

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

GAETANO DONIZETTI

English Version by DONALD PIPPIN

The story takes place in Scotland, a few centuries ago, a time when this fragmented nation was torn apart by warring clans, a time when political or religious differences were lethal, when family feuds continued on their own crazy momentum long after their origins had been forgotten -- not unlike so many parts of the world today.

The scene is a lawn with a fountain in the foreground, near the ancient castle of Ravenswood. Huntsmen, armed and eager, make a brisk entrance. Though nearly midnight, an odd hour to go hunting, these men are pursuing not the fox, but an unidentified man recently seen lurking in the surrounding forest. They suspect him to be Edgardo of Ravenswood, former master and owner of the castle, now taken over by Enrico, Lucia's brother, who drove him out, wreaking havoc with his family heritage, while murdering his father. Reckless, ruthless Enrico, now in deep trouble himself, both politically and financially, is desperate to evade imprisonment, or worse. Fortunately, there is a simple solution: an arranged marriage between his sister Lucia and a wealthy nobleman with powerful connections. Not so simple, though, as one might wish. Why is Lucia so uncooperative? Doesn't she know what a sister is for? And what about Edgardo, who has every reason to hate him? An obstacle, certainly -- inconvenient, yes, but not insurmountable. There are ways ...

ACT I

SCENE: garden near the castle of Ravenswood. Inhabitants of the castle in hunting gear enter, led by NORMANNO.

NORMANNO
and CHORUS

Through the forest and thicket go (we'll) scour
Then explore the abandoned old tower.
Pride demands you (we) continue undaunted,
Solve the scandalous riddle at last,
This riddle at last.

**Truth will out, maybe not what we wanted.
Light will shine through the dark overcast.**

(Chorus leaves quickly.)

NORMANNO approaches ENRICO respectfully.

NORMANNO **You're out of sorts?**

ENRICO **And for good reason.**

*(proudly excited,
perturbed)*

**In brief, I'm out of fortune.
Long has my star been waning.
Edgardo meanwhile.....
Of the lot, he's the man to me most abhorrent!
From his crumbling castle, scornful and proud,
He struts and swaggers to mock me.**

**One man alone can save me from disaster,
And does indeed extend a hand.
Lucia has dared refuse this hand from heaven,
And she calls herself my sister!**

RAIMONDO (attempting to calm the other's anger)

**The girl's in mourning.
She grieves at the death of her mother,
So very recent.
Is this the time
To broach the subject of marriage?
Pay respect to sorrow,
For a heart full of grief shies clear of love.**

NORMANNO **Shies clear of love!
Lucia burns with passion!**

ENRICO **Are you joking?**

RAIMONDO **God save us!**
(aside)

NORMANNO **I'll tell you:
She not long ago
Was strolling by herself in the park,**

Near where her mother lies,
God be with her!
There came a savage bull
Suddenly out of nowhere,
Charging upon her.
When a shot was heard resounding,
The mighty beast fell to the ground.

ENRICO What huntsman fired the bullet?

NORMANNO I'm...still uncertain, cannot say for sure.

ENRICO Lucia would know?

NORMANNO She loves him.

ENRICO They meet together?

NORMANNO At dawn.....

ENRICO The place?

NORMANNO Close to the fountain.

ENRICO To spite me!
In love ... and do you know his name?

NORMANNO I've only vague suspicions.

ENRICO Out with them!

NORMANNO Your mortal enemy.....

RAIMONDO (Oh, God!)

NORMANNO Him you detest so!

ENRICO That could be none but...Edgardo.

NORMANNO I said nothing.....

ENRICO Rage and a storm of fury
Your startling words awaken,
The mere thought alone too horrible,
Even if left unspoken.

I freeze and choke with anger,
A chill runs down the spine, ah!
I'll not endure the mockery that I must suffer,
Because of her alone.

Taunted by such a lover
And then humiliated!
Ah! Sooner than wed my enemy,
I'd see her lacerated,
Or hammered by a thunderbolt.
She is no sister,
She is no sister of mine,
No relation of mine.

NORMANNO I thought you should know the score.
I'm with you all the way.

RAIMONDO Your better side I implore --
For guiding light I pray.

(The Chorus returns.)

CHORUS Doubt no more, the fact is certain.

NORMANNO Do you hear?
(to ENRICO)

ENRICO Then tell me.

CHORUS (Comes daylight!)

We were short of breath and weary
After searching many an hour,
And we chose to rest a moment
Near the old deserted tower.

Lo, behold! There came in silence
A stranger lean and somber,
Though his face we don't remember
As the light was fading fast.

And then he jumped upon his charger
And was off in rapid flight,
But a huntsman saw the stranger

Disappear into the night.

ENRICO **His name?**

CHORUS **Edgardo.**

ENRICO **He! That scoundrel!**
I burn with fire I can't contain.

RAIMONDO **Hear me!**

ENRICO **You plead in vain.**

ENRICO **Not a jot, not an ounce of mercy!**
Gentle words I never have wasted.
Letting vengeance go untasted
Doesn't suit my appetite.

On the couple will fall my fury;
To forgive is not my fashion;
And the fire of their guilty passion
With my own blood I'll put out.

CHORUS **Oh, the rogue has not a chance.**
He'll not escape a man so proud.

