(To LYCUS)
May I see the next girl?

LYCUS
That is the entire lot. Surely there is one among these to satisfy you.

PSUEDOLUS
As yet I have not seen exactly what I had in mind.

LYCUS

(Claps hands)
Courtesans! Out of the sun and into the house.

(THEY start into house)

#6a — The Courtesans Exit

I shall return in time to lead you in midday prayers.

(COURTESANS and EUNUCHS have exited. PHILIA’s head appears in upper window of LYCUS’s house)

HERO

(Whispers to PSEUDOLUS)
Pseudolus, there she is!

(Points to window)

PSUEDOLUS

(To LYCUS)
Oh, you fox! “That is the entire lot.” Did I not just spy a golden head and a pair of sky blue eyes? A body clad in flowing white?

(HERO shakes his head violently)

LYCUS
Oh, that one. A recent arrival from Crete. A virgin.

PSUEDOLUS

(Nudging HERO)
A virgin.

HERO

A virgin!
PSEUDOLUS

(To LYCUS)
Well???

LYCUS

Only yesterday she was sold.

HERO

Sold!

(HE draws his dagger melodramatically. PSEUDOLUS wrests it from him)

PSEUDOLUS

Behave yourself!

(Begins casually cleaning his nails with dagger)

She was sold?

LYCUS

To the great captain, Miles Gloriosus, who comes this day to claim her. She cost five hundred minae.

PSEUDOLUS

(Amazed)

Five hundred!

LYCUS

A great sum, to be sure. But being a man of conquest, his heart was set on a virgin.

PSEUDOLUS

You say she just arrived from Crete?

LYCUS

Yes.

PSEUDOLUS

Mmm. I hope the great captain is kind to her. She deserves a bit of affection before...

(Sighs, then to HERO)

Tragic, is it not?

(HERO moans)

LYCUS

What is tragic?
PSEUDOLUS

The news from Crete.

LYCUS

What news?

PSEUDOLUS

Why should I darken your day?

(Heaves a deep sigh)

Farewell, Lycus.

LYCUS

(Grabs him)

What is the news?

What news?

PSEUDOLUS

The news from Crete.

LYCUS

I heard it. Tragic.

Pseudolus!

(Shakes him)

PSEUDOLUS

You force me to tell you! Crete is ravaged by a great plague. People are dying by the thousands.

LYCUS

But this girl is healthy. She goes smiling through the day.

PSEUDOLUS

She doesn’t! I thought you knew. When they start to smile, the end is near.

LYCUS

No!

PSEUDOLUS

Yes. I am told it is lovely now in Crete. Everyone lying there, smiling.

LYCUS

Is it contagious?
PSEUDOLUS

Did you ever see a plague that wasn't?

LYCUS

My other girls!

PSEUDOLUS

You had best get her out of there.

HERO

Yes!

LYCUS

And then?

PSEUDOLUS

I could look after her until the captain comes.

HERO

He could!

LYCUS

But would you not be...?

PSEUDOLUS

I have already had the plague. I would tell you about it but...

(Pantomimes disgust)

LYCUS

I do hope she lives until the captain gets here. Lycus — end.

(Exits into his house)

HERO

(Elated)
Pseudolus, I am to be with her!

PSEUDOLUS

Until the captain arrives.

(Handing back the money bag and dagger)

HERO

(Sadly)

Yes.
BOTH
THAT THE WORLD WILL NEVER SEEM THE SAME—

PSEUDOLUS
YOU'RE SO LOVELY—

BOTH
THAT THE WORLD WILL NEVER SEEM THE SAME!

(PSEUDOLUS gets him down on bench once more, covers his face with the veil, and folds his arms)

PSEUDOLUS
Fold the arms!

HYSTERIUM
(Sitting up)
Any coins he puts in my eyes, I keep!

(PSEUDOLUS pushes HYSTERIUM down)

FIRST SOLDIER
(Offstage)
Ho, there!

(SOLDIERS run on. PSEUDOLUS stops SOLDIERS)

PSEUDOLUS
I have been looking everywhere for you. Here is your captain's bride. Dead!

(SOLDIERS crowd around HYSTERIUM)

Give her air!

(THEY jump back)

You had best break the sad news to your captain.

(SOLDIERS are reluctant. FIRST SOLDIER is pushed forward by others. HE enters SENEX's house fearfully. PSEUDOLUS looks at HYSTERIUM, then to SOLDIERS)

A virgin. A lot of good it did her.

