now. I'm being tortured by love, poor me, and she opposes me as if she did it on purpose. My wife's already got wind of what I'm scheming. Because of that she's deliberately giving greater support to the orderly. 275

Enter CHALINUS from the house of Lysidamus.

LYS (*half aside, as he sees him*) May all the gods and goddesses ruin him!

CHAL No, you . . . were calling me, your wife said. 280

LYS Yes, I had you called.

CHAL Tell me what you want.

LYS First I want you to speak to me in a more respectful way. It's stupidity to be sulky with someone who has greater authority. (*pauses*) I've considered you a decent and useful person for a long time now.

PLAUTUS

- CHAL intellego.
²⁸⁴/₈₅ quin, si ita arbitrare, emittis me manu?
 LYS quin id uolo.
 sed nihil est me cupere factum, nisi tu factis adiuuas.
 CHAL quid uelis modo id uelim me scire.
 LYS ausculta, ego <e>loquar.
 Casinam ego uxorem promisi uilico nostro dare.
 CHAL at tua uxor filiusque promiserunt mi.
 LYS scio.
 290 sed utrum nunc tu caelibem te esse mauis liberum
 an maritum seruom aetatem degere et gnatos tuos?
 optio haec tua est: utram harum uis condicionem accipe.
 CHAL liber si sim, meo periculo uiuam; nunc uiuo tuo.
 de Casina certum est concedere homini nato nemini.
 295 LYS intro abi atque actutum uxorem huc euoca ante aedis
 cito,
 et sitellam huc tecum efferto cum aqua et sortis.
 CHAL satis placet.
 LYS ego pol istam iam aliquouorsum tragulam decidero.
 nam si sic nihil impetrare potero, saltem sortiar.
 ibi ego te et suffragatores tuos ulciscar.
 CHAL attamen
 300 mi optinget sors.
 LYS ut quidem pol pereas cruciatu malo.
 CHAL mi illa nubet, machinare quid lubet quouis modo.
 LYS abin hinc ab oculis?
 CHAL inuitus me uides, uiuam tamen.
 LYS sumne ego miser homo? satin omnes res sunt aduorsae
 mihi?

287 loquar *P*, eloquar *Müller*

CASINA

CHAL (*with irony*) I see. Why don't you free me if you consider me to be like this? 285

LYS Indeed, I want to. But there's no point in me wishing it done if you don't support me with your actions.

CHAL I'd like to know what you'd like.

LYS Listen, I'll tell you. I promised our overseer to give him Casina in marriage.

CHAL But your wife and son promised her to me.

LYS I know. But do you prefer to be an unmarried freeman now or to spend your life as a married slave, you and your children? This is your choice. Pick which of these options you like. 290

CHAL If I were free, I'd live at my own expense; now I'm living at yours. About Casina I'm resolved not to give in to anyone.

LYS (*angrily*) Go inside and immediately call out my wife here in front of the house fast, and bring an urn out here with you, with water and lots. 295

CHAL Suits me well enough.

LYS I'll parry that spear of yours one way or another now: if I can't prevail upon you like this, at least I'll draw lots. There I'll take revenge on you and your supporters.

CHAL But the lot will fall to me. 300

LYS Yes, it'll be your lot to die through terrible torture.

CHAL She'll marry me, devise any plot you like in any way you like.

LYS Won't you go out of my sight?

CHAL You see me against your will, but I'll live nevertheless.

Exit CHALINUS into the house of Lysidamus.

LYS Aren't I a wretch? Isn't everything against me? I'm afraid

PLAUTUS

305 iam metuo ne Olympionem mea uxor exorauerit
 ne Casinam ducat: si id factum est, ecce me nullum se-
 nem!
 si non impetrauit, etiam specula in sorti est mihi.
 si sors autem decolassit, gladium faciam culcitam
 eumque incumbam. sed progreditur optume ecum
 Olympio.

II. V: OLYMPIO. LYSIDAMVS

OL una edepol opera in furnum calidum condito
 310 atque ibi torreto me pro pane rubido,
 era, qua istuc opera a me impetres, quod postulas.
 LYS saluos sum, salua spes est, ut uerba audio.
 OL quid tu me <tua>, era, libertate territas?
 315 quin si tu nolis filiusque etiam tuos,
 uobis inuitis atque amborum ingratiis
 una libella liber possum fieri.
 LYS quid istuc est? quicum litigas, Olympio?
 OL cum eadem qua tu semper.
 LYS cum uxorem mea?
 OL quam tu mi uxorem? quasi uenator tu quidem es:
 320 dies ac noctes cum cane aetatem exigis.
 LYS quid agit, quid loquitur tecum?
 OL orat, opsecrat
 ne Casinam uxorem ducam.
 LYS quid tu postea?
 OL negaui enim ipsi me concessurum Ioui,
 si is mecum oraret.

306 in sortita sunt *P*, in sorti est *Guyet*, in sortitust *Acidalius*

311 quam istam opera *BV*, quam istam operam *JE*, qua istuc opera

Brix 313 tua *add. Leo* 314 quid *P*, quin *Acidalius*

318 uxore *P*, uxorem *Bentley*, uxori *Lindsay*

CASINA

now that my wife might have persuaded Olympio not to marry Casina. If that's happened, then I'm a dead old man! If she hasn't succeeded, I still have a little hope in the lot. But if the lot trickles away, I'll make a pillow of my sword and throw myself on it. But look, perfect, Olympio is coming out. 305

Enter OLYMPIO from the house of Lysidamus.

OL *(into the house)* You could as soon put me in a hot oven and bake me as dark bread, my mistress, as obtain from me what you ask. 310

LYS *(aside)* I'm safe, my hope is safe, that's how I hear his words.

OL *(still into the house)* Why are you threatening me with your talk about my freedom, mistress? Even if you and also your son don't want it, I can become free for a far-thing⁶ against your wishes and against the will of both of you. 315

LYS What's that? Who are you arguing with, Olympio?

OL With the same woman you are always arguing with.

LYS With my wife?

OL What wife are you talking about? You're like a hunter: day and night you spend your life with a bitch. 320

LYS What's she doing, what's she talking about with you?

OL She begs and entreats me not to marry Casina.

LYS What did you say then?

OL Well, I told her I wouldn't give in to Jupiter himself, if he were to plead with me.

⁶ The *libella* was worth only one-tenth of a *denarius*.

PLAUTUS

- LYS di te seruassint mihi!
- 325 OL nunc in fermento tota est, ita turget mihi.
 LYS ego edepol illam mediam dirruptam uelim.
 OL credo edepol esse, siquidem tu frugi bonae es.
 uerum edepol tua mihi odiosa est amatio:
 inimica est tua uxor mihi, inimicus filius,
 330 inimici familiares.
- LYS quid id refert tua?
 unus tibi hic dum propitius sit Iuppiter,
 tu istos minutos caue deos flocci feceris.
- OL nugae sunt istae magnae. quasi tu nescias
 repente ut emoriantur humani Ioues.
 335 sed tandem si tu Iuppiter sis mortuos,
 quom ad deos minores redierit regnum tuom,
 quis mihi subueniet tergo aut capiti aut cruribus?
- LYS opinione melius res tibi habet tua,
 si hoc impetramus, ut ego cum Casina cubem.
- 340 OL non hercle opinor posse, ita uxor acriter
 tua instat ne mi detur.
- LYS at ego sic agam:
 coniciam sortis in sitellam et sortiar
 tibi et Chalino. ita rem natam intellego:
 necessum est uorsis gladiis depugnarier.
- 345 OL quid si sors aliter quam uoles euenerit?
 LYS benedice. dis sum fretus, deos sperabimus.

326 ego edepol *J*, edepol ego *BVE*

CASINA

- LYS May the gods preserve you for me!
- OL Now she's all in a seething rage, to judge from the way she's swelling with anger at me. 325
- LYS I wish she'd burst right down the middle.
- OL I believe she has, at least if you are good for anything.⁷ But your love affair is annoying me. Your wife is my enemy, your son is my enemy, the other members of the household are my enemies. 330
- LYS What does this matter to you? So long as this Jupiter alone (*points to himself*) is favorable to you, you needn't care a straw about those minor deities.
- OL That's a load of rubbish. As if you didn't know how suddenly human Jupiters die. But to come to the point, if you, my Jupiter, die, when your kingship devolves upon the minor deities, who will come to my protection, for my back or head or shins? 335
- LYS Your situation's better than you think if we enable me to sleep with Casina.
- OL I don't think you can, seeing how strongly your wife opposes her being given to me. 340
- LYS But I'll act like this: I'll put lots into an urn and draw them for you and Chalinus. I see that the situation's come to this: it's necessary to change swords and fight in earnest.⁸
- OL What if the lot settles it differently from how you want it? 345
- LYS Speak good omens. I trust in the gods, we'll put our hope in them.

⁷ Olympio interprets "burst right down the middle" in a sexual sense.

⁸ The phrase *uorsis gladiis* (partly explained by Caper GLK 7. 104. 12–13) refers to the change from blunt to dangerous weapons; before the real fight, gladiators put on a harmless show (Cic. *de orat.* 2. 325).

PLAUTUS

OL non ego istuc uerbum empsim tittibilicio;
nam omnes mortales dis sunt freti, sed tamen
uidi ego dis fretos saepe multos decipi.

350 LYS st! tace parumper.

OL quid uis?

LYS eccum exit foras

Chalinus intus cum sitella et sortibus.

nunc nos collatis signis depugnabimus.

II. vi: CLEOSTRATA. CHALINVS. LYSIDAMVS. OLYMPIO

CLEO face, Chaline, certiore me quid meus uir me uelit.

CHAL ille edepol uidere ardentem te extra portam mortuam.

355 CLEO credo ecastor uelle.

CHAL at pol ego hau credo, sed certo scio.

LYS plus artificum est mihi quam rebar: hariolum hunc habeo
domi.

quid si propius attollamus signa eamusque obuiam?
sequere. quid uos agitis?

CHAL assunt quae imperauisti omnia:

uxor, sortes, situla atque egomet.

OL te uno adest plus quam ego uolo.

360 CHAL tibi quidem edepol ita uidetur; stimulus ego nunc sum
tibi,

fodico corculum; assudascis iam ex metu, mastigia.

LYS tace, Chaline.

CHAL comprime istum.

354 metuam P, mortuam *Ritschl*

CASINA

OL I wouldn't buy that kind of talk for total tripe:⁹ all mortals trust in the gods, but even so I've often seen those who trust in the gods being fooled.

LYS Hush! Be quiet for a bit. 350

OL What do you want?

LYS Look, Chalinus is coming out with the urn and the lots. Now we'll engage in a pitched battle.

Enter CLEOSTRATA and CHALINUS, the latter with an urn and lots, from the house of Lysidamus, without noticing anyone.

CLEO Chalinus, tell me what my husband wants from me.

CHAL He wants to see you dead, burning outside the gate.¹⁰

CLEO I do believe that that is what he wants. 355

CHAL But I don't just believe it, I know it for sure.

LYS *(to Olympio)* I have more experts than I thought: I have this man as a soothsayer at home. What if we bring our standards closer and go toward them? Follow me. *(to his wife and Chalinus)* What are you two doing?

CHAL Everything you ordered is present: your wife, the lots, the urn, and I myself.

OL With you there is one more person present than I want.

CHAL To you it seems like that. I'm your cattle prod now, I'm 360
stabbing your little heart. You're already sweating for fear, whip fodder.

LYS Be quiet, Chalinus.

CHAL Subdue that chap.

⁹ According to Fulgentius (*serm. ant.* 117. 13–16 Helm), *tittibilicium* refers to dirty threads in weaving. Paul the Deacon (p. 504 Lindsay) thinks that the word has no meaning.

¹⁰ Burials always took place outside the city.

PLAUTUS

- OL immo istum qui didicit dare.
- LYS appone hic sitellam, sortis cedo mihi. animum aduertite.
atqui ego censui aps te posse hoc me impetrare, uxor
mea,
- 365 Casina ut uxor mihi daretur; et nunc etiam censeo.
- CLEO tibi daretur illa?
- LYS mihi enim—ah, non id uolui dicere:
dum “mihi” uolui, “huic” dixi, atque adeo mihi dum cu-
pio—perperam
iam dudum hercle fabulor.
- CLEO pol tu quidem, atque etiam facis.
- LYS huic—immo hercle mihi—uah! tandem redii uix ueram
in uiam.
- 370 CLEO per pol saepe peccas.
- LYS ita fit, ubi quid tanto opere expetas.
sed te uterque tuo pro iure, ego atque hic, oramus.
- CLEO quid est?
- LYS dicam enim, mea mulsa: de istac Casina huic nostro uili-
co
gratiam facias.
- CLEO at pol ego nec facio nec censeo.
- LYS tum igitur ego sortis utrimque iam <diribeam>.
- CLEO quis uotat?
- 375 LYS optimum atque aequissimum istuc esse iure iudico.
postremo, <si> illuc quod uolumus eueniet, gaudebimus;

362 comprime istunc *P*, comprime istum *Pylades* immo istunc *P*,
immo istum *scripsi concinnitatis causa*

364 atque *P*, atqui *Pius* mecum *P*, me *Lambinus*

371 atque ego *P*, *transp. Camerarius*

374 *diribeam add. Schoell*

376 *si add. Camerarius*

CASINA

- OL (*also to Lysidamus*) No, subdue that one: he has learned how to submit.¹¹
- LYS (*to Chalinus*) Put the urn here and give me the lots. (*to all*) Pay attention. (*to Cleostrata*) And yet I thought I could persuade you, my dear wife, that Casina should be given in marriage to me. And even now I think so. 365
- CLEO She should be given to *you*?
- LYS Yes, to me—oh, I didn't mean to say that; when I meant "to me," I said "to him," and when I desired that to me—I've been making mistakes in speech for a while already now.
- CLEO Yes, you have, and in action too.
- LYS To him—no, to me—bah! at last I've just about managed to return to the right path.
- CLEO You're making a lot of mistakes. 370
- LYS That's what happens when you want something so much. But, recognizing your right, we both, I and he, appeal to you.
- CLEO What do you mean?
- LYS I'll tell you, my honey: do our overseer here a favor about that Casina of yours.
- CLEO No, I'm not doing him any favor, and I'm against it.
- LYS In that case I'll distribute the lots on both sides now.
- CLEO Who forbids it?
- LYS I rightly judge that this is best and most fair. Then, if what we want happens, we'll be happy. If it turns out other- 375

¹¹ Chalinus means "keep in check" when he says *comprimere* "subdue"; but the verb also means "force to have sex," which is Olympio's interpretation, who also speaks of *dare*, "offering oneself for anal intercourse."

PLAUTUS

sin secus, patiemur animis aequis. tene sortem tibi.
uide quid scriptum est.

OL "unum."

CHAL iniquom est, quia isti prius quam mi <data> est.

LYS accipe hanc sis.

CHAL cedo. mane, unum uenit in mentem modo:

380 uide ne quae illic insit alia sortis sub aqua.

LYS uerbero,

men te censes esse?

CLEO nulla est. habe quietum animum modo.

CHAL quod bonum atque fortunatum [tuum] sit mihi—

OL magnum malum

tibi quidem edepol credo eueniet; noui pietatem tuam.
sed manedum: num ista aut populna sors aut abiegna est
tua?

385 CHAL quid tu id curas?

OL quia enim metuo ne in aqua summa natet.

LYS eugae! caue. conicite sortis nunciam ambo huc. eccere!
uxor, aequa.

OL noli uxori credere.

LYS habe animum bonum.

OL credo hercle, hodie deuotabit sortis si attigerit.

LYS tace.

OL taceo. deos quaeso—

CHAL — ut quidem tu hodie canem et furcam feras.

390 OL — mi ut sortito eueniat—

CHAL — ut quidem hercle pedibus pendeas.

378 data *add. Geppert*

382 quid *P*, quod *Camerarius* tuum *del. Guyet*

386 auge *B¹VE¹*, aeuge *B³*, age *JE³*, euge *Camerarius*

CASINA

wise, we'll bear it with patience. (*handing a lot to Olympio*) Take your lot. Look what's written on it.

OL "One."

CHAL It's unfair that he was given his earlier than me.

LYS (*to Chalinus*) Take this one, will you?

CHAL Give it to me. Wait, one thing's just occurred to me. (*to Cleostrata*) Check that there isn't another lot there under the water. 380

LYS (*to Chalinus*) You criminal, do you think I'm you?

CLEO (*also to Chalinus*) There's none. Just have a calm mind.

CHAL May this turn out well and luckily for me—

OL (*interrupting*) You'll get a thorough trashing, I believe; I know your piety. But wait: is that lot of yours made of poplar or fir?

CHAL Why are you interested in that? 385

OL Because I'm afraid it might swim on the surface of the water.¹²

LYS Well said! (*anxiously*) Watch out. Now throw the lots in here, both of you. (*to Cleostrata, as they obey*) Here we go! My wife, shake them up fairly.

OL Don't trust your wife.

LYS Take heart.

OL I believe she'll bewitch the lots if she touches them.

LYS Be quiet.

OL Yes, I'm quiet. I pray to the gods—

CHAL (*interrupting*)—that you carry a chain and a yoke today.

OL —that it falls to me through the lot— 390

CHAL —(*interrupting again*) that you hang from your feet.

¹² Poplar and fir are light woods and swim on the water, allowing for manipulation; the usual lots were of hard wood or fire-baked clay and would sink to the bottom.

PLAUTUS

- OL —at tu ut oculos emungare ex capite per nasum tuos.
 CHAL quid times? paratum oportet esse iam laqueum tibi.
 OL periisti.
 LYS animum aduortite ambo.
 OL taceo.
 LYS nunc tu, Cleostrata,
 ne a me memores malitiose de hac re factum aut suspi-
 ces,
 395 tibi permitto: tute sorti.
 OL perdis me.
 CHAL lucrum facit.
 CLEO bene facis.
 CHAL deos quaeso . . . ut tua sors ex sitella effugerit.
 OL ain tu? quia tute es fugituios, omnis te imitari cupis?
 CHAL utinam tua quidem <ista>, sicut Herculei praedicant
 quondam prognatis, [ista] in sortiendo sors deliquerit.
 400 OL tu ut liquescas ipse, actutum uirgis calefactabere.
 LYS hoc age sis, Olympio.
 OL si hic litteratus me sinat.
 LYS quod bonum atque fortunatum mihi sit!
 OL ita uero, et mihi.
 CHAL non.

394 suspi *B*¹, suspicere *B*³*E*³, suscipere *VJ*, suspices *Pylades*
 395 <tum> lucrum *Luchs* (*clausula fortasse ferendum est si lucrum*
facit quasi una pars orationis est)
 398–99 ista *transp. Guyet*
 400 *uersum Olympioni dat Ussing*
 402 est *P*, sit *Pylades*

¹³ Actually Hercules' great-great-grandsons Cresphontes and Aristodemus. Cresphontes and the children of Aristodemus wanted Mes-

CASINA

- OL —but that *you* blow your eyes out of your head through your nose.
- CHAL What are you afraid of? You already ought to have a noose ready for yourself.
- OL You're dead.
- LYS Pay attention, both of you.
- OL I'm quiet.
- LYS Now, Cleostrata, so that you don't say or suspect that I've cheated in this matter, I leave it to you: you make the draw yourself. 395
- OL You're killing me.
- CHAL Then he's making a profit.
- CLEO (*to Lysidamus*) Thank you.
- CHAL (*to Olympio*) I pray to the gods . . . that your lot has fled from the urn.
- OL Do you say so? Because you are a runaway, you wish that everybody imitates you?
- CHAL May that lot of yours dissolve in the drawing, as they say happened to Hercules' children long ago.¹³
- OL You'll be so warmed up with rods in a minute that you 400 yourself will dissolve.
- LYS Olympio, pay attention please.
- OL If only this man of letters¹⁴ were to let me.
- LYS May this turn out well and luckily for me!
- OL Yes, and for me.
- CHAL No.

senia; Temenus, the arbitrator, gave Cresphontes a fire-baked clay lot and the children of Aristodemus a sun-baked one. The latter dissolved in the water.

¹⁴ A title given to Chalinus because of his mythological allusion, but also because a thief is often called "man of three letters" (*fur*).

PLAUTUS

- OL immo hercle.
 CHAL immo mihi hercle.
 CLEO hic uincet, tu uiues miser.
 LYS percide os tu illi odio. age, ecquid fit? caue obiexis manum.
 405 OL compressan palma an porrecta ferio?
 LYS age ut uis.
 OL em tibi!
 CLEO quid tibi istunc tactio est?
 OL quia Iuppiter iussit meus.
 CLEO feri malam, ut ille, rursum.
 OL perii! pugnis caedor, Iuppiter.
 LYS quid tibi tactio hunc fuit?
 CHAL quia iussit haec Iuno mea.
 LYS patiundum est, siquidem me uiuo mea uxor imperium exhibet.
 410 CLEO tam huic loqui [qui] licere oportet quam isti.
 OL quor omen mihi uituperat?
 LYS malo, Chaline, tibi cauendum censeo.
 CHAL temperi, postquam oppugnatum est os.
 LYS age, uxor [mea], nunciam sorti. uos aduortite animum. prae metu ubi sim nescio. perii! cor lienosum, opinor, habeo, iam [iam] dudum salit,
 415 de labore pectus tundit.
 CLEO teneo sortem.
 LYS effer foras.

410 loqui qui *BVE*¹, loqui cui *J*, loqui *E*^c

412 mea *del. Bentley* iam nunc *P*, nunciam *Camerarius*

413 praebe tu *P*, prae metu *Ussing* 414 iam *del. Pylades*

CASINA

OL Yes.

CHAL Yes, for me.

CLEO (*to Olympio*) He (*points to Chalinus*) will win and you will live as a wretch.

LYS (*to Olympio*) Hit the face of this tedious creature. Go on, are you doing anything? (*to Chalinus*) Don't raise your hand.

OL Should I hit him with my fist or with the flat of my hand? 405

LYS Do as you wish.

OL (*punching Chalinus*) Take that!

CLEO What did you touch him for?

OL My Jupiter told me to.

CLEO (*to Chalinus*) Hit his cheek in return, like him. (*he obeys*)

OL I'm dead! I'm being hit with fists, Jupiter.

LYS (*to Chalinus*) What did you touch him for?

CHAL My Juno told me to.

LYS I have to bear it if my wife is in command while I'm alive.

CLEO This man of mine should be allowed to speak just like 410
that one of yours.

OL Why is he spoiling my omen?

LYS Chalinus, I think you should be careful not to get a beating.

CHAL A timely warning, after my face has already been battered.

LYS Go on, my wife, draw now. (*to the slaves*) You two pay attention. (*aside*) I don't know where I am for fear. I'm dead! I have a splenetic heart, I believe, it's been jumping for a long time already, it's thumping my chest from dis- 415
tress.

CLEO I've got hold of a lot.

LYS Pull it out.

PLAUTUS

CHAL iamne mortuo's?

OL ostende. mea <haec> est.

CHAL mala crux ea est quidem.

CLEO uictus es, Chaline.

LYS quom nos di iuuere, Olympio,
gaudeo.

OL pietate factum est mea atque maiorum meum.

LYS intro abi, uxor, atque adorna nuptias.

CLEO faciam ut iubes.

420 LYS scin tu rus hinc esse ad uillam longe quo ducat?

CLEO scio.

LYS intro abi et, quamquam hoc tibi aegre est, tamen fac ac-
cures.

CLEO licet.

LYS eamus nos quoque intro, hortemur ut properent.

OL numquid moror?

LYS nam praesente hoc plura uerba <feri> non desidero.

II. vii: CHALINVS

425 CHAL si nunc me suspendam, meam operam luserim
et praeter operam restim sumpti fecerim
et meis inimicis uoluptatem creauerim.
quid opus est, qui sic mortuos equidem tamen?
sorti sum uictus, Casina nubet uilico.
430 atque id non tam aegre est iam, uicisse uilicum,
quam id expetiuisse opere tam magno senem,
ne ea mi daretur atque ut illi nuberet.

416 haec *add. Geppert* crucias *P*, crux ea est *Camerarius*

418 meorum *P*, meum *Pylades*

420 ruri *P*, rus hinc *Langen*

423 fieri *add. Camerarius*

CASINA

CHAL (*to Olympio*) Are you dead already?

OL (*to Cleostrata*) Show me. (*as she holds it up*) It's mine.

CHAL Then it's evil torture.

CLEO You've lost, Chalinus.

LYS I'm happy the gods have helped us, Olympio.

OL It's happened because of my piety and that of my forefathers.

LYS Go inside, my wife, and prepare the wedding.

CLEO I'll do as you tell me.

LYS Do you know that it's far from here to our farmhouse in the country, where he's taking her? 420

CLEO Yes, I do.

LYS Go inside and make sure you prepare it, even though it upsets you.

CLEO Yes.

Exit CLEOSTRATA into her house.

LYS (*to Olympio*) Let's go inside ourselves, too, and let's urge them to hurry up.

OL Am I delaying?

LYS Because I don't desire any more words to be said in the presence of this chap (*points to Chalinus*).

Exeunt LYSIDAMUS and OLYMPIO into their house.

CHAL If I were to hang myself now, I'd have wasted my effort, and besides the effort I'd have spent money on a rope, and I'd have made my enemies happy. What's the point? I'm dead as it is. I was beaten by the lot, Casina will marry the overseer. And I'm not so upset about the overseer having won as I am about the old man having been so keen that she shouldn't be given to me and should marry 430

PLAUTUS

- ut ill' trepidabat, ut festinabat miser!
 ut sussultabat, postquam uicit uilicus!
 attat! concedam huc, audio aperiri fores,
 435 mi beneuolentes atque amici prodeunt.
 hinc ex insidiis hisce ego insidias dabo.
- II. viii: OLYMPIO. LYSIDAMVS. CHALINVS
 OL sine modo rus ueniat: ego remittam ad te uirum
 cum furca in urbem tamquam carbonarium.
- LYS ita fieri oportet.
- OL factum et curatum dabo.
- 440 LYS uolui Chalinum, si domi esset, mittere
 tecum opsonatum, ut etiam in maerore insuper
 inimico nostro miseriam hanc adiungerem.
- CHAL recessim cedam ad parietem, imitabor nepam;
 captandust horum clanculum sermo mihi.
- 445 nam illorum me alter cruciat, alter macerat.
 at candidatus cedit hic mastigia,
 stimulorum loculi. protollo mortem mihi;
 certum est, hunc Accheruntem praemittam prius.
- OL ut tibi ego inuentus sum opsequens! quod maxime
 450 cupiebas, eius copiam feci tibi.
 erit hodie tecum quod amas clam uxorem.
- LYS tace.
 ita me di bene ament ut ego uix reprimo labra
 ob istanc rem quin te deosculer, uoluptas mea.

435 mihi *P*, mei *Müller*

443 cedam *P Nonius*, dabo me *Paul. Fest.*

CASINA

him. How nervous he was, how he was making a fuss, the wretch! How he was jumping up and down after the overseer won! (*surprised*) Oh! I'll walk over here, I can hear the door opening. My well-wishers and friends are coming out. From this ambush I'll ambush them. 435

Enter OLYMPIO, dressed in white, and LYSIDAMUS, carrying a wallet, from their house without noticing anyone.

OL Just let him come to the farm. I'll send him back to you to the city under the yoke just like a charcoal seller.¹⁵

LYS That ought to be done.

OL I'll sort it out and see it through.

LYS If he were at home, I'd have liked to send Chalinus shopping with you so as to give our enemy yet another misery in his grief. 440

CHAL I'll retreat to the wall and imitate a scorpion. I need to eavesdrop on their talk secretly: one of them's torturing me, the other's agonizing me. But this whipping post is strutting about all in white,¹⁶ the treasure chest of cattle prods. I'll postpone my suicide. I'm resolved to send him to the Underworld first. 445

OL How submissive I've shown myself to you! I gave you possession of what you desired most. Today you'll have the object of your love behind your wife's back. 450

LYS (*looking around*) Be quiet. As truly as the gods may love me well, I can barely hold my lips in check because of this and not kiss you, my darling.

¹⁵ The charcoal-seller would carry his wares slung from a forked stick over his shoulder; but the fork is also an instrument of torture for slaves. ¹⁶ The regular color for bridegrooms.

PLAUTUS

- 455 CHAL quid, deosculere? quae res? quae uoluptas tua?
 credo hercle effodere hic uolt uesticam uilico.
 OL ecquid amas nunc me?
 LYS immo edepol me quam te minus.
 licetne amplecti te?
 CHAL quid, "amplecti"?
 OL licet.
 LYS ut, quia te tango, mel mi uideor lingere!
 OL ultro te, amator, apage te a dorso meo!
 460 CHAL illuc est, illuc, quod hic hunc fecit uilicum:
 et idem me pridem, quom ei aduorsum ueneram,
 facere atriensem uoluerat sub ianua.
 OL ut tibi morigerus hodie, ut uoluptati fui!
 LYS ut tibi, dum uiuam, bene uelim plus quam mihi.
 465 CHAL hodie hercle, opinor, hi conturbabunt pedes:
 solet hic barbatus sane sectari senex.
 LYS ut ego hodie Casinam deosculabor, ut mihi
 bona multa faciam <clam> meam uxorem!
 CHAL attatae!
 nunc pol ego demum in rectam redii semitam.
 470 hic ipsus Casinam deperit. habeo uiros.
 LYS iam hercle amplexari, iam osculari gestio.
 OL sine prius deduci. quid, malum, properas?
 LYS amo.
 OL at non opinor fieri hoc posse hodie.

455 effodere hercle hic uolt credo *P*, *transp.* *Bothe*

468 clam *add.* *Pius*

¹⁷ Through anal intercourse.

¹⁸ *Ianua* "door" is a common euphemism for the anus.

¹⁹ Metaphor for sexual intercourse.

CASINA

- CHAL What, you'd kiss him? What on earth? What, "your darling"? I do believe he wants to dig out the overseer's bladder.¹⁷ 455
- OL Do you love me at all now?
- LYS Yes, I love myself less than you. Can I hug you?
- CHAL What? "Hug" him?
- OL You can.
- LYS (*embracing him from behind and kissing him*) How I seem to be licking honey now that I'm touching you!
- OL Away with you, lover, get off my back!
- CHAL That's it, that's why he made him overseer. And some time ago, when I'd come to meet him, he also wanted to make me the doorkeeper down by the back entrance.¹⁸ 460
- OL How submissive I've been to you today, how much pleasure I've given you!
- LYS So much so that I should be more of a friend to you than to myself as long as I live.
- CHAL Today they'll conjoin their feet,¹⁹ I think. This old man really has a habit of chasing after bearded men. 465
- LYS How I'll kiss Casina today, how I'll do myself a lot of good turns behind my wife's back!
- CHAL Goodness! Now at last I'm back on the right track. He himself is in love with Casina. I've got them where I want them. 470
- LYS I'm keen to embrace her right now, to kiss her right now.
- OL Let her be taken home first. Why on earth are you in a rush?
- LYS I'm in love.
- OL But I don't think it can happen today.

PLAUTUS

- LYS potest,
 siquidem cras censes te posse emitti manu.
- 475 CHAL enim uero huc aures magis sunt adhibendae mihi:
 iam ego uno in saltu lepide apros capiam duos.
- LYS apud hunc sodalem meum atque uicinum mihi
 locus est paratus: ei ego amorem omnem meum
 concredui; is mi se locum dixit dare.
- 480 OL quid eius uxor? ubi erit?
- LYS lepide repperi.
 mea uxor uocabit huc eam ad se in nuptias,
 ut hic sit secum, se adiuuet, secum cubet;
 ego iussi, et dixit se facturam uxor mea.
 illa hic cubabit, uir ab[i]erit faxo domo;
- 485 tu rus uxorem duces: id rus hoc erit
 tantisper dum ego cum Casina faciam nuptias.
 hinc tu ante lucem rus cras duces postea.
 satin astu?
- OL docte.
- CHAL age modo, fabricamini,
 malo hercle uostro tam uorsuti uiuitis.
- 490 LYS scin quid nunc facias?
- OL loquere.
- LYS tene marsuppium,
 abi atque opsona, propera, sed lepide uolo,
 molliculas escas, ut ipsa mollicula est.
- OL licet.

474 manumitti *B*, mitti manu *VJE*, emitti manu *Camerarius*

478 omnem amorem *P*, *transp. Pylades*

484 abierit *P*, aberit *Camerarius*

488 at tute *B*, at tutae *V*, arture *E*¹, astute *JE*², astu *Bothe* docte *B*²,
 omittunt ceteri *Palatini*

CASINA

- LYS It can, if you believe you can be freed tomorrow.
- CHAL I have to stick my ears further into this: now I'll kill two 475
birds with one stone.²⁰
- LYS In the house of this friend and neighbor of mine a place
has been prepared for me (*points to the house of Al-*
cesimus). I confessed all my love to him. He said he'd
give me a place.
- OL What about his wife? Where will she be? 480
- LYS I've found a lovely solution. My wife will invite her over
to the wedding so that she's here with her, helps her, and
spends the night with her. I told her to do so, and my wife
said she would. She'll sleep here. I'll make sure that her
husband's away from home. You will take your wife to the 485
farm; that farm will be this one here (*points to the house*
of Alcesimus) for as long as I'm consummating the mar-
riage with Casina. From here you'll take her to the farm
afterward, tomorrow before light. Isn't that smart?
- OL Clever.
- CHAL Just go on, you two, make your plots, you'll pay a high
price for being such tricksters.
- LYS Do you know what you should do now? 490
- OL Tell me.
- LYS Take my wallet, go and buy food, hurry, but I want it in
a lovely way, tender bites, just as she's tender herself.
(*hands over his wallet*)
- OL Yes.

²⁰ Lit. "catch two boars in one brake."

PLAUTUS

- LYS emitto sepiolas, lepadas, lolligunculas,
hordeias—
- CHAL immo triticeias, si sapis.
- 495 LYS —soleas.
- CHAL qui quaeso potius quam sculponeas,
quibus battuatur tibi os, senex nequissime?[?]
- OL uin lingulacas?[?]
- LYS quid opust, quando uxor domi est?[?]
ea lingulaca est nobis, nam numquam tacet.
- OL in re praesenti ex copia piscaria
500 consulere quid emam potero.
- LYS aequom oras, abi.
argento parci nolo, opsonato ampliter.
nam mihi uicino hoc etiam conuento est opus,
ut quod mandauit curet.
- OL iamne abeo?[?]
- LYS uolo.
- CHAL tribus non conduci possum libertatibus
505 quin ego illis hodie comparem magnum malum
quinque hanc omnem rem meae erae iam faciam palam.
manifesto teneo in noxia inimicos meos.
sed si nunc facere uult era officium suum,
nostra omnis lis est. pulchre praeuortar uiros.
- 510 nostro omine it dies; iam uicti uicimus.
ibo intro, ut id quod alius condiuit coquos,
ego nunc uicissim ut alio pacto condiam,

493 lepidas *BVE*, lepadas *Camerarius*

500 abis *P*, abi *Camerarius*

CASINA

LYS Buy cuttlefish, limpets, squid, barley fish,²¹—

CHAL No, wheat fish, if you're smart.

LYS —soles. 495

CHAL Why only those, please, rather than entire clogs to smash
your face with, you worthless old man?

OL Do you want tongue?

LYS What's that necessary for, since I have a wife at home?
She's our tongue: she never shuts up.

OL When I'm there I'll be able to decide what to buy from 500
the fish market.

LYS Fair enough; off you go. I don't want to save money, buy
plenty. I still need to meet this neighbor of mine so that
he takes care of what I've told him.

OL Shall I go now?

LYS Yes, do.

*Exit OLYMPIO to the left. Exit LYSIDAMUS into the house of
Alcesimus.*

CHAL I couldn't be hired for my freedom three times over not 505
to create big trouble for them today and not to reveal the
entire business to my mistress right now. I've caught my
enemies in the act, red-handed. But if my mistress now
wants to do her duty, the case is all ours. I'll get the better
of them beautifully. The day is proceeding with an omen 510
favorable to us. We, the losers, are the winners! I'll go
inside to season in a different way in my turn now what
another cook has seasoned, so that the meal won't be pre-

²¹ The *hordeia* is an unknown fish whose name sounds similar to *hordeum* "barley." Hence the pun with the non-existent "wheat fish."

PLAUTUS

quo id quoi paratum est ut paratum ne siet
sitque ei paratum quod paratum non erat.

ACTVS III

III. i: LYSIDAMVS. ALCESIMVS

- 515 LYS nunc amici, anne inimici sis imago, Alcesime,
mihi sciam, nunc specimen specitur, nunc certamen cer-
nitur.
quor amem me castigare, id ponito ad compendium,
“cano capite,” “aetate aliena” eo addito ad compendium,
“quoi sit uxor,” id quoque illuc ponito ad compendium.
- 520 ALC miseriorem ego ex amore quam te uidi neminem.
LYS fac uacent aedes.
ALC quin edepol seruos, ancillas domo
certum est omnis mittere ad te.
LYS oh, nimium scite scitus es.
sed facito dum merula per uorsus quod cantat < tu > colas:
“cum cibo cum quiqui” facito ut ueniant “quasi eant Su-
trium.”
- 525 ALC meminero.
LYS em, nunc enim te demum nullum scitum scitiust.
cura, ego ad forum modo ibo: iam hic ero.
ALC bene ambula.

513 quod *P*, quoi *Müller*

523 tu *add. Lindsay*

525 tu demum nullo scito scitus es *P*, te d. nullum scitum scitiust

Dousa

²² Proverbial expression (Festus p. 406 / 408 Lindsay). Soldiers

CASINA

pared for the man it was originally prepared for, and so that a meal that wasn't prepared for him will be prepared for him.

Exit CHALINUS into the house of Lysidamus.

ACT THREE

Enter LYSIDAMUS and ALCESIMUS from the latter's house.

LYS Now I'll know whether you are the likeness of a friend or 515
of a foe, Alcesimus, now the evidence is evidenced, now
the contest is contested. As for reproaching me with the
question why I'm in love, stow it away; "with your gray
head," "at an unsuitable age," stow that away, too; "you
who have a wife," stow that away as well.

ALC I've never seen anyone more lovesick than you. 520

LYS Make sure your house is empty.

ALC Yes, yes; I've decided to send all slaves and slave girls
away from my home over to yours.

LYS Oh, you're incredibly smart. But make sure you comply
with what the blackbird sings in its song; make sure they
come "with food, with everything, as if they were going to
Sutrium."²²

ALC I'll remember. 525

LYS There you go, now at last no writ has more wit than you.
Take care of things, I'll just go to the forum; I'll be back
soon enough.

ALC Have a good walk.

were normally asked to bring their own food. Sutrium (modern Sutri)
was captured by M. Furius Camillus in 389 and then again in 386.

PLAUTUS

- LYS fac habeant linguam tuae aedes.
 ALC quid ita?
 LYS quom ueniam, uocent.
 ALC attatae! caedundus tu homo es: nimias delicias facis.
 LYS quid me amare refert, nisi sim doctus <ac> dicaculus?
 530 sed tu caue in quaesitione mihi sis.
 ALC usque adero domi.
- III. ii: CLEOSTRATA. ALCESIMVS
- CLEO hoc erat ecastor [id] quod me uir tanto opere orabat
 meus,
 ut properarem arcessere hanc <huc> ad me uicinam
 meam,
 liberae aedes ut sibi essent Casinam quo deducerent.
 nunc adeo nequaquam arcessam, <ne illis> ignauissimis
 535 liberi loci potestas sit, uetulis ueruecibus.
 sed eccum egreditur, senati columen, praesidium popli,
 meus uicinus, meo uiro qui liberum praehibet locum.
 non ecastor uilis emptu est modio qui uenit salis.
 ALC miror huc iam non arcessi in proximum uxorem meam,
 540 quae iam dudum, si arcessatur, ornata exspectat domi.
 sed eccam, opino, arcessit. salue, Cleostrata.
 CLEO et tu, Alcesime.
 ubi tua uxor?

529 ac *add. Kiessling*

531 id *del. Camerarius*

532 huc *add. Bach*

534 ne *add. Saracenus* illis *add. Koch*

538 modius Ω, modio *Dousa*

541 opinor Ω, opino *Bothe*

²³ Pun on *uocare* "invite" and *uacare* "be empty." I have rendered the preceding *fac habeant linguam tuae aedes* ("make sure your house has a tongue") as "make sure your house is hungry" in order to get some pun. ²⁴ Salt was proverbially cheap.

CASINA

LYS Make sure your house is hungry.

ALC How so?

LYS When I come it should be empty.²³

ALC Goodness! You ought to be cut down to size: you're getting above yourself.

LYS What's the point of me being in love unless I'm clever and witty? But make sure I don't have to look for you. 530

ALC I'll be at home throughout.

Exit LYSIDAMUS to the right; exit ALCESIMUS into his house.

Enter CLEOSTRATA from her house.

CLEO So that was why my husband was so keen that I should hurry up to bring this neighbor of mine over here! It was so that they'd have an empty house to take Casina to. Now I won't bring her over here at all so that those vile creatures don't have any chance of an empty place, the old wethers. 535

Enter ALCESIMUS from his house.

CLEO But look, he's coming out, that pillar of the senate, that guardian of the people, my neighbor, who is providing my husband with an empty place. This creature wouldn't be cheap at the price of a peck of salt.²⁴

ALC *(to the audience)* I'm surprised that my wife is not yet being sent for to go next door. She's all dressed up and has been waiting at home for a long time already in case she's sent for. But look, I think she's come to fetch her. *(turning to Cleostrata)* My greetings to you, Cleostrata. 540

CLEO And mine to you, Alcesimus. Where's your wife?

PLAUTUS

- ALC intus illa te, si se arcessas, manet;
nam tuos uir me orauit ut eam isto ad te adiutum mitte-
rem.
uin uocem?
- CLEO sine eam: te nolo, si occupata est.
- ALC otium est.
- 545 CLEO nil moror, molesta ei esse nolo; post conuenero.
ALC non ornatis isti apud uos nuptias?
CLEO orno et paro.
ALC non ergo opus est adiutrice?
CLEO satis domi est. ubi nuptiae
fuerint, tum istam conuenibo. nunc uale, atque istanc
iube.
- 550 ALC quid ego nunc faciam? flagitium maxumum feci miser
propter operam illius hirqui improbi, edentuli,
qui hoc mihi contraxit; operam uxoris polliceor foras,
quasi catillatum. flagitium hominis, qui dixit mihi
suam uxorem hanc arcessituram [esse]; ea se eam negat
morarier.
atque edepol mirum ni subolet iam hoc huic uicinae
meae.
- 555 uerum autem altrouorsum quom eam mecum rationem
puto,
si quid eius esset, esset mecum postulatio.
ibo intro, ut subducam nauim rursum in puluinaria.

543 istuc Ω, isto *Spengel*

544 eam it *A*, om. *P*, eam te *Goetz*, maneat *Leo*

553 esse *del.* *Acidalius*

CASINA

- ALC She's waiting inside for you to send for her: your husband asked me to send her over to your place to help. Do you want me to call her?
- CLEO No, let her be. I don't want to bother you if she's busy.
- ALC She's free.
- CLEO Never mind, I don't want to be a nuisance to her. I'll meet 545
her later.
- ALC Aren't you getting ready for a wedding there at your place?
- CLEO Yes, I'm getting ready for it and preparing it.
- ALC Don't you need a helper then?
- CLEO I have plenty at home. When the wedding's over, then I'll meet her. Goodbye now, and give her my regards. (*walks toward her door*)
- ALC What should I do now? Poor me, I've committed a great disgrace thanks to that worthless, toothless goat that 550
drew me into it. I'm promising my wife's services to others as if she were to go and lick the plates. What a disgraceful creature he is! He told me his wife would send for her. But she says she doesn't need her. (*pauses*) It would be odd if this neighbor of mine hasn't got wind of this already. But on the other hand I get the impression 555
that if it were like that, she'd be having an argument with me. I'll go inside to haul the ship back onto her berth again.

CLEO iam hic est lepide ludificatus. miseri ut festinant senes!
 nunc ego illum nihili, decrepitum meum uirum ueniat
 uelim,
 560 ut eum ludificem uicissim, postquam hunc delusi alte-
 rum.
 nam ego aliquid contrahere cupio litigi inter eos duos.
 sed eccum incedit. at quom aspicias tristem, frugi cen-
 seas.

III. iii: LYSIDAMVS. CLEOSTRATA

LYS stultitia magna est, mea quidem sententia,
 hominem amatorem ullum ad forum procedere,
 565 in eum diem quoi quod amet in mundo siet;
 sicut ego feci stultus: contriui diem,
 dum asto aduocatus quoidam cognato meo;
 quem hercle ego litem adeo perdidisse gaudeo,
 ne me nequiquam sibi hodie aduocauerit.
 570 nam meo quidem animo qui aduocatos aduocet
 rogitare oportet prius et <per>contarier
 assitne ei animus necne <ei> assit quem aduocet:
 si neget adesse, exanimatum amittat domum.
 sed uxorem ante aedis eccam. ei misero mihi!
 575 metuo ne non sit surda atque haec audiuerit.

CLEO audiui ecastor cum malo magno tuo.

LYS accedam propius. quid agis, mea festiuitas?

CLEO te ecastor praestolabar.

LYS iamne ornata rest?

580 iamne hanc traduxti huc ad nos uicinam tuam
 quae te adiutaret?

571 *contarier P, percontarier Pylades*

572 *ei² add. Seyffert*

578 *res est Ω, rest Pareus, res Bothe*

CASINA

Exit ALCESIMUS into his house.

CLEO (*turning round*) Now I've made fun of him in a lovely way. How the old wretches are running around! I wish that useless, decrepit husband of mine would turn up now, so that I could make fun of him in turn, after I've had my fun with this other one: I'm keen to create some argument between the two. (*looking around*) But look, here he comes. When you see him look so solemn, though, you'd think that he's a decent human being. 560

Enter LYSIDAMUS from the right.

LYS It's great stupidity, in my opinion at least, for any lover who has something to love available for that day, to go to the forum. That's what I did, idiot that I am. I wasted the day while I was standing there as an advocate for a certain relation of mine. I'm happy he lost the case, so that he didn't ask me to be his advocate without any effect today: in my opinion a man who calls advocates ought to ask first and find out if the man he's calling has a mind to help him or not. If he says no, he should send him home mindless. (*pauses*) But look, my wife's in front of the house. Poor me! I'm afraid that she isn't deaf and has heard all this. 570 575

CLEO (*aside*) I have heard it and it'll cost you dearly.

LYS (*aside*) I'll come closer. (*loudly*) How are you, my joy?

CLEO I was waiting for you.

LYS Is everything arranged already? Have you already brought this neighbor of yours over to our place to help you? 580

PLAUTUS

CLEO arcessiui, ut iusseras.

uerum hic sodalis tuos, amicus optumus,
nescioquid se sufflauit uxori suae:
negauit posse, quoniam arcesso, mittere.

LYS uitium tibi istuc maxumum est: blanda es parum.

585 CLEO non matronarum officium est, sed meretricium,
uiris alienis, mi uir, subblandirier.
i tu, [atque] arcesse illam: ego intus quod factum est opus
uolo accurare, mi uir.

LYS propera ergo.

CLEO licet.

590 iam pol ego huic aliquem in pectus iniciam metum;
miserrumum hodie ego hunc habebam amasium.

III. iv: ALCESIMVS. LYSIDAMVS

ALC uiso huc, amator si a foro rediit domum,
qui me atque uxorem ludificatust, larua.
sed eccum ante aedis. ad te hercle ibam commodum.

LYS et hercle ego ad te. quid ais, uir minimi preti?
595 quid tibi mandaui? quid tecum orauit?

ALC quid est?

LYS ut bene uociuas aedis fecisti mihi,
ut traduxisti huc ad nos uxorem tuam:
satin propter te perego ego atque occasio?

ALC quin tu suspendis te? nemp' tute dixeras
600 tuam arcessituram esse uxorem uxorem meam.

LYS ergo arcessiuisse ait sese, et dixisse te
eam non missurum.

ALC quin eapse ultro mihi
negauit eius operam se morarier.

587 atque *deleui* 602 eapsaltro A, eam ipsa ultro *BVE*¹, ea
ipsa ultro *JE*^c, eapse ultro *Bothe*

CASINA

CLEO I invited her, as you'd told me. But this mate of yours, your wonderful friend, somehow got annoyed with his wife. When I invited her, he said he couldn't send her.

LYS This is your greatest shortcoming: you aren't charming enough.

CLEO My dear husband, it's not the job of wives, but of prostitutes, to charm other men. You go and fetch her yourself. I want to prepare indoors whatever's needful, my dear husband.

LYS Then hurry up.

CLEO Yes. (*aside*) Now I'll inject some fear into his heart. I'll give this lover-boy a very hard time.

Exit CLEOSTRATA into her house.

Enter ALCESIMUS from his house.

ALC I'm popping by here to see if our lover has come back from the market, who has made fools of me and my wife, the devil. But look, he's in front of the house. (*turning to Lysidamus*) I was coming to you this very moment.

LYS And I to you. What do you say, you good-for-nothing? What did I entrust you with? What did I ask you for?

ALC What's that?

LYS How well you've emptied your house for me, how you took your wife over here to us! Aren't I and my opportunity sufficiently ruined because of you?

ALC Why don't you hang yourself? You'd said your wife would send for my wife.

LYS Well then, she says that she sent for her and that you said you wouldn't let her go.

ALC But she herself told me of her own accord that she didn't need her assistance.

PLAUTUS

- LYS quin eapse me allegavit qui istam arcesserem.
 605 ALC quin nihili facio.
 LYS quin me perdis.
 ALC quin bene est,
 quin etiam diu morabor, quin cupio tibi—
 LYS quin—
 ALC —aliquid aegre facere.
 LYS quin faciam lubens.
 numquam tibi hodie “quin” erit plus quam mihi.
 ALC quin hercle di te perdant postremo quidem!
 610 LYS quid nunc? missurusne es ad me uxorem tuam?
 ALC ducas, easque in maxumam malam crucem
 cum hac cum istac, cumque amica etiam tua.
 abi et aliud cura, ego iam per hortum iussero
 meam istuc transire uxorem ad uxorem tuam.
 615 LYS nunc tu mi amicus es in germanum modum.
 qua ego hunc amorem mi esse aui dicam datum
 aut quot ego umquam erga Venerem inique fecerim,
 quoi sic tot amanti mi obuiam eueniant morae?
 attat!
 620 quid illuc clamoris, opsecro, in nostra est domo?
- III. V: PARDALISCA. LYSIDAMVS
- PAR nulla sum, nulla sum, tota, tota occidi,
 cor metu mortuom est, membra miserae tremunt,
 nescio unde auxili, praesidi, perfugi
 mi aut opum copiam comparem aut expetam:
 625 tanta factu modo mira miris modis

617 quod Ω, quot *Lindsay*

625 factis Ω, factu *Schoppius*

CASINA

- LYS But she herself commissioned me to send for her.
- ALC But I don't care. 605
- LYS But you're the ruin of me.
- ALC But that's good. But I'll even delay her for a long time.
But I wish—
- LYS (*interrupting*) But—
- ALC (*continuing*)—to do you some harm.
- LYS But I'll do the same to you, and with pleasure. You won't
have more butts than me today!
- ALC But, once and for all, may the gods destroy you!
- LYS What now? Are you going to send your wife over to me? 610
- ALC Take her and go and be hanged with my wife, with your
own wife, and also with your girlfriend! (*calming down*)
Go and worry about something else, I'll now tell my wife
to go over to your place to your wife through the garden.
- LYS Now you are my friend in true brotherly fashion. 615

Exit ALCESIMUS into his house.

- LYS Under which omen should I say that this love was im-
posed on me, or what have I ever done to offend Venus?
I'm lovesick and yet I have to face so many delays like
this! (*hearing noise from his house*) Goodness! What's 620
that shouting in our house, please?

*Enter PARDALISCA from the house of Lysidamus, seemingly
in panic.*

- PAR I'm dead, I'm dead, I've perished utterly, utterly, my
heart has died from fear, my limbs are trembling, poor
me. I don't know from where I should get or seek the op-
portunity for help, protection, refuge, support: I've seen 625
such strange goings-on in strange ways inside just now, a

PLAUTUS

- intus uidi, nouam atque integram audaciam.
 caue tibi, Cleostrata, apscede ab ista, opsecro,
 ne quid in te mali faxit ira percita.
- 629 eripite isti gladium,
 629^a quae sui est impos animi.
- 630 LYS nam quid est quod haec huc timida at-
 que exanimata exsiluit [foras]?
- 630^a Pardalisca!
- 631 PAR perii! unde meae usurpant aures sonitum?
 LYS respice modo ad me.
 PAR o ere mi.
 LYS quid tibi est? quid timida es?
 PAR perii.
 LYS quid, periisti?
 PAR perii, et tu periisti.
 LYS a, perii? quid ita?
- 634 PAR uae tibi!
 LYS immo uae tibi sit.
- 634^a PAR ne cadam, amabo, tene me.
- 635-
 36 LYS quicquid est, eloquere mi cito.
 PAR contine pectus,
 face uentum, amabo, pallio.
 LYS timeo hoc negoti quid siet,
 nisi haec meraclo se uspiam
 percussit flore Liberi.
- 640 PAR optine auris, amabo.
 LYS i in malam a me crucem!
 pectus, auris, caput teque di perduint!
 nam nisi ex te scio, quicquid hoc est, cito, hoc

630^a exsiluit A, exiluit foras BVE, exilunt foras J, exsiluit Merula

634 immo uae A, immo istuc P

CASINA

new, unheard-of audacity. (*into the house*) Be on your guard, Cleostrata, go away from her, please, so that she doesn't do you any harm in her rage. Take the sword away from that girl! She has no control over her mind.

LYS (*aside*) What on earth is the reason why she's rushed out here, all fearful and anxious? (*loudly*) Pardalisca! 630

PAR I'm dead! Whence do my ears catch that sound?

LYS Just look back at me.

PAR (*turning to him*) Oh my dear master.

LYS What's wrong with you? What are you scared of?

PAR I'm dead.

LYS What, you're dead?

PAR I'm dead, and you are dead, too.

LYS Eh? I'm dead? How so?

PAR Curse you!

LYS No, curse *you*!

PAR Please hold me so that I don't fall.

LYS (*grabbing her*) Whatever it is, tell me quickly. 635

PAR Hold my breast, fan me with your cloak, please.

LYS (*aside*) I'm anxious about what this may mean, unless she's confused herself with the undiluted bouquet of Liber.²⁵ 640

PAR Hold my ears, please.²⁶

LYS Get away from me and get hanged! May the gods destroy you, breast, ears, and head! Unless you tell me quickly what this is all about, I'll smash your brains to pieces with

²⁵ Bacchus, the god of wine.

²⁶ This can be interpreted as a request to kiss her.

PLAUTUS

- 645 iam tibi istuc cerebrum dispercutiam, excetra tu,
 ludibrio pessuma adhuc quae me habuisti.
 PAR ere mi . . .
 LYS quid uis mea me ancilla?
 PAR nimium saeuis.
 LYS numero dicis.
 sed hoc quicquid est eloquere, in pauca confer:
 quid intus tumulti fuit?
 PAR scibus, audi.
 650 malum pessimumque hic modo intus apud nos
 tua ancilla hoc pacto exordiri coepit,
 quod haud Atticam condecet disciplinam.
 LYS quid est id?
 PAR timor praepedit dicta linguae.
 654 LYS possum scire ego istuc ex te quid
 654^a negoti est?
 PAR dicam.
 655 tua ancilla, quam tu tuo uilico uis
 dare uxorem, ea intus—
 LYS quid intus? quid est?
 PAR imitatur malarum malam disciplinam,
 uiro quae suo interminetur: uitam—
 659 LYS quid ergo?
 PAR ah!
 LYS quid est?
 PAR interemere
 659^a ait uelle uitam,
 660 gladium—
 LYS hem!
 PAR gladium—
 LYS quid eum gladium?
 PAR habet.

CASINA

this here (*holds up his walking stick*) this instant, you serpent. You've been making a fool of me all this while, you wicked woman. 645

PAR My dear master . . .

LYS (*still angry*) What do you want from me, my dear maid?

PAR You're too harsh.

LYS You're saying that too soon. But tell me about it, whatever it is, sum it up briefly: what was that uproar inside?

PAR You'll soon know; listen. At our place your slave girl has just begun to undertake something bad and terrible in this way, something which is inappropriate to Attic manners. 650

LYS What's that?

PAR Fear keeps tripping my tongue up.

LYS Can I know from you what's the matter?

PAR I'll tell you. Your slave girl, the one you want to give in marriage to your overseer, inside she— 655

LYS (*interrupting*) What's she doing inside? What is it?

PAR She's imitating the bad behavior of bad women, since she's threatening her husband: his life—

LYS (*interrupting*) So what is it?

PAR Ah!

LYS What is it?

PAR She says she wants to take his life. A sword— 660

LYS (*interrupting*) What?

PAR A sword—

LYS (*interrupting*) What about this sword?

PAR She has it.

PLAUTUS

- LYS ei misero mihi! quor eum habet?
 PAR insectatur omnis domi per aedis
 nec quemquam prope ad se sinit adire:
 ita omnes sub arcis, sub lectis latentes
 665 metu mussitant.
 LYS occidi atque interii!
 quid illi obiectum est mali tam repente?
 PAR insanit.
 LYS scelestissimum me esse credo.
 PAR immo si scias dicta quae dixit hodie . . .
 LYS istuc expeto scire. quid dixit?
 PAR audi.
 670 per omnis deos et deas deieravit,
 occisurum eum hac nocte quicum cubaret.
 LYS men occidet?
 PAR an quippiam ad te attinet?
 LYS uah!
 PAR quid cum ea negoti tibi est?
 LYS peccaui:
 illuc [dicere], "uilicum," uolebam.
 675 PAR sciens de uia in semitam degredere.
 LYS numquid mi minatur?
 PAR tibi infesta soli est
 677 plus quam quoiquam.
 LYS quam ob rem?
 PAR quia se
 677^a des uxorem Olympioni,
 678 nec se tuam nec se suam nec
 uiri uitam <asseuerat> sinere in
 680 crastinum protolli: id huc
 missa sum tibi ut dicerem,
 682-
 83 ab ea uti caueas tibi.

CASINA

- LYS Poor me! Why does she have it?
 PAR She's chasing everybody at home throughout the house and doesn't let anyone come near her: everybody's hiding under chests and couches and keeping quiet out of fear. 665
 LYS I'm dead and done for! What harm has so suddenly come her way?
 PAR She's mad.
 LYS I think I'm the most wretched man ever.
 PAR If only you knew what words she uttered today . . .
 LYS I'm keen to know that. What did she say?
 PAR Listen. She swore by all the gods and goddesses that she'd kill the man who she sleeps with this night. 670
 LYS She'll kill me?
 PAR Why? Does that have anything to do with you?
 LYS Bah!
 PAR What business do you have with her?
 LYS I made a mistake. I meant to say, "the overseer."
 PAR You're deliberately leaving the straight road for a winding path. 675
 LYS She isn't threatening me, is she?
 PAR With you alone she's angry, more than with anyone.
 LYS What for?
 PAR Because you're giving her in marriage to Olympio. She's adamant that she won't let your life, her own life, or her husband's life continue till tomorrow. I've been sent here to tell you about this, so that you may be on your guard against her. 680

674 dicere *del. Fleckeisen*

678 neque se suam *P*, neque suam *A*

679 asseuerat *add. Leo*

682-83 ut Ω , uti *Leo* dig<nus es> *add. Leo*

PLAUTUS

- LYS perii hercle ego miser!
 PAR dig<nus es>
 LYS neque est nec fuit me senex quisquam amator
 685 adaeque miser.
 PAR ludo ego hunc facete;
 nam quae facta dixi omnia huic falsa dixi:
 era atque haec dolum ex proximo hunc protulerunt,
 ego hunc missa sum ludere.
 LYS heus Pardalisca!
 PAR quid est?
 LYS est . . .
 PAR quid?
 LYS est quod uolo exquirere ex te.
 690 PAR moram offers mihi.
 LYS at tu mihi offers maerorem.
 sed etiamne habet nunc Casina gladium?
 PAR habet, sed duos.
 LYS quid, duos?
 PAR altero te
 occisurum ait, altero uilicum hodie.
 LYS occisissimus sum omnium qui uiuont.
 695 loricam induam mi optimum esse opinor.
 quid uxor mea? non adiit atque ademit?
 PAR nemo audet prope accedere.
 LYS exoret.
 PAR orat.
 negat ponere alio modo ullo profecto,
 nisi se sciat uilico non datum iri.
 700 LYS atqui ingratiis, quia non uolt, nubet hodie.
 nam quor non ego id perpetrem quod coepi,
 ut nubat mihi? illud quidem uolebam,
 "nostro uilico."

CASINA

- LYS Poor me, I'm dead!
- PAR (*aside*) Serves you right.
- LYS (*aside*) There isn't and there hasn't been an old lover as 685
wretched as me.
- PAR (*aside*) I'm fooling him wittily: what I told him has hap-
pened was a lie from first to last. My mistress and this
woman from next door have hatched this trick, and I've
been sent to fool him.
- LYS Hey there, Pardalisca!
- PAR What is it?
- LYS (*hesitating*) There is . . .
- PAR What?
- LYS There is something I want to ask you.
- PAR You're delaying me. 690
- LYS And you are saddening me. But does Casina still have a
sword?
- PAR She does; two, actually.
- LYS What, two?
- PAR She says she's going to kill you with one and the overseer
with the other today.
- LYS I'm the most killed man of all who live. I think it's best for 695
me to put on a breastplate. What about my wife? Hasn't
she approached her and taken them away?
- PAR No one dares come near her.
- LYS Let her persuade her.
- PAR She's asking her. She says she'll only put them down if she
knows she won't be given to the overseer.
- LYS (*angrily*) But since she won't marry willingly, she'll marry 700
against her will today. Why shouldn't I see through what
I've begun, that she should marry me? I meant, "our
overseer."

PLAUTUS

- PAR saepicule peccas.
 LYS timor praepedit uerba. uerum, opsecro te,
 705 dic me uxorem orare ut exoret illam
 gladium ut ponat et redire me intro ut liceat.
 PAR nuntiabo.
 LYS et tu orato.
 PAR et ego orabo.
 LYS at blande orato, ut soles. sed audin?
 si effexis hoc,
 soleas tibi
 710 dabo et anulum in
 digito aureum et
 bona pluruma.
 PAR operam dabo.
 LYS face ut impetres.
 715 PAR eo nunciam,
 nisi quippiam
 remorare me.
 LYS abi et cura.
 redit eccum tandem opsonatu meus adiutor, pompam
 ducit.
 III. vi: OLYMPIO. CHYTRIO. LYSIDAMVS
 720 OL uide, fur, ut sentis sub signis
 720^a ducas!
 CHYT qui uero hi sunt sentes?
 721 OL quia quod tetigere, ilico rapiunt,
 721^a si eas ereptum, ilico scindunt:
 722 ita quoquo adueniunt, ubiubi sunt,
 722^a duplici damno dominos multant.
 723 CHYT heia!
 OL attat! cesso magnifice

CASINA

- PAR You make mistakes a little often.
- LYS Fear keeps tripping up my words. But, I entreat you, say 705
that I'm asking my wife to persuade her to put down the
sword and to let me return inside.
- PAR I'll tell her.
- LYS And you, ask her.
- PAR And I shall ask her.
- LYS But ask her coaxingly, in your usual way. (*as she turns to
move away*) But are you listening? If you succeed, I'll
give you sandals and a golden ring for your finger and lots 710
of good things.
- PAR I'll try my best.
- LYS Make sure you succeed.
- PAR I'm going now, unless you delay me in some way. 715
- LYS Go and take care of it.

Exit PARDALISCA into the house of Lysidamus.

- LYS Look, finally my helper's returning from shopping, he's
leading a procession.

*Enter OLYMPIO with CHYTRIO and his assistants from the
right.*

- OL See to it, you thief, that you keep these briars in line! 720
- CHYT In what way are these men briars?
- OL Because they immediately cling to whatever they touch.
If you pull them away, they immediately tear it to pieces:
wherever they go, wherever they are, they punish their
employers with double damage.
- CHYT Come off it!
- OL (*spotting Lysidamus*) Oho! Should I not clothe myself in

PLAUTUS

- 723^a patricieque amicirier atque ita ero
 723^b meo ire aduorsum?
 724 LYS bone uir, salue.
 OL fateor.
 LYS quid fit?
 725 OL tu amas: ego esurio et sitio.
 LYS lepide excuratus [in]cessisti.
 OL aha, hodie ****.
 LYS mane uero, quamquam fastidis.
 OL fy fy! foetet tuos mi sermo.
 LYS quae res?
 OL haec res.
 LYS etiamne astas?
 OL enim uero *πράγματα μοι παρέχεις*.
 729 LYS dabo tibi
 729^a *μέγα κακόν*,
 730 ut ego opinor, nisi resistis.
 OL *ὦ Ζεῦ*,
 potin a med abeas,
 nisi me uis
 uomere hodie?
 LYS mane.
 OL quid est? quis hic est homo?
 735 LYS erus sum.
 OL quis erus?
 LYS quoniam tu seruo's.
 OL seruos ego?
 LYS atque meus.
 OL non sum ego liber?
 memento, memento.
 LYS mane atque asta.
 OL omitte.

CASINA

grand, aristocratic style and approach my master like this as quickly as possible?

LYS Greetings, my good man.

OL I admit it.

LYS What's up?

OL You are in love; I am hungry and thirsty.

725

LYS You've strutted around elegantly turned out.

OL Ah, today ***. (*walks on*)

LYS But wait, even though you're giving yourself airs.

OL Faugh, faugh! It stinks when you speak.

LYS What's the matter?

OL This is the matter.

LYS Won't you stand still?

OL You really are giving me a hard time.

LYS I'll give you a hard beating, I think, unless you stand still.

730

OL O Zeus! Can't you leave me, unless you want me to vomit today?

LYS Wait.

OL What is it? Who is this?

LYS I'm master.

735

OL What master?

LYS The one whose slave you are.

OL I'm a slave?

LYS Yes, mine in fact.

OL Aren't I free? Remember, remember.

LYS Wait and stand still. (*grabs him*)

OL Let go.

726 *incessisti* Ω, *cessisti* Müller

727 (ede)pol A, ey ey P, fy fy Spengel

728 *spatium ante etiamne* BV, *Lysidamo dant* JE³ (*nullum spatium* E¹)

PLAUTUS

- LYS seruos sum tuos.
 OL optume est.
 LYS opsecro te,
 Olympisce mi, mi pater, mi patrone.
 OL em,
 740 sapis sane.
 LYS tuos sum equidem.
 OL quid mi opust seruo tam nequam?
 LYS quid nunc? quam mox recreas me?
 OL cena modo si sit cocta.
 745 LYS hisce ergo abeant.
 OL propere cito intro ite et cito deproperate.
 ego iam intus ero, facito cenam mihi ut ebria sit.
 747 sed lepide nitideque uolo,
 747^a nil moror barbarico bliteo.
 748 stasne etiam? i sis, ego hic habeo.
 748^a numquid est ceterum quod morae siet?
 749 LYS gladium Casinam intus habere ait, qui me ac te interimat.
 750 OL scio. sic sine habere;
 nugas agunt: noui
 ego illas malas merces.
 quin tu i modo mecum
 domum.
 LYS at pol malum metuo.
 755 i tu modo, perspicito prius quid intus agatur.
 OL tam mi mea uita
 tua quam tibi cara est.
 uerum i modo.
 LYS si tu iubes, em ibitur tecum.

746 facite Ω, facito *Geppert*

757 tua quam *A*, quam tua *P*

CASINA

LYS (*sweetly*) I'm your slave.

OL That's perfect.

LYS I entreat you, my dear little Olympio, my father, my patron.

OL There you go, you really show sense.

740

LYS I'm yours.

OL What do I need such a useless slave for?

LYS What now? How soon are you restoring me to life?

OL If only the dinner were cooked!

LYS Let these people go in then.

745

OL (*to Chytrio and servants*) Go inside fast and quickly and hurry quickly. I'll be inside in a moment, make sure that my dinner is sumptuous. But I want it neat and lovely, I don't care for barbarian trash. Are you still standing there? Do go, I live here.

Exit CHYTRIO into the house of Lysidamus, followed by his assistants.

OL Is there anything else to cause delay?

LYS She says Casina has a sword inside, to kill me and you with.

OL (*skeptically*) I know. Let her have it like that. They're talking rubbish. I know those bad pieces. Just go home with me.

750

LYS But I'm afraid of trouble. Just go yourself and have a look first what's going on inside.

755

OL (*timidly*) My life is as dear to me as yours is to you. (*giving him a push*) All the same, come along.

LYS If you tell me, well, I'll go with you.

Exeunt OLYMPIO and LYSIDAMUS into their house.

PLAUTUS

ACTVS IV

IV. i: PARDALISCA

- PAR nec pol ego Nemeae credo neque ego Olympiae
 760 neque usquam ludos tam festiuos fieri
 quam hic intus fiunt ludi ludificabiles
 seni nostro et nostro Olympioni uilico.
 omnes festinant intus totis aedibus,
 senex in culina clamat, hortatur coquos:
 765 "quin agitis hodie? quin datis si quid datis?
 properate, cenam iam esse coctam oportuit."
 uilicus is autem cum corona, candide
 uestitus, lautus exornatusque ambulat.
 illae autem armigerum ilico exornant duae
 770 quem dent pro Casina nuptum nostro uilico.
 sed nimium lepide dissimulant, quasi nil sciant
 fore huius quod futurum est; digne autem coqui
 nimis lepide ei rei dant operam, ne cenet senex,
 aulas peruortunt, ignem restinguunt aqua:
 775 illarum oratu faciunt; illae autem senem
 cupiunt extrudere incenatum ex aedibus,
 ut ipsae solae uentris distendant suos.
 noui ego illas ambestrices: corbitam cibi
 comesse possunt. sed aperitur ostium.

IV. ii: LYSIDAMVS. PARDALISCA

- 780 LYS si sapitis, uxor, uos tamen cenabitis,
 cena ubi erit cocta; ego ruri cenauero.
 nam nouom maritum et nouam nuptam uolo

²⁷ Two places where athletic competitions took place.

CASINA

ACT FOUR

Enter PARDALISCA from the house of Lysidamus.

PAR I don't believe that at Nemea or Olympia²⁷ or anywhere 760
 else such jolly games take place as the game-making tak-
 ing place inside here at the expense of our old master and
 our overseer Olympio. Everybody's rushing around in-
 side through the entire house. The old man's shouting in
 the kitchen and urging on the cooks: "Why won't you get 765
 on with it today? Why aren't you giving us anything if you
 are giving us something? Hurry up, dinner ought to be
 cooked already." And that overseer is walking around
 with a garland, dressed in white, bathed and adorned.
 The two women, on the other hand, are adorning the or- 770
 derly there so that they can give him in marriage to our
 overseer in place of Casina. But they're pretending ever
 so charmingly that they don't know that anything will
 happen of what will happen. And the cooks for their
 part take care ever so charmingly that the old man won't
 get his dinner; they knock over the pots and extinguish 775
 the fire with water. They're doing so at the women's re-
 quest. And the women want to throw the old man out
 of the house without dinner, so that they themselves are
 the only ones to stuff their bellies. I know those glut-
 tons: they can gobble up a shipload full of food. (*looking*
around) But the door is opening.

Enter LYSIDAMUS from his house.

LYS (*into the house*) If you're wise, my wife, you'll dine never- 780
 theless when dinner is cooked. I'll dine on our country
 estate: I want to accompany the new groom and the new

PLAUTUS

- rus prosequi—noui hominum mores maleficos—
 ne quis eam abripiat. facite uostro animo uolup.
 785 sed properate istum atque istam actutum emittere,
 tandem ut ueniamus luci; ego cras hic ero.
 cras habuero, uxor, ego tamen conuiuuium.
 PAR fit quod futurum dixi: incenatum senem
 foras extrudunt mulieres.
 LYS quid tu hic agis?
 790 PAR ego eo quo me ipsa misit.
 LYS ueron?
 PAR serio.
 LYS quid hic specularē?
 PAR nil equidem specular.
 LYS abi.
 tu hic cunctas, intus alii festinant.
 PAR eo.
 LYS abi hinc sis ergo, pessumarum pessuma.
 iamne abiit illaec? dicere hic quiduis licet.
 795 qui amat, tamen hercle, si esurit, nullum esurit.
 sed eccum progreditur cum corona et lampade
 meus socius, compar, commaritus uilicus.

IV. iii: OLYMPIO. LYSIDAMVS

- OL age tibicen, dum illam educunt huc nouam nuptam foras,
 suaui cantu concelebra omnem hanc plateam hymenaeo
 meo.

799 *miω A, meio P*

bride to our estate—I know the wicked ways of the people—so that no one abducts her. Enjoy yourselves, but be quick to send her and him out at once, so that we can get there while it's light. I'll be back tomorrow. I'll have my banquet tomorrow despite everything, my wife. 785

PAR (*aside*) What I said would happen is happening: the women are throwing the old man out of the house without dinner.

LYS (*spotting Pardalisca*) What are you doing here?

PAR I'm going where my mistress has sent me. 790

LYS Really?

PAR Yes, seriously.

LYS Why are you spying here?

PAR I'm not spying at all.

LYS Go away. You are dawdling here, the others are rushing around inside.

PAR I'm going.

LYS Then go away, will you, you worst of all women.

Exit PARDALISCA into the house of Lysidamus.

OL Is she gone now? I can say anything here. A lovesick man doesn't feel hunger at all, even if he does feel hunger. But look, the overseer's coming out with a garland and torch, my comrade, partner, and co-husband. 795

Enter OLYMPIO from the house of Lysidamus, with a flower garland on and a wedding torch in his hand.

OL Go on, flute player, while they're bringing that new bride out here, make this entire street ring with a sweet wedding song for me.

PLAUTUS

- 800 LYS + OL Hymen Hymenaeae, o Hymen!
 LYS quid agis, mea Salus?
 OL esurio hercle, atque adeo hau salubriter.
 LYS at ego amo.
 OL at ego hercle nihili facio. tibi amor pro cibo est,
 mihi iaiunitate iam dudum intestina murmurant.
 LYS nam quid illaec nunc tam diu intus remorantur remeligi-
 nes?
 805 quasi ob industriam, quanto ego plus propero, procedit
 minus.
 OL quid si etiam suffundam hymenaeum, si qui citius pro-
 ceant?
 LYS censeo, et ego te adiutabo in nuptiis communibus.
 LYS + OL Hymen Hymenaeae, o Hymen!
 LYS perii hercle ego miser! dirrumpi cantando hymenaeum
 licet:
 810 illo morbo quo dirrumpi cupio, non est copiae.
 OL edepol ne tu, si equos esses, esses indomabilis.
 LYS quo argumento?
 OL nimis tenax es.
 LYS num me expertu's uspiam?
 OL di melius faciant! sed crepuit ostium, exitur foras.
 LYS di hercle me cupiunt seruatum.

800 hymen ae eo hymen *B*, hymen et eo hymen *VE*¹, himen ac eo
 himen *Ec*, himen ae eo himen *J*, hymenaeo hymen *A*

806 etiam si *A*, etiam *P*, si etiam *Leo* offendam Ω , suffundam *Leo*

808 hymen ae eo hymen *P*, hymenaeo hymen *A*

CASINA

- LYS + OL Hymen Hymenaeus, o Hymen!²⁸ 800
- LYS How are you, my savior?
- OL I'm so hungry that I'm past saving.
- LYS But I'm in love.
- OL But I don't care. Your love takes the place of food; I have intestines that have been rumbling from hunger for a long time already.
- LYS Why on earth are those dawdlers delaying us so long inside now? The more of a hurry I'm in, the less progress is 805 made, as if on purpose.
- OL What if I intone the wedding song again, in case they come out more quickly?
- LYS I agree, and I'll support you in our shared wedding.
- LYS + OL Hymen Hymenaeus, o Hymen!
- LYS I'm dead, poor me! I can rupture myself from singing the wedding song; but there's no opportunity to rupture myself from the illness from which I want to be ruptured. 810
- OL Seriously, if you were a stallion, you'd be untamable.
- LYS How so?
- OL You're very persistent.
- LYS You haven't tried me out anywhere, have you?
- OL May the gods forbid! (*pauses*) But the door has creaked, they're coming out.
- LYS The gods want me saved.

²⁸ A ritual cry. The interpretation of *Hymen* as the name of a wedding god is secondary, but already occurs in early Greek.

PLAUTUS

IV. iv: CHALINVS. PARDALISCA. OLYMPIO.

LYSIDAMVS. CLEOSTRATA

- PAR iam oboluit Casinus procul.
- 815-
16 sensim super attolle limen pedes, mea noua nupta;
sospes iter incipe hoc, uti uiro tuo
semper sis superstes,
- 819-
20 tuaque ut potior pollentia sit uincasque uirum uictrixque
sies,
- 821-
22 tua uox superet tuomque imperium: uir te uestiat, tu uirum [de]spolies.
noctuque et diu ut uiro subdola sis,
opsecro, memento.
- 825 OL malo maxumo suo hercle ilico, ubi tantillum peccassit.
LYS tace.
OL non taceo.
LYS quae res?
OL mala malae male monstrat.
LYS facies tune hanc rem mi ex parata imparatam? id
quaerunt, id uolunt, haec ut infecta faciant.
- 830 PAR age Olympio, quando uis, uxorem accipe hanc ab nobis.
OL date ergo, daturae si umquam estis hodie uxorem.
LYS abite intro.
CLEO amabo, integrae atque imperitae huic impercito.

814 iam . . . procul *dedit Pardaliscæ Leo*

815-16 mea A, *om. P*

821-22 despolies Ω, spolies *Müller*

827 tu<n> *Lindsay*

CASINA

Enter PARDALISCA from the house of Lysidamus, followed by CLEOSTRATA, MYRRHINA, and CHALINUS, the latter veiled.

- PAR (to the women) He's already smelled our Casinus²⁹ in the distance. (to Chalinus) Raise your feet above the threshold gently, my new bride. Begin this journey safely, so that you will always stand above your husband and so that your power will be greater and you will have the upper hand over your husband and be victorious, and so that your voice and your command will be stronger. Your husband shall clothe you, you shall plunder him. By night and by day you shall trick your husband; remember that, I beg you. 815
- OL She'll pay a heavy price as soon as she commits the smallest offense. 825
- LYS Be quiet.
- OL No, I won't.
- LYS What's the matter?
- OL The bad woman is showing her bad ways to a bad girl.
- LYS Are you going to turn this business of mine from settled to unsettled? That's what they're after, that's what they want, to undo this.
- PAR Go on, Olympio, since you wish it, take this wife of yours from us. 830
- OL Then give me my wife now, if you're ever going to give her to me at all.
- LYS (to the women) Go inside.
- CLEO Please, be gentle with this innocent and inexperienced girl.

²⁹ I.e. Casina with a masculine ending.

PLAUTUS

- OL futurum est.
 PAR ualete.
 OL ite iam.
 LYS ite.
 CLEO iam ualete.
 835 LYS iamne apscessit uxor?
 OL domi est, ne time.
 LYS euax!
 nunc pol demum ego sum liber.
 meum corculum, melculum, uerculum.
 OL heus tu,
 malo, si sapis, cauebis;
 mea est haec.
 LYS scio, sed meus fructus est prior.
 840 OL tene hanc lampadem.
 LYS immo ego hanc tenebo.
 Venus multipotens, bona multa mihi
 dedisti, huius quom copiam mi dedisti.
 OL o
 corpusculum malacum!
 mea uxorcula—quae res?
 845 LYS quid est?
 OL institit plantam
 quasi luca bos.
 LYS tace sis,
 nebula haud est mollis aequae atque huius pectus est.
 OL edepol papillam bellulam—ei misero mihi!
 LYS quid est?

832–33 amabo . . . impercito *dat Pardaliscæ P, Cleostratæ Seyffert*

841 multa bona mihi A, bonam uitam mihi P, bona multa mihi
Studemund 847 est pectus A, est P, pectus est *Leo*

CASINA

- OL Yes.
 PAR Goodbye.
 OL (*again to the women*) Go now.
 LYS Go.
 CLEO Goodbye now.

Exeunt CLEOSTRATA, MYRRHINA, and PARDALISCA into the house of Lysidamus.

- LYS Has my wife left now? 835
 OL She's in the house, stop being afraid.
 LYS Hurray! Now at last I'm free. (*to Chalinus*) My little sweetheart, my little honey, my little spring.
 OL Hey, you, watch out for trouble if you're wise. She belongs to me.
 LYS I know, but my enjoyment comes first.
 OL Hold this torch. (*tries to hand it over*) 840
 LYS (*grabbing the bride*) No, this is what I'll hold. Mighty Venus, you gave me many good things when you gave me possession of her.
 OL (*trying to fondle Chalinus*) Oh what a tender little body! My little wife—what on earth!
 LYS What's the matter? 845
 OL She stamped on my foot like an elephant.
 LYS Be quiet, will you? A cloud is not as soft as her breast.
 OL (*trying to fondle again*) Yes, a pretty little nipple—dear me, poor me!
 LYS What is it?

PLAUTUS

- OL pectus mi icit non cubito, uerum ariete.
 850 LYS quid tu ergo hanc, quaeso, tractas tam dura manu?
 at mihi, qui belle hanc tracto, non bellum facit.
 OL uah!
 LYS quid negoti est?
 OL opsecro, ut ualentula est!
 paene exposiuit cubito.
 LYS cubitum ergo ire uolt.
 OL quin imus ergo?
 LYS i belle, belliatula.

ACTVS V

- V. i: MYRRHINA. PARDALISCA. CLEOSTRATA
 855 MYR acceptae bene et commode eximus intus
 ludos uisere huc in uiam nuptialis.
 numquam ecastor ullo die risi adaeque,
 neque hoc quod relicuom est plus risuram opinor.
 PAR lubet Chalinum quid agat scire, nouom nuptum cum
 nouo marito.
 860 MYR nec fallaciam astutiozem ullus fecit
 poeta atque ut haec est fabre facta ab nobis.
 CLEO optunso ore nunc peruelim progredi
 senem, quo senex nequior nullus uiuit;
 nisi illum quidem
 865 nequiozem arbitrare esse qui locum

864-65 ne P, n A, nisi *Brix uersus sic ego diuisi, alii aliter*

³⁰ Pun on *belle* "prettily" and *bellum* "war."

