

TROUBLE BUBBLES AT THE HOT SPRINGS

**Also Known As
Professor Mack Comes Back!**

**By
Gary McCarver**

**A Full-Length Melodrama
Including Music & Staging Resources**

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TROUBLE BUBBLES AT THE HOT SPRINGS

(For Use in Advertisements & Playbills)

Welcome to the ultimate audience participation old west style melodrama. A story that takes you back to the haunted happenings of old San Juan Capistrano's Hot Springs Hotel in 1898.

Learn the answers to these and other questions ...

Did the ghost stories being told in town lure the spiritualist CELIA FATE to town or did she start those stories in the first place? How can our hapless young heroine JENNA ROSSITY ever hope to keep her mortgage to the Hot Springs Hotel from being foreclosed?

Can the plucky reporter AVERY BRAVEMAN actually uncover the truth in time to save the day and win his true love? What turn of events could possibly bring both the Actress CARMEN GEDITT and the on the run outlaw DEE ZASTER to the Hot Springs?

And is the return of that scoundrel PROFESSOR MACK merely a coincidence or does he have yet another nefarious scheme planned for the kind folks of San Juan Capistrano? Discover ... the mayhem, mystery and mischief ... the schemers, scalawags and scoundrels of old San Juan Capistrano. All just a small part of the trouble that is bubbling down at the Hot Springs Hotel.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Warren Peace – The Town Sheriff. A hard-drinking and story-telling ex-army officer now the town sheriff.

Dustin Debree – The Mysterious Guest. The somewhat listless father and husband with a melodramatic backstory.

Gloria Debree – The Mysterious Guest's Wife. What is she doing at the Hot Springs may just surprise you or maybe not.

Denise Debree – The Mysterious Guest's Daughter. The enigmatic young daughter with a sad secret of her own.

Barnaby Wilde – The Hot Springs Hotel's Manager. The hen-pecked caretaker of the Hot Springs Hotel.

Bea Wilde – Barnaby's Hot-Tempered Wife. The unseen and vociferous wife of the Hot Spring Hotel's Manager.

Avery Braveman – The Newspaper Reporter. The skeptical newspaperman smitten with the Hot Springs hotel's owner.

Celia Fate – The odd but insightful psychic that has come to the Hot Springs Hotel after reading about odd events going on.

Jenna Rossity – The Hotel's Owner & Our Heroine. The pretty and perky owner of the Hot Springs Hotel.

Carmen Geditt – The Actress & Our Heroine's Friend. The fashionable and irrepressible international actress.

Professor Thaddeus Snavelly Mack – The Fortune Hunter & Our Villain. The former flim-flam man once again returning to San Juan Capistrano in his ruthless obsession with gold.

Dee Zaster – The famous "On-the-Run" Outlaw with a fast horse and even faster six-gun.

Barry Sweet – A Hotel Guest & Candy maker from back east who has traveled to the Hot Springs just to meet the Carmen.

MORE CAST MEMBERS

Trudy Lite – Our resident Piano Player brings our melodramatic antics to life by tinkling out the tunes you'd expect from an authentic old west style melodrama.

Paige Turner – Our Cue-Card Maven helps us by popping in from time to time holding up Cue-Cards to remind our audience to “Hiss!”, “Boo!”, “Aaah” or say “That’s Just So Sad”.

OPTIONAL SOUND EFFECTS

Dan Druff – Our optional sound effects wizard & town barber. If it clanks, creaks, crashes or kerplunks ... you can be sure that Dan was behind that melodramatic sound.

FIRST CAST

Dirty Deeds at the Depot was first performed in San Juan Capistrano between March 3rd through 25th in 2006.

Lacie Camisole – The Heroine	Jennifer Hartline
Helen Highwater – The School Marm	Lynn Gallagher
Dusty – The Rancher’s Son	Darrell Graeler
Claire Voyant – The Gypsy	Michelle Harrigan
Justin Tyme – The Station Master	Corey Eib
Professor Thaddeus Mack – The Villain	Gary McCarver
Duncan Disorderly – Villain’s Sidekick	Bruce Alexander
Jerry Mander – The Judge	Howard Serbin
Natalie Drest – The Piano Player	Linda Eldridge
Cy Kosis – Sound Effects Wizard	Mark Parker
PAIGE TURNER – Cue-Card Maven	Jordan Smiley
Hugh Durnit – The Sheriff	Tom Scott
Phyllis McAvity – The Town Dentist	Various Actors
The Young Girl – A Regular Extra	Rose McCarver
The Frontier Lawman – Wyatt Earp	Various Actors
The Lawman’s Wife – Josie Earp	Janet Austin

SONG LIST

OVERTURE

Music originally written in 1910 by S. R. Henry

SLEEPYBYE BAY

(a 1910 style lullaby) Music by Harry Von Tilzer
Lyrics by Andrew B. Sterling and Gary McCarver

SHINE ON! CAPISTRANO SUN

Music by Harold Freeman
Words by Harry Donovan and Gary McCarver

SAN JUAN MOON (JUST KEEP ON SHINING)

Music by Phil Goldberg and Frank Magine
Lyrics by Gary McCarver

BEAUTIFUL MUSIC (SINGING MY DREAMS)

Music by Victor Herbert
Words by Gene Buck and Gary McCarver

TROUBLE BUBBLES

Words and Music by
William Wilander, Harry Donnelly and Gary McCarver

BARNABY'S SONG

Music by S. R. Henry
Words by Gary McCarver

GOLD

Words and Music by Sheldon Brooks
Lyrics by Gary McCarver

JENNA

Music by Lou Traveller
Lyrics by Gary McCarver

FINALE – SAN JUAN MOON KEEP ON SHINING CHORUS

A repeat of the chorus of this song as your curtain call song
(for the entire cast to sing)

PROLOGUE

The Place: Just Outside of the Hot Springs Hotel
The Time: Early in the Evening - the year is 1898

(Overture music)

(PAIGE TURNER enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO HOT SPRINGS
HOTEL 1898

(The Town Sheriff gives a short prologue on the history of the Hot Springs Hotel and sets the scene.)

LIGHTS FADE UP TO HALF only on the sheriff or a **SPOT**

THE SHERIFF – San Juan Capistrano has always been a town of traditions ... of folklore ... of course the swallows ... plus an ample supply of heroes and villains. *(Putting on a strategically placed sheriff's hat and a vest that has a sheriff's badge on the pocket)* Capistrano is one of the oldest towns in California so naturally it would be one of the most haunted with more than our share of ghost stories out here in the hills that surround the Hot Springs. But where are my manners? I didn't even introduce myself. My name is Warren Peace ... Town Sheriff.

(On the hotel's counter we see a guest register, an inkwell with feather pen and an antique-style guest bell. There are slots behind the counter for messages and several room keys hung on hooks below the slots.)

THE SHERIFF – As you can see ... the hotel here at the Hot Springs is not exactly palatial but people come here anyway ... at least until recently ... but you'll find out more about that in a bit. But I don't 'recon you're here just to listen to an old lawman's ramblings.

(THE SHERIFF firmly rings the fancy antique brass desk bell at the front desk TWICE then turns to the audience as he starts to walk off stage)

THE SHERIFF – The Hotel Manager’s name is Barnaby Wilde and now that I’ve let him know that you’re here ... he should be out shortly ... Welcome to 1898 at the Hot Springs Hotel ... Enjoy your stay.

(DUSTIN DEBREE – with 2 bags comes around the corner into the hotel as the sheriff EXITS and almost runs into him.)

DUSTIN DEBREE – Excuse me ... *(Seeing the Badge)* I mean ... sorry Sheriff.

THE SHERIFF – No harm done ... son. *(The Sheriff EXITS.)*

(A Light goes on and breaks through the cracks in the swinging door behind the front desk. A woman’s and a man’s muffled voices are heard off stage. The sound of footsteps is heard ... as if someone is slowly walking and then pausing a moment to continue with almost a hesitating step.)

BARNABY WILD (OFF STAGE) – Be right there!

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Who is that out there at this ungodly hour?

BARNABY WILD (OFF STAGE) – Probably just that sheriff of ours checking up on us.

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Just go and see who that is.

(BARNABY steps through the swinging door and steps up behind the check in counter looking at the misplaced whiskey bottle as DUSTIN steps up.)

BARNABY WILD – Hey! ... You’re NOT the sheriff.

DUSTIN DEBREE – No actually I ... *(am just)*

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – *(Interrupting)* What did you say?

(Barnaby opens the door and then yells back stage to his wife)

BARNABY WILD – I said you’re not the sheriff

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – WHO’S not the sheriff?

DUSTIN DEBREE – I guess I’m not ...

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – WHO?

BARNABY WILD – (Sternly) Well then WHO are you?

DUSTIN DEBREE – My name is Dustin ... Dustin Debree I think I just met the sheriff leaving as I arrived.

BARNABY WILD – Well ... whoever you are ... welcome to the Hot Springs Hotel. My name is Barnaby and I’m at your service. Not exactly fancy here, but the rooms are clean, the food is edible, and the coffee is ... well ... strong. (pause) ... Mighty late to be coming out here for the waters?

DUSTIN DEBREE – I’m not out here for the waters. I used to live around these parts and I decided it was time ...

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – WHAT did he say?

(Barnaby yells his reply backstage opening the swinging door)

BARNABY WILD – I’m just about to find that out ... now go back to sleep.

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – WHAT?

BARNABY WILD – I said ... (Pause) Just go to sleep!

THE WIFE – (poking her head through the swinging door) No need to get all worked up ... I can hear you just fine ...Tarnation ... I think I’ll just go back to sleep.

DUSTIN DEBREE – I was wondering if you had a room for the night?

(The BARNABY WILD fusses with a lantern and the lights come up just a little brighter around the front desk ... Quickly glancing around.)

BARNABY WILD – As many rooms as you want ... things have been pretty slow out here the last few months. (Clearing his throat) That'll be \$2 a night and I need you to make your mark right here in our register. (Sliding the guest register over to him) Room 12 is nice enough ... it's right at the top of the stairs ... has a good view of the creek and the dance hall. Board is included ... there's coffee in the morning at 8 and supper at 5 ... and use the hot springs as much as you like. The Key's here on the wall if you need it. By the way ... what is it that brings you WAY OUT HERE so late at night?

DUSTIN DEBREE – Nostalgia ... I suppose. Just a feeling

(Dustin Debree signs the register and then grabs 1 of 2 bags)

(A dark-haired woman with a long flowing white dress and a white shawl over her shoulders came in from the back of the audience walking towards Barnaby's counter.)

BARNABY WILD – Very Funny. (BARNABY turns his back to pull out a rag to clean the counter. DUSTIN walks upstairs towards his room leaving BARNABY alone at the front desk. BARNABY calling after him) Will someone be joining you?

BARNABY WILD – I said will there be a misses joining you?

GLORIA DEBREE – You ... can call me Gloria.

(Barnaby ignores the lady and continues to write a quick note in the guest register.)

(Gloria heads up the stairway.)

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Barnaby?
(Barnaby turns his head to his office door)

BARNABY WILD – What is it now?!?

BARNABY WILD – Just finishing up renting a room. (pause)
We can sure use the business!

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – ... At this hour?

BARNABY WILD – At any hour! In case you've forgotten... this is what I do. I stand at this counter and help guests.

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – What did you SAY?

BARNABY WILD – “NEVER MIND” ... I'm coming to bed.

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Good ... then hurry up!

BARNABY WILD – (ASIDE) I think I'll leave a light on ... Looks like the beginning of a busy night here at the Hot Springs.

(Barnaby EXITS)

(From the back of the audience a young girl goes on stage as Barnaby EXITS. She is holding an obviously over-loved teddy bear by one paw and asks a question to an audience member.)

THE DAUGHTER – (ASIDE) Have YOU seen my mommy?

