

1.
"VAN HUNKS & THE DEVIL"

OR

"THE TABLECLOTH"

Script by Vera de Villiers.

Idea by Albert Coates.

CA416 07
PDV2 G1.109
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Note: The story is taken from an old Legend about Table Mountain, so called on account of its flat appearance on top - and it becomes even more table-like when the South Easter blows. Then the clouds lie over the mountain like a white table-cloth, evenly placed over the sides as well. Sometimes this table-cloth is anything but smooth for the clouds and mists swirl high up above the mountain and so low down the sides that the mountain is almost lost to view. When this happens it becomes difficult for the people to walk in the streets, for the great wind carries all and everyone along with it and one is hard-pressed to keep one's feet on the ground!- Sea-faring folk dread the South Easter, for if they do not return to Harbour before it reaches this fury, they will be ~~blown~~ blown far out to sea and then, maybe, never heard of again! The great ships cannot enter the Docks for they ~~are~~ too are unable to get to their safe anchorage until this fury dies away - great trees are uprooted - roofs fly away - everything bows before it!- The people say, that is, the ones who really know - "Van Hunks is smoking his pipe with the Devil".
And now for our story which opens on the High Seas, in the year - 1752.

Film. Two ships are clearly visible - the one an English Frigate, fully armed, the other, a Pirate ship of the roughest kind.

The officers of the Frigate are hard-pressed rallying their men.

As the music proceeds we see the Frigate manoeuvre for position. Big guns are firing from both ships. The Frigate is badly hit. There are preparations for boarding the Frigate by the Pirate crew. We hear the sound of small arms and the rattle of swords.

Suddenly a third ship appears. It also carries the emblem of its trade, undoubtedly another Pirate - then a strange thing happens. The first attacking Pirate slowly moves away and passes out of sight and the great "Isahendrik" (for that seems to be the name of the ship) draws near to the Frigate...and we slowly

Fade-in to the Cabin of the great Privateer.

Stage. Act. 1. Scene one.

The Captain of the "Isahendrik" and his officers are in conversation with Captain Fitzroy and his officers of the Frigate, whom he has just saved from capture by "Bob, the Renegade".

"...And where-to Captain, were you bound for when I so fortunately stepped-in?-" Asks the Captain of the "Isahendrik" who, as you have probably guessed, is no other than Van Hunks, around whom our story centres, to which Fitzroy replies:

"Fortunately indeed, Sir, for if it had not been for you, our tale would have had a different ending and we would never have made the Cape of Good Hope, our final destination..."

"The Cape - Aye - aye - " says Van Hunks.." When I saw it was "Bob, the Renegade", who was attacking, I was afeered it might go badly with you - he is a terrible scourge.."

"Bob, the Renegade"...What? - An Englishman?.."

"Oh, no - " says Van Hunks..."we call him "Bob", for his real

.....name is quite unprouncable...but he listens to me...I flagg-
-ed him as soon as I was within reasonable distance."

"Yes, I saw that" replies Fitzroy, "but I could not decipher the message" and Van Hunks replies

"I only said, go easy Bob, or you'll get hurt!" but," continues Van Hunks....

"I understand Captain, you are carrying a lady and her son on the Frigate - may I know who they are?-"

Captain Fitzroy, after a moment's hesitation - during which time he looks at his officers and obtains their silent consent, decides to trust Van Hunks, and says:

"I will be pleased to present the lady and her son, but first I would like to tell you some of her story - "

Film

Fade-in to the Court of Holland.

Captain Fitzroy's voice telling the story, during the showing of the Film.

A beautiful young woman is evidently waiting to meet someone. She is in a garden, walking slowly and listening for the sound of expected footsteps - which take so long to come. She is afraid of being watched and is touching the flowers dreamily and sadly, one realises that her thoughts are far away....

...."She deeply and dearly loved a boisterous and rollicking young Nobleman, Hendrik Van Hunks, by name.."

(Van Hunks appears, a radiant youth)

... "And was secretly married to him - the Prince of Holland also loved her.."

(The Prince appears just in time to witness the other two in an embrace)

... "And hoped to win her for himself, unaware of the marriage.."