³¹ *Nuptus* is a jocular formation; the verb, meaning "marry," is only used of women, but the ending is masculine.

CASINA

- OL She hit me in the chest, not with her elbow, but with a
battering ram.
- LYS Then why do you handle her with such a rough hand, 850
please? But she doesn't attack me, since I handle her
with tact.³⁰
- OL Bah!
- LYS What's the matter?
- OL Please, what a strong little lady she is! She almost laid me
out with her elbow.
- LYS Then she wants to get laid.
- OL Why don't we go then?
- LYS Go prettily, my pretty little creature.

*Exeunt LYSIDAMUS, OLYMPIO, and CHALINUS into the
house of Alcesimus.*

ACT FIVE

*Enter CLEOSTRATA, MYRRHINA, and PARDALISCA from
the house of Lysidamus.*

- MYR After we've been entertained well and pleasurably we're 855
going outside here into the street to watch the wedding
games. I've never, on any day, laughed as much, nor do I
think I will laugh more during all the rest of my life.
- PAR I'd love to know what Chalinus is doing, the new he-
bride³¹ with the new husband.
- MYR No playwright has ever found a trick cleverer than this 860
skillful one of ours.
- CLEO Now I'd love the old man to come out with his face bat-
tered, the most worthless old man alive; unless you con-
sider that chap worse who provided him with a place 865

PLAUTUS

praebet illi <stupri>. <te> nunc praesidem
uolo hic, Pardalisca, esse, qui hinc exeat
eum ut ludibrio habeas.

PAR lubens fecero et solens.

870-
71 MYR *** spectato hinc omnia: intus quid agant ***.

PAR pone me, amabo.

MYR et ibi audacius licet
quae uelis libere proloqui.

PAR tace,

uostra foris crepuit.

V. ii: OLYMPIO. MYRRHINA.

CLEOSTRATA. PARDALISCA

875 OL nec quo fugiam neque ubi lateam neque hoc dedecus
quo modo celem

scio, tantum erus atque ego flagitio superauimus nuptiis
nostris,

ita nunc pudeo atque ita nunc paueo atque ita irridiculo
sumus ambo.

sed ego insipiens noua nunc facio: pudet quem prius non
puditum umquam est.

operam date, dum mea facta itero: est operae pretium
auribus accipere,

880 ita ridicula auditu, iteratu ea sunt quae ego intus turbau.
ubi intro hanc nouam nuptam deduxi, recta uia in con-

clauae abduxi.

866 stupri *add. Willcock* te *add. Valla* 870-71 *uersum, qui
sanari non potest, dat Myrrhinae Angelius, Cleostratae Bothe*

872-73 pone me amabo *dat Pardaliscae Angelius, Myrrhinae
Camerarius et . . . proloqui dat Myrrhinae Camerarius, Cleostratae
Lindsay*

CASINA

for his affair. Now I want you to be in charge here, Pardalisca, so that you make fun of whoever comes out from here.

PAR I'll do so with pleasure and in my usual way.

MYR *** Watch everything from here: what they're doing inside *** 870

PAR Stand behind me, please.

MYR And there you can more boldly and freely say what you want.

PAR Be quiet, your door has creaked.

Enter OLYMPIO from the house of Alcesimus, battered and half-naked.

OL I don't know where to flee, where to hide, or how to conceal this disgrace: so much did master and I surpass ourselves in disgrace during our wedding, so much am I ashamed now, so much am I afraid now, and so much have we both made fools of ourselves. But, stupid as I am, I'm doing something new now: I, who never felt shame before, am feeling shame now. Pay attention while I recount my deeds; it's worthwhile to take it in with your ears: the mess I made inside is so funny to hear and recount. When I led this new bride inside, I took her 880

872 loquere *add. Lindsay antequam Myrrhina loquitur*

874 uestra/uostra AVJE, nos B¹, nostra B³ (*probante Lindsay qui tace . . . crepuit Myrrhinae dat*)

878 puditum umquam est P (*septenarius*), puditumst umquam A (*octonarius*)

PLAUTUS

- sed tamen tenebrae ibi erant tamquam in puteo; dum
 senex abest "decumbe" inquam.
 colloco, fulcio, mollio, blandior,
 ut prior quam senex nup<tias perpetrem>.
 885 tardus esse ilico coepi, quoniam ***
 respecto identidem, ne senex ***.
 illecebram stupri principio eam sauium posco,
 888 reppulit mi manum, neque enim dare sibi
 888^a sauium me siuit.
 889-
 90 enim iam magis <insto>, iam appropero, magis iam lubet
 in Casinam irruere
 cupio illam operam seni surrupere, forem obdo, ne senex
 me opprimeret.
 CLEO agedum, tu adi hunc.
 PAR opsecro, ubi tua noua nupta est?
 893-
 95 OL perii hercle ego! manifesta res [est].
 PAR omnem [in] ordine rem
 fateri ergo aequom est. quid intus agitur? quid agit
 897-
 98 OL Casina? satin morigera est?
 pudet dicere [me].
 899-
 900 PAR memora ordine, ut occeperas.
 OL pudet hercle.
 PAR age audacter ***.
 <post>quam decubuisti, inde uolo memorare quid est
 factum ***
 ***.
 OL flagitium est.

884 nup<tias perpetrem> *Schoell*

885-86 *desunt fines uersuum* 889-90 *insto add. Schoell*

893-95 *est del. Geppert* omnem in ordinem rem *BVE*, omnem
 ordinem rem *J*, omnem ordine rem *Leo*

CASINA

straight to a bedroom. But there was darkness in there like in a dungeon. While the old man was away, I said, "Lie down." I got her placed, supported her with pillows, soothed her, and coaxed her, in order to consummate the marriage before the old man. Then I began to slow down since ***. I looked back again and again so that the old man wouldn't ***. First I asked to give her a kiss, as an enticement for sex. She pushed back my hand and didn't let me give her a kiss. I became more insistent then, I hurried to her then, I was keener to throw myself upon Casina then. I wished to steal that job from the old man; I bolted the door so that my old master wouldn't surprise me.

CLEO (*to Pardalisca*) Go on, you approach him.

PAR (*to Olympio*) Please, where's your new bride?

OL I'm dead! It's all out.

PAR So it's only fair to confess everything one by one. What's happening inside? What's Casina doing? Is she obedient enough?

OL I'm ashamed to tell.

PAR Report one by one, as you began.

OL I'm really ashamed.

PAR Go on, boldly ***. After you lay down, from there I want you to report what happened ***.

OL It's a disgrace.

896 aegum *B*¹*VE*, aegrum *B*³, actum *J*, aequum *Camerarius*

897-98 me *del. Schoell*

899-908 *uersus mutilati*

901 uam debuisti *BVE*¹, quam debuisti *JE*³, postquam decubuisti *Lambinus*

PLAUTUS

- PAR cauebunt qui audierint faciant. ***
 OL *** hoc magnus est < pudor > .
 PAR < rem > perdis. quin tu pergis?
 OL ubi ***
- 904₅ *** us suptus porro ***
 *** .
 PAR quid?
 OL babae!
 PAR quid?
 OL papae!
 PAR *** est?
 OL oh, erat maxumum.
- 908 < ferrum ne > haberet metui: id quaerere occepi.
 908^a ***
 909 dum gladium quaero ne habeat, arripio capulum.
 910 sed quom cogito, non habuit gladium, nam esset frigidus.
 PAR eloquere.
 OL at pudet.
 PAR num radix fuit?
 OL non fuit.
 PAR num cucumis?
 OL profecto hercle < istuc nescio sed > non fuit quicquam
 holerum,
 nisi, quicquid erat, calamitas profecto attigerat num-
 quam.
 ita, quicquid erat, grande erat.
- 915₁₆ PAR quid fit denique? edisserta.
 OL ibi appello, "Casina," inquam,
 917₁₈ "amabo, mea uxorcula, quor uirum tuom sic me spernis?
 nimis tu quidem hercle immerito
 920 meo mi haec facis, quia mihi te expetiui."

CASINA

- PAR Those who hear it will be on their guard against doing it.

- OL *** I feel great shame about it.
- PAR You're losing the thread. Why don't you continue?
- OL When *** down below further ***, *** 905
- PAR What?
- OL Goodness!
- PAR What?
- OL Gracious!
- PAR *** is it?
- OL Oh, it was enormous. I was afraid that she'd have a sword. I began looking for it. *** While I was checking that she doesn't have a sword, I got hold of a hilt. But when I think 910 about it, she didn't have a sword, because it would have been cold.
- PAR Tell us.
- OL But I'm ashamed.
- PAR Was it a radish?
- OL No, it wasn't.
- PAR A cucumber?
- OL I really don't know, but it wasn't any vegetable, except that, whatever it was, certainly no blight had ever touched it. Whatever it was, it was so well grown.
- PAR What happened in the end? Explain. 915
- OL Then I tried to seduce her. I said, "Casina, please, my little wife, why are you rejecting me, your husband, like this? Because I sought you for myself I don't deserve that 920

903 pudor *et rem add.* Lindsay908 ferrum *ne add.* Schoell908^a *lacunam indicant* BJV912 *lacunam inter hercle et non**indicant* BV, *istuc nescio sed add.* Leo915-16 *ubi appello Casinam inquit P, ibi a. "Casina" inquam Bothe*

PLAUTUS

illa hau uerbum facit et saepit ueste id qui estis < mulieres >.

ubi illum saltum uideo opsaeptum, rogo ut altero sinat ire.

uolo, ut obuortam, cubitis im ***

ullum †muttite† ***.

925 surgo, ut in eam in ***

atque illam in ***.

MYR perlepide narrat ***.

OL sauium ***

ita quasi saetis labra mihi compungit barba.

930 continuo in genua ut astiti,

930^a pectus mi pedibus percutit.

931 decido de lecto praecipis:

931^a supsilit, optundit os mihi.

932 inde foras tacitus profugiens

932^a exeo hoc ornatu quo uides,

933 ut senex hoc eodem poculo

933^a quo ego bibi biberet.

PAR optume est.

sed ubi est palliolum tuom?

OL hic intus reliqui.

935 PAR quid nunc? satin lepide adita est uobis manus?

OL merito.

sed concrepuerunt fores. num illa me nunc sequitur?

V. iii: LYSIDAMVS. CHALINVS

LYS maxumo ego ardeo flagitio

nec quid agam meis rebus scio,

nec meam ut uxorem aspiciam

940 contra oculis, ita disperii;

omnia palam sunt probra,

CASINA

you do this to me." She didn't say a word and covered with her dress that part because of which you are women. When I saw that that entrance was blocked, I asked her to let me enter through the other.³² In order to turn her toward me, I wanted *** with my elbows. *** any ***. I rose in order to *** into her and *** her. 925

MYR He's telling it in such a lovely way ***.

OL *** a kiss. A beard punctured my lips like hogs' bristles. No sooner had I got up onto my knees than she rammed my chest with her feet. I fell off the bed head first. She jumped up and battered my face. Fleeing quietly out here, I came out in the outfit you see, so that the old man should drink from this same cup I drank from. 930

PAR That's fantastic. But where's your cloak?

OL I left it inside here.

PAR Well then? Have you two been tricked neatly enough? 935

OL Yes, deservedly so. But the door has creaked. She isn't following me, is she? 940

Enter LYSIDAMUS from the house of Alcesimus, also battered and half-naked, without his walking stick.

LYS I'm burning with an enormous disgrace. I don't know what I should do about my situation or how I should look my wife into the eyes, so ruined am I. All my misdeeds 940

³² I.e. the anus.

921 mulieres *add. Loman* 923-28 *desunt fines uersuum*
 929 labram P, labra Merula 930 astuti E¹, astituti BVE², ad-
 stanti J, ut astiti Seyffert 931 praeceps P, praecipis Seyffert
 932 praeficiens BVE, proficiens J, profugiens Redslob
 941 nia BVE¹, quia JE³, omnia Camerarius

PLAUTUS

omnibus modis occidi miser.

*** ita manifesto faucibus teneor

*** nec quibus modis purgem scio me meae uxori

945 *** atque expalliatum sum miser,

*** clandestinae nuptiae.

*** censeo

*** mihi optimum est.

*** intro ad uxorem meam

950 sufferamque ei meum tergum ob iniuriam.

sed ecquis est qui homo munus uelit fungier pro me?

952-
53 quid nunc agam nescio, nisi ut

improbos famulos imiter ac domo fugiam.

955-
56 nam salus nulla est scapulis, si domum redeo.

†nugas istic dicere licet† uapulo hercle ego inuitus tamen
etsi malum merui.

959-
60 hac dabo protinam <me> et fugiam.

CHAL

heus! sta ilico, amator.

961-
62 LYS occidi! reuocor: quasi non audiam, abibo.

V. iv: CHALINVS. LYSIDAMVS. CLEOSTRATA.

MYRRHINA. OLYMPIO

CHAL ubi tu es, qui colere mores Massiliensis postulas?

nunc tu si uis subigitare me, proba est occasio.

965 redi sis in cubiculum; periisti hercle. age, accede huc
modo.

nunc ego tecum aequom arbitrum extra considium cap-
tauero.

LYS perii! fusti defloccabit iam illic homo lumbos meos.

943-49 *desunt initia uersuum in Palatinis, A abest*

945 *quae P, atque Geppert*

957 *nec sensus nec metrum satis constat*

959-60 *me add. Geppert*

CASINA

are out, I've perished in every conceivable way, poor me.
 *** like this I'm being held by the throat, red-handed ***
 and I don't know how I can clear myself with my wife *** 945
 and I've been robbed of my cloak, poor me. *** the fur-
 tive wedding. *** I think *** is best for me. *** inside to
 my wife and I'll offer her my back as compensation for 950
 the injustice. (*to the audience*) But is there anyone who'd
 like to take on this job for me? (*after a pause*) I don't
 know what I should do now, except for imitating bad
 slaves and fleeing from home: there's no salvation for my 955
 shoulder blades if I return home. †One can call this rub-
 bish there. † I'm getting a beating, against my will, even
 though I've deserved a thrashing. I'll run off this way and 960
 flee. (*turns to the right*)

Enter CHALINUS from the house of Alcesimus, carrying the cloak and walking stick of Lysidamus.

CHAL Hey there! Lover, stop where you are.

LYS It's over with me! I'm being called back; I'll go away as if I didn't hear.

CHAL Where are you, you who wish to follow the customs of Marseille?³³ If you want to get me into bed now, you have a decent opportunity. Come back to the bedroom, will you? You're dead. Go on, just come here. Now I'll get a fair umpire with you, outside the regular bench of judges. (*raises Lysidamus' walking stick*) 965

LYS I'm dead! He'll smash my loins with his club now. I have

³³ The inhabitants of Marseille were considered effeminate (Athen. *Deipn.* 12. 523c).

PLAUTUS

hac iter faciundum est, nam illac lumbifragium est obuiam.

CLEO iubeo te saluere, amator.

LYS ecce autem uxor obuiam est:

970 nunc ego inter sacrum saxumque sum nec quo fugiam
scio.

hac lupi, hac canes: lupina scaeua fusti rem gerit;
hercle opinor permutabo ego illuc nunc uerbum uetus:
hac ibo, caninam scaeuam spero meliorem fore.

MYR quid agis, disarmite?

CLEO mi uir, unde hoc ornatu aduenis?

975 quid fecisti scipione aut quod habuisti pallium?

PAR in adulterio, dum moechissat Casinam, credo perdidit.

LYS occidi!

CHAL etiamne imus cubitum? Casina sum.

LYS i in malam crucem!

CHAL non amas me?

CLEO quin responde, tuo quid factum est pallio?

LYS Bacchae hercle, uxor—

CLEO Bacchae?

LYS Bacchae hercle, uxor—

MYR nugatur sciens,

980 nam ecastor nunc Bacchae nullae ludunt.

LYS oblitus fui,

sed tamen Bacchae—

CLEO quid, Bacchae?

975 scipionem Ω, scipione *Lambinus*

976 *Pardaliscae* dat *Camerarius*

CASINA

to turn this way: that way a loin wreck is facing me. (*turns away from Chalinus*)

CLEO My greetings, lover.

LYS Look, my wife is facing me. Now I'm between the altar 970
and the knife and don't know where to flee. On this side
(*points to Chalinus*) there are wolves, on this side (*points
to the women*) dogs.³⁴ The wolf omen does business with
a club. I think I'll change that old proverb: I'll go this way,
I hope the dog omen will be better.³⁵

MYR How are you, bigamist?

CLEO My dear husband, where are you coming from with this
getup? What did you do with your walking stick or the 975
cloak you had?

PAR He lost it in the act of adultery, I believe, while having sex
with Casina.

LYS I'm dead!

CHAL (*calling after him*) Let's go to bed now! I'm Casina.

LYS Go and be hanged!

CHAL Don't you love me?

CLEO (*to her husband*) Answer me, what's happened to your
cloak?

LYS Bacchants, my wife—

CLEO (*interrupting*) Bacchants?

LYS Bacchants, my wife—

MYR (*interrupting*) He's deliberately talking nonsense: no 980
Bacchants are reveling now.

LYS I'd forgotten, but still, Bacchants—

CLEO (*interrupting*) What, Bacchants?

³⁴ A proverb (attested also in *Hor. sat.* 2. 2. 64), meaning that he is
threatened from all sides. ³⁵ He is changing the proverb by go-
ing towards one of the threatening alternatives.

PLAUTUS

- LYS sin id fieri non potest—
 CLEO times ecastor.
 LYS egone? mentire hercle.
 CLEO nam palles male.
 n *** quid me ue *** us *** am me rogas?
 *** male r *** mihi
 985 *** gratulor.
 *** qu *** senex.
 LYS ho *** conspicillo <quom> conspexi uirginem
 *** unc Casinust ***
 989–
 90 qui hic *** lem frus *** ram *** dis.
 OL qui etiam me miserum famosum fecit flagitiis suis.
 LYS non taces?
 OL non hercle uero taceo. nam tu maxumo
 me opsecrauisti opere Casinam ut poscerem uxorem
 mihi
 994–
 95 tui amoris causa.
 LYS ego istuc feci?
 OL immo Hector Ilius.
 LYS te quidem oppresset. feci ego istaec dicta quae uos dicitis?
 CLEO rogitas etiam?
 LYS si quidem hercle feci, feci nequiter.
 CLEO redi modo huc intro: monebo, siquidem meministi minus.
 LYS hercle, opinor, potius uobis credam quod uos dicitis.
 1000 sed, uxor, da uiro hanc ueniam <mi>; Myrrhina, ora Cleostratam;
 si umquam posthac aut amasso Casinam aut ocepso modo,

983–90 *uersus mutilati*

CASINA

- LYS If that's impossible—
- CLEO (*interrupting*) You really are afraid.
- LYS I? You're lying.
- CLEO Well, you're terribly pale. *** what *** me *** you're asking me? *** badly *** to me *** I congratulate ***. 985
*** old man ***.
- LYS *** when I spotted the girl clearly *** Casinus is *** who 990
here ***.
- OL *** who even made an infamous man of me with his shameful acts.
- LYS Won't you be quiet?
- OL No, I won't: you begged me intensely to ask for Casina in marriage for the sake of your own love. 995
- LYS I did that?
- OL No, it was Hector of Troy.³⁶
- LYS He'd have knocked you down for a start. (*to the women*) Did I do those things you say?
- CLEO You even ask?
- LYS If I did them, I did wrong.
- CLEO Just return in here: I'll remind you if you don't remember it well.
- LYS No, I think I'd rather believe what you say. But, my wife, 1000
give this pardon to me, your husband; Myrrhina, ask Cleostrata for it. (*to Cleostrata again*) If I ever make love to Casina hereafter or if I only begin to do so, yes, as soon

³⁶ The greatest Trojan hero in the Iliad.

987 *conspicillo <quom> conspexi uirginem suppl. Tontini ex Osberno, Uguccione, uestigiis litterarum in A*

998 *si quidem P, si qui A*

1000 *mi add. Lindsay*

PLAUTUS

ne ut eam amasso, si ego umquam adeo posthac tale am-
 misero,
 nulla causa est quin pendentem me, uxor, uirgis uerbe-
 res.

MYR censeo ecastor ueniam hanc dandam.

CLEO faciam ut iubes.

1005 propter eam rem hanc tibi nunc ueniam minus grauate
 prospero,
 hanc ex longa longiorem ne faciamus fabulam.

LYS non irata es?

CLEO non sum irata.

LYS tuaen fide credo?

CLEO meae.

LYS lepidiorem uxorem nemo quisquam quam ego habeo
 hanc habet.

CLEO age tu, redde huic scipionem et pallium.

CHAL tene, si lubet.

1010 mihi quidem edepol insignite facta est magna iniuria:
 duobus nupsi, neuter fecit quod nouae nuptae solet.

V. V: PARDALISCA

PAR spectatores, quod futurum est intus, id memorabimus.
 haec Casina huius reperietur filia esse ex proxumo
 eaque nubet Euthynico nostro erili filio.

1015 nunc uos aequom est manibus meritis meritam merce-
 dem dare:

qui faxit, clam uxorem ducet semper scortum quod uolet,
 uerum qui non manibus clare quantum poterit plauserit,
 ei pro scorto supponetur hircus unctus nautea.

1002 *uersus suspectus* 1004 dandam <Cleostrata> *Lindsay*
 1012-18 *dat Pardaliscae Schoell*

CASINA

as I make love to her, if I ever become guilty of such a deed hereafter, there's no reason why you shouldn't hang me up and beat me with rods, my wife.

MYR I think he ought to be given this pardon.

CLEO (*to Myrrhina*) I'll do as you tell me. (*to Lysidamus*) Now 1005
I'm granting you this pardon less grudgingly for the simple reason that we shouldn't turn this long play into an even longer one.

LYS You aren't angry?

CLEO No, I'm not angry.

LYS Can I trust your word?

CLEO Yes.

LYS Nobody has a more charming wife than I have.

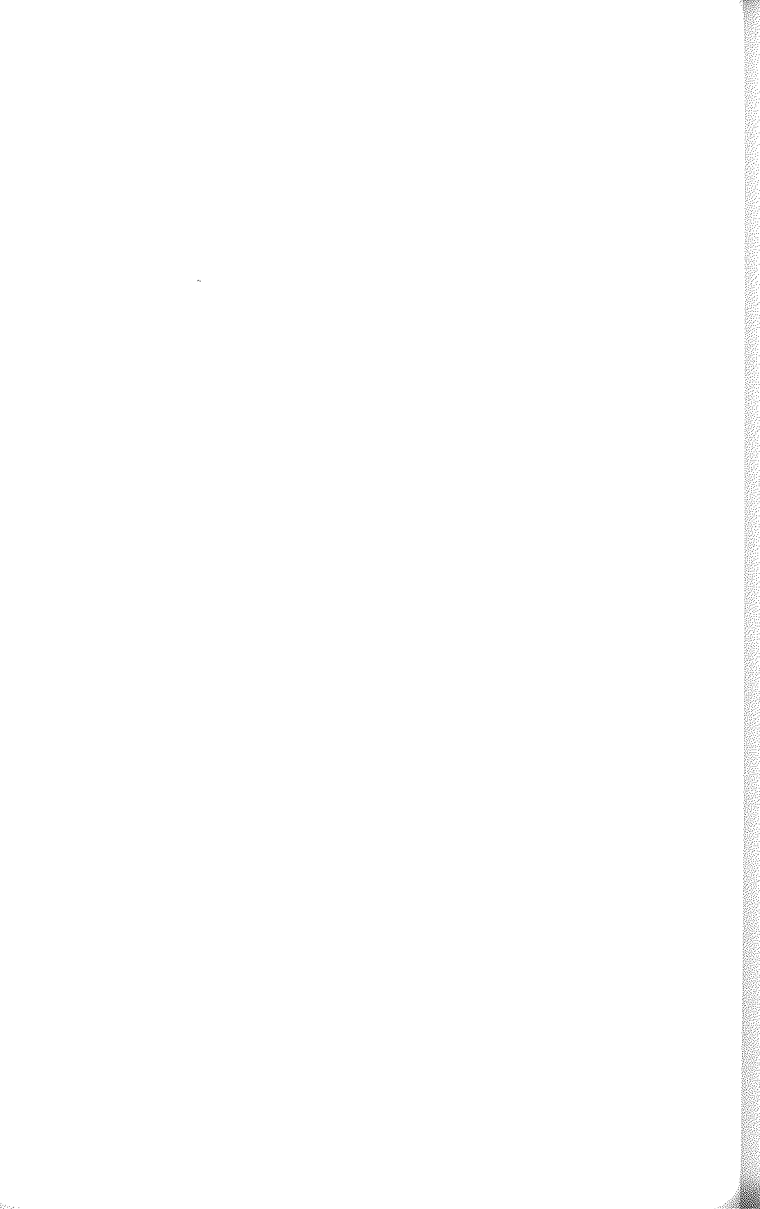
CLEO (*to Chalinus*) Go on, you, return his walking stick and cloak to him.

CHAL (*hands them over*) Take them if you like. Clearly a great 1010
injustice has been done to me: I married two men, but neither did what one normally does to a newly wed woman.

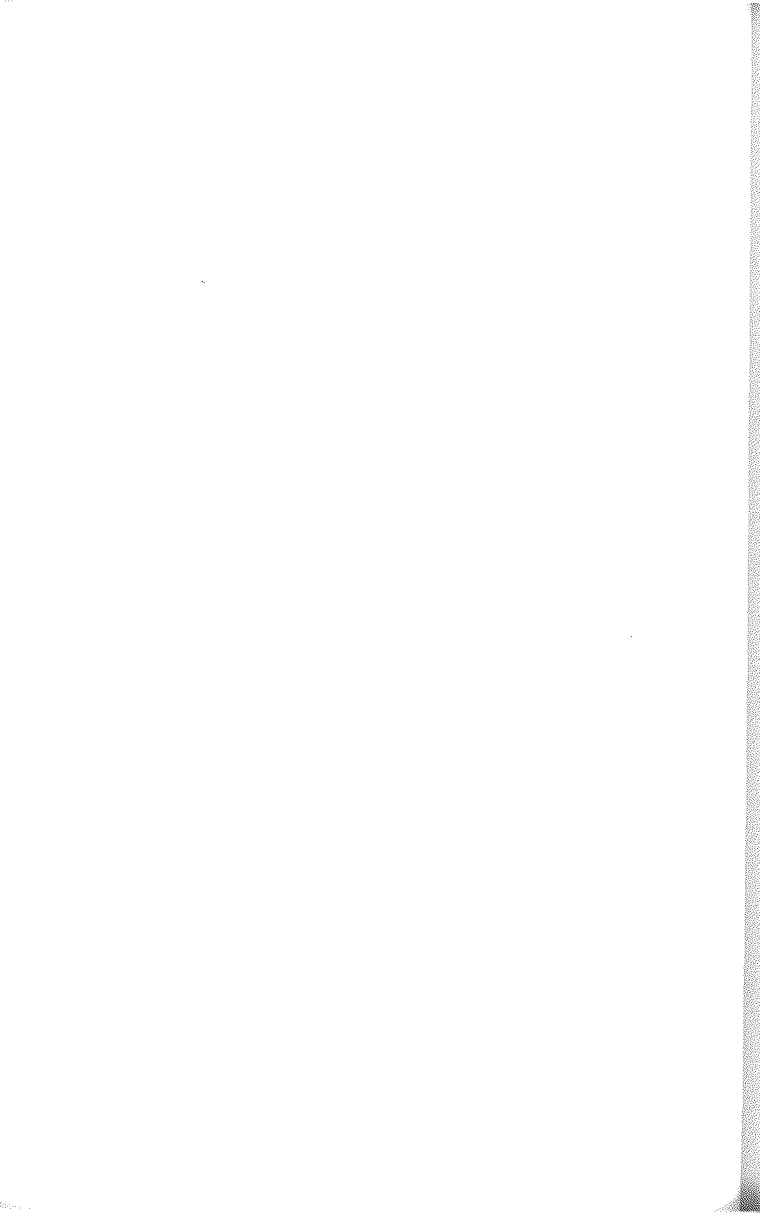
Exeunt ALL into the house of Lysidamus.

Enter PARDALISCA from the house of Lysidamus.

PAR Spectators, we'll tell you what's going to happen inside. This Casina will be discovered to be the daughter of this man from next door and she'll marry Euthynicus, our master's son. Now it's right for you to give the deserving actors the deserved applause with your hands. The man who does so shall always have the prostitute he wants behind his wife's back. But the man who doesn't applaud us with his hands clearly, as much as he can, shall always end up with a goat, perfumed with bilgewater, in place of the prostitute. 1015



CISTELLARIA



INTRODUCTORY NOTE

For many plays of Plautus we have a complete and relatively secure text but know little about when they were first performed or what the Greek originals were called, let alone who had written them. For the *Cistellaria* the situation is the reverse. We know when it was first performed, who the Greek author was, and what his comedy was called, but the text of the Latin play is incomplete, though not beyond reconstruction.

The *Cistellaria* is a recognition play. It is named for the casket (*cistella*) where a rattle is kept, the recognition token of the girl Selenium. Selenium does not know that she is a freeborn citizen with respectable parents because she was raised by the procuress Melaenis. The comedy begins with a lunch to which Selenium has invited the young prostitute Gymnasium along with her unnamed mother. This scene was important enough for Menander, the author of the Greek original, to name his play for it; he called it *Synaristosai*, "Woman Lunching Together." For a long time it was unknown that Plautus' *Cistellaria* is based on the *Synaristosai*. There was a Menander fragment (fr. 337 Kassel-Austin) matching ll. 89-93 of the *Cistellaria*, but Hermogenes had quoted the Greek passage only as belonging to Menander, without stating which play it came from. Another Menander fragment (fr. 335 Kassel-Austin)

matches l. 18 of the Plautine play because in both passages Gymnasium's mother complains that she did not get enough wine to drink; and in this case it was known that the fragment came from the *Synaristosai*. But there were too many parallels to this second passage both in Latin and in Greek to allow scholars to make the connection between the two plays. Then a medieval letter was discovered in the Chalcidius codex of Bamberg, quoting fragment xiii of the *Cistellaria* as belonging to Plautus' *Synaristosae*. The anonymous medieval writer must have got his knowledge from a manuscript of Festus (who quotes the passage) that was not yet as damaged as the copies we have now, where the passage in question can only be restored fully because of our letter-writer. This chance discovery, then, established beyond doubt that Plautus had based his *Cistellaria* on Menander's *Synaristosai* and that the first Menander fragment mentioned above belongs to this same play by Menander. I should merely add that there is nothing unusual about the fact that Festus quotes a Plautine comedy under the name of the Greek original; he does the same with Plautus' *Mostellaria*, which he refers to by its Greek title *Phasma*, "The Ghost."

The reason why Selenium has invited Gymnasium and her mother is a sad one. Selenium has been cohabiting with her lover Alcesimarchus in a house which he rents in Sicyon, the city where the comedy is set. Alcesimarchus had promised to marry Selenium. In his absence on his father's country estate, it was discovered that his father, who remains unnamed, had decided that he should marry a distant relative from Lemnos. How this discovery was made is not known, since Alcesimarchus himself is at first unaware of the situation. We may assume that a servant had seen

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wedding preparations going on, which is the situation we find in Caecilius' *Synaristosae* (197-98 Ribbeck), another adaptation of Menander's comedy going back to a time when it was not yet considered inappropriate to use a Greek play that had already formed the basis of a Roman one. Melaenis has now told Selenium to come back immediately and Selenium wants to ask the procuress for permission to let Gymnasium stay at the house of Alcesimarchus to watch over it until he returns. The procuress grants her permission and Selenium leaves. Then the procuress and later the god Auxilium ("Help") give us the remaining background information. We learn that Selenium is the daughter of the Lemnian Demipho and his wife Phanostrata. She was conceived in Sicyon when Demipho, still a young man, raped Phanostrata. Demipho escaped to Lemnos and married there. He has a daughter from this marriage in Lemnos, who is the distant relative Alcesimarchus is supposed to marry. When Demipho's wife died, he went back to Sicyon and settled down there, marrying Phanostrata. He learned that Phanostrata had given birth to a daughter, but since she did not know who the father was, she gave her to her slave Lampadio to expose. Lampadio did expose her and observed that the girl was picked up by a woman. This woman was Gymnasium's mother, who gave the child to Melaenis. Demipho and Phanostrata are keen to recover their daughter and have asked Lampadio to find her.

What is now labeled the second act of the play is badly damaged. The archetype of the Palatine manuscripts lost several leaves between what is now l. 229 and l. 492; the number of lines lost, however, is far greater than this numbering might suggest. When the Ambrosian palimpsest

was discovered and deciphered in the nineteenth century, more of the text became available, but it also became apparent how much had been lost. Now the Ambrosian palimpsest has been examined again by W. Stockert with the help of the latest technology and new readings have been found, but even so, much remains illegible. At least we can now say with some certainty how much has been lost, because the quaternions are numbered and have a relatively constant number of lines per page. Thus we know how much has been lost because we know how many folios are missing, and if parts of a folio are illegible we know how many lines are missing in it. The standard line numbering today takes the extant pages of the Ambrosian palimpsest into account, even where some lines cannot be read, but does not take the lost folios into account.

Where folios are missing in the palimpsest, we can fill some gaps through the secondary tradition: ancient lexicographers and grammarians, who still had access to the complete text, preserve a number of quotations. Interestingly, before the palimpsest was examined no one even suspected that there was a gap in the Palatine manuscripts, and this despite the fact that the scholars who had worked on the *Cistellaria* include some of the most important classicists of all time. There were of course the fragments transmitted through the secondary tradition, but these were conveniently explained away by the great Scaliger, who assigned them to an otherwise unknown comedy called *Clitellaria*, "The Saddle Comedy."

But now we should turn to the action of the second act itself; I have indicated in the English translation how many lines are missing where and what their presumable content was, so that here we need not focus on reconstruction. The

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second act begins with the return of Alcesimarchus from his father's country estate, where he had been sent to do some work. Angry with himself that he was able to desert his girlfriend for almost a week, he tells his slave to insult him. He then goes to his rented house to see Selenium but finds Gymnasium instead, who tells him that he has to marry another woman and that Selenium has left him. Alcesimarchus is distraught and goes to find his father. Meanwhile, his father wants to go to Selenium to tell her to leave his son alone. He meets Gymnasium, whom he believes to be Selenium, and starts a tirade, but soon falls in love with this girl, who is enjoying making a fool of him. The decency of Alcesimarchus, who wants to marry Selenium and has purely honorable intentions, is thus not only in stark contrast with the behavior of Selenium's father, who is after all a rapist, but also with the behavior of his own father, who wants a quick affair with a prostitute whom he believes his own son to be having an affair with. However, Alcesimarchus' father does not get very far: Gymnasium's mother knows that Alcesimarchus is back in town and comes to fetch her daughter, the young man now being able to look after his own affairs. His father realizes that he was mistaken and leaves.

In the next scene Lampadio tells us about his search for the woman who had picked up Selenium; he went around various brothels and spotted some very ugly prostitutes. Then we see Alcesimarchus attempting to restore his good relationship with Selenium and Melaenis, but because of his impending marriage he is rejected. He runs off into his house when Lampadio reappears. He reports to Phanostrata that he has found Gymnasium's mother and that he has found out that Selenium was raised by Melaenis.

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Melaenis, who has overheard this conversation, realizes that her game is up and that she has to bring Selenium back to her parents.

This is where the third act begins in our editions, but since these traditional divisions were established at a time when large portions of the play were not known to exist, they are not only post-Plautine but in this case cannot even vaguely reflect act divisions in Menander.

Melaenis tells Selenium about her parentage and wants to take her back to Demipho and Phanostrata. They are accompanied by their servant Halisca, who carries the casket with the rattle that should enable her parents to recognize her. On their way they see Alcesimarchus holding a sword in his hands and apparently about to commit suicide. Selenium, followed by the other two women, rushes toward him to prevent him from doing so, and Alcesimarchus immediately takes Selenium into his house. The two other women follow, but in the tumult Halisca forgets the casket outside.

Lampadio finds the casket and shows it to Phanostrata, who recognizes it immediately. They see Halisca coming out and looking for the casket. After some discussion, they give her the casket in exchange for taking them to Selenium. Halisca and Phanostrata go into the house of Alcesimarchus, where Selenium and Melaenis are with the young man, and soon after they are joined by Demipho, who is taken there by Lampadio.

Thus the ending of the play is happy: Demipho and Phanostrata have found their daughter, and Alcesimarchus can marry a daughter of Demipho, as had been planned by his father, though not the one his father had had in mind.

One problem that I have thus far left to the side con-

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cerns ancient marriage laws. Alcesimarchus is a Sicyonian citizen; Selenium is believed to be the daughter of an unknown father and of Melaenis, a freedwoman and thus a noncitizen. Alcesimarchus has promised to marry Selenium, but could he actually do so? Not under Athenian law, which since Pericles' legislation of 451 permitted only citizen pairs to marry. Of course Alcesimarchus, being passionately in love, might have promised more than he could do, but when his father arranges a marriage for him, it is with Demipho's daughter from his Lemnian marriage, that is, with a fully Lemnian girl. How could this be? It is possible that Sicyonian law was different from Athenian law and that a male Sicyonian could marry a noncitizen and have citizen children with her, as was the case in Athens before 451. But it is also possible, as Brown suggests, that Menander did not set his play at Sicyon, but at Athens. Lemnos was an Athenian cleruchy and its inhabitants had Athenian citizenship, so that the marriage arranged by the father of Alcesimarchus would be unproblematic, as would be the marriage with Selenium after the discovery of her parentage. If we accept this hypothesis, the question remains why Plautus transferred the play to Sicyon, and this question has to remain unanswered. But there is no reason to assume that Plautus did not change locations, as he was happy to change names: from a mosaic at Mytilene depicting the opening scene of the *Synaristosai* we know that Selenium was called Plangon in Menander and that Gymnasium was called Pythias.

The date of the *Cistellaria* is almost certain. In l. 202 the hope is expressed that the Romans will conquer and punish the Carthaginians. The Second Punic War ended in 201, and nearly everyone agrees that the play must have

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been written before that. But we can be more precise. The date of the *Miles Gloriosus* is well known: it was first performed in 206 or 205. *Cist.* 190–93 and *Mil.* 99–101 as well as *Cist.* 89–93 and *Mil.* 104–8 are so close in content and structure that the lines of one play must be adaptations of those of the other. With regard to the first pair of passages, *Cist.* 193 fits the wider context much better than *Mil.* 101; and with regard to the second pair it has to be said that *Mil.* 105 does not fit at all, because it is simply not true that the soldier comes to be on close terms with the girl with whom he has fallen in love. Thus it seems that the passages in the *Miles* are based on the *Cistellaria* and not the other way round. The *Cistellaria* was first performed before 206 or 205. We can go even further. In the passage in which the Carthaginians are mentioned, Plautus also speaks of “allies, old and new” (l. 199) and of auxiliaries (l. 200). These could be references to ratification of the treaty of friendship with the Aetolian League in 209 and to the fact that many Iberians also joined Rome’s forces around this time. Since 206 was an almost peaceful year, the *Cistellaria* was in all likelihood first performed between 209 and 207, which makes it one of the earliest Plautine plays.

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CISTELLARIA

ARGVMENTVM

- Comprimit adulescens Lemnius Sicyoniam;
Is redit in patriam et gnatam generat nuptiis.
Sicyonia aequè parit puellam. hanc seruolus
Tulit atque exponit, eî ex insidiis aucupat.
5 Eam sublatam meretrix alii detulit.
Lemno post rediens ducit quam compresserat
Lemnique natam spondet adolescentulo
Amore capto illius proiecticiae.
Requirens seruos reperit quam proiecerat.
10 Itaque lege et rite ciuem cognitam
Alcesimarchus, ut erat nactus, possidet.

arg. 4 tollit *P*, tulit *Schoell*

arg. 7 despondit *P*, spondet *Bothe*

arg. 10 itaque <eam> *Pylades sed itaque in huius modi uersibus fortasse ferendum*

THE CASKET COMEDY

PLOT SUMMARY

A young man from Lemnos raped a girl from Sicyon; he returned to his own country, married, and had a daughter. The girl from Sicyon also gave birth to a daughter. A slave took the daughter and abandoned her, and observed in hiding what happened. A prostitute picked her up and took her to another prostitute. The man later returned from Lemnos and married the woman he had raped; he betroths his daughter born in Lemnos to a young man who is deeply in love with that foundling girl. In the course of his search the slave finds the girl he had exposed. And so, when she is recognized as a citizen according to law and custom, Alcesimarchus retains the girl whom he had already taken.

PLAUTUS

PERSONAE

SELENIVM meretrix
GYMNASIVM meretrix
LENA
AVXILIVM DEVS prologus
ALCESIMARCHVS adulescens
SERVOS
SENEX
LAMPADIO servos
MELAENIS lena
PHANOSTRATA matrona
HALISCA ancilla
DEMIPHO senex

SCAENA

Sicyoni

CISTELLARIA

CHARACTERS

SELENIUM a girl about to become a prostitute; lost daughter of Demipho and Phanostrata

GYMNASIUM a prostitute; friend of Selenium

A PROCURESS Gymnasium's mother

THE GOD HELP speaker of the prologue

ALCESIMARCHUS a young man; in love with Selenium

A SERVANT slave of Alcesimarchus

AN OLD MAN father of Alcesimarchus

LAMPADIO a slave; works for Demipho and Phanostrata

MELAENIS a procuress; the supposed mother of Selenium

PHANOSTRATA a married woman; eager to find her daughter

HALISCA a female servant; works for Melaenis

DEMIPHO an old man; a Lemnian living in Sicyon

STAGING

The stage represents a street in Sicyon. On it there are three houses. The one on the left belongs to Melaenis, the one in the middle belongs to Demipho, and the one on the right is rented by Alcesimarchus. To the left the street leads to the countryside, to the right it leads to the city center.

ACTVS I

I. i: SELENIVM. GYMNASIVM. LENA

- SEL quom ego antidhac te amaui et mi amicam esse creui,
 mea Gymnasium, et matrem tuam, tum id mihi hodie
 aperuistis, tu atque haec: soror si mea esses,
 qui magis potueritis mi honorem ire habitum,
 5 nescio, nisi, ut meus est animus,
 5^a fieri non posse arbitror; i-
 6 ta omnibus relictis rebus
 6^a mi frequentem operam dedistis.
 7 eo ego uos amo et eo a me
 7^a magnam inistis gratiam.
 8 GYM pol isto quidem nos pretio [tanti est] facile est frequen-
 tare
 tibi utilisque habere:
 10 ita in prandio nos lepide ac nitide
 accepisti apud te, ut semper meminerimus.
 SEL lubenti[que] edepol animo factum et fiet a me,
 quae uos arbitrabor uelle, ea ut expetessam.
 14 LENA quod ille dixit, qui secundo uento uectus
 14^a est tranquillo mari,
 15 uentum gaudeo . . . ecastor ad ted, ita hodie

1 anted hac *VE*, ante hac *BJ Varro*, antidhac *Pareus*3 aperuistis *JK*, aperuisti *BVE*4 potueritis *VJE*, potueris *B*8 pretio facile est *P*, pretio ptanti est *Varro*

CISTELLARIA

ACT ONE

Enter SELENIUM, looking disheveled, along with GYMNASIUM and the PROCURESS from the house of Alcesimarchus.

SEL I've always loved you and decided that you were my friend, my dear Gymnasium, and also your mother, but today you've revealed it, you and she: if you were my sister, I don't know how you two could have shown more regard for me; but to my mind, I think it would be impos- 5
sible, seeing how you put everything aside and gave me your uninterrupted attention. That's why I love you and that's why I'm very grateful to you.

GYM It's easy for us to devote ourselves to you and be of service to you when you pay us so well: you received us so charm- 10
ingly and pleasantly for lunch at your place that we'll always remember it.

SEL It was a pleasure for me, and it will be one, to seek what I think you like.

PROC As the man said who traveled on a calm sea with good wind: I'm glad about the wind¹ . . . which carried me to 15

¹ A pun that is difficult to reproduce. *Ventum* is the accusative of "wind," but can also be the participle of "to come" used to form an impersonal passive.

12 *que del. Pylades*

13 *arbitror P, arbitrabor Camerarius*

PLAUTUS

- 15^a hic acceptae sumus
 16 suauius modis,
 nec nisi disciplina apud te fuit quicquam ibi quin mi pla-
 ceret.
- SEL quid ita, amabo?
 LENA raro nimium dabat quod biberem, id merum
 infuscabat.
- 19- GYM amabo, hicine istuc decet?
 20 LENA iusque fasque est:
 nemo alienus hic est.
- SEL merito uostro amo uos,
 quia me colitis, [et] magni facitis.
- LENA decet pol, mea Selenium,
 hunc esse ordinem beneuolentis inter se
 beneque amicitia utier,
 25 ubi istas uideas summo genere gnatas, summatis matro-
 nas,
 ut amicitiam colunt atque ut eam iunctam bene habent
 inter se.
 si idem istuc nos faciamus, si [idem] imitemur, ita tamen
 uix uiuimus
 cum inuidia summa. suarum opum nos uolunt esse indi-
 gentis.
- 29- nostra copia nil uolunt nos potesse
 30 suique omnium rerum nos indigere,
 ut sibi simus supplices.
 eas si adeas, abitum quam aditum malis, ita nostro ordini
 palam blandiuntur, clam, si occasio usquam est,
 35 aquam frigidam subdole suffundunt.
 uiris cum suis praedicant nos solere,
 suas paelices esse aiunt, eunt depressum.
 quia nos libertinae sumus, et ego et tua mater, ambae

CISTELLARIA

your place, what with the lovely reception we got, and there was nothing I didn't like, apart from the way your servant is trained.

SEL What do you mean, please?

PROC She didn't fill my cup often enough, and she ruined the wine with water.²

GYM Please, is that appropriate here? 20

PROC It's right and proper: there's no stranger here.

SEL I'm fond of you two, and deservedly so, because you're kind to me and appreciate me.

PROC My dear Selenium, people in our walk of life ought to mean well with each other and to cultivate friendship, when you see those highborn ladies, the married women 25 of the upper class, how they practise friendship and how they are connected with each other by it. If we do the same and imitate them, we still barely survive, and that with their ill will. They want us to be dependent on their support. They don't want us to be able to do anything 30 from our own means and to be dependent on them in everything, so that we're at their mercy. If you go to them, you'd wish you'd gone away rather than gone to them, seeing how they flatter people of our walk of life to their faces, but in secret, if there's ever an opportunity, they 35 pour cold water over us on the sly. They say that we have affairs with their husbands, they claim that we're their mistresses, and they try to put us down. Because we're freedwomen, I and your mother, we were both prosti-

² Drinking undiluted wine was considered bad style.

22 et *del. Spengel*

27 *idem*² *del. Lindsay*

PLAUTUS

- meretrices fuimus: illa te, ego hanc mihi educaui
 40 ex patribus conuenticiis. neque ego hanc superbiai
 causa pepuli ad meretricium quaestum, nisi ut ne esuri-
 rem.
- SEL at satius fuerat eam uiro dare nuptum potius.
- LENA heia!
 haec quidem ecastor cottidie uiro nubit, nupsitque
 hodie,
 nubet mox noctu: numquam ego hanc uiduam cubare
 siui.
- 45 nam si haec non nubat, lugubri fame familia pereat.
- GYM necesse est quo tu me modo uoles esse ita esse, mater.
- LENA ecastor hau me paenitet, si ut dicis ita futura es.
 nam si quidem ita eris ut uolo, numquam hac aetate fies
 semperque istam quam nunc habes aetatulam optinebis,
 50 multisque damno et mi lucro sine meo saepe eris sump-
 tu.
- GYM di faxint!
- LENA sine opera tua di horunc nil facere possunt.
- GYM equidem hercle addam operam sedulo; sed tu aufer is-
 taec uerba.
 meus oculus, mea Selenium, numquam ego te tristiozem
 uidi esse. quid, cedo, te opsecro, tam abhorret hilaritu-
 do?
- 55 nec munda adaeque es, ut soles (hoc sis uide, ut petiuit
 suspirium alte) et pallida es. eloquere utrumque nobis,
 et quid tibi est et quid uelis nostram operam, ut nos scia-
 mus.
 noli, opsecro, lacrumis tuis mi exercitum imperare.

52 inter *P*, aufer *Ussing*

CISTELLARIA

tutes; she brought you up for herself and I this girl here,
 from fathers met by chance. I didn't push her into prosti- 40
 tution out of pride, only in order not to starve.

SEL Still, it would have been better to give her in marriage to
 a man.

PROC Nonsense! She does marry a man, every day, and she
 married one today and will soon marry one tonight; I've
 never let her sleep alone. Yes, if she didn't marry, our 45
 household would perish from sorrowful hunger.

GYM I have to be the way you want me to be, my mother.

PROC Well, I can't complain if you're going to be as you say: if
 you're going to be the way I want you to be, you'll never
 turn my age, you'll always keep that tender age you have
 now, and you'll often give loss to many and profit to me, 50
 without any expenditure on my part.

GYM May the gods make it so!

PROC Without your help the gods can't do any of it.

GYM (*to her mother*) I'll give you my help eagerly; but do stop
 this topic now. (*to Selenium*) You apple of my eye, my
 dear Selenium, I've never seen you more melancholy.
 Tell me, please, why has cheerfulness shrunk back from
 you so much? You're not as neat as usual (just look how 55
 she heaved a deep sigh) and you're pale. Tell us two
 things, what the trouble is and what you want our help
 for, so that we know. Please don't make me wear myself
 out because of your tears.

PLAUTUS

- SEL misera excrucior, mea Gymnasium: male mihi est, male
maceror;
- 60 doleo ab animo, doleo ab oculis, doleo ab aegritudine.
quid dicam, nisi stultitia mea me in maerorem rapi?
- GYM indidem unde oritur facito ut facias stultitiam sepelibi-
lem.
- SEL quid faciam?
- GYM in latebras abscondas pectore penitissimo.
tuam stultitiam sola facito ut scias sine aliis arbitris.
- 65 SEL at mihi cordolium est.
- GYM quid? id unde est tibi cor? commemora opsecro;
quod neque ego habeo nec quisquam alia mulier, ut per-
hibent uiri.
- SEL siquid est quod doleat, dolet; si autem non est . . . tamen
hoc hic dolet.
- GYM amat haec mulier.
- SEL eho an amare occipere amarum est, opsecro?
- GYM namque ecastor Amor et melle et felle est fecundissu-
mus;
- 70 gustui dat dulce, amarum ad satietatem usque oggerit.
- SEL ad istam faciem est morbus qui me, mea Gymnasium,
macerat.
- GYM perfidiosus est Amor.
- SEL ergo in me peculatum facit.
- GYM bono animo es, erit isti morbo melius.
- SEL confidam fore,
si medicus ueniat qui huic morbo facere medicinam po-
test.
- 75 GYM ueniet.
- SEL spissum istuc amanti est uerbum "ueniet," nisi uenit.
sed ego mea culpa et stultitia peius misera maceror,

CISTELLARIA

SEL I'm wretched and I'm being tortured, my dear Gymnasium: I'm feeling bad and I'm being tormented in a bad way. I feel pain in my heart, I feel pain in my eyes, I feel pain in my sorrow. What should I say, except that I'm driven to sadness by my own silliness? 60

GYM Mind that you make your silliness ready for burial in the place from which it originates.

SEL What should I do?

GYM Hide it in the darkness in your inmost heart. Make sure that you alone know your silliness without other witnesses.

SEL But I have heartache. 65

GYM What? Where have you got a heart from? Tell me, please; it's something neither I nor any other woman have, so men say.

SEL If I have anything to feel pain with, I feel pain; but if I don't . . . I still feel it here. (*puts her hand on her heart*)

GYM This woman's in love.

SEL What! Falling in love isn't bitter, is it?

GYM To be sure, Love abounds in honey as well as in gall; if you taste him, he gives you sweetness, but then he piles you up with bitterness till you're full. 70

SEL The illness that's tormenting me is of that sort, my dear Gymnasium.

GYM Love is treacherous.

SEL Yes, he's embezzling all I have.

GYM Take heart, that illness will get better.

SEL I trust it will, if the doctor comes who can cure this illness.

GYM He will come. 75

SEL That phrase "he will come" is a sluggish one for a lover, unless he does come. But I'm being tormented in a worse

PLAUTUS

- quom ego illum unum mi exoptaui quicum aetatem degerem.
- LENA matronae magis conducibile est istuc, mea Selenium, unum amare et cum eo aetatem exigere quoi nupta est semel,
- 80 uerum enim meretrix fortunati est oppidi simillum: non potest suam rem optinere sola sine multis uiris.
- SEL hoc uolo agatis. qua accersitae causa ad me estis eloquar. nam mea mater, quia ego nolo me meretricem dicier, opsecuta est, gessit morem oranti morigerae mihi,
- 85 ut me, quem ego amarem grauiter, sineret cum eo uiuere.
- LENA stulte ecastor fecit. sed tu enumquam cum quiquam uiro consueuisti?
- SEL nisi quidem cum Alcesimarcho, nemine, nec pudicitiam meam mi alius quisquam imminuit.
- LENA opsecro, quo is homo insinuauit pacto se ad te?
- SEL per Dionysia mater pompam me spectatum duxit. dum redeo domum, 90 conspicio consecutust clanculum me usque ad fores. inde in amicitiam insinuauit cum matre et mecum simul blanditiis, muneribus, donis.
- GYM mi istunc uellem hominem dari: ut ego illum uorsarem!
- SEL quid opust uerbis? consuetudine 95 coepi amare contra ego illum, et ill' me.
- LENA o mea Selenium, assimilare amare oportet. nam si ames, extempulo melius illi multo quem ames consulas quam rei tuae.

88 meam mihi alius quisquam imminuit *P*, i. meam mihi *q*. a. A

CISTELLARIA

way through my own fault and stupidity, since I hankered after that man alone in order to spend my life with him.

PROC It's more advisable for a matron, my dear Selenium, to love only one man and to spend her life with the man she has once been married to; but a prostitute closely resembles a flourishing town: she cannot be successful alone, without many men. 80

SEL I want you two to pay attention. I'll tell you why you were sent for. Well, since I didn't want to be called a prostitute, my mother humored me and obeyed me, her pleading, obedient daughter, so that she allowed me to live with the man I was madly in love with. 85

PROC She really behaved stupidly. But have you ever been intimate with any man?

SEL No, with no one, except for Alcesimarchus, and no one else has done damage to my chastity.

PROC Please, how did he come to be on close terms with you?

SEL During the festival of Dionysus³ my mother took me to watch the procession. While I was returning home he spied on me and followed me secretly up to the door. Then he came to be on friendly terms with my mother and with me at the same time through flattery, services, and gifts. 90

GYM I wish that man were given to me; how I'd manipulate him!

SEL What need is there for words? I started a relationship with him and began to return his love and he mine. 95

PROC My dear Selenium, you should only pretend to be in love: if you're in love for real, you immediately look after the one you love far better than after your own interests.

³ An annual festival in honor of Bacchus.

PLAUTUS

- SEL at ille conceptis iuravit uerbis apud matrem meam
me uxorem ducturum esse: ei nunc alia ducenda est do-
mum,
100 sua cognata Lemniensis, quae habitat hic in proximo.
nam eum pater eius subegit. nunc mea mater irata est
mihi,
quia non redierim domum ad se, postquam hanc rem
resciuerim,
eum uxorem ducturum esse aliam.
- LENA nihil amori iniurium est.
- SEL nunc te amabo ut hanc hic <unum> triduom hoc solum
sinas
105 esse et hic seruare apud me. nam ad matrem accersita
sum.
- LENA quamquam istuc mihi erit molestum triduom, et dam-
num dabis,
faciam.
- SEL facis benigne et amice. sed tu, Gymnasium mea,
si me apsentem Alcesimarchus ueniet, nolito acriter
eum inclamare: ut ut erga me est meritus, mihi cordi est
tamen.
- 110 sed, amabo, tranquille: ne quid quod illi doleat dixeris.
accipias clauis: si quid tibi opus erit prompto, promito.
ego uolo ire.
- GYM ut mi exciuiisti lacrimas!
- SEL Gymnasium mea,
bene uale.
- GYM cura te, amabo. sicine immunda, opsecro,
ibis?
- SEL immundas fortunas aequom est squalorem sequi.
- 115 GYM amiculum hoc sustolle saltem.
- SEL sine trahi, quom egomet trahor.

CISTELLARIA

- SEL But he swore solemnly before my mother that he'd marry me; now he has to marry another woman, his relative 100
from Lemnos, who lives here next door: his father forced him. Now my mother's angry with me, on the grounds that I didn't return home to her after finding out that he's marrying another woman.
- PROC All is fair in love and war.
- SEL (*to the procuress*) Now please let your daughter stay here, only for the next two days, and look after things 105
here at my place, because I've been summoned to my mother.
- PROC Although those next two days will be a nuisance to me and you'll bring me loss of income, I'll do so.
- SEL (*to the procuress*) That's really nice and friendly of you. (*turning to Gymnasium*) But you, my dear Gymnasium, don't abuse Alcesimarchus harshly, if he comes in my absence; however he's deserved of me, he's still dear to me. 110
But gently, please: don't say anything that could hurt him. Take the keys: if you need to take anything, do so. (*hands them over*) I want to go.
- GYM How you've made me cry!
- SEL My dear Gymnasium, farewell.
- GYM Look after yourself, please. I beg you, do you insist on going in such an unkempt state?
- SEL It's appropriate if squalor follows such a messy fate.
- GYM At least lift up this cloak of yours. (*tries to take it*) 115
- SEL (*moving away*) Let it be dragged along because I myself am being dragged along.

104 unum *add. Seyffert*

106 dabis Ω , dabit *Dousa*

109 in cordi *P*, mihi cordi *Camerarius*

PLAUTUS

- GYM quando ita tibi lubet, uale atque salue.
 SEL si possim uelim.
 GYM numquid me uis, mater, intro quin eam? ecastor mihi
 uisa amare.
 LENA istoc ergo auris grauiter optundo tuas,
 ne quem ames. abi intro.
 GYM numquid me uis?
 LENA ut ualeas.
 GYM uale.

I. ii: LENA

- 120 LENA idem mi est quod magnae parti uitium mulierum
 quae hunc quaestum facimus: quae ubi saburratae su-
 mus,
 122 largiloquae extemplo sumus, plus loquimur quam sat est.
 126 quin ego nunc quia sum onusta mea ex sententia
 127 quiaque adeo me compleui flore Liberi,
 128 magis libera uti lingua collibitum est mihi,
 129 tacere nequeo misera quod tacito usus est.
 123 nam ego illanc olim, quae hinc flens abiit, paruolam
 124 puellam proiectam ex angiportu sustuli.
 125 [adulescens quidam hic est apprime nobilis
 130 Sicyone, summo genere; ei uiuit pater.
 is amore misere hanc deperit mulierculam,
 quae hinc modo flens abiit. contra amore eum haec per-
 dita est.]
 eam meae ego amicae dono huic meretrici dedi,
 quae saepe mecum mentionem fecerat,
 135 puerum aut puellam alicunde ut reperirem sibi,

126–29 *om. A, del. Ritschl, post 122 posuit Acidalius*

123 *illa(m) ego BVEJ, ego illam S, ego illanc Pareus*

CISTELLARIA

GYM Since you want it like this, farewell and be well.

SEL If I could I'd like to.

Exit SELENIUM into the house of Melaenis.

GYM Is there anything you want from me, mother, to keep me from going in? Goodness, she really seemed to be in love to me.

PROC That's why I drum it into you so intensely that you shouldn't be in love with anyone. Go in.

GYM Do you want anything from me?

PROC Only that you keep well.

GYM You too.

Exit GYMNASIUM into the house of Alcesimarchus.

PROC (*to the audience*) I have the same fault as most of the 120
 women in my line of business: once we've had our fill, we 122
 become chatterboxes immediately and talk more than is
 enough. Well, because now I'm supplied according to my 126
 wishes and because I've filled myself with the bouquet
 of Bacchus, I've taken a fancy to speaking more freely. 129
 Poor me, I can't be quiet about what one needs to be
 quiet about: the girl who went away crying, I picked her 123
 up from the alley a long time ago as a little tot that had
 been abandoned. [There's a certain young man here in 125
 Sicyon, of high rank and noble family, whose father is 130
 alive. He's crazy about this woman who went off crying a
 moment ago. She is crazy about him in turn.] I gave her
 as a present to my friend, the prostitute here (*points to*
the house of Melaenis), who had often mentioned to me 135

125, 130-32 *del.* Windischmann

PLAUTUS

- recens natum, eapse quod sibi supponeret.
 ubi mi potestas primum euenit, ilico
 feci eius ei quod me orauit copiam.
 postquam eam puellam a me accepit, ilico
 140 eandem puellam peperit quam a me acceperat,
 sine opstetricis opera et sine doloribus,
 item ut aliae pariunt quae malum quaerunt sibi.
 nam amatorem aibat esse peregrinum sibi
 suppositionemque eius facere gratia.
 145 id duae nos solae scimus, ego quae illi dedi
 et illa quae a me accepit, praeter uos quidem.
 haec sic res gesta est. si quid usus uenerit,
 meminisse ego hanc rem uos uolo. ego abeo domum.

I. iii: AVXILIVM

- AVX utrumque haec, et multiloqua et multibiba, est anus.
 150 satin uix reliquit deo quod loqueretur loci,
 ita properauit de puellae proloqui
 suppositione. quod si tacuisset, tamen
 ego eram dicturus, deus, qui poteram planius.
 nam mi est Auxilio nomen. nunc operam date,
 155 ut ego argumentum hoc uobis plane perputem.
 fuere Sicyoni iam diu Dionysia.
 mercator uenit huc ad ludos Lemnius,
 isque hic compressit uirginem, adulescentulus,
 <ui>, uinolentus, multa nocte, in uia.
 160 is ubi malam rem scit se meruisse, ilico
 pedibus perfugium peperit, in Lemnum aufugit,
 ubi habitabat tum. illa quam compresserat

154 auxilio est *P*, *transp.* *Camerarius*

159 ui *add.* *Pareus*

CISTELLARIA

that I should find her a boy or a girl from somewhere, a newborn, whom she could pretend to be her own child. As soon as I got the opportunity, I supplied her at once with what she asked me for. After receiving this girl from me, she at once gave birth to the same girl she'd received 140 from me, without the help of a midwife and without labor, the same way other women looking for trouble give birth. She said she had a foreign lover and was introducing the girl into her family because of him. Apart from 145 you of course, only the two of us know this, I who gave the girl to her and she who took her from me. This is how it happened. If the occasion comes, I want you to remember it. I'm going home.

Exit the PROCURESS to the right.

Enter the god HELP from the right.

HELP This old woman is both a great gossip and a great drinker. 150 She has barely left me, the god, any subject to talk about, seeing how she rushed into revealing the fraudulent introduction of the girl into the family. If she'd kept quiet about it, I would have told you nevertheless; being a god, I'd have been able to do so more clearly: my name is Help. Now pay attention that I may give you a clear out- 155 line of this plot. A long time ago there was a festival in honor of Dionysus in Sicyon. A merchant from Lemnos came to the games here and, being a very young lad, raped a virgin girl here in the street, with violence, drunk, and late at night. When he realized that he'd 160 deserved punishment, he immediately gave birth to an escape with his feet and ran off to Lemnos, where he lived at the time. The girl he'd raped gave birth to a daughter

PLAUTUS

- decumo post mense exacto hic peperit filiam.
 quoniam reum eius facti nescit qui siet,
 165 paternum seruom sui participat consili,
 dat eam puellam ei seruo exponendam ad necem.
 is eam proiecit. haec puellam sustulit.
 [ill' clam opseruauit seruos <qui eam proiecerat>
 quo aut quas in aedis haec puellam deferat.]
 170 ut eampse uos audistis confiterier,
 dat eam puellam meretrici Melaenidi,
 eaque educauit eam sibi pro filia
 bene ac pudice. tum illic autem Lemnius
 propinquam uxorem duxit, cognatam suam.
 175 ea diem suom obiit, facta morigera est uiro.
 postquam ille uxori iusta fecit, ilico
 huc commigrauit; duxit uxorem hic sibi
 eandem quam olim uirginem hic compresserat,
 et eam cognoscit esse quam compresserat;
 180 illa illi dicit eius se ex iniuria
 peperisse gnatam atque eam se seruo ilico
 dedisse exponendam. ille extemplo seruolum
 iubet illum eundem persequi, si qua queat
 reperire quae sustulerit. ei rei nunc suam
 185 operam usque assiduo seruos dat, si possiet
 meretricem illam inuenire quam olim tollere,
 quom ipse exponebat, ex insidiis uiderat.
 nunc quod relicuom restat uolo persoluere
 ut expungatur nomen, ne quid debeam.
 190 adulescens hic est Sicyoni, ei uiuit pater.
 is amore proiecticiam illam deperit
 quae dudum flens hinc abiit ad matrem suam,

168-69 *del. Degering*

CISTELLARIA

here after her ten months⁴ were up. Since she didn't
 know who the offender in this matter was, she took her 165
 father's slave into her confidence and gave this girl to this
 slave to expose her and leave her to die. He did expose
 her. This woman picked the girl up. [That slave who'd
 abandoned her observed secretly where and into which 170
 house the woman was taking the girl.] As you've heard
 her admit herself, she gave this girl to the prostitute
 Melaenis, who brought her up well and chastely as her
 own daughter. That man from Lemnos, on the other 175
 hand, later married his neighbor, his relative. She passed
 away and thus obliged her husband. After laying his wife
 to rest, he moved here at once. He married the same
 woman whom he'd once raped here when she was a vir-
 gin, and he recognized that she was the one he'd raped. 180
 She said to him that she gave birth to a daughter because
 of his wrong deed and that she immediately gave her to a
 slave to expose. Right away he had that same slave make a
 search, to see if he could find out who picked her up.
 Now the slave is incessantly giving his attention to this 185
 task, to see if he can find that prostitute whom he'd once
 seen from his hiding place pick up the girl when he had
 exposed her. Now I want to pay off the remainder of my
 debt so that my name may be crossed off your books
 and I won't owe you anything. There's a young man here 190
 in Sicyon, whose father is alive. He is crazy about that
 abandoned girl who went off to her mother a moment

⁴ Lunar months, thus slightly more than nine calendar months.

168 qui eam proiecerat *add. Camerarius*

PLAUTUS

et illa hunc contra, qui est amor suauiſſimus.
 ut ſunt humana, nihil eſt perpetuom datum.
 195 pater aduſcenti dare uolt uxorem; hoc ubi
 mater reſciuit, iuſſit accerſi eam domum.
 haec ſic reſ geſta eſt. bene ualete et uincite
 uirtute uera, quod feciſtis antidhac;
 ſeruate uoſtroſ ſocioſ, ueteres et nouoſ,
 200 augete auxilia uoſtra iuſtiſ legibuſ,
 perditē perduelliſ, parite laudem et lauream,
 ut uobiſ uicti Poeni poenaſ ſufferant.

ACTVS II

II. i: ALCESIMARCHVS

ALC credo ego Amorem primum apud homineſ carnuficinam
 commentum.
 hanc ego de me coniecturam domi facio, ni foriſ quae-
 ram,
 205 qui omniſ homineſ ſupero, [atque] antideo cruciabilitati-
 buſ animi.
 iactor [crucior], agitor, ſtimulor, uoſſor
 in amoris rota, miſer exanimor,
 feror, differor, diſtrahor, diripior,
 209- ita nubilam mentem animi habeo.
 211- ubi ſum, ibi non ſum, ubi non ſum, ibi eſt animuſ: ita mi
 12 omnia ſunt ingenia;
 quod lubet, non lubet iam id continuo,
 214- ita me Amor laſſum animi ludificat,
 15 fugat, agit, appetit, raptat, retinet,
 217 lactat, largitur: quod dat non

200 uoſtriſ P, uoſtra Uſſing

205 atque del. Hermann

CISTELLARIA

ago, crying; and she in turn is crazy about him, which is the sweetest kind of love. But that's how human life is: nothing is given for good. The young lad's father wants to give him a wife. When the girl's mother found out about this, she commanded that her daughter be brought home. This is how it happened. Farewell and be victorious through true valor, as you've been so far. Protect your allies, old and new, increase your auxiliaries through just laws, lay low your enemies, and earn laud and laurels, so that the conquered Carthaginians may suffer punishment at your hands.

Exit the God HELP to the right.

ACT TWO

Enter ALCESIMARCHUS from the left.

ALC I believe it was Love who first devised torture among us men. I draw this inference from home, from my own experience—no need to look outside: I outdo and surpass everyone in mental agony. I'm being thrown around, tossed around, pierced, turned on the wheel of love; poor me, I'm being destroyed, driven, driven apart, dragged apart, torn apart: so clouded is my mind. Where I am, there I'm not, where I'm not, there my heart is; all my moods are like this. What I like I dislike at once: how Love tricks me—I am mentally exhausted—how he puts me to flight, drives me off, lays hands on me, drags me back, holds me back, entices me, bestows on me.

206 crucior *del. Fleckeisen*

PLAUTUS

- 217^a dat; deludit:
 218 modo quod suasit, <id> dissuadet,
 219–
 20 quod dissuasit, id ostentat.
 221–
 22 maritumis moribus mecum experitur: ita meum frangit
 22 amantem animum;
 nec, nisi quia miser non eo pessum,
 mihi ulla abest perditio perimities.
 225 ita pater apud uillam detinuit
 me hos dies sex ruri continuos,
 nec licitum interea est meam amicam
 228–
 29 uisere: estne hoc miserum memoratu?

FRAGMENTVM

- 230 i ALC nudiussextus

II. ii: ALCESIMARCHVS. SERVOS

FRAGMENTVM

- 231 ALC potine tu homo facinus facere strenuom?
 ii SER aliorum affatim est
 qui faciant. sane ego me nolo fortem perhiberi uirum.

 233 SER sed quid istuc?

218 id *add. Reiz*

221–22 experitur *SGE*³, expetitur *ceteri Palatini*

230–491 *deficiunt Palatini, A saepissime non legitur; inter 229 et*
 233 *perierunt circiter 100 uersus*

CISTELLARIA

What he gives he does not give, he tricks me. What he
 just advised he advises against, what he advised against 220
 he recommends. He handles me like the sea, to judge
 from how he batters my lovesick heart to pieces. I'm de-
 stroyed and lack no ruin, except that I don't sink to the
 bottom, wretch that I am: my father kept me in the coun- 225
 try, at our farm, for the last five days without interrup-
 tion, and I didn't have a chance to see my girlfriend in the 229
 meantime. Isn't this a sorry tale?

At this point the transmission of the Palatine manuscripts stops; it resumes at l. 492. The Ambrosian palimpsest contains parts of the passage missing in the Palatine tradition, but in many places the remaining parts are more or less illegible. Some fragments have come down to us through the indirect tradition. Fr. i and ii probably stood among the roughly one hundred lines that were lost between ll. 229 and 231.⁵ Fr. i still belongs to the preceding scene. Fr. ii belongs to the following scene, in which Alcesimarchus asks his slave to insult him because he did not stay with his girlfriend. Fr. ii may have stood directly before l. 233.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| ALC | five days ago | 230 i |
| ALC | Can you do an energetic deed? | 231 |
| SER | There are plenty of others who will. I really don't wish to be considered an energetic man. | ii |
| SER | But what's that? | 233 |

⁵ Fr. i: Gloss. *Plaut. gramm.* iii. 58. 4, Plautus uses *nudiussextus* "five days ago" in the *Cistellaria*. Fr. ii: Gell. 6. 7. 1-4, *affatim* "plenty" is stressed on the first syllable because it is no longer analysed as two words (*ad + fatim*).

PLAUTUS

- ALC mala multa dici mihi uolo.
 SER qua gratia?
 ALC quia uiuo.
 SER facile id quidem edepol possum, si tu uis.
 ALC uolo.
 235 SER at enim ne tu exponas pugnos tuos in imperio meo.
 ALC numquam edepol faciam.
 SER fidem da.
 ALC do, non facturum esse me.
 sed ego primum, tot qui ab amica abesse potuerim dies,
 sum nihili.
 SER nihili hercle uero es.
 ALC quam ego amarem perdite,
 quae me amaret contra.
 SER dignus hercle es infortunio.
 240 ALC ei me tot tam acerba facere in corde!
 SER frugi numquam eris.
 ALC praesertim quae coniurasset mecum et firmasset fidem.
 SER nec deos neque homines aequom est facere tibi posthac
 bene.
 ALC quae esset aetatem exactura mecum in matrimonio.
 SER compedis te capere oportet neque eas umquam ponere.
 245 ALC quae mihi esset commendata et meae fide concredita.
 SER hercle te uerberibus multum caedi oportere arbitror.
 ALC quae mellillam me uocare et suauium solita est suom.
 SER ob istuc unum uerbum dignu's deciens qui furcam feras.
 ALC egomet fateor. sed quid auctor nunc mihi es?

238 . . idoroiaroperite A, quam ego amarem perdite *Leo*

⁶ An instrument of torture used for slaves.

CISTELLARIA

- ALC I want a lot of harsh things to be said to me.
 SER What for?
 ALC Because I'm alive.
 SER I can do that easily enough if you wish.
 ALC I do.
 SER But don't show your fists during my period of authority. 235
 ALC I'll never do so.
 SER Give me your word.
 ALC I do: I won't do so. But first of all I'm worthless because I
 could endure being away from my girlfriend for so many
 days.
 SER Yes, you are worthless.
 ALC A girlfriend whom I love madly and who loves me in re-
 turn.
 SER You deserve trouble.
 ALC The thought of me doing so many things to her which are 240
 so bitter in her heart!
 SER You'll never be a decent chap.
 ALC Especially a girl who'd given me her oath and made a sol-
 emn promise.
 SER It wouldn't be right if gods or men did you a good turn af-
 ter this.
 ALC Who was going to spend her life with me in marriage.
 SER You ought to wear shackles and never be free of them.
 ALC Who was put in my keeping and entrusted to my protec- 245
 tion.
 SER I think you should be beaten a lot.
 ALC Who used to call me her honey and her kiss.
 SER Because of that one word you deserve to carry the fork⁶
 ten times.
 ALC I admit it. But what do you advise me now?

dicam tibi:

- 250 SER supplicium illi des, suspendas te, ne tibi suscenseat.
 ALC quian *** a<mi>cam *** le?
 SER quid tu ergo ** i *** name *** te manuleo
 *** ue amica ne te caiet ***
 quid *** dari iussit pater
 255 uu *** ss * o * er mihi
 saxi *** abduxi semel
 sanus ***
 nam *** qu *** n *** neu
 *** hoc r *** <di uo>stram fidem
 260 qui * du *** q<u>a<m>qu<am> exemerit<t>
 inla *** rum *** rum *** maximum
 u * ll *** <exe>mpla *** ores
 sublestum *** claudito
 *** m *** om
 265 ne quo *** ino *** sus est
 266 *** es * sed quem *** a * s * in *** ni foras
 266^a ***

II. iii: ALCESIMARCHVS. GYMNASIVM. SERVOS

- 266^b ***
 267 *** m hercle cras ***
 censen tu es *** ar *** lu
 siquidem illaec ads ***
 270 ubi eam u *** o * numquam * suma ***
 iam te moriri non sini *** ce ***
 semper sunt †sitiuit† uxor *** fec * idem.
 ALC quid si am<o>? ***
 GYM *** non idi *** cinis est amor
 n *** du * u atque illam quam te amare intellego.
 275 ALC * c *** si conclusos uos me habere in carcere

CISTELLARIA

- SER I'll tell you: give her satisfaction, hang yourself, so that 250
she won't be angry with you.
- ALC Because *** girlfriend ***?
- SER Then what do you *** you at the sleeve *** your girl-
friend so that she doesn't beat you *** what did your
father order to be given *** to me *** I took her away 255
once, sane *** for *** this *** gods, your protection, who 260
*** although he took out *** the biggest *** examples
*** unsound *** close *** so that nowhere *** is *** but 265
whom *** unless outside ***

Around seventy lines have been lost between ll. 266 and 267. After the tirade, Alcesimarchus goes to his house, where he finds Gymnasium, who tells him of the wedding preparations for him. Alcesimarchus believes that he is going crazy.

*** really, tomorrow *** do you think *** if they *** 266b
when *** her *** never *** take *** now *** not *** for -70
you to die *** they are always *** the wife *** the same
thing.

- ALC What if I'm in love? ***
- GYM *** not *** is love *** and the girl whom I see you're in
love with ***.
- ALC *** if for me to have you locked up in prison *** of love 275

251 a<mi>cam Schoell

259 <di uo>stram Schoell

260 q<u>a<m>qu<am> exemerit Stockert

262 <exe>mpla scripsi

266a-66b duo folia (fere 70 uersus) desunt

273 am<o> Schoell

PLAUTUS

†tibitoteestd† ** amoris noctesque et dies
 ni emortuos era *** miumo
 mihi numquam quisquam credit <p>ostilla <i>de<m>
 non ese ** a *** em *** s.

GYM immo maxumus.

280 nam qui amant stulte atque immodeste atque improbe,
 *** nne *** †imecurc† *** e ne ament.

adduxtin ill *** †itmauoltiter†

ALC un *** nus th *** he, ubi tu es?

SER ecce me.

ALC i, affer mihi arma, et loriam adducito.

285 SER loriam adducam? sa *** ned ** <add>ucere.

ALC i, curre, equom iffer.

SER perii hercle, hic insanit miser.

ALC abi atque hastatos multos, multos uelites,
 multos cum multis—nil moror precario.
 ubi sunt quae iussi?

SER sanus hic non est satis.

290 GYM manu esse credo nocitum, quom illaec sic facit.

SER utrum deliras, quaeso, an astans somnias,
 qui equom me afferre iubes, loriam adducere,
 multos hastatos, postid multos uelites,
 multos cum multis? haec tu peruorsario
 mihi fabulatu's.

295

ALC dixin ego istaec, opsecro?

SER modo quidem hercle haec dixisti.

ALC non praesens quidem.

SER praestigiator [es], siquidem hic non es atque ades.

GYM uideo ego te Amoris ualde tactum toxico,
 adulescens; eo te magis uolo monitum.

278 <p>ostilla <i>de<m> Dunsch

285 <add>ucere Lindsay

297 es¹ del. Studemund

CISTELLARIA

by night and day, unless *** dead *** may no one believe me in this same thing after this *** not ***.

GYM No, the greatest: those who love in a stupid, immoderate, 280
and inappropriate way *** in order that they don't love.
*** did you bring ***?

ALC (*to his slave*) *** where are you?

SER Here I am.

ALC Go, bring me arms, and get me a breastplate.

SER I should get you a breastplate? *** get ***. 285

ALC Go, run, bring me a horse.

SER (*aside*) I'm ruined, he's mad, poor chap.

ALC Go and fetch many men with spears, many light-armed soldiers, and many soldiers with many things—I'll accept no entreaties. Where are the things I ordered?

SER (*to Gymnasium*) This man isn't in his right mind.

GYM Because he's behaving like this I believe he's been be- 290
witched.

SER (*to Alcesimarchus*) Are you mad or dreaming while standing upright? You're telling me to bring you a horse, get you a breastplate, many men with spears, then many light-armed soldiers, and many soldiers with many things? You've been prattling this sort of thing to me in a wrong-headed way. 295

ALC Please, did I say these things?

SER Just now you said them.

ALC I wasn't present.

SER You're a wizard if you aren't here and yet are here.

GYM (*to Alcesimarchus*) I can see that you've been hit hard by Love's poisoned shaft, young man. That's why I want to warn you all the more.

PLAUTUS

- ALC mone.
 300 GYM caue sis cum Amore tu umquam bellum sumpseris.
 ALC quid faciam?
 GYM ad matrem eius deuenias domum,
 expurges, iures, ores blande per precem
 eamque exores ne tibi suscenseat.
 ALC expurigabo hercle omnia ad raucam rauim.
 304^a ***
 II. iv: SENEX. GYMNASIVM
 304^b ***

FRAGMENTVM

- 305 SEN prohibet diuitiis maxumis, dote altili atque opima.
 305^a ***
 306 SEN mulierculam exornatulam <faci>e quidem hercle scita.
 quamquam uetus cantherius sum, etiam nunc, ut ego
 opinor,
 adhinnire equolam possum ego hanc, si detur sola soli.
 GYM nimis opportune mi euenit rediisse Alcesimarchum;
 310 nam sola nulla inuitior solet esse.
 SEN me uocato
 ne sola sis: ego tecum <ero, uolo> ego agere, ut tu agas
 aliquid.
 GYM nimis lepide exconcinnauit hasce aedis Alcesimarchus.
 SEN ut quo<m Ven>us aggreditur, <place>t! lepidum est
 amare semper.

304^a-5^a duo folia (fere 70 uersus) perierunt 306 <faci>e quidem
 Fontaine 311 ero, uolo add. Studemund 313 quo<m Ven>us
 et <place>t Leo

⁷ Fr. iii: Non. p. 101 Lindsay: *altilis* can mean "rich."

CISTELLARIA

- ALC Do.
- GYM Be careful, please, never to take up war against Love. 300
- ALC What should I do?
- GYM Go to her mother, to her home, apologize, swear an oath, ask her flatteringly through entreaty, and persuade her not to be angry with you.
- ALC I'll apologize for everything till I'm completely hoarse.

Around seventy lines have been lost between ll. 304 and 306. Alcesimarchus and his servant go looking for the young man's father. In the following scene, this old man comes to the house of Alcesimarchus in order to tell Selenium that she should leave his son alone. He meets Gymnasium and mistakes her for Selenium; Gymnasium enjoys the misunderstanding. Fr. iii belongs to this scene, but does not immediately precede l. 306.⁷

- OM She's keeping him away from greatest wealth, a rich and fat dowry. 305
iii
- OM (*spotting Gymnasium*) A nicely made-up little woman of really pretty appearance. Although I'm an old hack, I think I could whinny to this little filly even now, if she were given to me when we're alone. 306
- GYM (*pretending to be Selenium and not to see the old man*) It's a very convenient coincidence that Alcesimarchus has come back: usually no girl is less willing to be alone than me. 310
- OM (*aside*) Invite me so that you won't be alone: I'll be with you, I'll be busy keeping you busy.
- GYM Alcesimarchus has embellished this house really prettily.
- OM (*aside*) How pleasant it is when Venus comes! Making love is always joyful.

