

RSC ASSOCIATE SCHOOLS  
PROGRAMME

**PLAYMAKING**  
FESTIVAL

THE  
COMEDY  
OF  
ERRORS  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

EDITED BY ALEX THORPE

IN COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL THEATRES

ALHAMBRA  
THEATRE

NEW VIC THEATRE

THE GRAND  
THEATRE | BLACKPOOL

N  
NORTHERN  
STAGE



N Norwich  
Theatre

INTER+MISSION  
YOUTH THEATRE

THE  
MARLOWE

THEATRE ROYAL  
ROYAL CONCERT  
HALL

HALL  
for CORNWALL

SILHOUETTE YOUTH THEATRE

Y  
YORK  
THEATRE  
ROYAL

The Associate Schools programme is our partnership programme with regional theatres and schools across England. It is built around the principle of schools working in local partnerships to develop communities of practice inspired by Shakespeare's work. Each local partnership consists of a theatre partner (either the RSC or the school's local theatre) and a Lead Associate School who in turn recruits a number of Associate Schools. The programme aims to enrich the teaching, learning and enjoyment of Shakespeare's work across the country.

The Associate Schools programme also supports young people to perform Shakespeare's plays, engaging with his work as actors and theatre makers; exploring character and staging, making interpretive choices and speaking the language with understanding and confidence. This Playmaking pack - an abridged version of William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* - has been created for young people and teachers. It is designed to support performances that will take place across the country through the Associate Schools programme and with our Stratford Schools partnership.

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The RSC is supported using public funding by Arts Council England Registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

The Associate Schools programme is supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, The Goldsmiths' Company Charity, Teale Charitable Trust, George Fentham Birmingham Charity and The Grimmitt Trust.

This Playmaking Pack is an abridged version of *Comedy of Errors*. Originally adapted for the *First Encounters: Comedy of Errors* production in 2019.

Some characters and their names have been edited in terms of gender and pronouns used. We support you to edit these yourself to fit the company you are working with.

As well as the usual scene divisions, this script has been broken down further into units of action for ease in rehearsals.

Dramatis Personae

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**, a twin to ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**, a twin to DROMIO OF EPHESUS

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**, a twin of ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**, a twin of DROMIO OF SYRACUSE

**ADRIANA**, the wife to ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

**LUCIANA**, sister to ADRIANA

**DUKE SOLINUS**, the Duke of Ephesus

**ANGELO**, a goldsmith in Syracuse and a friend to ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

**EGEON**, father to the two ANTIPHOLUSES

**A MERCHANT**, of Ephesus

**EMILIA**, an abbess and the long-lost wife of EGEON

**AN OFFICER**

**LUCE**, a maid at the house of ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS

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# 1

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## ACT 1 SCENE 1

*Enter DUKE OF EPHESUS and DUKE SOLINUS OF EPHESUS with EGEON the MERCHANT OF SYRACUSE and other ATTENDANTS.*

### **EGEON**

Proceed, Solinus, to procure my fall,  
And by the doom of death end woes and all.

### **DUKE**

Merchant of Syracuse, plead no more.  
I am not partial to infringe our laws.  
Since the mortal and intestine jars  
'Twixt thy seditious countrymen and us  
It hath in solemn synods been decreed  
Both by the Syracusians and ourselves  
To admit no traffic to our adverse towns.  
Nay, more: if any born at Ephesus  
Be seen at any Syracusian marts and fairs,  
Again, if any Syracusian born  
Come to the bay of Ephesus, he dies,  
Unless a thousand marks be levied.  
Say in brief the cause,  
Why thou departed'st from thy native home,  
And for what cause thou cam'st to Ephesus.

### **EGEON**

In Syracuse was I born, and wed  
Unto a woman happy but for me.  
With her I lived in joy, our wealth increased  
By prosperous voyages I often made  
To Epidamium,  
From whom my absence was not six months old  
Made provision for her following me,  
And soon and safe arrivèd where I was.  
There had she not been long but she became  
A joyful mother of two goodly sons,  
And, which was strange, the one so like the other  
As could not be distinguished but by names.  
That very hour, and in the self-same inn,  
A mean woman was deliveréd.  
Those, I bought, and brought up to attend my sons.  
My wife, not meanly proud of two such boys,  
Made daily motions for our home return.  
Unwilling I agreed.  
Alas, too soon we came aboard.

A league from Epidamium had we sailed  
Before the always wind-obeying deep  
Gave any tragic instance of our harm.  
But longer did we not retain much hope,  
For what obscured light the heavens did grant  
Did but convey unto our fearful minds  
A doubtful warrant of immediate death.  
My wife, more careful for the latter-born,  
Had fastened him unto a small spare mast  
Such as seafaring men provide for storms.  
To him one of the other twins was bound,  
Whilst I had been like heedful of the other.  
The children thus disposed, my wife and I,  
Fixing our eyes on whom our care was fixed,  
Fastened ourselves at either end the mast,  
And floating straight, obedient to the stream,  
Was carried towards Corinth, as we thought.  
At length the sun, gazing upon the earth,  
Dispersed those vapours that offended us,  
And by the benefit of his wished light  
We were encountered by a mighty rock,  
Which being violently borne up upon,  
Our helpful ship was splitted in the midst,  
With lesser weight, but not with lesser woe,  
Was carried with more speed before the wind,  
And in our sight they three were taken up  
By fishermen of Corinth, as we thought.  
At length another ship had seized on us.  
My youngest boy, and yet my eldest care,  
At eighteen years became inquisitive  
After his brother, and importuned me  
That his attendant, so his case was like,  
Reft of his brother, but retained his name,  
Might bear him company in the quest of him:  
Whom whilst I laboured of a love to see,  
I hazard the loss of whom I loved.

#### **DUKE**

Hapless Egeon, whom the fates have marked  
To bear the extremity of dire mishap.  
I will favour thee in what I can.  
Try all the friends thou hast in Ephesus,  
Beg thou or borrow to make up the sum,  
And live. If no, then thou art doomed to die.

*Exeunt.*

# 2

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## ACT 1 SCENE 2

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE,  
and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.*

### **ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

According to the statute of the town, *(To Dromio)*

If any Syracusian born come to

The bay of Ephesus, he dies.

*Gives money.*

Go, bear it to the Centaur, where we host,

And stay there, Dromio, till I come to thee.

Peruse the traders, gaze upon the buildings,

And then return and sleep within mine inn.

Farewell till then. I will go lose myself

And wander up and down to view the city.

### **DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Many a man would take you at your word

And go indeed, having so good a mean.

*Exit.*

### **ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

A trusty villain, sir, that very oft,

When I am dull with care and melancholy,

Lightens my humour with his merry jests.

I to the world am like a drop of water

That in the ocean seeks another drop,

Who, falling there to find his fellow forth,

Unseen, inquisitive, confounds himself.