(The Prince is "stung to the quick" and with difficulty departs without making his presence known.)

.. "The Prince never forgave Van Hunks and from a great friendship, he grew to hate his one-time friend and - at last there was the inevitable duel.."

Fade-in to scene of Duel. Early morning light. Wooded country. One of the duellists is wearing a mask. Van Hunks parries the erratic tactics of his adversary - swords crossing. While parrying the strokes the masked man stumbles and falls - his mask drops from him. It is the Prince. He is badly wounded but repentant. Sound of people approaching. The Prince urges Van Hunks to go.

"..Away - away - before they seize you.."

(Van Hunks is on his knees beside the Prince) The Prince's voice is growing fainter..

"Hendrik", he says, "I've been a fool and now I am paying for it. Quick - away - save yourself.."

(The Prince swoons.)

Fade-in to the Lady Isabella's apartments.

(Corner of a room near a window. Rich curtains. Isabella fearful and apprehensive, looking out and then drawing the curtains closed again. Van Hunks rushes in but cannot speak for awhile - at last - incoherently...)

..."I've killed him - my Prince - 't'was all a mistake - and he - he - forgave me before he died and with his last words commanded me to escape before "they seized me"...Heaven forgive me, oh - Isabella, beloved, where can I go? - What shall I do? -"

(Isabella holds him clasped to her heart and tells him to do what his Prince commanded, saying..)

"I will make some excuse and follow you - to the end of the world, if need be - Heaven will help us to find each other.."

Fade-in again to Cabin of the Privateer.

(Van Hunks very agitated, rising from his chair. Hardly able to control his voice - cries hoarsely...)

..."The Prince - but - the Prince?.." And Fitzroy replies..

"The Prince did not die, but became the Lady Isabella's true friend and Protector and searched the earth for his one-time friend, to bring him back to Holland - but - Van Hunks had completely disappeared. Only last year - after nearly twenty years - the Prince having died, the Lady Isabella was free to continue the search for her husband and made all arrangements, with the help of two Sovereigns for, as a Noblewoman she had to get permission from the Dutch Court, as also from the English Court, to be allowed to voyage on an English Frigate, to make the hazardous voyage to the Cape, in the slender hope of finding her beloved husband again..."

(Van Hunks is profoundly moved and tries to hide his agitation by lighting another pipe. He then turns to Fitzroy and says...

"Never fear, Captain Fitzroy, to the Cape we will go...I will endeavour to help you get there..."

(Where-upon he excuses himself and goes out of the Cabin.)

No sooner has Van Hunks left the Cabin than the Lady Isabella enters. She is elderly but beautiful and accompanied by her son, Hendrik who is dressed in the uniform of the Royal Dutch Navy. Lady Isabella is embarrassed by the presence of the many wounded officers but, quickly realising the situation, she goes to the men and helps adjust their bandages, using her own kerchief for one of them and murmuring gently to each one, she touches, trying to give courage and comfort to all.

Captain Fitzroy addresses her and asks her pardon for the heavy calamity he has brought upon them all, and tells her...

..."But for this gallant Captain, this most gallant gentleman, they would have indeed been lost, and indeed"...he goes on to say..

"I almost mistook his flag for another Pirate ship, myself!"

"Indeed", answers one of the officers.."It was the flag of a Pirate ship sir, for a few moments - and until the first Pirate left us..."

"Who then..." asks Fitzroy, "Is this man, I would be proud to call my friend? - "

No sooner has Captain Fitzroy spoken and almost in answer to his question, Van Hunks enters the Cabin, dressed, as he was at the Court of Holland. He looks younger, very handsome and is immediately recognised by Isabella, who is quite overcome by emotion...she

crises put...

.. "Hendrik - ?" And is answered by her son, who, thinks she is calling his. He replies...

"Yes, Mother? - " But she repeats "Hendrik.." And turning to her son says,

"No - this one - oh - Hendrik!-"

She is about to run towards him, when her son, aghast at this sudden turn of events, steps in-between, looking from one to the other, says haughtily...

