

# **THE ELIXIR OF LOVE**

*Music by*  
Gaetano Donizetti

*English Version by*  
Donald Pippin  
(1994)

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# **The Elixir of Love**

**Donizetti**

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## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

<b>Nemorino</b>	a young peasant
<b>Adina</b>	a wealthy village girl
<b>Belcore</b>	a sergeant
<b>Gianetta</b>	a peasant girl
<b>Dulcamara</b>	an itinerant quack doctor

Villagers, soldiers, peasants, a notary

**Southern Italy, land of lush farms and vineyards, garlic, wine and roses, blazing sunshine and overheated passions. In short, the heartland of opera. Poor Nemorino – shy, awkward, hopelessly in love with dazzling Adina, the village queen, charming, smart, beautiful, basically sweet, but in my opinion a bit spoiled. Some of us might wish that she were not quite so aware of her superiority. But good Lord! Who can blame her? She can actually read and write! Now as everyone knows, these abilities are a mysterious gift that some are born with, some are not. So if, like Nemorino, you are not among that rarified species so favored, what can you do but gaze in adoration, grit your teeth, beat your breast and sigh in vain? And things are about to go from bad to worse when handsome, stalwart sergeant Belcore, whom none could accuse of being shy, strides into town determined to sweep Adina off her feet. Does Nemorino even have a chance?**

**The outlook is bleak, and frankly, I would be the first to urge him to give up, lower his sights and look around for a more attainable girl to fall in love with. But of course he's not listening, and besides, I could be wrong. In fact, help may be lurking around the corner. While indulging her God-given gift, Adina has come across the curiously intriguing tale of Tristan and Isolda -- several decades, be it noted, before it caught the eye of Richard Wagner. Unlike the great composer, Adina is not impressed. A love elixir indeed! What silly twaddle! Flaming love inside a bottle! The thwarted lover, desperate to win the girl, merely takes a swallow, and behold: cold Isolda starts to smolder. A potion with potential! And it sounds like just what Nemorino needs . . .**

## ACT I

*Scene: Outside Adina's farmhouse in an Italian village; Adina is reading a book*

CHORUS                   When the noonday sun is blazing  
                              On the warm and weary peasant,  
                              No retreat we find so pleasant  
                              As a tree beside a stream.

                              Gentle breezes cool the body;  
                              Flowing waters soothe as ever.  
                              But the fire of love and its fever  
                              Neither water nor shade can (hope to) tame.

                              Lucky reaper! Lucky farmer  
                              Who has never felt the flame;  
                              The fatal flame!

NEMORINO               *(gazing longingly at Adina)*  
                              Such a beauty! Such a darling!  
                              Who can see her and not adore her?  
                              Though for pity I implore her,  
                              I get nothing but disdain.

                              She has mastered reading and writing;  
                              Long division for her is sugar-candy.  
                              But my schooling is so scanty  
                              I can only sigh in vain.

                              Such a beauty! Such a darling!  
                              Such a darling, yet so distant,  
                              Brightly shining, a star far above me.  
                              Though I long for her to love me  
                              Empty handed I remain.

                              Though I long for her to love me,  
                              I get nothing but disdain.  
                              I can only sigh in vain.

                              Who can teach a rank beginner  
                              How to woo and how to win her?  
                              Who can show me  
                              How to light the fatal flame?

CHORUS                   Gentle breezes cool the body;  
                              Flowing waters soothe as ever.  
                              But the fire of love's hot fever  
                              Neither shade nor stream can tame.

                              Lucky farmer! Lucky reaper  
                              Who has never felt the flame;  
                              The fatal flame!

ADINA                    Ha ha ha ha! She is his forever after!  
Here's a story for the ages!

CHORUS                 Why the sneer? Why the laughter?  
Share with us the printed pages.

ADINA                    Persevering, wistful Tristan  
Proves that love will find a way.

CHORUS                 Read it, read it!

NEMORINO              (By creeping closer,  
I can listen, hope and pray.)

ADINA                    (*reading*)  
"Pining for cold Isolda,  
Young Tristan sighed and suffered;  
No ray of hope she offered,  
Either in whole or in part.

Help was around the corner;  
A friendly, wise magician,  
Noting his sad condition,  
Went to his shelves to find  
An elixir expressly designed  
To ignite the lady's frozen heart."

What potential in the potion  
For the awkward and the shy!  
Jungle passion, raw emotion  
From a bottle you can buy!

CHORUS and NEMORINO

What potential in the potion,  
For the awkward and the shy!  
Jungle passion, raw emotion  
From a bottle you can buy!

Read on! What's the ending?

ADINA                    (*reading*)  
"A drop he'd barely swallowed,  
When sparks of lightening followed:  
Behold! Isolda smolders!  
The fire's begun to blaze.

Isolda, cold no longer,  
Yearns to enfold her lover.  
Days of disdain are over,  
Conquered by true devotion.  
And for the amazing potion

Our hero sings daily rounds of praise."

What potential in the potion,  
For the awkward and the shy!  
Jungle passion, raw emotion  
From a bottle you can buy!

BELCORE *(enters, leading in his squadron)*  
As when Paris, drawn to beauty,  
Gave the golden apple to Venus,  
To confirm the bond between us,  
With a flower I come to you.

Yet I claim a greater glory  
Than the hero of my story;  
To repay this tiny token,  
Your heart alone will do.

ADINA *(to the girls)*  
(Shy and modest to a fault!  
Oh, so modest!)

GIANETTA Nicely spoken!

CHORUS Nicely spoken!

NEMORINO (For me it's over!)

BELCORE One can hardly fail to notice  
That you find me appetizing,  
Justly so and not surprising:  
I'm a sergeant. Need I say more?

To the splendor of a helmet  
Bashful beauty must surrender.  
Even Venus, soft and tender,  
Yields to Mars, God of war.

ADINA (Oh, so modest!)

CHORUS (So I gather!)

BELCORE Even Venus, soft and tender,  
Yields to Mars, God of war.

NEMORINO (Utter despair!)

BELCORE As your love matches mine,  
What's the point of further fretting?  
Nod agreement, give a sign,  
And proudly I'll announce the wedding.

ADINA                    Not so hasty! Hold on a moment.  
                              Kindly wait till I reply.

NEMORINO                (Oh, the torture! Oh, the torment!  
                              In despair, I want to die!  
                              Broken-hearted, I shall die.)

ADINA                    Not so hasty! Not so hasty!

BELCORE                 Delay no longer. Delay no longer.  
                              Oh, my treasure! By tomorrow  
                              We can be married, you and I.

