

# The Power of Love

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## *Dramatis personae*

*Pantalone* , a wealthy merchant in absentia.

*Isabella*, his daughter, in absentia

*Ruffiana*, his housekeeper

*Franceschina*, Isabella's servant

*Dottore*, a learned man, in love with Beatrice

*Spinetta*, his servant

*Virginio*, his son, in love with Isabella

*Arlicchino*, his servant, in love with food.

*Beatrice*, a beautiful courtesan, in love with Dottore, or so she says

*Capitano*, a Spanish mercenary, down on his luck

*Brighella*, a thief and a con man.

## *Properties:*

*A letter*

*Two ducats*

*Lunch*

*Street*

*Dottore and Beatrice enter*

Dottore loves Beatrice and wants to marry her. Beatrice says that Dottore has a grown son, and she is too young to be a mother – wants Virginio out of the house. Dottore swears he will do that.

*Dottore exits*

*Capitano enters*

Capitano is smitten with Beatrice and confesses his love for her. She is not impressed.

*Beatrice exits*

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***Brighella enters***

Brighella finds out that Capitano is new in town. Brighella has a letter to Pantalone's household, but Ruffiana, his housekeeper, wouldn't even talk to Brighella. However, Capitano, who is much grander and impressive figure, will be a much better person to deliver it. Capitano agrees. Brighella gives Capitano the letter.

*Both exit*

***Arlicchino and Virginio enter***

Virginio is being Virginio, Arlicchino is being hungry. Virginio is in love, Arlicchino is hungry. Arlicchino wants to know why Virginio is never hungry. Virginio says his love of Isabella is so all encompassing, he does not feel hunger, or cold, or anything, as long he is in love with Isabella, all his needs are taken care of. Arlicchino thinks that this may be an answer to his problems. Virginio explains to Arlicchino that with the power of love everything is possible.

***Virginio leaves. Arlicchino follows.***

***Pantalone's house***

***Capitano enters***

Capitano knocks on the door

***Ruffiana enters***

Capitano gives letter to Ruffiana, and she reads it aloud: apparently, Pantalone has been kidnapped by pirates, who demand a ransom, 10,000 ducats, which is complete news to both of them. Capitano is eager to help, says he will deliver the ransom money himself.

Ruffiana and Capitano haggle over the ransom. Capitano reminds her that this is her employer they are talking about. Ruffiana tells him that if she pays too much for him, Pantalone will fire her when he gets back. Eventually, they agree on two ducats.

Ruffiana does not actually have the money, nor has access to it, as it's in the vault. Calls fro Franceschina.

***Franceschina enters***

Ruffiana sends Franceschina to find Brighella to break into the vault.

***Franceschina and Ruffiana exit***

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Capitano thinks that two ducats is insultingly low, and the pirates will never let Pantalone go. Instead, Capitano will free Pantalone himself, and then when he is back a hero, Beatrice will love him back! He thinks Ruffiana's plan will never work, and decides to seek help from Dottore. Dottore is a learned man, he may give Capitano advice on military back up.

***Capitano exits***

***Dottore's house***

***Spinetta enters***

Spinetta is hiding from Dottore on her lunch break. She sits down to eat her lunch.

***Arlicchino enters***

Arlicchino is hungry and wants to eat Spinetta's lunch. Remembering what Virginio told him about the power of love, he confesses his love for Spinetta, she loses her appetite and gives him her lunch to shut him up.

***Spinetta exits***

***Dottore enters***

Dottore practices his speech of declaring love for Beatrice in front of Arlicchino, who has Spinetta's food. Arlicchino listens to the declarations of love, thinks that Dottore is in love with him, which means he has to give him the food (isn't that how it works?). Arlicchino starts weeping, and gives Dottore the lunch and leaves, talking about cruel love.

***Arlicchino exits***

Dottore is mortified that Arlicchino is in love with him – what if it gets back to Beatrice? Decides that he needs Arlicchino taken care of.

***Capitano enters***

Capitano introduces himself to Dottore, and relays his plan to free Pantalone. Capitano wants a super soldier to help him fight the pirates. Dottore, who was figuring out how to get Virginio out of the house, so Beatrice will marry him, comes up with a plan. Dottore agrees to turn Virginio into a super soldier to help Capitano, which will get Virginio out of the house. Dottore hires Capitano to kill Arlicchino in exchange for the potion to turn Virginio into a super soldier. Capitano agrees, and Dottore gives him Spinetta's lunch as a deposit for the future services rendered.

***Capitano exit***

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Dottore calls for Arlicchino

*Arlicchino enters*

Dottore sends Arlicchino to get ingredients for the super soldier portion.

*Both exit*

*City Market*

*Franceschina and Brighella enter*

Franceschina is convincing Brighella to come to Pantalone's house and break into the vault. Brighella has a hard time with actually being invited to break in, and needs convincing. Franceschina is very convincing.

*Arlicchino enters*

Arlicchino is hungry, and laments the loss of Spinetta's lunch to Dottore. Sees Franceschina, and declares his love for Franceschina, hoping for food. Franceschina has no food to give him, but loves him back, and forgets about Brighella.

Brighella, who is no longer being convinced, leaves

*Brighella exits*

Arlicchino is confused – he likes what Franceschina has to offer, but is still hungry. He follows Franceschina back to Pantalone's house.

