

I skoll have ham arrest, tha old voman for vear tha man's clothes.
Haw—haw—haw—, Meester Yohanna Mann can't fool Larz, tha Swede.

LUCINDA:

An old woman?

JOE MANN:

You sneered at our laws and said they were lax, but we have the modern convenience of an alimony club.

LARZ:

Haw—haw—haw—, tha old voman.

LUCINDA:

He says such foolish things when he is intoxicated.

JOE MANN:

This's the first time I've seen him sober— The gig's up. There's no use trying to bluff. He has told the truth.

LUCINDA, *bewildered*:

An old woman! The only virtuous man I ever met—is an old woman.

JOE MANN:

I'm sorry I couldn't get away with it until women are enfranchised.

LUCINDA *looks suspicious*:

Do you see any green in my eye? Don't try to bluff.

JOE MANN:

Mina, tell Lucinda the truth.

MINA:

Didn't she hear it?

(Mina and the girls speak in undertones).

LUCINDA, *in utter disgust*:

To think that I fell for all that old female Lothario's deceptions Even trying to inveigle me in to matrimony.

ALPHA, *coming forward*:

This's an unprecedented occurrence. But he is our father, if you will release him, we will take him back to Turtle Tracks.

JOE MANN:

Nothing doing.

LUCINDA *reflects*:

She has an apology of a husband, anyway. (A knock at the door. Lucinda casts a look of utter disgust at Joe as she goes to open the door).

(R) Enter Mrs. Strange-Ade and Inez Holland).

MRS. STRANGE-ADE:

Mr. Mann, we are delegated by the Woman's Scientific Research Association, the Fatherless Child Scientific Union, The All Rights Reser—

INEZ, *impatiently*:

Let me speak— I can do it more concisely, and reach the point at issue without preamble.

(This starts a discussion that looks like a woman's squabble and gives the impression of the well known fallacy that women can do nothing without squabbling).

MRS. STRANGE-ADE, *puffing out her chest*:

Who is the first delegate?

INEZ:

I thought I—

MRS. STRANGE-ADE:

You thought—

INEZ:

I know that I—

MRS. STRANGE-ADE:

You do—

INEZ:

I certainly think—

MRS. STRANGE-ADE:

Why, you should know that I—

INEZ:

Why should I know that you—