

“The Comedy of Errors”  
by William Shakespeare

Dromio was no less surprised. The cook-maid, who was his brother’s wife, also claimed him for her husband.

While Antipholus of Syracuse was dining with his brother’s wife, the real husband returned home to dinner with his slave Dromio. The servants would not open the door because their mistress had ordered them not to admit any company. When they repeatedly knocked and said they were Antipholus and Dromio, the maids laughed and said that Antipholus was at dinner with their mistress and Dromio was in the kitchen. Though they almost knocked the door down, they could not gain admittance. At last Antipholus went away very angry and

strangely surprised at hearing a gentleman dining with his wife.

When Antipholus of Syracuse had finished his dinner, he was so perplexed at the lady's calling him husband and at hearing that Dromio had been claimed by the cookmaid. He left the house as soon as he could find any pretense to get away. Though he was very much pleased with Luciana, the sister, he disliked the jealous-tempered Adriana very much. Nor was Dromio at all satisfied with his fair wife in the kitchen. Both master and man were glad to get away from their new wives as fast as they could.

The moment Antipholus of Syracuse had left the house he met a goldsmith, who, mistaking him, as Adriana had done, for Antipholus of Ephesus, gave

him a gold chain, calling him by his name. Antipholus refused the chain, saying it did not belong to him. The goldsmith replied he made it by his own orders and went away, leaving the chain in the hands of Antipholus, who ordered Dromio to get his things on board a ship. He chose not to stay in a place any longer where he met with strange adventures that he thought himself bewitched.

The goldsmith who had given the chain to the wrong Antipholus was arrested for a sum of money he owed. Antipholus, the married brother, to whom the goldsmith thought he had given the chain, came to the place where the officer was arresting the goldsmith, who asked Antipholus to pay for the gold chain he had just delivered to him. The

price amounted to nearly the same sum as that for which he had been arrested.

Antipholus denied having received the chain, and the goldsmith persisted to declare that he had but a few minutes before given it to him. They disputed this matter a long time, both thinking they were right. Antipholus knew the goldsmith never gave him the chain, and so like were the two brothers, the goldsmith was as certain he had delivered the chain into his hands. At last the officer took the goldsmith away to prison for the debt he owed, and, at the same time, the goldsmith made the officer arrest Antipholus for the price of the chain. At the conclusion of their dispute, Antipholus and the merchant were both taken away to prison together.