

Man and his stomach— It wasn't anything for me to pack my grip and run over to Paris to cook for you and bring you back a well man. And nearly lose my reputation for traveling with a man to whom I wasn't married. The ingratitude of man!

JOE MANN:

I should have been a helpless old cove without you, Linda. You are an honorable and intelligent woman, stay and—

LUCINDA:

Even an honorable woman has rights not to be trifled with.

JOE MANN:

What do you mean?

LUCINDA:

Oh, nothing—nothing.

JOE MANN:

Lucinda! Oh, if I could only tell you.

LUCINDA:

You needn't be bashful. You have known me long enough. But I'm going anyway. (Exit Lucinda).

JOE MANN, to Mina:

If I could only marry her she might stay another month.

MINA:

What need you care if statistics do show that more women than men marry. (Exit Mina).

LUCINDA, entering:

Well, good bye, Mr. Mann. I shall send for my trunks to-morrow.

JOE MANN, embracing her:

Lucinda! I can't live without you— Promise that you will not leave or reveal my past life if I marry you. (Patting her shoulder awkwardly) I know that I'm acting like an old Lothario, although I've had so little practice in the art of love making. (Kisses her) Butter to butter. (He pats her hair.

(Mina and the girls come in and are convulsed with laughter at sight of the tableau).

LUCINDA, with head on Joe's shoulder:

I'm so happy— Of course I can't make a hero of a jailbird, but I can forgive even a crop of wild oats. (Under her breath) To a rich man.

JOE MANN:

It isn't as bad as that— But I can't think of losing my vote.

LUCINDA:

If you are a pardoned felon you can vote. None but the skirts is barred.

(L) Enter Larz, the Swede).

JOE MANN:

Hello, Larz!

MINA faints:

Larz Larson!

(Alpha, Beta and Gamma look as if they had seen a ghost. Larz tries to escape. Joe restrains him. Lucinda gives first aid to Mina. Joe pushes Larz in nearby chair).

JOE MANN:

Stay there you white livered wife deserter. (Snaps handcuffs on Larz).

LARZ, struggling:

Let me go, tha old voman.

(The house is dark while Larz and Joe struggle. Larz is tied in chair when lights are turned on).

JOE MANN:

I'll show him what he's up against when I've had my luncheon.

MINA:

Don't—he's the father of my children.

JOE MANN:

None of your old-fashioned, mawkish sentiment.

LARZ: