

Play: A Knack to Know an Honest Man Author: Anon

Text used: Malone Society Reprint 1910 Library ref:

Key: ↓ ↑	enter from within	↘	↙	enter from without
	exit inwards	↖	↗	Exit outwards

act/sc	door IN	Entering characters	door OUT	Space-time indication	Commentary and notes
i		Coridon Antimon Menalchus	↙	COR. Here walke Menalchus on this grasie plaine...Discourse to aged Antimon and me. (4, 9)	The 3 shepherds enter mid- conversation, setting outdoor location of 'grasie plaine'; Menalchus is telling his tragic tales to his friends.
		Lelio Sempronio	↙	<i>Enter Lelio and Sempronio to fight.</i> COR. Stay, Menalchus, and hide thee in these thickets, For heere come strangers, who with ireful browes, Threatens some stormie troubles to succeed.	The gentlemen strangers arrive from outwards to fight. Presumably shepherds hide upstage (concealment space?), since in next scene the hermit Phillip enters from his cell or 'hold of peace' (inwards door).
		Lelio	↗	SEMP. Heere is a place convenient Lelio, Yonder's a plaine whereon our steeds may graze, Here is a grove backt with cressend hills, But save these trees none else behold our fight. (19-26)	Semp. describes stage: plain, grove/hills (tiring house), trees (stage posts). Mention of their offstage horses suggest they too arrive from outwards. Lelio exits outwards.
		Menalchus Coridon Antimon	↗	MEN. Murder my friends, pursue the murderer, Hast Coridon, hie the Antimon. LEL. Flie Lelio flie, and save thy life- <i>Exit Lelio.</i> (59-61)	Should be marked exeunt. Fork in the outwards road: shepherds exit outwards to chase Lelio; Antimon is exiting to Servio's house (carrying Sempronio's garment).
		↘ Phillip		ANT. And Lelios sworde hath slaine Sempronio, Pursue you shepheards that lewd murderer, Whilest I do beare this bloudie garment hence, To Servio, noble tutor to this noble man. (63-6)	Simultaneous mid-scene entrance and exit.
		↖ Phillip Sempronio		<i>Enter olde Phillip an hermit.</i> PHIL. What noise is this before my hold of peace? (70-1) PHIL. Hie thee olde Phillip, shew thy charitie, Beare him to thy cell, and if thou canst, recure his wounds. (75-7)	Exits inwards to his cell, carrying Sempronio.
ii		Lelio	↙	<i>Enter Lelio with his Sword drawn, hee knockes at his doore.</i> (80)	New scene, as Lelio, having fled the plain, arrives back at his house. His 'doore' is Lucida's 'doore' (referred to in the singular four times in this scene).
		↘ Annetta Lucida		LEL. And where is my daughter Lucida?...Call them hether quickly (95, 100)	Gnatto replies through the grate. Called by Gnatto, Annetta and Lucida come out of the house.
		↖ Gnatto Annetta Lucida Lelio	↗	LEL. Farewell, I dare not stay to tell my minde...Go in poore soules, weep lesse, indevor more, Hast forceth griefe, danger keeps the doore. (112, 131-2)	SPLIT exit as he flees and they are sent back into the house.
iii	↘	Duke Fortunio 2 Senators Servio Antimon		DUKE. Servio stand forth... Discourse to me and to these aged peeres, Thy cause of griefe... SER. Most mightie Duke...I come before this sacred iudgement seate...	MINIMAL CONGESTION AT INWARDS DOOR AT LEAST. SPLIT entry, court enters from inwards, petitioners from outwards.

