

A BUFFALO IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

A ONE ACT COMEDY IN TWO SCENES

By Ray Sheers

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(9 WOMEN; 3 MEN)

- JASMINA PETROVITCH** Cleo's close friend. She has a jealous streak in her that makes life difficult for her husband, Bruno. (57 lines)
- CLEO MAHONEY** Camilla's mother. She is not at all happy with her daughter's choice of boyfriends. (87 lines)
- BRUNO PETROVITCH** Jasmina's husband; he is innocent of all Jasmina's imaginings about his other women Jasmina may be "nutty in the numbskull," but he loves her. (34 lines)
- LIONEL MAHONEY** Cleo's husband; generally a mild-mannered fellow whose home is being invaded by unwanted houseguests. (26 lines)
- CAMILLA MAHONEY** Cleo and Lionel's daughter. She is young and in love. Unfortunately, she hasn't been lucky in choosing boyfriends. (51 lines)
- SOPHIE** Cleo's lady friends. (29 lines)
- MAGGIE** Cleo's lady friends. (14 lines)
- MILLIE** Cleo's lady friends. (9 lines)
- FLORENCE** Cleo's lady friends. (11 lines)
- HENRIETTE** Cleo's lady friends. (4 lines)

ALVIN STUDNITZER..... Cleo's latest boyfriend. He's a rather gawky, but affable type. (38 lines)

AUNT GOLDA Cleo's aunt; a forceful woman, who's come to stay indefinitely. (19 lines)

RUNNING TIME: APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES

PROPS

Sofas and chairs (enough for ten characters to sit)
Other living room furniture (tables, lamps, plants, etc.)
Newspaper
Two bouquets of flowers
Candy box
Large knitting needle
Sewing basket or bag with sewing supplies
Deck of cards
Suitcases
Tray with glasses
Bowl and spoon
Casserole dish or pan
Sheets of paper; pencil
Bag (for pudding and medicine)
Large pillow case
Clothesline or rope

SCENE ONE

All of the action takes place in the Mahoney living room. Jasmina is sitting on the sofa reading the newspaper. Cleo is in a chair playing solitaire.

JASMINA: Says here that killer tried to get another one last night. She got away though.

CLEO: You don't say.

JASMINA: And she gave the police a description. There's a police sketch in the paper. *(Shows Cleo the paper.)* It shouldn't take too long to catch him now.

CLEO: These police sketches always make people look like aliens. Did I tell you Camilla's invited her new boyfriend to dinner tonight?

JASMINA: The gangster?

CLEO: No, she's over him. This one plays the accordion.

JASMINA: An accordion player? She sure knows how to pick them.

CLEO: She's had the worst luck with men.

JASMINA: If you ask me, she's better off without a man. They're all good for nothing.

CLEO: I intend to check this one out pretty carefully. I have a little plan for this evening.

JASMINA: What kind of plan?

CLEO: You'll find out. *(Knock at door.)*

JASMINA: If it's that worthless husband of mine, tell him I'm not here. I don't even want to look at him.

CLEO: Don't you worry, Jasmina. I'll take care of Bruno. *(Rises to answer door; Jasmina exits.)*

BRUNO: *(Entering, looking around.)* Where is Jasmina?

CLEO: *(With disgust.)* Oh, Bruno!

BRUNO: Where is my crazy wife?

CLEO: Have you come to apologize?

BRUNO: Apologize? Ha! For what? For what do I apologize?

She! She is the one who should apologize.

CLEO: She told me all about the other woman.

BRUNO: Other woman! What other woman?

CLEO: Well, how many other women do you have? Oh, poor Jasmina. She only thinks there's the one.

BRUNO: I don't have other women! What are you talking about? What lies does she spread about me? What other woman?

CLEO: You know perfectly well which other woman; the other woman at the bakery.

BRUNO: The other woman at...that woman?! My wife is nutty! She's got screws loose in her numbskull. I can't believe her. She tells you...what did she tell you?

CLEO: She told me how you flirt with the woman at the bakery. You should be ashamed of yourself, Bruno. At your age! What do you see in her? I've seen her. She's not even that pretty. That's dyed hair, you know; Cheap dye out of a bottle. Her roots even show. I'm surprised at you!

BRUNO: You went to the bakery? She takes you there, and she shows you the woman at the bakery.

CLEO: That woman bites her nails, Bruno. Did you notice her nails? No, of course not; the woman **has** no nails! She's bitten them all off. Men never notice the little things. They only see what they want to see. Sometimes men are such **pigs**. There, I've said it.

BRUNO: I can't believe she takes you to the bakery. **Pigs?** Did she talk to her? Oh my god, she made a scene, didn't she? Did she get herself arrested? I hope she did! I hope she's behind bars. It would serve her right.

CLEO: No, Jasmina did not get herself arrested. She waited outside the bakery and watched through the window, crying her eyes out. I went in. She couldn't bring herself to go in.

BRUNO: You? You went in? And what did you say to her?

CLEO: I told her that if she didn't leave you alone I would put a horrible curse on her.

BRUNO: You did what?! **A curse!** What kind of curse?

CLEO: I told her I would make a doll of her and stick pins in her.

