

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

Cast [in order of appearance]

Rhino Sarah the Fool [RF]: Linda Julian

Fair Angela [FA]: Otavia Propper [in a red wig]

Saint Jeremy [SJ]: David Wald

Morris Men [MM]: Rebecca Jordan and Kate Early OR David Titus

Wandering Minstrel [WM]: Jeff Bigler OR David Titus

Black Rhino [BR]: Jack Janssen OR Michael Bergman

Rhino Horde [as many as will]

Vampire Landlord [VL]: David Titus OR Michael Bergman OR Franz Yoder

Miracle Max: Jeremy Kessler [cameo]

Witch Wife: Angela Kessler [cameo]

Scenario

Saint Jeremy is a hero bold, late returned from the heights of Mount Olympus. Fair Angela is the captive Princess Bride, locked and blindfolded in a dark tower of Library Castle. The castle is guarded by a host of ferocious rhinos who have come to love Fair Angela as their queen, especially the fool Rhino Sarah who reads aloud to her. Saint Jeremy issues a challenge to all comers to best him in feats of strength, skill, and courage, to prove his worthiness to storm the castle and gain his Princess Bride.

Three combatants emerge. The first is a pair of Morris Men from far Chicago who challenge Jeremy to leap higher than the highest leapfrog, and demonstrate. Jeremy retorts that he has danced among the clouds atop Olympus, and the Morris Men concede. The second is a Minstrel from Days of Yore who claims he can sing and play the sweetest music ever made by mortal man. Jeremy scoffs, demonstrates his skill in song and upon the recorder, and the Minstrel retires.

The third combatant is the giant Black Rhino, lord of the dark Library Tower. Preceding him is his fool Rhino Sarah, conductor of the Rhino Orchestra, who tells Saint Jeremy of Fair Angela's love for him. The Black Rhino calls his Rhino Horde to battle the challenger, and Saint Jeremy engages them en masse.

The battle grows loud and fierce under the noonday sun, and suddenly The Vampire Landlord enters with a noise complaint. He praises their skill and objects merely to the hour of their contest, as he sleeps all day and would prefer that they make this dreadful racket at night when he is out. Jeremy and the Black Rhino join forces and attack, and together they rout the Vampire Landlord.

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

However, as the Black Rhino gives his victory roar, his horn accidentally pierces Jeremy's side. Rhino horn is a well-known aphrodisiac, and Jeremy swoons in love and dies, calling out for his beloved Princess Bride. The Black Rhino races off after the Vampire Landlord to deliver the coup de grace.

Up in the Castle Tower, Fair Angela calls for Rhino Sarah, learns what has happened, and sends her Fool to Miracle Max for a Stinky Cheese Pill to cure her lovesick hero. Rhino Sarah, the Morris Man, and the Minstrel set out for Miracle Max and his Witch Wife, who sell them the Stinky Cheese Pill ["the chocolate coating makes it go down easier!"] for a dram apiece [two drams], after the mostly-dead Saint Jeremy croaks "truuue loooooooooooooove..."

They administer the pill just as the Black Rhino returns victorious, having routed the Vampire Landlord and claimed his estates. The pill cures Saint Jeremy of love—for all but the one he looks upon after eating it, which is of course Fair Angela.

Saint Jeremy moves to slay the Black Rhino, but Fair Angela calls for mercy as Rhino Queen, and Saint Jeremy stays his hand. The Black Rhino leads the Princess Bride out of the tower and offers his love to her. He unbinds her blindfold and she realizes she could never love a rhino except as a friend, and declares her love for Saint Jeremy.

The Morris Man admires the Black Rhino's horn, fondles it, and falls in love with him, and shy Rhino Sarah nudges the Minstrel with her horn until he declares he loves her too. The Black Rhino proves to be a savvy realtor and sells the lovers a bright new castle on a hill, with the condition that they only make noise at night to keep them safe from Vampire Landlords.

The lovers invite all the rhinos to come and live with them in Twa Dram Castle, where Saint Jeremy will study real estate and accounting while Fair Angela unlocks the secrets of Library Tower by earning her M.L.S, and the rhinos will make cheese to support them all. The Rhino Orchestra plays a galliard on rhino pipes and rhinocertina, and all dance off to storm the castle. Mad Max and the Witch Wife wave goodbye and wish them luck ["think it'd work? It'd take a miracle!"].

Calling On

WM: Room, room, brave gallants all!
And give us room to rhyme!

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

We come to show hilarity about this wedding time!

