

“YOU’D BETTER GET BACK, CAL OR YOU WILL LOSE YOUR GAL”

A Melodrama

by
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“You’d Better Get Back, Cal...” can be very simply staged--just suggestions of settings. The hero, heroine, and the villain each have music announcing their entrance. The audience cheers, “ahhh’s” or “boo’s” accordingly. The play is about 25-30 minutes in length.

CHARACTERS:

Narrator	Jed, town’s person
Cal, hero	Horace, Elmer’s dimwitted sidekick
Matilda, heroine	Mrs. Peterson, Matilda’s ma
Jake, Matilda’s little brother	Betty, friend
Elmer, the villain	Prue, friend
Parson	Lucy, friend - non-speaking role

SETTING: In the old west.

Narrator: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. In a moment we will begin our melodrama entitled “You’d Better Get Back, Cal or You Will Lose Your Gal.” The setting for this play takes place in the rather small, but generally peaceful western town of Duncan Pass. In the town of Duncan Pass is a small church containing no real significance except that it is sitting on a gold mine which is owned by the lovely Matilda Peterson. Miss Matilda, however, could lose the mine if she fails to get married by the age of eighteen. She is planning on marrying the ever handsome Cal--that is, providing no one messes up her plans. Ladies and gentlemen, we present “You’d Better Get Back, Cal or You Will Lose Your Gal.”

SCENE I

Matilda and Cal are talking on the porch in the evening.

Cal: Now don’t fret darlin’. I’ll be back afore our weddin’ day.

Matilda: But why cain’t we get married afore you leave?

Cal: I told ya Matildy. I cain’t marry you until I have money of my own. I’ll not have folks whispern’ that you was married fer your money. I’ll make enough money on this cattle drive to settle down on.

Matilda: I know. I jest was a wishin’ we could marry now. I cain’t wait to be Mrs. Calvin Cornberry. Doesn’t that sound beautiful? (Sighs)

Cal: It shore does. Now you jest take care of yerself. I’ll be back afore you know it. Good-bye, my love.

Matilda: Good-bye sweet pea. (Cal exits. Matilda looks after him; then hears a noise, and turns, sees Jake) Jake, you rascal. How long was you listenin’ to us?

Jake: Long enough--Mrs. Cornberry.

Matilda: Why you...

(Elmer has entered.)

Elmer: Good evenin’ Miss Matilda.

Matilda: Oh no, not you Elmer.

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Elmer: Of course, it is I.

Matilda: Well, you kin jest leave. I don’t wish to speak to you anymore. I’ll not sell you the gold mine--and that’s final. Good-night. (Turns to leave. Elmer steps in her way.)

Elmer: Not so fast my pretty. Who said anything about the mine. (Aside) Not yet anyway.

Matilda: What else would you be a doin’ here?

Elmer: My fair lady, you do wound me with them harsh words. However, I shall overlook the pain and agony they cause me.

Matilda: What ever fer?

Elmer: Cal is not the only man ta notice your beauty. I too, think you are most lovely. Please allow me the honor of courtin’ you.

Matilda: (Laughing) You aire silly Elmer. I’m gonna marry Cal. Everyone knows that.

Elmer: I’m shore if you’ll jest git ta know me you’ll find out I’m the better man.

Matilda: Nobody’s better’n Cal.

Elmer: Now don’t be too sure about that. He don’t appear ta be dependable.

Matilda: What do you mean?

Elmer: Why leavin’ you this close to yer weddin’ day. How do you know he’ll be back in time? Then, not only will there be no weddin’, but there won’t be a church neither. T’would be a pity. (Aside) Fer them.

Matilda: ’Course Cal will be back. Ya jest be a tryin’ to scare me.

Elmer: Of course not my lovely. Now I’d like an answer. May I court you?

Matilda: I told ya--I’m goin’ to marry Cal!

Elmer: Ya’ll never marry Cal--I give you my word of honor. (Turns to leave, then turns back) That gold mine shall be all mine. (Exits. Matilda stands with hands to mouth. Lights out.)

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---