

30 (1)
Script
Vanderwater

" van Hunks & the Devil"
Or,
"The Tablecloth"

POV2 6-10e
Script
Albert Coates idea.

The story is taken from an old Legend about Table Mountain.....Table Mountain is flat on top and takes on the definite look of a table covered with a "Tablecloth" especially at certain time of the year during the Summer when there is a very strong wind, called the "South Easter". This "South Easter" makes the clouds lie over the Mountain like a cloth. Sometimes this Table cloth is so dense that it swirls high over the Mountain and falls down the sides in great clouds and then it is quite difficult for the people in the Town to keep their feet on the ground for the "South Easter" carries all before it. Sea-faring folk, out at sea, hasten home as soon as the first threads of the "Table cloth" appear over the Mountain for otherwise they will be blown far out to sea....and maybe never heard of again. The great ships are kept waiting outside the Docks too, for they are also unable to get to their safe anchorage in the teeth of the South Easter..... All bow before it. And now for our story which opens on the High Seas and in the year 1750. X The people say "Van Hunk is Curke his wife with the Devil."

Two ships are individually visible - the one, an English Frigate, fully armed, and the other, a Pirate ship of the roughest kind. The officers of the Frigate with their telescopes and megaphones are rallying their men. As the music proceeds we see the Frigate manoeuvring for position. Big guns firing from both ships. The Frigate is badly hit....preparations for boarding the Frigate by the Pirate crew, Small arms and the rattle of swords. Suddenly a third vessel appears. It also carries the emblem of its trade, is it the sign of another Pirate ship?- Its name the "Isahendrik" Then a strange thing happens, the attacking Pirate slowly moves away and almost silently passes out of sight and the great "Isahendrik" draws near to the Frigate.... and we slowly fade in, to the Cabin of a great Privateer.

The Captain of the "Isahendrik" and his officers are in conversation with the officers and their Captain of the Frigate they have just saved from capture by "Bob, the Renegade Van Hunks, around whom our story centers, is questioning Captain Fitzroy of the Frigate, "And whereto Captein, were you bound for, when I so fortunately stepped in?- "to which Captain Fitzroy replies "Fortunately indeed, Sir, for if it had not been for you, our tale would have had a different ending" and we would have never 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 you, I was afeered that 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.. "I like "Bob" for he listens to me - I flagged him as soon as I was within reasonable distance..." "Yes I saw that, says Fitzroy but I could not decipher the message..." van Hunks replies " I only said "Go easy Bob or 'xx you'll get hurt"....."But," continues van Hunks "I understand you ~~xx~~ were carrying a lady and her son on the Frigate and this by Royal request?....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 replies" he will gladly present the lady and her son "but first he would like to tell van Hunks some of her story.....Fade in, to the Court of Holland. and Captain Fitzroy's voice telling the story

(A beautiful young woman, reclining in a great and handsome chair and listening for the sound of footsteps) v.k. "She dearly and deeply loved a boisterous, rollicking young Nobleman by name, Hendrik van Hunks" (van Hunks appears, a radiant youthe) 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~~ stung to the quick and with difficulty makes a dignified exit) The Prince never forgave van Hunks and from great friendship, he grew to hate his one-time friend....and at last there was the inevitable duel. (The Duel scene, 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 and his mask drops from him (the Prince) he is badly wounded but repentant. Sounds of voices coming closer. The Prince urges van Hunks to go "Away, away, before they seize you," ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~, van Hunks is on his knees beside the Prince who now faintly whispers ... "Hendrik, Ive been a fool and am paying for it, quick away, away, save yourself"....the Prince swoons....Fade in to...

The Lady Isabella's apartments. Isabella the young wife is apprehensive and restlessly paces the large room. Van Hunks rushes in but cannot speak for a while...all he can say is... "I've killed ~~him~~ him - my Prince, ^{was by 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 where can I go , what shall I do?" Isabella holds him clasped in her arms and tells him to do what his Prince commanded, and says... "I will make some excuse and follow you, to the end of the ^{world} earth if necessary, Heaven will help us to find each other"..... Fade in to the Cabin of the Privateer again.

