

ARMS AND THE MAN

CHARACTER LIST

I. Raina:

- The play's protagonist and heroine. Raina is a young woman living in the provinces in Bulgaria, and born into the wealthy Petkoff family.
- She pines for her fiancé Sergius, who has just left a successful, if ill-planned, cavalry charge against the Serbs.
- Raina meets and falls in love with Bluntchli, the Swiss "chocolate cream soldier" fighting for the Serbs. The heroine of the play, Raina's inner self is more nuanced than her outward appearances.
- Her true self is revealed not to be horrible or evil, but simply complex and human. Raina aspires to a perfect romantic chastity for Sergius, but really harbors affection toward Bluntchli after their initial encounter.
- She claims never to have lied in her life, but admits later to telling strategic lies when they can make a situation easier to handle.
- Raina is revealed to be not a symbol of perfect femininity, but, rather, a human being, deserving of companionship with another human.

- 2. Bluntschli:

__ • Swiss mercenary fighting for the Serbs, and Raina's love interest, who she calls "the chocolate cream soldier". He is skilled in warfare and emotionally sophisticated, but has a weakness for sweets.

__ • Bluntschli hides in Raina's room with her help. When he returned in the spring to return Major petkoff's cloak, events are set into motion that bring out Catherine and Raina's conspiracy to help him, and that lead to his engagement to Raina and an ultimately happy ending.

___ • The "chocolate cream soldier" is the driving force of the plot. Bluntschli is a rational, meaning a man who believes in reacting to situations based on the facts, not on what is good versus what is bad. This does not mean that Bluntschli is immaculate.

3. Sergius:

- Raina's fiance, and the hero of the battle of Slivnitza. Sergius, by his own and many others admission, has no military skills.
- He led to change out of a mixture of foolhardiness and desire for self-aggrandizement. Sergius flirts with the petkoff's servant Louka, and the play ends in their engagement. Sergius is Raina's foil.
- He too is revealed to be far different than the first appears. He is not quite the noble hero of the Battle of Slivnitza. As Bluntschli notes, his cavalry charge was at best ill- infirmed, and it played to Sergius's vanity.

4. Catherine

- Raina's mother, and matriarch of the petkoff household. Catherine wants to marry off her daughter to as wealthy and prominent a man as possible. When Sergius appears to be this man, Catherine approves of the union.
- As it becomes clear that Sergius is not the man he presented himself to be, Catherine is willing to switch her allegiances to Bluntschli. Catherine is focused on making sure the petkoff's are up-to-date in their homes furnishings and technology.
- Catherine is another of the play's benevolent opportunities, making the most of circumstances as they break in her direction. At first, she is strongly supportive of the idea but Raina and Sergius marry.

- 6. Louka:

- The Petkoff's female servant. Louka is engaged to Nicola, the head male servant. She has a vexed if flirtatious relationship with Sergius, who engaged to Raina.

- . • Nicola is scandalized that she would trade in gossip to gain power over the Petkoff's but for Louka this is not a moral calculation, it's a practical one.

- Louka figures that if Nicola wants to remain a servant, he will, because he knows the rules of the game. But Louka wants to change the game itself and move up in the social hierarchy.

6. Major petkoff :

- Head of the Petkoff family, and Raina's father.
- The Major is a decent if ambitious soldier, and he seems concerned mostly with maintaining his family's social position in the rural parts of Bulgaria.
- He and Catherine are willing to accept Bluntschli as Raina's suitor by the play's end only after he demonstrates just how wealthy he is.

7. Nicola:

- Head male servant of the Petkoff estate. Nicola initially reprimands Louka for her willingness to leverage information she's heard as gossip against the Petkoff's.
- Louka feels that Nicola is not ambitious enough because he is content to be a servant for the rest of his life.
- Nicola ends the play by breaking his engagement amicably with Louka, allowing her to be engaged to Sergius.

THE BEGINNING.....