(DUSTIN returns to the lobby from upstairs to retrieve his bag)

THE DAUGHTER – (excitedly) DADDY! I've been looking all over for you.

(She sits down in the easy chair poised next to the table in the sitting area stage right and bounces up and down in it.)

DUSTIN DEBREE – I was just thinking about you ... little one. But it is getting late and good little girls should be in bed ...

(DUSTIN turns to head upstairs; his daughter calls him back)

THE DAUGHTER – Daddy ... Sing me that song again!

DUSTIN DEBREE – (shaking no) It's just too late ... and ...

THE DAUGHTER – (interrupting) Just one song ... sing me the one about SleepyBye Bay. Sing it to me ... please ...

DUSTIN DEBREE – (interrupting her plea) I don't even know if I remember all the words ... it has been a while since ...

THE DAUGHTER – (interrupting) ... Please?

(DUSTIN sits in the other chair across from his daughter)

DUSTIN DEBREE – ... And I have a little tickle in my throat ...

THE DAUGHTER – (interrupting) ... PLEEEASE.

(The lights begin to slowly fade on the stage)

DUSTIN DEBREE – Fine then ... Just one song ... (chuckling)
I've could never tell you no. (Leaning forward to sing a lullaby)

SONG: SLEEPYBYE BAY

(Sung by THE DAUGHTER & DUSTIN DEBREE)

(a 1910 style lullaby) Music by Harry Von Tilzer

Lyrics by Andrew B. Sterling and Gary McCarver

(The Daughter sings first verse helping her father remember the words. He sings along. The daughter begins to nod off to sleep before the last line of the song of the second verse.)

All aboard for SleepyBye Bay
Won't be back 'til the break of day
Rest your head as you go off to sleep
Now close your eyes and don't make a peep
I'll tuck you into your trundle bed
Ships ahoy little sleepy head
Bless Mother, Bless Father and Sail Away
All Aboard for SleepyBye Bay.

THE DAUGHTER – (A big yawn) ... Good night Daddy ...

DUSTIN DEBREE – Good night my Little One ... Good night.

(SOUND EFFECT: babbling creek & chirping of crickets.)

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 1 SCENE 1

The Place: San Juan Capistrano Hot Springs Hotel
The Time: Early the Next Morning

(As the first faint light of the morning streams through the windows of the hotel and the lights come up on the stage you can see the light blue of the sky and hear the morning bird songs by the creek. DUSTIN DEBREE is asleep in the easy chair in the sitting room ... the little girl is gone.)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – THE NEXT MORNING

(SOUND EFFECT – A rooster - sound of morning birds)

DUSTIN DEBREE – (musing to himself and the audience) I must have slept here all night ... or at least what was left of the night. I'd best get up to the room.

(The FATHER gets up grabbing his bag and going up the stairs to his room. BARNABY WILD bursts through his office's swinging door carrying a pot of coffee and a tray of cakes.)

BARNABY WILD – Fresh coffee and my wife's special breakfast corn cakes! (Placing the coffee pot on the coffee counter and the tray next to it on the table) First come are first served! Best coffee in the U.S. of A.

BARNABY WILD – (Big Voice) Winchester, Colt Levi and Stetson all did their parts ... but Arbuckle's was the coffee that won the west.

BARRY SWEET – (Takes a sip of coffee) You know ... this IS good coffee. If you ever lose this hotel manager job ... you can always sell coffee. (laughing)

BARNABY WILD – Who'd spend more than 10 cents for a cup of coffee anyway? How would anyone ever get rich doing that? Today I like my coffee like my women ... "strong" and "sweet".

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Barnaby? ... What was that?
BARNABY?

BARNABY WILD – ... Or was that “cold” and “bitter”?

CELIA FATE – This is actually quite pleasant (taking a sip).

(Sound of horse hooves as **AVERY BRAVEMAN** ENTERS)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – APPLAUSE HOORAY

BARNABY WILD – Well ... Look who the cat dragged in ...

AVERY BRAVEMAN – ... Just in from looking at a small parcel of land down in San Diego. Real Estate is just so expensive you know ... can't hardly get an acre of land for under \$300.

BARNABY WILD – I hear you can get land for a tenth of that in a town only half a day's ride from here ... ever hear of a town called Hemet?

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card)

CUE-CARD – HEMET?

CELIA FATE – Mostly dessert and tumbleweeds ... I hear.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (Walking towards **BARNABY**) Barnaby ... as you know I am writing a series of articles for my newspaper ... the Santa Ana Standard ... and I'd like to ...

BARNABY WILD – (interrupting) Here we go again. (pause) She's not here.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – What are you insinuating? I was just ...

BARNABY WILD – (interrupting) I'm not 'insinuating' anything. I know you're looking for Jenna.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Well then ... not admitting that I was going to ask after her ... but since you bring it up ... when might she be expected?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (**ASIDE**) The love of my life ... if only I had the GUMPTION to tell her how I feel about her.

BARNABY WILD – You haven't missed her ... If that's your question. Anyway ... you'll know when she arrives ... everybody knows when Jenna arrives.

(AVERY BRAVEMAN goes to get a cup of coffee as CELIA FATE makes small talk with AVERY at the coffee cart)

(**SOUND EFFECT:** horse hooves & a "whinny")

(JENNA ENTERS singing & cleaning with a feather duster)
(As JENNA walks by the desk she rings the bell)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a cue.)
CUE-CARD – APPLAUSE HOORAY

SONG: CAPISTRANO SUN

(Verse sung by JENNA. JENNA & BARNABY sing chorus)

Music by Harold Freeman

Words by Harry Donovan and Gary McCarver

VERSE

Welcome to our humble little hotel.
We're so glad you're with us here today.
We know that you've traveled far to get here
So, we hope that you'll enjoy your stay.
Here in lovely San Juan Capistrano
Way out west where all of life's a song
It's the place we love the very best ... so
It's where you and I belong.

CHORUS

Oh ... Shine on Capistrano sun up in the sky.
The mission and the Hot Springs are so fun
Swallows fill the skies.

Make us your home away from home ...
Where ever you may roam.
Soak, swim, dance, and play here ...
You'll want-ta stay here. Shine on Capistrano Sun.

(**REPEAT CHORUS**)

JENNA ROSSITY – Good morning everyone!

EVERYONE – Good morning Jenna.

JENNA ROSSITY – I said good morning everyone. (including the audience)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card then walking across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – GOOD MORNING JENNA (Everyone in unison)

JENNA ROSSITY – That’s much better. (Walking over to the hotel counter and looking at the guest register and then conversing with BARNABY) When the railroad tracks were extended ... I had dreams that it would bring much needed visitors here to our hotel.

BARNABY WILD – It hasn’t done us a lick of good if you ask me. Most of our hotel is empty.

JENNA ROSSITY – No wonder ... with all those ghost stories being told around town.

CELIA FATE – I couldn’t help but overhearing ... “ghost stories”? Those stories are why I am here in this beautiful little hamlet of San Juan Capistrano.

BARNABY WILD – (to AVERY) Her name is Celia Fate ... a “spiritualist” that came to town after reading those ghost stories that are being printed in your newspaper.

JENNA ROSSITY – More than stories I’m afraid. (JENNA retrieves a box from behind the counter.)

CELIA FATE – (Changing her voice into one more mysterious) On dark nights when the moon is all but obscured by wisps of passing clouds and the wind rises through the trees ... ghosts walk the hills of San Juan.

(**SOUND EFFECT:** A bell tree is heard as a ghost sound)

BARNABY WILD – There she goes again ...

(AVERY walks over and Barnaby is looking for a lost item)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (interrupting) Nothing but foolishness, folk lore and idle speculation if you ask me!

CELIA FATE – Disagree if you will ... but there is a truth behind every story that lives in a town's folklore. I assure you there is more going on here than meets the eye.

BARNABY WILD – No one can tell when ghosts are around any more than a person can predict the future. (Barnaby looks for a piece of paper)

BARNABY WILD –... Where in the Sam Hill is that?

CELIA FATE – Barnaby ... I suspect this is what you needed?

BARNABY WILD – Why ... yes ... Hrummph.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I don't believe in all this mumbo jumbo. As a reporter for the Santa Ana Standard Newspaper ... I deal only with facts.

CELIA FATE – Facts from a newspaper? What is it that Will Rogers said ... oh yes ... only believe half of what you see and NONE of what you read in the newspapers?

(JENNA comes back on stage carrying a small box)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – All these "ghost" stories are nothing more than balderdash and I intend to expose them as such.

JENNA ROSSITY – (walking over to AVERY) Oh my ... if you only could. Avery ... our hotel is almost empty. Any more of these ghost stories and we won't be able to pay the mortgage.

JENNA ROSSITY – (ASIDE) In fact, we are already two months behind and the bank is threatening to foreclose! ... what shall we do? ... what shall we do?

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – AHHHHH

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (ASIDE) (glancing at Jenna) Isn't she the most wonderful thing you've ever seen? If only I could tell him what's in my heart.

JENNA ROSSITY – (ASIDE) (Glancing at Avery) Isn't he the most wonderful thing you've ever seen? If only I could tell him what's in my heart.

(PAIGE TURNER EXITS carrying the same cue-card)
CUE-CARD – AHHHHH

(SOUND EFFECT: A horse whinny s music starts)

JENNA & AVERY & BARNABY – Who could that be?

CARMEN GEDITT (OFF STAGE) – Oh ... just put those bags anywhere.

JENNA ROSSITY – If I don't miss my guess, it is the international actress ... Carmen Geditt!

(CARMEN GEDITT bursts onto the stage with a fuss, flourish and a song! Everyone in town recognizes this songstress because of her hit song "San Juan Moon keep on Shining".)

SONG: SAN JUAN MOON KEEP ON SHINING

Music by Phil Goldberg and Frank Magine

Lyrics by Gary McCarver

VERSE

Now ... at thee end of thee day ...
Drive ... all your troubles a-way ...
Here ... in San Juan we shall Stay ...
Where all thee Fun People Play.

CHORUS

San Juan Moon just keep on shining
When I'm away ... my heart is pining.
Here's thee place I wan-ta be
Where friends and neighbors are care free (can't you see?)
'Till my return ... my heart was aching ...
Trembling and Anticipating ... Your song it fills my heart,
but soon ... I'll see you shine ... my San Juan Moon!

(REPEAT CHORUS)

(cast and extras rush over asking for her autograph)

CARMEN GEDITT – (Over the top) Hello darlings! Yes ... it is I ... Carmen Geditt ... returning after my travels ... (hesitation and a lie) to spend more ... time here in beautiful San Juan Capistrano ... enjoying your marvelous healing waters.

BARRY SWEET – May I have your autograph Miss Geditt?

(CARMEN quickly signs the autographs)

CARMEN GEDITT – I just love the hills of San Juan. “A peaceful retreat, far from the turmoils of the world” ... they so remind me of Shakespeare's forest of Arden in "As You Like It." You know the play?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Well actually I can't say that I've actually ...

CARMEN GEDITT – Rosalind ... the comedy's lead ... if I must remind you ... is a role that I have played many times ... in the finest of theatres. At the McCauley Theater in Louisville ... my appearance in “A Doll's House” was enthralling to patrons ... breaking records! After years on the big-time stage I decided it was fine time to return to “quaint little San Juan Capistrano”.

CELIA FATE – (ASIDE) Human psychology is funny ... everyone wants to be normal ... but nobody wants to be average.

CARMEN GEDITT – It is only through theatre that we shield ourselves from the sordid perils of actual existence.

(Jenna approaches Carmen)

JENNA ROSSITY – A good friend is hard to find ... hard to lose and almost impossible to forget”. (pause) Hello ... Carmen.

CARMEN GEDITT – It is precisely the moment that we are at our lowest ebb that the tide begins to turn. I received your letter

and couldn't help but think you could use a friend by your side.
Hello ... Jenna.