So I, to find a mother and a brother,

In quest of them unhappy, lose myself.

What now? How chance thou art returned so soon?

*Enter DROMIO OF EPHEBUS.*

### **DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Returned so soon? Rather approached too late.

The capon burns, the pig falls from the spit,

The clock hath stricken twelve upon the bell,

My mistress made it one upon my cheek.

She is so hot because the meat is cold,

The meat is cold because you come not home.

### **ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Stop in your wind sir. Tell me this, I pray:

Where have you left the money that I gave you?

### **DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

O, sixpence that I had a- Wednesday last

To pay the saddler for my mistress' crupper?

The saddler had it, sir. I kept it not.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I am not in a sportive humour now.  
Tell me, and dally not: where is the money?  
We being strangers here, how dar'st thou trust  
So great a charge from thine own custody?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

I pray you, jest, sir, as you sit at dinner.  
I from my mistress come to you in post,  
If I return I shall be post indeed,  
For she will score your fault upon my pate.  
Methinks your maw, like mine, should be your clock  
And strike you home without a messenger.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Come, Dromio, come, these jests are out of season,  
Reserve them till a merrier hour than this.  
Where is the gold I gave in charge to thee?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

To me, sir? Why, you gave no gold to me.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Come on, sir knave, have done your foolishness,  
And tell me how thou hast disposed thy charge.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

My charge was but to fetch you from the mart  
Home to your house, the Phoenix, sir, to dinner.  
My mistress and her sister stays for you.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Answer me  
In what safe place you have bestowed my money,  
Or I shall break that merry sponce of yours.  
Where is the thousand marks thou hadst of me?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

I have some marks of yours upon my pate,  
Some of my mistress' marks upon my shoulders,  
But not a thousand marks between you both.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Thy mistress' marks? What mistress, slave, hast thou?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

She that doth fast till you come home to dinner.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What, wilt thou flout me thus unto my face  
Being forbid? There, take you that, sir knave.

*Beats DROMIO.*

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

What mean you, sir? For God's sake hold your hands.

*Exit DROMIO.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

They say this town is full of cozenage,  
As nimble jugglers that deceive the eye,  
Dark-working sorcerers that change the mind,  
Soul-killing witches that deform the body,  
Disguisèd cheaters, prating mountebanks,  
And many suchlike liberties of sin.  
If it prove so, I will be gone the sooner.  
I'll to the Centaur to go seek this slave,  
I greatly fear my money is not safe.

*Exit.*

## ACT 2 SCENE 1

*Enter ADRIANA, wife to ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS, with LUCIANA, her sister.*

**ADRIANA**

Neither my husband nor the slave returned,  
That in such haste I sent to seek his master?  
Sure, Luciana, it is two o'clock.

**LUCIANA**

Good sister, let us dine and never fret.  
A man is master of his liberty;  
Time is their master, and when they see time  
They'll go or come, if so, be patient, sister.

**ADRIANA**

Why should their liberty than ours be more?

**LUCIANA**

Because their business still lies out o'door.

**ADRIANA**

Look, when I serve him so, he takes it ill.

**LUCIANA**

O, know he is the bridle of your will.

**ADRIANA**

There's none but asses will be bridled so.

**LUCIANA**

Why, headstrong liberty is lashed with woe.

**ADRIANA**

This servitude makes you to keep unwed.

**LUCIANA**

Not this, but troubles of the marriage bed.

**ADRIANA**

But were you wedded, you would bear some sway.

**LUCIANA**

Here comes your man: now is your husband nigh.

**ADRIANA**

Say, is your tardy master now at hand?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Nay, he's at two hands with me, and that my two ears can witness.

**ADRIANA**

Say, didst thou speak with him? Know'st thou his mind?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Ay, ay, he told his mind upon mine ear. Beshrew his hand, I scarce could understand it.

**LUCIANA**

Spake he so doubtfully thou couldst not feel his meaning?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Nay, he struck so plainly, I could too well feel his blows, and withal so doubtfully that I could scarce understand them.

**ADRIANA**

But say, I prithee, is he coming home?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

When I desired him to come home to dinner  
He asked me for a thousand marks in gold.  
'Tis dinner-time', quoth I, 'My gold', quoth he.  
'Your meat doth burn', quoth I, 'My gold!' quoth he.  
'Will you come home?' quoth I, 'My gold!' quoth he.  
'Where is the thousand marks I gave thee, villain?'  
'The pig', quoth I, 'is burned'. 'My gold' quoth he.  
'My mistress, sir - ' quoth I. 'Hang up thy mistress!  
I know not thy mistress, out on thy mistress!'

**LUCIANA**

Quoth who?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Quoth my master.  
'I know', quoth he, 'no house, no wife, no mistress.'

**ADRIANA**

Go back again, thou slave, and fetch him home.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Go back again and be new beaten home?  
For God's sake send some other messenger.

**ADRIANA**

Back, slave, or I will break thy pate across.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Am I so round with you as you with me  
That like a football you do spurn me thus?  
You spurn me hence, and he will spurn me hither.  
If I last in this service you must case me in leather.

*Exit.*

**LUCIANA**

Fie, how impatience loureth in your face. *(To Adriana)*

**ADRIANA**

I know his eye doth homage elsewhere,  
Or else what lets it but he would be here?  
Sister, you know he promised me a chain,  
Would that alone, a love he would detain  
So he would keep fair quarter with his bed.  
I see the jewel best enamellèd  
Will lose his beauty, yet the gold bides still  
That others touch, and often touching will  
Wear gold, and no man that hath a name  
By falsehood and corruption doth it shame.

**LUCIANA**

How many fond fools serve mad jealousy?

*Exeunt.*

# 4

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## ACT 2 SCENE 2

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

The gold I gave to Dromio is laid up  
Safe at the Centaur.  
How now, sir, is your merry humour altered?  
As you love strokes, so jest with me again.  
You know no Centaur? You received no gold?  
Your mistress sent to have me home to dinner?  
My house was at the Phoenix? Wast thou mad  
That thus so madly thou didst answer me?

*Enter DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

What answer, sir? When spake I such a word?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Even now, even here, not half an hour since.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I did not see you since you sent me hence  
Home to the Centaur with the gold you gave me.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Villain, thou didst deny the gold's receipt,  
And told'st me of a mistress and a dinner,  
For which I hope thou felt'st I was displeased.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I am glad to see you in this merry vein.  
What means this jest?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Think'st thou I jest? Hold, take thou that, and that.