(MILES enters with FIRST SOLDIER)

MILES
Oh, grievous day. Men, support me!

(SOLDIERS hold him)
(MILES)

How? How did she die?

PSEUDOLUS

Well, she just sort of rolled over and...

MILES

Spare me! I cannot control my tears. I must cry.

PSEUDOLUS

Go ahead, you'll feel better. Now that you have seen her, I suggest you depart and torture yourself no longer. I — I shall dispose of the body.

MILES

Ghou! I will not leave without the comfort of a proper funeral service!

PSEUDOLUS

Sir, do you have time for that? I mean, isn't there a war somewhere you should be — ?

MILES

Silence! I insist on conducting a funeral.

PSEUDOLUS

Yes, sir.

MILES

We need mourners.

PSEUDOLUS

We have them.

(To SOLDIERS)

Hold him firmly.

(SOLDIERS hold MILES. PSEUDOLUS exits into SENEX's house)

MILES

The poor girl. To have died so young, without ever having experienced... me.

(PSEUDOLUS re-enters)

PSEUDOLUS

So they will be here presently. While we wait, would you like something to eat?

MILES

No, thank you.

(Wails, then blubbers)
(MILES)

Oh, her bridal bower becomes a burial bier of bitter bereavement.

PSEUDOLUS

Very good. Can you say, "Titus, the tailor, told ten tall tales to Titania, the titmouse"?

MILES

Do not try to cheer me. I am inconsolable.

(COURTESANS enter from SENEX's house, with a bit of black on their near-nakedness)

PSEUDOLUS

Gather around, handmaidens of sorrow.

#20 - Funeral Sequence

MILES

SOUND THE FLUTE,
BLOW THE HORN,
PLUCK THE LUTE,
FORWARD, MOURN!

(SOLDIERS and COURTESANS wail so effectively that even Hysterium is affected)

ALL CRETE WAS AT HER FEET,
ALL THRACE WAS IN HER THRALL,
ALL SPARTA LOVED HER SWEETNESS AND GAUL...

PSEUDOLUS

AND SPAIN...

MILES

AND GREECE...

PSEUDOLUS

AND EGYPT...

MILES

AND SYRIA...

PSEUDOLUS

AND MESOPOTAMIA...

MOURNERS

ALL CRETE WAS AT HER FEET,

PSEUDOLUS

ALL THRACE WAS IN HER THRALL,

MOURNERS

Oh, why should such a blossom bloom

PSEUDOLUS

BURNED? Sir—

MOURNERS

ANTIDOTE. She must be b

PSEUDOLUS

Lament her ash...
HYSTERIUM

Yes...he thinks that...your house...is the...I hope you do not object to my offering him your hospitality.

DOMINA

Object? When I, myself, am the daughter of a Roman general? Hysterium, I must meet him.

HYSTERIUM

You wouldn't like him. He's very vulgar.

DOMINA

All soldiers are, in a grand sort of way.

(MILES appears in doorway)

MILES

...interminable!

(Shouts at HYSTERIUM)

Bring more food and drink, eunuch!

HYSTERIUM

(To DOMINA)

You see?

DOMINA

Captain, I was just coming inside to give you a proper welcome.

(HYSTERIUM winces)

MILES

(Thinking SHE is one of LYCUS's girls)

You are of this house?

DOMINA

For years and years. You know, Captain, my father was General Magnus.

(MILES reacts)

On the last anniversary of his death, I entertained over two hundred officers.

MILES

Two hundred? By yourself?

DOMINA

Of course not. Hysterium here was a big help.

(HE exits in)

(To Hyste.

I do wish I cot. anxious to ret. of disguise. If

(Waving to i

Until later, cap

(MILES now

her, starts po

Ah, Pseudolus,

Yes, madam.

(SHE exits. I

She's back!

Yes!

What has happ

What hasn't ha

Alright, what h

No!
(Hysterium smiles proudly, then reacts painfully)

(DOMINA)
But now my business takes me to the Forum, but I shall return. And for the length of your stay I shall bend over backwards to please you.

MILES

(Horrified)
That will not be necessary!

(He exits into Senex's house)

DOMINA

(To Hysterium)
I do wish I could chat on with him, but I must find out why my husband was so anxious to return to Rome. Hysterium, when next we meet I shall be in some form of disguise. If you recognize me, not a word.

