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What Happened to  
Hannah



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L. BRAUNHINA

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Country Justice, 15 min. ....	8
Cow that Kicked Chicago, 20 m. ....	3 2

**T. S. DENISON & COMPANY, Publishers, 154 W. Randolph St., Chicago**

# WHAT HAPPENED TO HANNAH

A MINSTREL AFTERPIECE

BY

HARRY L. NEWTON

AUTHOR OF

*"A Bundle of Burnt Cork Comedy," "The Booster Club of Black-  
ville," "A Colored Honeymoon," "The Coontown Thirteen  
Club," "The Darktown Fire Brigade," "The Goodfellow,"  
"Good Mornin', Judge," "The Heiress of Hoetown,"  
"Jayville Junction," "Laughland via the Ha Ha  
Route," "Memphis Mose. War Correspond-  
ent," "Minstrel Cross-Fire," "Oh, Doc-  
tor!" "A Rehearsal at Ten," Etc.*



CHICAGO  
T. S. DENISON & COMPANY  
PUBLISHERS

# WHAT HAPPENED TO HANNAH

## CHARACTERS.

WASHINGTON O'BRIEN LEE.....*A Colored Calciminer*  
HANNAH.....*His wife*

PLACE—*Any city.*

SCENE—*The Lec Kitchen.*

TIME—*Early evening.*

TIME OF PLAYING—*Fifteen Minutes.*

## COSTUMES.

WASHINGTON—Calciminer's overalls and jumper, change to "loud" smoking jacket after entrance. Chocolate colored facial make-up.

HANNAH—Large figured calico dress and white apron. Wears short-haired wig, with face made up very black.

## PROPERTIES.

In the cupboard are numerous dishes, such as pots, pans, etc. In one dish about twenty potatoes. Loaf of bread, knives, forks, etc. On bench is wash basin partly filled with water; cake of soap, and over it a soiled roller towel; alongside is a cracked mirror. Coffee pot, tin pot and frying pan for gas stove. Watch chain and package containing two back combs.

## STAGE DIRECTIONS.

R. means right of stage; C., center; R. C., right center; L., left; 1 E., first entrance; U. E., upper entrance; R. 3 E., right entrance, up-stage, etc.; R. D., right door; L. D., left door, etc.; D. F., door in flat or back of the stage; up-stage, away from footlights, down-stage, near footlights; 1 G., first groove, etc. The actor is supposed to be facing the audience.

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## WHAT HAPPENED TO HANNAH

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SCENE: *A kitchen. Practical (street) door in back flat. No other entrances or exits necessary. Kitchen table, covered with red and white checked cloth, at C., with chair at either side. At R. of C. is a kitchen cupboard, in which are dishes, pot, pans, etc. At L. is a wash bench, with basin and large piece of soap. Hanging over bench is a very much soiled roller towel and alongside is a small cracked mirror. WASHINGTON'S smoking jacket and a pair of large carpet slippers are on a chair, L. At L. is a small gas stove, on which are coffee pot, frying pan and tin pot.*

*At rise of curtain, HANNAH, softly humming a negro melody, is discovered engaged in the task of setting the table for the evening meal. As curtain is well up, she takes two loaves of bread from cupboard, goes to table and slices the bread, making two high stacks.*

HANNAH (*surveying sliced bread*). Dar. If dat ain't 'nough bread fo' Wash, he kin do widout. Dat man always complain' 'about his appetite. (*Laughs.*) Law-zee, says he kaint eat much 'cause he's too much in love wid me. We been married jes' a year today. (*Gets about twenty potatoes from cupboard, sits and peels them while talking.*) Ah hopes Ah done got sufficient thereof potatoes fo' him. De longer we is married de moah he eats. Some folks say dat is merely de result ob mus' have somethin' to do, even if yo' am married. But Ah do hopes Wash gits 'nough to eat dis evenin', 'cause Ah'm powerful nervous like. Dis heah bein' our anniversary, Ah reckoned on givin' him a nice present. Now Ah don't has no money, but Ah does has a idea and Ah excutes it forthwid. Ah done has mah hair cut off, and Ah sold it to a hair-store lady. (*Runs a hand over head.*) Law-zee, Ah wonder what Wash say when he diskiver mah hair am went. But it kaint be helped. Ah jes' naturally has to had dat present fo' him. (*Glances cautiously all about, pulls large watch chain from front of*

*dress and holds it up admiringly.*) Dar it am. Ain't dat a beauty? Done cost me all mah hair, but it am worth it.

WASHINGTON (*off R., as if coming along the street*). Oh, Hannah! Heah comes yo' lovin' honey man. (*She quickly conceals chain in front of dress, jumps to feet, spilling and scattering the potatoes all over the floor, runs to door and opens it for his entrance.*)

*Enter WASHINGTON. They embrace and kiss with comedy business. He removes jumper and cap.*

WASHINGTON (*surveying table*). Hello! gwine to have company fo' supper?

