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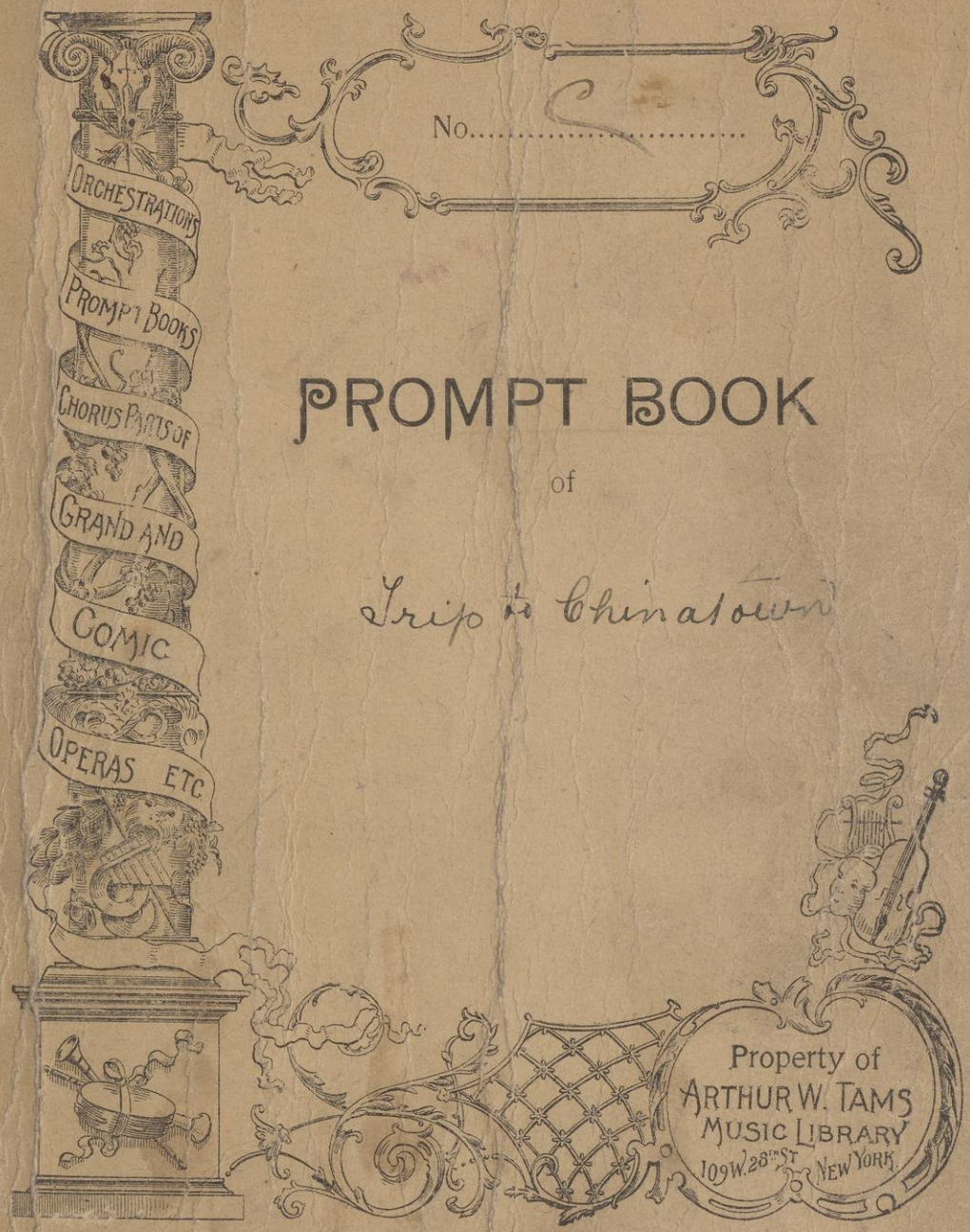


PROMPT BOOK

of

Trip to Chinatown

-:- "A TRIP TO CHINATOWN" -:-

-:- "C A S T O F C H A R A C T E R S" -:-

WELLAND STRONG.....

BEN GAY.....

TONY GAY.....

RASHLEIGH GAY.....

WILLIE GROW.....

NORMAN BLOOD.....

NOAH HEAP.....

HOFFMAN PRICE.....

SLAVIN PAYNE.....

ISABELLA DAME.....

FLIRT.....

MRS. GUYER, widow.....

LANDLORD.....

----xxOxx----

-"A TRIP TO CHINATOWN"-

ACT I

SCENE:-

(A room in the house of Ben Gay---A handsome parlor--large Bay window C. Arches backed by handsome interior R. and L.3.E. Mantel and fireplace L.2.E. --C. window backed a viwe of San Francisco Bay)

DISCOVERED:- (FLIRT looking out of C. window, SLAVIN at her back talking to her--When curtain up Flirt X's down stage R.--in front of table)

SLAVIN

(Following flirt C.) So you're Mrs. Guyer's maid?

FLIRT.

(R.C) Yes sir.

SLAVIN.

Well, what do you know?

FLIRT.

As a maid to a widow it would not be proper for me to tell.

SLAVIN.

(C.) You know your business. A Mason or an Elk isn't half so burdened with secrets as a person in swell service.

FLIRT.

It's a dreadful strain on the mind to say nothin of the conscience.

SLAVIN.

Have you got a conscience?

FLIRT.

(Turning to Him) Of course!

SLAVIN.

Marry me and earn my living in a dime museum.

FLIRT.

(X's to L.C) Excuse me! You're capable of doing that for yourself. See here (Turn to him) do you see this note?

SLAVIN.

Yes, I see it!

FLIRT.

Well, you see that gentleman gets it, and there's no mistake about it. (Starts up stage L. arch)

SLAVIN.

Who's it from?

FLIRT.

(Stopping & turning to Him) I'll never tell. You open it over the tea kettle and see.

SLAVIN.

Thanks. I don't have to resort to such a sneaking trick, my master leaves his letters open on his desk, and I can read them there. Are you goint o the ball to-night?

FLIRT.

(Coming down L.C.) Of course! But I don't know how.

SLAVIN.

What do you mean?

FLIRT.

Whether I go with my mistress or go alone.

SLAVIN.

Will you mistress go?

FLIRT.

Of course she will! Madame Guyer never missed a good time yet, but she may leave me at home.

SLAVIN.

And if she does?

FLIRT.

I'll let you know. (Going up L.) Now I must hurry back. (At Arch L.3.E. Slavin works up C.) Get that note through all right's won't you? Good bye old sport. (Exit L.3.E.)

(Watches her off then down R C. A little to back of table R)

SLAVIN.

She wants me to take her to the ball at $25 a ticket. Oh no, but she's a very pleasing young person, full of fun, likes a racket, just the sort of a girl you wouldn't want for a wife. I wonder what this note is "Mr.R. Gay". I haven't a doubt it's an R. and that it's meant for Rashleigh, besides it's from a lady, the shape, the perfume, the handwriting all prove it to be from a lady, and the old gentleman never receives notes from ladies. There's no doubt in my mind it's for Rashleigh. Still the R. looks enough like B. Well, if it don't, I'll make it. (Picks up pen and writes on envelopes) There, that looks like a B now. I'll give it to Uncle Ben, he'll open it, and I hope to find out from it how the young man is going on. I'll give it to the old man.

(Starts to go up R. Arch. Enter NORMAN BLOOD L.3.E. quick. after hanging hat on rack in hall)

NORMAN.

(X s to

NORMAN.
(X's to Slavin) Slavin has Mr. Rashleigh come in?

SLAVIN.
(At earch R. with letter behind him) No sir.

NORMAN.
(C.) Whaen do you expect him?

LSAVIN.
I don't expect him sir, I would not dare take the liberty of expecting him, sir, I know my place.

RASH.
(ENTER L.3. quickly---after hanging hat) Hell, Norman, old man' (X8s to Norman--Both shake hands C.) You here? I was over to your house looking for you.

SLAVIN.
(At arch R) Is there anything required of me?

RASH.
Yes, get out! (Exit Slavin R.3.E) Now Norman---(Both go down C. L) I pr sume I hardly need tell you thay our annual masquerade ball takes place at the Cliff House to-night?

NORMAN.
I was aware of the fact.

RASH.
Well, I've a treat in store for you .

NORMAN.
Indeed.

RASH.
(Looking about to see that no one is listening)
Yes, I have arranged to take you and the whole party.

NORMAN.
What, the girls going? (Offers cigarettes to Rash)

RASH.
(Taking cigarettes fro, Norman) Yes, all the quiet now. Tony, Isabelle, and the Widow, Mrs. Guyer, I've just been over to Isabelle's. I found the Widow there and they told me the whole scheme. I just brought Isabelle over with me and she is up in Tony's room now and the sceheme is all fixed.
(X'es to Table R. looking for something)

NORMAN.
(X'es to Lounge L. sits and lights cigarette)
But how are the girls going to get out? Your Uncle Ben will never let Tony go, and Isabell's father will never let her go.

RASH.

(Turning to Norman) To the ball? No! (X's to L.C.) But we're not supposed to be going there. We intend to get permission to go on a night tour of Chinatown that will account for our being out late. Well, instead of going to Chinatown, we all meet at the Riche Restaurnant, have a jolly supper. Our masques will be sent there we'll pet them on and go to the ball, being en masque nobody'll know us and when we get hom the old folks will never suspect we haven't been to Chinatown, see. (X's to table R. & looks for note) By the way, have you see anything of a note for me?

NORMAN.

I have not.

RASH.

(Goes to piano R. and looks) That Widow told me she wrote a note and sent it over by Flirt. I'd like to know what became of it. (X'ss to back of tabel R)

(ENTER SLAVIN R.3.E. is about to X to window.)

Slavin! Have you seen anything of a note for me?

SLAVIN.

(Stopping up stage C.) No sir!

RASH.

(Back of table R) You are very sure?

SLAVIN.

Very sir'

RASH.

I believe you are lying?

SLAVIN.

Thank you, sir. Antyhing else I can do for you sir.

RASH.

Yes, disappear. (Exit Slavin through bay window C.) Doddering old fool! (Going down C) I don't see whay he dosen't die! He's old enough.

NORMAN.

(On lounge) You're not fond of Slavin)

RASH.

(C.) No, I'm not. He's a terrible nuisance. One of his worst tricks is that he goes round talking to himself. Why in that wya he peddles our family affairs all over town. I'll bet he had that letter and lost it. (X's to table R. and looks again for note) I hope nobody eill get hold of it.

NORMAN.

Oh nobody would open a note addressed to you.

RASH.

(Turning to Norman) Well, are you in for the proposed lark?

NORMAN.

Why yes, if your Uncle Ben will consent to Ton&s going through Chinatown. I'm in for it.

RASH.

Leave the girls to coax him.

NORMAN.

But say! If the Widow's going along, we'll need a third fellow to balance the party. You bet she dosen8t go without a fellow all to herself.

RASH.

(X's to Norm n) The Widow! Well, hardly. Need I tell you, she's the one who got up this whole scheme, my boy, The Trip to Chinatown story and all. You can feel sure she's taken care the party isn't short on men. She's got Twon Painter in to go as Isabelle's escort so you can devote yourself entirely to the widow. (X's to table R. & lights cigarette)

Norman.

Well, that just suits me. The widow's more fun than any girl I know. Say Rash, I don't believe a woman is ever at her best until she becomes a widow.

RASH.

(Sits on table R. and smokes) The boys all seem to think Mrs. Guyer is in her prime anyway. By the way, havenyou heard that song I worte and dedicated to her?

NORMAN.

No, I haven't--but some of the boys up at the club were telling me about it. Give it to me.

RASH.

I will.

SONG.

(During which Rashleigh works over to lounge and sits at finiah)

Do you know her ---Have you met her-
If you have you'll ne'er forget her
The pretty little widow with the laughing eyes of brown
Demure in her sobriety
Severe in her propriety
But the life of all society
The jolliest thing in town
No giddiness and giggles
No shyness and no wriggles,
That makes the budding maiden such a nuisance and a bore
So bright in conversation
So free from affectation
You can feel no hesitation
And you hasten to adore
But when you come to tell her how you love her
And never was a woman loved before
Don't you think you can deceive

Don't expect her to believe
She has heard it in the days of yore.

Most likely she'll refuse you
But so nicrly 'twill amuse you
She has got so many clothes in black to mourning she must cling
But if your prayer impresses and besides she rather guesses
That along with colored dresses--a husband is the thing
She may breathe hard for a minute,
But my boy theres nothing in it
It is only strict propriety that makes her tremble so.
For she long ago has brooded on the question and concluded,
Very likely before you did if you'd bethe man or no
But when you come to put your arms around her
And squeeze her till you can't sqeeze any more
If you think she's going to faint
She will fool you for she ain't
She has been there several times before.

"hen the honeymoon is over
Tho' just as much you love her
Some night you'll find
Yourself along with some of your old pards
And the time you'll not be noting
For your mind you'll be devoting
The deciding on the value represented by your cards
But when five o'clock is striking
And your pile is to your liking
You jump up conscience stricken as the rays of dawn you see,
And your smile is very sickly
And you say I must go quickly
I'd quite forgot my wife's at home and sitting up for me
But when you enter there is trepidation
You find her sleeping sweetly as she can
For joy she did not wait your conduct to berate
She learned better with the other man.

Norman.
Very clever old man and very true. But say Rash, where's all this going to end? Before Mrs. Guyer vame here we were all very proper young people, now she's got us all---the girls as well as you and me, so they want to get out for a wine supper on the quiet every night. And some day we'll get caught and there'll be a scandal.

RASH.
(On lounge) Oh rubbish! There's no harm in our little larks. I'm glad she came along and stirred up us to enoying life.
(The voices of TONY, ISABELLA & BEN heard off R.3.E)
Sh! Here comes the girls and Uncle Ben--let's see what he says about a Trip to Chinatown.

(Enter BEN, ISABELLE & TONY---Girls R. & L. of Him. they coaxing him Ad Lib. to C. Boys interested)

BEN.

(When well down C) I say no!!!

BOTH GIRLS

But Uncle, we must go, it's so fashionable.

Ben.

C.) I don't cate if night trips through Chinatown are the fashion, I say no'!

TONY.

(R.) But Uncle, I've lived here in San Francisco all my life and I have never been through the China quarter and this is such a good chance, we'll have a whole party together and of course a policeman ahd we'll take Mrs. Guyer to chaperone us.

