

“Forum” Audition Scene #4: Pseudolus and Hero

*(As the slave Pseudolus starts the scene, he has been caught gambling to buy his freedom. Pseudolus and his young master Hero make a bargain. If Pseudolus can get Hero the woman he loves, Hero will set him free.)*

Pseudolus *(sheepishly)*: I should be whipped...gently. But I only did for the money. I thought if I could raise enough you'd let me buy my freedom from you.

Hero: Oh, Pseudolus, not again!

Pseudolus: It's all I think about. I hate being a slave.

Hero: Better a slave than a slave to love.

Ps: That's easy for you to ...Love? You? Tell me, master, who is she? Anyone I know?

He: Sometimes you can see her through that window. *(Points to Lycus's house)*

Ps: Through that win— *(horrified)* A courtesan in the House of Lycus? Your parents would be outraged if they could hear you.

He: I don't care.

Ps: Do you know how many minae a girl like that would cost?

He: And worth every drachma! Oh, Pseudolus, I would give anything for her.

Ps: You would? You really love this girl. *(Hero sighs.)* I like the way you said that. No you cannot afford to buy this girl, but in spite of that, suppose someone, someone with tremendous cunning and guile, could arrange her to be yours.

He: Yes?

Ps: If that someone could arrange it, what would you give me?

He: Everything!

Ps: Everything? What do you own? Twenty minae, a collection of seashells, and me.

He: Right.

Ps: You don't have to give me the twenty minae, or the sea shells. If I get you that girl, just give me me.

He: Give you you?

Ps: My freedom!

He: Pseudolus! People do not go about freeing slaves.

Ps: Be the first! Start a fashion!

He (*A pause, then*): Get me that girl!

Ps: And if I can?

He: You are free!

Ps: I am what?

He: Free!

Ps: Free!