PLAUTUS

- GYM uenerem meram haec aedes olent, quia amator expoliuit.
 315 SEN non modo ipsa lepida est, commode quoque hercle fabu-
 latur.
 sed quom dicta huius interpretor, haec hercle est, ut ego
 opinor,
 meum quae corrumpit filium. suspicio est eam esse,
 utpote quam numquam uiderim; de opinione credo.
 nam hasce aedis conductas habet meus gnatus, haec ubi
 astat:
 320 hoc hanc eam esse opinio est; nam haec illum nominauit.
 quid si adeam atque appellem? mali damnique illecebra,
 salue.
 GYM qu *** nu *** e uapulabis.
 SEN neque *** a *** rreo *** uolo apud te.
 *** quaeret *** mer ***
 325 lu *** uu ***
 *** fesn ***
 *** s *** s *** ulco
 *** <pe>riclis

 330 *** l ***.
 GYM intro abeo:
 nam meretricem astare in uia solam prostibuli sane est.
 *** d *** qu *** num me
 ** ssem *** meamque
 *** f ***
 335 proh *** diu *** s * o ***
 ri * ds *** c ***
 as *** es * u *** s ***
 a *** ueal ***
 *** o *** il *** ep ***
 340 neque ull *** cia *** a * i * s

CISTELLARIA

- GYM This house smells of pure passion because a lover has smartened it up.
- OM (*aside*) Not only is she herself pretty, she also speaks in a pleasant way. But as I understand her words, she's indeed the one, I think, who is turning my son into a rake. It's only my suspicion that she's the one, as I've never seen her; I believe so from my conjecture: my son's renting this house where she's standing. That's why I conjecture that she's the one: she's named him. What if I approach and address her? (*to Gymnasium*) You honeytrap full of harm and damage, I give you my greetings. 315
320
- GYM *** you'll get a beating.
- OM Neither do I want *** at your place. *** he'll search for *** dangers ***. 325-30
- GYM I'm going inside: for a prostitute to stand alone in the street is really a sign of being a street whore. *** me *** and my *** nor any *** good *** unless *** certainly 332
333-44

PLAUTUS

bonu ***

en ***

nisi * unct * pr ***

345

ue ***

siu ** d *** sis ***

h *** fec ***

*** edic *** q ***

*** equidem *** pu *** o ***

350

a ***

* a *** ca *** ecesesl *** os ** e ***

*** face nunciam *** nc ***

no *** p * a *** sit *** s *** am ***

qu *** resea *** huc ***

355

qu ***

n *** quod *** um tuo ***

ne tu ** n ***

quae ub ***

359

*** ille *** ou *** mulier

359^a

360

*** steram *** f *** omo

360^a

*** mihi opus ut

361

*** <co>lloqui *** s

apu *** ut * m ** i *** lus ego uolo quiduis.

SEN

uolo ex te scire, quicquid est m<eus filiu>s qu<od fecit>, quid ego usquam male feci tibi <aut meu>s quisquam, id edisserta,

365

quam ob rem me meumque filium cum matre remque nostram habes perditui et praedatui?

GYM

miser errat, ut ego dixi.

lepida est materies, ludam ego hunc, nam occasio uidetur.

CISTELLARIA

- *** now make *** to this place *** which *** your *** so 350
 that you don't *** which *** that man *** woman *** it's 355
 necessary for me to *** to speak *** I want whatever ***. 359
- OM I want to know from you whatever it is that my son's done,
 what harm I or anyone of mine have ever done you, tell
 me that, that you should use me, my son with his mother, 365
 and our possessions as opportunities for destruction and
 looting?
- GYM (*aside*) The poor chap's mistaken, as I said. The opportu-
 nity is lovely, I'll make fun of him: it seems the right occa-

361 <co>lloqui *Leo*

363 m<eus filiu>s qu<od fecit> *Studemund*

364 <aut meu>s *Seyffert*

PLAUTUS

- potin operam <in>ique equidem mala<m ut ne> des innocentis?
- SEN sed <opsecro> te, nullusne est tibi amator alius quam?
- 370 GYM nisi tuos modo unus filiust, quem quidem ego amem alius nemo est.
- SEN at ecc ***.
- GYM nil moror: damno sunt tui mi s<imil>es.
- 372 SEN quid f *** m?
- GYM uisne est is arbitratus?
- 372^a ***

FRAGMENTVM

- 373 GYM uos datores
^{iv}
 373^a negotioli bellissimi senices soletis esse.

368 <in>ique . . . mala<m ut ne> *Leo*

369 opsecro *add. Studemund*

371 s<imil>es *Schoell*

372^a, 385–88 *fere uersus 55 exciderunt quia folium periit unum et nonnulli uersus in sequenti folio legi non possunt*

⁸ Fr. iv: Prisc. *gramm.* ii. 111. 4–7, nouns in *-ium*, like *negotium* “business,” form the diminutive in *-iolum*; Prisc. *gramm.* ii. 279.18–280.2, *senex* “old man” can have a plural *senices*. Fr. v: Prisc. *gramm.* ii. 387.16–388.6, *stipulari* takes *ab* + ablative, whether it means “exact a promise from someone” or “being asked to promise by someone.” Fr. vi: Prisc. *gramm.* ii. 107. 4–8, fifth-declension nouns like *res* “means” form diminutives in *-ecula*. Fr. vii: Fest. p. 512. 6 Lindsay, *uegrandis* means “tiny.” Fr. viii: Non. p. 291–2 Lindsay, there is a feminine noun *cursura* from *currere* “run.” Fr. ix: Non. p. 802 L., *meminisse* “remem-

CISTELLARIA

sion. (*to the old man*) Can't you stop being unfair and treating an innocent girl badly?

OM But please, don't you have any other lover?

GYM Apart from your only son, there's no one for me to love. 370

OM But ***.

GYM I don't care: people like you are my ruin.

OM What ***?

GYM Is that opinion tantamount to violence?

Between ll. 372 and 389 around fifty-five lines have been lost. Fr. iv still belongs to the preceding scene; Gymnasium has made the old man fall in love with her.⁸ Then Gymnasium's mother comes to take her back since Alcesimarchus is back in town and can look after his house himself. In fr. v the procuress addresses the old man, who understands what has been going on and leaves. Fr. vi-viii are from the ensuing dialogue between the procuress and Gymnasium, unless fr. vi still belongs to the old man, who could be addressing the procuress. Fr. vii and viii clearly belong together. Gymnasium and her mother return to their house and Lampadio enters from the right, from his search for the woman whom he had seen picking up Selenium. In fr. ix he talks about good slaves remembering their duty and no doubt considers himself to be one of them. In fr. x-xii he describes what he saw during his search.

GYM You old men usually give us the most pleasant little business. 373
iv

ber" can take the accusative instead of the genitive. Fr. x: Non. p. 88 L., *mustulentus*, from *mustum* "fresh wine," means "smelling of fresh wine"; Non. p. 669 L., *uentus* can also mean "smell." Fr. xi: Non. p. 154 L., *excissatus* means "wounded." Fr. xii: Non. p. 279 L., "passage" can be masculine (*angiportus*) or neuter (*angiportum*).

PLAUTUS

II. v: LENA. GYMNASIVM

FRAGMENTA

- 374v LENA me respondere postulas? iniurium est.
 375 stipulari semper me ultro oportet a uiris.
 eum quaestum facio, nil uiris promittere.
 vi GYM siquidem imperes pro copia, pro recula
 vii LENA quin is, si itura es? nimium is uegrandi gradu.
 viii GYM pol ad cubituram, mater, magis sum exercita
 380 fere quam ad cursuram. eo sum tardiuscula.
 380a ***

II. vi: LAMPADIO

- 380b ***
 ix LAM meminere officium suom.
 x LAM ita mustulentus uentus naris attingit
 xi LAM capillo scisso atque excissatis auribus
 384 LAM quae quasi carnificis angiporta purigans
 xii ***
 385-88 *** rist
 389
 390 cu ***
 fuist *** llo modo
 uobo *** es negent
 *** a *** d ***
 *** guela ** qui teris
 395 *** uero ** s ***
 *** tculus fui
 *** us

 u *** eras

CISTELLARIA

- PROC You expect me to give you my word in return? It's unfair. 374-
 On the contrary, I should always exact promises from 75 v
 men. That's my line of business, not to make any prom-
 ises to men.
- GYM if you should give orders in accordance with your wealth, vi
 your small means
- PROC Why don't you go if you're going to go? You walk with vii
 such a tiny step.
- GYM Goodness, my mother, I'm better trained in lying down viii
 than in running. That's why I'm a little slow. 380
- LAM They remember their duty. viii
- LAM the way a breeze smelling of fresh wine has touched my x
 nostrils
- LAM with torn hair and clipped ears xi
- LAM who, cleaning these passages as if they were an execu- 384
 tioner's xii
- *** way *** they might deny *** you who rub *** but *** I was 385-
 *** 400

382 uentus *Non.* 669 *Lindsay*, aestus *Non.* 88 *L.*

400

qu ** sq ***

uel ***

quaeq *** m darent

** l ***

FRAGMENTVM

405
xiii

LAM non quasi nunc haec sunt hic, limaces liuidae,
febricul<osae, m>iseræ amicae, osseae,
diobolares, schoeniculae, miraculae,
cum extritris talis, cum todillis crusculis

410

qua ***

** qua ***

qu ***

ti ***

415

am ***

pr * ms * h *** m loco

sus ***

*** l ***

m ***

420

at die illa ***

s *** qu ***

dei me omnes ***

illae ***

haec sustulit, post ***

425

circumcur<sauis> ***

o *** neq ***

qua *** disti *** <long>um loquor

428-
30

CISTELLARIA

*Fr. xiii still belongs to Lampadio's monologue. The palimpsest is badly damaged here, but the traces of letters allow us to locate fr. xiii precisely. Lampadio is talking about ugly prostitutes.*⁹

LAM not the type that are here nowadays, livid slugs, feverish, miserable wenches, bony, to be hired for two obols, smelling of cheap ointment, freakish, with worn-down ankles, with little legs the size of sparrows

*** in the place *** but on that day *** may all the gods *
me *** those *** she lifted her up, then *** I ran about
*** I've been talking for a long time *** is ***

405
xiii

410-
24
425-
35

The palimpsest is still barely legible, but somewhere here a new scene must have begun. Lampadio has by now returned to the forum and Alcesimarchus has reentered from the right and come to the house of Melaenis, where he apologizes to her and Selenium.

⁹ The passage is quoted by several grammarians and lexicographers, e.g. Fest. p. 442. 7 Lindsay: Plautus calls some prostitutes *schoeniculae* because they use *schoenum*, the worst ointment.

406 febricul<osae m>iserae Schoell

408 exteritis A, extertis Festus, extortis Paulus, Priscianus, Osber-nus, extritis Scaliger

425 circumcur<sauī> Suess

427 <long>um Suess

428-48 fol. 245v palimpsesti legi paene non potest

PLAUTUS

431 *** est

 432-
 35
 436 qu ***
 437 h ***

 438-
 39

II. vii: SELENIVM. ALCESIMARCHVS. MELAENIS

440 ***
 441 *** us
 *** io
 tu ***
 c *** ogo
 *** s
 445 *** <mise>ris modis.
 446 ***
 447-
 48 SEL molestus es.
 449
 450 ALC meae issula sua <aede>s egent. ad me <sine ducam>.
 SEL aufer manum.
 ALC germana mea sororcula.
 SEL repudio te fraterculum.
 ALC tum tu igitur, mea matercula.
 MEL repudio te puerculum.
 ALC opsecro te—
 SEL ualeas.
 ALC —ut sinas—
 SEL nil moror.
 ALC —expurigare me.
 SEL oppressas.
 ALC sine dicam.
 MEL satis sapit mi tuis periuriis.
 455 ALC †uer . . . sita sunt.†
 MEL at nunc non potis est.

CISTELLARIA

*** in wretched ways. ***

440-
46

- SEL You're a nuisance.
- ALC My house is missing its mistress. Let me take her home. 450
(*tries to grab Selenium*)
- SEL Take your hand off.
- ALC My own dear little sister!¹⁰
- SEL I refuse to have you as my little brother.
- ALC (*turning to Melaenis*) Well then, you, my dear little mother.
- MEL I refuse to have you as my little boy.
- ALC I beg you—
- SEL (*interrupting*) Goodbye.
- ALC —to let me—
- SEL (*interrupting*) I don't care.
- ALC —apologize. (*tries to grab Selenium again*)
- SEL You're being violent.
- ALC Let me speak.
- MEL She's been taught sense enough by your false oaths.

Exit SELENIUM into the house of Melaenis.

- ALC *** 455
- MEL But now it isn't possible.

¹⁰ The terms "sister" and "brother" are used for lovers elsewhere as well, e.g. in Petronius 127. 1-2.

446 <mise>ris scripsi

449 initium huius uersus in priore folio uidetur fuisse

450 <aede>s . . . <sine ducam> Leo

454 o(pe)r(os)sa(m) A, oppressas Leo

PLAUTUS

- ALC supplicium uolo
 polliceri.
- MEL at mi aps te accipere non lubet.
 ALC em, om<nia>
 patior iur<e>.
- MEL ho>c illi uolup est nec tis misereri decet
 quemquam hominem.
- ALC inter *** us nep ***
 uerba dare <ne>cesse.
 460 non illata *** mator.
- MEL pol mi qui <sanct>a [qui] frangant foedera
 eos *** enim u ** et me * e *** cerit
 iu *** quid lubet * sta quid *** uesto * c dabis.
- ALC at <ego> ne<c> do nec te amittam hodie, nisi quae uolo
 tecum loqui
 das mihi operam.
- 465 MEL potin ut mihi molestus ne sis?
 ALC quin id <est no>men mihi,
 omnes mortales u<o>c<ant Mole>stu<m: eunde>m cons-
 picis.
- MEL quo ***
 AL <o>psecro.
 MEL at frustra opsecras.
 *** rfu *** ui insanissimumst,
 qui * sine omni *** †uetundie† suom.
- ALC dabo
 470 ius iurandum *** n * u *** uum.
- MEL at ego nunc <ab> illo m<i caueo> iure iurando <tuo>,
 simile est ius iurandum amantum quasi ius confusicium.
 nescia *** su *** mu *** dest
 nono *** o mihi te nos *** †c snunde† *** s nugas agis
- 475 sia *** iu quaquam ma *** si
 non me *** res *** do *** †aisel†.

CISTELLARIA

- ALC I want to promise satisfaction.
- MEL But I have no interest in receiving any from you.
- ALC There! I'm suffering all this deservedly.
- MEL She's happy about that and no one ought to feel pity for you.
- ALC Between *** necessary to trick. *** not brought in-***. 460
- MEL To me, people who break sacred agreements, those *** and me *** what I like *** what *** you'll give.
- ALC But I'm not giving it and I won't let you go today, unless you pay attention to what I want to say to you.
- MEL Can't you stop being a nuisance to me? 465
- ALC No, that's my name, all mortals call me Nuisance; and you're looking at him now.
- MEL ***.
- AL I entreat you.
- MEL But you do so in vain. *** he's barking mad, he who * without any *** his ***.
- ALC I'll swear an oath ***. 470
- MEL But I am now on my guard against that oath of yours; a lover's oath is as insubstantial as oatmeal gruel.¹¹ *** to me, you * us *** you're talking rubbish *** any *** not me ***. 475

¹¹ A pun on the two meanings of *ius*: *ius iurandum* is an oath, while *ius confusivum* refers to a hotch-potch soup.

-
- 456 om<nia> *Studemund*
- 457 iur<e. MEL ho>c *Lindsay* 459 <ne>cesse *Leo*
- 460 <sanct>a [qui] *Leo* 463 at <ego> ne<c> *Leo*
- 465 id <est no>men *Schoell* 466 u<o><c>ant Mole>stu<m>
- Schoell* <eunde>m conspicis *Handley*
- 467 <o>psecro *Lindsay*
- 471 nunc <ab> illo m<i> caueo> iure iurando <tuo> *Leo*

PLAUTUS

- ALC supplicium dabo a *** p * i ** atque illi * e
 quo modo eg<o> *** ad medi *** <mi>ser
 *** ss ***.
- 480 MEL quia es nanctus nouam,
 quaedam *** big *** s quaedam quasi tu nescias
 perg ***.
- ALC <di> deaeque illam perdant †pariter†
 pem *** m †usero† umquam, si hoc fallo.
- MEL nil moror
 *** <fa>lsum fallis, eo te hac ignorat Fides.
 postremo, si mihi dedisses uerba, dis numquam dares.
- 485 ALC quin equidem illam ducam uxorem.
- MEL ducas, si di tib<i> duint>.
 nunc hoc si tibi commodum est, quae * o ***.
- ALC instruxi illi aurum atque ues<tem> *** magis t ** ra ***.
- MEL si quidem amabas, proin di ** omu ** t ** illi instrui.
 sed sino. iam hoc mihi responde quod ego te r<ogauero>.
- 490 ins<truxis>t<i> ** eam ** †cepo * o * tenes† quia ** indu-
 ta * u ***
 tibi ita ut uoluisti quidem **.
- ALC ** ct * t *** os quod uolo.
- MEL eo facetu's quia tibi alia est sponsa locuples Lemnia.
 habeas. nec nos factione tanta quanta tu sumus
 neque opes nostrae tam sunt ualidae quam tuae; uerum
 tamen
- 495 hau metuo ne ius iurandum nostrum quisquam culpitet:
 tu iam, si quid tibi dolebit, scies qua doleat gratia.
- ALC di me perdant—
- MEL quodquomque optes, tibi uelim contingere.
- ALC —si illam uxorem duxero umquam, mihi quam despon-
 dit pater!

CISTELLARIA

- ALC I'll give satisfaction *** and to her *** how I *** to ***
wretch that I am ***.
- MEL Because you've got hold of a new girl, a certain *** cer- 480
tain things, as if you didn't know ***.
- ALC May the gods and goddesses destroy her *** ever, if I de-
ceive you in this.
- MEL I don't care *** a deception you deceive, that's why Good
Faith does not recognize you in this. Finally, even if you'd
fooled me, you'd never fool the gods.
- ALC No, I will marry her. 485
- MEL Marry her, if the gods give her to you. Now if this is con-
venient to you, what ***.
- ALC I've provided gold and clothes for her *** more ***.
- MEL If you loved her, then *** her being fitted out. But never
mind. Now answer me what I'm asking you. You've fitted 490
her out *** because *** dressed *** to you as you wanted
***.
- ALC *** what I want.
- MEL What makes you witty is that you have another woman
engaged to you, the wealthy Lemnian. Have her. We
don't have as great connections as you, and our influence
isn't as great as yours; but still, I'm not afraid that anyone 495
will ever find fault with our oath. If anything hurts you,
you'll know right away why it does.
- ALC May the gods kill me—
- MEL (*interrupting*) I'd like you to get whatever you wish for.
- ALC —if I ever marry the girl my father engaged me to!

478 <mi>ser *scripsi*

481 di *add. Schoell*

483 <fa>lsum *Lindsay*

485 tib<i> duint> *Studemund*

487 ues<tem> *F. Skutsch*

489 r<ogauero> *Leo*

490 ins<truxis>t<i> *Leo*

491 quidam A, quidem *Schoell*

PLAUTUS

- MEL et me, si umquam tibi uxorem filiam dedero meam.
 500 ALC patierin me periurare?
 MEL pol te aliquanto facilius
 quam me meamque rem perire et ludificari filiam.
 abi, quaere ubi iuri iurando tuo sit satias supsi:
 hic apud nos iam, Alcesimarche, confregisti tesseram.
 ALC face semel periculum.
 MEL feci saepe, quod factum queror.
 505 ALC redde mi illam.
 MEL inter nouam rem uerbum usurpabo uetus:
 "quod dedi datum non uellem, quod relicuom est non
 dabo."
 ALC non remissura es mihi illam?
 MEL pro me responsas tibi.
 ALC non remittes?
 MEL scis iam dudum omnem meam sententiam.
 ALC satin istuc tibi in corde certum est?
 MEL quin ne commentor quidem.
 510 [non edepol istaec tua dicta nunc in auris recipio.
 ALC non? hem, quid agis igitur?
 MEL animum aduerte iam, ut quid agam scias.]
 ALC at ita me di deaque, superi atque inferi et medioximi,
 itaque me Iuno regina et Iouis supremi filia
 itaque me Saturnus eius patruos—
 MEL ecastor pater.
 515 ALC —itaque me Ops opulenta, illius auia—

502 abi *P*, alibi *A* sit satias subsidii *A*, satis sit subsidii *P*

510-11 *om. A, del. Müller*

511 agas *P*, agam *Rost*

CISTELLARIA

- MEL And me if I ever give you my daughter as your wife.
- ALC You'll let me swear a false oath? 500
- MEL Yes, a lot more easily than let me and my possessions perish and let my daughter be made a fool of. Go, find a place where there's plenty of support for your oath; here at our place you've already lost any claim to friendship, Alcesimarchus.
- ALC Try it once.
- MEL I've tried often, which I regret.
- ALC Give her back to me. 505
- MEL I'll apply the old proverb to a new situation: "I wish I hadn't given you what I gave and what's left I won't give you."
- ALC You aren't going to send her back to me?
- MEL You're answering for me.
- ALC You won't send her back?
- MEL You've known my decision for a while already.
- ALC Have you made up your mind about this?
- MEL I don't even think about it. [I'm not letting those words of yours get into my ears now. 510
- ALC You aren't? What's that? What are you doing then?
- MEL Pay attention now so that you know what I'm doing.]
- ALC But as truly as the gods and goddesses, the ones above and below and in the middle, and as truly as Juno, their queen and the daughter of Jupiter on high, and as truly as Saturn, her uncle—¹²
- MEL (*interrupting*) Goodness, her father.
- ALC —and as truly as opulent Ops, her grandmother— 515

¹² The correct relationships are as follows: Saturn and Ops are husband and wife, and their children Jupiter and Juno are married to each other.

PLAUTUS

- MEL immo mater quidem.
Iuno filia et Saturnus patruos et pater Iuppiter?²
- ALC tu me delenis, propter te haec pecco.
- MEL perge dicere.
- ALC anne etiam quid consultura sis sciam?²
- MEL perge eloqui.
non remittam. definitum est.
- ALC enim uero ita me Iuppiter
520 itaque me Iuno itaque Ianus ita—quid dicam nescio.
iam scio. immo, mulier, audi, meam ut scias sententiam.
di me omnes, magni minuti, et etiam patellarii,
faxint ne ego dem <uiuæ> uiuos sauium Selenio,
nisi ego teque tuamque filiam aequè hodie opruncaue-
ro,
525 poste autem cum primo luci cras nisi ambo occidero,
et equidem hercle nisi pedatu tertio omnis efflixero,
nisi tu illam remittis ad me. dixi quæ uolui. uale.
- MEL abiit intro iratus. quid ego nunc agam? si redierit
530 illa ad hunc, ibidem loci res erit: ubi odium occeperit,
illam extrudet, tum hanc uxorem Lemniam ducet do-
mum.
sed tamen ibo et persequar: amans ne quid faciat, cauto
opust.
postremo, quando aequa lege pauperi cum diuite
non licet, perdam operam potius quam carebo filia.

516 summus Ω , pater *Bettini* uersum *Melaenidi dedit Ussing*

522 minuti *AE*³, minutique *ceteri Palatini*

523 uiuæ *add. Benoist*

526 perdat utertio *B*, perdat utercio *VE*¹, perdam te tertio *JE*¹,
pedatu tertio *Turnebus*

531 amens *B*¹, amans *B*³*VJE*

CISTELLARIA

MEL (*interrupting again*) No, her mother, surely. Juno the daughter, Saturn the uncle, and Jupiter the father?

ALC You're bewitching me, because of you I'm making these mistakes.

MEL Go on speaking.

ALC I should know your verdict, shouldn't I?

MEL Go on talking. I won't send her back. It's final.

ALC But as truly as Jupiter and as truly as Juno and as truly as 520
Janus¹³ and as truly—I don't know what to say. Now I
know. Listen, woman, so that you may know my decision.
May all the gods, the great and the minor ones, and even
the domestic ones, prevent me from giving a kiss to Sele-
nium while we're both alive, if I don't butcher you and
also your daughter today, if I don't kill you both after- 525
wards, tomorrow, at the crack of dawn, and if I don't ex-
terminate you all in a third and final stage, unless you
send her back to me. I've said what I wanted then. Good-
bye.

Exit ALCESIMARCHUS into his house.

MEL He went inside in a rage. What should I do now? If she
returns to him, things will be back to square one: when
he's had enough of her, he'll throw her out, then he'll 530
marry that wife from Lemnos. But still I'll go and follow
him; I need to be careful that our lover doesn't do any-
thing stupid. And finally, since a poor person can't deal
with a rich one on equal terms, I'd rather waste my effort
than be without my daughter. But who is this who's di-

¹³ The god of gates and doorways and thus also of beginnings.

PLAUTUS

sed quis hic est qui recta platea cursum huc contendit
suom?

535 et illud paueo et hoc formido, ita tota sum misera in
metu.

II. viii: LAMPADIO

LAM anum sectatus sum clamore per uias,
miserrumam habui. ut illaec hodie quot modis
moderatrix <linguae> fuit atque immemorabilis!
540 quot illi blanditias, quid illi promisi boni,
quot ammoeniui fabricas, quot fallacias
in quaestione! uix exsculpsi ut diceret,
quia ei promisi dolium uini dare.

II. ix: PHANOSTRATA. LAMPADIO. MELAEINIS

PHAN audire uocem uisa sum ante aedis modo
mei Lampadisci serui.

LAM non surda es, era:
545 recte audiuisti.

PHAN quid agis hic?

LAM quod gaudeas.

PHAN quid id est?

LAM hinc ex hisce aedibus paullo prius
uidi exeuntem mulierem.

PHAN illam quae meam
gnatam sustulerat?

LAM rem tenes.

PHAN quid postea?

LAM dico ei quo pacto eam ab hippodromo uiderim
550 erilem nostram filiam sustollere.
extimuit tum illa.

538 linguae *add. Ussing*

CISTELLARIA

recting his course here straight up the street? I'm afraid 535
of one thing and scared of the other: I'm completely in
fear, poor me. (*steps aside*)

Enter LAMPADIO from the right, without noticing Melaenis.

LAM I followed the old woman through the streets shouting
loudly and I gave her a very hard time. How and in how
many ways she controlled her tongue today and was un-
able to remember a thing! How much flattery I gave her,
how much good I promised her, how many tricks, how 540
many guiles I brought to bear while questioning her! I
barely wormed it out from her, and only because I prom-
ised to give her a vat of wine.

*Enter PHANOSTRATA from her house. MELAENIS remains in
the background.*

PHAN Just now I seemed to hear the voice of my good slave
Lampadio in front of the house.

LAM (*approaching her*) You aren't deaf, mistress: you heard 545
correctly.

PHAN What are you doing here?

LAM Something you'll be happy about.

PHAN What's that?

LAM A little earlier I saw a woman come out of this house.
(*points to the house of Alcesimarchus*)

PHAN The one who'd picked up my daughter?

LAM You've got it.

PHAN What then?

LAM I told her how I'd seen her pick up our mistress's daugh- 550
ter down by the racecourse. She got scared then.

PLAUTUS

- MEL iam horret corpus, cor salit.
 nam mihi ab hippodromo memini afferri paruolam
 puellam eamque me mihi supponere.
- PHAN age perge, quaeso. animus audire expetit
 555 ut gesta res sit.
- MEL ~ utinam audire non queas.
- 555^a ***
- 556 LAM pergo illa<m onerare> dictis: "illaec ted anus
 fortu<nis ex secundis ad mi>seras uocat.
 nam illaec tibi nutrix est, ne matrem censeas.
 ego te reduco et reuoco ad <summas> ditias,
 560 ubi tu locere in luculentam familiam,
 und' tibi talenta magna uiginti pater
 det dotis; non enim hic ubi ex Tusco modo
 tute tibi indigne dotem quaeras corpore."
- PHAN an, amabo, meretrix illa est quae illam sustulit?
- 565 LAM immo [meretrix] fuit; sed ut sit, de ea re eloquar.
 iam perducebam illam ad me suadela mea:
 anus ei amplexa est genua plorans, opsecrans
 ne deserat se: eam suam esse filiam,
 seque eam peperisse sancte adiurabat mihi.
 570 "istanc quam quaeris," inquit, "ego amicae meae
 dedi, quae educaret eam pro filiola sua;
 et uiuit," inquit. "ubi ea est?" inquam extempulo.
- PHAN seruate di me, opsecro!

555^a lacunam indicauit Guyet

556 illa<m onerare> Schoell

557 fortu<nis ex secundis ad mi>seras Schoell

559 uoco P, reuoco Pylades summas add. Brix

565 meretrix del. Bothe

CISTELLARIA

- MEL (*aside*) My body's shaking now, my heart's jumping up and down: I remember that I was brought a little girl from the racecourse and that I pretended that she was my own child.
- PHAN Continue, please. I'm burning to hear how things happened. 555
- MEL (*aside*) Would that you couldn't hear!

- LAM I continued to weigh her down with my words: "That old woman is inviting you from a good fortune to a wretched one; she's your nurse, in case you believe she's your mother. I'm taking and inviting you back to greatest wealth, where you'll be placed into a splendid family, 560 from where your father will give you twenty Attic talents of dowry; that's definitely not the case here, where you'd earn your dowry yourself with your body, in a manner unworthy of yourself, in the Tuscan way."¹⁴
- PHAN Please, is the woman who picked her up a prostitute?
- LAM No, but she was; but I'll tell you what things are like. I was 565 already winning her over to my side with my persuasive speech; the old woman clasped her knees, crying and entreating her not to leave her: she gave me a solemn oath that she was her daughter, and that she'd given birth to her. "The girl you're looking for," she said, "I gave to a 570 friend of mine to bring up as her own daughter; and she's alive," she said. "Where is she?" I asked at once.
- PHAN Save me, gods, I implore you!

¹⁴ The Tuscans were believed to come from Lydia, where it was not considered shameful for a woman to acquire her dowry through prostitution (Herodotus I. 93). The shopping district *Vicus Tuscus* in Rome had a bad reputation.

PLAUTUS

- MEL at me perditis.
- PHAN quoi illam dedisset exquisisse oportuit.
- 575 LAM quaesiui, et dixit meretrici Melaenidi.
- MEL meum elocutust nomen, interii <oppido>!
- LAM ubi elocuta est, ego continuo [anum] interrogo;
 "ubi habitat?" inquam, "duce ac demonstra mihi."
 "auecta est," inquit, "peregre hinc habitatum."
- MEL obsipat
- 580 aquolam.
- LAM "quo auecta est, eo sequemur. sicine
 agis nugas? periisti hercle, ni <mi dixeris
 ubi habitet nunc." non hercle > hoc longe destiti
 instare usque adeo donec se adiurat anus
 iam mihi monstrare.
- PHAN at non missam oportuit.
- 585 LAM seruatur. sed illaec se quandam aibat mulierem
 suam beneuolentem conuenire etiam prius,
 commune quacum id esset sibi negotium.
 et scio uenturam.
- MEL me indicabit, et suas
- 589-
90 ad meas miseras †alias faciem consciam. †
- PHAN quid nunc uis facere me?
- LAM intro abi atque animo bono es.
 uir tuos si ueniet, iube domi opperirier,
 ne <in> quaestione mihi sit, si quid eum uelim.
 ego ad anum recurro rursus.
- PHAN Lampadio, opsecro,
- 595 cura.
- LAM perfectum ego hoc dabo negotium.
- PHAN deos teque spero.
- LAM eosdem ego . . . uti abeas domum.

CISTELLARIA

- MEL (*aside*) Yet you're ruining me.
- PHAN You ought to have inquired who she'd given her to.
- LAM I did inquire and she said to the prostitute Melaenis. 575
- MEL (*aside*) He's let out my name, I'm completely ruined!
- LAM When she'd spoken, I questioned her at once; "Where does she live?" I said. "Take me there and show me." "She's gone away," she said, "to live abroad."
- MEL (*reviving, aside*) She's sprinkling a little water onto me. 580
- LAM "We'll follow her wherever she went. Are you trying to fool me like this? You're dead unless you tell me where she lives now." I didn't stop insisting on this until the old woman swore that she'd show her to me right away.
- PHAN But you shouldn't have let her go.
- LAM She's being watched. But she said she was already going 585 to meet a certain woman, a friend of hers, who was also affected by this business. And I know she'll come.
- MEL (*aside*) She'll tell on me and †***† her wretchedness to 590 mine.
- PHAN What do you want me to do now?
- LAM Go inside and take heart. If your husband comes, tell him to wait at home, so that I don't have to look for him if I want him for anything. I'm rushing back to the old woman.
- PHAN Lampadio, please take care of it. 595
- LAM I'll sort this business out properly.
- PHAN I put my hope in the gods and you.
- LAM I also put mine in them . . . that you'll go home.

576 oppido *add. Pylades*577 anum *del. Acidalius*581-82 mi dixeris ubi habitat nunc. non hercle *add. Schoell*589-90 *alii alio modo uersum sanare uolunt*593 in *add. Camerarius*

PLAUTUS

- MEL adulescens, asta atque audi.
 LAM men, mulier, uocas?
 MEL te.
 LAM quid negoti est? nam occupatus sum ampliter.
 MEL quis istic habitat?
 LAM Demipho, dominus meus.
 600 MEL nempe istic est qui Alcesimarcho filiam
 suam despondit in diuitias maxumas?
 LAM is ipsust.
 MEL eho tu, quam uos igitur filiam
 nunc quaeritatis alteram?
 LAM ego dicam tibi:
 non ex uxore natam uxoris filiam.
 605 MEL quid istuc est uerbi?
 LAM ex priore muliere
 nata, inquam, meo ero est filia.
 MEL certe modo
 huius, quae locuta est, quaerere aibas filiam.
 LAM huius ergo quaero.
 MEL quo modo igitur, opsecro,
 haec est prior quae nupta nunc est?
 LAM conteris
 610 tu tua me oratione, mulier, quisquis es.
 medioxumam quam duxit uxorem, ex ea
 nata est haec uirgo Alcesimarcho quae datur.
 ea uxor diem obiit. iam scis?
 MEL teneo istuc satis.
 615 sed ego illud quaero confragosum, quo modo
 prior posterior sit et posterior sit prior.
 LAM prius hanc compressit quam uxorem duxit domum,
 prius grauida facta est priusque peperit filiam;
 eam postquam peperit, iussit paruam proici:

CISTELLARIA

Exit PHANOSTRATA into Demipho's house.

- MEL (*coming forward*) Young man, stop and listen.
- LAM Are you calling me, woman?
- MEL Yes.
- LAM What's the matter? I'm very busy.
- MEL Who lives there? (*points to Demipho's house*)
- LAM Demipho, my master.
- MEL Do you mean the one who promised to give his daughter 600
to Alcesimarchus in marriage, into great wealth?
- LAM That's the one.
- MEL Hey there, then what other daughter are you looking for
now?
- LAM I'll tell you: his wife's daughter, who wasn't born from his
wife.
- MEL What sort of statement is that? 605
- LAM My master's daughter, I'm telling you, was born from an
earlier woman.
- MEL Just now you certainly said you were looking for the
daughter of the woman who spoke.
- LAM Yes, that's the one whose daughter I'm looking for.
- MEL Then how is she an earlier woman, please? She's married
to him now.
- LAM You're wearing me out with your talk, woman, whoever 610
you are. The girl who is being given to Alcesimarchus was
born from the woman he married in between. This wife
passed away. Do you understand it now?
- MEL I've understood it well enough. But I'm asking you about
that difficult point, how the earlier one is the later one 615
and the later one is the earlier one.
- LAM Before he married her, he raped her, she got pregnant,
and she gave birth to a daughter. After she gave birth
to her, she ordered the little one to be abandoned; I was

PLAUTUS

- ego eam proieci. alia mulier sustulit.
 620 ego inspectaui. erus hanc duxit postibi.
 eam nunc puellam filiam eius quaerimus.
 quid nunc supina sursum caelum conspicias?
 MEL i nunciam istuc quo properabas, nil moror.
 nunc intellexi.
 LAM dis hercle habeo gratiam,
 625 nam ni intellexes, numquam, credo, amitteres.
 MEL nunc mihi bonae necessust esse ingratiis,
 quamquam esse nolo. rem palam esse intellego:
 nunc egomet potius hanc inibo gratiam
 ab illis quam illaec me indicet. ibo domum,
 630 atque ad parentes redducam Selenium.

ACTVS III

III. i: MELAENIS. SELENIVM

- MEL rem elocuta sum tibi omnem; sequere hac me, Selenium,
 ut eorum quoniam esse oportet te sis potius quam mea.
 quamquam inuita te carebo, animum ego inducam ta-
 men
 ut illud <quod minus meam> quam tuam in rem bene
 conducat consulam.
 635 nam hic crepundia insunt, quibuscum te illa olim ad me
 detulit,
 quae mihi dedit, parentes te ut cognoscant facilius.
 accipe hanc cistellam, Halisca. agedum pulta illas fores.
 dic me orare ut aliquis intus prodeat properere ocius.

619 alia *P*, aliena *Schoell*

631 sequerem mea *B*¹, sequere me mea *B*³*JE*³, sequere hac me
Seyffert

634 quod minus meam *add. Seyffert*

CISTELLARIA

the one who did so. Another woman picked her up. I observed it. My master married this woman afterward. We're now looking for this girl, her daughter. Why are you looking up to heaven now, bent backward? 620

MEL Now do go where you were in such a hurry to get to, I'm not delaying you. Now I've understood.

LAM Thank heavens! If you hadn't understood, you'd never have let me go, I believe. 625

Exit LAMPADIO to the right.

MEL Now I need to be good against my wishes, even though I don't want to. I understand that the matter's out: now I'd rather get the thanks for this from them than have her tell on me. I'll go home and restore Selenium to her parents. 630

Exit MELAENIS into her house.

ACT THREE

Enter MELAENIS from her house, carrying a casket, followed by SELENIUM and HALISCA. They walk toward Demipho's house.

MEL I've told you the whole story; follow me this way, Selenium, so that you may belong to those who you should belong to rather than to me. Although I'm reluctant to be separated from you, I'll bring myself to look after your interests rather than my own: in here is the rattle with which the woman who gave you to me brought you to me, so that your parents might recognize you more easily. Take this casket, Halisca. (*hands it over*) Go on, knock at that door. Say that I'm asking for someone to come out quickly and promptly. 635

PLAUTUS

III. ii: ALCESIMARCHVS. SELENIVM. MELAENIS

- 639-
40 ALC recipe me ad te, Mors, amicum et beneuolum.
SEL mater mea,
periimus miserae.
ALC utrum hac me feriam an ab laeua latus?
MEL quid tibi est?
SEL Alcesimarchum non uides? ferrum tenet.
ALC ecquid agis? remorare. lumen linque.
SEL amabo, accurrite,
ne se interemat.
ALC o Salute mea salus salubrior,
645 tu nunc, si ego uolo seu nolo, sola me ut uiuam facis.
MEL hau uoluisti istuc seuerum facere.
ALC nil mecum tibi,
mortuos tibi sum: hanc ut habeo certum est non amit-
tere;
nam hercle iam ad me agglutinandam totam decretum
est dare.
ubi estis, serui? ocludite aedis pessulis, repagulis
650 ilico. hanc ego tetulero intra limen.
MEL abiit, apstulit
mulierem. ibo, persequar iam illum intro, ut haec ex me
sciat
eadem, si possum tranquillum facere ex irato mihi.

650 ibo P, ilico *Ussing*

CISTELLARIA

Enter ALCESIMARCHUS from his house, carrying a sword and not noticing anyone.

ALC Receive me unto thee, o Death, your friend and well-wisher. 640

SEL My dear mother, we're dead, poor us.

ALC Should I strike my side here or on the left?

MEL (*to Selenium*) What's wrong with you?

SEL Can't you see Alcesimarchus? He's holding a sword.

ALC Won't you do something? You're delaying. Leave the light.

SEL (*to Melaenis and Halisca*) Please, come to my aid, so that he doesn't kill himself!

All three women rush toward him; Halisca drops the casket in the process.

ALC (*spotting Selenium and grabbing her*) O my salvation, more saving than Salvation herself! You alone now make me stay alive, whether I want to or not. 645

MEL You didn't mean to do that harsh deed.

ALC I have nothing to do with you, to you I'm dead. Now that I have this girl, I'm resolved not to let go of her: it's my decision to glue her entirely onto me. (*into the house*) Where are you, slaves? Lock the house with bolts and door-bars at once. I'll carry this girl inside the threshold. 650

Exeunt ALCESIMARCHUS and SELENIUM into his house.

MEL He's left, he's taken the woman away. I'll go, I'll follow him in right now, so that he may learn the same things from me; maybe I can turn him from angry to calm.

Exeunt MELAENIS and HALISCA into the house of Alcesimarchus.

PLAUTUS

ACTVS IV

IV. i: LAMPADIO. PHANOSTRATA

- LAM nullam ego me uidisse credo magis anum excruciablem
quam illaec est: quae dudum fassa est mihi, quae in-
fitias eat?
- 655 sêd eccam eram uideo. sed quid hoc est, haec quod cis-
tella hic iacet
cum crepundiis? nec quemquam conspikor alium in uia.
faciundum est puerile officium: conquiniscam ad cistu-
lam.
- PHAN quid agis, Lampadio?
- LAM haec cistella numnam hinc ab nobis domo est?
nam hinc ab ostio iacentem sustuli.
- PHAN quid nuntias
- 660 super anu?
- LAM scelestiorem in terra nullam esse alteram;
omnia infitari eam, quae dudum confessa est mihi!
nam hercle ego <quam> illam >illam anum irridere me ut sinam,
satiust mihi
quouis exitio interire.
- PHAN di, opsecro uostram fidem!
- LAM quid deos opsecras?
- PHAN seruate nos.
- LAM quid est?
- PHAN crepundia
- 665 haec sunt, quibuscum tu extulisti nostram filiolum ad ne-
cem.
- LAM sanane es?

661 infitari ea *BVE*, infitari *JK*, infitari eam *Pontanus*

662 quam *add. Seyffert*

CISTELLARIA

ACT FOUR

Enter LAMPADIO from the right.

LAM I don't think I've seen an old woman deserving torture more than that one does: is she denying what she confessed to me a moment ago?

655

Enter PHANOSTRATA into her doorway.

But look, I can see my mistress. But what's this? This casket is lying here with a rattle. And I can't see anyone else in the street. Now I have to do a boy's part: I'll bend over and pick up the casket. (*does so*)

PHAN How are things, Lampadio?

LAM This casket isn't from here, from our home, is it? I picked it up from here, by the door, where it lay.

PHAN What news have you about the old woman?

660

LAM That there isn't any more crooked creature on earth; she denies everything she confessed to me a while ago! It's better for me to die any kind of death than to let that old woman poke fun at me.

PHAN (*looking at the casket*) Gods, I implore your protection!

LAM Why are you imploring the gods?

PHAN Save us!

LAM What's the matter?

PHAN (*taking the casket*) This is the rattle with which you exposed our little daughter to let her die.

665

LAM Are you in your right mind?

PLAUTUS

PHAN haec sunt profecto.

LAM pergin?

PHAN haec sunt.

LAM si mihi

alia mulier istoc pacto dicat, dicam esse ebriam.

PHAN non ecastor falsa memoro.

LAM nam, opsecro, unde haec gentium?

670 aut quis deus obiecit hanc ante ostium nostrum, quasi
dedita opera, in tempore ipso?

PHAN Spes mihi sancta subueni.

IV. ii: HALISCA. LAMPADIO. PHANOSTRATA

HAL nisi quid mi opis di dant, desperii, neque unde auxilium
expetam habeo.

itaque <et> petulantia mea me animi miseram habet <et
nequitia angit>.

quae in tergum meum ne ueniant male formido,
si era mea <me> sciat tam socordem esse quam sum.

675 quamne in manibus tenui atque accepi hic ante aedis
cistellam, ubi ea sit nescio, nisi ut opinor
loca haec circiter mi excidit.

mei homines, mei spectatores, facite indicium, si quis ui-
dit,

quis eam apstulerit quisu' sustulerit et utrum hac an illac
iter institerit.

680 non sum scitior quae hos rogem aut quae fatigem,
qui semper malo muliebri sunt lubentes.
nunc uestigia hic si qua sunt noscitabo.

685 nam si nemo hac praeter iit, postquam intro abii,
cistella hic iaceret. quid hic? perii, opinor,
actum est, ilicet me infelicem et scelestam!

672 et et et nequitia angit *add. Schoell*

674 me *add. Leo*

CISTELLARIA

PHAN This really is the one.

LAM Are you going to carry on?

PHAN This is the one.

LAM If any other woman were to speak to me like this, I'd say she's drunk.

PHAN Honestly, I'm not telling lies.

LAM Where on earth does it come from, please? Or what god threw it in front of our door, as if on purpose, right in the nick of time? 670

PHAN Holy Hope, come to my help!

Enter HALISCA from the house of Alcesimarchus, without noticing anyone.

HAL Unless the gods give me their help, I'm dead, and I don't have anyone to seek help from: my own heedlessness makes me wretched in my heart and my uselessness distresses me. I'm terribly afraid that this might have consequences for my back, if my mistress finds out that I'm as careless as I am. I don't know where the casket is which I held in my hands and received here in front of the house, but I believe it got lost around this area. *(to the audience)* My dear people, my dear spectators, if anyone has seen it, disclose to me who picked it up or who took it away and whether he went this way or that. *(to herself again)* I'm none the wiser for asking or pestering these people, who always take pleasure in the misfortune of women. Now I'll find out if there are any footprints here. Well, if nobody had passed this way after I went in, the casket would still lie here. What's here? I'm ruined, I think, it's over, it's 680 685

PLAUTUS

- nulla est, neque ego sum usquam. perdita perdidit me.
 sed pergam ut coepi tamen, quaeritabo.
 688 nam et intus paueo et foris formido,
 688^a ita nunc utrobique metus me agitat,
 689 ita sunt homines misere miseri.
 690 ille nunc laetus est, quisquis est, qui illam habet,
 quae neque illa illi quicquam usui et mi [esse] potest:
 sed memet moror quom hoc ago setius.
 Halisca, hoc age, ad terram aspice et despice,
 oculis inuestiges, astute augura.
 695 LAM era.
 PHAN hem! [LAM est. PHAN] quid est?
 LAM haec est.
 PHAN quis <est>?
 LAM quoi haec excidit cistella.
 PHAN certe eccam; locum signat, ubi ea excidit: apparet.
 HAL sed is hac iit, hac socci uideo
 uestigium in puluere, persequar hac.
 699 in hoc iam loco cum altero constitit. hic
 699^a meis turba oculis modo se obiecit:
 700 nec prorsum iit hac: hic stetit, hinc il-
 700^a lo exiit. hic concilium fuit.
 701 ad duos attinet, liquidum est. attat!
 701^a singulum uestigium uideo.
 702 sed is hac abiit. contemplabor. hinc huc iit, hinc nusquam
 abiit.
 actam rem ago. quod periit, periit: meum corium <cum>
 cistella.
 redeo intro.

691 esse *del. Seyffert*

695 [LAM est. PHAN] *del. Camerarius* quis <est> *Spengel*

CISTELLARIA

all up with me, unhappy and wretched me! It's nowhere, and I'm nowhere too. The girl who got lost has made me get lost. But still, I'll continue as I began, I'll search. Yes, inside I'm afraid and outside I'm scared, seeing how fear is driving me mad on both sides and seeing how terribly wretched human beings are. That man who has it is happy now, whoever he is, though it can't be of any use to him and it can be to me. But I'm delaying myself because I'm doing this so slowly. Halisca, pay attention, look at the ground and look down, examine the street with your eyes, practice augury cleverly. (*stoops down*) 690

LAM Mistress. 695

PHAN Yes, what is it?

LAM This is her.

PHAN Who is it?

LAM The one who dropped the casket.

PHAN Look at her, it certainly is! She's marking the place where she dropped it: it's obvious.

HAL (*examining the ground*) But he went this way, along here I can see the mark of a shoe in the dust; I'll follow this way. In this place now he stopped with another person. Here my eyes met with a fracas a moment ago. He didn't continue on this way: he stood here, from here he went there. Here there was a gathering. It concerns two, that's obvious. Aha! I can see a single footprint. But he went away this way. I'll examine it. From here he went here, from here he never went away. (*pauses*) I'm doing something that's already done. What's gone is gone: my back along with the casket. I'm going back inside. (*goes toward the door of the house of Alcesimarchus*) 700

PLAUTUS

- PHAN mulier, <mane>, mane. sunt qui uolunt te conuentam.
- 705 HAL quis me reuocat?
- LAM bona femina et malus masculus uolunt te.
- HAL <bona femina et malus masculus uolunt me?> postremo
ille
plus qui uocat scit quod uelit quam ego quae uocor. re-
uortor.
ecquem uidisti quaerere hic, amabo, in hac regione
cistellam cum crepundiis, quam ego hic amisi misera?
710 nam dudum ut accucurrimus ad Alcesimarchum, ne se
uita interemeret, tum <eam mihi opi>nor excidisse.
- LAM cistellam haec mulier <perdidit. tace>amus, era, parum-
per.
- HAL disperii misera! quid ego [eae] erae dicam? quae me
opere tanto
seruare iussit, qui suos Selenium parentes
715 facilius posset noscere, quae erae [meae] supposita est
parua,
quam quaedam meretrix ei dedit.
- LAM nostram haec rem fabulatur,
hanc scire oportet filia tua ubi sit, signa ut dicit.
- HAL nunc eam uolt suae matri et patri, quibus nata est, red-
dere ultro.
mi homo, opsecro, alias res geris, ego tibi meas res man-
do.

704 mane *add. F. Skutsch*

706 bona . . . me *add. Lindsay*

708-22 *secl. Langen et Thierfelder*

711 <eam mihi opi>nor *Leo*

712 <perdidit. tace>amus *Leo*

713 eae *del. Guyet* 715 meae *del. Bothe*

CISTELLARIA

PHAN Wait, wait, my woman. There are people who want to meet you.

HAL Who is calling me back? 705

LAM A good woman and a bad man want to speak to you.

HAL (*aside*) A good woman and a bad man want to speak to me? Well, after all, the man who is calling me knows better what he wants than I who am being called. I'm returning. (*to Lampadio*) Did you see anyone looking for a casket with a rattle here, in this area, please? Poor me, I lost it here. I believe I dropped it a short while ago, when we were running toward Alcesimarchus to stop him committing suicide. 710

LAM (*to Phanostrata*) This woman's the one who lost the casket. Let's be quiet for a bit, my mistress.

HAL (*still to Lampadio*) Dear me, I'm ruined! What should I say to my mistress? She told me so strictly to watch over it so that Selenium could recognize her parents more easily with it, the girl who was introduced into my mistress's family when she was little, whom a certain prostitute gave her. 715

LAM (*to Phanostrata*) She's talking about our business, she ought to know where your daughter is, judging from the indications she's giving.

HAL (*still to Lampadio*) Now she wants to take the initiative in returning her to her mother and father, to whom she was born. My good man, please, you aren't paying attention, I'm entrusting you with my affairs.

PLAUTUS

- 720 LAM istuc ago, atque istic mihi cibus est, quod fabulare,
sed inter rem agendam istam erae huic respondi quod ro-
gabat.
nunc ad te redeo: si quid est opus, dice et impera tu.
quid quaeritabas?
- HAL mi homo et mea mulier, uos saluto.
PHAN et nos te. sed quid quaeritas?
- 725 HAL uestigium hic requiro,
qua aufugit quaedam <ac pluribus m>aestit<iam dat.>
LAM quid id? quidnam est?
HAL alienum <concinnat malum> et maerorem familiarem.
LAM mala merx, era, haec et callida est.
PHAN ecastor ita uidetur.
LAM imitatur nequam bestiam et damnificam.
PHAN quamnam, amabo?
- 730 LAM inuoluolum, quae in pampini folio intorta implicat se:
itidem haec exorditur sibi intortam orationem.
quid quaeritas?
- HAL cistellula hinc mi, adulescens, euolauit.
LAM in cauea latam oportuit.
HAL non edepol praeda magna.
LAM mirum quin grex uenalium in cistella infuerit una.
PHAN sine dicat.
LAM si dicat quidem.
PHAN age loquere [tu] quid ibi infuerit
- 735 HAL crepundia una.
LAM est quidam homo qui illam ait se scire ubi sit.

721 rem agendam istam *P*, rem istam agendam *Gulielmius*

725 <ac pluribus m>aestit<iam dat> *Leo*

726 concinnat malum *add. Schoell*

728 quin nam *BVJ*, quid nam *E*, quamnam *Camerarius*

732 caueam *P*, cauea *Pylades* 734 tu *del. Leo*

CISTELLARIA

- LAM (*finally turning to Halisca*) I am paying attention to your affairs, and what you say is meat and drink to me, but while sorting out your business I replied to a question of my mistress here. Now I'm returning to you; if you need anything, tell me and command me. What were you looking for? 720
- HAL My dear man and my dear woman, my greetings to you.
- PHAN And ours to you. But what are you looking for?
- HAL I'm trying to find a footprint here, where something's disappeared and is creating sadness for many. 725
- LAM What's that? What on earth is it?
- HAL It'll bring trouble to others and sadness to our household.
- LAM My mistress, this woman's a bad piece of work and a sly one.
- PHAN Yes, that's what she seems like.
- LAM She's imitating a wicked animal that causes loss.
- PHAN Which one, please?
- LAM The caterpillar, the animal which twists around and rolls itself up in a vine leaf; in the same way this woman is beginning a twisted speech. (*to Halisca*) What are you looking for? 730
- HAL A casket flew away from me from here, young man.
- LAM It should have been carried in a cage.
- HAL There was no great booty in it.
- LAM It would be odd if there wasn't a whole group of slaves in that one casket.
- PHAN Let her speak.
- LAM If only she would!
- PHAN (*to Halisca*) Come on, say what was inside.
- HAL Only a rattle. 735
- LAM There's a certain man who says he knows where the casket is.

PLAUTUS

- HAL at pol ille a quadam muliere, si eam monstret, gratiam
ineat.
- LAM at sibi ille quidam uolt dari mercedem.
- HAL at pol illa quaedam,
quae illam cistellam perdidit, quoidam negat esse quod
det.
- LAM at enim ille quidam o<peram bonam magis> expetit
quam argentum.
- 740 HAL at pol illi quoidam mulieri nulla opera gratuita est.
PHAN commodule quaedam. tu tibi nunc prodes. confitemur
cistellam habere.
- HAL at uos Salus seruassit! ubi ea nunc est?
PHAN saluam eccam. sed ego rem meam magnam confabulari
tecum uolo: sociam te mihi adopto ad meam salutem.
- 745 HAL quid istuc negoti est? aut quis es?
PHAN ego sum illius mater,
quae haec gestitauit.
- HAL hicine tu ergo habitas?
PHAN hariolare.
sed quaeso, ambages, mulier, mitte atque hoc age.
eloquere, unde haec sunt tibi, cito, crepundia.
- HAL mea haec erilis gestitauit filia.
- 750 LAM mentiris, nam mea gestitauit, non tua.
PHAN ne obloquere.
- LAM taceo.
- PHAN mulier, perge dicere.
ubi ea est quae gestitauit?
- HAL hic in proxumo.
- 753 PHAN istic quidem edepol mei uiri habitat gener.

739 o<peram bonam magis> *Seyffert*

741 comodo loquel(l)am *BVEK*, commoda loquelam *J*, commo-
dule quaedam *Leo* (*cf. Rud. 468*) tua(m) *P*, tu *Ussing*

CISTELLARIA

- HAL But if he were to show it, he'd receive thanks from a certain woman.
- LAM But that certain man wants to be given a reward.
- HAL But that certain woman who lost that casket says she doesn't have anything to give to the certain man.
- LAM But that certain man is looking for a favor rather than money.
- HAL But with that certain woman no favor goes without a reward. 740
- PHAN Nice of that certain woman! You're doing yourself a good turn now. We admit that we have the casket.
- HAL May Salvation keep you both safe! Where is it now?
- PHAN (*producing it*) It's safe, look. But I want to talk with you about a matter of the utmost importance to me. I take you as my partner in securing my salvation.
- HAL What business is that? Or who are you? 745
- PHAN I'm the mother of the girl who used to wear this.
- HAL So do you live here? (*points to Demipho's house*)
- PHAN You're prophesying. But please, woman, stop beating about the bush and pay attention. Tell me quickly where you got this rattle from.
- HAL The daughter of my mistress used to wear it.
- LAM You're lying: the daughter of *my* mistress, not of yours, 750 used to wear it.
- PHAN Stop interrupting.
- LAM I'm silent.
- PHAN My good woman, continue speaking. Where's the girl who used to carry it?
- HAL Here next door. (*points to the house of Alcesimarchus*)
- PHAN My husband's future son-in-law lives there.

PLAUTUS

- 753^a ***
- 754 PHAN ne obloquere rursus. perge porro dicere.
755 quot annos nata dicitur?
- HAL septemdecim.
- PHAN mea est.
- LAM ea est: u<t numer>us annorum attulit.
- HAL quid? qua<esti partem dimidiam> quaero meam.
- LAM at po<l ego, quom duo as>sunt, quaero tertiam.
- PHAN quod quaeritabam, filiam inueni meam.
- 760 HAL aequom est <reponi> per fidem quod creditum est,
ne bene merenti sit malo benignitas.
nostra haec alumna est, tua profecto filia:
era redditura est tuam tibi, et ea gratia
domo profecta est. ceterum ex ipsa, opsecro,
765 exquaeritote: ego serua sum.
- PHAN aequom postulas.
- HAL illius ego istanc esse malo gratiam.
sed istanc cistellam te opsecro ut reddas mihi.
- PHAN quid fit, Lampadio?
- LAM quod tuom est teneas tuom.
- PHAN at me huius miseret.
- LAM sic faciundum censeo:
- 770 da isti cistellam et intro abi cum istac simul.
- PHAN tibi auscultabo. tene tu cistellam tibi,
abeamus intro. sed quid <est> nomen tuae
dominae?
- HAL Melaenis.
- PHAN i prae, iam ego te sequar.

753^a lacunam indicauit Lambinus 754 ne obloquere rursus
Lampadioni dant B¹JKE³, Phanostratae dat Palmerius

756 u<t numer>us Camerarius 757 qua<esti partem dimi-
diam> Schoell 758 po<l ego, quom duo as>sunt Ussing

CISTELLARIA

- PHAN (*to Lampadio*) Stop interrupting again. (*to Halisca*)
 Speak on. How old do they say she is? 755
- HAL Seventeen.
- PHAN She's mine.
- LAM It's her, to judge from the number of years.
- HAL Well then? I'm looking for my half of the reward.
- LAM But I, since we're three, am looking for a third.
- PHAN I've found what I'd been looking for: my daughter.
- HAL It's only fair that what's been entrusted in good faith 760
 should be returned, so that a woman doing you a good
 turn doesn't get a bad one in return. She's our foster child
 and indeed your daughter. My mistress is going to return
 your girl to you, and she's set out from home for that very
 reason. Please ask her the rest in person: I'm just a slave. 765
- PHAN Fair enough.
- HAL I'd rather *she* gets the credit for this. But I ask you to re-
 turn that casket to me.
- PHAN What to do, Lampadio?
- LAM Keep as yours what belongs to you.
- PHAN But I'm sorry for her.
- LAM This is what I think ought to be done: give her the casket 770
 and go inside along with her.
- PHAN I'll follow your advice. (*to Halisca*) You, take the casket.
 Let's go inside. But what's the name of your mistress?
- HAL Melaenis.
- PHAN Go in front, I'll follow you at once.

*Exeunt HALISCA and PHANOSTRATA into the house of
 Alcesimarchus; LAMPADIO waits outside.*

760 reponi *add. Leo*
Trappes-Lomax per litteras

763 et redditura *P*, era redditura
 772 est *add. Bothe*

PLAUTUS

ACTVS V

V. i: DEMIPHO. LAMPADIO

- DEM quid hoc negoti est, quod omnes homines fabulantur per
uias
- 775 mi esse filiam inuentam? et Lampadionem me in foro
quaesiuisse aiunt.
- LAM ere, unde is?
- DEM ex senatu.
- LAM gaudeo
tibi mea opera liberorum esse amplius.
- DEM enim non placet
nil moror aliena mi opera fieri pluris liberos.
sed quid istuc est?
- LAM propra ire intro huc ad affinem tuom,
780 filiam tuam iam cognosces intus. ibidem uxor tua est.
abi cito.
- DEM praeuorti hoc certum est rebus aliis omnibus.

V. ii: GREX

- GREX ne exspectetis, spectatores, dum illi huc ad uos exeant:
nemo exhibit, omnes intus conficient negotium.
ubi id erit factum, ornamenta ponent; postidea loci
785 qui deliquit uapulabit, qui non deliquit bibet.
nunc quod ad uos, spectatores, relicuom relinquitur,
more maiorum date plausum postrema in comoedia.

CISTELLARIA

ACT FIVE

Enter DEMIPHO from the right.

DEM What's this business that everybody's talking about in every street that my daughter has been found? And they say Lampadio has been looking for me in the forum. 775

LAM Master, where are you coming from?

DEM From the senate.

LAM I'm happy that you now have more children through my efforts.

DEM I don't like it. I don't care for getting more children through another's efforts. But what is it?

LAM Quickly go in here to your relative by marriage. (*points to the house of Alcesimarchus*) You'll recognize your daughter inside at once. Your wife's also there. Off with you, quickly! 780

DEM I'm resolved to sort this out before anything else.

Exeunt DEMIPHO and LAMPADIO into the house of Alcesimarchus.

Enter the whole TROUPE.

TROUPE In case you're waiting, spectators, for those people to come out here to you, no one will come out, they'll all sort out their business inside. When this is done, they'll put away their costumes. Then anyone who made a mistake will get a beating and anyone who made no mistake will get a drink. Now what remains for you, spectators, is this: following the custom of your forefathers give us your applause at the end of the comedy. 785

PLAUTUS

FRAGMENTA INCERTAE SEDIS

- xiv malum aufer, bonum mi opus est.
xv summatim
xvi benigniter

FRAGMENTA DVBBIA

- xvii scrattae, scrupipedae, strittabillae, sordidae
xviii cistellam mi offers cum crepundiis.

CISTELLARIA

Fragments xiv–xvi belong to our comedy, but are difficult to locate precisely.¹⁵ It is unclear whether fr. xvii and xviii belong to our play as well.¹⁶ If they do, fr. xvii must come from Lampadio's monologue in which he reports what types of prostitutes he saw during his search for Gymnasium's mother. The meaning of fr. xviii would make it go well with the later parts of the play where the casket and rattle make their appearance, but here the text is complete again and the line does not seem to fit in anywhere.

Take away the bad one, I need a good one.	xiv
summarily	xv
benevolently	xvi
wretched, bony, tottering, dirty women	xvii
You're bringing me a casket with a rattle.	xviii

¹⁵ Fr. xiv: Non. p. 773 Lindsay, *mihi opus est* "I need" can take the accusative instead of the ablative. Fr. xv: Gloss. *Plaut. gramm.* iii. 58. 4, Plautus uses the word *summatim*. Fr. xvi: Gloss. *Plaut. gramm.* iii. 58. 5, Plautus uses the word *benigniter*.

¹⁶ Fr. xvii: quoted by Varro *ling.* 7. 65 as being "in the same place," which could refer to the *Cistellaria*; but Gell. 3. 3. 6 assigns the verse to the *Neruolaria*. Fr. xviii: Fulg. *serm. ant.* 124. 9–11 Helm glosses *cistella* as *capsella* "little container," but says about the provenance of the line only that it comes from Plautus.

SINGHUA (1)

CURCULIO

1850, 172.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The *Curculio* is easily overlooked: with its little more than seven hundred lines, it is Plautus' shortest comedy, and with its array of stock characters and stock scenes, it appears entirely unremarkable at first sight. Phaedromus is the ordinary love-sick young man; Planesium is the chaste girl who is enslaved; Cappadox is an evil pimp; and Therapontigonus Platagidorus is the standard boastful soldier. The eponymous hero of the play, Curculio ("Weevil"), is a typical hanger-on, clever and always hungry. Many motifs of the comedy can also hardly be described as out of the ordinary: there is a running-slave scene in ll. 280-98 (although strictly speaking the runner, Curculio, is not a slave) and a recognition scene in ll. 635-58, in which Planesium turns out to be freeborn and the sister of Therapontigonus. Nevertheless, the *Curculio* is not a boring play. There are certain innovations; for instance, the motif of the *paraclausithyron*, the song in front of the door of one's beloved, makes its first appearance in Latin literature here (ll. 147-55). More important, because the play is so short, it is unusually fast-paced, and this speed is only possible because of its particularly neat and clear plot construction. That does not mean that there are no inconsistencies or oddities at all; I shall look at some below,

because they seem to show us how Plautus adapted and shortened his Greek original.

The play begins at night. Phaedromus, accompanied by his witty slave Palinurus, goes to the house of the pimp Cappadox to meet his beloved Planesium behind the pimp's back. Cappadox himself is not around: he usually sleeps in the temple of Aesculapius, the god of healing, as he suffers from a liver disease and hopes to be cured by divine intervention. Phaedromus tells Palinurus that Planesium does not yet work as a prostitute and that he cannot afford to buy her. For this reason he sent his hanger-on, Curculio, to Caria, where he is supposed to borrow money from a friend of Phaedromus.

Incidentally, this Caria can hardly be the region Caria, which is in what is now Turkey; our play is situated in Epidaurus, and the hanger-on is supposed to travel to Caria and back in four days (ll. 206-7). What is more, the Caria of our play is described as a town with a market (l. 336), and later in the play (l. 443) the real Carians are mentioned among distant peoples. Perhaps the Plautine city Caria is Calauria on the Peloponnesus.

When Phaedromus arrives at the pimp's door, he sprinkles some wine in front of it. The doorkeeper, the old woman Leaena, who is always keen on drink, smells it and comes out quickly. In exchange for a jug of wine she brings out Planesium. The ensuing conversation between Phaedromus and his girl would be romantic were it not for the constant interruptions by Palinurus, who in this respect resembles Sosia in the *Amphitruo* or the hanger-on Peniculus in the *Menaechmi*.

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Planesium has to leave at daybreak, which is when the pimp returns. On his way back he meets Palinurus and then a cook working for Phaedromus. The cook interprets the pimp's dream, which indicates that Aesculapius does not want to heal him. At this point Curculio returns and tells Phaedromus that his friend did not have any money to spare. However, his news is not entirely negative. He met a soldier, Therapontigonus Platagidorus, and dined with him. It transpired that the soldier has an agreement with Cappadox and the banker Lyco. He deposited money at the banker's and this sum is meant to be given to Cappadox in exchange for Planesium. Curculio managed to steal the soldier's signet ring. Now he has Phaedromus write a letter to the banker and seal it with that ring.

Curculio then goes to the banker in disguise and claims to be the soldier's freedman Summanus. He convinces him partly through his behavior and partly through the seal on the letter. The banker takes Curculio to Cappadox, where the pimp receives his money and Curculio gets the girl.

The soldier arrives not much later and goes to the banker to get the money for Planesium. Naturally, he gets very angry when the banker refuses to pay on the grounds that he has already given the money to his freedman Summanus. Next Therapontigonus goes to see Cappadox, who informs him that his freedman Summanus has taken the girl away. Only at this point does the soldier realize that it was Curculio who tricked him.

In the meantime, Curculio went to Phaedromus and handed over the girl. She saw the ring Curculio had stolen from the soldier and recognized it as her father's signet ring. She asked him for it because it could help her to find her family. Curculio, however, thought that she simply

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wanted to steal a beautiful ring and ran away with it. Phaedromus manages to catch Curculio. He says that the ring belongs to the soldier, who arrives at this very point. When he sees all three together, Phaedromus, Curculio, and Planesium, he demands the girl. Planesium asks him where he got his ring and he says it used to be worn by his father. Planesium and Therapontigonus realize that they are brother and sister, and the soldier promises to betroth his sister to Phaedromus. Therapontigonus has thus lost his love but regained his sister. In the end he also regains his money, since it is illegal to buy and sell freeborn girls; for this reason the pimp had guaranteed to return Therapontigonus' money to him should anyone claim the girl as freeborn. He does so, but very unwillingly. The ending of the play is thus happy in every respect: Phaedromus and Planesium can marry, Therapontigonus has found his sister, Curculio is promised free food for good, and the wicked pimp has received a fair punishment.

We know neither the author nor the title of the Greek play on which the *Curculio* was based, but it must have been longer, since the Plautine comedy exhibits clear signs of compression. First, it was standard practice in Greek New Comedy, a practice normally followed by Plautus as well, to state explicitly in a prologue which city the stage represents, unless that city is Athens. The *Curculio* takes place in Epidaurus, but we only learn this in l. 341. Either Plautus omitted the Greek prologue or, if he translated it, it was lost in the process of textual transmission. Similarly, it is not immediately obvious why Phaedromus is so anxious that he sends his hanger-on to get money from a friend. This behavior would be more in line with an emer-

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gency situation, and it seems likely there was such an emergency situation in the Greek original, where the soldier's arrival was presumably imminent and Phaedromus, well aware of having a rival, was forced to act quickly. Perhaps we can still see traces of the structure of the Greek original in the period of three days mentioned in l. 208 and the phrase "win with the highest bid" in l. 213; the former points to a deadline set by the pimp, who had probably promised Phaedromus not to sell the girl before it (see l. 458), and the latter implies a wealthy rival. When Plautus shortened the text he was working on, he obscured these plot elements. What is more, Plautus had no qualms about treating the encounter between Curculio and the soldier as friendly and intimate (ll. 338–50) without telling us why it should be thus; did the soldier and Curculio know each other from before? Again we get the feeling that something essential was lost when Plautus cut out what he deemed unimportant. However, despite such minor flaws, the play runs along smoothly and elegantly.

It is uncertain when the *Curculio* was first performed. The gold Philippics referred to in l. 440 do not occur in Greek New Comedy and hence cannot come from the original; they first became more widely known in Rome after Titus Quinctius Flaminius won the war against Macedonia in 194BC. The *rogitationes plurimas*, the "countless bills" against bankers mentioned to in ll. 509–11, could conceivably allude to a law presented to and accepted by the people by Marcus Sempronius Tuditanus in 193; this law stated that the same rules concerning moneylending should apply to Roman citizens and to the inhabitants of allied cities. The existence of other Plautine additions to

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the *Curculio* is more than doubtful. However, the amount of song in this play points in the same direction as the two allusions discussed: the later a play, the more song it contains, and since the *Curculio* seems to have an average amount, it probably belongs to the middle period of Plautus' work.

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CVRCVLIO

ARGVMENTVM

- Curculio missu Phaedromi it Cariam
Vt petat argentum. ibi eludit anulo
Riualem. scribit atque opsignat litteras.
Cognoscit signum Lyco, ubi uidit, militis.
5 Vt amicam mittat pretium lenoni dedit.
Lyonem miles ac lenonem in ius rapit.
Ipsus sororem, quam peribat, repperit,
Oratu quoius Phaedromo nuptum locat.

PERSONAE

PALINVRVS seruos
PHAEDROMVS adulescens
LEAENA anus
PLANESIVM uirgo
CAPPADOX leno
COQVOS
CVRCVLIO parasitus
LYCO tarpezita
CHORAGVS
THERAPONTIGONVS miles

CURCULIO

PLOT SUMMARY

At the behest of Phaedromus, Curculio goes to Caria in order to ask for money. There he tricks the rival of Phaedromus out of his ring. He has Phaedromus write and seal a letter. When Lyco sees the seal, he recognizes it as the soldier's. He gives the pimp 5 his payment so that he can send off the girlfriend. The soldier drags Lyco and the pimp to court. He finds out that the girl he was in love with is his sister. At her request he gives her in marriage to Phaedromus.

CHARACTERS

PALINURUS a slave; belongs to Phaedromus

PHAEDROMUS a young man; loves Planesium

LEAENA an old woman; works in the pimp's establishment

PLANESIUM a young girl; owned by the pimp, but chaste

CAPPADOX a pimp; very ill

COOK works for Phaedromus

CURCULIO a hanger-on; the main character of the play, got his nickname ("Weevil") because of his appetite

LYCO a banker; of disreputable character

SUPPLIER OF COSTUMES only makes a brief appearance, has no real role in the play

THERAPONTIGONUS a soldier; also loves Planesium

PLAUTUS

SCAENA

Epidauri

CURCULIO

STAGING

The stage represents a street in Epidaurus. In its middle is the sanctuary of Aesculapius. To its left there is the pimp's house, in front of which stands an altar for Venus. To the right of the sanctuary of Aesculapius we find the house of Phaedromus. On this side, the street leads to the market. On the other side, it leads out of the city.

ACTVS I

I. i: PALINVRVS. PHAEDROMVS

- PAL quo ted hoc noctis dicam proficisci foras
cum istoc ornatu cumque hac pompa, Phaedrome?
- PHAE quo Venus Cupidoque imperat, suadetque Amor:
si media nox est siue est prima uespera,
5 si status, conductus cum hoste intercedit dies,
tamen est eundum quo imperant ingratiis.
- PAL at tandem, tandem—
- PHAE tandem es odiosus mihi.
- PAL istuc quidem nec bellum est nec memorabile:
tute tibi puer es, lautus luces cereum.
- 10 PHAE egon apicularum opera congestum non feram
ex dulci oriundum melliculo dulci meo?
- PAL nam quo te dicam ego ire?
- PHAE si tu me roges,
dicam ut scias.
- PAL si rogitem, quid respondeas?
- PHAE hoc Aesculapi fanum est.
- PAL plus iam anno scio.
- 15 PHAE huic proximum illud ostium <est> oculissimum.
salue, ualuistin?

11 melliculo *P*, melculo *testari uidetur Gloss. I Ansil. ME 434 L. si huc attinet*

15 est *add. Pylades*

CURCULIO

ACT ONE

Enter PHAEDROMUS from his house, holding a candle, followed by some slaves, one with a jug of wine, and by PALINURUS.

PAL Where should I say you're going out to at this time of night, with that dress and with this accompaniment, Phaedromus?

PHAE Where Venus and Cupid command me, and Love urges me to go. If it's midnight or early evening, if a court date 5 firmly settled on with your adversary from outside comes in between, one still has to go where they command despite oneself.

PAL But see here, see here—

PHAE (*interrupting*) See here, you're getting on my nerves.

PAL That isn't a pretty sight or one to talk about: you're playing your own slave, and elegantly turned out you light your candle.

PHAE Shouldn't I bring to my sweet little honey the product of 10 the bees' industry coming from stores of sweet?

PAL Where on earth should I say you're going?

PHAE If you were to ask me, I'd tell you so you know.

PAL If I were to ask you, what would you reply?

PHAE This is the shrine of Aesculapius. (*points to it as they approach it*)

PAL I've known that for more than a year already.

PHAE Next to it is that door most dear. (*still at a distance from 15 the pimp's door*) Greetings, have you been well?

PLAUTUS

- PAL ostium occlusissimum,
caruitne febris te heri uel nudiuertius
et heri cenaustine?
- PHAE deridesne me?
- PAL quid tu ergo, insane, rogitas ualeatne ostium?
- 20 PHAE bellissimum hercle uidi et taciturnissimum,
numquam ullum uerbum mittit: quom aperitur tacet,
<et> quom illa noctu clanculum ad me exit tacet.
- PAL numquid tu quod te aut genere indignum sit tuo
facis aut inceptas facinus facere, Phaedrome?
- 25 num tu pudicae quoipiam insidias locas
aut quam pudicam esse oportet?
- PHAE nemini;
nec me ille sirit Iuppiter!
- PAL ego item uolo.
ita tuom conferto amare semper, si sapis,
ne id quod ames populus si sciat, tibi sit probro.
- 30 semper curato ne sis intestabilis.
- 32 PHAE quid istuc est uerbi?
- PAL caute ut incedas uia:
31 quod amas amato testibus praesentibus.
- 33 PHAE quin leno hic habitat.
- PAL nemo hinc prohibet nec uotat
35 quin quod palam est uenale, si argentum est, emas.
nemo ire quemquam publica prohibet uia;
dum ne per fundum saeptum facias semitam,
dum ted apstineas nupta, uidua, uirgine,
iuuentute et pueris liberis, ama quidlubet.

22 et *add. Lindsay in apparatu*

26 esse oportet *P, transp. Pylades*

31-32 *transp. Bothe*

CURCULIO

- PAL Door most shut, did the fever spare you yesterday or the day before¹ and did you have dinner yesterday?
- PHAE Are you mocking me?
- PAL Then why do you ask if the door is well, you idiot?
- PHAE It's the most charming and most silent door I've ever 20
seen, it never utters a single word: when it's opened it's
silent and when she comes out to me secretly at night it's
silent.
- PAL Are you doing anything that's unworthy of you or your
family, or are you beginning to do anything of this sort,
Phaedromus? Are you setting a trap for any chaste 25
woman, or one who ought to be chaste?
- PHAE Certainly not; Jupiter above forbid!
- PAL I wish so too. If you're smart, always handle your love in
such a way that if the people know the object of your love
it isn't a disgrace for you. Always make sure you can call 30
on someone to testify.
- PHAE What do you mean?
- PAL Tread carefully on your road: love what you love in the
presence of your testifiers.²
- PHAE Well, a pimp lives here.
- PAL Nobody stops or prevents you from buying from here
what's openly for sale, if you have the money. Nobody 35
forbids anyone to go on a public road. So long as you
don't take a path through a fenced property, so long as
you stay away from the married woman, the widow, the
virgin, the youth, and freeborn boys, love whatever you
like.

¹ The fever referred to is probably malaria, hence the intermissions.

² *Testis* can mean "witness" as well as "testicle." Adulterers could be castrated.

PLAUTUS

PHAE lenonis hae sunt aedes.

PAL male istis euenat!

40 PHAE qui?

PAL quia scelestam seruitutem seruiunt.

PHAE obloquere.

PAL fiat maxume.

PHAE etiam taces?

PAL nempe obloqui me iusseras.

PHAE at nunc uoto.

<sed> ita uti ocepi dicere: ei ancillula est.

PAL nempe huic lenoni qui hic habitat?

PHAE recte tenes.

45 PAL minus formidabo, ne excidat.

PHAE odiosus es.

eam uolt meretricem facere. ea me deperit,

ego autem cum illa facere nolo mutuom.

PAL quid ita?

PHAE quia proprium facio: amo pariter simul.

PAL malus clandestinus est amor, damnum est merum.

50 PHAE est hercle ita ut tu dicis.

PAL iamne ea fert iugum?

PHAE tam a me pudica est quasi soror mea sit, nisi

si est osculando quippiam impudicior.

PAL semper tu scito, flamma fumo est proxuma;

fumo comburi nil potest, flamma potest.

39 eueniat *P*, euenat *Muretus*

43 id uti *B*, induti *VE*, indutias *E*³, inducias *K*, . . . as *J*, sed ita uti *Reiz*

³ *Obloquere* can be an indicative, which is the meaning Phaedromus intends, but also an imperative, which is Palinurus' malevolent interpretation.

CURCULIO

PHAE This is the house of a pimp.

PAL Bad luck to it!

PHAE Why? 40

PAL Because it serves in scandalous slavery.

PHAE (*annoyed*) That's it, interrupt me.³

PAL Yes, by all means.

PHAE Won't you be quiet now?

PAL But you told me to interrupt you.

PHAE But now I forbid you. But as I was about to say: he has a slave girl.

PAL You mean the pimp who lives here?

PHAE You've got it.

PAL Then I'll be less afraid of losing it. 45

PHAE You're getting on my nerves. He wants to turn her into a prostitute. She is madly in love with me, but I don't want to return her love.⁴

PAL How is that?

PHAE Because I want to keep it for my very own: I love her just as much.

PAL A secret love affair is bad, it's pure loss.

PHAE Yes, it's just as you say. 50

PAL Does she already carry the yoke?

PHAE From me she's as chaste as if she were my sister, unless she's somewhat less chaste from kissing.

PAL Always keep this in mind: flame is the next thing to smoke. Nothing can be burned by smoke, but anything

⁴ Pun on the two meanings of *mutuom*: Phaedromus jokes that he does not want the girl's love "on loan," i.e. for a short time only, but Palinurus thinks he means he does not want to love her "mutually," which is a more natural interpretation of his master's words.

PLAUTUS

- 55 qui e nuce nuculeum esse uolt, frangit nucem:
 qui uolt cubare, pandit saltum sauuis.
 PHAE at illa est pudica necdum cubitat cum uiris.
 PAL credam, pudor si quoiquam lenoni siet.
 PHAE immo ut illam censes? ut quaeque illi occasio est
 60 surrupere se ad me, ubi sauium oppegit, fugit.
 id eo fit, quia hic leno, <hic qui> aegrotus incubat
 in Aesculapi fano, is me excruciat.
 PAL quid est?
 PHAE alias me poscit pro illa triginta minas,
 alias talentum magnum; nec quicquam queo
 65 aequi bonique ab eo impetrare.
 PAL iniuriu's
 qui quod lenoni nulli est id ab eo petas.
 PHAE nunc hinc parasitum in Cariam misi meum
 petitum argentum a meo sodali mutuom.
 quod si non affert, quo me uortam nescio.
 70 PAL si deos salutas, dextrouorsum censeo.
 PHAE nunc ara Veneris haec est ante horunc fores;
 me inferre Veneri uoui iaientaculum.
 PAL quid? <te> antepones Veneri iaientaculo?
 PHAE me, te atque hosce omnis.
 PAL tum tu Venerem uomere uis.
 75 PHAE cedo, puere, sinum.
 PAL quid facturu's?
 PHAE iam scies.
 anus hic solet cubare custos ianitrix,
 nomen Leaenae est, multibiba atque merobiba.

61 hic qui *add. Leo*

73 te *add. Müller*, an te pones *Pontanus*

CURCULIO

can be burned by flame. He who wants to eat the kernel 55
 from a nut breaks the nut. He who wants to sleep with a
 woman opens up her passage with kisses.

PHAE But she's chaste and doesn't sleep with men yet.

PAL I'd believe it if any pimp had chastity.

PHAE On the contrary; what do you think she's like? Whenever
 she has the opportunity, she comes over to me furtively, 60
 and when she's planted a kiss on me, she runs away. It
 happens like that because this pimp is torturing me, the
 sick man who sleeps in the sanctuary of Aesculapius.

PAL How so?

