



ArtAge supplies books, plays, and materials to older performers around the world. Directors and actors have come to rely on our 30+ years of experience in the field to help them find useful materials and information that makes their productions stimulating, fun, and entertaining.

ArtAge's unique program has been featured in *Time Magazine*, *Modern Maturity*, on *CNN*, *NBC*, and in many other media sources.

ArtAge is more than a catalog. We also supply information, news, and trends on our top-rated website, *www.seniortheatre.com*. We stay in touch with the field with our very popular e-newsletter, *Senior Theatre Online*. Our President, Bonnie Vorenberg, is asked to speak at conferences and present workshops that supplement her writing and consulting efforts. We're here to help you be successful in Senior Theatre!

We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President

PO Box 19955

Portland OR 97280

503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998

bonniev@seniortheatre.com

www.seniortheatre.com

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FreeView

THE PERILS OF CARMEN GEDITT

By

Bob Naquin

PRODUCTION NOTE:

“The [Victorian](#) stage melodrama featured a limited number of [stock characters](#): the hero, the villain, the heroine, and a comic engaged in a sensational plot featuring themes of love and murder. Often the good but not very clever hero is duped by a scheming villain, who has eyes on the [damsel in distress](#) until fate intervenes at the end to ensure the triumph of good over evil.”

Wikipedia

CAST

THE NARRATOR: Stands to side and helps the story line along. She will hold up ‘Hiss’ and ‘Boo’ and other signs until the audience gets the idea.

CARMEN GEDITT: The Damsel in Distress. Beautiful. Big Eyelashes. Big Hair. Big Heart. Brain not so big. Spends a lot of time with the back of her hand to her forehead in obvious dismay as to her plight.

DIRK DASTARDLY: The Villain. Dressed in Black, Long greasy mustache that he is always twirling. Nobody likes this guy and the audience gets to pelt him if they are provided with soft things like marshmallows or popcorn.

RAY SUNSHINE: Dressed in white. Has a white sparkly cape. Clean shaven. Teeth sparkle when he smiles. The Damsel is interested in him but he is too pure to even take notice.

ANNA RECKSIK: She is Carmen’s sister. She is bound to a wheel chair and always sick. This person will definitely not last long once the Villain gets spurned by the damsel and he casts them all out into the street.

EL KOHOLIC: The Comedian. This person is a bit unaware of the terrible plot that is unfolding. Drinks a bit.

BEN DOVER: A lawyer. Not a very good one. But I repeat myself.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCERS: Present commercials between acts.

Place

A Retirement Community

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Time

The present

THE PERILS OF CARMEN GEDITT

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ACT I

Setting: The home of the Damsel and her invalid sister. The invalid is covered with a blanket in a rocker or wheel chair with a thermometer sticking out of her mouth and a hot water bag on her head. She has a really, really bad cough.

At Rise: The Damsel is sitting doing her makeup in a mirror close by the Invalid, humming to herself as she makes herself even prettier.

NARRATOR: Ladies and Gentlemen I take you to an idyllic setting in a peaceful retirement community. While this neighborhood was designed for seniors to enjoy their golden years, there is evil afoot. Economic times have gotten tough, 401k's have shrunk and cosmetic surgery costs have gone through the roof. And no matter how bad times are, there is always someone around to make them worse.

But I am getting ahead of myself. Our story starts in the home of our damsel Carmen Geditt. She worked her entire life in the entertainment industry, first as a mousekateer, later as a stewardess, and then even later as a product demonstrator at Costco.

(While she is being introduced CARMEN turns to the audience and pumps up her hair and smiles prettily which is pretty much all she knows how to do.)

NARRATOR: Carmen lives with her poor sick sister Anna... Anna Recksik. She suffers from rickets, halitosis, arthritis, bunions, split ends, uncontrolled flatulence (*whoopee cushion sounds*), hammer toe, elephantiasis, eczema, constipation, Dutch Elm Disease, fibromyalgia, Graves Disease, hepatitis, irritable bowel syndrome, lactose intolerance, consumption, narcolepsy, sciatica, SARS, thrush and apoplexy.

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(As soon as her name is mentioned ANNA starts with her hacked cough trying to garner sympathy for her plight. As the list of her ailments continues she starts to eye the NARRATOR, as though she has had enough already. The NARRATOR continues to read off the list of odd and sundry diseases that ANNA has. ANNA eventually gets angry. She gets out of her chair, walks over to the NARRATOR and rips the page of ailments out of the NARRATOR's hands. With a nasty backwards look, she returns to her chair, covers back up, and gives few more pathetic coughs.)

NARRATOR: Let's see what happens.

ANNA: *(making a grunting pig like noise)* You think I could get a glass of water over here!

CARMEN: Oh, my poor dear sister. Is there something I can do for you? You know my life is dedicated to your comfort and happiness. Aren't you feeling well? Is there something wrong with you?

ANNA: Something wrong with me? Feeling? You know I suffer from, *(starts reading from the same list the NARRATOR just had)*, rickets, halitosis, arthritis, bunions, split ends, uncontrolled flatulence *(whoopee cushion sounds here)*, hammer toe, elephantiasis, eczema, constipation, Dutch Elm Disease, fibromyalgia, Graves Disease, hepatitis, irritable bowel syndrome, lactose intolerance, consumption, narcolepsy, sciatica, SARS, thrush and apoplexy.

CARMEN: *(Listening to this for a minute gets irritated, but in a sweet way, she rips the list out of her sister's hands, balls it up, and throws it away.)* No need dwelling on those little things. I was just wondering if there was something new you have contracted.

ANNA: as a matter of fact I do think I have a new disease.

CARMEN: Pray tell what could it be?

ANNA: I don't know, I just keep making this grunting noise, and I don't feel so well. *(She oinks as though to prove her point.)*

CARMEN: *(framing her face in her hands)* Oh! No! Could it be? Let us hope not! Oh please Lord don't let it be—

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ANNA: Will you stop with the overacting, and tell me what the heck you are talking about? (*She gives an oink*)

CARMEN: (*still being over dramatic*) I am so afraid...Oh it is so terrible...I can't even say it...

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