JENNA ROSSITY – A true friend never gets in your way ...
unless of course you are haplessly going in the wrong
direction. I am so glad to see you.

(Jenna and Carmen embrace then Laugh out loud)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Jenna? ... You know Carmen Geditt?

JENNA ROSSITY – Of course Avery. We are old friends.
Carmen ... let me introduce my ... my ... good friend ... Avery
Braveman.

CARMEN GEDITT – Charmed ... I'm sure. Do tell? Darling ...
are you two ...?

JENNA ROSSITY – No ... not really ... He is just ...

CARMEN GEDITT – Jenna ... (Whispering) We'll talk about
him later.

(Carmen walks over to the coffee cart and unfolds a newspaper
with the headlines "GHOSTS IN SAN JUAN")

CARMEN GEDITT – These spirit stories are simply delicious.
(Holding up the newspaper) This news should bring guests to
your hotel by the droves!

JENNA ROSSITY – I wish more people felt that way.

CARMEN GEDITT – They're not? ... Well ... don't give up
hope darling. Everything will change once word gets out.

(CARMEN moves to the sitting room and pours a cup of coffee
for a conversation with her friend JENNA who joins her)

JENNA ROSSITY – Actually ... that's what I'm afraid of ...

CARMEN GEDITT – ... According to what I have read ... there
have been other odd occurrences out here as of late.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I can assure you Miss Geditt ... no truth to a single word in any of those articles.

CARMEN GEDITT – How can you say that ... they are in the newspaper, so they must be true. (holding an old newspaper) for example ... the story of the old mansion and fire on the hill.

JENNA ROSSITY – What a tragedy. That's Just So Sad.

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – THAT'S JUST SO SAD

JENNA ROSSITY – Avery ... I know you don't like repeating those stories ... but you DO report them so well ... could you please? Just for Carmen? ...

AVERY BRAVEMAN – If I must ... (pulling out his reporter's note pad and leafing through it) Only because you asked me Jenna. Ahaah ... here we go. The story is told of a woman that many now call "The Lady in White".

(**SOUND EFFECT:** A bell tree or row of mini chimes)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (pause looking around) ... People that have reported seeing her say that she is always searching ... for something or someone. One minute she is there and then ... poof ... gone.

CELIA FATE – "Poof"? Is that the "scientific" term?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (Taking a sip of his coffee Hrummph! At least that is what people report about her.

CARMEN GEDITT – Do tell? Mister Newspaper man ... tell me more. So ... who or what is she searching for?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Let's see ... I have it written down here ... somewhere.

(**AVERY** flips back the pages of a reporter's notebook)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – ... Here it is ... she lost a child in a fire not very far from here ... the old Bedford house got hit by

lightning.

CELIA FATE – I read that grief got the best of her. She died not long after the fire. They say of a broken heart.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I was just getting to that part ...

JENNA ROSSITY – That's just so sad!

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – THAT'S JUST SO SAD

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Actually according to the sheriff ... she died of strychnine poisoning ... everyone said it was an accident ... strychnine looks pretty much the same as sugar.

CARMEN GEDITT – Jenna would you like more coffee?

JENNA ROSSITY – (Pause) Thank you ... But If you don't mind ... I think I'll take my coffee black.

(After a brief pause all laugh nervously.)

(**CARMEN** pours her a fresh black cup of coffee)

BARNABY WILD – (Behind his counter patiently listening during Avery's story) So ... did her husband do her in?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – No evidence that he was anything more than a victim of events himself. He moved his family to San Juan looking for a better life and all he got was a tragedy.

CARMEN GEDITT – What ever happened to the husband?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I tried to track him down. He left town not long after she died.

CELIA FATE – (Walking over using an eerie voice) When a life ends tragically often stories of mysterious events follow.

BARNABY WILD – Pay her no mind Miss Geditt ... she's just a spiritualist pestering me to hold a séance here at the Hot Springs Hotel. Here's a key to your usual room ... top of the stairs and down the hall, nice and private.

(CARMEN takes the key from BARNABY)

JENNA ROSSITY – My goodness? Barnaby did you say séance? Don't we have enough trouble with inviting more with a séance?

BARNABY WILD – (to Jenna) Don't fret. Of course, I told her no.

(CELIA walks to the sitting room - CARMEN EXITS upstairs)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (Closing notebook.) Best I can figure out ... these ghost stories are all superstitious speculation designed to keep people away from visiting the hot springs.

JENNA ROSSITY/ BARNABY WILD (IN UNISON) – but why?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – That ... is the real question we need answered.

(BARRY SWEET comes downstairs with a story)

BARRY SWEET – Has someone been up to clean my room?

BARNABY WILD – Why do you ask?

BARRY SWEET – The door was ajar with drawers out of place.

(Everyone stops what they are doing to listen to the odd news)

JENNA ROSSITY – Was anything missing?

BARRY SWEET – No ... quite to the contrary ... I was actually left with an item that I wanted to talk to you about ...

(The guest BARRY SWEET holds up a hangman's noose then places it on Barnaby's counter for all to see)

BARNABY WILD – You found this in your room?

BARRY SWEET – Yep.

BARNABY WILD – Didn't bring it with you?

BARRY SWEET – And why would I bring ...

JENNA ROSSITY – (quickly) Aaaaaa Barnaby was wondering where he lost that ...

BARNABY WILD – I was?

JENNA ROSSITY – Yes you were ... remember you were telling me ...

BARNABY WILD – Oh ... sure ... of course ... I was. Must of forgot that in your room when I (pause) brought in fresh towels ... yes ...how careless of me.

BARRY SWEET – I guess that makes sense? (bewildered)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Nothing to be fearful of ... I'm sure a lot of people misplace their "hangman's noose" all the time.

(BARRY SWEET EXITS upstairs to his room)

CELIA FATE – (to Barnaby scornfully) If you can't be honest ... at least have the decency to be vague.

(CELIA FATE walks away and EXITS)

BARNABY WILD – She's really starting to get on my nerves.

(Barnaby throws the noose under the counter and EXITS through his swinging office door to get fresh coffee)

BARNABY WILD – I think I'd better freshen up the coffee. Looks like we're gonna need it tonight.

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – What's going on out there?

BARNABY WILD – Nothing Dear ... Nothing.

JENNA ROSSITY – Can we finally please change the subject?

EVERY BRAVEMAN – Jenna ... have these kinds of things been happening here frequently?

JENNA ROSSITY – You mean like strange bumps in the night and mournful wailing sounds out in the sycamore trees just past the Hot Springs?

(**SOUND EFFECT:** A bell tree or row of mini chimes is heard)

EVERY BRAVEMAN – Sure ... that would count.

JENNA ROSSITY – ... And odd items showing up in locked guest rooms?

(JENNA pulls out a box of knives and such from under the front desk counter and puts it on the floor in front of EVERY)

JENNA ROSSITY – Like these?
(JENNA holds up a few items like a big knife or a crowbar)

EVERY BRAVEMAN – I guess that answers my question.

JENNA ROSSITY – (beginning to cry) Avery ... what can we do ... what CAN we do? Tell me what does this all mean? I just can't take it anymore!

(JENNA rushes off exiting the stage sobbing)

EVERY BRAVEMAN – But Jenna (Calling after her) ... We'll get to the bottom of this mystery. I promise! (Striking a pose) If it's the last thing I do.

(EVERY then rushes after JENNA and EXITS)

EVERY BRAVEMAN (OFF STAGE) – Jenna? (EXITS)

BARNABY WILD – (Returning with coffee) So ... who'd like some fresh coffee? Where'd everyone go? I leave for one minute ... (ASIDE to the audience) ... What did I miss?

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 1 SCENE 2

The Place: San Juan Capistrano Hot Springs Hotel

The Time: Early Evening

(Harmonica playing in background with the sound of crickets quietly in the background maybe a quiet wind howling from the old sycamore trees up in the hills)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – NIGHT IS FALLING

(SOUND EFFECT: A large sound of metal pans crashing backstage & SPECIAL EFFECT: A few wisps of smoke come in from the hot springs)

(LIGHTS: Dim further on the outside of the hotel set)

PAIGE TURNER – Fine then ...

(**PAIGE TURNER** flips over the Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – NIGHT HAS FALLEN

JENNA ROSSITY – (musing) I just love the hills of San Juan Capistrano at night fall. I will so miss them when the bank ...

(**BARNABY ENTERS** from his office to put away the coffee pot and cups and surprises **JENNA**)

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh ... it's you Barnaby. You startled me.

BARNABY WILD – Difficulty Sleeping ... Miss Rossity? Odd to see you up at this hour. You're more of the early bird.

JENNA ROSSITY – I just couldn't sleep Barnaby.

BARNABY WILD – (showing it to Jenna) Saved this last batch of dried fruit from the old Bedford and Company Cannery Remember? They used to call it "San Juan's Best".

JENNA ROSSITY – Very kind of you (taking a taste then grimacing) But ... no need ... no thank you Barnaby.

BARNABY WILD – Don't know what you're missing! (Eating some of the dried fruit) Not as good as their fig marmalade. Too bad the Bedford Cannery closed up shop all of a-sudden ... even sold the old man's mansion up on the hill.

JENNA ROSSITY – I know the story. (Relenting and taking a small taste) The fruit is great. (Turning her back, making a grimace and tossing the fruit in the waste basket)

BARNABY WILD – Funny thing though the way that mansion burned down right after that new family moved in ... hit by lightning they say.

(**SOUND EFFECT:** Thunder in the distance)

JENNA ROSSITY – (nervously) Would you mind if we change the subject?

BARNABY WILD – I see your point ... certainly Miss Rossity.

JENNA ROSSITY – The Hot Springs Hotel ... is ... is in Jeopardy ... Barnaby! ... What ever shall we do? What ever shall we do?

BARNABY WILD – We have suffered several reversals as of late.

JENNA ROSSITY – Be honest ... we're just hanging onto the Hotel by a thread and a prayer. Last winter was so severe with all those rains and then these ghost stories started. Since then people just have not been coming to enjoy our hotel like they used to. (More sobbing)

BARNABY WILD – I just have to believe that a solution will come to us.

JENNA ROSSITY – Solutions are not the answer! (Pause). Remember when we used to have those big fandangos at the dance hall ... people came from miles around. There was music and fun ...

BARNABY WILD – Now ... not so much.

JENNA ROSSITY – No ... not so much. What ever will we do?
(sobbing)

BARNABY WILD – It will all work out. Hope is like a balloon ...
it can't soar as long as it is held by its string.

JENNA ROSSITY – (stopping her crying) Whatever does that
mean?

BARNABY WILD – Honestly ... I'm not quite sure myself.
(laugh) But it did distract you from all that infernal crying.

(Both begin to laugh)

(JENNA turns her head real fast as if she saw or heard
something. They notice that CARMEN and a guest BARRY
SWEET have entered.)

BARRY SWEET – At first, I hesitated ... unsure of what I
should do ... then I knew the course that I must take ... as a
designer of chocolates and candies ... I do with sweets what
you do with song and dance.

CARMEN GEDITT – (to him) Excuse me? Do I know you?

BARRY SWEET – My name is Barry Sweet and I have so
enjoyed your performances in the past that I created a sweet
confectionary named after you ... I call it a "Carmen Caramel"
in your honor. (Holding up a sample) After just one, you'll never
dream of sugarplums again.

CARMEN GEDITT – (Catching her interest) What is in it ...?

BARRY SWEET – It's a dessert that conjures up visions of
grandeur. A heavenly morsel produced with the finest of
ingredients. It sounds like magic ... it tastes like heaven. And
you were my inspiration for this marvelous morsel.

CARMEN GEDITT – What would your wife say if she knew you
were getting "sweet" with other women?

BARRY SWEET – Sadly ... I am a single man. Not having as yet found a woman of your charm ... your wit ... your grace ... your talent.

CARMEN GEDITT – Do continue.

BARRY SWEET – Please ... tell me what you think.

CARMEN GEDITT – (Taking a taste) This is wonderful (looking at his eyes) ... I mean this confection is simply wonderful!

BARRY SWEET – (To CARMEN) May I get you a cup of coffee?

(JENNA sobs and dries one more tear with a hand kerchief.)

CARMEN GEDITT – If you will excuse me?

BARRY SWEET – Of course. Perhaps I can call on you later?

CARMEN GEDITT – Perhaps ... I mean certainly.

(CARMIN approaches JENNA)

(Jenna clears her throat to interrupt the awkward moment)

JENNA ROSSITY – Ahem? ... Carmen ... It was dreadful thoughtful of you to come.

CARMEN GEDITT – Whatever is the problem my dear?

JENNA ROSSITY – (Jenna says this with a single breath as one sentence) We got an extension on the mortgage for two months, but the banker confided in me that he will be selling my mortgage to an investor with the intentions to foreclose if I can't bring the mortgage current by Monday and there is no way we can bring the mortgage current by Monday.

CARMEN GEDITT – And you were hoping? (Realizing what Jenna was about to ask of her) Oh ... I see. My dear Jenna ... there was a time when I could have bought this entire town without a second thought ... I was the toast of London ... The toast of Paris ... The toast of Berlin ...

(BARNABY ENTERS with coffee and a tray toast)

BARNABY WILD – (interrupting) Toast anyone?

(BARNABY straightens up the coffee cart and then returns to the Hotel main counter to polish it as he eavesdrops)

JENNA ROSSITY – Carmen ... what ever happened?

CARMEN GEDITT – I challenge anyone to live on the theatrical circuit ... it is a strenuous and demanding existence. Traveling by railroad, steamship, and even horse-drawn wagon eleven months out of the year. So out of necessity I trusted a business manager with my finances. A dreadful mistake ... dreadful mistake ... if only I could help you my dear ... truth be told ... now I can hardly help myself.

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh my ... I never realized.

CARMEN GEDITT – Well ... let me say that fame is a very fleeting thing.

JENNA ROSSITY – ...The houses? ...The estates? ...The wealth?

CARMEN GEDITT – All dreams of the past ... I am sorry to say.

JENNA ROSSITY – ...Oh my.

CARMEN GEDITT – When I received your letter I was on my way to yet another hole in the wall theatre. So, I returned here to San Juan ... a place where I am still remembered ... a place where I can still sing my dreams.

MUSIC STARTS

(Lights dim - a spot on CARMEN as she sings this song)

(CELIA FATE enters from Hot Springs for a coffee)
(CARMEN GEDITT sings this song)

SONG: BEAUTIFUL MUSIC (Singing My Dreams)
Music originally by Victor Herbert
Words by Gene Buck and Gary McCarver

VERSE

Beautiful music I sing the day long, I love it so, sing as I go.
Small Happy Children I leave with a song ... Soft and Low.
House lights go down as the spot light it shines
every new face, every new place.
When did it all go a'slipping away ... Dreams of Yesterday.

CHORUS

In every playhouse ... every theatre dreams come true
Every costume ... every new tune just for you.
In the Theatre's purple glow ...
when the shadows come and go,
I keep singing dreams in places that I love so.

JENNA ROSSITY – I never knew. That is just so sad.

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card)
CUE-CARD – THAT'S JUST SO SAD

JENNA ROSSITY – Why does she keep doing that?

CARMEN GEDITT – But ... the show must go on!

BARNABY WILD – (from his counter) Somehow ... I had this feeling that she was going to say that.

CARMEN GEDITT – In Life it is always better to act it as if you CAN NOT fail. "When facing Moby Dick" my dear ... "always take along tartar sauce and a slice of lemon".

JENNA ROSSITY – Yes (confused) (pause) ... of course.

(JENNA walks over next to CELIA FATE and gets a cup of coffee as BARRY SWEET walks over to CARMEN GEDITT)

BARRY SWEET – Miss Geditt. I have so enjoyed the opportunity to meet you (kisses her hand) ... until next we meet. (EXITS)

CARMEN GEDITT – Oh My!

(JENNA walks to CARMEN)

JENNA ROSSITY – What a nice man he is ... you'd never know that he is as rich as he is. Never knew there'd be so much money in selling chocolate bars?

CARMEN GEDITT – “RICH” you say? (She looks upstairs) My dear if you will excuse me for just a moment. I think I forgot something up in my room.

(CARMEN heads for the stairs leading up to the rooms.)

JENNA ROSSITY – Of course.

(DUSTIN for a moment lowers his newspaper to see what is going on. Then buries himself in the news of the day. DUSTIN can continue to read the newspaper.)

(CARMEN EXITS upstairs primping her hair and is almost run over by the PROFESSOR as he comes downstairs for messages carrying a small suitcase with his name and a Latin saying (See appendix) emblazoned on it as Barnaby is busy polishing and cleaning his counter with a white rag.)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

PROFESSOR MACK – Do I have any messages?

BARNABY WILD – What?

PROFESSOR MACK – I am enthralled by the finesse and subtlety you bring to your profession. (pause) Has ANYONE left me a MESSAGE for me regarding their arrival?

CELIA FATE – (ASIDE) I wonder what Professor Mack is doing here in San Juan? I have this feeling he's up to no good.

BARNABY WILD – (Looking in message slots) No messages, Professor.

PROFESSOR MACK – In that case ... my Mischievous Miscreant ... could I prevail upon you for a glass of cold water?

(Barnaby produces a bottle of water with two glasses)

(CARMEN GEDITT now return downstairs.)

CELIA FATE – So as I was saying earlier ... ghosts, are found throughout the old west but especially in San Juan and even more so around these hot springs.

PROFESSOR MACK – (agreeing) It pains me to have to agree with HER ... it's may not be safe out at the hot springs tonight.

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh ... my!

CELIA FATE – But Professor ... I didn't say anything about ...

PROFESSOR MACK – (interrupting) If there are indeed ghosts afoot ... I wouldn't trifle with them if I were you.

PROFESSOR MACK – (ASIDE) (Evil laughter to the audience) That silly spiritualist ... Celia Fate ... She is doing a wonderful job of promoting my scheme and she doesn't have a clue.

(**PAIGE TURNER** walks over holding a Cue-Card)
CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

SONG: TROUBLE BUBBLES (Here at the Hot Springs)

Words and Music by

William Wilander, Harry Donnelly and Gary McCarver

VERSE 1 (SUNG BY PROFESSOR MACK TO AUDIENCE)

I will let you in on my plan. And if I must say so it's grand
Trouble bubbles down at the hot springs. At least that's what I'll
Lead them to think. There's a treasure hid-den round here
So, these people must disappear.
One way or another ... I'll find it. You have got my word.

CHORUS (SUNG AFTER EACH VERSE BY JENNA)

Here in old San Juan
Life is oh so calm.
If you seek contentment
You will find it (Here at the Hot Springs)
Peace and joy abound ...
with that bubbling sound.
Avoid the rat races
Here at your oasis,
Stay in Old San Juan.

VERSE 2 (SUNG BY PROFESSOR MACK TO GUESTS)

Everyone please gather round here.
There is something you must all hear.
Trouble bubbles here at the hot springs
There is danger to beware of!
Creaking groaning bumps in the night ...
tells you that something's just not right.
It may be the time for departing.
Pack your bags and flee.

CELIA FATE – Never fear shadows ... it only means there is a light nearby. Ghosts mean you no harm.

(CARMEN GEDITT EXITS)

JENNA ROSSITY – (To CELIA) All this ghost talk is not helping anything.

CELIA FATE – I'm so Sorry ... it was not my intention ...

(JENNA walks to BARNABY as CELIA EXITS to Hot Springs)

(**SOUND EFFECT:** hoof beats and sound of breaking wood)

JENNA ROSSITY – Now who could that be?

BARNABY WILD – That couldn't be good!

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Barnaby? ... WHAT did you say?

(Barnaby opens the swinging door and yells back to his wife)

BARNABY WILD – Sounds like we’ve got a visitor.

(The Bandit Queen DEE ZASTER arrives to check in to the hotel with a big part of a broken post and a duffel bag)

DEE ZASTER – You better have that hitching post fixed.
(putting a big piece of wood on the counter as she comes in) ...

DEE ZASTER – (Loudly) Yeeeeee Haw Ya’all! (Waving hello)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – YEEEE HAW!

DEE ZASTER – I SAID ... Yeeeeee Haaaaaaw Ya’all!

(**PAIGE TURNER** holds the Cue-Card)
CUE-CARD – YEEEE HAW!

DEE ZASTER – Now ... that’s much better!

(Barnaby tosses the wood post under his counter)

(**AVERY BRAVEMAN** enters and recognizes DEE as “The Bandit Queen” from his newspaper as DEE checks in)

(**JENNA** walks to **AVERY**. **DAN** joins them also.)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Jenna ... I recognize that guest from her picture in the newspaper ... her name is DEE ZASTER.
(wait for laugh) They say she was a modern robin hood handing out silver dollars to the poor. What they didn’t bother to mention is most of that money came from stagecoach robberies.

(**DEE ZASTER** unholsters her gun ... twirls it then reholsters it)

JENNA ROSSITY – If you will excuse me gentlemen?

(**JENNA** walks over to **BARNABY** to look in the guest register as **DAN** EXITS as **AVERY** walks over to sit and read)

(DEE ZASTER sees the professor and walks over to join him on one side of the stage away from the other guests)

PROFESSOR MACK – (Said privately to DEE) I am so glad you were able to make it here to assist me in my ... endeavors.

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card then walking across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

DEE ZASTER – Alright ... Mack. What is this all about?

(THE PROFESSOR looks to see if someone is listening.)

PROFESSOR MACK – I have told you not to call me that!

DEE ZASTER – Fine ... Fine "Professor". The last time I saw you ... you vamoosed so fast your horse left smoldering hoof-prints? You know ... I didn't see a red cent from that fiasco.

PROFESSOR MACK – Have no trepidations my dear ... you will be amply rewarded with a reasonable recompense and remuneration for past efforts.

DEE ZASTER – What?

PROFESSOR MACK – You'll get your share.

DEE ZASTER – Knowing you ... I only believe half of what you say.

PROFESSOR MACK – Fair enough ... I guess In that case ... I will have to keep your half of the "gold" for myself?

DEE ZASTER – (Loudly) GOLD! (Quietly) Gold? ... Why didn't you say so?

PROFESSOR MACK – I sadly misjudged my prospects of mining tin in the Santa Ana hills. Mining is a very slow way of getting rich and as such is an endeavor of which I am ill suited.

DEE ZASTER – You never had no patience for hard work Professor.

PROFESSOR MACK – Yes ... but there are “shortcuts”.

DEE ZASTER – I heard you high tailed it out of town with a big chunk of investor’s money from that phony “tin mine” of yours?

PROFESSOR MACK – As I said ... there are “shortcuts”.

DEE ZASTER – So why am I here ... of all places? What’re we doing 12 miles out of town in this run-down hotel anyway? What’s your plan?

PROFESSOR MACK – (Interrupting) During last winter’s floods ... many things were covered in mud and muck ... but other things were ... fortuitously “uncovered”.

DEE ZASTER – What’re you talking about professor?

PROFESSOR MACK – I am talking about a portentous report of an “El Dorado” right here in the hills of San Juan Capistrano.

DEE ZASTER – (Unholstering her gun) This a mighty portentous peace of iron I’ve got here. I use a powder so powerful ... this gun can shoot a bullet today and hit its target tomorrow! So, start talking in ENGLISH.

PROFESSOR MACK – Let me explain. Some months ago, while playing a few hands of cards ... I met a man who told me the story of the “Lost Gold of San Juan”.

DEE ZASTER – “Lost Gold”?

PROFESSOR MACK – Now have I gotten your attention?