Ben.

I don't see that Mrs. Guyer would make any difference.

Isabelle.

(L.) Why, she's a widow.

Ben.

Yes, and is always snivelling about it. Why dosen't she get married again--suppose becaus no man's fool enough to yeild tolher blandishment. (Girls smile and point finger at him) I know who wouldn't. (Starts up C)

TONY.

But if she goes---

BEN.

(Turning to Tony) She goes alone! I won't have you out all night chasing through Chinatown! Now, that settles it. (Go up stage C. Girls cry, Tony goes up to R.3.E. crying. Turns to Araeh)

TONY.

(Crying aloud) I think you're just as mean as you can be.
(Exits crying very loud)

ISABELLE.

(Going up to Arch, crying aloud, Ben watches her) Poor Tony--
(Exits crying)

NORMAN.

(Verey severe) Come Rash. (Both r se go to L. of Ben. stop look at Ben. then Both X in front of Ben to arch R. both turnand look very severe and exit R. 3.)

READY STREET ORGAN

ORGAN

BEN.

(C.) Now, I'm an infernal old beast, I suppose. (X to loungeat fire place) Well, I can't help it, they're my sister's children and I'll do my duty as their guardian if I earn their everlasting hatred. (Sits and read newspaper--SLAVIN enters from window C. during speech ith letter and X'es to arch R)

SLAVIN.

(Aside, looking after Rash) "Slavin, I think you're lying". "Disappear! "Go Die". Oh, but I'll get even ith you, Mr. Rashleigh! This letter from Mrs. Guyer will settle your case. (Goes to lounge L.C. & hands letter to Ben) Letter left here for you, sir, by a servant.

BEN.

(Looks at letter) For me? (Takes letter)

SLAVIN.

Here's the morning paper, sir.

BEN.

Take it away I don't want it.

SLAVIN.

Yes sir, anything I can do for you, sir?

BEN.

Yes, go away, go away. (Exit Slavin L.E)
Go away! Look like a woman's letter, what woman would write to me, I wonder. (Opens letter---reads)
"My dear old boy". (Starts,, looks around then continues reading letter) "You must take me to the Grand Masquerade Ball to-night, tho' I am in mourning I am bound to go and on the strict Q., T.," (Rises, quickly goes up, looks off R. & L. goes to table R. snd finishes letter) "You ar the only man I dare trust, you get thr masques, it would not do for me to order them, meet me at the Riche, don our nasques, drive to the ball, and nobody'll know anything about it. Don't fail, for I'm dying for a good time. Yours, Daisy Guyer".
(Falls into chair L. of table R.) Well, I'll be d ..... that letter's pla enough. These widowsxwknow what they want, and they're not afraid to declare themselves. But this to me, I know she's been running to the house but I never suspected that it was me she was after. (Rises and walks about swelling with pride) Very bright woman that widow, and I'll not disappoint her. But how can I saty out all night without the family knowing it. Change my mind---Let them go to Chinatown, by Jove! How lucky it comes (Starts up to window C.) There's that cussed street hand playing dance music, that's suggestive, I hope I haven't forgotten how to shake myv feet.

(Dance down to R.C. awkardly. FLIRT dances on from L.3.E. does not see him until she almost runs into him. He confused, turns to table R. and looks for something.)

FLIRT.

(Startled) Oh, I beg your pardon.

BEN.

(At table R. confused, and assuming to be very angry) Is that what you came in here for, Miss?

FLIERT.

(L.C) Not exactly, sir, tho' servants usually do it.

BEN.

(Suddenly remembering and turning to her) You are Mrs. Guyer's maid if I'm not mistaken.

FLIRT.

Yes sir, I brought a note over here this morning. I didn't get a reply, so I came over to see about it.

BEN.

So you brought the note. (Looks around and in a half whisper) Will you tell Mrs. Guyer it reached the proper party and it's all O.K.

FLIRT.

You know about it?

BEN.

(C.) Never mind what I know, tell her it's O.K. (She starts to go up L.) Stop a minute, you are a lady's maid?

FLIRT.

(Coming back to L.C.) Yes sir.

BEN.

(Giving money) Here's a dollar, and you know how to hold your tongue.

FLIRT.

If I didn't, I couldn(t hold my position.
(Ben looksabout & puts money in her hands)

BEN.

Here's five dollars. Do you know how to dance?

FLIRT.

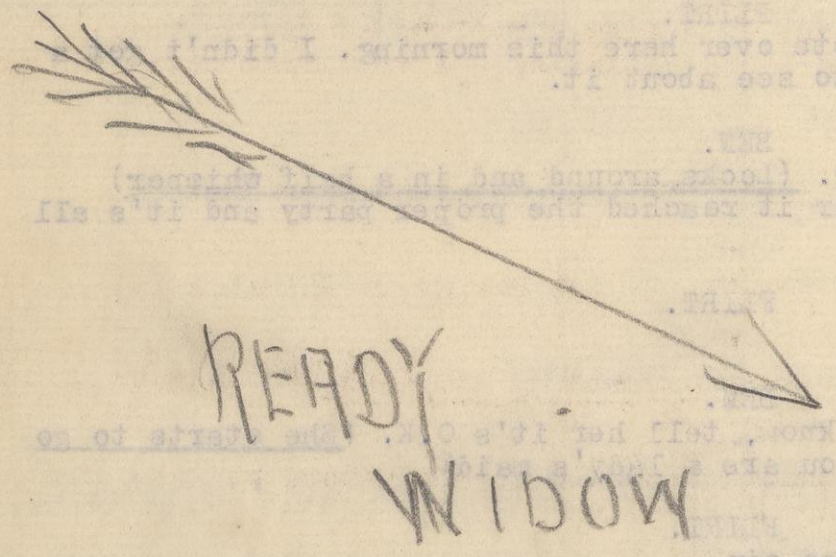
(Shakes foot) Do you mean the cotillon sir?

BEN

No, I mean the dances where you grab your girl around the waist and go spinning 'round and get yourself all wrought up, will you show me how?

FLIRT.

Cerainly sir. You just watch my feet.


READY
WIDOW
MUSIC

(She dances, Both talj ad lib. Ben is doubtful--Flirt coaxes him to try to dance--he finally starts in timid at fir t--
then a wild can-can step--then both together when TONY, ISABELLE, NORMAN & RASH ENTER R.3.E. Flirt screams and exits L.3.E Beenx Ben sees them--jumps on lounge)

(PICTURE) (Pause)

TONY.
Why, Uncle Ben! (X's to R. of lounge)

BEN.
(Gradually getting up and appearing surprised at seeing them) I--I--was only thinking---just thinking---I've turned matters over in my mind.

TONY.
I should t ink you must have with such violent exercise.

BEN.
(Going to C.) I---I've decided to let you go to Chinatown.

ALL.
(Excited, surrounding Ben. and grabbing his hands)B You have!!

BEN.
It's highly important that you should see Chinatown and see it thoroughly.

ALL.
Yes!

BEN.
It's a part of your proper education. Promise me that you will go? (Starts up stage)

ALL.
(Turning to him) We will! (Ben. goes up to R.3.E. Tony L.C. & Isabelle R.C. Ben tutns at arch R.)

BEN.
Go early, and stay late!

ALL.
We will! (All turn down stage delighted--Ben dances a can-can step as he exits R.3.E)

ALL.
Well!

ISABELLE
(Delighted) There's a changeof mind for you. I wonder what did it.

RASH.
(Excited R. C) I don't know or care. We go to the gall that's the point.

(Chorus --"Out for a Racket" WIDOW enters at finish and takes last line---FLIRT follows her & stands at L.C. back--SONG & CHORUS)

WIDOW.

(C) Well, here I am.

TWO GIRLS.

(Advancing to widow) Our chaperone!

WIDOW.

(C) That will do, young ladies. Flirt take my satchel.
(Hands it--TONY & ISABELLE go up, speak to each other, then Tony Xes to R. and sits R. of table R. Isabelle to L. and sits on lounge---Norman sits on lower end of lounge)

FLIRT.

Yes Madam.

WIDOW.

(Goung to Rash R. C.)
Rashleigh, why did you not answer my note? (Flirt exits L.3.E)

RASH.

(R) Because I didn't get it.

WIDOW.

Didn't get it? How stupid of you.

RASH.

Oh, it's perfectly safe nobody else found it, so you can dispense with those black looks.

WIDOW.

(Xes to C) Excuse me I don't dispense with black for 29 days. You must remember I'm a widow in mourning.
(Rash up R)

NORMAN.

(On Lounge L.) Still lourning for the dear departed?

WIDOW.

(X'es to table R) Bitterly! I shall wear a black masque at the ball. Rash don't forget that is ordering the masques.
(Rash--goes back of table R)

ISABEL.

You've no idea how particular she has been about her mourning.

WIDOW.

(Sits L. of R. table) Indeed I have. For thr first six months I read only novels by Blaxk and drank only black tea.
(Laugh from all) (SLAVIN enters L.#.E. with note)

SLAVIN.

Mr. Willie Grow is here to see Miss Tony!

ALL.

(Crying) Oh, Tony!!'

TONY.

(Annoyed) Oh plague, take Willie Grow. He's so tiresome, I don't see whya boy only eighteen wants to run after us girls. Tell him I'm out.

SLAVIN.

He's got a great big basket of flowers for you, ma'am.

TONY.

Has he? Oh well, let him come up. Willie's quite nice after all.

SLAVIN

(Goes to R. To Rash) Note for you sir. (Hands note) Can I oblige?

RASH.

(R.C.) Yes! Is that Goat Island over there?

SLAVIN.

Yes sir.

RASH.

Well go over there and be a goat. (ALL laugh)
(Exit SLAVIN L.3.E)

RASH.

A note from painter. (Reads) "Am sick and can't go to-night. Willie will explain all. Painter. Why, that's too bad. It leaves us one man short.

RASH.

(X'es to back of window's chair) Mrs. Guyer, you wouldn't care to go with the party one man short.

WIDOW.

Care to? I just wouldn't. (Laugh by everybody)
(X'es to lounge L. & sits--Rash behind table---enter SLAVIN L.3.E)

SLAVIN.

(At arch L.) Mr. Willie Grow!

(Enter WILLIE GROW L.3. & Slavin exits L.3.E)

WILLIE.

(Guying)

WILLIE.

(Confused) Good morning.

ALL.

Good morning, Willie.

WILLIE

I---why there's a lot of you here isn't there?

WIDOW.

Why yes, did you want a quiet tete-etete, with Tony?
(Norman rises and goes up stage L.)

WILLIE.

Why, oh no, I just brought her a little bunch of roses don't you know.

TONY.

It's very nice of you, Willie.

WILLIE.

Now if I'm in your way, I'll go. (Xes to C. Norman stops Willie)

RASH.

(Coming down R.E) Certainly not. We don't mind having you here a bit.

ALL.

Not a bit.

WILLIE.

(C.) Oh Mr. Painter sent me to say that he couldn't go to the ball.

ALL.

Sh!

WILLIE.

To-night, and I could go in his place.

TONY.

Oh he did.

WILLIE.

So I'be bought the tickets -- six of them.
(Xes to Girls on lounge and shakes hands)

RASH.

(To Norman---Both C) Have you--twenty-five dollars a piece---all right, Willie you can go. (Norman goes back of lounge and sits on it)

WILLIE.

(X To C) Well, that's awfully nice of you don't you know. Say I hear they're going to have two great professional dancers there.

NORMAN.

(ON Lounge) Why, of course, they always have professional dancers engaged t these balls to start the fun after 12. I have heard these to-night are crokers.

TONY.

We must see her sure.

BEN.

(Outside R.3.E) Slavin! Slavin!

TONY.

Sh! Here's Uncle, stop talking about the ball.
(Enter BEN. R.3.E)

BEN.

(Xes to L. arch then down L.) Slavin! Where are you---Now Tony---(Sees Mrs. Guyer on lounge---smiles extends hand) Why, Mrs. Guyer, good morning, how do you do?

WIDOW.

(Coldly, without looking at him) Good morning, sir. (Turns to Isabells---Both ladies on lounge)

BEN.

(Surprised at first---then as though understanding)
(Aside(I see---discretion. (Goes to C)

TONY.

(XIng to Ben) Uncle, she's going to chaperone us to Chinatown.

BEN.

Is she? That's nice. (Winks at widow) But if she changes her mind. (Winks again) You can go just the same. (Tony goes and goes to Piano---Widow rises surprised and Xes in frint of Ben to R. looking at him in amazement, then she turns, looks at him him again, Ben winks again)

BEN.

(Aside) Is it all right?
(Widow looks and then suddenly goes into a fit of laughter---and goes up stage to bay window---discover Widow's shoes untied beckons to Willie to come & tie it) Willie goes to her and does so--They converse up stage---Isabelle and norman X to pinao see nothing that goes on between Ben and the widow)
Throwing them off! Fly woman!
(Turns up stage, sees Willie fixing Widow's shoes rushes up---but gets there too late--Annoyed, goes to Willie and widow come down stage---Willie holding Widow's hand and kissing it)
How can I get a chance to speak to her. An idea! I know how to occupy their minds. Tony, Isabelle--I have a very delirious desire to hear some music this morning. I want you four. (Turns sees Willie kissing Widow's hand--takes his arm and turns him gently to R)no, five young people to get around the piano and sing me my favorite quintette.
(Widow L.C looking through L. arch)

TONY.

Anything to oblige.
(All talk Ad lib---to Uncle Ben as they go to Piano, Ben takes Widow's hand and leads her down to lounge L.)

Song by Norman
and Chorus.

Chorus

BEN.
(Aside to widow) Mrs. Guyer won't you be seated? Of course you mean to keep your appointment to-night? (Holding her hand)

WIDOW.
(On lounge) Most surely? Why!

BEN.
Oh, I souldn't let the young folks go only for that.

WIDOW.
You flatter me. (Ben gets his mouth close to Widow---Falters--the rushes to piano, grabs music and hands a sheet of music to each) What ails the man? (Ben. X'es to C)

TONY.
(Xes to Ben C) We can't find the quintette, but there's the sextette--come Mrs. Guyer, help us out.

(Widow rises and Xes back of Ben to C. Tony up C. joins widow)

BEN.
(Suddenly, turning to Tony) No---not Mrs. Guyer! (Turning to L.) No---Mrs. Guyer---don't you--(Sees she's gone--pause disgusted) Oh rats! I wanted them to sing, so could talk to her. (Sits L. Quintette--At finish enter FLIRT L.3. stand R.C. at back--Rash at piano---widow L. of table---Norman on lounge--Tony up stage L. Isable L. of table. Willie up stage R)

ISABEL.
(Xing to Ben L.C.) Does that satisfy your carc craving for music?