RAIMONDO **(Oh, I fear above the castle**
Hangs a dark and evil cloud.
Above the castle hangs a cloud.)

ENRICO **The scoundrel! The scoundrel! Ah!**
Not a jot, not an ounce of mercy, etc.

RAIMONDO **Ah, believe it not.**

CHORUS **He'll not escape this man so proud.** *(All leave.)*

SCENE II

The night turns calm, but only for a moment. Responding to an urgent message from Edgardo, Lucia enters, followed by Alisa, her maid and confidante. Both are anxious, guarded, agitated, fully aware of the risk she is running. What if her brother found out? His anger could be dangerous, not only to herself but even more to the lover she has come to meet. Peering around cautiously, she seems to avoid looking directly at the fountain, a gruesome reminder of a harrowing scene long ago when a passionate romance ended with a stabbing. A fountain still haunted, some say, by a ghost that has been seen rising from the water saturated in blood -- a dark omen casting shadows over her own hazardous future.

SCENE: A garden with a fountain in the foreground. LUCIA enters, followed by ALISA, both in a state of great agitation. Lucia turns, as if seeking someone, but seeing the fountain, she turns her eyes elsewhere.)

LUCIA What could detain him?

ALISA So reckless! We mustn't linger,
Far too risky!
Now that your brother's back, no less than mad

LUCIA No matter. I'll warn Edgardo
That these surroundings are fraught with mortal danger.

ALISA Why do you peer around you,
Pale, white with terror?

LUCIA Toward the fountain, ah!
Never do I see it without a shudder.
You've heard the story:
Here at Ravenswood,
Hot-blooded, in a frenzy of love,
A youth was jealous, and stabbed his sweetheart.
She fell into the dark, flowing water
And there remained forever buried.
I saw her ghostly shadow.....

ALISA Delirium!

LUCIA Say not so.....

Castle and forest lay covered.
Over the fountain as pale as death,
Moonlight and shadow hovered.

Faintly I heard some doleful cries
Borne on the breeze of night.
Before me, oh before my very eyes
There stood a figure, ghostly in robes of white.

(covering her face with her hands)

Vainly she tried to speak to me,
Though from her lips no word sounded,
And with her hand she beckoned me
Into the dark that surrounded.

Motionless, there she briefly stood,
Then faded into air.
Ah, see the fountain red with blood,
That ran so clear before!

ALISA

What a fearful omen!
A sign of dark forewarning one cannot ignore.
How clear and plain the message!
Ah, Lucia, Lucia! Break off this mad affair,
A love ill-fated.

LUCIA

He is my glory, the light I live by,
My salvation and my comfort,
Present in darkest despair.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Two hearts together woven,
We swore eternal love.

Forgotten then were tears of woe,
Gone the days of despair.
Near him, I rise to heaven,
Transported to realms above.

ALISA

Long days of regret will follow;

Heed a warning, oh beware, beware!
Ah, Lucia! Heed a warning.

LUCIA Ah! Rapt in a glow of ecstasy, *etc.*

ALISA I hear him coming.
(Close at hand, unnoticed,
I'll keep a watchful eye.)

(She withdraws to the castle.)

EDGARDO enters,

EDGARDO Lucia, my darling!
Excuse the unusual hour that I named for a meeting.
Most urgent reasons leave little choice.
By the time that dawn lights the horizon
I must leave this country for foreign lands.

LUCIA You're leaving!

EDGARDO To friendly shores of France my sail is hoisted.
There it will be my duty to plead the fate of Scotland.

LUCIA And your Lucia, sick at heart, you forsake?

EDGARDO Before I embark, I'll see your brother.
To him I'll extend the hand of peace and friendship,
And in return requesting the pledge
Of your own hand for mine.

LUCIA Be careful! Ah, no!
Our love must still remain a secret
To guard for now in silence.

EDGARDO Your brother!
(with irony)
Not contented to persecute my clan,
To be the author of my own overthrow,
To enjoy the fortune his father looted from me.....
Too meager! What more does he want,
That heart of granite and ice?
To destroy me entirely? To suck my blood?
Ah, the hatred. the abhorrence.....

LUCIA Ah, no! Peace, my love, control your anger.

EDGARDO I'm devoured by flames of outrage.
Hear me.....

LUCIA Edgardo!

EDGARDO Hear me, and may he tremble!

By the sacred grave that harbors
My betrayed, ill-fated father,
Blood and vengeance, eternal warfare,
I declared on you and yours.

Ah! Then I saw you, and anger faded;
From contention grew adoration.
But my vow I've not forgotten.
While I live, until my final breath,
That vow endures.

LUCIA Peace, I pray you! Tame that fury.
Danger crouches in every corner.
Would you add still greater trials?
Must I die of mortal terror?

EDGARDO Ah! No, no, no, no!

LUCIA Yield, beloved, to gentler persuasion,
Let our love alone inspire you.
Far more noble and more sacred
Is the vow that heals and cures.

EDGARDO Till I die that vow endures.

LUCIA Yield, my love, to me.
Yield to one ever yours.

EDGARDO Here before the eyes of heaven,
(with sudden resolution)
Swear with me holy vows of marriage,
God bear witness, from this moment
Here's our temple, here our altar.
With this ring I claim you mine. *(places a ring on her finger)*
And I am yours.