2

van Hunks very agitated and rising from his chair, and hardly able to control his voice, "The Prince, but the Prince?".....he asks, and Captain 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 Sovereign's (Holland and England) to make the hazardous voyage to the Cape, in the slender hope of finding her beloved husband again....." Van Hunks is profoundly moved, trying to hide his agitation by lighting another pipe, ~~then turning round to Capt. Fitzroy~~ then turning round to Capt. Fitzroy he tells him "Never fear Captain Fitzroy, to the Cape we will go, I will endeavour to help.... you to get there". He then excuses himself and goes out.

How could I forget you & I have ever lived in the hope

No sooner has van Hunks left the Cabin when the Lady Isabella enters. She is elderly but beautiful, accompanied by her son Hendrik, who is dressed in the uniform of the Dutch Royal Navy. They are ushered in by an officer. Lady Isabella is embarrassed in the presence of the many wounded officers but quickly realizing the situation she goes to the man and helps to adjust their bandages, using her own kerchief for one of them and murmurs 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 that but for "This gallant Captain, this most gallant gentleman they would have indeed been lost" and "indeed" he goes on "I almost mistook his flag for a Pirate ship, myself"...."indeed" replies one of the officers present "It was the flag of a Pirate ship, for a few moments"..."who then" asks Captain Fitzroy, "is this man I would be proud to call my friend?..."

No sooner has Capt. Fitzroy spoken and almost in answer to his outburst, 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 completely bewildered... she cries "Hendrik"....her son thinking she is calling him, replies "Yes Mother"... she re-iterates "No - no - the other....Hendrik"....and van Hunks replies "Yes.... Isabella... ~~my hands are clean. I have kept them so~~ ^{lost in my heart} in the hope of clasping you to my heart once again - ~~before I too, would come to die~~ - please trust me..... Young Hendrik is aghast at the turn of events and cries out "My Father, a Buccaneer?" Whereupon van Hunks replies, in the beautiful words of a 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.. He is interrupted by his officers who say "And have succeeded, Sir"..... but young Hendrik asks his Mother to ~~retire and consult with him personally~~ retire and consult with him personally for "~~this~~ this is all too sudden".....Isabella, as if in a dream allows herself to be quietly drawn away.....watching van Hunks all the while as she goes.....

Van Hunks calls for wine and "fill our pipes to the brim full" but there is a commotion among the Stewards for it appears that van Hunks himself gave the order after the Battle, (when he took the wounded crew and officers on his ship) that everyone should use as much tobacco as he desired and now and now....there is not sufficient tobacco left to "go round"...however this situation is saved by Capt. Fitzroy saying "the Frigate is "chock " full of tobacco and van Hunks has only to send for it....much to van Hunks joy, for without tobacco he cannot live!- The plan however comes to nought for at that moment an officer appears with the news "Sir, the glass is falling fast, we will have to make preparations to meet all emergencies..." whereupon Captain van Hunks orders the Long-boat alongside in order to take Fitzroy back to his Frigate, which, "though badly battered seems to remain sea-worthy...van Hunks invites Fitzroy to take some of his (van Hunks) men with him as he will need all available helpers and "Only those who are still too ill to attend you 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 hand-clasps of great friendship....Van Hunks last words to Capt. Fitzroy on parting are "Follow me whatever happens - good luck, good sailing and a safe landing".....

This unaccountable Cape of Storms, which in the earliest days of Vasco de Gama seems to have quelled the stoutest heart ~~with~~ ~~this~~ ~~black~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~sea~~ ~~and~~ ~~at~~ ~~long~~ ~~distance~~ ~~brayed~~,
~~As if it roar'd through rocks, down rocks did fall.~~

O Pow'r inhabiting the Heav'ns, I said,
What divine threat is? What mystical
Impartin of thy will in so new form?
For this is a Thing greater than a Storm"

(Quoted from "The Lusiad" by Camoens (Fanshawe translation) ~~dated~~ by Richard Fanshaws 1608 - 1666)

.....
"I am that great and secret Head of Land
Which you the Cape of Tempests well did call;
.....I am call'd Adamastor....

The Storm gains in strength, Lightening flashes. Thunder coming nearer and nearer. The Wind begins to howl.