BEN
(Rising) Entirely. I don't care if I never hear you sing again.
(All look at Ben--"illie goe sup to Piano back of table R)

WIDOW.
(Seated L. of table) That's nice.

BEN.
(Xing to Mrs. Guyer) Oh, I don't mean you Mrs. Guyer. (All turn back to him--aside) And abput this trip to Chinatown to-night, of course you'll have to start out with the party.

MRS G.
Yes.

BEN.
But you can suddenly feel sick and excuse yourseld and get in a cab to go home.
(Bus. of singing and winking at her ans she goes off L.3.E)

WIDOW.
(Aside) This man has had too much liquor and so early in the morning. (ENTER Ben L.3. X'es to R. Sees Widow & Stops) Now I must run home and get rested for to-night. (Up stag C.)
Good bye all!

EVERYBODY.

(Slightly turning heads) Good bye. (Turn back(

BEN.

(X'es to Widow---aside to Her) Everything is O.K.

WIDOW.

(L. C) I hope so.

BEN.

You and I are all right---but no Flirt.

WIDOW

Certainly noy. (Exit L.3. E FLIRT Xes Ben to Arch, she looks back and winks at Ben--who returns it and then walks down C.)

BEN.

(C) Young ladies there's a woman whose example you ought to follow.

TONY.

(R) You don't know how hard we try to sir.

BEN.

(Xing to Willie R) Well, Willie, I heear you've gone into business.

WILLIE.

(Both go to C) Yes sir.

ISABELL.

Oh tell us all about it.

WILLIE.

(R.C) Why I've taken the Pacific Coast Agency for a new perfume! Most swell young fellows have the angency for some, but I don t drink yet.

(Ben and boys slightly disgusted---Girls smile)

TONY.

Oh, how nice' Willie can give is all our perfumes nor for nothing. I hope you'll make lots of money Willie.

BEN.

He proably will if he furnishes you girls with all your perfume for nothing.

WILLIE.

It's a lovely perfume. (Produces bottle from pocket) Just try it Mr. Gay. (Ben takes bottle sloshes it over face then smells hand)

BEN.

Why, this isn't perfume! It smells like soap grease. (Looks at bottle) What's this. Sackett's Balm--warranted to make a moustache grow in two weeks. Well!

(All laugh at Willie)

WILLIE.
I've given him the wtong bottle.
(Brabs bottle and makes quick exit L.3.E. SLAVIN enters C. with telegram and paper)

SLAVIN.
Telegram sir. You haven't looked at the morning paper, sir.

BEN.
I don't want to look at it. (Knocks it out of Slavin's Hand)

SLAVIN.
Any service I can perform sir?

BEN.
(B.C) Yesm leave the room! (EXIT Slavin L.3. BEN reads telegram) "You will probably see me before this message reaches you---as it goes by telegraph. (Pause) "I am in Oakland. Will reach your house in an hour. Welland Strong". Whew! I didn't expect him 'til tomorrow.
(Isabelle goes to C. To Ben)

ISABEL.
Who is he? A nice young fellow or an old codger like---
(Ben looks sharply at her) O lots of folks---(Goes to Ben lounge L. & sits)

BEN.
He's a dying man. An old and dear boyhood friend of mine upon whom death has fixed its clutches. He has made an immense fortune and now that he is ready to enjoy it disease attacks him---he comeshere as my my guest in hopes that our glorious climate may prolong his existence. Poor fellow. He used to be the picture of health. I dread to see him hollow chested, cheeks hectic flushed and glassy eyes, and he, my boyhood's dearest friend. Say he's liable to be here at any moment. (Rings bells which he takes from tabel R) We must ---make ready to receive him. Get that lounge ready, he's probably faint after his long journey.
(Tony goes L. for shawl and spreads it on the lounge which Norman swings around in front of the fire-place--Music P.p. until strong appears and then forte till he is C. SLAVIN enters R. TONY & Rash move about. Everything must be bustle and hurry from this to Strong's Entrance---Everyone flying as Ben Speaks---SLAVIN down to Ben R.C.)

SLAVIN.
Did you ring, sir?

BEN.
Did I ring? (STILL ringing bell, and all through speech continues ring) I turned in a fire alarm. Go and do something. What are you standing there for? Go get a glass of wine and put it on that table. Isabelle get another pillow. (Isabelle gets pillow from chair up stage R.C. Norman places small table back of lounge, Slavin exits R.3) (He gets wine and places it on table back of lounge L.) Tony, get some whiskey and smelling salts. Stop ringing that bell. (Tony e xits R.3.D. and returns at once with whiskey bottle and smelling salts, which she puts on table L.) Rash, have a man to

help you bring him in from the carriage. (Rash exits EL 3rd)
Isabelle get a fan and stop ringing that bell.
(She goes up stage to chair for fan)
Norman. What are you doing, nothing? Fix the fire, put on more coal.
(Ben crosses to lounge and picks up pillows. Xes to piano and places pillows on it, the works around table to chair L. of table and as he finishes speech falls into chair)
Go open the windows---open the doors and give us some air, get some quinine---do you want the man to die of chills and fever.
(Enter STRONG--Isabel and Rash R. Tony & Norman L. Strong C. All hold picture as soon as Strong appears--Alleyes on him---Slavin at R. Arch)

STRONG.

(C) Did my telegram get here? (Ben jumps up)

BEN.

(R) What, Welland Strong?

StRONG.

Yes, Welland Strong.

BEN.

(Going to him) Why how dod you do?

STRONG.

I may die before night.

BEN.

Here Slavin, take the gentleman's wraps.
(As Lib, from everybody while Norman and Rash take off Strong's wraps--and pile them on Slavin who stands R. Tony pours out wine--Ben leads strong to lounge whom lays down---Norman & Rash at head of lounge---Tony L. of it--Ben & Isabelle R. Rash moves chair from table R. to R. of lounge)
Fan him! Fan him! Fix his feet. (Norman takes strong's overshoes off)

SLAVIN.

(Who is covered with coats &c) Shall I take the gentleman's coat to this room sir?
(Isabelle holds salts to Strong's nose---Rash-fans Him)

BEN.

You may as well.

SLAVIN.

Anything else I can do sir.

BEN.

Yes, keep out. (Exit Slavin L.3.E)
Now have a galss of wine. (Sits on chair R. of lounge---Tony hands wine)

STRONG.
I will, wine is harmful to me---it shortens my life, but I811 take it. (Drinks)

BEN.
You don't look badly old man.

STRONG.
No, that is one of the exasperating thisngs about it.

RASH.
Which lung is affected sir?

STRONG.
Neither as yet, but the left one probably will be by Staurday night.

BEN.
Do you cough much?

STRONG.
Not at all. That's a very serious feature. My malady is so deep seated that I can't bring the cough to the surface. But instead, I feel a sensation which in a well man would be called a thirst for liquor.

NORMAN.
Have you tried the gold cure?

STRONG.
I have not.

RASH.
I've heard it was good for certain forms of comsumption.
(Tony hands him drink which he drinks)

TONY.
And what do yo the doctor's say?

STRONG.
No two agree.

BEN.
And who shall decide when doctor's disagree.

STRONG.
Usually the coroner. I had seven of them.

All.
Coroners ?

STRONG.
No doctors. One damn fool.
(The girls turn away---The boys laugh quietly)
One fool said nothing ailed me---do you know the only man who really understood my case was a horse doctor. He said if I stayed in Boston I'd die in sixty days but out here in San Francisco, I'd live two years if I obeyed certain rules. Here's a book of rules,

and it tells me just how much I shorten my life every time I break one. That last glass of wine you gave me shortened my life just ninetten hours.

(Tony hands filled glass)

Thanks. (Hands glass back after drinking) By the way, I hope my extra coats are right on hand. I am obliged to keep myself at a certain temperature. This thermometer applied to the back of my neck (Places thermometer at back of neck) ought the register just ninety nine dgrees if I'm all right. And my coatsare regulated by degrees. The red one adds just five degrees to my temperature--others from one to ten. Thanks, I'm all right now.

(All Move from Strong--Tony & Isabelle go to table R. Rash Moves chair to table and Norman goesup stage)

By the way, can you give me the address og a good horse doctor?

BEN.

(L.) Why yes, but hadn't you better see our family physician?

STRONG.

(Still on lounge) Oh no! He's no good'--None of these M.D.'s are. They're usedto catering their patients whims, giving them what they want to take. A horse doctor don't try to please his patients. He gives them what they need. I'll never trust any but a horse doctor.

Bén.

(L.C.) Well, well. I'll see that you have one. I knew a man who cured my mules of colic.

RASH.

(C) But Uncle, he's a bartender now.

STRONG.

That's the man for me. He'll keep me alive is any one can.

(Strong has business, as if about to sneeze---Men grab him down stage C. Girls rise R. and rush into each others arms)

ALL.

What's the matter?

STRONG.

(C) It's all right now. Do you know every little while, I am seized with a most agonizing desire to sneeze.

BEN.

(R.C) Dreadful. Will nothing give you relief?

STRONG.

Only one thing.

BEN.

What's that?

STRONG.

To sneeze. (Goes up stage C)

TONY.

What feature of our climate do you rely on to help you?

STRONG.

The earthquakes.

ALL.

Earthquakes?

STRONG.

Yes, my doctor says what I need is a general shaking up.
(Goes to lounge and sits down)

BEN.

(R.C. Aside) You'll get it.

STRONG.

Will you please close those curtains. I feel a daught.

BEN.

Why certainly Rash. Close the curtains.
(Noramn and Rash close Curtains C)
And now old man make yourself at home. You've got two years anyhow and we'll try to make you comfortable. After dinner we'll sit down and talk over old times. (Aside goes up C) I forgot, I've gotto be out to-night. What'll I do with him. (Aloud, goes to Lounge) We'll have the house all to ourselves for the young people are going to see Chinatown by night. You enjoy it if you were only able to go with them.
(All annoyed at the suggestion)

TONY.

(Seated L. of table) But he isn't uncle. It's a very fatiguing trip. (Ben looks at them sharply)

STRONG.

I don't kno , I have sworn to see Chinatown, and fading daily as I am, I shall never be again as able as to-night.
(ALL Move up stage angry---Isabel hits piano a bang and then goes up stage)
It will of course shorten my life, but I'll go if the young people will take me. (Ben delighted)

BEN.

(C) Why of course. Just delighted to have you go. Now ain't you?

ALL.

Oh yes. (All turn away up stage)

STRONG.

Thanks. Then I'll sacrifice ten days of my life and go.
(Cat fight outside L. SLAVIN enters L.3. Everyone on stage is excited---GIRLS in chairs Noramn and Rash up C. Ben Xes to fireplace and gets poker)

SLAVIN.

Your cat has got our cat. You had better some sir.
(Exit L 3 following by Strong & Ben. All laugh and down stage Rash & Isabel R. Norman and Tony L.)

ISABELLE.

ISABELLE.

(R) We're in a nice fix.

TONY.

(L.V) That's so--we're dished on going to the ball and we've got to put in a night toting that old fool all over Chinatown.
(Enter Widow L.3.D)

ISABEL.

It's bad anough to lose the ball.

TONY.

But toting him around is such a cheerless task.

RASH.

What's to be done. (R)

ALL.

Ask the Widow.

WIDOW.

(C) What! How to get you out of this new scrape?

GIRLS.

You know.

WIDOW.

Just met your uncle in the hall--he told me this Mr. Strong would go with us to Chinatown so I nee dhave no compunctions about not going. I don't know what he means by insisting so much that I needn't go, and another thing I don't understand he winked at me.

TONY.

(L.C) Uncle winked at you? I can't understand what he meanst.

IDOW.

Neither can I, and I'm a widow.

OSABEL.

But this dying creature thatôs tucked upon us, what are we to do with him.

WIDOW.

Take him along.

ALL.

To Chinatown.

WIDOW.

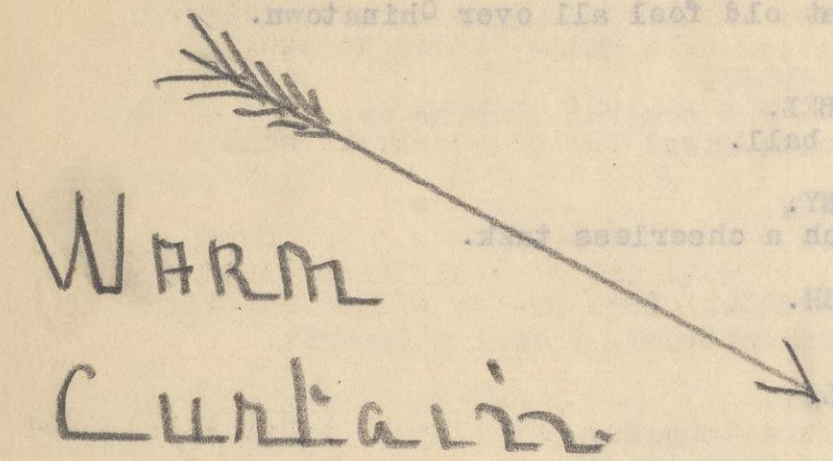
No, to the ball.

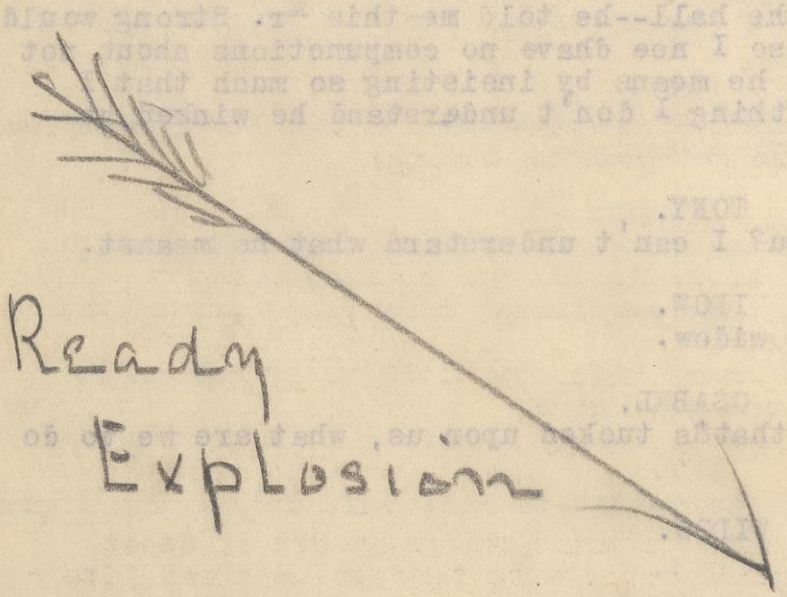
TONY.

