

MARIA PADILLA

Music by
Gaetano Donizetti

English Version by
Donald Pippin
(1983, 1994)

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Maria	Daughter of Don Ruiz de Padilla
Ines	Maria's sister
Don Ruiz de Padilla	father of the two sisters
Don Luis d'Aguilar	getting married to Ines
Mendez / Don Pedro	Prince of Castille
Don Alfonso de Pardo	his friend
Francesca	A governess
Ramiro	false friend of Don Ruiz
Bianca de France	Fiancée of Don Pedro

Shepherds, Maidens, Courtiers

Maria Padilla

Donizetti

English Version by Donald Pippin

ACT I

It is not unusual for an opera to end with a wedding -- in fact, for a comic opera, it is almost mandatory. But when an opera far from comic, starts with one, and furthermore a marriage wished for and approved by all, one that gives every promise of joy and fulfillment, the signs are ominous.

Farmers, shepherds, neighbors, friends, relatives all flock to the castle to rejoice with Inez Padilla, foreseeing an abundance of happiness in store. The future beckons brightly. But Inez has a sister named Maria, who appears to be cut out for a different destiny.

More high strung, more restless, more imaginative than her happy sister, Maria is haunted by a strange and improbable fantasy that she will one day be seated on a royal throne, crowned Queen of Spain -- a wild notion that her more sensible sister urges her to abandon. Not only is it farfetched and unrealistic -- sheer delusion! -- but it would seem to be contradicted already. For Maria has fallen madly in love with one of the wedding guests who returns her passion -- a certain Mendez, a man of great magnetism and charm, but of unknown origin, introduced somewhat evasively by their cousin Don Alfonso. Whatever claims upon her heart he may exert, one thing is clear enough -- he is *not* wearing a crown.

Scene: The castle courtyard in the 14th century where a wedding is in the offing.

CHORUS

Leave flocks to their grazing,
Leave fields and their labors;
Come, shepherds, fair neighbors!
Lay duties aside.

In time for the wedding
We head for the castle
Where master and vassal
Both honor the bride.

Happy couple,
To you we offer
Rustic garlands
Our fields provide,

Iris and roses
To herald the wedding;

Love comes to flower
In this tranquil setting.

Made in heaven,
Attended by angels,
May this union
Forever abide.

May the joys of love be yours,
All yours,
For as long as life endures.

Flowers of love
Let us provide,
A simple homage
For the bride;

Gathered for you,
Given to love
Now sanctified.

The bridal couple, Ines and Don Luis, enter

INES
True friends and loyal servants,
How can words express my pleasure?
Given from the heart,
Flowers offered with affection
To honor my day of marriage.
Past hours of pain forgotten,
By hope inspired,
A golden future I foresee,
Kind fortune ever smiling!

On this day serene and tender,
Guided by angelic powers,
Unto love our hearts surrender,
Crowned with garlands laced with flowers;
Sweeter than the scent of roses
Blended with the meadow choir,
Like roses blended with the meadow choir.

Your dear hand in mine reposes,
Token of our souls united;
Heaven surely has delighted
Granting all our hearts' desire.

DON LUIS
On this day sublime and sacred,
Paradise on earth we enter;
Neither word nor look can render
That devotion you inspire.

INES
Dearest husband!

Kind heaven's granted our prayer,
Our desire.

CHORUS Heaven, gentle heaven heard and granted,
Heard and granted your desire,
Granted, granted, your desire. Praise be!

INES The future beckons brightly,
The wedding hour advances,
My darling! My darling!
My heart with rapture dances
To music light and gay,
To sparkling music delightful and gay. Ah!

With joyful friends surrounded,
To heaven on rainbows I'm wafted.
Oh, share the bliss unbounded
That bears my heart away.

INES Ah, my beloved!
To music gay and spritely,
My heart with rapture dances,
While clarinets and trumpets play.
Oh, join with me:
With merriment step lightly
On this our wedding day.

CHORUS The future beckons brightly,
The wedding hour advances,
My heart with rapture dances
As flute and trumpets play. Ah!

We share and celebrate the pleasure of the day.
Joyful day. Oh happy day.
Oh happy wedding day! (*chorus exits*)

DON LUIS I must attend the preparations.
My love, stay here to greet our friends returning,
Cousin Don Alfonso with a special friend of the king,
Our own recent guest, Mendez.
Soon come from the hunt.

INES A guest so distinguished!
Ah! Only a moment more ...

DON LUIS And you are mine forever!

INES Ever yours! (*Don Luis exits*)
Time so sweet,
Despite my father's absence;
Were he but home
To make our joy complete!

Maria enters

INES My much beloved sister!

MARIA Embrace me!
Let me press you close to my heart
That hammers with excitement,
Above all else
For your fortune and happiness, dearest,
But also a dream about my own —
A dream that haunts my sleep,
I myself upon a throne.

INES That hope you must abandon!

MARIA I see it yet before me,
A guiding hand from heaven,
Urging me onward.
It must come true! I know it will!
An angel, crowned with sparkling diamonds,
From the altar led me forward to a throne.
Ah, such caressing glances
And reassuring smiles he gave me!
His hand seemed to tremble like my own
As he pointed the way,
On a path all scattered with flowers.

(with enthusiasm)

I heard a choir of clear celestial voices,
And the call of a trumpet, regal and proud.
The noble crowd assembled
Then bowed to me in tribute
And cried aloud my name,
To hail me as the queen, Royal Highness!

INES Sheer delusion!
I hear the hunt approaching.
The friends are homeward bound,
Alfonso and Mendez.

MARIA Ah! Mendez! Mendez!
Ah! I grow weak and tremble!

INES Mendez adores you.

MARIA Oh, sister! I'm also in love.
I also! I also!

