

The Story of "The Belle of New York"

Harry Bronson, a young New Yorker, renowned for his fast living and the number of his flirtations, is giving a stag party to celebrate his wedding to Cora Angelique - a Musical Comedy Star, chiefly notorious for the number of times she has been married and divorced. His party goes well into the morning of the wedding day, when Twiddles, Harry's secretary, arrives with the news that Harry's father, Ichabod Bronson, is arriving in New York, to institute a campaign against Drink. Harry exclaims that he knows that his father will cut him off with a penny if he finds him intoxicated, and is taken to his bedroom by his valet, to try to recover from the party.

Cora, her father Doc. Sniffkins, her bridesmaids and friends all come ready for the wedding, but proceedings are interrupted by Mugg, who thinks he is in love with Cora, accompanied by Kissy Fitzgarter, a song and dance artiste, whom Mugg says has claims on Harry. They are accompanied by Blinky Bill, Kissy's brother, a tough Bowry pugilist, who is willing to fight any and everyone, anyhow and anywhere.

Twiddles escorts Cora and party to drawing room, where the ceremony is to be held, and Harry, not very sober, comes back to be confronted by Fricot, his chef, who has prepared a grand cake, an iced maiden, for the wedding. Harry says there will be no wedding, but seeing the cake, bites its ear and with a scream the cake becomes Fifi, Fricot's daughter, and Harry is in love again.

Harry's father and his crusaders arrive and Harry is duly disinherited, whereupon Cora and Kissy wish him good-bye and only Fifi is faithful.

Trouble is caused to both the Bronsons by a madman, Karl Von Pumpernick, who considers it his mission in life to "kill Mr. Bronson." They spend much time and ingenuity in evading him. Cora now tries, as she feels she has lost Harry, to get Ichabod and his millions and he apparently plays up to her.

Harry takes Fifi to Pell Street and there sees Violet Gray, a Salvation Army lassie, "The Belle of New York," and this time really falls in love. Blinky Bill, caught by his girl friend Mamie blowing kisses to Violet, explains that she is like a sister and everyone loves "The Belle of New York." Ichabod discovers she is the daughter of his old friend and partner, John Gray, and insists on making her his heiress. Violet at first refuses, but then agrees in order to help Harry, but is determined that Harry shall have the money. To do this she decides to shock Ichabod, but he is a wily old bird and only wants her to marry his Harry and keep him straight, and, as Harry and Violet both also want this we can be sure that after various complications, songs and dances, the desire of all three is happily fulfilled, only forlorn Fifi is left lonely