But if we tell him where we're going he will go straight to Uncle with the story.

WIDOW.

But don't tell him where he's going. Just take him along.


Warm
Curtain


Ready
Explosion

TONY.

But when he comes home he will tell on us.

WIDOW.

Then he'll have to tell on himself too. I don't know this Mr. Strong, but if he isn't as deep in this scrape as we are, befofe we get home then may I always remain a Widow. (Goes up stage)

TONY.

(L.C) But he'll make four men to three ladies. Somebody will have to manage two beaux.

WIDOW.

(Turns to Tony) I think somebody will prove equal to the emergency. (Rash X'es to back of table---Boys bow to Widow--Widow goes to chair L. of table R and sits)

TONY.

On the whole, I'm rather glad he's going. We'll have a lot of fun with him.(Sits beside Norman)

WIDOW.

He's got an exciting evening before him.
(Enter STRONG L.3.E. looking at book)

STRONG.

(C) The excitement of that cat fight has taken seven days off my life.

TONY.

(R.C) Mr. Strong, I want to introduce you to our charming Widow Mrs. Guyer. (Widow rises and goes to Strong)

WIDOW.

I am honored. (Bows)

STRONG.

A widow and a woman.

WIDOW.

Those afflictions--usually go together.

STRONG.

How pathetic. In the flower of youth to be bereft of sweet companionship, to be dommed henceforth forever to tread life's pathway unaided, and alone.

WIDOW.

Yes. But there's no law against her marrying again.
(Goes down stage. Strong looks at her--goes down stage, stands with back to audience and puts thermometer to back of neck---then goes up stage turns and looks at the termometer---then comes down C. to Widow)

WIDOW.

(R.C) Mr. Strong, is your visit to San Francisco for pleasure?
(Strong comes down)

Explosion

Curtain.

STRONG.

(L.C) I came here to die. (All look aghast) It's a sure thing. The remedy I'm taking for my lung trouble contains dynamite. ~~Th~~ If the desease conquers the remedy why I die of the disease. If the remedy conquers the disease, I shall be so full of dynamite eventually---that I shall go off bang. (Widow starts) Think, I may suddenly vanish before your eyes. (All starts) It may happen at any moment now.

(Widow scream----falls in chair L. of table--Enter SLAVIN L.3.E)

SLAVIN.

Mr. Strong, both the cats are eating out of your medicine chest sir. I think there's trouble ahead. (Exit L.3 E)

STRONG.

(C) Both cats eating out of my medicine ch st· If they should partake of that dynamite and have trouble on the back fence, Kilkenny wouldn't be in it. (Exit L.3.E) (All laugh)

TONY.

(L.C.) Did you ever see such a man?

ISABEL.

(R. C) Can we ever take a thing like that to the ball?

WIDOW.

(C) Yes indeed, and have lots of fun with him.

ISABEL.

We'll raise the old harry with him.

WIDOW.

Only in moderation, your behavior must be most discreet, remember, I'm your chaperone.

(SONG & CHORUS---after which explosion off stage L. Tony falls on lounge--Isabel atsrt R. frightened Norman L.C. Rash R)

The maid the moon and the Moon

WIDOW.

(R.C) He's gone off. (Falls in chair L. of tabel R. Enter STRONG L.3. all torn up, holding two cats by tails)

(PICTURE)

-:- "C U R T A I N" -:-

2nd Curtain.

(Tony still on lounge, Rash R. of table Isabelle on piano stool Norman L.C. Widow in chair L. of table. Ben back of Table Strong with fan, holding Widow's hand, in which she holds tails of two cats)

STRONG.

She's fainter. Send for a horse doctor.

(Widow rises, seeing cats screams and throws them away--- Strong places thermometer at back of neck)

-:- "END OF ACT I" -:-

Medley

-:- "A T R I P T O C H I N A T O W N" -:-

-:- "ACT II" -:-

SCENE: ("Sowing three rooms in the Riche restaurant/ Large dining room C. double door C. Alcoves curtained R. & L. in 3 Doors R. & L. in 2. Small dining room L. with upper door and one R. Office R doors same---All doors to swing both ways. C. door to fasten at cue and farm fram to swing on pivot--stained glass, windows in all backings also windows R. & L. of small rooms)

DISCOVERED: (At rise enter Noah C. with fruit dich--He goes to sideboard L. and places dish on it)

NOAH.

With that masquerade ball at the Cliff House, there's won't ne a soul here to-night. (Enter STILLMAN C. gives him note) What's this? (Opens note) A note from Rashleigh Gay. He wants this room and supper for seven. That means a lively time! Nobody who comes to the Riche make things livelier than Mr. Gay. What's this? (Reads) "Have two private dressing rooms for us and look out for Mrs. Guyer's maid who will arraive before is with the costumes". (To Stillman) I see. They are coming here to dress for the ball. Going there on the sneak. Can't dress at home. Well, they'll be here an hour anyway. Go put a c ase of Monopole on ice.

(Exit Stillman C)

That Rashleigh Gay is a high roller if there ever was one.

FLIRT.

(Outside C) I know the room. Number 10.

(Enters C. Followed by Stillman & Porter bringing on large trunk---They put it down C. Porter Carries swords which he places near arch R)

NOAH.

(L.) Good evening!

FLIRT.

(R. C) Bon soir, Monsieur. Is all ready?

NOAH.

All is ready!Tje gentlemen dress in that room. (X L.) The ladies in this. (R)

FLIRT.

(R. C) I have here the costumes they will wear and---(Looks at Stillman)

NOAH.

(To Stillman) What are you standing there for? Go put that trunk in the room. (Exit Stillman and Porter with trunk R, Then re-enter & Exit C)
Flirt, how are you? (Taking her hands)

FLIRT.

(C) Tres bien Monsieur.

NOAH.

(L.C) Where have you been for so long? Haven't seen you for a week?

FLIRT.

We have been resting and preparing forrthe ball to-night.

NOAH.

We. Are you going?

FLIRT.

Of course I am. When I went to selectthe costumes, I secured one for myself.

NOAH.

And will your mistress permit you to go?

FLIRT.

(C) She will not know it. Don't you know it's a masquerade ball? I dress my mistress and after she has gone, I dress myself. At the ball I shall know her but she will not know me.

NOAH.

I see.

FLIRT.

I shall dance in her ste, eat at her ball, coquette with her beaux. They say that love levels all rank.

NOAH.

That's so. It does---And a masked ball mixes them all up.
(Takes L. corner--Flirt Xes to R. down stage)

FLIRT.

(Turning to Noah and going to C) Oh, I'll have lots of fun--And when I see Madame preparing to go home, I shall fly---and when she reaches her boudiour thefe will be Flirt, sleepy with sitting up alone, ready to aid Madame to disrobe. (Goes to arch R.3.) I know my business. (Turning to noah)

NOAH.

(L.) I guess you do. (Laugh outside C)

FLIRT.

Here they are.
(Runs off R.3.E) (Noah rushes to C. doors and opens them)

NOAH.

Right this way. Mr. Gay, this is your room'
(ENTER WIDOW, TONY, ISABELL, RASH & WILLIE & NORMAN--All laughing & Talking ad lib)

TONY.

(L.) Room No. 10 with a piano---I'm glad we've got that.

NOAH.

(C. up stage) The ladie's dressing room is there, the gentlemen's there. The dresses are in the rooms.

ISABELL.

Let's go and get dressedwhile they are getting supper, so we'll lose no time. (All start up stage)

RASH.

(R) Don't do that, Strong, dosen't know we're going to the ball and if he sees you in those costumes he'll discover all.

ISABEL.

(Coming down R) That's so. Plague take Mr. Strong. What are we to do with him?

RASH.

I've got it all planned. I noticed at the house he could be coaxed to take a drink---a now a sick man like him can't stand much liquor. Rush the drinks and when he falls asleep we'll put him to bed here, go to the ball, whilw he sleeps, and we'll call and get him on our way home.

NORMAN.

(L.(That's the idea.

WILLIE.

(Xes to C) We'll have him laid out cold in no time.
(Xes back to L. all laugh)

ISABELL.

Well, girls, we can go and pick out our dresses anyway. Come on.
(Exit ISABELL & TONY R.3. Widow starts up C)

NORMAN.

(L.C) What shall we order for supper?

WIDOW.

(C) Why champagne of course. (Exit R.3.E)

WILLIE.

(Xes to C) Say, by the way, where isour dying companion?

RASH.
He wanted to settle with the hackman so I let him.
(ENTER STRONG C. silk hat all broken)

ALL.
Why, what has happened?

STRONG.
(C) The hackman said five, I ad two.

NORMAN.
(L.) Well--what did you agree upon?

STRONG.
Five. Tell me, do we stay here long?

RASH.
(R) Why, it's a little early to go to Chinatown.

NORMn.
So we agreed to come here and have supper.

STRONG.
Eating at night shortens my life. Late suppers six days off. Here, waiter, take my hat and have it blocked.
(Noah takes and exits C. Rash Xes to C. Strong to R. Boys up stage)

RASH.
Norman, we haven 't ordered the supper.

WILLIE.
That's so, Mr. Strong, won8t you give the order?

STRONG.
I fear the taste of a dying man may not exactly suit your fancies.
(Willie and Norman up to L.3)

RASH.
(C) I don't know, I never tasted one, but you go ahead and order the supper. (Norman, Rash & Willie Exit L.3. (Noah enters & Holds C. doors open)

STRONG.
Shut those doors.
(Noah shuts them quick and goes down L.1

NOAH.
(L.) I didn't know you didn't want to be seen.

STRONG.
(R.C) It isn't that---you're letting a draught---this room is simply dreadful! ~~Close those curtains~~. (Strong closes curtains R. and Noah closes L. curtains---Down R.C. placeschair R.C. & sits) Now, wiater, what ya have you go to eat?

NOAH.

(C) Pork chops, veal chops, fried liver, baked liver, liver and bacon, beefesteak, pork steak, hamberger steak, boiled eggs, frined eggs, shined eggs, scrambled eggs, eggs on toast, fried chicken, broiled chicken, chicken pot pie, roast beep, boiled beff, beef a la mode, roast veal, boiled veal, veal and green peas, roast turkey and cranberry sauce, roast goose, roast duck, broiled quail, stwed terrapin, stewed kidneys, stewed veal, stewed oystrs, broiled oysters, steamed oysters, steamed oysters, raw oysters, on the half shepp, steamed clams, baked clams, baked beans and salt pork, apple pie, pumpkin pie, prune pie, plum pie, grace pie, custard pie, apple dumpling, plum pudding, bread pudding, tapioca pudding, pudding and---pudding.

STRONG.

Have you got bread?

NOAH.

No, but I can send out and get some.

STRONG

I think a little bread with the tings you mention will do.
(Noah goes up to C)
And, waiterm could you give me a glass of whale's milk?

NOAH.

(Turning to Strong--at C. doors) Whale's milk?

STRONG.

Yes, my doctor recommends it.

NOAH.

Well you tell him to go and milk a hale and get you some, it isn't on the bill of fare. (EXITS C)

STRONG.

(Rising and putting it bacl) He's gone and I'm left here alone. I don't know where I am or why I'm here. I don't undertsand it---this may be a scheme to shake me. Here! Waiter! Waiter! (Exit C. Calling) Waiter! (Enter BEN in office R. sits in chair, bell on desk--rings---enter Noah L.)

NOAH.

(R) What is it, sir?

BEN.

(L of Noah) Has a lady been here inquiring for Mr. Gay?

NOAH.

No, sir.

BEN.

(Still seated) I'm in time. Show me a private supper room for two.

NOAH.

Yes sir--won't you register. (Ben shakes head "No")
Any name- (Ben Shakes head "No") John Jones will do?

BEN.

Will that do? I'll get Jones into trouble.
(Signs and gets up)

NOAH.

This way. (Opens door R. Ben exits) Old Mr. Gay here and young Mr. Gay and the rest of the family inaanother room. It's funny how often we have whole families here--(Pause) in different rooms and they don't suspect it. I'll take good care they don't meet in the hall.

(Exit--Enter RASH & NORMAN L.3.E. with face masks)

NORMAN.

Do you think these masks will be a sufficient disguise?

RASH.

(L.) Certainly, when a man has his face covered there's nothing so thoroughly disguises him as a dress suit.

NORMAN.

By Jove, that's so.

(ENTER TONY R.3.E)

RASH.

Now would you ever have known me?

NORMAN?

(R) No, I wouldn't.

TONY.

(C) Nor would I. What are you supposed to be?

NORMAN.

(Xing to L.) I am Sig. Spaghetti, the famous Italian operatic tenonor Fornerly Tim Foley the hod carrier.

RASH.

(Xing to R) And I am Sig. Macaroni the great Italian basso, formerley Merryman the nigger singer.

TONY.

Bravo! Since we've got so much talent here, lets have some Italian opera.

TRIO.

Exit Tony R. U. E. Boys L. U. E.

Enter Noah and Ben. into room L.

Noah.

Will this do sir?

BEN.

This will do. (Hands Noah, coat, hat cane & gloves--to Noah) When the lady calls, show her right in and say, you'd better have supper already, I shan't have to wait long for her.

NOAH.

Yes, sir---Champagne what else, sir?

BEN.

A corking supper, my boy.

NOAH.

Yes, sir. Like to look at the evening paper, sir?

BEN.

No, no paper for me. (Exit Noah) I've got the masques--she goes as Juliet and I as Romeo. I'll sit and think what a lucky dog I am.
(Enter Rash, Willie & Norman L.U.E)

NORMAN.

(L.) Why, where's Strong?

RASH.

(R) We must begin ~~the~~ to pur the liquor into him at once. Cocktaila will knock him out the quickest.

STRONG.

~~(Back of C. Doors) This is the room.~~

RASH.

Sh! Here he comes. (ENTER STRONG C. with lighted cigarette) Oh, there you are. I thought you'd run away from us.

STRONG.

(C) Oh, no, you can't shake me.

NORMAN.

Come and have a drink.

STRONG.

