

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0100%3Aact%3D2>

PERIPHIANES

But do you say on as you commenced.

EPIDICUS

Two other women behind me began to speak thus between themselves; I, like my wont, went away a little distance from them; I pretended that I wasn't attending to their talk: I didn't quite hear all, and still I wasn't deceived in a word they said.

PERIPHIANES

I long to hear it.

EPIDICUS

Then one of them said to the other with whom she was talking----

PERIPHIANES

What?

EPIDICUS

Be quiet then, that you may hear. After they had caught sight of her whom your son is dying for: "Prithee, how happily and luckily has it befallen that woman for her lover to be wishing to set her free." "Who is he?" said the other. She mentioned Stratippocles.

PERIPHIANES

Troth now, I'm undone; what is it I hear of you?

EPIDICUS

That which really took place. After this, I myself, when I heard them talking, began again to draw closer towards them little by little, as though the crowd of people was pushing me, whether I would or no.

PERIPHIANES

I understand.

EPIDICUS

Then the one asked the other, "How do you know?" "Why, because a letter has been brought her to-day from Stratippocles; that he has borrowed money on interest from a banker at Thebes; that it is ready, and he himself has brought it for that purpose."

PERIPHIANES

Tell on--I'm undone!

EPIDICUS

She said that she had heard so from her and from the letter which she had seen.

PERIPHIANES

What am I to do now? I ask your advice, Apæcides.

APAECIDES

Let us find some clever, useful expedient; for he, indeed, will either be here just now, or is here already.

EPIDICUS

If it were right for me to be wiser than you, I could give you some good advice, which you will praise, I fancy, both of you----

PERIPHIANES

Then where is it, Epidicus?

EPIDICUS

Yes, and useful for this purpose,

APAECIDES

Why do you hesitate to mention it?