DEE ZASTER – I am all ears Professor ...

PROFESSOR – The story is told of the Deadwood to California stage that was held-up not far from here up back in 1877. It was ‘supposed to meet a ship at the point and transfer over \$200,000 in gold bullion.

DEE ZASTER – That is a bold-faced lie ... I tell you! I didn’t do it ... why do they always think that just because of my past.

DEE ZASTER – (ASIDE) An old reputation is so hard to shake.

PROFESSOR MACK – (interruption) Of course you didn't steal the gold ... I am not accusing you of anything my dear ...

DEE ZASTER – Good and see that you don't! (pause)
\$200,000 is a heap of gold ... why is it that I haven't heard this story before? How do you know the story's true?

PROFESSOR MACK – (Pulling an old bill of lading out of his pocket to show her) This piece of proof fortuitously came into my possession ... it clearly states the amount was \$200,000. The man that "gave me" this bill of lading assured me that the scales used to weigh the gold were so sensitive that they could weigh a signature made by a lead pencil. (laugh)

DEE ZASTER – Gold!? Here in the hills of San Juan ... And no one has seen the gold since?

PROFESSOR MACK – The story is told that bandits buried the gold out the hills, but as many times as treasure hunters have looked for that stash ... nothing has turned up.

DEE ZASTER – Then why did you ...

PROFESSOR MACK – (interrupts) Looks like 20 years of rain has washed some of that treasure right into our laps.

(Professor Mack shows a canvas pouch tied with a strap.)

DEE ZASTER – So ... what in blazes is in that "poke" of yours?

PROFESSOR MACK – I have kept this pouch on my person ever since I heard the tale of where it originated. ... Won it with that bill of lading in a card game from a one-eyed man ... as I recall his name was "Lucky Pete".

DEE ZASTER – An honest game ... I suppose.

PROFESSOR MACK – What do you take me for? (Indignantly) Of course it WASN'T an honest game. I have my reputation to uphold. (Both laugh)

PROFESSOR MACK – The point is ... THIS GOLD is part of that lost shipment ... look here ... this pouch has the deadwood lead-seal. (Looking around side to side) And where this comes from ... there must be many more just waiting for retrieval.

DEE ZASTER – What do we do if the news gets out?

PROFESSOR MACK – I've been spreading rumors all around town about ghosts that haunt the Hot Springs. Once everyone gets chased away ... there'll be no one around to stop us from finding and making off with all the gold! And if that's not enough ... I've arranged with the town banker to purchase the hot springs hotel for a song when Jenna Rossity defaults on her mortgage. (Maniacal laugh)

(JENNA ROSSITY and BARNABY re-enter the scene from the office carrying some papers)

DEE ZASTER – (hushed voice) Professor ... and I thought your last evil scheme was diabolical!

(CELIA FATE enters from the Hot Springs)

PROFESSOR MACK – (clearing his throat) Perhaps now is not the time to be discussing my plans ... (Walking away)

BARNABY WILD – (moving to DEE ZASTER) Maam ... Anything I can do for you?

(BARNABY corners the PROFESSOR)

BARNABY WILD – (Grabbing the Professor's arm) I know you're up to something Professor ... I just can't figure out WHAT ... or HOW ... or WHERE ... or WHY ... but I know it's something.

(PAIGE TURNER enters holding a Cue-Card then walking across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

BARNABY WILD – ... How stupid do you think I am?

PROFESSOR MACK – I can't rightfully say ... Having just recently met you. (a laugh)

BARNABY WILD – (Indignantly) Ooooooh!

(The PROFESSOR walks away from BARNABY over to DEE)

PROFESSOR MACK – (To DEE) Gold to be found here ... somewhere and I ... I mean WE are going to find it.

DEE ZASTER – You can count on that Professor.

DEE ZASTER – (ASIDE) Don't worry folks... I'll be the one to make sure the Professor gets exactly what he deserves.

PROFESSOR MACK – Dee. Let's reconnoiter outside first.

DEE ZASTER – Lead on Professor. I'm right behind you.

(The father DUSTIN DEBREE puts down the newspaper.)

DUSTIN DEBREE – I guess I could use some fresh coffee.

CELIA FATE – Ooooooh! (to JENNA and pointing at DUSTIN) THAT's the man that you were all talking about earlier!

JENNA ROSSITY – Excuse me?

(DUSTIN begins to stand to get some fresh coffee then EXITS)

CELIA FATE – The one that moved his family into the old Bedford House three days before it was hit by lightning!

JENNA ROSSITY – No! ... But that would make him ...?

CELIA FATE – Yes ... the husband of "The Lady in White".

(PAIGE TURNER enters holding a Cue-Card
CUE-CARD – OOOOOH!

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 2 SCENE 1

The Place: San Juan Capistrano Hot Springs Hotel
The Time: The Next Day in the Late Morning

Barnaby's Song (Sung by Barnaby Wild)
(A reprise of the musical character overture)
Music by S. R. Henry
Words by Gary McCarver

For those who arrived here late ...
here is a brief update ... of what has happened 'till now.
You're at the fine Hot Springs hotel ...
It is a place I know so well.

My name is Barnaby, I manage here and we
are struggling just to hang on.
and then the actress Carmen Geditt arrives
as pretty Trudy Lite plays piano songs.

So, then the ghost stories began ... is this Celia Fate's plan?
Where's the Sheriff when we need him or Avery Braveman?
And then the villain came ... Professor Mack's his name.
With Dee Zaster by his side ... How can we sur-vive?

Have no worries says our Jenna Rossity
Have your trust in me ... everything is peace-ful and care-free
She says have no alarm, but will she come to harm?
What will happen next? Can we save our guests? ... at the Hot
Springs. Hey there ... Say there ... Wonder what is hap'ning at
the Hot Springs?

Say there ... Hey there ... Lets all return now to the Hot Springs
... With Jenna Rossity and Barnaby (that's me!)
Can our hero Ave-ry save the day?
What will happen next? A great plot twist I bet ...
Put your saddle on ... let's skedaddle on ... to the Hot Springs.

(SOUND EFFECT: water bubbling & happy banter)

(AVERY approaches BARNABY. Meanwhile on the far side of
the stage ... we see glimpses of THE PROFESSOR and DEE
ZASTER sneaking around searching for something.)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – THE NEXT MORNING

(We see CELIA, CARMEN and JENNA walking behind the window as they come around the wall to enter the hotel from the hot springs. They are wearing vintage bathing suits with towels over their shoulders.)

EVERY BRAVEMAN – Bathing suits are just so risqué today.

BARNABY WILD – Tell me about it. Never expected to see ladies getting sunburned in the places that they do today ... not complaining ... mind you.

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – (loudly) WHAT were you saying BARNABY?

BARNABY WILD – Nothing Dear ... (mumbling) ... nothing.

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh ... hello there ... gentlemen ... Barnaby ... Avery.

BARNABY WILD – (As a greeting) Miss Rossity ... Ladies.

EVERY BRAVEMAN – So nice to see you Jenna.

(JENNA seems embarrassed and covers herself.)

EVERY BRAVEMAN – What I meant to say is ... ahh (searching for words) ... enjoying the waters? ... ahh ... Nice weather we're having?

JENNA ROSSITY – Yes ... a beautiful day.

(EVERY tips his hat, removes it and holds it)

EVERY BRAVEMAN – Absolutely beautiful ... the day ... a beautiful day.

(JENNA and CELIA go upstairs)

CARMEN – (As a parting greeting) Gentlemen.

(CARMEN goes upstairs. AVERY puts his hat on the counter)

BARNABY WILD – “Nice weather we’re having”? (mocking)
That was the best you could come up with? “Nice weather?”

AVERY BRAVEMAN – The best you could come up with is
“nothing dear”?

BARNABY WILD – (beat) Point well taken.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I’ve been a war reporter sending back
news from the Peruvian Revolution and the Zanzibar Rebellion
... even the Spanish-American War ... but I tell you Barnaby ...
when it comes letting Jenna know how I feel ... I just can’t find
the words. (pause) Well ... maybe one day ...

BARNABY WILD – So ... tell me Mr. Reporter man ... what
words do you have regarding that Professor over there?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Barring that natural expression of
villainy which we all have -The Professor looks honest enough.
Still ... something familiar about him. Why do you ask?

BARNABY WILD – Just a hunch. Interesting how he’s always
talking with that outlaw Dee Zaster.

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card)
CUE-CARD – MEANWHILE

(The PROFESSOR and DEE start conversation away from
other guests)

DEE ZASTER – ... Those ladies all seemed to be enjoying
there-selves ... maybe your disposition would be improved a
mite if you just took a hot spring soak yourself.

PROFESSOR MACK – It is my observation that the happiest
people seem to be those that have no particular cause for
being happy.

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card then walking
across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

PROFESSOR MACK – I feel more sanguine of success after my meeting with the town banker. (Holding up the deed to the Hot Springs)

DEE ZASTER – I don't know what sanguine means ... but I was wondering (Said Quietly) How'd you get that their deed to the Hot Springs Hotel?

PROFESSOR MACK – If you must know ...it's not signed ... YET. But come Monday morning when the bank opens, and Jenna Rossity fails to bring the mortgage up to date ... the Hot Springs will be all mine. (a laugh)

DEE ZASTER – So now you're about to swindle a hapless young thing out of the hotel her parents left her ... and she doesn't even know you're the one doing the swindling?

PROFESSOR MACK – Warms your heart doesn't it?

DEE ZASTER – (angrily) I just think swindlings 'ought to be out in the open ... any other way's just not ... not ... HONEST.

PROFESSOR MACK – Honest?

DEE ZASTER – Well you know what I mean! How can you call yourself a villain when you do it all "sneaky like" and no one knows? It's like ... love ... love's gotta be out in the open ... or it don't count.

PROFESSOR MACK – If you must know ... I do have a love ...

DEE ZASTER – I heard you were married once?

PROFESSOR MACK – History ... just ... History ...

DEE ZASTER – I heard she skedaddled with all your money after you hoodwinked all those tin mine investors?

PROFESSOR MACK – Now ... I love another.

DEE ZASTER – (ASIDE) Could he possibly mean me? He is rather charming ... for a villain that is!

(The music starts right about here)

DEE ZASTER – (ASIDE) Sure, he could lose a few pounds - still.

(The professor approaches Dee and begins to sing the verse to her. He is still carrying the small sack of gold and pulls it out at the end of the first verse when he says the word “gold”)

SONG: GOLD

Words and Music by Sheldon Brooks

Lyrics by Gary McCarver

VERSE

(Sung Once by The Professor)

All lifelong I have longed for a love
A love that's true-oooo.
Just when I think “I've found it this time”
She tells me toodle-oooo! (waving goodbye)
But now I've got a love that'll last
My whole life through...
How you thrill me ... how you fill me
With the thoughts of you ... Oh ...

(Dee thinks the Professor thinking is singing about her)

CHORUS 1

(The Professor sings to be joined by Dee)

GOLD ... I'm craving for you,
GOLD ... How I adore you,
GOLD ... when I first met you.
I knew you'd mean the world to me ...

Oh ... (gold) ... can't you see?
(Come on now) ... gold ... I can't stand waiting ...
(Dee joining in singing) Why this hesitating?

You won our hearts with ...
your sparkling glittering ways ...
That's why we want you GOLD

CHORUS 2:

(The Professor and Dee Zaster both sing)

GOLD ... We're craving for you,
GOLD ... How we adore you,
GOLD ... When we first met you.

We knew you'd mean the world to us ...
Oh ... (gold) ... what's the fuss?
(Come on now) ... gold ... we can't stand waiting ...
Why this hesitating?

You won our hearts with ...
your sparkling glittering ways ...
That's why we want you GOLD

(The PROFESSOR embraces DEE at the end of the song and then she then resolutely pushes him away)

DEE ZASTER – Professor are you loco? Remember what we're here for!