You can't gete there too quick for me.
(Men go to sideboard and get drink)

RASH.

Hold on now! Before we drink we will sing you our club Madrigal.

STRONG.

What's that?

NORMAN.

Listen.

SONG.

(Norman & Rasleigh Sing)

It will do you no harm
"Said the "rag" man to the "bag" man
It will do you no harm! Drink!!! (All drink)
It has gone to the spot
For our coppers were hot
Has it done you any harm.
No, I guess not.
It has done me much good
And I knew that it would
Said the rag man to the bag man
That's just as it should.

STRONG.

Do they sing that songat the club?

RASH.

Always before every drink.

STRONG.

I think that club will be a failure.

RASH

Why?

STRONG

Too long before drinks.
(Down C. Puts thermometer to back of neck--Enter Tony and Isabelle R.U.E)

ISABEL.

(To Rash) Have you commenced on him?

RASH.

Yes, he took the first cock-tail without a murmur, and we'll give him anotger in a minute.

TONY.

(Down L.C) Mercy, how hot this room is.

ISABEL.

(R) It's suffocating. Poor man, no wonder he's warm.
(All are vigorously fanning themselves)

STRONG.

Waiter! (Enter Noah C) Build a fire!

ALL.

Build a fire.

TONY.

What for? It's melting here.

STRONG.

I canet help it. My therm emter shows I'm too cold. Say don't stand

there holding those doors open. It cause a draught.

ISABEL.

I wish it did. I can't breathe.

NORMAN.

Mr. Strong, we can't stand a fire.

TRONG.

(R.C) ~~What the deuce am I to do--I must keep warm~~--waiter, have you got a freestone in the house?

NOAH.

(C) I can get one.

STRONG.

Heat it and bring it in. I can sit on that and get warm.
(EXIT Noah C. Leaves door open)

STRONG.

(Goes up and closes doors) ~~You villian!~~
(Rash X. back of him R. They comes down stage together Girls X behind them to sideboard)

RASH.

(R.C) It's all imagination on your part, there isn't a breath of air in this room.

STRONG.

(C. to Rash) Have you got a five dollar bill in your pocket?

RASH.

Will a twenty do?

STRONG.

(Going up stage C) Yes. Ladies and gentlemen observe this.(Rash goes up stage) Lay it there on the hearth. (Rash does so--it goes up chimney) Now don't say there's no draught in this room.
(All laugh--Strong down C)

RASH.

(Following strong down) But my bill!

STRONG.

It's gone up the flue, see!
(Set cahir from R. and places it R.C. and sits)

RASH.

(R.C) Yes, I see. (Girls laugh at him)

BEN.

(Rins bell-NOAH enters from L. At the same time FLIRT enters R.3.E. with tay of flowers hands one to each of the gentlemen and exits R.3. WIDOW enters R.3.)
Waiter, are you sure that lady hasn't called?
(Tony and Isabel L. seated--Noramn & Willie near side-board)

NOAH.

Sme sir. Don't you want the evening pa er?
(Widow down C)

BEN.

No, no--I didn't come here to read the evening paper. Bring me a cocktail. (Exit Noah)

WIDOW.

(C) Mr. Strong, you a man with lung trouble msoking a cigarette?

STRONG.

(Seated C) Did you ever hear of a cigarette killing anybody?

WIDOW.

Oh yes, Richard the Third died on a Richmond Straight Cut.
(Strong rises and gives Widow his seat--Enter Noah C. with freestone. It seems hot)

NOAH.

(L.C) Here's your freestone---where'll you have it? Speak quick please.

STRONG.

(Seated on footstool R) These chairs wont do. Get me one with a cushion and put the stone under the cushion --uhderstand! (Exit Noah C)

WILLIE.

(Xing to C) I wonder if it will be a lively ball.

ALL.

Sh!

RASH.

(R. Back of widow) Be careful you idiot.

STRONG.

Ball?

RASH.

Ye--yes! We were reading in the paper that there's to be a Masquerade Ball at the Cliff House to-night?

WILLIE.

With a great professional dancer.
(Rash throws Willie up stage R)

ALL.

Sh!

STRONG.

A professional dancer. Say is that on the way to Chinatown?

WIDOW.

(Aside to Girls) I do believe he's a thoroughbred. (Aloud) If they want sensational dancing my maid Flirt ought to be there. (Calls) Flirt!

—Waltz music for bus—

FLIRT.

(Enters R.3.E) Yes, Madam.

WIDOW.

Show us high you can kick.

(Men all rush to her and show interest and look closely at Flirt--2 girls are watching closely--have rises from seat)

FLIRT.

Yes madam.

(Flirt at first looks modest, then turns and looks at two girls--who turn away--Flirt smiles--then turn to men---

(To Willie) Hold your hand just as high as my head. (He does so) There(I kick just so high.

(Men all show disappointment and go slowly up stage--Exit Flirt--R.3.E. Girls laugh at men)

WIDOW.

(To String---who is standing in her chair) That's a little idea of my own. Don't you like it?

(Strong disgusted, gets down shakes her hand and sits on foot stool. Men gather around Widow)

ISABELL.

(L.) Tony, look at that will you? We don't seem to be worth noticing. I wonder if she proposes to nonopolize all the men the entire evening.

TONY.

(L.) I vow I'll break it up. (To widow---Xing to her) Mrs. Guyer, how long did Mr. Guyer last aft er you were married?

WIDOW.

(Still seated) Only six months.

(Men walk up stage--Strong raises hat and walks up stage. Both girls laugh)

TONY.

(C) I--I heard he died from the effects of blowing up.

WIDOW.

Yes--excursion boat. Dear boy! He was insured for $50.000.

(Men rush back to her99Strong on her R. Rash & Norman at Back---Will on her L. Girls angry)

STRONG.

(R) How strange, I'm insured for just that sum.

WIDOW.

(Rising) You charming man!

(Takes Stron's arm and both walk up stage then to piano, men look disgusted---Willie Xes to Tony--Norman steps in between them---takes her to L. alcove, Wille then steps to Isabelle--- Rash steps in and takes her to R. alcove---Willie goes C)

WILLIE.

(C. near doors--disgusted)

Say may I be allowed to go and pay the bill?

ALL.

Yes, Willie!

(Exit C. Willie--The three couple rather spoony but the four rather keeping their eyes on Strong and th Widow who are at Piano. Widow seat d at piano stool.)

BEN.

This is getting monotonous--that widow ought to be here perhaps she's got into some other room. (Risin) I'll go and skirmish. (Exit)

STRONG.

R) There's no harm in the young folks having a little fun.

WIDOW.

(Drumming pinao) Certainly not. (Sings) "If a body kiss a body need a body cry".

(Strong tries to kiss her--She stops him gently)

STRONG.

Why, of course not, and do youthink flirting wicked?

WIDOW.

Oh, I hope it is, a little spide of wickedness makes it all the fun. (Looks at Strong--sings) "If you love me tell me so". (Strong is about to out his arms around her)

ALL.

(Looking out through arches) Ah, Strong--Ah! Aha!

STRONG.

I'm sure I feel a draught.

(Closes curtains L.and R.3. returns to C)

WIDOW.

(Still seated on Piano stool) Mr. Strong, have you a wife?

STRONG.

(C) Oh no!

WIDOW.

I thought you were a jolly bachelor.

STRONG.

No, not a bachelor.

WIDOW.

OH pardon me, if I have wounded your feelings. You are a widower?

STRONG.

No, not a widower.

WIDOW.

(Rising and going to Him) Well, if you're not a single man, nor a married man nor a widower, what are you?

STRONG.

Well, if you know, I am a divorced man!
(Both down stage C)

WIDOW.

How stupid of me not to guess. Don't say a word! They don't know it! I'm aid divorced too!(They shake hands.)

WIDOW.

(R. Opening locket) Don't you want to see his portrait?

STRONG.

(L. Looking at locket) I don't see anything but the back of a photo.

WIDOW.

This is the picture that is turned twoard the wall.
(Looks at strong then goes back to piano stool--and sing looking at strong)
"Come, let us kiss!

STRONG.

(After a pause) I'm sure you must feel a draught.
(Draws screen--Noah enters ben's room with Freestone, puts it under cushion)

NOAH.

This is the only chair in the house with a movable cushion.
(About to take chair out when BEN ENters, runs into Noah)

BEN.

(L. to Noah) What do you want in here?

NOAH.

(R) I'd like that chair, sir, for the gentleman in the next room.

BEN.

You can't have it.

NOAH.

In that case, sir--

BEN.

(X'es back of chair to the R) Shut up. I'll have no back talk. Get out till I ring. (Noah stands at door holding it open. Shut that door)
(Ben sits in chair with cushion---Noah shuts door and then opens it again) Will you shut that door?
(Exit Noah---Ben starts to roll cigarette which he takes from the table and then shows signs of feeling heat, picks up fan and fans himself)
Whew! It's a hot night.
(Enter Noah with four cocktails on tray)

NOAH.

(Back of table) You didn't say what kind of cocktail so I brought four.

STROUD.

Well, if you know, I am a divorced man!
(Both down stage C).

WILSON.

How stupid of me not to guess. Don't say a word! They don't know it! I'm old divorced too!(They shake hands.)

WILSON.

(R. Opening locket) Don't you want to see his portrait?

STROUD.

(L. Looking at locket) I don't see anything but the back of a photo.

WILSON.

This is the picture that is turned toward the wall.
(Looks at stroud then goes back to piano stool--and sing looking at stroud)
"Come, let us kiss!

STROUD.

(After a pause) I'm sure you must feel a draught.
(Draws screen--Noah enters Ben's room with freestone, puts it under cushion)

NOAH.

This is the only chair in the house with a movable cushion.
(About to take chair out when BEN enters, runs into Noah)

BEN.

(L. to Noah) What do you want in here?

NOAH.

(R) I'd like that chair, sir, for the gentlemen in the next room.

BEN.

You can't have it.

NOAH.

In that case, sir--

BEN.

(Ben back of chair to the R) Shut up. I'll have no back talk. Get out (Ill I say. (Noah stands at door holding it open. Shut that door)
(Ben sits in chair with cushion---Noah shuts door and then opens it again) Will you shut that door?
(Exit Noah---Ben starts to roll cigarette which he takes from the table and then shows signs of feeling hot, picks up fan and fans himself)
Ben. I've stuck.
(Enter Noah with four cocktails on tray)

NOAH.

(Back of table) You didn't say what kind of cocktail so I rounded four.

BEN.

You've got a great barin.

NOAG.

I can take threeof them back.

BEN.

Yes -you c n--over my dead body.

NOAH.

Hadn't you better look at the evening paper?

BEN.

No sir, I had not. Don't you know the difference between a pretty girl and the evening paper? (Exit Noah L.U.D) I wonder if that idiot thinks I'm out on a racket with ane evening paper.
(Noah goes into room C. through door C.D.)

NOAH.

Ha! Ha! Ha!
(Strong looks out from behind screen, only showing head)

STRONG.

What's the matter?

NOAH.

Gentleman in the next room's sitting on the hot freestone.

STRONG.

Well let him keep it. I don't want it now.
(Disappears beind screen--Tony & Isabelle scream loud behind curtains R & L.2.E. Then both enter struggling with Rash--and Norman who have arms about the girl's waists. The four come on stage a little---finally both girls slap men hard on face---men run back into arches---Girls confused rush down C. and stand looking at each other a moment confused)

ISABELLA.

What's the matter?

TONY

Oh nothing. What's the matter with you?

ISABELL.

Oh nothing. Say, the powder's all off one side of your face.

TONY.

Well, it's all off one side of your face, too.
(Each powedrs the others face---Then the three men come out, first Norman---then Rash---then Strong---they see the girls and quietly laugh but change to embarrassment as Noah sees the powder//Noah looks at powder on shoulders of coats--brushes each--Enter Wille C---goes to brush him but finds no powder---WIDOW runs off C. from behind screen)

NOAH.

Ah! Party one lady short I see (Exit C)

WEDLEY

Norman-

Quaker-

Isabelle

STRONG.

(Looks for Widow--then closes screen) That's so---why she's gone-Here! Where are you? (Exit C)

WILLIE.

(Xing to C) No, see here, I've been left out long enough. Let's have some fun that I can be in.

TONY.

(L.) Why Willie, ain't you having lots of fun?

WILLIE.

Oh yes. The parrot out in the hall has been talking to me, called me a dude.

ISABEL.

(L.) Well, what do you want to do?

WILLIE.

Let's have some music.

TONY.

~~All right. You sing a song.~~

WILLIE.

~~What's the matter with all singing.~~

NORMAN.

~~Rashleigh, you commence.~~

(Tony Xes to chair L. & sits--Isabel sits R. Rash on piano stool--- Norman on chair near sidebroad L.)

MEDLEY.

BEM

(After Quaker's song)
The people in that next room must have been brought up by a driveling idiot.

(Then Tony's solo--during which Strong enters C)

STRONG.

(After Solo) Beautiful! That song sets me to thinking of the day when one of my lungs will be withered and vanished leaving the other one d solate, alone and overworked. I have often in the still watches of the night, the silence broken only by a cuckoo clock---pondered on this, and at last my musings took the form of a little poem.

(Advances to the footlights, facing audience---Isabelle up to R.2.E. Tony R.3.E. Willie L.3.E. and Norman L.3.E. Rash R.2.E. All tip toe up stage)

Itb is called the lay of the lingering lung. (All exit quick) And I--(Looks around) Why, they're all gone--here! Somebody? (Exit C)

BEN.

(Rins bell--Noah enters) Fill them up sgain all around.

NOAH.
(Back of table) Yes, sir, I have the evening paper.

BEN.
Then keep it. (Exit Noah) By Jove, that Widow takes her time. (Looks at watch) The heat is simply infernal.
(Enter Noah R.2.E)

NOAH.
Instead of going to the bar for those cocktails, I'll just mix 'em out of the liquor these fellows have paid for.
(Whistling speciality---While Noah whistles, bus of Mixing cock-tails at side-board)

BEN.
(After last encore of whistling speciality) Heavens, do they keep a parrot.
(At finish Enter STRONG 7 3 boys C. Boys sees the cocktails and each take a glass then down stage--Strong extreme R)

RASH.
What are those.

NOAH.
(C) Cocktails, the gentleman in the next room orderedtthem.