ACT-I

- The play begins in the fall of 1885 during the serbo- Bulgarian war
- Raina, a Bulgarian woman from a wealthy family learns from her mother, Catherine, that the Bulgarian cavalry have won a battle against the Serbs.
- Catherine adds that Sergius, Raina's fiance was at the head of the charge, and was heroic in life as he appears in the picture Raina keeps in her bedroom.

- Louka, their servant, enters and warns Catherine and Raina that escaped Serbs feeling the battlefield might be in the area, seeking refuge in the houses of Bulgarian families.

- Raina is not worried, and chooses to keep her window unlocked. In the night, a man enters the room through the unlocked window and says he will kill Raina if she makes a noise.

- The man is Swiss and an escaped soldier from the Serbians army.

- Raina is shocked to see that the man is tired and hungry, that he does not glorify battle, and that he is merely happy to have escaped the carnage alive.

- Raina helps him hide behind a curtain just as Catherine, Louka, and a Bulgarian officer enter to search the room for any Serbs who might be hiding in the area.

- Raina convince them that no one is in her room, and they leave.
- Raina gives the man chocolate cream, which she keeps in a box in her room, and is shocked to hear that the man has no ammunition for his pistol, as he normally only keeps candies in his pockets.
- The man argues that Sergius's cavalry charge against the Serbs was foolish, and succeeded only by sheer luck.
- The Serbs had machine guns but we're given the wrong ammunition by accident, and therefore could not mow down Sergius and his men.
- Raina agrees to help the man escape later that night, through she rebukes him for making fun of her fiance Sergius.
- Raina and Catherine allow the man to rest since he has not slept for days.

ACT-2

- The second act being in the garden of the same house, through it is now spring of 1886.
- Louka is engaged to the house's head male servant, Nicola. Louka tells Nicola that he will never be more than a servant, and that she has higher aspirations.
 - Louka tells him she knows many secrets about the Petkoff family, and Nicola says that he does, too, but would never blackmail his master's.
 - Major Petkoff, the head of the family, returns from the war.

- He reports to Catherine that Sergius will never receive the military promotion Sergius craves, because Sergius has no command of military strategy.
- Sergius enters and is greeted warmly by the family, and especially by Raina, who still considers him a hero.
- Sergius says he has abandoned his commission in the army out of anger that he will never move up in the ranks.
- Sergius and Petkoff tell the story they heard about this Swiss soldier being hidden by two Bulgarian women during the soldiers retreat.
- Catherine and Raina realize the story is about them, but do not say anything.

- Sergius speaks with Louka in Private, and begins flirting with her.
- Louka reveals to Sergius that Raina might not remain faithful to Sergius, and Sergius is taken aback. They exit.
- A man named Bluntschli enters the family garden and Louka brings him to Catherine. Catherine realizes that he is the man that hid in Raina's room, the same man that she and Raina helped escape.
- Catherine worries that Sergius and Petkoff, who are conferring over military planes in the Library, might encounter the soldier being helped by two Bulgarian women involved with the Petkoffs.

- Petkoff and Sergius, who have in fact already met Bluntschli during the war, ask Bluntschli to stay and pass the time.
- A picture of herself that Raina placed in her father's coat for Bluntschli to find is exposed, proving that Raina has not been entirely truthful to Sergius.
- Raina admits that she has had feelings for Bluntschli since they first met. Major Petkoff is upset.
- When Bluntschli acknowledges that he has loved Raina, Sergius and Louka reveal that they have been having a secret affair at Sergius instigation, and Nicola releases Louka from their engagement.

ENDING.....

- Bluntschli, whose father has just died, has come into a great deal of money, so Raina's parents are glad to marry her off to him and his handsome fortune.
- Raian is revealed to be twenty-three rather than seventeen, enabling Bluntschli in good conscience to ask for her hand in marriage.
- Bluntschli promise to hire Nichola, whom he admires, to run the hotel's he has just received as part of his inheritance.
- Sergius accepted Louka has his lover public, thus satisfying Louka's desires to move up in the social ranks.
- The play ends with Sergius exclaiming, of Bluntschli, " what a man!"