PHAE At one time he demands thirty minas for her from me, at
 another, an Attic talent, and I can't get anything decent or 65
 just out of him.

PAL It's unfair of you to demand from him what no pimp has.

PHAE Now I sent my hanger-on off to Caria to ask a friend of
 mine to lend me the money. If he doesn't bring it, I don't
 know where to turn to.

PAL If you're greeting the gods, I should think to the right. 70
(points to the altar of Venus)

PHAE Now there's this altar of Venus in front of their door. I
 vowed to offer myself a breakfast to Venus.

PAL What? You'll offer yourself a breakfast to Venus?⁵

PHAE Yes, myself, yourself, and all these here.

PAL Then you want Venus to vomit.

PHAE Boy, give me the jug. *(takes it from him)* 75

PAL What are you going to do?

PHAE You'll know in a moment. Normally an old woman sleeps
 here, the guardian and keeper of the door. Her name is
 Leaena. She's a great drinker of undiluted wine.

⁵ Phaedromus uses *me* as subject accusative, Palinurus deliberately misunderstands it as object.

PLAUTUS

- PAL quasi tu lagoenam dicas, ubi uinum Chium
solet esse.
- PHAE quid opust uerbis? uinosissima est;
80 eaque extemplo ubi<ubi> uino has conspersi fores,
de odore adesse me scit, aperit ilico.
- PAL eine hic cum uino sinus fertur?
- PHAE nisi neuis.
- PAL nolo hercle, nam istunc qui fert afflictum uelim;
ego nobis [af]ferri censui.
- PHAE quin tu taces?
- 85 si quid super illi fuerit, id nobis sat est.
- PAL quisnam istic fluuiust quem non recipiat mare?
- PHAE sequere hac, Palinure, me ad fores, fi mi opsequens.
- PAL ita faciam.
- PHAE agite bibite, festiuae fores;
potate, fite mihi uolentes propitiae.
- 90 PAL uoltisne oliuas, [aut] pulpamentum, [aut] capparim?
- PHAE exsuscitate uostram huc custodem mihi.
- PAL profundis uinum: quae te res agitant?
- PHAE sine.
uiden ut aperiuntur aedes festiuissumae?
num muttit cardo? est lepidus.
- PAL quin das sauium?
- 95 PHAE tace, occultemus lumen et uocem.
- PAL licet.

80 ubi *P*, ubiubi *Lindsay*, ubi ego *Guyet*

84 afferri *P*, ferri *Bentley*

90 aut *utrumque del. Muretus*

CURCULIO

- PAL As if you were calling her a bottle which is usually full of wine from Chios.⁶
- PHAE What need is there for words? She's a great lover of wine. 80
Whenever I sprinkle this door with wine, she immediately knows from the smell that I'm here and opens straightaway.
- PAL Is this jug of wine being brought for *her*?
- PHAE Unless you object.
- PAL I do object: I want to see the person carrying it struck down. I thought it was being brought for us.
- PHAE Why won't you be quiet? If she leaves any, that's enough 85
for us.
- PAL What river is there which the sea cannot swallow up?
- PHAE Palinurus, follow me this way to the door, be obedient to me.
- PAL Yes, I will.
- PHAE (*sprinkling some wine*) Go on, drink, dearest door; imbibe and be favorable and well-disposed toward me.
- PAL (*also addressing the door*) Would you like olives, meat, or 90
capers?
- PHAE (*still to the door*) Wake up and send out your guardian here to me.
- PAL (*to Phaedromus*) You're pouring out wine; what's wrong with you?
- PHAE Let it be. Can't you see how the dearest house is opening up? Is the hinge muttering? No, it's lovely.
- PAL Why don't you give it a kiss?
- PHAE Be quiet, let's conceal the light and our voices. 95
- PAL Okay. (*they step back*)

⁶ Island in the Aegean Sea, largest exporter of Greek wine in antiquity. There is a pun on *Leaena* and *lagoena* "bottle."

PLAUTUS

I. ii: LEAENA. PHAEDROMVS. PALINVRVS

- 96 LEAE flos ueteris uini meis naribus obiectust,
 96^a eius amor cupidam me huc prolicit per tenebras.
 97^a ubiubi est, prope me est. euax, habeo!
 98 salue, anime mi, Liberi lepos.
 98^a ut ueteris uetus tui cupida sum!
 99 nam omnium unguentum odor prae tuo nautea est,
 100 tu mihi stacta, tu cinnamum, tu rosa,
 101-² tu crocinum et casia es, tu telinum,
 103-² nam ubi tu profusus, ibi ego me peruelim sepultam.
 105⁴ sed quom adhuc naso odos opsecutust meo,
 da uicissim meo gutturi gaudium.
 nil ago tecum: ubi est ipsus? ipsum expeto
 tangere, inuergere in me liquores tuos,
 sine, ductim. sed hac abiit, hac persequar.
- 110 PHAE sitit haec anus.
 PAL quantillum sitit?
 PHAE modica est, capit quadrantal.
- 110^a PAL pol ut praedicas, uindemia haec huic anu non satis est
 soli.
- 110^b canem esse hanc quidem magis par fuit: sagax nasum ha-
 bet.
- LEAE amabo,
 111 quonia uox sonat procul?
 PHAE censeo hanc appellandam anum.
- 113 adibo. redi et respice ad me, Leaena.
- 113^a LEAE imperator quis est?

⁷ Bacchus, the god of wine.

⁸ A *quadrantal* is a cubic foot.

CURCULIO

Enter LEAENA from the pimp's house, sniffing.

LEAE My nostrils have been offered the flowery scent of old wine. Love for him is driving my eager self out here through the darkness. Wherever he is, he's close to me. *(kneels down at the door, sniffing)* Hurray, I have him! 98
 Greetings, my life, lure of Liber.⁷ How I, an old one, am keen on you, another old one! Yes, the smell of all perfumes is puke compared with yours, you are my myrrh, 100
 you my cinnamon, you my rose, you my saffron and my cassia, you my ointment of fenugreek: where you are poured out, there I desire to be buried. *(pauses and stands up again)* 105
 But while the only thing so far has been that the smell has satisfied the desires of my nose, now give joy to my gullet in turn. I have no business with you; where is he himself? I desire to touch you yourself, dear jug, to pour your liquid contents into me in great gulps. *(following the scent like a bloodhound)* But he went away this way, I'll follow him this way.

PHAE *(to Palinurus)* This old woman's thirsty. 110

PAL How small is her thirst?

PHAE She's moderate, she'll take in an amphora.⁸

PAL Seriously, the way you're talking, this year's harvest of grapes isn't enough for this old woman alone. It would have been more appropriate for her to be a dog: she has a keen nose.

LEAE Please, whose voice sounds in the distance?

PHAE *(to Palinurus)* I think I should to address this old woman. I'll approach her. *(to Leaena)* Come back and look at me, Leaena.

LEAE Who is in command?

PLAUTUS

- 114 PHAE uinipollens lepidus Liber,
 115 tibi qui screanti, siccae, semisomnae
 affert potionem et sitim sedatum it.
 LEAE quam longe a med abest?
 PHAE lumen hoc uide.
 LEAE grandiore gradum ergo fac ad me, opsecro.
 119 PHAE salue.
 LEAE egon salua sim, quae siti sicca sum?
 PHAE at
 119^a iam bibes.
 LEAE diu fit.
 120 PHAE em tibi, anus lepida.
 LEAE salue, oculissime homo.
 PAL age, effunde hoc cito in barathrum, propere proluce cloac-
 cam.
 PHAE tace. nolo huic male dici.
 PAL faciam igitur male potius.
 LEAE Venus, de paulo paululum hoc tibi dabo hau lubenter.
 nam tibi amantes propitiantes uinum dant potantes
 125 omnes [homines], mihi hau saepe [e]ueniunt tales here-
 ditates.
 126-
 27 PAL hoc uide ut ingurgitat impura in se merum auariter, fau-
 cibus plenis.
 128-
 29 PHAE perii hercle! huic quid primum dicam nescio.
 PAL em istuc, quod mi dixti.
 130 PHAE quid id est?
 PAL periisse ut te dicas.
 PHAE male tibi di faciant!

123 hic *P*, hoc *S*

125 homines *del. Camerarius* eueniunt *P*, ueniunt *Lindsay*, eue-
 nunt *Fleckeisen*

CURCULIO

- PHAE Lovely Liber, lord of liquor, who is bringing drink to you, 115
a hawking, dry, drowsy creature, and who is going to
quench your thirst.
- LEAE How far is he away from me?
- PHAE Look at this light. (*holds it up*)
- LEAE Then take bigger steps toward me, please. (*the men ap-
proach her and stop in front of her*)
- PHAE Be well.
- LEAE I should be well, even though I'm dry?
- PHAE But you'll drink in a moment.
- LEAE It's a long time coming.
- PHAE (*handing over the jug*) Here you are, my charming old 120
lady.
- LEAE (*to Phaedromus*) Hello, dearest of all men.
- PAL (*to Leaena*) Go on, pour it into the pit quickly and flush
the sewer fast.
- PHAE (*to Palinurus*) Be quiet. I don't want harsh words spoken
to her.
- PAL Then I'll rather *do* harsh things.
- LEAE (*sprinkling a few drops on the altar*) Venus, from the lit-
tle I have I'll give you this very little portion, and not with
pleasure: all lovers trying to seek your favor and drinking
give you wine, but such legacies don't often come to me. 125
- PAL (*to Phaedromus*) Look at that, how the filthy creature's
pouring undiluted wine into herself greedily, her maws
full.
- PHAE I'm really done for! I don't know what I shall say to this
woman first.
- PAL Well, the very thing you said to me.
- PHAE What's that? 130
- PAL Say to her that you're done for.
- PHAE May the gods treat you badly!

PLAUTUS

dicisti.

- 131 PAL
LEAE ah!
PAL quid est? ecquid lubet?
LEAE lubet.
PAL etiam mihi quoque stimulo fodere lubette.
- 131^a PHAE tace.
PAL noli, taceo. ecce autem bibit arcus, pluet credo
hercle hodie.
- 132 PHAE iamne ego huic dico?
PAL quid dices?
PHAE me periisse.
PAL age dice.
PHAE anus, audi.
hoc uolo scire te: perditus sum miser.
- LEAE at pol ego oppido seruata.
135 sed quid est? quid lubet perditum dicere
te esse?
PHAE quia id quod amo careo.
LEAE Phaedrome mi, ne plora, amabo.
tu me curato ne sitiam, ego tibi quod amas iam huc addu-
cam.
- 139 PHAE tibine ego, si fidem seruas mecum,
139^a uineam pro aurea statua statuam,
140 quae tuo gutturi sit monumentum.
141 qui me in terra aequae fortuna-
141^a tus erit, si illa ad me bitet,
142 Palinure?

CURCULIO

PAL Yes, tell her that.

LEAE (*loudly*) Ah!

PAL (*to Leae*) What is it? Do you like it?

LEAE I do like it.

PAL And I would like to poke you with a cattle prod.

PHAE Be quiet. (*hits him*)

PAL Don't! I'm quiet. (*after a short pause*) But look, the rainbow is drinking, I do think it'll rain today.⁹

PHAE Shall I tell her now?

PAL What will you tell her?

PHAE That I'm done for.

PAL Go on, tell her.

PHAE Old lady, listen. I want you to know this: I'm done for, poor me.

LEAE But I am completely saved. But what is it? Why do you wish to say you're done for? 135

PHAE Because I lack what I love. (*sobs*)

LEAE My dear Phaedromus, stop crying, please. You make sure that I'm not thirsty and I shall bring here at once what you love.

PHAE Yes, if you keep your word towards me, I'll set up a vineyard for you instead of a golden statue, as a monument to your gullet. (*to Palinurus*) Who on earth will be as fortunate as me if she comes to me, Palinurus? 140

Exit LEAENA into the pimp's house; she closes the door again.

⁹ The rainbow was believed to suck up liquid on the ground and transport it back to heaven, hence Statius' *imbrifer arcus* "rain-bringing rainbow" (*Theb.* 7. 427).

PLAUTUS

PAL edepol qui amat, si eget, misera affligitur aerumna.

PHAE non ita res est, nam confido parasitum hodie aduenturum cum argento ad me.

PAL magnum inceptas, si id exspectas quod nusquam est.

145 PHAE quid si adeam ad fores atque occentem?

PAL si lubet, nec uoto nec iubeo, quando ego te uideo immutatis moribus esse, ere, atque ingenio.

PHAE pessuli, heus pessuli, uos saluto lubens, uos amo, uos uolo, uos peto atque opsecro, gerite amanti mihi morem, amoenissimi, fite causa mea ludii barbari, sussilite, opsecro, et mittite istanc foras quae mihi misero amanti ebibit sanguinem. hoc uide ut dormiunt pessuli pessumi nec mea gratia commouent se ocius!

155 re specio nihili meam uos gratiam facere. st, tace, tace!

PAL taceo hercle equidem.

PHAE sentio sonitum. tandem edepol mihi morigeri pessuli fiunt.

I. iii: LEAENA. PALINVRVS. PLANESIVM. PHAEDROMVS
LEAE placide egredere et sonitum prohibe forium et crepitem cardinum,

160 ne quae hic agimus erus percipiat fieri, mea Planesium. mane, suffundam aquolam.

142 misera adfcitur P, misera adffligitur F. *Skutsch*, afficitur misera *Goetz*

156 sed P, st *Muretus*

CURCULIO

- PAL Truly, he who is in love is struck by miserable sorrow if he's without money.
- PHAE It's not like that; I trust that my hanger-on will come to me today with the money.
- PAL You're in for great riches if you wait for what doesn't exist anywhere.¹⁰
- PHAE What if I approach the door and sing it a song? 145
- PAL If you want to, I neither forbid you nor tell you to do so, master, since I can see that your habits and character have changed.
- PHAE (*singing enticingly*) Bolts, hey, bolts, I greet you gladly, I love you, I want you, I desire you, and I beseech you, obey me in my love, most charming bolts. Become foreign dancers for my sake, jump up, please, and send out the woman who drinks up my blood, miserable lover that I am. (*pauses and steps back*) Look at that, how the basest bolts are sleeping and won't move any more quickly for my sake! I can see from how you behave that you don't care about my goodwill toward you. (*pauses and turns to Palinurus*) Hush, be quiet, be quiet! 150 155
- PAL I for one am quiet.
- PHAE I can hear a sound. At long last the bolts are becoming obedient to me.
- LEAENA *opens the door a little.*
- LEAE Come out quietly and prevent any noise of the door and any creaking of the hinges so that master doesn't hear what we're doing here, my dear Planesium. Wait, I'll pour a little water underneath. (*does so*) 160

¹⁰ A hanger-on with money.

PLAUTUS

- PAL uiden ut anus tremula medicinam facit?
eapse merum condidicit bibere, foribus dat aquam quam
bibant.
- PLA ubi tu es qui me conuadatu's Veneriis uadimoniis?
sisto ego tibi me et <te> mihi contra itidem ut sistas sua-
deo.
- PHAE assum; nam si apsim, hau recusem quin mi male sit, mel
meum.
- 165 PLA anime mi, procul <a me> amantem abesse hau consenta-
neum est.
- PHAE Palinure, Palinure!
- PAL eloquere, quid est quod Palinurum uoces?
- PHAE est lepida.
- PAL nimis lepida.
- PHAE sum deus.
- PAL immo homo hau magni preti.
- PHAE quid uidisti aut quid uidebis magis dis aequiparabile?
- PAL male ualere te, quod mi aegre est.
- PHAE male mi morigeru's, tace.
- 170 PAL ipse se excruciat qui homo quod amat uidet nec potitur
dum licet.
- PHAE recte obiurgat. sane hau quicquam est magis quod cu-
piam iam diu.
- PLA tene me, amplectere ergo.

163 te *add. Schoell*

165 a me *add. Mueller*

¹¹ Parody of legal language; the *uadimonium* is a guarantee that the defendant will appear in court.

CURCULIO

PAL (*to Phaedromus*) Can you see how this doddering old woman is practicing the medical profession? She herself has learned to drink undiluted wine, but to the door she gives water to drink.

The door opens further. Enter PLANESIUM from the pimp's house. LEAENA disappears.

PLA Where are you who have summoned me to the court of Venus?¹¹ I present myself to you and I advise you likewise to present yourself to me.

PHAE I'm here; if I were away, I wouldn't protest against having a hard time, my honey.

PLA My sweetheart, it isn't acceptable that my lover should be standing at a distance from me. 165

PHAE Palinurus, Palinurus!

PAL Tell me, what is it you're calling Palinurus for?

PHAE She's lovely.

PAL Terribly lovely.

PHAE I'm a god.

PAL No, a man of little worth.

PHAE What have you seen or what will you see that's more comparable to the gods?

PAL (*ignoring the second half of the sentence*) That you're in a bad way, which I'm sorry about.

PHAE You're obeying me in a bad way, be quiet.

PAL He who sees what he loves and doesn't take advantage while he may merely tortures himself. 170

PHAE (*turning to Planesium*) He's right to scold me. Yes, there hasn't been anything this long time which I'd prefer.

PLA Hold me, embrace me, then.

PLAUTUS

- PHAE hoc etiam est quam ob rem cupiam uiuere.
quia te prohibet erus, clam [ero] potior.
- PLA prohibet? nec prohibere quit
nec prohibebit, nisi mors meum animum aps te abalie-
nauerit.
- 175 PAL enim uero nequeo durare quin ego erum accusem
meum:
nam bonum est pauxillum amare sane, insane non bo-
num est;
uerum totum insanum amare, hoc est . . . quod meus erus
facit.
- 180 PHAE sibi sua habeant regna reges, sibi diuitias diuites,
sibi honores, sibi uirtutes, sibi pugnas, sibi proelia:
dum mi apstineant inuidere, sibi quisque habeant quod
suom est.
- PAL quid tu? Venerin peruigilare te uouisti, Phaedrome?
nam hoc quidem edepol hau multo post luce lucebit.
- PHAE tace.
- PAL quid, taceam? quin tu is dormitum?
- PHAE dormio, ne occlamites.
- PAL tuquidem uigilas.
- PHAE at meo more dormio: hic somnust mihi.
- 185 PAL heus tu, mulier, male mereri de immerente inscitia est.
- PLA irascere, si te edentem hic a cibo abigat.
- PAL ilicet!
pariter hos perire amando uideo, uterque insanunt.
uiden ut misere moliuntur? nequeunt complecti satis.
etiam dispertimini?

173 *ero del. Guyet*

CURCULIO

- PHAE (*grabbing her*) This, this is why I desire to live. Because your master keeps you away from me, I have you secretly.
- PLA He keeps me away from you? He can't keep me away from you and he won't, unless death deprives you of my heart.
- PAL I really can't help complaining about my master: yes, it is 175 good to be a little bit in love sanely, but being insanely in love is not good. But being completely insanely in love, that's . . . what my master is.
- PHAE Let the kings have their kingdoms, the rich their riches; let them have their honors, their feats, their fights, their battles: so long as they refrain from envying me, let every 180 man have what is his.
- PAL (*turning to Phaedromus*) What do you say? Did you vow to hold an all-night vigil for Venus, Phaedromus? Yes, not much later it'll be clear day.
- PHAE Be quiet.
- PAL What? I should be quiet? Why don't you go home to sleep?
- PHAE I am sleeping, so don't shout.
- PAL No, you're awake.
- PHAE But I'm sleeping in my own way. This is sleep for me.
- PAL (*to Planesium*) Hey there, woman, it's stupid to treat a 185 man badly who isn't treating you badly.
- PLA You'll be angry if he drives you away from your food while you're eating.
- PAL (*to the audience*) Hopeless! I can see that both alike are dying from love, both are mad. Can you see how wretchedly they're laboring? They can't embrace each other enough. (*to the lovers*) Will you get away from each other?

PLAUTUS

- 190 PLA nulli [est] homini perpetuom bonum:
iam huic uoluptati hoc adiunctum est odium.
- PAL quid ais, propudium?
tun etiam cum noctuinis oculis "odium" me uocas?
ebriola persolla, nugae.
- PHAE tun meam Venerem uituperas?
quod quidem mi polluctus uirgis seruos sermonem
serat?
at ne tu hercle cum cruciatu magno dixisti id tuo.
- 195 em tibi male dictis pro istis, dictis moderari ut queas.
PAL tuam fidem, Venus noctuuigila!
- PHAE pergin etiam, uerbero?
PLA noli, amabo, uerberare lapidem, ne perdas manum.
- PAL flagitium probrumque magnum, Phaedrome, experge-
facis:
bene monstrantem pugnis caedis, hanc amas, nugas me-
ras.
- 200 hoccin fieri, ut immodestis hic te moderes moribus?
PHAE auro contra cedo modestum amatorem: a me aurum
accipe.
- PAL cedo mihi contra aurichalco quoi ego sano seruiam.
- PLA bene uale, oculo mi, nam sonitum et crepitum clastro-
rum audio,
aeditumum aperire fanum. quo usque, quaeso, ad hunc
modum
- 205 inter nos amore utemur semper surrupticio?

189 est *seclusi*

193 quod quidem *corruptum uidetur*

¹² *Lapis* "stone" is also a metaphor for someone stupid.

¹³ Greek *oreichalcos* "mountain-copper" became Latin *aurichal-*

CURCULIO

- PLA (*to Phaedromus*) No man has constant happiness. With this pleasure this pest is connected now. 190
- PAL (*to Planesium*) What do you say, you slut? You with your owl eyes are calling me a pest? You drunken little person, you trash.
- PHAE (*to Palinurus*) Are you finding fault with my Venus? Should a slave sacrificed to the rods give me cheeky talk? Seriously, saying that will cost you dearly. (*hitting him*) 195
Take this for your bad words so you can keep your words in check.
- PAL (*to Planesium*) Your protection, Venus of the nightly wake!
- PHAE Are you continuing, you criminal? (*hits him again*)
- PLA (*to Phaedromus*) Please, don't hit a stone¹² so you don't hurt your hand.
- PAL You're committing a very shameful and disgraceful crime, Phaedromus: you knock down the man giving you sound advice and love this girl, pure trash. Can this really be happening, that you conduct yourself with immoderate conduct here? 200
- PHAE Give me a moderate lover against his weight in gold and receive the gold from me.
- PAL Give me someone sane against his weight in gold-copper¹³ so I can be a slave to him.
- PLA (*looking at the temple of Aesculapius*) Goodbye, my darling: I can hear the grating sound of the bolts, the temple overseer is opening the temple. How much longer, please, will we always conduct our love affair in secret? 205

cum: the first element "mountain" was not understood and changed to the Latin word for gold. In Plautus the term refers to a mythical metal of great value.

PLAUTUS

- PHAE minime, nam parasitum misi nudiusquartus Cariam
petere argentum, is hodie hic aderit.
- PLA nimium consultas diu.
- PHAE ita me Venus amet, ut ego te hoc triduum numquam
sinam
in domo esse istac, quin ego te liberalem liberem.
- 210 PLA facito ut memineris. tene etiam, prius quam hinc abeo,
sauium.
- PHAE siquidem hercle mihi regnum detur, numquam id potius
persequar.
quando ego te uidebo?
- PLA em istoc uerbo uindictam para:
si amas, eme, ne rogitas, facito ut pretio peruincas tuo.
bene uale.
- PHAE iamne ego relinquer? pulchre, Palinure, occidi.
- 215 PAL ego quidem, qui et uapulando et somno pereo.
- PHAE sequere me.

ACTVS II

II. i: CAPPADOX. PALINVRVS

- CAP migrare certum est iam nunc e fano foras,
quando Aesculapi ita sentio sententiam
ut qui me nihili faciat nec saluom uelit.
ualetudo decrescit, accrescit labor;
- 220 nam iam quasi zona liene cinctus ambulo,

¹⁴ *Liberalis* means "worthy of freedom," but also "pretty."

CURCULIO

PHAE Not at all: three days ago I sent my hanger-on to Caria in order to fetch money. He'll be back today.

PLA You deliberate far too long.

PHAE As truly as Venus may love me, I shall never let you remain in that house for two more days; rather, I'll give you the freedom you deserve.¹⁴

PLA Make sure you remember. Have a kiss, too, before I leave 210
you.

PHAE If in fact I was offered a kingdom, I'd never take it by preference to you. (*they kiss*) When will I see you?

PLA There you go: because of what you've just said secure my freedom: if you love me, buy me and don't just ask for me, but make sure you win with the highest bid. Farewell.

Exit PLANESIUM into the pimp's house.

PHAE Am I already being left alone? Palinurus, I've perished nicely.

PAL No, I have, who am dying from the beating and lack of 215
sleep.

PHAE Follow me.

Exeunt PHAEDROMUS and PALINURUS into their house, followed by the slaves.

ACT TWO

Enter CAPPADOX from the sanctuary of Aesculapius.

CAP I'm resolved to leave the sanctuary now since I feel that it's the decision of Aesculapius that he couldn't care less for me and that he doesn't want me to be well. My health is decreasing, my suffering is increasing: I'm now walk- 220

PLAUTUS

- geminos in uentre habere uideor filios.
 nil metuo nisi ne medius dirrumpar miser.
- 225 PAL si recte facias, Phaedrome, auscultes mihi
 atque istam exturbes ex animo aegritudinem.
 paues parasitus quia non rediit Caria:
 afferre argentum credo; nam si non ferat,
 tormento non retineri potuit ferreo
 quin reciperet se huc esum ad praesepem suam.
 CAP quis hic est qui loquitur?
 PAL quoisiam uocem ego audio?
- 230 CAP estne hic Palinurus Phaedromi?
 PAL quis hic est homo
 cum collatiuo uentre atque oculis herbeis?
 de forma noui, de colore non queo
 nouisse. iam iam noui: leno est Cappadox.
 congregiar.
- CAP salue, Palinure.
 PAL o scelerum caput,
 235 salueto. quid agis?
 CAP uiuo.
 PAL nempe ut dignus es?
 sed quid tibi est?
- CAP lien enicat, renes dolent,
 pulmones distrahuntur, cruciatur iecur,
 radices cordis pereunt, hirae omnes dolent.
 PAL tum te igitur morbus agitat hepaticarius.
 240 CAP facile est miserum irridere.
 PAL quin tu aliquot dies
 perdura, dum intestina exputescunt tibi,
 nunc dum salsura sat bona est: si id feceris,
 uenire poteris intestinis uilius.

CURCULIO

ing around constricted tightly by my spleen as if by a belt, I seem to have twin sons in my belly. I don't fear anything except that I might burst in the middle, poor wretch that I am.

Enter PALINURUS from Phaedromus' house.

- PAL (*into the house*) If you did the right thing, Phaedromus, you'd listen to me and throw this sorrow of yours out of your mind. You're afraid because your hanger-on hasn't returned from Caria. I believe he's bringing the money: if he weren't bringing it, he couldn't be prevented by an iron fetter from returning here to his stable to eat. 225
- CAP Who is this man who is talking?
- PAL Whose voice can I hear?
- CAP Isn't this Palinurus, the slave of Phaedromus? 230
- PAL Who is this chap with a well-stuffed belly and eyes as green as grass? From his figure I know him, but from his color I don't know him. Now I know him: it's the pimp Cappadox. I'll go up to him. (*does so*)
- CAP Hello, Palinurus.
- PAL O you dreadful criminal, hello. How are you? 235
- CAP I'm alive.
- PAL In the way you deserve, I suppose? But what's your problem?
- CAP My spleen is killing me, my kidneys hurt, my lungs are being torn apart, my liver is in agony, the deepest part of my heart is dying, all my intestines ache.
- PAL Then you must suffer from a liver disease.
- CAP It's easy to mock a poor wretch. 240
- PAL Just wait some more days while your intestines are rotting away, now while the pickling is good enough. If you do that, you can be sold for less than your own intestines.

PLAUTUS

- CAP lien diirectust.
 PAL ambula, id lieni optimum est.
 245 CAP aufer istaec, quaeso, atque hoc responde quod rogo.
 potin coniecturam facere, si narrem tibi
 hac nocte quod ego somniaui dormiens?
 PAL uah! solus hic homo est qui sciat diuinitus.
 250 quin coniectores a me consilium petunt:
 quod eis respondi, ea omnes stant sententia.
- II. ii: COQVOS. PALINVRVS. CAPPADOX. PHAEDROMVS
- CO Palinure, quid stas? quin depromuntur mihi
 quae opus sunt, parasito ut sit paratum prandium
 quom ueniat?
 PAL mane sis, dum huic conicio somnium.
 CO tute ipse, si quid somniasti, ad me refers.
 255 PAL fateor.
 CO abi, deprome.
 PAL age tu interea huic somnium
 narra: meliorem quam ego sum suppono tibi.
 nam quod scio omne ex hoc scio.
 CAP operam ut det.
 PAL dabit.
 CAP facit hic quod pauci, ut sit magistro opsequens.
 da mi igitur operam.
 CO tam etsi non noui, dabo.
 260 CAP hac nocte in somnis uisus sum uiderier
 procul sedere longe a me Aesculapium,
 neque eum ad me adire nec me magni pendere
 uisum est.
 CO item alios deos facturos scilicet:

CURCULIO

- CAP My spleen is bust.
 PAL Go for a walk, that's best for the spleen.
 CAP Please leave this aside now and answer my question. Can 245
 you interpret if I tell you what I dreamed about in my
 sleep last night?
 PAL Bah! (*points to himself*) This man's the only one who
 knows through divine inspiration. In fact, even the sooth-
 sayers ask me for advice. Whatever reply I give them, 250
 that advice they all abide by.

Enter the COOK from Phaedromus' house.

- CO Palinurus, what are you standing around for? Why aren't
 the things being fetched which I need so that the hanger-
 on will have a lunch ready when he comes?
 PAL Please wait while I'm interpreting a dream for this chap.
 CO You yourself come to me if you have a dream.
 PAL I admit it. 255
 CO Go fetch the things.
 PAL (*to Cappadox*) Go on, you tell this fellow your dream in
 the meantime; I leave you a substitute who is a better
 man than I am: everything I know I know from him.
 CAP If only he'd make the effort.
 PAL He will. (*moves back to Phaedromus' house, but stays in
 the door and observes*)
 CAP (*aside*) This chap does what few people do: he obeys his
 teacher. (*to the cook*) Make an effort for me, then.
 CO I will, even though I don't know you.
 CAP Last night I seemed to see in my dreams that Aesculapius 260
 was sitting at a great distance from me, and it seemed
 that he didn't approach me and didn't care much for me.
 CO Naturally the other gods will behave in the same way:

PLAUTUS

- 265 sane illi inter se congruont concorditer.
 nihil est mirandum melius si nil fit tibi,
 namque incubare satius te fuerat Ioui,
 auxilio tibi qui in iure iurando fuit.
- CAP siquidem incubare uelint qui periurauerint,
 locus non praeberi potis est in Capitolio.
- 270 CO hoc animum aduerte: pacem ab Aesculapio
 petas, ne fort' tibi eueniat magnum malum,
 quod in quiete tibi portentum est.
- CAP bene facis.
 ibo atque orabo.
- CO quae res male uortat tibi!
- PAL pro di immortales, quem conspicio? quis illic est?
- 275 estne hic parasitus qui missust in Cariam?
 heus Phaedrome, exi, exi, exi, inquam, ocius!
- PHAE quid istic clamorem tollis?
- PAL parasitum tuom
 uideo currentem ellum usque in platea ultima.
 hinc auscultemus quid agat.
- PHAE sane censeo.

267 qui tibi auxilio P, a. t. q. *Trappes-Lomax per litteras*

CURCULIO

they completely agree among each other. It's not surprising if you aren't getting any better: it would have been better if you'd slept in Jupiter's temple, who helped you when you gave an oath. 265

CAP Well, if all who had given false oaths wanted to sleep in his temple, there wouldn't be enough space on the Capitoline hill.¹⁵

CO Mark my words: seek peace from Aesculapius, so that you won't by chance end up with the great disaster you were shown during your rest. 270

CAP Thank you. I'll go and pray.

Exit CAPPADOX into the shrine of Aesculapius.

CO (*aside*) May this turn out badly for you!

Exit the COOK into Phaedromus' house.

PAL (*still standing in the door*) Immortal gods, who can I see? Who is that man? Isn't this the hanger-on who was sent to Caria? Hey there, Phaedromus, come out, come out, come out, I'm telling you, hurry up! 275

Enter PHAEDROMUS from his house, followed by some slaves.

PHAE What are you shouting for there?

PAL Look there, I can see your hanger-on running at the farthest end of the street. Let's listen from here what he's up to.

PHAE Yes, good idea.

¹⁵ The Roman hill with the most famous temple of Jupiter.

PLAUTUS

II. iii: CVRCVLIO. PHAEDROMVS. PALINVRVS

- 280 CVR date uiam mihi, noti [atque] ignoti, dum ego hic officium
meum
facio: fugite omnes, abite et de uia secedite,
ne quem in cursu capite aut cubito aut pectore offendam
aut genu.
ita nunc subito, propere et celere obiectum est mihi ne-
gotium,
<nusquam> quisquam est tam opulentus, qui mi opsistat
in uia,
- 285 nec strategus nec tyrannus quisquam neque agoranomus
nec demarchus nec comarchus nec cum tanta gloria,
quin cadat, quin capite sistat in uia de semita.
tum isti Graeci palliati, capite operto qui ambulant,
qui incedunt suffarcinati cum libris, cum sportulis,
- 290 constant, conferunt sermones inter sese drapetae,
opstant, opsistunt, incedunt cum suis sententiis,
quos semper uideas bibentes esse in thermopolio,
ubi quid surrupuere: operto capitulo calidum bibunt,
tristes atque ebrioli incedunt: eos ego si offendero,
- 295 ex unoquoque eorum crepitum exciam polentarium.
tum isti qui ludunt datatim serui scurrarum in uia,
et datores et factores omnis subdam sub solum.
proin sese domi contineant, uitent infortunio.
- PHAE recte hic monstrat, si imperare possit. nam ita nunc mos
uiget,
- 300 ita nunc seruitium est: profecto modus haberi non po-
test.

280 atque *del. Bentley*

284 nec quisquamst *BEK*, ne quisquam est *VJ*, nusquam quis-
quamst *Lange*

CURCULIO

Enter CURCULIO from the left, apparently in great haste, without noticing anyone.

- CUR Make way for me, known and unknown, while I'm doing 280
my duty here: flee, all of you, go away and get off the
streets, so that while running I don't hit anyone with my
head, my elbow, my chest, or my knee. So suddenly, fast,
and quickly has this business now been thrown my way,
that there's no one anywhere so rich that he could afford
to block my way, not a general, not a despot, not a mar- 285
ket inspector, not a district magistrate, not a village su-
perintendent, not anyone with such great fame: no, he'll
fall, drop from the sidewalk and stand on his head in
the street. Then those Greeks in their cloaks, who wan-
der around with their heads covered, who prance about
stuffed with books and food baskets, who stop and pala- 290
ver among each other, those runaway slaves, who stand in
your way and block your path, who prance about with
their clever sayings, whom you can always see drinking in
the tavern when they've stolen something; with their
heads covered they drink mulled wine and prance about
with a grave expression and drunk. If I meet them, I'll 295
drive the barley-fed farts out of every single one of them.
Then those slaves of the city bon vivants, who play ball in
the street, I'll put all the throwers and players under the
ground. So let them stay at home and avoid a thrashing.
- PHAE He gives good orders, if only he had authority. Yes, nowa- 300
days this is the custom, nowadays this is what the slave
class is like: it is indeed impossible to keep them under
control.

PLAUTUS

- CVR ecquis est qui mihi commonstret Phaedromum genium
meum?
ita res subita est, celeriter mi hoc homine conuento est
opus.
- PAL te ille quaerit.
- PHAE. quid si adeamus? heus Curculio, te uolo.
- CVR quis uocat? quis nominat me?
- PHAE qui te conuentum cupit.
- 305 CVR hau magis cupis quam ego te cupio.
- PHAE o mea opportunitas,
Curculio exoptate, salue.
- CVR salue.
- PHAE saluom gaudeo
te aduenire. cedo tuam mi dexteram. ubi sunt spes meae?
eloquere, opsecro hercle.
- CVR eloquere, te opsecro, ubi sunt meae?
- PHAE quid tibi est?
- CVR tenebrae oboriuntur, genua inedia succidunt.
- 310 PHAE lassitudine hercle credo.
- CVR retine, retine me, opsecro.
- PHAE uiden ut expalluit? datin isti sellam, ubi assidat, cito
et aqualem cum aqua? properatin ocius?
- CVR animo male est.
- PAL uin aquam?
- CVR si frustulenta est, da, opsecro hercle, opsorbeam.
- PAL uae capiti tuo!
- CVR opsecro hercle, facite uentum ut gaudeam.
- 315 PAL maxume.
- CVR quid facitis, quaeso?

CURCULIO

- CUR Is there anyone who can show me Phaedromus, my good spirit? It's an emergency, I need to meet him quickly.
- PAL He's looking for you.
- PHAE (*to Palinurus*) How about approaching him? (*loudly*) Hey, Curculio, I want to speak to you.
- CUR Who is calling me? Who is naming me?
- PHAE Someone who wants to meet you.
- CUR (*noticing Phaedromus*) You don't want to meet me more than I want to meet you. 305
- PHAE O my Opportunity, longed-for Curculio, my greetings to you.
- CUR And mine to you.
- PHAE I'm happy that you've arrived safely. Give me your right hand. Where are my hopes? Tell me, I beg you.
- CUR (*appearing to faint*) Tell me, I beg *you*, where are mine?
- PHAE What's wrong with you?
- CUR Darkness is spreading over me, my knees are giving way under me through lack of food.
- PHAE From exhaustion, no doubt. 310
- CUR Hold me, hold me please. (*Phaedromus does so*)
- PHAE (*to Palinurus*) Can you see how he's turned pale? (*to slaves*) Won't you give him a chair to sit on, quickly, and a bowl of water? Won't you hurry faster? (*the slaves bring a chair and water*)
- CUR I feel faint.
- PAL Do you want water?
- CUR If it's full of morsels, do please give it to me to gulp it down.
- PAL Curse you!
- CUR Please, give a joyous air to my arrival.
- PAL Certainly. (*he and the slaves fart loudly*) 315
- CUR What are you doing, please?

PLAUTUS

- PAL uentum.
 CVR nolo equidem mihi
 fieri uentulum.
- PHAE quid igitur [uis]?
 CVR esse, ut uentum gaudeam.
- PAL Iuppiter te dique perdant!
 CVR perii, prospicio parum,
 grammarum habeo dentes plenos, lippiunt fauces fame,
 ita cibi uacuitate uenio lassis lactibus.
- 320 PHAE iam edes aliquid.
 CVR nolo hercle aliquid: certum quam aliquid mauolo.
 PAL immo si scias reliquiae quae sint!
 CVR scire nimis lubet
 ubi sient, nam illis conuentis sane opus est meis dentibus.
- PHAE pernam, abdomen, sumen, sueris, glandium . . .
 CVR ain tu omnia haec?
 in carnario fortasse dicis.
- PHAE immo in lancibus,
 325 quae tibi sunt parata, postquam scimus uenturum.
 CVR uide
 ne me ludas.
- PHAE ita me amabit quam ego amo ut ego hau mentior.
 sed quod te misi, nihilo sum certior.
 CVR nihil attuli.
- PHAE perdidisti me.
 CVR inuenire possum, si mi operam datis.
 330 postquam tuo iussu profectus sum, perueni in Cariam,
 uideo tuom sodalem, argenti rogo uti faciat copiam.
 scires uelle gratiam tuam, noluit frustrarier,

316 uis *del. Bentley*

323 suis *P, sueris genetiuo casu Scaliger, accusatiuo Ernout*

CURCULIO

PAL Producing air.¹⁶

CUR I don't want a puff of air being produced for me.

PHAE What do you want then?

CUR I want to eat so that my arrival has a joyous air for me.

PAL May Jupiter and the gods ruin you!

CUR I'm done for, I can barely see, I have teeth full of rheum, my throat is bleary from hunger: I come with intestines exhausted from emptiness of food.

PHAE You'll eat something in a minute. 320

CUR I don't want *something*: I prefer a definite thing to just something.

PAL Well, if you knew what leftovers there are!

CUR I'm very keen to know *where* they are: they really need to meet my teeth.

PHAE Ham, tripe, udder, pork chops, sweatbread . . .

CUR All these things, you say? Perhaps you're telling me they're hanging from the meat rack.

PHAE No, on the platters; these things were prepared for you 325
after we knew you were coming.

CUR Make sure you aren't making fun of me.

PHAE As truly as the woman I love will love me, I'm not lying. But as for the mission I sent you on, I'm no less in the dark.

CUR I didn't bring anything.

PHAE You've ruined me.

CUR I can find something if you assist me. (*pauses briefly*) After I left at your request, I arrived in Caria, saw your chum, and asked him to provide you with the money. It was obvious that he wanted to please you, he didn't want 330

¹⁶ *Ventum* is ambiguous; Curculio uses it as past participle of *uenire* "come," Palinurus interprets it as accusative of *uentus* "wind, fart."

PLAUTUS

- ut decet uelle hominem amicum amico atque opitularier:
 respondit mihi paucis uerbis, atque adeo fideliter,
 quod tibi est item sibi esse, magnam argenti . . . inopiam.
- 335 PHAE perdis me tuis dictis.
 CVR immo seruo et seruatum uolo.
 postquam mihi responsum est, abeo ab illo maestus ad
 forum
 med illo frustra aduenisse. forte aspicio militem.
 aggredior hominem, saluto adueniens. "salue," inquit
 mihi,
 prendit dexteram, seducit, rogat quid ueniam Cariam;
 340 dico me illo aduenisse animi causa. ibi me interrogat,
 ecquem in Epidauro Lyconem tarpezitam nouerim.
 dico me nouisse. "quid? lenonem Cappadocem?" annuo
 uisitasse. "sed quid eum uis?" "quia de illo emi uirginem
 triginta minis, uestem, aurum; et pro is decem coacce-
 dunt minae."
 345 "dedistin tu argentum?" inquam. "immo apud tarpezi-
 tam situm est
 illum quem dixi Lyconem, atque ei mandauit, qui anulo
 meo tabellas opsignatas attulisset, ut daret
 operam ut mulierem a lenone cum auro et ueste abduce-
 ret."
 postquam hoc mihi narrauit, abeo ab illo. reuocat me i-
 lico,
 350 uocat me ad cenam; religio fuit, denegare nolui.
 "quid si abeamus, [ac] decumbamus?" inquit. consilium
 placet:
 "nec diem decet [me] morari, nec nocti nocerier."
 "omnis res parata est." "et nos, quibus paratum est, assu-
 mus."
 postquam cenati atque appoti, talos poscit sibi in ma-
 num,

CURCULIO

to trick you, just as a friend should want to please and support a friend. He answered me in a few words, and entirely without pretence, that money-wise he has the same that you have, a great . . . lack.

PHAE You're ruining me with your words. 335

CUR No, I'm saving you and I want you saved. After receiving this answer, I went away from him to the market, sad that I'd gone there for nothing. By chance I saw a soldier. I approached him and greeted him. "Hello," he said to me; he grabbed my right hand, took me aside, and asked me why I'd come to Caria. I said I'd come there to enjoy myself. Then he asked me if I knew some banker in Epidaurus called Lyco. I said I did. "What about a pimp Cappadox?" I gave him a nod to show that I'd often seen him. "But what do you want from him?" "Because I bought a girl from him for thirty minas, and ten minas more for her clothes and jewelry." "Have you given him the money?" I asked. "No, it's with that banker I was talking about, Lyco, and I told him to make sure that the man who brought tablets sealed with my ring should take the woman away from the pimp together with her jewelry and clothes." After he told me this, I made as if to leave him. He called me back at once and invited me to dinner; it would have been against my principles, so I didn't want to refuse. "What if we go and lie down?" he asked. I liked the plan: "It isn't right to delay the day, and it isn't right to waste the night." "Everything's prepared." "And we, for whom it's prepared, are present." After we ate and drank 340 345 350

344 his *P*, is *Camerarius* coaccedunt *P*, eo accedunt *Baehrens*,
 accedunt *Guyet* 345 dedisti *P*, dedistin *Fleckeisen*

351 adeamus *P*, abeamus *Brant* ac del. *Reiz* 352 memo-
 rari *VJE*¹, me morari *BE*³, morari *Scaliger*, demorari *Lindsay*

PLAUTUS

- 355 prouocat me in aleam, ut ego ludam: pono pallium;
ill' suom amiculum opposiuit, inuocat Planesium.
PHAE meosne amores?
CVR tace parumper. iacit uolturios quattuor.
talos arripio, inuoco almm meam nutricem . . . Hercul-
lem,
iacto basilicum; propino magnum poclum: ille ebibit,
360 caput deponit, condormiscit. ego ei subduco anulum,
deduco pedes de lecto clam, ne miles sentiat.
rogant me serui quo eam: dico me ire quo saturi solent.
ostium ubi consexi, exinde me ilico protinam dedi.
PHAE laudo.
CVR laudato quando illud quod cupis effecero.
365 eamus nunc intro ut tabellas consignemus.
PHAE num moror?
CVR atque aliquid prius opstrudamus, pernam, sumen, glan-
dium.
haec sunt uentris stabilimenta, pane et assa bubula,
poculum grande, aula magna, ut satis consilia suppetant.
tu tabellas consignato, hic ministrabit, ego edam.
370 dicam quem ad modum conscribas. sequere me hac
intro.
PHAE sequor.

356 animulum *B¹VE¹*, anulum *B³E³JK*, amiculum *Leo*

CURCULIO

he asked for dice and challenged me to play a game. I 355
 staked my cloak; he staked his mantle against it and in-
 voked Planesium.

PHAE (*interrupting*) My beloved?

CUR Be quiet for a moment. He threw four vultures.¹⁷ I
 grabbed the dice, invoked my blessed nurse . . . Hercu-
 les,¹⁸ and threw the royal throw. I proposed a toast with a
 great goblet. He emptied it, put down his head and fell 360
 asleep. I removed the ring from him and quietly moved
 my feet from the couch so that the soldier wouldn't no-
 tice. The servants asked me where I was going. I said I
 was going where those who are full normally go. As soon
 as I spotted the door, I immediately ran off.

PHAE I praise you.

CUR Praise me once I've achieved what you long for. Now let's 365
 go inside in order to seal the tablets.

PHAE Am I responsible for any delay?

CUR And let's first gulp something down, ham, tripe, and
 sweatbread. These stabilize the stomach, bread and roast
 beef, a large goblet, a big pot, so that we have sufficient
 wisdom. You seal the tablets, this chap (*points to Palinu-
 rus*) will wait on me, I shall eat. I'll tell you how you are to 370
 write them. Follow me inside this way.

PHAE I'm following you.

*Exeunt CURCULIO, PHAEDROMUS, PALINURUS, and the
 slaves into Phaedromus' house.*

¹⁷ A throw of low value, as opposed to the high royal throw.

¹⁸ Not only known as a great hero, but also as a great eater.

PLAUTUS

ACTVS III

III. i: LYCO. CVRCVLIO. CAPPADOX

LYCO beatus uideor: subduxi ratiunculam,
 quantum aeris mihi sit quantumque alieni siet:
 diues sum, si non reddo eis quibus debeo;
 si reddo illis quibus debeo, alieni amplius.
 375 uerum hercle uero quom belle recogito,
 si magis me instabunt, ad praetorem sufferam.
 habent hunc morem plerique argentarii
 ut alius alium poscant, reddant nemini,
 pugnis rem soluant, si quis poscat clarius.
 380 qui homo mature quaesuit pecuniam,
 nisi eam mature parsit, mature esurit.
 cupio aliquem <mi> emere puerum qui usurarius
 nunc mihi quaeratur. usus est pecunia.
 CVR nil tu me saturum monueris. memini et scio.
 385 ego hoc effectum lepide tibi tradam. tace.
 edepol ne ego hic me intus expleui probe,
 et quidem reliqui in uentre cellae uni locum,
 ubi reliquiarum reliquias reconderem.
 quis hic est operto capite qui Aesculapium
 390 salutat? attat, quem quaerebam! sequere me.
 simulabo quasi non nouerim. heus tu, te uolo!

LYCO unocule, salue.

CVR quaeſo, deridesne me?

374 plus alieni est *P*, alieni amplius *Lindsay in apparatu*, uersum
del. Bothe 382 *mi add. Bentley*

389 qui operto capite *P*, *transp. Bothe*

¹⁹ Roman magistrate with mainly judicial functions.

CURCULIO

ACT THREE

Enter LYCO from the right.

LYCO I seem prosperous: I've done the reckoning of how much money I have and how much debt I have. I'm rich if I don't return the money to those whom I owe something; if I do return it to those whom I owe something, the debt is greater. But seriously, when I think it through nicely, 375 if they push me harder, I'll go to the praetor¹⁹ for arbitration. Most bankers have this custom of demanding money from each other, repaying nothing to anyone, and settling financial matters with their fists if anyone should make his demands too vociferously. A man who has made 380 money quickly goes hungry quickly unless he's saved it quickly. I wish to buy myself a slave boy whom I could acquire as a catamite to be lent out on interest now: I need money.

Enter CURCULIO from Phaedromus' house, sporting an eye patch and carrying a letter. He is followed by a slave boy.

CUR (*into the house*) Don't remind me when I'm full. I remember and know. I'll sort this out in a lovely way for 385 you. Be quiet. (*to himself*) Honestly, I filled myself properly inside here, and I left place for one room in my belly where I can store the remains of the remains. (*pauses*) Who is that greeting Aesculapius with covered head? 390 Goodness, the very man I was looking for! (*to slave boy*) Follow me. I'll pretend not to know him. (*loudly, to Lyco*) Hey, you there, I want to speak to you!

LYCO Hello, one-eyed man.

CUR Tell me, are you poking fun at me?

PLAUTUS

- LYCO de Coculitum prosapia te esse arbitror,
nam i sunt unoculi.
- CVR catapulta hoc ictum est mihi
- 395 apud Sicyonem.
- LYCO nam quid id refert mea,
an aula quassa cum cinere effossus siet?
- CVR superstitiosus hicquidem est, uera praedicat;
nam illaec catapultae ad me crebro commeant.
adulescens, ob rem publicam hoc intus mihi
quod insigne habeo, quaeso ne me incomities.
- 400 LYCO licetne inforare, si incomitiare hau licet?
- CVR non inforabis me quidem, nec mi placet
tuom profecto nec forum nec comitium.
sed hunc quem quaero commonstrare si potes,
inibis a me solidam et grandem . . . gratiam.
Lyconem quaero tarpezitam.
- 405 LYCO dic mihi,
quid eum nunc quaeris? aut quoiati's?
- CVR eloquar.
ab Therapontigono Platagidoro milite.
- LYCO noui edepol nomen, nam mihi istoc nomine,
410 dum scribo, expleui totas ceras quattuor.
sed quid Lyconem quaeris?
- CVR mandatum est mihi
ut has tabellas ad eum ferrem.
- LYCO quis tu homo es?
- CVR libertus illius, quem omnes Summanum uocant.

394 hi *P Varro*, i *Camerarius*

401 non *P*, haud *Bentley*

²⁰ Fabulous giants whose name means "round-eye."

²¹ Greek city in the northern Peloponnesus.

CURCULIO

- LYCO I take it you come from the lineage of Cyclopes:²⁰ they are one-eyed.
- CUR I was hit here by a missile at Sicyon.²¹ 395
- LYCO What do I care whether this is true or whether it was knocked out by a broken pot of ashes?
- CUR (*aside*) He's a prophet, he's telling the truth: such missiles often wind their way toward me. (*to Lyco*) Young man, as for the fact that I got this wound in me in defense of my country, I ask you not to bug me in public. 400
- LYCO Can I bugger you in your privates if I can't bug you in public?²²
- CUR You certainly won't bugger *me* in my privates, and I really don't like your public or your privates. But if you can show me the man I'm looking for, you'll earn my solid and great . . . gratitude. I'm looking for the banker Lyco. 405
- LYCO Tell me, why are you looking for him now? Or where are you from?
- CUR I'll tell you. I'm coming from the soldier Therapontigonus Platagidorus.
- LYCO (*aside*) Yes, I know the name: while I was writing down that name, I filled four entire wax tablets with it. (*to Curculio*) But why are you looking for Lyco? 410
- CUR I was told to bring these tablets to him.
- LYCO Who are you?
- CUR His freedman, whom all men call Summanus.²³

²² *Incomitiare* "annoy" comes from *comitium*, the public assembly place. Lyco creates a pun with *inforare* "drill a hole/bugger" as if that word came from *forum* "market."

²³ A title of Jupiter in his function as protector of houses from lightning. The Latin pun is based on an etymologically wrong derivation from *summanare* "to pee on."

PLAUTUS

- LYCO Summane, salve. qui Summanu's? fac sciam.
 415 CVR quia uestimenta <mea>, ubi obdormiui ebrius,
 summano, ob eam rem me omnes Summanum uocant.
 LYCO alibi te meliust quaerere hospitium tibi:
 apud me profecto nihil est Summano loci.
 sed istum quem quaeris ego sum.
 CVR quaeſo, tunc is es,
 420 LYCO Lyco tarpezita?
 LYCO ego sum.
 CVR multam me tibi
 salutem iussit Therapontigonus dicere,
 et has tabellas dare me iussit.
 LYCO min?
 CVR ita.
 cape, signum nosce. nostin?
 LYCO quidni nouerim?
 clupeatuſ elephantum ubi machaera diligit.
 425 CVR quod isti scriptum est, id te orare iusserat
 profecto ut faceres, suam si uelles gratiam.
 LYCO concede, inspiciam quid sit scriptum.
 CVR maxime,
 tuo arbitrato, dum auferam apud te id quod peto.
 LYCO "miles Lyconi in Epidauru hospiti
 430 suo Therapontigonuſ Platygidoruſ plurimum
 salutem dicit."
 CVR meus hic est, hunc uocat.
 LYCO "tecum oro et quaeſo, qui has tabellas afferet
 tibi, ut ei detur quam istic emi uirginem,
 quod te praesente isti egi teque interprete,
 435 et aurum et uestem. iam scis ut conuenerit:
 argentum des lenoni, huic des uirginem."
 ubi ipſuſ? quomodo non uenit?

CURCULIO

- LYCO Hello, Summanus. How come you're Summanus? Let me know.
- CUR Because whenever I'm drunk, I sure act like some anus. 415
For that reason all men call me Summanus.
- LYCO It's better if you look for hospitality elsewhere: at my house there's definitely no place for Summanus. But I am the man you're looking for.
- CUR Please, is it you, the banker Lyco? 420
- LYCO Yes, that's me.
- CUR Therapontigonus told me to give you his best wishes, and he told me to give these tablets to you.
- LYCO To me?
- CUR Yes. Take them, examine the seal. (*hands them over*) Do you recognize it?
- LYCO Why shouldn't I? Where a man with a shield is cutting an elephant in two with his sword.
- CUR He told me to ask you to do what's written there if you 425
wanted his gratitude.
- LYCO Step aside, I'll look at what's written.
- CUR By all means, just as you like, so long as I take away from you what I seek.
- LYCO "The soldier Therapontigonus Platagidorus gives his 430
warmest greetings to his host in Epidaurus, Lyco."
- CUR He's mine, he's swallowing the fishhook.
- LYCO "I ask you and request from you that the girl I bought at your place be given to the man who brings these tablets to you—business I transacted there in your presence and with you as go-between—and also the jewelry and cloth- 435
ing. You already know how it was agreed: you are to give the money to the pimp and you are to give the girl to this man." Where's the man himself? Why hasn't he come?

415 mea *add.* Fleckeisen

424 diligit Nonius, dessicit P

PLAUTUS

- CVR ego dicam tibi:
 quia nudiusquartus uenimus in Cariam
 ex India; ibi nunc statuam uolt dare auream
 440 solidam faciundam ex auro Philippo, quae siet
 septempedalis, factis monumentum suis.
 LYCO -quam ob rem istuc?
 CVR dicam. quia enim Persas, Paphlagonas,
 Sinopas, Arabas, Caras, Cretanos, Syros,
 Rhodiam atque Lyciam, Perediam et Perbibesiam,
 445 Centauromachiam et Classiam, Vnomammiam,
 Libyamque, <et> oram omnem Conterebromniam,
 dimidiam partem nationum usque omnium
 subegit solus intra uiginti dies.
 LYCO uah!
 CVR quid mirare?
 LYCO quia enim in cauea si forent
 450 conclusi, itidem ut pulli gallinacei,
 ita non potuere uno anno circumirier.
 credo hercle te esse ab illo: [nam] ita nugas blatis.
 CVR immo etiam porro, si uis, dicam.
 LYCO nil moror.
 sequere hac, te apsoluam qua aduenisti gratia.
 455 atque eccum uideo. leno, salue.
 CAP di te ament.

446 et *add. Bothe*

452 nam *del. Langen*

²⁴ Paphlagonia is in what is northern Turkey today. Sinope is a city on the Black Sea. Caria is a region in southwest Turkey, next to Lycia. Peredia and Perbibesia are made-up names punning on food and drink. Centauromachia and Unomammia are also made up and pun on mythi-

CURCULIO

CUR I'll tell you why: three days ago we came from India to Caria. There he wants to have a golden statue made now, a solid one of Philippic gold, which should be seven feet high, as a monument for his feats. 440

LYCO Why's that?

CUR I'll tell you. Because within twenty days he single-handedly subjected the Persians, the Paphlagonians,²⁴ the inhabitants of Sinope, the Arabs, the Carians, the Cretans, the Syrians, Rhodes and Lycia, Gobbleonia and Booziana, Centaurobattaglia and Classia, Onenippleania, Libya, and the entire coast of Wineknockoutia, in short, half of all nations on earth. 445

LYCO Bah!

CUR What are you surprised about?

LYCO Because even if they were locked up in a cage like little chicks, one couldn't walk around them in a single year. Yes, I do believe you come from him: you're talking such rubbish. 450

CUR Well, if you want me to, I'll tell you even more.

LYCO I couldn't care less. Follow me this way, I'll settle the business you've come here for.

Enter CAPPADOX from the shrine of Aesculapius.

LYCO Look, I can see our man. Pimp, hello. 455

CAP May the gods love you.

cal fights with centaurs (half horse, half man) and Amazons (female warriors who cut off their right breasts so as not to impede javelin-throwing). On this interpretation Classia remains an unclear name; others have taken it to mean "fleet" (like *classis*). Conterebromnia is an invented toponym containing the words "wear down" and Bromius, an alternative name of the god of wine.

PLAUTUS

LYCO quid hoc quod ad te uenio?

CAP dicas quid uelis.

LYCO argentum accipias, cum illo mittas uirginem.

CAP quid quod iuratus sum?

LYCO quid id refert tua,

459-
60 dum argentum accipias?

CAP qui monet quasi adiuuat.

sequimini.

CVR leno, caue mora in te sit mihi.

ACTVS IV

IV. i: CHORAGVS

CHO edepol nugatorem lepidum lepide hunc nactust Phae-
dromus.

halophantam an sycophantam magis ess' dicam nescio.

465 ornamenta quae locaui metuo ut possim recipere;
quamquam cum istoc mihi negoti nihil est: ipsi Phae-
dromo

credidi; tamen asseruabo. sed dum hic egreditur foras
commonstrabo quo in quemque hominem facile inue-
niatis loco,

470 ne nimio opere sumat operam si quem conuentum uelit,
uel uitiosum uel sine uitio, uel probum uel improbum.
qui periurum conuenire uolt hominem ito in comitium;
qui mendacem et gloriosum, apud Cloacinae sacrum,
dites, damnosos maritos sub basilica quaerito.

461 in te sit mora *P, transp. Müller*

²⁵ The Comitium, the place where certain magistrates could assemble the people on specified days.

CURCULIO

LYCO What about the matter I'm coming to you for?

CAP Tell me what you want.

LYCO Take your money and send the girl off with that man.
(*points to Curculio*)

CAP What about the oath I gave?

LYCO What does that matter to you so long as you receive your 460
money?

CAP He who advises helps, so to speak. Follow me.

CUR Pimp, make sure you don't delay me.

Exeunt CAPPADOX, LYCO, and CURCULIO with his slave-boy into the house of Cappadox.

ACT FOUR

Enter the SUPPLIER OF COSTUMES from the market.

SUP Goodness, it's a charming swindler that Phaedromus has charmingly got hold of. I don't know whether I should say he's more of a trickster or of a prankster. I'm afraid I might not be able to get back the costumes I hired out; although I have no business with that chap: I entrusted 465 them to Phaedromus himself. Still, I'll be on my guard. But until he comes out I'll show in which place you can easily find which sort of person, so that no one labors too laboriously if he wants to meet someone, be it a man of vice or a man without vice, be it a worthy or a worthless character. Anyone who wants to meet a perjurer should 470 go to the assembly place.²⁵ Anyone who wants to meet a liar and a braggart must look for him at the temple of Venus Cloacina, and anyone who wants to meet rich and

PLAUTUS

475 ibidem erunt scorta exoleta quique stipulari solent;
 symbolarum collatores apud forum piscarium.
 in foro infumo boni homines atque dites ambulant;
 in medio propter canalem, ibi ostentatores meri;
 confidentes garrulique et maleuoli supra lacum,
 qui alteri de nihilo audacter dicunt contumeliam
 et qui ipsi sat habent quod in se possit uere dici.
 480 sub ueteribus, ibi sunt qui dant quique accipiunt fae-
 nore.
 pone aedem Castoris, ibi sunt subito quibus credas male.
 in Tusco uico, ibi sunt homines qui ipsi sese uenditant.
 in Velabro uel pistorem uel lanium uel haruspicem
 uel qui ipsi uortant uel qui aliis ubi uorsentur praebeant.
 485 [dites, damnosos maritos apud Leucadium Oppiam.]
 sed interim fores crepuere: linguae moderandum est
 mihi.

477 supra lacum *ferendum est si est quasi una uox*

485 uersum *secl. Camerarius*

²⁶ Venus presided over the *Cloaca Maxima*, the Roman system of sewers; her shrine was in the Forum. The reference to the colonnaded hall is unclear; it cannot be the Basilica Porcia because that was inaugurated in the year of Plautus' death.

²⁷ The *lacus Curtius*, a hole in the ground in the Roman Forum, at one time filled with water.

²⁸ South side of the Forum. The temple of Castor is also in the Forum.

²⁹ Between the Forum and the Velabrum, which is another market situated between the Capitoline and Palatine hills.

CURCULIO

married wasters must look below the colonnaded hall.²⁶
 In the same place there will also be grown-up prostitutes
 and men who ask for formal guarantees from prospective
 debtors. Those who contribute to shared meals are on
 the fish market. At the lower end of the market decent 475
 and wealthy people stroll around; in the middle part
 of the market next to the open drain are the mere show-
 offs. Arrogant, overtalkative, and malevolent people are
 above the Lake,²⁷ ones who boldly insult their neighbor
 for no good reason and who have enough that could in all
 truth be said about themselves. Below the Old Shops²⁸ 480
 there are those who give and receive on interest. Behind
 the temple of Castor there are those whom you shouldn't
 trust quickly. In the Tuscan Quarter²⁹ there are those
 people who sell themselves. In the Velabrum you can
 meet the miller or the butcher or the soothsayer or those
 who turn or give others the opportunity to turn.³⁰ [Rich 485
 and married wasters at the house of Leucadia Oppia.³¹
 But meanwhile the door has creaked: I have to keep my
 tongue in check.

Exit the SUPPLIER OF COSTUMES to the market.

³⁰ The meaning of l. 484 is obscure. It has been suggested that *uortere* and *uorsari* mean "to trick financially," but it has also been argued that they refer to homosexual intercourse; if the latter is correct, l. 484 fits well with l. 482 and the syntactically awkward l. 483 ought to be deleted.

³¹ Probably Leucadia, freedwoman of Oppius, ran a brothel in the Forum.

PLAUTUS

IV. ii: CVRCVLIO. CAPPADOX. LYCO

- CVR i tu prae, uirgo: non queo quod pone me est seruare.
et aurum et uestem omnem suam esse aiebat quam haec
haberet.
- CAP nemo it infitias.
- CVR at tamen meliusculum est monere.
- 490 LYCO memento promisisse te, si quisquam hanc liberali
causa manu assereret, mihi omne argentum redditum iri,
minas triginta.
- CAP meminero, de istoc quietus esto.
et nunc idem dico.
- CVR et <quidem> [com]meminisse ego haec uolam te.
- CAP memini, et mancupio tibi dabo.
- CVR egon ab lenone quicquam
- 495 mancupio accipiam, quibus sui nihil est nisi una lingua
qui abiurant si quid creditum est? alienos mancupatis,
alienos manu emittitis alienisque imperatis,
nec uobis auctor ullus est nec uosmet estis ulli.
item genus est lenonium inter homines meo quidem ani-
mo
- 500 ut muscae, culices, cimices pedesque pulicesque:
odio et malo et molestiae, bono usui estis nulli,
nec uobiscum quisquam in foro frugi consistere audet;
qui constitit, culpant eum, conspicitur, uituperatur,
eum rem fidemque perdere, tam etsi nil fecit, aiunt.
- 505 LYCO edepol lenones meo animo nouisti, lusce, lepide.
- CVR eodem hercle uos pono et paro: parissimi estis hibus:

487 proç VE¹, pre JKE², pro ç B¹, pro de B³, uel prode?

493 et commeminisse P, et quidem meminisse Leo

CURCULIO

Enter CURCULIO with Planesium and his slave boy, CAPPADOX, and LYCO from the pimp's house.

CUR You go in front, girl; I can't watch over what's behind me.
(*to Cappadox*) He said that all the jewelry and clothes she has belong to her.

CAP No one denies it.

CUR But still it's better to remind you.

LYCO (*to Cappadox*) Remember that you promised that if any- 490
one should claim the girl as free, all the money would be returned to me, thirty minas.

CAP I shall remember, be calm on that front. Now I still say the same.

CUR And I shall want you to remember this, too.

CAP I do remember it, and I'll hand her over to you formally.

CUR I should take anything formally from a pimp? They have 495
nothing of their own except for the bare tongue with which they swear off if anything's been entrusted to them. You don't own the ones you formally sell, you don't own the ones you set free, you don't own the ones you order around, no one sells to you with authority, and you don't sell with authority to anyone. In my opinion the class of pimps is among men like flies, gnats, bedbugs, 500
lice, and fleas: you're a pest, a pain, and a nuisance, and you aren't of any use to anybody. Nobody decent dares to stand beside you on the market; if anyone does, people find fault with him, he's seen and rebuked, and they say he's throwing away his money and reputation, even if he hasn't done anything.

LYCO You really do know your pimps well in my opinion, One- 505
eye.

CUR I put you in the very same category and consider you

PLAUTUS

hi saltem in occultis locis prostant, uos in foro ipso;
uos faenori, hi male suadendo et lustris lacerant homi-
nes.

510 rogationes plurimas propter uos populus sciuit,
quas uos rogatas rumpitis: aliquam reperitis rimam;
quasi aquam feruentem frigidam esse, ita uos putatis
leges.

LYCO tacuisse mauellem.

CAP hau male meditate maledicax es.

CVR indignis si male dicitur, male dictum id esse dico,
uerum si dignis dicitur, bene dictum est meo quidem
animo.

515 ego mancupem te nil moror nec lenonem alium quem-
quam.

Lyco, numquid uis?

LYCO bene uale.

CVR uale.

CAP heus tu! tibi ego dico.

CVR eloquere, quid uis?

CAP quaeso ut hanc cures <ut> bene sit isti.
bene ego istam eduxi meae domi et pudice.

CVR si huius miseret,
ecquid das qui bene sit?

CAP malum.

CVR tibi opust [hoc] qui te procures.

520 CAP quid stulta ploras? ne time, bene hercle uendidi ego te;
fac sis bonae frugi sies, sequere istum bella belle.

517 ut *add. Pylades*

519 hoc *del. Pylades*

³² Boiling water can hurt, cold water cannot. Bankers behave as if the laws had no power over them.

CURCULIO

equals: you're just the same as these. They at least offer their services in hidden places, but you do so in the very market. You tear people to pieces with your interest, they do so by encouraging people to behave badly and through brothels. The people have passed countless bills because of you, which you break as soon as they've been 510 passed; you always find some loophole. As if boiling water were cold, that's how you consider laws.³²

LYCO (*aside*) I wish I'd kept quiet.

CAP (*to Curculio*) You're not badly prepared for a tirade.

CUR (*to Cappadox*) If you speak badly about people who don't deserve it, then I say it's badly spoken. But if you speak badly about people who do deserve it, it's well spoken in my opinion. I don't care for you as an agent, nor for any 515 other pimp for that matter. (*to the banker*) Lyco, do you want anything?

LYCO Goodbye.

CUR Bye. (*turns to go*)

CAP (*to Curculio*) Hey you! I'm talking to you.

CUR (*stopping*) Tell me, what do you want?

CAP I ask you to make sure that all goes well for her. I brought her up well and chastely in my house.

CUR If you feel pity for her, are you giving her anything from which all will go well for her?

CAP A thrashing.

CUR You need that to look after yourself with.

CAP (*to Planesium*) What are you crying for, stupid woman? 520 Stop being afraid, I've sold you well.³³ Make sure you're a good girl, please, follow him prettily, my pretty one.

³³ *Bene* "well" is ambiguous: it can refer to the high price she fetched, but it can also indicate that the man she has been sold to is decent.

PLAUTUS

LYCO Summane, numquid nunciam me uis?

CVR uale atque salue,
nam et operam et pecuniam benigne praebuisti.

LYCO salutem multam dicito patrono.

CVR nuntiabo.

525 LYCO numquid uis, leno?

CAP istas minas decem, qui me procurem,
dum melius sit mi, des.

LYCO dabuntur, cras peti iubeto.

CAP quando bene gessi rem, uolo hic in fano supplicare.

530 nam illam minis olim decem puellam paruolam emi,
sed eum qui mi illam uendidit numquam postilla uidi;
perisse credo. quid id mea refert? ego argentum habeo.
quod homini di sunt propitii, lucrum ei profecto obiciunt.
nunc rei diuinae operam dabo. certum est bene me
curare.

IV. iii: THERAPONTIGONVS. LYCO

535 THER non ego nunc mediocri incedo iratus iracundia,
sed eapse illa qua excidionem facere condidici oppidis.
nunc nisi tu mi propere properas dare iam triginta minas,
quas ego apud te deposiui, uitam propera ponere.

CURCULIO

LYCO Summanus, do you want anything from me now?

CUR Farewell and be well: you were most accommodating with your effort and money.

LYCO Give my best regards to your patron.

CUR I shall.

Exit CURCULIO with Planesium and slave boy, apparently to the left; they make a detour and enter the house of Phaedromus.

LYCO Do you want anything, pimp?

525

CAP Yes, give me those ten minas with which I can look after myself till I feel better.

LYCO You'll receive them, send for them tomorrow.

Exit LYCO to the right.

CAP Since I've been successful, I want to express my gratitude here in the sanctuary; I bought that woman as a little girl for ten minas a long time ago, but afterward I never saw the man who sold her; I believe he's died. What do I care? I have the money. Him to whom the gods are well-disposed they really shower with profit. Now I'll see to the sacrifice. I'm resolved to look after myself well.

530

Exit CAPPADOX into the shrine of Aesculapius.

Enter THERAPONTIGONUS with a slave boy and LYCO from the market.

THER I am walking along, not enraged with some minor rage now, but with that very same rage through which I've learned to level entire towns. Unless you're quick now to quickly give me the thirty minas I left at your place, be quick to leave your life.

535

PLAUTUS

LYCO non edepol nunc ego te mediocri macto infortunio,
sed eopse illo quo mactare soleo quoi nil debeo.

THER ne te mi facias ferocem aut supplicare censeas.

540 LYCO nec tu me quidem umquam subiges redditum ut reddam
tibi,
nec daturus sum.

THER idem ego istuc quom credebam credidi,
te nihil esse redditurum.

LYCO quor nunc a me igitur petis?

THER scire uolo quoi reddidisti.

LYCO lusco liberto tuo,
is Summanum se uocari dixit, ei reddidi.

545 LYCO qui has tabellas opsignatas attulit, quas tu mihi [tabel-
las]—

THER quos tu mihi luscos libertos, quos Summanos somnias?
nec mihi quidem libertus ullust.

LYCO facis sapientius
quam pars lenonum, libertos qui habent et eos deserunt.

THER quid nunc?

550 LYCO quod mandasti feci, tui honoris gratia,
tuom qui signum ad me attulisset, nuntium ne sper-
nerem.

THER stultior stulto fuisti qui is tabellis crederes.

LYCO quis res publica et priuata geritur, nonne is crederem?
ego abeo, tibi res soluta est recte. bellator, uale.

THER quid, ualeam?

LYCO at tu aegrota aetatem, si lubet, per me quidem.

545 tabellas² del. Camerarius

CURCULIO

- LYCO I am not inflicting some minor misfortune on you now, but the very same misfortune I habitually inflict on someone to whom I owe nothing.
- THER Don't act the wild man to me or think that I'll entreat you.
- LYCO Neither will you ever force me to return to you what's already been returned, nor will I give it to you. 540
- THER When I trusted you with that money, I trusted that the very same thing would happen, that you wouldn't return anything.
- LYCO Then why do you demand it from me now?
- THER I want to know who you returned it to.
- LYCO To your one-eyed freedman. He said he was called Summanus. I returned it to him. He brought me these sealed tablets (*shows them*) which you— 545
- THER (*interrupting*) What one-eyed freedmen, what Summanuses are you dreaming about? I for one don't have any freedman.
- LYCO You act more wisely than part of the pimps, who do have freedmen and then leave them in the lurch.
- THER What now?
- LYCO I've done what you instructed me to do, out of regard for you: I didn't reject the messenger who brought your seal to me. 550
- THER You were more stupid than stupidity itself to trust these tablets.
- LYCO Shouldn't I have trusted the documents through which public and private business is conducted? I'm going away, you've been paid correctly. Farewell, warrior.
- THER What, I should fare well?
- LYCO Then be ill for the rest of your life if you wish, I couldn't care less.

555 THER quid ego nunc faciam? quid refert me fecisse regibus
ut mi oboedirent, si hic me hodie umbraticus deriserit?

IV. iv: CAPPADOX. THERAPONTIGONVS

CAP quoi homini di sunt propitii, ei non esse iratos puto.
postquam rem diuinam feci, uenit in mentem mihi,
ne tarpezita exulatum abierit, argentum ut petam,
560 ut ego potius comedim quam ille.

THER iusseram saluere te.

CAP Therapontigone Platagidore, salue; saluos quom aduenis
in Epidaurum, hic hodie apud me . . . numquam delinges
salem.

THER bene uocas, uerum locata res est . . . ut male sit tibi.
sed quid agit meum mercimonium apud te?

CAP nil apud me quidem,

565 ne facias testis, neque equidem debeo quicquam.

THER quid est?

CAP quod fui iuratus, feci.

THER reddin an non uirginem,
prius quam te huic meae machaerae obicio, mastigia?

CAP uapulare ego te uehementer iubeo: ne me territes.
illa abducta est, tu auferere hinc a me, si perges mihi

570 male loqui, profecto, quoi ego nisi malum nil debeo.

THER min malum minitare?

CURCULIO

Exit LYCO to the right.

THER What should I do now? What's the point of having forced 555
kings to obey me if this liver of a sheltered life has the
laugh of me today?

Enter CAPPADOX from the shrine of Aesculapius.

CAP (*to himself*) With him to whom the gods are well-dis-
posed I don't think they are angry. After I offered sacri-
fice, it occurred to me to demand my money for fear that
the banker might have gone into exile, so that I eat it up 560
rather than he.

THER I gave my greetings to you.

CAP Therapontigonus Platagidorus, my greetings. Since
you've arrived safely in Epidaurus, here at my place to-
day you'll . . . never have as much as a lick of salt.

THER Thanks for the invitation, but I've already arranged . . . to
give you a tough time. But what about my merchandise at
your place?

CAP Not at *my* place. No need to bring any witnesses, and I 565
for one don't owe you anything.

THER What's that?

CAP I did what I'd sworn.

THER Are you returning the girl to me or not before I throw you
in front of this sword of mine, you good-for-nothing?
(*draws his sword*)

CAP I tell you to get a good beating: don't try to scare me. The
girl has been *led* away, and you will be *carried* away from
me if you continue to insult me, mark my words; I owe 570
you nothing except a beating.

THER Are you threatening me with a beating?

PLAUTUS

- CAP atque edepol non minitabor, sed dabo, [mih]i
si perges molestus esse.
- 575 THER leno minitatur mihi,
meaque pugnae proeliales plurumae optritae iacent?
at ita me machaera et clupeus *** <meus>
bene iuuent pugnantem in acie: nisi mi uirgo redditur,
iam ego te faciam ut hinc formicae frustillatim differant.
- CAP at ita me uolsellae, pecten, speculum, calamistrum
meum
bene me amassint meaque axitia linteumque extersui,
ut ego tua magnifica uerba neque istas tuas magnas mi-
nas
580 non pluris facio quam ancillam meam quae latrinam
lauat.
ego illam reddidi qui argentum a te attulit.
- THER quis is est homo?
- CAP tuom libertum sese aiebat esse Summanum.
- THER meum?
attat! Curculio hercle uerba mihi dedit, quom cogito.
is mihi anulum surrupuit.
- 585 CAP perdidistin tu anulum?
miles pulchre centuriatus est expuncto in manipulo.
- THER ubi nunc Curculionem inueniam?
- CAP in tritico facillume,
uel quingentos curculiones pro uno faxo reperias.
ego abeo, uale atque salue.

571-72 mihi² del. Müller (an ad insequentem uersum pertinet? mi si
perges ess' molestus haud displicet)

574 altera pars uersus deest meus add. Lindsay

576 hic P, hunc Osbornus, hinc Lanciotti in apparatu

582 esse aiebat sese P, transp. Camerarius

CURCULIO

CAP And I won't just threaten you, but I'll give you one if you continue to be a nuisance.

THER A pimp is threatening me, and my large number of military exploits lie trampled on in the dust? But as truly as my sword and shield *** may support me well when I fight in the field: unless the girl is returned to me, I'll make sure this instant that ants will carry you away here in pieces. 575

CAP But as truly as my depilatory tweezers, comb, mirror, curling tongs, makeup pot, and bath towel may love me well: I don't care about those pompous words and those great threats of yours any more than about the slave girl who cleans my loo. I returned the girl to the man who brought the money from you. 580

THER Who is that man?

CAP He said he was your freedman Summanus.

THER Mine? Goodness! Curculio has really tricked me when I think about it. He made off with my ring.

CAP You gave up your ring? The soldier is well marshaled in a bugged brigade.³⁴ 585

THER Where should I now find Curculio, this weevil?

CAP Very easily in the wheat; I bet you'll even find five hundred weevils instead of one. I'm off, farewell and be well.

Exit CAPPADOX to the right.

³⁴ Pun on the two meanings of *anulus* "ring/anus": the soldier is mocked for losing his ring/being the passive partner in anal sex. Hence he fits into a military unit of 140–200 "buggered" men.

PLAUTUS

THER male uale, male sit tibi!
 quid ego faciam? maneam an abeam? sicut mi esse os
 oblitum?
 590 cupio dare mercedem qui illunc ubi sit commonstret
 mihi.

ACTVS V

V. i: CVRCVLIO

CVR antiquom poetam audiui scripsisse in tragoedia
 mulieres duas peiores esse quam unam. res ita est.
 uerum mulierem peiorem quam haec amica est Phae-
 dromi
 non uidi neque audiui, nec pot dici nec fingi potest
 595 peior quam haec est: quae ubi me habere hunc conspica-
 ta est anulum
 rogat unde habeam. "quid id tu quaeris?" "quia mi quae-
 sito est opus."
 nego me dicere. ut eum eriperet, manum arripuit mordi-
 cus.
 uix foras me abripui atque effugi. apage istanc cani-
 culam!

V. ii: PLANESIVM. PHAEDROMVS. CVRCVLIO.

THERAPONTIGONVS

PLA Phaedrome, propera.
 PHAE quid properem?
 PLA parasitum ne amiseris.
 600 magna res est.

595 quam haec est *P, del. Pylades (qui med hunc habere seruat)*
 med *B*, met *VE*¹, me *JKE*^c hunc habere *P, transp. Gruterus*

CURCULIO

Ther Fare badly, may you have a bad time! What shall I do?
Shall I wait or go away? Is it possible that I've been
tricked like this? I wish to give a reward to the man who 590
shows me where that person is. (*steps aside with slave
boy*)

ACT FIVE

Enter CURCULIO from Phaedromus' house, running and carrying a ring in his hands.

Cur I've heard that an ancient poet wrote in a tragedy that
two women are worse than one. That is true. But I
haven't seen or heard of a woman worse than this girl-
friend of Phaedromus is, and a woman worse than she is 595
can't be mentioned or invented: when she saw that I have
this ring, she asked me where I got it from. "Why are you
asking me this?" "Because I need to ask." I refused to tell
her. She snatched my hand, biting me in the process, in
order to pull it off. I hardly managed to get outside and
run off. Away with that little bitch!

Enter PLANESIUM and PHAEDROMUS from his house.

Pla Phaedromus, hurry up.

Phae Hurry up with what?

Pla Don't lose your hanger-on. Something big is at stake. 600

PLAUTUS

CVR nulla est mihi, nam quam habui apsumpsi celeriter.

PHAE teneo. quid negoti est?

PLA rogita unde istunc habeat anulum.
pater istum meus gestitavit.

CVR at mea . . . matertera.

PLA mater ei utendum dederat.

CVR pater tuos rursum tibi.

PLA nugas garris.

CVR soleo, nam propter eas uiuo facilius.

605 quid nunc?

PLA opsecro, parentes ne meos mi prohibeas.

CVR quid ego? sub gemmane apstruos habeo tuam matrem
et patrem?

PLA libera ego sum nata.

CVR et alii multi qui nunc seruiunt.

PHAE enim uero irascor.

CVR dixi equidem tibi unde ad me hic peruenerit.
quotiens dicendum est? elusi militem, inquam, in alea.

610 THER saluos sum, eccum quem quaerebam. quid agis, bone
uir?

CVR audio.

si uis tribus bolis uel in chlamydem.

THER quin tu is in malam crucem
cum bolis, cum bulbis? redde etiam argentum aut uirgi-
nem.

