

Female Guardianship in New Comedy: Critiquing Patriarchal Households  
Abstract Link: [Female Guardianship in New Comedy: Critiquing Patriarchal Households](#)

<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1. Menander,</b> <i>Perikeiromene</i>, 124–44</p> <p><i>Άγνοια:</i> ... ἐγγενο]μένων δ' ἐτῶν τινῶν καὶ τοῦ πολέμου καὶ τῶν Κορινθιακῶν κακῶν αὐξ]ανομένων, ἢ γραῦς ἀπορουμένη σφόδρα, τεθραμμένης τῆς παιδός, ἦν νῦν εἶδετε ὑμεῖς, ἐραστοῦ γενομένου τε <b>τοῦ σφοδροῦ</b> <b>τούτου νεανίσκου</b> γένει Κορινθίου ὄντος, δίδωσι τὴν κόρην ὡς θυγατέρα αὐτῆς ἔχειν. ἤδη δ' ἀπειρηκυῖα καὶ προορωμένη τοῦ ζῆν καταστροφὴν τινα αὐτῇ παροῦσαν, οὐκ ἔκρουσε τὴν τύχην, λέγει δὲ πρὸς τὴν μείραχ' ὡς ἀνείλετο αὐτήν, ἐν οἷς τε σπαργάνοις διδοῦσ' ἄμα, τὸν ἀγνοούμενόν τ' ἀδελφὸν τῆ φύσει φράζει, <b>προνοουμένη τι τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων,</b> <b>εἴ ποτε δεηθῆι βοήθειας τινός,</b> ὀρώσα τοῦτον ὄντ' ἀναγκαῖον μόνον αὐτῇ, φυλακὴν τε λαμβάνουσα μή ποτε δι' ἐμέ τι τὴν Ἄγνοιαν αὐτοῖς συμπέση ἀκούσιον, πλουτοῦντα καὶ μεθύοντ' ἀεὶ ὀρώσ' ἐκεῖνον, εὐπρεπῆ [δ]ὲ κα[ι] νέαν ταύτην, <b>βέβαιον δ' οὐθὲν ᾧ κ[ατ]ελε[ί]πετο.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">125 130 135 140</p> <p><i>Misconception:</i> Some years had passed, and the war and the bad situation with the Corinthians had gotten worse, and the old woman was entirely helpless. The child who you saw just now grew up, and <b>this violent young man</b>, a Corinthian, fell in love with her. She gave the girl, who was like a daughter to her, to this man. She was already weak, and she could tell that the end of her life was near, so she didn't hide the girl's true origin. She told her how she took her in, and at the same time, she gave her the swaddling bands she had been wearing when she was abandoned. She revealed that she had an unknown brother, <b>thinking ahead to the uncertainty of human life, in case her daughter ever needed some help.</b> She knew that he was her only close relative, and she wanted to give her some recourse in case something unexpected happened, through me, Misconception. She saw that the brother was rich, and always drinking. The young girl was pretty, but the man she lived with was <b>unstable</b>.<sup>1</sup></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2. Menander,</b> <i>Perikeiromene</i>, 318–24</p> <p><i>Δᾶος:</i> ὡς γὰρ ἐλθὼν εἶπα πρὸς τὴν μητέρα ὅτι πάρει, “μηδὲν ἔτι τούτων,” φησ[ί], “<b>πῶς δ' ἀ]κῆκοεν;</b> <b>ἢ σὺ λελάληκας πρὸς αὐτ[όν], ὅτι φοβηθεῖσ' ἐνθάδε</b> 320 <b>κα]ταπέφυγ' αὐ[τ]ῆ πρ[ὸς] ἡμᾶς;</b> πάννυ] γε. μὴ ὤρας σὺ γε,” φήσ', “ἴκοι', ἀλλ' [ὡς τάχιστα νῦν] βάδιζε, παιδίον, ἐκ]ποδῶν [ἐνθὲνδ'.” Ἀπ]ολλ[ον], πάντ' [ἀν]ήρπαστ' ἐκ μέσου. οὐ σφό]δρ' [ἦκ]ουσεν παρόντα σ' ἠδέ[ως]</p>	<p><i>Daos:</i> When I went to your mother to tell her you're here, she said, “Nothing about that now. <b>How did he hear? Or did you spill the beans to him, that she's afraid and fled from him, here, to our house?</b> Clearly! Go to hell.” Then she said, “Boy, now go away as quickly as possible, far from here. Apollo, everything's ruined!” She was not very pleased that you were here.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3. Menander,</b> <i>Perikeiromene</i>, 1012–23</p> <p><i>Πάταικος:</i> ... ἃ [δ' οὖν ἐγὼ μέλλω λέγειν ἄκουε. ταύτην γν[ησιῶν</p>	<p><i>Pataikos:</i> So listen to what I'm about to say. I give this woman to you, to be your lawful wife, for the purpose of sowing children.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Text of Menander is Arnott's (1996). Translations are my own.

