

**A 10 Minute One Act Mini-Melodrama**

# **FAST TRAIN TO CAPISTRANO**

**Also Known As  
Villainous Loco-Motives  
Or Give Me A Brake**

**By  
Gary McCarver**

**HeroAndVillain.com**

**The New Home for the Great American Melodrama**

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# THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

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**DARREN DEEDS** – Darren is the manager of the Wild West Show. He is in love with Kate since the day they met, but she won't take the plunge.

**MONTANA ANA** – Montana is an apprentice sharpshooter and talented knife thrower. She is smitten with Darren, but he hardly notices her.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – An employee of Cantankerous Kate's Wild West show. *(Heidi is the cast member that occasionally holds up Cue-Card Signs)*

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – Sharpshooter in a Wild West show that is on its way back to San Juan Capistrano before heading off on a world tour.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Darren's business partner who not so secretly wants to take over the Wild West Show if given the chance.

## SONG LIST

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### **THE PLACE THAT IS RIGHT FOR ME**

Lyrics by Edward Corliss & Gary McCarver

Music by Edward Corliss

### **CURTAIN CALL – There's A Place That I Know**

Words by Gene Buck and Gary McCarver

Music by Dave Stamper

# FAST TRAIN TO CAPISTRANO

## (10-Minute One Act Mini-Melodrama)

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**The Place:** On the train heading to San Juan Capistrano  
**The Year:** 1913

*(Make your set look like a baggage car on an old train with boxes, crates, circus props, and other interesting items. There are benches or chairs where DARREN DEEDS and HEIDI CLAIRE are seated. MONTANA ANA is pacing back and forth as the play begins.)*

### CUE-CARD – On the Train to San Juan Capistrano in 1913

**MONTANA ANA** – Why do you always insist on riding in the baggage car? You know that the train has a dining car, a first-class car and a ‘sleeper’ car.

**DARREN DEEDS** – An old habit I suppose. When Cantankerous Kate and I started the Wild West Show ... travelling in the baggage car was all we could afford. Kate is in the dining car now grabbing us all something to eat. *(BEAT)* I remember one-time years ago when Kate and I were ...

**MONTANA ANA** – *(INTERRUPTING)* Enough talk of the past ... we are on our way to a new future. Heading back for a couple of days to regroup in Orange County then take a brand new train clear across country to – New – York - City - to board a ship for Paris France. Just imagine ... me ... “Montana Ana” ... the toast of France.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – I just can’t believe it ... We are all going to France.

**DARREN DEEDS** – That’s right. We will be performing right next to that Eiffel Tower on the same site of that once had that 1889 World's Fair.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – I hear the Eiffel tower is over 80 stories high. It’s the tallest structure in France.

**DARREN DEEDS** – Actually ... tallest ... in the whole world.

**MONTANA ANA** – All I know is that in France ... they still appreciate Wild West Shows.

**DARREN DEEDS** – I hear it's getting pretty wild over there even without our show. There's even talk of war.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – Oh My!

**MONTANA ANA** – Pay no mind to that talk ... We are going to Paris.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – Ever since I was a little girl ... I always feel safe on trains ... just not sure about taking a boat across the Atlantic. An ocean is a mighty large and unforgiving thing.

**DARREN DEEDS** – It's not a boat ... it's called a ship. And there's never been a safer ship built ... we will be traveling in style. Look here.

*(MONTANA ANA and HEIDI CLAIRE look at the tickets DARREN DEEDS hands to them.)*

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – What a pretty name for a ship. Loo- see-tain-ia.

**DARREN DEEDS** – First things first. Our Train arrives soon in San Juan Capistrano. Then to Los Angeles. Later we catch another train to New York City to board our ship.

**MONTANA ANA** – Why are you so fixed on returning to that town?

**DARREN DEEDS** – Well ... when I first arrived in San Juan ... there wasn't really much to the town other than a run-down Mission and The Fiesta Association.

CUE-CARD – **Shameless Plug** *(everyone reads along)*

*(SEYMOUR PAINE ENTERS)*

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Personally I've never really cared for San Juan Capistrano that much.

