

The Ghoul Next Door – Scene 5 – Tr/Phlo/Phlm/C/D/Sp
(C & D on couch to up center, Phlo & Phlo to down L of Th's door)

Accompanied scene

Tr: (Enter R from straight up center panicked)

God almighty, Jove above must want me dead,

Me and my young master, Philolaches, too.

Our hopes are dashed, our shelter smashed. 350

Safety herself couldn't save us on the off chance that she'd want to;

The harbor's heaped high with hellishly horrible happenstance. (Phlo hears something, sits up)

The old man's back from overseas; doom and gloom for Tranio.

Anybody out here wanna earn a little extra cash? (front of audience by here, moving to stage R)

Any volunteer for my impending crucifixion? A fee for my work at cross purposes? (nervous laugh)

Phlo: Oh, look, it's Tranio, back from shopping at the harbor? 362

Tr: Philolaches! **Phlo:** Yes? **Tr:** You and me(panting)-**Phlo:** You and me? **Tr:** We're done for!

Phlo: (rising) We're what? How? **Tr:** Your father's back. **Phlo:** Come again? (Tr return to R as if to do it over)

Tr: Philolaches! **Phlo:** YES?! **Tr:** Your father's back from abroad, I saw him myself.

Phlo: Yup, I'm dead, if you're telling the truth! **Tr:** What good does it do me to lie? (double take aside to audience, knowing smile) 370

Phlo: (frantic) What do I do, hoo hoo **Tr:** (shake him out of it) Clear out this crap (sniffing R)!

Who's asnooze? **Phlo:** Callidamates. Get him up, Delphium. (Tr go around behind couches)

D: (sweetly) Callidamates, (snappy) Callidamates, wake up. **C:** (drunk – up quickly) I'm up, gimme a drink (leaning back onto couch).

D: Wake up. Philolaches' father's back from abroad? **C:** Hello, father. Where's the broad?

Phlo: Hello, father, Hell, ohhhh me. **C:** Hold you? Aww, I love you too man. (hug, slip out) 375

Phlo: Oh my god, please get up; my father's back. **C:** Your father's back?

Tell him to get lost again. Why'd he come back – and here? (looking around disgusted at the place)

Phlo: What do I do? Father will find me stinking drunk,

His house overrun with partiers and "ladies." 380

Tr: Hey, his head's hit the spot again (on Delphium' chest) – he's out. Get him up!

Phlo: Asleep again? (scrambling to clean) I'm telling you my father's here? **C:** Huh, your father?

(sit up quickly) Get my boots, and my sword. By god, (standing stumbling) I'll kill your dad dead.

Phlo: You're ruining everything. **D:** (to C) Hush, dear, please. **Phlo:** (to slaves) Haul him inside, manhandle him out. 385

C: Damn, can you two spot me a piss pot – cause otherwise you're gonna be it real soon (start carting him off inside)

Phlo: Aaaaah **Tr:** Get yourself together: I'll treat your trauma amusingly. (play doctor to sitting Phlo)

Phlo: More aaaaah. **Tr:** Shhh, I'm considering your condition.

Will it do if I see with your father's arrival

That he not only won't enter the house, but actually gets far away from it? 390

You all, for now, go inside and clear away all this stuff pronto.

Phlo: Where do I go? **Tr:** Where you want to be most, with her (Phlm) and that thing that just left (C) will be with her (D).

D: Shouldn't we just leave. **Tr:** Not at all, Delphium,

You can drink just as much inside as out here

Phlo: Oh boy! When he spouts those free-flowing words I'm drunk with dread. 395

Tr: Can you just keep your head and do what I say. **Phlo:** Uh huh!

Tr: First, Philematium, Delphium, you two get inside.

D: We both graciously honor and obey till death.... **Tr:** Yeah, yeah, God help us all (pushing them out). Now you: First, see that the house is in lock down; 400

Don't let one person inside utter a peep. **Phlo:** Done!

Tr: As if not a living soul lives in the house. **Phlo:** Got it!

Tr: No one can answer when the old man knocks.

And bring me the front door key, so I can lock the house up. 405

Phlo: Tranio, my hopes and I are in your keeping.

Tr: There's not a hair's difference in skill sets from patron to client.

(Music stops)

Worthless is worthless, high class or low 410

Find a man with loads of smarts,

when things are scrambled hopelessly,

to calm things down, no damage done. 415

The storm that's been brewing here, now will be stilled.

No troubles or pains for any of us (Sphaerio enters from Th's house with big key – walking like asst. on a game show)

What are you doing here, Sphaerio? Excellent, yes, 420

Obeying orders. **Sp:** I was told to get you

To scare off his father by all necessary means,

And never let him near his son inside. **Tr:** Tell him,

His father won't dare even glance at his house,

He'll duck and cover, flee in full fright.

Hand me the outdoor key and go lock up inside. (Sp exits inside) 425

The games and plays I host today when the old man's still alive,

Will never be matched by the ones in his honor when he's dead and gone.

I'll keep watch for him from here, and dump a load on his homecoming. (to up R, Left of Simo's

house in the gap between houses) 430