

DIRTY DAN STRIKES AGAIN!

By Bill Van Horn

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Lovely Louella Lovelace, in the midst of frantic preparations for her marriage to Sgt. Richard Dobetter of the Northwest Mounted Police, is knee deep in trouble as well as in snow. Some of the wedding guests have fallen into bear traps; the bridegroom is off on a manhunt for Jacques LaSprat, the heavyweight chump of the Northwest; and Dirty Dan, determined to marry Louella, disguises himself as the Abominable Snowman, and captures the entire Northwest Mounted Police Choral Society. Determined that this will not be everyone's swan song, Louella takes drastic action and the play ends on a happy note.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5M, 6W, plus)

COL. HENRY WELLINGTON: Commander Northwest Mounted Police.

DEBORAH WELLINGTON: His excitable wife.

JOHANNA SWENSON: A culpable housekeeper.

LOUELLA LOVELACE: A bride-to-be.

MARGE LAFARGE: A dance hall queen.

PAMELLA PULITZER: Newspaper reporter.

JACQUES LASPRATT: A fat outlaw.

SGT. RICHARD DOBETTER: Louella's bridegroom.

BUCK: His faithful dog.

DIRTY DAN: The scoundrel.

CALAMITY JANE: A tough old cowgirl.

REV. NEWLY: The circuit-riding preacher.

JENKINS: A Mountie.

MOUNTIES

TOWNSPEOPLE

LONE RANGER: A masked rider.

TONTO: His Indian sidekick.

*BUCK, MOUNTIES, TOWNSPEOPLE, LONE RANGER and TONTO may be male or female.

TIME: Early Spring, 1876, in Canada

PLAYING TIME: 30 minutes

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SETTING

Interior of Mounted Police Outpost. Chair and desk piled high with papers SR. Stove and woodpile left of desk; also a wastebasket. Bulletin board, CS, is posted with "Wanted" bulletins including a large picture of DIRTY DAN covering a picture of RICHARD. Bench in front of bulletin board. Flowers, large hats and heavy veil are scattered around.

PROPERTIES: Woodpile, stove, benches, wastebasket, drawing of Dan, drawing of Richard, flowers, large flowered hats, heavy wedding veil, papers, rubber stamp, broom, dust cloth, gold mine map, horn, ropes, blankets, old fashioned camera on tripod with black fabric attached to end, bowl, Snowman, tutu, cardboard horses, pistols, rifle, silver foil, ski mask, telegram, swords.

COSTUMES: Mounties wear uniforms of dark pants, red jackets, wide belts, broad rimmed hats; Johanna wears blouse and long skirt with apron and later a bridal gown; Debra and Marge wear Victorian dresses, and later wedding dresses and huge flowered hats; Louella wears Victorian dress, and later her bridal gown; Pamela wears heavy woolen skirt, sweaters and coat; Jacques is dressed as a lumberjack - wool shirt, boots, brown pants; Buck wears brown leotard, felts ears, tail and painted whiskers: Dan is dressed like Jacques, and later as a "Snowman" he wears heavy white fuzzy material; Rev. Newly wears black suit.

LIGHTING: No special effects.

SOUND: Screams, thuds, groans as written. Music for Mountie songs if desired. Trumpet, horn, or a kazoo where noted.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: COL. WELLINGTON is busily and noisily stamping papers at desk, JOHANNA sweeping vigorously. COLONEL coughs from dust raised. DEBORAH, flustered, enters wearing huge flowered hat.)

DEBORAH: *(Posing.)* How does this look, Henry?

COLONEL: *(Not looking up from desk.)* How does what look, Deborah?

DEBORAH: My new hat.

COLONEL: *(Still not looking up.)* Simply smashing, Deborah. *(Stamps papers furiously.)*

DEBORAH: Why aren't you ready, Henry?

COLONEL: Ready for what, Deborah?

DEBORAH: The wedding.

COLONEL: Wedding?

DEBORAH: *(Angry.)* Yes. Wedding! *(SHE stamps HIS finger with the rubber stamp.)*

COLONEL: Ouch! Ooohhh. *(Jumps up and waves finger.)* I say you've hurt my little pinky!

DEBORAH: Just think ... in half an hour our niece, Louella, is to marry Sgt. Richard Dobetter. Ooohh, and I'm so excited! *(Clasps HER hands.)* And Winifred Winterbottom will turn green with envy because Louella's wedding will be ever so much larger than hers. Oh, it will be simply delightful. The Mountie Chorus will be singing and we'll have ever so many in the wedding party! Ooohh, but there's so much more to be done. You men have no idea what we woman go through before a wedding.

