

The Long Lost Treasure

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Dramatis Personae

Pantalone, rich merchant, actually the father of Isabella and Capitano

Fenocchio, Pantalone's servant, in love with Franceschina

Capitano, a mercenary captain, a soldier of fortune, actually long lost Pantalone's son

Arlicchino, Capitano's servant, in love with Nicolina

Isabella, The Pirate Queen, long lost Pantalone's daughter

Benedetta, her servant

Pirates

Oratio, a young poor nobleman, sent to Pantalone for education in business

Flaminia, Oratio's sister, a young poor noblewoman, and the only relatively normal person in the play

Nicolina, her servant, in love with Arlicchino

Damiana, inn proprietor, former nurse of Capitano and Isabella

Franceschina, her servant, in love with Fenocchio

Properties:

A great number of **random things**, which may be thrown with great noise and minimal damage, and be carried about in a bundle.

A **pasta strainer**.

Fenocchio and Franceschina enter

Franceschina drags in a bag of stuff. Fenocchio helps her. Franceschina says that it should last Pantalone a while. Fenocchio says that Pantalone likes it so much he wouldn't even think of getting it anywhere else in Ravenna, or whole Italy, or France.

Franceschina says if only Pantalone paid on time, they would be half way to owning their own tavern. They start day-dreaming about how wonderful it would be, and come up with a whole bunch of ridiculous names for their future inn.

Oratio, Flaminia, Nicolina enter

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Nicolina is carrying everything. Franceschina sees them and leaves.

Franceschina exits

Fenocchio, Pantalone's servant greets Oratio and Flaminia, who are sent to the house of Pantalone by their parents. Oratio is to receive education in business and trade, Flaminia is to find a suitable husband. Fenocchio tells them that since Pantalone had lost his best ship and his family at sea years ago, he has not been the same, although he is still a shrewd businessman.

Fenocchio leaves, taking Nicolina with him. She tries to make him carry the luggage.

***Fenocchio and Nicolina exit
Pantalone enters***

Pantalone enters, and greets the siblings, who are eager to learn.

Pantalone gives Oratio all kinds of unethical business advice, and insists on how fraught with danger the business world is. Talks about ships being lost at sea, fortunes he lost, etc, etc, etc.

Oratio wants to know if there is a sure fire way to get rich without much risk. Pantalone ridicules him and says that short of finding a lost treasure, not much.

Pantalone exits

Flaminia tells Oratio how wonderful it is that they can get valuable business skills to learn to manage money and lift their family out of poverty, and how she will be a great wife for some rich guy and will manage all of his finances. Oratio says how wonderful it would be to find a buried treasure. Flaminia says those things only happen in plays, never in real life.

Capitano and Arlicchino enter

Capitano impresses Oratio with his big sword and big talk. Very big, very bombastic, very brave, all tremble, no one has ever seen Capitano's back side, etc., etc.. Capitano tells Oratio a story how Capitano is a rightful owner of a great treasure which is his birthright, but was stolen by pirates. Isabella the pirate queen has the treasure map, and he needs help getting it. Oratio is eager to help. Capitano says that when they meet the pirate queen, he, Capitano, will seduce her with his charm, wit, and manliness, and she will do whatever they want. Oratio will need just to take the map from her, and to catch her if...no, when, ... she swoons. After all, they just want to get her treasure map, not give her a concussion!

Flaminia tries to convince Oratio that it's a scam and fails, leaves in frustration.

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Flaminia exits

Oratio wants to start treasure hunt immediately. Capitano and Arlicchino are staying at a local inn, Oratio says they would be much more comfortable at Pantalone's house.

Oratio brings Capitano and Arlicchino to Pantalone's house and knocks.

Nicolina enters

Nicolina answers, and brings Pantalone.