~~Is this Zone indeed possessed by this terrif~~

3

Is this Zone indeed possessed by this terrifying Monster "Adamastor and no sea-man saved, who shall feel his power in this storm....Did the phantom ship that carried the "Flying Dutchmen" and seen in this Zone at various times by seamen around this "Cape of Storms" incur his wrath?.... and thus condemned to sail for ever with his phantom crew?....And whose voices are those calling "help us - help us - help us.... and dying away as if lost to life?...

We fade in to the wheel-house, van Hunks and his officer Bradley at the wheel... van Hunks asks Bradley..."How are our friends in the Frigate faring"....we hear these voices again "help-us, help us, help us....."not too well I fear sir" says Bradley. Van Hunks takes up his telescope and tries to penetrate the thick darkness of the storm...he also hears the voices, "Oh....help us, help us help us...." he says to Bradley"...."Yes, you are right, Bradley....I would gladly smoke a pipe with the Devil himself, if I could get both ships safely into Port...." Suddenly....a Stranger seems to appear out of the shadows of the wheelhouse and a voice close at hand says....."would you indeed...?" van Hunks is taken aback and asks "Hullo - who are you, I don't know think I've seen you before, are you among the Frigate's officers,?"...which comes the reply.... "I'm here to help!"....."Oh, thanks says van Hunks we can do with a lot of that I fear.....to which the Stranger replies, as the ship heaves dangerously..."T'is only a slight matter of adjustment....." This makes van Hunks very indignant and he almost splutters as he says "A slight matter, a slight matter, indeed"..... The Stranger seems to want an answer and persists with "well...well?" and van Hunks almost impatiently asks "well, here goes, what do you want me to do?..." but the Stranger just says.."Oh nothing, at all - at all - at all - we can arrange all that to our complete satisfaction, another time...." and at last van Hunks says... "Very well "giving his full-hearted consent.

Almost instantaneously light begins to come back and Sailors voices are heard Land - land - land - land -. And Officer comes to the wheelhouse and says... Wind abating Sir, all bouncy and gay again - good work sir - good work"...helps van Hunks to take off his oil-skins and bounces out again..... Van Hunks is very thoughtful and as if speaking to himself, murmurs..."Good work, eh? - Good work, I wonder? -

Now the sailors are busy with their ropes and various tasks for in the distance we see ~~the~~ Table Mountain rising as if, out of the Ocean and everyone is very happy and excited.....at the side of the ship we see the Lady Isabella leaning on the arm of her son and as soon as they see van Hunks they both go towards him with outstretched hands and love and understanding in ~~the~~ their eyes.

Fade in to the Cape Colony, a few years later(2 or 3).

Many beautiful sunny shots of old Dwellings, also shots of Dwellings of the inmates preparing to leave for a wedding, which is to take place at the Home of van Hunks , which he has called "The Isahendrik"....The different views are accompanied musically by the popular and lovely old Folk-song "Sarie Marais". Towards the end of the shots the camera concentrates on v.H.'s home. The wedding Breakfast is spread beneath the old Camphor trees. Servants are dusting chairs and generally tidying up for the many guests which are expected. Isabella is among them helping to arrange the flowers and as she works she is singing a lovely song... One of the servants is engrossed in the music and through her vision we are taken by the camera to her own little home and we see some of the life of the Malay people of the Cape, notably a wedding and their own way of celebrating. The song comes to an end and we see van Hunks calling to Isabella to come into the house as the Minister has arrived and with the Minister is Johanna (Young Hendrik's betrothed as well as young Hendrik. The Minister suggests that "they ask for a Blessing from on High, on this your marriage day" and a beautiful Septette is sung. They then go into the house and we ~~see~~ fade in to an old Dutch church from which the Wedding Party is coming down the steps and getting into their vehicles for the return to the Breakfast. Now we return to the "Isahendrik" again and a "Boer-Orkes" is playing some old Folk-songs...such as "Afrikaans Pop", "Tante Mina kook die Mebos stroop", and the famous marching song (Klap julle handjies alle Bobbejaantjes)! There is much feasting and Captain Fitzroy comes into the midst of it. There is dancing some of the old Cape stately dances "Jan Pierrewit", also "Bobbejaan klim 'n berg", followed by "Siembamba" (all these dances are danced and sung at the same time, as was the custom) Young Hendrik sings a song of thanks to the guests, instead of a speech and Johanna , his bride, sings a song as well, and during her singing we see some shots of well-known South African birds, as Johanna's song (written for a Coloratura) has the motives of some of the birds. The Wedding Breakfast ends with the Minister again asking a Blessing. And we fade in to.....The evening time, after the wedding and all the guests have left. The lights have gradually been put out in the house, only one small candle burns in Isabella's room, where she too, is retiring for the night... van Hunks is in his shirt sleeves and his smoking his pipe at intervals. He is at

