

MADAM MNEMOSYNE

1-7-43

ACT ONE

Scene 7

MADAME MNEMOSYNE's dress shop, that afternoon.

CATASTROPHE comes in the door, pulling LYCAENA with her.
A BELL RINGS above the door. MNEMOSYNE enters.

START

MNEMOSYNE

Good afternoon, madam. Lovely to see you again. Can I help you?

(MUSIC FADES)

CATASTROPHE

Yes. Madame Mnemosyne. My slave needs a wedding dress.

LYCAENA

Please, mistress, don't make me do this!

(LYCAENA runs to the door. CATASTROPHE gets there before SHE does and slams it closed)

CATASTROPHE

Sweet thing, she's overwhelmed with happiness.

MNEMOSYNE

I think I have just what you're looking for. Take off your clothes.

LYCAENA

Now?

MNEMOSYNE

Take off your clothes.

LYCAENA

No!

CATASTROPHE

Do as she says.

(MNEMOSYNE rips the chiton off her in one gesture, spinning LYCAENA around. SHE tosses LYCAENA's chiton over a screen)

LYCAENA

Hey, come back here with my clothes.

CATASTROPHE

Lycaena, I don't understand you. You should be rejoicing.

(MNEMOSYNE finds a wedding dress -- a long piece of material that can be easily draped around LYCAENA)

MNEMOSYNE

Ah! Here we are! *Numero soixante-neuf*. A most exclusive design!
(SHE pulls LYCAENA behind the screen.)

DOORBELL RINGS. AESOP enters)

CATASTROPHE

Aesop, what are you doing here?

LYCAENA

(Popping her head out from behind the screen)
Yes, what ARE you doing here?

CATASTROPHE

It's bad luck to see the bride before the wedding!

MNEMOSYNE

(Leading LYCAENA from behind the screen)
This irresistibly stunning frock features the finest flowing silk from far Cathay.

CATASTROPHE

(Consulting with MNEMOSYNE)
What about a little something to set off her face?

MNEMOSYNE

Perhaps a veil.

(SHE and CATASTROPHE exit into the back of the shop)

AESOP

STOP
You look beautiful!

LYCAENA

Aesop!

AESOP

After all, no self-respecting bride can afford to be unfashionably attired when she escapes.

LYCAENA

(Stage whisper, to AESOP)

Escapes?

AESOP

How do you feel about the midnight boat to Crete?