

Arlecchino of La Mancha, or

Three Fiancés of Isabella and the Death of Pantalone

By Luceta di Cosimo of *I Genesisii* for *I Firenzi* ☺

Dramatis Personae

Pantalone, a wealthy merchant

Isabella, *Pantalone*'s daughter, in love with *Orazio*

Benedetta, her nurse

Dottore, a learned man

Arlecchino, his servant, in love with *Benedetta*

Donna Livia, a noble widow in love with *Dottore*

Orazio, a young noble, in love with *Isabella*

Capitano, an impoverished condottiere with a tragic backstory

Pasquella, his “servant”

Properties

A letter

A pot and basins to use as armor

A fish

City Street

Capitano and *Pasquella* enter

Capitano was a successful condottiere who made a lot of money fighting in the Netherlands, and then retired to Spain. Inspired by the success of the Dutch he decided to get into wind farming in Spain, and was pretty good at it, before some freak attacked his windmills and destroyed them. He was unstoppable and wore odd armor, adorned with a (arbitrary color) feather. *Capitano* is completely broke, after the battle he only had enough money to hire *Pasquella* was happened to be nearby. Now *Capitano* is looking for venture capital to rebuild. He heard that *Livia* is a wealthy widow, and it trying to get some money out of her. He has some “magic items” he was able to get from the windmill fighting lunatic, which are artifacts of great magic power, and make the wearer invincible. Otherwise, such great warrior as *Capitano* would defeat him easily. *Capitano* muses then why wouldn't *Capitano* use these items himself? *Pasquella* reminds him that was so traumatized by his experiences, he can't even fight anymore, so this is right out. *Pasquella* suggests he just throw them out, in fact, she will gladly throw them out for him, but *Capitano* refuses as he believes them to be very valuable. He is very sad, and says that these magic items are all he has left, now that he can't even fight anymore. Who had ever heard of a mercenary refusing to fight?

Orazio enters

Capitano tries to ask *Orazio* for directions to *Donna Livia's* house

Orazio passionately declares his love to *Capitano*, *Capitano* takes it in stride (it is not surprising - who wouldn't be in love with *Capitano*?) *Orazio* explains that he is madly in love with *Isabella*, and just couldn't help himself. We find out that *Isabella's* father is holding out for a good match for this daughter. *Orazio* is not a good match because he is not rich enough. *Capitano* suggests that *Orazio* go and declare his love to *Isabella* anyway – what does he have to lose?

Orazio and *Capitano* exit opposite

House of *Pantalone*

Isabella, *Benedetta*, and *Pantalone* enter

Pantalone talks to *Isabella*, he wants her to get married to someone with standing, money and prestige.

Isabella wants to get married to someone young and interesting.

Pantalone wants *Isabella* to get married to his old friend *Dottore*, who is rich, respectable, and vetted. He can't trust his daughter to someone he doesn't know, what if he is an axe murderer? At this point *Isabella* would prefer to marry an axe murderer rather than *Dottore*, because at least it wouldn't be boring.

Isabella exits

Benedetta accuses *Pantalone* of essentially selling his daughter into matrimony, and tells him he is a horrible father. *Pantalone* yells at *Benedetta* and tells her to prepare the wedding.

Benedetta exits

Dottore enters

Dottore wants to know if *Pantalone* gave *Isabella* the news yet. *Pantalone* says he did, and it was horrible. Now his daughter hates him, and she says *Dottore* is boring and old. *Dottore* says old doesn't matter, because he has this little blue potion that will take care of everything. In fact it will work so well, next time *Pantalone* sees *Dottore*, he wouldn't even recognize him.

Dottore and *Pantalone* exit

Donna Livia's House

Donna Livia enters

Donna Livia is in love with *Dottore*, but *Dottore* is marrying the daughter of his friend *Pantalone*, and *Donna Livia* is very upset.

Capitano and *Pasquella* enter, *Capitano* is carrying some items, *Pasquella* offers to carry them for him, but he refuses.

Capitano explains his situation to *Donna Livia*. *Donna Livia* does not want to give *Capitano* any money, but says she knows all the wealthy people in town, and out of all of them, *Pantalone* is the richest, and has a young marriageable daughter. *Donna Livia* will send a letter to *Pantalone*, who is her old (very, very old) friend, to expect a suitor for his daughter. Perhaps *Capitano* can marry *Isabella*, or at least sell his “magic items” to *Pantalone*. *Capitano* is very happy and promises *Donna Livia* a percentage from the rebuilt windmills’ profit.