"My father, a Buccaneer?" And Van Hunks, almost humbly, replies...(song)

"Not so my son - I have created myself Protector of all who ride upon the Seas - I have tried to keep Justice between ships and crews who engage each other for wilful robbery and murder..."

"And have succeeded, sir..." Here he is interrupted by his officers, several of whom have risen to stand near him...

But young Hendrik refuses to be friends and gradually drawing his mother away, says to her...

"Mother, this is all too sudden - let us consult together - alone.."

Isabella, quite bewildered, is gently drawn away by her son, meanwhile gazing at her husband, until the Cabin door closes between them.

Van Hunks calls for "Wine"...and "Fill our pipes to the brim"..

But, it appears there is not even a pipe-ful of Tobacco left on his ship, as he is informed by one of the men...since he gave orders for everyone to enjoy as much of his Tobacco as they wished, after the Battle...where-upon Fitzroy tells him...he has plenty of Tobacco on the Frigate, if it could be fetched. Van Hunks is just about to give the order when a commotion is heard and an officer enters the Cabin with the message...

"Sir - the Glass is falling fast - we will have to make preparations to meet all emergencies.."

Van Hunks invites Fitzroy to take some of his (Van Hunks') men with him to the Frigate, as he will need all available helpers.

"...And only those who are too ill to attend, will remain in my, and the Lady Isabella's charge.."

The sound of "All aboard for the Frigate" is heard and the two Captains take leave of each other, with firm hand-clasps. ~~The~~ Van Hunks' parting words to Fitzroy are...

"Follow me whatever happens...good luck...good sailing.. and a safe landing.."

Film.

The storm gains in strength. Lightning flashes. Thunder coming nearer. The wind begins to howl.

Dialogue on Scfeen accompanied by Orchestra.

This terrifying "Cape of Tempests"...quelling the stoutest heart. Is it indeed brooded over by that monster Adamastor? - The tale told by the poet Camoens, in his great Epic poem "The Lysiads".. as he accompanied his great Captain Vasco da Gama on his long

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voyage...Did the Phantom ship of "the Dutchman" fall into his power and then cursed for evermore to carry its crew of demons?... Will the "Isahendrik" suffer a like fate and no man hear of it? -

Fade-in to Stage. At the Wheel of the "Isahendrik"

Van Hunks and his officer Bradley are at the Wheel. Van Hunks asks Bradley...

"How are our friends in the Frigate faring - Bradley?.." (sound of ghostly voices calling..."help us - help us - help us -" then dying away)

"Not too well I fear, sir" - answers Bradley.

Van Hunks takes up the telescope trying to penetrate the darkness and in a flash of lightening sees the Frigate struggling bravely in the angry sea, but still afloat...

Again we hear the voices..."help us - help us - oh, help us.." then dying away again) Van Hunks also hears these ghostly voices and says to himself...

"What a benighted place " then turning to Bradley..

"Yes - Bradley you are right - I would gladly smoke a pipe with the Devil himself - if I could get these two ships safely into Port! - "

Suddenly a Stranger seems to appear out of the shadow of the Mast, and a voice, close at hand, asks politely...

"Would you indeed?.."

Van Hunks is completely taken by surprise and asks:

"Who are you? - I have'nt seen you before - are you one of the Frigate's officers?.."

To which comes the reply...

"I'm here to help!"

"Thanks", says Van Hunks, "We can do with a lot of that, I fear! -"

And the Stranger replies, as the ship heaves dangerously..

"T'is only a slight matter of adjustment! "

Van Hunks is highly indignant.

"A slight matter, a slight matter you call it? - "

However the Stranger seems to want an answer and persists with...

"Well? - Well? - And Van Hunks almost impatiently demands...

"Well - What do you want me to do? - " And the Stranger just says...

"Oh - nothing at all - at all - at all - we can arrange all that, to our complete satisfaction, another time..

Then Van Hunks replies...

"Very well - go ahead - " and giving his whole-hearted consent.

(Drop Back-cloth of Table Mountain here.)

Almost immediately there is a change. The light seems to return.

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The Sea begins to calm down. Voices of sailors are heard calling,

"Land - land - land! - "

An officer approaches Van Hunks with the words...