603 uo is B, uois VE¹, tuos E³, tuus JK

605 quid nunc *Planesio dedit Ribbeck*

612 bulbis BVK, bullis JE

CURCULIO

- CUR Nothing is at stake with me: I've used up quickly everything I ever had.³⁵
- PHAE (*to Planesium, grabbing Curculio*) I've got him. What's the matter?
- PLA Ask him where he has that ring from. My father used to wear it.
- CUR But also my . . . aunt.
- PLA His mother gave it to him to use.
- CUR And your father in turn to you.
- PLA You're talking nonsense.
- CUR That's my habit: because of it I live more easily. What now? 605
- PLA Please, don't keep my parents from me.
- CUR I'm doing what? Am I keeping your mother and father tucked away under the precious stone?
- PLA I was born free.
- CUR And so were many others who are slaves now.
- PHAE I'm really getting angry.
- CUR I told you where I got the ring from. How often do you need to be told? I say, I tricked a soldier in a game of dice.
- THER (*approaching with slave boy*) I'm safe, look, the very man I was trying to find. How are you, my good man? 610
- CUR I'm listening. Three throws of dice, if you like—(*eyeing him*) well, for your cloak.
- THER Why don't you go to the hangman with your dice and with your dishes?³⁶ Give me back the money or the girl now.

³⁵ Pun on the meanings of *res*: Planesium means "matter," Curculio, "wealth."

³⁶ Lit. "with your throws and with your onions." The *bulbi* do not only come up because they sound similar to *boli*, but also because the latter can mean "choice morsels" as well as "throws of the dice."

PLAUTUS

- CVR quod argentum, quas tu mihi tricas narras? quam tu uirginem
me reposcis?
- THER quam ab lenone abduxti hodie, scelus uiri.
- 615 CVR nullam abduxi.
- THER certe eccistam uideo.
- PHAE uirgo haec libera est.
- THER mean ancilla libera ut sit, quam ego numquam emisi
manu?
- PHAE quis tibi hanc dedit mancupio? aut unde emisti? fac
sciam.
- THER ego quidem pro istac rem solui ab tarpezita meo:
quam ego pecuniam quadruplicem aps te et lenone aufe-
ram.
- 620 PHAE qui scis mercari furtiuas atque ingenuas uirgines,
ambula in ius.
- THER non eo.
- PHAE licet te antestari?
- THER non licet.
- PHAE Iuppiter te, miles, perdat, intestatus uiuito;
at ego, quem licet, te. accede huc.
- THER seruom antestari?
- CVR uide.
- 624-
25 em ut scias me liberum esse! ergo ambula in ius.
- THER em tibi!
- CVR o ciues, ciues!
- THER quid clamas?
- PHAE quid tibi istum tactio est?
- THER quia mi lubitum est.

622 male *P*, miles *Leo*

CURCULIO

- CUR What money, what nonsense are you telling me about?
What girl are you demanding back from me?
- THER The one you took away from the pimp today, you criminal.
- CUR I didn't take any away. 615
- THER Of course you did, I can see her here.
- PHAE This girl is free.
- THER My slave girl should be free? I've never freed her.
- PHAE Who sold her to you? Or where did you buy her? Let me know.
- THER I paid for her from my banker's. This money I'll take away from you and the pimp, fourfold.
- PHAE You who know how to buy stolen freeborn girls, go to court. 620
- THER I'm not going.
- PHAE (*still to the soldier*) Can you testify?
- THER No, I can't.
- PHAE May Jupiter ruin you, soldier; live without your testicles³⁷ then. (*to Curculio*) But I, who can, take you as my witness. Come here. (*touches his ear*³⁸)
- THER A slave acting as witness?
- CUR Watch out. Here, so that you know that I'm free! (*hits him*) 625
Go to court then.
- THER Here, one for you! (*hits back*)
- CUR O citizens, citizens!
- THER What are you shouting for?
- PHAE What did you touch this chap for?
- THER Because I felt like it.

³⁷ Lat. *testis* can mean "witness" as well as "testicle."

³⁸ The ordinary procedure in engaging a witness.

PLAUTUS

- PHAE accede huc tu, ego illum tibi dedam, tace.
 PLA Phaedrome, opsecro, serua me.
 PHAE tamquam me et genium meum.
 miles, quaeso <te> ut mihi dicas unde illum habeas anu-
 lum,
 630 quem parasitus hic te elusit.
 PLA per tua genua te opsecro,
 ut nos facias certiores.
 THER quid istuc ad uos attinet?
 quaeratis chlamydem et machaeram hanc unde ad me
 peruenerit.
 CVR ut fastidit gloriosus!
 THER mitte istum, ego dicam omnia.
 CVR nihil est quod ille dicit.
 PLA fac me certiozem, opsecro.
 635 THER ego dicam, surge. hanc rem agite atque animum aduor-
 tite.
 pater meus habuit Periplanes, Planesium.
 is prius quam moritur mihi dedit tamquam suo,
 ut aequom fuerat, filio—
 PLA pro Iuppiter!
 THER et isti me heredem fecit.
 PLA <o> Pietas mea,
 640 serua me, quando ego te seruauī sedulo.
 frater mi, salue.
 THER qui credam ego istuc? cedo,
 si uera memoras, quae fuit mater tua?
 PLA Cleobula.
 THER nutrix quae fuit?

629 te *add. Becker*

CURCULIO

- PHAE (*to Curculio*) You, come here, I shall hand him over to you, be quiet.
- PLA Phaedromus, please, save me!
- PHAE (*to Planesium*) Just like myself and my vital spirit. (*to Therapontigonus*) Soldier, I ask you to tell me where you got that ring from which my hanger-on tricked you out of. 630
- PLA I implore you by your knees, do let us know. (*prostrates herself*)
- THER What business of yours is this? You might as well ask where I got this cloak and sword from.
- CUR How this pompous person is giving himself airs!
- THER (*to Phaedromus*) Hand this chap over (*points to Curculio*) and I'll tell you everything.
- CUR What he's saying amounts to nothing.
- PLA Do let me know, I implore you.
- THER (*to Planesium*) I shall tell you. Rise. (*she obeys; to all*) Listen carefully and pay attention. (*to Planesium*) My father Periplanes had it, Planesium. Before he died he gave it to me, since I was his son, as was appropriate— 635
- PLA (*interrupting*) O Jupiter!
- THER And with it he made me his heir.
- PLA O my dear goddess of filial love, preserve me, since I've preserved you eagerly. (*to Therapontigonus*) My dear brother, greetings. 640
- THER Why should I believe this? Tell me, if you speak the truth, who was your mother?
- PLA Cleobula.
- THER Who was your nurse?

636 Planesium uocatiuus plerisque editoribus post imperatium pluralem suspectus aut ineptus uidetur

639 iste P, isti Bothe o add. s

PLAUTUS

- PLA Archestrata.
 644- ea me spectatum tulerat per Dionysia.
 45 postquam illo uentum est, iam, ut me collocauerat,
 exoritur uentus turbo, spectacula ibi ruont,
 ego pertimesco: [tum] ibi me nescioquis arripit
 timidam atque pauidam, nec uiuam nec mortuam.
 650 nec quo me pacto apstulerit possum dicere.
 THER memini istanc turbam fieri. sed tu dic mihi,
 ubi is est homo qui te surrupuit?
 PLA nescio.
 uerum hunc seruauui semper mecum una anulum;
 cum hoc olim perii.
 THER cedo ut inspiciam.
 CVR sanan es,
 655 quae isti committas?
 PLA sine modo.
 THER pro Iuppiter!
 hic est quem ego tibi misi natali die.
 tam facile noui quam me. salue, mea soror.
 PLA frater mi, salue.
 PHAE deos uolo bene uortere
 istam rem uobis.
 CVR et ego nobis omnibus:
 660 tu ut hodie adueniens cenam des sororiam,
 hic nuptialem cras dabit. promittimus.
 PHAE tace tu.
 CVR non taceo, quando res uortit bene.
 tu istanc desponde huic, miles. ego dotem dabo.
 THER quid dotis?
 CVR egone? ut semper, dum uiuat, me alat.
 665 uerum hercle dico.

CURCULIO

- PLA Archestrata. She'd taken me to watch the festival of Dionysus. After we'd arrived there and she'd put me in my seat, a whirlwind arose immediately and the seats collapsed. I began to be terrified. Someone snatched me there, a trembling and fearful girl, neither alive nor dead. And I can't tell how he carried me off. 645
- THER I remember that panic arising. But you, tell me, where is the man who snatched you?
- PLA I don't know. But I've always kept this ring with me. (*produces ring*) With this ring I got lost back then.
- THER Give it to me so I can examine it. (*she hands it over*)
- CUR (*to Planesium*) Are you in your right mind, giving it to this person? 650
- PLA Just let him have it.
- THER O Jupiter! This is the one I sent you on your birthday. I know it as well as myself. Greetings, my dear sister.
- PLA My dear brother, greetings.
- PHAE I wish that the gods may bless you in this.
- CUR And I wish that they may bless us all: (*to the soldier*) you are to provide the sister-finding dinner on your arrival today and he (*points to Phaedromus*) will provide the wedding dinner tomorrow. We accept the invitation. 660
- PHAE Be quiet, you.
- CUR I won't be quiet since things are going well. Betroth the girl to this man, soldier. I'll give the dowry.
- THER What dowry?
- CUR I? That she shall always feed me as long as I live. Yes, I'm speaking the truth. 665

PLAUTUS

- THER me lubente feceris.
 et leno hic debet nobis triginta minas.
 PHAE quam ob rem istuc?
 THER quia ille ita repromisit mihi:
 si quisquam hanc liberali asseruisset manu,
 sine controuersia omne argentum reddere.
 670 nunc eamus ad lenonem.
 CVR laudo.
 PHAE hoc prius uolo,
 meam rem agere.
 THER quid id est?
 PHAE ut mihi hanc despondeas.
 CVR quid cessas, miles, hanc huic uxorem dare?
 THER si haec uolt.
 PLA mi frater, cupio.
 THER fiat.
 CVR bene facis.
 PHAE spondesne, miles, mi hanc uxorem?
 THER spondeo.
 675 CVR et ego hoc idem unum: spondeo.
 THER lepide facis.
 676-78 sed eccum lenonem, incedit, thesaurum meum.

V. iii: CAPPADOX. THERAPONTIGONVS.
 PHAEDROMVS. PLANESIVM

 679 CAP argentariis male credi qui aiunt, nugas praedicant:
 680 nam et bene et male credi dico; id adeo ego hodie exper-
 tus sum.
 non male creditur qui numquam reddunt, sed prorsum
 perit.
 uel ille decem minas dum soluit, omnis mensas transit.
 postquam nil fit, clamore hominem posco: ille in ius me
 uocat;

CURCULIO

THER You'll do me a pleasure. And the pimp here owes us thirty minas.

PHAE What for?

THER Because he promised me that if anyone claimed this girl as free, he would return the entire price without any argument. Now let's go to the pimp. 670

CUR Excellent idea.

PHAE First I want to sort out my business.

THER What's that?

PHAE Betroth this lady to me.

CUR Soldier, what are you hesitating to give her to him as his wife?

THER If she wants it.

PLA My dear brother, I desire it.

THER So be it.

CUR Thank you.

PHAE Soldier, do you betroth this girl to me as my wife?

THER Yes, I betroth her.

CUR And I do the very same thing: I betroth her. 675

THER Charming of you. (*turning around*) But look at the pimp, here he comes, my treasure.

Enter CAPPADOX from the right.

CAP People who say bankers are ill trusted talk nonsense: I 680
say they are trusted both well and ill. What's more, I've
experienced this myself today. Money is not ill trusted to
those who never return it, but perishes completely. For
instance, while that Lyco was trying to pay me the ten
minas, he went around all the banks. After nothing came
of it, I demanded my money from him by shouting. He

667 ille P, illic *Fleckeisen*

682 uelut P, uel ille *Leo*

PLAUTUS

- 685 pessume metui ne mihi hodie apud praetorem solueret.
uerum amici compulerunt: reddit argentum domo.
nunc domum properare certum est.
- THER heus tu, leno, te uolo!
CVR et ego te uolo.
CAP at ego uos nolo ambos.
 THER sta sis ilico.
CVR atque argentum propere propera uomere.
CAP quid mecum est tibi?
aut tibi?
- 690 THER quia ego ex te hodie faciam pilum catapultarium
atque ita te neruo torquebo, itidem ut catapultae solent.
CVR delicatum te hodie faciam, cum catello ut accubes,
ferreo ego dico.
CAP at ego uos ambo in robusto carcere
ut pereatis.
THER collum opstringe, abduce istum in malam crucem.
CVR quicquid est, ipse ibit potius.
CAP pro deum atque hominum fidem!
- 695 hocin pacto indemnatum atque intestatum me abripi?
opsecro, Planesium, et te, Phaedrome, auxilium ut feras.
PLA frater, opsecro te, noli hunc indemnatum perdere.
bene et pudice me domi habuit.

687 et . . . uolo *dedit Phaedromo P, Curculioni Lanciotti*

688 atque . . . uomere *dedit Phaedromo P, Curculioni Lanciotti*

691-92 delicatum . . . dico *dedit militi P, Curculioni Lanciotti,*
Phaedromo Pistoris

693 collum . . . crucem *dat militi P, Phaedromo Leo*

694 quicquid . . . potius *dat Phaedromo P, Curculioni Lanciotti,*
Therapontigono Leo

697 condempnatum P, indemnatum *Pius*

CURCULIO

called me to court. I was terribly afraid that he would pay me at the praetor's today.³⁹ But his friends coerced him. 685
He returned the money out of his own. Now I'm resolved to rush home.

THER (*approaching*) Hey, you, pimp, I want to speak to you!

CUR And I want to speak to you.

CAP But I don't want to speak to either of you.

THER Stop at once, will you?

CUR And be quick to spit out the money quickly.

CAP (*to the soldier*) What business have I with you? (*to Curculio*) Or with you?

THER Because I'll turn you into the missile of a catapult today 690
and tie you up with a twisted rope in the same way as catapults do.⁴⁰

CUR I'll turn you into a fop today, so that you will sleep with a little dog, I mean a dog collar, an iron one.⁴¹

CAP But I shall put you both into a solid cell so that you perish.

THER (*to slave boy*) Put a noose round his neck, drag him off to the gallows.

CUR Whatever it is, he'll prefer to go by himself.

CAP In the name of all that's sacred on heaven and earth! That 695
I should be dragged off in this way without sentence and without witnesses against me! I implore you, Planesium, and you, Phaedromus, bring me help!

PLA My brother, I beg you, don't kill this man without sentence. He looked after me well and chastely at his house.

³⁹ There he might perjure himself and get away without paying or with paying little.

⁴⁰ A *neruos* can be the rope in a catapult or an apparatus for binding and torturing prisoners.

⁴¹ A pun on *catellus* "puppy" and *catella* "little chain."

PLAUTUS

- THER hau uoluntate id sua:
 Aesculapio huic habeto, quom pudica es, gratiam;
 700 nam si is ualuisset, iam pridem quoquo posset mitteret
 PHAE animum aduortite <hoc>, si possum hoc inter uos compo-
 nere.
 mitte istunc. accede huc, leno. dicam meam sententiam,
 siquidem uoltis quod decrero facere.
 THER tibi permittimus.
 CAP dum quidem hercle ita iudices, ne quisquam a me argen-
 tum auferat.
 705 THER quodn' promisti?
 CAP qui promisi?
 PHAE lingua.
 CAP eadem nunc nego.
 dicendi, non rem perdendi gratia haec nata est mihi.
 PHAE nihil agit, collum opstringe homini.
 CAP iam iam faciam ut iusseris.
 THER quando uir bonus es, responde quod rogo.
 CAP roga quod lubet.
 THER promistin, si liberali quisquam hanc assereret manu,
 710 te omne argentum redditurum?
 CAP non commemorari dicere.
 THER quid? negas?
 CAP nego hercle uero. quo praesente? quo in loco?
 CVR me ipso praesente et Lycone tarpezita.
 CAP non taces?
 CVR non taceo.
 CAP non ego te flocci facio; ne me territes.
 THER me ipso praesente et Lycone factum est.

701 hoc *add. Langen*

CURCULIO

- THER Not out of his free will: be grateful to Aesculapius here
 for being chaste: if this chap had been well, he'd long 700
 have sent you wherever he could.
- PHAE Pay attention if I can settle this between you. (*to Thera-*
pontigonus' slave boy) Let go of him. (*to Cappadox*)
 Pimp, come here. (*to all*) I'll pronounce my judgment, if
 indeed you're willing to do what I decide.
- THER We leave it to you.
- CAP So long as you don't judge in such a way that anyone takes
 money away from me.
- THER The money you promised? 705
- CAP How did I promise it?
- PHAE With your tongue.
- CAP With the very same I deny it now. My tongue was born to
 me for the sake of speaking, not for the sake of ruining
 my property.
- PHAE He's trying to fool us. (*to slave boy*) Tie his neck.
- CAP No, I'll do as you command this minute.
- THER Since you're a good man, reply to what I ask you.
- CAP Ask what you like.
- THER Didn't you promise that if anyone claimed this woman as
 free you would return the entire money? 710
- CAP I don't remember saying it.
- THER What? You deny it?
- CAP I do indeed deny it. In whose presence? In what place?
- CUR In my very own presence and that of the banker Lyco.
- CAP Won't you be quiet?
- CUR No, I won't.
- CAP I don't give a damn about you; don't try to scare me.
- THER It happened in my very own presence and that of Lyco.

712-13 me . . . tarpezita *et non taceo Curculioni dat B³, militi dant*
 VEK

PLAUTUS

- PHAE satis credo tibi.
 715 nunc adeo, ut tu scire possis, leno, meam sententiam:
 libera haec est, hic huius frater est, haec autem huius
 soror,
 haec mihi nubet: tu huic argentum redde. hoc iudicium
 meum est.
- THER tu autem in neruo iam iacebis, nisi mi argentum redditur.
 CAP hercle istam rem iudicasti perfidiose, Phaedrome.
 720 et tibi oberit et te, miles, di deaeque perduint.
 tu me sequere.
- THER quo sequar te?
 CAP ad tarpezitam meum
 ad praetorem. nam inde rem soluo omnibus quibus
 debeo.
- THER ego te in neruom, haud ad praetorem hinc rapiam, ni ar-
 gentum refers.
- CAP ego te uehementer perire cupio, ne tu [me] nescias.
 725 THER itane uero?
 CAP ita hercle uero.
- THER noui ego hos pugnos meos.
 CAP quid tum?
 THER "quid tum" rogitas? hisce ego, si tu me irritaueris,
 placidum te hodie reddam.
- CAP age ergo, recipe.
 THER <at> actutum.
 CAP licet.
- PHAE tu, miles, apud me cenabis. hodie fient nuptiae.
 CVR quae res bene uortat mi et uobis! spectatores, plaudite.

716 illius soror P, huius s. *Luchs* 724 me del. *Guyet*

727 at et notam personae add. *Ussing*

729 uersum militi dedit P, *Curculioni dedi ego, Phaedromo con-*
tinuauit Seyffert

CURCULIO

- PHAE (*to Therapontigonus*) I believe you fully. (*to pimp*) And 715
 now so you can know my opinion, pimp: this girl is free,
 this man is her brother, this girl in turn is his sister, and
 this girl will marry me. You return the money to him
 (*points to the soldier*). This is my judgment.
- THER (*to Cappadox*) You'll sit in prison in a minute unless I'm
 given back my money.
- CAP You've really been a treacherous judge in this matter,
 Phaedromus. You shall rue it, and as for you, soldier, may 720
 the gods and goddesses ruin you. Follow me, you.
- THER Where should I follow you?
- CAP To my banker, to the praetor: from that account I pay all
 those I owe something.
- THER I'll drag you off to jail, not to the praetor, unless you re-
 turn the money.
- CAP Just so you know, I very much wish that you come to a
 sticky end.
- THER Indeed? 725
- CAP Yes indeed.
- THER I know these fists of mine. (*bares his arms*)
- CAP So what?
- THER You're asking me "so what"? If you provoke me, I'll pacify
 you with them today.
- CAP Go on then, receive your money.
- THER But at once.
- CAP Okay.
- PHAE You, soldier, will dine at my place. The wedding will take
 place today.
- CUR May this turn out well for me and you! Spectators, give us
 your applause.



EPIDICUS

WER



INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The *Epidicus* is one of several comedies named after a clever slave who helps his young master to trick the head of the household. The head of household in our play is a former Athenian soldier called Periphanes. Periphanes has a daughter, Telestis, with Philippa, a woman he loves. But Philippa is not his wife and does not live with him; Telestis was conceived in Epidaurus and born in Thebes, and Periphanes has not seen her since she was a baby, though Epidicus has been sent occasionally to see Philippa and Telestis. Telestis was taken prisoner in a war between Athens and Thebes and is now being brought to Athens. Philippa immediately contacted Periphanes to tell him that she is also coming to Athens in order to find her daughter.

We are told very little about the affair between Periphanes and Philippa, not even whether it took place before or after he married another woman in Athens. Periphanes never got along with his Athenian wife, who died some time ago but left him a son, Stratippocles. Periphanes is afraid of confessing his old affair and still-existing love to his son, even though his pompous but not very intelligent friend Apocides tells him that there is nothing to be ashamed of.

Stratippocles is far less successful as a soldier than his

father but has an equally complex love life. Just as Periphanes wants to keep his affair a secret from his son, Stratippocles does not want to confide in his father. Before he took part in the war against Thebes, Stratippocles fell in love with a girl called Acropolistis. He asked Epidicus by post to procure her for him behind his father's back. So Epidicus told Periphanes that Acropolistis is his daughter. Periphanes, unaware that he was being tricked, gave Epidicus thirty minas, with which he then bought the girl for the old man. But while abroad, Stratippocles lost interest in Acropolistis and fell in love with another girl, a prisoner of war. This girl is Telestis, the half-sister he was never told about. Stratippocles borrowed forty minas from a moneylender and bought her, but never slept with her.

Our play begins when Stratippocles returns from abroad and asks Epidicus for help since his useless friend Chaeribulus cannot provide him with the necessary money. Epidicus comes up with a clever plan. He goes to Periphanes and tells him that his son wants to buy a music girl. Periphanes prefers his son to marry a woman from a good family and wants to get rid of this music girl. Epidicus recommends buying the girl and selling her to a certain soldier who is in love with her. Periphanes gives Epidicus fifty minas and asks his friend Apoecides to make sure that everything is done properly. Apoecides, however, being as lazy and unintelligent as Chaeribulus, does not watch Epidicus, who hires an unnamed music girl cheaply and gives the rest of the money to Stratippocles, who pays off his debt to the money-lender. In order not to arouse the suspicion of the old men, Epidicus instructs the pimp from whom he had bought Acropolistis to say, should he be asked, that he has received fifty minas for a music girl. The

EPIDICUS

pimp had only received thirty minas for Acropolistis, but agrees to play along because he thinks that Epidicus wants to sell her off for a higher sum. Should the old men ask, they will of course believe that the pimp is talking about the unnamed music girl, not about Acropolistis.

It had been Periphanes' plan to hire a music girl to take part in a sacrifice he wanted to make. Epidicus makes the old men believe that he has bought Stratippocles' girlfriend and is bringing her home, but that she has been tricked into believing that she is just coming for the sacrifice. Epidicus instructs the girl to tell the truth, that is, that he has hired her for the sacrifice. The old men take her statement as proof that she has been tricked by Epidicus. Since Periphanes believes the music girl to be a disreputable character, he puts her up in a different room from Acropolistis, his supposed daughter.

Naturally, Epidicus' deception can only last for a limited time. A soldier has heard that the girl he loves, Acropolistis, is in Periphanes' house and comes to buy her. Periphanes is happy at the opportunity to sell his son's girlfriend to his rival. But because Periphanes believes Acropolistis to be his daughter, he presents the soldier with the unnamed music girl. The soldier tells him that this is not the girl he loves. She cannot conceal the situation any longer and says that she is free and cannot be sold anyway, as she had claimed all along. She also says truthfully that she does not know where Acropolistis is. Periphanes realizes that the girl was speaking the truth all along and angrily sends her off.

The next person to arrive is Philippa. She finds Periphanes and they recognize each other. She is distraught because she has not found her daughter. Periphanes tells her

not to worry and brings out the supposed daughter, Acropolistis. Of course Philippa notices instantly that this is not Telestis and Acropolistis admits lying to Periphanes.

Periphanes and Apocides now go looking for Philippa's daughter, but also for Epidicus, who is to be punished severely. Epidicus is preparing to flee, but then meets Stratippocles' new girlfriend and realizes who she is. He tells Telestis and a crestfallen Stratippocles that they have the same father. Then he confronts the old men. When Periphanes understands that Epidicus has secured his daughter for him, anger changes to gratitude and he sets the slave free.

The central figure of the play is of course its eponymous hero, Epidicus. The audience admires his boldness, fears for his safety when the old men are looking for him, and rejoices when he becomes a freedman. However, the ending of the play remains somewhat unsatisfactory. Will Periphanes and Philippa marry? Under Athenian law this is not possible because Philippa is not a citizen. She can only be an unofficial life-partner, which is perhaps all that Periphanes wants after his unhappy experience of marriage. Will Stratippocles follow Epidicus' insensitive suggestion and become the lover of Acropolistis again? Such fickleness may not endear Stratippocles to us, but would certainly be in keeping with his character. But would he actually be allowed to see her again after her insolent behavior toward his father? If Terence's *Phormio* is anything to go by, he would probably be given permission to go back to her; in Terence's play the harsh father wants to forbid his son to have a girlfriend but must relent when rebuked by his wife, who reminds him that his son has only one girlfriend while he, the father, had two wives.

EPIDICUS

The uncertainties with which the comedy ends are such that a number of scholars came to the conclusion that Plautus must have changed the Greek original considerably, the idea being that a Greek author would not have allowed so many loose ends and so much frustration on the part of Stratippocles. Since we know neither the name of the Greek original nor that of its author, all such theories must remain speculative. One theory of this kind, first advocated by Dziatzko in 1899–1900, has won relatively widespread acceptance. According to Dziatzko, it is likely that in the Greek original Stratippocles married his half-sister. Marriage between half-siblings of the same father was legal in Athens and would have tied up most of the loose ends: Stratippocles' frustration would not even have arisen, both siblings would be happily married to partners from a good background, and Periphanes' worries about his son's inappropriate liaisons would disappear immediately. Since a Roman audience would not have approved of such a marriage, however, Plautus had to change the ending, which as a consequence became somewhat unsatisfactory and would have become even more so had Plautus not given such emphasis to the successful slave Epidicus.

To this theory one can object that while marriages between half-siblings were legal in Athens, they were certainly not the norm. And if there is a family crisis early on in a Greek comedy, the order that is restored is not merely legal but normative as well. This makes it highly unlikely that there ever was a Greek play in which half-siblings married each other, just as homosexual relationships, while not taboo in ancient Greece, were certainly not considered appropriate endings to comedies. Perhaps the legal argument against a marriage between Stratippo-

PLAUTUS

cles and Telestis in the Greek original of the *Epidicus* is even more important: half-sister marriage was allowed in Athens but only between Athenian nationals. Since Telestis is no more an Athenian citizen than her mother, a Greek playwright could hardly write a convincing ending involving the marriage between Stratippocles and Telestis.

We do not know when the *Epidicus* was first staged. The play is mentioned in the *Bacchides* (ll. 214–15), but the *Bacchides* is one of Plautus' last comedies, so this does not help us much. In ll. 349–51 Epidicus mentions parricides. This may be a reference to Lucius Hostius, reputedly the first parricide at Rome, who became notorious after the Second Punic War, which ended in 201. We can further narrow down the period in which the *Epidicus* must have been staged for the first time if the list of expensive women's dresses in ll. 222–235 is an allusion to the repeal of the *lex Oppia*, a law against luxury given up in 195. The frequency and length of sung passages points in the same direction. The *Epidicus* contains fewer long verses than average, but a higher number of senarii and, more important, a higher number of songs. The *Epidicus* thus seems to belong to Plautus' middle or late period.

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EPIDICVS

ARGVMENTVM

- Emit fidicinam, filiam credens, senex
Persuasu serui, atque conducticiam
Iterum pro amica ei subiecit filii.
Dat erili argentum. eo sororem destinat
5 Imprudens iuuenis. compressae ac militis
Cognoscit opera sibi senex os sublitum—
Vt ille amicam, haec quaerebat filiam—
Sed inuenta gnata seruolum emittit manu.

PERSONAE

EPIDICVS seruos
THESPRIO seruos
STRATIPPOCLES adulescens
CHAERIBVLVS adulescens
APOECIDES senex
PERIPHANES senex
SERVOS
MILES

arg. 2 conductam *P*, conducticiam *Pylades*, conductam alteram *Leo*
arg. 5 *uel* atque

EPIDICUS

PLOT SUMMARY

Persuaded by his slave, an old man bought a lyre girl in the belief that she is his daughter, and again the slave tricked him by palming off a hired woman as his son's girlfriend. The slave gives the money to his master's son. With it the young man buys his sister without knowing it. With the help of a woman he had raped and of a soldier, the old man realizes that he has been tricked—just as the soldier was looking for his girlfriend, the woman was looking for her daughter—but when his daughter is discovered, he frees his slave. 5

CHARACTERS

EPIDICUS a slave; the clever main character of the play

THESPRIO a slave; accompanied his young master to war

STRATIPPOCLES a young man; master of Epidicus and Thesprio

CHAERIBULUS a young man; close friend of Stratippocles

APOECIDES an old man; close friend of Periphanes

PERIPHANES an old man; father of Stratippocles and a former soldier

A SLAVE works for Periphanes

A SOLDIER rich and pompous

PLAUTUS

FIDICINA

PHILIPPA mulier

ACROPOLISTIS fidicina

DANISTA

TELESTIS uirgo

SCAENA

Athenis



EPIDICUS

A MUSIC GIRL plays the lyre

PHILIPPA a woman; comes to Athens to find her daughter
Telestis

ACROPOLISTIS a music girl; impudent

A MONEYLENDER has lent money to Stratippocles

TELESTIS a young girl; half-sister of Stratippocles

STAGING

The stage represents a street in Athens. To the left it leads to the harbor, to the right to the city center. There are two houses on-stage. The one on the left belongs to Periphanes, the one on the right to Chaeribulus.

ACTVS I

I. i: EPIDICVS. THESPRIO

EPI heus, adulescens!

THES quis properantem me reprehendit pallio?

EPI familiaris.

THES fateor, nam odio es nimium familiariter.

EPI respice uero, Thesprio.

THES oh,
Epidicumne ego conspicio?

5 EPI satis recte oculis uteris.

THES salue.

EPI di dent quae uelis.
uenire saluom gaudeo.

THES quid ceterum?

EPI quod eo assolet:
cena tibi dabitur.

THES spondeo—

EPI quid?

THES —me accepturum, si dabis.

9 EPI quid tu agis? ut uales?

9^a THES exemplum adesse intellego.

9^b EPI eugae!

10 corpulentior uidere atque habitior.

THES huic gratia.

11 EPI quam quidem te iam diu

11^a perdidisse oportuit.

EPIDICUS

ACT ONE

Enter THESPRIO from the left, clearly in a rush, followed by EPIDICUS.

EPI Hey there, young man! (*grabs his cloak from behind*)

THES Who is holding me back by my cloak when I'm in a rush?

EPI One of the family.

THES I admit it: you're being tedious in a very familiar way.

EPI But do look back, Thesprio.

THES (*turning round*) Oh, do I see Epidicus?

EPI Your eyesight is pretty normal. 5

THES Hello.

EPI May the gods give you what you wish for. I'm happy you've returned safely.

THES What about the rest?

EPI What's normally added to this: you'll be given a dinner.

THES I promise—

EPI (*interrupting*) What?

THES —to accept if you give me one.¹

EPI How are you? Are you well?

THES I realize that my model is here.

EPI Excellent! You seem stouter and heavier. 10

THES Thanks to this one (*lifts up his left hand*).

EPI You ought to have lost it long ago.²

¹ The normal expectation is that Thesprio should promise a dinner in return. ² A punishment for thieves.

PLAUTUS

- 12 THES minus iam furtificus sum quam antehac.
 EPI quid ita?
 THES rapio propalam.
 EPI di immortales te infelicient, ut tu es gradibus grandibus!
 nam ut apud portum te conspexi, curriculo occepi sequi:
 15 uix adipiscendi potestas modo fuit.
 THES scurra es.
 EPI scio
 te esse equidem hominem militare.
 THES audacter quam uis dicitis.
 EPI quid agis? perpetuen ualuisti?
 THES uarie.
 EPI qui uarie ualent,
 capreaginum hominum non placet mihi nec pantheri-
 num genus.
 THES quid tibi uis dicam nisi quod est?
 EPI ut illae res? responde.
 THES probe.
 20 EPI quid erilis noster filius?
 THES ualet pugilice atque athleticae.
 EPI uoluptabilem mihi nuntium tuo aduentu apportas, Thes-
 prio.
 sed ubi est is?
 THES aduenit simul.
 EPI ubi is ergo est? nisi si in uidulo
 aut si in melina attulisti.
 THES di te perdant!
 EPI te uolo . . .
 percontari: operam da, opera reddetur tibi.

19 obstenia A, respon B¹VJE¹, respondi B³, respondeti E², respon-
 detis E³, responde Goetz

EPIDICUS

THES I'm less of a sneakerthief than I was.

EPI How so?

THES I rob people openly.

EPI May the immortal gods make you unhappy! How big your steps are! When I spotted you at the harbor, I began to follow you at a run. I barely managed to get hold of 15
you.

THES You're a real townie.

EPI Well, I know that *you* are a military man.

THES You can say that however boldly you wish.

EPI How are you? Have you been well throughout?

THES Checkered.

EPI I don't like those of checkered health, the roe-deer or panther type of person.³

THES What do you want me to tell you if not the facts?

EPI How have things been there? Answer me.

THES Fine.

EPI What about our master's son? 20

THES He's as healthy as a boxer and an athlete.

EPI You're bringing me joyful news on your arrival, Thesprio. But where is he?

THES He arrived at the same time.

EPI Then where is he? Unless you brought him in your traveling bag or your wallet.

THES May the gods ruin you!

EPI No, you . . . I want to ask: make an effort for me, the effort will be returned to you.

³ Reference to the marks left on the skin by beatings.

PLAUTUS

- 25 THES ius dicis.
 EPI me decet.
 THES iam tu autem nobis praeturam geris?
 EPI quem dices digniorem esse hominem hodie Athenis alterum?
- 27 THES at unum a praetura tua,
 27a Epidice, abest.
 EPI quidnam?
 THES scies:
- 28 lictores duo, duo ulmei
 28^a fasces uirgarum.
 EPI uae tibi!
- 29 sed quid ais?
 THES quid rogas?
- 29^a EPI ubi arma sunt Stratippocli?
 30 THES pol illa ad hostis transfugerunt.
 EPI armane?
 THES atque equidem cito.
- 30^a EPI serione dicis tu?
 31 THES serio, inquam: hostes habent.
 EPI edepol facinus improbum!
 THES at iam ante alii fecerunt idem.
 erit illi illa res honori.
 EPI qui?
 THES quia ante aliis fuit.
 Mulciber, credo, arma fecit quae habuit Stratippocles:
 35 trauolauerunt ad hostis.

28 uiminei *BE*, uimin ei *J*, inminei *V*, ulmei *Hermann*

30 quidem *P*, equidem *Luchs*

EPIDICUS

- THES You speak like a judge. 25
- EPI I ought to.⁴
- THES But can we say that you're already holding the praetorship?⁵
- EPI Who else in Athens will you say deserves it more today?
- THES Yet one thing is missing from your praetorship, Epidicus.
- EPI What's that?
- THES You'll know: two lictors and the two bundles of elm rods.⁶
- EPI Curse you! But what do you say?
- THES What do you ask?
- EPI Where are the arms of Stratippocles?
- THES They flew over to the side of the enemy. 30
- EPI His arms?
- THES Yes, and they did so quickly.
- EPI Are you saying that in earnest?
- THES In earnest, yes: the enemy have them.
- EPI A shocking deed!
- THES But others have done so before. It'll be an honor for him.
- EPI How so?
- THES Because it was one for others before.⁷ I believe Mulciber⁸ made the arms Stratippocles had: they flew over to 35
the enemy.

⁴ A pun; the name Epidicus is related to *ἐπιδικάζειν*, the verb used when an official adjudicates the claim to an inheritance.

⁵ The main duties of the praetor have to do with the law and legal proceedings. ⁶ The lictors accompany officials, carrying bundles of rods as sign of their executive powers. Lictors help the officials, but Thesprio refers to people punishing Epidicus.

⁷ The Greek poets Archilochus and Alcaeus famously gave up their shields and fled. ⁸ An epithet of Vulcan ("the one who smelts"); things made by Vulcan had magical properties.

PLAUTUS

- EPI tum ille prognatus Theti
sine perdat: alia apportabunt ei Nerei filiae.
id modo uidendum est, ut materies suppetat scutariis,
si in singulis stipendiis is ad hostis exuias dabit.
- THES supersede istis rebus iam.
- EPI tu ipse ubi lubet finem face.
- 40 THES desiste percontarier.
- EPI loquere ipse: ubi est Stratippocles?
THES est causa qua causa simul mecum ire ueritust.
- EPI quidnam id est?
THES patrem uidere se neuolt etiam nunc.
- EPI quapropter?
THES scies.
quia forma lepida et liberali captiuam adulescentulam
de praeda mercatust.
- EPI quid ego ex te audio?
THES hoc quod fabulor.
- 45 EPI quor eam emit?
THES animi causa.
- EPI quot illic homo animos habet?
nam certo, prius quam hinc ad legionem abiit domo
ipsus mandauit mi ab lenone ut fidicina,
quam amabat, emeretur sibi. id ei impetratum reddidi.
- THES utquomque in alto uentust, Epidice, exim uelum uorti-
tur.
- 50 EPI uae misero mihi, male perdidit me!
THES quid<nam> istuc? quid[nam] est?

47 ipse *P*, ipsus *Bothe*

50 quid istuc quidnam est *P*, quidnam istuc? quid est *Camerarius*

EPIDICUS

- EPI Then let that son of Thetis lose them: the daughters of Nereus will bring him others.⁹ One only has to make sure that there is enough raw material for the shield makers, if he gives spoils to the enemy on each and every campaign.
- THES Steer clear of these things now.
- EPI Make an end to them yourself when you like.
- THES Stop questioning me. 40
- EPI Then speak yourself: where is Stratippocles?
- THES There's a reason why he was afraid to come along with me.
- EPI What on earth is this?
- THES He doesn't want to see his father yet.
- EPI Why not?
- THES You shall know the reason. He bought a captive girl with lovely looks appropriate for a free lady from the booty.
- EPI What must I hear from you?
- THES What I'm saying.
- EPI Why did he buy her? 45
- THES To make his heart happy.
- EPI How many hearts does he have? Before he went away to the army, he certainly told me himself to buy him a lyre girl he was in love with from a pimp. I've sorted this out for him.
- THES One turns the sail according to how the wind is on the sea, Epidicus.
- EPI Bad luck to me, poor wretch! He's killed me completely! 50
- THES How so? What is it?

⁹ The weapons of the great hero Achilles, son of Thetis, were also made by Hephaestus/Vulcan. Thetis was one of the fifty daughters of Nereus.

PLAUTUS

- EPI quid? istanc quam emit, quanti eam emit?
 THES uili.
 EPI haud istuc te rogo.
- 52 THES quid igitur?
 EPI quot minis?
- 52^a THES tot: quadraginta minis.
 53 id adeo argentum ab danista apud Thebas sumpsit fae-
 nore
 in dies minasque argenti singulas nummis.
- EPI papae!
 55 THES et is danista aduenit una cum eo, qui argentum petit.
 EPI di immortales, ut ego interii basilice!
 THES quid iam? aut quid est,
- 57 Epidice?
 EPI perdidit
- 57^a me.
 THES quis?
 EPI ille qui arma perdidit.
- 58 THES nam quid ita?
 EPI quia cottidie ipse ad me ab legione epistulas
 mittebat—sed taceam optimum est,
 60 plus scire satiust quam loqui
 60^a seruom hominem. ea sapientia est.
- 61 THES nescio edepol quid [tu] timidu's; trepidas, Epidice: ita
 uoltu tuo
 uideor uidere commeruisse hic me apssente in te aliquid
 mali.
 EPI potin ut molestus ne sies?
 THES abeo.
 EPI asta, abire hinc non sinam.

61 tu *del. Lindsay* uoltum tuum *BVEJ*, uoltu tuo *Wheeler*

EPIDICUS

- EPI Well then? This woman he bought, how much did he buy her for?
- THES Cheaply.
- EPI That's not what I'm asking you.
- THES What are you asking then?
- EPI For how many minas?
- THES For so many: for forty minas. Yes, and he took that money from a moneylender in Thebes on interest, one coin for each mina per day.¹⁰
- EPI Whew!
- THES And this moneylender who is demanding the money has 55
come here with him.
- EPI Immortal gods, how I've perished completely!
- THES How so? What is it, Epidicus?
- EPI He has annihilated me.
- THES Who?
- EPI The man who has annihilated his arms.
- THES How so?
- EPI Because he himself sent me letters from the army on a daily basis—(*aside*) but I'd better be quiet. It's better if a 60
slave knows more than he says. That is wisdom.
- THES I really don't know why you're afraid. You're shaking, Epidicus: I seem to see on your face that you've committed some offense here in my absence.
- EPI Can you kindly not annoy me?
- THES I'm off. (*turns to go*)
- EPI (*grabbing him*) Stand there, I shan't let you go away.

¹⁰ If the coin referred to is a sesterce piece, the interest rate is 0.25% per day (91% per annum).

PLAUTUS

- 64 THES quid nunc me retines?
 EPI amatne istam quam emit de praeda?
 THES rogas?
- 64^a ***
 64^b ***
- 65 deperit.
 EPI degitur
- 65^a corium de tergo meo.
- 66 THES plusque amat quam te umquam amauit.
 EPI Iuppiter te perduit!
- 67 THES mitte nunciam,
 67^a nam ille me domum
 68 uotuit uenire, ad Chaeribulum iussit huc in proximum;
 69 ibi manere iussit, eo uen-
 69^a turust ipse.
 EPI quid ita?
 THES dicam:
- 70 quia patrem prius conuenire
 70^a se non uolt nec conspici,
 71 quam id argentum, quod debetur
 71^a pro illa, dinumerauerit.
- 72 EPI eu edepol res turbulentas!
 THES mitte me ut eam nunciam.
 EPI haecine ubi scibit senex,
 puppis pereunda est probe.
- 75 THES quid istuc ad me attinet,
 quo tu intereas modo?
- 77 EPI quia perire solus nolo,
 77^a te cupio perire mecum,
 78 beneuolens cum beneuolente.
 THES ab-
- 78^a i in malam rem maxumam a me
 79 cum istac condicione.

EPIDICUS

- THES What are you keeping me back for now?
 EPI Does he love that girl he bought from the spoils?
 THES You ask? *** He's crazy about her. 65
 EPI The skin's being removed from my back.
 THES And he loves her more than he's ever loved you.
 EPI May Jupiter ruin you!
 THES Let me go now: he forbade me to come home and told me
 to go to Chaeribulus here next door. He told me to wait
 there, he'll come there himself.
 EPI Why is that?
 THES I'll tell you why: he doesn't want to meet or see his father 70
 until he's paid the money owed for her.
 EPI Goodness, a messy situation!
 THES Let me go now.
 EPI When the old man knows about this, the ship will have to
 perish properly.
 THES What does it matter to me how you die? 75
 EPI Because I don't want to perish alone, I'm keen on you
 perishing with me, a friend with a friend.
 THES Go away from me and be hanged on those terms.

64^a-64^b *duo uersus in A exstitisse uidentur*

65 *detegetur P, degetur Ec, degitur Nonius*

67^a-68 *uetuit domum P, transp. O. Skutsch*

PLAUTUS

- EPI i sane . . .
- 79^a siquidem festinas magis.
- 80 THES numquam hominem quemquam conueni unde abierim
lubentius.
- EPI illic hinc abiit. solus nunc es. quo in loco haec res sit uides
Epidice: nisi quid tibi in tete auxili est, apsumptus es.
tantae in te impendent ruinae: nisi suffulcis firmiter,
non potes supsistere: itaque in te irruont montes mali.
- 85 neque ego nunc
- 85^a quo modo
- 86 me expeditum ex impedito faciam, consilium placet.
- 87 ego miser
- 87^a perpuli
- 88 meis dolis senem ut censeret suam sese emere filiam:
- 89 is suo
- 89^a filio
- 90 fidicinam emit, quam ipse amabat, quam abiens man-
dauit mihi.
- 90^a si sibi nunc
- 90^b alteram
- 91 ab legione abduxit animi causa, corium perdidit.
- 92 nam ubi senex
- 92^a senserit
- 93 sibi data esse uerba, uirgis dorsum depoliet meum.
- 94 at enim tu
- 94^a praecaue.
- 95 at enim . . . bat enim! nihil est istuc. plane hoc corruptum
est caput.
- 96 nequam homo es,
- 96^a Epidice.
- 97 qui lubido est male loqui? quia tute tete deseris.
- 98 quid faciam?
- 98^a men rogas?

EPIDICUS

EPI No, you go . . . if you're in such a rush. (*lets go of him*)
 THES (*aside*) I've never met anyone I left more eagerly. 80

Exit THESPRIO into the house of Chaeribulus.

EPI He's left. Now you're alone. You can see in what state this situation is, Epidicus: unless you have some help for yourself in yourself, you're finished. Such a great disaster is looming above you: unless you prop it up firmly, you can't stand your ground; mountains of trouble are collapsing onto you. And I don't have a decent plan now to 85
 make myself safe instead of unsafe. Poor me! With my guiles I prevailed on the old man to think he was buying his own daughter; he bought a lyre girl for his son, the 90
 one the son himself was in love with and instructed me to buy when he was leaving. If he's now carried off a second one for himself from the army for his pleasure, I've ruined my skin: when the old man realizes that he's been fooled, he'll polish my back with rods. But be on your guard. Oh well . . . oh hell! It's no use. This head of mine is 95
 clearly ruined. You're a good-for-nothing, Epidicus. Why do you wish to insult yourself? Because you're deserting yourself. What should I do? Are you asking me? Before

90 amat *P*, amabat *Guyet*

93 despoliet *BVJE*² (dispoliet *E*), depoliet *Palmerius*

97 tu te te d. *B*, tute d. *EJ*, tute tedeseris *V*, tute tete d. *Seiffert*

100 tuquidem antehac aliis solebas dare consilia mutua.
aliquid aliqua reperiundum est. sed ego cesso ire obuiam
adulescenti, ut quid negoti sit sciam. atque ipse illic est.
tristis est. cum Chaeribulo incedit aequali suo.
huc concedam, orationem unde horum placide perse-
quar.

I. ii: STRATIPPOCLES. CHAERIBVLVS. EPIDICVS

STRA rem tibi sum elocutus omnem, Chaeribule, atque admo-
dum
105 meorum maerorum atque amorum summam edictavi
tibi.

CHAE praeter aetatem et uirtutem stultus es, Stratippocles.
idne pudet te, quia captiuam genere prognatam bono
in praeda es mercatus? quis erit uitio qui id uortat tibi?

STRA qui inuident omnis inimicos mi illoc facto repperi;
110 at pudicitiae eius numquam nec uim nec uitium attuli.

CHAE iam istoc probior meo quidem animo es, quom in amore
temperes.

STRA nihil agit qui diffidentem uerbis solatur suis;
is est amicus, qui in re dubia re iuuat, ubi re est opus.

CHAE quid tibi me uis facere?

STRA argenti dare quadraginta minas,
115 quod danistae detur, unde ego illud sumpsi faenore.

CHAE si hercle haberem, <pollicerer>.

STRA nam quid te igitur retulit
beneficum esse oratione, si ad rem auxilium emortuom
est?

111 es meo quidem animo *P, transp. Bothe, [es] m. q. a. Mueller*

116 pollicerer *add. Mueller*

EPIDICUS

this you used to give advice to others on loan. Something 100
has to be found somehow. But I'm slow in approaching
the young chap to find out what's the matter. (*looking
around*) And that's him. He's depressed. He's walking
along with his companion Chaeribulus. I'll walk over
here, from where I'll follow their talk at my ease. (*steps
aside*)

Enter STRATIPPOCLES and CHAERIBULUS from the left.

STRA I've told you the entire matter, Chaeribulus, and I've 105
made the entire load of my afflictions and affections
known to you.

CHAE You're stupid beyond what your youth and bravery would
make me accept, Stratippocles. Are you ashamed be-
cause you bought a captive girl born in a good family in
the booty? Who will there be who'd find fault with you
for that?

STRA With this deed I've found as enemies all those who envy 110
me. But I've never done any damage or disgrace to her
chastity.

CHAE To my mind at least you're already more honorable be-
cause you restrain yourself in your love.

STRA A man who consoles someone in despair with his words
doesn't do anything useful; that man is a friend who in
a difficult situation helps with deeds, when deeds are
needed.

CHAE What do you want me to do for you?

STRA To give me forty silver minas that can be given to the 115
moneylender, from whom I took that sum on interest.

CHAE If I had it, I'd promise it.

STRA So what was the point of you being generous in your
speech if your help is dead when it comes to action?

PLAUTUS

- CHAE quin edepol egomet clamore differor, difflagitor.
 STRA malim istius modi mi amicos forno mersos quam foro.
 120 sed operam Epidici nunc me emere pretio pretioso
 uelim.
 quem quidem ego hominem irrigatum plagis pistori
 dabo,
 nisi hodie prius comparassit mihi quadraginta minas
 quam argenti fuero elocutus ei postremam syllabam.
 EPI salua res est: bene promittit, spero seruabit fidem.
 125 sine meo sumptu paratae iam sunt scapulis symbolae.
 aggrediar hominem. aduenientem peregre erum suum
 Stratippoclem
 impertit salute seruos Epidicus.
 STRA ubi is est?
 EPI adest.
 saluom huc aduenisse—
 STRA tam tibi istuc credo quam mihi.
 EPI benene usque ualuisti?
 STRA a morbo ualui, ab animo aeger fui.
 130 EPI quod ad me attinuit, ego curauit: quod mandasti <tu> mihi
 impetratum est. empta ancilla est, quod tute ad me lit-
 teras
 missiculabas.
 STRA perdidisti omnem operam.
 EPI nam qui perdidit?
 STRA quia meo nec cara est cordi nec placet.
 EPI quid retulit
 mihi tanto opere te mandare et mittere ad me epistulas?

119 furno mensos *P*, furno mersos *F*, furno occensos *Usener*

130 tu *add. Mueller*, mandauisti mihi *Bentley*

131 empta est ancilla *P*, *transp. Camerarius*

EPIDICUS

- CHAE But I myself am being subjected to loud harassment and demands.
- STRA I'd prefer friends of your sort being baked up to being bankrupt. Well, I'd like to buy the services of Epidicus now for a precious price. I'll irrigate him with blows and hand him over to the miller unless he gets me forty minas today before I've pronounced the last syllable of the sum. 120
- EPI (*with sarcasm*) The matter's safe: he's making good promises, I hope he'll keep his word. Without any expense on my part contributions¹¹ have already been prepared for my shoulder blades. I'll approach him. (*loudly*) 125
The slave Epidicus bestows his greetings on his master Stratippocles upon his arrival from abroad.
- STRA Where is he?
- EPI (*stepping up*) He's present. That you have arrived safely—
- STRA (*interrupting*) I believe you in this as much as myself.
- EPI Have you been well throughout?
- STRA Physically, yes, mentally, no.
- EPI I've taken care of my duty. What you told me to do has 130
been achieved. The slave girl's been bought, which was why you kept sending me letters.
- STRA You've wasted all your efforts.
- EPI How come I've wasted them?
- STRA She isn't dear to my heart and I don't love her.
- EPI What was the point of commanding me so much and sending letters to me?

¹¹ A *symbola* "contribution" is a share each person participating in a joint banquet pays.

PLAUTUS

- 135 STRA illam amabam olim, nunc iam alia cura impendet pectori.
 EPI hercle miserum est ingratum esse homini id quod facias bene.
 ego quod bene feci male feci, quia amor mutauit locum.
 STRA desipiebam mentis quom illa scripta mittebam tibi.
 EPI men piacularem oportet fieri ob stultitiam tuam,
 140 ut meum tergum tuae stultitiae subdas succidaneum?
 CHAE quid istic uerba facimus? huic homini opust quadraginta
 minis
 celeriter calidis, danistae quas resoluat, et cito.
 EPI dic modo: unde auferre me uis? quo a tarpezita peto?
 STRA und' lubet. nam ni ante solem occasum e lo<culis afferes>
 145 meam domum ne imbitas: tu te in pistrinum <conferas>.
 EPI facile tu istuc sine periclo et cura, corde libero
 fabulare; noui ego nostros: mihi dolet quom ego uapulo.
 STRA quid tu nunc? patierin ut ego me interimam?
 EPI ne feceris.
 ego istuc accedam periculum potius atque audaciam.
 150 STRA nunc places, nunc ego te laudo.
 EPI patiar ego istuc quod lubet.
 STRA quid illa fiet fidicina igitur?
 EPI aliqua res reperibitur,
 aliqua ope exsoluam, extricabor aliqua.
 STRA plenus consilies.
 noui ego te.

144 e lo<culis afferes> *Lindsay*

145 conferas *add. Lindsay*

EPIDICUS

- STRA I used to love her long ago, but now another love over- 135
hangs my breast.
- EPI It really is wretched if the good you do someone is not re-
ceived with thanks. The good I did turned bad because
your love has changed its place.
- STRA I wasn't in my right mind when I sent you those letters.
- EPI Should I be the atonement for your stupidity, so that you 140
subject my back as a substitute sacrifice¹² for your stu-
pidity?
- CHAE Why are we making empty words here? He needs forty
hot minas fast, to pay to the moneylender, and quickly.
- EPI Just tell me: where do you want me to take it from?
Which banker should I seek it from?
- STRA From wherever you like: unless you bring it to me from
the cash box before sunset, don't come into my house; 145
carry yourself to the mill.
- EPI You say that easily, without danger and worry, and with a
free heart. I know our torturers: I feel the pain when I get
a beating.
- STRA (*melodramatically*) What now? Can you bear that I kill
myself?
- EPI Don't do that. Rather, *I* shall take on that bold and dan-
gerous deed.
- STRA Now I'm happy with you, now I praise you. 150
- EPI I'll bear what you like.
- STRA Then what'll happen with that lyre girl?
- EPI Something will be found, I'll rescue you with some re-
source, I'll get you out of it in some way.
- STRA You're full of counsel. I know you.

¹² If the first sacrificial animal is not considered acceptable to the gods, a substitute is slaughtered.

PLAUTUS

- EPI est Euboicus miles locuples, multo auro potens,
 qui ubi tibi istam emptam esse scibit atque hanc adduc-
 tam alteram,
 155 continuo te orabit ultro ut illam tramittas sibi.
 sed ubi illa est quam tu adduxisti tecum?
- STRA iam faxo hic erit.
- CHAE quid hic nunc agimus?
- STRA eamus intro huc ad te, ut hunc hodie diem
 luculentum habeamus.
- EPI ite intro, ego de re argentaria
 iam senatum conuocabo in corde consiliarium,
 160 quoipotissimum indicatur bellum, unde argentum aue-
 ram.
 Epidice, uide quid agas, ita res subito haec obiecta est
 tibi;
 non enim nunc tibi dormitandi nec cunctandi copia est.
 adeundum. senem oppugnare certum est consilium
 mihi.
 165 ibo intro atque adulescenti dicam nostro erili filio,
 ne hinc foras exambulet neue obuiam ueniat seni.

ACTVS II

II. i: APOECIDES. PERIPHANES

- 166 AP plerique homines, quos quom nil refert pudet,
 166^a ubi pudendum est ibi eos deserit pudor,
 167 quom usust ut pudeat.

158 luculentum A, luculente P

166 plerique homines Ω, *transp.* Spengel

EPIDICUS

EPI There's a wealthy soldier from Euboea who owns a lot of gold. As soon as he knows that the first girl has been bought by you and that this second has been brought here, he'll ask you of his own accord to send the first over to him. But where's that girl you brought with you? 155

STRA I'll make sure she's here soon.

CHAE What are we doing here now?

STRA Let's go inside here to you so as to enjoy this day today.

EPI (*to both*) Go inside, I'll immediately convene a deliberative session of the senate in my heart about the money business, whom I should declare war on and where I should take the money from. 160

Exeunt STRATIPPOCLES and CHAERIBULUS into the latter's house.

EPI Epidicus, watch what you're doing: this matter has so suddenly been thrown your way. Now you don't have the time to be sleepy or to hesitate. You have to take him on. It's my definite plan to attack the old man. I'll go in and tell our young chap, master's son, not to walk out and not to meet the old man. 165

Exit EPIDICUS into the house of Chaeribulus.

ACT TWO

Enter APOECIDES and PERIPHANES from the latter's house, walking slowly toward the forum.

AP Most people who are ashamed when there's no point are deserted by their sense of shame when there is something to be ashamed of, when it's necessary to feel shame.

is adeo tu es. quid est quod pudendum siet,
 genere gnatam bono pauperem domum
 170 ducere te uxorem?
 171- praesertim eam, qua ex tibi commemoros hanc quae
 72 domi est filiam prognatam.

PER reuereor filium.

AP at pol ego te credidi
 uxorem, quam tu extulisti, pudore exsequi,
 175 quoius quotiens sepulcrum uides, sacruficas
 ilico . . . Orco hostiis, neque adeo iniuria,
 quia licitum est eam tibi uiuendo uincere.

PER oh!

Hercules ego fui, dum illa mecum fuit;
 nec sexta aerumna acerbior Herculi quam illa mihi
 obiecta est.

180 AP pulchra edepol dos pecunia est.

PER quae quidem pol non marita est.

II. ii: EPIDICVS. PERIPHANES. APOECIDES

EPI st!

tacete, habete animum bonum.

183- liquido exeo foras auspicio, aui sinistra;
 84 acutum cultrum habeo, senis qui exenterem marsup-
 185 pium.

sed eccum ipsum ante aedis conspico <erum meum
 atque> Apoecidem,
 qualis uolo uetulos duo.

189 iam ego me conuortam in hirudinem atque eorum exsu-
 gebo sanguinem,
 senati qui columen cluent.

186 erum meum atque *add. Goetz*

189^a *lacunam indicauit Mueller*

EPIDICUS

You belong to precisely this category. What's there to be ashamed of when you marry a poor woman born in a good family? Especially the woman from whom you say this daughter you have at home was born to you. 170

PER I respect my son's feelings.

AP But I thought you had regard for your wife, whom you buried. Whenever you see her tomb, you immediately sacrifice victims . . . to Orcus,¹³ and quite rightly so, because you got the better of her by living longer. 175

PER Oh! I was a Hercules as long as she was with me. The sixth labor of Hercules¹⁴ wasn't harsher than the one that was thrown my way.

AP A dowry is beautiful money. 180

PER Yes, if it comes without the wife.

Enter EPIDICUS from the house of Chaeribulus, unseen by the two old men.

EPI (*into the house to the young men*) Hush! Be quiet, take heart. I'm coming out with a clear omen, with the bird on my left. I have a sharp knife which I'll disembowel the old man's wallet with. (*to himself*) But look, I can see my master himself and Apoecides in front of the house, two old men of the sort I want. Now I'll turn myself into a leech and suck out the blood of these men, who are known as pillars of the senate. 185

¹³ To the god of the Underworld rather than for the deceased wife.

¹⁴ His struggle with Hippolyta.

PLAUTUS

189^a <PER>***

<AP> ***

190 continuo ut maritus fiat.

PER laudo consilium tuom.

nam ego illum audiui in amore haerere apud nescioquam
fidicinam,
id ego excrucior.

EPI di hercle omnes me adiuuant, augent, amant:
ipsi hi quidem mi dant uiam, quo pacto ab se argentum
auferam.

age nunciam orna te, Epidice, et palliolum in collum co-
nice

195 itaque assimilato quasi per urbem totam hominem
quaesiueris.

age, si quid agis. di immortales! utinam conueniam domi
Periphanem, per omnem urbem quem sum defessus
quaerere:

per medicinas, per tonstrinas, in gymnasio atque in foro,
per myropolia et lanienas circumque argentarias.

200 rogitando sum raucus factus, paene in cursu concidi.

PER Epidice!

EPI Epidicum quis est qui reuocat?

PER ego sum Periphanes.

AP et ego Apoecides sum.

EPI et egoquidem sum Epidicus. sed, ere, optuma
uos uideo opportunitate ambo aduenire.

PER quid rei est?

EPI mane, <mane,> sine respirem quaeso.

PER immo acquiesce.

EPI animo male est.

191 amorem *P*, amore *Camerarius*

204 mane *add. Weise*

EPIDICUS

- PER ***
- AP *** that he should get married at once. 190
- PER I praise your advice. I've heard that he is fixated on a love affair with some lyre girl or other. I'm in agony about this.
- EPI (*aside*) All the gods are helping, blessing, and loving me. They themselves are giving me a way to take the money away from them. Go on now, Epidicus, prepare yourself and throw your cloak round your neck. (*does so*) Like this 195
pretend that you've been looking for the chap throughout the whole city. If you're going to do something, do it. (*loudly, running past the two old men toward the house of Periphanes*) Immortal gods! I hope I can find Periphanes at home. I'm exhausted from looking for him through the entire town: through the clinics, through the barbers' shops, in the gymnasium and in the forum, through the perfume stalls and the butchers' shops and around the banks. I've become hoarse from asking, I al- 200
most collapsed as I ran.
- PER Epidicus!
- EPI (*pretending not to see them*) Who is it that's calling back Epidicus?
- PER I am Periphanes.
- AP And I am Apoecides.
- EPI (*turning toward them*) And I am Epidicus. But, master, I can see that you two are coming just in the nick of time.
- PER What's the matter?
- EPI Wait, wait, let me catch some breath, please.
- PER Yes, relax.
- EPI I'm feeling sick.

PLAUTUS

- 205 AP recipe anhelitum.
 PER clementer, requiesce.
 EPI animum aduortite.
 a legione omnes remissi sunt domum Thebis.
 AP <quis hoc>
 dicit factum?
 EPI ego ita factum esse dico.
 PER scin tu istuc?
 EPI scio.
 PER qui tu scis?
 EPI quia ego ire uidi milites plenis uis;
 arma referunt et iumenta ducunt.
 PER nimis factum bene!
 210 EPI tum captiuorum quid ducunt secum! pueros, uirgines,
 binos, ternos, alius quinque; fit concursus per uias,
 filios suos quisque uisunt.
 PER hercle rem gestam bene!
 EPI tum meretricum numerus tantus quantum in urbe omni
 fuit
 obuiam ornatae occurrebant suis quaequae amatoribus,
 215 eos captabant. id adeo qui maxume animum aduorterim?
 pleraeque eae sub uestimentis secum habebant retia.
 quom ad portam uenio, atque ego illam illi uideo praesto-
 larier
 et cum ea tibicinae ibant quattuor.
 PER quicum, Epidice?
 EPI cum illa quam tuos gnatus annos multos deamat, deperit,
 220 ubi fidemque remque seque teque properat perdere;
 ea praestolabatur illum apud portam.
 PER uiden ueneficam?

206 quis hoc *add. Camerarius*

207 scit *BEV*, sic *E³J*, dicit *Retz*

EPIDICUS

- AP Get your breath back. 205
- PER Gently, calm down.
- EPI Pay attention, you two. Everybody's been sent home from military service in Thebes.
- AP Who says so?
- EPI I say so.
- PER Do you know that for a fact?
- EPI I do.
- PER How do you know?
- EPI Because I saw the soldiers walking down packed streets. They're bringing back arms and leading beasts of burden.
- PER Excellent!
- EPI Then the amount of captives they're bringing along with them! Boys, girls, two each, three each, another one five. There's a running to and fro throughout the streets, they all want to see their sons. 210
- PER Fantastic!
- EPI Then the entire number of prostitutes in town all rushed toward their lovers, made up nicely. They were trying to catch them. How did I know that? Most of them had nets with them under their dresses. When I came to the gate, I saw her waiting for him, and four flute girls were walking along with her. 215
- PER With whom, Epidicus?
- EPI With that woman with whom your son's been madly and crazily in love for many years and at whose place he's been quick to ruin his reputation and property, and himself and you. She was waiting for him at the gate. 220
- PER Can you see the witch?

PLAUTUS

- EPI sed uestita, aurata, ornata ut lepide, ut concinne, ut
noue!
- PER quid erat induta? an regillam induculam an mendicu-
lam?
- EPI impluuiatam, ut istaec faciunt uestimentis nomina.
- 225 PER utin impluuium induta fuerit?
- EPI quid istuc tam mirabile est?
quasi non fundis exornatae multae incedant per uias.
at tributus quom imperatus est, negant pendi potis:
illis quibus tributus maior penditur, pendii potest.
quid istae quae uesti quotannis nomina inueniunt noua?
230 tunicam rallam, tunicam spissam, linteolum caesicium,
indusiatam, patagiatam, caltulam aut crocotulam,
supparum aut . . . subnimium, ricam, basilicum aut exoti-
cum,
cumatile aut plumatile, carinum aut cerinum—gerrae
maxumae!
cani quoque etiam ademptum est nomen.
- PER qui?
- EPI uocant Laconicum.
- 235 haec uocabula auctiones subigunt ut faciant uiros.
- AP quin tu ut ocepisti loquere?
- EPI ocepere aliae mulieres
duae sic post me fabulari inter sese—ego apscessi sciens
paulum ab illis, dissimulabam earum operam sermoni
dare;
nec satis exaudibam, nec sermonis fallebar tamen,
240 quae loquerentur.

¹⁵ *Impluuiata* refers to a moiré dress (Non. 879 Lindsay), but looks as if it came from *impluuium* "basin."

¹⁶ Thus the interpretation in Non. p. 880 Lindsay.

EPIDICUS

- EPI But how nicely, how elegantly, how stylishly she was dressed, bejeweled, and made up!
- PER What did she wear? The royal or the beggarly dress?
- EPI The marbled¹⁵ dress, as those women invent names for their clothes.
- PER How come she was wearing marble? 225
- EPI Why is that so strange? As if there weren't many women walking through the streets wearing entire estates. But when the taxes are levied, the men say they can't pay; but they can pay those women who are paid higher taxes. What about those women who find new names for their dresses every year? The sheer tunic, the thick tunic, the small embroidered apron, the outer dress, the bordered dress, the marigold¹⁶ or the saffron dress, the mini-shawl or . . . the maxi-shawl,¹⁷ the hooded dress, the queen's or the foreign dress, the water-colored or the dishwater-colored dress, the nut-brown or the waxen dress—complete nonsense! One name's even been taken from a dog.
- PER How so?
- EPI They speak of the "Spartan."¹⁸ These terms force husbands to hold auctions. 235
- AP Why don't you talk the way you began?
- EPI Two other women began to talk among each other like this behind me—I deliberately went away from them a little and pretended not to pay attention to their conversation; I couldn't hear perfectly, but I didn't miss the general drift of their conversation. 240

¹⁷ *Supparus* "shawl" is mockingly analysed as *sub* + *parum* "under + too little," which enables the comic formation *subnimius* "under + too much."

¹⁸ *Laconicus* "Spartan" can be used with ellipsis of its headnoun in the meaning "Spartan dress" (a thin garment) or "Spartan dog" (a breed used for hunting).

PLAUTUS

- PER id lubido est scire.
 EPI ibi illarum altera
 dixit illi quicum ipsa ibat—
 PER quid?
 EPI tace ergo, ut audias—
 postquam illam sunt conspicatae, quam tuos gnatus de-
 perit:
 “quam facile et quam fortunate euenit illi, opsecro,
 mulieri quam liberare uolt amator!” “quisnam is est?”
 245 inquit altera illi. ibi illa nominat Stratippoclem
 Periphanei filium.
 PER perii hercle! quid ego ex te audio?
 EPI hoc quod actum est. egomet postquam id illas audiui lo-
 qui,
 coepi rursum uorsum ad illas pauxillatim accedere,
 quasi retruderet hominum me uis inuitum.
 PER intellego.
 250 EPI ibi illa interrogauit illam: “qui scis? quis id dixit tibi?”
 “quin hodie allatae tabellae sunt ad eam a Stratippocle,
 eum argentum sumpsisse apud Thebas ab danista fae-
 nore,
 id paratum et sese ob eam rem id ferre.”
 PER certo ego occidi!
 EPI haec sic aibat; sic audiuisse ex eapse atque epistula.
 255 PER quid ego faciam? nunc consilium a te expetesso, Apoe-
 cides.
 AP reperiamus aliquid calidi, conducibilis consili.
 nam illequidem aut iam hic aderit, credo hercle, aut iam
 adest.
 EPI si aequom siet
 me plus sapere quam uos, dederim uobis consilium
 catum
 quod laudetis, ut ego opino, uterque—

EPIDICUS

PER I'd like to hear about it.

EPI Then one of them said to the woman she was walking with—

PER (*interrupting*) What?

EPI Be quiet then so that you hear it—after they saw the woman your son is madly in love with, she says: "Please, how easily and happily things work out for a woman her lover wants to free!" "Who on earth is he?" the other one asks her. Then the first names Stratippocles, the son of Periphanes. 245

PER I'm dead! What must I hear from you?

EPI The facts. After I heard them talk about this, I began to approach them backward, gradually, as if the crowd were pushing me back against my will.

PER I understand.

EPI Then the second asks the other: "How do you know? 250 Who told you this?" "Well, today she was brought a letter from Stratippocles, saying that he'd taken money at interest from a moneylender in Thebes, that it was ready, and that he was bringing it for that purpose."

PER I'm certainly dead!

EPI This was what she said; she said she'd heard this from the woman herself and the letter.

PER What should I do? Now I'm seeking your advice, Apoe- 255 cides.

AP Let's find some fresh, expedient plan: either he will be back in a moment, I believe, or he is back already.

EPI If it were proper for me to be wiser than you, I'd give you a smart plan you'd both praise, as I think—

253 cedo B, cede J, om. E, certo Kampmann

254 abse BEJ, ex eapse Kampmann

PLAUTUS

- PER ergo ubi id est, Epidice?
 260 EPI —atque ad eam rem conducibile.
 AP quid istuc dubitas dicere?
 EPI uos priores esse oportet, nos posterius dicere,
 qui plus sapitis.
 PER heia uero! age dice.
 EPI at deridebitis.
 AP non edepol faciemus.
 EPI immo si placebit utitor,
 consilium si non placebit, reperitote rectius.
 265 mi istic nec seritur nec metitur, nisi ea quae tu uis uolo.
 PER gratiam habeo; fac participes nos tuae sapientiae.
 EPI continuo arbitretur uxor tuo gnato atque ut fidicinam
 illam quam is uolt liberare, quae illum corrumpit tibi,
 ulciscare atque ita curetur, usque ad mortem ut seruiat.
 270 AP fieri oportet.
 PER facere cupio quiduis dum id fiat modo.
 EPI em!
 nunc occasio est faciundi, prius quam in urbem adue-
 nerit,
 sicut cras hic aderit, hodie non uenit.
 PER qui scis?
 EPI scio
 quia mihi alius dixit qui illinc uenit mane hic affore.
 PER quin tu eloquere: quid faciemus?
 EPI sic faciundum censeo,
 275 quasi tu cupias liberare fidicinam animi gratia
 quasique ames uehementer tu illam.
 PER quam ad rem istuc refert?

EPIDICUS

- PER (*interrupting*) Then where is it, Epidicus?
 EPI —and expedient for this matter. (*pauses*) 260
 AP Why are you hesitating to tell us about it?
 EPI You ought to come first, *we* ought to speak later.¹⁹ You are
 wiser.
 PER Come off it! Go on, tell us.
 EPI But you'll laugh at me.
 AP Honestly, we shan't.
 EPI (*to Periphanes*) Well, if you like my plan, use it; (*to both*)
 if you don't like it, find a better one. (*to Periphanes*) The 265
 sowing and reaping isn't done for me here, but I want
 what you want.
 PER Thank you; share your wisdom with us.
 EPI A wife should be decided on for your son at once, and as
 for that lyre girl whom he wants to free and who is cor-
 rupting him, you should take revenge on her and orga-
 nize things so that she's a slave till death.
 AP It ought to be seen to. 270
 PER I'm keen to do anything so long as it's seen to.
 EPI There you are! Now's the chance to see to it, before he ar-
 rives in town; in fact, he'll be back tomorrow, but isn't
 coming today.
 PER How do you know?
 EPI I know because someone else who came from there told
 me he'd be back in the morning.
 PER Tell me: what shall we do?
 EPI I think you ought to act as if you yourself desired to free 275
 the lyre girl for your enjoyment and as if you yourself
 were madly in love with her.
 PER What's the point of that?

¹⁹ I.e. free men are more important.

PLAUTUS

- EPI rogas?
 ut enim praestines argento, prius quam ueniat filius,
 atque ut eam te in libertatem dicas emere—
- PER intellego.
 EPI ubi erit empta, ut aliquo ex urbe amoueas; nisi quid tua
 est
 280 secus sententia.
- PER immo docte!
 EPI quid tu autem, Apoecides?
 AP quid ego iam nisi te commentum nimis astute intellego?
 EPI iam igitur amota ei fuerit omnis consultatio
 nuptiarum, ne grauetur quod uelis.
- PER uiue sapis
 et placet.
- EPI tum tu igitur calide quicquid acturus age.
 285 PER rem hercle loquere.
 EPI et repperi haec te qui apscedat suspicio.
 PER sine me scire.
 EPI scibis, audi.
 AP sapis hic pleno pectore.
 EPI opus est homine qui illo argentum deferat pro fidicina;
 nam te nolo neque opus facto est.
- PER quid iam?
 EPI ne te censeat
 fili causa facere—
- PER docte!
 EPI —quo illum ab illa prohibeas:
 290 ne qua ob eam suspicionem difficultas euenat.
 PER quem hominem inueniemus ad eam rem utilem?

279–80 tua secus sententia est *P*, *transp.* *Weise*

282 erit *BEJ*, fuerit *Lindemann*

EPIDICUS

- EPI You ask? You are to buy her for money before your son comes and you are to say that you buy her in order to free her—
- PER (*interrupting*) I understand.
- EPI When she's bought, you have to remove her somewhere out of the city; unless you have a different opinion. 280
- PER No, that's brilliant!
- EPI What about you, Apocides?
- AP What about me, except that I realize that you've thought this out incredibly cleverly.
- EPI Then any qualms about marrying will be removed along with her, so that he won't resist your wishes.
- PER You're wonderfully smart and I like it.
- EPI Then do in hot haste whatever you're going to do.
- PER Yes, you're right. 285
- EPI And I've found a way to make any suspicion in that matter go away from you.
- PER Let me know.
- EPI You shall, listen.
- AP This chap pours wisdom from a heart that's full of it.
- EPI (*to Periphanes*) We need someone to bring the money for the lyre girl there: I don't want you to do it and there's no need for you to do it.
- PER How so?
- EPI So that he doesn't think you're doing this on account of your son—
- PER (*interrupting*) Smart!
- EPI —so that you can keep him away from her; so that no difficulty can arise because of this suspicion. 290
- PER What man will we find who can be useful for this business?

PLAUTUS

- EPI hic erit optumus,
 hic poterit cauere recte, iura qui et leges tenet.
- PER Epidico habeas gratiam.
- EPI sed ego istuc faciam sedulo:
 ego illum conueniam atque adducam huc ad te, quonia est,
 fidicinam
- 295 atque argentum ego cum hoc feram.
- PER quanti emi potest minimo?
 EPI illane?
 ad quadraginta fortasse eam posse emi minimo minis.
 uerum si plus dederis referam, nihil in ea re captio est.
 atque id non decem occupatum tibi erit argentum dies.
 PER quidum?
 EPI quia enim mulierem alius illam adulescens deperit,
 300 auro opulentus, magnus miles Rhodius, raptor hostium,
 gloriosus: hic emet illam de te et dabit aurum lubens.
 face modo, est lucrum hic tibi amplum.
- PER deos quidem oro.
 EPI impetras.
- AP quin tu is intro atque huic argentum promis? ego uisam
 ad forum.
 Epidice, eo ueni.
- EPI ne abitas prius quam ego ad te uenero.
- 305 AP usque opperiar.
- PER sequere tu intro.
 EPI i numeram, nil ego te moror.

294 fidicina *BEJ*, fidicinam *Schredinger*

299 illam alius *BEJ*, *transp. Bothe*

EPIDICUS

- EPI (*pointing to Apoecides*) This one will be best, this one can be on his guard all right, since he understands the laws and statutes.
- PER (*to Apoecides*) You should thank Epidicus.
- EPI But this is what I'll do eagerly: I'll meet him and bring the lyre girl here to you, to whom she belongs. And I'll bring the money together with this man here (*points to Apoecides*). 295
- PER What's the lowest price she can be bought for?
- EPI That woman? Perhaps she can be bought for forty minas at the lowest. But if you give me more I'll return it, there's no trick in this. And this money won't even be tied up for as long as ten days.
- PER How so?
- EPI Because another young man is madly in love with that woman, rich in gold, a great soldier from Rhodes, who ravages the enemy and is boastful: he will buy her from you and give you the gold with pleasure. Just do it, there's a fat profit in here for you. 300
- PER I'm praying to the gods for it.
- EPI Your prayer is answered.
- AP (*to Periphanes*) Why don't you go inside and get the money for him? I'll visit the forum. (*turning to the slave*) Epidicus, meet me there.
- EPI Don't go away before I meet you.
- AP I'll be waiting throughout. 305

Exit APOECIDES to the right.

- PER Follow me inside, you.
- EPI Go count it, I'm not delaying you at all.

Exit PERIPHANES into his house.

PLAUTUS

II. iii: EPIDICVS

- EPI nullum esse opinor ego agrum in agro Attico
 aequae feracem quam hic est noster Periphanes:
 quin ex occluso atque opsignato armario
 decutio argenti tantum quantum mi lubet.
 310 quod pol ego metuo si senex rescuerit
 ne ulmos parasitos faciat quae usque attondeant.
 sed me una turbat res ratioque, Apoecidi
 quam ostendam fidicinam aliquam conducticiam.
 atque id quoque habeo: mane me iussit senex
 315 conducere aliquam fidicinam sibi huc domum,
 dum rem diuinam faceret, cantaret sibi;
 ea conducetur atque ei praemonstrabitur
 quo pacto fiat subdola aduersus senem.
 ibo intro, argentum accipiam ab damnosio sene.

ACTVS III

III. i: STRATIPPOCLES. CHAERIBVLVS

- 320 STRA exspectando exedor miser atque exenteror
 quo modo mi Epidici blanda dicta euenant.
 nimis diu maceror: sitne quid necne sit
 scire cupio.
 CHAE per illam tibi copiam
 copiam parare aliam licet: sciui equidem in principio
 ilico
 325 nullam tibi esse in illo copiam.
 STRA interii hercle ego!
 CHAE absurde facis qui angas te animi; si hercle ego illum semel
 prendero,
 numquam irridere nos illum inul-
 tum sinam seruom hominem.

EPIDICUS

EPI I don't think that any land in this Attic land is as fertile as this Periphanes of ours. I shake out as much money as I like from his locked and sealed cabinet. I'm really afraid 310 that if the old man finds out about this, he might turn elm rods into hangers-on to lick me to the bone. But one matter and concern troubles me, how I can show Apoecides some hired lyre girl. (*pauses*) And I also have a solution to this problem: early in the morning the old man told me to 315 hire some lyre girl to come here to him to his house, to sing for him while he offers sacrifice. She'll be hired and shown how to trick the old man. I'll go inside and receive the money from the old prodigal.

Exit EPIDICUS into the house of Periphanes.

ACT THREE

Enter STRATIPPOCLES and CHAERIBULUS from the latter's house.

STRA Poor me, I'm being consumed and disemboweled from 320 waiting to see how Epidicus' flattering words will turn out for me. I've been tormented far too long: I desire to know if there's any result or not.

CHAE As far as aid from him is concerned, you can look for aid elsewhere: I knew right from the beginning that there's 325 no aid for you in him.

STRA I'm dead!

CHAE It's odd of you to be so anxious in your mind. If I ever get hold of him, I'll never let that slave laugh at us without punishment.

PLAUTUS

STRA quid illum facere uis qui, tibi quoi diuitiae domi maxu-
mae sunt,

330 is nummum nullum habes nec soda-

330^a li tuo in te copia est.

331 CHAE si hercle habeam pollicear lubens, uerum aliquid aliqua
aliquo modo

alicunde ab aliqui aliqua tibi spes est fore mecum fortu-
nam.

STRA uae tibi, muricide homo!

CHAE qui tibi lubet mi male loqui?

STRA quipp' tu mi aliquid aliquo modo alicunde ab aliquibus
blatis

335 quod nusquam est, neque ego id immitto in auris meas,
nec mihi plus adiumenti habes quam ill' qui numquam
etiam natust.

III. ii: EPIDICVS. STRATIPPOCLES. CHAERIBVLVS

EPI fecisti iam officium tuom, me meum nunc facere oportet
per hanc curam quieto tibi licet esse . . . hoc quidem iam
periit:

339 ne quid tibi hinc in spem referas,

339^a oppido hoc pollinctum est;

340 crede modo mi: sic ego ago,

340^a sic egerunt nostri.

341 pro di immortales, mi hunc diem dedistis luculentum!
ut facilem atque impetrabilem! sed ego hinc migrare
cesso,

ut importem in coloniam hunc <meo> auspicio commea-
tum.

329 ferre *BE*¹, fere *J*¹, facere *E*³*J*²

336 ades *BE*, des *J*, habes *Leo*

343 meo *add. Pylades*

EPIDICUS

STRA What do you want *him* to do? You, who have enormous riches at home, don't have a single coin for your chum 330 and he doesn't have any assistance in you.

CHAE If I had anything, I'd promise it happily, but you have some hope to have a fortune with me, something, somehow, in some way, from somewhere, from someone.

STRA Curse you, you coward!²⁰

CHAE Why do you wish to insult me?

STRA Because you're waffling about something somehow from somewhere from some people, which doesn't exist anywhere. I won't lend you my ears for this; you don't have any more help for me than someone who's never been born. 335

Enter EPIDICUS from the house of Periphanes, with a wallet hanging from his neck.

