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This paper analyzes Latin literary portrayals of two fictional women, both identified as “Phoenician”—the brothel slave Phoenicium in Plautus’ comic *Pseudolus*, and Dido, Queen of Carthage, in Vergil’s epic *Aeneid*—to consider what their distinctive modes of self-expression imply about Roman views of the relationship between gender and Phoenician ethnicity. Acknowledging that both fit the unflattering stereotype of all Phoenicians as verbally manipulative and deceptive, it argues that both women are similarly represented as engaged in intense emotional work as sympathetic listeners to their male lovers, preoccupied with and skilled at voicing desires for shared erotic fulfillment and demands that their lovers value their erotic investments.