Pantalone enters

Pantalone wants to know who they are. Oratio introduces Capitano as the greatest entrepreneur of all times, who will help him with investments, and his servant. Pantalone counters that a successful merchant must possess excellent social skills and intellectual ability, and starts asking questions. Capitano says that the questions are so simple, even his servant can answer them. Arlicchino misinterprets all of Pantalone's questions, but somehow still answers them to Pantalone's satisfaction. Pantalone is delighted, and offers Capitano and Arlicchino to stay at his house.

Fenocchio enters

Pantalone sends Fenocchio to bring Capitano's things.

Fenocchio exits

Pantalone exits with Capitano and Arlicchino

Flaminia enters

Nicolina tells Flaminia what amazing new friends Oratio has. Flaminia is horrified that Capitano will be bad influence on Oratio. However, Arlicchino thoroughly impressed Nicolina, who declares to her mistress that she is in love!!!

All exit

Isabella and the pirates enter

The pirates are trading "no shit, and there I was stories", in ever decreasing realism as they attempt to one up each other.

Isabella tells her crew about how they have been hunting for a long lost treasure, which was her birthright, but was taken from her when she was little. They were able to find out that one Capitano has the treasure map, but they've been searching for Capitano for years, but he stayed one step ahead of them.

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Benedetta enters

Benedetta was snooping in town, and Capitano just arrived into town and is staying at the inn. This is their chance to kidnap him and get the treasure map!

They pirates demonstrate how they are going to do it. Chaos ensues.

Isabella says, maybe, on the second thought, she will do it herself. Mostly.

All exit

Damiana's Inn

Damiana, Fenocchio enter

Fenocchio arrives to Damiana's to tell her that the Capitano, the great and wonderful, etc, is no longer staying at her inn, and he will be staying at Pantalone's house, and he Fenocchio, Pantalone's servant is here to fetch his things.

Damiana is upset, because she was counting on Capitano's and Arlicchino's rent for income, but wants to know how Capitano weaseled himself into Pantalone's good graces. Fenocchio says that Capitano is the world's greatest financial mind, and will be giving Pantalone lessons, Damiana laughs at that, and hints that she knows Capitano pretty well, and he sucks at anything financial.

Sends her servant, Franceschina, to help Fenocchio with Capitano's things.

Franceschina enters and Damiana exits

Fenocchio and Franceschina flirt. She makes him carry most of the crap.

Fenocchio and Franceschina exit

They leave very leasurely, picking up their previous conversation, and coming up with the names for the inn. Discuss how well the next batch is coming. Fenocchio worries that Damiana may find out about it. Franceschina talks him out of worrying.

Isabella, Benedetta and the pirates enter

They storm the inn.

The pirates kidnap and tie up Damiana. Isabella, horrified, realizes they made a mistake, and tries to free Damiana. In the end, Benedetta and Isabella have to fight their pirate comrades to free Damiana. Damiana is upset and wants to call the watch. Isabella pleads with her not to call anybody and tells her the "lost treasure" sob story, and that they are looking for Capitano. Damiana, who is mad at Capitano for leaving her inn without

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paying, says she heard Capitano talk about the treasure, but thought it was only empty talk. Unfortunately, Capitano is now at Pantalone's house, which is guarded better than the Doge's palace, the Vatican and the Ali-baba's cave all put together. However, Damiana tells Isabella that Capitano can't resist women, and the easiest way to get to him would be to seduce him. Isabella tells Damiana that all men wish to get under her skirts, but none are worthy, and especially not Capitano. Damiana says that no one needs to get under any skirts, she just needs to flirt with him to distract him enough for the pirates to jump him and take the treasure map. They come up with a plan they can all agree on .

All exit

Pantalone, Flaminia Nicolina enter

Pantalone tries to set up Capitano as a potential husband for Flaminia, she tries to convince Pantalone that Capitano is a penniless fraud. Pantalone counters that perhaps with Capitano's treasure scheme and Arlicchino's excellent business skills, it will all work out. Flaminia is speechless. Pantalone mistakes her silence for agreement, and leaves to make wedding plans.

