

# Oh Capitano, My Capitano

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## *Dramatis Personae*

*Pantalone*, a wealthy merchant in absentia

*Isabella*, his only daughter, madly in love with Virginio

*Franceschina*, Isabella's confidante and servant

*Brighella*, Pantalone's servant.

*Ruffiana*, his housekeeper (potentially donna Ana, see the END)

*Capitano*, a mercenary from Spain

*Arlicchino*, his servant

*Dottore*, an educated man and a practicing physician

*Virginio*, his only son

*Spinetta*, his servant

*Beatrice*, a courtesan (potentially donna Ana, see the END)

## *Scene 1*

*Pantalone's house*

*Isabella, Franceschina enter*

Isabella is madly in love with Virginio, even though she never met him. She just heard his poetry and had several glances from her window and is smitten. Laments that, as she is the richest bride in town, Pantalone has her effectively locked up and guarded by Brighella.

Isabella wants to get married to Virginio no matter what, but can't even leave the house. She decides to disguise herself as a man, confides her plan to Franceschina, and sends her to get her male clothing.

*All exit*

## *Scene 2*

*Street*

*Franceschina and Arlicchino enter*

Franceschina meets Arlicchino, flirts with him and convinces him to bring her a man's outfit.

Arlicchino likes Franceschina and will do whatever she wants.

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***Franceschina exits***  
***Capitano enters.***

Arlicchino manages to get clothing from Capitano. (*At this point, this can be his spare clothing, or you can strip him*).

***All exit***

***Scene 3.***  
***Pantalone's house***  
***Brighella enters Capibella, Ruffiana.***

Brighella is guarding Isabella. He brags about his excellent guarding skills in a one sided conversation with Isabella, who he assumes is in the house. Meanwhile, she is sneaking in the back of the stage dressed in men's clothing.

***Isabella enters***

Brighella notices her, but doesn't recognize her, thinks it's a man, berates "him" for trying to sneak into Pantalone's house. He knows all about his plan – now that Isabella is marriageable, all kinds all penniless riff-raff will try to marry her, or at least seduce her trying to get money out of Pantalone.

Isabella realizes she is not recognized and agrees that it is indeed "his" plan. But, "he" is not penniless, "he" is brave and magnificent Capitano, from a wealthy and noble Spanish family, and he heard about Isabella's beauty and virtue and amazing fashion sense all the way from Spain and came to woo her. Really. Capibella confesses that he is currently without support of his family and fortune, as his poor widowed/loaded mother fell down the staircase (large and marble and grand) in the family estate (huge estate), lost all the memory of herself and her fortune and family, and wondered off to joint the convent. If she ever regains her memory, "he" will be filthy rich!

Brighella agrees that this is all very plausible and agrees to help Isabella for a portion of Isabella's dowry, says will speak with Pantalone on "his" behalf, and as he, Brighella, is the most trusted servant, Pantalone will surely listen.  
Isabella thanks him profusely.

***Isabella exits***  
***Ruffiana enters***

Ruffiana shows up, wants to know who Brighella talked to, and wants on the deal.

***Scene 4***  
***Pantalone's house.***

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***Brighella, Ruffiana are still on stage***

***Capitano and Arlicchno enter***

Capitano is here to ask Pantalone for a loan, using his amnesiac mother's estate as the collateral. Laments the fact that he can't find his best set of clothing, which may hurt his chances of getting a loan. Arlicchino pretends not to understand.

Brighella wants to know why Capitano is back so soon. Capitano recounts the story, but Brighella already knows it. Capitano is amazed because a) Brighella knows the story, and b) apparently, Capitano has already been here.

Ruffiana thinks that Capitano has a sun stroke, and should go to Dottore for advise. Mentions all kinds of terrible symptoms to Capitano, who has all of them. Arlicchino is very supportive of the sun stroke theory and leads him away to Dottore.

***All exit***

***Scene 5***

***Street***

***Capitano, Arlicchino, Isabella, and Franceschina enter***

On the way to Dottore's, Capitano sees Isabella in company of Franceschina. Isabella looks very familiar, or, at least her clothing does. Capitano wants to take a close look at the clothing, and is prevented by Arlicchino, and by Isabella, who is using Franceschina as a shield. Capitano is smitten with Franceschina. Meanwhile, Arlicchino and Franceschina flirt like crazy. Capitano challenges Isabella to a duel for the love of Franceschina. Isabella accepts. They agree to meet tomorrow at the marketplace.

***Isabella and Franceschina exit***

After Isabella and Franceschina leave, Capitano realizes he just challenged himself to a duel, and is terrified, as Capitano is known to be a fearsome fighter. Arlicchino suggests that the sunstroke is probably getting worse, so they hurry to Dottore's.