Livia pens a letter and gives it to *Pasquella* to deliver.

Pasquella exits attempting to take the “magic items” as well as the letter. *Capitano*, insists on carrying his own things.

Capitano and *Livia* exit

Pantalone's house

Isabella and *Benedetta* enter

Isabella bemoans her fate, and does not want to be married to the old boring *Dottore*.

Arlecchino enters

Arlecchino announces he is here regarding *Isabella's* wedding to his master *Dottore*, which makes *Isabella* even more upset.

All *Arlecchino* really wants to do is to talk to *Benedetta*, *Arlecchino* is madly in love with *Benedetta*. It does not go well. *Arlecchino* promises to do great things if only *Benedetta* would return his love.

Arlecchino exits

Pasquella enters (her entrance interferes with *Arlecchino's* exit, in the end, both *Arlecchino* and *Pasquella* get kicked out, and *Benedetta* has the letter)

Benedetta and *Isabella* read the letter. They are very impressed with the man described. *Isabella* wants to know more, unfortunately, *Pasquella* got kicked out, and can't give them any more information.

Orazio enters

Orazio declares his love for *Isabella* and asks for her hand in marriage. *Isabella* decides that *Orazio* is the man the letter was about and accepts.

Pantalone enters and demands to know what is going on.

When *Pantalone* comes in, *Benedetta* introduces *Orazio* as *Isabella*'s future husband, and shows him the letter. *Pantalone* assumes *Orazio* is *Dottore* who took his potion, (you were right *Dottore*, I didn't recognize you!) compliments him on his youthful looks, is very impressed, gives his blessing for the wedding. In fact, he is so impressed he hints to *Orazio* that he would like some for himself. Which is awkward, as *Orazio* thinks *Pantalone* is hitting on him.

Isabella and *Orazio* exit

Capitano and *Donna Livia* enter

Pantalone likes *Donna Livia*, and is concerned that *Capitano* is a rival. But *Capitano* wants to marry *Isabella*. *Donna Livia* wants *Capitano* to marry *Isabella*, and *Pantalone* thinks that if *Isabella* is finally married off, he can marry *Donna Livia*. *Donna Livia* does not like *Pantalone*, she likes *Dottore*. To change the subject, she says great things about *Dottore*, trying to indicate that she is not interested in *Pantalone*. Plus, if *Capitano* marries *Isabella*, *Dottore* can't marry *Isabella*, and will remain available. Unfortunately, *Capitano* is never mentioned by name in this exchange, as *Livia* and *Capitano* assume the introduction letter was delivered, and *Pantalone* knows who he is talking to.

Pantalone, hearing *Livia* give *Dottore* so many compliments, now thinks that *Capitano* is *Dottore* after he took his potion, and realizes that the previous groom *Orazio* is an impostor, and calls back *Isabella* and her groom.

Isabella and *Orazio* enter

Pantalone calls the wedding of *Isabella* and *Orazio* off, throws away his prior blessing, and wants *Isabella* to marry *Capitano*, saying he would be a much better match than *Orazio*.

Orazio swears his eternal love to *Isabella*, promises to contact her as soon as possible, accuses *Capitano* of double crossing him – *Capitano* advised *Orazio* to woo *Isabella*, yet here he is, getting married to her. Vows revenge and leaves.

Isabella is less enthusiastic about marrying *Capitano* than *Orazio*. *Pantalone* says his decision is final.

Dottore enters, says he is ready to get married. *Pantalone* realizes that he screwed up again, and flies into a rage. Cancels the wedding of *Capitano* to *Isabella*, *Capitano* is very sad, *Isabella* is very pissed, and refuses to marry *Dottore*.

Donna Livia tries to talk to *Dottore* but he is ignoring her because he is fighting with *Pantalone*.

Pantalone is mad at *Dottore* because his potion was a dud, and *Dottore* is still old and boring. *Dottore* is mad at *Pantalone* because he can't control his own daughter. At the end, everybody is mad at *Pantalone*: *Dottore* because his marriage fell through and he took the potion for nothing; *Isabella* because he broke up her wedding to *Orazio*, the man of her dreams, *Donna Livia* because *Pantalone* can't take no for an answer; *Capitano* because he broke up his wedding to *Isabella*.