NORMAN.
Very good of him.
(Enter FLIRT R.3.D. Xes to L.3.D)

RASH.
(R.C) Hold on, what shall we do with the fourth.
(Willie L. disgusted)

STRONG.
That cocktail musn't be wasted. (Flirt listens) Even if I have to drink it myself. (Noah coughs)

RASH.
(To Noah) Oh no, you won't do.

FLIRT.
(Coming to C) Gentlemen, can I assist you?

NORMAN.
YOU'LL do. (She takes a glass from the tray---Gentlemen bow to her)

FLIRT.
He's looking at you.
(All drink--Flirt places glass on tray)
Gentlemen, in any such emergency, I am always at your command. (Strong and she bow---Turns and kicks strong's hat, laughs, & Exit C. Boys laugh at Strong---Ex it Noah laughing C)

STRONG.

(Picks up hat) Say---she's bright--come on we'll have her back. (Rushes off C. followed by the three boys laughing)

BEN.

(After a pause) I never was so d----d hot in all my life. I feel as though I was sitting on a red hot stove. (Rings bell) (Enter Noah) ~~Get me a clergym an.~~

NOAH.

~~(Surprised) What's that, sir?~~

BEN.

Get me clergyman. (Exit Noah)
If Hell's any hotte-than this room, I want to begin now to be good. (Rises--lifts cushion---discovers freestone--puts hand on it---then yells)
Well--I'll be--(Drops cushion on floor--Rings--enter Noah--(Pause) Waiter, did you put that freestone on that chair?

NOAH.

(Down L.) Ye--yes sir.

BEN.

You------!

NOAH.

I fixed it for the man in the next room, sir.

NOAH.

(Going up to door) You wouldn't let me take the chair sir.

BEN.

Well, you can take it now.

NOAH.

Yes, sir. The evening paper.

BEN.

Be hanged. Get out.
(Exit Noah---Ben throws cushion at Noah, then sits on stone Jumping up etc) I'm going delirous. (Takes stone up with napkin and puts it on the floor, and sits in chair again--- Enter STRONG and the three boys bringing FLIRT C)

STRONG.

(R. of Flirt) You don't get away like that, young lady.

WILLIE.

(L.) You must square yourself for kicking Mr. Strong's hat.

FLIRT.

(C) How can I square myself.

NORMAN.

(L.C) Kick it again.

FLIRT.

Kickn it again. and when.

STEVE.

(Picks up hat) Say---she's bright--come on we'll have her back.
(Runnes off C. followed by the three boys laughing)

BEN.

(After a pause) I never was so d----d hot in all my life. I feel as though I was sitting on a red hot stove. (Bings bell) (Enter Noah) Get me a clergyman.

NOAH.

(Surprised) What's that, sir?

BEN.

Get me clergyman. (Exit Noah)
If Hell's any hotter than this room I want to begin now to be good.
(Rises--lifts cushion---discovers freestone--puts hand on it---then yells)
Well--I'll be--(Drops cushion on floor--jumps--enter Noah--(Enter Water. did you put that freestone on that chair?

Start over later,

NOAH.

(Down L.) Ye--yes sir.

BEN.

You------!

NOAH.

I fixed it for the man in the next room, sir.

NOAH.

(Going up to door) You wouldn't let me take the chair sir.

BEN.

Well, you can take it now.

NOAH.

Yes, sir. The evening paper.

BEN.

Be hanged. Get out.
(Exit Noah---Ben throws cushion at Noah, then sits on stone jumping up etc) I'm going delirious. (Takes stone up with napkin and puts it on the floor, and sits in chair again--- Enter STEVE and the three boys bringing WILKY C)

STEVE.

(R. of Wilky) You don't get away like that, young lady.

WILKY.

(L.) You must apologize yourself for kicking Mr. Strong's hat.

WILKY.

(C) How can I apologize myself.

NORMAN.

(L.C) Kick it again.

WILKY.

Kick it again, and again.

WILLIE.

Kick it again. (Flirt is about to kick Strong's hat.

STRONG.

(Taking hat down) Say, hold on! Come to think of it, it's my hat. I guess some other form of apology will do.

FLIRT.

Only say what.

WILLIE.

Give us a song.

FLIRT.

With all my heart.

STRONG.

No, with all your voice. (Boys sit--Norman & Willie L. Rash and Strong R. Flirt's song & Exit C. Rising)
Well, if that's the maid thse mistress must be a damn jumsy-oh-Jim dandy. (Enter NOAH C. Holds doors open)
Shut those doors.

NOAH.

(Down C. To Strong) Excuse me sir, but could you cash this ?
(Extends check)

STRONG.

(R.C) Great heavens. Another draught. Take it away. Take it away. (Noah exits C) ~~Gentlemen, it's getting late. We~~ ought to be in Chinatown.

RASH.

(R) ~~We'll go in a minute--we've plenty of time.~~

STRONG.

(C) Well gentlemen, by the way of a change let's go down to the bar and get a cocktail.

WILLIE.

(L.) Come on. (All go up stage--EXIT Strong & Willie C)

NORMAN.

(At C. doors) Say, old man, it's getting late now's our chance. Get the bar tender to mix his drinks on him and here's where we'll drop him.
(Enter ISABELLE R.3.E)

ISABEL.

(R) Say, do we ever get away from here? It's getting awful late.

RASH.

(C) We're going down to the bar with Strong now. You girls get your costumes on and your wraps. By the time you're ready to go, We'll have Strong in bed and alseep and then we'll be off for the Cliff.

ISABEL.

All right. Hurry. (Exits R.3 E)

Canvas for Tearing

RASH.
Now old man, don't let him have time between drinks to breathe.
(EXIT Boys C)

BEN.
I'm having a howling good time.
(Enter Noah with four cocktails)

NOAH.
(L. of table) Cocktails, sir. Shall I put them down?

BEN.
No, I'll do that.

NOAH.
The evening paper. (Holds it out for Ben)

BEN.
Yes, give it to me. (Tears it up and throws the pieces on the floor) Now are you easy in your mind? I came here to have supper with a lady? Do you suppose I'll be satisfied with an evening paper?

NOAH.
The evening paper, sir, had a whole page about a scandal in high life.

BEN.
Why didn't you say so. (Bens to pick up paper, suddenly stops)

NPAH.
Did I hear something tear sir?

BEN.
You probably did. Something tore. (Feeling the back of his trousers) The waistband of my trousers is all ripped off. Here's a nice fix. I can't go to the ball in this condition. What am I to do?

NOAH.
Take them off and I'll get them fixed in no time sir.

BEN.
(Smiling) But if she should come?

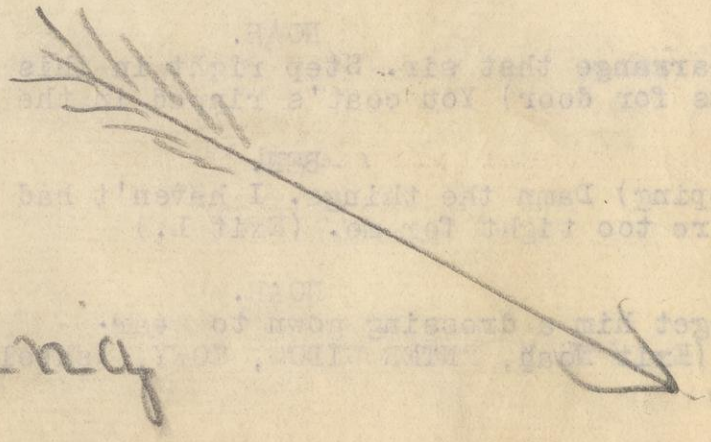
NOAH.
I'll arrange thst sir. Step right in this room, sir. (Ben satrts for door) You coat's ripped in the back too sir.

BEN.
(Stopping) Damn the things. I haven't had 'em on for tens years and they're too tight for me. (Exit L.)

NOAH.
I'll get him a dressing gown to wear.
(Exit Noah, ENTER WIDOW, TONY, Isabel R.U.E)

Ready

Noise of Pounding



Pounding

WIDOW.

(Down R) We're all ready. But where are the boys?

ISABEL.

(R.C) I do hope they've got Mr. Strong in bed by this time.
(Enter three boys C. Norman leading Willie down L. to chair)
Oh here you are--we're ready to go.

WIDOW.

Did you put Mr. Strong to sleep?

NORMAN.

(L.C) Sleep. Say, you suggested that scheme. Why the man's a tank---he would drink us all blind. Willie only drank ginger ale and look at him.
(Wille very rocky---sitting L. Noah enters room L. with a dressing gown, goes to door L.)

NOAH.

Here you are sir.
(Hands in dressing gown----Ben hands out clothes---Noah places them on arm chair and carries chair out through door at back)

RASH.

(C) Now see here, it's half past one---it'll take an hour to drive to the cliff. If we want any part of the ball we must take a desperate chance.

ISABEL.

What do you suppose to do?

RASH.

Simply steal away and leave Strong here.

TONY.

(L.) That is taking a desperate chance.

RASH.

Will you take it?

TONY.

Yes.

RASH.

Sh! (Enter STRONG C. eating biscuit)

STRONG.

(Down C) Gentlemen you missed it.

RASH.

What?

STRONG.

After you left the bar-tender set 'em up twice. (Pause) My life is fading, to-night, like money in a faro bank. I am positively dying, dying rapidly. But such a hurrah death. I never knew one could have so much fun expiring. This is the place to die. (Heavy pounding outside) Waiter. (Enter Noah C) What's that noise?

NOAH.
It's the cook sir. You ordered a tenderloin steak didn't you?

STRONG.
(C) So that's the tenderloin. Well, I've heard the tenderloin was tough---fo that kind of t nderloin this knife seems pretty dull.

NOAH.
Permit me sir. (Takes knife)
(Noah's Speciality)

NOAH.
Anything else, sir?

STRONG.
(R. seated) What have you got?

NOAH.
(C) I can give you anything from a train of ears to a dog fight.

ALL.
Oh, give us a dog-fight.

TONY.
Oh, if you boys were only as clever.

RASH.
Oh Willie and I can do a trick or two.

ALL.
Yes you can.

RASH.
We know a great trick, if we only had a trunk.

WILLIE.
There's the one the costumes came in.

RASH.
The very thing. Willie get the chairs ready.
(Rash & Noaj exit R.3.D. and get trunk--re-nter with it and place it on the four chairs that Strong, Norman & Willie arrange C)

ISABEL.
(Xing to L. with Tony) I hope they don't propose to put us girls in trunks. (Strong R. of trunk---Norman L. of trunk, Noah back of trunk---Widow seated down R. Willie C. Tony & Isabel L.)

RASH.
(Xes to C) Now then I propose to get rid of Willie. (Strong & Norman open trunk)

ALL.
Splendid. (Rash picks Willie up & puts him in the trunk.)

RASH.

(L.C) Strap and lock it.

RASH.

Argraments, presto, Leavitt handles the cash, andall is gone. Open the trunk. (They raise lid and show it is empty.

TONY.

(L.) Where is Willie?

RASH.

Where he always was. Out of sight.I'll bring him back.
(Strong closes trunk)

ALL.

Oh don't.

RASH.

Oh, but we must take him home with us. Close the trunk now--Open the trunk. (Strong & Norman open the trunk and Willie bobs up)

WILLIE.

Ah there. (All sing "For the cat came back" etc)

(Rash lifts Willie out of Trunk---Willie goes L. all laugh)

STRONG.

(Do wn C) Very clever trick that. Do you kno I'd like to put my creditors and some of my lover letters in that trunk. (Bits biscuit) Here waiter---(Noah goes down R.C) There's a pants button--I found it is this biscuit.

NOAH.

It isn't mine sir.

STRONG.

Now no one could mistake that for a caraway seed. Say waiter, your cook here dosen't know his business--why don't you tell him so.

NOAH.

I've got a family to support. You can tell him so down the tube.
(Goes up stage to fireplace--Strong goes to tube L. Above side-board)

STRONG.

(Whistles) Hullo! Is that the cook? Say you don't understand your business. You ought to be cooking on a canal boat or a gravel train. What? Say, don't you know it's wrong to swear---what? Say repeat that last one--tho' it's a new one, and I may need it. (Turns to the others) That cook is the---the Ingersoll of blasphemy. What's that, come down there. All right.
(Goes down C. Looks as them all with an air of assurance and exits C. off R)

Goodbye Dolly

NORMAN.

(R.C) Willie, get the coats and hats. (Willie EXITS L.3.D)

RASH.

(C He's gone down to the kitchen---we can get out without his seeing us. Now's our chance to escape.
(Enter Willie with Coats and hats from L/3 D) hands them to others---then all but Widow rush off C. Flirt enters R.3. D)

FLIRT.

(Going down R.C) What is the matter madame---why do they all run away?

WIDOW.

(C) To get away from Mr. Strong---they are going to leave him here. (Noah goes to sideboard L.)

FLIRT.

And do we go too?

WIDOW.

Yes I do--I don't like it, but if I don't go it will break up the party and make a row. The asiest way is the best. (Writes on card) I'll just leave word for him to follow us. Here Flirt you stay here and give this card to Mr. Strong when he returns. (Takes card) Then go home and wait for me. (Exit C)

FLIRT.

(Looks to see if Widow has gone) They have gone.

NOAH.

Yes, all but the fellow who's down seeing the cook.

FLIRT.

Then order me a carriage for the Cliff. And you give this card to Mr. Strong. (Hands card to Noah) I will go and dress.
(Goes up to arch R)

NOAH.

Say. How are you to go to the ball without an escort or a ticket.

FLIRT.

(Turning him and goes down C)
I will tell you a secret. Once when Madame took me out to the Cliff, the landlord saw me dance and he told me if I would be there to-night and help make things lively after the more quiet people have gone home---he would pay me well for it. I may as well have the extra money. (Goes up to arch R.3.) I would not miss the ball for my position. Out for a racket.--up to here. (Licks and Exits R.3.E)

NOAH.

By George she's a corker, Jingo. I must get that old fellow in there his clothes. (Exit L.3.E.--ENTER STRONG all daubed on the back of the coat---He goes down to footlights)

STRONG.

I saw the cook. (Turns ans goes up stage ti trunk) Why--where---why they've all gone. I see. (Looks around R. and L.) Shook.

(Places chair R.C. and sits) Well I deserve it. That settles it.---never again as long as I live will I believe in a woman, or trust one, I swear I won't go within a mile of one. (Noah enters with clothes and puts them on chair C)

Here the old man's clothes (Noah)

(Going to Strong) Lady left a card for you sir. (Gives card)

STRONG.