LUCIA (*giving in turn her own to Edgardo*)

And I am yours.

BOTH Ah, beloved, ever united,
I am yours till death do us part.
Vows eternal we gave to heaven;
Unreserved, I give you my heart.

EDGARDO With a kiss must we be parted.

LUCIA Cruel word, that tears you from me!
But my heart goes with you forever.

EDGARDO But my heart stays with you forever.

LUCIA My Edgardo! My Edgardo!

EDGARDO Time is short, I say good-bye.

LUCIA Ah! My love, a line...a letter.....
Send at least this consolation,
And my life will be less empty
With hope to feed upon.

EDGARDO Your embraces will sustain me
All the while that I am gone.

LUCIA
(*then EDGARDO*)

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

To distant shores my sad lament
Will echo across the water.

Remember then the vow we made,
And pity my despair.
Gaze on this constant pledge of love
And shed a lonely tear.

LUCIA Edgardo! You must swear to write me often,

To provide a ray of cheer.

EDGARDO Often, Lucia, I swear.

BOTH On scented air a tender breeze
Will float my yearning and sorrow.
To (from) distant shores my sad lament
Will echo across the water.

LUCIA Remember then the vow we made
And pity my despair.

EDGARDO Gaze on this constant pledge of love

BOTH And shed a lonely tear.

EDGARDO Farewell, love!

LUCIA Farewell, love!

EDGARDO Forevermore we two are one.

LUCIA Edgardo!

EDGARDO Farewell!

(She withdraws to the castle. He leaves.)

PART TWO -- THE WEDDING CONTRACT

Many weeks have gone by -- weeks of ominous silence as Lucia waits in agony for word from Edgardo – words that will never reach her because his letters have been intercepted by her brother. All the while, despite her pleading and protesting, he has remained adamant: the arranged marriage *must* proceed! Otherwise, total ruin. As a last resort, with a pained look of concern, he hands her a forged letter, ostensibly from Edgardo, that confirms beyond a doubt her fear that she has been abandoned. It worked. Her resistance collapses. All hope has turned hollow. What is left to live for? Even Raimondo, her kind friend and adviser, urges her to accept the will of heaven and give in to the excruciating sacrifice that will save her brother from catastrophe.

Scene: Apartment of Enrico, Lord Ashton.

NORMANNO Lucia is surely on her way.

ENRICO I wait, most uneasy.
Already friends from distant counties
Have started coming
To celebrate the wedding.
Plans have been long completed,
And soon Arturo's expected.....

(rising in great agitation)

Despite all, she is stubborn,
A rock of Gibraltar.

NORMANNO Give her time.
The lengthy absence of her beloved,
Those letters we intercepted,
And the invented rumor
That he has found a newer pastime
Are bound to cure Lucia,
Fully quenching her blinded passion.

ENRICO Ah! She approaches.
That fabricated letter....Hand it here.
(Normanno gives him the letter.)

No stone can we leave unturned.
Go, hurry to the highway from Glasgow
With hale and hearty salutations
To greet Arturo. *(Normanno leaves.)*

(LUCIA enters, and stops near the chair where ENRICO is seated.)

ENRICO Come in, my dear, and welcome.

(She comes forward mechanically, staring fixedly at Enrico.)

But I was hoping
To see you in better spirits
Upon this day of festive celebration
As you become a bride.
You stare, and are silent?

LUCIA **Sheer despair has drawn a curtain
Dull and weighty across my forehead
Giving silent testimony
Of the torment you've made me suffer.
God Almighty alone can pardon
Those remorseless demands you pursue.**

ENRICO **I was harsh, but for good reason:
I oppose a worthless lover.
Speak no more of what is over;
I'm your brother
Who is thinking only of you.
Gone is the anger.
Now I beg you:
Love so insane you must subdue.
Wed a noble.....**

LUCIA **Never....Never.....**

ENRICO **Why not?**

LUCIA **To another I have made a vow.**

ENRICO **Null and void!**
(becoming angry)

LUCIA **Enrico!**

ENRICO **Null and void!**

LUCIA **A vow I have given,
A vow that endures till death.**

ENRICO *(controlling himself)*
**Enough! Here's a letter that will show you
The kind of man you blindly worship.**

(Hands her the letter given to him by NORMANNO.)
Read it.

(LUCIA reads with evident shock, trembling, sobbing.)

LUCIA **Ah! My heart is in my throat.**

ENRICO

Grab my arm.
(rushing to help her)

LUCIA

Disillusion! Why not take my life instead?

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

**My dreams and devotion
In ruin now lie.**

**The death knell has sounded;
I seek but to die.
That heart so unfaithful
I trusted and lost.**

ENRICO

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

**To fail your own blood
For a lecher and scoundrel!**

**But praise be to heaven,
You're spared the full cost.
That heart so unfaithful
Consider well lost.**

Festive sounds are heard from a distance.

LUCIA

That noise!

ENRICO

**Outside we hear the crowd,
Wild cheers of welcome.**

LUCIA

And why?

ENRICO

They greet the bridegroom.

LUCIA

The chill of death invades my very being!

ENRICO

For you they ring the wedding bells.