BRUNO: Voodoo? You threatened her with voodoo?

CLEO: I saw it in a movie once. Bruno, why don't you forget about that woman and apologize to Jasmina. She might forgive you especially if she doesn't know about all the other women. How many are there?

BRUNO: There are no other women! I have no other women! I don't know where she gets these crazy ideas from!

CLEO: What about the cheap bakery clerk, the one with no nails and the dyed hair?

BRUNO: I'm nice to her. I ask her how she is and she says fine. She asks me how I am and I say fine. I say it looks like rain and she says we sure could use it. She asks me if I want my bread sliced and I say yes, if it's no trouble. She asks me if I have anything smaller than a ten dollar bill and I

A BUFFALO IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

say I sure do. I tell her to have a nice day and she says "you do the same." Sometimes . . . **sometimes** she slips me an extra kolachy when I order prune kolachys. That's it! That's my great romance with the bakery clerk. On a **good** day I get an extra kolachy!

CLEO: I haven't had a good prune kolachy in a long time.

BRUNO: Next time I go to the bakery I'll pick you up one.

CLEO: I don't think you'd better be going back to that bakery, Bruno, (*Jasmina enters, unnoticed by them.*) not if you want to stay married.

BRUNO: (*Standing with his back to Jasmina, but Cleo now sees her; she motions for him to stop.*) Maybe I don't want to stay married to my crazy wife. Maybe I will run away with my little kolachy girl.

JASMINA: (*Grabbing and shaking him.*) You just do that, Bruno Petrovich! You run away with your little kolachy girl! I never want to see your ugly face again, you . . . you . . . buffalo! (*She throws Bruno to the floor.*)

BRUNO/CLEO: Buffalo?

JASMINA: You heard me. You're nothing but a buffalo in sheep's clothing, that's what you are!

BRUNO: A wolf! A **wolf** in sheep's clothing, not a buffalo! Who ever heard of a buffalo in sheep's clothing?

JASMINA: Oh, so then you admit it.

BRUNO: Admit what?

JASMINA: Making eyes at women everywhere you go. The bakery clerk, the grocery clerk . . .

BRUNO: The grocery clerk? Her, too?

JASMINA: I knew there was more than one.

BRUNO: I married a crazy woman! That's what I did! Twenty years I live with a crazy woman! What grocery clerk?

JASMINA: The one with the blue hair. Don't play innocent with me! Oh, don't think I don't notice! I see what goes on between you two at the grocery store. I watch how she smiles at you with her crooked teeth. And I see that look you give her. Do you think I'm blind, Bruno Petrovich?

BRUNO: No, I don't think you're blind. I think you're nutty—nutty in the numbskull!

JASMINA: (*Shaking him.*) Oh, I'm nutty, am I? Well, I know what I know! That's it! It's over. Finished! Goodbye and I hope I never see your ugly buffalo face again! (*She pushes him away and rushes out.*)

CLEO: Oh, Bruno, how could you?! (*She rushes out after Jasmina.*)

BRUNO: (*On stage alone, shrugs.*) How could I what? What did I do?

LIONEL: (*Entering.*) Hey Bruno! How's it going?

BRUNO: Don't ask.

LIONEL: What's wrong?

BRUNO: Jasmina left me.

LIONEL: Again?

BRUNO: Again.

LIONEL: I wouldn't worry about it. She's left you before and she always comes back.

Cleo and Jasmina enter. Jasmina gives Bruno a look of disgust.

JASMINA: I'll go pack a few things. (*She exits crying loudly.*)

CLEO: Lionel, what are you doing here?

LIONEL: I live here.

CLEO: You were supposed to pick up Aunt Golda at the airport. Her plane's about to land.

LIONEL: What?!

CLEO: Don't you listen when I talk to you?

LIONEL: Your Aunt Golda's coming to stay here again, for how long?

CLEO: A few weeks, maybe a month.

LIONEL: A month! You know she doesn't like me.

CLEO: Bruno will drive you to the airport, won't you Bruno?

And Lionel, when you come back, get your junk out of the spare bedroom. Jasmina is moving in—

LIONEL: —moving in! Oh no, not again!

CLEO: Aunt Golda will be taking your room while she's here.

LIONEL: Where will I sleep?

CLEO: The sofa will do just fine. It's only temporary. Hurry up and get to the airport. (*Takes paper from her pocket and hands it to Lionel.*) Here's the flight number. You know Aunt Golda doesn't like to be kept waiting.

LIONEL: Aunt Golda and Jasmina too! Bruno, we must **do** something to get you and Jasmina back together again. We can't let this happen.

BRUNO: Maybe it's for the best.

LIONEL: What? No! No, it's not for the best! Don't even say such a thing. Don't even think it! Think of all the good times

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you've had with Jasmina. *(Pause.)* There have been good times...haven't there?

BRUNO: The good times are all gone, Lionel. Let's go get this Aunt Golda. *(Pause.)* On the way back, maybe we can stop at the bakery...to pick up some prune kolachys.

(He exits.)

LIONEL: Prune kolachys? How can he think of prune kolachys at a time like this? *(He rushes out after Bruno. CURTAIN.)*

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