RS: In comes I, that never came yet
With my big horn and little wit!
I am a fool, a Rhino fool,
And I am no chimera
And in the main, I tell you plain,
They call me Rhino Sarah.
In days of yore, when knights were more
Adventurous than Nero
There lived a Saint of heart not faint
Indeed a true-born hero.
Saint Jeremy, a true Parsee
Was far from parsimonious
He spent his days in love and praise
And never acrimonious.
Alas, his love, his turtle dove
Was captured by a villain
And locked away ere break of day
For him to stick his quill in.
This fearsome lord of rhino horde
Was known as The Black Rhino
Because his skin was far from thin
And opposite albino.

FA: Ah, woe is me, blindfolded by my enemy and locked in my lonely Library Tower, With no one but my poor dear Rhino Sarah to read to me! So many books, so little time, and I with no light to read! All I can do with my long dark days is to play upon my harp and embroider in Braille. I have covered my petticoats with love notes to my dear St. Jeremy—ah, would that he were here to read my corset thoughts! Oh, alas, alack!

SJ: [offstage] A lass I lack! Fair Angela, is it you, my princess bride?

FA: Yes, yes my love! Here in Library Tower!

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

SJ: In comes I, bold Saint Jeremy! From my sword the rays of the sun are reflected in more than Oriental splendor!

FA: Oh, my love! Rhino Sarah, tell him what he must do to free me!

RS: Ah, now you see, my bold Parsee
This calls for brave and daring
You must win through with love that's true
And not with some red herring.
My master black has at his back
A horde of rhino minions
Whose strength and skill are stronger still
Than even YOUR opinions.
If you would guide your Princess Bride
Away from here, and faster
You must, Parsee, first challenge three
Then overcome my master!

FA: Ohhh! [swoons] I wait for you, my hero!

Challenges

SJ: I am Saint Jeremy, that man of courage bold
And by my sword—from which the rays of the sun are reflected in more than Oriental splendor—I have won ten crowns in gold! [shows teeth as if they have crowns]
Where is the man who bids me stand
That I cannot cut down with my anointed hand?

MM1: In comes I, the bold Morris Man of courage bright
I have come from long and far away to fight!

MM2: My body's made of Ravenswood, my head of Erie steel
My hands and feet of pogo springs! We challenge thee to LEAP! [they leapfrog]

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

SJ: Able is able, and life is within my power
For I have danced on Mount Olympus for well nigh half an hour!
I have leaped at 9,570 feet [that's 2,917 meters], and I have the pictures
to prove it!
Come, I'll draw my glittering sword—from which the rays of the sun are
reflected in more than Oriental splendor—and will thee devour!

MM: No, no, you win, you win! [They run off]

SJ: I am Saint Jeremy, that man of valiant might
Who is next to challenge me tonight?

WM: In comes I, the Wandering Minstrel from Days of Yore. [aside] Well, I
was born in Olden Days, but the money's better in Yore—more
Renaissance Faires, you know. [to SJ] Valiant might? HAH! Violence is
the last refuge of the incompetent! VIOLINS, now, THAT's different—that's
ART! I challenge you to the art of sax and violins! [pulls out his fiddle
and begins to play]

SJ: Sax have I forsworn until my Fair Angela is freed from her tower—my
pipe shall remain forever chaste! For I have piped for the merry Muses
themselves in the fair lands of Thrace, and can play upon the silver
whistle—from which the rays of the MOON are reflected in more than
Oriental splendor—to make the fairest angel weep for joy! [plays tin
whistle]

WM: A silver D whistle—and I only brought the C/G fiddle! Damn! [stomps off]

SJ: [sings] I have fought three and I will fight four
Now bring me one who'll fight a little bit more!
For I have done as the rest have done
I and my good companions...
[holds up sword and whistle]
—from which the rays of the SUN AND MOON are reflected in more
than Oriental splendor! —
Yes, we have done as the BEST have done

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

We are the good companions!
Bring on the Black Rhino!

Combat

BR: In comes I, the bold Rhino Black
With my wife and family on my back!
[turns to display a Johnny Jack sack with a cluster of rhinos like an opossum]
My family is large, and medium, and small
And fairest Angela is Queen of all!
Who comes to rescue our beloved Princess Bride must face the wrath
of—[pause]—The Rhino Horde!!
[crowd gasps]

FA: Not the RHINO HORDE!

BR: Yes! The **RHINO HORDE!**

FA: My love! I know you'll save me! Unbind my eyes soon, so that I can watch the glorious victory of your glittering sword and pipe—from which the rays of the sun and moon are reflected in more than Oriental splendor!
[by this time, the cast and audience should have caught on to this lazzi, and are encouraged to repeat it in chorus]

SJ: Hmm. The castle gate is guarded by fifty rhinos. All I need now is a wheelbarrow, a giant, a Spaniard, and an albino. Oh yes, and a miracle.

