

The Story of “Rose Marie”

Rose Marie possesses a really logical plot; centred round the love of the reckless Jim Kenyan for the beautiful French-Canadian, Rose Marie, whose brother Emile favours the suit of a rich fur trader, Hawley.

The music-play opens at the hotel run by “Lady” Jane who has two admirers, Hardboiled Herman and Sergt. Malone of the police. Jim works a claim with Herman next to that of Black Eagle whose wife, Wanda, has captivated Hawley in the past. Black Eagle accuses Jim and Herman of extracting gold from his claim. Sergt. Malone intervenes and arranges for Jim to call at Black Eagle’s cabin with a map to prove that he has not been poaching.

At Black Eagle's cabin, Hawley fruitlessly tries to bribe Wanda to bury their old “affaire”. He hides when Jim arrives with the map, and subsequently Jim departs. Black Eagle enters and discovers Wanda and Hawley together and a struggle ends with Wanda stabbing her husband. Wanda accuses Jim of the murder when the curtain rises at Totem Pole Lodge. Malone and his Mounties come to arrest Jim, and Emile tells Rose Marie that he will give away Jim’s hiding-place unless she promises to marry Hawley in Quebec. Heartbroken, Rose Marie sings the melody that sends her lover out of her life.

And now for Quebec in a “Novelty Shop”, owned by Jane and Herman. Jim arrives with Wanda, who has promised to clear his name and of course Hawley suggests that Jim is in love with Wanda, and Rose Marie again dismisses him. However, just before the wedding, Wanda denounces herself as her husband's slayer. After a long search, Rose Marie finds Jim, and their Indian love call reunites them, this time, we hope, for ever.