***Capitano and Arlicchino exit***

***Scene 6***

***Dottore's house.***

***Isabella enters***

Isabella calls for Dottore

***Spinetta enters***

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Isabella announces herself as the famous Capitano, here to see the famous Dottore. Spinetta recognized her as Isabella, throws a fit. Isabella begs Spinetta to help her get Virginio fall in love with her. She is pointing that as women, they should stick together, since they're very much alike. Spinetta points are that they are very much not alike, starting with the outfit, and continuing with other outrageous examples, but eventually agrees to help her.

***Spinetta exits to get Dottore  
Dottore and Virginio enter.***

Isabella relays to Dottore the same tragic story about Capitano's amnesiac mother as she told to Brighella. Asks for a potion to reverse memory loss. Dottore especially likes the grand staircase, and the fact the widowed donna is eligible and of fragile health, feeling that he, Dottore, can help her on both counts. He agrees to help if Isabella will bring Dottore's suit to his mother, donna Ana. Isabella agrees.

***Dottore exits***

Isabella and Virginio engage in small talk. Eventually Isabella admits that "his" mother's health is just an excuse to come to town to woo beautiful Isabella, Pantalone's absolutely amazing only daughter. Virginio is surprised because his father is friends with Pantalone, and he never even knew that Pantalone had a daughter. Isabella explains that she is so beautiful and sweet and wonderful that Pantalone keeps her locked up in his house, otherwise there will be riots in the streets, as people will try to get just a glimpse at her. Virginio is curious and wants more info. Isabella is happy to oblige. Virginio decides that if Isabella is at least half as good as the rumors, she is worthy of him, and decides to woo her himself. Isabella is offended, saying "he" was wooing her first, they argue, decide to both woo her and go to Pantalone's house.

***All exit***

***Scene 6  
Pantalone's house  
Brighella, Ruffiana enter***

Brighella and Ruffiana still argue, Ruffiana says that Brighella's scheme to help Capitano woo Isabella for a portion of the dowry lacks scale and vision, and the true prize here is the donna's estate. She tries to convince Brighella to marry the Spanish widow, when he refuses, she says she'll do it herself, when she realizes she can't, comes up with an idea to marry off Pantalone.

***Isabella and Virginio enter***

Virginio gets accosted by Brighella in full guard mode, and as Virginio is chased off stage, he is convinced that Isabella must be truly amazing if she is so thoroughly guarded.

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***Brighella and Virginio exit***

Isabella gets stopped by Ruffiana, who thinks it is a real Capitano, and promises to think about “his” suit to Isabella, if “he” will help her marry donna Ana to Pantalone. Isabella mentions the donna’s amnesia. Ruffiana says it will not be a problem, as she knows the best doctor in Italy, and she’s sure he will come up with a cure. Isabella pretends it’s the first time she heard about Dottore, and agrees.

***All exit***

***Scene 7***

***Beatrices house***

***Isabella, Spinetta enter***

Spinetta tells Isabella that she needs a donna Ana, tells her she will introduce her to someone who can help.

***Beatrice enters***

Spinetta makes introductions. Beatrice is surprised to see Isabella in drag. Wants to know if she’s here as a customer, and is so, that perfectly explains why she is not married yet. Isabella explains that they are here looking for a suitable mother for a Spanish noble, preferably with amnesia. After going through her staff, Beatrice decides to offer herself, as she has a lot of experience with this kind of thing. As an afterthought, inquires why they are looking for a Spaniard’s mother. They explain, mention that both Dottore and Pantalone want to marry donna Ana. Beatrice is enraged that her best customers decided to get married, which is practically cheating, and will definitely play along with whatever needed.

***All exit***

***Scene 8***

***Dottore’s house***

***Virginio and Dottore enter***

Virginio lets Dottore know that he wants to marry Isabella. Dottore is concerned and wants to know where Virginio heard of such a thing. Virginio replies that the whole city is talking about her, she attracts suitors from far away lands and he is in love. Dottore tries to explain to Virginio that Isabella is a purely theoretical concept, and he should not worry about such things, as she does not really exist in a marriageable sense. Virginio points out that if she’s so theoretical, then why is Capitano after her? And Virginio needs Dottore help to bring his suit to Pantalone, since they are friends, and Pantalone will listen. Dottore refuses. Virginio is upset, says he will take care of his rival Capitano himself, and leaves.

*Virginio exits*  
*Ruffiana enters*

Ruffiana wants to buy an amnesia reversal potion from Dottore, Dottore wants to know why. Ruffiana tells him Pantalone is wooing a beautiful Spanish widow, Donna Ana, who just happens to be amnesiac. Dottore suddenly pretends not to understand, tries to sell her other cures from cholera to syphilis, and ushers her out of the house.