Views of the Sailors' dances for the sailors' Hospitality to vessels of the Cape

4

work on his model of his Privateer the "Isahendrik" and while he works he is singing a song which goes like this....

"Good ship what joy to mould thee once again,
 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 good will....."

at this moment the Stranger enters, dressed like a Cavalier....he wishes v.Hunks good evening and as v.H.rises begs him "not to dis-arrange" himself but asks to be seated himself, as V.H. acquiesces the Stranger begins to sit down but on the moment of doing so finds he does not like that particular chair and this, is not to be wondered at for the Minister had occupied that chair that very afternoon... He tells v.Hunks that he has been there for some time and the wedding had amused him and he thought he had seen v.H. recognise him among the guests once or twice... Van Hunks offers him a Pipe and the Stranger then reminds van Hunks of the last time they met a different kind of day, was'nt it?- not nearly so cosy and friendly....van Hunks asks him "Why choose today?....and the Stranger replies... laughingly "The better the day, the better the deed".... and after the wedding a little exercise will not come amiss"....Van Hunks is baffled and says "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 says "Tonight, moonlight, on the top of Table Mountain?...he can hardly believe the Stranger is serious....but the Stranger is quite serious and goes on to say, "Why yes, we could at least see, which of us was the stronger smoker....." van Hunks replies "Ho !- ho !- this sounds like a contest"...and the Stranger replies "Yes, why not indeed, a smoking contest, a most friendly smoking contest, just we two ~~xxx~~ perched up there, like two large birds, about to fly".... To this van Hunks replies. "Like two large birds indeed, Ha- ha - ha- !- but I am only a very ordinary human being, how can I contend with you in a smoking contest when you have all..... but here the Stranger interrupts quickly, "Please don't say it, that is my affair, but I will see ~~that~~ to it that we have fair play!!-- Of course van Hunks cannot possibly believe this and rather shows it by saying "You ".... but the Stranger answers with these rather cryptic words...."Yes, and whichever to the other then shall yield the victory, at the victor's best must needs accept ~~that~~ his hospitality"....here the Stranger makes a low bow and seems to disappear and van Hunks the Stranger's characteristic voice ~~but~~ groans aloud.

Van Hunks then quietly collects his pipes ^{apex} and places them in the pockets of his coat which he has put on. Then two silver pistols which he fetches out of the house and looks at to see that they are loaded and then places in his belt. He turns towards the lighted window of his wife's room and seems to say a silent farewell.. He hears her humming gently to herself and then tells her that never in his life since he met her again has he had a happier day...she replies that there will be many happy days in store for them, but he says "The stars will never look more beautiful than tonight"...she laughs gently at his sentimentality and he needs must laugh with her and says he will smoke another pipe before retiring. She gently draws the curtains and he quietly gives a last look at the darkened house before turning towards the ascent of the Mountain. Here the music begins. We fade in to several Moonlit shots on the way up the Mountain. The Moon is at the Full and the Mountain looks weird and mysterious. At one place the ~~Sea~~ ^{Sea} is clearly visible and as he sees it he suddenly feels a great sadness that he will perhaps never see it again and all that life has now ~~given~~ ^{given} him ...He breaks down but soon pulls himself together and lights one of his long pipes and moving steadily onward he sings this breezy song....

"Yo, ho, for the pipe with the 'baccy to boot,
 The pipe to which all good seafarers are prone,
 Pull heavy, let's beat the slick devil's own soot,
 And show imps of Satan how that makes him groan!-
 "Then
 Then pull on the pipes altogether 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, Hundrik".