Proud and bold, with a look so majestic,
All his features so handsome and splendid!
Surely he is the promise intended

By that vision I cannot erase.

Strong yet sweet, with a smile so contagious;
Zeus and Mars are combined in his bearing.
Though a crown he's indeed not wearing,
Royal blood shines forth on his face.
Ah! Truly royal in feature and manner,
On his forehead a crown I would place.

INES

Hold back, I implore,
For your future I fear and tremble!
Make-believe! Nothing more!
Dream no more in that blinded fashion.
Curb a foolish and dangerous passion
While your steps you may still retrace.

Francesca enters

FRANCESCA

Don Alfonso of Pardo and Count Mendez
Have returned to the castle.
Don Luis has gone out to greet them.

INES

Maria!

MARIA

Ines! Why does my hand so tremble?

FRANCESCA

The friends are here.

Mendez, Don Pedro and Don Alfonso enter

DON ALFONSO

Overjoyed, my cousins, at your wedding,
I pay respects and bring
My friend Mendez ...

DON PEDRO

I leave the hunt
To add my own sincere regards
To those of my friend Alfonso,
Oh fair Ines.
And my heart to you, dearest Maria!
Here is a marriage made in heaven.
I bend my heart to yours in celebration
Of the love unconfined
On this joyful occasion!

Day of delight and pleasure!
Air mild and sweetly scented.
As guest I gaze contented,
Charmed by the bridal pair.

Hearts full to overflowing,
Hope here has come to flower.
Bright and serene the hour

Whose cup of joy we share.

OTHERS Hope here comes to flower,
Their cup of joy we share.

DON PEDRO *(gazing at Maria)*
I heard a voice from paradise
As on the air it glided;
At once, my fate decided,
Reborn, I fell in love.

MARIA (Ah, how my heart is throbbing!)

DON PEDRO One prize I seek to capture,
One crest to be surmounted;
That day shall I be counted
More blessed than mighty Jove.

INES My, sister! Be careful.

FRANCESCA, INES, DON LUIS, and DON ALFONSO
So now the moments hasten
To reap the prize of love,
Comes the moment
For the treasured prize of love.
The sweet and treasured prize.

DON LUIS Let us go to the church;
There the priest is waiting.

DON ALFONSO Never have I seen a couple better suited.

INES One tiny thing would make it perfect!
Will you, my sister and my chosen bridesmaid,
Serve attended by our guest?

DON PEDRO A service to render!
To share a delightful honor.

MARIA *(to Don Pedro)*
I adore my dear sister,
And for her sake
I'd suffer far, far more than that!

DON PEDRO Less than I adore my dearest Maria!
(softly) And do I dare to hope? ...

ALL To the altar! *(they exit)*

CHORUS
(while leaving) Oh, rare, happy couple!
By angels befriended,
At peace and contented
May life smoothly glide.

May yours be forever
A course true and even
That reaches to heaven
In love side by side.

Flowers of love
Let us provide
A simple homage
For the bride,
Gathered for you
Given to bless
A love sanctified.

Despite the recently awakened passion that has enraptured Maria, she is troubled by the air of mystery that surrounds the magnetic stranger, about whom she knows nothing whatsoever. Is he an emissary from heaven, or from hell?

His identity she is soon to discover under shocking and threatening circum-stances. She is alone in her bedroom, late at night, when her maid Anina rushes in to warn her of danger -- no less than a kidnapping plot overheard in the garden -- a challenge that will call upon the full resource and courage of a Padilla, and will also bring her unexpectedly closer to the fulfillment of her improbable dream.

Scene: Maria's bedroom

MARIA My happy sister! Fortune smiles upon her.
Glowing colors shine on her future.
But on mine? On mine? ...
Who is Mendez?
Sent from heaven or from hell?
A tempting devil, or divine?
Why does he cast a spell of mystery?

FRANCESCA *(enters in great agitation)*
Ah, Milady!

MARIA Francesca!

FRANCESCA A crime! A damnable deed!
And you yourself will be the victim!
He will take you by force!
A ladder is prepared ...
And the guards bought with gold ...
You must hide ...
I overheard it all among the shadows.

MARIA Who is the scoundrel?

FRANCESCA I dare not name him.

MARIA You must speak out!

FRANCESCA Don Pedro!

MARIA Don Pedro?

FRANCESCA The son of the king!

MARIA The king? The king?

FRANCESCA Masquerading ... here ... under the name of Mendez.

MARIA Ah! Mendez! Prince!
My dream of crown and scepter ...
Is it true after all,
Or just a cruel joke?

FRANCESCA Within the garden
I hear a muffled footstep.

MARIA Go ... leave me.

FRANCESCA Here alone? Unprotected?

MARIA Why should I fear?
I have a dagger.
I also have the heart of a Padilla!

He comes! ... Each moment closer ...
He reaches toward my window!

Don Pedro appears at her window

DON PEDRO Upon a ladder I climb to paradise!

MARIA Don Pedro of Castille!

DON PEDRO My name! You've found me out! Maria!

MARIA Take not one step.

DON PEDRO Noble lady! Spare the knife!

MARIA I'll spare my honor.

DON PEDRO Fear no danger! Fear no danger!
Only pardon my love.

MARIA Your love! Oh, horror!
On the prow! In the dead of night,
Here slyly and undercover,
False as the name you masquerade,
You steal in to play the lover.

Then merrily you go your way,
Proceed along your course,
While I retain for company
My tears of futile remorse.

DON PEDRO Oh, judge me not so harshly!

MARIA God watches over the innocent,
Guides them safely to shore.
The love I felt I shall not hide;
With heart and soul did I adore;
But now the veil's been torn aside;
Where once I worshipped, I now abhor.