*Franceschina and Arlicchino exit*

*Pantalone's house*

*Franceschina and Arlicchino enter*

*Ruffiana enters*

Arlicchino, as he is still hungry, tries one more time, and declares his love for Ruffiana. Ruffiana gets offended, does not give him food and kicks him out.

*Arlicchino exits*

Franceschina is devastated that Arlicchino is being unfaithful, and is very jealous. Franceschina fights with Ruffiana for Arlicchino's love. Ruffiana doesn't understand what just happened.

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Ruffiana is pissed that Franceschina failed to convince Brighella to break into the vault, decides to fetch Brighella herself.

***Ruffiana exits***

Franceschina swears she will get her Arlicchino back

***Franceschina exits***

***Beatrice's establishment***

***Franceschina enters***

***Beatrice enters***

Beatrice is writing a letter to Dottore, telling him that Capitano is in love with her, she is trying to make Dottore jealous.

Franceschina comes to Beatrice for advice on how to get her unfaithful Arlicchino back. Beatrice tries to teach her some feminine wiles, and how to be subtle and refined and attract men. Franceschina, who is about as subtle as a brick, fails. Eventually, Beatrice says, that if all else fails, the way to the man's heart is through his stomach. Franceschina is appalled that she has to stab Arlicchino in the gut. Beatrice clarifies some things. Franceschina is very happy, and says she will give Arlicchino food.

***Both exit***

***City street***

***Ruffiana and Brighella enter***

Ruffiana and Brighella argue about the price to get into the vault – Brighella finds out that the ransom is only two ducats, is pissed, and tries to haggle it up. They leave the stage still arguing.

***Both exit***

***Dottore's house***

***Arlicchino, Dottore, and Spinetta enter***

Arlicchino is back without super soldier potion ingredients, Dottore scolds him and sends Spinetta to the market to get the job done right.

***All exit***

***City street***

***Spinetta enters***

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Spinetta on the way back from the market, with ingredients.

***Beatrice enters***

Beatrice gives Spinetta a secret note to Dottore, telling him that he has a rival (Capitano), makes Spinetta swear that no one will see it, especially not Capitano!

***Beatrice exits, Capitano enters.***

Capitano, who saw Beatrice give Spinetta the note, wants to see the note suspecting that it's to his rival. Spinetta eats the note, then notices that Capitano has her lunch. As she is having a very bad day, she becomes enraged, demands her lunch back, kicks Capitano's ass and chases Capitano off stage, grabs her lunch as he drops it.

***Capitano and Spinetta exit***

***Dottore's house***

***Dottore, Spinetta enter***

Spinetta gives Dottore the ingredients, is very pissed and hungry, tells Dottore about the note that she ate, and that he has a rival, Capitano, for the affections of Beatrice. Dottore makes the potion from the ingredients Spinetta brought, and laments the facts that he just hired his rival for the love of Beatrice to kill Beatrice's rival for the love of Dottore, which completely confuses Spinetta.

***Dottore exits***

Spinetta decides to finally eat her lunch

***Arlicchino enters***

Arlicchino sees that he is being reunited with the lunch and makes love to it. Spinetta is disgusted, drops loved lunch, tries to kill Arlicchino. Arlicchino grabs the lunch before running off stage.

***Both exit***

***Virginio and Dottore enter***

Dottore convinces him that the only way for him to marry Isabella is to prove his valor to her father, and free him from the pirates. Virginio drinks the potion, becomes very brave and fearsome.

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***Both exit***

***Dottore and Beatrice enter***

Dottore reiterates his proposal to Beatrice – and assures her that Virginio is finally out of the house.

***Arlicchino enters***

Arlicchino has Spinetta's lunch, tearfully tells Dottore, that despite all the love, he is keeping lunch instead.

Beatrice demands to know who is the buffoon with food making fun of her love for Dottore. Wait, is Dottore in love with him?

Dottore assures her that all will be taken care of.

***Capitano enters***

Capitano tries to propose to Beatrice.

Dottore demands to know why Arlicchino is not dead yet, and why Capitano is still here.

Capitano says he is still waiting for the military back up and ransom money to go free Pantalone, and he had lost the deposit for the job – points at lunch in Arlicchino's hands.

Dottore tries to take the lunch from Arlicchino and give it to Capitano. Arlicchino resists.

***Brighella and Ruffiana enter***

They are still arguing about vault breaking.

***Virginio enters***

Virginio has a real letter from Pantalone, saying that Pantalone will be back soon, and he agrees to the marriage Virginio and Isabella, as Virginio saved him from the pirates for free!!

Beatrice gets upset that Virginio is back, and leaves, Dottore follows. Virginio follows Dottore, discussing his upcoming wedding plans

***Beatrice, Dottore and Virginio exit***

Brighella flips: “ you mean that idiot actually was kidnapped by pirates?” Ruffiana and Capitano realize that Brighella tried to con them, team up and chase Brighella off stage. “I want my two ducats!!!”

*Ruffiana, Brighella, Capitano exit*

*Franceschina enters*

Franceschina actually brought food, which she feeds to Arlicchino, who becomes more normal, and they happily leave together.

Arlicchino drops Spinetta’s lunch on stage on his way out as he follows Franceschina.

*Arlicchino and Franceschina exit*

*Spinetta enters*

Spinetta grabs her lunch, and storms off stage.

*Spinetta exits*

**END**