ADINA                    Wed in haste, repent at leisure  
                              You are riding far too high.

BELCORE                 Why ponder and procrastinate?  
                              Now is the rose in flower.  
                              In love and war, the hour  
                              Allows of no delay,  
                              And time will not adorn again  
                              The fallen buds of May.  
                              No, no, no more delay!

ADINA                    Too proud and over-confident,  
                              Of love and war you prattle  
                              And claim to win the battle  
                              Before it's underway.  
                              Adina's heart is fortified  
                              For longer than a day,  
                              Far, far, far, far beyond a day.

NEMORINO                (One sliver of his bluster  
                              If only I could borrow!  
                              My manly pride I'd muster  
                              And place it on display.

                              Instead, I'm such a simpleton  
                              I'm lost for what to say.)

GIANETTA and CHORUS  
                              Adina on the firing line!  
                              The two are entertaining.  
                              Adina on the firing line.  
                              Her flighty heart at bay.

                              Oh, no! She's far too clever  
                              To cave in right sway.  
                              Who knows! She may,  
                              But not today.

BELCORE                 The call of love is tender;

End the battle with surrender.  
Give in, give in, my treasure!  
Defend no longer, love, surrender.  
The fight is done, the battle won;  
Fate orders, we obey. We but obey.

ADINA                    You may repent at leisure,  
Remember with dismay.  
Slow down, slow down.  
Sir, why the pressure?  
Who knows? I may,  
But not today.

BELCORE                So after miles of marching  
Here is a pleasing spot.  
My weary soldiers  
Look forward to some leisure  
And some rest in the shade.

ADINA                    Mine is the pleasure.  
Your men no doubt are thirsty  
And would welcome some wine  
Worth celebrating.

BELCORE                You're an angel!  
(Notice well — red carpet treatment!)

ADINA                    *(to peasants)*  
My, what a long siesta!  
Summer heat starts to mellow  
And work is waiting.

CHORUS                 To work! To work!

NEMORINO              One little word, Oh Adina!

ADINA                    Oh, spare me! Not again!  
Another round of sighs.  
Back in the city  
Is the place you belong,  
Close to your uncle  
Who is said to be sick  
Perhaps in danger.

NEMORINO              However much he is hurting,  
My pain is greater.  
I've tried, but cannot leave.  
Need I tell you the reason?

ADINA                    Suppose he dies and names another heir?

NEMORINO              What does it matter?

ADINA                    But you would starve  
And who would even notice?

NEMORINO Not for food but for love I starve already.

ADINA Listen here: You are kind and unassuming,  
 Unlike a certain sergeant  
 Who's so convinced I sigh for his caresses.  
 And so I tell you plainly and sincerely:  
 On me your love is wasted.

Nature has made me flighty,  
 Forever changing.  
 I can love for a moment,  
 And then it's over.

NEMORINO Oh, Adina! Why must it be?

ADINA Ask the Almighty!

Go and ask the carefree breezes  
 Passing by, why none reposes  
 On the lilies or on the roses,  
 Or the meadow green and fair.

They will say that true to nature  
 They are light and made of air.  
 Ever drifting, ever shifting,  
 Ever changeable, now here, now there.

NEMORINO You're suggesting? ...

ADINA Love me no longer!  
 Turn away, and say goodbye.

NEMORINO Dear Adina! No, no, never!

ADINA No, no, never? But why? But why? But why?

NEMORINO You have to ask?

Go and ask the rolling river  
 Why it flows in ceaseless motion  
 To the all-absorbing ocean,  
 Finding there the final goal.  
 It will say, I'm driven onward  
 By a force beyond control.

ADINA You're suggesting? ...

NEMORINO I am that river,  
 Drawn eternally to you.

ADINA Turn to others and find a welcome.

NEMORINO That is more than I can do.  
 Only to you! Only to you!

ADINA Love is crazy, I assure you,  
 Though its edges I can soften.  
 I've a method bound to cure you,  
 Start by changing lovers often.

ADINA As a nail drives out another,  
 Newer loves replace the old.  
 For the record, I'm yet to suffer  
 And my heart remains on hold,  
 My heart on hold.

NEMORINO No! You're my first and only passion.  
 Such a love can never perish.  
 Till the sun grows cold and ashen  
 You alone I love and cherish.

As for taking your suggestion,  
 Changing loves from old to new —  
 One or ten is not the question:  
 None can take the place of you.

ADINA Oh, but yes!

NEMORINO No, no, no.

ADINA Look around you, find another  
 And do so every day or two.

NEMORINO No, no, none can take the place of you.

ADINA You intend, then? ...

NEMORINO To live and die for you.  
 Ever, ever for you.

ADINA Look around you.

NEMORINO No!

ADINA Find another.

NEMORINO No, I can love only you.

ADINA Why only me? Why only me?

Love is crazy, I assure you,  
 But its edges I can soften.  
 I've a method bound to cure you.  
 Start by changing lovers often.

NEMORINO As for taking your suggestion,  
 Changing loves from old to new —  
 One or ten is not the question:  
 None can take the place of you.

ADINA

Look around you, find another.  
And do so every day or two.

*(she exits)*

It is not every day that this out of the way rural backwater is visited by a great man, a celebrity, an aristocrat of royal bearing, a pioneer in the science of medicine, a benefactor of mankind, a wonder worker, a generator of miracles -- he says so himself. And all at affordable rates. Meet Doctor Dulcamara. But first, let me remind you: even today, nearly two hundred years later, the art of selling snake oil is not extinct. Think back! In a moment of weakness or wishful thinking, like me, you may have bought some yourself.

*Scene: The village square.*

CHORUS

*(women)*

Tell us, what is the signal that sounded?

*(men)*

Someone royal!

Behold! Like a king upon a throne  
Or in a gold carriage mounted,  
Comes a stranger from parts yet unknown.  
Noble bearing! Superb as an eagle.  
Awe-inspiring! So lofty and regal.  
Quite unheard of, and yet so enthralling;  
Some great statesman on us comes acalling.

Duke or Lord, we are taking no chances;  
High regard and respect let us show.

Closer, closer! Behold, he advances.  
All hats off for a bow nice and low.  
Make it nice and low.  
Bow, bow, bow, bow.

DULCAMARA

*(entering, with great fanfare)*

You peasants! And others!  
Some quiet, please!  
Now listen, pay attention!

My fame, importance, and expertise  
I hardly need to mention.  
A wonder man, I'm number one  
In mastery of medicine.

The name is Dulcamara,  
Familiar with all cases,  
I'm the man with the aces,  
And known throughout the universe  
And ... and ... and other places.