LUCIA **The death knell, the death knell for me is tolling.**

ENRICO **Now comes the hour that seals my fate.**

LUCIA **Mist has drawn a curtain ...**

ENRICO **Listen! King William's dead.
A new regime begins with young Queen Mary.
The party I have followed they are out to annihilate.**

LUCIA **Ah! I shudder ...**

ENRICO **Now from the hangman Arturo alone can save me.
He only.....**

LUCIA **And I? And I?**

ENRICO **For God's sake, save me!**
(in desperation)

LUCIA **Enrico!**

ENRICO **You've got to marry!**

LUCIA **I'm married already.**

ENRICO **Save me, oh sister!**

LUCIA **But....**

ENRICO **Oh, save me!**

LUCIA **Dear God, dear God....**

ENRICO **Should you fail me by refusing,
Sure destruction is bound to follow.
Worst of all, I die dishonored
When the axe falls on my head.**

**In your dreams, pursued and haunted,
You will see my headless body,
And the axe still warm and bloody
Then will dangle above your bed.**

LUCIA *(turning her tear-filled eyes upward)*
Thou whose arms enfold the wretched,
God that pities a soul tormented,
Let my final prayer be granted
And reject not the tears I shed.

Take my life, oh eternal Father,
Ever watchful, ever caring;
End this sorrow past enduring.
Better far that I were dead.

ENRICO For you they ring the wedding bells.

LUCIA No! My death knell!

ENRICO Oh, sister, save me!

LUCIA Dark and mist close in

ENRICO Ah! Should you fail me by refusing, *etc.*

LUCIA collapses on a sofa, ENRICO leaves hurriedly. When RAIMONDO enters, Lucia goes most anxiously to meet him.

LUCIA You've news?

RAIMONDO All hope has vanished;
The last tiny flicker has expired.
Believing, as you suspected,
That perhaps your brother had intercepted
Letters to your beloved,
Preventing them from reaching their true destination,
I took some action: I sent a message
By a special envoy -- He must have got it.
All useless! Nothing but silence.
And that silence, I fear, speaks many volumes.

LUCIA What do you advise me?

RAIMONDO To accept the will of heaven.

LUCIA My vow is sacred.....

RAIMONDO Not for a moment! Hasty and impulsive,
Such a vow, never blessed by priest of the church --
Neither God nor man would call it valid.

LUCIA No more! Reason tells me you're right.
But ah! My stubborn heart is deaf to reason.

RAIMONDO You must compel it.

LUCIA Ah, love has made me so wretched!

RAIMONDO Ah! Yield entirely to my direction,
Or I tremble at the consequence that follows.
For my own sincere, fond affection,
For the memory of your mother,
Most of all, to save your brother from the gallows --
Child, to save your only brother,
Ah, give in despite your heart.

Can you bear the eternal anger of your mother?
Would you rouse her from the grave?
By surrender, you preserve your brother's honor.
Overcome your heart, and his life,
His very life you save.

LUCIA Torture! Torture!

RAIMONDO No, no! Hear me.
Both mother....and your brother.....

LUCIA Stop! Spare me! Ah! I yield!
Yield I must, to save my brother.

RAIMONDO Oh, God bless you!
The clouds are lifted.
You have heard the call of duty.
Ah, God bless you!

Rise to the noble sacrifice.
Offer yourself in ransom,
And such a sweet surrender
Shall be redeemed on high,
By God on high.

Seek your reward in paradise,

Not in the life that passes,
For there you will find tranquility,
The peace that shall not die.

LUCIA Dearly must I pay the price.

RAIMONDO Yes, daughter, have courage.
Obey the call of duty,
And pray to God for courage.

LUCIA To suffer for my brother's sake....
Guide me and I shall follow,
Although my life you take.
Yes, guide me.....

RAIMONDO Rise to the noble sacrifice, *etc.*

RAIMONDO continues, punctuated by cries from LUCIA.

LUCIA Have mercy!...I'm at a loss....Unfaithful!
Edgardo unfaithful!
Lead me on....I follow.

RAIMONDO Oh, blessed be the day!

Arturo, the rich, influential bridegroom, arrives at the castle, where friends and relatives are doing their utmost to ignore the tense atmosphere with a robust song of celebration.

Scene: a room prepared for the gala reception of ARTURO.

CHORUS Welcome upon this joyful day;
Join us in celebration.
In your arrival we foretell
Hope and rejuvenation.

Friendship and love combining,
Wrongs and mistakes to be righted,
Soon we shall see united
Hearts ever warm, ever true.

The cloud has a silver lining;
Sunlight dispels the storm.
Look for the silver lining,
The sunlight after storm.

ARTURO
(to Enrico) Not long ago your lucky star
Was hiding under cover.
But we shall see it reappear,
More radiant than ever.
Your hand in mine, Enrico;
I press it to my heart.
To you I come now, as friend and brother,
To take your part.

CHORUS Welcome upon this joyful day, *etc.*
He comes as friend to take your part.

ARTURO But where's Lucia?

ENRICO
(aside to Arturo) I've sent for her. She'll not be long.....
She may appear depressed and weary.
Pay no attention...Oh, no, no, no!
The death she can't get over....
Her dear, departed mother.

ARTURO So natural...yes, yes...so normal

ENRICO Her somber look you'll understand.
She mourns for her mother.