*Beats DROMIO.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Hold, sir, for God's sake; now your jest is earnest.  
Upon what bargain do you give it me?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Because that I familiarly sometimes  
Do use you for my fool and chat with you,  
Your sauciness will jest upon my love,  
And make a common of my serious hours.  
If you will jest with me, know my aspect,  
And fashion your demeanour to my looks,  
Or I will beat this method in your sconce.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

'Sconce', call you it? So you would leave battering I had rather have it a head. And you use these blows long I must get a sconce for my head, and ensconce it too, or else I shall seek my wit in my shoulders. But I pray, sir, why am I beaten?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Dost thou not know?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Nothing, sir, but that I am beaten.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Shall I tell you why?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Ay, sir, and wherefore; for they say every why hath a wherefore.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Why, first for flouting me, and then, wherefore: for urging it the second time to me.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Was there ever any man thus beaten out of season, when in the why and the wherefore is neither rhyme nor reason? Well, sir, I thank you.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Thank me, sir, for what?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Marry, sir, for this something that you gave me for nothing.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I'll make you amends next, to give you nothing for something. But say, sir, is it dinner-time?

# 5

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*Enter ADRIANA beckoning and LUCIANA.*

**ADRIANA**

Ay, ay, Antipholus, look strange and frown;  
I am not Adriana nor thy wife.  
The time was once when thou unurged wouldst vow  
That never words were music to thine ear,  
That never object pleasing in thine eye,  
That never touch well welcome to thy hand,  
That never meat sweet-savored in thy taste,  
Unless I spake, or looked, or touched, or carved to thee.  
How comes it now, my husband, O, how comes it,  
That thou art thus estrangèd from thyself?  
Thyself I call it, being strange to me  
That undividable, incorporate,  
Am better than thy dear self's better part.  
Ah, do not tear away thyself from me.  
For if we two be one, and thou play false,  
I do digest the poison of thy flesh,  
Keep then fair league and truce with thy true bed,  
I live distained, thou undishonourèd.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Plead you to me, fair dame? I know you not:  
In Ephesus I am but two hours old,  
As strange unto your town as to your talk.

**LUCIANA**

Fie, brother, how the world is changed with you.  
When were you wont to use my sister thus?  
She sent for you by Dromio home to dinner.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

By Dromio?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

By me?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Did you converse, sir, with this gentlewoman?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I, sir? I never saw her till this time.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

How can she thus then call us by our names?  
Unless it be by inspiration.

**ADRIANA**

How ill agrees it with your gravity  
To counterfeit thus grossly with your slave,  
Abetting him to thwart me in my mood.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

*(Aside)* To me she speaks, she moves me for her theme.  
What, was I married to her in my dream?  
Or sleep I now, and think I hear all this?  
What error drives our eyes and ears amiss?  
Until I know this sure uncertainty,  
I'll entertain the offered fallacy.

**LUCIANA**

Dromio, go bid the servants spread for dinner.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

*(Aside)* O for my beads! I cross me for a sinner.  
This is the fairy land. O spite of spites,  
We talk with goblins, owls and sprites,  
If we obey them not, this will ensue:  
They'll suck our breath or pinch us black and blue.

**LUCIANA**

Why prat'st thou to thyself and answer'st not?  
Dromio, thou Dromio, thou snail, thou slug, thou sot.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I am transformèd, master, am I not?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I think thou art in mind, and so am I.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Nay, master, both in mind and in my shape.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Thou hast thine own form.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

No, I am an ape.

**LUCIANA**

If thou art changed to aught, 'tis to an ass.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

'Tis true, she rides me, and I long for grass.

**ADRIANA**

Come, sir, to dinner. Dromio, keep the gate.  
Husband, I'll dine above with you today.  
Sirrah, if any ask you for your master,  
Say he dines forth, and let no creature enter.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

*(Aside)* Am I in earth, in heaven, or in hell?  
Sleeping or waking, mad or well-advised?  
Known unto these, and to myself disguised?  
I'll say as they say, and persevere so,  
And in this mist at all adventures go.

**LUCIANA**

Come, come, Antipholus, we dine too late.

*Exeunt.*

# 6

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## ACT 3 SCENE 1

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS, his man  
DROMIO OF EPHEBUS and ANGELO the goldsmith.  
DROMIO OF SYRACUSE speaks from within.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Good Signior Angelo, you must excuse us all,  
My wife is shrewish when I keep not hours.  
Say that I lingered with you at your shop  
To see the making of her Golden Chain,  
And that tomorrow you will bring it home.  
But here's a villain that would face me down  
He met me on the mart, and that I beat him  
And charged him with a thousand marks in gold,  
And that I did deny my wife and house.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Say what you will, sir, but I know what I know:  
That you beat me at the mart I have your hand to show.  
If the skin were parchment and the blows you gave were ink,  
Your own handwriting would tell you what I think.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I think thou art an ass.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Marry, so it doth appear  
By the wrongs I suffer and the blows I bear.  
I should kick, being kicked, and being at that pass,  
You would keep from my heels and beware of an ass.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

But soft, my door is locked.— Go bid them let us in.

*Tries the door of his house.  
To DROMIO OF EPHESUS.*

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

*(Calling)* Maud, Bridget, Marian, Cicely, Gillian, Ginn!

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Mome, malt-horse, capon, coxcomb, idiot, patch!  
Go, get thee from the door.

*Speaks from the other side of the door.*

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

What patch is made our porter? My master stays in the street.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Let him walk from whence he came, lest he catch cold on's feet.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Who talks within there? Ho, open the door.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Right, sir, I'll tell you when and you'll tell me wherefore.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Wherefore? For my dinner. I have not dined today.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Nor today here you must not, come again when you may.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

What art thou that keep'st me out from the house I owe?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

The porter for this time, sir, and my name is Dromio.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

O, villain, thou hast stolen both mine office and my name:  
The one ne'er got me credit, the other mickle blame.  
If thou hadst been Dromio today in my place,  
Thou wouldst have changed thy face for a name,  
Or thy name for an ass.

*Enter LUCE above, concealed from the others.*

**LUCE**

What a coil is there, Dromio! Who are those at the gate?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Let my master in, Luce.

**LUCE**

Faith, no, he comes too late,  
And so tell your master.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

*(To Luce)* Thou baggage, let me in.

**LUCE**

Can you tell for whose sake?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Master, knock the door hard.

**LUCE**

Let him knock till it ache.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

You'll cry for this, minion, if I beat the door down.

**LUCE**

What needs all that, and a pair of stocks in the town?

*Enter ADRIANA above, concealed, like LUCE.*

**ADRIANA**

Who is that at the door that keeps all this noise?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

By my troth, your town is troubled with unruly boys.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Are you there, wife? You might have come before.

**ADRIANA**

Your wife, sir knave? Go get you from the door.

*Exit ADRIANA with LUCE.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

There is something in the wind that we cannot get in.

Go fetch me something, I'll break open the gate.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Break any breaking here, and I'll break your knave's pate.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

A man may break a word with you, sir, and words are but wind:

Ay, and break it in your face, so he break it not behind.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

It seems thou wantest breaking. Out upon thee, hind!

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Here's too much 'out upon thee!' I pray thee let me in.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Ay, when fowls have no feathers and fish have no fin.

*Exit.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Go get thee gone, fetch me an iron crow.

