

# RETURN TO CALAMITY GULCH

By Whitney Ryan Garrity

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**STORY OF THE PLAY**

The Culpeppers open the doors to the Last Chance Inn once again in this hilarious sequel to LAST CHANCE INN, CALAMITY GULCH. Ma's just as harried, Pa's just as cantankerous, and villainous Horace Prickley is just as...well, villainous! This time, he plots to woo and wed the woeful Widder Black and take control of her fortune. It seems, however, that Horace may have to share the money with the Widder's noble nephew, Peter Loveless...if the young man finds a bride before the week is out. Enter two likely prospects: Pansy Perriwinkle (The most annoyingly sweet heroine ever to grace a melodrama stage!) and her outrageously mean sister, Violet. When Peter falls for the lovely Pansy, both Horace and Violet scheme to keep them apart. A simple set--complete with an abundance of brides, outlaws, and Calamity Creme pies!

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(3 M, 6 W, 3 flexible)*

**PA CULPEPPER** - The thorn in Ma's side. Under-worked and under Ma's thumb.

**IVORY KEYES** - The resident piano player.

**MA CULPEPPER** - The proprietor. Over-worked, a bit perplexed, and mighty vexed.

**WIDDER BLACK** - A mournful regular patron.

**HORACE PRICKLEY** - The villain. A greedy representative of the local Loan Co.—the offices of Gimme, Gimme & Gimme.

**PANSY PERRIWINKLE** - Niece of the Culpepper's and sister to Violet.

**VIOLET PERRIWINKLE** - Pansy's sister and Culpepper's other niece.

**SHERIFF PRETTYFOOT** - Acting Sheriff of Calamity Gulch.

**PETER LOVELESS** - Nephew of the Widder Black.

**THE QUICKSILVER QUARTET** - Claude, Clem & Clyde (can be ladies).

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**SETTING**

The Last Chance Inn, Calamity Gulch, USA, circa 1800. A bar is positioned USC. Several stools are set in front of it. Sets of tables and chairs are positioned around the playing area. There is a doorway SL and a doorway SR, each contains louvered shutters.

**PROPS**

Pansy: Suitcase, mug of sasparilla  
Violet: Suitcase  
Peter: Flowers  
Ma: 2 Bracelets, 3 pies  
Prettyfoot: Pistol

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**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: Morning at the inn. The LIGHTS fade up to reveal PA CULPEPPER behind the bar. IVORY KEYES is seated at a piano on the playing area.)*

PA: *(Addressing the audience)* Howdy! Welcome back to the Last Chance! Come on in, take a seat—we've missed you! I'm Pa Culpepper! Happy Bender, our usual bartender, is on his honeymoon with our daughter, Chastity, so, I'm tendin' the bar! Yep, Happy and Chastity went on a double honeymoon with Sheriff Virgil and Patience! Deputy, and trusty sidekick. Princess Prettyfoot is acting as sheriff! And, that should just about catch y'all up for now! Good morning, Ivory!

IVORY: Good morning, Pa.

PA: And, a good morning it is, too! Good morning...good weather...

MA: *(From offstage)* PA!!

PA: Good Lord, my wife!

*(MA enters.)*

MA: Pa! What're you doin' fiddlin' around back there?! We got lots of work to do today! Don't you remember? We got company comin'!

PA: Company?!

MA: Yes! My two nieces, little Pansy and little Violet are comin' for a visit! Landsakes, I ain't seen those two since they were this high!

PA: And this wide!

MA: Yes, I reckon they were just a little...what's the word I'm lookin' for?

PA: Fat!!

MA: Oh, now! Don't be mean, Pa! It's not as if the little porkers could help it! They were just children! They'd be all grow'd up by now!

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PA: If they continued to grow in both directions, they won't fit in the Last Chance!

MA: You don't need to be worryin' about that! You need to be worryin' about helpin' me straighten things up around here! Come on with me to the guest rooms!

PA: (*Moving around from behind the bar*) Which rooms we givin' 'em?!

MA: (*Exiting*) The big ones!

(*PA follows HER off. The WIDDER BLACK enters.*)

IVORY: Morning, Widder Black. How are you today?

WIDDER BLACK: Well, I don't mind tellin' you! I have my good days and I have my...Oh! That was the last show! This time around, I'm feelin' fit as a fiddle and ready for love! Trouble is, where is a shy, lonely, incredibly wealthy widder like myself going to find someone to share her days, nights, and fortune with?

(*HORACE PRICKLEY enters grandly.*)

HORACE: Greetings and salutations, good people! Ah, Widder Black! Always a pleasure to see you! And my...aren't you looking...dark today!

WIDDER BLACK: Oh, Prickley! You always know just what to say!

HORACE: Do me the honor of calling me Horace, would you?

WIDDER BLACK: Certainly, Horace. And, you must call me Eugenia!

HORACE: Why? I mean, yes...of course! Eugenia, what a charming name! I hope that you do not think this is too bold of me, Eugenia! But it seems to me that you have spent an exorbitant amount of time grieving over the death of your late husband...

WIDDER BLACK: Oh, Uriah had many faults...may he rest in peace...but, he was never late! I must say though, after 20 years, it's difficult to readjust!

HORACE: Oh, you were married to him for 20 years?

## **End of Freeview**

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