ARTURO One little matter.....rumor.....
Surely an idle rumor.
Edgardo.....I hear he stops at nothing.....
The rascal dares to trifle,
Tries to woo her....

ENRICO I grant you.... A scoundrel,
A raving madman, but....

CHORUS Your sister comes....Lucia! So mournful!

ENRICO
(to Arturo) Tears for her dear, dear mother.

ENRICO *(presenting ARTURO to LUCIA, who has entered utterly downcast,
supported by RAIMONDO and ALISA.)*

Greet your fiancé. *(then softly, as she shrinks back)*
Remember! You mustn't fail me.

LUCIA Heaven spare me!

ARTURO Be kind, and make me a happy man
By accepting my devotion.

ENRICO *(interrupting while approaching the table where the wedding contract lies)*

(Remember!)
The contract's ready for signing.

LUCIA **(No rescue!)**

ENRICO Come over.

(ARTURO goes to the table, signs the contract; RAIMONDO and ALISA lead LUCIA trembling to the table.)

ARTURO So sweet a pleasure.

LUCIA **(I am led unto the slaughter.)**

RAIMONDO Dear God, sustain this wretched child.

ENRICO *(quietly to Lucia, casting huge signs with his eyes)*

Your turn is next. Sign it. Sign it!

LUCIA **(The slaughtered lamb!)**

ENRICO Sign it. *(Lucia signs,)*

LUCIA **(I sign my warrant of death.)**

ENRICO **(That's over!)**

LUCIA **(My head throbs with fever....I'm fainting.)**
(leans on Raimondo)

ALL BUT LUCIA Someone comes! A stranger?

EDGARDO *(Wrapped in a great cloak, he announces himself in a terrible voice.)*

Edgardo!

ALL **Edgardo! Oh, I fear!**

LUCIA **He comes too late. (*She falls semi-conscious. General confusion. Alisa, aided by several ladies, lifts Lucia and conducts her to a chair.*)**

EDGARDO **He that values life no longer,
Bar the way, forbid me enter.
By her pallor I'm now persuaded,
For it proves to me the stirring of remorse.**

**Like a rose, so wan and faded,
Close to death she appears to hover.
In despair I see her suffer.
She betrays me, yet I worship her alone.**

ENRICO **How can I control my anger
Toward the bold and brash offender?
Yet her misery proves I wrong her.
Self-reproach rises in full force.**

**Oh, my sister! I betrayed her!
Close to death she appears to hover.
Yes, I fear I'll not get over
That remorse, fierce remorse for what I've done.**

LUCIA (*reviving, to Alisa*)

**Vain the hope that death would offer
Quick release, my torture ended.
Death refuses! Unbefriended
I survive, alas, to suffer.**

**Fond illusions now are over.
Though betrayed, I feel no anger.
I would weep, but can no longer;
Even tears, even meager tears are gone.**

RAIMONDO **Victimized, and by her brother!
Days of hope it seems are over.
Vain to comfort or to soothe her.
Clouds of darkness blot the sun.**

Like a rose, so wan and faded,
Close to death she seems to hover.
Who unmoved can see her suffer
Bears within a heart of stone.

**ALISA
& CHORUS**

Like a rose, so wan and faded,
Close to death she seems to hover.
Who unmoved can see her suffer
Bears within a heart of stone.

ARTURO

Dreadful doubts I try to smother;
Days of hope it seems are over.
I am not the one to soothe her;
Clouds of darkness blot the sunlight.

Like a rose, so wan and faded, *etc.*

**ENRICO
& ARTURO**

Leave this house, beware my sword!
Or by my hand your blood shall flow.
(Unsheathing swords against Edgardo)

CHORUS

Leave this house, beware that sword!

EDGARDO
(also drawing)

I shall die, but rest assured,
Other blood than mine will flow.

RAIMONDO *(coming between them, in tone of authority)*

As a holy man of God, I invoke His awesome power.
In His name I now command you:
Lay aside the sword of wrath.
Brothers, brothers!
Our God abhors the act of slaughter.

The scripture says,
He that lives by the sword,
Be it under stood,
Will perish by the sword.

Brothers, brothers! *(They put back the swords.)*

ENRICO (*advancing toward Edgardo*)

Bold intruder! By what mischance have we the honor?

EDGARDO
(*proudly*)

I'm demanding what is mine.

ENRICO

What presumption!

EDGARDO

Yes. Lucia gave to me her sacred vow.

RAIMONDO

**My son! Forget a love so hopeless.
She is married!**

EDGARDO

Married! No!

RAIMONDO (*showing him the wedding contract*)

Read it.

EDGARDO (*After reading, he stares at Lucia.*)

Face me! Don't evade me....

Did you sign this?

I want an answer.

Did you sign it? Reply!

LUCIA (*her voice like a moan*) **Yes.**

EDGARDO (*smothering his anger, he returns the ring.*)

Then take back your token,

The worthless pledge.....

LUCIA

Ah!

EDGARDO

Give me mine.

LUCIA

At least....

EDGARDO

This moment!

LUCIA

Edgardo! Edgardo!

*(In the greatest confusion, hardly conscious of what she is doing,
she removes the ring. Edgardo seizes it.)*

EDGARDO **You've betrayed both heaven and earth.**

(He throws down the ring and tramps on it.)