I know a wench of excellent discourse,

Pretty and witty, wild, and yet too gentle.

There will we dine. *(To Angelo)* Get you home

And fetch the chain,

Bring it, I pray you, to the Porpentine,

Since mine own doors refuse to entertain me,

I'll knock elsewhere, to see if they'll disdain me.

# 7

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## ACT 3 SCENE 2

*Enter LUCIANA with ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE.*

### **LUCIANA**

And may it be that you have quite forgot  
A husband's office?  
Shall love in building grow so ruinous?  
If you did wed my sister for her wealth,  
Then for her wealth's sake use her with more kindness.  
Or if you like elsewhere, do it by stealth,  
Muffle your false love with some show of blindness.  
Then, gentle brother, get you in again,  
Comfort my sister, cheer her, call her wife.  
'Tis holy sport to be a little vain  
When the sweet breath of flattery conquers strife.

### **ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Sweet mistress, what your name is else I know not,  
Nor by what wonder you do hit of mine.  
Teach me, dear creature, how to think and speak,  
Lay open to my earthy gross conceit,  
Smothered in errors, feeble, shallow, weak,  
The folded meaning of your words' deceit.  
Are you a god? Would you create me new?  
Transform me then, and to your power I'll yield.  
Your weeping sister is no wife of mine,  
Nor to her bed no homage do I owe.  
O, train me not, sweet mermaid, with thy note  
To drown me in thy sister's flood of tears,  
Sing, siren, for thyself, and I will dote.  
Spread o'er the silver waves thy golden hairs  
And as a bed I'll take thee, and there lie.

### **LUCIANA**

What, are you mad, that you do reason so?

### **ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Not mad, but mated, how, I do not know.

### **LUCIANA**

It is a fault that springeth from your eye.

### **ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

For gazing on your beams, fair sun, being by.

### **LUCIANA**

Gaze where you should, and that will clear your sight.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

As good to wink, sweet love, as look on night.

**LUCIANA**

Why call you me love? Call my sister so.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Call thyself sister, sweet, for I am thee.

Thee will I love, and with thee lead my life.

Thou hast no husband yet, nor I no wife.

Give me thy hand.

**LUCIANA**

O, soft, sir, hold you still:

I'll fetch my sister to get her good will.

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*Exit.*

*Enter DROMIO OF SYRACUSE running.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Why, how now, Dromio, where runn'st thou so fast?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Do you know me, sir? Am I Dromio? Am I your man? Am I myself?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Thou art Dromio, thou art my man, thou art thyself.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I am an ass, I am a woman's man and besides myself.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What woman's man? And how besides thyself?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Marry, sir, besides myself I am due to a woman, one that claims me, one that haunts me, one that will have me.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What claim lays she to thee?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Marry sir, such claim as you would lay to your horse, and she would have me as a beast — not that, I being a beast, she would have me, but that she, being a very beastly creature, lays claim to me.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What's her name?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Luce, sir. But her name and three quarters — that's an ell and three quarters — will not measure her from hip to hip. This diviner laid claim to me, called me Dromio, swore I was assured to her, told me what privy marks I had about me, as the mark of my shoulder, the mole in my neck, the great wart on my left arm, that I amazed, ran from her as a witch.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Go, hie thee presently, post to the road,  
An if the wind blow any way from shore,  
I will not harbour in this town tonight.  
If any bark put forth, come to the mart,  
Where I will walk till thou return to me.  
If everyone knows us and we know none,  
'Tis time, I think, to trudge, pack and be gone.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

As from a bear a man would run for life,  
So fly I from her that would be my wife.

*Exit.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

There's none but witches do inhabit here,  
And therefore 'tis high time that I were hence.  
She that doth call me husband, even my soul  
Doth for a wife abhor. But her fair sister,  
Possessed with such a gentle sovereign grace,  
Of such enchanting presence and discourse,  
Hath almost made me traitor to myself.  
But lest myself be guilty to self-wrong,  
I'll stop mine ears against the mermaid's song.

*Enter ANGELO with the chain.*

**ANGELO**

Master Antipholus,

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Ay, that's my name.

**ANGELO**

I know it well, sir. Lo, here's the chain.  
I thought to have ta'en you at the Porpentine,  
The chain unfinished made me stay thus long.

*Gives the chain.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What is your will that I shall do with this?

**ANGELO**

What please yourself, sir: I have made it for you.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Made it for me, sir? I bespoke it not.

**ANGELO**

Not once, nor twice, but twenty times you have.  
Go home with it and please your wife withal,  
And soon I'll visit you,  
And then receive my money for the chain.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I pray you, sir, receive the money now,  
For fear you ne'er see chain nor money more.

**ANGELO**

You are a merry man, sir, fare you well.

*Exit.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What I should think of this I cannot tell.  
But this I think, there's no man is so vain  
That would refuse so fair an offered chain.  
I see a man here needs not live by shifts,  
When in the streets he meets such golden gifts.  
I'll to the mart, and there for Dromio stay,  
If any ship put out, then straight away.

*Exit.*

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## ACT 4 SCENE 1

*Enter a MERCHANT, with an OFFICER and ANGELO.*

**MERCHANT**

*(To Angelo)* You know since Pentecost the sum is due,  
And since I have not much importuned you,  
Nor now I had not, but that I am bound  
To Persia, and want guilders for my voyage.  
Therefore make present satisfaction,  
Or I'll attach you by an officer.

**ANGELO**

Even just the sum that I do owe to you  
Is growing to me by Antipholus,  
And in the instant that I met with you  
He had of me a chain. At five o'clock  
I shall receive the money for the same.  
Pleaseth you walk with me down to his house,  
I will discharge my bond and thank you too.  
See where he comes.

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF EPHEBUS from the Porpentine.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

While I go to the goldsmith's house, go thou  
And buy a rope's end. That will I bestow

Among my wife and her confederates  
For locking me out of my doors by day.  
(To Angelo) A man is well help up that trusts to you.  
I promised your presence and the chain,  
But neither chain nor goldsmith came to me.  
Belike you thought our love would last too long  
If it were chained together, and therefore came not.

Exit DROMIO.

**ANGELO**

Saving your merry humour, here's the note  
How much your chain weighs to the utmost carat,  
The fineness of the gold and chargeful fashion,  
Which doth amount to three odd ducats more  
Than I stand debted to this gentleman.  
I pray you see him presently discharged,  
For he is bound to sea and stays but for it.

Shows a paper.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I am not furnished with the present money.  
Good signior, take the stranger to my house  
And with you take the chain and bid my wife  
Disburse the sum on the receipt thereof.

**ANGELO**

Then you will bring the chain to her yourself.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

No, bear it with you, lest I come not time enough.

**ANGELO**

Well, sir, I will. Have you the chain about you?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

An if I have not, sir, I hope you have,  
Or else you may return without your money.