<p>παιδῶν ἐπ' ἀρότῳ σοι δίδωμι. Πολέμων: λαμβάνω. Πάταικος: καὶ προῖκα τρία τάλαντα. 1015 Πολέμων: καὶ καλῶς ποεῖς. Πάταικος: τὸ λοιπὸν ἐπιλαθοῦ στρατιώτης ὦν, [ἵνα προπετεὺς ποιήσης μ]η]δὲ ἔν, [Πολέμων, πάλιν. Πολέμων: Ἄπολλον· ὃς καὶ νῦν ἀπ[ό]λωλα πα[ρ] ὀλίγον, πάλιν τι πράξω προπετε[ί]ς; οὐδὲ μ[έ]μφομαι 1020 Γλυκέρα. διαλλάγηθι, φιλάτη, μόινον. Γλυκέρα: νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἡμῖν γέγονεν ἀρχὴ [πραγμάτων ἀγαθῶν τὸ σὸν πάροινον. Πολέμων: ὀρθῶς γὰρ λέγεις. Γλυκέρα: διὰ ταῦτα συγγνώμης τετύχηκα[ς].</p>	<p><i>Polemon</i>: I take her. <i>Pataikos</i>: Also a dowry, worth three talents. <i>Polemon</i>: Wonderful. <i>Pataikos</i>: <b>In the future, forget about being a soldier, so that you won't commit a reckless act, Polemon, again.</b> <i>Polemon</i>: <b>Apollo: could I, who just now was almost destroyed, do something reckless again? I don't blame Glykera. Glykera, dearest, just forgive me!</b> <i>Glykera</i>: Your drunken mistake was the beginning of good things for us. <i>Polemon</i>: You're right. <i>Glykera</i>: <b>So because of that, you've been pardoned.</b></p>
<p>4. Terence, <i>Andria</i>, 69–79 70 75</p> <p><i>Simo</i>: interea mulier quaedam abhinc triennium ex Andro commigravit huc vicinia, <b>inopia et cognatorum neglegentia coacta</b>, egregia forma atque aetate integra... primo haec pudice vitam parce ac duriter agebat, lana et tela victum quaeritans <b>sed postquam amans accessit pretium pollicens unus et item alter</b>, ita ut ingeniumst omnium hominum ab labore proclive ad lubidinem, accepit condicionem, dehinc quaestum occipit.</p>	<p><i>Simo</i>: Meanwhile, a certain woman moved into the area from Andros, three years ago, <b>compelled by poverty and the neglect of her relatives</b>, outstandingly beautiful and in the prime of youth ... First, she lived a hard life, chastely and frugally, sustaining a living through wool-working. <b>But one lover after another came to her, promising money.</b> Just as the nature of all men rushes downward from labor to pleasure, she accepted the arrangement, and in this way began her occupation.<sup>2</sup></p>
<p>5. Terence, <i>Andria</i>, 268–77 270 275</p> <p><i>Mysis</i>: laborat e dolore atque ex hoc misera sollicitast, diem quia olim in hunc sunt constitutae nuptiae. <b>tum autem hoc timet, ne deseras se.</b> <i>Pamphilus</i>: hem! egone istuc conari queam? egon propter me illam decipi miseram sinam, quae mihi suom animum atque omnem vitam credidit, quam ego animo egregie caram pro uxore habuerim? bene et pudice eius doctum atque eductum sinam coactum egestate ingenium immutarier? non faciam. <i>Mysis</i>: <b>haud verear si in te solo sit situm, sed vim ut queas ferre.</b></p>	<p><i>Mysis</i>: She's in labor, and she's anxious and miserable from pain and from this, that the wedding had ben set, at one point, on this day. <b>Then, moreover, she's afraid of this, that you'll desert her.</b> <i>Pamphilus</i>: Hey! Would I even be able to begin that? I would allow her, miserable, to be cheated because of me, she who entrusted her whole life and heart to me, who I considered uniquely dear to my heart and as a wife? I would allow her character, instructed and educated well and chastely, to be changed, compelled by poverty? I won't do that. <i>Mysis</i>: <b>I wouldn't worry, if it was up to you alone, but I'm afraid you won't be able to stand the pressure.</b></p>

<sup>2</sup> Text of Terence is Barsby's (2001). Translations are my own.