5

As soon as van Hunks arrives at the top, which he does at the completion of his cheerful song, infact just as he says his last "Hendrik"...there is an answering echo ~~xxxx~~ "Yo - ho - " and the Stranger suddenly appears. They greet each other, watch in g each other's every movement like two swordsman who realise that they cannot afford to be taken un-awares.....As if by magic two chairs of antique design are brought in by two Imps and a table follows and is place between the chairs... the Imps disappear and the Stranger waves van Hunks to a chair which he does still watchfully and silently.....the first words come from the Stranger..."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 is quite shocked at this frankness and deprecatingly replies..."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 acfid 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 home and loved ones again, he says to the Stranger ~~xxxx~~ "You make me happy sir, I had thought never to see wife and son again, my thanks, my grateful thanks".....This is too much for the Stranger, who prefers to "Stick to the point" and 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 that Peak yonder (pointing to the Devil's Peak) everytime I lose, a dismal outlook!..... (Here van Hunks is happily surprised for he thought he had dealings with the Head of the Department and here, his competetor must be, well not quite so important, so perhaps after all the contest might not be so bad for van Hunks knew that he had not yet met anyone who could smoke as much as he did!) Perhaps after all, he might give this chap a "good run for his money" and it would be fun to see if he could get ~~xxxx~~ the Stranger banished for a bit.....van Hunks adds, addibly "Then your are not?.....But he is unable to finish his sentence for the Stranger rises and bows and says "No, I am only....(but he is not able to finish his sentence for a short clap of thunder warns him that he must get on with the business, so bowing towards the Thunder, he says, after a slight pause) "Snd now, shall we begin?..... to which van Hunks replies, "with pleasure"....(They fill their pipes, lean back a moment and then light up, van Hunks lights his own pipe, an imp lights the Strangers') Music begins)and the wind gradually increases. v.H. sits placidly lighting pipe after pipe and takes a pull at his Grog. The Stranger watches nim anxiously but finally begins to falter. (fade in to shots of Table Mountain gradually being covered with the Table-cloth) Into the Stranger's mind comes ~~the~~ thought of trying to distract v.H. from his smoking....so he conjures up, out of the wirling mists, strange creeping beasts and various phenomena. v.H. glances in their direction but is undisturbed....The Stranger sees that this is useless and changes the scene to more alluring one in which the wild creature slowly disappear and in a soft and beautiful light the loveliest women appear, with singing and dancing. For the fist time van Hunks appears interested for among the women ~~he~~ fancies he sees his Isabella and is just about to make certain by looking through his telescope, he raises his telescope only to find the Stranger's face grinning at him through the other endHuddledly va.H. ~~xxxxxxx~~ drops the telescope and picks up his pipe. The Stranger loses his head, the result being that now all Hell is let looses, many different kinds of Spirits, all mixed up with the beauties and the animals dancing a kind of furious Bacchanalia and at last gradually come closer and closer to v.H. with threatening gestures...V.H. How takes one of his silver pistols from his belt and fires it into the midst of this mad melee of whirling demons..... The Stranger jumps ~~between~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ and in a flash the demons disappear and the Stranger is seen in a state of callapse on the ground.....he cries out for help... to whom?.....is immaterial..... in these words(which is developed in the curious style of "singing* speaking" peculiar to the Stranger)

He puts down his pipe

"Help me, oh, help me, my wits are all bubbled,
I'm gasping for breath, gasping for breath....

Who would have thought that a pipe or two would have such dire effects 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 and sulphurous laughter...

Derisive laughter pointed at me....
Help me, oh, help me confusion is rampant, I'm near falling down...
Even the outlook of banishment, banishment to yonder Peak is more pleasant than this..
Help me oh, help me, oh, stop this confusion, I'm falling through space,
Disintegrating, disintegrating, from sheer desperation.....

~~xxxxxx~~ A crowd of Imps gather round the Stranger and are hilarious with merriment, they sing and point at him derisively laughing...

Ha, ha - ha - ^{HAYA} Shagraaya, goodbyeya....look at him, look at him quaking and panting..

6
 "Sweating and paling, paling....."

The Stranger having tried to "keep a stiff upper lip" in spite of the laughter, rocking himself, suddenly falls prone to the ground. "The imps now change their tone at once and cry..."Off to the Peak now, Shagrrya, goodbyea..." and with derisive laughter they all disappear...

