

A Family Affair

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Dramatis Personae

Dottore, a learned man, father of Virginio

Virginio, a poet, son of Dottore

Lavinia, a in Dottore's house, servant, really Pantalone's long lost daughter

Spinetta, Dottore's servant

Beatrice, a courtesan

Pantalone, a wealthy merchant traveling from Rome

Ruffiana, Pantalone's housekeeper/servant

Brighella, Panalone's servant

Dottore's house.

Lavinia and Virginio enter

Lavinia tries to confess her love to Virginio, who is completely oblivious, blows her off, and heads off to Beatrices's.

Virginio exits

Lavinia is outside, after seeing Virginio off.

Brighella enters.

Brighella asks Lavinia for directions for Dottore's house. Lavinia tells him he's at Dottore's house and calls Dottore.

Dottore enters

Brighella gives Dottore a letter from Rome from his friend Pantalone: now that Virginio is all grown, it is time to get him married to Pantalone's daughter. Pantalone is coming to town to finalize the arrangements. All the best from Rome!

Brighella exits

Dottore remembers that he has not seen Virginio for a while. Inquires his servant Lavinia of his whereabouts. Lavinia says that he is at Beatrices and volunteers to fetch him.

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Dottore and Lavinia exit

Beatrice's Establishment
Virginio and Beatrice enter

Virginio at Beatrice's. Soaking in the atmosphere and not much else. Talks how when soon he will get his money from Dottore and can marry Beatrice. Beatrice ignores him.

Lavinia enters

Lavinia came to bring Virginio home. She obviously really likes him. He really does not care – talks how it is useful for him to be in the thick of love and beauty, now that he is an adult, he needs to know all kinds of grown up things, and Beatrice is a perfect teacher in the matters of love.

Street.
Lavinia and Spinetta enter

Lavinia meets with Spinetta, complaining to her about her unrequited love for Virginio. Spinetta thinks they are both idiots. Says that she would like a real man.

Both exit

Dottore's house
Dottore enters
Lavinia and Spinetta enter

Lavinia and Spinetta come home without Virginio. Dottore wants to know what Virginio is doing. Lavinia relays. Dottore is outraged that Virginio is wasting his time and money on Beatrice, and that Lavinia failed to bring him back. He wants to know why Virginio is at Beatrice's. He scoffs at Lavinia's attempts to bring Virginio back. Beatrice is a mature and intelligent woman. By comparison, Lavinia is young, immature, and overall, useless. He needs a kind of spy he can trust – all grown up, without silly notions, mature, reasonable, down to earth, (basically describes Spinetta), then declares that to have a job done it is best to do it himself. Orders Spinetta to make him up as a woman, so he can infiltrate Beatrice's establishment.

All exit

Street.
Pantalone and Ruffiana enter

Pantalone berates Ruffiana for failing to retrieve his daughter from the convent, where she was conveniently kept.

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Ruffiana says it is not her fault that the convent where his daughter grew up was attacked by: soldiers, Gypsies, Pirates, renegade crusaders, etc, etc, etc. And, if only Pantalone spent money for a guarded convent, this could have been prevented. The short of it, Panalone is out of a daughter, and the date of the marriage contract is coming. Pantalone needs Ruffiana to find his daughter!!!! ASAP!!!! They discuss suitable locations where a daughter can be found on a short notice. Sends her to check out the local convents, himself will check out the local brothels.

Pantalone and Ruffiana exit

***Beatrice's
Dottore enters***

Dottore disguised as a woman, seeks shelter at Beatrice's. Knocks on the door.

Beatrice enters

Beatrice greets Dottore. He introduces himself as Dottoria. After some BS, Beatrice who kind of likes Dottoria, grants her a place to live and employment.

Virginio enters

Dottore observes Beatrice's treatment of Virginio, is outraged at how Beatrice treats his only kid (waste of money, and not learning anything useful), and decides to take over his education himself.

Virginio likes Beatrice, and Dottoria, because she is really nice to him. Beatrice can't stand Virginio and really likes Dottoria, though she is not sure why. Dottore is both confused and flattered by the attention, and kinda likes Beatrice.

***All exit
Pantalone enters***

Pantalone knocks at Beatrice's door.

