

# Calamity Jane:

## THE STORY

"You're a great one to have round in a calamity," said a Major to Jane after a tussle with Indians and that's how she got her name; but now it's more often just "Calam". She runs the stage coach in and out of Deadwood City she dresses like a man, totes a gun and has a tall story about the number of Indians she has shot on every journey. The locals are used to her exaggerations and say she's "just careless with the truth".

Despite her rough exterior she is not immune from masculine attraction and has fallen for Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin. She sort of likes Bill Hickock too but they are always getting at each other. Miller is expecting an actress on the coach to do a turn in his saloon cum music hall. No actress arrives - only a good looking young song and dance man named Francis Fryer. Miller thought he had engaged a "FranCES", not a "FranCIS", and being scared of the reaction of his tough customers when the advertised actress fails to appear he persuades Fryer to do a female impersonation. It is a flop and there is a riot which Calam quells by promising to bring Adelaide Adams, a Chicago star, as the next attraction. Unfortunately she mistakes Adelaide's stage-struck dresser Katie Brown for the star and in all good faith takes her back to the saloon. Faced with an audience Katie's nerve goes and she is as bad a flop as Fryer. When she confesses her deception Calam again quells a riot and she gets her a fair hearing of which she takes advantage and makes good. Calamity takes her to share her cabin which she transforms with a woman's touch. She is soon the toast of the town. Both Danny and Bill fall for her and vie for her favours at Calam's cabin. They make a foursome with the girls for a ball at Fort Scully.

For the occasion Calamity Jane borrows some of Katie's finery. She is the sensation of the evening, outshining the other girls by her unsuspected feminine charm. Danny declares his love to Katie, but although she responds she protests that he should be making love to Calamity who catches them in a fond embrace. She flies into a rage and pointing a gun at Katie orders her to quit the cabin and leave Deadwood City. Then she breaks down, tears off her borrowed clothes and goes off with Bill to pitch Katie's belongings out of her cabin. But on the trail home the two console each other, he for her loss of Danny, she for his of Katie. And without knowing how or why they find themselves in a passionate embrace. At last their secret love is revealed to them and they shout to the highest hills. Their ecstasy is interrupted by Danny who upbraids Calamity for having driven Katie to leave immediately for Valley Falls. In a trice Calam is in the saddle and catches up to bring Katie back for a triple wedding. Yes, Francis Fryer and Miller's daughter Susan are the third pair.