	↖ Duke Fortunio 2 Senators Servio Antimon ↗	(135-7, 139-140) <i>Exeunt omnes.</i> (233)	Sentence having been passed on Lelio, the court exits, presumably SPLIT (Servio and Antimon outwards)
iv	↘ Brishio Franco  Franco ↗  Lelio ↙ ↖ Brishio Lelio	BRISH. sirrha Franco, what sayde olde Servio to my money. (235)  BRISH. ...goe will [sic: with] the master of my barke to unlode the wares, and see that at the crane you hoise them up. (244-6) LEL. Where shall I hide me from too searching eies? (249) BRISH. Stay Lelio, stay...I for thy vertues sake will keepe thee close within my house, And ship thee privily this present night...Go in my sonne.. (270-73, 286)	MINIMAL CONGESTION at inwards door at least. Do they enter mid-conversation? Alternatively could be meeting, Franco having just returned from dealing with Servio. Exits to docks.  Mid-scene crossover at outwards door. Lelio is in flight. Brishio persuades Lelio to take refuge in his house.
v	Sempronio ↙ Phillip  Phillip ↗  Fortunio ↙ Marchetto Guard  ↘ Annetta Lucida ↖ Marchetto Guard ↘ Marchetto Guard ↖ Annetta Lucida  Servio ↙ Franco Guard  Franco ↗ Guard Marchetto Guard Fortunio Servio ↗  Fortunio ↙ Marchetto Brishio	<i>Enter Sempronio disguised with Phillip.</i> SEMP. Here leave me father, walke no further forth... (292-3) SEMP. Phillip farewell, and welcome povertie, From sinfull proud, I waxe a cynike pure, Die fortune, flie deceit, flourish true repent, Sinne folly breeds, a good mans discontent. (214-17) <i>Enter Fortunio and Marchetto, with the gard.</i> MAR. The gard alreadie hath beset the house, And I will knocke and call for entrance. (318, 324-5) AN.. What noise is this? What mean this troupe of armed men about my dore? (407-8) AN. Search where you please... (415) MA. Madame, I see your husband hath prevented us, Well, let him flie, his chests are sealed up... (446-7) AN. Come Lucida...Fly from these Sirenes that inchant chast hearts, Come let our toiling fingers get us bread... (461-3) SER. Tis true my friends, I heard the pullie creak...And by a rope I sawe descending downe, The cursed murderer, Lord Lelio. (489-92) FO. Marchetto, go prosecute the Senates will, Attach Lord Brishio, seize upon his goods, Come breake up the doore. <i>Exit omnis, manet Sempronio &amp; Servio.</i> (519-20) <i>Exit Servio</i> (556)  <i>Enter Fortunio and Marchetto, with Brishio and his two sonnes.</i> (557-8)	Sempronio now arrives in Venice with the hermit.  No exit marked, but he must return outwards. Sempronio's four line soliloquy separates exit from next entrance, avoiding close shave.  They are coming to Lelio's house with the guard, as decided in court scene.  They enter from inwards, coming through the stage door (singular, Andy!). They go in to search the house.  They now return, not having found Lelio.  They go back inside: no exit marked.  Coming from the port, Servio reporting Lelio's escape. Franco confesses Brishio's complicity in the escape... ...and they exit outwards towards Brishio's house.  Servio exits, Sempronio remains on stage. Mid-scene crossover at outwards door. Zephirius and Orphino are Brishio's sons.

