

CHORUS OF WOMEN

The beast in me's eager and hot for a brawl.
I'd like to rile me a bit and kick down the wall.
You scrawl to your friends that you've no balls at a

KORYPHAIOS OF WOMEN

All right, ladies, up for action. Let's give them a whiff
of *Femme Engagée*—piercing and pungent, but not at
all tart.

The women move their tunics.

CHORUS OF WOMEN

We're angry. The brain of a bird who tangles
with us has gummed his beak with mush.
In fact, the coot who even heeds
is being daringly rash.
So look to your nests, you reclaimed eagles—

KORYPHAIOS OF WOMEN

Frankly, you don't faze me. *With me*, I have my
friends—
Lampito from Sparta; that genteel girl from Thebes,
Ismenia—
committed to me forever. *Against me*, you—permanently
out of commission. So do your damndest.

Pass a law.
Pass seven. Continue the winning ways that have made
your name a short and ugly household word.

Like yesterday:
I was giving a little party, nothing fussy, to honor
the goddess Hekate. Simply to please my daughters,
I'd invited a sweet little thing from the neighborhood—
flawless pedigree, perfect
taste, a credit to any gathering—a Boiotian eel.
But she had to decline. Couldn't pass the border. You'd
passed a law.
Not that you care for my party. You'll overwork your
right of passage

till your august body is overturned,
and you break your silly neck!

*She deftly grabs the Koryphaios of Men by the ankle and
upsets him. He scuttles back to the Men, who retire in
confusion.*

KORYPHAIOS OF WOMEN

Black-tragic.

Mistress, queen of this subtle scheme,
why burst you from the house with brangled brow?

LYSISTRATA

Oh, wickedness of woman! The female mind
does sap my soul and set my wits a-flutter.

KORYPHAIOS OF WOMEN

What drear accents are these?

LYSISTRATA

the merest truth.

KORYPHAIOS OF WOMEN

I'm nothing loath to tell the tale to my friends.

LYSISTRATA

It were shame to utter, pain to hold it said.

KORYPHAIOS OF WOMEN

Hide not from the affliction which we share.

LYSISTRATA

In briefest compass,
Dropping the paratragedy.

we want to get laid.

KORYPHAIOS OF WOMEN