Pantalone exits

Flaminia sends Nicolina to get Oratio quickly; they are going home before they lose the rest of their money!

All exit

Capitano and Oratio, Isabella and Benedetta enter from opposite sides

(SCENE SUMMARY: Here Capitano and Isabella meet, each tries to seduce each other, and it falls horribly flat, and ends in a very silly catfight. Meanwhile, Oratio, notices, falls for Isabella, tries to get her attention, but she does not notice him.)

For example, Isabella drops her handkerchief, Capitano doesn't notice, Oratio does, and picks it up, then she drops her hair comb, coughs, drops bigger and bigger things which Capitano ignores (maybe he talks to himself or is distracted by his own pep talk?), but Oratio keeps picking everything up. As Isabella runs out of things to drop, she demands that Benedetta gives her something to get Capitano's attention. Benedetta notices Oratio, takes all the things from him one by one, which she gives to Isabella, who then drops them, and so on. When Oratio runs out of things to give to Benedetta, she starts taking his things, so Oratio ends up half naked.

Meanwhile, Oratio tries to flirt with Isabella, who ignores him.

Capitano eventually notices after something very loud (armor?) hits the ground, or Isabella in frustration may just chuck something at his head. They try to flirt, but it's just not happening. Imagine a typical stupid overblown sibling fight. Isabella calls him a

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dumb ass, Capitano says he never met a woman he didn't like until now, so Isabella must be defective.

It degenerates into a juvenile catfight:” you started it, no, you started it!!!” and Capitano and Isabella leave still fighting.

Capitano and Isabella exit

Benedetta drops the rest of the stuff she was holding and runs after them.

Benedetta exits

Oratio, and the pile of stuff remain.

Disheveled Capitano and Arlicchino enter

Arlicchino is trying to help Capitano, but makes everything worse. Capitano blames Arlicchino for not being there to help. Then Capitano notices the half naked Oratio, and berates him for not getting the treasure map, Oratio, who is in love, blames Capitano for not getting the treasure map, they threaten each other with random things left around the stage, Arlicchino intercepts them. Eventually, all the remaining things end up with Arlicchino, Arlicchino collapses on stage under their weight. Capitano and Oratio leave, still arguing whose fault it is.

Capitano and Oratio exit

Nicolina enters

Nicolina is looking for Oratio, as his sister is looking for him. Sees Arlicchino under a pile of random crap, and cries for help.

Pirates enter

Pirates come in, and take all the crap, apparently it was theirs and they wonder how it got there. They recruit Arlicchino to be a pirate and to get the treasure map from Capitano. He joins. Promises Nicolina he will be back for her, they will get the treasure map and will be rich. They have a great spoofy overblown love scene, the pirates are touched.

All exit

Half naked Oratio and Flaminia enter

Flaminia is horrified to see Oratio like this – she knew it was a scam, and now he lost everything, that Capitano is no good, etc, Oratio says its not what it looks like, he got undressed completely voluntarily. Flaminia wants to know if Oratio and Capitano are having relations. Oratio explains it's not like that (no one sees the Capitano's

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backside!): He just met this most wonderful girl: she is tall and loud, and carries a sword, and fights...etc, And she has the treasure map which will make them rich.

Nicolina enters

Nicolina is crying that Arlicchino the love of her life had to leave with the pirates, but he will be back for her and they will get the treasure map from Capitano and be rich.

Flaminia realizes that they both think the other has it, so something must be up.

Fenocchio and Franceschina enter

Fenocchio and Franceschina show up with Capitano's things. Actually, Capitano has only a few things, the rest is another delivery for Pantalone. They've been taking their time going back to Pantalone's house and flirting all over the place, still arguing about the hypothetical inn name.