Dottore enters, dressed as Dottoria

Pantalone show up at the Beatrice's door looking for his daughter, gives very detailed and generic description, meets Dottoria and is very impressed by her maturity, intelligence and demeanor. He does not recognize Dottore, Dottore recognizes Pantalone, realizes that Pantalone's daughter is missing, is relieved, stalls for time, plays along, to distract Pantalone from finding his daughter, because Virginio is not quite ready for marriage.

Both exit

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Street

Ruffiana enters

Brighella enters

Ruffiana meets Brighella in the street. Tells him Pantalone's daughter is missing, and they need a substitute. Describes daughter. Brighella says he has seen someone who may fit the description.

They go to Dottore's house.

Both exit

Dottore's house

Lavinia enters

Lavinia is there moping.

Brighella and Ruffiana enter

Brighella and Ruffiana try to convince her to get married – to a rich young man. Lavinia declines because she is already in love with Virginio. Ruffiana and Brighella convince her to follow along, because, as a servant, she has no chance, but as a young and beautiful rich widow, it is much more easier. Lavinia doesn't realize they are trying to marry her off to Virginio. Lavinia agrees to be Dottore's daughter.

All exit

Beatrice's

Virginio, Beatrice, Pantalone, and Dottore, dressed as Dottoria.

Meanwhile, back at the brothel, Virginia, Pantalone, and Beatrice are all wooing Dottoria.

Virginio, Beatrice and Dottore exit

Ruffiana enters

Ruffiana comes to report on her progress – a suitable daughter is found! Pantalone says he no longer cares about having a daughter – he found a woman of his dreams, and he is pursuing her, so the kids' wedding is on hold.

Pantalone exits, to pursue Dottoria

Ruffiana is very upset, that Pantalone basically ignores her and her work, while she does everything for him. For free.

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Spinetta enters

Ruffiana complains to Spinetta. Both bitch about men.

Lavinia and Brighella enter

Lavinia is dressed as a noblewoman and Brighella is busy teaching her how to become a widow. She listens attentively. Promises Brighella a nice chunk of her future dead husband's money.

Spinetta and Ruffiana greet them. Lavinia joins the bitch fest. Brighella, as an only man, tries to stand up for the mankind, but is outnumbered. If you can't beat them, join them ! Spinetta decides she kinda likes Brighella because of his sensitive side.

All exit

Beatrice's

Brighella and Lavinia enter

Virginio enters

Brighella brings Lavinia to Beatrice's, she meets Virginio, he does not recognize her, and does not seem to be interested, but she impresses him by knowing all kinds of little things about him. Virginio is intrigued.

He tells her that his heart is torn – first he was pining after Beatrice, but then was smitten by Dottoria, but now Lavinia is very nice too. Eventually he decides that he likes Lavinia the best.

Dottore enters

Dottoria enters, reveals that she is actually Dottore, tells Virginio that his education is complete, and now he is ready to marry Pantalone's daughter. Virginio doesn't want to marry someone he never met – wants to marry Lavinia! They argue.

Lavinia who was all ready to become a widow, doesn't want to kill a nice rich man, now that she knows it's Virginio, and turns onto Brighella. She uses her education in how to become a widow on Brighella. Can use a weapon, such as a knife.

Pantalone enters

Meanwhile Pantalone enters, and proposes to Dottoria, who reveals that she is actually his old friend Dottore. Pantalone, terrified, flees.

Spinetta and Ruffiana enter

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Pantalone flees into Ruffiana's arms.

Spinetta saves Brighella by taking the knife from Lavinia, (that's what happened to my favorite kitchen knife – I was looking for it everywhere!(the knife is something obnoxiously large)). Brighella is touched as no one ever saved him before. He proposes to Spinetta ("My hero!). They leave. Spinetta still has the knife.

Brighella and Spineta exit

Pantalone is consoled by Ruffiana, sees Lavinia and they recognize each other as father and daughter. Pantalone introduces Lavinia as his long lost daughter to Dottore and Virginio.

Virginio and Lavinia are overjoyed that they are getting married.

Virginio and Lavinia exit

Ruffiana proposes to Pantalone, he accepts, or is blackmailed into accepting.

Ruffiana and Pantalone exit

Beatrice proposes to Dottore. (she maybe either relieved to disappointed that Dottore ended up being a man, up to you). Dottore accepts.

Beatrice and Dottore exit

End.