

MAVERICK
" A Wonderful Performance"
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ACT ONE

EXT. - PLAINSREACH TOWN - DAY

BRET MAVERICK rides in on his horse. Some folks outside look his way and continue their conversations. Maverick continues to ride until he reaches a hotel. A MAN (WILL BARON), wearing a sheriff's badge, walks by and greets Maverick.

MAN

Well howdy pardner, never seen you
'round these parts. What brings
you through little old
Plainsreach?

MAVERICK

Oh, well I'm just passing through.
Figure I'd stop in for the night
after a long day of travelin'. I
didn't catch your name there
mister...?

MAN

The name's Will, uh Sheriff Will
Baron here. I welcome you to
Plainsreach mister.

MAVERICK

Call me Maverick. It's a pleasure
to be greeted by the sheriff
himself. Say, you weren't waitin'
for me were you?

WILL

Oh uh, no sir mister Maverick, Ya
see, I was watching for...

A women is heard singing in the nearby saloon.

MAVERICK

Woah now hold on a minute, who is
that beautiful voice.

WILL

Oh that there would be Miss Sarah
James. She'll do a wonders for
your mood. Don't matter if you
just lost A thousand dollars, one
song from Miss Sarah James and
you'll forget all about the
fortune you just lost.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAVERICK

Well I hope I'll have the pleasure
of meeting this Miss Sarah James,
in fact, I think I could really
use a drink right about now.

WILL

Well go on ahead Maverick, I'm
sure we'll run onto each other
some time soon.

INT. - SALOON - PLAINSREACH TOWN - DAY

Maverick walks in and sees a young women, MISS SARAH JAMES, singing on a stage at the end of the saloon. A GROUP OF MEN are playing a card game on the table opposite the stage. All eyes at the table and the rest of the bar, are on Sarah.

Maverick looks around the saloon and stops on a man, PETE JAMES, sitting at the card table that isn't watching Sarah. He looks at the other players cards.

MAVERICK

(to himself)

Now, I don't believe my eyes. I've
never met an honest man that plays
an honest game.

Maverick walks to the bar and talks to the BARTENDER.

BARTENDER

What'll you have?

MAVERICK

Whiskey please. Oh and, you
wouldn't happen to know the name
of that gentleman over there would
ya? At the table?

BARTENDER

Oh, there's lots a folks that come
round here. I couldn't tell ya.
Figure it's just another fella
having a look at Miss Sarah over
there.

MAVERICK

One would figure, but ya see, this
fella looks to be the only one not
lookin.

The bartender looks to the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTENDER

Oh, well wouldn't ya know. That there fella happens to be Pete. Pete James to be exact, Sarah's his gal. Doesn't come here too often unless there's a good game goin on.

MAVERICK

Seems to be a real good game goin on cause he hasn't taken his eyes off the table for a second. In fact he's goin as far as takin a peak at every single one a those cards.

Maverick watches the table. Pete won the game and collects his winnings. The Group of Men look angry.

MAN 1

Ya know, I really don't like it when folks take my money.

PETE

Well, don't bet what you don't want to lose. Seems to be a reasonable solution to your problem.

MAN 1

My problem ain't that I lost. My problem is that you was cheatin.

PETE

Cheating!? How dare you! I never cheat in a game, I'm an honest man ya see.

Maverick walks to the table.

PETE (CONT'D)

Now who would you be?

MAVERICK

Names Maverick sir, and I think I can shed some light on what's happenin here.

PETE

Oh, well please do, they think I was cheatin, but I wasn't, honest. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAN 1

I know you were cheatin!

MAVERICK

Well just a second. How do you know he was cheatin mister?

MAN 1

Well uh, I knew he was cheatin cause uh, well, I was cheatin. The game was rigged so I could win. The only way I couldn't win was if some other fella was cheatin.

PETE

You accuse me of cheatin when you yourself are an dishonest man. Shame on you.

MAN 1

Well now that we know you were cheatin, you better give me my money.

MAVERICK

Hold on there, did it occur to you that maybe he's just a real good player? Maybe that's why he won, not cause he was cheatin.

Man 1 stood up. Sarah runs off the stage.

MAN 1

No! There's no way he won fair! Now come 'ere and give me my money before I beat ya and leave ya lying on the floor!

Maverick pulls his gun before The man can hit Pete.

MAVERICK

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

The man sits down and Will walks in with Sarah behind him.

WILL

What's all this commotion goin on here?

He looks at Maverick holding a gun to the man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILL (CONT'D)

I think it's best you just put that gun down mister Maverick. No newcomers are gonna come into my town pullin guns on the local folk round here.

MAVERICK

Sorry sir, it's just that these two men here were gonna start fightin. I didn't want a fight to break out in front of this pretty gal here and ruin her voice.

Sarah walks a little closer to Maverick.

SARAH

Well I thank you for your concern mister, but I can usually handle myself. I was only afraid cause I saw that gun on your hip an I was afraid you were gonna pull it. Guess I was right to be afraid mister, cause ya did.

MAVERICK

My apologies Miss Sarah, I'll put my gun away. I was only trying to help this man, your husband I believe, he was about to take a beatin from this man.

Will walks over and starts to take the man.

WILL

Alright sir, you're gonna have to come with me. Pete, you better watch yourself next time. I might not always be here to rescue ya.

MAN 1

Hey, I didn't do nothing! He was the one that was cheatin, I just wanted my money.

WILL

Yeah yeah, I heard that story before. I'm taking you in for the night.

Will takes the man and leaves the saloon. Pete looks to Maverick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

PETE

I thank you kindly mister.... what
should I call you.

MAVERICK

Maverick. And I suggest you stay
right here Pete, so we can have a
chat.