MM: [one sits on other's shoulders] Giant reporting for duty SIR!
Wheelbarrow outside as the escape vehicle SIR!

WM: Well, I can play Spanish Ladies while I dance...

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

SJ: A Morris musician who can dance? Now THAT's a miracle. And isn't one of those guards a WHITE rhino? That means he's albino!
CHAAAAAARGE!

RH: [the rhino horde rushes onstage and engages Saint Jeremy and his men. The melee is loud and argumentative, as each rhino has a single strong opinion on a random collection of subjects, which they repeat at each other without listening. All argue with each other until the noise is deafening. If possible, Jeremy and the Black Rhino SING their arguments at each other, in the style of "anything you can fight, I can fight harder," &c. &c.]

VL: Knock! Knock! Pound! Pound! Ring! Ring! Ex-CUUUUSE ME! In comes I, the Vampire Landlord, and this is an Official Noise Complaint! Don't you realize it's three in the afternoon? [or whatever the actual time is] Some of us have to WORK all night tomorrow! I put in a long night at the blood bank and I need my rest!

RH: [all fighting stops] A common enemy! Huzzah! [all sing]

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Horde
Adorned with horns like thorns we scorn the spear and axe and sword
Rhinoceros, we are the boss, you will be tossed and gored
Our horns go marching on!
Glory, glory to the Rhino, glory, glory to the Rhino
Glory, glory to the Rhino, our horns go marching on!

[led by Saint Jeremy and the Black Rhino, they drive the Vampire Landlord offstage, as he holds his ears as if deafened]

Kill and Cure

SJ: Let's all shake hands, never part no more
Let's all be brothers as we ever was before!

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

- BR: Yes! You are a valiant knight worthy of the horn!
[embraces Jeremy so vigorously that he accidentally gores him]
- SJ: Alas! I love! I LOVE! I LOOOOOVE! [thrashes around]
- RS: Master! You gored him! He's a hero! You KNOW what rhino horn does to heroes—they overdose on any aphrodisiac! He's sick with love!
- SJ: I love you! I love you! [he dashes around the stage trying to make love to anyone and anything—keep it clean, folks, this is a family show. Romantic displays of courtly love, that's what we want here. Get the audience in on this part, especially elderly family members.]
- FA: [from the balcony] Oh, my hero! [or some such drivel to attract his attention]
- SJ: [looks up at her, smitten] My love! My angel! For you I die! [collapses, dead]
- BR: Oh, woe is me! What have I done? I've gored him through in the noonday sun! Is there a doctor to be found to heal this deep and deadly wound? [dashes offstage in search of a doctor]
- MM & WM: [join in calling for a doctor, using whatever lines you know]
- FA: Rhino Sarah! Quickly! Take them to Miracle Max! He's the only doctor I know with a cheese shop in the waiting room! My love needs a miracle to save him now—he needs The Stinky Cheese Pill!
- RS: [others join as they will] The Stinky Cheese Pill?
- FA: Yes! The Stinky Cheese Pill! You must lead them to Miracle Max!
- RS: Yes, yes! [she descends from the tower, collects MM and WM—who carry or drag the dead Saint Jeremy if possible—and leads them to the head table, to the real Jeremy and Angela. Improvise dialogue here to

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

ask for the pill; by this time J&A will doubtless be clued in, unless they are laughing too hard, and will play back the miracle pill scene from Princess Bride, which they know by heart and frequently quote. Follow their lead. Lynn or David will be behind them to hand them the pill and related props.]

MAX: A miracle! For ten bucks they want a miracle!

MM/MM: We can pay you in single malt—a dram apiece! [serves out a dram each]

MM: Now THAT's a miracle! [I can't believe Jeremy would pass on this line, one of his favorites. Hand it to him, any way you can.]

WITCH: [hands MAX the pill] The chocolate coating makes it go down easier! [all inhale deeply and gag, as this is Seriously Stinky Cheese.]

RS: [receives the pill and forces the dead Saint Jeremy to say “truuuuue looooooooooove.” **If you haven't seen this movie, you need to watch at least this scene and the revival that follows.** I have left my VHS copy with David Kessler, who has a key to my house; feel free to watch it there or elsewhere. Feed St. Jeremy the pill and he revives; play it straight from the film as best you can.]

