

SCENE 2: THE DEETZES ARRIVE Delia, Charles, Lydia

(#11 - THE DEETZES begins.)

(CHARLES DEETZ enters. Late 40s, the tightly wound, highly compartmentalized human pocket-square we saw at the funeral in the opening. And – DELIA SCHLIMMER, late 30s: Her daffy self-help bravado masks haplessness just a few shallow mantras beneath the surface. Everything she says sounds like an affirmation. DELIA walks into the middle of the room.)

DELIA

Mmmmm! Yes! There's very good energy in here.

CHARLES

I'm glad you like it! We only have two days to transform this old house into the flagship model home of my new gated community.

DELIA

Then you just need to convince Maxie Dean.

CHARLES

Yes! If I get Maxie Dean in my corner, the investments will pour in.

DELIA

Everything will be fine. It's like my Guru Otho always says, "Every success begins with 'Sucks,' but ends with 'Yes!' Sucksyes!"

(They impulsively embrace.)

CHARLES

No. We have to stop. What if Lydia walks in?

DELIA

Maybe we should tell her... about us?

CHARLES

No. She's still too fragile.

(breaking away)

That's why you're here. To be her – what do you call yourself again?

DELIA

A Life Coach!

CHARLES

Right. And what's that mean?

DELIA

Almost anything!

(MOVERS enter carrying a large modern sofa. It rotates to reveal LYDIA, 15, all in black, lying prone, a lily on her chest, like she's in a coffin.)

LYDIA

Hey, Dad! Does this couch make me look dead?

CHARLES

Lydia, I'm not going to answer a question like that.

LYDIA

(hopping up)

Dad, how long do we have to stay here? I want to go home.

CHARLES

About that. I thought we could both use a fresh start. So I'm selling our old house. We're going to live <u>here!</u>

LYDIA

What!? Dad! No. You can't do that. Dead Mom loved our house—

CHARLES

"Dead Mom?" Lydia.

LYDIA

You never want to talk about her!

CHARLES

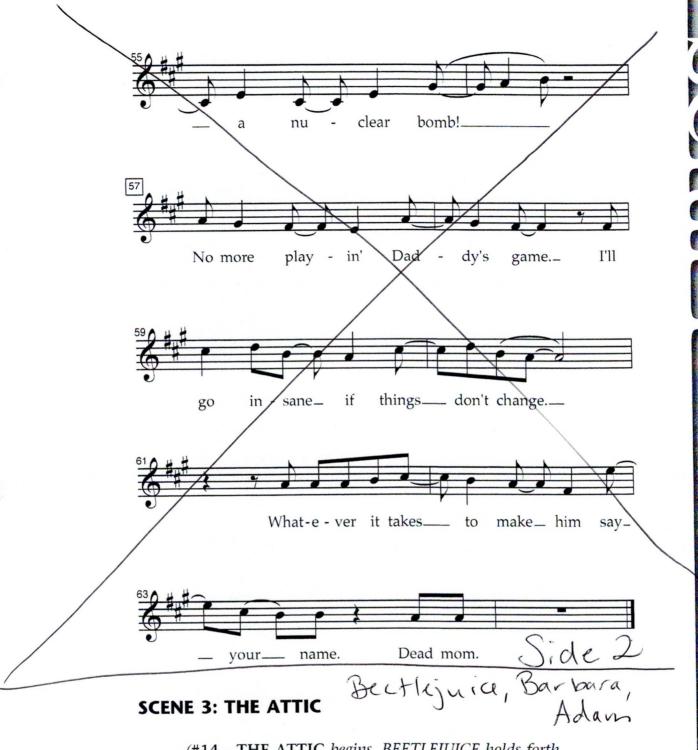
That's because I am trying to – Delia, do your job, please. Life coach her?

DELIA

"Knock Knock." "Who's there?" "Happiness!"

No.

Lydia:



(#14 - THE ATTIC begins. BEETLEJUICE holds forth. BARBARA and ADAM listen.)

BEETLEJUICE

If you wanna get those people out of your house, you have to learn to <u>scare</u> them.

