

“Forum” Audition Scene #7: Hysterium and Pseudolus

*(Hysterium discovers that Pseudolus has arranged a meeting between Hero and Philia. He is not happy about it, to say the least. Pseudolus polishes the pillar innocently.)*

Hysterium: Pseudolus! How dare you! Arranging an assignation between an innocent boy and a you-know-what!

Pseudolus *(Stopping him)*: Hysterium, there is something you should know about that you-know-what.

Hysterium: What?

Pseudolus: That girl, about whom you think the worst, is my daughter.

Hy: Your what?

Ps: My daughter. *(Polishes the pillar)* You’ve heard me speak of her.

Hy: Never!

Ps: Well, I don’t like to talk about her. *(Polishes the pillar)*

Hy: That girl is not your daughter.

Ps: My sister?

Hy: I shall go tell his parents.

Ps: Wait! Hysterium, the truth. She has been sold to captain who comes any moment to claim her.

Hy: Oh. I go tell his parents!

Ps: I go with you!

Hy: You don’t want to be there when I tell them about you!

Ps: No, I want *you* to be there when I tell them about *you*!

Hy: Tell them what about me? I have nothing to fear. I am a pillar of virtue. I go.

*(Starts to leave, Pseudolus stops him)*

Ps: I think it might be of interest to the family that their slave-in-chief, their pillar of virtue, has secreted within the confines of his cubicle Rome's most extensive and diversified collection of erotic pottery.

*(Hysterium freezes in horror, then shouts)*

Hy: PSEUDOLUS!