The first streaks of dawn is now visible in the sky, Cockrow. The first "round" or "Contest" is over....Over there, is it something lying on the ground, is it, can it be the Stranger?- Van Hunks is just about to go over and see, when suddenly he hears a Voice coming from the Lion's Head, "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....fir play....(the voice gradually dies away) and when v.H. looks at the spot he thought he saw "something" lying on the ground, it is no longer visible. The two antique chairs, as well as the table have also disappeared..... The early morning Sun is shining and everything is touched with golden colours, the Mountain is also covered with rosy light (shots of early morning).

From below come the cound of voices..."Hendrik" - Father - Master - " and v.H. answers in Nautical language in reply..."Hendrik ahoy, Father ahoy, Master ahoy..."

The first to arrive at the top of the Mountain are the two servants, still with their lanterns alight, then comes Isabella and Hendrik and bringing up the rear, who else but the old friend C.Fitzroy.....Isabella is overcome with emotion and clasps W.H. telling him through her tears..."Hendrik, thank Heaven you're safe. What happened? You have never been out so long...we were frightened to death that you had lost your way in this dreadful Fog and wind and had lost your way and were hurt, out alone here on the Mountain....."

Wuncks is quite ready to go "home" and promises to "tell them about it, some other time" especially as he sees Fitzroy look at him rather quizically ...

The servants gather up the pipes and the little that is left over of the Tobacco and the telescope and begin their downward way "home"

Young Hendrik is leading his Johanna and Fitzroy is helping Isabella and v.H. is just about to follow, when he steps back for a moment on finding himself alone. He glances towards the Peak where he sees a red glow and he hears a voice from the distance saying..."when the New Moon shows itself again in the evening sky, our next contest will begin....be prepared....be prepared....be prepared, and the voice trails away....."

Then as if in answer and as the morning Sunrise shows itself on the Lions's Head, we hear..."Fear Nothing. I will be here to see "Fair Play - fairplay - fair play..."

V.H. smiles gaily and waves his hand towards the Peak as if in acknowledgement of his readiness to comply with the Stranger's demand - he begins his descent, and the music of his breezy song is heard, echoing toward him and around him on the Mountain....

Now you know the old Legend of "The Tablecloth" and you will also know that so far the Stranger has not yet won the contest, it is a long time ago and still we say "The South-Easter, why yes - it is van Hunks smoking his pipe with the Devil".....

"The Table cloth"
or
"Van Hunks & the Devil"

The story is taken from an old Legend about Table Mountain...
Table Mountain is almost as flat as a table on top and at certain times of the year during the Summer there is a very strong wind, called "The South Easter" which often lies like a table cloth over the Mountain. Sometimes this wind swirls high above the Mountain and down the sides and then it is quite difficult to walk in Cape Town for it lifts people almost off their feet!- Sea-faring folk fear this Wind for the boats are often blown out to Sea and the very large ships are often unable to enter the Docks safely. The "South Easter" as it is called appears to be a local wind for it only goes up about 3,000ft. and does not seem to travel further than Port Elizabeth.
Our story opens on the High Seas and the period of which we tell is about 1750.

Two ships are individually visible - the one an English Frigate, fully armed and the other, a Pirate ship of the roughest kind. The officers of the Frigate with their telescopes and megaphones are giving their orders. As the music proceeds we see the Frigate manoeuvring for position. Preparations for heavy cannon. Big guns firing from both ships. The Frigate is hit, badly. Preparations for boarding the Frigate by the Pirate crew. Small arms and the rattle of swords. Suddenly a third vessel appears, the "Isahendrik" its Captain van Hunks, a Bucaneer apparantly for at the Mast-head flies the "Jolly Roger. Then a strange thing happens, the attacking Pirate ship is seen to move away until it is out of sight and we slowly fade on to the Saloon of the great Privateer the "Isahendrik".....

van Hunks, the captain of the Privateer and his officers are in conversation with the Captain Fitzroy and officers of the English Frigate they have just saved from capture by "Bob the Renegade". Van Hunks asks the English Captain "where he is bound for" to which Capt. Fitzroy replies that he "is bound for the Cape of Good Hope but would never have got there if the "Isahendrik" had not come to his assistance". Capt Fitzroy is further surprised to learn that "Bob the Renegade" is not an Englishman but has such an unpronounceable name that he is commonly called "Bob"...Fitzroy is further mystified to learn that "Bob" made a get-a-way when he saw the Privateer altho' it would seem that the two ships knew each other in a friendly kind of way....During the conversation it further transpires that the Frigate was carrying "a lady and her son" by mysterious Royal request!- Fitzroy decides, after consulting his officers to trust van Hunks and tell him who the lady is and how she came on to the ship and undertook the dangerous voyage to the Cape....van Hunks asks to see the lady and Fitzroy gives his consent but says "Before my lady appears I would wish to relate ot you some of her story".....Fade in to the Court of Holland.