DON PEDRO Oh, no, my love! Despise me not, no!
Already I've repented.
My wrong try at least to understand!
By too much love made demented.
My heart and soul remain the same;
As prince, I still adore.
Despite the paltry change of name,
I love you as before.

MARIA And then to go your merry way ...

DON PEDRO Pardon, my angel, doubt not so;
Too much was the love I bore you,
My heart entire I lay before you,
Forever to have and to hold.
Forgive a man whose fire and fervor overflow;
'Twas love alone that made me bold.

MARIA Oh, my father! Man of courage!
When you learn of my disgrace,
Oh, my father! You will cry for vengeance.
In pride and despair, you'll draw your sword ...
And expose your aged head ...
Oh, my father!
Imperiled! For my sake!
Your blood? No, my own instead. *(starts to stab herself)*

DON PEDRO Go no further!
Share my all ... be my wife ...

MARIA You would marry ... me?

DON PEDRO You ... I swear it.

MARIA You swear it ... to God?

DON PEDRO God almighty!

MARIA On your soul! Give your sacred solemn oath
Upon this symbol of the faith.

DON PEDRO This I swear by Christ on the cross.

MARIA Oh, joy!

DON PEDRO Oh, my dearest!
Oh, come, my darling! My love!

MARIA Do I dream?

DON PEDRO Maria! Maria!

MARIA My dream has now come true.

DON PEDRO Oh, beloved, come! And in my arms
Fulfill our hearts' desire.
Starry night enchanted!
I am granted
Paradise entire.

BOTH Sheer delight that overpowers!
Happiness and more are ours,
Up to heaven's gate transported,
Borne away on wings of fire.

DON PEDRO But ... the king ... will rise in anger.

MARIA What disturbs you? What dark horizon?

DON PEDRO Our marriage must for now remain a secret;
There's a royal bride for me selected.

MARIA Wed in secret? ...

DON PEDRO Just for the present ...

MARIA I will prove how much I love.
I consent despite my pride;
Honor and name I cast aside.

BOTH Oh, beloved, come! And in my arms
Fulfill our hearts' desire.
Starry night enchanted!
I am granted
Paradise entire.

 Sheer delight that overpowers!
 Happiness and more are ours,
 Up to heaven's gate transported,
 Borne away on wings of fire.

End of Act I

ACT II

The scene changes to the palace of Don Pedro, the new king of Spain, known to us heretofore as Mendez. These are the luxurious chambers where Maria now lives apparently as his kept mistress, despite the hasty marriage that took place in strictest secrecy -- a secrecy that must be maintained for who knows how long. In this tenuous role, she is exposed to the highly ambivalent attitude of the court that pays hypocritical homage to her transient glory while nursing a not-too-secret contempt for this scandalous romance, flavored with a spiteful glee at the prospect of her inevitable fall. There is already talk of a royal bride arriving from France.

Conspicuously absent from the wedding in the first act, for reasons that need not detain us, Maria's father Don Ruiz now appears on the scene -- a man of the military, a gentleman of the old school, whose values are firmly wrapped in family honor and pride, values that have been harshly violated by his daughter's defiant behavior. Now embittered and humiliated, he comes seeking not reconciliation but revenge on her abductor, son of the former king that he has spent his life serving.

Ramirez, the prime minister, and clearly a trouble maker, uneasy about Don Pedro's obvious infatuation with Maria, fearful that it may jeopardize the marriage of state that is being negotiated, seizes the opportunity to bring matters to a crisis by goading on the hot-tempered old man.

Scene: the palace of Don Pedro (now King)

CHORUS

As we revel in the palace,
Genial dwelling of delights,
Sing a measure, merry minstrels!
Lift your glasses, (oh) gallant knights!

Toast our lady, fair Padilla,
Star of beauty unsurpassed.
Praise her patience and compassion,
Kind and gentle to the last.

To our nation, battle weary,
She has given peace again;
Guiding angel sent from heaven,
She has conquered mighty Spain,
The hearts of Spain.

But she has many foes that oppose her;
They increase as the throne gets closer;
There's the Queen and the proud Prime Minister,
Looking on from the side, discreet and sinister.

And from France soon the royal bride's arriving;
She will find here an awkward position.
Don Pedro evades, still conniving,
In the grip of the scandalous romance.

CHORUS

Torn by love, he delays his decision —
Oh, I fear the reaction of France!
Fear and tremble!
Best say nothing —
See no evil!
I am silent, though looking askance.

(with anger)

This upstart with her airs and graces
Turns to profit the king's embrace.
Say nothing!
Frankly, just between me and you,
Her blood is anything but blue.
Say nothing!

Watch out unless the king reconsiders,
Lest he bring to the throne shame and scandal,
Lest the nation of France he embitters,
Lest the altar and priest he defies.

Beware! Right and left, danger lies.
Beware! Pedro! Beware!

Say nothing ...
Toast our lady fair Padilla,
Star of beauty unsurpassed;
As we revel in the palace
Cheer and praise her to the last ...
Sing a measure, merry minstrels ...
Say nothing! ... Padilla Hail!
All Hail! All Hail! *(exeunt)*

Ruiz and Ramiro enter

RUIZ

Duke, after years of service,
You see a man much changed.
Stealthy and incognito,
I have come cloaked in mystery.
Alas, my star has waned —
Ill-fortune stalks Padilla,
And leaves him torn to shreds,
A prey to bitter sorrow.
There's a serpent ever gnawing away at my heart,
A grim, tenacious phantom,
Pitiless, that haunts my days and nights,
Even present in my sleep ...
She! Whom I cannot bear to name!

RUIZ

(tenderly)
My daughter, the comfort and joy once of a father,
Turned harlot!
Oh, source of endless shame!