Isabella and *Livia* exit opposite

Pantalone exits following *Isabella*

Pasquella enters as the general mayhem ensues, and sneaking across the stage, *Pasquella* tries to get the "magic items" from *Capitano* as he is distracted.

As the commotion dies down, *Capitano* notices *Pasquella* with his things, and thanks her for keeping an eye on them, and takes them away from her. *Dottore* and *Capitano* bond over being rejected as *Isabella*'s suitors. In addition to their love of *Isabella*, they are both complete chivalric romances geeks, and when *Capitano* produces his "magic items", *Dottore* is super impressed and invites *Capitano* to stay at his house. (I see them like two grown-up fanboys who got their hands on Superman's cape and Darth Vader's lightsaber) Both are completely ignoring *Pasquella* who is trying to interject something about the items. *Pasquella* gets frustrated.

Pasquella exits.

Dottore and *Capitano* exit together, recalling the best scenes from *The Adventures of Galahad #32* (or something like that)

Pantalone enters

Pantalone laments that everybody is mad at him

Arlecchino enters

Pantalone tries to shoo him away saying that *Isabella*'s wedding to *Dottore* is off. *Arlecchino* says he is here to woo *Benedetta*.

Pantalone is wondering if *Arlecchino* is mad at him too. *Arlecchino* tells *Pantalone* that he is just fine with *Pantalone*, and *Pantalone* shouldn't try to please everybody – the only way people will say nice things about you is when you're dead. *Pantalone* is very inspired by *Arlecchino*'s words.

Benedetta and *Isabella* enter (they are still mad at *Pantalone*)

Pantalone quickly exits

Isabella is very sad about losing *Orazio*. The only thing she has from her doomed love is the letter – and she doesn't even know how to contact him, or who was the weird servant to delivered the introduction letter.

Benedetta sees *Arlecchino*, and tries to ask him about *Pasquella*. *Arlecchino* says he has no idea who she is, but she is the servant and she and her master are staying at *Dottore*'s house. *Isabella* thinks *Orazio* is brilliant to be staying at his rival's house – nobody will suspect that!

Isabella decides she will write her lover a letter, requesting a meeting. *Arlecchino* will deliver it to *Pasquella*, and she will give it to her master.

All exit

Dottore's house

Arlecchino enters with the letter

Pasquella enters with the "magic items"

Arlecchino wants to know what *Pasquella* is doing. *Pasquella* tells him that she is cleaning and is just throwing out some of old junk. *Arlecchino* is very touched that *Pasquella* is helping him clean.

Dottore enters

Pasquella sees *Dottore* tries to run away with some junk. *Dottore* casually intercepts *Pasquella* and takes it back. *Pasquella* runs away.

Pasquella exits

Dottore is explaining to *Arlecchino* how careful he has to be as they are priceless relics of famous knights errant and items of great power. *Arlecchino* is awed.

Pantalone enters

Pantalone demands that *Dottore* writes a very heartfelt obituary, such that everyone who reads it, will believe that the *Pantalone* is dead and will have to say good things about him and weep! *Dottore* is confused, but complies.

Pantalone and *Dottore* exit to write the obituary.

Capitano enters

Capitano sees *Arlecchino* with “magic items” and a letter, and takes the letter from him. *Capitano* reads the letter, and assumes it’s for him from *Isabella*. *Capitano* is very excited, and leaves to meet *Isabella*. He leaves to prepare for the date and leaves the letter behind.

Capitano exits

Donna Livia enters

She has a market basket and she is here to cook *Dottore* a romantic (and healthy) dinner. It may be a bit straightforward, but the way to a man’s heart lies through his stomach.

Dottore enters

Dottore sees *Livia* and complains that this was the weirdest request and talks about *Pantalone*’s obituary. While *Livia* is trying to make small talk, *Dottore* reads the letter assumes he has an assignation with *Isabella* and leaves to prepare for the date. He leaves the letter behind. *Livia* is mad with jealousy.

Dottore exits

Orazio enters

He is here to kill his rival. *Livia* explains that he actually has two rivals, and they both went on a date with *Isabella*. Shows him the letter. *Orazio* reads is and goes mad with jealousy. So *Livia* is crying about *Dottore*, *Orazio* about *Isabella*, and *Arlecchino* joins in crying about *Benedetta*, who wouldn’t even give him a chance. *Orazio* decides he will challenge both *Dottore* and *Capitano* and die gloriously for his love, which will totally ensure that *Isabella* will love him forever, if posthumously.