**ANGELO**

Nay, come, I pray you, sir, give me the chain.  
Both wind and tide stays for this gentleman.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Good lord!  
I should have chid you for not bringing it to the Porpentine,  
But like a shrew you first begin to brawl.

**MERCHANT**

The hour steals on, I pray you, sir, dispatch. (To Angelo)

**ANGELO**

You hear how he importunes me. The chain!

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Why, give it to my wife and fetch your money.

**ANGELO**

Come, come, you know I gave it you even now.  
 Either send the chain or send me by some token.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Fie, now you run this humour out of breath.  
 Come, where's the chain? I pray you let me see it.

**MERCHANT**

My business cannot brook this dalliance.  
 Good sir, say whe'er you'll answer me or no?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

I answer you? What should I answer you?

**ANGELO**

The money that you owe me for the chain.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

I owe you none till I receive the chain.

**ANGELO**

You know I gave it you half an hour since.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

You gave me none, you wrong me much to say so.

**ANGELO**

You wrong me more, sir, in denying it.  
 Consider how it stands upon my credit.

**ANGELO**

*(To Antipholus)* Either consent to pay this sum for me,  
 Or I attach you by this officer.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Consent to pay thee that I never had?  
 Arrest me, foolish fellow, if thou dar'st.

**ANGELO**

*(To the Officer)* Here is thy fee; arrest him, officer,  
 I would not spare my brother in this case  
 If he should scorn me so apparently.

*Gives money to OFFICER.*

**OFFICER**

*(To Antipholus)* I do arrest you, sir, you hear the suit.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

I do obey thee till I give thee bail.  
 But, sirrah, you shall buy this sport as dear  
 As all the metal in your shop will answer.

*Enter DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Master, there's a bark of Epidamium  
 That stays but till her owner comes aboard,

And then, sir, she bears away.  
The ship is in her trim, the merry wind  
Blows fair from land. They stay for nought at all  
But for their owner, master, and yourself.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

How now? A madman? Why, thou peevish sheep,  
What ship of Epidamium stays for me?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

A ship you sent me to.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Thou drunkered, I sent thee for a rope,  
And told thee to what purpose and what end.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

You sent me to the bay, sir, for a bark.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I will debate this matter at more leisure  
And teach your ears to list me with more heed.  
To Adriana, villain, hie thee straight.  
Give her this key, and tell her, in the desk  
There is a purse of ducats, let her send it.  
Tell her I am arrested in the street  
And that shall bail me. Hie thee, slave, be gone!  
On, officer, to prison till it come.

*Gives a key.*

*Exeunt all but DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

To Adriana? That is where we dined,  
Where Luce did claim me for her husband.  
Thither I must, although against my will,  
For servants must their masters' minds fulfil.

*Exit.*

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ACT 4 SCENE 2

*Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA.*

**ADRIANA**

Ah, Luciana, did he tempt thee so?  
Mightst thou perceive austerely in his eye  
That he did plead in earnest, yea or no?  
Looked he or red or pale, or sad or merrily?

**LUCIANA**

First he denied you had in him no right.

**ADRIANA**

He meant he did me none, the more my spite.

**LUCIANA**

Then swore he that he was a stranger here.

**ADRIANA**

And true he swore, though yet forsworn he were.

**LUCIANA**

Then pleaded I for you.

**ADRIANA**

And what said he?

**LUCIANA**

That love I begged for you, he begged of me.

**ADRIANA**

With what persuasion did he tempt thy love?

**LUCIANA**

With words that in an honest suit might move.  
First he did praise my beauty, then my speech.

**ADRIANA**

Didst speak him fair?

**LUCIANA**

Have patience, I beseech.

**ADRIANA**

I cannot nor I will not hold me still.  
My tongue, though not my heart, shall have his will.  
He is crooked, old and sere,  
Ill-faced, worse bodied, shapeless everywhere,  
Vicious, ungentle, foolish, blunt, unkind,  
Stigmatical in making, worse in mind.

**LUCIANA**

Who would be jealous then of such a one?

**ADRIANA**

Ah, but I think him better than I say,  
And yet would herein others' eyes were worse.  
Far from her nest the lapwing cries away,  
My heart prays for him, though my tongue do curse.

*Enter DROMIO OF SYRACUSE running, with the key.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Here, go — the desk, the purse. Sweet now, make haste.

**LUCIANA**

How hast thou lost thy breath?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

By running fast.

**ADRIANA**

Where is thy master, Dromio? Is he well?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

No, he's in worse than hell.

A devil in an everlasting garment hath him.

**ADRIANA**

Why, man, what is the matter?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I do not know the matter, he is 'rested on the case.

**ADRIANA**

Tell me at whose suit?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I know not at whose suit he is arrested well,

But is in a suit of buff which 'rested him, that can I tell.

Will you send him, mistress, redemption, the money in his desk?

**ADRIANA**

Go fetch it, sister.

This I wonder at,

That he unknown to me should be in debt.

Tell me, was he arrested on a band?

*Exit LUCIANA.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Not on a band, but on a stronger thing:

A chain.

**ADRIANA**

What, the chain?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

No, no, the bell, 'tis time that I were gone.

It was two ere I left him, and now the clock strikes one.

**ADRIANA**

The hours come back, that did I never hear.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Time is a very bankrupt and owes more than he's worth to season.

Time comes stealing on by night and day.

*Enter LUCIANA with a purse.*

**ADRIANA**

Go, Dromio, there's the money, bear it straight,  
And bring thy master home immediately.

*Exit DROMIO, with the purse.*

*Exeunt.*

## ACT 4 SCENE 3

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

There's not a man I meet but doth salute me  
As if I were their well-acquainted friend,  
And every one doth call me by my name.  
Some tender money to me, some invite me,  
Some other give me thanks for kindnesses,  
Some offer me commodities to buy.  
Even now a tailor called me in his shop  
And showed me silks that he had bought for me,  
And therewithal took measure of my body.  
Sure these are but imaginary wiles,  
And Lapland sorcerers inhabit here.

*Enter DROMIO OF SYRACUSE with the purse.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Master, here's the gold you sent me for.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What gold? Rest in your foolery. Is there any ships puts forth tonight? May we be gone?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Why, sir, I brought you word an hour since that the bark Expedition put forth tonight, and then were you hindered by the sergeant. Here are the angels that you sent for to deliver you.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

The fellow is distract, and so am I,  
And here we wander in illusions.  
Some blessèd power deliver us from hence!

*Enter LUCIANA.*

**LUCIANA**

Well met, well met, Master Antipholus.  
I see, sir, you have found the goldsmith now.  
Is that the chain you promised my sister?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Satan avoid! I charge thee tempt me not.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Master, is this Mistress Satan?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

It is the devil.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Nay, she is worse, she is the devil's dam, and here she comes in the habit of a light wench, and thereof comes that the wenches say 'God damn me', that's as much to say, 'God make me a light wench'. It is written they appear to men like angels of light, light is an effect of fire, and fire will burn. Ergo, light wenches will burn. Come not near her.