**Curse the moment!
Cursed be the hour ill-fated,
Hour of doom
That I became your trusting lover.
Race of vipers, abhorred and hated,
From your clutches would I had fled.
May you and yours forever suffer!
Cursed be the day you wed.
And may the God of fire and thunder
Ever damn you.**

ENRICO, ARTURO & CHORUS

**Oh, fevered heart!
Leave! Leave! Leave!**

**Leave us, flee from the path of my fury;
Only so far can I temper my passion.
Then my hatred, more savage than ever,
Full shall fall on a head I abhor.**

**For outrage so black, be not mistaken,
Your blood alone will settle the score.**

RAIMONDO **Flee from danger before you are sorry;
Think of your safety and her reputation.
Wait, be patient; in time you'll recover;
You'll forget (her) and resume as before.**

**Time will come, after sorrow is shaken;
You will find many joys still waiting in store.**

LUCIA **Grant him safety, oh God, I implore you!
Heed a soul too much tormented.
Hope on earth for me is ended;
Unto heaven my grief I pour.**

**Take him safely from this mad inferno
And my lips shall plead no more.**

EDGARDO **To the slaughter! Proceed, I dare you!**
Stab the heart betrayed already.
Make a present to offer my lady:
Spill my blood to polish your floor.

Let her trample my cold and lifeless body,
Toward an altar emblazoned rich with gore.

ACT II

The scene is the ground floor of an abandoned tower, a bare, desolate room where Edgardo, the outcast, has sought refuge. It is a wild, stormy night, wherein the violence of the elements matches the anger and turbulence that rages inside him.

Scene: Ground floor of the tower of Wolferag, a vestibule adjacent. A table void of ornament and an old chair are the entire furnishings. In front is a large open window. It is night; a storm is heard. EDGARDO, seated near the table, is immersed in melancholy thoughts. After a few moments, he rouses himself and peers out the window.

EDGARDO **Dark is the night that lowers,**
Dark as the way before me.
Crash, dreaded thunder!
Strike, forked tongue of lightning!
Let fury derange the laws of nature
And bring forth chaos!

Ha! Coming closer.....
Do I hear a horseman
Ride through the night?
He's stopping.....
Who toys with death and danger,
Braving the howl of tempest
To seek my lonely shelter?

ENRICO (*Entering and throwing off his cloak*) **I do!**

EDGARDO **Scornful madman! Ashton!**
Your life you forfeit
When you venture to cross my threshold.

ENRICO **You were first to pay me a visit,**
And the call I now return.

EDGARDO **Your life! While my father's ghostly shadow
Roams the night and cries for vengeance,
Live in dread, your days are numbered,
Soon to come, the day of judgment.**

**As you step across my threshold
You're a man condemned to die.
Tremble as you enter alive
Within the tomb where you shall lie.**

ENRICO (*with ferocious joy*)

**Now the wedding rites are over.
She ascends the marble stairway....**

EDGARDO **(In my heart the knife he plunges!
Oh, the torment of jealous fury!)**

ENRICO **To her bridal bed.**

EDGARDO **(Oh, jealous fury!)
So then? So then?**

ENRICO **I'll tell you:
In my castle all were feasting;
Torches blazed and trumpets sounded.
Louder than the roar of laughter, ah!
Inside of me my heart in fury pounded.**

**So I left the bridal banquet,
Braved the darkened path alone,
Where the snarling wrath of nature
Corresponded to my own.**

EDGARDO **And for what purpose?**

ENRICO **You want to know?
My flesh and blood you've tarnished, insulted.
The sword of rage implacable,
Sharpened to kill, hangs over you.
Soon you shall meet your maker.
Death, do not deprive me. Witness!
He'll die by no hand but mine.**

EDGARDO **I swore upon my father's grave**

To spill your blood in vengeance.

ENRICO You!

EDGARDO I!

ENRICO Fool!

EDGARDO (*with noble contempt*)
Name the time.

ENRICO At daybreak,
As the touch of dawn unveils the horizon.

EDGARDO Where?

ENRICO The vault where your kindred lie,
At Ravenswood.

EDGARDO At dawn! Yes! I shall not fail!

ENRICO That place will be your final rest.

EDGARDO Onward! There will you die!

ENRICO I await the sunrise.

EDGARDO I await the sunrise.

BOTH Oh, would it were morning!
The night lags and lingers.
Impatient, I smolder,
My sword sharp for slaughter.

Oh, sun soaked in crimson,
Gaze downward, blood-thirsty,
And spur on the hatred
Death only can halt.

EDGARDO Upon my father's grave I swore vengeance.

ENRICO My sword hangs over your head.

EDGARDO Come dawn, we meet at the vault.

ENRICO Come break of daylight.....

BOTH Oh, would it were morning! etc. *(They part.)*

Outside, the night is wild and stormy. Inside, the party has livened up considerably. Finally the guests are relaxing and ready to have a good time. Edgardo is out of the way and the newly weds have retired for the night. What a relief!

Scene: room as in Act I. From neighboring rooms comes the music of lively dances. The foreground is crowded with guests of the castle of Lammermoor.

