

**BIZET**

**CARMEN**

**English Version by Donald Pippin**

*Scene: a crowded, colorful square in Seville.*

**CHORUS:**

**People coming, people going,  
Some berserk, some bizarre.  
What funny folk these people are!**

**MORALES**

**Standing guard in the line of duty,  
We have time to spare.  
With an eye ever out for beauty,  
What we see, we share.**

**CHORUS**

**People coming, people going,  
Some berserk, some bizarre.  
What funny folk these people are!  
Out for the air, they fill the square.**

*Micaela enters, hesitant, shy. Glancing at the soldiers, she approaches, retreats ...)*

**MORALES**

**See that young lady well worth watching;  
She seems not to know where to turn.  
But see, but see! She approaches,  
Hesitating ...**

**SOLDIERS**

**Do we appear so cold and stern?**

**MORALES**

**Dear, can I be of service?**

**MICAELA**

**Oh! I'm searching for a friend.**

**MORALES**

**You need look no further!**

**MICAELA**

**No, no! I'm referring to a soldier named Don Jose,  
Stationed in Seville.**

**MORALES**

**Don Jose? A name that we know well.**

**MICAELA**

**What luck! Oh please, tell me where I can find him.**

**MORALES**

**Your soldier friend is serving in another unit.**

**MICAELA**

**You mean he is not here?**

**MORALES**

**No, not for the present.  
Not for the moment, as you can see.  
But if you wait, he will appear.  
He's on the way, to make a welcome entry  
When drums announce the changing of the sentry.**

**But until your friend arrives,  
Tea and cake we can provide.  
Oh, we'll guard you with our lives  
If you will kindly step inside.**

**MICAELA, *shocked***

**With you?**

**SOLDIERS**

**With us!**

**MICAELA**

**Though you are very kind, still I must decline.**

**MORALES**

**In our hands you'll be safe  
As a hallowed, holy saint.  
Proper soldiers, we'll behave  
And give no cause for complaint.**

**MICAELA**

**Thanks again, but I must be gone.  
I think it better if I come back later on.**

I'll soon return to make a second entry  
When drums announce the changing of the sentry.

**SOLDIERS**

You'll soon return to make a second entry  
When drums announce the changing of the sentry.

**MORALES**

Here you can stay ...

**MICAELA**

No, no! No, no!

**MORALES**

Safe inside our quarters you can stay.

**MICAELA**

Many thanks. I'd better be gone. *(she hurries off)*

**MORALES**

Frightened away, the bird has flown.  
As before, let us turn again  
To oversee the passing scene.

**CHORUS**

People coming, people going,  
Some berserk, some bizarre.  
What funny folk these people are!  
Out for the air, they fill the square.

*(A group of small boys and girls enters, followed by soldiers, Zuniga and Don Jose.)*

**BOYS & GIRLS**



Help-ing out the guard we come. Right be-side them here we are.

Blow trumpet, pound on the drum,  
Ta ra ta ta ta ta

March in rhythm, lift your feet,  
Shoulders back, hold up your chin.  
Left, right and stay on the beat.  
One! Two! Now try again.

Shine your shoes and brush your hair;  
Copy what the grownups do.

**Just like you men over there,  
We can play at soldier, too.**

**Helping out the guard we come;  
Right beside them, here we are.  
Blow trumpet, pound on the drum,  
Ta ra ta ta ta ta ta**

**March in rhythm, lift your feet,  
Shoulders high, hold up your chin.  
Stay in step and on the beat.  
One! Two! Now try again.**

**Shine your shoes and brush your hair;  
Exactly what grownups do.  
Like you fellows over there,  
We can play at soldier, too.  
Helping the guard, here we are!**

ZUNIGA: Company, halt! At ease!

MORALES: *(to Don Jose)* A pretty girl was here looking for you. She said she would be back.

DON JOSE: A pretty girl?

MORALES: Neatly dressed, blue skirt, long braids ...

DON JOSE: Micaela! It must have been Micaela!

MORALES: Could be. She didn't give her name.

ZUNIGA: Let's go! Let's go!

#### **CHILDREN**

**Helping out the guard we go;  
Right beside them, here we are.  
Blow trumpet! On with the show!  
Ta ra ta ta ta ta ta**

**March in rhythm, lift your feet,  
Shoulders back, hold up your chin.  
Left, right and stay on the beat.  
One! Two! Now try again.**

**Shine your shoes and brush your hair;**

**Copy what the grownups do.  
Just like you men over there,  
We can play at soldier, too. Charge!**

ZUNIGA: *(to Don Jose)* I'm new here, Sergeant.. What is that big building over there?

DON JOSE: A factory where they make cigarettes.

ZUNIGA: Girls work there?

DON JOSE: Oh,. yes. They'll soon be coming back from the lunch break.

ZUNIGA: Lots of them?

DON JOSE: More than you can count.

ZUNIGA: Among whom, I daresay, some are young and pretty.

DON JOSE: I suppose so. I never paid much attention.

ZUNIGA: Never paid attention! Oh, I see – you have a weakness for blue skirts, neatly braided hair ...

DON JOSE: *(smiling)* You must have overheard. It's the way they dress back home in Navarre.

ZUNIGA: You are from Navarre?

DON JOSE: It's where I grew up. But not long ago I was dragged into a stupid fight and had to leave town. So I enlisted ...

ZUNIGA: And here you are in Seville!

DON JOSE: My mother left, too, and found a place to live in a village not far from here, with a young orphan she's taken under her wing – Micaela.

ZUNIGA: And just how old is this young Micaela?

DON JOSE: Seventeen.

ZUNIGA: Oho! I understand. So that's why you can't tell me whether the girls in the factory are pretty or not.

DON JOSE: There goes the bell. You can judge for yourself.  
*(A group of young men enter and stand around waiting for the cigarette girls.)*

### **YOUNG MEN**

**When we hear the bell  
Calling back the workers,  
We show up as well,  
Even push and shove,**

**Hoping for a view  
Of the shapely smokers  
And to breathe a few  
Whispered words of love.**

*(The cigarette girls slowly enter)*

### **SOLDIERS**

**Take a look. We all know the type.  
Shameless coquettes!  
From their lips so red and so ripe  
Dangle cigarettes.**

### **CIGARETTE GIRLS**

**Floating upward lazily  
(Lazily floating on high)  
Smoke is drifting,  
Feather-weighted,  
Into the sky,  
There to fade away to nothing.**

**Feel it rising pleasantly  
(Feel it bring pleasure and cheer)  
Calm and soothing,  
Heavy scented,  
Then disappear,  
Leaving head and heart contented.**

**Sweet pretty words that lovers all like to say –  
Blow away!  
Fervent vows that lovers all like to hear –  
Disappear.  
Words that lovers all like to say  
Vows that lovers all like to hear  
Are only smoke that blows away.**

**Upward, floating lazily,  
Smoke hovers (there) above,  
Feather-weighted,  
Heavy scented,**

**Oh, watch it fade into the air  
After lazily drifting and turning above.  
Love and smoke! Smoke and love!**

**YOUNG MEN**

**Though cruel, we adore you  
And for pity implore you.  
Instead of slander and disdain,  
Why won't you feel our pain?**

**Though cruel, we adore you  
And for pity implore you.  
Instead of cold disdain,  
Once again we implore you  
For tender pity on our pain.**

**Sweet words lovers like to say  
(Words lovers all like to say)  
Feather-weighted,  
Heavy scented,  
Oh, see how they fade into air  
After lazily drifting and turning above.  
Love and smoke! Smoke and love!**

**YOUNG MEN**

**Though disdainful and cruel,  
We love and adore you!  
Do believe! Only believe! Believe!**

**SOLDIERS**

**But we're one person short.  
Carmen is missing.**

*(Carmen enters and the men cluster around her)*

**YOUNG MEN & SOLDIERS**

**Here she comes! Here she comes!  
Here she is, bringing fire and excitement!**

**(to Carmen) At last! We are waiting with bated breath!  
Reply, for your answer means life or death.  
Oh, when will you love me?  
Oh, tell me, I pray!  
I wait with bated breath  
Till you name the day.**