"Wind abating sir - all bouncy and gay again - good work sir, good work!-"

He helps Van Hunks take off his oil-skins and goes off again. Van Hunks is very thoughtful and as if speaking to himself, murmurs...

"Good work - eh? - Good work - I wonder? - "

But there is no time for reflection for the Sailors are busy with their various tasks, handling ropes etc., etc., In the distance we see Table Mountain, sun-lit, rising out of the Sea, as it were, in the early Dawn. Everyone is laughing and happy and excited. At the side of the ship, gazing at this wonderful picture, is ~~Isabella~~ Isabella and her son Hendrik, who, on hearing his approach, turn their faces towards him, with love and understanding in their eyes. Van Hunks opens his arms and in turn, embraces them both. Then with his arms around them, they all turn again towards the vision of this great promised land of their dreams.

End of Act. 1. Scene two.

The sea begins to calm down. Voices of sailors are heard calling,
 "Land - land - land!"
 An officer approaches Van Hunk with the words...
 "and abiding air - all comely and say again - good work
 sir, good work!"
 He feels Van Hunk take off his oil-skin and goes off again.
 Van Hunk is very thoughtful and as if speaking to himself,
 murmurs...
 "Good work - oh - good work - I wonder?"

At this time there is no time for reflection for the sailors are busy with
 their various tasks, handling ropes etc., etc., in the distance
 we see Table Mountain, sun-lit, rising out of the sea, as it were,
 in the early dawn. Everyone is laughing and happy and excited.
 At the side of the ship, leaning at this wonderful picture, is Isabella
 and her son Hendrik, who, on hearing his approach, turn
 their faces towards him, with love and understanding in their eyes.
 Van Hunk does his duty and in turn, embraces them both. Then
 with his arm around them, they all turn again towards the vision
 of this great promised land of their dreams.

UNPUBLISHED
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 MADE IN CANADA

* A slave band, as in my great grandfather's time
 b.c.

* In the new version Isabella + van Hunk
 are together in this scene - they have a duet
 and after Isabella returns the stranger
 appears -

Act. 11. Scene one.The Cape Colony. Three years later.Film.

Shots of old dwellings in sunny surroundings - some of which show the inmates preparing to leave for a Wedding, which is to take place at the home of Van Hunks, called "Isahendrik" (after his ship)

The different views are accompanied by the old Folk-song, "Sarie Marais". The Camera focusses on the Van Hunks' home, where we see preparations being made for the Wedding breakfast.

Stage.

Coloured servants come and go. We see Isabella arranging the dishes of fruit and arranging the flowers. She is singing while she works. The table is spread below the stoep, underneath the trees. Van Hunks appears at the Front-door of the house and calls to her that the Minister has arrived. We then see the Minister with the Bride (Johanna) and the Groom on each side, then the parents of the Bride. The Minister asks for a Blessing on "this your Marriage Day" and all join in singing a beautiful Septette, beginning with the words...

"Give us Thy Blessing, Lord, this day.."

All then re-enter the house. The Camera then takes over again and we Fade-in to.....

Film. And shots of an old Church and the Wedding Party returning home after the Service.

Stage.

A Boer-Orkes is playing some old Folk-tunes, such as "Afrikaanse Pop" (The World is very, very big.) "Tanta Mina kook die Mebos Stroop" (Auntie Mina is cooking the Syrup) and the famous old marching song, "Klaap julle handjies alle Bobbejaantjes" (Marching to Pretoria)

Young Hendrik then sings his Speech-song and Johanna, on being invited by the Minister, sings her song (Coloratura) There is much feasting and jollity and Captain Fitzroy enters. He has just returned from the Indies. He has presents for the family which he gives each one, during his song. Some stately dances follow accompanied by singing. "Jan Pierrewit", "Bobbejaan klim die Berg" and "Siembamba."

The Wedding Breakfast ends with two of the English Sailors, who came with Captain Fitzroy, dancing an old English "Sailor's Hornpipe". The Minister then comes down from the Stoep, where he has been talking with the older members of the family and asks everyone to join in with,

"Give us Thy Blessing.."

