

# My Undead Concubine

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## Dramatis Personae

*Pantalone*, a wealthy merchant

*Brighella*, his servant, a con man and an occasional murderer

*Isabella*, Pantalone's only daughter, obsessed with marrying Virginio

*Franceschina*, her very libidinous servant

*Dottore*, a learned professional

*Spinetta*, his servant

*Virginio*, Dottore's only son, an aspiring poet, in love with Isabella

*Beatrice*, a courtesan

*Ruffiana*, a procuress and a whorehouse madam

*Capitano*, a military man

*Arlicchino*, his servant

## Properties

An armful of random objects.

## Scene 1

*Pantalone, Ruffiana, Franceschina, Brighella*

*Ruffiana enters, Pantalone enters*

Ruffiana confronts Pantalone about his debts, specifically, piles of unpaid bills to Beatrice, and manages to extract some payment, leaves.

*Ruffiana exits*

*Franceschina enters*

While Pantalone is recovering from fiscal loss, Franceschina, somewhat less violently and more sexily manages to make him pay for various frivolous expenses incurred by Isabella.

*Franceschina exits*

*Brighella enters*

Pantalone complains to Brighella about expenses, and then realizes that that both Beatrice and Isabella are the main articles of expense, tries to budget, fails, decides to eliminate

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one, can't decide which one, goes back and forth, (...eenie, meenie, miney, mo....), and eventually decides to eliminate Beatrice as an expense. Brighella comments that that's never gonna work, because he will be still tempted, as long as Beatrice is around. Pantalone agrees, decides to send Brighella to kill Beatrice, as to eliminate the temptation. Brighella manages to get some money from Pantalone for the task of murderation. Goes off to off Beatrice.

***Brighella and Pantalone exit***

***Scene 2***

***Brighella, Beatrice, Ruffiana, Virginio.***

***Virginio enters***

***Ruffiana enters***

Virginio tries to see Beatrice, gets stopped by Ruffiana, who pretends that Beatrice has a customer, and gets kicked out.

***Virginio exits***

***Brighella enters***

Ruffiana greets Brighella, and goes to get Beatrice

***Ruffiana exits***

***Beatrice enters***

Brighella sees Beatrice, she greets him (look! A customer!), he tries to perform the murderation, but old habits die hard, and the regular sexy business transaction ensues. Beatrice gets money from Brighella for her usual services, and he leaves, forgetting to murder her in the process.

***Brighella and Beatrice exit***

***Scene 3***

***Brighella, Spinetta, Franceschina, Capitano, Arlicchino***

***Brighella enters***

Brighella, trying to figure out what to tell Pantalone, decides to tell him he did kill Beatrice

***Spinetta and Franceschina enter***

***Capitano and Arlicchino enter opposite stage and remain in the background***

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Brighella bumps into Spinetta and Franceschina, who are running errands, and they mention he looks concerned. Brighella says he is very sad, because Beatrice, the famous/infamous courtesan is dead!!! Spinetta and Franceschina act shocked at the news.

***Spinetta and Franceschina exit***  
***Brighella exits***

In the background, Capitano and Arlicchino, who just arrived into town overhear this. They are both penniless, and Arlicchino is very-very hungry, and they have no money for an inn. Capitano decides to crash at Beatrice's place, reasoning that there wouldn't be many customers, and the dead lady is unlikely to mind.

***Capitano and Arlicchino exit***

***Scene 4***  
***Brighella, Pantalone, Isabella, then Spinetta, Dottore and Virginio***

***Brighella and Pantalone enter***

Brighella relays the story of the death of Beatrice to Pantalone, who now has mixed feelings about this.

***Brighella and Pantalone exit***  
***Franceschina and Isabella enter***

Franceschina relays a much-exaggerated version of Beatrice's death to Isabella. Isabella decides it's somehow related to the perpetual plot to ruin her wedding to Virginio (because everything that happens is related to the perpetual plot to ruin her wedding to Virginio).

***Franceschina and Isabella exit***  
***Spinetta, Dottore and Virginio enter***

Spinetta relays the story about the death of Beatrice to Dottore and Virginio. Dottore is upset. Virginio is absolutely devastated, as he never got to see her, and now he will never know her! And he was so close! And though he did not know Beatrice well, is still sad because a beautiful woman is dead. Composes poetry. Dottore and Spinetta retreat, as not to be exposed to Virginio's poetry.

***Dottore and Spinetta exit***  
***Isabella enters***

Isabella storms in and relays to Virginio how it's all a plot to ruin their wedding. He doesn't quite get it, as he's too busy mourning Beatrice, and explains to Isabella why he is upset. Isabella is furious that Virginio was visiting courtesans, while they are practically engaged! Virginio tells her he was trying to get some practical instruction before marriage (he figured out the birds, but where do the bees go?), and Beatrice was his only chance to get it. Isabella is now convinced that her suspicions are correct – Beatrice was murdered, so now their marriage will never be consummated! Both leave.

*Isabella and Virginio exit*

*Scene 5*

*Capitano, Arlicchino, Beatrice, Ruffiana.*

*Beatrice and Ruffiana enter*

Ruffiana confronts Beatrice, saying that now that's she is dead, so is the business, and she quits as her manager – even Ruffiana's formidable marketing skills can't pimp out a dead whore and she storms out.