Conclusion

SJ: My love! My Princess Bride! I have met the challenges and claim your hand in marriage! Black Rhino! Release her and unbind her eyes! [BR enters from balcony with FA]

BR: I confess, I kept you blindfolded only because I loved you, and wanted you to love me without looking upon my ugliness. [sings, to the Frozen Logger]

For I never shave my whiskers from off of my horny hide
I just drive 'em in with a friendly horn

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

[demonstrates with Rhino Sarah]

And bite 'em off inside! [removes FA's blindfold]

FA: Indeed, I am fond of you, and of all your family, especially my dear Rhino Sarah. But my heart is given—I could only love a rhino as a friend.

BR: [sighs and leads her down from the balcony to Saint Jeremy] Take her, then, with my blessing. But I shall miss her.

MM: Well, we wouldn't want all that lovely rhino horn to go to WASTE!
[fondles BR's horn, and he falls in love with her/them]

RS: [nudges WM with her horn until he notices her]

WM: I don't suppose you are, by any chance, a musician?

RS: [sings] Que sera, Sarah! [they embrace]

[all sigh, general lovey-doveyness ensues]

VL: AHA! Thought you'd chased me away! Well, I am the Vampire Landlord, and I love to NECK! [grabs FA and bites her neck lasciviously]

SJ: Wait! Wait! Please, we're getting married—won't you have a bite of our wedding cake instead? [hands VL a slice of wedding cake]

VL: [gobbles it eagerly, then keels over dead in the manner of Wally Shawn in the Princess Bride]

SJ: Ha-HA! You see? Them that eats cakes that the Parsee man bakes makes dreadful mistakes!

[For those who don't know, this is the moral of the Just So Story of How the Rhino Got His Skin. It should elicit groans from at least Angela and her family.]

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

FA: Oh, my vampire-slayer! And oh, you are SOOOOO Buff!
[inside joke: Jeremy met Angela when she was living in his building and he had tapes of Buffy the Vampire-Slayer, which she liked to watch. He lured her into his apartment and the rest is history.]

BR: Well, if Library Tower is not to have a Queen, I think I'll be looking for a new castle myself. As a matter of fact, I'm both buyers' and sellers' agent for a nice bright castle just up the hill—I don't suppose you're looking to buy?

FA: Well, we weren't...

SJ: SURE! [they run off in a corner and discuss details]

FA: Oh, my dear Rhino Sarah, how shall I part with you? True, I won't need you to read to me anymore, but who will teach Saint Jeremy enough Braille to read my underthings? And how shall we play duets upon the harp?

SJ: It's all settled! We offered, he countered, he counteroffered, we offercounted, they counted off, and we close in sixty days at four percent FIFO with two points off and a thirty-year jumbo fixed! [babbles an incoherent stream of real estate buzzwords]

FA: Is it big enough for ALL of us?

SJ: Even the rhinos? [recollects himself as she looks crestfallen] OF COURSE it's big enough. For ALL your rhinos—I mean, OUR rhinos! [embraces whichever rhino he can reach]

And no more dark library towers for you—this castle has AMAZING windows!

ALL: Through which the rays of the sun are reflected in more than Oriental splendor!

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

BR: But there's just one codicil to the contract. I must insist, my beloved Rhino Queen and you, her hero husband—you must both promise me only to make noise at NIGHT, to keep us all safe from Vampire Landlords!

ALL: HUZZAH!

RS: And so my lady and her love, and all their rhino vassals
Were married and moved up the hill to live in Twa Dram Castle.
Saint Jeremy, that bold Parsee, who had a gift for counting
Soon learned to study real estate and brokerage accounting.
Fair Angela the Princess Bride, that literate grammarian
Took her degree in Library, to become a Bold Librarian.
Black Rhino and his family of fine rhinocerees
Supported all in comfort with the sale of handmade cheese.
And I, with music in my horn all down my line ancestral
Was given the conductorship of Rhinoc'ros Orchestral.
Come, strike up!

RS: [remove rhinos from their heads and play them as instruments while all sing]

ALL: Our castle must be washed and waxed and scrubbed and painted blue
We've books to pack and clothes to pack and all that fabric too
There's new storm windows ordered and inspection's booked for two
Our life goes marching on!
Glory, glory, storm the castle, glory, glory, storm the castle
Glory, glory, storm the castle, our life goes marching on!

[all march off singing and playing. By this time, Jeremy and Angela will realize that they have been handed their favorite farewell on a plate. If they don't, Lynn will cue them, quelling hysterics as necessary.]

MAX & WITCH: Bye-bye, boys! Good luck storming the castle!

W: Think it'll woik?

St. Jeremy and the Rhinos of Princess Bride

M: It'd take a miracle!