**That's love! A wayward child, a gypsy too,  
You men will meddle only if you dare.  
Be cold to me, I burn for you,  
But when I smolder, oh you men, beware!**

**MEN**

**Again we are waiting with bated breath!  
Reply, for your answer means life or death.  
Whether yes, whether no,  
Your answer means life or death.**

*(The young men surround Carmen, who looks at one, then another ... then directly at Don Jose. He looks up and sees Carmen directly in front of him. She takes a flower from her bodice, tosses it to him, then abruptly runs off.)*

**CIGARETTE GIRLS**

**A wayward child, a gypsy too,  
You men will meddle only if you dare.  
Be cold to me, I burn for you,  
But when I smolder, O you men, beware!**

*(The bell sounds. The cigarette girls return to the factory, the soldiers to the guardhouse. Don Jose is left alone, his eyes transfixed on the flower that has fallen at his feet.)*

DON JOSE: All of this because I was paying no attention to her! And a flower, aimed directly at me, like a bullet. A sweet, penetrating scent ... if there's such a thing as a sorceress, I've just seen one!

MICAELA: *(entering)* Oh, sir, could you ...

DON JOSE: *(turning around and quickly hiding the flower)* Micaela! What a surprise!

MICAELA: Jose! Your mother sent me with a message ...

**DON JOSE**

**A message from my mother?  
My dear, devoted mother!**

**MICAELA**

**A greeting from the heart  
I promised to deliver, with a letter.**

**DON JOSE, joyfully**

**You've a letter?**

**MICAELA**

**And also, by the way,  
Some pocket money for a rainy day.  
But first ...**

**DON JOSE**

**But first ...?**

**MICAELA**

**But first ... Another present.  
How to say it?  
Though I blush, it's not unpleasant,  
But very nice. And to a loving son  
Worth more than gold at any price.**

**DON JOSE**

**Another present from my mother ... Do go on!**

**MICAELA**

**Only yesterday I promised to convey  
This present just for you.  
Walking home after church, both in our Sunday best,  
Taking my hand, fondly she said:  
I have a bold request.  
Take a trip into town  
Not many miles away.**

**And when you reach Seville,  
Inquire of everyone  
About my boy, my Jose.  
And when you track him down,  
This I want you to say.**

**Tell him that you speak for his mother,  
Longing day and night for her son,  
Hoping some day they'll be together;  
Say she's forgiven all he's done.**

**Once again, say how much I miss him,  
That my darling I live to see.  
Then take him in your arms and kiss him.  
To my child, give a kiss from me.**

**DON JOSE, *deeply moved***  
You've a kiss from my mother?

**MICAELA**  
For the son she adores,  
Her kiss I give to you  
As I was told to do.

*(On tiptoe, she gives him a fond but motherly kiss.)*

**DON JOSE**



I see her gen-tle face, the sleep-y town I left be- hind,  
A sweeter time, a sweeter place  
From not too long ago ...

People I knew, poor but kind,  
Days not so long ago,  
The sleepy town. The friends I used to know ...

**BOTH**  
A sweeter time and place  
Where we grew up together.  
My {your} mother speaks again  
To tell an erring son  
That love goes on forever.

**DON JOSE**  
Who knows to what temptation  
I nearly succumbed?  
Even from afar, my mother reaches out,  
Saving me from what dark abyss?  
Yes, my mother's timely kiss  
Has made me see the light:  
I am myself again.

**MICAELA**  
Dark abyss, did you say?  
Your mother reaching out ...  
What on earth do you mean?

**DON JOSE**  
No, no! No more of that!  
Where are you staying?  
Or must you be heading for home?

**MICAELA**

Yes, leaving shortly.  
By morning I'll be with your mother.

**DON JOSE**

So very soon! For me, then, you must say ...  
Say that her son will always love her.  
He grieves for the wrongs he has done,  
And hopes he can make his mother  
Even proud of her son.

Once again, say how much I miss her,  
Though for now we must wait and see.  
Then take her in your arms and kiss her;  
To my mother give a kiss from me.

**MICAELA**

Depend on me for this;  
What I say, I shall do.  
So may I have the kiss  
I am to give from you?

**DON JOSE**

I see her gentle face,  
The sleepy town I left behind,  
A sweeter time, a sweeter place,  
And people simple and kind.

**MICAELA**

Recall her gentle face,  
The sleepy town you left behind,  
A sweeter time, a sweeter place,  
From not so long ago.

**BOTH**

A sweeter time and place  
Where we grew up together.  
My {your} mother speaks again  
To tell an erring son  
That love goes on forever.

The simple life we knew together,  
The sweeter days of not so long ago,  
A mother's love that stays forever  
And gives a tender, warm and steady glow.

**DON JOSE**  
**That love that stays forever**  
**And gives a steady glow!**  
**The warm and steady glow**  
**Of love that stays forever!**

**BOTH**  
**The sweeter days we knew together**  
**That only seem long ago ...**

DON JOSE: Stay while I read the letter.

MICAELA: (*shyly*) If you wish.

DON JOSE: (*reading*) Continue your present good behavior, my dear son, and pretty soon things will smooth over. Then you can leave the service, settle down not far from your old mother, get married ...

MICAELA: (*embarrassed*) I really don't think I should listen. (*she starts to leave*)

DON JOSE: No, don't run away.

MICAELA: I'll come back after you've finished reading. Later on ... (*she leaves*)

DON JOSE: "Son, there's not a finer, sweeter girl in the world." Oh, mother, how right you are! Yes, I'll marry Micaela! So much for the gypsy and her flower with its magic spell!

**GIRLS, from within**  
**O police! O police!**  
**Hurry up! Over here!**

**ZUNIGA, entering**  
**Say, what is going on? What's up?**

(*The girls come running out of factory*)

**SOPRANOS**  
**O police! Over here!**  
**Will or will you not?**

**ALTOS**  
**O police! Hurry up!**  
**Are you deaf, or what?**

**SOPRANOS**

**Carmen began it all.**

**ALTOS**

**No, no! It was Manuela.**

**SOPRANOS**

**Carmen was in the wrong.**

**ALTOS**

**Manuela wanted trouble all along.**

**SOPRANOS**

**I saw, and clearly I recall  
That it was Carmen who began.**

**ALTOS**

**How utterly absurd!**

**SOPRANOS**

**Not utterly absurd!**

**ALTOS**

**Yes, utterly absurd!**

**SOPRANOS**

**I saw, I saw and heard.**

**ALTOS**

**I saw with my own eyes.**

**SOPRANOS**

**I heard with my own ears.**

**ALTOS**

**Manuela carried on  
About a donkey just bought,  
Worth a fortune, so she thought.  
Battle lines are clearly drawn.**

**SOPRANOS**

**Carmen calls across the room:  
“A donkey’s not what you need,  
For it’s commonly agreed  
That witches ride upon a broom.”**

**ALTOS**

**Manuela struck anew,  
The two heading for collision:  
“With a broom in good condition  
I’d beat you till black and blue.”**

**SOPRANOS**

**Carmen hastens to reply;  
Petty words soon turn to deeds.  
One thing to another leads,  
And the fur begins to fly.**

**BOTH**

**Lashing out right then and there,  
Both of them grab for the hair.  
Yes, with a grab, each of the pair  
Has the other by the hair.**

**ZUNIGA**

**To blazes with your brainless blather!  
A tidal wave of chitter-chatter.  
Now then, Jose. Go in, investigate.  
With two others.  
Find out what the hell is the matter.  
*(Don Jose leaves with two soldiers)***