*Ruffiana exits*

*Capitano and Arlicchino enter*

Capitano and Arlicchino arrive to Beatrice's house. Arlicchino is looking for something to eat. Capitano finds Beatrice, who is devastated because the business is completely ruined by the rumors of her death. She tells Capitano that nobody wants a dead courtesan, Capitano reflects on this and declares that he had worse. Arlicchino is wandering around with a bunch of items which he tests for edibility, does not notice Beatrice, trips and falls on top of her, spilling everything. Beatrice screams because she is surprised, Arlicchino screams because Beatrice is supposed to be dead. Decides that he resurrected her with one of these items, as one of them is probably magic! Can't decide which one, and grabs all of them and runs out screaming that he is a great and powerful doctor and magician who can resurrect people.

*Arlicchino exits*

Capitano helps Beatrice up and reasons that all Beatrice needs is to get a doctor's attestation that she's alive, and she's back in business! Beatrice thinks this is excellent advice, Capitano tries to flirt with Beatrice, but can't even afford a dead courtesan's services.

*Capitano and Beatrice exit*

## ***Scene 6***

***Dottore, Virginio, Spinetta, Capitano, Arlicchino***

***Dottore and Virginio enter***

***Spinetta enters and remains in the background***

Dottore is very upset because there are rumors of a new great and learned doctor in town, and Dottore is concerned that it may be one of his old colleagues from the University. They may have different recollections about Dottore's successful academic career. Virginio tries to console him and gives all kinds of advice, which inevitably turns into moping about his doomed marriage.

***Beatrice and Capitano enter***

Dottore is floored to see the dead woman walking. Beatrice tries to explain, but Dottore is too amazed to understand. Capitano tries to explain but gets completely distracted by Spinetta, and flirts with her.

***Arlicchino enters***

Arlicchino announces that he is the new and powerful doctor, and he and Dottore circle each other warily. A completely ridiculous verbal match ensues. Arlicchino emphasizes his points by brandishing random "magic" junk he dragged from Beatrice's house. Dottore is defeated. In shame he decides to leave Venice and go practice elsewhere. Drags Spinetta and Virginio to leave, Capitano attempts to follow Spinetta. Virginio resists and stays behind. Arlicchino decides stays to continue Dottore practice.

***Dottore and Spinetta exit***

## ***Scene 7***

***Isabella, Virginio, Pantalone, Franceschina, Arlicchino, Brighella, Beatrice, Capitano***

***Isabella enter***

Isabella shows up, grabs Virginio, won't let him leave, and begs him to stay. Both decide to defy Dottore and elope. They'll stay in Venice, most likely in Beatrice's house since she is dead and wouldn't need it anymore (don't you see, Virginio – she died so we could live! Together!)...both leave.

***Isabella and Virginio exit***

***Pantalone, Brighella, and Franceschina enter***

Pantalone and Franceschina are still arguing about the wedding bills, Pantalone wants to see Dottore to find out if there was supposed to be their children's wedding, and did he

forget about it? It is unlikely he would forget something that expensive. Capitano tells them that they've eloped. Franceschina redirects Pantalone's attention from Isabella's and Virginio's elopement to Arlicchino. Pantalone is very surprised to find Arlicchino instead of Dottore. Pantalone demands to see Dottore. Arlicchino starts explaining to Pantalone that he resurrected dead Beatrice, then he notices Franceschina, tries to flirt with her, and completely ignores Pantalone.

Franceschina teases Arlicchino for a bit, but then ignores him and talks to Beatrice. Franceschina tells Beatrice that the source of the rumor is Brighella.

### ***Ruffiana enters***

Ruffiana confirms that Brighella is the one who started the rumor. Capitano threatens Brighella, he confesses, Pantalone is enraged that Brighella did not actually murder Beatrice, and wants his money back. Capitano attempts to arrest Pantalone for conspiracy to murder, Pantalone orders Brighella to kill Capitano. Brighella demands the usual rate. Capitano and Brighella start a cowardly fight full of ridiculous claims and martial boasts. Ruffiana encourages whatever violence may happen.

Capitano is distracted by Franceschnia, and Brighella manages to get the upper hand, chasing him off stage. Pantalone follows, still demanding his money back from Brighella. Ruffiana follows Pantalone, demanding payment for the rest of his bills from Beatrice, and offering herself instead of dead Beatrice (she has years more of experience, anyway).

### ***Capitano, Brighella, Pantalone, Ruffiana exit***

### ***Dottore enters***

Dottore is terrified at the scene just outside his house – there are all of these respectable people shouting, running about and trying to kill each other – have the whole town gone mad?

At this, Arlicchino pompously declares that everybody can kill whomever they want, as he will just resurrect them anyway. Dottore then realizes Arlicchino is just a charlatan and chases him off stage. Arlicchino distracts Dottore by throwing junk in his face, grabs Franceschina and runs out.

### ***Arlicchino and Franceschina exit***

### ***Dottore exits***

Beatrice, left alone, laments her fate and the facts she can't convince anybody that she's alive, declares that if you can't beat them, join them, and zombie shuffles off stage.

*Spinetta enters*

Spinetta has a broom and starts sweeping away the junk. Meets Beatrice, Beatrice tries to scare her away with a zombie roar, Spinetta just looks at her, hands her the broom and walks out.

*Spinetta exits*

***THE END.***