PROFESSOR MACK – As for the GOLD ... my ghost stories have already started to make these hot springs as inhospitable as Hemet in August.

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – HEMET?

DEE ZASTER – What do you mean ... “YOUR ghost stories”?
(Both The PROFESSOR and DEE ZASTER look around)

PROFESSOR MACK – “Good Lies” need a leavening of truth to make them palatable ... so I'm using the old ghost stories of this Little Town of San Juan Capistrano to be its undoing. Any fool can tell the truth, but it requires a man of some sense to know how to lie well. Soon all the guests will feel so frightened that they'll run screaming from these hot springs ...

DEE ZASTER – (completing his sentence) ... So you can search the grounds and the hills for the lost gold shipment.

(DEE and the PROFESSOR look around the hotel for gold)

PROFESSOR MACK – Exactly! Exactly!

(The PROFESSOR and DEE ZASTER exit)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card)
CUE-CARD – MEANWHILE

(Focus returns to AVERY and the BARNABY at the coffee cart)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – May I have a cup of coffee without cream?

BARNABY WILD – We don't have any more cream ... So, I guess you'll have to have your coffee without MILK instead.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Just pour some coffee. Is it Arbuckles?

BARNABY WILD – You have to ask? It's always Arbuckles!

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card then walking across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – SHAMELESS PLUG

CELIA FATE – (Chasing Barnaby) Excuse me ... do you mind if I ask you a few questions to further my research on the Ghosts of San Juan ... I'm writing a book you know? (Pulling out a note book and a pencil)

BARNABY WILD – I'm busy right now ... can I ignore you some other time?

(Barnaby looks up from the counter but doesn't say anything)

CELIA FATE – Fine ... I will take that as a yes. (Continuing her questioning of BARNABY) Do you ever feel as if you are being watched or hear unexplainable noises at night?

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Barnaby? Barnaby?

BARNABY WILD – Most are explainable.

CELIA FATE – Have you felt strange cold spots in certain locations in the hotel where they should not be?

(BARNABY Gives CELIA a long hard cold stare)

CELIA FATE – ... Or perhaps seen odd occurrences like doors opening and closing by themselves?

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Barnaby ... (louder) BARNABY?

(The office swinging door opens just a bit then closes we see the light from the office shining into the hotel lobby)

CELIA FATE – Have you ever heard a voice when there was no one there? (Looking at her note book) Have you sensed an increased amount of anger or negativity recently?

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – BARNABY are you paying attention to me?

BARNABY WILD – (Yelling) Just a minute I am in the MIDDLE of a conversation. No, I can't say I've noticed any... increased anger. It's the same level of anger I always have.

CELIA FATE – How about superstitions ... do you have any?

BARNABY WILD – Superstitions? What do you mean?

CELIA FATE – Like a black cat crossing your path ... or knocking on wood for luck (Celia actually knocks on the counter) ... or that old superstition that says when a bell rings three times someone is about to die.

(CARMEN comes downstairs and rings the bell 3 times)

CELIA FATE – Ooooooh! (Spiritualist rushes off)

CARMEN GEDITT – Are there any messages for me? (pause) What's troubling her?

BARNABY WILD – Just superstitious I guess? Sorry ... no messages yet.

(JENNA comes downstairs and approaches CARMEN)

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh My ... it would be so thrilling to have been all the places you've been and seen all the things you've seen ...

CARMEN GEDITT – Changing the subject again ... are you? Don't be coy with me Jenna ... I've known you far too long. Why continue to chase lightning bugs when it is fire you really desire?

JENNA ROSSITY – What do you mean?

CARMEN GEDITT – A swallow cannot build a nest without taking flight.

JENNA ROSSITY – Still not getting it?

CARMEN GEDITT – Come now ... you know exactly what I am saying ... He is handsome and smart ... that Newspaper Reporter man of yours.

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh Avery (said like she loves him) ...

CARMEN GEDITT – There is a lot more you are not telling me ... or telling him I think?

JENNA ROSSITY – I wish I could tell him how I really feel.

CARMEN GEDITT – You know your heart better than I ... listen to it. Now I think it would be as good a time as any for us to take a stroll we do have so much catching up to do.

JENNA ROSSITY – If you don't mind I'll tag along in a minute or two ...

(CARMEN EXITS to the Hot Springs while the PROFESSOR lurks around the corner overhearing their conversation. CELIA approaches JENNA)

CELIA FATE – Some people have the flaw of ignoring their worst traits ...

JENNA ROSSITY – That of course assumes that they have anything else but WORST traits. (Laughing with CELIA FATE)

and Barnaby) I have to assume that you're talking about "The Professor" aren't you?

BARNABY WILD – If you don't mind me saying ... that Professor strikes me as a man that should not be trusted ... a villain if I've ever seen one!

CELIA FATE – I am glad to hear you finally say that.

JENNA ROSSITY – (To BARNABY) You may just be right ... there is something about that man that I don't trust ... still it's not right to judge a book by its cover. (To CELIA) Celia, have you tried our Hotel's fine coffee?

(JENNA AND CELIA both walk over to the coffee cart)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card then walking across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

PROFESSOR MACK – (sneaking up and walking over and surprising Barnaby from behind) You say "villain" like that's a bad thing.

BARNABY WILD – Some people follow their dreams. (pause) Others hunt them down and beat them mercilessly into submission. My guess is that you Professor are more one of those "Hunt them down" types.

PROFESSOR MACK – To set the record straight ... my good man ... I am nothing more than a purveyor of powders, pills, potions, elixirs and cure alls from Zanzibar to Timbuktu. Although at times I must resort to prestigitation and phrenology to make a buck. I am a merely an honest treasure seeker!

BARNABY WILD – Fine words professor. I wonder who you stole them from.

PROFESSOR MACK – baaaah! (Walking away)

BARNABY WILD – Sarcasm is just one more of the many services I offer to guests here at the Hot Springs Hotel. Come back any time. (laughing)

PROFESSOR MACK – We'll see who gets the last laugh ...
baaaaah!

(The Professor almost runs into CELIA as he is exiting)

(The Professor EXITS not waiting for an answer)

CELIA FATE – (Musing) I have seen his face before
somewhere ... but where was it?

(DEE ZASTER enters from the Hot Springs)

CELIA FATE – Oh! I was just wondering if what they say true
about you?

DEE ZASTER – What are they saying?

CELIA FATE – I have been told that you are fairly notorious.
What is your story?

DEE ZASTER – Well ... first I tried my hand at prospecting an
Arizona gold claim, but it ended up being not more than an
empty hole in the ground.

CELIA FATE – Is that when you found your calling as an
“outlaw”?

DEE ZASTER – It wasn't what I planned ... everyone's path
has got some puddles. But ... Life ain't so much about how
high you climb, but how well you bounce back. Sure, I guess
you could call me an outlaw. But don't be believing everything
you read in them newspapers.

CELIA FATE – I am hearing that a lot lately. (shakes hands)
Glad to make your acquaintance. The name is Celia Fate.

DEE ZASTER – Same back at you. The name is Dee Zaster.
To tell you the truth ... reports about me aren't worth the paper
they're written on. Most times just protecting myself from the
desperados you find in mining towns.
(AVERY walks over and joins in on the conversation)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I did a little checking. Apparently, you

got arrested for a stage robbery back in Wyoming. And if the stories are to be believed ... a sympathetic jury only took 10 minutes of deliberation to set you free.

DEE ZASTER – All I said was “I could not be tried under a law that my gender had no say in making”. I guessed the 12 men on the jury couldn’t argue with that. It was the law.

(CELIA and DEE both laugh and AVERY chuckles)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (Reaching out his hand to DEE ZASTER) From one REPORTER of the news to one MAKER of the news ... I am pleased to meet you. The name is Avery ... Avery Braveman. Been in the news lately?

DEE ZASTER – Almost ended up in the obituaries not long ago. I survived a gunfight other than that not much to report.

(**SOUND EFFECT:** A piercing scream from upstairs is heard)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Come on Barnaby ... let’s see what item has mysteriously appeared in a locked room this time.

DEE ZASTER – (Said to the others) Be back before two shakes I’m heading into town to ... (pause as if thinking) to pick up some supplies

(Rushing Off with a small saddle bag DEE ZASTER EXITS)
(**SOUND EFFECT:** Hoof beats rushing off and the brae of a horse) (AVERY starts to go upstairs)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Are you coming Barnaby?

BARNABY WILD – I think I need a new sign above my office door (Said loudly with flourish as he places his hand on the swinging door to go back into his bedroom/office) “Abandon hope ... all ye who enter here.”

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – What was that you said?

BARNABY WILD – (Pause looking dejected) Nothing Dear. Nothing at all. I’ll be upstairs with Avery finding out what all the commotion is about.

(BARNABY joins AVERY who is already heading upstairs.
They both exit CELIA looks around and sees that she is alone)

CELIA FATE – (Calling after them) Don't leave me down here
all alone! I'm coming with you. (CELIA rushes after them)

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 2 SCENE 2

The Place: San Juan Capistrano Hot Springs Hotel

The Time: Later in the Evening

(Once again Night has fallen on the Hot Springs ... there is the sound of crickets and the occasional frog croak and fireflies are in rare form flitting and flying about under the boroughs of the tree branches that lead out to the Hot Springs. A firefly or two can be seen through the window that faces the hot springs. A fog machine was turned on briefly behind the set to let wisps of fog waft around the tree side of the set adding eeriness. As we open up the scene CELIA is telling her Ghost Stories to BARNABY and JENNA who are gathering plates and cups from the hotel lobby obviously after dinner had finished. Most guests have returned to their rooms except for CARMEN, CELIA, DAN and a couple of EXTRAS – if you have them)

(LIGHTS: come up to evening lighting settings)

(PAIGE TURNER enters holding a Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – NIGHT IS FALLING

(SOUND EFFECT: metal pans crashing backstage)

PAIGE TURNER – Come on now ...that was funny the first time ... fine!

(PAIGE TURNER flips over the Cue-Card)

CUE-CARD – NIGHT HAS FALLEN

CELIA FATE – ... (we join CELIA in mid story) ... and that's why to this day if you listen carefully ... you can still hear an eerie sound up along the tree line. When tumbleweeds roll across Old Hot Springs Road ... it is said that they drift with the ghosts of Indians that once lived in the hills that surround these hot springs.

BARNABY WILD – I really wish you'd quit telling those stories.
(BANABY EXITS through the swinging door to his office)

CARMEN GEDITT – Actually I find it fascinating ... DO go on.

CELIA FATE – In any case ... maybe it's best I stop for the night. If you will all excuse me. I'll be turning in. Good night.

(CELIA and CARMEN EXIT upstairs)

(The PROFESSOR slinks around the corner of the hotel)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

(BARRY SWEET comes down stairs and exits the hotel.)

PROFESSOR MACK – (ASIDE) No matter what “Trouble bubbles” here at the Hot Springs ... each time that perky hotel owner convinces them to stay ... BAHHHH! Now it's time I take a more direct approach to ensure that everyone flees this hotel like ... “rats off a sinking ship”.

(THE PROFESSOR grabs a peacemaker from his gun belt, spinning the cylinder and stealthily follows BARRY)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holds the Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

(AVERY enters from one side of the town side of the stage while JENNA enters from the other side)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (ASIDE) – If only I could tell Jenna what's in my heart ... She's just so sophisticated, so poised, so ... so ... so beautiful.

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – AHHHHH

JENNA ROSSITY – (ASIDE) If only I could tell Avery what's in my heart. He's so brave, so smart, so ... so much of a hunk.

(JENNA is fanning herself and standard melodramatic style)

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – OH MY!

SONG: JENNA

Music by Lou Traveller

Lyrics by Gary McCarver

VERSE**(SUNG BY AVERY)**

They say I'm one of those stout-hearted men
Who'll fight for what's right until the bitter end
But they do not know that my heart skips a beat
When one special lady I greet
Her name is ...

