

**A DAUGHTER OF THE  
DESERT: A COMEDY  
DRAMA OF THE ARIZONA  
PLAINS IN FOUR ACTS**

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A Daughter of the Desert: A Comedy Drama of the Arizona Plains in Four Acts by Charles Ulrich

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**CHARLES ULRICH**

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DESERT: A COMEDY  
DRAMA OF THE ARIZONA  
PLAINS IN FOUR ACTS**



# A DAUGHTER OF THE DESERT

A COMEDY DRAMA OF THE ARIZONA  
PLAINS IN FOUR ACTS

BY  
CHARLES ULRICH

AUTHOR OF

*"The Honor of a Cowboy," "The Man From Nevada," "On the  
Little Big Horn," "The Deserter," "A Celestial Maiden,"  
"Nell Gwyn of London Town," "Dolly Madison,"  
"Robespierre," "In Virginia," "A Cali-  
fornia Girl," "Mistress Hur-  
court," Etc.*



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## A DAUGHTER OF THE DESERT

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### CHARACTERS.

HAROLD MORTON.....*A Railroad Surveyor*  
CLARENCE OGDEN.....*An Arizona Rancher*  
SAMUEL HOPKINS.....*A Land Speculator*  
PEDRO SILVERA.....*A Mexican Renegade*  
JIM PARKER.....*A Gambler who is on the Square*  
BILL JONES.....*A Sure-Fire Sheriff*  
RUTH ARLINGTON.....*A Daughter of the Desert*  
LUCY HOPKINS.....*Her College Chum*  
MRS. MARY OGDEN.....*An Arizona Widow*  
WHITE BIRD.....*An Apache Indian Girl*

COWBOYS, ETC.

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PLACE—*Arizona.*

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TIME—1882.

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TIME OF PLAYING—*About Two Hours and Fifteen Minute.*

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ACT I—Interior of Arlington Ranch House.....  
The Accusation  
ACT II—Same as Act I.....The Arrest  
ACT III—Hotel at Tombstone.....The Rescue  
ACT IV—Same as Acts I and II.....The Reckoning

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## SYNOPSIS FOR PROGRAM.

ACT I—Clarence and Lucy have an adventure. "How dare you kiss a helpless girl, sir?" Return of Ruth. The story of her secret. "I must avenge the murder of my father!" Silvera's charge. "Your father was killed by Charles Morton!" Morton confesses he is the son of the accused. The avowal of love. Hopkins dotes on custard pie. News of the Apache outbreak. Morton goes to the rescue of his men. "If I die clear my dead father's name."

ACT II—Lucy in tears. "It's not my stomach, but my heart, papa." White Bird brings news of the victory over the Indians. Clarence wounded. The return. Silvera has warrant for Morton's arrest on a charge of robbery. Story of the fight. At breakfast. A toast to Lucy and Clarence's betrothal. Flapjacks and custard pie. Ruth defends the poor Indian. The arrest of Morton. White Bird's avowal. "We shall bring the guilty to justice!"

ACT III—Jim Parker, a gambler "who is on the squar'," introduces himself. How Silvera got a scar on the back of his hand. "I put it there with my sticker!" Silvera recognizes Parker. The threat. "If you monkey with me or my friends, I'll slice, not yer hand, but yer liver!" The plot to rescue Morton. He refuses to make his escape. "I am a man of honor and my word is my bond." Morton's innocence established by Parker. A missing witness. "We must carry him to the Mexican line, if we would hope to save him!" The rescue of Morton by cowboys. Ruth has the upper hand. "Now off to the Mexican line and ride like h-e-l-l!"

ACT IV—Mrs. Ogden and Lucy discuss the effect of pie upon men. "My husband ate two lemon pies and died!" Death due to indigestion, not the pies. Hopkins makes love to Mrs. Ogden. "Your pies have gone through my stomach and captured my heart!" Arrival of Ruth and Morton. White Bird clears up the mystery of the identity of the slayer of Ruth's father. "Silvera shot him in back." Silvera returns on a mission of revenge. "I will kill your lover at your feet." Jones and Parker take a hand in the game.

Silvera cornered and shot. Ruth the richest girl in Arizona. Everybody happy.

#### STORY OF THE PLAY.

The scenes of the play are located in Arizona at the time of the Apache Indian raids in 1882. Six years previously Mr. Arlington, father to Ruth, had been mysteriously assassinated, and her mother dying from grief a few weeks later, Ruth swears vengeance upon her father's murderer, of whose identity, however, she is ignorant.

Three months prior to the opening scene, Ruth had met and loved Harold Morton, a railroad surveyor. Pedro Silvera, a Mexican of polish though a ruffian, seeks to win Ruth's love, and finding she treats his avowals with disdain, he resolves to ruin Morton in her eyes by charging that Morton's father slew her own. Although her love for Morton by reason of this charge is shaken when he admits that he is the son of the accused man, she resolves to hold her decision in abeyance until Morton is given an opportunity of clearing his dead father's name of the stigma cast upon it. Meanwhile news of the Apache raid is received at the ranch house and Morton leaves Ruth to go to the rescue of his imperiled surveying crew.

