

**Gold, B. (2020) “The Wife in Charge, the Husband Humiliated: Stock Characters in Evolution”, G. F. Franko and D. Dutsch (eds), *A Companion to Plautus*, Wiley Blackwell, 165-78.**

In the *Casina*, Plautus also contrives an interesting plot by including Cleostrata’s play within a play. With Cleostrata in charge, we see in this mini-drama women on the ascendant and men humiliated. We are also introduced to some serious issues in Cleostrata’s play: the attempted rape of a young virgin by arguably the father or stepfather, the attempt by a father to cheat his son of a bride, the adulterous behavior of a husband, the attempted coercion of a slave into raping a young virgin, and the abuse of slaves. Plautus’ use of shifting gender, sexuality, and social status further adds to the complexity and lack of resolution in *Casina*, making it perhaps the most radical and least resolved play in the Plautine corpus.