CHORUS**(AVERY ONLY SINGS FIRST TIME THROUGH)**

Jenna, I want you only ...
Jenna, I dream of you.
If I could tell her how much I want her ...
If she could only know the truth. (My Darling)
'Till then I'll be here faithful ...
hoping one day you'll see.
Someday I'll tell you my yearning for you
Until then Jenna ... Please wait for me.

CHORUS**(JENNA JOINS AVERY TO SING LAST CHORUS)**

Jenna (Avery) I want you only ... Jenna (Avery) I dream of you.
If I could tell her how much I want her (him) ...
If she (he) could only know the truth. (My Darling)
'Till then I'll be here faithful ... hoping one day you'll see.
Someday I'll tell you my yearning for you
Until then Jenna (Avery) ... Please wait for me.

(JENNA and AVERY see each other then meet center stage)

JENNA ROSSITY – I must confess ... much of this might be
idle speculation ... Avery ... were those words meant for me?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Why ... yes Jenna they were.

JENNA ROSSITY – (Holding his hand) Oh Avery I had so hoped ... I had so dreamed ... but ... I never knew!

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (holding her hand) I have wanted to tell you ever since ...

(**SOUND EFFECT:** A shot and a scream from the hot springs)
(**SOUND EFFECT:** The sound of a body hitting the platform)

JENNA ROSSITY – What in blazes was that!

AVERY BRAVEMAN – You must leave now ... go to Woodman's Hall in town ... You'll be safe there. Tell Judge Egan that things are getting out of hand here at the Hot Springs ... He'll know what to do. I'll meet you in town.

JENNA ROSSITY – I can't leave now ... this is my hotel. These guests are my responsibility. Irregardless of what happens ... I am staying.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I believe it is ... "REGARDLESS of what happens I am staying". (Correcting and repeating)

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh so you're staying TOO? I am so proud of you.

(JENNA hugs AVERY for his bravery with one foot raised.)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Fine then ... we'll both stay ... But you need to be out of harm's way here inside while I'll discover what is going on outside. But, first I need to make sure ... (looking at the fireplace) ... yes that'll do.

(Avery rushes towards the fireplace ... he toys between giving Jenna the shovel or the poker.)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Take this just in case!

(AVERY gives JENNA the fireplace poker)

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh my! Are we expecting a fire too?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Use it for protection.

(AVERY EXITS with his shovel toward the Hot Springs)

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh my!

(Pandemonium breaks out. Hotel Guests rush downstairs.)

THE WIFE (OFF STAGE) – Barnaby? Is that you making all that commotion?

(BARNABY ENTERS along with DUSTIN DEBREE and CARMEN GEDITT, CELIA FATE and DEE ZASTER)

BARNABY WILD – What’s all this ruckus?

DEE ZASTER – What in ‘tarnation is going on?

CELIA FATE – Loud enough to wake snakes.

DUSTIN DEBREE – What’s going on?

CARMEN GEDITT – Ghosts at the hot springs ... Gun shots in the night ... enough to make a sane person pack his bags and head out of town.

(PROFESSOR MACK ENTERS pretending to have been awoken from sleep and yawning)

PROFESSOR MACK – So ... what is this all about? How can you expect guests to sleep? (Yawning)

(AVERY BRAVEMAN rushes back in from the Hot Springs)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Looks like the that chocolate maker Barry Sweet ... has been shot!

CARMEN – Oh my! Not Barry!

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – THAT’S JUST SO SAD

(EVERYONE REPEATS IN UNISON)

JENNA ROSSITY – (ASIDE) How did you all know I was about to say that? Am I that transparent?

TRUDY LITE – He’s the one I saw shoot Barry Sweet.

EVERYONE – (IN UNISON all looking at TRUDY) Who?

TRUDY LITE – (Pointing at THE PROFESSOR) The Professor.

PROFESSOR MACK – (Surprised) That’s a lie!

TRUDY LITE – I saw him pull out a gun from under his coat and shoot down that lovely man. People often forget that the piano player sees everything.

CARMEN GEDITT – (to PROFESSOR) How could you?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – What do you have to say for yourself professor?

PROFESSOR MACK – Curses ... Now I’ll never get to finish my evil scheme where I convince the guests that the Hot Springs is overrun with ghosts ... so they flee the area ... so the Hotel defaults on its mortgage ... so I can then search the area for the lost gold of San Juan Capistrano (pulling out a big nugget from his vest pocket for all to see) ... so I get rich on gold nuggets just like this one.

(The crowd on the stage listens to what the professor says)

PROFESSOR MACK – (Said to the audience but hearing the crowd moving in behind him) Did I say that as an “aside” just to the you or did everyone hear my entire evil plot?

EVERYONE ON STAGE – We heard every word you said Professor.

PROFESSOR MACK – Curses! (pause) I had hoped it wouldn’t come to this!

(The PROFESSOR pulls out a peacemaker revolver from a gun belt hidden beneath his frock coat or cape)

PROFESSOR MACK – Hands up everyone. (Pointing his gun)

JENNA ROSSITY – I guess that answers who shot Barry.

PROFESSOR MACK – I have been patiently trying to get you to leave ... ghost stories haven't been enough ... NOOOO ... Creaking and groaning sounds in the night haven't been enough ... NOOOO ... even murder won't scare you off. So now ... ALL of you will have to leave ... permanently!

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

PROFESSOR MACK – Everyone move over there,

(**PAIGE TURNER** starts to exit with her Cue-Card)

PROFESSOR MACK – You too missy. (To **PAIGE TURNER**)
Get over there with the rest.

PAIGE TURNER – But I just hold the Cue-Cards?

PROFESSOR MACK – I don't care what you do for a living...
just get over there with the others!

PAIGE TURNER – Boo! Hiss! (Holds up the “BOO! HISS!
SIGN” again.)

JENNA ROSSITY – That's just so ... so ...

JENNA ROSSITY – That's just so ... MEAN!

CARMEN GEDITT – (To Jenna) Nice change.

PROFESSOR MACK –(interrupting) “Mean” you say? Why ...
you haven't even begun to see mean!

(The Professor points his gun at **JENNA**)
(**AVERY** bursts in between the professor's gun and **JENNA**)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – If you must shoot someone Professor
... let it be me.

JENNA ROSSITY – Avery ... oh how brave. You are my hero.

AVERY BRAVEMAN (To the professor) – But before you shoot Professor ... there is something that you should know...

PROFESSOR MACK –Ohhh?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (To the professor) – You said Gold a minute ago? ... That's not gold you've got there ... it's worthless brown mica ... May I? Maybe pyrite ... my father was an assayer in the Dakotas you know. See "Real Gold" doesn't tarnish ... Look here ... see this tarnish right here ... and here.

(AVERY points out the flaw in the sample and tosses it back to the professor then walks back to JENNA to guard her again)

PROFESSOR MACK – Not real gold?

AVERY BRAVEMAN (To the PROFESSOR) – Just "Fools Gold". Pretty ... but not worth dying over.

(The Sheriff ENTERS behind The Professor with a gun drawn)

THE SHERIFF – Drop the gun Professor!

(**PAIGE TURNER** rushes over to pick up a Cue-Card)
CUE-CARD – APPLAUSE HORRAY

PROFESSOR MACK – What is the meaning of this?

THE SHERIFF – In case you weren't paying attention ... let me clarify the situation. Drop the gun Professor ... you are under arrest. Time to take you off to the Hoosgow ... Again.

PROFESSOR MACK – You look familiar. Are you a lawman that fancies himself quick on the draw? (Readying his gun)

THE SHERIFF – Actually I do. (Cocking the trigger of his gun)

PROFESSOR MACK – CURSES! (Places his peacemaker on the floor and kicks it out of the way then the PROFESSOR puts his hands up in the air)

(**PAIGE TURNER** picks up a Cue-Card then holds it high.)
CUE-CARD – APPLAUSE HORRAY

PROFESSOR MACK – How did you know I was here?

THE SHERIFF – (To the Crowd) Several years ago ... The Professor was “visiting” our local jail when he broke out and headed up into the hills.

TRUDY LITE – I remember him now. It was all about gold back then too!

BARNABY WILD – I thought he looked familiar. (Pulling out an old wanted poster from behind the counter for all to see)

PROFESSOR MACK – I never liked that picture.

THE SHERIFF – (To the Crowd) After searching the hills in vain ... I figured We'd need to get crafty to nab that scoundrel. I knew he wouldn't risk showing his face in town UNLESS there was GOLD to be had ... so I took a short trip to Cheyenne to lose a few hands of cards. (Pulling an eye patch from his pocket ... putting the patch on and taking his sheriffs' hat off)

PROFESSOR MACK – The one-eyed man ... “Lucky Pete”?

THE SHERIFF – Actually the name is Warren Peace ... but you can call me jailer. (Removing the eye patch and clumsily donning his sheriff's hat)

PROFESSOR MACK – ASIDE: Now's my chance!

(The Professor pulls out a derringer and holds it on the Sheriff)

PROFESSOR MACK – Now who's jailing who Mr. Sheriff? Put down your GUN and slide it over to the side.

(The SHERIFF carefully puts down his gun and slides it away)

(**PAIGE TURNER** grabs another Cue-Card.)

CUE-CARD – BOO! HISS!

BARNABY WILD – (Loudly) Look at that puny “pee shooter”. He can't shoot all of us with that little gun. And besides he's only got one or two shots in it.

PROFESSOR MACK – (To BARNABY) I don't need to shoot all of you ... (pointing gun at BARNABY) I only have to shoot you!

BARNABY WILD – On second thought ... I think we should do exactly what The Professor says. (Putting hands in the air)

(In all the commotion DEE ZASTER ENTERS from behind the PROFESSOR with her gun drawn)

DEE ZASTER – Drop the gun Mack... don't think I won't shoot.

(**PAIGE TURNER** grabs another Cue-Card.)
CUE-CARD – APPLAUSE HORRAY

PROFESSOR MACK – Why is it that things don't ever go as expected in this town? (Looking at Dee) But Dee ... Why?

(DEE ZASTER takes the PROFESSOR'S gun)

JENNA ROSSITY – I was sure you had to be "IN ON" the Professor's Plans ... I guess I misjudged you.

DEE ZASTER – Actually I was "IN ON" the Professor's scheme.

EVERYONE – (sound of astonishment) Oooooh!

BARNABY WILD – See ... I told you so!

DEE ZASTER – I was just playing a role though ... sorry I had to keep you all in the dark. (Walking over to the Sheriff) So ... how did I do ...Father?

THE SHERIFF – (DEE hugs SHERIFF) ... You did plumb good!

EVERYONE – (astonishment) Sheriff Peace is your father?

DEE ZASTER – All my life.

BARNABY WILD – Just when I thought I had it all figured out.

THE SHERIFF – (To DEE) Put these handcuffs on the Professor.

(DEE puts a pair of handcuffs on the PROFESSOR and takes his bag of gold and hands it to the SHERIFF)

CARMEN GEDITT – What about Barry Sweet?

(Everyone bows their heads and takes off their hats placing them over their hearts in a moment of silence while BARRY ENTERS the hotel from the Hot Springs with a bloody bandage wrapped around his arm in a sling)

BARRY SWEET – ... You talking about me?

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I thought you were dead?

BARRY SWEET – Ahhhhhhh ... it was just a “Flesh Wound”.

JENNA ROSSITY – Aren’t all wounds ... “FLESH” wounds?

CARMEN GEDITT – Oh my Barry! I was so worried about you! (Rushing over to him and giving him a big hug)

JENNA ROSSITY – Mr. Sheriff ... no matter what good intentions you may have had ... a bag of “fools gold” won’t save the Hot Springs Hotel from being foreclosed and sold at auction when we can’t pay the mortgage.

DEE ZASTER – Oh the story of the lost gold shipment is true enough.