Capt Fitzroy relates the following story as we see the picture of the Lady Isabella reclining in a great and handsome chair evidently listening for the sound of footsteps....."She dearly and deeply loved a boisterous, rollicking young nobleman named Hendrik van Hunks, (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 makes a dignified exit) The Prince never forgave van Hunks and from great friendship he grew to hate his one-time friend.... and at last there was the inevitable duel. (the Duel scene, one of the duellists is wearing a mask...van Hunks parries the erratic tactics of his ~~ad~~ adversary (swords crossing) while parrying the strokes the masked man slips (the Prince) stumbles and falls and his mask drops from him, he is badly wounded but repentant) There are ^{sounds of} voices approaching. The Prince urges van Hunks to go "Away, away, before they seize you....van Hunks is on his knees near his Prince. The Prince faintly whispers "Hendrik, I've been a fool and am paying for it, quick away, away, save yourself"the Prince swoons.....fade in to..

Isabella's apartments. Isabella the young wife is apprehensive and restlessly paces the large room. Van Hunks rushes in but cannot speak for a while, all he can say is..."I've killed him, my Prince and he forgave me and with his last words commanded me to escape before they seized me....Heaven forgive me, where can I go what shall I do?"....Isabella holds him clasped in her arms and tells him to do as his Prince commanded, she says...."I will make some excuse and follow you, to the end of the world if necessary, Heaven will help us to find each other".....

At this stage van Hunks of the Privateer asks, hardly able to control his voice... "But the Prince.....the Prince" and Capt Fitzroy answers "The Prince did not die but became the Lady Isabella's true friend and Protector and searched the earth for h

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 Sovereign's to make the hazardous voyage to the Cape, in the slender hope of finding her beloved husband again..." Captain Fitzroy then tells how anxious he was to help her and would have ventured anything to continue his journey, so nearly wrecked by "Bob" when van Hunks promises him "That he will endeavour to take them safely to the Cape...." Whereupon van Hunks excuses himself and goes out.....

At this moment the Lady Isabella, elderly but beautiful enters the Saloon accompanied by her son Hendrik, dressed in the uniform of the Dutch Royal Navy... They are embarrassed by the presence of the wounded officers but Isabella quickly realizing the situation starts looking after the wounded, entirely forgetting where and who she is - murmurs as she bends down to some of the lads - "you poor boy and you - and you", busily putting their bandages to rights and giving courage to them all. Captain Fitzroy who has been attempting to help Isabella is very contrite at having been instrumental in bringing this calamity upon them all, he tells Isabella that he thought ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ "that "Bob the Renegade" would be an easy target, but adds "Man proposes but God - disposes" he adds further that "This most gallant captain who came to their rescue, who can he be , for he Fitzroy almost mistook the flag of his ship for the "Jolly Roger, but of course that could not be possible" - here, a voice from one of the officers replies, that "the flag for a few minutes was "the Jolly Roger" which leaves Captain Fitzroy much perturbed....but nevertheless profoundly grateful, so much so that he says "Oh, then who is he?- This man ~~xxxx~~ I would be glad and honoured to call my friend?".....

At this moment as if in answer to Captain Fitzroy's outburst of gratitude van Hunks re-enters the Saloon, dressed as he was at the Court of Holland, he looks younger and very handsome and is immediately- recognised by Isabella, who calls out.... Hendrik".....the young Hendrik (Isabella's son) thinks his mother calls him and says "Yes Mother" but she says "No-ne - no, I cannot be mistaken, Hendrik* - - ?" Her husband replies, for it is indeed he" Yes Isabella, my hands are clean. I have kept them so in the hope of clasping you once again to my heart....please trust me" Young Hendrik is aghast and says "My father, a Bucaneer"?- but his father replies sternly but kindly "Not so, my Son" (song) 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 - " To this ~~xxxx~~ his officers reply "And have succeeded Sir"..... but young Hendrik takes his Mother out of the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Saloon and begs her to let ~~him~~ them consider the situation by themselves.....

