

Paprika's Sacrifice: or, How a Pirate's Heart Was Reached



PAPRIKA SCHNITZEL was the pride of the village, the fairest flower among them all. She budded into womanhood a temptation and a delight. Her suitors were many. The youth of the village and the country about all laid their hearts at her feet, and Paprika was much worried thereby. Vanity had no part in her

make-up, and while she naturally felt flattered by the attention showered upon her by the swains who constantly paid their devotions at her shrine, she felt a sincere sorrow at the thought that she would be compelled to disappoint so many, for there was but one Paprika, and she was small and was not enough around. So she made her choice until of her heart be stilled, and known over all that Cupid had grown alongside Paprika matched her in disposition that here was the par when her choice the rejoicings ple but kindly feigned. Those disappointed in fair Paprika gen ered their own joy of the occasion, and heartily gave to Cupid their warmest felicitations on his success as a suitor. When the wedding day came the feast that was prepared was one at which no bitterness had a part, from the Burgo-master down to the peasant, and the joy and satisfaction at the approaching nuptials was sincere. The Oldest Inhabitant admitted that never in his life had he seen a couple so well mated and that never had he seen a wedding feast approaching with such perfect harmony among all. Even the Night Watchman gave over his customary taciturnity and admitted that the wedding bells occasionally listened like a good thing to him.

On the day of the wedding the village put on its gayest holiday appearance. Flocks and herds were housed, work in the field abandoned and the villagers in their glad rags assembled on the green to make merry at the



THE NIGHT WATCHMAN.

Union of two of the most popular young people who had ever grown up in their midst. The burgo-master headed the joyous procession as it moved to the chapel, where the good old priest was waiting to pronounce the solemn words that should bind in one two loving hearts and crown with his blessing what seemed to be the desire of all. Such peace on earth as seemed to pass understanding rested on the pretty little hamlet, nestling in its nook beside the sea, and even the waves softly lapping the silvery sands seemed to sing of joys to come to those dear ones whose lives were rounding into a great placid lake where existence is only one long dream of contentment, lighted by the golden rays of love's lambent flame.



EXECUTIONER AND WASHERMAN.

But the course of true love never did run smooth, and some terrible bumps awaited Paprika and her Cupid. While the wedding guests were waiting at the church, and just as the wedding party approached the chancel rail, there came a crash of terrible sound. The disturbance was terrific, and not even a wedding could stay the excitement that followed. Rushing from the church door, the villagers beheld a most fearful-spectacle. As if arisen from the waters the black-humping of a long, low, rakish craft darkened their view. From its side, pierced by many port holes, peered out the black muzzles of death dealing cannons aimed and ready to shatter their homes, wreck their firestacks and destroy their happiness. From above the bulwarks peered the grim pirate faces, men whose hearts knew no ruth, to whom mercy was an empty word, and whose lives were spent in deeds of devilry and shocking cruelty. From the forepeak fluttered malignantly the "Jolly Roger," that foul emblem of the

pirate's craft. The out-laws of the deep were on them, and from the eagerness with which they hurried from the ship to the shore it was easy to see that the visit boded no good for the villagers. Scarcely were the unarmed villagers aware of the presence of their cruel visitors than the pirate chief of the buccaner band ordered two of his blood-thirsty followers to seize the fair Paprika and carry her aboard the ship. She was torn shrieking from the arms of her Cupid and carried by a disreputable cut-throat to the vessel, while her lover struggled in the grasp of the two mighty miscreants, who chuckled with fiendish delight at the anguish of the young man, who saw the fair dream of his life wrecked, and all his happiness torn and blown away by a single gust of misfortune.



THIS UNEQUALLED QUARTET WAS A DISTINCT FEATURE OF THE OPERY.

As soon as the villagers recovered from the surprise of the sudden onslaught they determined a rescue, but were powerless against the force of the invaders, who not only outnumbered the peasantry, but were heavily armed as well, and merely laughed at the fruitless efforts to secure the liberty of the maiden who had been snatched from beneath their very noses. The burgo-master, showing that masterful quality which had raised him to his prominence, proposed a parley with the chief of the marauders and was granted a word. He suggested a compromise, but was met with a scornful hoot. And yet there was something in the tone of the burgo-master's voice which aroused the curiosity of the pirate chief. Ever greedy and lustful of gain, he sought to know what further plunder he might obtain, and asked the burgo-master of the nature of the ransom he proposed. Breathless and eager, and all but unable to control