JENNA ROSSITY – But I distinctly heard you say the gold was just “fools gold”? (Said to AVERY BRAVEMAN)

AVERY BRAVEMAN – Actually the sample he showed us WAS real gold ... The tarnish was merely iron oxide deposit that sometimes gets mixed in the ore. I wasn’t about to tell him that.

PROFESSOR MACK – The gold was REAL?!?

JENNA ROSSITY – Then you found the lost gold?!?

THE SHERIFF – Nope. Guess that's still up in those hills ... somewhere.

CARMEN GEDITT – Then where'd that gold come from?

THE SHERIFF – (Giving the s gold bag to Jenna) Yep. Consider this a small part of that RE-ward money ... for helping us capture the professor.

JENNA ROSSITY – Oh ... my! There's' enough here so I can take this to the bank to pay off my mortgage.

DEE ZASTER – I had to give the professor enough rope to hang himself ... so to speak.

PROFESSOR MACK – Curses!

CARMEN GEDITT – That means...?

JENNA ROSSITY – Yes ... everyone can I have your attention ... The Hot Springs Hotel is SAVED!

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card then walking across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – APPLAUSE HOORAY

DEE ZASTER – Professor ... I 'recon I best be taking you off to jail ... and this time we'll make sure you stay there.

(DEE leads the PROFESSOR towards town and to jail)

PROFESSOR MACK – Curses!

(JENNA rushes over to talks to DEE before her exit)

JENNA ROSSITY –Dee ... I'm so proud to know you. Thank you for helping save the Hot Springs. (Walking over to AVERY)

DEE ZASTER – (to AVERY) And Mr. reporter-man ... if you don't mind me saying ... why don't you go ahead and ask that girl to marry you.

AVERY BRAVEMAN – I will have you know that Jenna ... has

allowed me to give her a ring as a birthday present ...

DEE ZASTER – (Sarcastically interrupting) Well ... at least that's a start ...

AVERY BRAVEMAN – (interrupting) ... and she has promised to wear it until I exchange it for a plain gold one as soon as I can afford one.

JENNA ROSSITY – (Showing off the ring and telling everyone excitedly) We're to be married in the fall ... right here at the Hot Springs. And you're all invited.

DEE ZASTER – And if you'll excuse us. It's jail for you ... Professor.

PROFESSOR MACK – (As he is escorted off stage) You've not seen the last of Professor Thaddeus Mack ... (Maniacal laugh) Curses ... Foiled again!

DEE ZASTER – ASIDE: That's just how The Professor is ... always so "Melodramatic". (Pause) Yeeeeee Haaaaw Ya'all!

(**PAIGE TURNER** enters holding a Cue-Card then walking across the stage to exit.) CUE-CARD – YEEEE HAW!

(DEE ZASTER finally leads the PROFESSOR offstage)

DEE ZASTER (OFF STAGE) – Yeeeeee Haaaaw!

(**SOUND EFFECT:** Hoof beats rushing off)

CELIA FATE – You know ... I have this strange feeling that the we have not seen the last of that man.

CARMEN GEDITT – You must let me throw the two of you an engagement party.

JENNA ROSSITY – (JENNA Squeals again) Oh My!

(JENNA, AVERY, BARRY and CARMEN EXIT)

(BARNABY goes back into his office. DUSTIN has pretty much been quiet in this scene until he walks over to sit down in one

of the easy chairs THE DAUGHTER moves into view ... standing silently off to the side of one of the sitting chairs looks at her father)

DUSTIN DEBREE – (Looking at his Daughter) Little one ... you and your mother are never absent from my mind ... When I talk with you I cannot help but think of her. (changing the subject) ... It was a simple hand carved wooden marker beneath that old sycamore that you both loved.

(DUSTIN DEBREE stands to leave but then remembers an important thing and returns.)

DUSTIN DEBREE – Wait there is one thing I forgot ...

(Dustin retrieves his daughter's old teddy bear. Meanwhile the daughter has disappeared silently out of sight of the audience.)

DUSTIN DEBREE – I promise you will not disappear from my mind as so many other thoughts have ... Teddy should really stay here with you ... you did cherish him so.

(DUSTIN grabs his bags and walks to the hotel counter)

DUSTIN DEBREE – (Now talking to the bear) Oh ... Mister Bear ... if you do happen to see my daughter ... please take good care of her for me?

(Barnaby comes through his office's swinging door)

BARNABY WILD – Mr. Debree ... looks like you're ready to depart.

DUSTIN DEBREE – A piece of advice Barnaby ... Make every moment count ...you never know when you wish you could have one moment back.

BARNABY WILD – (confused) Excuse me?

DUSTIN DEBREE – Might not think it now ... but you'd miss her ... if she were gone. (Pause ... pulling out his billfold) Well ... I expect it's time to settle my bill?

BARNABY WILD – No need ... strange thing ... looks like it's paid in full. (Picking up and ripping the bill. Then dropping it in the wastebasket that is to the side of the counter.) Come back any time ... any time at all. Good night ... Mr. DeBree.
(DUSTIN DEBREE EXITS)

BARNABY WILD – Good night you old hot springs hotel ... been a pretty eventful day don't you think?

(Barnaby begins to go to his office, but his wife ENTERS.)

THE WIFE – Barnaby. You did good you know ... you did good.

BARNABY WILD – Thank you, Mrs. Wild. (Barnaby EXITS)

THE WIFE – But don't let it go to your head! (she EXITS)

(Both the Mother – GLORIA DEBREE and her DAUGHTER – Denise come into view on stage from different sides of the set.)

THE DAUGHTER – Mommy ... It's dark out here.

(LIGHTS: Stage lights come up just a little more)

GLORIA DEBREE – Is that better now?

(The DAUGHTER rushes to pick up her bear with a giggle)

THE DAUGHTER – Teddy! I wondered where you were.

THE DAUGHTER – Mommy?

GLORIA DEBREE – Yes sweetie.

THE DAUGHTER – I miss Daddy already.

GLORIA DEBREE – I know. I do too. (pause) Don't worry ... when it's time ... we'll see him again. Until then we'll be right here. Waiting.

GLORIA DEBREE – Don't dawdle ... my little one.

THE DAUGHTER – Come on teddy.

(The mother and daughter EXIT hand in hand upstairs.)

FADE TO BLACK

CURTAIN CALL FINALE SONG

SAN JUAN MOON KEEP ON SHINING – CHORUS ONLY

Music originally by Phil Goldberg & Frank Magine

Words originally by Gus Kahn and Gary McCarver

San Juan Moon just keep on shining
When I'm away ... my heart is pining.
Here's the place I wan-ta be
Where friends and neighbors are care free (can't you see?)
'Till my return ... my heart was aching ...
Trembling and Anticipating ...
Your song it fills my heart, but soon ...
I'll see you shine ... my San Juan Moon!

(Afterwards take bows and EXIT)

CHARACTER NAMING

“A rose by any other name ... would be just as thorny.”

Unlike melodramas, plays, and musicals provided by other companies ... with a HeroAndVillain.com play you have the freedom (and permission) to rename characters or even the play itself to better match your venue, town history, or even your own peculiar sense of humor. Just be sure to keep it family-friendly and G-rated. Should your town have a seaport instead of a stage station or train depot ... feel free to make the modification. If you want a “tannery” instead of a “cannery” or an “orchard” instead of a “vineyard” ... go for it.

Melodrama is historically a platform for community involvement and people love local references. That is why the Cue-Card “shameless plug” is can be added several times during your performance to poke fun at local people, places or businesses. One such poke at a local town called “Hemet” can be changed to any other town you wish.

As for character names ... additional choices can be found on the heroandvillain.com website should you need inspiration.

Here are a few names if you wish to remoniker a character.

Alan Rench	Forrest Green
Kylian Moore	Foster Child
Corey Publican	Harden Rock
Sal Ubrius	Noah Way
Adam Baum	Owen Cash
Hooker Crooke	Pierce Hart
Lance Boil	Pierce Hyde
Bill Foldes	Ray Zenz
Brighton Early	Richard Mann
Chris Cross	Seymour Paine
Craven Cash	Stan Still
Craven Money	Ty Coon
Craven Power	William Wynn
Craven Moore	Reed Toomey
Craven Green	Lou Scannon

PROPERTY LIST & RESOURCES GUIDE

They say that “clothing makes the man” I prefer to think that “Wardrobe makes the Melodrama”. There are countless sources for clothing and props that are appropriate for the late 1800s. Here are a few of the author’s favorites. Stick with top quality brands like Wah Maker, Frontier Classics or Scully. The Professor has a top hat ... maybe a short top hat, men wear vests with collars, women dress in Victorian style western wear ... don’t forget millinery for your heroine and you will need a couple of old 1890s style full body bathing suits for those that decide to enjoy the curative waters of the hot springs and a few towels. And a small water spray bottle. Plus, a critical prop is the antique hotel counter bell.

Wild West Mercantile	www.wwmerc.com
Texas Jack’s Outfitter	www.texasjacks.com
Gentlemen’s Emporium	www.gentlemansemporium.com
Western Stage Props	www.WesternStageProps.com
Village Hat Shop	www.villagehatshop.com

Most of what you need in the way of props will be found in any theatre’s prop room others you can build ... a pocket derringer for The Professor, converted kerosene lanterns for the hotel counter, two pocket watches, a sheriff’s badge, an old coffee pot and coffee mugs, handcuffs, a sack of fool’s gold, several glasses and a whiskey bottle or two.

Remember the Professor like all melodrama villains has a black cape or an old west rifle frock. He should wear a brighter colored vest with garters on each sleeve to match as he is just a flim-flam man and a suitcase with writing on its sides ...

Revelare Pecunia!
Show me the money!

Spectaculorum Procedere Debet
The show must go on

Fortes Fortuna Punicas
Fortune favors the Treacherous

CUE-CARD SIGNS

**SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
HOT SPRINGS HOTEL 1898**

THE NEXT MORNING

SHAMELESS PLUG

APPLAUSE HOORAY

HEMET?

GOOD MORNING JENNA

AHHHHH

OOOOOOOH

THAT'S JUST SO SAD

**NIGHT IS FALLING
With
NIGHT HAS FALLEN
on the back**

BOO! HISS!

YEEEE HAW!

MEANWHILE

SIGNS FOR THE WALLS OF THE HOTEL

**Open for guests seeking relief from all kinds of ailments
by soaking in our Steaming Mineral Waters**

HOT SPRINGS HOTEL

PROPRIETOR - Jenna Rossity

MANAGER - Barnaby Wilde

**We proudly serve only Arbuckles' Ariosa Coffee
The Chuck Wagon and Cowboy's Choice
(Place a bowl of peppermint candy near the coffee)**

**Gentlemen refrain from the use of rough language
in the presence of ladies and children**

WHY PUBLIC DOMAIN MUSIC IS USED

Here are a few reasons why the songs used in this Melodrama are derived from music with expired copyrights (i.e. in the Public Domain). Besides the fact that they “feel” right for the time period ... since they came from the late 1800s ... Under U.S. copyright law, any edition of sheet music that was first copyrighted before January 1, 1923 is in the public domain in the U.S., even if the copyright was renewed, the book that contained the sheet music is still in the public domain as long as it was initially copyrighted before January 1, 1923. Prior to 1998, U.S. copyright law featured a "75 year" rule whereby copyright on a musical work lasted 75 years from the first year it was copyrighted. In 1998, that was changed to 95 years. However, the 1998 law was not retroactive and works that were out of copyright before the law was passed are still out of copyright and anyone is free to use its music and lyrics in the U.S. without permission.

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Great American Melodrama**

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TO MAKE NOTES REGARDING THIS MELODRAMA.**

**USE THIS FOR BLOCKING NOTES, CHOREOGRAPHY,
AND MUSICAL DIRECTIONS. HAVE A GREAT PLAY.**