**DARREN DEEDS** – So ... sorry to hear that.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Having traveled the world ... there are so many better places to visit. I can't understand why on earth you'd want to go back that that one-horse town. It defies logic.

**(MUSIC STARTS)**

**DARREN DEEDS** – I suppose it's hard to tell you why ... but maybe it is just not easy to put into words. Soooo ... I will have to tell you in a song.

## **SONG – The Place That Is Right For Me**

Lyrics and Music by EDWARD CORLISS and GARY McCARVER  
*(Sung by DARREN DEEDS and then joined in by whole cast)*

Thinking of Paris France. City of sweet romance.  
Where a heart may Wander.  
Whether in Yucatan, Africa, or Japan.  
England, Spain or yonder.  
Every land competes as I walk down their streets.  
Ev'ry place I wander.  
But I must declare that there's a place that outshines the rest!  
Yes! There's a place that is never second Best.  
Yes! There is one that put others to the test.  
One that I long to see.  
One far across the sea.  
Far above the rest.

## **CHORUS**

Yes, I love the town of old San Juan ... it is the place to be.  
And we sing of people living there of liberty.  
As I think of swallows flying  
high between the mountains and the sea.  
It's the town that I will all my home,  
that's the place that is right for me.

**(REPEAT CHORUS)**

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – That song has made me think ...

**MONTANA ANA** – Oh? Really? Think about what?

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – ... Think ... that I should take the first train out of town once we get there. Well at least San Juan is better than Hemet.

CUE-CARD SIGN – **Hemet?** (*everyone reads along*)

**DARREN DEEDS** – I've asked Kate to marry me six times already and maybe she'll say 'yes' this time and then my friend Judge Egan in San Juan Capistrano can do the honors. They say seven time's the charm.

**MONTANA ANA** – They never say that ... and if she really loved you, she would have married you the first 6 times you asked her.

**DARREN DEEDS** – She's got her reasons. I suppose.

**MONTANA ANA** – Do you hear yourself taking her side? You've got everything you need right here. You know how I feel about you.

(*MONTANA takes DARREN's hand in hers and DARREN looks at her then let's go of her hand and takes a step back from MONTANA*)

**DARREN DEEDS** – Sorry Montana. Kate is the only woman I want.

**MONTANA ANA** – I think she has made it pretty clear that she doesn't want you.

**DARREN DEEDS** – One day she will. I better go see what is taking Kate so long in the dining car. Maybe they had to send out to (NAME OF LOCAL RESTAURANT) for food?

CUE-CARD – **Shameless Plug** (*everyone reads along*)

(*DARREN DEEDS EXITS*)

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – If I don't miss my guess – you'd prefer that man ...

**MONTANA ANA** – (*INTERRUPTING*) His name is "Darren Deeds".

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Montana, as I was saying ... I think you'd prefer that 'Darren' ... be in love with you instead of Kate. I think you are just hoping for something that is never going to happen.

**MONTANA ANA** – I prefer to look at it as a “big dream”.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – But one that you are not working towards.

**MONTANA ANA** – Are you working towards all of your dreams? Well, are you? But, how could you know ... you are just like all the other men.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – I am afraid you are mistaken my dear. I AM different than other men ... and by different ... I mean better. And ... as I have told you on multiple occasions ... if you don't do something drastic ... that “Darren” might just marry Cantankerous Kate ... and where would that leave you.

**MONTANA ANA** – Mark my words ... I put a plan in motion that will take Kate out of the picture.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – We will just have to see.

*(SEYMOUR PAINE EXITS)*

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – Montana ... what have you gone and done?

**MONTANA ANA** – I forged a love letter in Darren's handwritin' saying that he was gonna' ask me to marry him instead of Kate. And then all accidental-like slipped it into Kate's pocket.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – When a woman steals the love of your life ... I believe there is no better revenge ... than to let her keep him.

**MONTANA ANA** – I believe there is no better revenge ... than revenge.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – You can't mean that.

**MONTANA ANA** – And when Kate is out of the picture ... Seymour promised to make me the new star of his Wild West Show.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – So ... you'd prefer to work for the *Seymour Paine Wild West Show*? What kind of a name is that?