Stage. As before. Same Scene. A few hours later.

It is evening and after the Wedding. All the guests have gone and the "Isahendrik" has once again returned to its usual tranquility. The lights in the house have all been put out, except for a light in Isabella's room and also where Van Hunks, in his shirt-sleeves, is working on a model of his ship, the "Isahendrik" at the end of the Stoep. He has his pipe in his mouth and then, as if recalling old times, he lays it down beside him and sings this song while he works...

"Good ship what joy to mould thee once again,

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"With these my hands,
Which loved thee so sincerely,
We've sailed and roamed the seven Seas together,
And ne'er a fault to be found in thy bearing...
Ship of remembrance,
Memory benign,
Wake to life again in my hands..
Let us then sail the Seven Seas,
Let us then roam just once again,
And rally all that did play their part,
In making thee great,
A credit to justice,
Peace and Goodwill..."

And at this very moment the Stranger enters...he wishes Van Hunks a "Good evening!-" As Van Hunks rises he begs him not to "dis-arrange himself!" and proceeds to seat himself but, rises almost immediately..and this is not to be wondered at, for the Minister had occupied that very same chair, only that afternoon.. so, gingerly, he tries another chair and finds this one satisfactory for he leans back contentedly....He reminds Van Hunks of their last meeting...

"A very different kind of day?-" "Not nearly so cosy and what weather?!"

Van Hunks asks...

"But why choose today for their meeting?" And the Stranger replies...

"Is there not an old saying - "The better the day, the better the deed?!" "And besides - after the Wedding, a little exercise will not come amiss?!-"

Van Hunks completely baffled asks...

"What do you mean? "

And the Stranger replies:

"What would you say - that we meet tonight at the top of Table Mountain and enjoy a pipe together in the Moonlight?"

Van Hunks still baffled, asks:

"Tonight? - Moonlight? - On the top of Table Mountain? - "

He can hardly believe the Stranger to be serious, but, the Stranger is quite serious and continues...

"Why - yes - we could at least see which one of us is the stronger smoker?!-"

Van Hunks laughingly says...

"Ho - ho - this sounds like a - Contest? - "

The Stranger continues...

"Yes - indeed - why not?" "A smoking Contest - a most glad and friendly Contest - just we two - perched up there, like two large birds, about to fly - away?!-"

Van Hunks laughs heartily at this and says...

"Ha - ha - ha - but I am a very ordinary human being - how can I contend with you in a smoking Contest - when you have all...."

Here he is interrupted by the Stranger who deprecatingly replies..

..." Please do'nt say it ...it is of course my affair..but, I am sure I will do my best, for there are, naturally, reasons! -"

"Indeed? - " Asks Van Hunks:

And the Stranger replies with these words...

"...And which of us the Victory ^{Then not} shall obtain...
as guest of Victor, he, shall then remain!..."

Here the Stranger makes a low bow and disappears as suddenly as he came, leaving Van Hunks greatly puzzled. However there is not much time to be lost, for the Stranger is expecting him to be at their meeting place and he must hurry...so he quietly proceeds to collect his pipes, among them the pipe Fitzroy gave him that afternoon, he lays them on the table and fetches his great-coat, as well as his two silver pistols, from just inside the Front-door of his home. He places the pistols in his belt and the pipes in the pockets of his coat. He then turns towards the lighted window of his wife's room, she is humming softly to herself. He tells her.."he has never had a happier day, since they found each other again, after these, so many empty years..."Isabella says..."This is only the beginning of their happiness"...but, he sighs...whereupon she laughs gently at his sadness...so, he too, needs must laugh, meanwhile telling her, "he will smoke one more pipe before retiring.."

On hearing his retreating footsteps, Isabella gently closes the curtains and we see Van Hunks slowly wending his way towards the ascent of the mountain, very quietly...but, before passing from our view, he turns his gaze once again towards her window, as if saying a last, silent farewell.

End of Act. 11.



Act III.Film.

Shots of Table Mountain, as if in the Moon-light. At one place on the way up, Van Hunks gazes at the Sea, far below in the distance, before continuing his climb.

Stage.The Summit of the Mountain.