Arlecchino says that he himself will go fight *Capitano* and *Dottore* for *Benedetta*’s love and die even more gloriously than *Orazio*.

Pasquella enters

Pasquella is trying to pick up the pile “magic items” left by *Dottore*.

Arlecchino takes it from her (despite *Pasquella*'s protests) and outfits himself for battle, claiming these are not pots and pans, but are actually priceless artifacts from *Dottore*'s collection. (Magic helmet of Mambrino, etc.) *Livia* thinks it's hilarious and plays along. At the end, she gifts *Arlecchino* with a "magic swordfish", which will defeat any enemy. At the end, all of the magic items are on *Arlecchino*, *Pasquella* runs out empty handed.

Pasquella exits

Arlecchino exits to kill *Capitano*.

Orazio is very upset, as he lost his chance to die gloriously for *Isabella*. *Livia* tells him that he should go and see *Isabella* right now, and not worry about *Pantalone* as he is dead. In fact, he should just go and get married to *Isabella* right now, and *Livia* will take care of everything.

Orazio and *Livia* exit

Pantalone and *Benedetta* exit

City street

Dottore and *Capitano* enter opposite

Dottore meets *Capitano* and an awkward scene ensues as both assume that each other wrote *Isabella*'s letter, just as they assure each other that they don't like like each other *that* way, they just have a lot in common...

Arlecchino enters

Arlecchino attacks *Dottore* and *Capitano*

Capitano sees *Arlecchino* and cries it's just like that time with that lunatic and the windmills, and tries to defend himself, very ineffectually.

Dottore is terrified that the famous *Capitano* is getting his ass kicked, runs away, screaming about invincible magic warriors and the magic helmets.

***Pantalone*'s house** (this is the big "marriage scene" where everybody pairs up. I did not indicate the exits, but as the pair is formed, they can drop out of action (unless indicated otherwise), and can stand back or exit, up to you)

***Pantalone*'s house**

Isabella, and *Benedetta* enter

Orazio and *Livia* walk in runs in from one side

Pantalone sneaks in from the other side and hides.

Livia tells the girls that *Pantalone* dead. They are shocked, but then see *Pantalone*, and pretend they didn't notice and realize they can use it to their advantage.

Isabella loudly lament the fact that her father is dead - says that they are so sad they fought when he was alive, from now on, she will do whatever their father would have wanted.

Livia says that her father wanted her to get married.

Isabella instantly agrees, “because she feels that’s what her father would have wanted”, praising her late father’s wisdom and generosity, decides to marry *Orazio*.

Pantalone stops hiding and protests that’s not what he would have wanted if he were still alive.

Livia and *Isabella* then come up with other things *Pantalone* would have wanted, despite *Pantalone*’s protests.

Isabella will appoint a dowry for *Benedetta* so she too can marry.

Dottore and *Capitano* enter, with *Arlecchino* in pursuit.

Arlecchino continues to beat them up for the love of *Benedetta*. *Capitano* and *Dottore* plead with *Benedetta* to make *Arlecchino* stop, which she does. Now that she has a dowry she can get married, and *Arlecchino* is not a bad choice since he does everything she tells him, and removes the “magic items”.

Dottore is shocked to see that the mighty warrior was *Arlecchino* and berates him for using great magic items for trivial things.

Dottore is still very sad because he never found the writer of his love letter.

Livia declares that she wrote the love letter, as it seems to be the best way to get *Dottore*.

Pantalone pleads *Dottore* to tell everyone that he, *Pantalone* is still alive, and the obituary was a hoax.

Dottore confirms that.

Isabella says that she knows, and she wanted to play a prank on her unreasonable father.

Pantalone forgives everybody, and lets the decisions made “posthumously”, or as *Dottore* would say, “post-humorously”, stand.

Pantalone exits

Orazio exits with *Isabella*

Benedetta exits with *Arlecchino*

Donna Livia exits with *Dottore*

Pasquella enters

Pasquella sees the pile of junk, declares that she can finally claim all of her belongings, puts it all on, notices the fish, announces it the “magic sword fish of ...” which she needed to complete her kit, and is off to finish fighting the windmills/giants in Spain, because now that she has the magic sword, they have no chance.

Capitano realizes his “servant” is the invincible warrior who defeated him in Spain, and begs to be taught how to use the magic items. *Pasquella* uses the fish to induct *Capitano* into the Most Glorious Order of the Belligerent Halibut.

Pasquella and *Capitano* exit.

END.