	Zephirius Orphinio Sempronio Brishio	↗ ↗	(595) FO. Hie thee from Venice speedily, for if thou stay But two houres space, thou art adinged death. (607-8)	Exits, presumably outwards. Exits outwards, banished from Venice.
	Fortunio Marchetto Zephirius Orphinio	↗	MA.. Come, let us let the Duke and Senate know, The whole successe and fortune we have had. <i>Exit omnis.</i> (615-17)	They exit to the Senate.
vi	↘ Franco Gnatto	↙	GNAT. What Franco, wel met, whether art thou going? FRAN.. ..I am going a begging. (619- 21)	MINIMAL CONGESTION. New scene, but inwards door continues to be Lucida's house. Gnatto the servant enters from there, meeting Franco who is going begging. Exits outwards to war.
	Franco	↗	FRAN. Ile to the Duke of Millanes campe to my master. (653)	
	Gnatto	↗	GNAT. Ile to the butcherie... (656)	Exits outwards to the butcher's. Fork in the road, staggered exits resolves it.
vii	↘ Annetta Lucida		<i>Enter Annetta and Lucida with their worke in their handes.</i> (660)	As foreshadowed at their previous exit, they are doing their handiwork.
	Sempronio	↙	SEM...I...must be a meane, and stale to win his love. (672)	Sempronio arrives to do Fortunio's bidding and woo Lucida for him.
	↖ Annetta Lucida		SEM. ..Replie not, get you in, the Crocodile is coming forth. <i>Here put them in at doore.</i> (738-9)	They go back inside the singular door of the house, Andy!
	Shew	↙	SEM. This is the feastivall of holy Marke, Yond come the pompious shew.	This is a street procession.
	Fortunio Marchetto Shew	↙	<i>Enter the Shew on the Stage.</i> (741-3)	
	Fortunio Marchetto	↗	SEM. But yond come my master and Marchetto forth... (755)	Having heard the failure of his suit, Fortunio exits to plan his assault on Lucida's house.
	↘ 1st Senator Zephirius Orphino		FOR. Gather thy frends Marchetto follow mee, This nyght wee will surprise them in their beds... SEM...here is perfect villany sprong from thy lyps. (789-90, 793)	Brishio's sons are petitioning the Senator, and stage direction indicates they have already met and enter together. It seems most likely that they are bringing the Senator's house onstage from the inwards door (mid-scene wipe and reset). Alternatively, if they arrive from the street, a crossover at outwards door is avoided by Sempronio's one-line soliloquy after Fortunio's and Marchetto's exit.
	↖ Senator		<i>Enter one of the senators with Brishios two sonnes.</i> SEN. Now gentelmen what seeke you at my hands? (795-6)	
			SEM. But if you want a cup of drinke or so, Stand at my dore my man shall bring it you. <i>Exit Senator.</i> (806-8)	The assignation of this line to SEM is probably incorrect, and it is the SENator's exit line, with the implication that he returns inwards to his house, leaving them in the street. Andy would use this singular 'dore' to suggest that there is a third opening, (and that Lucida's house must indeed be at the central opening's double doors rather than as indicated above at the inwards door. However...

	<p>↘ 2nd Senator</p> <p>↖ 2nd Senator</p> <p>Sempronio ↗ Zephirius Orphino</p>	<p><i>Enter the other senator reading a letter.</i> SENAT. How now you sausie youths, stand backe I say, What make you lingering here about my doores? (817, 827-8)</p> <p>SENAT. ..Go get you hence....And not to loiter up and down the streets. (831, 833)</p> <p>SEMP. Then take more Iewels, heire tall men: And underneath this wall, watch all this night: If any man shall attempt to breake your sisters doore, Be stout, assaile him, kill him...</p> <p>ZEP. Lead us the way, and we will follow thee... (893-6, 897)</p>	<p>...the second Senator now comes out of his house reading a letter, and he also refers explicitly to his house, using the plural 'doores'--so his house too must be in Andy's central position. This would differentiate it from the other Senator's house, but unfortunately for Andy, in the process it negates Andy's suggestion that the central opening is dedicated exclusively as Lucida's house. If I am correct, this involves a second mid-scene wipe and reset of inwards door in this scene.</p> <p>Returns inwards.</p> <p>Sempronio enlists them to stand 'underneath this wall' and guard Lucida's house that night, suggesting that the inwards door (note the singular 'doore', Andy) has now been wiped and reset as Lucida's. However the next intervening scene requires that they exit the stage, so the identification is weakened as they exit outwards (presumably to get the reinforcements they arrive with in ix).</p>
viii	<p>↘ Medesa Lelio Train Forsa Brishio Train</p> <p>↖ Forsa Brishio Train Medesa Lelio Train</p>	<p><i>Enter Forsa Duke of Myllan, with Brishio and his traine.</i> <i>Enter Medesa Duke of Florence, with Lelio and his traine at the other doore.</i></p> <p>FOR. If thou expect the cause, it is for the dowrie, The which the Florentines denies to pay... (901-3, 908-9)</p> <p>ME. Here Forsa take my hand, this night one tent Shall lodge us both...</p> <p>FOR. Then march in peace... (986-7, 990)</p>	<p>Split entry. CONGESTION at outwards door minimised by likely sound effects (note that trumpets are used during the scene, prior to the challenge).</p> <p>I believe Forsa and train enter from outwards for two reasons: exits at end of scene are clearly inwards to Medesa's tent, and this in turn reflects the fact that Forsa is the aggressor, arriving from outwards to settle the matter of the 'dowrie' which the Florentines have refused to pay.</p> <p>All exit inwards to Medesa's tent (inwards from the field of battle).</p>
ix	<p>↘ Zephirus Orphinio Souldiers</p> <p>↘ Fortunio Marchetto Sempronio</p>	<p><i>Enter Zepheron and Orphinio with the Souldiers.</i> ZEP. This is the place now fellowes, stand close a while, If any shall attempt to scale these walles, Assault him and kill him if you can. (993-6)</p> <p>OR. I heare them comming: brother now stand close.</p> <p><i>Enter Fortunio and Marchetto and Sempronio.</i> FOR. Marchetto boldly knocke, to see if by permission We may enter in...</p>	