All my life, beloved and respected,

I have followed the straight path of duty.
Royal orders I've proudly accepted,
Ready and eager to serve my Lord.

But his son, the rogue now reigning,
Snatches away my prize and treasure,
Trust and honor both disdain.
Thus I gather, thus I gather my reward.
Ah so! Thus I gather my reward!

RAMIRO (Here's my chance to rouse the tiger!)
Charming quarters for a mistress ...

RUIZ Shameful quarters!

RAMIRO Light and airy!
Here she amuses her royal lover! ...

RUIZ Oh, cursed daughter!
Say no more, you tear my heart!

There's a joy that spurs me onward;
One delight, a final pleasure;
While the two are at their leisure
My revenge I shall complete.

That abhorrent, royal lover
Will receive a mortal blow.
She, so degraded, yet will suffer,
Fall and beg, cry for mercy at my feet.

There's a joy the future holds for me;
One delight is yet remaining.
While the two are entertaining,
My revenge I shall complete

RAMIRO Moderation! Hold your temper.
Let us keep our voices low.
(Rouse the tiger! Rouse the tiger!)

RUIZ Oh, vengeance!

RAMIRO Careful!

RUIZ There's a joy that spurs me onward,
One delight, a final pleasure;
While the two are at their leisure
My revenge I shall complete.

That abhorrent, royal lover
Will receive a mortal blow.
She, so degraded, yet will suffer,
Fall and beg, cry for mercy at my feet.

There's a joy the future holds for me;

One delight is yet remaining,
While the two are entertaining,
My revenge I shall complete

RAMIRO For your safety I have fears.
Here the very walls have ears.
For here the very walls have ears. (*exeunt*)

Maria, though pampered and petted, is unhappy in her isolated splendor, the target of gossip and intrigue, surrounded by courtiers who barely conceal their hostility, remorseful at the pain she has inflicted upon her estranged family, no doubt uneasy about her own future, but above all eager for reconciliation with her father, whom she has hurt so deeply. Inez, her happily married sister, ever supportive, ever sympathetic, eager to restore harmony, comes to pay her a visit, bringing with her a ray of hope.

Maria and Ines enter

MARIA Ines! My dearest sister!
In retreat, far from the festive crowd.
But where's your husband?

INES Beyond the gate!
He dares not cross your doorway.
The reason you know well:
For his life is at stake
Since he slew the underhanded Don Alfonso,
Partner in guilt with the prince.
Don Pedro swore to avenge his slaughtered friend.

MARIA No! He's granted pardon.

INES Pardon?

MARIA Furthermore, your husband he's promoted
To captain of the guards.

INES My same, dear Maria!
We owe this to you!

MARIA Tell me ... Oh, I dare not! Will my father ...

INES Alas, no! His rage does not subside.
Though pardoned for his role as a rebel,
He has returned a broken man.

MARIA And ... has he referred to me?
INES I pleaded ... wept ... but ...

MARIA Say no more ... I hear all too clearly.
Oh, my father!
You have achieved your revenge!

INES A tear ... Maria ... You are weeping ...

MARIA Ines! Here I have shed so many tears.
Lonely and wretched.

INES In misery, despite your surroundings?

MARIA Here at ease, in grandeur and glory,
In the arms of love, I can taste only death.

I hurt him cruelly, by violating
The sacred code he has ever venerated.
I now am haunted by sharp remorse.

INES Ah! You were his pride and his joy combined!

MARIA I see him facing me, with tears of sorrow;
He towers threatening, in shame and anger.
Through me a thunderbolt is hurled full force.
Ah! Dear has been the cost of love so blind.

INES Comfort of family and hope of happiness
You have forsaken;
All ties you have cast aside
To walk the lonely way
Your heart has taken.
Nor can you turn around;
You still embrace
The man who has brought you despair
Beyond disgrace.

MARIA Could you but quiet the fear I harbor!
Say, in his anger, his hurt and disapproval,
Ah! Did my father curse his child?

INES In heat of passion, the rage inside him
Almost erupted ...
I embraced him ... Tears started flowing ...

MARIA Thank god!

INES He then grew calm ... His loving pardon
We may yet hope to gain.

MARIA That consoles me once again.
I still may hope. I can dare hope again.
I have to see him ...

INES Our father?

MARIA To plead for gentle mercy.

INES If only ... But how?

MARIA Please wait for me after the party.

Don Pedro, with Ramiro, courtiers

DON PEDRO Go to the queen, my mother,
 And tell her that tomorrow I'll attend her,
 With all the honors due.

RAMIRO Ambassadors have come from France.

DON PEDRO Oh, what a plague!
 No choice but to see them.
 I must, but later on!

 Down with cares, except for my own:
 Time for you, lovely Maria!

RUIZ (*enters*) I'm bound to find him here.

CHORUS Who goes there? He's an old dog.
 But still a dog with teeth.

RUIZ Gentlemen, a stranger to this youthful court,
 I arrive, and wish to see the king.

CHORUS Come forward.

RUIZ The king?

DON PEDRO Myself.

RUIZ You, Don Pedro, the king?

DON PEDRO What's your pleasure?

RUIZ You ...

DON PEDRO You stare, and your eyes pose a question.

RUIZ (*with irony*)
 Am I addressing here the son and successor
 Of Alfonso, king renowned, just and regal?
 Friend to the weak, and foe to the mighty oppressor,
 Bold as the lion, and prouder than the eagle;
 If you be God's agent and voice on earth,
 Revenge an old man's shame!
 Oh, revenge a man of noble birth!
 Oh, revenge a deed unworthy of the throne!

CHORUS Call to arms!

DON PEDRO Don Pedro's hand is nimble to punish wrong.
 Speak out and tell your name.

RUIZ In vain you ask;
 My name. I have lost.

DON PEDRO (What a fool!)