Flaminia goes through Capitano's things, and the map is not there. Nicolina is very upset because now Arlicchino will not come back for her. Flaminia says that it must be on his person. Tells Nicolina they will have to get to Capitano, strip him if necessary, go through his clothing and get the map. Oratio tells them it's impossible to defeat and strip Capitano – he is so good, no one has ever beat him (nobody has seen Capitano's back side!) Flaminia has a lightbulb moment: If all think the Capitano has the map, and it's not in his things, and Capitano thinks he doesn't have, and no one has seen the Capitano's back side, it must be on his back side!

All exit

At the inn

Damiana and Isabella enter

Damiana is berating Isabella for not getting the map from Capitano, Isabella counters that Capitano was so annoying and such a dumb idiot, she just couldn't do it. Damiana says that for a pirate queen she is pretty soft. Benedetta takes offense to that and tries to defend her mistress.

Oratio, Flaminia and Nicolina enter

Oratio, Flaminia and Nicolina enter, they are all fighting Capitano, but he's able to hold them off. Damiana, Isabella and Benedetta join in and all together they subdue Capitano. Capitano swears he does not have the map, and blames Isabella. They have a shouting match. Flaminia pulls Capitano's pants down, and finds a treasure map. But, it's only half of it. Where is the other half? All start blaming each other, and then Damiana declares that she knows, and lifts Isabella's skirts, and finds the other half. Damiana says

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she will recognize these butts anywhere!

Everybody stares at Capitano's and Isabella's butts in silence.

Pantalone enters

Pantalone after looking at Capitano's and Isabella's butts realizes they are his long lost children. To protect his fortunes he invested his treasure in a faraway bank, and he had half of the map tattooed on one butt cheek of each kid. Neither honestly knew about it, as none ever seen her or his butt. (Nobody seen Capitano's backside, and Isabella would not let anyone under her skirts.)

Damiana explains that she was the children's governess, and they have grown so much she did not recognize them. They were entrusted to her care by Pantalone, for a long sea voyage, but Isabella was stolen by pirates, and Capitano was shanghaied into the army.

Pantalone is overjoyed to find his children and his treasure (and, the map is now bigger than he remembers, so his investments must have grown as well!). But, the map is apparently encrypted, as Pantalone was worried that someone may kidnap his children, arrange them just so and find out where his investments are. So he entrusted the key to the map to the governess. All look at Damiana. She produces a pasta colander and gives it to Pantalone. He looks at the butts through the colander and explains, that the holes in the colander are the key to the map. All are impressed by Pantalone's wisdom.

Pantalone is very touched that Damiana kept it all these years (they may reminisce over the colander a bit) but wants to know why Damiana never let him know that she was in the same town.

Damiana says that she was so ashamed that she lost the children, she kept writing him letters, but Pantalone never answered them. Pantalone says he received the letters, but never opened them, because he thought they were bills. Damiana says they couldn't possibly be bills, as Pantalone never got anything at the inn. Pantalone wants to know what about the..... Damiana knows nothing about it. Pantalone is overjoyed about the lack of bills, and proposes to Damiana.

Pirates and Arlicchino enter

The pirates, led by Arlicchino, storm the inn to get Arlicchino's love, Nicolina, who agrees to marry him. Arlicchino, tearfully tells the pirates that he can't be with them, he would rather be with Nicolina.

Arlicchino and Nicolina exit

Oratio confesses his love for Isabella.

Oratio and Isabella exit

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Flaminia proposes to Capitano - now she knows he is actually rich, and, he has a nice ass.

Flaminia and Capitano exit

Pantalone is very happy to get his children back and arrange for suitable matches in a day, leaves to make wedding preparations.

Pantalone and Damiana exit

The pirates are upset to lose both Isabella and Arlicchino.
Benedetta steps up to be their leader – she was doing the most work anyway!

All exit

Franceschina and Fenocchio enter

They find no one, and decide to get married and run the inn, just like they always wanted.
Maybe they would settle on a name (or not!)

All exit

The end.