**SOPRANOS**

**Carmen began it all.**

**ALTOS**

**No, no! Manuela started.**

**SOPRANOS**

**Quite clearly I recall ...**

**ALTOS**

**No, no! You’ve got it wrong.**

**SOPRANOS**

**Yes, Carmen led the fray.**

**ALTOS**

**Not at all.**

**SOPRANOS**

**Yes, it was Carmen that began.**

**ZUNIGA, to soldiers**  
**Enough! Round up these women and send them away.**

**SOPRANOS**  
**Senor!**

**SOLDIERS**  
**Away!**

**ALTOS**  
**Senor!**

**SOLDIERS**  
**Go back to work and hold your tongue!**

**GIRLS**  
**But they have got it wrong.**

**SOLDIERS**  
**To work and hold your tongue!**

**GIRLS**  
**Senor, they've got it wrong.**  
**They have got it all wrong.**

**SOLDIERS**  
**Go back to work where you belong.**

**ZUNIGA, to soldiers**  
**Go on! Go on!**

*(The soldiers push the women aside. Carmen enters, led by Don Jose and the two soldiers. The women resume their dispute.)*

**SOPRANOS**  
**Carmen began it all, her manner so impolite.**

**ALTOS**  
**Manuela led her on, as ever itching for a fight.**

**SOPRANOS**  
**Oh, so impolite!**

**ALTOS**  
**Itching for a fight.**

**SOPRANOS**

**Carmen started, Carmen started.  
Carmen began it all.  
Clearly, Carmen began.**

**ALTOS**

**Goaded, prodded, goaded, prodded,  
No, she was driven on.  
Led on, led on, she was led on.**

**SOLDIERS**

**Go back to work and hold your tongue.  
Go back to work where you belong.  
You can all go to blazes  
Where you belong.**

ZUNIGA: Well, sergeant, now that we have a moment of peace and quiet, perhaps you can tell me what you saw.

DON JOSE: A mob of women crying out, "She's murdered! She's dying!" And in fact one of them *was* bleeding. Directly in front of her, knife in hand, stood Carmen.

ZUNIGA: And what does Carmen have to say?

CARMEN: I was attacked! I had to defend myself. Isn't that so, sergeant?

DON JOSE: All that I know is that she was using the knife provided for cutting cigarettes to draw the cross of St. Andre on the other woman's face.

ZUNIGA: Is that the truth?

DON JOSE: You have the word of honor of a native son of Navarre.

ZUNIGA: Well, my sweet, how do you answer the charge?

**CARMEN**

**Tra la la la la la la la  
You can tear me to shreds,  
You can grind me to dust,  
But no secrets of mine  
Can your questions uncover.**

ZUNIGA: I'm not asking for a song. I want an answer.

**CARMEN**

**Tra la la la la la la la**

**What I know I shall take  
To my grave if I must  
Tra la la la la la la la  
I'm in love and shall die  
Without naming my lover.**

ZUNIGA: So that's the tone you're taking! *(to Don Jose)* One thing is clear: somebody got cut with a knife, and she's the one that did it.

GIRLS! Yes, it was her! She's the one! *(Soldiers remove the ladies from the scene)*

ZUNIGA: *(to Carmen)* No question. You make free use of your hands. Somebody bring a rope.

SOLDIER: Here you are.

ZUNIGA: *(to Don Jose)* Tie both of those delicate hands behind her.

*(Carmen, smiling, without the least resistance, extends both her hands to Don Jose.)*

ZUNIGA: A shame to do it to a pretty girl like you, but that's beside the point. You'll be just as pretty inside a jail cell, and there you can sing your gypsy songs to your heart's content. I'll go write the warrant. *(to Don Jose)* The prisoner I leave in your hands. *(he leaves)*

CARMEN: Where are you taking me?

DON JOSE: You heard him. To the jailhouse.

CARMEN: *(pulling out the stops)* Dear God! What will become of me? Oh, sir, have pity! You are so young, so nice ... Let me escape and I'll give you my talisman. It will make all the women fall in love with you.

DON JOSE: I've no time to talk nonsense. It's the jailhouse for you. An order is an order.

CARMEN: You said that you were a native son of Navarre.

DON JOSE: From Elizondo.

CARMEN: And I'm from Etchala!

DON JOSE: Really! So close to home!

CARMEN: It's where I was born. I've been slaving in the factory, trying to save enough money to go home to my poor mother. And now this! My friend, can't you help out a poor girl who grew up practically next door?

DON JOSE: A tall tale! Not a word of truth in it! Your face, your hair, your complexion ...

CARMEN: You think I'm a gypsy?

DON JOSE: It's written all over you.

CARMEN: Very well, so I am. My little lie was no good. But no matter ... you will do what I ask anyway, because you are in love with me.

DON JOSE: In love?

CARMEN: Don't deny it. Your eyes say it, your blushes ... and what about the flower that you have so carefully hidden? No, don't bother to throw it away. It has already done its work.

DON JOSE: That's enough! I forbid you to talk to me!

CARMEN: You forbid me to talk? Very well. I shall not talk.

**CARMEN**



Close by Se-ville there's a ta-vern run by my friend Lil-las Pa-stia.

**While dancing the bold seguidilla  
I'll sip manzanilla  
In the smoky room of Lillas Pastia.**

**Yet who would want to dance alone?  
Two people make a sweeter song.  
So, for a partner of my own  
My special man I'll bring along.**

**But I forget --- I threw him over;  
I put an end to that affair.  
Now unconfined, ripe for a lover,  
My mended heart is free as air.**

Though dozens say that they adore me,  
None of my suitors satisfy.  
And with the weekend just before me,  
I look around; who do I spy?

Here is my heart, prone to surrender,  
And you arrive promptly on cue.  
Not a moment have I to squander,  
With a new man I much admire.

Close by Seville in the tavern  
Run by my friend Lillas Pastia.  
While dancing the bold seguidilla  
I'll sip manzanilla  
In the smoky tavern we will start a fire!

**DON JOSE**

Enough! Under arrest, I forbid you to speak.

**CARMEN**

I never said a word. Not speaking, I was singing.  
Don't tell me that you listened! Now I'm thinking,  
And thinking, I assume, is not a crime.  
A soldier somehow comes to mind,  
Quite handsome though shy, so I'm told.  
He loves me, and in return,  
I must confess my heart is far from cold.

**DON JOSE**

For me!

**CARMEN**

No first lieutenant or captain as yet,  
Not high in rank, but low.  
Though only a sergeant,  
What more can a gypsy girl hope to get?  
Pride and privilege I can forego.

**DON JOSE**

I burn like a man going crazy!  
If I yield, if I surrender,  
Promise always that you'll be mine.  
Oh, yes, I love you!  
Oh, Carmen! Love me in return!  
*(untying the rope on her wrists)*  
At Lillas Pastia's say once again ...

Again! Tell me you're mine!

**CARMEN**

Ah! There we shall dance the seguidilla,  
Sipping the sweet manzanilla.

Close by Seville in the tavern  
Run by my friend Lillas Pastia.  
While dancing the bold seguidilla  
We'll sip manzanilla ... Tra la la la

**DON JOSE:** The lieutenant! Watch out!

**ZUNIGA** *entering*

*(to Don Jose)* Here's the warrant. Be off!  
Don't let her make a scandal.

**CARMEN, to Don Jose**

On the way, I'll give you a shove.  
Hard as I can push, I'll take you by surprise.  
You will trip, you will fall. The rest I can handle.

*(The cigarette girls and their admirers return one by one to the scene. Escorted by Don Jose, Carmen slowly crosses the stage, making fun of Zuniga.)*

A wayward child, a gypsy too,  
You men will meddle only if you dare.  
Be cold to me, I burn for you,  
But when I smolder, O you men, beware!

*(She gives Don Jose a sudden push, he topples over, She escapes, amid confusion, pandemonium, shrieks of laughter.)*

**ACT II**

*Don Jose has been languishing in jail for a month, but life goes on in the smoky tavern of Lillas Pastia near Seville, the favored rendezvous for a gang of smugglers. Released, no doubt involuntarily, from the dull factory routine, here Carmen and her friends Frasquita and Mercedes seem a good deal more in their element..*

**CARMEN**



To cas-ta-nets and tam-bou-rine the gyp-sy pulse is all a-tin-gle;  
The fiery dance and music mingle  
To spark a hot, hypnotic scene.