RUIZ But your own name I'll tell you;
I know it very well, lofty king!

DON PEDRO You know my name? Congratulations!
Is there a man among the nations,
Child in all Castille,
Who knows not a name that endures?
To the foe I am called the bane
And terror, the scourge of the Moors.
To the coward and craven alone,
As Pedro the Cruel I also am known.
To the low and the base,
As Pedro the Cruel I also am known.

RUIZ Such a name you don't deserve!
Another fits the case.

DON PEDRO Say what other ... rename me!

RUIZ Coward and scoundrel!

DON PEDRO You dare! You dare!

CHORUS Revenge! Revenge! Revenge!

RUIZ Ah, what noble anger!
Safety in numbers! Safety in numbers!
Do you need so many hands to dig a grave?
I'm defenseless, gallant nobles, observe!
Had I a sword, would you still be so brave?

DON PEDRO Dare you mock me?

RUIZ I dare defy you, though overpowered,
For the outrage and shame I have suffered
Demand the blood of a dastardly coward.
And a soldier courageous though aged
Throws the glove!

DON PEDRO Bring a sword for the madman!

CHORUS He dies! The madman!

RUIZ Joy at last!

DON PEDRO His blood will pay!

CHORUS The madman.

DON PEDRO Ah! ... Bring a sword!

RUIZ When the blade, by heaven guided,
To your heart has penetrated;

When your fate has been decided,
Only then shall I forbear.
By the sword at last placated,
Then my honored name I'll utter;
You will hear the sound and shudder
At the wrong beyond repair.

DON PEDRO On to death, the path is lighted!
Overlong till now I've waited;
Your own fate have you invited;
Beg for mercy if you dare!

To the dust you'll fall, the victim
Of a deadly sword that slashes;
I shall toss your loathsome ashes
To the ravens of the air.

CHORUS *(to the king)*
But your life, O Lord, is sacred;
Risk it not upon a madman. Risk it not!

RUIZ With sword and sabre
Pride and honor are repaid!

DON PEDRO Not the sword! Here's a case
That calls for plain and simple flogging.

RUIZ Mighty king, are you a coward?
Does a challenge frighten you?

DON PEDRO *(with utter contempt)*
Beat the rascal black and blue.

RUIZ What delays the wrath of heaven
From the bolt of retribution?
Should a scoundrel be forgiven
That degrades a sacred trust?

Have your way, my will is greater
Than the bluster of a lecher.
Cruel libertine and traitor,
Flaunt your title, do your worst!

DON PEDRO Name and rank have you offended
By a blind and bold intrusion.
Heaven ever has befriended
Kings courageous, proud and just.

Your disgrace will serve another:
Those that mock will soon discover
That the rebel has to suffer;
You are neither last nor first.

CHORUS Die he must!
He mocks the state and die he must! *(Ruiz is removed)*

CHORUS He has got what he deserves;
Teach the rogue to mind his manners!

DON PEDRO After interrupted pleasure,
Raise again the festive banners!

CHORUS She for whom it's all about
Joins the party. (*Maria enters with Ines*)

DON PEDRO Maria!

MARIA My Lord! Sobs and groans I heard from the garden.
Who cries out on a day so festive?
Brutally beaten, in pain he cries:
All with hearts must need sympathize.
For my sake, grant him pardon.

DON PEDRO An obnoxious old man ... Came from nowhere ...
Known to none; he's known to none.

MARIA Show him mercy! Show him mercy!

RAMIRO You plead too late!
Careless daughter, you are late
To do your father any good.

MARIA and INES Father?

DON PEDRO Her father ...

MARIA and INES Can it be true?

CHORUS Can this tale be true?

RAMIRO On the day that you are toasted,
He has come to cry for blood.

MARIA Oh, my father!

INES Was it our father?

DON PEDRO (Blind with rage, I made a blunder.)

MARIA Pedro, your look of shame betrays you.
Then is it true? Reply, king.

DON PEDRO (*confused*)
He was brash! A trouble maker ... I didn't know ...

MARIA So mortified! Oh sister! Our father!

DON PEDRO Maria!

MARIA Say no more!

God of justice, God of vengeance,
Pour upon me thy deadly torrent;
Cursed and hated, to all abhorrent,
I would die of mortal shame.

Hope of pardon I abandon
From a father abused and beaten,
Blows and lashes naught can sweeten;
For compassion I call in vain.

INES

(to Don Pedro)
Cursed be that day of sorrow
When she weakened and rashly yielded.
Your corrupted charm outwielded
Heavenly and earthly claim.

To avenge my tortured father
I invoke the wrath of heaven.
May your deeds go unforgiven;
May remorse and terror reign.

DON PEDRO

Ah, calm, oh calm these outpourings.
I was angry, provoked and baited;
(On my nerves the old man grated)
But your father, reinstated,
Shall return to full acclaim.

RAMIRO

Darkly into dusk descending,
Day of pleasure, sadly ending,
Grave disaster hangs impending
That will shake the entire domain.

DON PEDRO

Far too much I made him suffer
For his swagger and his bluster;
To restore his former luster
I alone shall bear the blame.

CHORUS

Darkly into dusk descending,
Day of pleasure, sadly ending;
What disaster still impending
Sends a chill I can't explain?

MARIA

On the floor I cast my jewels,
Tokens of a love degraded;
Now reminders, loathed and hated,
Of eternal guilt and pain.

Let us flee a house of evil, ah!
Nevermore to return again.

INES

Come with me, ill-fated daughter;
Find our father, lend assistance;
And hereafter keep a distance.
From that love's compelling flame.

Oh, cursed day! A scene of sorrow!
A place where lust and terror reign.
Oh, follow me, Oh follow me
And leave a place where lust and terror reign.