(Reads) "Dear old boy---Don't think I have shaken you---I had to go---follow me to the Cliff House. Yours "Daisy" I knew it! I knew it! Waiter! Carriage for the Cliff House.
(Drops card in front of chair---then rises)

NOAH.

Yes sir. (Exit C)

STRONG.

(Goes up stage--looks at himself in mirror in side-board) I can't go looking like thia. (Sees dress suit--picks it up and exits L.3.E. Enter NOAH C)

NOAH.

(Down C) Your carriage---now he's gone--well, Willie Grow, paid the bill. It's all right.

BEN.

(LOkks in door L.) Anybody in here.

NOAH.

(Xing to door) Only me. (Enter Ben in bath robe he Xes to chair R.C. Noah L.C)

BEN.

I've given up. I don't believe she'll be here. (Sits in chair) This settles it. I wouldn't look at the prettiest woman on earth if she stood right there. (Sees card, picks it up) What's this--- why it's her card--you fool she's been here--here's something written on the back. --"Dear old Boy"---Don't think I have shaken you---I had to go. Follow me to thr Ckiff House--Yours, Daisy". Why that card is for me---how came it here?

NOAH.

Why I thought it was for the man in this room, I gave it to him.

BEN.

What became of th man.

NOAH.

He started for the Cliff House.

BEN.

(Gets up and fixes screen R) Order me a cab. Where are my clothes. (Noah goes up C)

NOAH.

(C) Right here. (Looks for them.)

BEN.

Here, Wher

BEN

Here! Where? (Goes to R.C)

NOAH.

Why somebody's stolen 'em. (Enter Strong L.U.E)

STRONG.

Waiter my carriage.

BEN.

Strong! (Strong turns and rushes off C)

NOAH.

He's got your clothes on.

(Ben rushes after Strong---Noah after him--Chase--Strong our C. and to L. followed by Ben and Noah, through small room to lower door of large room, X to alcove R.--through office and large room to alcove R. to lower door L. up to C. twice around ben Leaves C. goes through alcove R. Strong leaves C. Strong runs through room L. into C. room and jumps into trunk--Noah turns C. doors twice after---Ben leaves it--then goes off C. and enters through arch L. as Ben enters from office into C. room--Both see Strong get in trunk--They Rush for it---turn it over and show trunk empty--Both are suprised--Strong rises from behind trunk and runs off C)

-:- "C U R T A I N" -:-

(2nd Pictures)

(Ben on knees looking under trunk--Noah puzzled)

-:- "C U R T A I N" -:-

-:- "END OF ACT II" -:-

-:- "ACT III" -:-

SCENE (Balcony of Cliff House--San Francisco--with a view of seal rocks at back)

MUSIC (Off stage at rise--Sounds of laughter off R)

DISCOVERED (TURNER SWIFT running ice crusher)
(LANDLORD shpveling ice into glasses on try, which waiter who is standing up stage C. is holding)

LANDLORD.

(Giving bowl with ice to turner)
Keep it going Turner. This dance they're doing noe, is the last but on the list. This ball has been a corker.
(Landlord down L.)

TUNER.

(Near ice crusher) I never saw people want so much craked ice.

LANDLORD.

It was lucky we brought the crusher up here on the piazza. The waiters nerv could have gone down stairs for it.
(Exit Turner L.3. with a bowl of ice--Entwr FLIRT R.U.E. laughing and throwing flower off R. after kissing it--- then she runs down C)

FLIRT.

(C) (To landlord) I must take off my mask and breathe for a moment. (Removes mask) Well Monsieur, have I earned my douceur?

LANDLORD.

(L.C) You're a dandy. More men have tried ~~mnt~~ to find out who you were than ever did about any other woman at a ball before. Haven't you enjoyed it?

FLIRT.

In way, yes. I have danced with all my mistress's beaux. That was fun, but it was stupid.

LANDLORD.

Stupid. Why?

FLIRT.

If I spoke they would know me. So all ze time I hald to hold my tongue--a very had thing for a woman to do.

RASH.

(Off R.2.E) Come, let's have a drink.

FLIRT.

They are coming. I fly. (Exit L.3.E. Very quickly)

LANDLORD.

(Xing to R. to table) She's been the life of the ball. Lucky thought of mine.

(Enter RASH, WILLIE & NORMAN R.3. They are laughing and fanning themselves)

WILLIE.

(As he goes down to L.) It's out of sight isn't it.

RASH & NORMAN.

Great.

LANDLORD.

(R) You have enjoyed yourselves?

RASH.

(R.C) Indeed we have. We got here late but we've had fun enough in half an hour to pay us for coming. Say!

(Leads Landlord to R. Aside)

Who's that girl who kicks so high. The one dressed as a magician, the one in blue.

(Norman and Willie talking L.)

How should I know. She's masked.

RASH.

That's so. She came without an escort didn8t she?

LANDLORD.

I believe so.

RASH.

She won't go home without one---that is--if I can get away from my party. I wonder where she went?

LANDLORD

I think that way. (Points R)

(Rashleigh goes up and looks off R.C.E)

NORMAN.

(Xes to Landlord--- aside to him)
Say! (Leads him L.) Who's that magician girl?

LANDLORD.

Everybody in mask is a stranger to me.

NORMAN.

Oh, I forgot that. Very appropriate dress for her--a magician. Any man she waves her hand at is gone.

LANDLORD.

I see. Very good.

NORMAN.

Whcih way did she go.

LANDLORD.
(Points L.) I think that way. (Norman goes up and exits L.U.E)

WILLIE.
(Xes to C) Say, landlord.

LANDLORD.
(Xes to C) Yes sir, the lady in blue, dressed as magician, is not known to me--but I think she is on the beach below.
(LANDLORD EXITS L.2.E. Willie goes up C. and looks over rail---Rash & Norman back on--All three men waving handkerchiefs as if flirting with some one--Enter TONY, WIDOW & ISABEL R.2. They see the three men waving their handkerchiefs)

WIDOW.
They there are.
(Each go up and takes man by the ear--Tony to Norman, L. Willie to Widow, and Isabel to Rash R. They bring them down stage)
What's all the waving of handkerchiefs.

RASH.
Waving of handkerchiefs? Nothing of ths sort. We had to wipe them out to wipe our fevered brows and the sea breexes made them flutter. ~~Don't you see how it sways the lights?~~

TONY.
Oh! We thought you were flirting with somebody. Forgive us.
(All embrace--Willie goes up stage laughing)

WIDOW.
(Advancing, aside) The innocence is not all gone out of the world yet. (Aloud) Oh, dosen't this sea air fell good after that hot ball room. (Goes up C. Enter LANDLORD L.3.E)

RASH.
Let's not go in for the last dance, but have a colling drink out here. Landlord give us six lemonades and some of that cracked ice. And Willie you go order the carriages up.
(EXIT Willie R.U.E)

WIDOW.
And landlord---the sea breeze is just a bit strong. Can't you give us a screen to break it.

LANDLORD.
I can. (Exit L.3.E)

ISBALE.
(R.C) I should think you might feel the air.

WIDOW.
(C) It was the only black costume in the lot.
(Laugh--Enter WILLIE R.U.E)

WILLIE.

(C) Our carriages are gone.

ALL.

Gone?

WILLIE.

Yes. The doorkeeper says it was my fault.

RASH.

I'll bet it was.

WILLIE.

So we had to telephone to town for others and we've got to wait till th get here.

NORMAN.

Did you telephone?

WILLIE.

I didn't think so. But I will.
(Exit Willie R.U.E.--Very quick)

ISABEL.

(R.C) We'll have to wait here an hour.
(Enter Landlord L.3.E)

WIDOW.

(L.U. Aside) It will give Mr. Strong time to get there. (Aloud) Just time for breakfast. Landlord, breakfast, for the party in a private room.

NORMAN.

(Going up L.C. to Landlord) And say Landlord, have those professional dancers gone yet?

LANDLORD.

No sir.

NORMAN.

Here's $50. if they'll come here and dance for us.

LANDLORD.

I'll arrange it. ~~But you know I'll have to turn the lights out. Everything has to be dark.~~

RASH.

~~Turn them iut--We're not afraid.~~ (Exit L.U.E)

NORMAN.

(Going down L.C) I wonder if Strong is still at the Riche.
(Enter WILLIE R.U.E)

ISABEL.

Oh, what are we to tell Uncle?

RASH.

(R:) Why, that we lost strong, at the Riche and had to go to China-town without him.

ISABEL.

He won't believe it. I'm afraid we're in an awful scrape.

Exit

LANDLORD.

(Enter R.U.E) Here are the dancers.
(EXIT L.U.E. All sit---ENTER DANCERS---SPECIALITY & EXIT. Turner & Servant place a large screen C.Widow goes up to screen)

Indian number

WIDOW.

(C) Oh, that's much better.

RASH.

(R) How Strong would have enjoyed it. I'm almost sorry we shook him.
(Enter STRONG L.C.E. Quick)

STRONG.

You didn't.
(ALL greatly surprised--and gather round Strong)

TONY.

How did you get there.

STRONG.

(C) Ran. After I got away from the Riche I rushed madly down stairs. Nothing but a hight hawk coupe stood there--I jumped in. Drive to the Cliff House said I. Drive like the Devil. He did so. As we turned into the park the bottom of the rickety old vechicle dropped out. The driver didn't notice it---kept right on driving like the devil and I had to run inside the hack all the way out here. (All laugh) I wouldn't have minded it though---if it hadn't been such a chestnut. But bless my soul. What does all this mean?
(Girls a bit confused and hestit tes---then Widow blurts out)

WIDOW.

(R.C) Girls, we may as well throw aside all attempt at concealment.

STRONG

(Lookingat her) Thorw aside all attempt at concealment.
(Rushes up stage, all stop him, then all down stage as before)

WIDOW.

(Bus) Mr. Strong, I might as well tell you my stroy. Instead of going to Chinatown, we've benn to the ball. Hencet these dresses. How am I as a Harlequin?

STRONG.

(C) I appreciate the take of--but---

WIDOW.

But if Uncle Ben know of it we'd be in an aful scrape--so we rely on your generosity not to tell him.

STRONG.

Me tell him? I'm in a worse scrape with him tham you are. Say, you've all had a narrow escape. Your uncle was in another oom at the Riche.

ALL.

(Astonished) How dod you know?

STRONG.

Met him. We had a fight and a foot race. He won the foot-race, I won the fight.

WIDOW.

Was he there looking for us?

STRONG.

Not all of us---waiting for you Mrs. Guyer.

WIDOW.

~~He~~sx Waiting for me? What for?

STRONG.

He somehow had the idea that you were to meet him there and go to the ball with him.

ALL.

(Guying) O--o--h!

RASH.

(R) What's all this. I understand mow his actions toward you, this morning.

WIDOW.

Absurd.

STRONG.

Perhaps, but I've got his clothes on. (Laughs) And here's a letter that I found in the pocket. (Takes out letter--reads) "My dear old boy"--(Widow grabs letter)

WIDOW.

(R C) Why that's the letter I wrote you Rashleigh.
(Rash takes letter)

RASH.

And the letter I didn't get. (Looking at Envelope) Say, was this mean't for me.

WIDOW.

Why fo course.

RASH.

Well, that R2 looks a good deal like a B.

WIDOW.

(Takes letter--looking at it) Somebody has evidently changed it.
(Gives it to Strong)

RASH.

Changed it? It does look so. And it was in Uncle Ben's clothes? I'll bet Slavin ~~did it~~ took the letter, changed it and then gave it to Uncle Ben.

WIDOW.

That's just it. I understand now his behavior this morning. He thought that note was for him and wnrt to the Riche to meet me. (All laugh)

STRONG.

Yes, and he'll be out here to meet you as soon as he gets some clothes.

RASH.

(Serious again) Then we'll be caught after all.

TONY.

(L. C. Serious) Let's start for home, quick.
(All rush up to R.3.E)

WIDOW.

(Turning to them) Stop! Do nothing of the sort. Stay here and---

ALL.

(Turning to her) Get caught?

WIDOW.

(C) No! Catch him.

RASH:

(Near door R.2.E) I see. Great.

ALL.

Great. (All laugh)

WIDOW.

We'll havr it the talk of the town.
(enter LANDLORD R.I.E)

LANDLORD.

(At door) Breakfast is served.

ALL.

Come on. Miss Francis "Carmina"
(EXIT all R.I.E. Laughing but Strong)

STRONG.

(looking at letter) I wonder if she did mean that letter for Rashleigh or Ben. That does look like a B. Well, if she did mean it for old Ben, she's going to make him bear the consequences to save herself. She's going to disgrace that old man before gis family--- and these are the creatures we love and trust.
(Goes up stage to R.3.E. Looks at sign R.3.E. "To the Aquarium"- Then looks across stage to L.3.E. See sign "To the bar" rushes off L.3.E)

Stuart dance

RASH.

(Off R. I D) We must find Strong.
(FLIRT screams outside L.3.E.---then she runs on to R.3. meets Norman, who enters L.3d. She screams again, runs around back of screen to L.3. with Norman after her--meets Strong who enters L. 3rd---she screams and runs to door R. 2nd with Norman and Strong after her. RASHLEIGH enters from door R. 2d. Flirt screams abd runs around screen--men fter her---to R. 3rd door--Enter Willie R.2. He catches ger---All grab her and take her down stage to C. Rash R. C. Willie R. Norman L.C. Strong L. The men group around her)

ALL.

Our little kicker.
The men all hold hats as high as they can--Flirt looks at the hats--She deprecates and shakes her head)

RASH.

(Suddenly) I forgot to tell you--she can't talk. She's dumb.
(All lower hats---WIDOW sneals on R. and goes behind screen)

NORMAN.

(L.C) Too bad, isn't it. Won't you just try to speak?
(She shakes head--Widow advances)

WILLIE.

(R) And you won't sing and dance?
(She shakes head)

NORMAN.

You won't open your mouth. (She n gatives) And such a pretty mouth, too.

STRONG.

I know why she won't open her mouth. She's go no teeth.

FLIRT.

(Angry) It's nothing of the sort.
(Then sorry she spoke)

STRONG.

(Going to L. corner) I knew I'd make her speak.

RASH.

That voice. I've heard it.

NORMAN.

So have I. (Widow advances to C.---quick)

WIDOW.

So have I I know who your charmer is--,y maid--Flirt.
(Snatches off Flirt s mask---Flirt R.C)

STRONG.

Great Scott! (Men astonished)

WIDOW.