~~Here van Hunks calls for wine and tobacco and all are very merry together until... there is a sudden commotion and an officer enters with the news "the Glass is falling fast~~

only to find that most of the tobacco on the "Isahendrik" has been used as his Steward points out, "Since he gave the order that everyone had to have as much tobacco as they wished after the battle"...capt Fitzroy here tells van Hunks that "his Frigate is "chock" full of tobacco thanks to its traditional Captain walter Raleigh" and van Hunks can get as much as he wishes"...van Hunks is just about to avail himself of the splendid offer when - - an officer enters saying" Sir, the glass is falling fast we will have to make preparations to meet all emergencies".... van Hunks orders the Longboat to take Captain Fitzroy back to his Frigate, which altho' badly mauled is still seemingly sea-worthy and further asks Fitzroy to take as many "available helpers " along with him but he (van Hunks) will look after the wounded and the Lady Isabella and her son"...he wishes Fitzroy "Good Luck...good sailing....and a safe landing" and says "follow me whatever happens".....

The Storm which threatened is upon them. Lightening flashes. Thunder coming nearer and nearer. The Winds begins to howl. Rough seas. great heavings. we gradually fade-in to the wheelhouse, where one of the officers (bradley) and van Hunks, both clad in oil-skins are at the wheel. v.Hunks holding a megaphone and shouting orders . He asks "How are our friends in the Frigate faring Bradley?" Bradley replies " "Not too well Sir.....(sounds of voices calling help us...help us.. help us.....) they sound like ghostly voices and one does not know where they come from....Van Hunks takes the telescope and tries to penetrate the darkness and the storm and in a lurid glare of lightening sees the Frigate.,...heaving and pitching periously and still the voices calling ...help us...help us...help us..... van Hunks hands back the telescope to Bradley and says to him "You are right Bradley, "I would gladly smoke a pipe with the Devil himself if I could but get these two ships with their precious cargo safely into Port...."

Suddenly a Stranger appears out of the shadows and says "would you indeed?".....

3. this Stranger is so much in the shadow of the wheelhouse that one can hardly make out who he is....if the ship were not in such a way one might be able to find out whereas one can hardly keep oneself steady, is the Stranger perhaps one of the Frigate's officers who did not return?....van Hunks is certainly curious and asks "~~xxxxxx~~"Hullo, who are you, I don't think I have seen you before....are you one of the Frigate's officers?"...."I'm here to help" replies the Stranger...."Oh, thanks says van Hunks, we can do with a lot of that I fear....."It's only a slight matter of adjustment" replies the Stranger and the ship heaves dangerously.

v.H. is highly indignant, "A slight matter of adjustment, a slight matter, indeed"... you call this "a slight matter?"

The Stranger persists..."Well?- We..?-"

van Hunks says "Well, here goes....what do you want me to do?.... to thich the stranger replies...

Oh nothing, at all...at all....at all.....we can arrage all that another time to our complete satisfaction.....

"van Hunks then says "Very well".....suddenly as if by magic, the storm dies down the wind abates and light returns and we hear a voice calling "Land - land - and other voices taking up the call of "Land - land - land"

The Stranger has completely disappeared. An officer help van Hunks to take off his Oilskins and tells van Hunks "All ^{wind abating sir} bouncy and gay again, sir, good work sir, good work..." van Hunks is not very certain about it being "good work" but cannot

xy think about the matter ~~too deeply~~ ^{an} ~~for~~ suddenly before them seems to loom up the wonderful great wall of Table Mountain in the distance and everyone is very excited...the sailors are all on the deck doing their different jobs of work with ropes and sails and there in the distance leaning against the side of the ship is the beloved Isabella and his son, who will soon understand how he is loved by his father and yes...there they are coming towards him with outstretched hands and the love of happiness in their eyes.

** fu there in the distance is his Frigate still riding the waves bravely*