CHORUS What grave disaster I fear yet to come
 Sends a chill I can't explain.
 A chill that I cannot explain.

End of Act II

ACT III

Though Don Ruiz, Maria's father, had foolishly expected to provoke a duel with the king that would vindicate his lost honor, he has instead been treated to a brutal and ignominious flogging. Beaten unconscious, now doubly violated, following the disgrace inflicted by his own daughter, added to the secret grief at their alienation that has been constantly gnawing at his heart -- all of this has left the old man shattered in both mind and body.

Maria, appalled at the assault upon her father, ordered however unwittingly by Don Pedro, has left her royal lover and her glittering life in the palace, to join her sister and her brother-in-law in watching over her father's slow and uncertain recovery, hoping above all that he will come to and forgive her.

Scene: the palace

MARIA Not a sound! All is silent ...
 Long may his sleep continue ...
 My poor father!
 In sleep for a while he forgets
 The shame he endures.
 Not I! I cannot close my eyes,
 Not for a moment.
 Nor should I rest! ...
 His room I dare not enter.

(to Ines) What news?

INES Improvement.
 That swift attack of fever
 That we feared would be fatal
 Has gone away.
 At last he is calmer,
 And his breathing more steady.

MARIA Praise be! Ah, praise be!
 Oh, kind and gracious Lord!

DON LUIS Yet not a whisper
Has left his lips for three whole days.

MARIA If softly I crept unto his bedside,
Kneeling at his feet,
Would he again disown me,
Or would he heed my tears?

RUIZ *(from within)* Oh, my daughter!

MARIA Ah! His first words!

INES He comes to life, calling for you.

MARIA He calls for me?

RUIZ Where is my daughter?

INES Do you hear?

RUIZ *(from within)*
Sad is the sunset of my life,
Fading upon the hour;
Daughter, allow me one last embrace,
Pressed to your father's heart.

MARIA For me, my father suffers ...

INES He misses you and needs you.

MARIA Oh, let me kiss and comfort him.

RUIZ Come to my side, console my grief,
Now that my life sinks lower;
With but a tearful, tender kiss
Let me in peace depart.

MARIA Forgive! Oh father ...
Could we but be reconciled!
If you but knew!

RUIZ Yes, my angel, come ...

MARIA, INES and DON LUIS
Father, for us, for us, be strong and live again;
Trust in the power that heals all mortal pain,

MARIA Quiet still ...

DON LUIS He's rising ...

And you, valiant knights, cavaliers,
Observe and judge the match.
May God's hand guide the course of justice!

MARIA

Broken man!

RUIZ

Ah! Who sneaks up behind me, betrays me?

MARIA (*desolate*)

Did the blows overcome his fragile mind,
Crush his reason?
Oh, God, relent, take pity!
Lend a ray of light,
Gentle light!
Let him but recognize me,
Even though he take my life, my life!

Father, Father, I have offended;
Grant, oh grant an erring daughter pardon.
Reconciled, with hand extended,
Let me lift your heavy burden,
Take, oh take away your burden.

Oh, remember and smile more kindly;
To your heart again receive me;
In your arms again enfolded,
Reprimand me and chastise me,
But accept my love again.

For despite all, I am innocent.
Speaking out would much relieve me,
But an oath yet binds my tongue.
Though to love indeed I yielded,
True to honor I remain.

This I swear to God above;
I still am worthy of your love.
Oh, father, despite all, despite all!
Your daughter is worthy yet, is worthy yet,
Worthy of your love.

RUIZ

She is lovely ... her eyes so tender ...
I had once, I had once a daughter like her.
Yes, the very same soft features,
And her voice ...

I remember, I remember
How at night she sang for me,
Played the lute, and best of all,
An Andalusian melody
A fisherman sang home from sea ...
I still ... I still recall ...

"Soft and warm are the murmuring breezes,
Sweetest Rita, that sigh on the sea.
Turn to me ... to me ... to me ..."

MARIA Kind angels ... in heaven ...
Come to my aid ...
(weeping)
"Soft and warm are the murmuring breezes,
Sweetest Rita, that sigh on the sea.
From the far away shore turn to me, dear,
With a kiss on a whisper of love.
Then I'll send you as tender an echo ..."
I can't continue.

RUIZ Yes ... yes! Yes, indeed ... Go on ...
You're crying? You're crying?
Tears? But why?
Why do you weep, my dear?

Ah, if you still have tears to flow,
Your sorrow's not completed;
I'd also weep, but long ago
The fountain of tears ran dry.

My dear ... Truly I blush to say;
I love her, though much mistreated,
A love misprized and undeserved ...
Pardon my folly, oh Lord!
Although the truth I would deny,
She is the child I adored.

MARIA Ah, bitter are the tears of woe
When they must fall unheeded.
Oh, never shall they cease to flow
Not until the sea runs dry.

Father, more dear than words can say,
Now when I feel most needed —
(Save him from the painful dark!
Turn upon me, oh Lord!) —
Accept my tears, or let me die,
Slain by your own sword,
Oh, father! By your own sword.

RUIZ That voice ... Her eyes ...
Love misprized and undeserved ...
Pardon my folly, oh Lord!
Although the truth I would deny,
She is the child I adored.

MARIA Reduced to desperation!
I have a written statement,
Proof beyond any doubt
That I am innocent.

I know that by revealing it
I break a solemn oath to God ...
I must ... My own salvation

I'll barter for your peace of mind.

RUIZ What's this you show me?

MARIA I'll read it: "I swear by sacred oath
That I give my hand in marriage
To the honorable lady, Maria Padilla,
My lawful wedded wife."
Here is the statement signed:
Don Pedro of Castille.

RUIZ Don Pedro! That name I know!

MARIA See.