**LUCIANA**

Your man and you are marvellous merry, sir.  
Will you go with me? Your wife is waiting.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

What tell'st thou me of a wife?  
Thou art, as you are all, a sorceress.  
I conjure thee to leave me and be gone.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Some devils ask but the parings of one's nail, a rush, a hair, a drop of blood, a pin, a nut, a cherry-stone. But she, more covetous, would have a chain. Master, be wise, an if you give it her, the devil will shake her chain and fright us with it.

**LUCIANA**

I pray you, sir, the chain.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Avaunt, thou witch! Come, Dromio, let us go.

*Exeunt ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.*

**LUCIANA**

Now out of doubt Antipholus is mad,  
Else would he never so demean himself.  
My way is now to hie home to his house,  
And tell his wife.

*Exit.*

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## ACT 4 SCENE 4

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS with an OFFICER.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Fear me not, man, I will not break away.  
I'll give thee ere I leave thee so much money  
To warrant thee as I am 'rested for.  
My wife is in a wayward mood today,  
And will not lightly trust the messenger  
That I should be attached in Ephesus.  
I tell you 'twill sound harshly in her ears.  
Here comes my man, I think he brings the money.  
How now, sir, have you that I sent you for?

*Enter DROMIO OF EPHESUS with a rope's-end.*

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Here's that, I warrant you, will pay them all.

*Gives the rope.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

But where's the money?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Why, sir, I gave the money for the rope.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Five hundred ducats, villain, for a rope?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

I'll serve you, sir, five hundred at the rate.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

To what end did I bid thee hie thee home?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

To a rope's end, sir, and to that end am I returned.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

And to that end, sir, I will welcome you,  
Thou senseless villain.

*Beats him.*

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

I would I were senseless, sir, that I might not feel your blows.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Thou art sensible in nothing but blows, and so is an ass.

*Beats him.*

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

I am an ass, indeed, you may prove it by my long ears. I have served him from the hour of my nativity to this instant, and have nothing at his hands for my service but blows. When I am cold, he heats me with beating, when I am warm, he cools me with beating. I am waked with it when I sleep, raised with it when I sit, driven out of doors with it when I go from home, welcomed home with it when I return. Nay, I bear it on my shoulders as a beggar wont her brat, and I think when he hath lamed me, I shall beg with it from door to door.

*Enter ADRIANA and LUCIANA.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Come, go along, my wife is coming yonder.

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**ADRIANA**

Good dear sister,  
Establish him in his true sense again.  
Alas, how fiery and how sharp he looks.

**LUCIANA**

Give me your hand and let me feel your pulse.

*To ANTIPHOLUS.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

There is my hand, and let it feel your ear.

*(To Adriana)* You minion, you!

Did a companion

Revel and feast it at my house today,

Whilst upon me the guilty doors were shut,

And I denied to enter in my house?

*Tries to strikes LUCIANA.*

**ADRIANA**

O husband, God doth know you dined at home.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Dined at home? (*To Dromio*) Thou, villain, what sayst thou?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Sir, sooth to say, you did not dine at home.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Were not my doors locked up, and I shut out?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Your doors were locked, and you shut out and the kitchen vestal scorned you.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

And did not she herself revile me there?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Sans fable, she herself reviled you there.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Did not her kitchen-maid rail, taunt and scorn me?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Certes she did, the kitchen-vestal scorned you.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

And did not I in rage depart from thence?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

In verity you did, my bones bears witness,  
That since have felt the vigour of his rage.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

(*To Adriana*) Thou hast suborned the goldsmith to arrest me.  
Alas, I sent you money to redeem you,  
By Dromio here, who came in haste for it.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Money by me? Heart and good will you might,  
But surely, master, not a rag of money.

**ADRIANA**

He came to me and I delivered it.

**LUCIANA**

And I am witness with her that she did.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

(*To Adriana*) Say, wherefore didst thou lock me forth today?  
(*To Dromio*) And why dost thou deny the bag of gold?

**ADRIANA**

I did not, gentle husband, lock thee forth.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

And gentle master I received no gold,  
But I confess, sir, that we were locked out.

**ADRIANA**

Dissembling villain, thou speak'st false in both.  
O, bind him, bind him, let him not come near me.

*They bind ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Dissembling harlot, thou art false in all,  
And art confederate with a damnèd pack  
To make a loathsome abject scorn of me.  
But with these nails I'll pluck out these false eyes  
That would behold in me this shameful sport.

**LUCIANA**

Go bind this man, for he is frantic too.

*They bind DROMIO OF EPHESUS.*

*Enter OFFICER.*

*LUCIANA removes ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO bound.*

**OFFICER**

Masters, let him go.  
He is my prisoner, and you shall not have him.

**ADRIANA**

What wilt thou do, thou peevish officer?  
Hast thou delight to see a wretched man  
Do outrage and displeasure to himself?

*LUCIANA re-enters.*

**OFFICER**

He is my prisoner, if I let him go,  
The debt he owes will be required of me.

**ADRIANA**

Say now, whose suit is he arrested at?

**OFFICER**

One Angelo, a goldsmith. Do you know him?

**ADRIANA**

I know the man. What is the sum he owes?

**OFFICER**

Two hundred ducats.

**ADRIANA**

Say, how grows it due?

**OFFICER**

Due for a chain your husband had of him.

**ADRIANA**

He did bespeak a chain for me, but had it not.  
Come, jailer, bring me where the goldsmith is.  
I long to know the truth hereof at large.

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE with their rapiers drawn*

**LUCIANA**

God for thy mercy, they are loose again.

**ADRIANA**

And come with naked swords.

Let's call more help to have them bound again.

**OFFICER**

Away, they'll kill us.

*Run all out. Exeunt all.*

*ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE remain.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I see these witches are afraid of swords.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

She that would be your wife now ran from you.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Come to the Centaur, fetch our stuff from thence. I long that we were safe and sound aboard. I will not stay tonight for all the town.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Faith, stay here this night, they will surely do us no harm. You saw they speak us fair, give us gold. Methinks they are such a gentle nation, that but for the mountain of mad flesh that claims marriage of me, I could find in my heart to stay here still and turn witch.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I will not stay tonight for all the town,  
Therefore away, to get our stuff aboard.

*Exeunt.*

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**ACT 5 SCENE 1**

*Enter ANGELO, ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE again,  
ANTIPHOLUS wearing the chain.*

**ANGELO**

Signior Antipholus, I wonder much  
That you would put me to this shame and trouble,  
And not without some scandal to yourself,  
With circumstance and oaths so to deny  
This chain, which now you wear so openly.  
This chain you had of me, can you deny it?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I think I had. I never did deny it.

**ANGELO**

Yes, that you did, sir, and forswore it too.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Who heard me to deny it or forswear it?