BARBARA

Can't you just... scare the people for us?

BEETLEJUICE

Here's the problem— Right now, no matter what I do, I cannot affect the World of the Living. But you two <u>can</u>. So whaddya say?

(BARBARA and ADAM check in with each other.)

BARBARA, ADAM

O-kay!

BEETLEJUICE

Love the enthusiasm. And after you scare 'em, you make 'em say this—

(He hands ADAM a business card. ADAM reads—)

ADAM

It just says, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice Beetlejuice"!

BEETLEJUICE

Bingo!

BARBARA

It's your name, isn't it?

BEETLEJUICE

Middle name. My first name's "Lawrence."

ADAM

But why make them say it? We already said it a bunch of times.

BEETLEJUICE

It doesn't matter if you say it, Adam. THEY HAVE TO BE ALIVE! Let's do this – give me your best primal scream.

BARBARA

(does her best scream)

Ahhh!

ADAM

Barbara! That was brilliant!

(BEETLEJUICE sighs.)

BEETLEJUICE

Never mind! Forget the whole thing! BYE!

ADAM

So wait. You're just leaving?

BEETLEJUICE

Yeah, Adam. 'Cause this isn't working out. So GOODBYE! Sayonara! Don't text me in the middle of the night saying, "U up?" 'Cause NEW PHONE WHO DIS!?

Barbara & Adam try to scare Lydia Side 3: Lydia, Borbara, (They nod, then freeze.)

(LYDIA)

This house is haunted?!

(takes their photo)

My name is Lydia Deetz. Do not be afraid.

BARBARA

Why aren't you afraid of us?

LYDIA

Cause you're... not scary?

(gasps; excited)

Unless – Are you horribly disfigured? Is that why you're wearing sheets? Can I see?

(ADAM and BARBARA take off their sheets.)

BARBARA

We're just a normal couple. We used to live here.

ADAM

I'm confused. We were told living people ignore the strange and unusual.

BARBARA

But not you...

LYDIA

That's because I, myself, am strange and unusual.

BARBARA

You seem like a normal girl to me.

(LYDIA smiles warmly. A spark between them.)

ADAM

So Lydia, do you think you'd mind leaving and never coming back?

BARBARA

Adam!

ADAM

I don't mean her, I mean her family—

LYDIA

Yuck. We are NOT a family. We are father, daughter, and Delia.

BARBARA

Your mother. She...

LYDIA

Died.

BARBARA

Lydia. I'm so sorry.

LYDIA

Me too. 'Cause she'd LOVE this.

(<u>#18 - MAMA</u> begins.)

(LYDIA)

I mean – REAL ghosts! We used to make these haunted houses in the garage. One year, we tried to do a "classic horror" theme. Mom was "The Ghost of Edgar Allan Poe." I thought she was terrifying, but no one knew who she was. People don't read.

(ADAM and BARBARA laugh.)

Sorry. I didn't mean to bore you guys talking about my mom.

BARBARA

We don't mind.

LYDIA

Really? This is the first nice moment I've had since I got here.

BARBARA

This is the first nice moment we've had since we... died.

LYDIA

(getting an idea)

Hey, maybe we can help each other.

BARBARA

What do you mean?

LYDIA

You want your house back, right? That's what I want too. So let's scare my dad. Once he realizes this house is haunted, we'll HAVE to leave.

BARBARA

But your dad won't see us.

LYDIA

He doesn't see me either! But together, we'll MAKE him see.

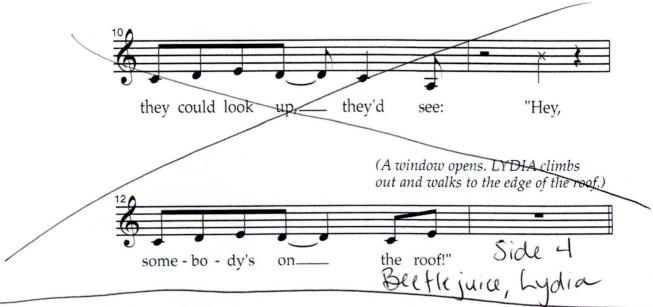
ADAM

(still unsure)

Barbara?