**No crystal ball or fatal card  
Is needed here to give the answer;  
Bewitched and dazzled by the dancer,  
The hero's heart must stay on guard.**

**The fire and frenzy reach a peak;  
The beat is loud, the tempo quickens;  
The gypsy dancer smiles and beckons  
To the stranger still too shy to speak.**

**Her copper beads and silver rings  
Adorn the dark and dusky skin;  
The sultry song the gypsy sings  
Ignites the spark that glows within.**

**Though sound and fury fill the room  
Seductively with silent glances,  
Around, around the gypsy dances  
And lures the lover to his doom.**

**To clash of cymbal, beat of drum,  
As shadows fall and passions rise,  
Be warned of bliss and pain to come  
As the room goes round, overheated  
By the fire in her sultry eyes.**

ZUNIGA: *(to Lillas Pastia)* Are you trying to say something?

PASTIA: *(wringing his hands)* Ladies, gentlemen! Have a heart! It's closing time and I've already had trouble enough with the law. The police have their eye on me, don't ask me why.

ZUNIGA: I can tell you why. Your tavern happens to be the favorite hangout for the most notorious smugglers in the country.

PASTIA: *(reproachfully)* Oh, Lieutenant! How can you say such a thing? But whether true or not, you can understand that the slightest infraction would give them the excuse they are looking for. And I repeat, I'm supposed to be closed in five minutes.

ZUNIGA: So that God only knows what can go on *after* closing time. Fine with me. But we still have an hour before retreat sounds. We'll just have to find entertainment elsewhere. *(to Frasquita)* You're coming with us, yes?

*(Pastia makes discreet signals to the girls that they are to say no.)*

FRASQUITA: Not tonight, I'm worn out.

ZUNIGA: Worn out? *That's* never happened before. *(to Mercedes)* What about you?

MERCEDES: Too bad. I have other plans.

ZUNIGA: You, too? But Carmen, we can count on you. You won't let us down.

CARMEN: Thank you, but you're mistaken. I'm staying right here.

ZUNIGA: You're angry with me for hauling you off to jail. So mean, so cruel...

CARMEN: *(vaguely)* Hauling me off to jail?

ZUNIGA: I was only doing my job.

CARMEN: Oh, yes, now it comes back to me.

ZUNIGA: Why hold it against me? You didn't even get as far as the jailhouse door. Because of that knuckleheaded sergeant who got it into his head that you were a fragile flower that needed protection. I suppose you know that he wound up in the jail cell himself. And got demoted into the bargain.

CARMEN: I've heard something to that effect. But this sergeant ... is he still in jail?

ZUNIGA: Released this morning.

CARMEN: *(with great relief)* Then all is well. *(noise outside)*

ZUNIGA: What's going on out there?

MERCEDES: Sounds like a wild party.

ZUNIGA: Who is it?

FRASQUITA: Escamillo! The up and coming torero from Granada. They say he'll be one of the greatest.

MERCEDES: How exciting! Oh, do let's invite him in. A toast in his honor!

ZUNIGA: A man I've been wanting to meet.

PASTIA: *(still pleading)* But I've told you it's closing time.

ZUNIGA: Oh, no it's not!

*(Escamillo enters, with entourage)*

**CHORUS**

**Salute the famous Torero,  
The great, superb Escamillo.  
A toast! A toast!**

**ESCAMILLO**



**Bringing down the picador,  
One horse goes under.  
Tension increases.  
Leaping, lurching back and forth,  
The bull lunges again.**

**In blinding rage but still undaunted,  
It lashes out though stain  
Of blood is on the sand.  
Cowards run from the heat of crisis;  
I advance with sword in hand.  
Go on! Be ready! Give all you've got!**

**Toreador, take over!  
Somewhere among the sea of sparkling eyes  
One dark pair shining bright  
Foretells a sweeter prize.  
Yes, later on, love will be yours tonight.**

PASTIA: Gentlemen, let me again remind you ...

ZUNIGA: All right. Closing time. We're going.

ESCAMILLO: *(to Carmen)* Tell me your name, my sweet. The next time I finish off the bull., it will be with your name on my lips.

CARMEN: Carmencita.

ESCAMILLO: *(savoring the sound)* Carmencita!

CARMEN: Carmen, to my friends.

ESCAMILLO: Ah, Carmen! And if I fell in love with you, what could I expect in return?

CARMEN: Fall in love as much as you like, but don't expect anything ... for now.

ESCAMILLO: Then I shall wait, and hope.

CARMEN: I can't stop you from waiting, and hope ... is always pleasant.

ZUNIGA: Carmen, since you're not coming with us, I'll be back in an hour.

CARMEN: I advise you not to come back.

ZUNIGA: And that advice I shall ignore. Come, Torero, we leave together.

ESCAMILLO: My honor.

*(All leave, except Carmen, Frasquita, Mercedes, and Pastia)*

FRASQUITA: *(to Pastia)* And why were you so anxious to get them cleared out? This sudden fuss about the law!

MERCEDES: And those signals you were sending us.

PASTIA: Bit business! And it involves you! I'm expecting Dancairo and Remendado, and here they are!

CARMEN: Dancairo and Remendado?

FRASQUITA: With business to discuss!

*(Dancairo and Remendado enter as Pastia closes up the tavern)*

DANCAIRO: Ladies! The biggest thing that's come our way yet. We're just back from Gibraltar.

REMENDADO: Mediterranean, blue skies, good connections ...

DANCAIRO: Shut up, Remendado. We found a skipper there who has agreed to handle the merchandise. Some of it we can hide in the mountains, the rest goes onto his boat. We need the three of you.

CARMEN: To carry merchandise?

DANCAIRO: Certainly not! We can put you to better use.

**QUINTET:**

**DANCAIRO**

**We've in mind a deal slightly shady.**

**FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**

**Some dirty work you plan to do?**

**DANCAIRO**

**No, it needs the hand of a lady  
And so of course we turn to you.**

**REMENDADO**

**And so of course we turn to you.**

**FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**

For you?

**DANCAIRO & REMENDADO**

To you. And so of course we turn to you.

**CARMEN, FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**

For dirty work you plan to do.

**DANCAIRO & REMENDADO**

With modesty we must concede  
You women have the touch we need,  
The nimble, native touch we need.



Whether as crook or racketeer, entering crime as a career,

Whether to cheat, deceive or rob,  
Women you want doing the job.  
Sly, discreet and talented all  
They've got the goods to make a haul.

**CARMEN, FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**

Sly, discreet and talented all  
We've got the goods to make a haul.

**DANCAIRO & REMENDADO**

On this are not we all agreed?

**CARMEN, FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**

On this for once we're all agreed.

**CARMEN & MERCEDES**

Whether as crook or racketeer,  
Entering crime as a career ...

**FRASQUITA, DANCAIRO & REMENDADO**

For when it comes to double dealing ...

**ALL FIVE**

Whether to cheat, deceive or rob,  
Women you want doing the job.  
Sly discreet and talented all,  
{We've/they've} got the goods to make a haul.

When it comes to larceny,  
Duplicity on matters great or small,  
If out to cheat, deceive or rob,  
A woman's wanted for the job,  
A woman's there to do the job.  
A woman you want to do the job,  
Women can do the job.

DANCAIRO

Then all's agreed. You come with us.

MERCEDES

As you prefer ...

FRASQUITA

As you prefer ...

DANCAIRO

So are you ready?

CARMEN

Wait! If you please, not so fast!  
*(to Mercedes & Frasquita)*  
You have chosen to go, so go.  
Fine, but count me out of the party.  
Tonight I'm here and here I stay.

DANCAIRO & REMENDADO

Dear Carmen, did we hear you right?  
How can you stay behind tonight  
And leave your partners high and dry?

FRASQUITA & MERCEDES

Do come along, Carmen dear.

CARMEN

Tonight I'm here and here I stay.

DANCAIRO

Then at least tell us why.  
If not, at least say why.

OTHERS

Do explain, do explain.

CARMEN

**My reason I've no need to hide.**

**OTHERS**

**Go on, go on!**

**CARMEN**

**At present I'm preoccupied.**

**OTHERS**

**With what? With what?**

**CARMEN**

**With the love I long for.**

**DANCAIRO & REMENDADO**

**What does she say, what does she mean?**

**FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**

**To other obligations blind,  
She's in love!**

**DANCAIRO & REMENDADO**

**She's in love? She's in love?**

**CARMEN**

**Yes, I'm in love!**

**DANCAIRO**

**As if we'd not trouble enough!**

**CARMEN**

**So in love I'm out of my mind!**

**DANCAIRO & REMENDADO**

**My dear, you take us by surprise.  
In judging you from days of yore,  
We thought you far more worldly-wise;  
Duty and love you've dealt with before,  
Both in check, hand in hand.  
Until tonight, you've stayed in command.**

**CARMEN**

**My friends, of course I'd like to help,  
But common cause I've gone beyond.  
Tonight I plan to please myself.  
Love is calling, I respond.**

**As the time slowly crawls,  
Tonight it's love, not duty, that calls.**

**DANCAIRO**  
**Will nothing change your mind?**

**CARMEN**  
**Nothing at all.**

**REMENDADO**  
**But how can you refuse to help a friend?**

**OTHERS**  
**Oh, Carmen, come! We can't leave you behind.**  
**Your very presence is of the essence,**  
**For to succeed ...**

**CARMEN**  
**We know who's got the expertise you need.**

**ALL FIVE**  
**Whether as crook or racketeer, etc.**

DANCAIRO: Enough of this foolishness! I said you're coming with us. That is not a request, it is a command.

CARMEN: And since when have I been under your command?

DANCAIRO: (*pleading*) Carmen, be reasonable. This is the chance of a lifetime. Love can come later.

REMENDADO: I'm in love all the time, but that don't stop me from doing business.

DANCAIRO: Stay out of this, Remendado.

CARMEN: Once and for all, I'm not leaving tonight. I'll join you tomorrow. But this evening is mine.

FRASQUITA: I don't know what's got into you. (*with a knowing smile*) Come on, who is it that you're waiting for?

CARMEN: A certain knuckleheaded sergeant who did me a good turn.

FRASQUITA: The soldier who went to jail instead of you?

CARMEN: That is the man.

DANCAIRO: You've got him into enough trouble already. You can bet that he's not going to come around looking for more.

CARMEN: I wouldn't bet if I were you. Because you will lose.

**DON JOSE, *offstage***  
**Stand and say who you are.**  
**"Sir, I'm from Navarre."**  
**Why do you come so far,**  
**Soldier from Navarre?**  
**"Tender, true and steady,**  
**I am here to render**  
**Service to a lady."**  
**That we understand.**  
**On your way, my friend.**  
**Honor takes command.**  
**Go, show who you are**  
**Both in love and war,**  
**Soldier from Navarre.**

FRASQUITA: (*at the window*) A soldier! Headed this way!

MERCEDES: Good-looking, too!

DANCAIRO: If you're so crazy about that soldier, I'm not asking you to give him up. Bring him along with you tomorrow. Have him join the party.

CARMEN: If I only could! But no, it wouldn't work. He's too naïve, innocent ...

DANCAIRO: Naive, innocent! Ha! Now why do you fall for a guy like that?

CARMEN: Because he's handsome, and I happen to like him.

REMENDADO: You're talking a language the boss don't understand.

DANCAIRO: (*raising his hand*) I know the only language *you* understand.

*(Remendado evades Dancairo, who runs out after him. Frasquita and Mercedes leave more discreetly. Don Jose enters.)*

CARMEN: At last! Here you are!

DON JOSE: It's only two hours that I've been out of jail.

CARMEN: What stopped you from getting out sooner? I sent the wherewithal three weeks ago, and the jailer agreed to cooperate. I thought you would be out within minutes.

DON JOSE: I could have made it, yes, but after all, I'm still a soldier. When you break the rules you have to pay the penalty. Oh, don't think I'm not grateful ...

CARMEN: But you're cross with me, I can tell. You're asking yourself, why did I make the sacrifice? Why did I spend a month in jail just to save a hotheaded gypsy girl?

DON JOSE: Anything but! So I went to jail? So I got demoted? So what? It doesn't matter.

CARMEN: Because you love me.

DON JOSE: Because I love you, because I adore you!

CARMEN: (*casually*) Your superior officer was here. Too bad you just missed him. He had me dance while he whispered foolish things in my ear.

DON JOSE: You danced for him?

CARMEN: Oh, don't think my heart was in it. You wouldn't be jealous?

DON JOSE: Oh, wouldn't I?

CARMEN: In that case, I shall dance again. This time just for you.

**CARMEN**

**For compensation, I shall dance  
And demonstrate, Señor,  
With song and castanets  
How a man should be treated,  
I take the floor!  
Don Jose, do be seated.  
(as Jose looks on in ecstasy)  
La la la la .... (sound of bugles from far away)**

**DON JOSE**

**Carmen, leave off ... I beg ...  
Quiet, for just a moment ...**

**CARMEN**

**I suppose you are bored.**

**DON JOSE**

From below ... I hear ...  
Yes, the bugle that calls  
Announcing the retreat.  
That call I must obey.

**CARMEN**

*(delighted by the distant bugles)*

Lovely, lovely! I try my hardest,  
But dancing unaccompanied  
Can seldom satisfy.  
And now music miraculously  
Falls from the sky. La la la la ...

**DON JOSE**

But don't you understand, my sweet?  
I'm now on duty  
And have no choice  
But go, whether willing or not.

**CARMEN**

Back to camp? For the night?  
Ah! What could I have been thinking?  
Ah! How could I be so stupid?  
I tried so hard to please.  
What I could do, I did.  
What I could give, I gave.  
To put you at your ease,  
How I danced! How I sang!  
In fact, heaven forbid!  
I almost fell in love.  
Ta ra ta ta! The bugle call was sweeter.  
He's off! Off and away!  
Like a snake! Like a rat!  
Go! Don't leave without  
Your rifle and your saber.  
Run along, stupid lout.  
And don't bother me later.

**DON JOSE, *sadly***

My Carmen so unkind!  
To laugh and twist the knife,  
As if I want to go!  
I swear upon my soul,  
No woman in my life, in all my life,  
Before you came along,



I would gaze, and tears would glisten;  
As I inhaled, I only knew  
That in the dark I breathed of you.

At times I cursed, at times I hated,  
Now lost in despair, now elated.  
I then would ask what god of wrath  
Had chosen you to cross my path.

Ah, but what a fraud! What a liar!  
All along I burned with desire,  
With only pain to feed upon,  
A single wish, one hope alone:  
Carmen I'll see again, be with again!

Ah, from the moment you reentered,  
One tiny gesture, and as before,  
Wholly, completely I surrendered.  
My love, be mine as I am yours, forevermore!  
Carmen, my love, my all!

CARMEN

No! You are not in love!

DON JOSE

Not in love?

CARMEN

Words! Easy enough to say!  
No! If you were in love,  
With me tonight you'd run away.

DON JOSE

Oh, Carmen!

CARMEN

Deep in the mountains far from here,  
Breathing again the country air,  
Both on a horse, with you in front.  
No one, of course, to say you will, you won't,  
Off we'd gallop, could you but care.  
Petty convention cast aside,  
Only the open sky above,  
Off we would ride,  
Were you in love.

No captain in charge would you meet,  
None to command;  
Sweet liberty right from the start,  
No bugle to sound a retreat,  
Brutally tearing passionate lovers apart.  
Bowling to none, we'd roam the land  
Claiming the universe entire,  
Where all that counts is our own desire.  
There with me, far over the mountains,  
We could be free, just you and I.

**DON JOSE**

My God! Oh, Carmen! No more!  
Oh, my Carmen! Say no more!  
Torture me not! Oh, show some mercy!  
Oh, my God! No more! Say no more!

**CARMEN**

Deep in the mountains far from here,  
Breathing again the country air,  
Both on a horse, with you in front.  
No one, of course, to say you will, you won't,  
Off we'd gallop, could you but care.  
Petty convention cast aside,  
Only the open sky above,  
To freedom we would ride,  
Were you in love.

With me tonight you'd run away  
Deep in the mountains far from here,  
Breathing again the country air,  
Go with me there!

**DON JOSE**

No! I've listened more than enough.  
Deserting my post? Running off?  
Live in shame? Disgraced, reviled?  
Not for the world!

**CARMEN**

Well, well. Go!

**DON JOSE**

My love, I implore you ...

**CARMEN**

**No! It's over and done.  
Go! We are through! The end!  
It's goodbye now for good.**

**DON JOSE**

**What more can I say? Goodbye then forever.**

**CARMEN**

**Be off!**

**DON JOSE**

**Our last goodbye ... goodbye evermore!**

**CARMEN**

**Goodbye!**

*(Jose rushes toward the door, but is stopped by a knock. Silence. Another knock.)*

**ZUNIGA, from outside**

**Hello, within! Hello! Hello!**

**DON JOSE**

**Who's knocking? Who is there?**

**CARMEN**

**Be still ... be still ...**

**ZUNIGA, entering**

**No cry of welcome, I'll enter.  
For shame, my gorgeous gypsy!  
I fail to understand.  
With touching modesty,  
You choose a simple soldier with an officer on hand.  
(to Don Jose) Be off, I warn you!**

**DON JOSE**

**No!**

**ZUNIGA**

**I told you to get out.**

**DON JOSE**

**I stay, and that is that.**

**ZUNIGA**

**Donkey!**

**DON JOSE**

**The devil! You're asking for a fight.**

**CARMEN**

**Two jealous little boys! Holla! Holla!**

*(Gypsies rush in and seize Zuniga)*

*(to Zuniga, mockingly)* **My lofty friend! O man of rank!**  
**It would appear that love has played on you a naughty prank.**  
**Bad timing, sad to say.**  
**No, not your lucky day.**  
**Alas! What else are we to do?**  
**To guarantee security**  
**We must hold on to you**  
**At least an hour.**

**REMENDADO & DANCAIRO**

**Much honored friend! O man of rank!**  
**About to leave this cozy and secluded shelter,**  
**We long for company, your charming company.**

**CARMEN**

**A walk will do you wonders.**

**REMENDADO & DANCAIRO**

**You'll come along? An unexpected pleasure.**

**ZUNIGA**

**How could I not? Very kind, you are too polite.**  
**Could I decline an invitation so persuasive?**  
*(changing tone)* **Wait! And beware!**  
**I shall not forget.**

**DANCAIRO**

**In war, fair is fair. Officer, come! Let us be blunt.**  
**You have the honor of walking in front.**

**CARMEN, to Jose**

**So you are now one of our own.**

**DON JOSE**

**Hardly by choice.**

**CARMEN**

**Ah! So cross, so out of sorts!  
But no matter. Come! You will revive  
As we go on, galloping down the open road,  
Claiming the universe entire,  
Where the law is our own desire,  
There with me, far over the mountains,  
We shall be free, just you and I!**

**GYPSIES**

**The carefree life that lies beyond!  
Not as a starving vagabond  
Come and claim your heart's desire  
Where all the eye can see  
Is yours to do as you desire;  
The universe entire is yours to run.  
Become a man, there in the open,  
The land beyond, where all are free!**

**ACT 111**

*Night is fast coming on. The smugglers have found a deserted mountain hideout where they can rest up for tomorrow's lucrative but risky undertaking down below, one that can land them all in jail, if not on the gallows. With them, reluctantly, is Don Jose, desperate to hold on to Carmen after having given up all claim to being an honest, law-abiding soldier*

**SMUGGLERS**

**Companions, with caution, eyes and ears alert,  
We will find fortune below.  
Heading downward through dust and dirt,  
A lapse could land a fatal blow.**

**Companions, stay alert,  
For understand,  
A fortune's waiting down below.  
Be watchful and wary, and bear in mind,  
A slip could be a fatal blow.**

*(omitted in performance)*

**{Proud of the trade, we deal in contraband.  
The heart is whole, the mind is clear  
When on to easy profit.  
Why be afraid? With danger close at hand,  
The penalty and pain severe,**

**We shrug and say, what of it?**

**So it's on to the job over ways rough and raw,  
Never mind wind and rain or the torrent that rages.  
Never mind if we land in the lap of the law,  
For the day has to come  
When we settle the wages.  
Brushing safety aside,  
Downward. ho!}**

DANCAIRO: Everyone halt! Here's a good resting place. Get some sleep while I go exploring. We've got to get this stuff down to the village, and I don't want any surprises. Remendado!

REMENDADO: Huh?

DANCAIRO: Wake up! You're coming with me. *(they leave together)*

DON JOSE: Carmen, I'm sorry! I didn't mean all I said. Let's kiss and make up.

CARMEN: I'm not in the mood.

DON JOSE: Don't you love me anymore?

CARMEN: I can tell you one thing: I love you less than I used to. And if you carry on this way, I will not love you at all. I like to be free and independent. I do *not* like to be criticized and ordered about.

DON JOSE: You like to torture me. *(he turns away)*

CARMEN: *(calmly but firmly)* I am what I am. Take it or leave it. *(pause)* What are you gazing at?

DON JOSE: I'm looking down towards a village. In a village just like it, there is a kind old woman who still believes that her son is an honest man.

CARMEN: And who is this sweet old woman?

DON JOSE: My mother.

CARMEN: So you miss your dear old mother! We can fix that. Run back to mother! It's clear by now that you are not cut off for this kind of life.

DON JOSE: Carmen, I want you!

CARMEN: Not to mention the risk. The hangman's noose is waiting. Oh, yes! Your turn will come.

DON JOSE: It will be for murder if you keep talking about separation.

CARMEN: You intend to kill me perhaps? No answer, huh? But you don't have to say it. The cards will tell me ...

DON JOSE: You *are* the devil.

CARMEN: Of course! Don't tell me you're just finding that out!

*(Frasquita and Mercedes lay out the cards)*

**FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**  
**Shuffle! Shuffle!**  
**Cut them! Cut them!**  
**So here we go.**

**MERCEDES**  
**Three card to the right.**

**FRASQUITA**  
**Three card to the left.**

**MERCEDES**  
**Four above.**

**FRASQUITA**  
**Four below.**

**FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**  
**You pretty cards so all-revealing,**  
**Say what's ahead, what hand the gods are dealing.**  
**Come, tell of tears and treachery,**  
**Of true love and fidelity.**  
**With club or spade**  
**Is fate conveyed.**  
**To secret doors of destiny**  
**Your kings and aces hold the key.**  
**Reveal! Reveal!**

**MERCEDES**  
**Look! A lover handsome and fair**  
**Whose fire burns hotter and hotter.**





*(Dancairo returns with Remendado)*

CARMEN: What news?

DANCAIRO: Trouble ahead. I was right not to trust that idiot Lillas Pastia. Instead of finding the contact he was supposed to send to meet us, we find three customs officers guarding the pass.

FRASQUITA: Customs officers?

CARMEN: And is this not precisely why we ladies have been pressed into service?

DON JOSE: *(threateningly)* Carmen!

DANCAIRO: Quiet! This is no time for jealousy. If you don't like it, you can stay here and guard the merchandise. Hold on to your gun. If somebody happens along, poking his nose into our business, go ahead. Let him have it. Come on, ladies, to work! Do you think you can handle it?

CARMEN: You are speaking to professionals!