his rising hope, the burgo-master offered substitutes in any number, whose services might be of far more avail to the pirates than that of a single maiden. The pirate chief haughtily rejected the offer, but the second mate and the boatswain were in favor of the proposition of the burgo-master as something which might inure to their benefit, and counseled their leader to give the matter consideration. The leader, wishing to seem fair, at least to his men, gave the burgo-master permission to produce the hostages who would sacrifice themselves to save fair Paprika. So popular was Paprika with the villagers that not only did all the young men of the place hasten to offer themselves to be taken captive in her stead, but a number of strangers, who had suddenly come upon the scene and discovering what was in progress, also offered to enter the services of the pirates in order that the beautiful bride



AND AWAY WE'LL SAIL WITH OUR CARGO NEAT TO OUR ISLE BEYOND THE SEA. THIS GAME OF OURS IS HARD TO BEAT. AND OUR LIFE FROM CARE IS FREE.

CAST OF CHARACTERS For Paprika Schnitzel

Burgomaster C. L. Vance
 Paprika Schnitzel John Brennan
 Hero Cupid Clinton Miller
 Oldest Inhabitant S. S. Hamilton
 Nachtwaechter Gus Miller
 Captain Kidd Wm. Wappich
 Pirate Chief A. J. Alvord
 First Mate Robt. Manley
 Second Mate Ben Cotton
 Cookswain Oscar Lieben
 Bos'n F. J. McShane, Jr.
 Messenger Alec Reed

VILLAGERS.

J. Jamison,
 Leslie Dick,
 B. E. Johnson,
 N. C. Leary,
 J. T. Bartlett,
 R. D. Wilson,
 Paul Stanton,
 Jos. M. Fallon,
 H. V. Smith,
 P. Timmler,
 A. J. Van Kuran

A. L. Hanson,
 Geo. A. Schwartz,
 R. F. Donahay,
 J. L. Burr,
 T. F. Parker,
 S. Hamilton,
 L. H. Knettle,
 Geo. W. Wallace,
 Irvn A. Medlar,
 John L. Woodworth,
 A. W. Bullard.

PIRATES.

A. Reed,
 V. M. Miller,
 S. J. Greere,
 E. M. Nelson,
 I. Bruce,
 Will Ferrin,
 W. Cosh,
 W. S. Stryker.

AK-SAR-BEN BALLET.

Clinton Miller,
 J. Jamison,
 N. C. Leary,
 W. E. Chambers,
 C. L. Vance,
 Maitre de Ballet, . . . Mr. William E. Chambers

B. E. Johnson,
 Leslie Dick,
 A. J. Van Kuran,
 Jno. Brennan,
 J. C. Swift.

SYNOPSIS OF THE OPREY.

ACT 1—Bugville-on-the-Drainage-Canal. Time 1422.
 ACT 2—Pirates' Grotto. The Morgan Yacht "Coarse Hair" in the distance.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE OPREY.

ACT 1—Scene, a canvas village butting up against a silly looking ocean. Merry Villagers discovered stumbling over each other's feet and forgetting the words of their songs. Entrance of Burgomaster with several old jokes concealed about him. "Eight o'clock and all is dry." Entrance of pirate ship with 15 bottle-nosed pirates. Paprika is kidnaped. Cupid in hard luck. Pirates have enough sense of humor to stand for two songs from the Burgomaster. Ransom paid for Paprika. Several hostages put to work and pirates sail away to find a wide open town.

ACT 2—A Pirates' Grotto by moonlight. You don't know what a grotto is and neither do we. A couple of doleful songs and a messenger brings in some tidings from Captain Kidd. Barber Shop quartet waits for five minutes. Captain Kidd in the spot light. Tortures wreaked on weak kneed candidates. Noise by the chorus and curtain. Still still. You can't get a drop to drink till you have listened to six windy speeches.