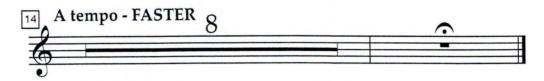
BARBARA

(gung ho!) Let's do it!



(BEETLEJUICE:) Whoa. What do we got here? LYDIA: (reading a note) "By the time you read this I, Lydia Deetz, will be gone. There's nothing for me here. I am alone. Forsaken. Invisible." BEETLEJUICE: That makes two of us.

(LYDIA turns, sees BEETLEJUICE.) LYDIA: Who are you?



BEETLEJUICE

Can you see me?

LYDIA

Yeah. You look like a bloated zebra that a lion ripped apart and then didn't eat 'cause something was obviously wrong with it so it just rotted in the hot African sun.

BEETLEJUICE

You can see me!

(gesturing to LYDIA, then himself)

So... living girl. Dead guy. What brings you to the roof?

LYDIA

I'm gonna jump.

BEETLEJUICE

(screaming) NOOOOO!

(calmly)

I mean— Noooo. You don't wanna do that. Hey, here's an idea! How about you... say my name three times?

LYDIA

What?

BEETLEJUICE

Please don't make me beg. I will. I just really don't want to— (drops to his knees)

Okay I'm begging! Please! I am so tired of being invisible. And you—! You can change that.

LYDIA

I can't change anything. That's why I'm jumping. When I'm dead, my dad'll be sorry—

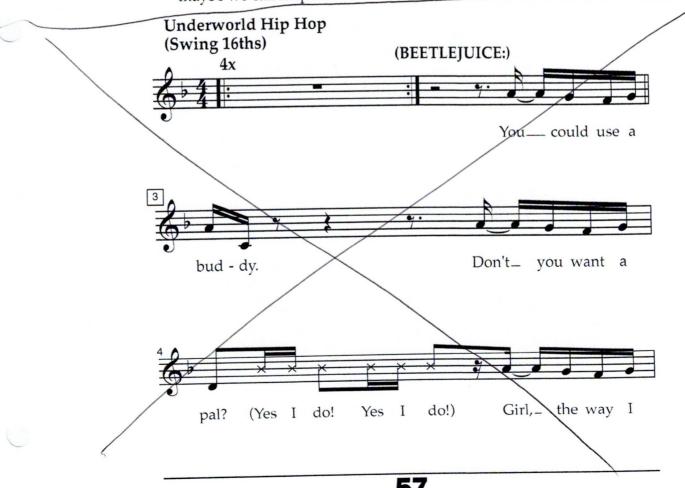
BEETLEJUICE

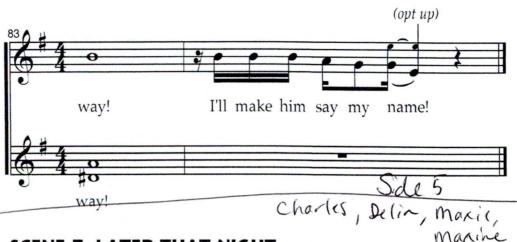
Whoa, whoa, whoa! No he won't. You'll just be dead.

(#23 - SAY MY NAME begins.)

SAY MY NAME

(BEETLEJUICE:) (getting an idea) Hey. I get it. We're not that different. You don't like your dad? I don't like my mom. She is a DEMON. Point is... maybe we can help each other.





SCENE 7: LATER THAT NIGHT

(#24 – THE DINNER PARTY begins. Cross-fade to— Night. We hear the deafening CHUKKACHUKKACHUKKA of a helicopter. A large dining table has been set up. CHARLES, in a tux, enters. Anxious. Careening.)

CHARLES

(to the CATER-WAITER)

Where's the shrimp? Get the shrimp! Maxie Dean loves shrimp! (calling off)

He's here! Delia!?

(The doorbell chimes. DELIA comes down the stairs in an over-the-top gown.)

(CHARLES)

(suddenly panicked) Where's Lydia?

DELIA

Still locked in her room.

CHARLES

(heading to the door)

All right. We'll just have to do this without her.

