

The Pirates of Penzance

MABEL. It seems so long!
FRED. Swear that, till then, you will be true to me.
MABEL. Yes, I'll be strong!
By all the Stanleys dead and gone, I swear it!

ENSEMBLE.

Oh, here is love, and here is truth,
And here is food for joyous laughter:
He/She will be faithful to his/her sooth
Till we are wed, and even after.

FREDERIC rushes to window and leaps out.

MABEL. (*almost fainting*) No, I'll be brave! Oh, family descent,
How great thy charm, thy sway how excellent!
Come one and all, undaunted men in blue,
A crisis, now, affairs are coming to!

Enter Police, marching in single file.

SERG. Though in body and in mind,
POLICE. Tarantara! tarantara!
SERG. We are timidly inclined,
POLICE. Tarantara!
SERG. And anything but blind –
POLICE. Tarantara! tarantara!
SERG. To the danger that's behind.
POLICE. Tarantara!
SERG. Yet, when the danger's near,
POLICE. Tarantara! tarantara!
SERG. We manage to appear –
POLICE. Tarantara!
SERG. As insensible to fear
As anybody here.
POLICE. Tarantara! tarantara!, etc.

MABEL. Sergeant, approach! Young Frederic was to have led you to death and glory.

POLICE. That is not a pleasant way of putting it.

MABEL. No matter; he will not so lead you, for he has allied himself once more with his old associates.

POLICE. He has acted shamefully!

MABEL. You speak falsely. You know nothing about it. He has acted nobly.

POLICE. He has acted nobly!

MABEL. Dearly as I loved him before, his heroic sacrifice to his sense of duty has endeared him to me tenfold. He has done his duty. I will do mine. Go ye and do yours.

Exit MABEL.

POLICE. Right oh!

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SERG. This is perplexing.

POLICE. We cannot understand it at all.

SERG. Still, as he is actuated by a sense of duty –

POLICE. That makes a difference, of course. At the same time, we repeat, we cannot understand it at all.

SERG. No matter. Our course is clear: we must do our best to capture these pirates alone. It is most distressing to us to be the agents whereby our erring fellow-creatures are deprived of that liberty which is so dear to us all – but we should have thought of that before we joined the force.

POLICE. We should!

SERG. It is too late now!

POLICE. It is!

SONG – SERGEANT.

SERG. When a felon's not engaged in his employment –
POLICE. His employment,
SERG. Or maturing his felonious little plans –
POLICE. Little plans,
SERG. His capacity for innocent enjoyment –
POLICE. 'Cent enjoyment
SERG. Is just as great as any honest man's –
POLICE. Honest man's.
SERG. Our feelings we with difficulty smother –
POLICE. 'Culty smother
SERG. When constabulary duty's to be done –
POLICE. To be done.
SERG. Ah, take one consideration with another –
POLICE. With another,
SERG. A policeman's lot is not a happy one.
POLICE. Ah, when constabulary duty's to be done, to be done,
A policeman's lot is not a happy one, happy one.

SERG. When the enterprising burglar's not a-burgling –
POLICE. Not a-burgling.
SERG. When the cut-throat isn't occupied in crime –
POLICE. 'Pied in crime,
SERG. He loves to hear the little brook a-gurgling –
POLICE. Brook a-gurgling,
SERG. And listen to the merry village chime –
POLICE. Village chime.
SERG. When the coster's finished jumping on his mother –
POLICE. On his mother,
SERG. He loves to lie a-basking in the sun –
POLICE. In the sun.
SERG. Ah, take one consideration with another –
POLICE. With another,
SERG. A policeman's lot is not a happy one.
POLICE. Ah, when constabulary duty's to be done, to be done,
A policeman's lot is not a happy one, happy one.