A servant of humanity,

A friend who never fails you;  
A man devoid of vanity,  
I conquer all that ails you.

To further my philanthropy,  
I travel night and day.  
So come and buy, come buy from me,  
A bargain, by the way.  
Why even mention pay?

This hearty booster made for you  
When silver age approaches  
Not only offers aid for you  
But kills off rats and roaches.

The claim corroborated,  
Confirmed and validated;  
I pass around the document  
For each and all to see.

This bottle offers benefit;  
By tasting now and then of it  
A man well in his eighties,  
Who'd given up on ladies,  
Soon is the proud progenitor  
Of a dozen on his knee,  
And stronger than a stevedore  
Of twenty two or three.

And here's a soothing syrup  
Designed to brace and cheer up;  
Decrepit widows sipping it  
Go skipping off with glee.

You women, spry though elderly,  
Whose playful eye yet twinkles,  
With my exclusive recipe  
Erase unwanted wrinkles.  
You gorgeous girls, I daresay,  
Would salvage your complexion.  
You lads would hear the fair say  
You suit me to perfection.

Come, purchase youth and beauty  
For the pittance that you pay.  
Today is bargain day.

You owe yourself a duty,  
A ticket of admittance  
To eternal youth and beauty  
For the pittance that you pay.

So overcome your malady,  
Improve your personality,  
Combat unkind reality,

Rejuvenate, reinvigorate ...

When down with laryngitis, hepatitis  
Or Saint Vitus,  
Not to mention hypertension,  
Here's the bottle that you need.

Perhaps you have a tendency  
To alcohol dependency,  
Your waist is getting bigger,  
You have lost your vim and vigor;

Work and play are going poorly  
And you're balding prematurely;  
The need is urgent surely  
For a friend to intercede.

So purchase, purchase, one and all!  
You toddlers from the nursery,  
You codgers facing surgery,  
You can't afford delay.  
Oh, yes! A bargain, by the way.  
You barely have to pay.

On the road I've weathered crisis,  
Seldom resting, often walking.  
You are asking what the price is?  
How much money are we talking?

A hundred lire? No!  
Thirty? No! Twenty? ...

Now do not be offended,  
But you've made my stay so pleasant  
With the welcome you've extended  
That I wish to make a present —  
To you each a crown for free!

CHORUS

Such a gift and we're offended?  
Taking money's fine with me,  
It's fine with me.

DULCAMARA

I'll explain: for this outstanding  
Vintage from a finer era  
Throughout Europe I'm demanding  
Never less than thirty lire.

But 'tis known to every yokel,  
Native born, my roots are local.  
Thus, although you'll think me jesting,  
Only three I'm now requesting.

So with each and every purchase —  
Be it noted and recorded —  
Every buyer goes rewarded

With a profit in the clear.

CHORUS           That convinces me; I'll buy it!  
I can hardly wait to try it.

DULCAMARA       Take it ... three lire ... three only ...

CHORUS           For a friend so wise and gifted,  
For a doctor fair and square,  
We extend a grateful prayer.

DULCAMARA       I'm inspired, indeed uplifted  
When I breathe my native air.  
My air! My air!  
*(Exeunt all but Dulcamara and Nemorino)*

NEMORINO        (There's hope! Perhaps the heavens  
Have sent this man of science here on purpose.  
Arriving just today from such a distance,  
Wise and unworldly, he will give me assistance.)

Oh, doctor! ... Beg your pardon ...  
My neighbors praise in chorus  
The wonders you've discovered ...

DULCAMARA       Not surprising. My bag has been likened  
To the box of Pandora's.

NEMORINO        And could perchance it hold a  
Tiny drop of the love elixir  
Of Queen Isolda?

DULCAMARA       What? Who? Isolda?

NEMORINO        I'm referring ... there's an age old elixir,  
Known for stirring passion.

DULCAMARA       Ah, yes, yes! Familiar. I follow.  
I distill it by the bottle.

NEMORINO        You're the maker?

DULCAMARA       Yes ... in the great world of fashion  
It is ever in demand.

NEMORINO        Ah! I'm in luck! You sell to many?

DULCAMARA       Every day in every season.

NEMORINO        It must cost a pretty penny.

DULCAMARA       Next to nothing.

NEMORINO        Nothing!

DULCAMARA           Of course ... in reason.

NEMORINO           *(showing money)*  
All I've got ... I have no more.

DULCAMARA           The exact amount I'm asking for!

NEMORINO           Take it, Doctor! Oh, be quick, sir!

DULCAMARA           *(producing a bottle)*  
Here's your magic love elixir.

NEMORINO           Oh, so grateful, and so contented!  
Soon to see the struggle ended.  
My elixir I am presented,  
By a friend so wise and kind.  
What a friend, so wise and kind!

DULCAMARA           (Many countries I've frequented;  
Many fools have I befriended;  
None to match him will you find,  
None so blissful, none so blind.)  
*(The doctor starts to leave)*

NEMORINO           Please, oh doctor, wait a moment!  
One more favor, don't refuse it.  
Tell me how I am to use it.

DULCAMARA           With precaution, with composure.  
Shake the bottle, oh so slightly ...  
Now uplifted, hold it tightly.  
Bring the lip a little closer;  
Now I favor going slow, sir.

NEMORINO           Right ... right ...

DULCAMARA           Tip it toward you, now you sip it.  
As you swallow, refrain from speaking.  
The result that you are seeking  
Follows soon without delay.

NEMORINO           Any minute?

DULCAMARA           I'm not a liar;  
Nothing happens till tomorrow.  
(All the time that I require  
For a speedy getaway.)

NEMORINO           Is it tasty?

DULCAMARA           Like ambrosia!

NEMORINO           Like ambrosia?

DULCAMARA           Like ambrosia!

(Cheap Bordeaux, bought yesterday.)

NEMORINO

Oh, so grateful, and so contented!  
Soon to see the struggle ended.  
My elixir I am presented,  
By a friend so wise and kind,

Oh, so grateful, and so contented!  
Soon to see the struggle ended.  
My elixir I am presented,  
By a friend, one of a kind.  
What a friend, so wise and kind!

*(Nemorino starts to leave)*

DULCAMARA

Oh, young man! Wait! Wait!

NEMORINO

Yes, doctor?

DULCAMARA

Just a word ...  
Discretion, please! Say nothing ... Stay quiet.  
Petty bureaucrats are waiting  
For the mixer of elixir.

NEMORINO

Oh!

DULCAMARA

As ever, eager and intent on regulating.  
*(with mystery)*  
To the law a man is liable,  
Taking on the status quo.  
Silence is crucial.