RUIZ Don Pedro! Viper! The villain.
I have him! ... I've got him!
(snatching the paper)
I choke the slimy reptile!
Tear his heart to shreds!
(He tears the paper to shreds)

MARIA My rights you have destroyed!

RUIZ Justice! Justice!
Let every record of shame,
Deceit, dishonor,
Be ground into the dust!

MARIA Lost!

RUIZ Don Pedro! Ah, thus to every blackguard!

MARIA Oh, father!

RUIZ *(calmly)* Who, who are you?
Why do you look forlorn, my dear?

MARIA Give a gesture, a look to show me
Hope is not entirely over.
I'm your daughter — don't you know me? —
True and loving now as ever.

 If to comfort were in my power
I would die without regret;
Ah! In that final, solemn hour
I might earn your blessing yet.
Ah, still am I your daughter;
I would earn your blessing yet.

RUIZ Go! I am weary; I'm an old man,
And my wits appear to wander.
Dark clouds lower, and shadows hover;
Soon will mortal pain be over;

Leave me here alone to ponder.

Lonely death I now await.
Ah, but fear not; at that summons,
I shall have no room for hate.
No, I shall have no room within my heart for hate.

CHORUS (*outside*) Welcome! Hail, fairest Bianca! In royal array!
Welcome! The bride Don Pedro will marry today!

MARIA Ah! From the palace ...
Don Pedro ... marries Bianca ...
He betrays me!
And his oath he discards!
Not yet does he know me!

Come with me, and let's together
Show the courage that we share.
Down with anger and despair,
For the present need is greater;

To expose the royal traitor
I go ready for my fate,
I go to meet my fate.

RUIZ No! Death alone I now await.

Because Don Ruiz in his madness has destroyed the only proof that Maria has of her valid claim upon Don Pedro, she now has only his somewhat shaky sense of honor to fall back upon. In truth, he is in a quandary. Although deeply enamored of Maria, he knows full well that the secret marriage was rash, reckless, self-indulgent, that its disclosure would lead to serious trouble. First and foremost, he is king, less free than the least of his subjects to follow the dictates of his own heart. Maria's claims can be easily denied and dismissed; the claims of the throne demand a political alliance. Maria's initial fears appear all too well founded. Bianca of France, with regal retinue, arrives at the palace to be crowned Queen of Spain, joined in holy matrimony with Don Pedro.

Scene: the Palace

CHORUS OF COURTIERS

Like the flower that opens in the morning
Is our lady, the bride soon expected.
Like a flower is our lovely lady.
And of lords, there is none more courageous
Than her fiancé, majestic yet gracious,
But in battle a bull to beware.
A mad bull in battle
Best to beware.
Former glories we see resurrected,
Proudly we welcome and salute the royal pair. (*exeunt*)

Don Pedro has his regrets, but life, after all, has to go on . . . Duty is duty.
You know how it is . . .

Don Pedro enters, alone

DON PEDRO So the time's come to wed ... leave her ...
 'Twas she that left me!
 So the wrong I repay ...
 But having cooled my temper
 I have lost the taste for anger.

 I love her,
 Now more than ever ...
 That promise I signed
 I meant to keep ...

 Enamored, and overcome by her beauty,
 To passion and to pleasure I surrendered:
 Love all supreme,
 Love all too rare,
 Oh, love profound and deep!

 Brief day of paradise,
 Gone now and past recall!
 An angel beyond compare,
 For love, she ventured all.

 Dear was the price she paid
 Of honor and of pride;
 Valiant and unafraid,
 For me she cast the world aside.

 Nor shall I find again
 The perfect joy we share, ah!
 Long shall I search in vain
 For that lost paradise I now must forswear.

 That beauty I've betrayed!
 God! What if she dared,
 Driven by desperation? ...

RAMIRO The herald trumpet sounds.
 With her royal cortege
 Bianca of France, our queen,
 Now approaches.
 (I've succeeded!)

DON PEDRO (My heart I must deny ...)

COURTIERS See the queen with escort advance;
 Cry salute, and long may she reign!
 Greet the noble daughter, the bride of France,
 Whose arrival bodes well for peace again.
 Greet the noble daughter, the bride of France,

Hope of peace for the people of Spain.

End of war at last, God be thanked!
Defeat of terror and of hate!
There was never union more sacrosanct
Than the one we today celebrate,
The one we come to celebrate.

DON PEDRO

A cruel coming! Painful duty!
Another I must wed today ...
Ah! Another I must wed today.

Oh, my heart! Contain your sorrow.
Forced to yield, I welcome the bride.
Oh, my heart! Contain your sorrow.

I must abandon
My dear Maria.
Oh, native land!
Unto you I kneel.

Vain to be given
Kingdom and scepter
When earth and heaven,
Alas, from me you steal.

Farewell to passion,
Farewell to beauty;
Unwelcome duty
Brings me to heel.

My love and pleasure I cast aside
To gain a courtlier but colder bride.

Could I repudiate
Kingdom and scepter,
I would have kept her
Despite all Castille.

COURTIERS

The trumpet's sounding
To greet the bride.
The trumpet's sounding
Hail to the bride!
Come noble king!
Come to the altar
With pomp and pride!

DON PEDRO

Harsh obligations
Demand compliance,
Neighboring nations
Have eyes on me.

Forced to surrender
By grim necessity,
I would defend her

To the death were I free.

Forced to surrender
By cruel fortune,
I would defend her
Were I free to choose my bride.

Bianca is ushered in with great ceremony

CHORUS What star has arisen
That sparkles in splendor?
The rivers and sky start to glisten
With new ornament.

Oh, fair star of Bianca,
In radiant ascent:
We honor, adore you,
Oh, star of hope!

