

“The Comedy of Errors”  
by William Shakespeare

The lady left astonished at his words and his wild looks for nothing to her appeared more certain than that he had dined with her and that she had given him a ring in consequence of his promising to make her a present of a gold chain. This lady had fallen into the same mistake the others had done for she had taken him for his brother. The married Antipholus had done all the things she taxed this Antipholus with.

When the married Antipholus was denied entrance into his house (those within supposing him to be already there), he had gone away very angry, believing it to be one of his wife’s jealous freaks to which she was very subject.

Remembering that she had often falsely accused him of visiting other ladies, he, to be revenged on her for shutting him out of his own house, determined to go and dine with this lady. She, receiving him with great civility and his wife having so highly offended him, Antipholus promised to give her a gold chain which he had intended as a present for his wife. It was the same chain which the goldsmith by mistake had given to his brother. The lady liked so well the thoughts of having a fine gold chain that she gave the married Antipholus a ring. When, as she supposed (taking his brother for him), he said he did not know her and left her in such a wild passion, she began to think he was certainly out of his senses. She resolved to go and tell Adriana that her husband was mad.

While she was telling it to Adriana, he came, attended by the jailer (who allowed him to come home to get the money to pay the debt), for the purse of money which Adriana had sent by Dromio and he had delivered to the other Antipholus. Adriana believed the story the lady told her of her husband's madness must be true when he reproached her for shutting him out of his own house. Remembering how he had protested all dinner-time that he was not her husband and had never been in Ephesus till that day, she had no doubt that he was mad. She paid the jailer the money, and, having discharged him, she ordered her servants to bind her husband with ropes. She had him conveyed into a dark room and sent for a doctor to come and cure him of his madness. All the while, Antipholus hotly

exclaimed against this false accusation, which the exact likeness he bore to his brother had brought upon him. His rage only the more confirmed them in the belief that he was mad. Dromio persisted in the same story, they bound him also and took him away along with his master.

Soon after Adriana had put her husband into confinement, a servant came to tell her that Antipholus and Dromio must have broken loose from their keepers for that they were both walking at liberty in the next street. On hearing this, Adriana ran out to fetch him home, taking some people with her to secure her husband again. Her sister went along with her.