**CARMEN, FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**  
**Signed up to get around the guard.**  
**From life we've learned our ABC's.**  
**As women, we hold the winning card,**  
**So we play upon their aim to please.**

**ALL**  
**Make no mistake ...**

**FRASQUITA**  
**Men can also flirt and tease.**

**ALL**  
**With give and take ...**

**CARMEN**  
**Getting by will be a breeze.**

**ALL**  
**After a while ...**

**MERCEDES**  
**With a free and easy air,**  
**Say with a smile ...**

**FRASQUITA**

“Sir, we’ve nothing to declare.”

**CARMEN, FRASQUITA & MERCEDES**

Standing at ease, start with a glance,  
Then by degrees, slowly advance;  
So back and forth the game progresses.  
Flattery helps, never too much,  
Maybe a tad, maybe a touch,  
To wind up where you want to be.

**CARMEN, FRASQUITA, MERCEDES, & SMUGGLERS**

So with enough song and dance  
All of our stuff goes duty free.  
Forward march, lead on, let’s go!  
We’re on our way, duty free!

*(They disperse. Micaela enters.)*

MICAELA: What a dark, lonely place! Perhaps I dismissed my guide too soon. I said that I was not afraid. Oh, what a bluff!

**MICAELA**



I tell myself there is no danger near.  
Oh, what to do but pretend to be braver?  
For deep inside, I am shaking with fear.

Far from my home, unaided,  
On a path unexplored.  
With faith I persevere.  
You will provide the courage needed,  
And lead me by the hand, O Lord.

Face to face, I'll meet the deceiver  
Who's caught him in her fatal snare.  
From her shameful arms I'll deliver  
My only love, my one despair.

A wild animal, mesmerizing ...  
Ah! Let me not be shy or weak!  
No, no! Freely, firmly, I must speak,

**No mincing and no compromising. Ah!  
O Lord, I pray, watch over me.**

**I try not to weaken or waver;  
I tell myself there is no danger near.  
Oh, what to do but pretend to be braver?  
For deep inside, I am shaking with fear.**

**Far from my home, unaided,  
On a path unexplored.  
With faith I persevere.  
You will provide the courage needed,  
And lead me by the hand, O Lord.**

**Stay near, O Lord, close to me  
Through the dark and the shadow.  
Oh, fortify my resolve!  
Stay by my side, O Lord.**

MICAELA: But ... can I believe my eyes? On a rock, not a hundred feet away, ..  
it's Jose! What is he doing? He's got a gun. Is he aiming at me? Good heavens!

*(A shot is heard. Micaela quickly hides, as Escamillo enters.)*

ESCAMILLO: Watch out! A few inches lower and the bulls would have one less  
torero to lunge at.

DON JOSE: *(charging at him)* Who are you? Answer!

ESCAMILLO: Gently, gently please! I handle bulls, not bears.

**ESCAMILLO  
The name is Escamillo, matador of Grenada.**

**DON JOSE  
One of the best!**

**ESCAMILLO  
The same.**

**DON JOSE  
Much admired and acclaimed,  
And welcome here, of course.  
But frankly, man to man,  
I could have shot you down.**

**ESCAMILLO**

**That risk I had to run.  
There's a girl I am wild about,  
Who has me panting.  
What man alive with more than water in his veins  
Would go the way of safety first,  
When love is waiting?**

**DON JOSE**

**And this girl you have come here to find?**

**ESCAMILLO**

**Right you are! A gypsy full of spark and spice.**

**DON JOSE**

**And her name ...?**

**ESCAMILLO**

**Is Carmen.**

**DON JOSE**

**Is Carmen?**

**ESCAMILLO**

**Superb! And they say ...  
She's here with some poor clown  
Who thought she was in love,  
And so the simple minded soldier turned deserter.**

**DON JOSE**

**Carmen!**

**ESCAMILLO**

**A touching tale that had to end. I fear  
Carmen's loves never last  
As long as half a year.**

**DON JOSE**

**You're in love, knowing that?**

**ESCAMILLO**

**Insanely!**

**DON JOSE**

**You can love even so?**

**ESCAMILLO**

**I love her all the more.  
A fighter thinks little of the future.**

**DON JOSE**

**But before you snatch away  
Your tempting gypsy,  
There is a price you have to pay.**

**ESCAMILLO**

**Right! Fair enough! Call it a deal!**

**DON JOSE**

**The price of love betrayed  
Is drawn with a dagger.**

**ESCAMILLO**

**You barter in blood?**

**DON JOSE**

**You understand.**

**ESCAMILLO**

**I see plain enough: the simple clod,  
The desperate deserter she loved a day of so,  
Is yourself.**

**DON JOSE**

**Yes, I'm the man.**

**ESCAMILLO**

**Delighted to compete!  
For what is love without  
A contender to beat?**

**DON JOSE**

**Confusion and anger  
I can barely control.  
For blood I hunger;  
Blinded rage will take its toll.**

**ESCAMILLO**

**Such a bad case of blunder  
Has my head in a twirl;  
I locate the lover**

While searching for the girl.

**BOTH**

Show yourself a fighter  
And face the foe.  
Before it is over  
Your blood will flow.

*(Escamillo's knife breaks. Don Jose is about to kill him when Carmen and Dancairo hastily enter. Remendado, Frasquita, Mercedes and the other smugglers soon follow.)*

**CARMEN**

Hold on! Hold on! Jose!

**ESCAMILLO**, *with gallantry*

What an unexpected pleasure!  
Down at the count of nine,  
I owe my life to Carmen.

**CARMEN**

Escamillo!

**ESCAMILLO**

As for you, keep the knife.  
Our quarrel's far from over.  
So when you feel like fighting,  
Whenever you are ready,  
Just name the place and time of day  
And I'll be there.

**DANCAIRO**

Call it a draw, shake and make up.  
Come, we've miles to go.  
*(to Escamillo)* You go the other way. So long!

**ESCAMILLO**

Before we part, allow me a modest request:  
I invite you one and all  
To see me in Seville.  
There I take center stage  
Where I'm seen at my best.  
*(with marked intent)* You that love me will come.  
Out of love, you'll be there.  
*(to Don Jose, after a threatening gesture)*  
And you can simmer down.

*(looking at Carmen)* Later on! I'll say no more.  
Farewell, but don't forget  
To look me up in town. *(he slowly exits)*

**DON JOSE**  
Enough is enough! The pain ...  
How much more can I take?

**DANCAIRO**  
So late! So late! And far to go.

**CHORUS**  
So late! So late! And far to go.

**REMENDADO**  
Stop! What do I see?  
A spy, hoping to hide. *(he brings forth Micaela)*

**CARMEN**  
Rather harmless ...

**DANCAIRO**  
A girl! What a pleasant surprise!

**DON JOSE**  
Can it be true?

**MICAELA**  
Don Jose!

**DON JOSE**  
Micaela! What madness brings you here?

**MICAELA**  
I ... I've come here for you.  
Inside her lowly dwelling,  
Overcome with despair,  
Lives a mother, your mother;  
As she weeps, she calls your name.  
Through the tears, she prays to heaven  
For her wandering son's return.  
Out of kindness and mercy, Jose!  
Ah, Jose! Return with me back home again.

**CARMEN**  
Exactly what you ought to do.

**This life has never suited you.**

**DON JOSE**

**Then with us all is over?**

**CARMEN**

**Yes. Face the truth, and go.**

**DON JOSE**

**And you want me to leave you  
So that you are free  
To pursue and torment your latest love.  
No! Here I stay!  
With blood I may have to pay,  
But I'm here, and here I hold my ground.  
You and I belong together;  
Death alone will break the bond.  
My life I may lose by staying,  
But no, no! I'll not be torn away.**

**MICAELA**

**Your mother calls for her son,  
And prays for his safe return.  
Say goodbye, breaking the chain  
That binds you to pain and lust.**

**OTHERS**

**Death is here the risk you run.  
Be wise, and go while you can.  
Say goodbye and break the chain,  
Or be dragged into the dust.**

**DON JOSE, to Micaela**

**Go away!**

**MICAELA**

**No, not alone!**

**DON JOSE**

**I am cursed and betrayed.**

**OTHERS**

**You play with fire.**

**DON JOSE, to Carmen**

**Ah! You are mine, both damned to hell!**

Call it fate, you are mine for good or ill.  
We are bound by chains of steel,  
And I'll never let you go.  
My life I may lose by staying,  
But no, no! I'll not be torn away.

