

THE PIRATE BRIDE
By Christie Hudon

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AUDITION 1-- for 5 m, 2 w

In this scene, Lizette and Roger realize they are falling for each other.

LIZETTE: I'm so sorry I pulled you into this mess. I should have talked to Father and Bertrand, but I was so scared.

ROGER: *(Chuckling.)* Well, it doesn't show. You nearly commandeered my ship. *(Beat.)* What will you do now?

LIZETTE: I've been thinking about pirating. *(SHE playfully points her sword at ROGER.)*

ROGER: You may be feisty, but you're too honorable for that.

LIZETTE: What in the world makes you think I'm honorable?
All I've done is run away and cause endless trouble for the people I care about.

(ROGER takes HER hand.)

ROGER: I know you are a woman of honor because you care and you feel so deeply. You didn't want to hurt Bertrand so you fled. Then you put yourself at the mercy of a pirate queen to save your father and all of us. You're brave, too.

LIZETTE: I'd call that foolishness, not honor or bravery.

ROGER: A good sailor never leaves anything to chance, but we are still at the mercy of the winds. Sometimes foolishness and bravery look the same until the storm ceases.

LIZETTE: Who knew an Englishman could be so wise?

ROGER: Who knew a French girl could be so humble?

(FLEUR and her PIRATES enter with BERTRAND and PEPPY as their captives. ROGER and LIZETTE part hastily and take defensive stances.)

FLEUR: *(To LIZETTE.)* I see the turn-tail has returned to the beach.

LIZETTE: Let them go. Let all of us go on our way. You can have your little scrap of an island. We won't tell a soul.

FLEUR: You would have made a terrible pirate. We never give up something for nothing, my dear.

LIZETTE: Then take me instead. I'll go with you this time and become part of your crew.

FLEUR: Didn't I just say you don't have what it takes? You no longer interest me.

LIZETTE: I was just trying to trick you. Aren't pirates supposed to be sneaky?

FLEUR: Well...I have an idea. I challenge you to a duel. We'll see if there's really any pirate in you.

ROGER: *(Stepping forward between FLEUR and LIZETTE.)*
No!

BERTRAND: *(To ROGER.)* It's just coconuts. Don't worry.

ROGER: *(Chuckling.)* Oh, that's right, how could I forget? *(HE rubs his shoulder.)*

(FLEUR pulls out her sword. LIZETTE takes a dueling stance.)

FLEUR: En garde!

BERTRAND: No, Lizette!

ROGER: *(To LIZETTE.)* Don't do this. *(To FLEUR.)* I will fight in her stead, you black-hearted beast.

BERTRAND: *(To ROGER.)* Do you dare speak to a lady that way, sir?

ROGER: She's a pirate!

BERTRAND: And yet, still a lady. We have big plans for my shipping business. I will fight for her honor and Lizette's.

ROGER: Don't be ridiculous. You're tied up.

BERTRAND: And you have no honor.

FLEUR: Enough!

(SHE charges at LIZETTE and they fight. ROGER pulls out his sword and tries to step between them, only to be knocked in the head by ROSALIE with a coconut. ANNA sneaks over

to PEPPY and BERTRAND and frees them as the SAILORS begin to engage the PIRATES. ROGER awakens as Bertrand points a stolen sword at him. Lizette and Fleur's fight continues US.)

ROGER: I'm really beginning to hate coconuts.

BERTRAND: Good, then we'll duel with real weapons this time.

ROGER: There's no time! We have to save Lizette.

BERTRAND: You are not the one to save her, you cad.

ROGER: Neither are you, apparently. While you speak, she duels.

BERTRAND: Enough!

(THEY fight. The entire beach is a sea of swords, coconuts and shrieks from MEN and WOMEN alike as they flee or give chase on and off the beach. LIZETTE and FLEUR remain locked in combat as do BERTRAND and ROGER. The PIRATES, SAILORS, and BRIDESMAIDS seem to be unsure of whom to fight but do their best to engage one another, sometimes mistaking one of their own for an opponent. PEPPY crawls around finding shelter where he can. FRANCOISE and BLACKBEARD enter DSL amidst the chaos. Blackbeard moves CS and stays there for the rest of the proceedings that happen US and DS from him.)

