The Brothers Menaechmus OR The Twin Menaechmi by Plautus MENAECHMUS gives EROTIUM a gift scene

**2 MEN; 1 WOMAN**

Peniculus – PEN-ICK-YOU-LUSS

Menaechmus – MEN-ECK-MUSS

Erotium – E-ROT-E-UM

*(Grand entrance of EROTIUM from her house)*

EROTIUM. *[to MENAECHMUS]* Greetings, 0 my only soul!

PENICUlUS. And me?

EROTIUM. *[to PENICULUS]* Not on my list at all.

PENICUlUS. Such is life for us unlisted men-in every kind of war.

MENAECHMUS [to EROTIUM]. Darling, at your house today, prepare a little battleground.

EROTIUM. So I will.

MENAECHMUS. We'll hold a little drinking duel, *[indicating PENICUlUS]* the two of us. Then the one who

proves the better fighter with the flowing bowl, he's the one who'll get to join your company for night

manoeuvres. *[Getting more enthusiastic]* Oh, my joy! My wife, my wife! When I see you-how I hate her!

EROTIUM [sarcastically]. Meanwhile, since you hate your wife, you wear her clothing, is that it? What have

you got on?

MENAECHMUS. It's just a dress addressed to you, sweet rose.

EROTIUM. You're on top, you atop all the other men who try for me.

PENICUlUS *[aside].* Sluts can talk so sweet, while they see something they can snatch from you.

*[To EROTIUM]* If you really loved him, you'd have smooched his nose right off his face.

MENAECHMUS. Hold this now, Peniculus; religion bids me make redress.

PENICUlUS. Fine, but while you've got a skirt on, why not pirouette a bit?

MENAECHMUS. Pirouette? By Hercules, you've lost your mind!

PENICUlUS. Not more than you. Take it off-if you won't dance.

MENAECHMUS*. [To EROTIUM]* What risks I ran in stealing this! Hercules in labour number nine was not as

brave as I, 200 when he stole the girdle from that Amazon Hippolyta. Take it, darling, since you do your duties

with such diligence.

EROTIUM. That's the spirit. Lovers ought to learn from you the way to love.

PENICUlUS *[to the audience].* Sure, that way to love's the perfect short cut to a bankruptcy.

MENAECHMUS. Just last year I bought my wife this dress. It cost two hundred drachmae.

PENICULUS. *[to the audience]* Well, there goes two hundred drachmae down the drain, by my accounts.

MENAECHMUS. *[to EROTIUM]* Want to know what I would like prepared?

EROTIUM. I know, and I'll prepare it.

MENAECHMUS. Please arrange a feast at your house; have it cooked for three of us. Also have some very

special party foods bought in the forum: Glandiose, whole-hog and a descendant of the lardly ham.

Or perhaps some pork chopettes, or anything along those lines. Let whatever's served be stewed, to make

me hungry as a hawk. Also hurry up.

EROTIUM. I will.

MENAECHMUS. Now we'll be heading to the forum. We'll return at once and, while the dinner's cooking, we'll

be drinking.

EROTIUM. When you feel like it, come. It will be all prepared.

MENAECHMUS. And quickly too.

*[To PENICULUS]* Follow me-

PENICULUS. By Hercules, I'll follow you in every way. No, I'd lose the gods' own gold before Iose your track today.

*[MENAECHMUS and PENICULUS exit toward the forum)*