

Cavalleria Rusticana

by Pietro Mascagni

Cast

SANTUZZA, a peasant girl (soprano)
TURIDDU, a young villager recently returned from the army (tenor)
LUCIA, his mother (contralto)
ALFIO, the village teamster (baritone)
LOLA, his wife (mezzo-soprano)
CHORUS: Villagers

PRELUDE

Siciliana

TURIDDU

behind the curtain

O Lola, white and red as the cherry
In your nightdress white as milk,
When you appear at the window you smile;
Happy he who gave you your first kiss!
The mark of blood is over your door,
But I care not if I am killed;
If through you I die and go to Paradise,
It will not be Paradise for me unless you are
there. Ah!

ONLY ACT

*A square in the village. In the background right,
a church with a door. On the left, the inn and
Mother Lucia's house. At first the stage is empty.
Dawn is breaking.*

Scene One

Chorus

CHORUS

from within

Ah!

WOMEN

from within

The orange trees in the green groves
Scent the air,
The larks sing
Through the flowering myrtles;

Now is the time
For everyone to murmur
The tender song
Which quickens the heart.

The women enter.

MEN

from within

Across the fields
Amid the golden corn
The sound of your shuttles
Reaches us
In our fatigue,
Lightening our labor.
We think of you,
Sweet rays of sunshine.
We hasten to you
As a bird flies
To his mate's call.

The men enter.

WOMEN

Now cease
Your rustic tasks;
The blessed Virgin is gladdened
By the Savior;
Now is the time
For everyone to murmur
The tender song
Which quickens the heart.

MEN

Across the fields, *etc.*

WOMEN

The orange trees in the green groves, *etc.*

The chorus crosses the stage and goes out.

Scene Two

Santuzza and Lucia

SANTUZZA

entering

Tell me, mother Lucia.

LUCIA

surprised

You? What do you want?

SANTUZZA

Where is Turiddu?

LUCIA

Have you come here

To look for my son?

SANTUZZA

I beg you to forgive me.

I only want to know where I can find him.

LUCIA

I do not know,

Don't bother me!

SANTUZZA

Mother Lucia, in tears I implore you,

Be merciful as Our Lord was to Magdalene

And tell me where Turiddu is ...

LUCIA

He went to Francofonte

For the wine.

SANTUZZA

No! He was seen

In the village late last night.

LUCIA

What are you saying?

He's not returned home!

turning towards the door of her house

Come in!

SANTUZZA

desperately

I cannot enter your house!

I have been damned!

LUCIA

What then do you know

Of my son?

SANTUZZA

What a thorn I have in my heart!

Scene Three

Alfio, Chorus and the above

ALFIO

The horses' hooves thunder,

The harness bells jingle,

The whip cracks. Get along!

Let the wind blow cold,

Rain or snow fall,

What care I?

CHORUS

O, a carter's life

Is a fine life,

Going from place to place!

ALFIO

The whip cracks!

At home, awaiting me,

Is Lola, who loves me and comforts me

And is ever true.

The horses' hooves thunder,

The harness bells jingle,

It's Easter, and here I am!

CHORUS

O a carter's life, *etc.*

ALFIO

Get along! The whip cracks!

Here I am! O a carter's life, *etc.*

It's Easter, and here I am!

Scene Four
Prayer

LUCIA
You are lucky, friend Alfio,
To be always so gay!

ALFIO
Mother Lucia,
Do you still have some
Of that vintage wine?

LUCIA
I know I haven't:
Turiddu has gone
To get some.

ALFIO
But he's still here!
I saw him this morning
Near my house.

LUCIA
surprised
What?

SANTUZZA
quickly to Lucia
Hush!

From the church is heard the Alleluja.

ALFIO
I'm going;
You women go to church.

exit

CHORUS
inside the church
Regina coeli laetare.
Alleluja! Quia quem meruisti portare.
Alleluja!
Resurrexit sicut dixit.
Alleluja!

SANTUZZA, LUCIA and CHORUS
in the square
Let us rejoice
That Our Lord is not dead,

And in glory
Has opened the tomb!
Let us rejoice
That Our Lord is risen again
And today is gone up
Into the glory of Heaven!

CHORUS
inside the church
Alleluja!

All enter the church except Santuzza and Lucia.

Scene Five
Lucia and Santuzza

LUCIA
Why did you signal me
To be silent?

SANTUZZA
O mother, you know
That before he went for a soldier
Turiddu had sworn
Eternal faith to Lola.
On his return, he found her married,
And sought with a new love
To quell the flame
Which burned in his heart:
He loved me, I loved him.
But she, envious of my only delight
And forgetful of her husband,
Burned with jealousy ...
She stole him from me ...
And I am left disgraced;
Lola and Turiddu are lovers,
And I am left to weep.