(CHARLES opens the door to reveal the mythic MAXIE DEAN. Behind him looms his model-wife, MAXINE.)

MAXIE

Chuuuuck, you old dog! Put 'er there!

CHARLES

Maxie! So glad you could make it. Welcome... to our model home.

(A cadre of LAWYERS enter.)

LAWYERS

Charles. Mr. Deetz. Hello.

CHARLES

You brought your legal team?

MAXIE

I never leave home without 'em. Oh! Have you met my <u>fourth</u> wife!?

(MAXINE laughs way too hard.)

MAXINE

I'm his fifth wife.

CHARLES

I see. I'm um, I'd like you both to meet my fiancée, Delia.

DELIA

(bowing)

Na-mas-te.

MAXINE

Tira-mi-su!

CHARLES

Why don't we eat?

(They all cross to the table.)

LYDIA

(offstage)

Oh Father, dear? Did I hear the dinner bell?

(#25 - DINNER BELL begins. LYDIA appears, beautiful and cheery in the bright-yellow dress DELIA got for her. CHARLES is stunned—)

CHARLES

Lydia...?

DELIA

Life coaching! Yes! It's NOT a fad! DO THE RESEARCH.

LYDIA

So sorry I'm late, everyone!

CHARLES

Your dress... You look-

LYDIA

Wow. This is going to be SUCH an interesting night.

BARBARA

No! That book is dangerous.

LYDIA

(taking the book) I thought you were on my side.

BARBARA

We are! But you can't live all alone in a haunted house.

LYDIA

I've been ALONE since my mother died! Please? (She Holds the book out to BARBARA.)

BARBARA

Lydia, we're scared for you.

LYDIA

Then I'll find a way to do it myself.

(#34 - A VERY DEETZ RETURN begins. LYDIA exits.)

(CHARLES and DELIA enter.)

Side 6

Charles, Delia, Otho Lydia **SCENE 10: THE LIVING ROOM**

CHARLES

Where's the exorcist!?

DELIA

I got someone better. My Guru Otho!

CHARLES

Otho?

DELIA

Because Otho always says, "If you don't take a chance... you don't have a chance. Because you didn't take it."

(#35 - OTHO begins. The front door opens to reveal OTHO.)

отно

I do always say that.

DELIA

Otho!

отно

Delia! My disciple. Spirit hug!

(As they "hug" without touching, CHARLES crosses in.)

(OTHO)

Okay! I have the perfect weapon to vanquish your ghost. I call it... The Soul Box.

DELIA

Wow.

отно

I'm going to trap your ghost there. Forever. Now all we have to do is—

OTHO, DELIA, CHARLES

Find that ghost!

(CHARLES and DELIA begin to follow OTHO offstage as the scene shifts to LYDIA, ADAM, and BARBARA in the attic.)

DELIA

Here, ghosty-ghosty-ghosty.

(CHARLES, DELIA, and OTHO exit as LYDIA enters and encounters BEETLEJUICE.)

BEETLEJUICE

So! Your dad wants to trap me in that fancy box. When he turns it on, what if your mom shows up instead?

LYDIA

You can do that?

BEETLEJUICE

No. But you can. Let's get that book open!

LYDIA

I thought you couldn't open it?

BEETLEJUICE

Oh, I can. I just didn't want to.

(#36 - THE HANDBOOK 3 begins.)

(BEETLEJUICE)

(He opens the Handbook; flips to a specific page—)
Let me see here... Yes! This is the one. Let 'em think they're in control, then spring the trap.

LYDIA

(grinning)

Classic bait and switch.

(BEETLEJUICE turns to the audience.)

Cont

BEETLEJUICE

(sinister)

Oldest trick in the book.

(OTHO, DELIA, and CHARLES enter.)

DELIA

Hello!? Stripey Ghost Man? Are you here?

CHARLES

Otho, is this thing safe?

отно

I don't know. Keep it away from sensitive areas.

CHARLES

What?!

DELIA

Now Otho. I notice the Soul Box is both glowing and making a noise. What does that mean?

отно

That means it's working. Sucks-yes!

