

SHEEL BHADRA DAS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



RAMSADAY COLLEGE ARMS AND MAN- PLOT SUMMARRY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SHEEL BHADRA DAS

Preface-The preface was written at a later date for the publication of several of [Shaw's](#) plays in book form. In it Shaw mentions that it is difficult to decide what to write. Although he wants to write something meaningful, it must also be something common people will want to see, so it can make a profit. In addition to *Arms and the Man*, Shaw mentions other plays, including *Candida* (1894) and *Widowers' Houses* (1892).

Act 1, Section 1

The play begins in [Raina's](#) bedroom, 1895. Raina's mother, [Catherine](#), tells Raina that her fiancée, [Sergius](#) (whose photograph is on ostentatious display in the room), was very heroic in a battle of the Serbo-Bulgarian War that day. He led the cavalry in a charge. Raina is happy because she had doubts about Sergius's bravery. Then, the servant [Louka](#) comes in and says they must close the shutters because there is gunfire in the streets. Raina says she feels sorry for the Serbian soldiers, who are poor refugees, and she doesn't really want to close her shutters. Louka tells her in secret that the shutters don't close properly because the latch is broken. Raina closes them and goes to bed.

A moment later, a man breaks into the room. He is a Serbian soldier trying to avoid capture and death. Raina chides him for being fearful, and he says all soldiers are. A Bulgarian officer comes in, looking for the soldier, whom someone saw climbing up Raina's balcony. Raina hides the man and lies about him being there. The officer chalks it up to people's imaginations running away with them.

Act 1, Section 2

After the officer leaves, Raina notices that the man's gun was on the ottoman the whole time. He tells her it doesn't matter, as it wasn't loaded. He has no ammo because he's been carrying chocolate instead, to have something to eat. Raina is shocked but offers him some chocolate she has, as he is hungry.

They get to talking about that day's battle. The man says he was certainly fearful, as every soldier is once he's been in battle for three days. He also comments the Bulgarian army wasn't very professional, sending in soldiers they knew would be killed. The only reason they weren't killed was that the Serbians had the wrong kind of cartridges for their guns. He describes the man who led the cavalry charge in a way that makes him sound not very heroic and somewhat buffoonish. Raina shows him [Sergius's](#) picture and asks if he was the cavalry leader. The man says it was and apologizes. Raina tells him to leave. He says he can't climb the drainpipe again. He'd just as soon die. In fact, dying would just be a long sleep, and he's very tired. Raina takes pity on him and says he can take refuge in their home. After all, he is a guest and the duties of a host are paramount. He falls asleep in Raina's bed, and she tells her mother to let him sleep there.

Act 2, Section 1

Several months later, [Sergius](#) and Major [Petkoff](#) are coming home from war. Petkoff is pleased at having won, while [Sergius](#) announces he is going to resign from the military. They tell a story they heard from a Swiss soldier, who said he had escaped harm by hiding in a young lady's bedroom and then snuck off, wearing the master of the house's coat. Catherine and Raina appear offended by this story. Meanwhile, Louka and her fellow servant, [Nicola](#), to whom she is engaged, have figured out that something is up.

[Sergius](#) and Raina dramatically declare their love for one another and plan an outing.

Act 2, Section 2

After Raina leaves to get ready, Louka talks to [Sergius](#). [Sergius](#) declares how tiring "higher love" is, meaning the type of love he has with Raina. They always have to make dramatic declarations of the other's perfection, and he is unable to be himself. Louka says there was a man in Raina's bedroom. She heard enough of their conversation to know that if the man returned, Raina would marry him. They had a real conversation, unlike Raina and [Sergius](#). This upsets [Sergius](#), and he grabs Louka's arm, bruising her. At the same time, though, they are also flirting. Louka asks [Sergius](#) to cure the bruise. He apologizes and offers her money, but she wants a kiss, which he will not give.

Raina and Catherine enter. After [Sergius](#) leaves the room to talk with [Petkoff](#), they discuss how much trouble they'd be in if the men knew about the man in Raina's room. Raina, however, still seems enamored with the man and says she'd stuff him with chocolates if he came back. Just then, [Bluntschli](#), the very same soldier, arrives to return [Petkoff's](#) jacket. Catherine begs him to sneak out and plans to send back his duffel bag after she extracts [Petkoff's](#) coat from it. But before he can go, [Petkoff](#) and [Sergius](#) come into the room. Recognizing [Bluntschli](#), whom they know, they invite him to stay at the house.