**MONTANA ANA** – A “*Pain*”-full one.

**HEIDI CLAIRE & MONTANNA ANA –** *(Laugh)*

*(CANTANKEROUS KATE ENTERs rushing in with DARREN DEEDS following her into the train car. KATE is seemingly agitated and angry.)*

**DARREN DEEDS –** You can't possibly believe that I would write that?

*(CANTANKEROUS KATE looks carefully at the note she is waving around and then figures out it was not written by DARREN.)*

**CANTANKEROUS KATE –** The signature looks just like yours ... but ... the rest is too legible to be your handwritin'.

*(MONTANA ANA EXITS the train car in a huff)*

**DARREN DEEDS –** If you're riding ahead of the herd you might want to take a look back every now and then ... just to make sure it's still back there. Kate ... you know I'm always there for you Kate.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE –** I reckon I got the wrong pig by the tail when I thought you were hankerin' for someone else. Sometimes what I think ain't worth a hill of beans. You forgive me?

**DARREN DEEDS –** What matters is you know you're the only gal for me.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE –** I'll never doubt again.

**DARREN DEEDS –** So ... since we will soon be back in old San Juan Capistrano ... you want my friend Judge Egan to make it official?.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE –** Anyone ever tell you that you're handsome as a red heifer ...

**DARREN DEEDS –** Only you Kate. Only you.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE –** Sorry I plumb pitched a fit in the dining car.

**DARREN DEEDS –** Water under the bridge. I have a little something I picked up for you.



**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – I don't deserve anythin' after thinking' what I was thinkin'. But heck ... what did you bring me?

*(KATE extends an outstretched open hand to DARREN)*

**DARREN DEEDS** – *(Getting down on one knee)* A ring.

*(EVERYONE looks on as KATE deliberates.)*

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – Like they always say. *(beat)*  
I recon' seventh time's the charm.

**DARREN DEEDS** – You do know ... they never say that.

*(DARREN puts a bigger than life diamond ring on KATE's hand)*

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – But they should.

**CUE-CARD** – **Oh My!**

**DARREN DEEDS** – Like the tree said to the lumberjack - I'm stumped. I still can't figure out who wrote that note and signed my name on it.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – For such a smart man ... you really don't know much about women.

*(MONTANA ANA ENTERS again bursting into the train car.)*

**MONTANA ANA** – Enough is enough!

*(MONTANA ANA pulls out a gun and points it at the cast.)*

**DARREN DEEDS** – I guess that answers my question on who wrote the note.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – Montana Ana ... I never figured you for one to go off the deep end.

**MONTANA ANA** – Everyone step away from emergency brake.

**DARREN DEEDS** – Why?

**MONTANA ANA** – More questions. What is it with you and questions? Fine then. I cut all the emergency brakes and this one is the only one left that will stop the train.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – Oh ... I see where this is going.

**MONTANA ANA** – I don't think that you do.

**DARREN DEEDS** – That's the oldest trick in the book. Disconnect all the emergency brakes and set the train to crash head on wherever it might be heading.

**MONTANA ANA** – Good try ... but not even close.

**DARREN DEEDS** – What do you mean?

**MONTANA ANA** – Again with all the questions ... fine. Another train is following right behind us.

**DARREN DEEDS** – And so?

**MONTANA ANA** – Since this is the last working Emergency Brake ... I simply pull the brake and make an escape seconds before the train following us cuts through this train ... like a knife through warm butter.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – I have to say that when you scheme ... you do scheme one hundred and crazy percent.

**MONTANA ANA** – Enough talk. Kate ... time for you to say adios.

*(SEYMOUR PAINE bursts in with his gun drawn.)*

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Put down the gun Montana ... it won't do you any good anyway.

**MONTANA ANA** – Obviously you have no bullets in your gun. Or you would be shooting at me right now.

*(A PAUSE AS THEY STARE DOWN EACH OTHER)*

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Unless I only have one bullet left and I want to make sure you are close enough that there is no conceivable way that I could miss. But ... if you're not shooting then I have to figure that you are the one out of bullets.

**MONTANA ANA** – Or ... I'm pretending to have no bullets left when I only have one left, and I want to make sure that "I" cannot possibly miss.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Ahhh ... and so the student becomes the master.