(C) So young lady, you are the high kicker who has captured all our beaux away from us. Who taught you to go to masquerade balls on the quiet?

FLIRT.

(R. C. Demurely, curtseys) My mistress.

4 men.

Good.

WIDOW.

Then I forgive you. On the whole I'm glad you're here. I want you to re-tie my shoes. Go in that room?

(Exit Flirt R.2.B) Widow Xes to R. Laughing)

Gentlemen, I congratulate you on your conquest of my maid.

(Exit Widow R. Laughing)

STRONG.

(Xing to C. Laughing)

Gentlemen, we are in the same fix as the vigilence committee who hung the wrong man by mistake. The laugh's on us. Well, this is my first night in San Francisco, but it's a great one. It reminds me of the first night I struck New York?

RASH.

What happened?

STRONG.

I may say U have embalmed these facts in a little song.

ALL.

Let's hear it.

STRONG.

You shall. (Song "The Bowery")

WILLIE.

Say gentlemen, I'll treat on that.

(All Exit a la militaire R.2.E Wudow enters R.3.E)

WIDOW.

They are taking Mr. Strong down to the bar. I don't understand it. They can't wanto to put him to sleep and leave him there. Well, there's no danger of their doing it, even if they try.

(Exits R.3.E. Enter STRONG L.3. E)

STRONG.

(Advancing to C) Something's the matter. I don't feel like taking a drink. (Going to steamer chair R) I must be at the point of death. In the excitement of this night I have forgottem that I was a sick man. Somehow I always do forget it at the moment my attention is called away from it. I don't know how I am. I don't k now how much I have shortened my life. I only know I feel a draft.

(PICKS up ur rug---Landlord Xes from R.C. from L.C. with a tray of beer)

What's that?

WAITER.

Draught beer.

STRONG.

(Slips into steamer chair) Take it away. Take it away.
(Lays down covering head with fur robe--FLIRT enterts R.2.E. and seeing the men have gone---goes tosteamer chair)

FLIRT.

If those four men will let me alone, I'll sit out here to watch for Mr. Gay.
(Sits down om Strong who grabs her--she scrdams and runs off L.U E. Strong sits up. Looks around--puts thremometer at back of neck)

STRONG.

Well, this is simply devilish.
(Lays down again, covering heaf---Flirt on L.U.E. sneaks over to chair and looks under robe, then hits Strong in the face hard, Jumps back---As Strong jumps up--she laughs)

FLIRT.

(C) Oh! Are you ill monsieur?

STRONG.

(On chair) My head. I must have eaten something that disagreed with me.

FLIRT.

I cure madame's headaches with my hands---perhaps I can cures yours.

STRONG.

Try it. (Flirt goes to back of Strong---She begins to chafe his temples) That's the idea. That's just what I want.
(WIDOW enters R.2.E. and Xes to C. up stage)

FLIRT.

My mistress taught me this.

STRONG.

You mistress is a very fine woman.
(Widow advances--She motions to Flirt to leave, and resumes rubbing Strong's temples--Flirt Xits R.2.E)

WIDOW.

(Back of Strong, imitating Flirt) You think my mistress charming?

STRONG

You bet. (Widow rubs harder)

WIDOW.

You enkoyher society?

STRONG.

More than any lady I ever met.

WIDOW.

You could devote yourself to her?

STRONG.

With all my heart.

WIDOW.

And some day you might marry her?

STRONG.

After last night? Not for gold and precious stones.
(Widow slaps his face---goes C. Strong sprinps up, sees who it is, turns and wlaks off R.U.E)

WIDOW.

(C) That's what a woman gets for being a good fellow. It's all right for the time being, they've no use for you afterwards. (Widow sits on steamer chair and cries)

STRONG.

(Re-entering R.U.E. Sees her--aside C)
She's crying. I do belive she's love with me. I don't see any reason why she shouldn't be. And if I thought---(Aloud)

My dear Mrs. Guyer---why these tears.
(Strong advances to Widow)

WIDOW.

You cruel man. You've broken my heart'

STRONG.

(Sincere) Say not so. Say not so.

WIDOW.

Am I so very bad?

STRONG.

Why I never hinted at such a thing.

WIDOW.

(Xing to Strong)Eou saud you wouldn't narry me for gold or precious stones.

STRONG.

(C) But I didn't say I wouldn't marry you for gold or your own sweet self.

WIDOW.

(R.C.--Pause) Mr. Strong, is this airy persiflage, or do you mean business.

STRONG.

(Thermometer etc) It may shorten my life but it's---

WIDOW.

What?

STRONG.

Business. (He kisses her) This is business isn't it?

TONY.

(Off R) Daisy! Daisy Guyer! Come to breakfast.
(Strong Xes to Steamer chair)

WIDOW.

(C) Yes. (To Strong) That reminds me! I've got to get them out of their scrape, and old Mr. Ga y may get there at nay moment. (Calls) Landlord! Landlord!
(Enter LANDLORD L.C.E)
Have you another private dining room.

LANDLORD.

Right here. (Points to L.2 D)

WIDOW.

(C) It's mine. And I want you yo prepare breakfast for two. And I want it served out here on the piazza. And when the gentleman arrives show him in there.

LANDLORD.

(.) Yes'm. What name will he give?

WIDOW.

Perhaps not any. but he's nice looking old gentleman with grey side whiskers.

LANDLORD.

How will he be dressed.
(Strong slips into steamer chair)

WIDOW.

(Looks at Strong's clothing) Good heavens.
(Turns back to Audience--Strong puts end of Robe to chin) I hadn't thought of that. If he isn't properly dressed don't let him in.
(Exit Landlord L.U.E(
(To Strong) Now I'll go and await the coming of Mr: Gay. And you must keep away till it's all over. (Exits L.1.E)

STRONG.

(Getting up and crossing to ice crusher L.)
Engaed to me and going to Breakfast with Ben Gay. And I'm to keep out of the way till it's all over. (~~Exits L.~~1.E)

STRONG.

(Leans against ice box--looks into door)
I don't like it. (Thermometer to back of neck) The thought chills me. (Sees that he leaning on ice-box) No, it's this ice box. By Jove an idea. I'll hide in here and keep tab on that breakfast. I have some little confidence in her but none in him.
(Gets into crusher--Three boys ebter L.U.E)

NORMAN.

What became of Strong? (As they X to R)

RASH.

He's probably at breakfast. Come on.
(All exuent R. L. D)

BEN.

(Enters R.U.E.--running) Landlord! Landlord! How am I to find her. Where's the landlord.

(Exit L.U.E. Enter SLAVIN R.U.E. running)

SLAVIN.

Mr. Gay! Mr. Gay! Oh where did he go. I I knew when that boy cam to the house for his clothes that something was wrong. Oh, what shall I do.

(Turns to go off L.3.E. LANDLORD Enters L.U.E. and sees SLAVIN---Ben Xes behind screen from L.3rd to R. 3d)

LANDLORD.

(Looking at Slavin) Grey side whiskers. Peruliar dress. That's the man. (Aloud to Slavin) Are you looking for anybody?

LSAVIN.

(R. C) Oh yes sir.

LANDLORD.

(C) I know who it is. You just step in this toom and you'll find the party.

SLAVIN.

Oh thank you sir.

(Xes in front of Landlord & Exit L.I.D. Widow screams from room L.)

LANDLORD.

(Going up stage R) And he's seventy if he's a day.

(Exit R. ". E. and strong looks out of ice crusher)

STRONG.

I wish I could see into that room.

LANDLORD.

(Outside R.C.E) A lady in black.

(Strong closes ice crusher---enter LANDLORD & BEN R.C.E)

LANDLORD.

(On first) The lady you describe is here but she's taking breakfast with another man.

BEN.

(C) Another man. Well, this takes the cake.Heavens how fast she catches them. I know. It's the fellow who got her card by mistake at the Riche. I wonder if it's Strong. By thunder I won't stand it. You go in and tell that I want to see him.

LANDLORD.

I hope ther'll be no trouble.

BEN.

No, no. Call him out.

LANDLORD.

(L.C) Would ou like to look at the evening paper, sir?

(Ben looks at Landlord and then takes paper--EXIT Landlord14. L.1.D. Ben throws paper on floor in disgust)

BEN.

I want to know who the fellow is that cut me out so easily.
(X's to R. Enter TWO WAITERS R.3. E. First with two bottles--- and second with tray etc. Exit L.1)

BEN.

(R. Looking on in astonishment)
Two bottles of wine with the oysters. He's a money spend r anyho --- I wonder who this dude can be.
(ENTER SLAVIN L.1.E. He coughs--Ben turns and recognizes him--- PICTURE)
Merciful Heaven! What, you the dandy masher. You the prodigal son giving wine suppers at the Riche and breakfasts to swell women. It can't be. It's preposterous. It's a joke or a nightmare. I'm crazy. That's it.

SLAVIN.

(Advancing to C) You are sir. That's it.
(Widow looks out from Window L.3.E)

~~SLAVIN.~~

Oh! Mr. Gay forgive me, but you've been such a good friend to me for twenty years I couldn't help it.

BEN.

Help what?

SLAVIN.

Following you sir. When you sent a messenger boy home at two in the morning for those clothes you've got on, I knew something was wrong. So I followed the boy to the Riche, and when you took a cab, I got on the seat with the driver. I remember how many of our rich men have committed suicide. If Mr. Gay tries said I, I'll be there to save him.

BEN.

Is that what you came here for.

SLAVIN.

Yes sir.

BEN.

You dear devoted damned old fool. I'm not going to commit suicide. (Goes toward him--Slavin X's back of Ben to R) Go back to town. I don't want you here.
(Ben crosses to L.)

SLAVIN.

(R.C) That's what folks bent on suicide always say. I know my duty, sir.

BEN.

(L.C. aside) Great scott! What am I to do? He musn't know what I'm here for. (Aloud) See here. This has gone far enough. You go back to town or I'll discharge you.

SLAVIN.

Discharge me sir, if you will, but while you're crazy I'll stick to you.

BEN.

While you stick to me I'll be crazy. Slavin, what would you think if I told you the truth.

SLAVIN.

I'd know you were crazy sir..

BEN.

There is a lady in that room.

SLAVIN.

Yes sir. Mrs. Guyer.

BEN.

I'm out here to take breakfast with her.

SLAVIN.

You Mr. Gay. And you're not crazy.

BEN.

Crazy! No! You understand. One must have his little flirtations. (Strong rises lid of ice crusher)

SLAVIN.

You're just like me sir. No fool like an old fool.

BEN

Now if Strong isn't here he will be soon. He musn't see me or her. Now I'll forgive you for your cussed nonsense one one condition. Keep wtach. If he comes round drive him away.

SLAVIN.

How will I do it?

BEN.

Threaten to shoort him with this?
(Takes a revovler from pocket---oStrong slams down lid---Slavin & Ben start suddenly)

BEN.

Take this and keep your eye open.

SLAVIN.

Will I shoot him? (Going up R)

BEN.

No don't shoot him, just make believe.

SLAVIN.

All right sir. I'll make believe to shoot him, and maybe I will.
(Exit R.U.E)

BEN.

(Xes to door L.1.E) At last.
(Raps at door L.1.E)

WIDOW.

(Off) Come in)
(Exit Ben L.2.E. Enter Young folks R.1.D. Rashleigh first, follow quietly)

RASH.

I saw him go in there. She said we were to hide behind this screen.
(All go behind screen---sound of kissing heard off L.2.E)

WIDOW.

(Outisde L.2.E) Why, Mr Gay.

BEN.

(Outside) Now. Mrs. Guyer.
(Widow runs out of L.1.E. followed by Ben)
(Both go up to front of screen C)

BEN.

My dear Mrs. Guyer.

WIDOW

Mr. Gay, I'm astonished that you'd do such a thing.

BEN.

Didn't you ever hear of a gentleman's ~~seta~~steal ling a kiss.

WIDOW.

Not before the fish was served.

BEN.

Now don't be offended.

WIDOW.

The swear you won't do it again.

BEN.

Must I do that?

IDOW.

Yes or I'll go home this minute. Kneel.
(All look over screen at once--Rash at L. and Norman at R. and Ben Kneels)
And look up.
(He looksn up and sees the young folks laughing at him. Falls flat)

ALL.

Why Uncle Ben.
(All come behind screen and go down R. & L.)

BEN.

(On knees again) Mrs. ~~Guyer I can't tie that shoe.~~
(All laugh--Looks around and gets up)
Great Scott! My whole family! (Down C) What does this mean? Why aren't you in Chinatown?

TONY.

(R.C) Because we're here.

BEN.

(L.C) I see you're here. I gave you permission to go to Chinatown and I catch you all at the Cliff house.

WIDOW.

(C) You catch us? Pardon--We catch you!
(Aside to others) Mr. Gay I may as well tell you the joke--I have won a bet. I wagered Tony a breakfast that any half way prettybwoman could get you out on a racket. Then I wrote you to meet me at the Riche. (Aside) Heaven forgive the story. (Aloud) Haven't you been to the Riche and all town after me? (All laugh)
(all) own up uncle Ben tell the truth!

BEN.

(Goes to L.C) To win a breakfast, you've led me to make a fool of myself before my whole famil . This was a mean truck to play on an old man.

WIDOW.

(C) Old men shouldn't run after young girls.
(Enter LANDLORD & WAITER L.U.E)

BEN.

Evereybody like a good time once in a while.
(All laugh)

WIDOW.

That's just it. Hereafter when the young folks want a little fun, don't oppose it.

BEN.

No,. I'll declare myself in on it. (All Hurrah) And we'll begin right now. Landlord some champagne.
(All Hurrah---All Laugh)

LANDLORD.

You get the champagne and I'll crack the ice.
(Turns handle of ice crusher--EXIT WAITER L.C.E. STRONG torn up, come out of ice crusher---Girls scre m. The laugh when they recognize STRONG---ho goes down C. quick)

BEN.

(R.C) It's Strong. ~~Revenge! Revenge! Strong~~, you're a sight.

STRONG.

(C) I don't care! They're your clothes.

(Enter SLAVIN R.3.E. pointing revovler at Strong---Ben rushes up and stops him--Girls all scream--Ben then down R.C. Landlord--- Slavin & Wairer up stage)

RASH.

(L.) Well, what's to be done?

WIDOW.

(C) Have a bird and a bottle and go home!

(Chorus "OUT FOR A ROCKET" Ben & Strong Dancing--Isabelle R. Flirt R. Tony L. Willie R.)

-:- "C U R T A I N" -:-