LUCIA
Lord have mercy!
What is this you've come to tell me
On this holy day?

SANTUZZA
I am condemned!
O mother, go
And pray to God
And pray for me too!

When Turiddu comes,
I will plead with him
Once again.

LUCIA
going towards the church
Holy Mary,
Have mercy upon her!

exit

Scene Six

Santuzza and Turiddu

TURIDDU
entering
You here, Santuzza?

SANTUZZA
I was waiting here for you.

TURIDDU
It is Easter;
Aren't you going to church?

SANTUZZA
I cannot.
I must speak to you ...

TURIDDU
I was looking for my mother.

SANTUZZA
I must speak to you ...

TURIDDU
Not here! not here!

SANTUZZA
Where have you been?

TURIDDU
What do you mean?
At Francofonte!

SANTUZZA
No, it's not true!

TURIDDU
Santuzza, believe me ...

SANTUZZA
No, do not lie;
I saw you returning
Down the road ...
And this morning at dawn
You were seen
Near Lola's door.

TURIDDU
Ha! You were spying on me!

SANTUZZA
No, I swear it.
Alfio, her husband,
Was telling us
Just now.

TURIDDU
Is this the way you return
The love I bear you?
Do you want me killed?

SANTUZZA
Oh, do not say such things ...

TURIDDU
Leave me then, leave me;
In vain you try,
With your pleas for pity,
To lessen my scorn.

SANTUZZA
Then you love her?

TURIDDU
No.

SANTUZZA
Lola is
Far more lovely.

TURIDDU
Be quiet,
I do not love her.

SANTUZZA
 You do love her ...
 A curse upon her!

TURIDDU
 Santuzza!

SANTUZZA
 That wicked woman
 Stole you from me!

TURIDDU
 Take care, Santuzza,
 I am not the slave
 Of this mad
 Jealousy of yours!

SANTUZZA
 Beat me, insult me,
 I love you and forgive you;
 But my anguish
 Is too much to bear.

Scene Seven

Lola's Refrain

LOLA
off-stage
 O flower of the iris,
 The angels in their beauty
 Stand a thousand-fold in Heaven,
 But only one there is
 As handsome as he. Ah!
entering
 O flower of the iris ...
 Oh! Turiddu ... has Alfio been here?

TURIDDU
 I've just come into the square.
 I do not know ...

LOLA
 Perhaps he was kept
 At the blacksmith's,
 But he can't be long.
ironically
 And you ... are you listening
 To the service from the square?

TURIDDU
 Santuzza was telling me ...

SANTUZZA
darkly
 I was saying that today is Easter,
 And the Lord sees everything!

LOLA
 Aren't you coming to Mass?

SANTUZZA
 Not I: only they can go
 Who know they are free from sin.

LOLA
 I thank the Lord
 And kiss the ground.

SANTUZZA
ironically
 Oh, you're so good, Lola!

TURIDDU
to Lola
 Come, let us leave her!
 Why do we stay here?

LOLA
ironically
 Do stay here!

SANTUZZA
to Turiddu
 Yes, stay, oh stay,
 I've more to tell you!

LOLA
 The Lord be with you:
 I'm going.

goes into the church

Scene Eight
Santuzza and Turiddu

TURIDDU

angrily

Ah, you see?

What have you said ... ?

SANTUZZA

You wished it: then so be it.

TURIDDU

rushing forward

Ah! by Heaven!

SANTUZZA

Tear me to pieces!

TURIDDU

turning away

No!

SANTUZZA

holding him back

Turiddu, listen!

TURIDDU

Go away!

SANTUZZA

No, no, Turiddu,
Stay with me awhile.

Why do you seek

To fly from me?

TURIDDU

Why do you follow me

And spy on me

Without respite

To the very doors of the church?

SANTUZZA

Your own Santuzza

Weeps and pleads with you;

How could you

Drive her away like this?

TURIDDU

Go, I say,

Do not plague me;

Vain is your repentance

After what you have done.

SANTUZZA

threateningly

Take care!

TURIDDU

I do not heed your anger.

He throws her to the ground and flees into the church.

SANTUZZA

in a fury

May your Easter be cursed, you traitor!

She falls, overcome with anguish. Alfio, entering, encounters Santuzza.

Scene Nine

Santuzza and Alfio

SANTUZZA

Oh! The Lord has sent you,

Good Alfio.

ALFIO

How far on is the Mass?

SANTUZZA

It's nearly over ... but listen!

