

**The Ghoul Next Door – Scene 14 – Tr/Th**

**Accompanied Scene**

**Tr:** (Enter determined from alleyway, a little sense of being roughed up)

A scaredy-cat when the going gets tough isn't worth squat,

And with my skillsets I don't know squat about squat.

When master sent me to the farm to pick up his son,

I snuck down the alley through the back door,

1045

Swung open the garden gate and led forth my legions, male and female, (vivid retelling)

Every platoon saved from siege; then I collected counsel

in that senate committee of company companions.

They promptly voted me out of the senate; (throw up hands, bewildered)

1050

And when I saw they'd sold me right there in the forum market,

I scrambled like the next guy would when conditions are sticky or stormy,...(surprise twist acting like being pounded by rain, then do mime against the wind)

And stormed right ahead with no chance of let up. (break storm)

I know this can't all be kept under wraps from the old man,

So I'll hunt him down first, anticipate his every action (wily, then suddenly resigned) and strike a

treaty. (overhear Simo's door opening, move L)

1060

Oh, the neighbor's door is creaking, and look, it's my master. (move farther L)

**Th:** (enter with two goons!) You two stand right there at the door, till I give the order

to pounce, then you slap the cuffs (PROP) on that abusive joker who made me look like an ass;

the joke'll be on him and his sorry ass. (blocking R entrance) **Tr:** Oops, the jig is up! Tranio, think of something

**Th:** Gotta be clever and crafty to catch that one. Won't give him the hook first,

1070

I'll lead him with a little line (fishing moves), and pretend I know nothing.

**Tr:** What a guy! No shrewder in Athens! Giving him the old razzle-dazzle will be harder

Than scamming a bag of rocks, and he's dumb as a brick. I'll go say, 'Hey.' **Th:** Sure wish he'd come.

**Tr:** If you're looking for me, present and accounted for. (Th confused with arrival from L, look R)

**Th:** Oh, wow (startled), Good, Tranio, what's up? **Tr:** The country crew is on their way.

Philolaches too. **Th:** Such good timing! I see our neighbor is a clever rascal (trying to cover sight of

the goons). Says you never gave him a drachma. **Tr:** Come on! You're such a kidder.

1080

**Th:** Yeah, yeah, and denies he sold the house to Philolaches.

**Tr:** Well, says we never paid him, hmm? (turning away concerned). **Th:** Said he'd swear so in court. And would hand his slaves over for truthful testimony under torture. Let's begin the investigation.

(nastily) **Tr:** Let me get that guy! (moving toward house) **Th:** Let me get THOSE GUYS (step aside for goons) 1090

**Tr:** (cowed, backing) What took you so long? **Th:** First, I'd like a slave inquisition!

**Tr:** Good idea (nervous), meanwhile I'll reserve this altar (stageL, sits on it) **Th:** Why?

**Tr:** Umm (dodging) to keep any slaves from seeking refuge here, and thus evade your inquisition (gulp, kiss altar) 1095

**Th.** Up **Tr:** No way. **Th:** Please, no altar reservation. **Tr:** Why? (singsongy) **Th:** BECAUSE...

I want the slaves to run there,...that will...prove to the judge how much more money I'm due...for a great case (realizes it's lame) **Tr:** Do one thing or the other! Judges can be so intimidating! 1100

**Th:** Just get up! And come here! (not intimidating, then sneaky) I want your...advice.

**Tr:** I can advise right here, (acting) so much wiser, sitting, giving and getting better advice in a sacred space.

**Th:** Get up....(whiny) no more fooling around. **Tr:** I see two sneaky bad boys (looking about and pointing at self and Th). **Th:** You swindled me, God...knows you wiped me clean. (blow nose here?)

**Tr:** Funny: SNOT a thing on you. (ha ha). **Th:** But I've uprooted all your radical rerouting and I recommend a radically new route of eradication. **Tr:** Not going anywhere today (gets comfortable on tiny altar). **Th:** I'll order up fire and firewood round your altar.

**Tr:** I'm sure I'd be much tastier boiled than roasted (taste self humorously) 1115

**Th:** God damn it, I'm gonna make an example out of you. **Tr:** Ooh, THAT good am I? Exemplary?

**Th:** When I left town, what kind of son did I leave here?

**Tr:** The kind with feet, hands, fingers, ears, eyes, lips.

**Th:** That's not what I was asking. **Tr:** No, but it's what I was answering. (notice C coming R).

Look there, your son's buddy Callidamates; why not 'take care of me' with him here? 1120