NEMORINO

On my mother's holy Bible,  
Not a soul on earth shall know.

DULCAMARA

On your way, you lucky mortal;  
I have opened wide the portal.  
Slight or burly, sweet or surly,  
Women all for you will sigh.

NEMORINO

Only one has my devotion;  
For her alone I down the potion.  
For my darling, my all, my only.  
I go bravely, prepared to die.

DULCAMARA

(By tomorrow, bright and early,  
I shall go without goodbye.)

NEMORINO

Lucky lover, before so lonely!  
Bless you, brother, for passing by.

DULCAMARA

Don't forget.

NEMORINO

Gladly.

DULCAMARA

We must keep it confidential,

A secret.

NEMORINO            On the bible.  
Not a soul on earth shall know.

DULCAMARA        We must keep it confidential,  
Utter secrecy essential.

NEMORINO            Word of honor. on the Bible.  
Lucky lover, before so lonely.  
Bless you, friend for passing by.

DULCAMARA        (By tomorrow, bright and early,  
I shall go without goodbye.)

*(Dulcamara goes into the inn.)*

NEMORINO            Now you are mine, all mine!  
Marvelous elixir!  
How awesome is your power.  
Even before I lift you to my lips,  
My heart is leaping,  
And my pulse is pounding.  
After a sip is taken,  
Wait for results to ripen.  
Not till a day's gone by  
Will love awaken.  
Now to drink!  
*(he drinks)*  
Delicious! Like wine! Another swallow!  
*(drinks again)*  
My veins are filled with fire,  
Fanned by a sweet desire ...  
Perhaps the flame  
Even this very minute  
She's begun to feel as well.  
All's going right;  
I'm on top of the world,  
Bright as a button.  
I've got an appetite,  
All of a sudden.  
Lallaralla la, la, la, la.

*(Sitting on a bench he pulls bread and fruit from his pocket and eats while singing.)*

ADINA                *(entering)* (A raving loony!  
Who is it? Not Nemorino!  
Sounding happy ... something new.)

NEMORINO            Jiminy! She's here!  
*(starts to run toward her, then stops)*  
No, no! I know my cue.  
I must be patient;  
Languid sighs are now taboo.  
But wait! Tomorrow is the birth of romance;  
Then she'll adore me.

ADINA (Not even one tiny glance!  
Does he ignore me?)

NEMORINO Lallaralla la, la, la, la la ...

ADINA (He has to be pretending,  
Or can the joy be true?  
He's snickering and scoffing,  
I'll find out if he's bluffing.)

NEMORINO (Too soon to look for loving,  
But fire is in the offing.)

ADINA Ha ha ha!

NEMORINO Again with scornful mockery  
She plays upon my sorrow.  
Tomorrow comes the turnabout;  
I only need to wait.  
Unshakable, I only need to wait,  
I need but wait.

ADINA The more he tries to break away  
The more the chains are binding.  
He'll find the ties of yesterday  
Tomorrow tighter yet.  
Unbreakable, tomorrow tighter yet.

NEMORINO Lallaralla la, la, la, la la ...

ADINA Bravissimo! You've listened to my lesson.  
You're taking love more lightly.

NEMORINO You see that I have profited;  
The future beckons brightly.

ADINA Gone is the pining lover?

NEMORINO That comedy is over.

ADINA Even the leaping fire ...

NEMORINO Will flicker and expire.  
Another day should do it,  
By then I shall be free.

ADINA Indeed ... I am delighted.  
However ... we shall see.

NEMORINO One day will do it.

ADINA We shall see ... We shall see ...

NEMORINO (Of pain she makes a mockery,

But fate is fast unwinding.  
 Tomorrow comes the turnabout;  
 I only need to wait.)

ADINA (The more he tries to break away  
 The more the chains are binding.)  
 He'll find the chains of yesterday  
 Tomorrow tighter yet.

BELCORE (*offstage*)  
 Tran tran tran ... tran.  
 In love as well as war  
 Delay will lose the battle.

ADINA (Belcore just when needed.)

BELCORE I leap into the saddle  
 In love as well as war.

NEMORINO (As pompous as before.)

BELCORE I leap into the saddle  
 In love as well as war.  
 (*he enters*)

ADINA Oh, sergeant, bold and splendid,  
 The fortress can you conquer?

BELCORE However well defended,  
 My arms will prove the stronger.

ADINA Now tending toward surrender,  
 Is not the fall in sight?

BELCORE Ah, sooner now than later!

ADINA This minute, it's giving up the fight.

BELCORE Darling! So you capitulate!

NEMORINO (Despite myself, I'm worried.)

BELCORE Speak out at once and name the day.  
 When are we getting married?

ADINA Without delay.

NEMORINO (Good heavens!)

BELCORE But name it.

ADINA In one week.

BELCORE Ah! How happy you have made me!  
 Seven days! How delightful!

NEMORINO            Ha ha ha ha! Hee hee hee hee!  
I laugh with glee, I laugh with glee.  
By then will she belong to me.

BELCORE             He's laughing like an idiot;  
I find it less amusing.  
About to get belligerent,  
I'll boot him out of here.

ADINA                (So light of heart and nonchalant!  
His manner's most confusing.  
My wedding ought to generate  
At least a tiny tear.

                          Outrageous! Not a tear!  
No, not a single tiny tear.  
My wedding ought to generate  
At least a tiny tear. one tiny tear.

NEMORINO            Though quick to throw his weight about,  
The mighty lion's losing.  
Tomorrow he will learn too late  
Who has the right to cheer.

                          Tomorrow not he but I  
Will earn the right to give the cheer.  
Tomorrow he will learn too late  
Who has the right to cheer.

GIANETTA            (*entering*)  
Oh, sergeant, sergeant! It's very urgent.  
Your worried soldiers for you are searching.

BELCORE             What blow? What crisis?  
Have some been wounded?

SOLDIERS            (*rushing in*) One of our runners, arriving winded,  
Has brought an order you're to read right now.

BELCORE            (*takes the letter*)  
The captain's writing. Hell!  
Ah! Oh, well, that's life.  
Oh, well, that's life.  
Come, fellow soldiers,  
We must be off.

SOLDIERS            Be off? But when, sir?

BELCORE             Tomorrow morning.

SOLDIERS            Oh, God! So soon!

NEMORINO            (One down for Adina!)

BELCORE             A soldier must obey

And be resigned.

SOLDIERS            Another cross to bear! Hell and damnation!  
 Yes, every day it's a new location.  
 And grieving lovers we leave behind.

GIRLS                You're off? So soon? Hell and damnation!

