

ERRONIUS

Ah, home at last. Bring up the baggage. Fetch the rest from the harbor.

(SAILORS exit D.R.)

Ah, home at last! After years of searching for my long lost children.

(HYSTERIUM enters from center house, carrying chicken. Reacts in horror.)

How good it is to see this street once more. These tired old eyes fill with tears at the sight of the little they see.

(HE bumps into HYSTERIUM.)

Pardon me, young, woman. I was just — that is — I mean to say — Ah, lovely baby.

(Pats chicken.)

About the age of my children when they were stolen by pirates.

(Crossing to house S.L.)

Well, at least I have the comfort of my lonely house.

(HYSTERIUM rushes to door of house L.)

Boy
→

HYSTERIUM

Sir!

ERRONIUS

And who are you?

HYSTERIUM

Hysterium, sir, servant to Senex.

ERRONIUS

(To pillar)

Yes, of course. I should have known you anywhere.

(SENEX is heard singing from inside house "Everybody Ought To Have a Maid." Backing away.)

What was that?

HYSTERIUM

What was what?

ERRONIUS

(Pointing to house S.L.)

That!

HYSTERIUM

That what?

ERRONIUS

That eerie sound.

Eerie?

HYSTERIUM

Eerie, as if haunted.

ERRONIUS

(To himself)

HYSTERIUM

Eerie, as if haunted?

(To ERRONIUS.)

Sir, what I am about to tell you is eerie... Your house is — is haunted.

ERRONIUS

Haunted?

HYSTERIUM

As haunted as the day is long!

(PSEUDOLUS enters U.R. from behind center house, stirring the potion, listens to the following.)

ERRONIUS

Impossible! My house haunted, you say? Strange.

HYSTERIUM

But true. Perhaps you ought to stay with relatives... distant relatives.

ERRONIUS

Yes — No! Fetch me a soothsayer.

HYSTERIUM

A soothsayer?

ERRONIUS

Yes, I must have him search my house immediately.

(PSEUDOLUS puts cloth over his head, runs to ERRONIUS, chants ghoulishly. ERRONIUS turns to HYSTERIUM.)

Who is that?

PSEUDOLUS

You are in need of a soothsayer?

ERRONIUS

How did you know?

PSEUDOLUS

I'd be a fine soothsayer if I didn't!

End →

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