

**ERRONIUS**

Bring up the baggage. Fetch the rest from the harbor.

*(SAILORS exit)*

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

*(HYSTERIUM enters from SENEX's house, carrying plucked 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.

*(Going to his house)*

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

*(HYSTERIUM rushes to door of ERRONIUS's house)*

**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 a bit of "Everybody Ought To Have A Maid.")*

What was that?

**HYSTERIUM**

I didn't hear anything.

*(SENEX sings a bit more)*

I didn't hear that either.

**ERRONIUS**

You did not hear that eerie sound?

**HYSTERIUM**

Eerie?

**ERRONIUS**

Eerie, as if haunted.

**HYSTERIUM**

*(To himself)*

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, stirring the potion, listens)*

**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.)*

**PSEUDOLUS**

You are in need of a soothsayer?

**ERRONIUS**

How did you know?