

**Audition 2 – Pseudolus, Lycus, Hero**

**PSEUDOLUS:** May I see the next girl?

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

**PSEUDOLUS:** As yet I have not seen exactly what I had in mind.

**LYCUS:** (*Claps hands*): Courtesans! Out of the sun and into the house. I shall return in time to lead you in midday prayers.

*(Philia's head appears in upper window of Lycus's house)*

**HERO:**(*Whispers to Pseudolus*): Pseudolus, there she is!

**PSEUDOLUS** (*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?

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

**PSEUDOLUS** (*Nudging Hero*): A virgin.

**HERO:** A virgin!

**PSEUDOLUS** (*To Lycus*): Well??

**LYCUS:** Only yesterday she was sold.

**HERO:** Sold! (*Draws his dagger melodramatically. Pseudolus wrests it from him*)

**PSEUDOLUS:** Behave yourself? 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?

**LYCUS:** What is tragic?

**PSEUDOLUS:** The news from Crete.

**LYCUS:** What news?

**PSEUDOLUS:** Why should I darken your day? Farewell, Lycus.

**LYCUS** What is the news?

**PSEUDOLUS:** What news?

**LYCUS:** The news from Crete.

**PSEUDOLUS:** I heard it. Tragic.

**LYCUS:** Pseudolus!

**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. *(Exits into his house)*

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

**PSEUDOLUS:** Until the captain arrives.

**HERO:** *(Sadly)*: Yes.

**PSEUDOLUS:** Wait! *(Thinks a moment)*

**HERO:** Yes?

**PSEUDOLUS:** A brilliant idea!

**HERO:** Yes?

**PSEUDOLUS:** That's what we have to find. A brilliant idea.