<p><b>6. Terence, <i>Andria</i>, 285–98</b></p> <p><i>Pamphilus:</i> ... incipit: “mi Pamphile, huius formam atque aetatem vides, nec clam te est quam illi nunc utraeque inutiles et ad pudicitiam et ad rem tutandam sient. quod ego <b>per hanc te dexteram</b> et genium tuom, per tuam fidem perque huius solitudinem 290 te obtestor ne abs te hanc segreges neu deseras. si te in germani fratris dilexi loco sive haec te solum semper fecit maxumi seu tibi morigera fuit in rebus omnibus, <b>te isti virum do</b>, amicum, tutorem, patrem; bona nostra haec tibi permitto et tuae mando fide.” 295 <b>hanc mi in manum dat.</b> mors continuo ipsam occupat. accepi, acceptam servabo.</p>	<p><i>Pamphilus:</i> She began: “My Pamphilus, you see her beauty and youth, and it is no secret to you that these will both now be useless for protecting her chastity and her property. <b>Thus by your right hand</b> and by your character, by your faithfulness and her solitude, I beseech you neither to divide yourself from her nor to desert her. If I have loved you in the place of a true brother, or if she always thought the most of you alone, or if she was dutiful to you in all things, <b>I give you to her as a husband</b>, friend, guardian, father; I entrust this our property to you and I hand it over to your faithfulness.” <b>She put her into my hand.</b> Immediately death overtook her. I accepted, and I will honor having accepted.</p>
<p><b>7. Plautus, <i>Cistellaria</i>, 42–45</b></p> <p><i>Lena:</i> ... heia! haec quidem ecastor cottidie uiro nubit, nupsitque hodie, nubet mox noctu: numquam ego hanc uiduam cubare siui. nam si haec nubat, lugubri fame familia pereat. 45</p>	<p><i>Lena:</i> Ha! Indeed, by god, she marries a man every day, and she married one today, soon she’ll marry tonight: I’ve never allowed her to sleep alone. If she didn’t marry, our household would be destroyed, from grievous hunger.<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>8. Plautus, <i>Cistellaria</i>, 98–99, 241–45</b></p> <p><i>Selenium:</i> ille conceptis iuravit uerbis apud matrem meam 98 me uxorem ducturum esse</p> <p><i>Alcesimarchus:</i> praesertim quae coniurasset mecum et firmasset fidem ... 241 quae esset aetatem exactura mecum in matrimonio ... 243 quae mihi esset commendata et meae fide concredita. 245</p>	<p><i>Selenium:</i> He swore formally before my mother that he would make me his wife.</p> <p><i>Alcesimarchus:</i> Especially a girl who had sworn and oath and confirmed her faithfulness ... who had been about to spend her life married to me ... who had been entrusted to me and handed over to my faithfulness.</p>
<p><b>9. Plautus, <i>Cistellaria</i>, 493–96</b></p> <p><i>Melaenis:</i> nec nos factione tanta quanta tu sumus neque opes nostrae tam sunt ualidae quam tuae; uerum tamen <b>hau metuo ne ius iurandum nostrum quisquam culpitet:</b> 495 <b>tu iam, si quid tibi dolebit, scies qua doleat gratia.</b></p>	<p><i>Melaenis:</i> We don’t keep the great company you do, and we don’t have abundant resources, like you, but even still, <b>I’m not worried that anyone could reproach our oath. As for you, if anything troubles you, you’ll know why it does.</b></p>

<sup>3</sup> Text of Plautus is De Melo’s (2011). Translations are my own.

<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10. Plautus,</b></p> <p><i>Alcesimarchus</i>: ... immo, mulier, audi, meam ut scias sententiam. di me omnes, magni minuti, et etiam patellarii, faxint ne ego dem &lt;uiuae&gt; uiuos sauium Selenio, nisi ego teque tuamque filiam aequae hodie <b>optruncauero</b>, 525 poste autem cum primo luci cras nisi ambo <b>occidero</b>, et equidem hercle nisi pedatu tertio omnis <b>efflixero</b>, nisi tu illam remittis ad me. dixi quae uolui. Uale.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b><i>Cistellaria</i>, 522–28</b></p> <p><i>Alcesimarchus</i>: No, woman, listen, so you will know my resolution. May all the gods, great and small, and even the Lares, make it so that I do not give a kiss to Selenium while we both live, unless <b>I slaughter</b> you and your daughter the same, and unless <b>I kill</b> you both after, at first light tomorrow, and certainly unless, by god, <b>I destroy</b> you all in a third attack, if you don't return her to me. I've said what I wanted to. Goodbye.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11. Terence,</b></p> <p><i>Pythias</i>: ... postquam ludificatust virginem, 645 vestem omnem miserae discidit, tum ipsam capillo conscidit.</p> <p>virgo ipsa lacrumat neque quom rogites quid sit audet dicere. 659</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b><i>Eunuchus</i>, 645–46, 659</b></p> <p><i>Pythias</i>: After he made a sport of her, he ripped all the clothes of the miserable girl, and then he tore at her hair.</p> <p>The girl herself is crying, and when you ask her, she doesn't dare to say what's going on.</p>

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