EPI (*into the house*) You've already done your duty, now I ought to do mine. As far as that worry is concerned, you can be calm . . . (*aside, lifting up the wallet*) you have lost this already: don't put any hopes into seeing any of it again, it's all laid out for burial. Just believe me: that's 340 how I do things, that's how my ancestors used to do things. Immortal gods, this is a beautiful day you've given me! How easy and successful! But I'm wasting time when I should be setting off to bring these supplies to the settlement under my own auspices. I'm wasting my time

²⁰ *Muricidus* is glossed as "coward, idiot, lazybones" by Paul. Fest. p. 112 Lindsay. It could be a by-form of *murcidus* or a translation of *μυοκτόνος* "mouse-slayer" or *τοιχωρύχος* "wall-digger," the former an insult to a soldier, the latter a general insult referring to stealing.

PLAUTUS

- mihi cesso quom sto. sed quid hoc? ante aedis duos sodalis
 345 erum et Chaeribulum conspicor. quid hic agitis? accipe hoc sis.
 STRA quantum hic inest?
 EPI quantum sat est et plus satis: superfit.
 decem minis plus attuli quam tu danistae debes.
 dum tibi ego placeam atque opsequar meum tergum flocci facio.
 STRA nam quid ita?
 EPI quia ego tuom patrem faciam parenticidam.
 350 STRA quid istuc est uerbi?
 EPI nil moror uetera et uolgata uerba.
 peratum ductarent: ego follitum ductitabo.
 nam leno omne argentum apstulit pro fidicina, ego resolui.
 [manibus his denumeraui, pater suam natam quam esse credit.]
 355 nunc iterum ut fallatur pater tibi que auxiliium apparetur inueni: nam ita suasi seni atque hanc habui orationem ut quom rediisses ne tibi eius copia esset.
 STRA eugae!
 EPI ea iam domi est pro filia.
 STRA <iam> teneo.
 EPI nunc auctorem dedit mi ad hanc rem Apoecidem, is apud forum manet me quasi qui a me caueat.

351 ductare at *P*, ductarent *Leo* 353 uersum *secl. Ritschl*

355 inueniam *BEJ*, inueni nam *Saracenus*

357 iam *add. Brix*

359 quasi quae amaret *BEJ*, quasi qui a me *Buecheler*

EPIDICUS

by standing around. (*looks around*) But what's that? I can see the two chums before the house, master and Chaeribulus. (*to both*) What are you doing here? (*handing over the wallet to Stratippocles*) Take this please. 345

STRA How much is in here?

EPI As much as is enough and more than enough: there's an excess. I brought ten minas more than you owe the moneylender. So long as I please and obey you I care little about my back.

STRA How so?

EPI Because I'll turn your father into a parenticide.

STRA What sort of word is that? 350

EPI I don't care for old and common words. People would carry a parricide off in a bag, but I shall carry your father off in a wallet:²¹ the pimp took away all the money for the lyre girl; I paid him. [I counted it out with these hands of mine for the girl your father believes to be his daughter.] Now I've found another way to trick your father and to help you: I advised the old man like this and gave him a talk to the effect that when you returned you shouldn't have access to her. 355

STRA Excellent!

EPI She's now at home as his daughter.

STRA I got it now.

EPI Now he's given me Apoecides as a supervisor for this business. He's waiting for me in the forum, with the idea of being on his guard against me.

²¹ *Parricidae* "murderers of close kinsmen, especially of parents" were sewn into sacks and drowned. *Parenticida*, a comic formation, has a similar meaning; the form of punishment is of course also comic.

PLAUTUS

- STRA hau male.
- EPI iam ipse cautor captus.
- 360 ipse in meo collo tuos pater cruminam collocavit;
 is adornat, adueniens domi extemplo ut maritus fias.
- STRA uno persuadebit modo, si illam quae adducta est mecum
 mi adempsit Orcus.
- EPI nunc ego hanc astutiam institui.
 deueniam ad lenonem domum egomet solus, eum [ego]
 docebo,
- 365 si qui ad eum adueniant, ut sibi esse datum argentum
 dicat
 pro fidicina, argenti minas se habere quinquaginta—
 quippe ego qui nudius tertius meis manibus denumeravi
 pro illa tua amica quam pater suam filiam esse retur:
 ibi leno sceleratum caput suum imprudens alligabit,
- 370 quasi pro illa argentum acceperit quae tecum adducta
 nunc est.
- CHAE uorsutior es quam rota figularis.
- EPI iam ego parabo
 aliquam dolosam fidicinam, nummo conducta quae sit,
 quae se emptam simulet, quae senes duo docte ludificetur.
- eam ducet simul Apoecides ad tuum patrem.
- STRA ut parate!
- 375 EPI eam permeditatam, meis dolis astutiisque onustam
 mittam. sed nimis longum loquor, diu me estis demorati.
 haec scitis iam ut futura sint. abeo.
- STRA bene ambulato.
- 361 ueniens *BEJ*, adueniens *Camerarius*
 364 ego *del. Pylades*
 365 si quid . . . adueniam *P*, si qui . . . adueniant *Camerarius*

EPIDICUS

STRA Not bad.

EPI Now the guard has been gulled himself. Your father put 360
the wallet onto my neck in person. He's getting ready so
that when you arrive home you can immediately get mar-
ried.

STRA There's only one way he'll persuade me: if Orcus takes
away the girl from me who was brought here together
with me.

EPI Now I've prepared the following trick. I'll go to the 365
pimp's house alone and coach him to say, if any people
should come to him, that he's received the money for
the lyre girl, that he has fifty silver minas—because two
days ago I counted the money out with my own hands for
that girlfriend of yours your father believes to be his
daughter: then the pimp will swear by his criminal head
without knowing what he's doing, as if he'd received the 370
money for the woman who's now been brought along
with you.

CHAE You're up to more turns than a potter's wheel.

EPI I'll get some clever lyre girl now, one who can be hired for
a sesterce. She will pretend to have been bought and
trick the two old men cleverly. Apocides will take her
with him to your father.

STRA How well prepared!

EPI I'll send her well rehearsed, loaded with my tricks and 375
wiles. But I've been talking far too much, you've delayed
me for too long. Now you know how this is going to hap-
pen. I'm off.

STRA Have a successful journey.

Exit EPIDICUS to the right.

PLAUTUS

CHAE nimis doctus ille <est> ad male faciendum.

STRA me equidem certo
servauit consiliis suis.

CHAE abeamus intro hinc ad me.

380 STRA atque aliquanto lubentius quam aps te sum egressus
intus:
uirtute atque auspicio Epidici cum praeda in castra
redeo.

III. iii: PERIPHANES. APOECIDES. SERVOS

PER non oris causa modo homines aequom fuit
sibi habere speculum ubi os contemplarent suom,
385 sed qui perspicere possent [cor sapientiae,
igitur perspicere ut possint] cordis copiam;
ubi id inspexissent, cogitarent postea
uitam ut uixissent olim in adulescentia.
fuit conducibile hoc quidem mea sententia.
390 uel [quasi] ego[met], qui dudum fili causa coeperam
ego me excruciare animi, quasi quid filius
meus deliquisset med erga aut [quasi] non pluruma
malefacta mea essent solida in adulescentia.
profecto deliramus interdum senes.
395 sed meus sodalis it cum praeda Apoecides.
uenire saluom mercatorem gaudeo.
quid fit?

AP di deaque te adiuuant.

PER omen placet.

378 est *add. Camerarius*

384-85 cor . . . possint *secl. Geppert*

388 *post 393 in BEJ, huc transp. Brix*

389 uel [quasi] ego[met] *Guyet*

391 quasi *del. Ritschl*

EPIDICUS

CHAE He's very clever when it comes to making mischief.

STRA He certainly saved *me* with his stratagems.

CHAE Let's go inside to me.

STRA Yes, and I'll do so a lot more happily than I went out from 380
you: through the bravery of Epidicus and under his lead-
ership I return to the camp with booty.

Exeunt STRATIPPOCLES and CHAERIBULUS into the latter's house.

Enter PERIPHANES from his house.

PER It would be good if people had mirrors not just for the
sake of their faces, so as to look at their faces in them, but
also mirrors with which they could see into [the heart of 385
their wisdom, so that they could see into] the resources of
their hearts; after examining them, they could then think
about how they lived their lives long ago in their youth.
That would be useful in my opinion. Take me, for in-
stance: not long ago I'd begun to torture myself because 390
of my son, as if my son had wronged me in some way or as
if my own misdeeds throughout my youth hadn't been
countless. Yes, we old men are sometimes really mad.
(*looks around*) But my companion Apoecides is coming
along with the booty. 395

Enter APOECIDES from the right with a MUSIC GIRL.

PER I'm happy that the merchant is returning safely. How are
things?

AP The gods and goddesses are helping you.

PER I like the omen.

PLAUTUS

- AP quin omni omnes suppetunt res prospere.
sed tu hanc iube sis intro abduci.
- PER heus! foras
exite huc aliquis. duce istam intro mulierem.
- 400 atque audin?
- SER quid uis?
- PER caue siris cum filia
mea copulari hanc nec conspicere. iam tenes?
in aediculam istanc sorsum concludi uolo.
diuortunt mores uirgini longe ac lupae.
- AP docte et sapienter dicis. nunquam nimis potest
405 pudicitiam quisquam suae seruare filiae.
edepol ne istam <in ipso> tempore gnato tuo
sumus praemercati.
- PER quid iam?
- AP quia dixit mihi
iam dudum se alius tuom uidisse hic filium:
hanc edepol rem apparabat.
- PER plane hercle hoc quidem est.
- 410 AP ne tu habes seruom graphicum et quantiuis preti,
non carust auro contra. ut ille fidicinam
fecit nesciret esse sese emptam tibi!
ita ridibundam atque hilaram huc adduxit simul.
- PER mirum hoc qui potuit fieri.
- AP te pro filio
- 415 facturum dixit rem esse diuinam domi,
quia Thebis saluos redierit.

398 lubens B, iubes EJ, iube sis Gruterus

404 num P, numquam Fleckeisen 406 tempore P (cum rasura
post istam in B), in ipso tempore Redslob, temperi Guyet

412 nescire esse BEJ, nesciret esse sese Brix

EPIDICUS

AP What's more, everything supports the omen successfully.
But please have her taken inside.

PER (*into his house*) Hey! Someone come out here.

Enter a SLAVE from the house of Periphanes.

PER Take that woman inside. And can you hear me? 400

SLAVE What do you want?

PER Make sure you don't let this person come into contact
with my daughter or see her. Do you understand now? I
want her to be locked up in a separate little room. The
habits of a virgin are very different from those of a whore.

Exeunt the SLAVE and the MUSIC GIRL into the house.

AP You're speaking intelligently and wisely. No one can ever
guard his daughter's chastity too closely. Honestly, we've 405
bought this woman just in time before your son got a
chance.

PER How so?

AP Because someone else told me that he saw your son here
some time ago already: he was getting ready for this.

PER Yes, that's obvious.

AP You really have an exquisite slave, worth any price, worth 410
his weight in gold. How he made sure that the lyre girl
didn't know that she'd been bought for you! He brought
her along here laughing and cheerful.

PER It's strange how this could happen.

AP He said you were going to offer sacrifice at home for your 415
son because he returned safely from Thebes.

PLAUTUS

- PER rectam institit.
 AP immo ipsus illi dixit conductam esse eam
 quae hic amministraret ad rem diuinam tibi.
 [facturum hoc dixit rem ess' diuinam tibi domi.]
 420 ego illic me autem sic assimilabam: quasi
 stolidum, combardum me faciebam.
- PER immo ita decet.
 AP res magna amici apud forum agitur, ei uolo
 ire aduocatus.
- PER at quaeso, ubi erit otium,
 reuortere ad me extemplo.
- AP continuo hic ero.
 425 PER nil homini amico est opportuno amicus:
 sine tuo labore quod uelis actum est tamen.
 ego si allegassem aliquem ad hoc negotium
 minus hominem doctum minusque ad hanc rem cal-
 lidum,
 430 os sublitum esset, itaque me albis dentibus
 meus derideret filius meritissimo.
 435 sed quis illic est quem huc aduenientem conspicio
 suam qui undantem chlamydem quassando facit?

III. iv: MILES. PERIPHANES

- MIL caue praeterbitas ullas aedis quin roges,
 senex hic ubi habitat Periphanes Plothenius.
 incertus tuom caue ad me rettuleris pedem.
- PER adulescens, si istunc hominem quem tu quaeritas
 tibi commonstrasso, ecquam aps te inibo gratiam?

416 recte *P*, rectam *Lambinus*

419 *uersum del. Acidalius*

435 hic *BEJ*, illic *Seiffert*

438 *Platenius P*, *Plothenius Petitus (etiam in 448)*

EPIDICUS

PER That was the line to take.

AP Yes, he himself told her that she was hired to assist you here in your sacrifice. [He said you were going to offer sacrifice for yourself at home.] But I pretended to be stupid and daft there. 420

PER Yes, that's appropriate.

AP An important case of a friend is being dealt with in the forum and I want to go as a supporter for him.

PER But please, when you have leisure, come back to me at once.

AP I'll be back soon.

Exit APOECIDES to the right.

PER A friend in need is a friend indeed. What you want done is done, without any effort on your part. If I'd employed someone less smart in this business and less clever in this matter, I'd have been fooled: my son would laugh at me, showing me his white teeth, and I'd fully deserve it. 425
430
(looks around) But who is this I can see coming here? He 435
makes his cloak move like a wave by shaking it.

Enter the SOLDIER from the left, accompanied by a slave boy.

SOL Make sure you don't pass any house without asking where old Periphanes of Plothea²² lives here. Make sure you don't carry your foot back to me when you're not certain.

PER *(approaching the soldier)* Young man, if I show you the man you're looking for, will I earn some gratitude from you? 440

²² A deme in Attica.

PLAUTUS

- MIL uirtute belli armatus promerui ut mihi
omnis mortalis agere deceat gratias.
- 445 PER non repperisti, adulescens, tranquillum locum
ubi tuas uirtutes explices ut postulas.
nam strenuiori deterior si praedicat
suas pugnas, de illius illae fiunt sordidae.
sed istum quem quaeris Periphanem Plothenium
ego sum, si quid uis.
- 450 MIL nemp' quem in adulescentia
memorant apud reges armis, arte duellica
diuitias magnas indeptum?
- PER immo si audias
meas pugnas, fugias manibus demissis domum.
- MIL pol ego magis unum quaero meas quoi praedicem
quam illum qui memoret suas mihi.
- PER hic non est locus;
455 proin tu alium quaeras quoi centones sarcias.
431 atque haec stultitia est me illi uitio uortere
432 egomet quod factitauit in adulescentia,
433 quom militabam: pugnis memorandis meis
434 eradicabam hominum auris, quando occeperam.
456 MIL animum aduerte ut quod ego ad te aduenio intellegas.
meam amicam audiui te esse mercatum.
- PER attatae!
nunc demum scio ego hunc qui sit: quem dudum Epi-
dicus
mihi praedicauit militem. adulescens, ita est
460 ut dicis, emi.
- MIL uolo te uerbis pauculis
si tibi molestum non est.

431-34 post 455 posuit Acidalius

EPIDICUS

- SOL Through valor in war I have in arms earned the right that all mortals should give me thanks.
- PER Young man, you haven't found a quiet place for expounding your feats as you wish: if a lesser man tells a braver one about his battles, they look poor in comparison. But the man you're looking for, Periphanes of Plothea, it's me, if you want anything. 445
- SOL You mean the one who people say acquired great wealth in his youth in the service of kings for his arms and art of war? 450
- PER Yes, if you heard about my battles, you'd flee home with your hands stretched out.²³
- SOL I'm looking for someone I can tell about mine rather than someone who tells me about his.
- PER Here is not the right place. So look for someone else to make your patchworks for.²⁴ (*aside*) But it would be plain stupidity to find fault with him for doing what I regularly did in my own youth, when I was a soldier: by telling people about my fights I tore out their ears whenever I began. 455 431
- SOL Pay attention so that you understand why I've come to you. I've heard that you bought my girlfriend. 456
- PER (*aside*) Goodness! Now at last I know who he is: the soldier Epidicus was telling me about a while ago. (*to the soldier*) Young man, it's just as you say, I did buy her. 460
- SOL I want to speak to you briefly if you don't mind.

²³ Like a runner, one before, one behind.

²⁴ Metaphor for telling and embellishing stories.

PLAUTUS

- PER non edepol scio
molestum necne sit, nisi dicis quid uelis.
- MIL mi illam ut tramittas, argentum accipias.
- PER adest?
- MIL nam quid ego apud te uera parcam proloqui?
465 ego illam uolo hodie facere libertam meam
mihi concubina quae sit.
- PER te apsoluam breui:
argenti quinquaginta mi illa empta est minis;
si sexaginta mihi denumerantur minae,
tuas possidebit mulier faxo ferias;
470 atque ita profecto ut eam ex hoc exoneres agro.
- MIL estne empta mi istis legibus?
- PER habeas licet.
conciliauisti pulchre. heus! foras educite
quam introduxistis fidicinam. atque etiam fides,
ei quae accessere, addam tibi dono gratiis.
- III. iv a: PERIPHANES. MILES. FIDICINA
- 475 PER age accipe hanc sis.
- MIL quae te intemperiae tenent?
quas tu mi tenebras trudis? quin tu fidicinam
produci intus iubes?
- PER haec ergo est fidicina.
hic alia nulla est.
- MIL non mihi nugari potes.
quin tu huc producis fidicinam Acropolistidem?
- 480 PER haec inquam est.
- MIL non haec inquam est. non nouisse me
meam rere amicam posse?

474 tibi addam *P*, *transp.* *Brix*

EPIDICUS

- PER I don't know if I mind or not unless you tell me what you want.
- SOL Hand her over to me, and take the money.
- PER Is it at hand?
- SOL Yes; why should I be economical with the truth toward you? I want to make her my freedwoman today so that she can be my concubine. 465
- PER I'll keep it short for you: she was bought for me for fifty silver minas. If I'm paid sixty minas, I'll let the woman occupy your spare time; and all this on condition that you remove her from this land. 470
- SOL Is she mine on those terms?
- PER You can have her. You've made a fine bargain. (*into the house*) Hey there! Bring out the lyre girl you took in. (*to the soldier again*) And I'll also give you the lyre that came with her as a present, for free.

Enter slaves with the MUSIC GIRL.

- PER (*to the soldier*) Go on, take her if you will. 475
- SOL What madness has come over you? What trick are you shoving off on me? Why won't you have the lyre girl brought out?
- PER Well, this *is* the lyre girl. There isn't any other here.
- SOL You can't impose on me. Why won't you bring out here the lyre girl Acropolitis?
- PER I'm telling you, this is her. 480
- SOL And I'm telling you, this is not her. Do you think I don't know my own girlfriend?

PLAUTUS

- PER hanc, inquam, filius
meus deperibat fidicinam.
- MIL haec non est ea.
- PER quid? non est?
- MIL non est.
- PER unde haec igitur gentium est?
equidem hercle argentum pro hac dedi.
- MIL stulte datum
- 485 reor, peccatum largiter.
- PER immo haec ea est.
nam seruom misi qui illum sectari solet
meum gnatum: is ipse hanc destinavit fidicinam.
- MIL em istic homo te articulatum concidit, senex,
tuos seruos.
- PER quid? "concidit"?
- MIL sic suspicio est,
490 nam pro fidicina haec cerua supposita est tibi.
senex, tibi os est sublitum plane et probe.
ego illam requiram iam ubi ubi est.
- PER bellator, uale.
eugae, eugae! Epidice, frugi es, pugnauisti, homo es,
qui me emunxisti mucidum, minimi preti.
- 495 mercatus te hodie est de lenone Apoecides?
- FID fando ego istunc hominem numquam audiui ante hunc
diem
nec me quidem emere quisquam ulla pecunia
potuit: plus iam sum libera quinquennium.

²⁵ An allusion to Medea and Pelias. Medea tricked the daughters of Pelias into believing that they would rejuvenate their father if they cut him to pieces and boiled him, which of course did not work.

EPIDICUS

- PER I'm telling you, my son was madly in love with this lyre girl.
- SOL This isn't her.
- PER What? It isn't her?
- SOL It isn't her.
- PER Then where on earth does this one come from? I paid for her.
- SOL I think that it was stupid of you to pay and that you made a big mistake. 485
- PER No, this is her: I sent the slave who always accompanies that son of mine. He himself bought this lyre girl.
- SOL Well, that man, your slave, has cut you to pieces limb by limb, old man.²⁵
- PER What? He's "cut me to pieces"?
- SOL That's my suspicion: this hind has been substituted for the lyre girl.²⁶ Old man, you've been tricked plainly and properly. I'll find her now wherever she is. 490

Exit SOLDIER to the right.

- PER (*calling after him*) Warrior, goodbye. (*to himself*) Bravo! Bravo! Epidicus, you're a decent chap, you've fought, you're a man; I was a sniffing, worthless creature and you wiped my nose.²⁷ (*to the music girl*) Did Apoecides buy you from the pimp today? 495
- MUS I've never heard that man being mentioned before this day and no one could have bought me for any money: I've been free for more than five years.

²⁶ An allusion to Iphigenia. She was supposed to be sacrificed on the altar of Artemis, but Artemis replaced her with a hind.

²⁷ Metaphor for tricking someone.

PLAUTUS

- PER quid tibi negoti est meae domi igitur?
 FID audies.
- 500 PER conducta ueni ut fidibus cantarem seni,
 dum rem diuinam faceret.
- PER fateor me omnium
 hominum esse Athenis Atticis minimi preti.
 sed tu nouistin fidicinam Acropolistidem?
 FID tam facile quam me.
 PER ubi habitat?
 FID postquam libera est
- 505 PER ubi habitatet dicere admodum incerte scio.
 PER eho an libera illa est? quis eam liberauerit
 uolo scire, si scis.
 FID id quod audiui [iam] audies.
 Stratippoclem aiunt Periphanei filium
 apsentem curauisse ut fieret libera.
- 510 PER perii hercle, si istaec uera sunt, planissime:
 meum exenterauit Epidicus marsuppium.
 FID haec sic audiui. numquid me uis ceterum?
 PER malo cruciatu ut pereas atque abeas cito.
 FID fides non reddis?
 PER nec fides nec tibias.
- 515 PER propera sis fugere hinc si te di amant.
 FID abiero.
- PER flagitio cum maiore post reddes tamen.
 PER quid nunc? qui in tantis positus sum sententiis
 eamne ego sinam impune? immo etiam si alterum
 tantum perdundum est, perdam potius quam sinam
- 520 PER me impune irrisum esse, habitum depeculatu.

507 iam A, *deest in BEJ* 518–20 *uersus non feruntur in A*
 520 *depeculatum BEJ, depeculatu Buecheler*

EPIDICUS

- PER Then what's your business in my house?
- MUS You shall hear it. I came because I was hired to play the lyre for an old man while he was offering sacrifice. 500
- PER I admit that of all men in Attic Athens I'm worth the least. But do you know a lyre girl called Acropolistis?
- MUS As well as myself.
- PER Where does she live?
- MUS Now that she's free I can't say with any certainty where she lives. 505
- PER What? She's free? I want to know who freed her, if you know.
- MUS You shall hear what I have heard. People say that Stratipocles, the son of Periphanes, took care in his absence that she should be freed.
- PER If that's true, it's absolutely plain that I've perished. Epidicus has disemboweled my wallet. 510
- MUS That's what I've heard. Is there anything else you want from me?
- PER Yes, go away quickly and die a painful death.
- MUS Won't you return my lyre to me?
- PER Neither your lyre nor your flute! Be quick to run off if the gods love you, will you? 515
- MUS I'm off. You'll return it later nevertheless, under greater and louder demands.

Exit the MUSIC GIRL to the right, the slaves disappear in the house again.

- PER What now? Should I let her off without punishment, I, whose name is often to be seen as proposer of such important decrees? No, even if I had to waste the same sum all over again, I'd rather waste it than let myself be made 520

PLAUTUS

525 ei! sic data esse uerba praesenti palam!
 ac me minoris facio prae illo, qui omnium
 legum atque iurum fictor, condictor cluet;
 is etiam sese sapere memorat: malleum
 sapientiozem uidi excusso manubrio.

ACTVS IV

IV. i: PHILIPPA. PERIPHANES

- PHIL siquid est homini miseriarum quod miserescat, miser ex
 animo est.
 id ego experior, quoi multa in unum locum con-
 fluont quae meum pectus pulsant
 simul: multiplex <me> aerumna exercitam habet,
 530 paupertas, paupor territat mentem animi,
 neque ubi meas collocem spes habeo mi usquam muni-
 tum locum.
 ita gnata mea hostium est potita neque ea nunc ubi sit
 scio.
- 533 PER quis illaec est mulier timido
 533^a pectore peregre adueniens
 534 quae ipsa se miseratur?
- PHIL in his
 534^a dictust locis habitare mihi
 535 Periphanes.
- PER me nominat haec;
 535^a credo ego illi hospitio usus uenit.
- 536 PHIL peruelim mercedem dare qui
 536^a monstret eum mi hominem aut ubi habitat.
- 537 PER noscito ego hanc, nam uideor nescio ubi
 537^a mi uidisse prius.
 538 estne ea an non ea est quam animus retur meus?

EPIDICUS

a laughingstock and be cheated without punishing him. Dear me! To be tricked like this, in person and publicly! And yet my case is not as bad as the case of that chap who has a reputation for being the maker and framer of all laws and legal principles. He even says that he's clever. I've seen a hammer cleverer than him, and that with its handle knocked off. 525

ACT FOUR

Enter PHILIPPA from the left, without noticing anyone.

PHIL If humans are in misery that deserves commiseration, they are truly miserable. I am experiencing this: many things that beat my breast at the same time are flowing together in one place. Manifold toil is keeping me agitated, poverty and fear are terrifying my inmost heart, and I don't have a safe place where I could put my hopes: my daughter has been captured by the enemy and I don't know where she is now. 530

PER Who is that woman coming from abroad with fear in her breast, who is pitying herself?

PHIL I was told that Periphanes lives in this area. 535

PER She's naming me. I think she's in need of hospitality.

PHIL I'd like to give a reward to the person who shows me that man or where he lives.

PER I'm trying to recognize her because I seem to have seen her somewhere or other before. Is she the one or is she not the one my heart thinks she is?

529 me *add. Gulielmus*

537^a me *P, mi Lindemann*

PLAUTUS

- 539 PHIL di boni! uisitauī <hunc an non> antīdhac?
 539^a ***
- 540 PER certo ea est ***
 540^a quam in Epidaurō ***
 540^b pauperculam memini comprimere.
- 541 PHIL plane hicine est qui
 541^a mihi in Epidaurō uirgini primus
 541^b pudicitiam pepulit.
- 542 PER quae meo compressu peperit
 542^a filiam quam domi nunc habeo.
- 543 quid si adeam—
 PHIL hau scio an congregias—
- 543^a PER —si haec ea est.
 PHIL —sin is est homo, sicut
- 544 anni multi dubia dant.
- 544^a PER longa dies meum incertat animum.
 545 sin ea est quam incerte autumo,
 545^a hanc congregiar astu.
- 546 PHIL muliebris adhibenda mi malitia nunc est.
 PER compellabo.
 PHIL orationis aciem contra conferam.
 PER salua sis.
 PHIL salutem accipio mi et meis.
 PER quid ceterum?
 PHIL saluos sis: quod credidisti reddo.
 PER haud accuso fidem.
- 550 nouin ego te?
 PHIL si ego te noui, animum inducam ut tu noueris.
 PER ubi te uisitauī?
 PHIL inique iniuriu's.
 PER quid iam?

539 hunc an non *add. Geppert*

539^a *lacuna sanari non potest*

EPIDICUS

- PHIL (*noticing Periphanes*) Good gods! Have I seen this man before or not? ***
- PER Certainly this is the poor girl *** whom in Epidaurus *** 540 I remember forcing to lie with me.
- PHIL Certainly this is the man who first drove away my chastity in Epidaurus when I was still a virgin.
- PER The woman whom I slept with and who gave birth to the daughter I have at home now. What if I go to her—
- PHIL Perhaps you should approach him—
- PER —if she is the one.
- PHIL —if he is the man; in fact, the many years are giving me doubts.
- PER The long passage of time makes my mind uncertain. I'll 545 approach her cleverly, to see if she is the one I'm talking about without being sure of it.
- PHIL Now I have to use my woman's cunning.
- PER I'll address her.
- PHIL I'll arm my tongue against him.
- PER (*loudly*) Greetings.
- PHIL I accept your greetings for me and my family.
- PER What else?²⁸
- PHIL Greetings: I'm returning what you lent me.
- PER I don't find fault with your reliability. Don't I know you? 550
- PHIL If I know you, I'll persuade myself that you know me.
- PER Where have I seen you?
- PHIL You're very unjust.
- PER How so?

²⁸ Philippa's greeting is incomplete.

540–40^a *desunt fines uersuum*

541^b *pepulis P, perpulis A*

543 *congregiar P, congregias Nonius*

EPIDICUS

- PHIL Because you think it's fair that I should play interpreter to your memory.
- PER You have a point.
- PHIL You're making a strange admission ***.
- PER Yes, that's more like it. Do you remember?
- PHIL I remember what I remember.
- PER But do you remember that in Epidaurus—
- PHIL (*interrupting*) Ah! You've sprinkled a drop on my burning breast. 555
- PER —I eased the poverty of you, a poor girl, and of your mother?
- PHIL Are you the one who sowed great distress in me through your pleasure?
- PER Yes, I am. Be well.
- PHIL I am well because I realize that you are well.
- PER Give me your hand.
- PHIL Take it. (*he grabs it*) You're holding a woman in distress and afflicted by sorrows. 560
- PER What is the reason that your expression is troubled?
- PHIL The daughter I had by you—
- PER (*interrupting*) What about her?
- PHIL —I brought her up and then lost her. She has been captured by the enemy.
- PER Be calm and peaceful. Be quiet. Look, she's in my house, safe and sound: after I heard from my slave that she'd been taken captive, I immediately gave him money so she could be bought. He sorted this matter out just as soberly and decently as . . . as he's awfully bad in other matters. 565

553 Periphane in *A fuisse suspicatur Studemund* (*sed Philippa Periphane primam cognoscit in 556–557*)

560 te turbat P, turbatur Duckworth

PLAUTUS

PHIL fac uideam, si mea, si saluam <me> uis.

PER eho! istinc, Canthara,
iube Telestidem huc prodire filiam ante aedis meam,
ut suam uideat matrem.

PHIL remigrat animus nunc demum mihi.

IV. ii: ACROPOLISTIS. PERIPHANES. PHILIPPA

570 ACR quid est, pater, quod me exciuiisti ante aedis?

PER ut matrem tuam
uideas, adeas, aduenienti des salutem atque osculum.

ACR quam meam matrem?

PER quae exanimata exsequitur aspectum tuom.

PHIL quis istaec est quam tu osculum mi ferre iubes?

PER tua filia.

PHIL haecine?

PER haec.

PHIL egone osculum huic dem?

PER quor non, quae ex te nata sit?

575 PHIL tu homo insanis.

PER egone?

PHIL tune.

PER quor?

PHIL quia ego hanc quae siet
nec scio nec noui neque ego hanc oculis uidi ante hunc
diem.

PER scio quid erres: quia uestitum atque ornatum immutabi-
lem
habet haec ***

567 sim—seisaluam A, si me uis P, si mea si saluam me uis Lindsay

568 Acropolistidem Ω, Telestidem Valla et Camerarius

578-79 duo uersus in A fuisse constat, unus uersus lacuna non indi-
cata inuenitur in P

EPIDICUS

PHIL Let me see her, if she is mine, if you want me safe.

PER (*into the house*) Hey there! Canthara, have my daughter Telestis come out here in front of the house, so that she can see her mother.

PHIL Now at last my spirits are returning.

Enter ACROPOLISTIS with an old maid from the house of Periphanes.

ACR Why is it, father, that you called me out in front of the house? 570

PER So that you can see your mother, go to her, and greet and kiss her on her arrival.

ACR What mother of mine?

PER The one who is almost dead while seeking to behold you.

PHIL Who is that woman you're asking to give me a kiss?

PER Your daughter.

PHIL This woman?

PER Yes, this woman.

PHIL I should give her a kiss?

PER Why not, since she was born from you?

PHIL You're mad. 575

PER I?

PHIL Yes, you.

PER Why?

PHIL Because I don't know or recognize who she is and I haven't set eyes on her before this day.

PER I know why you're mistaken: because she has a different dress and get-up ***

PLAUTUS

- PHIL *** aliter catuli longe olent, aliter sues.
 580 ne ego me <nego> nosse <hanc quae sit>.
- PER pro deum atque hominum fidem!
 quid? ego lenocinium facio qui habeam alienas domi
 atque argentum egurgitem domo prorsus? quid tu, quae
 patrem
 tuom uocas me atque osculare, quid stas stupida? quid
 taces?
- ACR quid loquar uis?
 PER haec negat se tuam esse matrem.
 ACR ne fuit
- 585 si non uolt: equidem hac inuita tamen ero matris filia;
 non med istanc cogere aequom est meam esse matrem si
 neuolt.
- PER quor me igitur patrem uocabas?
 ACR tua istaec culpa est, non mea.
 non patrem ego te nominem, ubi tu tuam me appelles
 filiam?
 hanc quoque etiam, si me appellet filiam, matrem uo-
 cem.
- 590 negat haec filiam me suam esse: non ergo haec mater
 mea est.
 postremo haec mea culpa non est: quae didici dixi omnia;
 Epidicus mi fuit magister.
- PER perii! plaustrum perculi.
 ACR numquid ego ibi, pater, peccaui?
 PER si hercle te unquam audiuero
 me patrem uocare, uitam tuam ego interimam.
 ACR non uoco.
- 595 ubi uoles pater esse ibi esto; ubi noles ne fueris pater.
 PHIL quid? <si> ob eam rem hanc emisti quia tuam gnatam
 ratu's,
 quibus de signis agnoscebas?

EPIDICUS

- PHIL *** Puppies smell very differently from pigs. Seriously, 580
I'm telling you that I don't know who she is.
- PER By all that's sacred in heaven and on earth! What? Am I
turning myself into a brothel-keeper, keeping women
in my house that don't belong here and pouring forth
money? (*to Acropolistis*) What about you, who call me
your father and kiss me? What are you standing here like
an idiot? What are you silent for?
- ACR What do you want me to say?
- PER This lady denies being your mother.
- ACR She needn't be if she doesn't want to: I for one shall still 585
be my mother's daughter, even against this woman's will.
It wouldn't be fair of me to force her to be my mother if
she doesn't want to be.
- PER Then why did you call me father?
- ACR That's your fault, not mine. Shouldn't I address you as fa-
ther when you call me daughter? I'd also call this woman
mother if she addressed me as daughter. She denies that 590
I'm her daughter: then she isn't my mother. Finally, this
isn't my fault. Everything I've said I was taught. Epidicus
was my teacher.
- PER I'm dead! I've upset the applectart.
- ACR Have I done anything wrong there, father?
- PER If I ever hear you again call me father, I'll take your life.
- ACR I won't. When you want to be my father, be it; when you 595
don't want to be my father, don't be.
- PHIL (*to Periphanes*) Well then? If you bought her because
you thought she's your daughter, by which signs did you
recognize her?

580 nego et hanc quae sit add. Leo

596 si add. Studemund

PLAUTUS

- PER nullis.
 PHIL qua re filiam
 credidisti nostram?
 PER seruos Epidicus dixit mihi.
 PHIL quid si seruo aliter uisum est, non poteras nouisse, opse-
 cro?
 600 PER quid ego, qui illam ut primum uidi, numquam uidi pos-
 tea?
 PHIL perii misera!
 PER ne fle, mulier. intro abi, habe animum bonum;
 ego illam reperiam.
 PHIL hinc Athenis ciuis eam emit Atticus:
 adulescentem equidem dicebant emisse.
 PER inueniam, tace.
 605 abi modo intro atque hanc asserua Circam Solis filiam.
 ego relictis rebus Epidicum operam quaerendo dabo:
 si inuenio exitiabilem ego illi faciam hunc ut fiat diem.

ACTVS V

- V. i: STRATIPPOCLES. EPIDICVS. DANISTA. TELESTIS
 STRA male morigerus mi est danista, qui a me argentum non
 petit
 neque illam adducit quae <empta> ex praeda <est>. sed
 eccum incedit Epidicus.
 quid illuc est quod illi caperrat frons seueritudine?

597-99 uersus non feruntur in A

608 quae est praeda B, que ex praeda E, quae ex praeda J, quae
 <empta> ex praeda <est> *Camerarius*

²⁹ The girl is compared to Circe because Circe practised magic
 (hence this is an insult) and because she never knew her father.

EPIDICUS

PER By none whatsoever.

PHIL Why did you believe she's our daughter?

PER My slave Epidicus told me so.

PHIL What if the slave had a different impression, couldn't you recognize her, please?

PER What should I have done? After seeing her for the first 600
time I never saw her again.

PHIL (*in tears*) I'm done for, poor me!

PER Stop crying, my woman. Go inside and cheer up. I shall find her.

PHIL An Attic citizen here from Athens bought her. They said a young man bought her.

PER I shall find her, be quiet. Just go inside and watch over this Circe, daughter of the Sun.²⁹

Exit PHILIPPA into the house of Periphanes, followed by ACROPOLISTIS and the maid.

PER I'll leave everything aside and make an effort to find 605
Epidicus. If I find him, I'll make sure that this will become his day of doom.

Exit PERIPHANES to the right.

ACT FIVE

Enter STRATIPPOCLES from the house of Chaeribulus.

STRA The moneylender humors me badly: he won't demand the money from me and he won't bring the girl that was bought from the spoils. But look, here comes Epidicus. What's the reason that his forehead is wrinkled from grave thoughts?

PLAUTUS

610 EPI si undecim deos praeter sese secum adducat Iuppiter,
ita non omnes ex cruciatu poterunt eximere Epidicum.
Periphanem emere lora uidi, ibi aderat una Apocides;
nunc homines me quaeritare credo. *senserunt, sciunt*
sibi data esse uerba.

STRA quid agis, mea Commoditas?

EPI quod miser.

615 STRA quid est tibi?

EPI quin tu mi adornas ad fugam uiaticum
prius quam pereo? nam per urbem duo defloccati senes
quaeritant me, in manibus gestant copulas secum simul.

STRA habe bonum animum.

EPI quippe ego quoi libertas in mundo sita est.

STRA ego te seruabo.

EPI *edepol me illi melius si nacti fuant.*

620 STRA sed quis haec est muliercula et ille rauastellus qui uenit?
hic est danista, haec illa est autem quam [ego] emi de
praeda.

EPI haecine est?

STRA haec est. estne ita ut tibi dixi? aspecta et contempla, Epi-
dice:

usque ab unguiculo ad capillum summum est festiuissu-
ma.

estn' consimilis quasi quom signum pictum pulchre as-
pexeris?

621 ego emi de A, emi ex P

622 ista A, *om. BEJ*, ita *Mueller*

³⁰ Pun on the two meanings of *seruare*: Stratippocles means "pro-
tect," Epidicus, "guard in prison."

EPIDICUS

Enter EPIDICUS from the right.

EPI (*to himself*) Even if Jupiter brought the other eleven 610
 gods in addition to himself, they'll all be unable to save
 Epidicus from a flogging. I saw Periphanes buying straps,
 and there together with him was Apoecides. I believe
 they're looking for me now. They've realized it, they
 know that they've been fooled.

STRA (*approaching Epidicus*) How are you, my Opportunity?

EPI Just like a wretch.

STRA What's wrong with you?

615

EPI Why don't you prepare me provisions to escape before I
 get killed? The two old men I fleeced are looking for me
 throughout the city and they're carrying ropes with them
 in their hands.

STRA Cheer up.

EPI (*sarcastically*) Yes, because freedom is awaiting me.

STRA I'll watch over you.

EPI They'll do so better if they get hold of me.³⁰ But who is 620
 that girl and that gray-haired man who's coming along?

*Enter the MONEYLENDER with a purse and TELESTIS from
 the left.*

STRA This is the moneylender and this is that girl I bought from
 the spoils.

EPI Is that her?

STRA That's her. Isn't she just as I told you? Look at her and ob-
 serve, Epidicus: from the tip of her toe to the top of her
 head she's absolutely delightful. Isn't she just as if you'd
 spotted a beautifully painted picture?

PLAUTUS

- 625 EPI e tuis uerbis meum futurum corium pulchrum praedicas,
quem Apelles ac Zeuxis duo pingent pigmentis ulmeis.
STRA di immortales! sicin iussi ad me ires?² pedibus plumbeis
qui perhibetur prius uenisset quam tu aduenisti mihi.
DAN haec edepol remorata med est.
STRA ~~~~~ siquidem istius gratia
630 id remoratu's quod ista uoluit, nimium aduenisti cito.
DAN age age, apsolue <me> atque argentum numera, ne comi-
tes morer.
STRA pernumeratum est.
DAN ~~~~~ tene cruminam: huc inde.
STRA ~~~~~ sapienter uenis.
opperire dum effero ad te argentum.
DAN ~~~~~ matura.
STRA ~~~~~ domi est.
EPI satin ego oculis utilitatem optineo sincere an parum?
635 uideone ego Telestidem te, Periphanei filiam,
ex Philippa matre natam Thebis, Epidauri satam?
TEL quis tu homo es qui meum parentum nomen memoras et
meum?
EPI non me nouisti?
TEL ~~~~~ quod quidem nunc ueniat in mentem mihi.
EPI non meministi me auream ad te afferre natali die
640 lunulam atque anellum aureolum in digitum?
TEL ~~~~~ memini, mi homo.
tune is es?

627 socio iussi admirer *P*, sicin iussi ad me ires *Leo* pulmunes *BE*,
pulmones *J*, plumbeis *Brix* 631 me *add. Camerarius*

³¹ The two most famous Greek painters, living in the fourth and
fifth centuries, respectively. ³² Unclear reference.

EPIDICUS

EPI According to your words, you're predicting that *my* skin 625
will be beautiful; that pair Apelles and Zeuxis³¹ will paint
it with elm pigments.

STRA (*to the moneylender*) Immortal gods! Did I tell you to
come to me like this? The proverbial man with feet of
lead³² would have come earlier than you did.

MON This girl delayed me.

STRA Well, if you delayed for her sake, because she wanted it, 630
you've come far too quickly.

MON Come on, come on, pay me off and count out the money
so that I don't delay my companions.

STRA It's counted.

MON Take my purse: put it in here. (*hands over his wallet*)

STRA You've come discreetly provided. Wait while I bring the
money out to you.

MON Hurry up.

STRA It's in the house.

Exit STRATIPPOCLES into the house of Chaeribulus.

EPI Do I have unimpaired eyesight or not? Is it you I see, 635
Telestis, the daughter of Periphanes, born of her mother
Philippa in Thebes, but conceived in Epidaurus?

TEL Who are you? You're stating the names of my parents and
of myself.

EPI Don't you know me?

TEL No, not as far as comes to my mind now.

EPI Don't you remember me bringing you a little golden
moon on your birthday and a little golden ring for your 640
finger?

TEL I do remember it, my dear man. Is that you?

PLAUTUS

- EPI ego sum, et istic frater qui te mercatust tuos.
 *** alia matre, uno patre.
- TEL quid pater meus? uiuost?
- EPI animo liquido et tranquillo es, tace.
- TEL di me ex perdita seruatam cupiunt si uera autumas.
- 645 EPI non habeo ullam occasionem ut apud te falsa fabuler.
- STRA accipe argentum hoc, danista. hic sunt quadraginta
 minae.
 siquid erit dubium immutabo.
- DAN bene fecisti, bene uale.
- STRA nunc enim tu mea es.
- TEL soror quidem edepol, ut tu aequae scias.
 salue, frater.
- STRA sanan haec est?
- EPI sana, si appellat suom.
- 650 STRA quid? ego <quo> modo huic <sum> frater factus, dum in-
 tro eo atque exeo?
- EPI quod boni est id tacitus taceas tute tecum et gaudeas.
- STRA perdidisti et repperisti me, soror.
- EPI stultu's, tace.
 tibi quidem quod ames domi praesto est, fidicina, opera
 mea;
 et sororem in libertatem idem opera concilio mea.
- 655 STRA Epidice, fateor—
- EPI abi intro ac iube huic aquam calefieri;
 cetera haec posterius faxo scibis ubi erit otium.

642 nullam lacunam indicant BEJ, uestigia in A (ex quibus <he> m
 m<eus frater ille> ut f<iat?> Leo uersum uirgini tribuens)

650 quo et sum add. Redslob

EPIDICUS

EPI Yes, and that's your brother who bought you. *** from a different mother, but one father.

TEL What about my father? Is he alive?

EPI Be calm and relaxed, be quiet.

TEL The gods want to turn me from lost into saved if you're telling the truth.

EPI I have no occasion to lie to you.

645

Enter STRATIPPOCLES with a full purse.

STRA Take this money, moneylender. There are forty minas here. If anything is doubtful, I'll exchange it.

MON Thank you. Goodbye.

Exit MONEYLENDER to the right.

STRA (*to Telestis*) Now you belong to me.

TEL Yes, as your sister, so that you know it as well as I do. Hello, my brother.

STRA (*to Epidicus*) Is she in her right mind?

EPI She is, if she addresses the one who is hers.

STRA What? How did I become her brother while I went in and out? 650

EPI Be quietly quiet about the good you have and be happy.

STRA (*with a sigh*) You've lost and found me, my sister.

EPI You're being silly, be quiet. You have something to love, that is the lyre girl, ready for you at home, thanks to my efforts. And I'm bringing your sister back to freedom through my efforts.

STRA Epidicus, I admit—

655

EPI (*interrupting*) Go inside and have water warmed up for her. I'll let you know about the rest later when we have leisure.

PLAUTUS

- STRA sequere hac me, soror.
 EPI ego ad uos Thesprionem iussero
 huc transire. sed memento, si quid saeuibunt senes,
 suppetias mihi cum sorore ferre.
 STRA facile istuc erit.
 660 EPI Thesprio, exi istac per hortum, affer domum auxilium
 mihi,
 magna est res. minoris multo facio quam dudum senes.
 remeabo intro, ut accurentur aduenientes hospites.
 eadem haec intus edocebo quae ego scio Stratippoclem.
 non fugio, domi adesse certum est; neque ille haud obi-
 ciet mihi
 665 pedibus sese prouocatum. abeo intro, nimis longum lo-
 quor.
 V. ii: PERIPHANES. APOECIDES. EPIDICVS
 PER satine illic homo ludibrio nos uetulos decrepitos duos
 habet?
 AP immo edepol tuquidem miserum med habes mi-
 seris modis.
 PER tace sis, modo sine me hominem apisci.
 AP dico ego tibi iam, ut scias:
 alium tibi te comitem meliust quaerere; ita, dum te se-
 quor,
 670 lassitudine inuaserunt misero in genua flemina.
 PER quot illic homo hodie me exemplis ludificatust atque te,
 ut illic autem exenterauit mihi opes argentarias!

657 hac me soror *BEJ*, me soror hac *A*

658 saeuivit senex *A*, saeuunt senes *B*, seuiunt senes *JE*³ (sic uiuit
 senes *E*), saeuibunt senes *Dousa*

EPIDICUS

STRA (*going toward his house*) Follow me this way, my sister.

EPI (*accompanying the two*) I'll tell Thesprio to come over to you. (*to Stratippocles*) But remember to come to my assistance with your sister if the old men are furious.

STRA That'll be easy.

Exeunt STRATIPPOCLES and TELESTIS into his house.

EPI (*calling toward the door of Chaeribulus*) Thesprio, come out that way through the garden, bring me home some help. It's a big business. (*to the audience*) I care much less about the old men than before. I'll go back inside so that the guests are taken care of on their arrival. At the same time I'll teach Stratippocles inside what I know. I'm not running away, I'm resolved to stay at home. And he shan't throw at me that he was challenged to a footrace. I'm going inside, I've been talking for far too long. 660 665

Exit EPIDICUS into his master's house.

Enter PERIPHANES and APOECIDES from the right, carrying straps.

PER Is that chap really turning us two decrepit old men into laughingstocks?

AP No, *you* are turning me into a wretch in wretched fashion.

PER Be quiet, will you, just let me get hold of him.

AP I'm telling you now so that you know: you'd better find yourself another companion. While I was following you, a swelling crept into my knees from exhaustion, poor me. 670

PER In how many ways he tricked you and me today, and how he disemboweled my monetary resources!

PLAUTUS

- AP apage illum a me! nam ille quidem Volcani irati est filius:
 quaqua tangit, omne amburit, si astes, aestu calefacit.
- 675 EPI duodecim dis plus quam in caelo deorum est immortali-
 lium
 mihi nunc auxilio adiutores sunt et mecum militant.
 quicquid ego male feci, auxilia mi et suppetiae sunt domi,
 apolactizo inimicos omnis.
- PER ubi illum quaeram gentium?
 AP dum sine me quaeras, quaeras mea causa uel medio in
 mari.
- 680 EPI quid me quaeris? quid laboras? quid hunc sollicitas? ecce
 me.
 num te fugi, num ab domo apsum, num oculis concessi
 tuis?
- 682 ***
 nec tibi supplico. uincire uis? em, ostendo manus;
 tu habes lora, ego te emere uidi: quid nunc cessas? col-
 liga.
- 685 PER ilicet! uadimonium ultro mi hic facit.
 EPI quin colligas?
 AP edepol mancupium scelestum!
 EPI te profecto, Apoecides...
 nil moror mihi deprecari.
 AP facile exoras, Epidice.
 EPI ecquid agis?
 PER tuon arbitrato?
 EPI meo hercle uero atque hau tuo
 colligandae haec sunt tibi hodie.
 PER at non lubet, non colligo.

682 *uestigia in A, uersus deest in P*

³³ The god of fire.

EPIDICUS

AP Away with him from me! He's the son of Vulcan³³ in anger: he burns everything, wherever he touches, and if you stand close by, he boils you with his heat.

Enter EPIDICUS from the house of Periphanes, unseen.

EPI Twelve gods more than there are immortal gods in heaven are now helping me with their support and fighting on my side. Whatever I did wrong, I have help and support at home. I spurn all my enemies. 675

PER Where on earth should I look for him?

AP So long as you look for him without me, you can even look for him in the middle of the sea for all I care.

EPI *(to Periphanes, as he approaches him)* Why are you looking for me? Why are you working so hard? What are you keeping this chap busy for? Here I am. Did I run away from you? Am I away from home? Did I avoid your eyes? *** and I don't seek your goodwill. You want to bind me? Here, I'm showing you my hands. *(holds out his hands)* You have straps, I saw you buy them. What are you hesitating now? Bind me. 680

PER *(to Apoecides)* It's no use! He even volunteers to offer me bail. 685

EPI Why won't you tie me up?

AP *(to Periphanes)* He's a nasty piece of a slave!

EPI No, Apoecides, you are . . . not to beg for pardon for me.

AP *(with sarcasm)* You persuade me with ease, Epidicus.

EPI *(to Periphanes)* Are you doing something or not?

PER At your wish?

EPI Yes, at my wish and not at yours you have to bind these hands of mine today.

PER But I don't feel like it, I'm not binding them.

PLAUTUS

- 690 AP tragulam in te inicere adornat, nescioquam fabricam
facit.
EPI tibi moram facis quom ego solutus asto. age, inquam, col-
liga.
PER at mi magis lubet solutum te rogitare.
EPI at nil scies.
PER quid ago?
AP quid agas? mos geratur.
EPI frugi es tu homo, Apoecides.
PER cedo manus igitur.
EPI morantur nihil. atque arte colliga,
695 nihil uero <hoc> obnoxiose.
PER facto opere arbitramino.
EPI bene hoc habet. age nunciam ex me exquire, rogita quod
lubet.
PER qua fiducia ausu's primum quae empta est nudiustertius
filiam meam dicere esse?
EPI lubuit: ea fiducia.
PER ain tu? lubuit?
EPI aio. uel da pignus, ni ea sit filia.
700 PER quam negat nouisse mater?
EPI ni ergo matris filia est,
in meum nummum, in tuom talentum pignus da.
PER enim istaec captio est.
sed quis ea est mulier?
EPI tui gnati amica, ut omnem <rem> scias.
PER dedin tibi minas triginta ob filiam?
EPI fateor datas
et eo argento illam me emisse amicam fili fidicinam
705 pro tua filia: istam ob rem te tetigi triginta minis.

695 hoc *add. Goetz*

702 rem *add. Pylades*

705 istaa- A, iste abore tetigi *BEJ*, istam ob rem te tetigi *Pareus*

EPIDICUS

- AP He's preparing to throw a spear at you, he's devising some trick. 690
- EPI (*to Periphanes*) You're wasting your own time when I'm standing here free. Go on, I insist, tie me up.
- PER But I prefer to question you while you're free.
- EPI But you won't learn anything like that.
- PER (*to Apoecides*) What am I to do?
- AP What are you to do? Humor him.
- EPI You're a decent chap, Apoecides.
- PER Give me your hands then.
- EPI (*holds them out*) They aren't delaying. And tie them up tightly, without any compunction. 695
- PER (*as he ties him up brutally*) Judge when the work is done.
- EPI That does it. Go on now, question me, ask what you like.
- PER First, on what assurance did you dare to say that the lyre girl bought two days ago is my daughter?
- EPI I felt like it: on that assurance.
- PER Do you say so? You felt like it?
- EPI I do say so. If you like, make a bet if she isn't the daughter.
- PER The daughter whom the mother says she doesn't know? 700
- EPI Well then, make a bet for a small coin on my side and a talent on your side that she isn't her mother's daughter.³⁴
- PER That's a trick. But who is this woman?
- EPI So that you know everything, your son's girlfriend.
- PER Didn't I give you thirty minas for my daughter?
- EPI I admit that you did and that with this money I bought that girlfriend of your son, the lyre girl, instead of your daughter: because of this business I tricked you out of thirty minas. 705

³⁴ If Epidicus' coin is one sesterce piece, Periphanes' stake is 24,000 times as high; if it is a drachma, 6,000 times as high; and if it is a didrachma, 3,000 times as high.

PLAUTUS

- PER quo modo me ludos fecisti de illa conducticia
fidicina!
- EPI factum hercle uero et recte factum iudico.
- PER quid postremo argento factum est quod dedi?
- EPI dicam tibi:
nec malo homini nec benigno tuo dedi Stratippocli.
- 710 PER quor dare ausu's?
- EPI quia mi lubitum est.
- PER quae haec, malum, impudentia est?
- EPI etiam inclamitor quasi seruos?
- PER quom tu es liber gaudeo.
- EPI merui ut fierem.
- PER tu meruisti?
- EPI uise intro: ego faxo scies
hoc ita esse.
- PER quid est negoti?
- EPI iam ipsa res dicet tibi.
abi modo intro.
- AP i, illuc non temere est.
- PER asserua istum, Apoecides.
- 715 AP quid illuc, Epidice, est negoti?
- EPI maxuma hercle iniuria
uinctus asto, quoui haec hodie opera inuenta est filia.
- AP ain tu te illius inuenisse filiam?
- EPI inueni et domi est.
sed ut acerbum est pro bene factis quom mali messim
metas!
- AP quamne hodie per urbem uterque sumus defessi quae-
rere?
- 720 EPI ego sum defessus reperire, uos defessi quaerere.

714 non illuc P, *transp.* Leo *dubitanter*

EPIDICUS

- PER How you fooled me about that hired lyre girl!
- EPI Yes, that was done indeed and I judge that it was done rightly so.
- PER What happened to the money I gave you in the end?
- EPI I'll tell you: I gave it to a man who is neither bad nor well-disposed toward you: Stratippocles.
- PER Why did you dare to give it to him? 710
- EPI Because I felt like it.
- PER Damn it, what impudence is this?
- EPI Am I still being shouted at as if I were a slave?
- PER (*with irony*) I'm happy that you're free.
- EPI I've deserved to become so.
- PER You've deserved it?
- EPI Look inside: I'll make sure you know that's how it is.
- PER What business is this?
- EPI The facts will speak for themselves in a moment. Just go inside.
- AP (*to Periphanes*) Go, there must be something in it.
- PER Watch over him, Apoecides.

Exit PERIPHANES into his house.

- AP What business is that, Epidicus? 715
- EPI It's a great injustice that I'm standing here tied up: through my efforts this daughter of his has been found today.
- AP Are you saying that you've found his daughter?
- EPI Yes, I have found her and she's at home. But how bitter it is to reap a harvest of evil in return for your good deeds!
- AP The daughter that we're both exhausted from looking for throughout the city today?
- EPI I am exhausted from finding her, *you* are exhausted from 720
looking for her.

PLAUTUS

- PER quid isti oratis opere tanto? <me> meruisse intellego
ut liceat merito huius facere. cedo tu ut exsoluam manus.
- EPI ne attigas.
- PER ostende uero.
- EPI nolo.
- PER non aequom facis.
- EPI numquam hercle hodie, nisi supplicium mihi das, me sol-
ui sinam.
- 725 PER optimum atque aequissimum oras. soccos, tunicam,
pallium
tibi dabo.
- EPI quid deinde porro?
- PER libertatem.
- EPI at postea?
- nouo liberto opus est quod pappet.
- PER dabitur, praebebo cibum.
- EPI numquam hercle hodie, nisi me orassis, solues.
- PER oro te, Epidice,
mihi ut ignoscas siquid imprudens culpa peccaui mea.
- 730 at ob eam rem liber esto.
- EPI inuitus do hanc ueniam tibi,
nisi necessitate cogar. solue sane si lubet.

V. iii: GREX

hic is homo est qui libertatem malitia inuenit sua.
plaudite et ualete. lumbos porgite atque exsurgite.

721 me *add. Geppert*

EPIDICUS

*Enter PERIPHANES from his house, followed by STRATIP-
POCLES and TELESTIS.*

- PER Why are you two entreating me so much for him? I realize that I've earned the right to do what he deserves. (*to Epidicus*) Give me your hands so I can untie them.
- EPI Don't touch me.
- PER Show them, come on.
- EPI I don't want to.
- PER You aren't behaving fairly.
- EPI I'll never allow myself to be untied today unless you make amends to me.
- PER What you say is very good and fair. I'll give you shoes, a tunic, and a cloak. 725
- EPI What else?
- PER Your freedom.
- EPI But after that? A new freedman needs something to munch.
- PER You'll be given something, I'll provide you with food.
- EPI You'll never untie me today unless you beg me.
- PER I beg you, Epidicus, to forgive me if I made a mistake unknowingly through my own fault. But because of that you shall be free. 730
- EPI I give you this indulgence unwillingly, but I'm forced by necessity. Untie me then if you like. (*holds out his hands and is untied by Periphanes*)

Exeunt ALL who are still on stage.

Enter the whole TROUPE.

TROUPE This is the man who found his freedom through his slyness. Applaud and farewell. Stretch your loins and rise.

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MENAECHMI

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The *Menaechmi*, being the basis of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, occupies an important position in English studies. But while the basis of Shakespeare's play is thus well known, it is unclear who wrote Plautus' Greek original. It has been said that it might be Posidippus, because like him the two main characters are originally from Sicily; but that is no more than speculation. It is completely unclear what the Greek original was called or when it was first staged.

We do, however, have some indications concerning the first performance of the *Menaechmi*. Of these, the most relevant is the connection between *Most.* 858-61 and *Men.* 983^a-83^b. It seems that the passage in the *Menaechmi* is a nonliteral quotation of the well-known passage in the *Mostellaria*, which gives us the relative chronology of the two plays. The reference to Pellio in *Men.* 404 is probably irrelevant for the date of the play. In *Bacch.* 214-15 it is said that the play *Epidicus* is wonderful, except when Pellio stages it. This has sometimes been taken to indicate that Plautus had fallen out with his producer Pellio. The absence of a negative tone in the passage in our play could point to a still positive relationship. However, not too much should be made of the passage in the *Bacchides*, which may be no more than a good-humored joke. In l. 412

MENAECHMI

it is said that the present ruler in Sicily is Hiero. Hiero died in 215. But we should not conclude for this reason that the *Menaechmi* is one of the earliest plays. The reference to Hiero merely indicates that he was still remembered by most spectators. It is well known that Plautus increased his *mutatis modis cantica* in the later plays, and since the *Menaechmi* has an intermediate amount of *cantica* it may well belong to Plautus' middle period.

The story is about identical twins, both of whom have the name Menaechmus. Originally one was called Sosicles, the other Menaechmus; but Menaechmus was taken from his home in Syracuse to Tarentum by his father and got lost there, so that the boys' grandfather changed Sosicles' name to Menaechmus, partly in order to honor the memory of the lost brother. The lost brother was kidnapped in Tarentum and taken to Epidamnus, where he grew up. In order to avoid confusion, I shall continue to refer to the brothers as Sosicles and Menaechmus in what follows, not as Menaechmus I and Menaechmus II, which is the practice in some editions. The name Menaechmus is cleverly chosen: in the fourth century there was a Syracusan mathematician of the same name, who solved the problem of the duplication of the cube; and "duplication problems" are at the heart of this comedy.

Menaechmus is rich because the Epidamnian who adopted him married him to a lady of means and in addition left him a large inheritance when he died. But Menaechmus does not get on with his wife and has a mistress, the prostitute Erotium. The play begins when Menaechmus robs his wife of an expensive *palla*, a special kind of female garment with no precise English equivalent, but

perhaps closest to what we call a mantle. He wants to give it to Erotium in exchange for sexual services and a meal, the latter to be shared with his hanger-on Peniculus. When Erotium receives the mantle, she sends her cook Cylindrus to buy food. While preparations for the meal are under way, Menaechmus and Peniculus go to the forum, where the former has to assist a client in a lawsuit.

At this moment Sosicles arrives in Epidamnus with his slave Messenio. Sosicles has spent much time looking for his twin in various countries, but so far in vain. He meets Cylindrus and Erotium and is addressed as Menaechmus, the name he normally uses. He is surprised, but accepts the invitation to the meal; Messenio tries to warn him about Epidamnian prostitutes, but is sent away by his master, who quickly realizes that there is some confusion and that he can take advantage of the situation and enjoy himself. Sosicles has a pleasant meal, sleeps with the prostitute, and takes the mantle with him when Erotium asks him to repair it; his plan is to sell it and keep the money for himself.

Now Peniculus is on his way back from the forum, where he lost sight of Menaechmus. He meets Sosicles, believes that he is his patron Menaechmus, and comes to the conclusion that his patron has deliberately finished the meal without him. When Sosicles in addition denies knowing Peniculus, the hanger-on has enough and goes to the wife of Menaechmus to tell her what her husband is up to.

The wife of Menaechmus and Peniculus then meet not Sosicles but the original Menaechmus, who promptly gets a hard time from the two. Completely unnerved, he agrees to bring back the mantle. But when he asks Erotium for it,

MENAECHMI

he naturally hears from her that he has already taken it. Again he gets a hard time.

Now Sosicles appears again, still with the mantle, and meets his brother's wife. When she scolds him for his behavior, he claims that he does not know her and that he never stole any mantle. As she sees him holding the mantle in his hands, she is particularly incensed and summons her father. Again Sosicles states that he does not know him, and the wife and her father declare him mad. Sosicles plays along and pretends to be insane in order to get rid of the two. The wife rushes home and her father fetches a doctor.

When the old man and the doctor come onstage, they meet not Sosicles but the original Menaechmus. The doctor tries to diagnose the illness and annoys Menaechmus, who knows that he is perfectly healthy. The conclusion the doctor draws is that Menaechmus is mad, and the old man brings four slaves to drag Menaechmus to the doctor. The slaves begin to grapple with Menaechmus.

Now Messenio appears again and saves Menaechmus, whom he wrongly believes to be his master. He asks Menaechmus to free him, and Menaechmus does so when he realizes that it is futile to claim not to know Messenio. Messenio promises to bring him back his wallet and Menaechmus happily agrees, hoping to make some profit.

On his way, Messenio meets his master Sosicles, who denies having freed him. They see Menaechmus. With Messenio's help they realize that they are twins. The brothers decide to return to Sicily together and Messenio gets his freedom.

The *Menaechmi* is universally regarded as one of Plautus' masterpieces, despite the fact that the leading figures

PLAUTUS

have flawed characters: Menaechmus has a mistress and is happy to cheat Messenio out of his money, even though this slave saved his life not much earlier; and Sosicles has no qualms about deceiving Erotium in order to get food, drink, sex, and a valuable mantle. By contrast, flaws of composition are absent. It has been claimed that the scenes with the doctor (ll. 889–956) are a Plautine addition because they disrupt the flow and symmetry of the play and contribute nothing to the plot; but on these criteria much of Plautine—and indeed Greek—comedy could be considered pointless padding, and it has to be said that these scenes are among the most humorous in the entire play. While the scenes with the doctor were probably already in the original, Plautus seems to have created or at least expanded the scene in which Sosicles pretends to be mad (ll. 831–71). In Greek tragedy and comedy, real (as distinct from presumed) madness and its consequences are not staged at all, though they can be reported in messenger speeches. But madness is depicted in Ennius' *Alcumeo*, so that we could be dealing with a parody of Roman tragedy.

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MENAECHMI

ARGVMENTVM

- Mercator Siculus, quoi erant gemini filii,
Ei surrupto altero mors optigit.
Nomen surrepticii indit illi qui domi est
Auos paternus, facit Menaechmum e Sosicle.
5 Et is germanum, postquam adoleuit, quaeritat
Circum omnis oras. post Epidamnum deuenit;
Hic fuerat alitus ille surrepticius.
Menaechmum omnes ciuem credunt aduenam
Eumque appellant meretrix, uxor, et socer.
10 I se cognoscunt fratres postremo in uicem.

PERSONAE

PENICVLVS parasitus
MENAECHMVS I adulescens
EROTIVM meretrix
CYLINDRVS coquos
SOSICLES/MENAECHMVS II adulescens
MESSENIΟ seruos
ANCILLA

arg. 3 illi indit *P*, *transp.* *Gratwick*

THE TWO MENAECHMUSES

PLOT SUMMARY

A Sicilian merchant who had twin sons died after one was kidnapped. The paternal grandfather gave the name of the stolen son to the one who was at home. He made a Menaechmus out of a Sosicles. And after he grew up, he kept looking for his twin 5 around all shores. Later he ends up in Epidamnus. Here that kidnapped boy had been raised. All people think that the newcomer is the citizen Menaechmus, and the latter's prostitute, wife, and father-in-law address him as such. Finally the two 10 brothers recognize each other.

CHARACTERS

- PENICULUS a hanger-on; sponges on Menaechmus I
MENAECHMUS I a young man; unhappily married in Epidamnus and in love with Erotium
EROTIUM a prostitute; charming, but greedy
CYLINDRUS a cook; works for Erotium
SOSICLES/MENAECHMUS II a young man; from Syracuse, twin of Menaechmus I
MESSENIUS a slave; loyal to his master Sosicles/Menaechmus II
SERVANT GIRL works for Erotium

PLAUTUS

MATRONA
SENEX
MEDICVS
LORARI

SCAENA

Epidamni

MENAECHMI

A MARRIED WOMAN wife of Menaechmus I
AN OLD MAN father-in-law of Menaechmus I
A DOCTOR very convinced of his own skills
SLAVES WITH STRAPS work for the old man

STAGING

The stage represents a street in Epidamnus. The left-hand side of the street leads to the harbor, the right-hand side to the city center. On the street there are two houses; the left one belongs to Menaechmus I, the other belongs to Erotium.

PLAUTUS

PROLOGVS

- PRO Saltem primum iam a principio propitiam
mihi atque uobis, spectatores, nuntio.
apporto uobis Plautum . . . lingua, non manu:
quaeso ut benignis accipiatis auribus.
- 5 nunc argumentum accipite atque animum aduortite;
quam potero in uerba conferam paucissima.
atque hoc poetae faciunt in comoediis:
omnis res gestas esse Athenis autumant,
quo illud uobis graecum uideatur magis;
- 10 ego nusquam dicam nisi ubi factum dicitur.
72 haec urbs Epidamnus est dum haec agitur fabula:
73 quando alia agetur aliud fiet oppidum;
74 sicut familiae quoque solent mutarier:
75 modo hic habitat leno, modo adulescens, modo senex,
76 pauper, mendicus, rex, parasitus, hariolus.
- 11 atque adeo hoc argumentum graecissat, tamen
non atticissat, uerum sicilicissitat.
†huic argumento antelogium hoc fuit.†
nunc argumentum uobis demensum dabo,
- 15 non modio nec trimodio, uerum ipso horreo:
tantum ad narrandum argumentum adest benignitas.

72-76 post 10 posuit Gratwick

13 ante elo(n)gium P, antelogium Muretus

PROLOGUE

Enter the SPEAKER OF THE PROLOGUE.

SPEA First and foremost I announce that Salus is well-disposed toward myself and you, spectators.¹ I'm bringing you Plautus . . . with my tongue, not my hand. I ask you to receive him with benevolent ears. Now receive the plot summary and pay attention. I'll put it in as few words as I can. This is what writers do in comedies: they claim that everything took place in Athens, intending that it should seem more Greek to you. I shall say what happened nowhere except where it is said to have happened. This city is Epidamnus as long as this play is being staged. When another is staged it'll become another town, just as households too always change. At one time a pimp lives here, at another a young man, at yet another an old one, a pauper, a beggar, a king, a hanger-on, a soothsayer. And besides, this plot summary has a Greek air; nevertheless, it doesn't have an Attic air, but a Sicilian one. †This was the preamble to this plot summary. † Now I'll give you your ration of the plot, not by the peck or the triple peck, but by the granary itself;² so benevolent am I when it

¹ Salus is the goddess of well-being. The speaker of the prologue is playing a magistrate announcing the result of an augury.

² A *modius* "peck" was nine litres; after the triple-peck with twenty-seven litres we expect the Attic *medimnus* with fifty-four litres rather than the whole granary.

PLAUTUS

mercator quidam fuit Syracusis senex,
 ei sunt nati filii gemini duo,
 ita forma simili pueri ut mater sua
 20 non internosse posset quae mammam dabat,
 neque adeo mater ipsa quae illos pepererat—
 ut quidem ille dixit mihi qui pueros uiderat:
 ego illos non uidi, ne quis uostrum censeat.
 postquam iam pueri septuennēs sunt, pater
 25 onerauit nauim magnam multis mercibus;
 imponit geminum alterum in nauim pater,
 Tarentum auexit secum ad mercatum simul,
 illum reliquit alterum apud matrem domi.
 Tarenti ludi forte erant quom̄ illuc uenit.
 30 mortales multi, ut ad ludos, conuenerant:
 puer aberrauit inter homines a patre.
 Epidamniensis quidam ibi mercator fuit,
 is puerum tollit auehitque Epidamnum eum.
 pater eius autem postquam puerum perdidit,
 35 animum despondit eaque is aegritudine
 paucis diebus post Tarenti emortuost.
 postquam Syracusas de ea re rediit nuntius
 ad auom puerorum, puerum surruptum alterum
 patremque pueri ess' Tarenti emortuom,
 40 immutat nomen auos huic gemino alteri;
 ita illum dilexit qui surruptust alterum:
 illius nomen indit illi qui domi est,
 Menaechmo, idem quod alteri nomen fuit;
 et ipse eodem est auos uocatus nomine;
 45 propterea illius nomen memini facilius,

19 *uel* uti

31 puer inter homines aberrauit *P, transp. Acidalius*

MENAECHMI

comes to telling you the summary. There was a certain old merchant in Syracuse. Two twin sons were born to him, boys of such similar looks that their wet nurse who gave them the breast could not tell them apart, nor for that matter the mother herself who'd given birth to them—at least someone who'd seen the boys told me so. *I haven't see them, in case any of you supposes that I did.* When the boys were now seven years old, their father loaded a large ship with much freight. The father put one twin onto the ship and took him with him to Tarentum to the market. He left the other one at home with his mother. In Tarentum there was by chance a festival when he arrived. Many people had gathered, as they do at festivals. The boy strayed from his father among the crowd. There was a certain merchant from Epidamnus there. He picked the boy up and carried him off to Epidamnus. But after his father lost the boy, he despaired and because of his grief for him died a few days later in Tarentum. After the news about this came back to Syracuse to the grandfather of the boys, that the one boy had been kidnapped and that the boy's father had died in Tarentum, the grandfather changed the name of this other twin; so much did he love that other one who was snatched. He gave his name to the one who was at home, Menaechmus, the same name the other one had. And the grandfather himself was called by the same name. I remember his name more easily for the simple reason that

33 Epidamnium *P*, Epidamnum eum *Seyffert*

39 Tarenti esse *P*, *transposui*

PLAUTUS

- quia illum clamore uidi flagitarier.
 ne mox erretis, iam nunc praedico prius:
 idem est ambobus nomen geminis fratribus.
 nunc in Epidamnum pedibus redeundum est mihi,
 50 ut hanc rem uobis examussim disputem.
 si quis quid uestrum Epidamnum curari sibi
 uelit, audacter imperato et dicitō,
 sed ita ut det unde curari id possit sibi.
 nam nisi qui argentum dederit, nugas egerit;
 55 qui dederit . . . magis maiores nugas egerit.
 uerum illuc redeo unde abii atque uno asto in loco.
 Epidamniensis ill' quem dudum dixeram,
 geminum illum puerum qui surrupuit alterum,
 ei liberorum nisi diuitiae nil erat:
 60 adoptat illum puerum surrupticium
 sibi filium eique uxorem dotatam dedit,
 eumque heredem fecit quom ipse obiit diem.
 nam rus ut ibat forte, ut multum pluerat,
 ingressus fluuium rapidum ab urbe hau longule,
 65 rapidus raptori pueri subduxit pedes
 apstraxitque hominem in maxumam malam crucem.
 illi diuitiae euenerunt maxumae.
 is illic habitat geminus surrupticius.
 nunc ille geminus, qui Syracusis habet,
 70 hodie in Epidamnum uenit cum seruo suo
 71 hunc quaeritatum geminum germanum suom.

71-77 prologus in *A* longior fuisse uidetur

MENAECHMI

I saw him being dunned loudly. So that you aren't soon mistaken, I'm already telling you now in advance: both twin brothers have the same name. Now I have to return to Epidamnus on foot in order to set you right on this other account: if anyone of you wants any business sorted out in Epidamnus, let him command me boldly and speak out, but in such a way that he gives the money from which this business can be sorted out; if anyone doesn't give me the money, he's behaving like a fool. But if he does give me the money . . . he's behaving even more like a fool. Well, I'm returning to the location I left and yet I'm standing in one and the same place. That man from Epidamnus I was talking about a moment ago, the man who kidnapped that other twin, he had no children except for his wealth.³ He adopted that kidnapped boy as his son and gave him a wife with a big dowry, and he made him his heir when he himself died: when he happened to go to the country, after much rain had fallen, he stepped into a racing river not far from the city; the racer pulled away the feet of the child-displacer and dragged him off to a very sticky end. That young man got very great riches. This kidnapped twin lives there. Now that twin who lives in Syracuse has come to Epidamnus today with his slave in order to look for this twin brother of his. ***

Exit the SPEAKER OF THE PROLOGUE.

³ Which he loved like children.

PLAUTUS

ACTVS I

I. i: PENICVLVS

- 77 PEN iuuentus nomen fecit Peniculo mihi,
ideo quia . . . mensam quando edo detergeo.
hōmīnes captiuos qui catenis uinciunt
80 et qui fugitiuis seruis indunt compedis,
nimis stulte faciunt mea quidem sententia.
nam homini misero si ad malum accedit malum,
maior lubido est fugere et facere nequiter.
nam se ex catenis eximunt aliquo modo.
85 tum compediti anum lima praeterunt
aut lapide excutiunt clauom. nugae sunt eae.
quem tu asseruare recte ne aufugiat uoles
esca atque potione uinciri decet.
apud mensam plenam homini rostrum deliges;
90 dum tu illi quod edit et quod potet praebeas,
suo arbitrato, ad fatim, cottidie,
numquam edepol fugiet, tam etsi capital fecerit,
facile asseruabis, dum eo uinclo uincies.
ita istaec nimis lenta uincla sunt escaria:
95 quam magis extendas tanto astringunt artius.
nam ego ad Menaechmum hunc eo, quo iam diu
sum iudicatus; ultro eo ut me uinciat.
nam illic homo homines non alit, uerum educat
recreatque: nullus melius medicinam facit.
100 ita est adulescens ipsus; escae maxumae,

85 compediti i *P* ut uidetur, sed sine pronomine *B* et *Non*.

MENAECHMI

ACT ONE

Enter PENICULUS from the right.

PEN The youngsters have given me the name "Peniculus, the 77
Brush" because . . . when I eat I wipe the table clean.⁴
People who bind prisoners with chains and who put 80
shackles on runaway slaves behave very stupidly, at least
in my opinion: if an unlucky fellow finds one bad thing
added to another, he's all the more eager to run away and
behave badly. Yes, they get themselves out of the chains
in some way or other. Then those in shackles rub through 85
the link with a file or knock the rivet off with a stone.
That's just nonsense. Someone you want to watch over
well so he doesn't run away ought to be bound with food
and drink. At a full table you can tie down a man's snout.
So long as you provide him with food and drink, at his 90
own discretion, to repletion, every day, he'll never run
away, even if he's committed a capital crime. You'll guard
him easily so long as you bind him with this bond. Those
food chains are terribly tough indeed: the more you 95
stretch them, the more tightly they tie; I'm going to
Menaechmus here, the bond servant of whose household
I've been for a long time already. I'm going of my own ac-
cord so that he can bind me. Yes, he doesn't simply feed
men, but nurtures and restores them. No one practices
the medical profession better. That's what the young man 100

⁴ The pun is hard to reproduce. Hangers-on often have obscene nicknames. *Peniculus* can mean "little dick." We expect an obscene explanation, but in fact get an innocuous one because the other meaning is "brush."

PLAUTUS

Cerealis cenas dat, ita mensas extruit,
 tantas struices concinnat patinarias:
 standum est in lecto si quid de summo petas.
 sed mi interuallum iam hos dies multos fuit:
 105 domi domitus sum usque cum caris meis.
 nam neque edo neque emo nisi quod est carissimum.
 id quoque iam, cari qui instruontur deserunt.
 nunc ad eum inuiso. sed aperitur ostium.
 Menaechmum eccum ipsum uideo, progreditur foras.

I. ii: MENAECHEMVS. PENICVLVS

110 MEN ni mala, ni stulta sies,
 110^a ni indomita imposque animi,
 111 quod uiro esse odio uideas,
 111^a tute tibi odio habeas.
 112 praeterhac si mihi tale post hunc diem
 faxis, faxo foris uidua uisas patrem.
 114 nam quotiens foras ire uolo,
 114^a me retines, reuocas, rogitas,
 115 quo ego eam, quam rem agam, quid negoti geram,
 quid petam, quid feram, quid foris egerim.
 portitorem domum duxi, ita omnem mihi
 rem necesse eloqui est, quicquid egi atque ago.
 nimium ego te habui delicatam; nunc adeo ut facturus
 dicam.
 120 quando ego tibi ancillas, penum,
 121 lanam, aurum, uestem, purpuram
 121^a bene praebeo nec quicquam eges,
 122 malo cauebis si sapis,
 122^a uirum opseruare desines.

⁵ Goddess of growth and crops; her feast is the harvest festival.

MENAECHMI

himself is like. The portions are enormous, he gives dinners fit for the feast of Ceres,⁵ to judge from the way he creates heaps on the tables and from the height of the piles of pans he puts together. You have to stand on your couch if you want to take something from the top. But now I've had a gap of many days past. I'm constantly housebound in my house with my dear ones: I neither eat nor buy except what is dearest. And now these dear ones who are being marshaled are deserting me. Now I'll visit him. (*stops in front of Menaechmus' house*) But the door is opening. Look, I can see Menaechmus himself, he's coming out. (*steps aside to the left*) 105

Enter MENAECHMUS from his house, wearing a mantle under his regular cloak; he does not notice Peniculus.

MEN (*into his house*) If you weren't bad, if you weren't stupid, if you weren't unrestrained and unable to control your mind, you yourself would hate what you can see your husband hates. If after this day you do something further of this sort to me, I'll pack you off to your father as a divorced woman. Whenever I want to go out you hold me back, call me back, and ask me where I'm going, what I'm doing, what business I'm carrying out, what I'm seeking, what I'm up to, what I've done outside. I've married a customs officer: I have to state everything, whatever I've done and am doing. I've spoiled you far too much. Now I'll tell you what I'm going to do. Since I'm providing you well with slave girls, food, wool, gold, clothes, and purple, and you don't lack anything, you'll watch out for a hard time if you're wise and you'll stop spying on your husband. (*aside, as he walks to Erotium's house*) And so 110
115
120

PLAUTUS

- 123 atque adeo, ne me nequiquam serues, ob eam industriam
hodie ducam scortum ad cenam atque aliquo condicam
 foras.
- 125 PEN illic homo se uxori simulat male loqui, loquitur mihi;
 nam si foris cenat, profecto me, haud uxorem, ulciscitur.
- MEN euax! iurgio hercle tandem uxorem abegi ab ianua.
 ubi sunt amatores mariti? dona quid cessant mihi
 conferre omnes congratulantes quia pugnavi fortiter?
- 130 hanc modo uxori intus pallam surrupui, ad scortum fero.
 sic hoc decet, dari facete uerba custodi catae.
 hoc facinus pulchrum est, hoc probum est, hoc lepidum
 est, hoc factum est fabre:
 meo malo a mala apstuli hoc, ad damnum deferetur.
 auorti praedam ab hostibus nostrum salute socium.
- 135 PEN heus adulescens! ecqua in istac pars inest praeda mihi?
- MEN perii! in insidias deueni.
- PEN immo in praesidium, ne time.
- MEN quis homo est?
- PEN ego sum.
- MEN o mea Commoditas, o mea Opportunitas,
 salue.
- PEN salue.
- MEN quid agis?
- PEN teneo dextera genium meum.
- MEN non potuisti magis per tempus mi aduenire quam adue-
 nis.
- 140 PEN ita ego soleo: Commoditatis omnis articulos scio.

MENAECHMI

as to give you a good reason to guard me, in return for that officiousness I'll take a prostitute to dinner today and engage myself somewhere outside.