**MONTANA ANA** – Or the student has always been the master and just wanted to make sure that the master thinks the master was the master when he was actually the student.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – No wonder we don't like each other Montana ... you are mighty confusing.

**MONTANA ANA** – Agreed ... my head hurts too. Neither of us have any bullets, do we then?

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Unlikely.

**MONTANA ANA** – I might not have bullets. But ... I always keep a throwing knife in my pocket for luck.

*(MONTANA ANA pulls out a knife and points the knife at DARREN)*

**MONTANA ANA** – If I can't have you ... then no one can. But perhaps a better target might be Kate 'cause it will hurt you more.

*(MONTANA ANA points the knife at KATE and then SEYMOUR pushes in-between KATE and MONTANA, and she accidentally stabs him.)*

**CUE-CARD** – **Oh My!**

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – (to **SEYMOUR**) Why did you do that for me?

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Same reason I sent that anonymous bail money you needed back in Abilene. I knew your father and he made me promise.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – Promise? What promise?

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – I knew your father well. We were the best of friends and your father's last words to me before he died were ... *"Don't let anything bad happen to Kate"*. And a promise is a promise.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – You picked a strange time to start keeping promises ... you scoundrel you.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Seems like the story of my life.

**DARREN DEEDS** – You saved my life and Kate's too. I figured you wrong all these years.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – I always had a soft spot in my heart for you Kate. *(WINCING IN PAIN)* Now it just is a little softer I suppose.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – That is definitely going to leave a mark.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Not really ... I removed the bullets from her gun That's why she could not shoot me, and when she wasn't looking earlier I swapped out her throwing knife for the is fake one she was using. See nothing more than a toy.

*(SEYMOUR demonstrates the phony blade going in and out.)*

**DARREN DEEDS** – So you were play acting the entire time?

**MONTANA ANA** – Seymour. No hard feelings?

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Let's just pull this emergency brake and see what happens.

*(SEYMOUR PULLS AN MERGENCY CORD)*

**MONTANA, DARREN, & HEIDI** – Oh no! What are you doing?!

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – Besides not knowing that her gun was unloaded and that I had switched her throwing knife with the knife the rodeo clowns use ... I also switched the train schedule Montana was looking at. There was never a train rushing behind us.

**MONTANA ANA** – No train behind us?

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – See for yourself ... the train has stopped, and we are still here aren't we? And look. We've arrived in San Juan.

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – That's a relief.

**DARREN DEEDS** – Heidi ... go tell the engineer to repair the emergency brakes that Montana disconnected.

*(CANTANKEROUS KATE holds DARREN DEEDS hand and looks at her engagement ring ... showing it to HEIDI.)*

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – That's a mighty purty engagement ring there miss Kate.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – Oh ... come over here Montana.

**MONTANA ANA** – So sorry I tried to kill you and all.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – Just don't let it happen again.

*(With her fingers crossed behind her back MONTANA answers)*

**MONTANA ANA** – You've got my word on that Kate.

**CANTANKEROUS KATE** – I suppose there's just one last thing to do ...

**HEIDI CLAIRE** – What's that?

**DARREN DEEDS** – Sing a song ... of course.

**SEYMOUR PAINE** – I was afraid you were going to say that.

***(MUSIC STARTS)***

## **SONG – There’s A Place That I Know**

Words by Gene Buck and Gary McCarver

Music by Dave Stamper

### **CHORUS** (Everyone sings)

There’s a place that I know ...  
where the sweet waters flow.  
Where the sky is so clear and blue.  
It’s a place far from care  
and I want to go there ...  
and I bet you’ll want to go there too!  
Where the people you meet  
as you walk down the street  
are like family and know your name.  
Pack your bags ... come away.  
I know you’ll want to stay.  
Where the swallows will greet you  
and folks are glad to meet you.  
It’s the town that we call ... San Juan!

***(REPEAT CHORUS one last time)***

**CUE-CARD – Applause**

(Everyone takes their Bows and waves goodbye and then EXITS)

# **END OF PLAY**

# **CUE-CARD SIGNS**

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**On the Train to  
San Juan Capistrano in 1913**

**Shameless Plug**

**Hemet?**

**Oh My!**

**Applause**

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