

This play was written by Pat Story from an idea supplied by her students at Coleridge Community College, Cambridge.

The linguistic level is that of the end of Stage 12 with the addition of **volō**, **possum** and such expressions as **necesse est** + infinitive.

## **The Thieves and the Jewels**

### **Scene 1: In the villa**

In Caecilius' villa, his wife Metella is sitting in the atrium with Melissa and a new slave-girl. She is taking off her jewels before going to bed when Caecilius announces he has a business appointment and leaves with his slave Clemens. A moment later Quintus, the son of the family, also departs, apparently to study Greek with a friend. Metella then goes to bed. Grumio, the cook, appears announcing that he is going to the pub.

### **Scene 2: In the villa**

The new slave-girl steals Metella's jewel box and starts off for the harbour.

### **Scene 3: In a street**

The slave-girl is confronted by a male thief who, after a scuffle, goes off with the jewel box.

### **Scene 4: In the pub**

Caecilius and Quintus, with Clemens and Grumio, are enjoying an evening's drinking despite what they had told Metella in Scene 1. The thief enters and tries to sell the jewellery to Caecilius and Quintus who instantly recognise it as Metella's. The thief is seized and hauled away to justice.

### **Scene 5: In the villa**

Metella is distressed about the loss of her jewels and the treachery of the slave-girl. Caecilius, Quintus and their slaves return to the house and restore the jewels to Metella. The fact that the men have been to the pub is forgiven in the general rejoicing.

## fūrēs et gemmae

### Scene 1: in villa

Characters: Metella, Caecilius, Melissa, a new slave-girl, Clemens, Quintus, Grumio.

(Metella, Melissa and the new slave-girl are in the atrium.)

Metella: (Yawns) satis! satis! ego fessa sum. ego dormīre volō.  
(She begins to take off her jewellery and undo her hair, with the help of her slave-girls. They put her jewels in a box.)  
(Caecilius enters, with Clemens.)

Caecilius: mea Metella, ego ad mercātōrem eō. nōs negōtium agimus.

Metella: mī Caecilī, sērō est. viae sunt periculōsae.

Clēmēns: ego sum fortis; ego dominum servāre possum.

Metella: tū es servus fidēlis. ego et Caecilius tibi crēdimus. valēte!

(Caecilius and Clemens go out.)

Melissa: dominus est vir dīligēns. semper labōrat.

Metella: ita vērō; Caecilius est marītus optimus, sed numquam in vīllā manet.  
(Quintus enters.)

Metella: Quīnte, quō festīnās?

Quīntus: ad Alexandrum, amīcum meum, eō. Alexander linguam Graecam mē docet.

Metella: sed sērō est, Quīnte. hominēs scelestī sunt in urbe.

Quīntus: nōlī timēre, māter. ego Cerberum mēcum dūcō. (Calls) Cerbere!  
Cerbere! (Goes out as Cerberus barks)

Metella: nunc in cubiculum eō. valēte ancillae!

Melissa et

ancilla: valē, domina. bene dormī. (The slave-girls go out.) (Grumio comes in and addresses the audience.)

Grumiō: ego sum Grumiō. ego nōn labōrō; nōn dormiō; ad tabernam eō.

### Scene 2: in villa

Characters: the new slave-girl.

(The new slave-girl enters and looks around cautiously. She is wearing a cloak.)

ancilla: Metella dormit. ego nunc gemmās capere possum. ad portum eō, quod ad Graeciam effugere volō. (Takes the jewels and hurries away)

### Scene 3: in viā

Characters: the new slave-girl, thief.

(The slave-girl enters, hiding the jewel box under her cloak. Suddenly a thief jumps out in front of her.)

fūr: deliciae meae, quō festīnās? sōla es! venī mēcum!

ancilla: minime! ego tēcum īre nōlō. (She tries to get away. They struggle. The thief sees the box.)

fūr: quid in manū habēs? dā mihi! (In the struggle the box falls to the ground. The slave-girl flees, screaming, pursued by the thief. When she disappears off-stage, the thief returns, opens the box and goes off with it, grinning.)

#### Scene 4: in tabernā

*Characters: Caecilius, Quintus, Grumio, Clemens, innkeeper, thief.*

*(Caecilius, Quintus, Grumio and Clemens are having a good time.)*

Quīntus: num negōtium agis, pater?

Caecilius: ita vērō. cum hāc caupōnā negōtium agō.

caupō: pater tuus est vir optimus. semper negōtium mēcum agit.

*(The thief enters with the jewel box.)*

fūr: salvēte, virī. ego sum mercātor probus. vultīsne gemmās pulcherrimās emere? *(Shows the jewels to Caecilius and Quintus.)*

Caecilius: hercle! ego Metellae hās gemmās dedī!

Quīntus: et ego matrī hunc ānulū dedī. iste est fūr. Grumiō! Clēmēns! eum capite! *(They catch the thief and haul him off-stage.)*

#### Scene 5: in villa

*Characters: Metella, Melissa, Caecilius, Quintus, Clemens, Grumio.*

*(Metella has discovered her jewels are gone.)*

Metella: ēheu! ubi sunt gemmae meae?