The time is nearly midnight and everything looks very weird - very desolate. We see Van Hunks just arriving at the top..he looks around and seating himself on a rock, takes out his pipe and begins a song to cheer himself..for the gloom is depressing, to say the least of it...here is the song...

"Yo - ho - for the pipe and the 'baccy to boot,
The pipe to which all good swafarers are prone,
Pull heavy, let'd beat the slick devil's own soot..
And show imps of Satan, how that makes him groan!.."

"Then pull on the pipes altogeth'er my hearties,
No slacking you Lubbers, for gentleman Nick,
Ai'nt going to be good, if you bungle your parties,
Look well to your honours and squelch him - HENDRIK! - "

At the sound of "HENDRIK", an~~e~~ echo seems to resound the name again and the Stranger appears. They greet each other cheerfully, but, on the part of Van Hunks, somewhat warily, and who is prepared for anything and is determined not to be taken "off his guard". Suddenly as if by magic, two chairs of antique design are brought in by two imps, a table follows and is placed between the two chairs, carefully. The imps disappear and the Stranger invites Van Hunks to be seated. This is done in silence.

The Stranger is the first ot speak.

"Right glad am I that you have kept our tryst.."

To which Van Hunks replies:

"Surely, I had no option, but to comply with your demand? -"

The Stranger seems quite shocked at such frankness and hastily answers..

"Not so quick - not so quick, my friend, this Contest must go on until I win, according to the rules and regulations laid down by our Inscrutable one....this may take some time, it may take all eternity, who can tell? - I am not a great smoker and as all our 'baccy has a most acrid flavour, it is anything but certain, how the Contest will fall out! - "

At this Van Hunks heaves a great sigh of relief, for indeed he thought he would never see his loved ones again. He says to the Stranger...

"You make me happy sir - I had thought n'er to see wife and son again...my thanks indeed! -"

This is too much for the Stranger who is anxious to "stick to the point" and he replies...

"Not so fast - not so fast, my friend...each Contest will begin at mid-night and will end with the early dawn - we may say at Cock-crow?"..."Win I must, or I shall be banned to yonder Peak (pointing towards the Devil's Peak) every time I lose - a dismal outlook and so frustrating..."

Van Hunks is happily surprised at all this, for he thought until

now, that his Contest would be with the head of the Department, whereas his present opponent was not apparently so important... and perhaps, after all, the Contest might not be so unequal - for up to now, he had never met anyone who could out-smoke him - perhaps after all, he could give the fellow "a run for his money" and who knows - it might be fun to see whether he could get the Stranger to the Peak for a bit...so he says aloud..

"Then you are not - ? -"

"No - " says the Stranger, "my name is..."

But he is interrupted by a short clap of thunder, warning him that he best "get on with the job", so, after a short pause, in which he bows in the direction of the thunder, he asks, affably..

"Shall we begin? - "

"With pleasure " says Van Hunks.

They lean back in their chairs. Van Hunks lights his pipe and an imp lights that of the Stranger.

(Music begins and the wind gradually increases.)

The Stage is gradually veiled in smoke coming up from the front near the footlights..also from the wings.

Film.

Shots of Table Mountain showing the first clouds forming the beginning of the Table-cloth. Then different stages of cloud-~~eff~~ effects...until, finally the whole mountain is almost covered on top. Then, swirling clouds swooping downward. Strong Wind.

Stage.

Into the Stranger's mind comes the thought of trying to distract Van Hunks from smoking his pipe, so he conjures up various phenomena, such as, strange creeping beasts out of the whirling mists. Van Hunks glances in their direction but remains undisturbed. The Stranger then changes the scene to a more alluring one, in which the wild creatures disappear and in a soft and beautiful light the loveliest women appear, singing and dancing to the sound of enchanted music. Van Hunks, for the first time stops smoking, and, taking up his telescope, to gaze at one of the women, who reminds him of his Isabella, as she was, young and lovely and clothed as she was, long ago, in her Wedding dress, and yes, she is beckoning to him and calling his name...As he gazes he suddenly sees the grinning face of the Stranger gazing back at him...Van Hunks drops the telescope and grasps his pipe, wiping his forehead. It was a narrow escape, he must not be taken "off his guard" again. So, he goes on smoking, just as if the Contest has only begun, as far as he is concerned.