	<p>↘ Annetta Lucida</p> <p>↖ Annetta Lucida</p> <p>Orphinio ↗ Zepherus ↗ Sempronio ↗ Fortunio ↗</p>	<p><i>Here Marchetto knockes.</i> GNAT <i>within.</i> How nowe what scabis at the doore at this time of the night. (999-1000, 1008-9, 1011-13) <i>Enter Annetta and Lucyda.</i> AN. ...Get you to your rest, For no man entreth these doores this night. FOR. Heave me the doores from the hinges straight. ZEP, Who liftes his handes to force these barred doores. Shall buy his rashnes with his dearest blood. (1031- 2, 1034-7)</p> <p>SEM.. The Prince is hurt, Zepheronus and Orphinio flye a pace. (1042-3) SEM. Leane on my shoulder and let us goe. <i>Exit Sempronio and Fortunio.</i> (1047-8)</p>	<p>No exit marked, but as the fighting breaks out the ladies must return inwards and close the inwards door. No exit marked, but they must exit outwards as directed by Sempronio. Sempronio takes Fortunio back whence he came to tend his wounds.</p>
x	<p>Marchetto ↘ Servio ↘ Orphinio ↘ Zepheris ↘</p> <p>Marchetto ↗</p> <p>↘ Phillida</p> <p>↖ Zephirus Orphinio Phillida Servio ↗</p>	<p><i>Enter Marchetto and Servio.</i> MARCHET.. These are the Traitors Servio, Laie hands on them. SER. Whoes this, Orphinio and Zepheronus. (1049-52)</p> <p>MA. Goe Servio keepe them close, tell I enforme the Duke. and visit young Fortunio in his bed. Exit Marchetto. (1054-6)</p> <p>SE. what ho Phillyda my gerle come forth here. (1057)</p> <p>SE. Go take these prisoners, &amp; see thou keep them close Locke them in the upper loft till I returne. (1061-2)</p> <p>SE.. First will I goe to the Duke...(1067)</p>	<p>MARKED CONGESTION. New scene, now at Servio's house, as Marchetto arrives with Brishio's sons, whom he has apprehended despite their attempt to flee. Their entrance not marked, but inevitable. He returns outwards to the court.</p> <p>Arrives from inwards.</p> <p>She takes the two prisoners inwards, Servio remaining on stage.</p> <p>He too now exits to the court.</p>
xi.	<p>Phillida ↘</p> <p>↘ Orphinio Zephirus</p> <p>↖ Phillida</p> <p>Orphinio ↗ Zephirus ↗</p>	<p><i>Enter Phillida with the keys.</i> PHIL. My cruell father now, doth seeke their deathes: and now in hast is gone unto the Duke...But Ile prevent him, for here Ile set them free, And hazard all their perill on my selfe. (1071, 1076-80)</p> <p><i>Here open the doore, and Enter the two brethren.</i> PHI. <i>Orphinio</i> come foorth. (1081-2) PHIL. Here take my fathers signet, Give it to the porter of the gares, and hee will let you passe: and so farewell my sweete Orphinio: I cannot stay, and in thy Iorney thinke on Phillyda. <i>Exit Phillida.</i> (1104-8)</p> <p>OR. Danger then must hasten our departure: Farewell sweet Phillida, Queene of my heart. <i>Exit.</i> (1109-10)</p>	<p>Marked as a new scene, and there has been a time-lapse since Servio's exit. Carousel move and the presence of the keys suggest a change of location: we are now further within Servio's house, in the room outside the 'upper loft' where the prisoners have been lodged. She unlocks the door to the 'upper loft' and releases the two prisoners.</p> <p>She now exits generically into the house...</p> <p>And they exit outwards, using the signet ring to bypass the Porter.</p>
xii	<p>↘ Servio</p>	<p>SER. Welcome sweet morne, the meanes of my delight...First Lelio banisht, next Brisio to live in misery: And last, his sonnes to day must suffer death: Have I not foure for one.</p>	<p>Another time-lapse since the previous scene: it is now morning (at least two hours later: see Porter's speech), and Servio comes out of the private part of his house.</p>