The light of your orbit
Is soothing and pleasant,
And nature is peaceful
And smiles when you're present.
From heaven descended,
The air's warm and friendly,
The breezes blow gently
And spread soft content.

Oh, rare star of Bianca!
Oh, star excellent!

RAMIRO Don Pedro, noble sovereign of Castille and Leon,
Upon the brow of Bianca of Bourbon
I place the royal crown.
May this union be forever blessed.

Maria rushes in with Ruiz

MARIA Go no further! Not to her!
That crown belongs to me!

ALL Ah, ah! Padilla! How outrageous!

DON PEDRO Maria!

MARIA Where is your conscience? Answer!

DON PEDRO I marvel at your presumption.

MARIA My right I come to claim.

RAMIRO Arrest her! Soldiers, take her!

MARIA You know not the person that you threaten.
(with dignity)

Unto God above I swear it:
To the King I'm bound by marriage.
Who dares to lay a forceful hand
On the Queen, who is none other than I?

DON PEDRO (Can she produce the proof?)
(*Bianca faints*)
See what your claim's accomplished.

CHORUS The royal bride has fainted.

MARIA (*pointing to her father*)
Look at him, and behold your own crime.

CHORUS The old man!

DON LUIS and INES Lost in sorrow! Lost in sorrow!

DON PEDRO God! So weakened! So shattered!

MARIA The mortal blow you can claim.

RUIZ Where am I taken?

DON PEDRO Am I to blame?

CHORUS Ah! Broken man!

MARIA Behold, the man you've torn apart,
A victim of your cruelty.
Lost in a darkened wilderness,
He calls his daughter's name.

CHORUS His light gone out! His light gone out!

DON PEDRO Am I to blame?
Am I? Beyond a doubt.

RUIZ Sad is the sunset of my life,
Fading upon the hour;
Daughter, allow one last embrace
To your father's heart.

Come to my side, console my grief
Now that my life sinks lower;
With but a tearful tender kiss
Let me in peace depart.

Daughter. Come to me.
Oh my child!
Now that my sad life sinks lower
With but a tender kiss, I depart.

MARIA Broken man!
His daughter he remembers,
The woman you've forsaken,
Who generous, mistaken,
Offered to live a lie.
Weep for the stricken soul that goes under.

DON LUIS and INES Victim of your deceit and guile,
Far does his reason wander;
Tortured and torn asunder,
Hear his bewildered cry.
Mortified, bewildered ...

DON PEDRO Ah! Victim of my deceit and guile,
Far from the path he wanders.
They all too justly cast at me
Charges I can't deny, can't deny.
Justly do they accuse me;
Guilt I cannot deny.

CHORUS Suffering for his daughter,
Far from the path he wanders.
Desolate, sadly does he remember;
Sadly he seeks to die.

MARIA On your solemn vow I still rely
That my honor you may yet restore.
That vow of marriage.
On your solemn vow, your solemn, solemn vow
I still rely.

Both my pride and honor,
My crippled pride and honor,
May you again restore, restore.

DON LUIS and INES Weep for a mind so shattered,
Close to the brink of chaos;
Harsh fate may have for us
Yet heavier blows in store.

DON PEDRO More troubled by the moment,
Within my heart I'm shaken;
(Shaken to the core)
A solemn vow I've broken,
My head and heart at war.

RAMIRO That wretch becomes a burden,
Beaten, but not gone under;
Nor am I certain
Of the pending final score.

CHORUS The King, now caught in a quandary,
Is downcast, deeply divided;
Agitated and undecided,
He draws back in agony,
Engaged in a tug of war.

CHORUS OF FRENCHMEN
All of France you have insulted
With your long deliberation.
To appease so proud a nation
She must pay a heavy price.

DON PEDRO Cavaliers, until I ask it,
You can spare me your advice.

FRENCHMEN King, we'll stand no more disdain;
We await a firm reply.
For the peace and health of Spain,
Yes, the harlot has to die.

DON PEDRO With a bold and empty threat,
Do you hope to turn me coward?
Over mine her strength has towered;
For this woman I would walk through fire.

Yes, before the eyes of heaven,
Eternal vows of love I've given.
From the throne where now I place her
Try and oust her if you dare. Ha!

If France or Castille cares to challenge,
Let them both beware!

MARIA Oh, joy! Ah!

INES and DON LUIS I shall burst with joy!

CHORUS Beyond endurance!
Reckless man! Your boast cries out for war,
You cry for war.

MARIA Embrace me, oh father!
In marriage he claims me;
He honors and names me
His partner and queen.

With arms now extended,
Receive me, your daughter;
Our sorrows mended,
My dignity restored.
Receive your daughter;
Oh, final reward!

DON PEDRO To you the Castellians
 Will kneel in devotion —
 A queen of such brilliance,
 Full worthy a throne.

INES To you the Castellians
 Will kneel in devotion;
 To all of the millions
 Your name will be known.

RAMIRO and COURTIERS
 The French you've insulted,
 And you shall atone!
 The French are insulted
 And you shall atone.

MARIA Ah! Husband! Father!

My fortune in flower,
 A garden of rapture,
 From heaven a shower
 Of nectar divine.

In shadow no longer,
 By love enfolded,
 No joy can be stronger,
 Greater than mine.
 Nor greater than mine.
 None so perfect, none so pure,
 No joy is more complete than mine.

DON PEDRO My angel! You'll find in the kingdom
 No joy like my own,
 No none so great as mine.

DON LUIS (*to Ruiz*) For you now has parted
 A terrible curtain;
 A future more certain,
 More smiling is shown.
 You'll find in the kingdom
 No joy like our own.

RUIZ As though there had parted
 A dark, shrouded curtain,
 A future more certain,
 More smiling is shown.
 You'll find in the kingdom
 No joy like my own.

The End