HANNAH. If we is yo' go hungry. Dat ain't nawthin' but yo' reg'lar 'lowance.

WASHINGTON (*discovering scattered potatoes on floor*). Huh! Been playin' golf?

HANNAH. No, honey; Ah heered yo' yelp and Ah done git be nervous-like wid emotion. (*Aside.*) He ain't noticed mah hair yit.

WASHINGTON (*goes to wash bench, grumblingly*). Yo' jes' naturally got to 'member, Hannah, dat Ah likes mah taters cooked. (*Rolls up sleeves.*) Raw taters is all right fo' hogs.

HANNAH (*gets broom and dust pan from corner*). Yes, sah. Ah knows how yo' likes 'em. And Ah knows how hogs likes 'em. And dere ain't much difference, nuther. (*Sweeps up all the potatoes into dust pan, takes them to pot on stove and dumps them in, peelings and all; sweeps dust pan clean with broom into pot.*)

WASHINGTON (*meanwhile has been washing face and hands, and with eyes tightly closed feels about for towel*). Say, why don't yo' has a towel?

HANNAH. Dar am a towel. Say, yo' done got me dat nervous Ah don't know nawthin'.

WASHINGTON (*groping for towel*). Shucks, Ah didn't git yo' dat way. Yo' was jes' naturally born wid nawthin' on yo' mind but yo' hair.

HANNAH (*starts in seeming fright, blinks eyes and puts*

*one hand to back of head. Aside*). Law-zee, Ah wonder if he knows 'bout mah hair?

WASHINGTON (*finally locates towel, wipes face and hands, very carelessly; surveys towel*). Say, ain't it 'bout time yo' puts another towel up?

HANNAH (*grumblingly*). Say, Mister Lee, dar don't 'pear to be nawthin' dat suits yo' dis evenin'. Yo' been wipin' on dat towel fo' a month or mo' now, and dis am de fust time yo' complain 'bout it.

WASHINGTON (*whirls about and looks at her. She quickly places a hand to back of her head, concealing from him the loss of her hair*). Dqn't start nawthin'. 'Member dis am our anniversary.

HANNAH (*still with hand to head*). Ah ain't gwine start nawthin' Ah kaint finish.

WASHINGTON. What's de mattah wid yo'? Done got yo' a headache? (*Goes to smoking jacket and slippers.*)

HANNAH (*quickly takes hand from head, but conceals back of head from him by constantly keeping her face toward him as he moves about*). Naw; Ah ain't got me no headache.

WASHINGTON (*dons smoking jacket*). Ah'm glad ob dat. We don't has weddin' anniversaries ebery day. (*Sits and puts on slippers.*)

HANNAH (*aside and feeling back of head*). Ah'm glad ob it.

WASHINGTON (*rising*). Supper be long now; honey?

HANNAH (*backing to stove*). No, honey; jes' a few minutes. Will yo' has some more chicken?

WASHINGTON (*surprised*). Some *more*? Doggone it, Ah ain't never had *some* yit.

HANNAH. Dat's so; Ah done forgit. (*Aside.*) He ain't noticed mah hair yit.

WASHINGTON (*sits at table, elevates feet to top, leans back in chair and appears very comfortable*). Yo' knows dat man Ah works fo' now, he's Irish.

HANNAH. Yes?

WASHINGTON. He done axed me mah name. Ah tole

him Washington O'Brien Lee. He axed what de O'Brien was fo'.

HANNAH. What yo' tole him?

WASHINGTON. Ah done tole him dat it was fo' protection. (HANNAH *chuckles*.) Den Ah done axed him fo' some money on mah salary account.

HANNAH. What he say?

WASHINGTON. He done tole me to jump in de lake.

HANNAH. Well?

WASHINGTON. Ah done jump in de lake jes' as he tole me—when Ah come back he was gone. (WASHINGTON *slowly falls asleep, leaning back in chair, with feet on top of table*. HANNAH *keeps her eyes on him anxiously, and with both hands behind her back attempts to prepare the supper on the stove. Her comedy efforts finally result in her thrusting a hand in the supposedly boiling pot of water. She yells and jumps, fingers in mouth*. WASHINGTON, *at her first yell, loses his balance and falls backward to floor*.)

HANNAH (*dancing about in apparent agony*). Law-zee, Ah sure got suspicious dat Ah diskivered some powerful hot place, sudden-like.

WASHINGTON (*rising slowly to feet*). Say, what yo' mean by tryin' to 'liminate me—(*checks speech abruptly and gazes spellbound at her hair, blinking eyes, etc.*). Wha—wha—what's a mattah wid yo' head?

