

Zorro: The Curse of Capistrano
By: David Richmond and Drew Fracher

GONZALES

Now, there goes a gentleman! Not much of a fighter, not much of a lover, but a good soul. Oh, well, I guess the world needs dreamers.. but if I had his money and good looks, there wouldn't be a virgin left between here and San Diego, or a gent who hadn't tasted my steel- hah! (Gonzales draws down and engages in a bit of air sword.) Cross me, will you? In your shoulder, fool! Two on one? There's for your liver, and- that for your lung- die, you so-called caballero! (He leans against something solid, getting his breath.) Where's this damn Zorro now? *(The door slams open. In it stands Zorro, in cape and mask.)*

ZORRO

Here.

GONZALES

Ahh..well. You had the good sense to surrender. I arrest you in the name of the Alcalde of Los - *(Zorro raises his hand with the pistol in it from beneath his cape and points it between Gonzales' eyes.)*

ZORRO

I will shoot this man or the first who moves, the gun does not care. Pedro Gonzales, five days ago in the public square you brutally beat a farmer whose only crime was poverty. I have come to punish you .

GONZALES

I was only following orders!

ZORRO

The lickboots anthem- in the eyes of God the hand that does the bidding of an evil heart is equally guilty. Your crime is whipping that farmer. Your sin is: you enjoyed it. Prepare to die.

GONZALES

You coward! You'd shoot a man armed only with a sword?

ZORRO

No. I just don't tolerate interruption. *(He sweeps the crowd with the pistol.)* All of you men- on the steps, please remove your swords -hands behind your necks. *(He takes a step toward the nearest soldier, levelling the gun on him.)* Now Ladies, by your leave, please feel free to enjoy this. *(Gonzales tries to edge in to blindside Zorro, who turns just as he makes his move- drawing his sword and going to garde, flicking away Gonzales clumsy thrust.)*

Oh, Gonzales, you mustn't rush the sport of gentlemen...take your time...savor the moment... *(Recoiling from the parry, Gonzales goes to work in earnest. Zorro, holding the pistol on the crowd, initially obliges Gonzales to come to him-)*

GONZALES

Thief.. murderer... craven outlaw-

ZORRO

Yes, Gonzales, I know your reputation. And I.. am known simply as El Zorro. *(He advances on Gonzales slightly, forcing Gonzales to sit and take his breath. One soldier tries to advance on Zorro as Zorro drinks some wine from a glass Consuela has offered. Zorro puts the gun to the top of the soldier's head:)*

ZORRO

Soldier, there are men who die for glory, but believe me, *nobody* should die for Gonzales-

(The soldier drops back. Zorro takes Gonzales the length of the room and back with blinding speed, he brings Gonzales parallel with the door, disarms him, Gonzales is trembling)

GONZALES

Mercy-

ZORRO

WHAT?

GONZALES

Mercy, Senor..Zorro-

ZORRO

Pedro Gonzales, you tried to arrest me in the name of the corrupt Alcalde. Now, in the name of the people of Los Angeles, I- mark- you- *(he cuts a Z on Gonzales behind. Gonzales falls to his knees.)*

so all may know that justice is abroad in California!

(Zorro exits quickly.)