COLONEL: And you women have no idea what we men go through after a wedding. *(JOHANNA giggles.)*

DEBORAH: *(Goes to bulletin board.)* Thank goodness Dirty Dan is no longer a threat to Louella and to us. *(Points to HIS picture.)* Oh, he is such a scoundrel! *(JOHANNA sweeps more vigorously.)*

COLONEL: *(Joining DEBORAH.)* Dirty Dan will no longer cause us any discomfort. I promise. *(HE and DEBORAH cough.)* Johanna, please! The dust! *(Coughs.)*

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JOHANNA: Jah-jah. *(Slows down a bit.)*

COLONEL: Johanna's been with us for two weeks and all I've ever heard her say is, "Jah-jah." Can't she say anything else?

DEBORAH: I'll ask her. Johanna, is that all you can say, "Jah-jah?"

JOHANNA: Jah-jah. *(Smiles.)*

DEBORAH: Her vocabulary does seem to be somewhat limited.

COLONEL: Just as well. One should be closemouthed when working for the Northwest Mounted Police. *(The words cause HIM to snap to attention.)*

DEBORAH: At ease, Henry, at ease. *(HE comes at ease. JOHANNA begins to dust desk.)*

COLONEL: Yes, er, one simply cannot be too security conscious in this office. *(JOHANNA is looking through the papers on top the desk.)* We wouldn't want any of our secret information to get into the hands of outlaws.

DEBORAH: You're sure that Dirty Dan is out of the country?

COLONEL: Out of the country, over the river, and through the woods, Deborah. I have it on good authority that he is in Deadwood City in the United States. He can't possibly harm us. He's over a thousand miles away! *(JOHANNA giggles.)*

DEBORAH: But he is so insidious, so clever, and so determined to marry Louella; and, do not forget - he is a master of disguise. And, he also took a correspondence course in acting. However, he flunked the course.

COLONEL: No wonder he is such a bad actor. But never fear, Deborah, *(Holding HER arm.)* I am far more clever than he; and, ahem, a much better actor. *(Posing.)*

DEBORAH: Oh?

COLONEL: Yes. I passed the course. *(Taking DEBORAH aside, whispers.)* And I've made sure -

DEBORAH: I can't hear you!

COLONEL: *(Shouting.)* I said, I'VE MADE SURE THAT LOUELLA'S GOLD MINE MAP IS IN A SAFE PLACE!

DEBORAH: *(Also shouting.)* WHERE IS IT?

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COLONEL: *(Shouting.)* IN THE DESK DRAWER!
(JOHANNA looks through desk drawers.)

DEBORAH: Why are we shouting? *(JOHANNA takes map from drawer; looks at it.)* Oh. Everyone is so tense. Promise me that everything will be all right.

COLONEL: I give you my word. Everything is under control.
(Loud SCREAM offstage.)

DEBORAH: *(Clutching COLONEL.)* Ohh, what was that? Has Dirty Dan returned?

COLONEL: Of course not. That scream no doubt came from an unfortunate victim who fell into a bear trap.

DEBORAH: Bear trap?

COLONEL: Yes. And do be careful where you walk. The bears have gone simply wild over the brand of oatmeal we've just received, and have been invading the kitchen. I have had to take security measures and have set bear traps all over town.

DEBORAH: Wouldn't it be easier to switch brands of oatmeal?

COLONEL: Oh, no-no-no. Headquarters in Ottawa sent us tons of the new brand, and it's against regulations to eat anything else for breakfast. It's unfortunate that the bears loves the oatmeal so much.

DEBORAH: And the men? Do they like it as much as the bears?

COLONEL: I'm not sure, Deborah, but they have been growling a lot more lately.

DEBORAH: Johanna? *(JOHANNA drops the map as DEBORAH strides to her.)* Johanna, please hurry with your cleaning. It's almost time for the wedding.

JOHANNA: Jah-jah. *(Begins to dust vigorously.)*

DEBORAH: *(Noticing map on desk top.)* Henry! Why is the gold mine map on top of your desk? You've got to be more careful! Ohh, I don't care what you say, my intuition tells me that Dirty Dan isn't far away. *(Goes to COLONEL.)*

COLONEL: Nonsense. *(JOHANNA moves toward COLONEL.)*

End of Freeview

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