

GENDERED DIFFERENCES IN THE RECOGNITION PLOT: MENANDER’S *SIKYONIOI*

I. *SIKYONIOI* PLOT SUMMARY

PHILOUMENE	Lost long Athenian citizen, kidnapped at a young age
STRATOPHANES	Sikyonian soldier, long-lost Athenian citizen
MOSCHION	Stratophanes’ rival and Athenian brother
SMIKRINES	Stratophanes’ and Moschion’s father
DROMON	Philoumene’s slave
KICHESIAS	Philoumene’s father
PYRRHIAS	Stratophanes’ slave

In Menander’s *Sikyonioi*, two unrelated children were lost: Stratophanes was given away by his Athenian parents to a foreign couple for unknown reasons, while Philoumene was kidnapped and sold to Stratophanes’ adoptive family in Caria, then moved to their native Sikyon. Grown up, Stratophanes brings Philoumene back to Athens to settle with him, having raised her “as suits a free woman” with the intention of making her a concubine. The neighbor boy Moschion, an Athenian, in competition with Stratophanes, hopes to make Philoumene his mistress. Fearing Moschion, Stratophanes, or an unknown creditor seeking possession of all Stratophanes’ property, Philoumene flees to the sanctuary of Persephone and Demeter at Eleusis, where she begs the citizens to protect her until she can locate her father and prove her citizen status. Stratophanes discovers he is an Athenian citizen thanks to a letter written by his foster mother on her deathbed: he is Moschion’s older brother. When Philoumene’s father is found and her identity is verified, Stratophanes asks for permission to marry her. Moschion loses out.

II. MENANDER’S RECOGNITION PLOTS

GENDER OF CHILD	TEMPORARY FATE OF CHILD			
	ACCIDENTALLY LOST	ABANDONED	GIVEN AWAY	FATHER UNKNOWN
MALE		<i>Epitrepontes</i> <i>*Fabula Incerta 6</i>	<i>Perikeiromene</i> <i>Sikyonioi</i> <i>Hieriea</i> <i>Heros</i>	<i>Georgos</i>
FEMALE	<i>Misoumenos</i> <i>Sikyonioi</i>		<i>Perikeiromene</i> <i>Phasma</i> <i>Heros</i>	<i>Georgos</i>

III. THE GENDERED RECOGNITION PLOT

Philoumene:

unwavering belief in identity • (reported) flight • (absent) recognition by father • (absent) betrothal
 |----- static character development -----|

Stratophanes:

arrogant soldier → belief about identity shaken →

<i>(development through adversity)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial trouble • recognition by parents • acquisition of love

 → active member of community
 |-----development into responsible citizen-----→

IV. PHILOUMENE'S (ABSENT) RECOGNITION

(Δρ) ἔστι σοι καὶ σώζεται
τὸ θυγάτριον.

(Κι) καλῶς δὲ σώζεται, Δρόμων,
ἢ σώζετ', αὐτὸ τοῦτο;

(Δρ) παρθένος γ' ἔτι,
ἄπειρος ἀνδρός.

(Κι) εὖ γε. (370–73)

Dromon: Your daughter is alive and is safe.

Kichesias: But is she really safe, Dromon, or just safe?

Dromon: She's still a virgin—she's never known a man.

Kichesias: Good.

V. STRATOPHANES' JOURNEY

A. Financial Troubles

Pyrrhias describes Stratophanes' Sikyonian mother's dilemma (138–40):

“Having learned from those familiar with the laws that you and your things were liable to seizure by this man, dying, she tried to take precautions for you and tried to restore you to your family, with good reason.”

ὄντ' ἀγώγιμόν σε τούτῳ πυθομένη τῶν τοὺς νόμους | εἰδότεν τήν τ' οὐσίαν σου, τοῦτο προῦνοεῖτό σου |
καὶ τελευτῶσ' ἀπεδίδου σε τοῖς σεαυτῶν γ' εὐλόγως

B. Recognition

Pyrrhias brings back the tokens (141–44):

“And besides their letters, Stratophanes, I bring proof, tokens of recognition.”

καὶ ταδί χωρὶς φέρω | τῶν γεγραμμένων ἐκείνοις, Στρατοφάνη, γνωρίσματα | καὶ τεκμήρι'

Smikrines' wife describes the tokens accompanying the letter from the Sikyonian woman (280–85):

πτέρυξ χιτωνίσκου γυναικείου διπλῆ· ἔ]κρυπ[τε
γὰ]ρ σῶμ' ἠνίκ' ἐξέπεμπομεν
πρὸς τήν] ξένην σε τήν τότε' αἰτοῦσαν τέκνα.
[]νεστιν ἀλλὰ τῷ βεβαμμένῳ
[]τ' ἔχουσα χρώματος φύσιν
πέριξ ἰώ]δους τοῦν μέσῳ δὲ πορφύρας

Half of a woman's chiton folded over; it covered your body when we were giving you away to a foreign woman looking for children...with dyed...having some color, edged in green, and purple in the middle.

C. Acquisition of Love Interest

Dromon, Kichesias, and Stratophanes arrange Philoumene's betrothal (379–83):

{(Στρ)} χαῖρε, πάτερ.

{(Δρ)} οὗτός σοι σέσωκε τὴν κόρην.

{(Κι)} ἀλλ' εὐτυχῆς γένοιτο.

{(Στρ)} ἐάνπερ σοι δοκῆ,

ἔσομαι, πάτερ, καὶ μακάριός γε.

{(Δρ)} Στρατοφάνη,

πρὸς τὴν Φ[ιλουμένην βαδί]ζωμεν ταχύ,

πρὸς τῶν] θεῶν.

Stratophanes: Hello, father.

Dromon: This man has saved your daughter for you.

Kichesias: Bless you then.

Stratophanes: If it's okay with you, father, I'll be that and a happy bridegroom.

Dromon: Stratophanes, let's head over to Philoumene, quickly, by gods!

VI. MOSCHION'S DISAPPOINTMENT

(Μο) νῦν οὐδὲ προσβλέψαι σε, Μοσχίω[ν, ἔτι
πρὸς τὴν κόρην δεῖ· Μοσχίων [κακοκαίμονεῖς.
λευκὴ σφόδρ', εὐόφθαλμός ἐστιν· οὐδὲ[ν εἶ
ἀδελφός ὁ γαμῶν, μακάριος κα[ὶ πλούσιος.
οἷον γὰρ οὗτος, ἔτι λέγεις· ὄν ἄντ[ικρυς
πρᾶγμ' ἐστ' ἐπαινεῖν χάριν ἔνο[
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐρῶ γε· μὴ γὰρ, ὃ τᾶν, ὅσον [
παροχῆσομαι δηλονότι καὶ κ[
τρίτος με[τ]' αὐτῶν, ἄνδρες, οὐ δῦ[νήσομαι
(397-405)

Moschion: But now, Moschion, you can't even
look at the girl; Moschion, you unlucky sap. She's
so pale, such pretty eyes...and you're nothing.
Your brother's marrying her. He's lucky and rich,
such—oh, why are you still talking about this? I'll
even have to straight out sing his praises—no
thanks. I won't say it. Do not, man! Obviously I'll
be sitting right there in the carriage, a third wheel
with them. Guys, I won't be able...

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arnott, G. W. 1997a. "First Notes on Menander's *Sikyonioides*." *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 116: 1-10.
- 1997b. "Further Notes on Menander's *Sikyonioides* (vv.110-322)." *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 117: 21-34.
- 1997c. "Final Notes on Menander's *Sikyonioides* (vv. 343-423 with frs. 1, 2, and 7)." *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 118: 95-103.
- 2000. *Menander III* (Loeb Classical Library Vol. 460). Cambridge, MA.
- Belardinelli, A. M. 1994. *Menandro Sicioni: Introduzione, testo e comment* (*Studi de commenti* 11). Bari.
- Blanchard, A. 2014. "Reconstructing Menander." 239-257 in M. Fontaine & A. C. Scafuro (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook to Greek and Roman Comedy*. New York.
- Blanchard, A. and A. Bataille. 1965. "Fragments sur papyrus du Σικυώνιος de Ménandre." *Recherches de Papyrologie* 3 (1965): 103-76, planches vi-xii.
- Furley, W. D. 2014. "Aspects of Recognition in *Perikeiromene* and Other Plays." 106-115 in A. H. Sommerstein (ed.), *Menander in Contexts*. New York.
- Gomme, A. W., & Sandbach, F. H. 1973. *Menander: A Commentary*. Oxford.
- Handley, E. 1965. "Notes on the *Sikyonioides* of Menander." *BICS* 12.1: 38-62.
- 2011. "The Rediscovery of Menander." 138-159 in D. Obbink & R. Rutherford (eds.), *Culture in Pieces: Essays on Ancient Texts in Honour of Peter Parsons*. Oxford.
- Heap, A. 1998. "Understanding the Men in Menander." 114-29 in L. Foxhall & J. Salmon (eds.), *Thinking Men: Masculinity and Its Self-Representation in the Classical Tradition*. New York.
- Kassel, R. 1965. *Menandri Sicyonioides*. *Kleine Texte* 185. Berlin.
- Lape, S. 2004. *Reproducing Athens*. Princeton.
- 2010. "Gender in Menander's Comedy." 51-78 in A. K. Petrides & S. Papaioannou (eds.), *New Perspectives on Postclassical Comedy*. Newcastle on Tyne.
- Lloyd-Jones, H. 1966. "Menander's *Sikyonioides*." *GRBS* 7: 131-157.
- Lowe, N. J. 2007. *Comedy* (Greece & Rome: New Surveys in the Classics Vol. 37). Cambridge.
- MacFarlane, J. 2000. "Aristotle's Definition of 'Anagnorisis'." *American Journal of Philology* 121.3: 367-383.
- Merkelbach, R. 1966. "Menandria." *Museum Helveticum* 23.3: 172-185.
- Munteanu, D. 2002. "Types of Anagnorisis: Aristotle and Menander: A Self-Defining Comedy." *Wiener Studien* 115: 111-126.
- Sommerstein, A. H. 1998. "Rape and Young Manhood in Athenian Comedy." 100-113 in L. Foxhall & J. Salmon (eds.), *Thinking Men: Masculinity and Its Self-Representation in the Classical Tradition*. New York.
- Traill, A. 2008. *Women and the Comic Plot in Menander*. New York.
- Webster, T. B. L. 1974. *An Introduction to Menander*. New York.