

THE THREADS OF A GILBERT & SULLIVAN SAMPLER

Brief Scene Synopses

RUDDIGORE

Welcome, Gentry—The chorus of professional bridesmaids bids an enthusiastic welcome to a group of male visitors to their Cornish fishing village.

Oh, Why Am I Moody And Sad?—Sir Despard Murgatroyd, who has inherited the Baronetcy of Ruddigore from his elder brother, Sir Ruthven (pronounced "Rivven"), laments his fate: he is cursed to commit one crime a day or die in unspeakable agony.

You Understand?—Richard Dauntless, a sailor and Despard's foster brother, reveals to Despard that Ruthven is living in the village disguised as a farmer. After telling Despard this, Richard wonders if he ought to tell him. Yes: Duty, duty must be done.

Hail The Bride—In a joyous madrigal, the bridesmaids and visitors celebrate the upcoming marriage of Rose Maybud and Richard Dauntless.

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

Were I Thy Bride—Phoebe, in love with Colonel Fairfax who is being held in the Tower of London under sentence of death, uses her wiles to steal the keys from Wilfred Shadbolt, Head Jailer and Assistant Tormentor.

A Man Who Would Woo A Fair Maid—Fairfax, Elsie, and Phoebe discuss the proper art of wooing.

THE GONDOLIERS

Take A Pair Of Sparkling Eyes—The gondolier Marco, who has left his wife in Venice while he has been sent to Barataria, reminisces.

Here We Are At The Risk Of Our Lives—The wives of the gondoliers, bored with being left behind in Venice, come to Barataria and, in classic Gilbert & Sullivan patter, implore their husbands to "tell them all about it".

THE MIKADO

I Am So Proud—Ko-Ko, condemned to death for flirting, has been commanded by the Mikado to behead someone within a month or lose his position as Lord High Executioner. He tries to persuade Pooh-Bah, Lord High Everything Else, to serve as Lord High Substitute. Pooh-Bah declines, as does Pish-Tush.

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

Strange Adventure—Elsie is to be married to Fairfax just one hour before his execution.

THE GONDOLIERS

In Enterprise Of Martial Kind—The rather down-at-the-heel Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro arrive in Venice with their Daughter, Casilda, and Aide, Luiz, and inform Casilda that she is really the Queen of Barataria. The Duke has grand plans, but has not attained his present position by dint of extreme courage.

Oh, Rapture, When Alone Together—Casilda and Luiz proclaim their love for each other, but must renounce it when Casilda tells Luiz she has already been married, by proxy, in babyhood.

There Was A Time—The young lovers lament the loss of the rapture that was theirs—until a quarter of an hour ago.

THE MIKADO

Here's A How-De-Do!—Nanki-Poo has been granted the right to marry Yum-Yum for a month provided he allows himself to be publicly beheaded by Ko-Ko at the end of that time. Ko-Ko reveals, however, that when a married man is executed, his wife must be buried alive.