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It Happened One Night

By Robert Riskin

FADE IN:

Part One The HARBOR at Miami Beach FADES IN, providing quick VIEWS of yachts, aquaplanes, and luxurious ship-craft lying at anchor in the calm, tranquil waters of tropical Florida. This dissolves to the NAME PLATE on the side of a yacht, reading "ELSPETH II," and this in turn to a YACHT CORRIDOR where a steward is standing in front of a cabin door, near a small collapsible table upon which there is a tray of steaming food. He lifts lids and examines the contents. A heavy-set sailor stands guard near the cabin door.

STEWARD

Fine! Fine! She ought to like this.

(to the guard)

Open the door.

GUARD

(without moving)

Who's gonna take it in to her?

You?

STEWARD

Oh, no.

(turning)

Mullison! Come on!

The VIEW WIDENS to include MULLISON, a waiter. His eye is decorated with a "shiner."

MULLISON

Not me, sir. She threw a ketchup bottle at me this morning.

STEWARD

Well, orders are orders! Somebody's gotta take it in.

(he turns to someone else)

Fredericks!

The VIEW MOVES to another waiter, who has a patch of bandage on his face.

FREDERICKS

Before I bring her another meal, I'll be put off the ship first.

STEWARD'S VOICE

Henri!

The VIEW MOVES over to a Frenchman.

HENRI

(vehemently)

No, Monsieur. When I leave the
Ritz you do not say I have to wait
on crazy womans.

The VIEW MOVES BACK to include the Steward and the others
grouped around him.

ANOTHER WAITER (A COCKNEY)

My wife was an angel compared to
this one, sir. And I walked out on
her .

GUARD

(impatiently)

Come on! Make up your mind!

A petty officer approaches. He is blustering and officious,
but the type that is feeble and ineffective. His name is
Lacey.

LACEY

(talking
quickly-staccato)

What's up? What's up?

There is a fairly close picture of the GROUP featuring
Lacey and the Steward.

STEWARD

These pigs! They're afraid to take
her food in.

LACEY

That's ridiculous! Afraid of a
mere girl!

(he wheels on the
steward)

Why didn't you do it yourself?