**OTHERS**

Ah! You play with fire if you stay!

**MICAELA**

I have one final word;  
Then your heart must decide.  
Worn out by life,  
Your mother is weak, facing death,  
Still hoping she may die  
In the arms of her son.

**DON JOSE**

My mother! Close to the end ...

**MICAELA**

Go home to her.

**DON JOSE**

Come on! I'm with you.  
*(to Carmen)* You have won ... I go ...  
But ... I mean to return.

**ESCAMILLO, in the distance**

Somewhere among the sea of sparkling eyes  
One dark pair shining bright  
Foretells a sweeter prize.  
Yes, later on, love will be yours tonight.  
Toreador, she's yours tonight!

**DON JOSE, to Micaela**

Let us be off! Away!

**ACT 1V**

*A festively decorated square just outside the arena where the bull fight will take place, like an open air bazaar, is crowded with buyers and sellers. In holiday attire, all have turned out to have a rousing good time and to cheer the hero of the day, the incomparable Escamillo, the celebrated matador.*

### MERCHANTS

Fine tobacco! Bargain prices!  
From Morocco flavored ices!  
Spanish or Turkish cigarettes,  
Cider good as it ever gets.  
Some wine! Some beer!  
A jug of water.

Fans for a summer afternoon.  
Try a pastry or macaroon.  
All you need to know printed here.  
Some wine! Some beer!  
A jug of water.  
Place an order! Place an order!

Ladies and gentlemen!  
Senoras and caballeros!  
What a bargain! What a bargain!  
Come buy! Come on!

### CHILDREN

On parade! On parade!

### CHILDREN & CHORUS

On parade, so daring and dashing,  
See the valiant, bold Toreros  
With their lances gleaming and flashing.  
Hurrah! Hurrah! The heroes come round the corner.  
Toss your hats and wave the sombreros  
For the valiant, bold Toreros.  
Escamillo! Bravo! Viva!

### ESCAMILLO, *to Carmen*

If you love me sincerely,  
Dearest Carmen, my own,  
Full of pride, very soon  
My applause you will share.  
If your heart is mine,  
Truly mine alone ...

### CARMEN

You alone, Escamillo, I adore and desire  
Like none before, I swear,  
Only you I adore.

**BOTH**

**I am yours alone,  
Truly yours alone.**

**POLICEMAN**

**Back! Back! Bow as you greet the Mayor.**

**FRASQUITA**

**Oh, Carmen! Take my advice  
And leave without delay.**

**CARMEN**

**You might first tell me why.**

**MERCEDES**

**He is here.**

**CARMEN**

**You mean?**

**MERCEDES**

**Him! Don Jose! Lurking low in the crowd.  
You see him?**

**CARMEN**

**There! Over there!**

**FRASQUITA**

**Be careful!**

**CARMEN**

**I am not the type that is driven by fear.  
Here I am ... I shall meet him head on.**

**MERCEDES**

**Oh, Carmen! He's mad! Be careful ...**

**CARMEN**

**I'm not afraid.**

**FRASQUITA**

**Be careful**

*(The crowd goes into the arena, followed by Frasquita and Mercedes. Don Jose stays behind.)*

**CARMEN**

**You're back.**

**DON JOSE**

**For you.**

**CARMEN**

**Already I've been warned  
That you were not far off,  
That you would hunt me down.  
I have even been told to fear for my life.  
But I am brave; I do not run away.**

**DON JOSE, *gently***

**I come on bended knee,  
To plead, not to threaten.  
I love you more than ever.  
Those stormy days I've forgotten.  
Yes, wiser than before,  
You and I can start all over,  
Far away, just you and I.**

**CARMEN**

**What you ask can never happen.  
Why encourage? Why pretend?  
The door I shall not reopen.  
For you and me, it's the end  
I never learned to lie;  
We are through, say goodbye.**

**DON JOSE**

**No, no! We have barely started.  
Come back to me, let me take care of you,  
The one I worship.  
Oh, Carmen! You have need of me  
As I have need of you.**

**CARMEN**

**No! Even though it is fated  
That today I die at your hand,  
To live or die, what does it matter?  
No, no, no! With me, it's over and done.  
Why do you keep on imploring  
For love that will not return,  
Love that leaves me cold as ice?**

**DON JOSE**

**There still is time; we can start again.  
Let me provide and take care of you.  
Let me take care of the one I love and worship.  
Carmen, learn to lean on me.**

**CARMEN**

**Your vows of love are thrown away.  
You hope in vain  
For a single tear drawn from me.**

**DON JOSE**

**Then you don't even care?  
You feel nothing at all?**

**CARMEN**

**Love! That was long ago.**

**DON JOSE**

**But I adore you more than ever!  
I love you, Carmen, I adore you!**

**CARMEN**

**I've heard it all before.  
Why bring it up again?**

**DON JOSE**

**I love you, worship and adore you.  
All right ... I'll do as you desire.  
I'll rob and steal for you,  
Keep on with contraband.  
Say, and I'll do all that you ask. All!  
If only I can call you mine again.  
That paradise was only yesterday  
When we were first together.  
*(in desperation)*  
Another chance is all I want.  
Do not abandon me!**

**CARMEN**

**I do not bend, I do not bow.  
Free I was born, and free I shall die.**

**THE CROWD**, *from the arena*  
Bravo, bravo! And the tension is mounting.  
See the blood on the sand,  
And the bull that comes bounding,  
The blow ready to land.  
Viva! Bravo! Viva! Bravo!  
The hero! The hero!

**DON JOSE**  
He's the one!

**CARMEN.**  
*(as she tries to enter the arena)*  
Let me by!

**DON JOSE**  
That hero of the hour  
Is now your latest love.

**CARMEN**  
Let me by! Let me by!

**DON JOSE**  
Oh, you viper! You want to go to him!  
But no ... this time you stay with me.

**CARMEN**  
Let me by, Don Jose.  
I told you, we are through.

**DON JOSE**  
I want to hear it straight.  
Say! Is he the one?

**CARMEN**  
I love him!  
And even in the face of death,  
I will say again, yes, I love him!

**CROWD**, *offstage*  
Viva! Bravo! We hail the hero!  
He has landed the blow.  
See the bull bleeding,  
Ending a glorious show. The hero!

**DON JOSE, *violently***  
**My life I have ruined for nothing!**  
**My honor and pride I have lost**  
**So you could go leaping with lust**  
**Into his arms, laughing at me.**  
**Not on your life, I swear to God!**  
**Instead, you're now leaving with me!**

**CARMEN**  
**No, no! Not I!**

**DON JOSE**  
**I'm not asking you again.**

**CARMEN**  
**Go on, strike if you must.**  
**Kill me, or let me by.**

**CROWD**  
**The hero! The hero! The hero!**

**DON JOSE, *in desperation***  
**Your time is running out.**  
**You fiend! Will you come with me?**

**CARMEN**  
**No, no! By the way, here's a ring**  
**A while ago you gave me. There!**  
*(She throws the ring at him)*

**DON JOSE**  
**Be damned to hell!**  
*(he stabs her, Carmen falls)*

**CROWD, *coming out of the arena***  
**The hero! The hero! Bravo!**  
**Toreador, take over!**  
**Somewhere among the sea of sparkling eyes,**  
**One dark pair shining bright**  
**Foretells a sweeter prize.**  
**Yes, very soon she will be yours ...**  
*(Escamillo enters, surrounded by the adoring crowd. He sees Carmen stretched out on the ground)*

**DON JOSE**  
**You can make your arrest.**

**Myself ... I am the killer.  
Ah, my love! My beloved!  
My Carmen!**

**THE END**