Act 3, Section 1

A bit later, in the library, [Bluntschli](#) is fixing Major [Petkoff's](#) military matter when [Petkoff](#) says he wants his coat, which he cannot find. Catherine says it's in the closet and sends [Nicola](#) to get it. While she is gone, [Petkoff](#) takes bets on whether or not the coat will be found. [Nicola](#) returns with the coat, which he found in the closet where it belongs. [Bluntschli](#) completes his work and [Sergius](#), [Petkoff](#), and Catherine go off to deliver the orders.

Left alone with [Bluntschli](#), Raina tells him that [Petkoff](#) and [Sergius](#) heard about him hiding in a lady's room but don't know that she is the lady. She says [Sergius](#) would challenge him to a duel and kill him if he knew. What's more, she says it is hard for her to lie to [Sergius](#) because she never lies. [Bluntschli](#) says he thinks she lies all the time, as does he. He also says he admires her. Raina tells [Bluntschli](#) that he is the first man not to take her seriously, and he says he is the first man who *has*. She says she puts on a noble attitude in front of everyone, implying it is an act. They all believe her. Raina tells [Bluntschli](#) she left a portrait of herself in the coat, for him to find. However, he didn't see it and thinks it might still be in the coat. It might not be, though, since he also pawned the coat for a while. Raina is horrified because she wrote something on the portrait.

Louka comes in with mail for [Sergius](#), saying that his father is dead. She and [Nicola](#) discuss that she has ideas above her station.

Act 3, Section 2

[Sergius](#) and Louka argue about [Sergius](#) caring too much what others think. She says if she were the empress of Russia, she would marry the man she loved even if he was beneath her. But [Sergius](#) doesn't have that kind of courage. [Sergius](#) says she is just jealous of Raina. Louka says she knows Raina really loves [Bluntschli](#), not him. [Sergius](#) says that if he were to love Louka, he would marry her in spite of what Bulgaria thinks. If he touches her again, it will be as his fiancée.

[Sergius](#) challenges [Bluntschli](#) to a duel. [Bluntschli](#) protests Raina only allowed him in her room because he held a pistol to her head. Raina realizes that it was Louka who told [Sergius](#) the truth. She knows [Sergius](#) has been making love to Louka.

[Petkoff](#) enters. He has found the photograph in his coat pocket, which Raina inscribed, "Raina, to her [Chocolate](#) Cream Soldier: a souvenir." Finally, [Bluntschli](#) tells [Petkoff](#) what happened. [Petkoff](#) asks which of the gentlemen she is engaged to. Raina says that [Sergius](#) loves Louka, not her. [Petkoff](#) says that's impossible because Louka is engaged to [Nicola](#). [Nicola](#) says she isn't. He gives her up, and [Sergius](#) becomes engaged to Louka. After realizing that Raina wants to marry him and is 23, which is older than he thought, [Bluntschli](#) becomes a suitor for Raina's hand. He reveals he has a lot of family money from his hotel business. Raina protests that she didn't give her hand to kiss, her bed to sleep in, or her roof to shelter to the emperor of Switzerland. She gave them to her chocolate cream soldier.

SHEELBHADRA DAS (DEPT OF ENGLISH)
RAMSADAY COLLEGE , AMTA.
HOWRAH.



Introduction

- 1 There is shooting outside, so Raina closes her shutters.

Rising Action

- 2 A man (Bluntschli) breaks into Raina's room.
- 3 Raina protects the man from an officer looking for him.
- 4 Raina allows the man to stay for the night.
- 5 Months later, Petkoff and Sergius return home from the war.
- 6 Bluntschli returns Petkoff's coat, which Raina gave him.
- 7 Bluntschli and Raina flirt; they are clearly in love.
- 8 Louka tells Sergius about Raina and Bluntschli.

SHEEL BHADRA DAS, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,
RAMSADAY COLLEGE,
AMTA, HOWRAH

Climax

- 9 Sergius challenges Bluntschli to a duel.



Ask Expert Tutors

Answers in as fast as 15 minutes

Falling Action

- 10 Bluntschli learns his father died and left him everything.
- 11 Sergius bravely becomes engaged to Louka.