PEPPY: *(Stopping and spotting the notorious pirate, HE points and shouts.)* Blackbeard! The most feared man to sail the oceans! We're all going to die!

(The fighting stops. FLEUR and her PIRATES look terrified. Fleur tries her best to hide from BLACKBEARD. SOPHIE, ANNA, and PAULINE huddle together. The SAILORS look to ROGER, who stands sword-at-the-ready with BERTRAND. PEPPY runs to exit the beach, yelling all the way, and trips over a stump. He is knocked out cold.)

FRANCOISE: I say, what is going on here?

BLACKBEARD: *(Pulling FRANCOISE close.)* A good skirmish, Frankie. Fires the blood, doesn't it? I'd join in, but I make it a rule never to fight on Sundays.

AUDITION 2-- for 1 m, 4 w

In this scene, Lizette joins the pirates.

(AT RISE: Somewhere else on the island. FLEUR, LIZETTE, PORTIA, PEPPY, and PIRATES enter. Peppy, holding the map, leads the treasure seekers.)

FLEUR: You'd better hurry and find me some gold, boy.

(SHE shoves PEPPY to her PIRATES who threaten him with swords and daggers.)

LIZETTE: We're trekking around this island with you and trying to follow that map. What more do you want?

FLEUR: *(Looking daggers at LIZETTE.)* Watch that sharp tongue of yours, girl. A bit more respect from you or—

PEPPY: *(Pointing frantically.)* That's got to be the tree that looks like Napoleon.

FLEUR: It can't be. That tree is too tall. *(Looks critically at the map, grabbing it from PEPPY.)*

LIZETTE: We've been searching for hours. Are you sure that map is real? *(Moves away from the group DS.)*

PEPPY: YES! *(Boldly grabs the map back.)*

LIZETTE: Why do you pirates go about making maps anyway if you're just going to lose them?

FLEUR: Only the stupid ones leave their treasure in boxes under the sand where they can't find them without a silly piece of paper. I am much smarter with my treasure. And if I die, the secret dies with me.

LIZETTE: That does seem like a better plan. But if I had treasure, I'd spend some of it before hiding it all away.

PORTIA: You sound like you'd be a good fit for our gang.

FLEUR: You're right, Portia. That fire should be used for something better than keeping house for your overbearing betrothed.

LIZETTE: Well, I am kind of running away right now. Perhaps I could come with you.

PEPPY: What are you saying? Your father would be furious!
(*Moves down to LIZETTE.*)

LIZETTE: (*Turning to PEPPY and practically shouting in his face.*) My father only wants me to marry to Bertrand so I'll have a high position in society! I don't want to wed Bertrand. He's a fine gentleman, I'm sure, but I don't love him! (*Grabs PEPPY and begins to frantically shake him by the shoulders as she speaks again.*) If I go back, they'll force me to become a bride!

FLEUR: (*Aside, to her PIRATES.*) I didn't realize we were having a therapy session. (*To LIZETTE.*) Well, my dear, what do you say we find this treasure and ditch the guys? We can sail to Venice and spend our gold shopping on the Rialto! Pirating is good stress relief.

LIZETTE: It is tempting.

PIRATE: Do you really think you have what it takes, girlie?

LIZETTE: I can steer a ship...and use a sword.

ANOTHER PIRATE: You've never had to work for anything, let alone steal it!

LIZETTE: Well, I'm a fast learner.

(*PIRATES all laugh, but FLEUR smiles, a secret thought in her mind.*)

FLEUR: Then it's settled. (*Moves behind LIZETTE and talks menacingly over her shoulder.*) We'll draw up a contract, seal it with a nip of blood and...

LIZETTE: (*Considers the offer wide eyed, then commits, raising her sword.*) A pirate's life for me!

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