BELCORE            *(to Adina)*  
 Tomorrow I leave you.  
 Before separating,  
 Adina, tell me once again  
 That you'll be waiting.

NEMORINO          *(Yes, but tomorrow Adina's mine.)*

ADINA                No separation will come between us.  
 I gave a promise I mean to keep.

NEMORINO          *(Tomorrow! Ah, ha!)*

BELCORE            Darling!

NEMORINO          *(Till that tomorrow  
 I shall not sleep.)*

BELCORE            To those in love, delay is galling.  
 What are we waiting for? Why are we stalling?  
 Why not get married this very day?

NEMORINO          *(This very day!)*

ADINA                *(He now looks shaken.)*  
 Of course! This evening.

NEMORINO          This evening!  
 Oh, Adina! You must postpone it!

ADINA                Whatever for?

NEMORINO          Hold out till later.

ADINA                Why so?

NEMORINO          Wait till tomorrow!

ADINA                Why so?

BELCORE            Who's asking you? Stay out of this.  
 Stay out of this, you're in the way.

NEMORINO          Until tomorrow! Yes, yes, tomorrow!  
 Adina, no! Not today!

Adina, tearfully I must implore you,

A gaping chasm may lie before you.  
A fatal error can be prevented  
By merely waiting one little day.  
A hasty marriage is seldom mended,  
And you will suffer as much as I.

BELCORE As all too clearly demonstrated,  
You're crazy, or merely intoxicated.  
I'd tear you up into tiny pieces,  
But you are obviously insane.  
Be off! You boulder!  
Prepare for crisis  
If I encounter  
You here again.  
Prepare for crisis if we should meet.

NEMORINO (Where's the doctor?)

ADINA Show some compassion — he's just a lad yet,  
A little awkward, a little mad yet.  
He is persuaded I ought to love him,  
Intoxicated with love of me.  
(I shall torment him until I have him  
Again repentant upon his knee.)

BELCORE Be off! And Hurry ... You oaf ...  
You're unwanted.  
Prepare for crisis if I encounter  
You here again.

CHORUS That nincompoop must be deluded,  
For as a suitor, he's so unsuited.  
He must be deluded, such conceit!  
A suitor unsuited, he would dare compete.  
For by and large, an army sergeant  
Has the higher card to play.  
His chosen queen, the divine Adina, I mean,  
Will marry the man today.

ADINA Come on, Belcore,  
A notary is needed.

NEMORINO (Oh, doctor! Oh, doctor!  
In vain I have pleaded.)

CHORUS Demented! Deluded!

ADINA (For insult he must pay;  
The clown has to pay.)

I'm giving a party  
And all are invited.

BELCORE Gianetta, get ready —  
There's dancing tonight.

CHORUS                   A ball and a banquet —  
That's doing it right!  
For all, sheer delight.

NEMORINO                Oh, doctor, I need you!  
Oh, doctor, doctor; Help me out.

ALL EXCEPT NEMORINO  
Elated, delighted,  
Tonight {you're/we're} invited  
For dancing, romancing,  
All pleasures entrancing,  
Where love will be thriving  
With passion to spare.  
(In deep he is diving —  
The devil may care!  
Ha ha ha ha!)

NEMORINO                Rejected, excluded,  
A suitor unsuited  
For dancing, romancing,  
All pleasures entrancing,  
For all of my striving  
I'm down to despair.  
In deep I am diving,  
But what does she care?  
Alas, alack! The doctor not here.  
Oh, doctor, where are you?  
Oh, doctor, oh, where? Oh where?

### End of Act I

Doctor Dulcamara, honest man that he is, has scrupulously specified that the miraculous love elixir that Nemorino has so gratefully purchased with his last few pennies does not take effect immediately -- in fact not for twenty four hours. An effect, alas, that the good doctor, called away by his tireless zeal to serve humanity, will not be present to witness. Yet the effect on shy Nemorino has been immediate and startling. Backed by his confidence in the power of the potion, he can actually scoff when Adina announces her engagement to dashing Sergeant Belcore -- not exactly the reaction that she had anticipated. But Nemorino has nothing to worry about. The wedding is not to take place for a week. By that time the elixir will have done its work.

His nonchalance is shattered, however, when the wedding date is moved up -- moved up to this very evening. Twelve hours too soon! Calamity! The situation has suddenly become desperate. Tragedy is about to unfold, and it would seem there is no way of stopping it.

The notary has already arrived. The wedding party has begun. And every-body is having a rousing good time. Well, everybody with one exception. No, let's make it two exceptions. Personally, I do not find Adina's attempt at

gaiety and celebration all that convincing. Could it be that she is having second thoughts about her hasty decision to become Mrs. Belcore?

## ACT II

*Scene: A large room in Adina's farmhouse, where a wedding feast is in progress*

CHORUS                    Together! A song!  
                                Salute the two about to be  
                                United by the notary.  
                                May perfect peace and harmony  
                                Light up their happy home.

BELCORE                    I live for wine and women,  
                                Together an inspiration,  
                                A cure and consolation  
                                When skies have become too glum.

ADINA                        (I see no Nemorino;  
                                I wanted him to come.)

CHORUS                    Again! Sing on!  
                                Salute the two about to be  
                                United by the notary.  
                                May perfect peace and harmony  
                                Light up their happy home.

DULCAMARA                Because the night is young,  
                                You couples slyly flirting  
                                Might profit from a song  
                                Instructive and diverting.

                                So well you've satisfied me,  
                                I'll demonstrate my art  
                                If the lovely bride beside me  
                                Will take the other part.

CHORUS                    The master of diseases  
                                Can order what he pleases.  
                                Hurray for Dulcamara,  
                                The doctor with a heart,  
                                The man with heart!

DULCAMARA                (*announcing*) "Nina and the Senior Senator"

                                Two singers plus a chorus.  
                                Be ready!

CHORUS                    We're ready!

DULCAMARA                You are pert and I am portly;  
                                You have beauty, I've a yacht.  
                                Why resist me, love, when shortly  
                                You can gather all I've got?

ADINA                    Gallant senior of the senate,  
To the honor I reply,  
I would wed you in a minute  
But I dare not aim so high.

DULCAMARA            Can your heart remain so hard  
When I stand at your command?

ADINA                    Though so glad of your regard,  
I'm unworthy of your hand.

CHORUS                   Brava, bra...

DULCAMARA            Not yet! Hold it!

                              My beloved, think it over;  
I can offer you a lot.  
By and by you will discover  
Love is fragile, gold is not.

ADINA                    From a senior of the senate  
Such an honor, thank you, sir!  
Yet I see no future in it;  
There's a young man I prefer.

DULCAMARA            Can your heart remain so hard  
When I stand at your command?

ADINA                    Though for you I've great regard,  
I like someone not so grand.

CHORUS                   Dulcamara, take a bow, sir,  
For your perky rabble-rouser.  
Reminiscing and recalling,  
We'll be falling at your feet.

DULCAMARA            In his glory with a story,  
Dulcamara's hard to beat,

CHORUS                   In his glory with a story,  
Dulcamara's hard to beat,

BELCORE                Be silent! Now greet the notary.  
He comes to write my ticket,  
Express to paradise.

CHORUS                   A hearty welcome.

DULCAMARA            *(to the notary)*  
My greetings and salutations,  
Guardian of love,  
Distributor of blessing ...

ADINA                    (Here is the notary,

But Nemorino's missing.)

BELCORE Now now, my lovely Venus,  
What cloud has come between us?  
Speak, do not keep me guessing.

ADINA No, it's nothing.  
(Yes, I require his presence.  
His role in my revenge is of the essence.)

BELCORE Come on, the notary waits,  
And time is pressing. (*Exeunt all but Dulcamara*)

DULCAMARA These weddings I would label  
Harmless fun for the rabble.  
That being said,  
Far greater is the pleasure  
Of the spread just ahead upon the table.

NEMORINO (*entering and thinking aloud*)  
Yes, the notary's prepared,  
No getting round it ...  
And for Nemorino!  
Not a hope not a prayer.  
How can I face it?

DULCAMARA "My beloved, think it over,  
Take a senator in love ... "

NEMORINO Doctor! Salvation!

DULCAMARA Oh, yes! The happy couple  
Gave me a warm invitation.  
My appetite and thirst are returning.

NEMORINO And I am suicidal,  
Driven to desperation.  
Oh, doctor!  
I need results from the potion before tomorrow ...  
At once, right away!

DULCAMARA (As loony as ever!)  
I advise a double dose.  
Swift action will follow.

NEMORINO This very day  
She cannot help but adore me?

DULCAMARA Including all other women.  
Yes, if you wish to accelerate  
The elixir's power,  
Another swallow is guaranteed.  
(I'm gone in half an hour.)

NEMORINO Dear Doctor, I must get another bottle.

DULCAMARA Glad to oblige. Delighted to help a man in need.  
Have you some money?

NEMORINO I've nothing left.

DULCAMARA Dear boy! This turns the case around some.  
Return at once, the moment you have found some.  
I shall be waiting, most eager,  
At the local tavern.  
I've fifteen minutes only.  
*(he exits)*

NEMORINO Each minute blacker!  
*(throws himself on a bench)*

BELCORE *(enters, speaking to himself)*  
There's no explaining women!  
Sooner fathom the ocean.  
How else to say it?  
Adina loves and adores me,  
All set to marry,  
Now asking to delay it.

NEMORINO (My happy rival!  
While he can smile and gloat,  
I tear my hair out.)

BELCORE (So frantic! Back again from God knows where.)  
Well, well. Friend, what explains  
That look of wild despair?

NEMORINO Despair indeed. And why? ...  
Because I have no money,  
And no way to acquire it.

BELCORE Don't be a booby.  
If the problem is money,  
Come join the army.  
Signed up, you'll wind up with twenty scudi.

NEMORINO Twenty scudi!

BELCORE A silver lining.

NEMORINO When? Right now?

BELCORE For merely signing.

NEMORINO (What's to lose?)

BELCORE An invitation  
To defend and serve the nation.

NEMORINO Ah! The call I leave to others.

I've a closer goal in mind.

BELCORE Rest assured that as a soldier,  
Lots of love you cannot fail to find.  
No, no, no! Lots of love you cannot fail to find.

NEMORINO Ah, no! Ah, no! Ah!  
Drawn to battle, fraught with dangers,  
I must leave this land I stand on.

BELCORE Twenty scudi!

NEMORINO By tomorrow, for utter strangers,  
Friends and neighbors I must abandon.

BELCORE For merely signing!

NEMORINO Though my star of hope is waning,  
I've no other course remaining.  
Ah, to gain the heart I've prayed for  
I have only got today.

Love is all I join the brigade for.  
Forced to the wall, I must now do more than pray.  
Life is nothing without Adina.  
Determined, determined, I must do more than pray.

BELCORE Drum and trumpet make it merry  
For the marching military;  
Bugles, banners and confetti,  
Second helpings of spaghetti ...  
Ways are muddy, battles bloody,  
Still it's ever buddy-buddy;  
Weekend leave and ladies pining,  
Rowdy fun and steady pay;  
Twenty scudi just for signing.  
Join the army, march away.

NEMORINO Twenty scudi.

BELCORE Just for signing.

NEMORINO All right. Settled. I've decided.

BELCORE Here's the contract ... Look it over ...  
Read and sign it ... You will pass.  
*(after Nemorino hesitates)*  
Well, make a cross.

NEMORINO *(signs rapidly and takes the purse)*  
Dulcamara now to locate at any cost!  
Now to locate before all's lost.

BELCORE Rugged soldier, newly mustered,  
Now a private, be it noted;

Cool in crisis, watch unflustered,  
Botch and bungle and get promoted.  
You can live to be saluted  
If you follow, merely follow my advice.  
*(laughs)*  
(My own rival I've recruited;  
This could never happen twice. No!)

NEMORINO Undeterred by tools unmastered,  
For the sum that you have quoted  
I go onward, at best a bastard,  
Ever constant and devoted.  
On the road, my path rerouted  
Yet may lead to paradise.  
Though for storm and strife unsuited,  
For my love I'd pay the price.

BELCORE Join the army, fight for freedom;  
Wine and women when you need 'em.

NEMORINO Desperation drives me to it;  
Yes, I'll hold my nose and do it.

BELCORE Cheerful maties, tearful ladies;  
Lots of fun and steady pay,  
So join the army, march away.

NEMORINO And twenty scudi right away.

*Scene: the village square; chorus and Gianetta enter*

GIRLS Can this be possible?

GIANETTA Extremely possible.

GIRLS But so improbable.

GIANETTA Far more than probable!

GIRLS But why to you? Or were you there?

GIANETTA Softer!

GIRLS When did you hear it?  
Who from? And where?

GIANETTA Be careful, not a sound!  
Don't spread the word around.  
Speak even lower ...  
The need for secrecy  
For now is urgent.  
I've just encountered  
A village merchant  
Who spoke in confidence  
To me alone.

GIRLS                   A village merchant  
To you alone!  
Some news of consequence  
Till now unknown.

