

Here Come the Brides - or - Skunked in Skagway

by
Craig Sodaro

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Soapy Smith, a real outlaw of the old West, has stolen the deed to Captain Billy's Skagway Saloon and is holding it for ransom. The price? Marriage to Miss Molly May, the daughter of Billy's late partner. The beautiful Miss Molly, in love with the local hero Titus Trueheart, refuses until the unlikely day Soapy can clean up the town.

In order to turn Skagway into a respectable town, Soapy asks his Seattle "associate" Venus Von Trapp to haul up a shipment of brides. Soapy promises the local prospectors they'll each have a beautiful flower plucked from the gardens of Seattle. But when the brides turn out to be pickpockets and thieves, Soapy demands Molly teach them how to be ladies. To make sure she doesn't refuse, Soapy has Captain Billy kidnapped.

Soapy has also hired two preachers to perform the weddings, and tricks them into thinking he's married Molly when he actually "marries" his Skagway girlfriend, Mattie Silk. This means Soapy can eliminate Molly. His henchpersons lure Molly to the Luckless Mine, then blow up the entrance so she's trapped forever.

On the night of the weddings, however, Soapy is horrified to find the ghost of his "dead" wife returning to haunt him. In a slapstick conclusion, we find out what happened to Billy, Molly, and her hero, Titus. And one thing is certain, Soapy is all washed up in Skagway!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(11 men, 12 women, 3 either)

SOAPY SMITH: villainous con man

CAPTAIN BILLY: an old prospector and owner of the saloon

MATTIE SILK: Soapy's sometimes partner

WINKIN: Soapy's henchperson

BLINKIN: another

NOD: another

JUDGE: one of Soapy's cohorts

CHARLIE: another

FRANK: a prospector

MOLLY MAY: the heroine, in love with Titus

GRANNY: Molly's grandmother

TITUS TRUEHEART: the hero

SHERIFF

TOBY: a prospector

JAKE: another

BOBBY: another

FREDDY: another

VENUS VON TRAPP: Soapy's associate from Seattle

LILI: a bride

DAISY: another

PETUNIA: another

ROSE: another

CHRIS: another

MARIGOLD: another

ELVA HOLYFIELD: a minister

EDNA HOLYFIELD: her sister, another minister

SETTING: The Skagway Saloon and the Luckless Mine in Alaska.

TIME: Early spring, 1898.

SETTING

The Skagway Saloon's bar is up right with a few root beer or sarsaparilla bottles standing atop it. Behind is a shelf filled with other bottles. Signs read "Drink Skagway Sarsaparilla, Alaska's favorite kick" and so on. A fireplace stands up center with a moose head (or other trophy) hanging above it, surveying the scene with a dismal look. Small mismatched tables and stools dot the stage. Entrance right leads to outside so a swinging door can be used or this can be a wing entrance. Wing entrance left leads to back rooms of the saloon. In all, the Skagway Saloon looks makeshift, with only a few touches of civilization.

Several scenes take place at the entrance to the Luckless Mine. These are played before the curtain and require no additional setting.

THE SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: The Skagway Saloon, evening in early spring, 1898.

Scene 2: The same, a week later.

Scene 3: The road to the Luckless Mine, an hour later.

Scene 4: The Skagway Saloon, the following morning.

ACT II

Scene 1: The road near the Luckless Mine, later that day.

Scene 2: The Skagway Saloon, later that night.

Scene 3: Entrance to the Luckless Mine, a short time later.

Scene 4: The Skagway Saloon, that night.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The saloon. SOAPY stands center, a small table in front of him. BILLY stands next to him, looking terrified. Surrounding the two stand Soapy's henchpersons, WINKIN, BLINKIN, and NOD. Their arms are folded menacingly. JUDGE stands behind the bar, with CHARLIE leaning over having a drink. MATTIE sits left, doing some needlepoint.)

SOAPY: Well, Captain Billy, my good friend?

BILLY: Don't know what kind of man would call you a friend,
Soapy Smith!

SOAPY: Now, come, come. I'm surrounded by friends!
Ain't that right, boys?

ALL except MATTIE: Sure is, Soapy.

BILLY: One of 'em's just as bad as the other! But surely, a
fine lady like you, Miss Silk ...

SOAPY: *(Laughing.)* Fine lady?

MATTIE: *(Rising.)* What's so funny, Soapy?

SOAPY: The Queen of Larceny? The Duchess of Fraud?
The Belle of Burglary?! A fine lady?

MATTIE: You forgot one, Soapy!

SOAPY: What's that?

MATTIE: The Princess of Punch!

(MATTIE karate chops SOAPY. He falls to floor. OTHERS laugh.)

BILLY: Please, Miss Silk ... don't let Soapy take my saloon!

MATTIE: You know something, Captain Billy? I like you!
You're a funny old coot. You had a nice place here, so I'm
gonna give you something.

BILLY: What's that?

MATTIE: Piece of advice: get out of town quick!

SOAPY: After all, I do hold the deed.

BILLY: But you stole it! You got into my footlocker 'n swiped
it like a pirate!

WINKIN: Who's a pirate?

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BLINKIN: It was all done legal-like.

NOD: Weren't it, Judge?

BILLY: Oh, go on! What would you three sleepyheads know about it, Winkin, Blinkin, and Nod?

JUDGE: I'm the law 'n it says possession's nine-tenths of the law. So be it!

CHARLIE: Your honor!

SOAPY: Of course you can buy back the Skagway Saloon for a very fair price.

BILLY: And where am I to get a thousand dollars from?

MATTIE: Go dig for it!

CHARLIE: Gold lying everywhere, Captain Billy!

JUDGE: Chunks big as your fist right outside the door!

(FRANK races in, left.)

FRANK: I'm rich! I struck it rich!

WINKIN: See what we mean?

BLINKIN: Your claim paid off?

FRANK: And how!

NOD: How much you get?

FRANK: Five thousand dollars, Nod!

MATTIE: *(Coyly.)* Well, say there, Mr. Rockefeller.

FRANK: Oh, my name's not Rockefeller.

MATTIE: It is now!

SOAPY: How'd you like to double your money?

BILLY: Don't do it, son!

(WINKIN knocks BILLY out. Billy falls to the floor.)

FRANK: Double it!

BLINKIN: For five thousand you'll end up with eight thousand!

MATTIE: Don't listen to him, Mr. Rockefeller.

JUDGE: Listen to Soapy! He handles all our investments.

FRANK: Your investments?

CHARLIE: Sure! How'd you think we ended up the way we did?

End of Freeview

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