

2.

"Yes, I saw that" replies Fitzroy, "but I could not decipher the message" and Van Hunks says, "I only said "go easy Bob or you'll get hurt".."but" continues Van Hunks, "I understand, Captain, you were 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 replies:

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

Fade-in to the Court of Holland and Captain Fitzroy's voice telling the story.....

Film. A beautiful young woman is evidently waiting to meet someone, she is in a garden, slowly listening, and a little afraid of being watched, she touches some of the flowers but all the time anxiously listening for the sound of expected foot-steps....which take so long to appear.

"...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 makes a dignified exit)

..."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 - it is the Prince. His mask drops from him. He is badly wounded but repentent. Sounds of voices, 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 ~~par~~ 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 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, 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"....

Stage.
Fade-in (again) to Cabin of the Privateer.

3.

Stage. (continued.)

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

"The Prince...but, the Prince?" And Fitzroy answers...

"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 Soverighs. As a noble-woman 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 exits.

No sooner has Van Hunks left the Cabin when 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 to adjust their bandages, using he 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" says 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 them"..asks Fitzroy "Is this man I would be proud to call my friend?)"

No sooner has Captain Fitzroy spoken and almost in answer to this 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 over-come by emotion, she cries out...

"Hendrik?"..And is answered by her son, who thinks she is calling him. He replies - "Yes Mother?"...But Isabella repeats.."Hendrik?"..

And turning to her son says.."No - 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 them and looking from one to the other, cries haughtily...

"My father...a Bucaneer? - "...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 ship and crews who engage each other for wilful robbery and murder"

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