(Waving to Miles, who appears in door of house)

Until later, captain. — end

DOMINA & MILES

(Miles means, exits into house. Domina starts off, as Pseudolus enters, sees her, starts polishing pillar)

Ah, Pseudolus, busy as ever.

PSEUDOLUS

Yes, madam.

(She exits. Pseudolus rushes to Hysterium)

She's back!

HYSTERIUM

Yes!

What has happened?

PSEUDOLUS

HYSTERIUM

What hasn't happened?

PSEUDOLUS

Alright, what hasn't happened? She hasn't found out, has she?

HYSTERIUM

No!
(PSEUDOLUS)

(To himself)
I need help. I'll go to the harbor. There I may find a way out! I am off! The captain!

(HERO and PHILIA turn to him, alarmed)
Watch for him. He may arrive this way...

(PHILIA turns from HERO, looks off)
...or he may arrive this way.

(HERO turns, looks off)
No, no. You watch this way.

(Turns PHILIA around)
And you watch that way.

(Turns HERO around. HERO and PHILIA now face each other)
Much better.

(Starts to exit, stops, addresses audience)
Don't worry. Nothing will happen. He's a virgin, too.

(Runs off)

#7 - Lovely

PHILIA

My name is Philia.

HERO

Yes.

PHILIA

I do not know your name, but you have beautiful legs.

HERO

My name is Hero and...uh...you have beautiful legs, I imagine.

PHILIA

I would show them to you, but they are sold.

HERO

I know.
PHILIA
Along with the rest of me. I cost five hundred minae. Is that a lot of money?

HERO
Oh, yes.

PHILIA
More than three hundred?

HERO
Nearly twice as much.

PHILIA
Those are the two numbers that mix me up, three and five. I hope that captain doesn't expect me to do a lot of adding.

HERO
You can't add?

PHILIA
We are taught beauty and grace, and no more. I cannot add, or spell, or anything. I have but one talent.

I'M LOVELY,
ALL I AM IS LOVELY,
LOVELY IS THE ONE THING I CAN DO.

WINSOME,
WHAT I AM IS WINSOME,
RADIANT AS IN SOME
DREAM COME TRUE.

OH, ISN'T IT A SHAME?
I CAN NEITHER SEW, NOR COOK,
NOR READ, OR WRITE MY NAME.

BUT I'M HAPPY,
MERELY BEING LOVELY,
FOR IT'S ONE THING I CAN GIVE TO YOU.

(Spoken)
Philia...
PHILIA

Yes?

HERO

Say my name!

PHILIA

Just say your name?

HERO

Yes.

PHILIA

Very well.

(A blank look comes over her face)

I have forgotten it.

HERO

(Disappointed)

It’s Hero.

PHILIA

Forgive me, Hero. I have no memory for names.

HERO

You don’t need one. You don’t need anything.

YOU’RE LOVELY,
ABSOLUTELY LOVELY,
WHO’D BELIEVE THE LOVELINESS OF YOU?

WINsome,
SWEET AND WARM AND WINsome,
RADIANT AS IN SOME
DREAM COME TRUE.

PHILIA

TRUE.

HERO

NOW VENUS WOULD SEEM TAME.
HELEN AND HER THOUSAND SHIPS
WOULD HAVE TO DIE OF SHAME.

(THE

Do you!

That’s th

Philia...I

And I lov

(THEY

Pseudolus;

(Sees HE

Oh, no! N

(Frighten

Hysterium -

Never mind

She is from t

A courtesan!

I am a virgin.
BOTH
AND I'M HAPPY,
HAPPY THAT YOU'RE (I'M) LOVELY,
FOR THERE'S ONE THING LOVELINESS CAN DO:
IT'S A GIFT FOR ME TO SHARE WITH YOU.

(THEY kiss)

HERO
Do you know? I've never been kissed before.

PHILIA
That's the very first thing they teach us.

HERO
Philia...I love you.

And I love you. ⭐️

(THEY embrace, as HYSTERIUM enters from SENEX'S house, muttering)

HYSTERIUM
Pseudolus! Where is that—?

(Sees HERO and PHILIA)
Oh, no! No, no, no, no!

HERO
(Frightened)
Hysterium—this is Philia.

HYSTERIUM
Never mind who she is, who is she? Where is she from?

HERO
She is from the house of Lycus.

HYSTERIUM
A courtesan!

PHILIA
I am a virgin.