Resolution

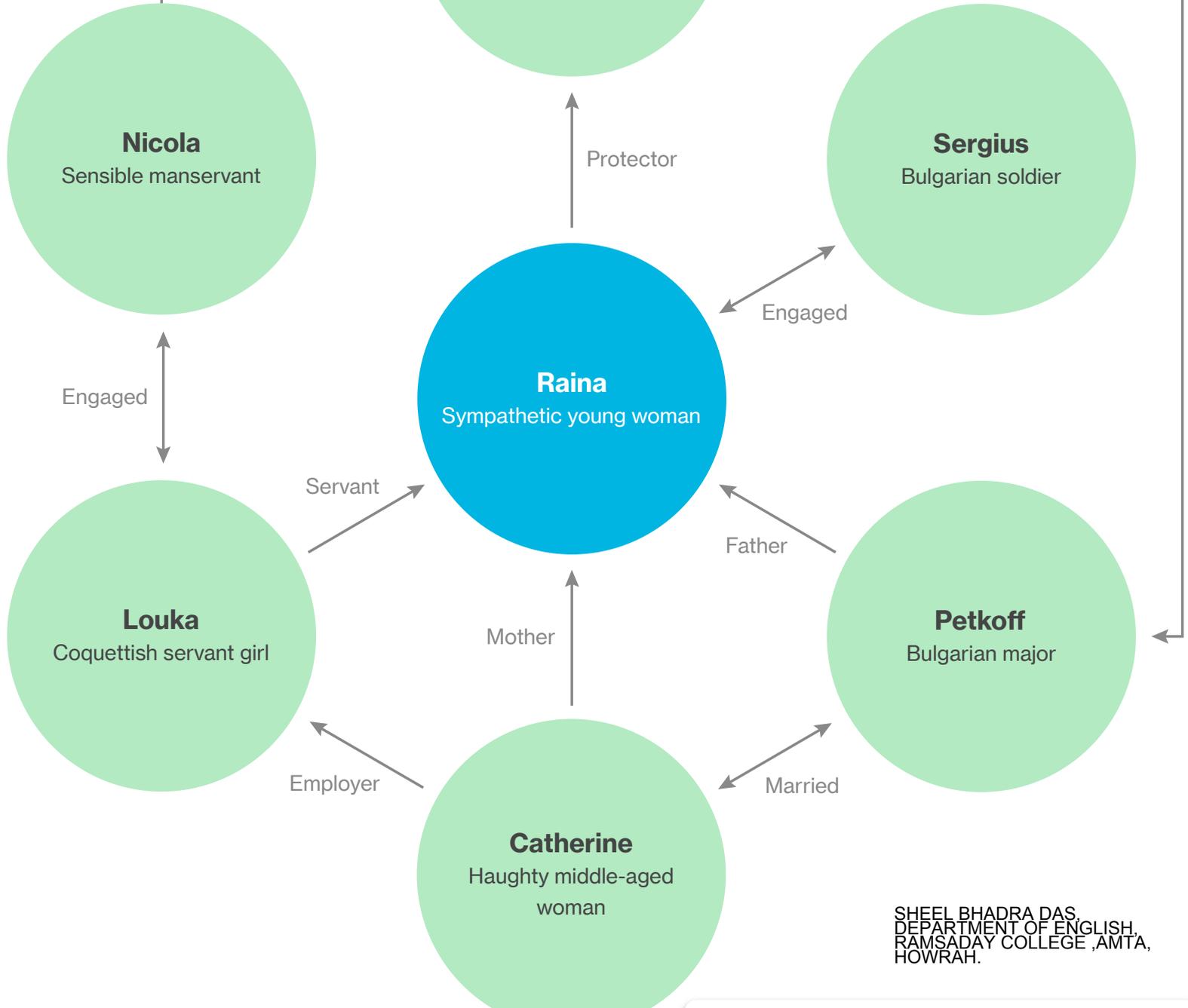
- 12 Bluntschli is deemed an acceptable match for Raina.

Servant

RAMSADAYCOLLEGE, AMTA,
HOWRAH.

CHARACTER MAP OF ARMS AND THE MAN

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



SHEEL BHADRA DAS,
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,
RAMSADAY COLLEGE ,AMTA,
HOWRAH.