of this band of bloody freebooters had not returned from an expedition on which he had set out, and consequently did not know that instead of bringing back the beautiful Paprika his men had returned with a collection of individuals who were not capable of doing much but spoiling the pirate's bread and meat. Just how Captain Kidd would take the substitution of this lot of undesirable citizens for the fair danciel on whom he had set his heart gave rise to much concern among those who had engaged in the enterprise, and they began to repent of their bargain. They wished that they had it to do over again, and cast about among themselves for some excuse with the feasibility of which they might appease the wrath they knew would fall upon them when once the great captain learned the truth. Because of the certainty of displeasure to come the pirates made the lives of their unfortunate slaves

even more onerous and miserable. At last the day came when it would not be put off any longer. Captain Kidd returned to his stronghold and almost immediately on his arrival demanded that Paprika be brought before him. He had been disappointed in the capture of a rich prize, and came home in a bad humor as the result. Paprika's presence was needed to mollify him, and so he called for the consolation which was to act as a balm to his wounded pride, and help him forget in the charms of the girl the defeat he had suffered at sea. Trembling into his presence came the mate, the boatswain and the cookswain and co had not the fair P they produce eve photograph of th

terrible. He ven awful curses on t unworthy underli bloodcurdling out avenged upon eac cerned in the affly would he take on the unfortuna chivalry for the tress had led the take of butting i did not concern t the great Captain bloodthirsty deat that the victima once. "If they e exclaimed, "we p play. Bring the will have some fu What followe the imagination. whose life had be ing and murder. belief, had the helpless captives brought before him one by one, and submitted each to such devilish treatment as his wicked heart would permit or his insane imagination might devise. Finally he grew tired of the sport, from which even the demons of the lowest hell must have turned pale, and weary of torture he resolved to glut his appetite for gore with one great gush of blood. He ordered the captives ranged before him, wearing their chains of helplessness, and commanding all to kneel, set his bloody butchers to the work of hewing off their heads.

Paprika Schnitzel, once her transports of joy at rescue from the pirate's clutches and restoration to her Cupid's arms had passed, learned the cost at which she had been ransomed. Her generous heart could not endure the thought that these strangers had been sacrificed to so terrible a fate that she might be saved. It was selfish beyond belief that she could enjoy happiness with Cupid in her little home beside the sea, while these men underwent privations and torment in the pirate's den. She kept her own counsel, however, and as the wedding festivities could not be resumed that day but were postponed until such time as all could approach the subject with feelings of equanimity, Paprika retired to her modest little home, saying good-bye to Cupid and promising to meet him again at 8 o'clock. No sooner had she reached her home than she hurriedly packed her maidenly belongings in her suit case, and with her bridal clothes still on her, and her wreath upon her head, she hastened away to the pirate's den to offer herself in ransom for the men who had so gallantly volunteered to ransom her. Steadily day by day she pursued her purpose and toiled unceasingly at the oars that she might reach the isle beyond the sea in time. She reached the Pirate's retreat just at the psychological moment, and as the executioners held their swords aloft, waiting for the words to fall from the pirate lips of Captain Kidd which would usher into eternity the souls of those who knelt before him, Paprika Schnitzel burst upon the scene clothed even as she had been on the morning when she was torn from the arms of Cupid by the pirate chief. Flung her suit case to one astonished pirate, her handbag and smelling salts to another, she rushed to Captain Kidd and flung



PRETTY PIRATE.



OLDEST INHABITANT.

might be restored to her fond and heartbroken Cupid. The pirate chief weighed the matter well, surveyed the volunteers, and then turned and suddenly ordered that the men be taken aboard the vessel and that Paprika be restored to her Cupid. The shifting of the situation was so sudden that the villagers were almost as much stunned by the good turn fortune had taken as they were by the evil, but the pirate chief was true to his word and no sooner had the last of the volunteers passed on board the ship than Paprika was set on shore and the pirate ship hauled up its anchor and sailed away, while the ribald songs of the buccaners mingled with the joyous peans that rose from the lips of Paprika and Cupid.

When the volunteers had reached the pirate's hold, on a forgotten island of the sea, they found their fate a sorry one indeed. They were condemned to perform the most menial and arduous tasks, work for which they were unfitted, and in which failure brought them only blows and curses. Herded at night like cattle in a pen, treated by day like convicts, heavily shackled, and driven from task to task, their numb minds had no time to realize the dreadful condition that had overtaken them, and yet among themselves they felt that something even worse impended and a vague uneasiness prevailed the pirate horde, the prestige of something terrible that might happen at any moment, and this terror communicated itself to the new captives.

Well might the pirates feel uneasy. For the first time since they had assembled as a band, the sea rovers whose name struck terror to all, not only on sea but on land, they had failed in a mission with which they had been charged. The great head



CORPS DU BALLET—BEAT 'EM IF YOU CAN.

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