

BAKA NAMAN HINDI SYNOPSIS

Act I

Victor Delgado and his wife, Alicia, are close friends with Don Carlos de los Martirez and his wife, Lucila. Victor's doctor, Dr. Pinakati has carried out a medical examination of De los Martirez, for insurance purposes, and has come to give the results to Delgado. Estong, the *mayordomo*, keeps Pinakati company while he waits and almost catches his wife, Tonya, kissing Carmelo Delgado (Victor's nephew), who has a speech impediment.

Alicia reveals to Lucila that she thinks her husband has been having an affair at the Hotel Paraiso. She had been thinking of having one herself with her husband's friend, Romano Martillo, but is shocked that Delgado may have been having one already. The ladies plan to trap Delgado by writing him a love letter from a supposed admirer asking him to meet her at the Hotel Paraiso. They will be there waiting instead. Lucila writes the letter in case Delgado recognises Alicia's handwriting.

Alone by themselves, Dr. Pinakati and Carmelo confess to each other that they are both regulars at the Hotel Paraiso. Pinakati gives Carmelo a silver mouth palate that he can insert to make him speak properly.

The letter from the ladies arrives for Delgado. The men conclude that it must be a case of mistaken identity and that the letter cannot be for Delgado but for Romano Martillo instead. Martillo agrees to go to the hotel to meet the letter-sender.

Don Carlos de los Martirez enters and Delgado shows him the love letter. De los Martirez recognises his wife's handwriting and is convinced that Lucila wrote it to Delgado, who denies this and explains that Martillo is meeting her at the Hotel Paraiso. De los Martirez vows to go there to kill him. Delgado tells Carmelo that if he sees Martillo he is to warn him that his life is at risk. Martillo returns to the house but cannot understand what Carmelo is trying to say. Carmelo chases him after inserting the silver palate given to him by Dr. Pinakati.

Act II

The Hotel Paraiso is run by Peralta and his wife Miling as a haven for those who want to keep their assignations secret. Peralta is proud of a device in the hotel which allows a wall to revolve, revealing another bed which Peralta's Uncle Balbino lies in. Peralta employs a porter, Dodong, and Senyang, the maid. There is another guest, Nakamura, an amorous foreigner.

Dr. Pinakati arrives; evidently a regular client. Alicia arrives and is shown to her room where she waits to see if her husband has taken the bait but is shocked to see Martillo enter. Martillo, convinced that Alicia wrote to him and loves him, tries to seduce her. Alicia confesses her scheme to reveal Delgado's indiscretions which Martillo denies. Alicia contemplates an affair but shrinks from Martillo, and presses the revolving wall button and Balbino appears. Martillo searches for Alicia and they return to the room where Balbino remains so they press the button to remove him, which reveals Dodong instead. Dodong looks identical to Alicia's husband which upsets Alicia and Martillo who beg his forgiveness. Carmelo and Tonya appear and, also mistaking Dodong for Delgado, flee for fear of discovery. Nakamura emerges and knocks Carmelo's palate out, restoring his speech impediment. Seeing Estong (Tonya's husband) arriving, Carmelo flees.

Estong seeks Lucila so he can warn her that her husband is intent on murder but accidentally goes to Nakamura's room where Tonya is with Nakamura. Estong assumes she is having an affair and departs in a fury. Before going, he sees Dodong and mistakes him for his master, Delgado. Dodong thinks they are crazy calling him 'Sir' and 'Victor'. Lucila arrives looking for Alicia and sees Delgado (who has also just arrived) instead. He declares he knows she loves him because her husband De los Martirez identified her handwriting on the letter. Realising the significance of her husband seeing the letter Lucila prepares to leave with Delgado.

A murderous De los Martirez arrives to kill his wife and Martillo. Peralta, seeing Delgado and assuming that he is Dodong, orders him to remove his jacket and put on Dodong's uniform. Delgado is bullied into doing so and exits. Dodong returns seeking his uniform but in its absence dresses in Delgado's jacket. Alicia and Martillo see Delgado (as Dodong) and ask him to get them a ride. Delgado demands they explain their presence together which confuses them as they think they have explained their innocence already (which they have, to Dodong). Peralta appears and further abuses Delgado believing him

to be Dodong. Lucila and Carmelo enter trying to escape De los Martirez; they become separated and Dodong (who Lucila thinks is Delgado) rescues Lucila. Chaos ensues as everyone enters and chase around the hotel.

Act III

Martillo, Alicia and Lucila return from the hotel having been chased by De los Martirez. They decide that Delgado's behaviour means he has gone mad. Dodong arrives at the house wanting to see Delgado but everyone at the house think that he is Delgado. Estong sends for Dr. Pinakati. Alicia and Martillo explain to Dodong that they are not having an affair, believing him to be Delgado. Alicia goes to kiss him and smells alcohol on his breath. Pinakati arrives and they conclude that Delgado has become an alcoholic and is suffering hallucinations. They send Dodong to bed.

Still dressed in Dodong's uniform, Delgado returns to the house. Carmelo sees Dodong then immediately sees Delgado and believes that he is hallucinating too. Delgado is furious to see Martillo at his house as he is convinced that he is having an affair with his wife. Pinakati tries to treat Delgado which angers him further. Peralta comes to the house and chases Delgado, believing him to be Dodong. De los Martirez arrives with two pistols and challenges Delgado to a duel. Delgado flees in fear to his bedroom where he sees Dodong asleep. He becomes convinced that his house is haunted and runs away.

De los Martirez wakes Dodong and, thinking he is Delgado, continues to challenge him to a duel. Dodong escapes through an open window. The others enter and Lucila explains to De los Martirez that she wrote the letter to Delgado as a favor to her friend, Alicia; he is pacified by her explanation.

After much confusion, all is made clear. Everybody realises that the physical similarity between Dodong and Delgado has been the main cause of the confusion. Alicia explains to Delgado that she suspected he was having an affair which is why she sent the letter. Eventually, all is forgiven and status quo is restored.