The Stranger now "loses his head", the result being that all Hall seems to be "let loose"...many different kinds of Demons appear, more and more horrible...all mixed up with the beauties, who have now become horrible old hags, grinning and twisting around Van Hunks, all dancing a furious kind of Bacchanalia and at last closing in upon him as if to harm him with their horrible talons...

Van Hunks suddenly rises and taking one of his pistols from his belt, fires it into the mad crowd of Demons...in a flash the Stranger throws himself in to the midst of the throng...who all suddenly disappear, leaving the Stranger alone, in a state of collapse, on the ground....The Stranger cries out for "help"...to whom? - It is immaterial for no help is available.. in spite of his curious incantations, which sound like this...

"..... "Help me, oh, help me, my wits are all bubbled...
I'm gasping for breath...
Who would have thought that a pipe or two.
Would have such dire effect on me..."

"Help me, oh, help me, I'm shattered and battered,
I'm gasping for breath...
Oh - how they'll laugh at me, laugh at me...
Cruel, derisive, hilarious laughter..."

"Derisive laughter pointed at me...
Help me, oh, help me, confusion is rampant...
I'm near falling down...
Disintegrating, I'm disintegrating from sheer
desperation.."

A crowd of imps gather around the Stranger and dance with merriment pointing at him, as they sing...

"Ha - ha - ha - haya, Shagraya - goodbye - ya! -
Look at him quaking and panting...
Sweating and paling.....paling..."

The Stranger, having tried to keep "a stiff upper lip" in spite of the laughter, is now rocking himself backwards and forwards and finally falls to the ground, writhing and moaning..The imps now change their tone at once and cry...

"S hagraya....goodbye - ya...off to the Peak now.."
and with more derisive laughter and devilish dancing, they all disappear, leaving the Stranger in a crumpled bundle, on the ground...

The mists now disappear and the Stage becomes lighter. There is a tinge of Rose-red over everything, Table Mountain, the Devil's Peak and the Lion's Head. The Dawn is here. There is a great silence over all. Far away in the distance, from below comes the sound of a cock crowing. A new day. The first "round" is over and the Victory belongs to Van Hunks, who is quietly sitting in his chair and looking at "something" lying on the ground... His pipe is in his hand and he has, at last, stopped smoking!..... He decides to go and investigate when suddenly, he hears a great sounding voice, it seems to come from the Lion's Head and it seems to say.....

"Touch him not - let him lie - he deserves his discomfort for having tried to distract you from your victory. He will be ill for weeks, but remember there are more Contests coming... I will be here to see "fair play" - fair play - fair play -" (the sound dies away).

After listening to the "Voice" Van Hunks looks once again to the place he was certain he saw "something" ... he sees now, nothing... for it has vanished, as well as the two chairs and the table... Only his telescope, his two pipes and the remains of his Tabacco.. are still to be seen....It could all have been a dream, but, from below comes the sound, of someone calling..."Hendrik" - yes, that is certainly Isabella's voice...then "Father" - that must be his son...and then "Master"..."Master"...

Van Hunks joyfully answers in nautical language.."Hendrik, Ahoy."
.."Father - ahoy - Master ahoy.."

The first to arrive at the top of the Mountain are the two servants still carrying their lanterns, still alight...then Isabella and young Hendrik with his Johanna and lastly his old friend Fitzroy... Isabella throws herself in her husband's arms, almost weeping with joy and saying...

"Oh, Hendrik, thank Heaven you're safe...what happened?"

"Help me, oh help me, my little girl is dying...
I'm waiting for breath...
The boys have thrown a pipe or two...
Would have soon die if not for me...

"Help me, oh help me, I'm shattered and battered,
I'm waiting for breath...
Oh - how they'll laugh at me, laugh at me...
Cruel, derisive, hilarious laughter...

"Derisive laughter pointed at me...
Help me, oh help me, confusion is rampant...
I'm near falling down...
Oh - how they'll laugh at me, laugh at me...
Cruel, derisive, hilarious laughter...

