

“Forum” Audition Scene #2: Domina and Hysterium

*(Domina is leaving Hysterium, her most trusted slave, in charge of the household while she and her husband Senex visit Domina’s mother. As she gets ready to depart, Domina gives Hysterium his final instructions.)*

Domina: Hysterium!

Hysterium: *(entering)* Ah, Madam! You called?

Domina: Yes, Hysterium.

Hysterium: And I answered. Ever your humble. *(kisses the hem of her cape)*

D: Have you prepared my potions?

Hy*(holds up a small bag)*: Yes, madam. In addition to your usual potions, I have included one for tantrums and one for queasiness.

D: Thank you, Hysterium.

Hy *(kisses her hem)*: I live to grovel.

D: Hysterium.

Hy: Yes, Madam.

D: Where is Pseudolus?

Hy: Where is he indeed? I have not seen him since he dressed Hero this morning.

D: Tell him while we are gone, he is to watch over Hero. He is to keep him cheerful, well-fed, and far from the opposite sex. Now, Hysterium, go fetch the gift we bring my mother.

Hy: Yes, Madam. *(He fetches and returns with a giant bust of Domina).*

D: Do you think it will please my mother?

Hy: Oh, yes, Madam. The craftsmanship is superb.

D: And the resemblance.

Hy: Frightening.