HANNAH (*trying to conceal back of head*). Why, whatta yo' mean, honey—mah hair?

WASHINGTON (*goes to her, grabs her wrist forcibly and swings her about, facing him, pointing an accusing finger at her shorn head*). Dar! Dat's what Ah mean. Yo' done got yo' hair 'liminated. How's come, gal?

HANNAH (*pleadingly*). Oh, honey, don't be rough wid yo' sugar-plum. Don't look dat way (*brokenly, with burlesque pathos*). Ah—Ah done it all fo' yo', honey-man!

WASHINGTON (*astonished*). Yo'—yo' done it all fo' me? 'Lucidate, gal; 'lucidate befo' Ah musses up de best room in de house wid yo'.

HANNAH (*fearfully*). Calm yo'self, honey; calm yo'self.



WASHINGTON (*threateningly*). Ah'll calm yo' in jes' a minute. How's come yo' got yo' a haircut in de hair?

HANNAH. Listen, honey. As Ah done says befo', Ah done it fo' yo', honey-man. Ah done it fo' yo'.

WASHINGTON. Yo' done what fo' me?

HANNAH. Ah done sold mah hair.

WASHINGTON (*recoiling with burlesque horror*). Yo' done sold yo' hair—yo' beautiful auburn black locks dat Ah was so proud of! Yo' beautiful tresses dat Ah loved to fondle and caress. Yo' done part wid dose glorious locks and tresses? (*Sobbing in burlesque, dramatic manner.*) Oh, gal, gal; how could yo'? How could yo'?

HANNAH. Don't take it so hard, honey-man; don't take it so hard. Listen. Ah tried ebery way fo' to save and scrape togedder some money fo' to buy yo' a anniversary present. (*Sighs.*) But twant no use. Dere was no money to be got togedder, nuther by scrapin' or odderwise. And den—and den—

WASHINGTON. Yes, and den what?

HANNAH. Ah done gits me a idea. Ah sells mah hair and buys yo' a present.

WASHINGTON. Oh, honey gal (*gaspingly sinks into a chair*).

HANNAH (*anxiously*). Ain't it all right what Ah done?

WASHINGTON. It am all right—and it am all wrong. (*Rises, goes to his jacket on chair, takes a package from pocket and comes back to her.*) Ah suppose what yo' done was all fo' de best, but—

HANNAH (*anxiously*). But what, honey-man?

WASHINGTON. Dat's fo' yo' (*hands package to her*).

HANNAH (*wonderingly*). Wha—what's dat?

WASHINGTON. Dat's a present Ah done gits fo' yo', gal.

HANNAH (*with blinking eyes, unwraps string, opens paper and takes out two large and flashy back combs, holds them up*). Law-zee! Hair combs! (*Comedy consternation.*)

WASHINGTON (*nods head*). Yes—hair combs. Hair combs, and now yo' got no hair.

HANNAH (*admiring them*). Mah goodness, dey is some class to dem. Dey mus' cost yo' a heap ob money.

WASHINGTON. Dey cost a-plenty (*assumes sorrowful attitude, elbows on knees and head in hands*).

HANNAH (*comfortingly*). Nevah mind, honey-man; mah hair will grow agin. Ah'll save de combs till mah hair grows long. (*Slyly takes watch chain from bosom of dress and conceals it in palm of hand.*) Yo' don't seem powerful interested like fo' to see de present what Ah buys yo'.

WASHINGTON (*groaning*). What's de use—what's de use! Dem beautiful auburn tresses am gone—my system has received too great a shock fo' to be interested in what yo' buys me.

HANNAH (*dangles chain in front of his face*). Look, man.

WASHINGTON (*slowly opens eyes, raises head and gazes at chain*). What!

HANNAH (*laughing*). Dat's fo' you', honey-man. Dat's what Ah buys wid mah hair. Ah buys dat fo' yo', so's dey don't laugh at yo' no mo' when yo' pulls out yo' watch. (*Dangles chain.*) Dere ain't nobody what kin laugh at yo' now, honey-man. Now let me take yo' watch while Ah hook on dis beautiful chain.

WASHINGTON (*rises slowly to feet, mechanically opens front of smoking jacket, slips a finger in vest pocket and draws forth a part of a watch chain, holds it up before her*). Dar yo' is.

HANNAH (*recoiling in surprise*). Dat? Why dat's yo' old chain. Whar's yo' watch?

WASHINGTON. Mah watch? Honey, Ah done pawned mah watch fo' to buy yo' dem gorgeous combs. (*HANNAH puts a hand to head, whirls and falls fainting into WASHINGTON'S arms, to—*)

QUICK CURTAIN.

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Si and I, 15 min.		1
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Time Table, 20 min.		1
Tramp and the Actress, 20 min.	1	1
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Troubles of Rozinski, 15 min.		1
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