LYDIA

LEAVE. THIS. HOUSE.

(#37 - THE SÉANCE begins.)

CHARLES

Lydia!

DELIA

She's possessed!

LYDIA

The ghosts who dwell here want you GONE. And so do I.

(A sinister BEETLEJUICE cackle echoes.)

CHARLES

Otho! Do something!

отно

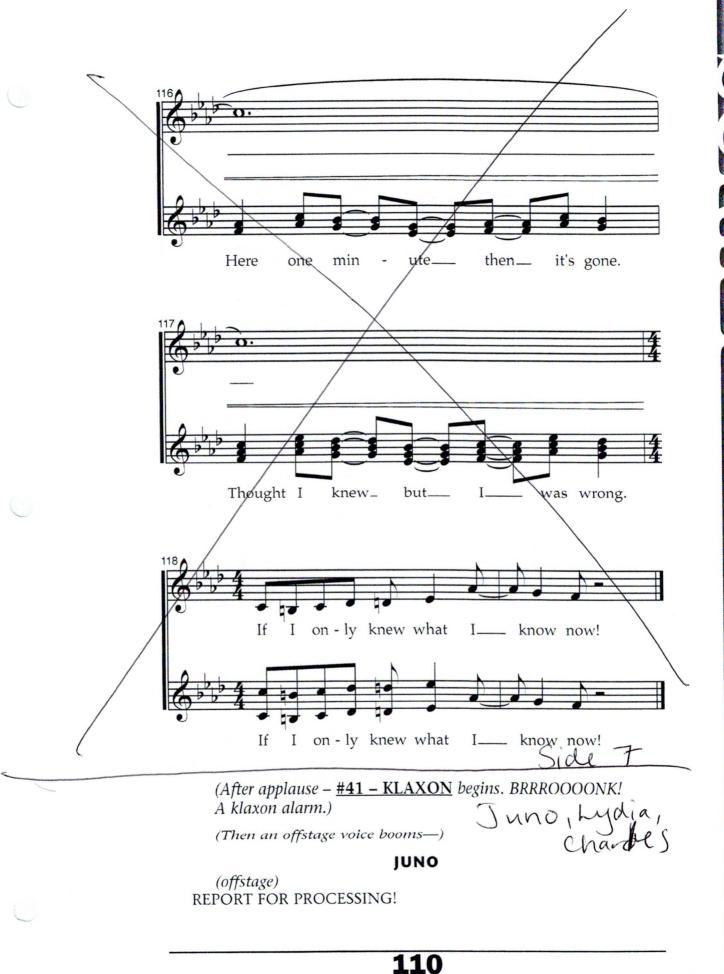
(looking at his tablet)

Okayyyy

(He hits a button on his tablet. The Soul Box suddenly emits an impressive laser-planetarium show of dazzling effects. ADAM and BARBARA enter.)

ADAM

Lydia! Wait!



(#42 – THE NETHERWORLD CHASE begins. Machinery scrapes into gear. A TSA metal detector trundles onstage. An old crone enters, with a voice like road tar. This is JUNO.)

(JUNO)

All recently deceased individuals... FORM A LINE!

(The DEAD line up, pulling CHARLES and LYDIA into line with them.)

CHARLES

This doesn't seem good.

JUNO

My name is Juno. It is my job to help EASE your transition OUT of the OVERWHELMING EMOTION OF LIFE...

(gesturing to the space beyond the detector)

... and IN-to the soothing solitude that awaits you in THE NETHERWORLD. Also: No liquids! DRINK IT OR THROW IT OUT!

(DING! One of the DEAD steps through and vanishes into The Netherworld. LYDIA breaks the line to approach JUNO.)

LYDIA

My mom's dead. Is she in there?

JUNO

Everyone who's ever died is in there. But honey, whatever you think you're looking for... you're not gonna find it.

LYDIA

I've come this far. I have to try.

CHARLES

Lydia, no!

(But LYDIA's already bolted through the detector. Sirens blare. The machinery grinds to a halt.)

JUNO

WE GOT A RUNNER!

(#43 - HOME (PART-1) begins.)