Lola has gone with Turiddu!

ALFIO

in surprise

What are you saying?

SANTUZZA

That while you go driving

In rain and wind

To earn your living,

Lola is adorning your head

In an ugly way!

ALFIO

What! In Heaven's name,

Santa, what are you saying?

SANTUZZA

The truth. Turiddu
Stole my honor,
And your wife
Has stolen him from me!

ALFIO

If you're lying,
I'll tear your heart out!

SANTUZZA

My lips are not in the habit
Of uttering lies!
It was the bitter truth
I told you, alas,
In my shame
And my sorrow.

ALFIO

Santuzza,
Then I am grateful to you.

SANTUZZA

I am vile
To have told you this.

ALFIO

It is they who are vile:
I will not forgive them;
I will have vengeance
Before the sun goes down.
I will have blood,
My rage shall know no bounds,
And all my love
Shall end in hate.

exeunt

Symphonic Intermezzo

The people come out of church. Lucia crosses the stage and goes into her house.

Scene Ten

Lola, Turiddu and Chorus

MEN

Let us go homewards,
Friends, to where
Our womenfolk await us!
Let us hasten
Without delay
Now that gladness
Has soothed our hearts.

WOMEN

Let us go homewards,
Friends, to where
Our husbands await us!
Let us hasten
Without delay
Now that gladness
Has soothed our hearts.

The chorus goes off.

TURIDDU

to Lola as she goes
Mistress Lola,
Are you going
Without a word of greeting?

LOLA

I must go home:
I have not seen Alfio!

TURIDDU

Don't give it a thought;
He'll be coming to the square.
to the chorus

Meanwhile, friends,
Come, let's drink together!
All come to the inn table and take wine-cups.
Hurrah for the sparkling wine
Bubbling in the glass,
Bringing happiness
Like a lover's smile!
Hurrah for friendly wine
That livens every thought
And banishes melancholy
In cheerful drinking!

CHORUS

Hurrah!

TURIDDU

to Lola

To your love!

He drinks.

LOLA

to Turiddu

To your good fortune!

She drinks.

TURIDDU

Drink up!

CHORUS, TURIDDU and LOLA

Hurrah! Drink up!

Continue the tournament!

CHORUS

Hurrah for the sparkling wine, *etc.*

enter Alfio

Scene Eleven

Alfio and the above

ALFIO

Greetings to you all!

CHORUS

Greetings, friend Alfio!

TURIDDU

Welcome! You must drink with us:

fills a glass

Here, I've filled you a glass.

ALFIO

rejecting it

Thank you, but I cannot

Accept your wine.

It would turn to poison

Inside me.

TURIDDU

throwing the wine away

As you please!

LOLA

Alas! How will this end?

SOME WOMEN

to Lola

Mistress Lola,

This is no place for us.

All the women go out, taking Lola with them.

TURIDDU

Have you anything else to say to me?

ALFIO

I? Nothing!

TURIDDU

Then I'm at your service.

ALFIO

Right away?

TURIDDU

Right away!

Alfio and Turiddu embrace: Turiddu bites Alfio's right ear in challenge.

ALFIO

Friend Turiddu, You bit my ear.

meaningly

I am sure

We understand each other!

TURIDDU

Friend Alfio,

I know that I have wronged you;

And I swear to you

By Heaven above

That I would cut my throat

Like a dog

Save that ...if I do not live,

Poor Santa

Will be left deserted ...

She who gave herself to me ...

violently

But I can plant my knife
In your heart!

ALFIO

coldly

My friend,
Do as you please;
I'll wait for you outside,
Behind the orchard.

exit

Scene Twelve

Lucia and Turiddu

TURIDDU

Mother,
That wine is strong,
And in truth I've drunk
Too much of it today ...
I must go out into the fields.
But give me first
Your blessing,
As you did that day
When I went off as a soldier ...
And then ... mother ... listen ...
If I should not return ...
You must be a mother
To Santuzza,
Whom I promised
To lead to the altar.

LUCIA

My son, what is this you're saying?

TURIDDU

Oh, nothing!
It is the wine within me speaking.
Pray to Heaven for me!
One kiss, mother ...
One more kiss ... farewell!

He embraces her and rushes out.

Lucia, Santuzza and Chorus

LUCIA

desperately, hurrying after him

Turiddu! What do you mean?

Turiddu! Turiddu! Ah!

enter Santuzza

Santuzza!

SANTUZZA

throwing her arms round Lucia's neck

Oh mother!

The scene fills with people. A confused noise is heard from the distance.

A WOMAN

Turiddu has been killed!

They all scream.

Curtain