**ANGELO**

These ears of mine, thou know'st did hear thee.  
Fie on thee, wretch, 'tis pity that thou liv'st  
To walk where any honest men resort.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Thou art a villain to impeach me thus.  
I'll prove mine honour and mine honesty  
Against thee presently, if thou dar'st stand.

**ANGELO**

I dare, and do defy thee for a villain.

*They draw.  
Enter ADRIANA.*

**ADRIANA**

Hold, hurt him not, for God's sake, he is mad.  
Some get within him, take his sword away.  
Bind Dromio too, and bear them to my house.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Run, master, run, for God's sake, take a house.  
This is some priory. In, or we are spoiled.

*Exeunt ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE to the priory.  
Enter EMILIA, the Lady Abbess.*

**EMILIA**

Be quiet, people. Wherefore throng you hither?

**ADRIANA**

To fetch my poor distracted husband hence.  
Let us come in, that we bind him fast  
And bear him home for his recovery.

**EMILIA**

How long hath this possession held the man?

**ADRIANA**

This week he hath been heavy, sour, sad,  
And much different from the man he was.  
But till this afternoon his passion  
Ne'er brake into extremity of rage.

**EMILIA**

Hath he not lost much wealth by wreck of sea?  
Buried some dear friend? Hath not else his eye  
Strayed his affection in unlawful love?  
Which of these sorrows is he subject to?

**ADRIANA**

To none of these except it be the last,  
Namely some love that drew him oft from home.

**EMILIA**

You should for that have reprehended him.

**ADRIANA**

Why, so I did.

**EMILIA**

Ay, but not rough enough.

**ADRIANA**

As roughly as my modesty would let me.

**EMILIA**

Haply in private.

**ADRIANA**

And in assemblies too.

**EMILIA**

Ay, but not enough.

**ADRIANA**

It was the copy of our conference.  
In bed he slept not for my urging it,  
At board he fed not for my urging it.  
Alone, it was the subject of my theme,  
In company I often glanced it.  
Still did I tell him it was vile and bad.

**EMILIA**

And thereof came it that the man was mad.  
The venom clamours of a jealous woman  
Poisons more deadly than a mad dog's tooth.  
It seems his sleeps were hindered by thy railing,  
And thereof comes it that his head is light.  
Thou sayst his meat was sauced with thy upbraidings,  
Unquiet meals make ill digestions.  
Thereof the raging fire of fever bred,  
And what's a fever but a fit of madness?  
Thou sayst his sports were hindered by thy brawls:  
Sweet recreation barred, what doth ensue  
But moody and dull melancholy,  
The consequence is then thy jealous fits  
Hath scared thy husband from the use of wits.

**ADRIANA**

Good people enter and lay hold on him.

**EMILIA**

No, not a creature enters in my house.

**ADRIANA**

Then let your servants bring my husband forth.

**EMILIA**

Neither. He took this place for sanctuary,  
And it shall privilege him from your hands  
Till I have brought him to his wits again,  
Or lose my labour in assaying it.

**ADRIANA**

I will attend my husband, be his nurse,  
Diet his sickness, for it is my office,  
And will have no attorney but myself,  
And therefore let me have him home with me.

**EMILIA**

Be patient, for I will not let him stir  
Till I have used the approved means I have,  
With wholesome syrups, drugs and holy prayers,  
To make of him a formal man again.  
It is a branch and parcel of mine oath,  
A charitable duty of my order,  
Therefore depart, and leave him here with me.

**ADRIANA**

I will not hence and leave my husband here:  
And I will not ill it doth beseem your holiness  
To separate the husband and the wife.

**EMILIA**

Be quiet and depart, thou shalt not have him.

# 15

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*Enter the DUKE OF EPHESUS and EGEON the merchant of Syracuse,  
bareheaded and bound.*

**DUKE**

Yet once again proclaim it publicly,  
If any friend will pay the sum for him,  
He shall not die, so much we tender him.

**ADRIANA**

Justice, most sacred Duke, against the Abbess.

**DUKE**

She is a virtuous and a reverend lady.  
It cannot be that she hath done thee wrong.

**ADRIANA**

May it please your grace, Antipholus my husband,  
Whom I made lord of me and all I had  
At your important letters, this ill day  
A most outrageous fit of madness took him,

That desp'ately he hurried through the street,  
With him his bondman all as mad as he,  
Doing displeasure to the citizens.  
Once did I get him bound, and sent him home  
Whilst to take order for the wrongs I went,  
That here and there his fury had committed.  
Anon, I wot not by what strong escape,  
He broke from those that had the guard of him,  
And with his mad attendant and himself,  
Each one with ireful passion, with drawn swords  
Met us again and madly bent on us,  
Chased us away: till raising of more aid,  
We came again to bind them. Then they fled  
Into this abbey, whither we pursued them,  
And here the Abbess shuts the gates on us,  
And will not suffer us to fetch him out,  
Nor send him forth that we may bear him hence.  
Therefore, most gracious Duke, with thy command  
Let him be brought forth, and borne hence for help.

**DUKE**

Go some of you, knock at the abbey gate,  
And bid the Lady Abbess come to me.  
I will determine this before I stir.

*Noise disturbance, chaos close by.*

**DUKE**

Come, stand by me, fear nothing.

**ADRIANA**

Ay me, it is my husband. Witness you,  
That he is borne about invisible,  
Even now we housed him in the abbey here,  
And now he's there, past thought of human reason.

*Enter ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF EPHESUS.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Justice, most gracious Duke, O grant me justice,  
Even for the service that long since I did thee  
When I bestrid thee in the wars, and took  
Deep scars to save thy life. Even for the blood  
That then I lost for thee, now grant me justice  
Sweet prince, against that woman and this goldsmith.  
This day, great Duke, she shut the doors upon me  
While she with harlots feasted in my house.

**DUKE**

A grievous fault. Say, woman, didst thou so?

**ADRIANA**

No, my good lord. Myself, he, and my sister  
Today did dine together. So befall my soul,  
As this is false he burdens me withal.

**ANGELO**

My lord, in truth, thus far I witness with him,  
That he dined not at home, but was locked out.

**DUKE**

But had he such a chain of thee, or no?