CHORUS Come, raise a happy song,
Lift up your voices.
Lowland and highland,
All Scotland rejoices.

Take warning, if you be
Tyrant or enemy:
Scotland in freedom
Will shine forth again.

Take warning, if you be
Tyrant or enemy:
Scotland, strong and free,
Will shine forth again.

Loyal from shore to shore,
Steadfast in peace and war,
Taught by our parents
May justice reign.

RAIMONDO distraught, enters almost staggering.

RAIMONDO Silence! Break off the song and laughter!

CHORUS Why the look of mortal pain?

RAIMONDO Stop the dancing!

CHORUS What has happened?

RAIMONDO A deed too dreadful!

CHORUS Horror turns your blood to ice.

RAIMONDO Ah! (*He beckons for all to come closer.*)

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

**Came an outcry, a groan of anguish,
Like a man in final struggle.**

**In alarm, I ran to discover
Such a sight to freeze the veins, ah!
There Arturo, his body lifeless,
Cold and silent, lay drenched in blood.
And Lucia, with dripping hands,
Still held the knife of execution.**

**She stared at me....
The eyes were vacant....
“Where’s my husband?” she said. “Edgardo?”
Then upon her clouded features
Broke a tiny distant smile.**

**Overcome, her reason wanders,
And her mind is far astray.
Demented! Insane!**

CHORUS Oh, deed of darkness!
Black night of terror!
Let shadow cover
This scene of horror.

**Night, draw a curtain,
Conceal the murder,
Hiding forever
The spattered blood.**

RAIMONDO & CHORUS

**How can we shorten
The hour’s disorder?
How seek to placate
The wrath of God?**

RAIMONDO She appears!

LUCIA is in white, partially disrobed, her hair in disarray, her face pale as death. She is delirious.

CHORUS Oh, mighty powers!
 Out of the tomb she rises!

LUCIA It came from somewhere.....
 The caress of his voice!
 The clear, manly voice
 That to my heart brings sunlight....

 Edgardo! At last together!
 Edgardo, dearest!
 So very frightened,
 And no escape from those that hate you.
 I ran till I found you.

 So cold....there's a chill in my breast.
 Why do I tremble? I mustn't faint ...
 Here by the fountain,
 Stay with me for a moment.
 Love, here by the fountain
 Stay if only a moment....

 Oh, help! Some ghostly phantom approaches,
 Tries to divide us!
 Oh, help! Oh, help!
 Edgardo! Where are you?
 Ghostly phantom! Stern and hostile,
 That would part us!
 Here we can hide, but hurry!
 Now safe before the altar.....

 Laden with roses!
 They play celestial music....
 Love, can't you hear it?

 Ah, it is for us they are playing ...
 Our wedding anthem!
 Today we're getting married.
 Love, I'm so happy!
 I love you, I love you!
 I am so, so happy!

A joy beyond all words,
A joy beyond all words that only lovers know ...

The incense burning See... the lighted candles ...
People have gathered,
The priest is waiting!
Place my hand in yours.
Oh, darling! Oh my dearest!
Yours now forever!
All I have wanted
From earth or heaven
To me in full God has granted.

CHORUS God, pity a soul tormented!
We pray, heavenly father, that she not know.
We pray that she not know!
Far gone, far gone ...

LUCIA Two-fold each hour of pleasure,
Two-fold every pleasure
We share with hearts contented.
My love! My love!

Our trials now over,
On waters calm and tranquil
The river of life flows on,
The river of life flows on and on ...
On tranquil waters, calm, tranquil waters,
Floating serene toward an isle of bliss,
Our love flows on.

RAIMONDO Here comes Enrico!

ENRICO Can it be? Tell me it never happened!

RAIMONDO True, all too much so.

ENRICO You murderess!
A deed that cries for punishment!

CHORUS Oh, spare her!

RAIMONDO My God, can't you see how her mind is shattered?

LUCIA **Betray you? Betray you?
I was not to blame!**

ENRICO **Pale as a sheet! A nightmare!**

RAIMONDO **See how her wits have wandered.
Behold what you've done to her
And spend your life repenting.**

LUCIA **Stare at me not so accusingly....
I signed the paper, I can't deny....
Yes, yes, yes, I signed it....**

**Your sudden anger frightens me....
The ring, oh let me keep it!
Why do you curse me?
What could I do?
'Twas my own brother forced me!
I loved you every moment,
I loved you, Edgardo,
Ah, yes! And I love you still!
Edgardo, dearest! I swear to heaven,
Always I loved you
And love you still.**

ENRICO **Lord, have mercy! O mighty God!
Display thy mercy, O mighty God!**

OTHERS **May she not know! O Lord!
Ah, God rest her soul!**

LUCIA **Who drags you from me? Arturo!
Who compels me? Arturo!
Ah, do not leave....
Love, I was forced!
No, stay with me! Ah, love, forgive!
Love, forgive, forgive.....**

OTHERS **Lost and rambling. So forlorn!
God rest her soul.
This darkest night of all!
Oh, night of dark! Night of dark!**

ENRICO **Lucia! Lucia! Almighty!**

LUCIA (*kneeling*) **Ah, no! Leave me not, Edgardo!**

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

**But where the soul reposes
There I shall wait, my love.**

**After our journey closes,
We shall find peace above,
Above.....**

ENRICO **Bitter remorse and sorrow
Ever shall haunt my sleep.**

OTHERS **Tears I can hold no longer;
Even a stone would weep.**

ENRICO **Bitter the sorrow, bitter the sorrow
Ever to haunt my sleep.**

LUCIA **Ah, beloved! Near you I die,
I die.....(*She falls unconscious.*)**

{ENRICO **Remove my sister....
Alisa....Oh, man of God...
Go with her....
Give what you can of comfort.
I am so shaken...I'm not myself.
*(He leaves in great perturbation.)***

RAIMONDO (*to NORMANNO*)
Look around. Enjoy the fruit of your efforts.