GIANETTA             Softer ... Softer ... Careful.

GIRLS                   Some news of consequence,  
And said in confidence  
To you alone, to you alone!

GIANETTA             *(mysteriously)*  
You'll not repeat what I confide.  
Poor Nemorino! His uncle has died.  
Fond of his nephew, he's left the lad  
His property, his money — all that he had.

                          But hold your tongue, I again entreat.  
It's confidential!  
Do not repeat.

GIRLS                   Depend on me to be discreet.

GIANETTA             Careful!

GIRLS                   Careful!

GIANETTA AND GIRLS

Dear Nemorino, soon to inherit  
A tidy fortune, with none to share it.  
The perfect husband! No man can match him.  
Unless I run, someone else will snatch him.

But whisper softer, let me entreat.  
Most confidential! Do not repeat.

Dear Nemorino now has millions,  
A man I've thought all along so sweet.  
A man with millions, but do not repeat.

*(As Nemorino approaches, the girls retreat into the background, observing him with curiosity.)*

NEMORINO            I have consumed great quantities,  
Double the dose required;  
Now after waiting patiently,  
Its warmth I feel inside.  
Such warmth I feel inside.

The hope the doctor promised me  
For love so long desired,  
The rapture once so far away  
The elixir will provide.

GIRLS                   (So lost in thought, so far away!

He's not been notified.)

NEMORINO            *(leaving)* To her!

GIANETTA            What can I do for you?

NEMORINO            Gianetta!

GIRLS                Can I be helpful? Can I be helpful?

NEMORINO            (They appear so sweet, so approachable ...  
Putting on! Making fun!)

GIANETTA, echoed by GIRLS  
Dear, darling Nemorino!  
So handsome, so desirable!  
The perfect gentleman.  
What a man!

NEMORINO            Ah! I've got it!  
Behold the miracle!  
It's working! It's working!  
Love's magic has begun.  
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

ADINA and DULCAMARA  
*(entering separately)* Amazing!

NEMORINO            Irresistible!  
*(seeing Dulcamara)*  
You told me it would happen.  
One dose is down and right away  
The girls are at my feet.

ADINA                Surrounded!

DULCAMARA            I had no doubt of it.  
*(to girls)* You like him?

GIRLS                Close to perfection!  
No words can do him justice,  
So strong and yet so sweet.

ADINA                (I'm baffled, bewildered and mortified.  
He's laughing instead of lamenting,  
Thus clearly indicating  
His former love for me is dead.)

GIANETTA            (For me I've got him targeted.  
I grow each minute fonder.  
To make him want to marry me  
Some luck is all I need.)

NEMORINO            (Can words convey my gratitude  
For joy and bliss unending?)

If each and all are drawn to me,  
 My darling must join the stampede.)  
*(to Dulcamara)*  
 All because of you!

DULCAMARA      (I'm thunderstruck and stupefied;  
 I cannot help but wonder.  
 The miracle is happening  
 Exactly as I said.)

GIRLS            (For me I've got him targeted.  
 I grow each minute fonder.  
 To make him want to marry me  
 Some luck is all I need.)

GIANETTA        *(to Nemorino)*  
 Here in the garden  
 We're throwing a party.  
 You are invited.

NEMORINO        Me you can count on.

GIRLS            Dancing for certain!  
 With me.

GIANETTA        I want the first.  
 That you must promise.

GIRLS            Oh greedy, greedy!  
 Me also! Me also!  
 My sweetie!

GIANETTA        Ignore them.

NEMORINO        Easy! I've chosen.  
*(to Gianetta)*  
 You for the first one ...  
*(to the other girls)*  
 Then you ... then you ...

DULCAMARA      Heaven preserve us!  
 Swarming like flies!  
 What if my own ballyhoo be true?  
 What if? What if? ...

ADINA            Eh! Nemorino!

NEMORINO        (Adina also!)

DULCAMARA      (And now another!)

ADINA            News of importance.  
 Belcore tells me that for merely pennies  
 You have enlisted to join the army.

GIRLS	The army! Impossible!
ADINA	A bad decision! An act of madness! I've more to say. Believe me! Believe me!
NEMORINO	I'm all attention, I'm all attention. I am a soldier as of today.
GIRLS	Oh hurry to the party. Come on, come on, come on.
NEMORINO	Already overcome with new emotion, Soon will she recognize The power of the potion. These sweet anxieties unveil the lover; Though undercover, love cannot hide.
ADINA	(How like a thunderbolt This change of feeling! Turmoil and discontent Now send me reeling.  Love has it out for me, A stubborn claimant Demanding payment For former pride.)
DULCAMARA	(Robust and amorous They wage a battle In open rivalry Because of my bottle.  A proven miracle! The vendor of it Will reap a profit Well justified.)
GIRLS	(Of all the loveliest Here in our valley, I am best qualified, Not Sue or Sally.  For daily nourishment So sweet and filling, I'm not unwilling To be his bride.)
	<i>(Nemorino exits with Gianetta and the girls)</i>
ADINA	Off and away, so happy!
DULCAMARA	I get the credit.
ADINA	All of it yours?

DULCAMARA Entirely ... Far more than one supposes,  
Joy is mine to command.  
Mine is the potion  
Made in part out of roses,  
A special version —  
No, neither Hindu, Persian nor Egyptian.  
His happiness he owes  
To my prescription.

ADINA What nonsense!

DULCAMARA You call it nonsense!  
You're skeptical? You astound me!  
You're unaware  
Of the rapture and fire I spread around me  
With the elixir of Isolda  
For whom it first was fated.

ADINA Isolda?

DULCAMARA Isolda. It's secret I've researched and recreated.

ADINA (So that's it!) To Nemorino  
You gave this fatal brew?

DULCAMARA When he implored,  
Hoping to gain the favor  
Of a disdainful beauty.

ADINA So much he loved her?

DULCAMARA Too much so! For the outlook  
Seemed day by day more tragic.  
So to obtain a supply of my awe-inspiring magic,  
He sold his very soul, became a soldier.

ADINA Love he offered, and I rejected;  
I denied his tearful plea!

DULCAMARA (Now repentant, redirected,  
She will turn to Doctor D.)

ADINA So heartless! So heartless!  
After tasting, has Nemorino  
Found the love he so desired?

DULCAMARA Swarming girls are in a daze; he  
Has them hot and going crazy.

ADINA Ah! So surrounded, so much admired,  
Has he chosen among the many?

DULCAMARA Of the barnyard he's commander;  
Geese are flocking round the gander.