PEN (*aside*) He's pretending to tell off his wife, but he's telling me off: if he dines outside, he's in fact punishing me, not his wife. 125

MEN Hurray! At last I've driven my wife away from the door with my invective. Where are the married lovers? Why don't they bring me presents, all of them, and congratulate me for fighting bravely? I've just stolen this mantle (*points to it*) from my wife inside and I'm bringing it to a prostitute. That's how it should be: the clever guard must be tricked smartly. This deed is noble, moral, stylish, and professional: I've nicked this piece (*holds on to the mantle*) from the nasty piece, with a nasty outcome for myself, and it will be led to its ruin. I took the booty away from the enemy with our allies safe and sound. 130

PEN (*loudly*) Hey there, young man! Do I get any share in this booty? 135

MEN I'm dead! I've been detected.

PEN No, you've been protected, stop being afraid.

MEN Who is it?

PEN It's me.

MEN (*spotting him*) O my Timeliness, o my Opportunity, my greetings to you.

PEN And mine to you. (*grabs his hand*)

MEN What are you up to?

PEN I'm holding my good spirit with my right hand.

MEN You couldn't have come at a better time than the one you're coming at.

PEN That's my custom; I know all the critical moments of Timeliness. 140

PLAUTUS

- MEN uin tu facinus luculentum inspicere?
 PEN quis id coxit coquos?
 iam sciam, si quid titubatum est, ubi reliquias uidero.
 MEN dic mi, enumquam tu uidisti tabulam pictam in pariete
 ubi aquila Catamitum raperet aut ubi Venus Adoneum?
 145 PEN saepe. sed quid istae picturae ad me attinent?
 MEN age me aspice.
 ecquid assimulo similiter?
 PEN qui istic ornatust tuos?
 MEN dic hominem lepidissimum esse me.
 PEN ubi esuri sumus?
 MEN dic modo hoc quod ego te iubeo.
 PEN dico: homo lepidissime.
 MEN ecquid audes de tuo istuc addere?
 PEN atque hilarissime.
 150 MEN perge, <perge>.
 PEN non pergo hercle nisi scio qua gratia.
 litigium tibi est cum uxore, eo mi aps te caueo cautius.
 MEN clam uxorem est ubi pulcre habeamus, [atque] hunc
 comburamus diem.
 PEN age sane igitur, quando aequom oras, quam mox incendo
 rogum?
 154-
 55 dies quidem iam ad umbilicum est dimidiatus mortuos.
 MEN te morare mihi quom obloquere.
 PEN oculum effodito per solum
 mihi, Menaechme, si ullum uerbum faxo nisi quod ius-
 seris.

143 numquam *P*, enumquam *Brix* 146 est ornatus *P*, orna-
 tust *Lindsay in apparatu* 150 perge² *add. Schwabe*
 152 est *Charisius, om. P* sepulchrum *P*, pulchre *Ussing* atque
del. Brix

MENAECHMI

- MEN Do you want to see something splendid?
- PEN What cook cooked it? I'll know at once if some mistake has been made when I see the leftovers.
- MEN Tell me, have you ever seen a mural painting where an eagle carries off Ganymede or Venus carries off Adonis?⁶
- PEN Often. But what do those pictures have to do with me? 145
- MEN Go on, look at me. Do I resemble them in a similar way?
- PEN (*noticing the mantle*) What are you dressed up for like that?
- MEN Say that I'm a jolly good fellow.
- PEN Where are we going to eat?
- MEN Just say what I'm telling you.
- PEN All right: jolly good fellow.
- MEN Do you want to add something of your own to it?
- PEN And jolly charming fellow.
- MEN Go on, go on! 150
- PEN I'm not going on unless I know what for. You're having a quarrel with your wife, that's why I'm taking extra-careful care for myself against trouble from you.
- MEN There's a place where we can have a good time behind my wife's back and where we can burn this day to cinders.
- PEN Go on then, since what you ask is fair, how soon shall I set fire to the pyre? Half the day is already dead, right up to 155 its navel.
- MEN You're delaying yourself by interrupting me.
- PEN Gouge out my eye by the roots, Menaechmus, if I utter a single word except for what you tell me.

⁶ Zeus found Ganymede irresistible, turned himself into an eagle, and carried him off. Similarly, Venus fell in love with Adonis.

PLAUTUS

- MEN concede huc a foribus.
 PEN fiat.
 MEN etiam concede huc.
 PEN licet.
 MEN etiam nunc concede audacter ab leonino cauo.
 160 PEN eu edepol! ne tu, ut ego opinor, esses agitator probus.
 MEN quidum?
 PEN ne te uxor sequatur respectas identidem.
 MEN sed quid ais?
 PEN egone? id enim quod tu uis, id aio atque id nego.
 MEN ecquid tu de odore possis, si quid forte olfeceris,
 facere coniecturam cu- ***?
 165 <PEN> *** captum sit collegium.
 MEN agedum odorare hanc quam ego habeo pallam. quid
 olet? apstines?
 PEN summum oportet olfactare uestimentum muliebre,
 nam ex istoc loco spurcatur nasum odore illutili.
 MEN olfacta igitur hinc, Penicule. lepide ut fastidis!
 PEN decet.
 170 MEN quid igitur? quid olet? responde.
 PEN furtum, scortum, prandium.
 tibi fuant ***
 MEN elocutu's, nam *** <prandium>.
 nunc ad amicam deferetur hanc meretricem Erotium.
 mihi, tibi atque illi iubebo iam apparari prandium.
 PEN eu!
 175 MEN inde usque ad diurnam stellam crastinam potabimus.

164-65 sic A, unus uersus P 167 oportet summum olfactare
 P, transp. Guyet, summum olefactare oportet F. Skutsch
 168 inlutibili Nonius, inlutili Ritschl, inlucido P
 171-72 desunt in P, uestigia in A prandium add. Lindsay
 175 eu om. P

MENAECHMI

- MEN Come over here from the door.
- PEN Yes. (*does so*)
- MEN Come over here, a bit more.
- PEN All right. (*obeys*)
- MEN Now boldly come over even further from the lioness's den.
- PEN (*doing so*) Goodness! You'd really be a good charioteer, I 160 think.
- MEN How so?
- PEN You keep looking behind you to check that your wife isn't catching up with you.
- MEN But what do you say?
- PEN I? I say yes and no to whatever you wish.
- MEN If you happened to smell something, could you make a conjecture from the smell ***?
- PEN *** the college of sniffers were stuck. 165
- MEN Go on, smell this mantle I have. (*shows it, lifting up the lower part*) What does it smell of? You're staying away?
- PEN One ought to smell the top of a female dress, because from that spot one's nose is contaminated with a smell that can't be washed off.
- MEN Then smell here, Peniculus. (*points to the top*) How charmingly you give yourself airs!
- PEN That's appropriate. (*sniffs*)
- MEN What now? What does it smell of? Answer me. 170
- PEN Theft, a prostitute, a lunch. You might have ***
- MEN You've said it, because *** lunch. Now this (*points to mantle*) will be brought to my girlfriend, the prostitute Erotium here. I'll now have a lunch prepared for myself, you, and her.
- PEN Brilliant!
- MEN Then we shall drink till tomorrow's morning star. 175

PLAUTUS

- PEN [eu.]
 expeditate fabulatu's. iam fores ferio?
 MEN feri.
 uel mane etiam.
 PEN mille passum commoratu's cantharum.
 MEN placide pulta.
 PEN metuis, credo, ne fores Samiae sient.
 179 f- ***
 180 MEN mane, mane opsecro hercle: eapse eccam exit. oh! solem
 uides
 satin ut occaecatust prae huius corporis candoribus?
 I. iii: EROTIVM. PENICVLVS. MENAECMVVS
 ERO anime mi, Menaechme, salue.
 PEN quid ego?
 ERO extra numerum es mihi.
 PEN idem istuc aliis ascriptiuis fieri ad legionem solet.
 184-
 85 MEN ego istic mihi hodie apparari iussi apud te proelium.
 ERO hodie id fiet.
 MEN in eo uterque proelio potabimus.
 PEN uter ibi melior bellator erit inuentus cantharo
 tu seligito ac iudicato cum utro . . . hanc noctem sies.
 MEN ut ego uxorem, mea uoluptas, ubi te aspicio, odi male!
 190 PEN interim nequis quin eius aliquid indutus sies.
 ERO quid hoc est?
 MEN induuiae tuae atque uxoris exuuiae, rosa.

179 lacuna in A, deest in P

188 tuestlegio adiudicato P, tu selegito ac iudicato Ussing

MENAECHMI

PEN You've spoken clearly. Shall I knock on the door?

MEN Yes, do. (*pauses*) Or wait still.

PEN You've delayed the goblet a mile.

MEN Knock gently.

PEN You're afraid, I believe, that the door is Samian earthenware.⁷ ***

MEN Wait, wait please. Look, she's coming out herself. Oh! 180
Can you see how the sun has been blotted out in the light of her body's radiance?

Enter EROTIUM from her house, followed by two slave girls, who stand at a slight distance.

ERO My sweetheart, Menaechmus, hello.

PEN What about me?

ERO You don't count to me.

PEN That same thing is always said to happen to supernumeraries like me in the army too.

MEN (*to Erotium*) I ordered that a battle should be prepared for 185
myself here at your place today.

ERO It shall take place today.

MEN In this battle we shall both drink.

PEN (*aside*) You choose which of us is found to be the better warrior there with the jug and decide with which of us . . . you spend this night.

MEN My darling, how badly I hate my wife when I look at you!

PEN (*aside*) In the meantime you can't help wearing something of hers. 190

ERO What is this? (*points to the mantle*)

MEN You are robed and my wife is robbed, my rose.

⁷ Of low quality and fragile.

PLAUTUS

- ERO superas facile ut superior sis mihi quam quisquam qui imperant.
- 194-
95 PEN meretrix tantisper blanditur, dum illud quod rapiat uidet; nam si amabas, iam oportebat nasum abreptum mordicus.
- MEN sustine hoc, Penicule: exuias facere quas uoui uolo.
- PEN cedo; sed opsecro hercle, salta sic cum palla postea.
- MEN ego saltabo?⁸ sanus hercle non es.
- PEN egone an tu magis?⁹
si non saltas, exue igitur.
- 200 MEN nimio ego hanc periculo
surrupui hodie. meo quidem animo ab Hippolyta succingulum
Hercules haud aequo magno umquam abstulit periculo.
cape tibi hanc, quando una uiuis meis morigera moribus.
- ERO hoc animo decet animatos esse amatores probos.
- PEN qui quidem ad mendicitatem properent se detrudere.
- 205 MEN quattuor minis ego emi istanc anno uxori meae.
- PEN quattuor minae perierunt plane, ut ratio redditur.
- MEN scin quid uolo ego te accurare?⁸
- ERO scio, curabo quae uoles.
- 210 MEN iube igitur tribus nobis apud te prandium accurarier
atque aliquid scitamentorum de foro opsonarier,
glandionidam suillam, laridum pernonidam,
aut sincipitamenta porcina aut aliquid ad eum modum,

192 impetrant *P*, imperant *Ussing*

201 haud Hercules Ω , *transp. Lambinus*

204 properent se *A*, se proderent *P*

⁸ Through passionate kissing. ⁹ Taking the girdle away from Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons, was one of the labors of Hercules; but speaking of an undergirdle turns this into something ridiculous.

MENAECHMI

- ERO You easily gain the upper hand so that for me you are above any of those who command me.
- PEN A prostitute only flatters as long as she can see something she can snatch: if you loved him, you ought to have bitten 195 off his nose by now.⁸
- MEN Lift up my cloak, Peniculus; I want to dedicate the spoils I vowed.
- PEN Give it to me. (*takes the cloak*) But please, dance with the mantle like this afterward.
- MEN I shall dance? You're insane.
- PEN Who is more so, I or you? Well, if you aren't dancing, take it off.
- MEN (*taking off the mantle*) I stole this in enormous danger. In 200 my opinion Hercules didn't steal Hippolyta's undergirdle in such great danger.⁹ Take it for yourself, since you alone follow my ways. (*hands it over*)
- ERO Decent lovers ought to have this attitude.
- PEN (*aside*) Yes, those who're rushing to hurl themselves into poverty.
- MEN I bought that mantle for my wife for four minas a year 205 ago.¹⁰
- PEN (*aside*) The four minas are quite lost according to account rendered.
- MEN (*to Erotium*) Do you know what I want you to take care of?
- ERO I know, I'll take care of what you want.
- MEN Then have a lunch prepared at your place for the three of us, and have some delicacies bought from the market, sweetbreads the pig's daughters, bacon the son of ham, or 210 pigs' heads or something of that sort which, when put on

¹⁰ An exceptionally high price.

PLAUTUS

madida quae mi apposita in mensam miluinam suggerant;
atque actutum.

ERO licet ecastor.

MEN nos prodimus ad forum.

iam hic nos erimus: dum coquetur, interim potabimus.

215 ERO quando uis ueni, parata res erit.

MEN propera modo.

sequere tu.

PEN ego hercle uero te et seruabo et te sequar,
neque hodie ut te perdam meream deorum diuitias mihi.

ERO euocate intus Cylindrum mihi coquom actutum foras.

I. iv: EROTIVM. CYLINDRVS

ERO sportulam cape atque argentum. equos tris nummos habes?

220 CYL habeo.

ERO abi atque opsonium affer; tribus uide quod sit satis:
nec defiat nec supersit.

CYL quoius modi hisce homines erunt?

ERO ego et Menaechmus et parasitus eius.

CYL iam isti sunt decem;
nam parasitus octo hominum munus facile fungitur.

ERO elocuta sum conuiuas, ceterum cura.

CYL licet.

225 cocta sunt, iube ire accubitum.

ERO redi cito.

CYL iam ego hic ero.

215 propera modo *dant Menaechmo Leo et Lindsay*

219 eccos *P*, equos *Gratwick* 221 h(ic) (*uel* his) homines *A*,
hiomines *P* (hi homines *B*²), hisce homines *scripsi*

223 octo<num> *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

the table in front of me cooked, gives me an appetite as keen as a kite's; and at once.

ERO Yes, of course.

MEN We're off to the forum. We'll be back soon. While it's being cooked, we'll drink.

ERO Come when you wish, it will be ready. 215

MEN Just hurry. (*to Peniculus*) You, follow me.

PEN Yes, I will watch you and follow you, and I wouldn't earn the wealth of the gods today if it meant losing you.

Exeunt MENAECHMUS and PENICULUS to the right.

ERO (*to the slave girls*) Call out the cook Cylindrus at once.

Exeunt slave girls into Erotium's house.

Enter CYLINDRUS from Erotium's house.

ERO Take a basket and money. Do you have three sesterces?

CYL Yes, I do. 220

ERO Go and bring food. Make sure it's enough for three. It should be neither too little nor too much.

CYL What sort of people will they be?

ERO Myself and Menaechmus and his hanger-on.

CYL That's already ten: the hanger-on easily does the job of eight people.

ERO I've told you about the guests, take care of the rest.

CYL Okay. It's as good as cooked, tell them to go and recline at table. 225

ERO Return quickly.

CYL I'll be back soon.

Exit CYLINDRUS to the right, exit EROTIUM into her house.

PLAUTUS

ACTVS II

II. i: SOSICLES. MESSENIO

SOS uoluptas nulla est nauitis, Messenio,
maior meo animo quam quom ex alto procul
terram conspiciunt.

MES maior, non dicam dolo,
[quam] si adueniens terram uideas quae fuerit tua.
230 sed quaeso, quam ob rem nunc Epidamnum uenimus?
an quasi mare omnis circumimus insulas?

SOS fratrem quaesitum geminum germanum meum.

MES nam quid modi futurum est illum quaerere?
hic annus sextus est postquam ei rei operam damus.

235 Histros, Hispanos, Massiliensis, Hilurios,
mare superum omne, Graeciamque exoticam,
orasque Italicas omnis, qua aggreditur mare,
sumus circumuecti. si acum, credo, quaereres,
acum inuenisses, si apparet, iam diu.

240 hominem inter uiuos quaeritamus mortuom;
nam inuenissemus iam diu, si uiueret.

SOS ergo istuc quaero certum qui faciat mihi,
qui sese dicat scire eum esse emortuom:
operam praeterea numquam sumam quaerere.
245 uerum aliter uiuos numquam desistam exsequi.
ego illum scio quam carus sit cordi meo.

MES in scirpo nodum quaeris. quin nos hinc domum
redimus nisi si historiam scripturi sumus?

229 quam *del. Acidalius*

234 est *om. A*

246 carus sit cordi *A*, cordi sit carus *P*

MENAECHMI

ACT TWO

Enter SOSICLES and MESSENIO from the left, each with a traveling bag, followed by slaves carrying the heavy luggage.

SOS Seamen feel no greater pleasure in my opinion, Messenio, than when they see land in the distance from the sea.

MES You feel an even greater pleasure, I'll tell you frankly, if on your arrival you see the land that was yours. But please, why have we come to Epidamnus now? Are we going round all islands like the sea? 230

SOS To look for my twin brother.

MES Well, what limit is there to looking for him? This is already the sixth year that we've been busy with it. We've sailed round the people near the Danube, the Spaniards, the people of Marseille, the Illyrians, the entire Adriatic, Sicily, and all Italian shores, wherever the sea reaches. I believe if you were looking for a needle, you'd have found the needle long ago if it were ever to appear. We're searching for a dead man among the living: if he were alive, we'd have found him long ago. 235

SOS Well then, I'm looking for someone who can report this to me, who can say he knows that he's dead; I'll never make an effort to find him beyond that. But on no other condition will I give up looking for him while I live. I know how dear he is to my heart. 245

MES You're looking for a knot in the bulrush.¹¹ Why don't we go back home unless we're going to write a travel book?

¹¹ I.e. something that does not exist.

PLAUTUS

- 250 SOS dictum facessas, datum edis, caueas malo.
molestus ne sis, non tuo hoc fiet modo.
- MES em!
- 255 illoc enim uerbo esse me seruom scio.
non potuit paucis plura plane proloqui.
uerum tamen nequeo contineri quin loquar.
audin, Menaechme? quom inspicio marsuppium,
uiaticati hercle admodum aestiue sumus.
ne tu hercle, opinor, nisi domum reuorteris,
ubi nil habebis, geminum dum quaeres, gemes.
nam ita est haec hominum natio: in Epidamniis
uoluptarii atque potatores maxumi;
- 260 tum sycophantae et palpatores plurumi
in urbe hac habitant; tum meretrices mulieres
nusquam perhibentur blandiores gentium.
propterea huic urbi nomen Epidamno inditum est,
quia nemo ferme huc sine damno deuortitur.
- 265 SOS ego istuc cauebo. cedodum huc mihi marsuppium.
MES quid eo uis?
- SOS iam aps te metuo de uerbis tuis.
- MES quid metuis?
- SOS ne mi damnum in Epidamno duis.
tu amator magnus mulierum es, Messenio,
ego autem homo iracundus, animi perciti,
270 id utrumque, argentum quando habebo, cauero,
ne tu delinquas neue ego irascar tibi.
- MES cape atque serua. me lubente feceris.

257 quaeres A, queris P

258 natioinepidamnieis A, gemes natio epidamnia/nam ita est hec
hominum P

264 huc sine damno P, sine damno huc A

MENAECHMI

- SOS Do what you're told, eat what you're given, watch out for a beating. Don't be a nuisance, this won't be done your way. 250
- MES (*aside*) There you go! Through this word I know I'm a slave. He couldn't have said more things so plainly in such few words. But still, I can't help speaking out. (*to his master*) Can you hear me, Menaechmus? When I look into the wallet, our supply for travel is very summery. 255
Unless you return home, I believe you'll be sorry when you're left with nothing while trying to catch sight of your twin; this nation of people is like this: among the Epidamnians there are the greatest hedonists and drinkers. Then lots of impostors and cajolers live in this city. And 260
then the prostitutes are said to be the most coaxing anywhere. This city is called Epidamnus because practically nobody puts up here without being damnified.
- SOS I'll be on my guard against it. Give me the wallet. 265
- MES What do you want with it?
- SOS Because of your words I'm afraid of you now.
- MES What are you afraid of?
- SOS That you may cause me some damnification in Epidamnus. You are a great lover of the ladies, Messenio, but I am an irascible man, with a quick temper. When I have 270
the money I'll prevent both these things: you committing an offense and me being angry with you.
- MES (*handing it over*) Take it and watch over it. I'll be delighted.

268 *magnus amator P, magis amator A, amator magnus Fleckeisen*

269 *perditi P, perciti Lipsius*

PLAUTUS

II. ii: CYLINDRVS. SOSICLES. MESSENIO

- CYL bene oponsauī atque ex mea sententia,
 bonum anteponam prandium pransoribus.
 275 sed eccum Menaechmum uideo. uae tergo meo!
 prius iam conuiuiae ambulant ante ostium
 quam ego opsonatu redeo. adibo atque alloquar.
 Menaechme, salue.
- SOS di te amabunt quisquis <es>.
 CYL quisquis d- *** <quis> ego sim?
 280 SOS non hercle uero.
 CYL ubi conuiuiae ceteri?
 SOS quos tu conuiuas quaeris?
 CYL parasitum tuom.
 SOS meum parasitum? certe hic insanust homo.
 MES dixin tibi esse hic sycophantas plurumos?
 284 <CYL> *** -rincu- * -sm- * -n- *** -tu- ***
 285 SOS quem tu parasitum quaeris, adulescens, meum?
 CYL Peniculum.
 MES eccum in uidulo saluom fero.
 CYL Menaechme, numero huc aduenis ad prandium.
 nunc opsonatu redeo.
 SOS responde mihi,
 adulescens: quibus hic pretiis porci ueneunt
 290 sacres sinceri?
 CYL nummis.
 SOS nummum a me accipe:
 iube te piari de mea pecunia.
 nam equidem insanum esse te certo scio,
 qui mihi molestus homini ignoto quisquis es.

278 es *add. Bentley* 279 quis *add. Bentley*

282 certe . . . homo *dat Cylindro Lindsay*

MENAECHMI

Enter CYLINDRUS from the right with shopping.

- CYL I've shopped cheaply and according to my wishes. I'll put a good lunch before the lunchers. But look, I can see Menaechmus. Bad luck to my back! The guests are already walking in front of the door before I've returned from shopping. I'll approach and accost them. Hello, Menaechmus. 275
- SOS May the gods love you, whoever you are.
- CYL Whoever *** who I am?
- SOS No, honestly not. 280
- CYL (*laughs at the answer he got*) Where are the other guests?
- SOS What guests are you looking for?
- CYL Your hanger-on.
- SOS My hanger-on? (*to Messenio*) This man is certainly mad.
- MES Didn't I tell you there are lots of impostors here?
- CYL ***
- SOS What hanger-on of mine are you looking for, young man? 285
- CYL The Brush.
- MES (*producing a brush*) Look, I have it safe and sound in my traveling bag.
- CYL Menaechmus, you've come back to lunch too early. I've returned from the shopping only now.
- SOS Answer me, young man: for what price are sacred, unblemished pigs sold here? 290
- CYL For a sesterce each.
- SOS (*taking out his wallet*) Take a sesterce from me; have yourself purified at my expense. I know for sure that you're mad: you're annoying me, a man you don't know, whoever you are.

PLAUTUS

- 295 CYL Cylindrus ego sum: non nosti nomen meum?
 SOS si tu Cylindrus seu Coriendru's, perieris.
 ego te non noui nec nouisse adeo uolo.
 CYL est tibi Menaechmo nomen.
 SOS tantum, quod sciam,
 pro sano loqueris quom me appellas nomine.
 sed ubi nouisti me?
 300 CYL ubi ego te nouerim,
 qui amicam habes eram meam hanc Erotium?
 SOS neque hercle ego habeo nec te quis homo sis scio.
 CYL non scis quis ego sim, qui tibi saepissime
 cyathisso apud nos, quando potas?
 SOS ei mihi,
 305 quom nihil est qui illi homini dimminuam caput!
 tun cyathissare mihi soles, qui ante hunc diem
 Epidamnum numquam uidi nec ueni?
 CYL negas?
 SOS nego hercle uero.
 CYL non tu in illisce aedibus
 habes?
 SOS di illos homines qui illic habitant perduint!
 CYL insanit hicquidem, qui ipse male dicit sibi.
 310 audin, Menaechme?
 SOS quid uis?
 CYL si me consulas,
 311 nummum illum quem mi dudum pollicitu's dare
 314 iubeas, si sapias, porculum afferri tibi;
 312 nam tu quidem hercle certo non sanu's satis,
 313 Menaechme, qui nunc ipsus male dicas tibi.

299 <tu> me *Pylades* (fortasse recte, nam spatium apparet in A)
 308 habitas P, habes *Seiffert* uel habitas . . . illi[c]
 314-15 hic posuit *Camerarius*

MENAECHMI

- CYL (*refusing the money*) I'm Cylindrus. Don't you know my name?
- SOS Whether you're Cylindrus or Coriendrus,¹² go to hell. I 295
don't know you and I don't want to know you.
- CYL Your name is Menaechmus.
- SOS This much, as far as I know, you're speaking like a sane man, when you're addressing me by my name. But where did you get to know me?
- CYL Where did I get to know you? You have Erotium here, my 300
mistress, as your girlfriend. (*points to her house*)
- SOS No, I don't, and I don't know who you are.
- CYL Don't you know who I am? I very often ladle out wine for you at our place when you drink.
- SOS (*aside*) Dear me! Not to have anything I can smash this person's head with! (*to Cylindrus*) Are you regularly la- 305
dling out wine for me? I've never seen or set foot in Epidamnus before this day.
- CYL You deny it?
- SOS I do indeed deny it.
- CYL Don't you live in that house there? (*points to the house of Menaechmus*)
- SOS May the gods ruin the people who live there!
- CYL (*aside*) He's mad: he's cursing himself. (*loudly*) Can you 310
hear me, Menaechmus?
- SOS What do you want?
- CYL If you ask me, for that sesterce you promised to give me 311
a while ago you'd have a piglet brought for yourself if 314-
you're smart: you're certainly not in your right mind, 312-
Menaechmus, since you're cursing yourself now. 13

¹² Made-up name punning on *coriandrum* "coriander."

PLAUTUS

- 316 MES eu hercle hominem multum et odiosum mihi!
 CYL solet iocari saepe mecum illoc modo.
 quam uis ridiculus est, ubi uxor non adest.
 quid ais tu? quid ais, inquam. satin hoc quod uides
 320 tribus uobis opsonatum est, an opsono amplius,
 tibi et parasito et mulieri?
 SOS quas [tu] mulieres,
 quos tu parasitos loquere?
 MES quod te urget scelus
 qui huic sis molestus?
 CYL quid tibi mecum est rei?
 ego te non noui: cum hoc quem noui fabulor.
 325 MES non edepol tu homo sanus es, certo scio.
 CYL iam ergo haec madebunt faxo, nil morabitur.
 proin tu ne quo abeas longius ab aedibus.
 numquid uis?
 SOS ut eas maxumam malam crucem.
 CYL ire hercle meliust te . . . interim atque accumbere,
 330 dum ego haec appono ad Volcani uiolentiam.
 ibo intro et dicam te hic astare Erotio,
 ut te hinc abducat potius quam hic astes foris.
 SOS iamne abiit? <abiit.> edepol hau mendacia
 tua uerba experior esse.
 MES opseruato modo:
 335 nam istic meretricem credo habitare mulierem,
 ut quidem ille insanus dixit qui hinc abiit modo.
 SOS sed miror qui ille nouerit nomen meum.

321 tu *del. Pylades*

333 abiit² *add. Gruterus*

¹³ The god of fire.

MENAECHMI

- MES Honestly, I'm sick and tired of this chap! 316
- CYL (*aside*) He often jokes with me in that way. He's as funny as you could wish for when his wife isn't around. (*to Menaechmus*) What do you say? What do you say, I ask. Is what you can see enough shopping for the three of you, or should I buy more for you, the hanger-on, and the lady? 320
- SOS What ladies, what hangers-on are you talking about?
- MES (*to Cylindrus*) What the hell has got into you to annoy this man?
- CYL What business have you with me? I don't know you. (*pointing to Menaechmus*) I'm talking to this man, whom I do know.
- MES You aren't in your right mind, I know that for sure. 325
- CYL (*to Menaechmus*) I'll take care then that this is cooked in a minute, there won't be any delay. So don't go anywhere too far from the house. Do you want anything?
- SOS Yes, go and be hanged.
- CYL It's better if *you* go . . . in the meantime and recline at table, while I'm subjecting this to the violence of Vulcan.¹³ 330
I'll go inside and tell Erotium that you're standing here, so that she may lead you off inside rather than leave you standing here outside.

Exit CYLINDRUS into Erotium's house.

- SOS Has he left? He has left. I realize that your words aren't lies.
- MES Just watch: I believe a prostitute lives there, according to what that madman said who just left. 335
- SOS But I wonder how he knew my name.

PLAUTUS

- MES minime hercle mirum. morem hunc meretrices habent:
 ad portum mittunt seruos, ancillulas;
 340 si qua peregrina nauis in portum aduenit,
 rogitant quoiatis sit, quid ei nomen siet,
 postilla extemplo se applicant, agglutinant:
 si pellexerunt, perditum amittunt domum.
 nunc in istoc portu est nauis praedatoria,
 345 aps qua cauendum nobis sane censeo.
- SOS mones quidem hercle recte.
- MES tum demum sciam
 recte monuisse, si tu recte caueris.
- SOS tacedum parumper, nam concrepuit ostium:
 uideamus qui hinc egreditur.
- MES hoc ponam interim.
 350 asseruatote haec sultis, nauales pedes.
- II. iii: EROTIVM. SOSICLES. MESSENIO
- ERO sine fores sic, abi, nolo operiri.
 intus para, cura, uide, quod opust fiat:
 sternite lectos, incendite odores; munditia
 354 illecebra animo est amantium.
 55 amanti amoenitas malo est, nobis lucro est.
 sed ubi ille est quem coquos ante aedis esse ait? atque ec-
 cum uideo,
 qui mi est usui et plurimum prodest.
 359 item hinc ultro fit, ut meret, potissimum
 359^a nostrae domi ut sit;

344 portu stat Ω , portust *Bentley*

354-55 amantium *B*, amantum *CD*

MENAECHMI

- MES That's no surprise at all. Prostitutes have this habit: they send slaves and slave girls to the harbor. If any foreign ship arrives in the harbor, they ask the owner where he's from and what his name is. After that they immediately attach and glue themselves to him. If they seduce him, they send him off home when he's ruined. Now in that harbor (*points to Erotium's house*) there's a pirate ship which I think we need to be on our guard against. 340
- SOS You're giving me proper advice.
- MES I will only know that I've given you proper advice if you take proper precautions.
- SOS (*listening attentively*) Be quiet for a moment: the door has creaked. Let's see who is coming out from here.
- MES I'll put this down in the meantime. (*putting down his bag and turning to the slaves*) Watch over this, will you, feet of the ship.¹⁴ 345

Enter EROTIUM from her house; a slave girl stands in the door.

- ERO (*to slave girl*) Leave the door like this, go away, I don't want it to be closed. Get ready inside, take care, and make sure that what's needed is done. (*to those inside, as the slave girl goes back in*) Lay out the couches, burn the incense. (*to the audience*) Elegance is an enticement for lovers' hearts. For a lover loveliness leads to loss, for us, to profit. But where's the man who the cook says is standing in front of the house? Look, I can see him, the man who is of the greatest use and benefit to me. I reciprocate of my own accord, as he deserves, so that he's the most important person in our house. Now I'll ap- 350

¹⁴ The rowers.

PLAUTUS

- 360 nunc eum adibo, alloquar ultro.
animule mi, mi mira uidentur
te hic stare foris, fores quoi pateant,
magis quam domus tua domus quom haec tua sit.
omne paratum est, ut iussisti
- 365 atque ut uoluisti, nec tibi est
ulla mora intus.
prandium, ut iussisti, hic curatum est:
ubi lubet, ire licet accubitum.
SOS quicum haec mulier loquitur?
ERO equidem tecum.
SOS quid mecum tibi
- 370 fuit umquam aut nunc est negoti?
ERO quia pol te unum ex omnibus
Venus me uoluit magnificare neque id haud immerito
tuo.
nam ecastor solus benefactis tuis me florentem facis.
- SOS certo haec mulier aut insana aut ebria est, Messenio,
quae hominem ignotum compellet me tam familiariter.
- 375 MES dixin ego istaec hic solere fieri? folia nunc cadunt,
praeut si triduom hoc hic erimus: tum arbores in te ca-
dent.
nam ita sunt hic meretrices: omnes elecebrae argen-
tariae.
sed sine me dum hanc compellare. heus mulier, tibi dico.
ERO quid est?
MES ubi tu hunc hominem nouisti?
ERO ibidem ubi hic me iam diu,
- 380 in Epidamno.

364 para tutius sisti *B*¹, paratus iussisti *B*⁴, parasitus tutius sisti *CD*,
paratum est ut iussisti *Camerarius*

MENAECHMI

proach him and take the initiative in addressing him. (*approaches Sosicles*) My sweetheart, it seems strange to me that you're standing outside here: the door stands open for you, since this house is more yours than your own house is. Everything is prepared, as you ordered and as you wanted. There's no delay for you inside. The lunch has been seen to, as you told me. We can go and recline at table as soon as you wish. 365

SOS (*to Messenio*) Who is this woman talking to?

ERO To you of course.

SOS What business have I ever had with you or have I now? 370

ERO Because out of all men Venus wanted me to hold you alone in esteem, and not undeservedly so: you alone let me flourish through your generosity.

SOS (*again to Messenio*) This woman is definitely either mad or drunk, Messenio: she addresses me, a total stranger, so intimately.

MES Didn't I tell you that it always happens like this here? 375

Now only leaves are falling compared with what'll happen if we're here for two days: then entire trees will fall onto you. Yes, the prostitutes here are like this: they're all magnets for silver. But let me address her. (*turning to Erotium*) Hey there, woman, I'm speaking to you.

ERO What is it?

MES Where did you get to know this man?

ERO In the same place where he got to know me, long ago already, in Epidamnus. 380

365-66 tibi est . . . mora P, tibi . . . mora est *Leo et Lindsay*

PLAUTUS

- MES in Epidamno? qui huc in hanc urbem pedem
nisi hodie numquam intro tetulit?
- ERO heia! delicias facis.
mi Menaechme, quin, amabo, is intro? hic tibi erit rec-
tius.
- SOS haec quidem edepol recte appellat meo me mulier no-
mine.
nimis miror quid hoc sit negoti.
- MES oboluit marsuppium
385 huic istuc quod habes.
- SOS atque edepol tu me monuisti probe.
accipedum hoc. iam scibo utrum haec me mage amet an
marsuppium.
- ERO eamus intro, ut prandeamus.
- SOS bene uocas: tam gratia est.
- ERO quor igitur me tibi iussisti coquere dudum prandium?
- SOS egon te iussi coquere?
- ERO certo, tibi et parasito tuo.
- 390 SOS quoi, malum, parasito? certo haec mulier non sana est
satis.
- ERO Peniculo.
- SOS quis iste est peniculus? qui extergentur baxae?
- ERO scilicet qui dudum tecum uenit, quom pallam mihi
detulisti quam ab uxore tua surrupuisti.
- SOS quid est?
tibi pallam dedi quam uxori meae surrupui? sanan es?
- 395 certe haec mulier cantherino ritu astans somniat.
ERO qui lubet ludibrio habere me atque ire infitias mihi
facta quae sunt ?
- SOS dic quid est id quod negem quod fecerim?
- ERO pallam te hodie mihi dedisse uxoris.

MENAECHMI

- MES In Epidamnus? He never set foot in this city except to-day.
- ERO Goodness! You're pulling my leg. (*turning to Menaechmus*) My dear Menaechmus, please, why don't you go inside? Here you'll have a better time.
- SOS (*to Messenio*) This woman is addressing me correctly by my name. I'm very curious what business this is.
- MES She's smelled that wallet you have. 385
- SOS Yes, you've given me good advice. (*handing over the wallet*) Take this. I'll find out in a minute whether she loves me or my wallet more.
- ERO Let's go inside to have lunch.
- SOS Thanks for inviting me, but no thanks.
- ERO Then why did you tell me a while ago to have a lunch cooked for you?
- SOS I told you to have one cooked?
- ERO Yes, certainly, for you and your hanger-on.
- SOS Damn it, for what hanger-on? (*aside*) This woman is certainly not in her right mind. 390
- ERO For the Brush.
- SOS What brush is that? The one sandals are cleaned with?
- ERO Of course the one who came with you a while ago when you brought me the mantle you stole from your wife.
- SOS What's that? I gave you a mantle I stole from my wife? Are you in your right mind? (*aside*) This woman is certainly dreaming the way horses do, while standing. 395
- ERO Why do you wish to poke fun at me and to deny what's happened?
- SOS Tell me what I've done that I'm now denying.
- ERO That you've given me your wife's mantle today.

PLAUTUS

- SOS etiam nunc nego.
 ego quidem neque umquam uxorem habui neque habeo
 neque huc
 400 umquam, postquam natus sum, intra portam penetraui
 pedem.
 prandi in naui, inde huc sum egressus, te conueni.
- ERO eccere,
 perii misera! quam tu mihi nunc nauem narras?
- SOS ligneam,
 saepe tritam, saepe fixam, saepe excussam malleo;
 quasi supellex Pellionis, palus palo proxumust.
- 405 ERO iam, amabo, desiste ludos facere atque i hac mecum si-
 mul.
- SOS nescioquem <tu>, mulier, alium hominem, non me quae-
 ritas.
- ERO non ego te noui Menaechmum, Moscho prognatum
 patre,
 409- qui Syracusis perhibere natus esse in Sicilia,
 10 ubi rex Agathocles regnator fuit et iterum Phintia,
 tertium Liparo, qui in morte regnum Hieroni tradidit,
 nunc Hiero est?
- SOS hau falsa, mulier, praedicas.
- MES pro Iuppiter!
- 414- num istaec mulier illinc uenit quae te nouit tam cate?
 15 SOS hercle opinor, pernegari non potest.
- MES ne feceris.
 periisti, si intrassis intra limen.
- SOS quin tu tace modo.
 bene res geritur. assentabor quicquid dicet mulieri,
 si possum hospitium nancisci. iam dudum, mulier, tibi

405 desine P, desiste *Fleckeisen*

406 tu *add. Fleckeisen*

MENAECHMI

- SOS I'm denying it even now. I for one have never had a wife, nor do I have one now, and I never put my foot here inside the city gate since I was born. I had lunch on my ship, then I came out here and met you. 400
- ERO Look! Dear me, I'm ruined! What ship are you telling me about now?
- SOS A wooden one, often battered, often pierced, often shaken by the mallet;¹⁵ just like the stage material of Pello, stake next to stake.
- ERO Please, stop playing the clown now and come with me this way. 405
- SOS My good woman, you're looking for some other man, not me.
- ERO Don't I know you, Menaechmus, scion of your father Moschus, you who are said to have been born in Syracuse in Sicily, where King Agathocles was ruler and then Phintias, thirdly Liparo, who passed the kingdom on to Hiero when he died, and now it's Hiero?¹⁶ 410
- SOS You aren't telling lies, my good woman.
- MES Oh Jupiter! Has that woman come from there since she knows you so well?
- SOS (*taking Messenio aside*) I think it can't be denied. 415
- MES Don't do it. You're dead if you cross the threshold.
- SOS Just be quiet. Things are going well. I'll agree with whatever she says to see if I can get hospitality. (*returning to*

¹⁵ Sosicles refers to different types of damage, so the mallet is probably a weapon or projectile.

¹⁶ Agathocles: ruler of Syracuse 317-289; Phintias: ruler of Agrigentum ca. 280; Liparo: bogus name; Hiero: ruler of Syracuse 269-15.

PLAUTUS

- 419-
20 non imprudens aduorsabar: hunc metuebam ne meae
uxori renuntiaret de palla et de prandio.
nunc, quando uis, eamus intro.
- ERO etiam parasitum manes?[?]
- SOS neque ego illum maneo nec flocci facio nec, si uenerit,
eum uolo intro mitti.
- 425 ERO ecastor haud inuita fecero.
sed scin quid te amabo ut facias?[?]
- SOS impera quid uis modo.
- ERO pallam illam quam dudum dederas, ad phrygionem ut
deferas,
ut reconcinnetur atque una opera addantur quae uolo.
- SOS hercle qui tu recte dicis: eadem <ea> ignorabitur,
ne uxor cognoscat te habere, si in uia conspexerit.
- 430 ERO ergo mox auferto tecum, quando abibis.
- SOS maxume.
- ERO eamus intro.
- SOS iam sequar te. hunc uolo etiam colloqui.
- 432-
33 ERO eho Messenio, accede huc.
- MES quid negoti est?[?]
- <SOS> sciscito.
- MES quid eo opust?[?]
- SOS opus est.
- MES scio ut mendices: tanto nequior.

427 ut opera *P*, una opera *Leo*

428 ea *add. Ritschl*

432-33 *sussciri P (sine nota personae) (B² addit lege: scisscitari),*
sciscito Leo in apparatu (propter Festum, qui scribit: nam sciscito
significat "sententiam dicito ac suffragium ferto")

434 *partes sic distribuit Gratwick* me dicas *B¹CD*, me dices *B²*,
mendices *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

Erotium) My dear woman, a while ago I contradicted you 420
deliberately. I was afraid that this chap might tell my wife
about the mantle and the lunch. Now when you wish, let's
go inside.

ERO Won't you wait for your hanger-on?

SOS No, I'm not waiting for him and I don't care for him at all,
and if he comes, I don't want him to be let in.

ERO Honestly, I'll do so happily. But do you know what I'd 425
love you to do?

SOS Just command me whatever you want.

ERO Take that mantle you gave me earlier to the embroiderer
so that it can be repaired and so that at the same time the
additions that I want can be made.

SOS How right you are! That way it'll also become unrecog-
nizable, so that my wife won't realize that you have it if
she spots you in the street.

ERO Then take it away with you soon, when you go. 430

SOS Certainly.

ERO Let's go inside.

SOS I'll follow you in a moment. I still want to speak to this
chap.

Exit EROTIUM into her house.

SOS Hey there, Messenio, come here.

MES What's the matter?

SOS Find out.

MES What's that necessary for?

SOS It is necessary.

MES I know, it is necessary for you to become a beggar: all the
worse of you.

PLAUTUS

- 435 SOS habeo praedam: tantum incepti operis. i quantum potes,
 abduc istos in tabernam actutum deuorsoriam.
 tum facito ante solem occasum ut uenias aduersum mihi.
- MES non tu istas meretrices nouisti, ere.
- SOS tace, inquam, <atque hinc abi.>
 mihi dolebit, non tibi, si quid ego stulte fecero.
- 440 mulier haec stulta atque inscita est; quantum perspexi
 modo,
 est hic praeda nobis.
- MES perii! iamne abis? periiit probe:
 ducit lembum diirectum nauis praedatoria.
 sed ego inscitus qui domino me postulem moderarier:
 dicto me emit audientem, haud imperatorem sibi.
- 445 sequimini, ut, quod imperatum est, ueniam aduersum
 temperi.

ACTVS III

III. i: PENICVLVS

- PEN plus triginta annis natus sum, quom interea loci
 numquam quicquam facinus feci peius nec scelestius
 quam hodie, quom in contionem mediam me immersi
 miser.
- 450 ubi ego dum hieto, Menaechmus se supterduxit mihi
 atque abit ad amicam, credo, nec me uoluit ducere.

438 atque hinc abi *add. Ritschl*

443 quid (quod B) rome P, qui domino me *Bothe*

448 in *om. A*

MENAECHMI

SOS I have booty, I've begun such a great deed. Go as quickly 435
as you can and take those people to the inn at once
(*points to the slaves*). Then make sure you come to meet
me before sunset.

MES You don't know those prostitutes, master.

SOS Be quiet, I tell you, and go away. I will feel the pain, not 440
you, if I do something stupid. This woman is stupid and
naive; as far as I could see just now, there's booty in here
for us.

Exit MENAECHEMUS into Erotium's house.

MES (*calling after him*) I'm done for! Are you going away 445
already? (*to the audience*) He's perished properly. The
pirate ship is leading our sailing boat to its ruin. But it's
stupid of me to expect to restrain my master. He bought
me as his servant, not as his commander. (*to the slaves*)
Follow me, so that I can go to him in good time, as com-
manded.

Exit MESSENIO to the left, followed by the slaves with the luggage.

ACT THREE

Enter PENICULUS from the right.

PEN I'm more than thirty years old, and up till now I've never
committed a worse or more wicked crime than today
when I plunged myself into the middle of the assem-
bly, poor wretch that I am. While I was gaping there,
Menaechmus stole himself away from me and went off to 450
his girlfriend, I believe, and he didn't want to take me

qui illum di omnes perduint qui primus commentust
<male>

contionem habere, qui homines occupatos occupat!
non ad eam rem otiosos homines decuit deligi,
qui nisi assint quom citentur, Consus capiat ilico?

455 qu***quam senatus deu**contionem**

456 ***

affatim est hominum in dies qui singulas escas edint,
quibus negoti nihil est, qui esum nec uocantur nec uo-
cant:

eos oportet contioni dare operam atque comitiis.

460 si id ita esset, non ego hodie perdissem prandium,
quoi tam credo datum uoluisse quam me uideo uiuere.
ibo: etiamnum reliquiarum spes animum oblectat
meum.

sed quid ego uideo? Menaechmus cum corona exit foras.
sublatum est conuiuium, edepol uenio aduersum tem-
peri.

465 opseruabo quid agat. hominem post adibo atque allo-
quar.

III. ii: SOSICLES. PENICVLVS

SOS potin ut quiescas? ego tibi hanc hodie probe
lepideque concinnatam referam temperi.
non faxo eam esse dices: ita ignorabitur.

PEN pallam ad phrygionem fert confecto prandio
470 uinoque expoto, parasito excluso foras.

451 commentu est *P*, commentust <male> *Ritschl*, <hoc> commen-
tus est *Vahlen*

454 census *P*, Consus *Gratwick*

455-56 *uestigia in A*, *uersus non inueniuntur in P*

461 *uersus nonnullis edd. corruptus esse uidetur*

MENAECHMI

along. May all the gods ruin the man who first had the bad idea to hold an assembly, who keeps busy people busy! Shouldn't one have chosen men of leisure for this, whom Consus¹⁷ would snatch at once if they weren't present when called upon? *** than the senate *** an assembly ***. There are plenty of people who eat just once a day, who have nothing to do, and who neither receive invitations to meals nor issue any. *They* ought to get busy with the assembly and meetings. If it were like that, I wouldn't have lost my lunch today, I, to whom I believe he wanted it to be given as much as I can see that I'm alive. I'll go. Even now the hope of leftovers gives joy to my heart.

Enter SOSICLES from Erotium's house, wearing a flower garland and carrying the mantle.

PEN But what do I see? Menaechmus is coming out with a garland. The meal is finished; (*sarcastically*) I'm really coming toward him in good time. I'll observe what he's doing. I'll approach and address him afterward.

SOS (*into the house*) Can't you be quiet? I'll return it to you in good time today, refashioned properly and charmingly. I'll make sure you'll say it's not the same, so unrecognizable will it be.

PEN (*still standing at a distance*) He's taking the mantle to the embroiderer after the lunch is finished off, the wine drunk out, and the hanger-on locked out. I'm not the

¹⁷ A god of agriculture, commonly associated with assemblies because of the formal similarity with *consilium*.

PLAUTUS

- non hercle <ego> is sum qui sum, ni hanc iniuriam
 meque ultus pulchre fuero. opserua quid dabo.
- 473- SOS pro di immortales! quoi homini umquam uno die
 74
 475 boni dedistis plus qui minus sperauerit?
 prandi, potavi, scortum accubui, apstuli
 hanc, quoius heres numquam erit post hunc diem.
- PEN nequeo quae loquitur exaudire clanculum;
 satur nunc loquitur de me et de parti mea?
- 480 SOS ait hanc dedisse me sibi atque eam meae
 uxori surrupuisse. quoniam sentio
 errare, extemplo, quasi res cum ea esset mihi,
 coepi assentari: mulier quicquid dixerat,
 idem ego dicebam. quid multis uerbis <opust>?
 485 minore nusquam bene fui dispendio.
- PEN adibo ad hominem, nam turbare gestio.
- SOS quis hic est qui aduersus it mihi?
- PEN quid ais, homo
 leuior quam pluma, pessume et nequissime,
 flagitium hominis, subdole ac minimi preti?
 490 quid de te merui qua me causa perderes?
 ut surrupuisti te mihi dudum de foro!
 fecisti funus med apsentem prandio.
 quor ausu's facere, quoi ego aequae heres eram?
- SOS adulescens, quaeso, quid tibi mecum est rei
 495 qui mi male dicas homini hic ignoto insciens?
 an tibi malam rem uis pro male dictis dari?
 PEN post eam quam edepol te dedisse intellego.

471 ego *add. Ritschl*

476-77 apstuli/hanc P, apstuli hanc/<pallam> *Wagner*

484 opust *add. Pylades*

485 nusquam P, numquam *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

man I am if I don't take revenge for this injustice and myself beautifully. Watch what I'll give you.

SOS Immortal gods! What man expecting it less have you ever given more good to in a single day? I had lunch, I had drinks, I lay with a prostitute, and I took away this here (*holds up the mantle*), whose heir she shall never be after this day. 475

PEN I can't hear what he's talking about secretly; is he full now and talking about me and my share?

SOS She said that I'd given it to her and that I'd stolen it from my wife. When I realized that she was mistaken, I immediately began to agree with her, as if I had dealings with her. Whatever she said, I'd say the same. What need is there for many words? I've never had a good time at lower cost. 480 485

PEN I'll approach him: I'm keen to cause trouble.

SOS Who is this who is coming toward me?

PEN (*to Menaechmus*) What do you say, you man lighter than a feather, you most evil and disgraceful creature, you crime of a man, you worthless trickster? What did I do to deserve that you should ruin me? How you gave me the slip in the forum a while ago! You buried the lunch in my absence. How did you dare to do it? I was equally much its heir. 490

SOS Young man, please, what business have you with me? You're giving me hard words, without knowing me, a man unknown here. Or do you want to get a hard time for the hard words? 495

PEN After the one which I see you've already given me.

495 homini hic noto *B*¹, homini hic ignoto *B*², hic noto *CD*

497 post *P*, pol *A* quidem Ω , quam *Goldbacher*

PLAUTUS

- SOS responde, adulescens, quaeso, quid nomen tibi est?
 PEN etiam derides quasi nomen non noueris?
 500 SOS non edepol ego te quod sciam umquam ante hunc diem
 uidi nec noui; uerum certo, quisquis es,
 si aequom facias, mihi odiosus ne sies.
 PEN Menaechme, uigila.
 SOS uigilo hercle equidem quod sciam.
 PEN non me nouisti?
 SOS non negem si nouerim.
 505 PEN tuom parasitum non nouisti?
 SOS non tibi
 sanum est, adulescens, sinciput, intellego.
 PEN responde, surrupuistin uxori tuae
 pallam istanc hodie ac dedisti Erotio?
 SOS neque hercle ego uxorem habeo neque ego Erotio
 510 dedi nec pallam surrupui.
 PEN satin sanus es?
 occisa est haec res. non ego te indutum foras
 exire uidi pallam?
 SOS uae capiti tuo!
 omnis cinaedos esse censes quia tu es?
 514- tun med indutum fuisse pallam praedicas?
 15 PEN ego hercle uero.
 SOS non tu abis quo dignus es?
 aut te piari iube, homo insanissime.
 PEN numquam edepol quisquam me exorabit quin tuae
 uxori rem omnem iam, uti sit gesta, eloquar;
 520 omnes in te istaec recident contumeliae:
 faxo haud inultus prandium comederis.
 SOS quid hoc est negoti? satine, uti quemque conspikor,
 ita me ludificant? sed concrepuit ostium.

508 atque <eam> Bentley

522 quemque CD, quemquem B

MENAECHMI

- SOS Please answer me, young man, what's your name?
- PEN Are you even poking fun at me as if you didn't know my name?
- SOS As far as I know, I've never seen you or got to know you 500
before this day. But certainly, whoever you are, if you're prepared to act reasonably, don't annoy me.
- PEN Menaechmus, be awake.
- SOS I am awake, as far as I know.
- PEN Don't you know me?
- SOS I wouldn't deny it if I did.
- PEN You don't know your hanger-on? 505
- SOS Young man, you don't have a sane pighead, I can see that.
- PEN Answer me, didn't you steal that mantle from your wife today and give it to Erotium?
- SOS I don't have a wife and I didn't give the mantle to Ero- 510
tium, nor did I steal it.
- PEN Are you in your right mind? This is the end. Didn't I see you come out wearing a mantle?
- SOS Curse you! Do you think everyone's a catamite just because you are one? Are you telling me that I was wearing 515
a mantle?
- PEN Yes, I am indeed.
- SOS Won't you go off to where you deserve to be? Or have yourself exorcised, you complete madman.
- PEN No one will ever prevail on me not to tell your wife how the entire thing happened. All those insults will fall back 520
onto you. I'll make sure that you haven't eaten the lunch without punishment. (*walks to the house of Menaechmus, knocks and enters*)
- SOS What does this mean? Is everyone I set eyes on making fun of me? But the door has creaked.

PLAUTUS

III. iii: ANCILLA. SOSICLES

- 525 ANC Menaechme, amare ait te multum Erotium,
 ut hoc una opera <sibi> ad aurificem deferas,
 atque huc ut addas auri pondo unciam
 iubeasque spinter nouom reconcinnarier.
- SOS et istuc et aliud si quid curari uolet
 me curaturum dicito, quicquid uolet.
- 530 ANC scin quid hoc sit spinter?
 SOS nescio nisi aureum.
 ANC hoc est quod olim clanculum ex armario
 te surrupuisse aiebas uxori tuae.
 SOS numquam hercle factum est.
 ANC non meministi, opsecro?
 redde igitur spinter, si non meministi.
 SOS mane.
- 535 immo equidem memini. nempe hoc est quod illi dedi.
 istuc: ubi illae armillae sunt quas una dedi?
 ANC numquam dedisti.
 SOS nam pol hoc unum dedi.
 ANC dicam curare?
 SOS dicito: "curabitur."
- 539-
 40 ANC et palla et spinter faxo referantur simul.
 amabo, mi Menaechme, inauris da mihi
 faciendas pondo duom nummum, stalagmia,
 ut te lubenter uideam, quom ad nos ueneris.
- SOS fiat. cedo aurum; ego manupretium dabo.
- 545 ANC da sodes aps te: post <ego> reddidero tibi.

525 sibi *add. Ussing*

545 ego *add. Pylades*

MENAECHMI

Enter SERVANT GIRL from Erotium's house, carrying a golden bracelet.

- SER Menaechmus, Erotium says she's asking you very kindly to bring this bracelet here to the goldsmith for her at the same time and to add an ounce of gold and have it repaired as new. 525
- SOS Tell her I'll take care of this and anything else, if she wants anything to be taken care of, whatever she wants.
- SER Do you know what bracelet this is? 530
- SOS I don't know, except that it's made of gold.
- SER This is the one you said you once furtively stole from your wife's cabinet.
- SOS That never happened.
- SER Please, you don't remember? Then give me back the bracelet if you don't remember.
- SOS Wait. Yes, I do remember. (*takes the bracelet*) This is the one I gave her. By the by, tell me: where are those armlets I gave her together with it? 535
- SER You never gave her any.
- SOS Yes, I only gave her this here.
- SER Shall I say you're taking care of it?
- SOS Tell her: "It'll be taken care of." I'll make sure the mantle and bracelet will be brought back together. 540
- SER Please, my dear Menaechmus, have earrings made for me, two denarii¹⁸ in weight, in the shape of drops, so that I'm happy to see you when you come to us.
- SOS Yes. Give me the gold; I'll pay for the labor.
- SER Please give it from your pocket. I'll return it to you later. 545

¹⁸ This is the most likely coin here; the weight is thus 9 grams.

PLAUTUS

- SOS immo cedo aps te: ego post tibi reddam duplex.
 ANC non habeo.
 SOS at tu, quando habebis, tum dato.
 ANC numquid [me] uis?
 SOS haec me curaturum dicitō . . .
 ut quantum possint quique liceant ueneant.
 550 iamne abiit intro? abiit, operuit fores.
 550^a ***i***a***am
 551 di me quidem omnes adiuuant, augent, amant.
 sed quid ego cesso, dum datur mi occasio
 tempusque, abire ab his locis lenoniis?
 555 propra, Menaechme, fer pedem, confer gradum.
 demam hanc coronam atque abiciam ad laeuam manum,
 ut, si sequentur me, hac abiisse censeant.
 ibo et conueniam seruom si potero meum,
 ut haec, quae bona dant di mihi, ex me sciat.

ACTVS IV

IV. i: MATRONA. PENICVLVS

- MAT egone hic me patiar frustra in matrimonio,
 560 ubi uir compilet clanculum quicquid domi est
 atque ea ad amicam deferat?
 PEN quin tu taces?
 manifesto faxo iam opprimes: sequere hac modo.
 pallam ad phrygionem cum corona ebrius

548 me *del. Acidalius*

550 intro habiit *B¹CD*, abiit intro *B²*

550^a *uestigia apparent in A, uersus deest in P*

555 hanc *Nonius, om. P*

556 si qui sequatur hac me *P*, si

sequentur me hac *Nonius*, si sequantur me hac *Lindsay*

559 frustrat *A, om. P*, frustra *plerique edd.*

MENAECHMI

SOS No, give it from *yours*. I'll return it to you later, twice over.

SER I don't have any.

SOS Well, then give it to me when you do have some.

SER Do you want anything else?

SOS Say that I'll take care of this . . . (*aside*) that it'll be sold as quickly and expensively as possible.

Exit the SERVANT GIRL into Erotium's house.

SOS Has she gone inside now? She's gone, she's closed the door. *** All the gods help, support, and love me. But what am I hesitating to leave these pimp places while I'm given the opportunity and the time? Hurry, Menaechmus, move your foot, carry on your step. I'll take off this garland and throw it away to the left (*throws it to his left, our right*) so that they think I went this way if they follow me. I'll go and meet my slave if I can so that he knows from me about the good things the gods are giving me. 550 555

Exit SOSICLES to the left.

ACT FOUR

Enter WIFE OF MENAECHMUS from her house, followed by PENICULUS.

WIFE Should I tolerate being treated like an idiot here in my marriage, where my husband's furtively stealing everything that's at home and taking it to his mistress? 560

PEN Why won't you be quiet? I'll make sure you catch him in the act in a minute. Just follow me this way. With a garland on and drunk he was carrying the mantle to the

PLAUTUS

565 ferebat hodie tibi quam surrupuit domo.
 sed eccam coronam quam habuit. num mentior?
 em hac abiit, si uis persequi uestigiis.
 atque edepol eccum optume reuertitur;
 sed pallam non fert.

MAT quid ego nunc cum illoc agam?

PEN idem quod semper: male habeas; sic censeo.
 570 huc concedamus: ex insidiis aucupa.

IV. ii: MENAECHEMVS. PENICVLVS. MATRONA

MEN ut hoc utimur maxume more moro,
 molesto atque multo! atque uti quique sunt op-
 tumi maxume morem habent hunc! clientes
 sibi omnes uolunt esse multos: bonine an
 575 mali sint, id hau quaeritant; res magis quae-
 576 ritur quam clientum fides quouis modi clue-
 577- at. si est pauper atque hau malus nequam habetur,
 78 sin diues malust, is cliens frugi habetur.
 579
 580 qui nec leges neque aequom bonum usquam colunt,
 sollicitos patronos habent.
 datum denegant quod datum est, litium
 pleni, rapaces uiri, fraudulentum,
 584 qui aut faenore aut periuriis
 584^a habent rem paratam; mens est in quo ***
 585 eis uiris ubi dicitur dies,
 585^a simul patronis dicitur,
 586 quipp' qui pro illis loquimur quae male fecerunt.
 [aut ad populum aut in iure aut apud aedilem res est.]

572 molesto atque multo A, molestoque multum P

584^a mens est W, mensae uel mense ceteri Palatini -n quo la A,
 in quo re B¹, in quo rem B⁴, in quo ire CD, in querellis W

MENAECHMI

embroiderer, the one he took from your house today. But 565
look, the garland he had. Am I lying? (*pointing to the exit
on the right*) There, he went away this way, if you want to
follow him by his tracks. And look, perfect, he's coming
back. But he isn't carrying the mantle.

WIFE What should I do with him now?

PEN The same as always: give him a hard time. That's what I
think. Let's go over here: catch him from an ambush. 570

*Enter MENAECHEMUS from the right, not seeing his wife or
Peniculus.*

MEN What incredibly stupid, tedious, and bothersome custom
we have! And the more respected people are, the more
they have this custom! Everybody wants to have many
clients: whether they're good or bad they don't ask; they 575
ask about the money rather than the reputation of the cli-
ents' reliability. If someone's poor and not bad, he's con-
sidered useless, but if a rich one's bad, he's considered a
useful client. People who don't honor the laws or what's 580
fair and good anywhere keep their patrons busy. They
deny that what's been given has been given, are full of
lawsuits, and are greedy and dishonest men, who have
gained their money either on interest or through perju-
ries. Their mind is in which ***. When these men are 585
called to court, their patrons are called to court at the
same time since we speak for those who've committed of-
fenses. [The case comes before the people or the court or

585 eis u- A, lis uiris BC, lis iuris D, his uiris Bergk, uiris dell. *Leo et
Lindsay* 586 loquimur . . . fecerunt A, loquantur . . . fecerint P
587 apud aedilem A, ad iudicem P uersum secl. *Ussing*

PLAUTUS

sicut me hodie nimis sollicitum cliens quidam habuit nec
quod uolui

agere aut quicum licitum est, ita med attinuit, ita deti-
nuit.

590 apud aedilis pro eius factis plurumisque pessumisque
dixi causam, condiciones tetuli tortas, confragosas:
haud plus, haud minus quam opus fuerat dicto dixeram,
controrsim

ut sponsio fieret. quid ille †qui praedem dedit?
nec magis manifestum ego hominem umquam ullum te-
neri uidi:

595 omnibus male factis testes tres aderant acerrumi.

596 di illum omnes perdant, ita mihi

596^a hunc hodie corruptit diem,

597 meque adeo, qui hodie forum

597^a umquam oculis inspexi meis.

598 diem corrupti optimum:

598^a iussi apparari prandium,

599 amica exspectat me, scio.

599^a ubi primum est licitum, ilico

600 properaui abire de foro.

600^a irata est, credo, nunc mihi;

600^b placabit palla quam dedi,

601 quam hodie uxori apstuli atque huic detuli Erotio.

PEN quid ais?

MAT uiro me malo male nuptam.

PEN satin audis quae illic loquitur?

MAT satis.

MEN si sapiam, hinc intro abeam, ubi mi bene sit.

589 quicum *P*, ait qu(o)quam *A*, aut quicum *Ritschl*

MENAECHMI

the aedile.^{19]} This is how a certain client kept me very busy today and how I couldn't do what I wanted or who I wanted to do it with, to such an extent did he delay and detain me. Before the aediles I spoke in defense of his countless misdeeds and proposed complicated and obscure provisos. I spoke no more and no less than was required, so that a settlement came about on both sides. What did the man do †who gave a surety?† I've never seen anyone caught more red-handed. For all his misdeeds three most stern witnesses stood present. May all the gods destroy him: he ruined this day for me today, and me to, whoever set my eyes on the forum today. I've wasted a perfect day. I had a lunch prepared for me. My girlfriend's expecting me, I know that. As soon as I could, I rushed off from the forum. She's angry with me now, I believe; the mantle I gave her will mollify her, the one I took away from my wife today and took to Erotium here.

PEN *(to the wife, quietly)* What do you say?

WIFE That I'm badly married to a bad husband.

PEN Can you hear well enough what he's saying?

WIFE Yes.

MEN If I were smart, I'd go off inside, where I'd have a good time.

¹⁹ A Roman magistrate mainly in charge of buildings and public events, but also responsible for legal matters.

592 aut . . . aut Ω, haut . . . haut *Teuffel* fuerat A, erat P
controuersiam Ω, controrsim *Havet*

593 *aliquid deesse uidetur*

596^a corruptit B², corrumpit *ceteri Palatini*

601 huic detuli P, *transp. Ritschl*

PLAUTUS

- PEN mane; male erit potius.
 MAT ne illam ecastor faenerato apstulisti.
 PEN sic datur.
 605 MAT clanculum te istaec flagitia facere censebas pote?
 MEN quid illuc est, uxor, negoti?
 MAT men rogas?
 MEN uin hunc rogem?
 MAT aufer hinc palpationes.
 PEN perge tu.
 MEN quid tu mihi
 tristis es?
 MAT te scire oportet.
 PEN scit sed dissimulat malus.
 MEN quid negoti est?
 MAT pallam—
 MEN pallam?
 MAT quidam pallam—
 PEN quid paues?
 610 MEN nil equidem paueo.
 PEN nisi unum; palla pallorem incutit.
 at tu ne clam me comesses prandium. perge in uirum.
 MEN non taces?
 PEN non hercle uero taceo. nutat ne loquar.
 613 MEN non hercle ego quidem usquam quicquam nuto nec nicto
 tibi.
 615 PEN nihil hoc confidentius; quin quae uides ea pernegat.
 MEN per Iouem deosque omnis adiuro, uxor—satin hoc est
 tibi?—
 me isti non nutasse.

617 mei si non *B*, meisi inon *CD*, me isti non *Pylades* istis *P*, isto
Bothe

MENAECHMI

- PEN (*going toward Menaechmus*) Wait. You'll rather have a bad time.
- WIFE (*also going toward him*) Yes, you took that away on interest.
- PEN That's the stuff to give him.
- WIFE (*to Menaechmus*) Did you think you could commit those offenses in secret? 605
- MEN What do you mean, my wife?
- WIFE Are you asking me?
- MEN Do you want me to ask him? (*tries to pat her*)
- WIFE Stop your caresses.
- PEN Continue, you.
- MEN (*to his wife*) Why are you upset with me?
- WIFE You ought to know.
- PEN He does, but he's pretending not to, the criminal.
- MEN What's the matter?
- WIFE The mantle—
- MEN The mantle?
- WIFE The mantle, someone—
- PEN (*to Menaechmus*) What are you afraid of?
- MEN I'm not afraid of anything. 610
- PEN Except for one thing; the mantle is dismantling your confidence. Well, you shouldn't have eaten up the lunch behind my back. (*to the wife*) Continue against your husband.
- MEN Won't you be quiet?
- PEN No, I definitely will not be quiet. (*to the wife*) He's nodding at me that I shouldn't speak.
- MEN I am certainly not nodding or winking at you about anything anywhere. 613
- PEN Nothing is bolder than him: he denies what you can see. 615
- MEN I swear by Jupiter and all the gods, my wife—is this enough for you?—that I didn't nod to him.

PLAUTUS

- PEN credit iam tibi de isto: illuc redi.
 MEN quo ego redeam?
 PEN equidem ad phrygionem censeo; i, pallam refer.
 619 MEN quae istaec palla est?
 PEN taceo iam, quando haec rem non meminit suam.
 614 MAT ne ego ecastor mulier misera.
 MEN qui tu misera es? mi expedi.
 620 numquis seruorum deliquit? num ancillae aut serui tibi
 responsant? eloquere. impune non erit.
 MAT nugas agis.
 MEN tristis admodum es. non mi istuc satis placet.
 MAT nugas agis.
 MEN certe familiarium aliquoi irata es.
 MAT nugas agis.
 MEN num mihi es irata saltem?
 MAT nunc tu non nugas agis.
 625 MEN non edepol deliqui quicquam.
 MAT em rursum nunc nugas agis.
 MEN dic, mea uxor, quid tibi aegre est?
 PEN bellus blanditur tibi.
 MEN potin ut mihi molestus ne sis? num te appello?
 MAT aufer manum.
 PEN sic datur. properato apse me comesse prandium,
 post ante aedis cum corona me derideto ebrius.
 630 MEN neque edepol ego prandi neque hodie huc intro tetuli
 pedem.
 PEN tun negas?
 MEN nego hercle uero.

618 et *P*, ei *Gruterus*

614 *uersum hic posuit Kiessling*

622 est *B¹CD*, es *B²*

MENAECHMI

- PEN She believes you about "him" now. Return there.
- MEN Where should I return?
- PEN To the embroiderer, I think. Go, bring back the mantle.
- MEN What mantle is that? 619
- PEN (*aside*) I'm quiet now since she doesn't remember her own business.
- WIFE (*to Menaechmus*) I really am a wretched woman. 614
- MEN How come you're wretched? Explain it to me. Did any of 620
the servants commit an offense? Do the slave girls or the slaves talk back to you? Tell me. It won't go unpunished.
- WIFE You're talking rubbish.
- MEN You're in quite a bad mood. I'm not happy about it.
- WIFE You're talking rubbish.
- MEN You're definitely angry with one of the slaves.
- WIFE You're talking rubbish.
- MEN Surely at any rate you can't be angry with me?
- WIFE Now you're not talking rubbish.
- MEN I haven't done anything wrong. 625
- WIFE There, now you're talking rubbish again.
- MEN Tell me, my dear wife, what are you upset about?
- PEN (*to the wife*) Your beau is buttering you up.
- MEN Can't you stop being a nuisance? I'm not addressing you, am I? (*tries to pat his wife again*)
- WIFE Take off your hand.
- PEN That's the stuff to give him. (*to Menaechmus*) Hurry to eat up the lunch in my absence, then mock me in front of the house with your garland on and drunk.
- MEN I haven't had any lunch and I haven't set foot in here to- 630
day.
- PEN Do you deny it?
- MEN Yes, I do indeed deny it.

PLAUTUS

- PEN nihil hoc homine audacius.
 non ego te modo hic ante aedis cum corona florea
 uidi astare? quom negabas mi esse sanum sinciput
 et negabas me nouisse, peregrinum aibas esse te?
- 635 MEN quin ut dudum diuorti aps te, redeo nunc demum do-
 mum.
- PEN noui ego te. non mihi censebas esse qui te ulciscerer.
 omnia hercle uxori dixi.
- MEN quid dixisti?
 PEN nescie!
 eam ipsus [i] roga.
- MEN quid hoc est, uxor? quidnam hic narrauit tibi?
 639 quid id est? quid taces? quin dicis quid sit?
- MAT quasi tu nescias.
- [639a palla mi est domo surrupta.
 MEN palla surrupta est tibi?]
- 640 MAT me rogas?
 MEN pol hau rogem te si sciam.
 PEN o hominem malum,
 ut dissimulat! non potes celare rem: noui<t> probe.
 omnia hercle ego edictaui.
- MEN quid id est?
 MAT quando nil pudet
 nec uis tua uoluntate ipse profiteri, audi atque ades.
 et quid tristis <sim> et quid hic mi dixerit faxo scias.
- 645 palla mi est domo surrupta.
 MEN palla surrupta est mihi?

637 nescio *P*, nescie *Gratwick*

638 eam plus *B*¹, eam ipsus *B*², eampsus ei *CD*

639^a uersum secl. *Acidalius* 641 noui<t> *Acidalius*

644 sim *add. Pylades*

MENAECHMI

- PEN Nothing is bolder than him. Didn't I see you standing here in front of the house with a flower garland just now? When you claimed that I didn't have a sane pighead and that you didn't know me, and when you said you were a foreigner?
- MEN No, after leaving you a while ago I'm only returning home now. 635
- PEN I know you. You didn't think I have any means of revenge. I told your wife everything.
- MEN What did you tell her?
- PEN You innocent! Ask her yourself.
- MEN What's this, my wife? What on earth did he tell you? What is it? What are you silent for? Why don't you tell me what it is?
- WIFE As if you didn't know. [My mantle has been stolen from home.
- MEN Your mantle has been stolen?]
- WIFE You're asking me? 640
- MEN I wouldn't ask you if I knew.
- PEN What a bad man, how he's pretending. (*to Menaechmus*) You can't conceal it: she knows it properly. I've spilled the beans.
- MEN What's that?
- WIFE Since you aren't ashamed and don't want to admit it yourself voluntarily, listen and pay attention. I'll let you know what I'm in a bad mood for and what this chap here has told me. My mantle has been stolen from home. 645
- MEN My mantle has been stolen?

PLAUTUS

- PEN uiden ut <te> scelestus captat? huic surrupta est, non
tibi.
nam profecto tibi surrupta si esset . . . salua non foret.
- MEN nil mihi tecum est. sed tu quid ais?
- MAT palla, inquam, periit domo.
- MEN quis eam surrupuit?
- MAT pol istuc ille scit qui illam apstulit.
- 650 MEN quis is homo est?
- MAT Menaechmus quidam.
- MEN edepol factum nequiter.
quis is Menaechmust?
- MAT tu istic, inquam.
- MEN egone?
- MAT tu.
- MEN quis arguit?
- MAT egomet.
- PEN et ego. atque huic amicae detulisti Erotio.
- MEN egon dedi?
- MAT tu, tu istic, inquam.
- PEN uin afferri noctuam,
quae "tu tu" usque dicat tibi? nam nos iam defessi sumus.
- 655 MEN per Iouem deosque omnis adiuro, uxor—satin hoc est
tibi?—
non dedisse.
- PEN immo hercle uero, nos non falsum dicere.
- MEN sed ego illam non condonauī, sed sic utendam dedi.
- MAT equidem ecastor tuam nec chlamydem do foras nec pal-
lium

646 te *add. Lambinus*

654 nos iam nos *P*, nos iam *F*, nos nos *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

PEN (*to the wife*) Can you see how the criminal's trying to trick you? (*to Menaechmus*) Her mantle has been stolen, not yours. If yours had been stolen . . . it wouldn't be safe.²⁰

MEN (*to Peniculus*) I have nothing to do with you. (*to his wife*) But what do you say?

WIFE I'm telling you, a mantle has disappeared from home.

MEN Who stole it?

WIFE Well, the man who took it away knows that.

MEN Who is it?

650

WIFE A certain Menaechmus.

MEN Honestly, an appalling act. Who is that Menaechmus?

WIFE You there, I'm telling you.

MEN I?

WIFE You.

MEN Who is accusing me?

WIFE I am.

PEN And so am I. And you brought it to your mistress Erotium here.

MEN I gave it to her?

WIFE You, you there, I'm telling it to you.

PEN (*to Menaechmus*) Do you want an owl to be brought along which constantly says "to wit to you" to you? We are already exhausted.

MEN I swear by Jupiter and all the gods, my dear wife—is that 655 enough for you?—that I haven't given it to her.

PEN No, rather that we aren't lying.

MEN But I didn't give it to her as a present, but just like this, on loan.

WIFE I certainly don't give your cloak or your tunic on loan to

²⁰ Rather than being at the embroiderer's.

PLAUTUS

quoiquam utendum. mulierem aequom est uestimentum
muliebre

660 dare foras, uirum uirile. quin refers pallam domum?

MEN ego faxo referetur.

MAT ex re tua, ut opinor, feceris;

nam domum numquam introibis nisi feres pallam simul.
eo domum.

PEN quid mihi futurum est qui tibi hanc operam dedi?

MAT opera reddetur, quando quid tibi erit surruptum domo.

665 PEN id quidem edepol numquam erit, nam nihil est quod per-
dam domi.

cum uiro cum uxore, di uos perdant! properabo ad fo-
rum,

nam ex hac familia me plane excidisse intellego.

MEN male mi uxor sese fecisse censet, quom exclusit foras;

quasi non habeam quo intro mittar alium meliorem lo-
cum.

670 si tibi displiceo, patiundum: at placuero huic Erotio,

quae me non excludet ab se, sed apud se occludet domi.

nunc ibo, orabo ut mihi pallam reddat quam dudum
dedi;

aliam illi redimam meliorem. heus! ecquis hic est iani-
tor?

aperite atque Erotium aliquis euocate ante ostium.

IV. iii: EROTIVM. MENAECMVVS

675 ERO quis hic me quaerit?

MENAECHMI

anyone. It's proper for a woman to give a woman's garment on loan and for a man, a man's. Why don't you bring the mantle back home? 660

MEN I'll make sure it's brought back.

WIFE You'll do this to your own advantage, I think: you'll never enter the house unless you bring the mantle with you. I'm going home.

PEN What reward am I going to get, who did you this service?

WIFE I'll return the favor when something's been stolen from your house.

Exit the WIFE OF MENAECHEMUS into her house.

PEN That'll be never: I don't have anything at home that I could lose. Both husband and wife, may the gods ruin you! *(to the audience)* I'll rush to the forum. I can see that I've plainly fallen out from this household. 665

Exit PENICULUS to the right.

MEN My wife thinks she's done me a bad turn by locking me out; as if I didn't have a better place where I'll be let in. If you dislike me, I'll have to put up with it. But Erotium here will like me, who will not lock me out from her place, but will lock me in at her home. Now I'll go and ask her to give me back the mantle I gave her a while ago. I'll buy her another, better one instead. *(knocks at her door)* Hey there! Is there any porter here? Let someone open and call Erotium out here in front of the door. 670

Enter EROTIUM from her house.

ERO Who is looking for me here? 675

PLAUTUS

- MEN sibi inimicus magis quam aetati tuae.
 ERO mi Menaechme, quor ante aedis astas? sequere intro.
 MEN mane.
 scin quid est quod ego ad te uenio?
 ERO scio, ut tibi ex me sit uolup.
 MEN immo edepol pallam illam, amabo te, quam tibi dudum
 dedi,
 mihi eam redde. uxor rescuiit rem omnem, ut factum est,
 ordine.
 680 ego tibi redimam bis tanta pluris pallam quam uoles.
 ERO tibi dedi equidem illam, ad phrygionem ut ferres, paullo
 prius,
 et illud spinter, ut ad auruficem ferres, ut fieret nouom.
 MEN mihi tu ut dederis pallam et spinter? numquam factum
 reperies.
 nam ego quidem postquam illam dudum tibi dedi atque
 abii ad forum,
 685 nunc redeo, nunc te postillac uideo.
 ERO uideo quam rem agis.
 quia commisi, ut me defrudes, ad eam rem affectas uiam.
 MEN neque edepol te defrudandi causa posco—quin tibi
 dico uxorem rescuuisse—
 ERO nec te ultro orauit ut dares:
 tute ultro ad me detulisti, dedisti eam dono mihi;
 690 eandem nunc repossis: patiar. tibi habe, aufer, utere
 uel tu uel tua uxor, uel etiam in loculos compingite.
 tu huc post hunc diem pedem intro non feres, ne frustra
 sis;
 quando tu me bene merentem tibi habes despiciatui,
 mihi feres argentum frustra, me ductare non potes.
 695 aliam posthac inuenito quam habeas frustratui.

691 oculos *P*, loculos *Balbach*

694 nisi *P*, mihi *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

MEN An enemy to himself rather than to your life.

ERO My dear Menaechmus, why are you standing in front of the house? Follow me in.

MEN Wait. Do you know what the reason is why I'm coming to you?

ERO Yes, so that you can get some pleasure from me.

MEN No, please return that mantle I gave you a while ago. My wife's found out how the whole thing happened, from first to last. I'll buy you another mantle instead, twice as expensive, of your own choice. 680

ERO I gave it to you a little earlier to take to the embroiderer, and that bracelet to take to the goldsmith to have a makeover.

MEN You gave me the mantle and the bracelet? You'll never find that this happened; after I gave it to you a while ago and went off to the forum, I'm returning now, I'm seeing you now for the first time after that. 685

ERO I see what you're up to. Because I gave you the opportunity to cheat me, you're taking that path.

MEN No, I'm not asking for it in order to cheat you—rather, I told you that my wife's found out—

ERO (*interrupting*) Well, I didn't ask you to give it to me in the first place. You yourself brought it to me of your own accord and gave it to me as a present. Now you demand back that same mantle. I'll put up with it. Have it for yourself, take it away, use it, you or your wife, or even shut it away in your money box. After this day you won't set a foot in here, don't fool yourself. Since you despise me even though I deserve well of you, you'll bring me your money for nothing, you can't trick me. From now on find another woman to deceive. 690 695

Exit EROTIUM into her house.

PLAUTUS

- MEN nimis iracunde hercle tandem. heus tu, tibi dico, mane, redi. etiamne astas? etiam audes mea reuorti gratia? abiit intro, occlusit aedis. nunc ego sum exclusissimus: nec domi neque apud amicam mihi iam quicquam creditur.
- 700 ibo et consulam hanc rem amicos quid faciendum censeant.

ACTVS V

V. i: SOSICLES. MATRONA

- SOS nimis stulte dudum feci quom marsuppium Messenioni cum argento concredidi. immersit aliquo sese, credo, in ganeum.
- 705 MAT prouisam quam mox uir meus redeat domum. sed eccum uideo. salua sum, pallam refert.
- SOS demiror ubi nunc ambulet Messenio.
- MAT adibo atque hominem accipiam quibus dictis meret. non te pudet prodire in conspectum meum, flagitium hominis, cum istoc ornatu?
- SOS quid est?
- 710 quae te res agitat, mulier?
- MAT etiamne, impudens, muttire uerbum unum audes aut mecum loqui?

MENAECHMI

MEN (*calling after her*) You really are acting too angrily. Hey there, I'm speaking to you, wait, come back. Will you stand still? Will you return for my sake? (*to the audience*) She's gone inside and locked the house. Now I'm completely locked out. Neither at home nor at my girlfriend's am I still believed in anything. I'll go and consult my friends what they think I should do about this matter. 700

Exit MENAECHEMUS to the right.

ACT FIVE

Enter SOSICLES from the left, still carrying the mantle and bracelet.

SOS I behaved really stupidly some time ago when I entrusted my wallet with the money to Messenio. He's plunged himself somewhere into a pub, I believe.

Enter the WIFE OF MENAECHEMUS from her house with a servant girl.

WIFE I'll check how soon my husband's returning home. But look, I can see him. I'm safe, he's bringing the mantle back. 705

SOS (*to himself*) I wonder where Messenio is walking around now.

WIFE I'll approach him and welcome him with the words he deserves. (*loudly*) Aren't you ashamed to come under my eyes with that gear, you disgrace of a man?

SOS What is it? What's troubling you, woman? 710

WIFE You shameless individual, do you even dare to utter a single word or speak with me?