*(Melissa enters.)*

Melissa: domina, gemmās ubīque quaesīvī. ēvanuērunt; ēvānuit quoque ancilla nova. nōnne illa est fūr?

Metella: *(Crying)* ego eī crēdidī, sed scelestā est!

*(Caecilius, Quintus, Clemens and Grumio come in.)*

Caecilius: delīcīae meae, cūr lacrimās? ecce! gemmās tuās habeō.

Metella: hercle! ubi gemmās invēnistī?

Grumiō: in tabernā invēnimus.

Clemens: tacē, Grumiō! stultus es!

Metella: in tabernā! sed Caecilī, Quīnte, vōs dīxistis ...

Caecilius: ita, ita. longa fābula est, sed gemmās tuās reddimus. placetne tibī?

Metella: mihi valdē placet. vōbīs veniam do, quod gemmās meās servāvistis.

## The Thieves and the Jewels

### Scene 1: In the villa

- (Metella, Melissa and the new slave-girl are in the atrium.)*
- Metella: *(Yawns)* Enough! Enough! I am tired. I want to sleep.  
*(She begins to take off her jewellery and undo her hair, with the help of her slave-girls. They put her jewels in a box.)*  
*(Caecilius enters, with Clemens.)*
- Caecilius: My dear Metella, I am going to meet a merchant. We are doing business.
- Metella: My dear Caecilius, it is late. The roads are dangerous.
- Clemens: I am brave; I can look after my master.
- Metella: You are a faithful slave. Caecilius and I have faith in you. Goodbye!  
*(Caecilius and Clemens go out.)*
- Melissa: Our master is a hard-working man. He is always working.
- Metella: Yes; Caecilius is an excellent husband, but he never stays at home.  
*(Quintus enters.)*
- Metella: Quintus, where are you hurrying off to?
- Quintus: I am going to meet Alexander, my friend. Alexander is teaching me Greek.
- Metella: But it is late, Quintus. There are wicked men in the city.
- Quintus: Don't be afraid, mother. I am taking Cerberus with me. *(Calls)* Cerberus! Cerberus! *(Goes out as Cerberus barks)*
- Metella: Now I am going to my bedroom. Goodbye slave-girls!
- Melissa and slave-girl: Goodbye mistress. Sleep well. *(The slave-girls go out.)*  
*(Grumio comes in and addresses the audience.)*
- Grumio: I am Grumio. I am not working; I am not sleeping; I'm going to the pub.

### Scene 2: In the villa

- (The new slave-girl enters and looks around cautiously. She is wearing a cloak.)*
- Slave-girl: Metella is asleep. Now I can take her jewels. I am going to the harbour, because I want to escape to Greece. *(Takes the jewels and hurries away)*

### Scene 3: In a street

- (The slave-girl enters, hiding the jewel box under her cloak. Suddenly a thief jumps out in front of her.)*
- Thief: My darling, where are you hurrying off to? You are alone! Come with me!
- Slave-girl: No! I don't want to go with you. *(She tries to get away. They struggle. The thief sees the box.)*
- Thief: What do you have in your hand? Give it to me! *(In the struggle the box falls to the ground. The slave-girl flees, screaming, pursued by the thief. When she disappears off-stage, the thief returns, opens the box and goes off with it, grinning.)*

#### Scene 4: In the pub

*(Caecilius, Quintus, Grumio and Clemens are having a good time.)*  
Quintus: Surely you are not doing business, father?  
Caecilius: Yes indeed! I am doing business with this innkeeper.  
Innkeeper: Your father is an excellent man. He is always doing business with me!  
*(The thief enters with the jewel box.)*  
Thief: Hello, gentlemen. I am an honest merchant. Do you want to buy some very beautiful jewels? *(Shows the jewels to Caecilius and Quintus.)*  
Caecilius: By Hercules! I gave these jewels to Metella!  
Quintus: And I gave mother this ring. That man is a thief! Grumio! Clemens! Catch him! *(They catch the thief and haul him off-stage.)*

#### Scene 5: In the house

*(Metella has discovered her jewels are gone.)*  
Metella: Oh no! Where are my jewels?  
*(Melissa enters.)*  
Melissa: Mistress, I have looked for the jewels everywhere. They have vanished; the new slave-girl has vanished too. Surely she is the thief?  
Metella: *(Crying)* I trusted her, but she is wicked!  
*(Caecilius, Quintus, Clemens and Grumio come in.)*  
Caecilius: My darling, why are you crying? Look! I have your jewels.  
Metella: By Hercules! Where did you find the jewels?  
Grumio: We found them in the pub.  
Clemens: Quiet, Grumio! You are stupid!  
Metella: In the pub? But Caecilius, Quintus, you said ...  
Caecilius: Yes, yes. It is a long story, but we are returning your jewels. Aren't you pleased?  
Metella: I'm very pleased. I forgive you, because you saved my jewels.