ADINA (I alone was blind to merit,  
Blind to love sincere and true.)

DULCAMARA (Too enamored soon to bear it!  
Doctor, here is work for you.)

ADINA (Blind to merit, I denied his fearful plea.)

DULCAMARA (Too enamored soon to bear it  
She will turn to Doctor D.)

Fair Adina ... stay a moment ...  
May I venture a friendly comment?  
You are smitten, your heart is aching.  
To a trained observer, there's no mistaking.  
I can help you ...

ADINA You want to help me?

DULCAMARA Born a fixer,  
I can heal the broken-hearted.  
I can mix a new elixir,  
Guaranteed to pull you through.  
Often known as Mister Fixer,  
I've the formula for you.

ADINA I shall call on you when sick, sir,  
But for now it will not do.

DULCAMARA With a pack of lovers pining  
You will have to hire a bouncer.

ADINA You'll forgive me for declining,  
I prefer to settle down, sir.

DULCAMARA Make a hoard of women jealous,  
High and mighty, low and humble.

ADINA As the wise so often tell us,  
Pride is bound to take a tumble.

DULCAMARA Maybe gold, you find enticing?

ADINA Give me cake without the icing.

DULCAMARA Wed a title that some would die for.

ADINA Nemorino I shall try for.

DULCAMARA Stir a passion, raise a fever;  
The effect I guarantee.

ADINA Go and tell the true believer.  
Sir, your fix is not for me.



A smile to wipe away the furtive tear!  
Heaven at last so near,  
Granting in full my sole desire.

*(He sees Adina approaching)*

There she is ...  
The love unborn till today  
Heightens her beauty.  
I'd better play the game  
Of seeming not to care,  
Give her a tiny dose of despair.

ADINA                    Nemorino ... Do tell me ...  
Frankly, why are you leaving  
For the life of a soldier?  
Why the decision?

NEMORINO                Because ... Because it's time for a change.  
I want a chance to try my luck  
And prove that I can make the grade.

ADINA                    For me your life  
And your safety are important.  
Yes, and to prove it,  
I have purchased the contract from Belcore.

NEMORINO                You bought it? (I know the reason:  
It's called "amore".)

ADINA                    For you! Freedom is yours to claim again.  
Why head for unknown places  
Far from familiar faces?

Here you were born and bred. Take it.  
*(hands him the contract)*

Here you are loved by one and all,  
Praised for your kindness and caring.  
No pain is past all repairing:  
Clear, brighter days lie ahead.  
You'll see.

No pain is past repairing.  
A brighter future lies ahead.  
You'll see.

NEMORINO                (Confession coming!)

ADINA                    Goodby now.

NEMORINO                What! Are you leaving?

ADINA                    Well ... yes.

NEMORINO                With nothing more to tell me?

ADINA I've finished.

NEMORINO Then keep the contract!  
*(returns contract to her)*

NEMORINO *(in desperation)*  
If love is now denied to me,  
I choose to die a soldier;  
Because the doctor lied to me,  
My life is only pain.  
I'd rather die a soldier;  
The doctor led me on.

ADINA Not he but I misled you.  
For now the light's begun to dawn.  
How can I pretend?  
Proud no more ... I'll no longer taunt you.

NEMORINO No?

ADINA So dear to me,  
Yes, I love you, want you.

NEMORINO You love me?

ADINA I love you,

NEMORINO Me?

ADINA Need you,

NEMORINO Me?

ADINA Want you.

NEMORINO Oh, joy! At last, my dream come true!

ADINA I shall repay with happiness  
All I have made you suffer.

NEMORINO You love me? The doctor did not lie!

ADINA No.

NEMORINO Oh, joy beyond imagining!

ADINA My hand and heart I offer.

NEMORINO Oh, joy!

ADINA Forgive my former cruelty;  
My heart's grown wiser and warmer.  
Forgive the scorn of former days;  
My blunders I blush to remember.

In tender and sweeter surrender  
Together we both now can sigh;  
Above the scorn of days gone by,  
We'll love forevermore.

NEMORINO Oh! Joy beyond imagining!

ADINA Darling!

NEMORINO How well the doctor knew!  
All he foretold came true.

*(Belcore, soldiers, and girls enter)*

BELCORE Forward, soldiers ... Adina!  
To this clodhopper must I surrender?

ADINA That sums it up. I've chosen.  
So it's hail to the winner,  
He is the one  
I want for a husband.  
What is done ...

BELCORE ... is done.  
He carries off the glory,  
Me getting none.  
All very fine and dandy!  
The world is full of women  
Hungry for Belcore.

DULCAMARA *(appearing from nowhere)*  
In case of need,  
I've an elixir handy.

NEMORINO Heaven and earth  
I owe to Dulcamara!

CHORUS The doctor?

DULCAMARA Who else? Young fellow, congratulations!  
Heir to a handsome bounty  
That will make you the envy of the county,  
Left to you by your uncle.

ADINA & NEM. His (my) uncle dead?

GIANETTA I knew already.

DULCAMARA See the proof in the pudding.  
A stunning demonstration  
That confirms all I've said.  
Just think: not only does my miracle drink,  
So wholesome and healthy,  
Turn vanity and pride into devotion,

It makes the true believer wealthy.

CHORUS

Oh, what a potion!

DULCAMARA

Here you'll find a friend unfailing,  
Nature's booster in a bottle,  
Guarantee of smoother sailing,  
Certified by Aristotle.  
Daily those of note proclaim it  
Good for nose or throat — you name it —  
Kidney, lung or liver trouble,  
Down the list from A to Z.

CHORUS

Take an order, then redouble.  
Doctor, save enough for me!

DULCAMARA

It will soothe your howling baby,  
Renovate worn out libidos,  
Stimulate affection, maybe  
Give protection from mosquitoes.  
Good for pimples, for carbuncles,  
For dispatching wealthy uncles;  
For the newly wedded couple  
'Twill foretell fertility.

CHORUS

Take an order, then redouble.  
Doctor, save enough for me!

DULCAMARA

Lucky people, thus in leaving,  
I bequeath to you a treasure.  
With a purchase, you're achieving  
Longer life and lasting pleasure.  
Be of cheer and stay lighthearted;  
Spread the riches here imparted;  
Now and then, you may remember  
Dulcamara far away.

ADINA and NEMORINO

Bliss and happiness we owe you.  
With your fabulous elixir  
We have seen the light of day.

BELCORE

You're a fraud, a fake, a trickster!  
But someday I'll make you pay.

DULCAMARA

I leave you! Addio! Addio!

CHORUS

Do return when you can stay.  
Addio! Addio!

**The End**