**ANGELO**

He had, my lord, and when he ran in here  
These people saw the chain about his neck.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I never saw the chain, so help me heaven,  
And this is false you burden me withal.  
My liege, I am advisèd what I say,  
Neither disturbed with the effect of wine  
Nor heady-rash provoked with raging ire,  
Albeit my wrongs might make one wiser mad.  
This woman locked me out this day from dinner.  
That goldsmith there, were he not packed with her,  
Could witness it, for he was with me then,  
Who parted with me to go fetch a chain,  
Promising to bring it to the Porpentine,  
Where I did dine.  
Our dinner done, and he not coming thither,  
I went to seek him. In the street I met him,  
There did this perjured goldsmith swear me down  
That I this day of him received the chain,  
Which, God he knows, I saw not. For the which  
He did arrest me with an officer.  
I did obey, and sent my peasant home  
For certain ducats. He with none returned.  
Then fairly I bespoke the officer  
To go in person with me to my house.  
By the way we met my wife, her sister, and a rabble more  
Of vile confederates. (*Referring to the officer*) Along with them  
They brought this man, a hungry lean-faced villain,  
A mere anatomy, a mountebank,  
A threadbare juggler and a fortune-teller,  
A needy, hollow-eyed, sharp-looking wretch,  
A living dead man. This pernicious child,  
Forsooth, took on him as a conjurer,  
And gazing in mine eyes, feeling my pulse

*Exit ANGELO.*

And with no face, as 'twere, outfacing me,  
Cries out I was possessed. Then all together  
They fell upon me, bound me, bore me thence,  
And in a dark and dankish vault at home  
There left me and my man, both bound together,  
Till gnawing with my teeth my bonds in sunder,  
I gained my freedom, and immediately  
Ran hither to your grace, whom I beseech  
To give me ample satisfaction  
For these deep shames and great indignities.

**DUKE**

Why, what an intricate impeach is this?  
I think you all have drunk of Circe's cup.  
(*To Adriana*) You say he dined at home, the goldsmith here  
Denies that saying. (*To Dromio*). Sirrah, what say you?

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Sir, he dined at the Porpentine.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

'Tis true, my liege

**DUKE**

Why, this is strange. Go call the Abbess hither.  
I think you are all mated, or stark mad.

# 16

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*Enter EGEON.*

**EGEON**

(*Aside*) Unless the fear of death doth make me dote,  
I see my son Antipholus and Dromio.  
Most mighty Duke, vouchsafe me speak a word.  
Haply I see a friend will save my life  
And pay the sum that may deliver me.  
Is not your name, sir, called Antipholus?  
And is not that your bondman Dromio?  
I am sure you both of you remember me.  
Why look you strange on me? You know me well.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

I never saw you in my life till now.

**EGEON**

O, grief hath changed me since you saw me last,  
And careful hours with time's deformèd hand  
Have written strange defeatures in my face.  
But tell me yet, dost thou not know my voice?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

Neither.

**EGEON**

Dromio, nor thou?

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

No, trust me, sir, nor I.

**EGEON**

I am sure thou dost.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

Ay, sir, but I am sure I do not.

**EGEON**

Not know my voice? O time's extremity,  
Hast thou so cracked and splitted my poor tongue  
In seven short years that here my only son  
Knows not my feeble key of untuned cares?  
Tell me thou art my son Antipholus.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I never saw my father in my life.

**EGEON**

But seven years since, in Syracuse, boy.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

The Duke and all that know me in the city  
Can witness with me that it is not so.  
I ne'er saw Syracuse in my life.

**DUKE**

I tell thee, Syracusian, twenty years  
Have I been patron to Antipholus,  
During which time he ne'er saw Syracuse.

# 17

---

*Enter the Abbess EMILIA, with ANTIPHOLUS and DROMIO OF SYRACUSE.*

**EMILIA**

Most mighty Duke, behold a man much wronged.

*All gather to see them.*

**ADRIANA**

I see two husbands, or mine eyes deceive me.

**DUKE**

One of these men is genius to the other:  
And so of these, which is the natural man,  
And which the spirit? Who deciphers them?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

I, sir, am Dromio, command him away.

**DROMIO OF EPHEBUS**

I, sir, am Dromio, pray let me stay.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

Egeon art thou not? Or else his ghost.

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

O, my old master. Who hath bound him here?

**EMILIA**

Whoever bound him, I will loose his bonds,  
And gain a husband by his liberty.  
Speak old Egeon, if thou be'st the man  
That hadst a wife once called Emilia,  
That bore thee at a burden two fair sons.  
O, if thou be'st the same Egeon, speak,  
And speak unto the same Emilia.

**DUKE**

Why, here begins his morning story right.  
These two Antipholuses, these two so like,  
And these two Dromios, one in semblance,  
Besides her urging of her wreck at sea —  
These are the parents to these children,  
Which accidentally are met together.

**EGEON**

If I dream not, thou art Emilia.  
If thou art she, tell me where is that son  
That floated with thee on the fatal raft?

**EMILIA**

By men of Epidamium he and I  
And the twin Dromio all were taken up;  
But by and by rude fishermen of Corinth  
By force took Dromio and my son from them,  
And me they left with those of Epidamium.  
What then became of them I cannot tell.  
I to this fortune that you see me in.

**DUKE**

Antipholus, thou cam'st from Corinth first.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

No sir, not I, I came from Syracuse.

**DUKE**

Stay, stand apart, I know not which is which.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS**

I came from Corinth, my most gracious lord.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

And I with him.

**ADRIANA**

Which of you two did dine with me today?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

I, gentle mistress.

**ADRIANA**

And are not you my husband?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

No, I say nay to that.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

And so do I, yet did she call me so.

And her sister did call me brother.

**ADRIANA**

I sent you money, sir, to be your bail  
By Dromio, but I think he brought it not.

*To ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS.*

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

No, none by me.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

*(To Adriana)* This purse of ducats I received from you,  
And Dromio my man did bring them me.  
I see we still did meet each other's man,  
And I was ta'en for him, and he for me,  
So this must be the chain you ordered too?  
And thereupon these errors are arose.

*Shows purse.*

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

These ducats pawn I for my father here.

*Offers money.*

**DUKE**

It shall not need, thy father hath his life.

**EMILIA**

Thirty-three years have I but gone in travail  
Of you, my sons, and till this present hour  
My heavy burden ne'er deliverèd.  
The Duke, my husband, and my children all,  
And you the calendars of their nativity,  
Go to a gossips' feast, and go with me,  
After so long grief, such festivity.

**DUKE**

With all my heart I'll gossip at this feast.

*Exeunt all. The two DROMIOS and two brothers ANTIPHOLUS remain.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Master, shall I fetch your stuff from shipboard?

**ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS**

Dromio, what stuff of mine hast thou embarked?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Your goods that lay at host, sir, in the Centaur.

**ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE**

He speaks to me, I am your master, Dromio.

Come, go with us, we'll look to that anon.

Embrace thy brother there, rejoice with him.

*Exeunt ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE and ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHESUS.*

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

There is a friend at your master's house

That kitchened me for you today at dinner.

She now shall be my sister, not my wife.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Methinks you are my glass, and not my brother.

I see by you I am a sweet-faced youth.

Will you walk in to see their gossiping?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

Not I, sir, you are my elder.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

That's a question, how shall we try it?

**DROMIO OF SYRACUSE**

We'll draw cuts for the senior, till then, lead thou first.

**DROMIO OF EPHESUS**

Nay then, thus:

We came into the world like brother and brother,

And now let's go hand in hand, not one before another.

*Exeunt.*