*Dottore exits*

Ruffiana figures out he is after the widow himself. Figures that as Dottore will not sell the potion, she will order Brighella to steal it.

*Ruffiana exits*

*Scene 9*  
*Market,*

*Isabella, Franceschina, Beatrice enter*

Isabella, Franceschina and Beatrice are shopping for dresses for donna Ana. Virginio enters, sees Isabella with Beatrice, and is shocked that Capitano is cavorting with courtesans, while wooing Isabella, berates him, calls him unworthy of Isabella, demands that the Capitano call off his suit. Isabella refuses, Virginio challenges Isabella (as Capitano) to a duel.

*Isabella exits*  
*Franceschina follows*

*Capitano and Arlicchino enter*

On the way out, Franceschina passionately grabs Arlicchino and drags him off stage. Virginio attacks Capitano, for the honor of Isabella, both fight, cowardly, using Beatrice for cover. As Beatrice gets pushed around, Capitano apologizes, for inconveniencing an older lady. Beatrice gets enraged and beats both of them up, and leaves.

*Beatrice exits*

Virginio accuses Capitano of cheating on Isabella, recounts the conversation they had. Capitano does not remember any of it, and is concerned he suffers from memory loss.

*Very disheveled Arlicchino enters*

Arlicchino supports the memory loss theory, and drags Capitano to Dottore's.

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***Capitano and Arlicchino exit***  
***Virginio exits***

*Scene 10*  
*Dottore's house*  
*Brighella enters*

Brighella is attempting to steal the potion.

***Dottore enters***

Dottore wants to know what ails Brighella, both engage in bizarre pseudo medical conversation, Brighella wants to find out about memory potion, unsuccessfully. Dottore leaves to get the cure for Brighella.

***Dottore exits***  
***Spinetta enters***

Spinetta suspects something. Brighella tries to convince Spinetta to bring him the memory potion. Spinetta realizes that Brighella is kinda desperate and is being mean, but eventually, agrees to get it.

***Brighella exits***  
***Dottore enters***

Dottore comes out with a cure for Brighella, and is surprised that the patient left. Dottore decides to get married to donna Ana ASAP. He gives Spinetta the memory potion, and charges her to give it to Capitano to give to his mother. As Dottore thinks himself practically married, he decides to kick Virginio out of the house, and marry him off to Isabella. Sends Spinetta to arrange the suit, the wedding, the laundry, the taxes, neutering plants, and etc, etc, etc,.

***Spinetta exits***

***Capitano and Arlicchino enter***

Capitano tries to tell his story to Dottore, but Dottore has already seen him, knows his story, etc. Capitano is very confused because he doesn't remember meeting Dottore, and is convinced he has amnesia, which must run in the family, and begs Dottore to help him. Dottore tells him he already had send him a potion, for his mother, Capitano says he did not get it.

Dottore says his memory loss must be really bad, and treats him with random stuff, at the end both end up drinking spirits from the same bottle.

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*All exit*

*Scene 11*

*Pantalone's house*

*Spinetta enters*

*Brighella and Ruffiana enter*

Spinetta gives the potion to Brighella. Tells Ruffiana about Dottore proposing marriage of Virginio and Isabella. Ruffiana, who thinks Pantalone is practically married, agrees to the wedding, to get Isabella out of the house.

*Scene 12*

*The Wedding:*

*All are present.*

Isabella and Virginio are married.

Arlicchino and Franceschina are paired off/married.

Veiled Beatrice is present, pretending to be an amnesiac Spanish donna. Capitano is looking cautiously for himself to see if he has to fight. Very relieved not to see himself in the crowd.

POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS:

1. Ruffiana drinks the potion remembers she is donna Ana, Isabella is her Daughter, adopted by Pantalone, who has no kids of his own. Capitano is her son, he and Isabella are identical twins, which is why no one can tell them apart. Ruffiana and Dottore get married.
2. Beatrice drinks the potion, remembers that she is donna Ana, Isabella is her Daughter, adopted by Pantalone, who has no kids of his own. Capitano is her son, he and Isabella are identical twins, which is why no one can tell them apart. In which case, Ruffiana is the villainess, who placed Beatrice in a "convent", and gave the kid to Pantalone to adopt. Then, Beatrice and Dottore get married, and Brighella is so impressed with Ruffiana's evilness, that he is smitten on the spot.

In both cases, Capitano, who in the frenzy of weddings, manages to stay happily unattached, is relieved to be perfectly healthy, single and filthy rich.

The END.