	Porter ↙	(1112, 1115-17) Enter the Porter. POR. Good morrow, and good fortune to my Lord. SER. How now Porter, what newes? POR. I bring your honours signet backe againe, Which gave me warrant for two gentlemen. To passe the gate & watch some two howres since. (1117-1122)	The Porter comes in to report to Servio.
	Porter ↗		No exit marked, but he must return whence he came; but see below at line 1171.
	↙ ↗ Phillida Phillida	SER. What Phillida come forth. (1129) SER. Where are the keyes that lockt the upper loft? PH. Fast underneath the pillow where you sleepe. SE. Go fetch them hether. (1136-8)	He calls Phillida. She returns inwards to Servio's bedroom to fetch the keys.
	Annetta Lucida Gnatto ↙	AN. Hie thee good Gnatto, bring us to the house, If yet my brothers bide with Servio...See where old Servio sits. (1147-8, 1151)	Split staging: they are in the street on their way to Servio's in search of the brothers, and then see Servio at his house.
	↙ Phillida	<i>Enter Phillida with the keies.</i> PHIL. Father heere are the keies. (1153-4)	She now returns to Servio with the keys.
	↗ Phillida	[SER.] Fetch forth the prisoners let me see their lookes, (1155)	No speech heading, but line is clearly Servio's.
	↙ Phillida	PHIL. A las alas father, we are all undone. Orphinio and Zepherius are fled. (1165-6)	Covering dialogue between Servio and Gnatto, until Phillida returns with news of the prisoners' escape.
	↗ ↙ Servio Phillida	SER. Villaine why did they passe, you minkes, you Minion... Ile to the Duke, Packe thou to hell thou wretch, come not in my sight, But get thee gone. (1171-2, 1177-1179)	First part of this speech may suggest Porter is still onstage. Servio must exit outwards to Duke, Phillida probably inwards.
	Annetta Lucida Gnatto ↗	AN. How glad am I my brethren are escapt, Come sirra, vex the silly wretch no more. (1181-2)	They return outwards whence they came.
xiii	↙ Lelio Orphinio Zepherius ↙	ZEPH. Good fortune to our brother Lelio. LE. O happie relickes of a worthy man, Young Zepherius, and kinde Orphinio. (1185-6)	CONGESTION at outwards door, MINIMISED by staggering of entrance: Lelio first from inwards, hailed by arriving brothers, whom he greets.
	↙ Brishio	ZEP. See where he comes, occasion favours thee. (1221)	Brishio arrives from his tent (see below)
	↗ Orphinio Zepherius Brishio	BRI. Now wil I hold a festivall to day, For Lelio, Zepherius and Orphinio. LE. And I with favour of my noble Lord, Will first give order to my souldiers, And then returne to Brishio in his tent. (1274-8)	They exit inwards to Brishio's tent, Lelio promising to join them after having given his soldiers orders.
	Lelio ↗	BR. But let us meete againe before we march, For I have many things for to impart to thee. LE. My busines past I will revisit thee. LE. I will to Venice with a merry hart. (1281-3, 1290)	Despite his promise to join Brishio in his tent, Lelio now resolves to go to Venice disguised.
xiv	↙ Duke Senator Servio	<i>Enter the Duke of Venice with the Senator &amp; Servio bound.</i> DUKE. Bring tortors forth, bring me a cord(1295)	Servio has been imprisoned.
	↙ Phillida	PHIL. Unbind my aged father cruell	She comes to entreat the Duke.