A crowd of boys gather around the stranger and dance with merriment
pointing at him, as they sing...

"Yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes...
Look at his quaking and panting...
Sweating and quaking..."

The stranger, having tried to keep "a stiff upper lip" in spite of
the laughter, is now looking himself backwards and forwards and
finally falls to the ground, writhing and moaning. The boys now
change their tone at once and cry...

"Yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes - yes...
And with more derisive laughter and devilish dancing, they all
disappear, leaving the stranger in a cramped bundle on the
ground...

* *return to Act II*

The mate now re-appears and the stage becomes lighted. The
tinge of rose-red over everything. Table Mountain, the Devil's
Peak and the Lion's Head. The sun is here. There is a great
silence over all. Far away in the distance, from below comes
the sound of a cork crowing. A new day. The first "round" is
over and the Victory belongs to Van Hunk, who is quietly sitting
in his chair and looking at "something" lying on the ground...
His pipe is in his hand and he has, at least, stopped smoking...
He decides to go and investigate when suddenly, he hears a great
sounding voice, it seems to come from the Lion's Head and it seems
to say...

"Tough him not - let him lie - he deserves his
discomfort for having tried to distract you from your
victory. He will be ill for weeks, but remember there
are more Contests coming... I will be here to see
"fair play" - fair play - fair play -" (the sound
dies away).

After listening to the "voice" Van Hunk looks once again to the
place he was certain he saw "something"... he sees now, nothing...
for it has vanished, as well as the two chairs and the table...
Only his telescope, his two pipes and the remains of his tobacco...
are still to be seen... It could all have been a dream, but from
below comes the sound of someone calling... "Hendrik" - yes, that
is certainly Isabella's voice... then "Hendrik" - that must be his
son... and then "Master"... "Master"...

Van Hunk joyfully answers in nautical language... "Hendrik, Andy."
"Father - Andy - Master Andy..."

The first to arrive at the top of the Mountain are the two servants
still carrying their lanterns, still slight... then Isabella and
young Hendrik with his tobacco and lastly his old friend Ritzroy...
Isabella throws herself in her husband's arms, almost weeping with
joy and saying...

"Oh, Hendrik, thank Heaven you're safe... what happened?"

13.

"We were afraid you had lost your way in this fearful fog and fiendish wind...and that you were hurt and alone on the Mountain.."

Van Hunks embraces her fondly and then puts his arm around his son and finally places his arm through that of Fitzroy's...he tells them "he is safe and sound in wind and limb" and will tell them "all about it, later, but at present...home - home - what a lovely word.."

Everyone understands and they begin the downward journey. Fitzroy leading the way and helping Isabella. Young Hendrik and his Johanna follow and finally the two servants, who have meanwhile collected the telescope, and number of pipes, at which they are astonished, and both turn to look at their Master who completely fills them with admiration! - They depart, finally, with laughter and much excitement! -

Van Hunks finds himself alone for a moment. Involuntarily he glances towards the Devil's Peak...As he gazes he fancies he hears a voice from the distance saying...

"When the crescent Moon shows itself in the evening sky .. our next Contest will begin...be prepared.. be prepared..." (voice dying away.)

Then, as if in answer, comes a voice from the opposite side, in the direction of the Lion's Head, which is now bright in reflecting the rising sun...

* "Fear nothing...I will be here to see fair play.. fair play...fair play...(dying away).

It is now bright morning light. Sunshine everywhere. Van Hunks waves his hat, smiling gaily towards the Lion's Head..and then to the Devil's Peak, as if in acknowledgment of his readiness to comply with the Stranger's demand! He begins the descent and we hear him singing his breezy song...the music is taken up by the others, who are waiting for him and the song- re-echoes everywhere around us.....We gradually Fade-in to the

Film. Views of Table Mountain in bright sunlight and without a single cloud. Meanwhile the Music has become louder and louder until we are left with the Mountain, light and endless sound mounting to a great crescendo.

----- END -----

All the characters are fictitious. The Music and Lyrics are the original compositions of Albert Coates.

The Folk-songs are South African.