In Morton's absence, Silvera secures a warrant for Morton's arrest on a trumped up charge of highway robbery. This warrant is served by Bill Jones, a sheriff, on Morton's return from his battle with the Apaches. He denies his guilt and Ruth is prostrated at the calamity that has befallen her until she learns from White Bird, an Indian girl, that Silvera's sole purpose in causing Morton's arrest was to secure revenge upon him for purposes of his own.

Ruth follows Morton to Tombstone and after vainly seeking to have him make his escape, she plots with Clarence, and Jim Parker, a gambler, to have Morton rushed across the Mexican border by a crowd of cowboys. This is done, and after Morton is freed from the necessity of going to trial without witnesses, Parker and Ruth hunt up the only man who is able to prove an alibi for Morton.



Upon his affidavit the charge against Morton is dismissed and he returns to Arizona.

Baffled, Silvera pursues Morton to the Arlington ranch and kills Black Panther, the only eye witness to the murder of Ruth's father. Panther before death confesses to White Bird that Silvera killed Mr. Arlington, thus clearing the name of Morton's father. Silvera appears before Ruth and Lucy and threatens them with death. He admits he has come to kill Morton, but the premature arrival of the sheriff balks his purpose and Silvera is slain while running away. He confesses to the crime of murdering Arlington and gives up a deed to mining property which makes Ruth the richest girl in Arizona. The turbulent course of Ruth and Morton's love thus is changed to serenity and happiness ensues.

The comedy element is supplied by Clarence and Lucy, who love each other, and by Hopkins, whose fondness for Mrs. Ogden's custard pies bring him to a realization that his happiness lies in forming a life's partnership with the widow.

#### CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES.

**MORTON**—Young, handsome, dashing, brave. He wears a conventional western costume throughout the action of the play. This consists of a broad brimmed white hat, blue shirt, flowing tie, black trousers tucked in his boots, a belt and revolver. He must be quiet in his emotional scenes to be effective.

**OGDEN**—A young, good-natured rancher, full of life and laughter. He uses the ordinary cowboy costume, broad brimmed hat, blue shirt, flowing tie, chaps, cartridge belt and revolver. He wears top boots, spurs, etc.

**HOPKINS**—An elderly man, gray wig, smooth face, rotund of person if possible, good natured, jolly and fond of a joke. He has an inordinate love for custard pie, which to him is above all else in life. He is dressed like a city man, in gray or brown sack suit.

**SILVERA**—A man of about thirty years. He is suave, polished and shows that he has been well educated, and

speaks English fluently but with a pronounced accent. He wears the costume of a Mexican of high degree, with tall sombrero, Spanish coat and trousers, with red sash, etc. He is the heavy and must be played with quiet force, especially in the heavier scenes.

PARKER—A middle-aged man, a gambler, quiet of manner, though exhibiting all the qualities of a man to be feared when aroused. He is from the South and speaks with a southern accent at all times. He talks with a drawl and is of easy manner. He wears a Prince Albert suit, with tall collar, flowing tie, considerable jewelry and a low wide brimmed black hat which he carries rakishly on one side. He smokes cigars incessantly and must be played with a view to showing him to be a man of honor although he is a professional gambler.

JONES—An elderly, typical frontier Sheriff, full of grit and recklessness. He wears a mixed costume and carries belt and revolver. He should be played so as to supply light comedy.

RUTH—A highstrung, brave, lively western girl, full of the charm of the West. She shows emotion and gayety by turns and must be capable of meeting every emergency with dignity and force of character. She wears the customary cowgirl costume, with broad white hat, ribbon band, white waist, blue or black skirt, belt and revolver and buff leggings and shoes.

LUCY—A young, fresh looking ingenue. She wears the ordinary street dress, white waist, with skirt to suit taste and black shoes.

MRS. OGDEN—An elderly woman, though well preserved, jolly, good natured, but showing she has a temper when aroused. She wears an ordinary house gown throughout the entire play and this may be changed in every act to suit the person playing it. At least two changes of gowns should be made.

WHITE BIRD—A typical Indian girl, young and handsome. She carries herself with dignity and pride. She wears a gaudily decorated blouse and skirt, with glaring colored

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shawl, beads about throat, and black wig with a single feather.

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PROPERTY LIST.

ACT I—Table, three chairs, easy chair, lamp, several books, papers and magazines. Revolvers for Ruth, Morton, Clarence, small toy pistol for Hopkins. Knife for Silvera. Indian arrow for Morton. Curtain for window. Two rugs for floor. Several Indian baskets, pictures, etc., to hang to walls of scene. Dishes, glasses, wine bottles, silverware, etc., for sideboard. Plain sideboard. Cups and stone for hoofbeats.

ACT II—A plate of pancakes, several sandwiches, wine, coffee, etc., for breakfast scene. Other props as named in Act I.

ACT III—Round table with three chairs, pigeon-hole case, a bundle of letters, cards, papers, etc. Make several signs, thus: "Bar. Hot and Cold Drinks." "Prayer Meeting at the Big Tent Every Sunday." "We Trust in God, but No One Else," etc. Several revolvers for cowboys. Knife for Parker.

ACT IV—Same props as in Acts I and II. Document for Jones. Field glass for Hopkins. Revolver for Silvera.