PLAUTUS

- SOS quid tandem ammisi in me ut loqui non audeam?
 MAT rogas me? <o> hominis impudentem audaciam!
 SOS non tu scis, mulier, Hecubam quapropter canem
 715 Graii esse praedicabant?
 MAT non equidem scio.
 SOS quia idem faciebat Hecuba quod tu nunc facis:
 omnia mala ingerebat quemquem aspexerat.
 itaque adeo iure coepta appellari est Canes.
 MAT non ego istaec <tua> flagitia possum perpeti.
 720 nam med aetatem uiduam esse mauelim
 quam istaec flagitia tua pati quae tu facis.
 SOS quid id ad me, tu te nuptam possis perpeti
 an sis abitura a tuo uiro? an mos hic ita est
 peregrino ut aduenienti narrent fabulas?
 725 MAT quas fabulas? non, inquam, patiar praeterhac,
 quin uidua uiuam quam tuos mores perferam.
 SOS mea quidem hercle causa uidua uiuito
 uel usque dum regnum optinebit Iuppiter.
 MAT at mihi negabas dudum surrupuisse te,
 730 nunc eandem ante oculos attines: non te pudet?
 SOS eu hercle! mulier, multum et audax et mala es.
 tun tibi hanc surruptam dicere audes quam mihi
 dedit alia mulier ut concinnandam darem?
 MAT ne istoc mecastor iam patrem accersam meum
 735 atque ei narrabo tua flagitia quae facis.
 i, Deceo, quaere meum patrem, tecum simul

713 o *add. Pylades*

719 tua *add. Ritschl*

734 istuc *P*, istoc *Brix*

MENAECHMI

- SOS Really now, what offense did I commit that I shouldn't dare to speak?
- WIFE You're asking me? Oh, the petulant boldness of the man!
- SOS Don't you know, woman, why the Greeks said that Hecuba²¹ was a bitch? 715
- WIFE No, I don't.
- SOS Because Hecuba was doing the same thing you are doing now: she heaped all sorts of insults on anyone she saw. For that reason she rightly came to be called "the bitch."
- WIFE I can't tolerate those shocking acts of yours: I'd rather 720
live the rest of my life as a divorcee than tolerate those shocking acts of yours which you commit.
- SOS What do I care whether you can tolerate being married or will leave your husband? Or is it custom here to tell gossip to new arrivals from abroad?
- WIFE What gossip? I'm telling you, I won't put up with it from 725
now on, I'll live as a divorcee rather than tolerate your habits.
- SOS Live in divorce, for all I care, as long as Jupiter keeps his kingship if you wish.
- WIFE But a moment ago you denied that you'd stolen it from me (*points to the mantle*), and now you're holding the 730
very same in front of my eyes. Aren't you ashamed?
- SOS Goodness! Woman, you're very bold and bad. Do you dare to say that this one was stolen from you? Another woman gave it to me to have it repaired.
- WIFE Right! That does it! Right now I'll bring my father to you and tell him about the shameful acts you commit. 735
(*to the servant girl*) Go, Deceo, look for my father, so that

²¹ Wife of king Priam in the Iliad, embittered after the loss of her husband and children.

PLAUTUS

ut ueniat ad me: <sub>ita<m> rem esse dicito.
iam ego aperiam istaec tua flagitia.

SOS sanan es?

quae mea flagitia?

MAT pallas atque aurum meum

740 domo suppilas <tua> tuae uxori et tuae
degeris amicae. satin haec recte fabulor?

SOS quaeso hercle, mulier, si scis, monstra quod bibam
tuam qui possim perpeti petulantiam.

745 quem tu hominem <me esse> arbitrere nescio;
ego te simitu noui cum Porthaone.

MAT si me derides, at pol illum non potes,
patrem meum qui huc aduenit. quin respicis?
nouistin tu illum?

SOS noui cum Calcha simul:
eodem die illum uidi quo te ante hunc diem.

750 MAT negas nouisse me? negas patrem meum?

SOS idem hercle dicam si auom uis adducere.

MAT ecastor pariter hoc atque alias res soles.

V. ii: SENEX. MATRONA. SOSICLES

SEN ut aetas mea est atque ut hoc usus facto est
gradum proferam, progredi properabo.

755 sed id quam mihi facile sit hau sum falsus.

737 ita P, subitam Gratwick

739 pallam P, pallas Vahlen

740 tua add. Gratwick

744 me esse add. Pylades

754 progredi<ri> Bothe ut integer tetrameter fiat

MENAECHMI

he comes to me with you. Tell him it's an emergency. Right now I'll reveal those shameful acts of yours. (*Deceo leaves the stage on the right*)

SOS Are you in your right mind? Which shameful acts of mine?

WIFE You steal mantles and my gold, from your wife, from your home, and carry them to your mistress. Aren't I speaking the truth? 740

SOS Please, woman, if you know, prescribe me something to drink in order to be able to put up with your rudeness. I don't know who you think I am. I got to know you at the same time as Porthaon.²² 745

WIFE (*spotting Deceo and her father*) Even if you're laughing at me, you can't laugh at that man, my father, who is coming here. Why don't you look back? Do you know him?

SOS I got to know him together with Calchas;²³ I saw him on the same day on which I saw you before this day.

WIFE You deny knowing me? You deny knowing my father? 750

SOS Yes, and I'll say the same if you wish to bring here your grandfather.

WIFE Honestly, that's just in keeping with the other things you always do.

Enter the OLD MAN with a walking stick, accompanied by Deceo.

OM As fast as my age allows and the situation demands I'll move my step, I'll hurry to walk along. But I'm not mistaken about how easy that is for me. My swiftness is de- 755

²² Son of Meriones; an obscure person.

²³ Greek seer in the Iliad.

PLAUTUS

- nam pernicitas deserit: consitus sum
 senectute, onustum gero corpus, uires
 reliquere: ut aetas mala est! merx mala aegro est.
 nam res plurimas pessimas, quom aduenit, fert,
 760 quas si autumem omnis, nimis longus sermo est.
 sed haec res mihi in pectore et corde curae est,
 quidnam hoc sit negoti quod filia sic
 763 repente expetit me, ut ad sese irem.
 763^a nec quid id sit mihi certius facit, quid
 763^b uelit, quid me accersat.
 764 uerum propemodum iam scio quid siet rei.
 765 credo cum uiro litigium natum esse aliquod.
 ita istaec solent, quae uiros supersuare
 sibi postulant, dote fretae, feroces.
 et illi quoque haud apstinent saepe culpa.
 uerum est modus tamen, quoad pati uxorem oportet;
 770 nec pol filia umquam patrem accersit ad se
 nisi aut quid commissi aut iurgi est causa.
 sed id quicquid est iam sciam. atque eccam eampse
 ante aedis et eius uirum uideo tristem.
 id est quod suspicabar.
 775 appellabo hanc.
- MAT ibo aduorsum. salue multum, mi pater.
 SEN salua sis. saluen aduenio? saluen accersi iubes?
 quid tu tristis es? quid ille autem aps te iratus distitit?
 nescioquid uos uelitati estis inter uos duos.
 loquere, uter meruistis culpam, paucis, non longos logos.

758 ergo *P*, aegro *Gratwick*

759 fert *B*¹, affert *uel* adfert *B*⁴*CD*

763^b accersit *P*, accersat *Lambinus*

MENAECHMI

serting me, I'm overgrown with old age, I'm moving a
 burdened body, my strength has left me. How bad old
 age is! It's a bad lot for an ill man: it brings countless trou- 760
 bles when it comes. If I were to speak about all of them,
 my talk would be far too long. But this matter is a worry
 in my breast and in my heart, what this business is that
 my daughter has asked me suddenly like this to come to
 her. And she doesn't inform me what it is, what she wants,
 what she's summoning me for. But I practically know al- 765
 ready what's the matter. I believe some argument has
 arisen with her husband. They're always like that, those
 women who expect their husbands to act as their slaves,
 relying on their dowries and generally savage. And the
 husbands are often not blameless either. But there's a
 limit to what a wife ought to put up with. And a daughter 770
 never summons her father unless the reason is some
 offense or argument. But whatever it is, I'll know in a
 moment. And look, I can see her in person in front of the
 house, and her husband with an unhappy expression. It's
 what I suspected. I'll address her. 775

WIFE I'll go toward him. (*loudly*) Many greetings, my dear
 father.

OM And to you. Am I finding everything well? Is all well, that
 you have me summoned? What are you upset about? And
 why does he stand at a distance from you? You've had
 some fight between you two. Tell me which of you is
 guilty, but briefly, no long stories.

773 *tristem uirum uideo P, uirum uideo tristem Brix, uirum tristem
 uideo Bothe*

775 *partes sic distribuit Gulielmus*

777 *destitit P, distitit Lambinus*

PLAUTUS

- 780 MAT nusquam equidem quicquam deliqui: hoc primum te ap-
soluo, pater.
uerum uiuere hic non possum nec durare ullo modo.
proin tu me hinc abducas.
- SEN quid istuc autem est?
- MAT ludibrio, pater,
habeor.
- SEN unde?
- MAT ab illo quoi me mandauisti, meo uiro.
- 785 SEN ecce autem litigium! quotiens tandem edixi tibi
ut caueres neuter ad me iretis cum querimonia?
- MAT qui ego istuc, mi pater, cauere possum?
- SEN men interrogas?
- 787-
88 MAT nisi non uis.
- SEN quotiens monstraui tibi uiro ut morem geras,
quid ille faciat ne id opserues, quo eat, quid rerum gerat.
- 790 MAT at enim ille hinc amat meretricem ex proxumo.
- SEN sane sapit
atque ob istanc industriam etiam faxo amabit amplius.
- MAT atque ibi potat.
- SEN tua quidem ille causa potabit minus,
si illic siue alibi lubebit? quae haec, malum, impudentia
est?
- 795 una opera prohibere ad cenam ne promittat postules
neu quemquam accipiat alienum apud se. seruirin tibi
postulas uiros? dare una opera pensum postules,
inter ancillas sedere iubeas, lanam carere.
- MAT non equidem mihi te aduocatum, pater, adduxi, sed uiro.
hinc stas, illum causam dicis.

787-88 non uis *P*, neuis *Bothe*

MENAECHMI

WIFE I didn't do anything wrong anywhere. I'll free you from that worry first, my father. But I can't live here and I can't endure it in any way. So you must take me away from here. 780

OM What's that?

WIFE I'm being ridiculed, my father.

OM By whom?

WIFE By the man you gave me to, my husband.

OM Look at that, an argument! How often did I tell you to be on your guard against either of you coming to me with a complaint? 785

WIFE How can I be on my guard against that, my dear father?

OM You ask me?

WIFE Unless you object.

OM How often did I teach you to obey your husband, not to observe what he's doing, where he's going, and what he's up to!

WIFE But he makes love to a prostitute from here next door. 790

OM He's just doing the smart thing and because of your officiousness I bet he'll make love to her even more.

WIFE And he drinks there.

OM Will he drink less for your sake if he wants to drink there or anywhere else? What impudence is this, damn it? By the same token you could demand to forbid him to accept a dinner invitation or to receive anyone else at his place. Do you demand that men should be your slaves? By the same token you could demand to give him something to spin, to tell him to sit among the slave girls, and to card the wool. 795

WIFE I brought you here not as *my* advocate, my father, but as *my husband's*. You stand here but you plead his case from there.

PLAUTUS

- SEN si ille quid deliquerit,
 800 multo tanta illum accusabo quam te accusavi amplius.
 quando te auratam et uestitam bene habet, ancillas, pen-
 num
 recte praehibet, melius sanam est, mulier, mentem su-
 mere.
- MAT at ille suppilat mihi aurum et pallas ex arcis domo,
 me despoliat, mea ornamenta clam ad meretrices de-
 gerit.
- 805 SEN male facit, si istuc facit; si non facit, tu male facis
 quae insontem insimules.
- MAT quin etiam nunc habet pallam, pater,
 <et> spinter, quod ad hanc detulerat, nunc, quia rescui,
 refert.
- SEN iam ego ex hoc, ut factum est, scibo. <ibo> ad hominem
 atque <al>loquar.
 dic mi istuc, Menaechme, quod uos dissertatis, ut sciam.
 810 quid tu tristis es? quid illa autem irata aps te distitit?
- SOS quisquis es, quicquid tibi nomen est, senex, summum
 Iouem
 deosque do testis—
- SEN qua de re aut quouis rei rerum omnium?
 SOS —me neque isti male fecisse mulieri quae me arguit
 hanc domo ab se surrupuisse atque apstulisse.
- <MAT> peierat.
- 815-
 16 SOS si ego intra aedis huius umquam ubi habitat penetraui
 <pedem>,
 omnium hominum exopto ut fiam miserorum miser-
 rumus.

807 et s 808 ibo *add. Camerarius* adquemloquar P (atque
 loquar B²), atque adloquar *Saracenus*
 810 destituis B, dedistitus CD, distitit *Lambinus*

MENAECHMI

- OM If *he* commits any offense, I'll accuse him many times as severely as I accused you. Since he keeps you well supplied with jewelry and clothes and provides you with slave girls and food as he ought, it would be better to adopt a healthy attitude, woman. 800
- WIFE But he's stealing my gold and mantles from my chests from home, he's robbing me, he's secretly carrying off my jewelry to prostitutes.
- OM He behaves badly if he behaves like this. If he doesn't behave like this, *you* are behaving badly by accusing an innocent man. 805
- WIFE But even now he has the mantle, my father, and the bracelet he'd taken to her; now that I've found out about it he's returning them.
- OM In a moment I'll know from him how it happened. (*approaching him*) I'll go to him and address him. Tell me this, Menaechmus, what you're arguing about, so that I know. What are you upset about? And why does she stand at a distance from you, angry? 810
- SOS Whoever you are, whatever your name is, old man, I give you Jupiter above and all the gods as my witnesses—
- OM (*interrupting*) For what or on account of what on this earth?
- SOS —that I haven't wronged that woman, who is accusing me of having stolen this (*shows the mantle*) from her house and of having carried it off.
- WIFE He's perjuring himself.
- SOS If I ever set foot into the house where this woman lives, I wish to become the most wretched of all wretches. 815

814 delurat *P* (deiurat *B*²), peierat *matronae interrumpenti dedit Schoell*

815–16 pedem *add. Pylades*

PLAUTUS

- SEN sanum es qui istuc exoptes aut neges te unquam pedem
in eas aedis intulisse ubi habitas, insanissime?
820 SOS tun, senex, ais habitare med in illisce aedibus?
SEN tu<n> negas?
SOS nego hercle uero.
SEN immo hercle inuero negas;
nisi quo nocte hac <e>migrasti. <tu> concede huc, filia.
quid tu ais? num hinc emigrasti<s>?
MAT quem in locum aut <quam> ob rem, opsecro?
SEN non edepol scio.
MAT profecto ludit te hic. non tu[te] tenes?
825 SEN iam uero, Menaechme, satis iocatu's. nunc hanc rem
gere.
SOS quaeso, quid mihi tecum est? unde aut quis tu homo es?
<quid debeo>
tibi aut adeo isti, quae mihi molest<i>ae est quoquo
modo?
MAT uiden tu illi<c> oculos uirere? ut uiridis exoritur colos
ex temporibus atque fronte, ut oculi scintillant, uide!
829-
30
843 SOS ei mihi! insanire me aiunt, ultra quom ipsi insaniunt.
831 quid mi meliust quam, quando illi me insanire praedi-
cant,
ego med assimulem insanire, ut illos a me apsterream?
MAT ut pandiculans oscitatur! quid nunc faciam, mi pater?
SEN concede huc, mea nata, ab istoc quam potest longissime.

- 821 tu<n> *Bothe* ludere *P*, inuere *Lindsay*, inuero *Gratwick*,
ludis si *Kayser* 822 <ex>migrasti, <tu> *Schoell*
823 emigrasti<s> *Acidalius* quam *add. Beroaldus*
824 tute *P*, tu *Mueller* 826 quid debeo *add. Leo*
827 molest<i>ae *Schoell*
828 illi<c> *Ritschl* iurere *CD*, uire- *B¹*, uirere *B²*
829-30 atque <ex> *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

- OM Are you in your right mind, wishing for this or denying that you ever set foot into the house where you live, you complete madman?
- SOS Do you, old man, claim that I live in that house? 820
- OM Do you deny it?
- SOS I do deny it, in all truth.
- OM No, you deny it in all untruth; unless you moved out somewhere last night. (*turning to his daughter*) You come over here, my daughter. What do *you* say? Did you two move out from here?
- WIFE Where to or why, please?
- OM I don't know.
- WIFE He's plainly making fun of you. Don't you get it?
- OM You've really joked enough now, Menaechmus. Now pay attention. 825
- SOS Please, what business have I with you? Where are you from, or who are you? What do I owe you, or for that matter this woman, who is a nuisance to me in every conceivable way?
- WIFE (*to her father*) Can you see how green his eyes are? How a pale color is arising from his temples and his forehead, how his eyes are flaming, look! 830
- SOS (*aside*) Dear me! They say *I* am mad, when on the contrary they themselves are. Since they say that I'm mad, what's better for me than to pretend to be mad in order to drive them away from me? (*moves and acts strangely*) 843 831
- WIFE How he's gaping with a grimace! What should I do now, my dear father?
- OM Come over here, my daughter, as far away from him as possible.

843 *uersum hic posuit Acidalius*

832 *ego me P, egomet Gratwick*

PLAUTUS

- 835 SOS euhoe Bacche, Bromie, quo me in siluam uenatum
uocas?
audio, sed non abire possum ab his regionibus,
ita illa me ab laeua rabiosa femina asseruat canes,
poste autem ille Cercops alius, qui saepe aetate in sua
perdidit ciuem innocentem falso testimonio.
- 840 SEN uae capiti tuo!
SOS ecce, Apollo mihi ex oraclo imperat
ut ego illic oculos exuram lampadibus ardentibus.
- 842 MAT perii! mi pater, minatur mihi oculos exurere.
- 844 SEN filia, heus!
MAT quid est? quid agimus?
SEN quid si ego huc seruos cito?
845 ibo, adducam qui hunc hinc tollant et domi deuinciant
prius quam turbarum quid faciat amplius.
SOS enim haereo;
ni occupo aliquid mihi consilium, hi domum me ad se au-
ferent.
pugnis me uotas in huius ore quicquam . . . parcere,
ni a meis oculis apscedat in malam magnam crucem.
850 faciam quod iubes, Apollo.
SEN fuge domum quantum potest,
ne hic te optundat.
MAT fugio. amabo, asserua istunc, mi pater,
ne quo hinc abeat. sumne ego mulier misera quae illaec
audio?

835 eubi (eum *B*¹, heu *B*²) atque heu Bromie *P*, corr. *Ritschl*
838 illi circo salus *P*, ille Cercops alius *Gratwick*, illic hircus alius
Beroaldus, alii *alia*
841 illi *P*, illic *nonnulli edd.* lampadi[bu]s *Geppert*
844 partes sic distribuit *Acidalius*

MENAECHMI

- SOS (*loudly*) Woohoo, Bacchus, Bromius,²⁴ where are you 835
 calling me to hunt in the woods? I can hear you, but I
 can't leave these regions: that rabid bitch on my left is
 keeping watch, and behind me that other Cercops,²⁵ who
 often ruined an innocent citizen through false evidence
 in his day.
- OM Curse you! 840
- SOS Look, Apollo²⁶ tells me through a divine utterance to
 burn out that woman's eyes with flaming torches.
- WIFE I'm dead! My dear father, he's threatening to burn out my 842
 eyes.
- OM Hey there, my daughter! 844
- WIFE What is it? What are we doing?
- OM What if I summon slaves here? I'll go and fetch people to 845
 lift him up from here and tie him up at home before he
 makes any more trouble.
- SOS (*aside*) I'm stuck. Unless I get hold of some trick, they'll
 carry me off to their house. (*loudly*) You tell me to spare
 her face with my fists . . . in no way, unless she leaves my
 sight and goes to be hanged. I'll do what you tell me, 850
 Apollo.
- OM Run off home as fast as possible so that he doesn't beat
 you.
- WIFE Yes. Please, watch over him, my dear father, so that he
 doesn't go away anywhere. Aren't I a wretched woman to
 hear those things?

Exit the WIFE OF MENAECHMUS into her house with Deceo.

²⁴ Bromius is a cultic name of Bacchus, the god of wine and intoxication.

²⁵ The Cercopes were dwarfs, turned into monkeys by Jupiter.

²⁶ The god of music, poetic inspiration, and oracles.

PLAUTUS

- SOS hau male illanc amoui; < amoueam > nunc hunc impurissimum,
 barbatum, tremulum Titanum, qui cluet Cynos pater.
 855 ita mihi imperas ut ego huius membra atque ossa atque
 artua
 comminuam illo scipione quem ipse habet.
- SEN dabitur malum,
 me quidem si attigeris aut si propius ad me accesseris.
- SOS faciam quod iubes; securim capiam ancipitem atque
 hunc senem
 osse fini dedolabo assulatim uiscera.
- 860 SEN enim uero illud praecauendum est atque accurandum est
 mihi;
 sane ego illum metuo, ut minatur, ne quid male faxit
 mihi.
- SOS multa mi imperas, Apollo: nunc equos iunctos iubes
 capere me indomitos, ferocis, atque in currum inscendere,
 ut ego hunc proteram leonem uetulum, olentem, edentulum.
- 865 iam astiti in currum, iam lora teneo, iam stimulum: in
 manu est.
 agite equi, facitote sonitus unguularum appareat
 cursu celeri; facite in flexu sit pedum pernicitas.
- SEN mihin equis iunctis minare?
- SOS ecce, Apollo, denuo
 me iubes facere impetum in eum qui < hic > stat atque occidere.

853 amoueam *add. Persson, alii alia* 854 Titanum *P et Priscianus, Tithonum Meursius* Cygno prognatum patre *P*, qui lucet
 (cluet *Scaliger*) Cygno patre *Priscianus*, qui cluet Cynospater *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

- SOS I didn't get rid of her badly; now I'll get rid of that most filthy, bearded, trembling Titan,²⁷ who is called the Bitch-Father. This is your command, that I should smash 855 his limbs, bones, and joints to pieces with his own walking stick.
- OM You'll get a beating if you touch me or come any closer to me.
- SOS I'll do what you tell me: I'll take a double-edged ax and hew away this old man's flesh, bit by bit, down to the bone.
- OM (*aside*) I really have to be on my guard against that and 860 be careful. I'm horribly afraid, given the nature of his threats, that he could do me some harm.
- SOS You give me many commands, Apollo: now you're telling me to take a span of horses, untamed and wild, and to get onto a chariot in order to trample this old, smelly, toothless lion underfoot.²⁸ (*pretends to mount a chariot*) Now 865 I'm standing on my chariot, now I'm holding the reins, now the goad: it's in my hand. Go on, my horses, let the ring of your hooves be audible in your swift gallop; let there be speed in the bending of your legs.
- OM Are you threatening me with a span of horses?
- SOS Look, Apollo, again you tell me to assault the man stand-

²⁷ Earlier he referred to the old man as a Cercops; he uses the contrast between the dwarf and the giant to show how mad he is.

²⁸ He is called a lion because of his beard.

867 inflexu P, in flexu Lambinus, inflexa Dousa senior
869 hic add. Bothe

PLAUTUS

- 870 sed quis hic est qui me capillo hinc de curru deripit?
imperium tuom demutat atque edictum Apollinis.
872 SEN eu hercle morbum acrem ac durum! ***
872^a *** di, uostram fidem!
873 uel hic qui insanit quam ualuit paullo prius!
ei derepente tantus morbus incidit.
875 ibo atque accersam medicum iam quantum potest.

V. iii: SOSICLES. SENEX

- SOS iamne isti abierunt, quaeso, ex conspectu meo,
qui me ui cogunt ut ualidus insaniam?
quid cesso abire ad nauem dum saluo licet?
879-80 uosque omnis quaeso, si senex reuenerit,
ne me indicetis qua platea hinc aufugerim.
SEN lumbi sedendo, oculi spectando dolent,
manendo medicum dum se ex opere recipiat.
odiosus tandem uix ab aegrotis uenit,
885 ait se obligasse crus fractum Aesculapio,
Apollini autem bracchium. nunc cogito
utrum me dicam ducere medicum an fabrum.
atque eccum incedit. moue formicinum gradum.

V. iv: MEDICVS. SENEX

- MED quid esse illi morbi dixeras? narra, senex.
890 num laruatust aut cerritus? fac sciam.
num eum ueternus aut aqua intercus tenet?

872-72^a lacunam indicauit Schoell

889 esset illi P (esse illi F), illi esse Fleckeisen

²⁹ Divine healer.

³⁰ Ceres was a goddess of growth, but also connected with death, hence the link to madness.

MENAECHMI

ing here and to kill him. But who is that dragging me off 870
the chariot by my hair? The power over you and Apollo's
behest is failing. (*falls to the ground*)

OM Goodness! A bitter and harsh illness! *** gods, your pro-
tection! For instance this madman, how healthy he was a
little earlier! Suddenly such a severe illness has befallen
him. I'll go and fetch the doctor as quickly as possible. 875

Exit the OLD MAN to the right.

SOS (*getting up*) Have they left my sight now, please? They
force me to act crazy even though I'm healthy. What do I
hesitate to go off to the ship while I can still do so safely?
(*to the audience*) I entreat you all: if the old man comes 880
back, don't tell him what street I ran away on.

Exit SOSICLES to the left, enter the OLD MAN from the right.

OM My loins hurt from sitting, my eyes from watching, from
waiting for the doctor to return from work. With dif-
ficulty and after much time the pest came from the sick.
He said he'd bandaged the broken shin of Aesculapius²⁹ 885
and the arm of Apollo. Now I'm wondering whether I
should say I'm hiring a doctor or a sculptor. Look, here he
comes. Move your antlike step.

Enter the DOCTOR from the right.

DOC What illness did you say he has? Tell me, old man. Is he 890
possessed by evil spirits or by Ceres?³⁰ Inform me. Does
lethargy or dropsy hold him in its grip?

PLAUTUS

SEN quin ea te causa duco ut id dicas mihi
atque illum ut sanum facias.

MED perfacile id quidem est;
sanum futurum, mea ego id promitto fide.

895 SEN magna cum cura ego illum curari uolo.

MED quin suspirabo plus sescenta in die:
ita ego eum cum cura magna curabo tibi.

SEN atque eccum ipsum hominem. opseruemus quam rem
agat.

V. v: MENAECHEMVS. SENEX. MEDICVS

900 MEN edepol ne hic dies peruorsus atque aduorsus mi optigit.
quae me clam ratus sum facere, ea omnia fecit palam
parasitus qui me compleuit flagiti et formidinis,
meus Vlixes, suo qui regi tantum conciuuit mali.

905 quem ego hominem, siquidem uiuo, uita euoluam sua.
sed ego stultus sum, qui illius esse dico quae mea est:
meo cibo et sumptu educatust. anima priuabo uirum.
condigne autem haec meretrix fecit, ut mos est meretri-
cius:

quia rogo palla ut referatur rursum ad uxorem meam,
mihi se ait dedisse. eu edepol! ne ego homo uiuo miser.

SEN audin quae loquitur?

MED se miserum praedicat.

SEN adeas uelim.

910 MED saluos sis, Menaechme. quaeso, quor apertas brac-
chium?

non tu scis quantum isti morbo nunc tuo facias mali?

896 in dies *P*, in die *Lambinus* uersus propter hiatum et sensum
parum clarum nonnullis edd. suspectus est

897 illum *P*, eum *Kämpf*

900 ea omnia *P*, *transp.* *Bothe*

903 <iam> uita *Ritschl*

MENAECHMI

OM Well, I'm hiring you to tell me that and to heal him.

DOC That's very easy. He shall be well, I promise you that on my honor.

OM I want him to be taken care of with great care. 895

DOC Yes, I'll sigh more than six hundred sighs per day, which goes to show with what great care I'll take care of him for you.

OM Look, the man himself. Let's observe what he's up to.

Enter MENAECHMUS from the right, without noticing anyone.

MEN This day has really come upon me as an evil and bad one. My hanger-on revealed everything which I thought I was doing in secret. He filled me with shame and fear, this Ulysses of mine, who stirred up so much trouble for his king.³¹ As truly as I live, I'll send him spinning out of his life. But it's stupid of me to call his what's mine: he was raised on my food and at my expense. I'll deprive him of life. And this prostitute behaved in accordance with the habit of prostitutes: because I ask her that the mantle be brought back to my wife, she says she's given it to me. Wonderful! Yes, I am a poor wretch. 900 905

OM *(to the doctor)* Can you hear what he's talking about?

DOC He says he's a wretch.

OM I'd like you to go to him.

DOC Hello, Menaechmus. Please, why are you exposing your arm? Don't you know how much worse you're making your illness now? 910

³¹ Allusion taking its point of departure from the double meaning of *rex*: "king" and "patron of a hanger-on." Ulysses was known for his trickery. Here there could be a reference to Ulysses persuading king Agamemnon to sacrifice his daughter.

PLAUTUS

- MEN quin tu te suspendis?
- MED ecquid sentis?
- MEN quidni sentiam?
- MED non potest haec res ellebori iungere optinerier.
sed quid ais, Menaechme?
- MEN quid uis?
- MED dic mihi hoc quod te rogo:
915 album an atrum uinum potas?
- MEN quin tu is in malam crucem?
- MED iam hercle oceptat insanire primulum.
- MEN quin tu [me inter]rogas
purpureum panem an puniceum soleam ego esse an lu-
teum?
soleamne esse auis squamosas, piscis pennatos?
- SEN papae!
919-
20 audin tu ut deliramenta loquitur? quid cessas dare
potionis aliquid prius quam percipit insania?
- MED mane modo, etiam percontabor alia.
- SEN occidis fabulans.
- MED dic mihi hoc: solent tibi umquam oculi duri fieri?
- MEN quid? tu me locustam censes esse, homo ignauissime?
- 925 MED dic mihi: enumquam intestina tibi crepant, quod sentias?
- MEN ubi satur sum, nulla crepitant; quando esurio, tum cre-
pant.
- MED hoc quidem edepol hau pro insano uerbum respondit
mihi.
perdormiscin usque ad lucem? facilin tu dormis cubans?

916 tu me interrogas *P*, tu rogas *Bothe*, me interrogas *Lindsay*

MENAECHMI

- MEN Why don't you hang yourself?
- DOC (*pinching him*) Do you feel anything?
- MEN Why shouldn't I?
- DOC (*to the old man*) Even with a wagonload of hellebore this can't be achieved. (*proceeding with the diagnosis*) But what do you say, Menaechmus?
- MEN What do you want?
- DOC Tell me what I ask you: do you drink white wine or red?³² 915
- MEN Why don't you go to the devil?
- DOC (*to the old man*) Now he's beginning to go crazy for the first time.
- MEN Why don't you ask if I normally eat purple bread or crimson or yellow? If I normally eat birds with scales and fish with feathers?
- OM (*to the doctor*) Amazing! Can you hear how he's talking nonsense? What are you hesitating to give him some potion before he has a fit? 920
- DOC Just wait, I will still ask about other things.
- OM You're killing me with your talking.
- DOC (*to Menaechmus*) Tell me this: are your eyes ever apt to become hard?
- MEN What? Do you think I'm a lobster, you disgraceful creature?
- DOC Tell me, do your intestines ever rumble, as far as you know? 925
- MEN When I'm full, they don't rumble at all; when I'm hungry, they do.
- DOC (*to the old man*) On this issue he didn't answer me like a madman. (*to Menaechmus*) Do you sleep through till dawn? Do you sleep easily when you go to bed?

³² Lit. "black"; dark wine was said to have laxative qualities (Cato agr. 157. 9), white wine to be astringent.

PLAUTUS

- 929- MEN perdormisco, si resolui argentum quoi debeo.
 30
 931- qui te Iuppiter dique omnes, percontator, perduint!
 33
 MED nunc homo insanire oceptat: de illis uerbis caue tibi.
 935 SEN immo Nestor nunc quidem est de uerbis, praeut dudum
 fuit;
 nam dudum uxorem suam esse aiebat rabiosam canem.
 MEN quid ego dixi?
 SEN insanu's, inquam.
 MEN egone?
 SEN tu istic, qui mihi
 etiam me iunctis quadrigis minitatu's prosternere.
 939- egomet haec te uidi facere, egomet haec ted arguo.
 40
 MEN at ego te sacram coronam surrupuisse Iouis <scio>,
 et ob eam rem in carcerem ted esse compactum scio,
 et postquam es emissus, caesum uirgis sub furca scio;
 tum patrem occidisse et matrem uendidisse etiam scio.
 945 SATIN haec pro sano male dicta male dictis respondeo?
 SEN opsecro hercle, medice, propere quicquid facturu's face.
 non uides hominem insanire?
 MED scin quid facias optimum est?
 ad me face uti deferatur.
 SEN itane censes?
 MED quippini?
 SEN ibi meo arbitrato potero curare hominem.
 age ut lubet.

937 quid ego dixi insanus *P*, MEN quid ego dixi SEN insanis *s*, MEN *q*.
 e. dixi SEN insanu's *Gratwick*, MEN quid ego SEN dix<t>i insanus *Leo*
 941 iouis *B*, lo iouis *CD*, Iouis scio *Pylades*, aio Iouis *Pareus*

³³ King of Pylos, a wise statesman in the Iliad.

MENAECHMI

- MEN I sleep through if I've paid everyone I owe money to. 930
 May Jupiter and all the gods ruin you, questioner!
- DOC (*to the old man*) Now he's beginning to have a fit. Be careful on account of those words.
- OM No, now he's a Nestor³³ with regard to his words, compared with how he was a moment ago: a moment ago he said his wife was a rabid bitch. 935
- MEN What did I say?
- OM You're mad, I'm telling you.
- MEN I?
- OM Yes, you there: you even threatened to lay me low with yoked chariot horses. I myself saw you do this, I myself 940
 am accusing you of it.
- MEN But *I* know that you stole the sacred crown of Jupiter,³⁴ and I know that you were thrown into prison because of that, and I know that you were beaten with rods under the fork³⁵ after you were released; then I also know that you murdered your father and sold your mother. Am I replying well enough for a sane man with my insults to your insults? 945
- OM Please, doctor, do quickly whatever you're going to do. Can't you see that he's crazy?
- DOC Do you know what you'd better do? Have him taken to my place.
- OM Do you advise that?
- DOC Naturally. There I'll be able to take care of him as I see fit.
- OM Do as you please.

³⁴ An impious crime, but also an impossible one: the statue on the Capitol stood on a high column (*Trin.* 85-7).

³⁵ A punishment for slaves; the slave's neck is put into the fork, the arms are fastened to the projecting ends.

PLAUTUS

- 950 MED elleborum potabis faxo aliquos uiginti dies.
 MEN at ego te pendentem fodiam stimulis triginta dies.
 MED i, arcesse homines qui illunc ad me deferant.
 SEN quot sunt satis?
 MED proinde ut insanire uideo, quattuor, nihilo minus.
 SEN iam hic erunt. asserua tu istunc, medice.
 MED immo ibo domum,
 955 ut parentur quibus paratis opus est. tu seruos iube
 hunc ad me ferant.
 SEN iam ego illic faxo erit.
 MED abeo.
 SEN uale.
 MEN abiit socerus, abiit medicus: [nunc] solus sum. pro Iup-
 piter!
 quid illuc est quod med hisce homines insanire praedi-
 cant?
 nam equidem, postquam natus sum, numquam aegrotavi
 unum diem
 960 neque ego insanio nec pugnans neque ego litis coepio.
 saluos saluos alios uideo, noui <ego> homines, alloquor.
 an illi perperam insanire me aiunt, ipsi insaniunt?
 quid ego nunc faciam? domum ire cupio: uxor non sinit;
 huc autem nemo intro mittit. nimis prouentum est ne-
 quiter.
 965 hic ero usque; ad noctem saltem, credo, intro mittar do-
 mum.

957 nunc *del. Guyet*

958 me hic *P*, <nunc> me hisce *Mueller*

961 ego *add. Ritschl*

963 cupio *P*, coepio *Schoell*

MENAECHMI

DOC (to *Menaechmus*) I'll make you drink hellebore for some 950
twenty days.

MEN But I shall hang you up and jab you with cattle prods for
thirty days.

DOC (to *the old man*) Go, fetch men to take him to me.

OM How many does it take?

DOC Considering how crazy I can see him acting, four, no less.

OM They'll be here in a moment. You watch over him, doctor.

DOC No, I'll go home so that what needs to be prepared is pre- 955
pared. You tell your slaves to bring him here to me.

OM I'll make sure he'll be there in a moment.

DOC I'm off.

OM Goodbye.

*Exit the DOCTOR to the right, followed shortly by the OLD
MAN.*

MEN Gone is my father-in-law, gone is the doctor. I'm alone.
Oh Jupiter! Why is it that they say I'm mad? I've never 960
been ill for a single day since birth; I'm not mad and I
don't start fights or arguments. As a healthy man I see
others being healthy, I know people and address them.
Or are they wrong to say that I am crazy and are crazy
themselves? What should I do now? I wish to go home;
my wife doesn't let me. And no one allows me in here
(*points to Erotium's house*). This went awfully badly. I'll 965
be here throughout; at nightfall at least I'll be let into the
house, I believe.

PLAUTUS

V. vi: MESSENIUS

- MES spectamen bono seruo id est, qui rem erilem
 procurat, uidet, collocat cogitatque,
 ut apseⁿte ero < tam > rem eri diligenter
 tutetur quam si ipse assit aut rectius.
- 970 tergum quam gulam, crura quam uentrem oportet
 potiora esse quoui cor modeste situm est.
- 972 recordetur id,
- 972^a qui nihili sunt, quid eis preti
- 973 detur ab suis eris, ignauis, improbis uiris:
 uerbera, compedes,
- 975 molae, [magna] lassitudo, fames, frigus durum,
 haec pretia sunt ignauiae.
 id ego male malum metuo: propterea bonum esse cer-
 tum est potius quam malum;
 nam magis multo patior facilius uerba: uerbera ego odi,
 nimioque edo lubentius molitum quam molitum prae-
 hibeo.
- 980 propterea eri imperium exsequor, bene et sedate seruo
 id;
 atque mihi id prodest.
 alii [esse] ita ut in rem esse ducunt, sint: ego ita ero ut me
 esse oportet;
- 983 metum [id] mihi adhibeam, culpam apstineam, ero ut
 omnibus in locis sim praesto:
- 983^a serui qui quom culpa carent metuont, i solent esse eris
 utibiles.
- 983^b nam illi qui nil metuont, postquam malum promeriti,
 tunc ei metuont.
- 984 metuam hau multum. prope est quando †ceruso faciam†
 pretium exsoluet.
- 985 <eo> ego exemplo seruio,

MENAECHMI

Enter MESSENIO from the left.

MES This is the touchstone for a good servant: that one is good who secures, watches, arranges, and has in mind his master's business, so that when his master is away he guards his master's business as diligently as if he were present in person or even better. A slave who has his heart in its proper place has to put his back above his gullet, his shins above his belly. Let him remember what reward those who are worthless are given by their masters, the lazy and shameless ones: beatings, shackles, the mill, exhaustion, hunger, harsh cold, these are the rewards of laziness. I'm terribly afraid of this terrible suffering. That's why I'm resolved to be good rather than bad. I can bear a chiding much more easily: I hate a hiding, and I much prefer to eat what has been milled to doing the milling. For this reason I'm following my master's command and carry it out well and calmly. And that's to my own good. Let others be as they think it's advantageous. I shall be as I ought to be. I should retain a sense of fear and steer clear of guilt, so that I'm there for my master in all places. Those slaves who are afraid when they're free from guilt are usually useful to their masters. Those who are not afraid of anything are afraid after deserving a trashing. I shan't be greatly afraid. The time is close when my master will reward me. I serve him on that principle, as I think it ad-

968 tam *add. Ritschl*

980 id *B⁴CD, om. B¹*

982 alii *B¹CD, alii B^c*

983 id *del. Camerarius*

(sunt) tunc *Pylades*

985 eo *add. Spengel*

975 magna *del. Ritschl*

981 mihi id *B, id mihi CD*

esse *del. Pylades*

983^b *promeritum que P, promeriti*

984 *uersus sanari non potest*

PLAUTUS

- 985^a tergo ut in rem esse arbitror.
 986 postquam in tabernam uasa et seruos collocaui, ut ius-
 serat,
 ita uenio aduersum. nunc fores pultabo, adesse ut me
 sciat,
 nequamque erum ex hoc saltu damni saluom ut educam
 foras.
 sed metuo ne sero ueniam depugnato proelio.
- V. vii: SENEX. MENAECHEMVS. MESSENIQ
- 990 SEN per ego uobis deos atque homines dico ut imperium
 meum
 sapienter habeatis curae, quae imperaui atque impero:
 facite illic homo iam in medicinam ablatu sublimis siet,
 nisi quidem uos uostra crura aut latera nihili penditis.
 caue quisquam quod illic minitetur uostrum flocci
 fecerit.
- 995 quid statis? quid dubitatis? iam sublimem raptum oportuit.
 ego ibo ad medicum: praesto ero illi, quom uenietis.
- MEN occidi!
 quid hoc est negoti? quid illisce homines ad me currunt,
 opsecro?
 quid uoltis uos? quid quaeritis? quid me circumsistitis?
 quo rapitis me? quo fertis me? perii, opsecro uostram
 fidem,
- 1000 Epidamnienses, subuenite, ciues! quin me mittitis?
 MES pro di immortales! opsecro, quid ego oculis aspicio meis?
 erum meum indignissime nescioqui sublimem ferunt.

985^a tergo *B*, terge *CD*, tergi *Merula*

988 neque utrum *P*, nequamque erum *Gratwick*

MENAECHMI

vantageous for my back. After putting up the luggage and slaves in the inn, as he'd told me to, I'm coming to meet him. Now I'll knock on the door so that he knows I'm here and so that I can take my worthless master out of this den of damage safe and sound. But I'm afraid that I'm coming too late, after the battle's been fought.

Enter the OLD MAN with four slaves with straps from the right.

OM I'm ordering you by the gods and men to follow my 990
 command wisely, what I have commanded and what I
 am commanding. Make sure that he's carried off in the
 air to the doctor's at once, unless you don't care about
 your shins and sides. Let no one take any account of his
 threats. Why are you standing around? Why are you hesi- 995
 tating? By now he ought to have been carried off. I'll go
 to the doctor. I'll be there when you come.

Exit the OLD MAN to the right. The four slaves are beginning to carry Menaechmus off.

MEN I'm dead! What business is this? Why are those men run-
 ning toward me, please? What do you want? What are
 you looking for? Why are you surrounding me? Where
 are you dragging me? Where are you carrying me? I'm
 done for! I implore your protection, citizens of Epidam- 1000
 nus, come to my help! Why won't you let me go?

MES (*spotting the scene*) Immortal gods! Please, what must I
 see with my eyes? Some people are carrying off my mas-
 ter in a most shameful way!

997 illic P, illisce Brix

PLAUTUS

MEN ecquis suppetias mi audet ferre?

MES ego, ere, audacissime.

1004 o facinus indignum et malum,

¹⁰⁰⁴_a Epidamnii ciues, erum

1005 meum hic in pacato oppido

¹⁰⁰⁵_a luci deripier in uia,

1006 qui liber ad uos uenerit!

mittite istunc.

MEN opsecro te, quisquis es, operam mihi ut des
neu sinas in me insignite fieri tantam iniuriam.

1010 MES immo et operam dabo et defendam et subuenibo sedulo.
numquam te patiar perire, me perire est aequius.

eripe oculum istic, ab umero qui tenet, ere, te opsecro.
hisce ego iam sementem in ore faciam: pugnos[que] op-
seram.

maxumo hercle hodie malo uostro istunc fertis. mittite.

MEN teneo ego huic oculum.

MES face ut oculi locus in capite appareat.

1015 uos scelesti, uos rapaces, uos praedones!

LOR periimus!

opsecro hercle!

MES mittite ergo.

MEN quid me uobis tactio est?

pecte pugnis.

MES agite abite, fugite hinc in malam crucem.

em tibi etiam! quia postremus cedis, hoc praemi feres.

1020 nimis [aut] bene ora commetaui atque ex mea sententia.

edepol, ere, ne tibi suppetias temperi adueni modo.

1012 *que del. Fraenkel*

1013 *hodie malo hercle P, transp. Bothe*

1015 *perimus P, periimus Camerarius*

MENAECHMI

- MEN Won't anyone bring me help?
- MES Yes, master, I will do so very boldly. (*loudly*) An unworthy and evil crime, citizens of Epidamnus: my master's being dragged off in the street in broad daylight, here in a city that is at peace. He came to you as a free man! (*to the slaves*) Let go of him. 1005
- MEN (*to Messenio*) I beg you, whoever you are, help me and don't let such a strikingly great injustice happen to me.
- MES Yes, I'll help you, defend you, and come to your assistance eagerly. I'll never let you die, I'd rather die myself. 1010
Master, I beg you, tear out the eye of the man who is holding you at the shoulder. Now I'll do some sowing in their faces: I'll plant my fists there. (*to the slaves*) You'll pay dearly for trying to carry him off today. Let go of him.
- MEN I'm holding this one by the eye.
- MES Make sure that the eye's socket shows in his head. (*to the slaves*) You criminals, you robbers, you thugs! 1015
- SLAVES We're dead! Please!
- MES Let go of him then.
- MEN (*also to the slaves*) What did you touch me for? (*to Messenio*) Comb them with your fists.
- MES (*to the slaves*) Go on, run off, flee from here and be hanged! (*as they run off, hitting the last one*) There's one for you! Since you're leaving last, you'll carry off this prize. (*to Menaechmus*) I've surveyed their faces really well and to my liking. Yes, master, I've brought you help just in the nick of time. 1020

1019 aut *del. Bothe* hora P, ora F

PLAUTUS

- MEN at tibi di semper, adulescens, quisquis es, faciant bene.
nam apsq̄ue te esset, hodie numquam ad solem occasum
uiuerem.
- MES ergo edepol, si recte facias, ere, med emittas manu.
- MEN liberem ego te?
- MES uerum, quandoquidem, ere, te seruauī.
- MEN quid est?
- 1025 MEN adulescens, erras.
- MES quid, erro?
- MEN per Iouem adiuro patrem,
med erum tuom non esse.
- MES non taces?
- MEN non mentior;
nec meus seruos umquam tale fecit quale tu mihi.
- MES sic sine igitur, si negas tuom me esse, abire liberum.
- MEN mea quidem hercle causa liber esto atque ito quo uoles.
- 1030 MES nemp' iubes?
- MEN iubeo hercle, si quid imperi est in te mihi.
- MES salue, mi patrone. "quom tu liber es, Messenio,
gaudeo." credo hercle uobis. sed, patrone, te opsecro,
ne minus imperes mihi quam quom tuos seruos fui.
apud ted habitabo et quando ibis, una tecum ibo domum.
- 1035 MEN minime.
- MES nunc ibo in tabernam, uasa atque argentum tibi
referam. recte est opsignatum in uidulo marsuppiū
cum uiatico: id tibi iam huc afferam.
- MEN affer strenue.
- MES saluom tibi ita ut mihi dedisti reddibo. hic me mane.

1027 umquam *CD*, numquam *B*

1028 tuom negas *P*, *transp. Bothe*

MENAECHMI

- MEN May the gods always bless you, young man, whoever you are: if it hadn't been for you, I'd never have lived till sunset today.
- MES Then if you were to do the right thing, master, you'd set me free.
- MEN I should free you?
- MES Yes, since I've saved you, master.
- MEN What's that? Young man, you're mistaken. 1025
- MES What, I'm mistaken?
- MEN I swear by Father Jupiter that I'm not your master.
- MES Won't you be quiet?
- MEN I'm not lying. My slave has never done anything of the sort you did for me.
- MES Then let me go off like this, as a free man, if you say I don't belong to you.
- MEN As far as I'm concerned you can be free and go where you wish.
- MES Are you telling me to do so? 1030
- MEN Yes, I am, if I have any authority over you.
- MES Greetings, my patron. (*shaking his own hand*) "Messenio, I'm happy that you're free." "I'm sure you mean it." But, my patron, I ask you not to command me any less than when I was your slave. I'll live with you and when you go home, I'll go together with you.
- MEN Certainly not. 1035
- MES Now I'll go to the inn and return the luggage and money to you. The wallet with the traveling money is correctly sealed in the traveling bag. I'll bring it here to you now.
- MEN Yes, bring it quickly.
- MES I'll return it to you safe and sound, just as you gave it to me. Wait for me here.

PLAUTUS

- MEN nimia mira mihi quidem hodie exorta sunt miris modis:
 1040 alii me negant eum esse qui sum atque excludunt foras;
 1040^a ***
 1041 etiam hic seruom se meum esse aiebat quem ego emisi
 manu,
 1042 [uel ille qui se petere argentum modo, qui seruom se
 meum
 1042^a esse aiebat, <med erum suom,> quem ego modo emisi
 manu]
 1043 is ait se mihi allaturum cum argento marsuppium:
 id si attulerit, dicam ut a me abeat liber quo uolet,
 1045 ne tum, quando sanus factus sit, a me argentum petat.
 socer et medicus me insanire aiebant. quid sit mira sunt.
 haec nihilo esse mihi uidentur setius quam somnia.
 nunc ibo intro ad hanc meretricem, quamquam suscen-
 set mihi,
 si possum exorare ut pallam reddat quam referam do-
 mum.

V. viii: SOSICLES. MESSENIO

- 1050 SOS men hodie usquam conuenisse te, audax, audes dicere,
 postquam aduorsum mi imperaui ut huc uenires?
 MES quin modo
 erupui, homines qui ferebant te sublimem quattuor,
 apud hasce aedis. tu clamabas deum fidem atque homi-
 num omnium,
 quom ego accurro teque eripio ui, pugnando, ingratiis.
 1055 ob eam rem, quia te seruauui, me amisisti liberum.
 quom argentum dixi me petere et uasa, tu quantum po-
 test
 praecucurristi obuiam, ut quae fecisti infitias eas.

1040^a lacunam indicauit Ritschl

1042-42^a desunt in A

MENAECHMI

Exit MESSENIO to the left.

MEN Very strange things have happened to me today in strange ways. Some people deny that I am the one I am and lock me out; ***. This chap, whom I freed, even said he was my slave. [For example that chap who just said he was getting the money, who claimed that he was my slave and that I was his master, and whom I just freed.] He said he was going to bring me the wallet with the money. If he brings it, I'll tell him to go away from me as a free man wherever he likes, so he doesn't claim back the money from me when he's become sane again. My father-in-law and the doctor said I was mad. I wonder what this is all about. It seems to be nothing short of dreams. Now I'll go inside to that prostitute, however angry she is with me, if I can persuade her to return the mantle to me so I can carry it back home. (*walks toward Erotium's house*)

Enter SOSICLES and MESSENIO from the left.

SOS You dare say, you brazen creature, that I met you anywhere today since the time I told you to come here and meet me?

MES But just now, at this house, I rescued you from four men who had lifted you up and were carrying you off. You were imploring the protection of gods and all men when I ran to you and rescued you with might and main, against their will. For that reason, because I rescued you, you sent me off as a free man. When I said I was getting the money and the luggage, you ran ahead as fast as you could to meet me so that you could deny what you did.

1042^a med erum suom *add.* Lindsay

PLAUTUS

- SOS liberum ego te iussi abire?
 MES certo.
 SOS quin certissimum est
 mepte potius fieri seruom quam te unquam emittam
 manu.
- V. ix: MENAECHMVS. MESSENIO. SOSICLES
- 1060 MEN si uoltis per oculos iurare, nihilo hercle ea causa magis
 facietis ut ego <hinc> hodie apstulerim pallam et spinter,
 pessumae.
 MES pro di immortales! quid ego uideo?
 SOS quid uides?
 MES speculum tuom.
 SOS quid negoti est?
 MES tua est imago. tam consimilest quam potest.
 SOS pol profecto haud est dissimilis, meam quom formam
 noscito.
- 1065 MEN o adulescens, salue, qui me seruauisti, quisquis es.
 MES adulescens, quaeso hercle <e>loquere tuom mi nomen,
 nisi piget.
 MEN non edepol ita promeruisti de me ut pigeat quae uelis
 <opsequi>. mihi est Menaechmo nomen.
 SOS immo edepol mihi.
 MEN Siculus sum, Syracusanus.
 SOS ea domus et patria est mihi.
- 1070 MEN quid ego ex te audio?
 SOS hoc quod res est.
 MES noui equidem hunc: erus est meus.
 ego quidem huius seruos sum, sed med esse huius cre-
 didi.

1061 hinc *add. Ritschl*

1066 <e>loquere *Fleckeisen*

MENAECHMI

SOS I told you to go away as a free man?

MES Certainly.

SOS No, it's absolutely certain that I'd rather become a slave myself than ever free you.

MEN (*shouting outside the door of Erotium's house*) Even if 1060
you want to swear by your eyes, you won't make it any
more true for that reason that I took away the mantle and
bracelet from here today, you witches.

MES Immortal gods! What do I see?

SOS What do you see?

MES Your mirror image.

SOS What's the matter?

MES It's your spitting image. He's as similar as he can be.

SOS He's indeed not dissimilar when I look at myself.

MEN (*to Messenio*) Greetings, young man who saved me, who- 1065
ever you are.

MES Young man, please tell me your name, unless you object.

MEN You certainly didn't treat me in such a way that I could
object to obeying your wishes. My name is Menaechmus.

SOS No, *my* name is.

MEN I'm a Sicilian from Syracuse.

SOS That's *my* home and country.

MEN What do I hear from you? 1070

SOS The facts.

MES (*pointing to Menaechmus*) I know this chap: he's my mas-
ter. I am this man's slave, but I thought I am his (*points to*

1068 opsequi *add. Vahlen*

1069 et patria P, ea patria *Gratwick*

PLAUTUS

ego hunc censebam ted esse, huic etiam exhibui negotium.

quaeso ignoscas si quid stulte dixi atque imprudens tibi.

1075 SOS delirare mihi uidere: non commemoristi simul te hodie mecum exire ex nauis?

MES enim uero aequom postulas.

tu erus es: tu seruom quaere. tu salueto: tu uale.

hunc ego esse aio Menaechmum.

MEN at ego me.

SOS quae haec fabula est?

tu es Menaechmus?

MEN me esse dico, Moscho prognatum patre.

SOS tun meo patre es prognatus?

MEN immo equidem, adulescens, meo;

1080 tuom tibi neque occupare nec praeripere postulo.

MES di immortales, spem insperatam date mihi quam suspico! nam, nisi me animus fallit, hi sunt gemini germani duo. nam et patriam et patrem commemorant pariter quae fuerint sibi.

seuocabo erum. Menaechme.

MEN + SOS quid uis?

MES non ambos uolo,

1085 sed uter uostrorum est aduectus mecum nauis.

MEN non ego.

SOS at ego.

MES te uolo igitur. huc concede.

SOS concessi. quid est?

MES illic homo aut sycophanta aut geminus est frater tuos. nam ego hominem hominis similiorem numquam uidi alterum.

1081 suspicor *B*²

1083 et patrem et matrem *P*, et patriam et patrem *Lipsius*

MENAECHMI

Sosicles). (*to Sosicles*) I thought that you are this one (*points to Menaechmus*), and I was a nuisance to him. (*to Menaechmus*) Please forgive me if I said anything stupid to you without being aware of it.

SOS You seem to be crazy; don't you remember that you left the ship together with me today? 1075

MES Yes, you're right. (*to Sosicles*) You are my master; (*to Menaechmus*) you must look for a slave. (*to Sosicles*) Hello to you; (*to Menaechmus*) goodbye to you. I say that this one (*points to Sosicles*) is Menaechmus.

MEN But I say it's me.

SOS What does this mean? You are Menaechmus?

MEN I say that I am, a scion of my father Moschus.

SOS Are you a scion of *my* father?

MEN No, young man, of mine. I have no intention to appropriate yours or steal him from you. 1080

MES Immortal gods, fulfill this unhopèd-for hope which I suspect I have! Indeed, unless I'm mistaken, they are twin brothers: they mention both the country and the father that they had in the same way. I'll call aside my master. Menaechmus.

MEN + SOS What do you want?

MES I don't want both, but the one of you that came here with me by ship. 1085

MEN I didn't.

SOS But I did.

MES Then I want you. Come over here.

SOS (*obeying*) All right. What is it?

MES That man is either an impostor or your twin brother: I've never seen one man more similar to another. Believe me,

PLAUTUS

- neque aqua aquae nec lacte est lactis, crede mi, usquam
similius
- 1090 quam hic tui est, tuque huius autem; poste eandem pa-
triam ac patrem
memorat. meliust nos adire atque hunc percontarier.
- SOS hercle qui tu me ammonuisti recte et habeo gratiam.
perge operam dare, opsecro hercle; liber esto, si inuenis
hunc meum fratrem esse.
- MES spero.
- SOS et ego item spero fore.
- 1095 MES quid ais tu? Menaechmum, opinor, te uocari dixeras.
- MEN ita uero.
- MES huic item Menaechmo nomen est. in Sicilia
te Syracusis natum esse dixisti: hic natust ibi.
Moschum tibi patrem fuisse dixti: huic itidem fuit.
nunc operam potestis ambo mihi dare et uobis simul.
- 1100 MEN promeruisti ut ne quid ores quod uelis quin impetres.
tam quasi me emeris argento, liber seruibo tibi.
- MES spes mihi est uos inuenturum fratres germanos duos
geminos, una matre natos et patre uno uno die.
- MEN mira memoras. utinam efficere quod pollicitu's possies.
- 1105 MES possum. sed nunc agite uterque id quod rogabo dicite.
- MEN ubi lubet, roga: respondebo. nil reticebo quod sciam.
- MES est tibi nomen Menaechmo?
- MEN fateor.
- MES est itidem tibi?
- SOS est.
- MES patrem fuisse Moschum tibi ais?

1089 lacti *P*, lactis *Ritschl*

1090 postea *P*, post eandem *Bothe*

1094 idem *P*, item *Seyffert*

MENAECHMI

water isn't more similar to water anywhere or milk to milk than he is to you and you in turn to him. Then he mentions the same country and father. It's better if we approach and question him. 1090

SOS Indeed, you've given me good advice and I'm grateful. Continue to make this effort, please. You shall be free if you find out that he's my brother.

MES I hope it'll turn out to be like that.

SOS And I hope so too.

MES (*to Menaechmus*) What do you say? I think you said you're called Menaechmus. 1095

MEN Yes, indeed.

MES This one's name is also Menaechmus. You said you were born in Sicily, in Syracuse: *he* was born there. You said your father was Moschus: he was also this man's father. Now you can both help me and yourselves at the same time.

MEN You've deserved that you shouldn't ask for anything without achieving your wish. Just as if you'd bought me for money, I'll serve you, even though I'm free. 1100

MES I have the hope of finding that you're two twin brothers, born from one mother and one father on one day.

MEN You're telling a strange tale. I hope you can succeed with what you've promised.

MES I can. But now come on, each of you tell me what I ask. 1105

MEN Ask when you like: I'll answer. I won't keep anything I know quiet.

MES Is your name Menaechmus?

MEN I admit it.

MES (*to Sosicles*) Is it also yours?

SOS Yes.

MES (*to Menaechmus*) Do you say that your father was Moschus?

PLAUTUS

- MEN ita uero.
 SOS et mihi.
 MES esne tu Syracusanus?
 MEN certo.
 MES quid tu?
 SOS quippini?
 1110 MES optume usque adhuc conueniunt signa. porro operam
 date.
 quid longissime meministi, dic mihi, in patria tua?
 MEN cum patre ut abii Tarentum ad mercatum, postea
 inter homines me deerrare a patre atque inde auehi.
 SOS Iuppiter supreme, serua me!
 MES quid clamas? quin taces?
 1115 MES quot eras annos natus quom te pater a patria auehit?
 MEN septuennis: nam tunc dentes mihi cadebant primulum.
 nec patrem umquam postilla uidi.
 MES quid? uos tum patri
 filii quot eratis?
 MEN ut nunc maxume memini, duo.
 MES uter eratis, tun an ille, maior?
 MEN aequae ambo pares.
 1120 MES qui id potest?
 MEN gemini ambo eramus.
 SOS di me seruatum uolunt.
 MES si interpellas, ego tacebo.
 SOS <ego> potius taceo.
 MES dic mihi:
 uno nomine ambo eratis?
 MEN minime. nam mihi hoc erat,
 quod nunc est, Menaechmo: illum tum uocabant Sosi-
 clem.

MENAECHMI

MEN Yes, precisely.

SOS Mine too.

MES (*to Menaechmus*) Are you from Syracuse?

MEN Certainly.

MES (*to Sosicles*) What about you?

SOS Naturally.

MES The signs have been in perfect agreement so far. Con- 1110
 tinue to pay attention. (*to Menaechmus*) Tell me, what's
 the earliest thing you remember in your country?

MEN It's that when I went with my father to Tarentum to the
 market, I then wandered off from my father into the
 crowd and was taken away from there.

SOS Jupiter above, save me!

MES (*to Sosicles*) What are you shouting for? Why won't you
 be quiet? (*to Menaechmus*) How many years old were 1115
 you when your father took you away from your country?

MEN Seven: at that time my teeth were falling out for the first
 time. I never saw my father after that.

MES Well then? How many sons did your father have at that
 time?

MEN As I remember it now, two.

MES Which of you was older, you or he?

MEN We were both exactly the same age.

MES How can that be? 1120

MEN We were both twins.

SOS The gods want me saved!

MES (*to Sosicles*) If you interrupt, I'll be quiet.

SOS No, I am quiet rather.

MES (*to Menaechmus*) Tell me, did you have the same name?

MEN Certainly not: I had the name I have now, Menaechmus;
 people called that other one Sosicles at the time.

1121 ego add. anon. apud Schoell

PLAUTUS

- 1125 SOS signa adgnoui, contineri quin complectar non queo.
mi germane, gemine frater, salue. ego sum Sosicles.
- MEN quo modo igitur post Menaechmo nomen est factum tibi?
- 1127 SOS postquam ad nos renuntiatum est te ***
1127^a ***.et patrem esse mortuom,
auos noster mutauit: quod tibi nomen est, fecit mihi.
- 1129 MEN credo ita esse factum ut dicis. sed mi hoc responde.
-30 SOS roga.
- MEN quid erat nomen nostrae matri?
- SOS Teuximarchae.
- MEN conuenit.
- SOS o salue, insperate, multis annis post quem conspikor.
frater, et tu, quem ego multis miseriis, laboribus
usque adhuc quaesiui quemque ego esse inuentum
gaudeo.
- 1135 MES hoc erat quod haec te meretrix huius uocabat nomine:
hunc censebat te esse, credo, quom uocat te ad pran-
dium.
- MEN namque edepol hic mi hodie iussi prandium appararier,
clam meam uxorem, quoi pallam surrupui dudum domo.
eam dedi huic.
- SOS hanc, dicis, frater, pallam quam ego habeo?
MEN <haec ea est.>
- 1140 SOS quo modo haec ad te peruenit?
meretrix <quae> huc ad prandium
me abduxit me sibi dedisse aiebat. prandi perbene,
potauit atque accubui scortum, pallam et aurum hoc
<apstuli>.

1127-27^a unus uersus in codicibus, sed lacunam indicauit Ritschl
1132 multis annis CD, annis multis AB

MENAECHMI

- SOS I've recognized the signs, I can't refrain from embracing you. My true twin brother, my greetings. I am Sosicles. 1125
- MEN Then how did you get the name Menaechmus later on?
- SOS After we received the message that you *** and that our father had died, our grandfather changed it. He gave me the name you have.
- MEN I believe it happened the way you say. But answer me 1130 this.
- SOS Ask.
- MEN What was our mother's name?
- SOS Teuximarcha.
- MEN Correct. My greetings, unhopd-for brother, whom I see after so many years.
- SOS And mine to you, my brother, whom I've been looking for with much hardship and toil until now and whom I'm happy to have found.
- MES (*to Sosicles*) That was why this prostitute addressed you 1135 by this man's name. She thought you are him, I believe, when she invited you to lunch.
- MEN Yes, indeed; I had a lunch prepared for me here today, behind my wife's back; I stole a mantle from her from home a while ago. I gave it to her.
- SOS My brother, do you mean this mantle I have? (*produces it*)
- MEN This is the one. How did it come into your hands? 1140
- SOS The prostitute who took me to lunch here said I'd given it to her. I had a very good lunch, I drank, and lay with the prostitute, and I took away this cloak and gold.

1133 partes sic distribuunt CD, frater *Menaechmo* I dat B

1139 haec ea est add. *Vahlen*, papae add. *Gratwick*

1140 quae add. *Ritschl* 1142 apstuli add. *Onions*

PLAUTUS

- 1144 MEN gaudeo edepol si quid propter me tibi euenit boni.
 -45 nam illa quom te ad se uocabat, me<met> esse credidit.
- MES numquid me morare quin ego liber, ut iusti, siem?
- MEN optimum atque aequissimum orat, frater: fac causa
 mea.
- SOS liber esto.
- MEN quom tu es liber, gaudeo, Messenio.
- 1149 MES sed meliore est opus auspicio, ut liber perpetuo siem.
 -50
- SOS quoniam haec euenere, frater, nobis ex sententia,
 in patriam redeamus ambo.
- MEN frater, faciam, ut tu uoles.
 auctionem hic faciam et uendam quicquid est. nunc in-
 terim
 eamus intro, frater.
- SOS fiat.
- MES scitin quid ego uos rogo?
- 1155 MEN quid?
- MES praeconium mi ut detis.
- SOS dabitur.
- MES ergo nunciam
 uis conclamari auctionem?
- MEN fore quidem die septumi.
- MES auctio fiet Menaechmi mane sane septumi.
 uenibunt serui, supellex, fundi, aedes, omnia.
 uenibunt quiqui licebunt, praesenti pecunia.
 1160 uenibit . . . uxor quoque etiam, si quis emptor uenerit.
 uix credo tota auctione capiet quinquagesies.
 nunc, spectatores, ualete et nobis clare plaudite.

1144-45 me<met> *Ritschl* 1151 frater nostra Ω , frater nobis
Camerarius, nostra frater *Gratwick*
 1154 frater *dederunt Sosicli Schoell et Seyffert*

MENAECHMI

- MEN I'm really happy if something good came your way because of me: when she invited you, she thought that you are me. 1145
- MES (*to Sosicles*) Do you have any objections against me being free, as you said I should be?
- MEN What he asks is absolutely good and fair, my brother. Do it for my sake.
- SOS (*to Messenio*) Be free.
- MEN I'm happy that you're free, Messenio.
- MES But I need a better omen in order to be free for good. 1150
- SOS My brother, since this went according to our wishes, let's both return to our country.
- MEN My brother, I'll do as you wish. I'll hold an auction here and sell whatever there is to sell. Now in the meantime let's go inside, my brother.
- SOS Yes.
- MES Do you two know what I'm asking you for?
- MEN No; what is it? 1155
- MES Let me be the auctioneer.
- SOS Yes.
- MES So do you want the auction to be announced now?
- MEN Yes, it's to be in six days.
- MES (*loudly, to the audience*) The auction of Menaechmus will take place very early in six days. Slaves will be on sale, furniture, country estates, the house, everything. This will be on sale for whatever price it fetches in cash. There will also be on sale . . . a wife, if any buyer comes. I hardly believe he'll get five million sesterces in the entire auction. Now, spectators, farewell and give us your loud applause. 1160



METRICAL APPENDIX

CASINA

arg., 1-143 ia ⁶	178 c ^r + c ^r
144-146 ba ⁴	179 an ⁴
147 cr ² + ith	180-181 c ^r + c ^r
148 extra metrum	182 an ⁸
149-150 cr ² + ith	183-183 ^a cr ^c
151 cr ⁴	184 ba ⁴
152-154 cr ³	185-194 cr ⁴
155 tr ⁷	195-198 tr ⁴ ^
156-157 ba ⁴	199-202 cr ⁴
158 cr ⁴	203 cho ² + cr ^c
159 tr ⁴ ^	204-205 an ⁷
160 cr ¹ + tr ²	206-207 an ⁸
161 c ^r	208-209 an ⁷
162-163 ba ⁴	210-212 an ⁸
164 c ^r + c ^r	213 an ⁴
165-166 an ⁸	214 an ⁴ + an ²
167 an ⁴	215-216 cr ² + cr ^c
168-169 cr ⁴	217 an ⁸
170-171 ia ⁴ + adon	218 an ⁷
172-173 an ⁴ + adon	219 an ⁸
174-175 c ^r + c ^r	220 an ⁷
176-177 ia ⁶	221-227 an ⁸

METRICAL APPENDIX

228 an ⁷	635-636 ia ⁴ + cr ^c
229-231 ^a ia ⁴	637-640 ia ⁴
232-235 cr ⁴	641-643 cr ⁴
236-236 ^a ia ⁴	644 diph
237 cr ² + tr ⁴ ^	645 cho ² + adon
238 tr ⁸	646-647 an ⁴
239 an ⁸	648-649 ba ⁴
240 an ⁷	650 ba ² + ba ^c
241 an ⁸	651-653 ba ⁴
242 an ⁷	654 ba ³
243-246 tr ⁸	654 ^a ba ^c
247 cr ⁴	655 ba ⁴
248 cr ^c + cr ^c	656 ba ² + ba ^c
249-250 an ⁴ ^ + an ⁴ ^	657 ba ⁴
251 ia ⁸	658 ba ² + ba ^c
252-308 tr ⁷	659 ba ³
309-352 ia ⁶	659 ^a ba ²
353-423 tr ⁷	660-661 an ⁴
424-514 ia ⁶	662 ba ² + ba ^c
515-562 tr ⁷	663 ba ^c + ba ^c
563-618 ia ⁶	664 ba ⁴
619 extra metrum	665 ba ² + ba ^c
620 ia ⁶	666 ba ^c + ba ²
621-627 cr ⁴	667-672 ba ⁴
628 cr ² + tr ⁴ ^	673 ba ² + ba ^c
629 cho ²	674 ba ^c + ba ¹
629 ^a -630 wil	675 ba ² + ba ^c
630 ^a cho ²	676 ba ⁴
631-633 tr ⁸	677-680 tr sy ¹⁰
634 wil	681 tr ⁴ ^
634 ^a cho ²	682-683 tr ⁷

METRICAL APPENDIX

684 ba ⁴	746 an ⁴ + an ²
685 ba ² + ba ^c	747-747 ^a wil
686-690 ba ⁴	748 an ⁴ [^]
691 ba ^c + ba ^c	748 ^a cr ² + cr ^c
692-693 ba ⁴	749 v ^r
694-695 ba ² + ba ^c	750-754 c ^r
696 ba ^c + ba ²	755 v ^r
697-701 ba ⁴	756-757 c ^r
702 ba ² + ba ^c	758 v ^r
703 ba ^c + ba ^c	759-797 ia ⁶
704-705 ba ⁴	798-799 tr ⁷
706-707 tr ⁸	800 c ^r + extra metrum
708-718 ia sy ¹¹ metr	801-807 tr ⁷
719 an ⁸	808 c ^r + extra metrum
720-723 ^a an ⁴	809-814 tr ⁷
723 ^b an ²	815-816 ion ⁴ a maiore
724 an ⁴	817 cr ² + cr ^c
725 an ⁴ [^]	818 ith
726 ?	819-822 an ⁸
727-728 an ⁸	823 an ⁴
729-729 ^a cr ¹	824 ith
730 tr ² + ith	825 ia ⁷
731 ion ² [^] a minore	826 v ^r
732-733 ion ¹ a minore	827-828 ba ⁴
734 ia ⁴	829 an ⁴
735 an ⁴ + c ^r	830 ith
736 c ^r	831 ba ² + ia ⁴ [^]
737-739 ba ⁴	832 ba ⁴
740-741 ion ¹ a minore	833 ia ⁴ [^]
742-744 an ⁴ [^]	834 ba ^c + ba ^c
745 an ⁷	835 ba ⁴

METRICAL APPENDIX

836 ia ⁴ ^	896 c ^r + ia ⁴ ^
837 ba ⁴	897-908 ^a ?
838 ia ⁴ ^	909 wil + c ^r
839 ba ³ + ia ²	910 tr ⁷
840 ba ² + ba ^c	911 tr ⁸
841 an ⁴	912-913 ia ⁷
842 ba ⁴	914 tr ⁴ ^
843-845 c ^r	915-916 tr ⁸
846 ia ⁴ ^	917-918 ia ⁷
847-854 ia ⁶	919 ia ⁴ ^
855-858 ba ⁴	920 ba ⁴
859 tr ⁸	921 tr ⁷
860-863 ba ⁴	922 tr ⁸
864 ba ^c	923-928 ?
865-866 cr ² + cr ^c	929 v ^r
867 ba ² + ba ^c	930-933 ^a ia ⁴
868 c ^r	934 tr ⁴ ^ + c ^r
869 ba ¹ + ia ²	935 ia ⁴ ^ + c ^r
870-872 ?	936 tr ⁴ ^ + ith
873 cr ² + cr ^c	937-940 wil
874 c ^r	941 tr ⁴ ^
875-878 an ⁷	942 cr ^c + cr ^c
879-882 an ⁸	943-949 ?
883-885 cr ⁴	950 cr ⁴
886 ?	951 wil + cr ^c
887 wil + c ^r	952-953 ia ⁴
888 cr ² + cr ^c	954-956 wil + cr ^c
888 ^a ith	957 ?
889-891 an ⁸	958 c ^r
892 tr ⁴ ^ + c ^r	959-962 wil + adon
893-895 ia ⁴ + an ²	963-1018 tr ⁷

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CISTELLARIA

arg. ia ⁶	37 ba ² + ia ^{4^A}
1 ia ^{4^A} + ba ²	38-58 ia ⁷
2-3 ba ⁴	59-119 tr ⁷
4 ba ² + ba ^c	120-202 ia ⁶
5-7 ^a tr sy ^{12metr}	203-205 an ⁷
8 ba ² + an ^{4^A}	206-210 an sy ^{8metr}
9 ia ^{4^A}	211-212 an ⁷
10 an ⁴	213-220 an sy ^{13metr}
11-13 ba ⁴	221-222 an ⁷
14 tr ⁴ + sp ²	223-229 an sy ^{12metr}
14 ^a cr ²	230 ?
15 tr ⁴ + tr ²	231-266 tr ⁷
15 ^a cr ²	267-304 ia ⁶
16 cr ^c	305-373 ^a ia ⁷
17-18 tr ⁸	374-408 ia ⁶
19-21 ba ⁴	409-446 ia ⁶ ?
22 tr ⁷	449 ?
23 ba ⁴	450-454 ia ⁸
24 tr ^{4^A}	455 ?
25 an ⁸	456-457 tr ⁷
26 an ⁷	458 ?
27 ia ⁸	459 ith
28 ia ⁷	460 tr ⁷
29-31 ba ⁴	461-462 ?
32 tr ^{4^A}	463 ia ⁸
33 tr ⁷	464 thy
34 ba ⁴	465-535 tr ⁷
35 ba ² + ba ^c	536-630 ia ⁶
36 ba ⁴	631-670 tr ⁷

METRICAL APPENDIX

671-672 an ⁷	702-703 an ⁷
673-676 ba ⁴	704-746 ia ⁷
677 ba ^{3^A}	747-773 ia ⁶
678-679 an ⁸	774-787 tr ⁷
680-687 ba ⁴	fr. xiv-xvi ?
688-689 an ⁴	fr. xvii ia ⁶
690-691 cr ⁴	fr. xviii ?
692-694 ba ² + ba ^c	
695-696 ia ⁷	
697-701 ^a an sy ^{16metr}	

CVRCVLIO

arg., 1-95 ia ⁶	119 ^a ith
96-97 diph	120 c ^r + c ^r
97 ^a an ⁴	121-122 an ⁴ + c ^r
98 ia ² + cr ^c	123-125 ia ⁷
98 ^a ia ⁴	126-131 ^a an ⁸
99-100 cr ⁴	132 an ⁷
101-102 c ^r + ia ²	133 cr ⁴
103-104 ia ⁴ + ith	134 tr ⁴
105-109 cr ⁴	135 cr ⁴
110-110 ^b ia ⁷	136 wil
111 tr ^{4^A}	137 tr ⁴
112 cr ¹ + cr ^c	138 an ⁷
113 ba ⁴	139-141 ^a an sy ^{10metr}
113 ^a cr ²	142-146 an ⁷
114 tr ⁴	147-154 cr ⁴
115 ba ⁴	155-157 wil + cr ^c
116 ba ² + ba ^c	158-215 tr ⁷
117 cr ² + cr ^c	216-279 ia ⁶
118-119 cr ⁴	280-370 tr ⁷

METRICAL APPENDIX

71-461 ia ⁶	533-634 tr ⁷
62-486 tr ⁷	635-678 ia ⁶
67-532 ia ⁷	679-729 tr ⁷

EPIDICVS

g. ia ⁶	52 ^a tr ⁴ ^
2 tr ⁷	53-56 tr ⁷
6 tr ⁴ ^	57 cr ²
8 ia ⁸	57 ^a ia ⁴
cr ²	58 ia ⁸
ia ⁴	59-60 ^a ia ⁴
extra metrum	61 ia ⁸
9 tr ⁷	62-63 ia ⁸
11 ^a tr ⁴ ^	64 tr ⁷
12-17 tr ⁷	65 cr ²
13-22 ia ⁸	65 ^a tr ⁴ ^
13 tr ⁷	66 tr ⁷
14 ia ⁶	67-67 ^a cr ^c
15-26 ia ⁸	68 ia ⁸
17-28 ^a ia ⁴	69-71 ^a tr sy ^{12metr}
19 cr ²	72 tr ⁷
20 ^a ia ⁴	73-74 tr ⁴ ^
20 tr ⁷	75-76 cr ²
21 ^a -31 tr ⁴ ^	77-79 ^a tr sy ^{12metr}
22-36 tr ⁷	80-84 tr ⁷
27-43 ia ⁸	85-85 ^a cr ¹
24-45 tr ⁷	86 tr ⁷
26-47 ia ⁶	87-87 ^a cr ¹
28-49 ia ⁸	88 tr ⁷
29-51 tr ⁷	89-89 ^a cr ¹
2 cr ²	90 tr ⁷

METRICAL APPENDIX

90 ^a -90 ^b cr ¹	196-305 tr ⁷
91 tr ⁷	306-319 ia ⁶
92-92 ^a cr ¹	320-323 cr ⁴
93 tr ⁷	324 ia ⁸
94-94 ^a cr ¹	325 ia ⁶
95 tr ⁷	326 tr ⁷
96-96 ^a cr ¹	327 cr ³
97 tr ⁷	328 ith
98-98 ^a cr ¹	329 tr ⁸
99-163 tr ⁷	330 cr ³
164-165 ia ⁸	330 ^a tr ⁴ ^
166-166 ^a cr ² + cr ^c	331 ia ⁸
167 cr ^r	332 ia ⁷
168 cr ⁴	333 tr ⁷
169 cr ² + cr ^c	334 ia ⁸
170 cr ^r	335 cr ⁴
171-172 an ⁸	336-338 ia ⁷
173 cr ⁴	339 wil
174 tr ⁴ ^ + cr ²	339 ^a ith
175-176 cr ⁴	340 wil
177 cr ^c + tr ⁴ ^	340 ^a ith
178 cr ⁴	341-381 ia ⁷
179-180 ia ⁷	382-525 ia ⁶
181 extra metrum	526 tr ⁸
182 ia ⁴	527-528 ba sy ⁷
183-184 an ⁴ ^ + cr ^r	529-530 ba ² + ba ^c
185-186 ia ⁸	531-532 ia ⁸
187 ia ⁴	533-536 wil
188 ia ⁸	536 ^a ia ⁴
189 ia ⁴	537 cho ³
190-193 tr ⁷	537 ^a cr ^r
194-195 ia ⁸	538-539 cr ⁴

METRICAL APPENDIX

540-540 ^a ?	542-544 tr sy ¹⁰ metr
540 ^b an ⁴	544 ^a -545 tr sy ⁴ metr
541 an ²	545 ^a ith
541 ^a an ⁴	546 ith + ith
541 ^b c ^r	547-733 tr ⁷

MENAECHMI

arg., 1-109 ia ⁶	359 ^a c ^r
110-110 ^a cho ²	360 an ⁴ ^
111 wil	361-364 an ⁴
111 ^a ith	365 ia ⁴
112-113 cr ⁴	366 an ²
114-114 ^a wil	367-368 an ⁴
115-118 cr ⁴	369-465 tr ⁷
119 tr ⁸	466-570 ia ⁶
120-122 ^a ia ⁴	571-579 ba sy ³²
123-127 tr ⁷	580 cr ⁴
128-129 ia ⁸	581 ba ³ ^
130 tr ⁷	582 ba ² + ba ^c
131-132 ia ⁸	583 ba ^c + ba ²
133-134 ia ⁷	584 ia ⁴
135-225 tr ⁷	584 ^a ba ² + ?
226-350 ia ⁶	585-585 ^a ia ⁴
351 an ⁴	586 ia ⁶
352 ia ⁴ + an ²	587 ?
353 an ² + an ⁴	588 an ⁸
354-355 ia ⁴	589 an ⁷
356 ia ⁶	590-592 tr ⁸
357 an ⁷	593 ?
358 an ⁴	594 tr ⁸
359 ia ⁶	595 tr ⁷

METRICAL APPENDIX

596-600 ^b ia ⁴	971 ba ² + ba ^c
601 tr ⁷	972 ba ^c
602-603 an ⁷	972 ^a ia ⁴
604-700 tr ⁷	973 tr ⁷
701-752 ia ⁶	974 ba ^c
753 ba ⁴	975 ba ⁴
754 ba ² + ba ^c	976 ia ⁴
755-759 ba ⁴	977-978 ?
760 ba ^c + ba ²	979 ia ⁸
761 ba ⁴	980 ia ⁷
762 ba ² + an ²	981 c ^r
763-763 ^a ba ² + ba ^c	982 tr ⁸
763 ^b ba ²	983-983 ^b an ⁸
764-770 ba ⁴	984 ?
771 ba ² + ba ^c	985-985 ^a tr ⁴ ^
772-773 ba ⁴	986-987 ia ⁸
774 ia ⁴ ^	988-994 tr ⁷
775-871 tr ⁷	995-1003 ia ⁸
872-898 ia ⁶	1004-1006 ia ⁴
899-965 tr ⁷	1007 tr ⁸
966-968 ba ⁴	1008-1059 tr ⁷
969 ba ² + ba ^c	1060-1062 ia ⁸
970 ba ⁴	1063-1162 tr ⁷

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The index is limited to names of characters in the plays and of characters, persons, towns, countries, regions, peoples, and deities mentioned in the plays. Names for which established English forms or translations exist are listed under the English forms, for instance, *Jupiter* or *Underworld*.

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