	<p>Sempronio ↙ Fortunio</p> <p>↖ Duke Senator Sempronio Fortunio Servio ↗ Phillida</p>	<p>man (1312) <i>Enter Sempronio, with Fortunio bound.</i> SEM. See here the man, who drawne by lawlesse lust: Did seeke sinisterly in time of night...(1340-1)</p> <p>DUKE But thou ungratious man, passe from my Court...Come my Fortunio let us inter in. (1371, 3)</p>	<p>Sempronio now arrives with Fortunio prisoner.</p> <p>The court returns inwards, Duke and Fortunio reconciled. Servio and Phillida outwards (he has been dismissed from the court).</p>
xv	<p>Lelio ↙</p> <p>↘ Annetta Lucida</p> <p>Servio ↙ Garde</p> <p>Lelio ↗ Servio Garde ↖ Annetta Lucida</p>	<p><i>Enter Lelio like a Colliar.</i></p> <p>LE. Silence Lelio, my thinkes my doore doth ope, Ah yonder comes my wife and daughter forth. (1396-7)</p> <p><i>Enter Servio and the Garde.</i> AN. ah Lelio, we are betrayd, heere commeth the Garde. (1407)</p> <p>SE. Come beare him in hence. LU. Father time shall discover all, till then farewell. (1428-9)</p>	<p>MINIMAL CONGESTION at outwards door, split exit. Once again, Andy, Lucida's door is referred to in the singular, as they yet again come out of their house. Servio now arrives from outwards.</p> <p>Split exit, as Lelio led off and the women retire into the house.</p>
xvi	<p>↘ Brishio Orphinio Zepherius</p> <p>↗ Orphinio Zepherius Brishio ↗</p>	<p>BR. Come murderers of my ioy, goe flie my fight: Bring me my Lelio or you both shall die. (1431-2)</p> <p>BRI. Runne post, hie with speed, bring him to me. (1440)</p> <p>BRI. I will to Venice and redeeme their lives.. (1463)</p>	<p>MINIMAL CONGESTION, minimised by staggering of exits. They enter mid-conversation. They exit outwards, to Venice.</p> <p>Brishio then has second thoughts, and follows them to Venice.</p>
xvii	<p>↘ Duke Fortunio Senators Servio ↙ Garde</p> <p>Lelio ↙ Sempronio ↙ Annetta ↙ Lucyda ↙ ↖ Servio Garde</p> <p>Orphinio ↙ Zepherius ↙ Brishio ↙</p> <p>↖ Sempronio Lelio Brishio Orphinio Zepherius</p> <p>↘ Sempronio ↘ Lelio Brishio Orphinio Zepherius Phillip ↙</p> <p>↖ Phillida ↙ ↖ Phillida</p>	<p>DUKE. Usher let those that seeke for audience Enter the Court. (1466-7)</p> <p>SER. Most mighty Duke, most worthy Senators, Walking abroad as is my usuall wont: I found Lelio clothed in a base disguise. (1470-2)</p> <p>AN. Great Iudges of the state, heare me but speake. (1520)</p> <p>DUKE. A way with him, I will not heare him speak. (1570)</p> <p>BRI. Prevent not zealous faith you angrie heavens, Let raging rigor stay till Brishio comes. (1619-20)</p> <p>DU. Drawe all these souldiers presently apart, The Senators will counsell of these events. (1658)</p> <p>DU. Bring forth the prisoners. (1678)</p> <p>PHIL. Sempronio lives, my Lord, see where he stands. (1712)</p> <p>PHIL. Pardon for my father. (1751)</p> <p>DU. Comst thou to plead for Servio</p>	<p>Court scene from inwards, petitioners to arrive from outwards.</p> <p>Servio and Guard now arrive with Lelio, Sempronio (=‘Usher’?).</p> <p>They too arrive to petition the court. Servio is taken into captivity. Simultaneous mid-scene entrance and exit. Arriving in Venice...</p> <p>...and Brishio is not far behind.</p> <p>Sempronio does seem to have an Usher function, taking the prisoners into captivity....</p> <p>...and returning immediately. The prisoners are now brought forth again.</p> <p>The hermit from scene i now reappears to identify Sempronio. Arrives to entreat the court. She is sent inwards to retrieve</p>

	<p>↓ Phillida Servio ↑ Phillida Servio Duke Fortunio Senators Lelio Sempronio Brishio Orphinio Zepherius Annetta Lucyda Phillip</p>	<p>Phillida? Go fetch him forth. (1752-3)</p> <p>DU. Knit up that knot within with iollitie. (1781)</p>	<p>Servio... ...and returns immediately.</p> <p>All exit inwards for the marriage and celebrations.</p>
	<p>backstage cross</p>		