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Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie, or So Long, Snivelheart

by CRAIG SODARO



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MA HUBBARD — owner of Rest n' Peace Hotel

ERNESTINE HUBBARD — Ma's oldest daughter

NELLIE HUBBARD — Ma's daughter, our heroine

PRISSY HUBBARD — Ma's youngest

MISS GRUMPERS — an angry guest

MISS CLUTZ — an equally angry guest

HECTOR EVERWORTH — Nellie's beau, our hero

SIMON SNIVELHEART — the banker, the villain

PA HUBBARD — the long-lost father

FORTUNETELLER — a mysterious intruder

BUNGLES — Simon's inept assistant

GYPSY 1 — a ruthless kidnapper

GYPSY 2 — an equally ruthless kidnapper

SCENE I

1
2
3 The action of the play takes place in the lobby of
4 the Rest 'n Peace Hotel, located in Ponderous
5 Pass, Wyoming. The year is 1903 and the hotel,
6 while it's seen good times, now has fallen into ruin.
7 There is a lobby desk, with key box, Upstage Left.
8 Above it, on the wall, there's a sign reading "Rest
9 'n Peace Hotel." At Right there are two small
10 chairs and a small table. A teddy bear lies on the
11 table. A few pictures on the walls complete the dis-
12 mal scene. Wing entrances Right and Left are used.
13

14 *AT RISE:* *The stage is empty. After a moment, Miss*
15 *Grumpers and Miss Clutz enter, suitcases in*
16 *hand, quite angrily. Miss Grumpers goes to the*
17 *desk and rings the bell furiously.*

18 **GRUMPERS:** Mrs. Hubbard! Mrs. Hubbard!

19 **CLUTZ:** Honestly! The most miserable, inefficient
20 service! *(Mrs. Hubbard enters from Right)*

21 **MA:** Yes, ladies? Can I help you?

22 **GRUMPERS:** We're checking out of this positively disgusting
23 excuse for a hotel immediately!

24 **MA:** *(Nervously)* You haven't enjoyed your stay?

25 **CLUTZ:** How could we? There was a WOLF who kept
26 us up all night!

27 **MA:** Well, I certainly don't think it's our
28 responsibility to keep the wolves on the prairies
29 quiet.

30 **GRUMPERS:** Who said anything about the prairies?

31 **CLUTZ:** It was in our ROOM!

32 **GRUMPERS:** And the mangy thing joined ME in BED!

33 **CLUTZ:** *(Haughtily)* You needn't show us the way out!
34 *(They move to the Left)*

35 **MA:** But ladies! You owe me three dollars.

1 **GRUMPERS:** And YOU owe US a good night's sleep!
2 *(Grumpers and Clutz storm off Left)*

3 **MA:** Oh, woe is us! Our last guests have fled and not
4 a cent in our till.

5 **ERNESTINE:** *(Entering)* Mother?

6 **MA:** Oh, Ernestine? Has there been any sign?

7 **ERNESTINE:** Not yet . . . but can I come in and rest a minute?
8 It's cold outside! *(Snow falls)*

9 **MA:** But if you don't keep watch, you might miss
10 your poor, dear father. He may need our help
11 as he crawls his way back to his home, sweet
12 home.

13 **ERNESTINE:** He's been gone a full three months now!

14 **MA:** Snatched by those wicked gypsies! *(With terror)*
15 And now . . . and now . . . wicked Simon
16 Snivelheart — the banker who owns the
17 Ponderous Pass Savings and Loan — is coming
18 tonight to foreclose the mortgage on our hotel!

19 **ERNESTINE:** We've tried to run the Rest 'n Peace Hotel —

20 **MA:** But my three daughters and I are failures at this
21 business with no father to guide us!

22 **ERNESTINE:** *(Holding her hand to her ear)* But wait!
23 Someone comes!

24 **MA:** Is it your father?

25 **ERNESTINE:** I fear not. It's Hector Everworth, our hero!
26 *(Nellie enters dramatically from Left)*

27 **NELLIE:** At the sound of his name, my heart skips a beat!
28 *(She trips, moving to Center)*

29 **ERNESTINE:** And so do your feet!

30 **HECTOR:** *(Entering from Right)* Good day, Mother
31 Hubbard, Ernestine . . . and my dear Nellie!
32 *(He moves to Center, but Ma intervenes.)*

33 **NELLIE:** My hero, in from the cold! *(Snow falls)*

34 **MA:** Tell us, Hector . . . what news have you of Pa?

35 **HECTOR:** I found Pa was taken by a band of gypsies who

1 first headed south, then headed west, then
 2 turned back south, this time by east, then
 3 crossed the Yellowstone, the Rhinestone, the
 4 Brownstone and wound their way through the
 5 Little Big Horns, the Big Big Horns, blew their
 6 horns and went north to Alaska!
 7 NELLIE: How did you keep up with them, Hector?
 8 HECTOR: It's just the gypsy in my soul! And I'll continue
 9 to chase the kidnappers 'til Pa Hubbard can
 10 walk you down the aisle at our wedding, Nellie.
 11 *(He goes to embrace Nellie, but Ma pulls him*
 12 *away.)*
 13 MA: But Hector, Simon Snivelheart — the banker —
 14 is due here tonight at six o'clock to foreclose
 15 and throw us into the cold! *(Snow falls)*
 16 HECTOR: Ah, Mother Hubbard . . . I'm glad you brought
 17 that rascal up.
 18 MA: I didn't bring him up. His own mother can take
 19 the blame for that!
 20 HECTOR: What I mean was, it's good you reminded me
 21 that he is due here, for I have brought cash
 22 that you might forestall the foreclosing.
 23 MA: Cash? *(He gives her a roll of bills)* But how?
 24 HECTOR: *(Proudly)* I split wood, fed hogs, bailed hay,
 25 shingled roofs, filed hooves, felled trees, tended
 26 bees, and waxed eloquent.
 27 NELLIE: My hero!
 28 HECTOR: This booty should hold Simon Snivelheart —
 29 ERNESTINE: The banker!
 30 HECTOR: At bay 'til I return Pa to you and together you
 31 can get the shakey Rest 'n Peace Hotel back on
 32 a firm foundation.
 33 MA: But Hector, that might take forever!
 34 HECTOR: Fear not, I'm hot on their trail! Pa Hubbard
 35 has been leaving a trail of Tarot cards behind him.

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