NORMANNO **Me guilty?**

RAIMONDO **Yes, it was you that blew upon the sparks
And ignited the fire
That has destroyed
All of those in its path.**

NORMANNO **How could I know?**

RAIMONDO **You are the scheming devil
Guilty of blood here spilled in vain.
May that blood weigh on your conscience.**

**The mighty hand of judgment
Already signs your sentence.
Be gone now...and tremble!}**

(He follows LUCIA; NORMANNO leaves by the opposite side.)

Dawn has not yet risen on the tombs of Ravenswood, the place agreed upon by Edgardo and Enrico for a deadly encounter, from which only one will come out alive. Edgardo, embittered and disillusioned, first to arrive, observes the lights from afar blazing inside the castle, apparently indicating that the long night's revels are still going strong..

EDGARDO **Tomb of my proud forefathers,
Soon will you shelter
The forlorn, last descendent
Of an accursed line.**

**A truce to anger!
I'll end the struggle,
Throw myself defenseless
Upon his deadly sword.**

**For life is nothing,
Only a burden,
And the universe itself a desert,
A blank without Lucia.....**

**How brilliant shines the castle.....
Torches are blazing....
All gathered for a swift night of pleasure.**

**The faithless woman!
I bleed and wander,
Lost in a howling tempest.
You, light of heart, are dancing
With your new-chosen husband!
You laugh in sweet abandon
While I seek only death.**

**The black of earth will cover me,
A grave none will remember;
No tear will fall in charity
Upon my lonely slumber.**

Ah! Unvisited by friend or foe,
Here I shall ever lie.

And you, so false, will soon forget
The man that you deserted.
But keep your husband far away --
Pass by me unescorted, ah!
The wish of one who dies for you
At least you'll not deny.

Should you pass by me,
Oh, keep him far away!
This last appeal you cannot deny.
So false, so fair!
I die for you.....

CHORUS (*coming out of the castle*)

Oh, my lady! Her hours are numbered.
Every hope we must abandon.
In the East, the sun now rises;
She will see it set no more.

EDGARDO God Almighty, who is dying?
Who is dying?

CHORUS Oh, my lady!

EDGARDO Who's the one you mourn and weep for?
Tell me, tell me!
Answer truly, tell me all.

CHORUS For Lucia.

EDGARDO (*beside himself*) Lucia dying?

CHORUS Broken-hearted!

EDGARDO Tell me all!

CHORUS Soon her sorrows will be over.
Death attended at her wedding;
Love has overwhelmed her reason;
Such despair I fear is mortal.
'Tis for you she moans and stammers....

EDGARDO Ah, Lucia! Dying! Lucia, ah!
In the East the sun now rises;
Will she never see it set? Oh, my Lucia!

CHORUS Such despair I fear is mortal;
For you her eyes are wet.
The bell has tolled that sounds the hour of death.

EDGARDO To me it sends a summons....
No impediment can stop me!
I must see her once again!
I must see her! If only....

CHORUS (*restraining him*) Too reckless!
Fond and foolish slave of passion,
Watch your step, proceed with care,
Take care!

RAIMONDO enters.

RAIMONDO Wretched man, too late you hasten.
She is of this earth no more.

EDGARDO Lucia!

RAIMONDO Weep in sorrow.

EDGARDO She's of this earth no more?
She has left me?

RAIMONDO Forever.

EDGARDO Lucia here no more....

CHORUS Weep in sorrow, weep in sorrow.

EDGARDO

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Turn to me a smile forgiving,
For I shall follow,
Now my worldly stay is done.

Mortal hurt and human anger

We shall here endure no longer.
Torn apart while 'mong the living,
There above, we shall dwell ever one.
Now I join you....

RAIMONDO Raving madman, raving madman!
Yield to reason! Yield to reason!

EDGARDO ...die together, die together....

RAIMONDO Come back to earth, and learn to endure,
And learn to endure.

EDGARDO No, no, no! *(He stabs himself)*

RAIMONDO All is over?....

EDGARDO *(in a feeble voice)*
I embrace you....tender angel....
Turn again to me....your loving smile.

RAIMONDO Wretched mortal! Pray to God.
Forgive him, Father.

EDGARDO Mortal anger....rage and sorrow....
Endure no longer.
Ah, beloved soul!
I follow...forever...my own.
Oh, my love, we die together,
There to dwell forever one.

CHORUS Day of horror, dark and dreadful!
God forgive this wretched man.
Pardon, oh Father, pardon this man.

EDGARDO I shall follow you to dwell ever one,
Forever one, forever my own.

(He falls and dies.)

THE END

