

Luigi Cherubini
KRITISCHE WERKAUSGABE

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LO SPOSO DI TRE
E MARITO DI NESSUNA

Dramma giocoso per musica

Libretto di Filippo Livigni

herausgegeben von
Helen Geyer und Elisabeth Bock

LIBRETTO – ENGLISH
INTERLINEAR TRANSLATION

SIMROCK

VERLAUFSÜBERSETZUNG ENGLISCH

Howard Weiner

ACT ONE

SCENE I

The lovely countryside near the village on Lago Secco (Dry Lake). On one side, the Baron's palace, an inn with a signboard on the other. In the distance, hills and country houses. FOLLETO, surrounded by peasants, entertaining them with tricks. DON SIMONE, sitting and watching him in amazement, and BETTINA, playing a zither.

DON SIMONE

**Look at all the tricks
this charlatan can play!
He's incredibly dexterous,
I'm quite astonished.**

FOLLETO

**The ball flies past, disappears,
and flies up again,
and my hands are empty,
it's all true.
Where is it now?
This girl**

*To Bettina, who produces a ball
from her pocket.*

has it in her pocket and doesn't know it.

DON SIMONE, FOLLETO AND BETTINA

**Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.
How amusing,
what a great trick.**

BETTINA

**Cheer up, people,
for now, playing her zither,
this girl will entertain you
with a song.**

DON SIMONE AND FOLLETO

**Let's quiet down
and listen.**

BETTINA

**I feel a certain tickle
day and night.
And I constantly
sigh from love:
Ah, ih, ah, ih, ah, ih.**

DON SIMONE AND FOLLETO

**What a pretty little song,
it pleases me indeed, sir.**

BETTINA

**If my sweetheart comes near me,
I tell him: go away.
My love for you, you rogue,
just causes me to suffer.
Ah, ih, ah, ih, ah, ih.**

DON SIMONE AND FOLLETO

**What a pretty little song,
it pleases me indeed, sir.**

DON SIMONE, FOLLETO and BETTINA

Long live fun and joy,

**we must make merry and rejoice.
Down with hypochondria,
which offends sanity.**

DON SIMONE

Tell me, you charlatans,
how did it occur to you
to come here?

BETTINA

My Lord, on the way from Rome to Naples
we heard that Don Pistacchio, your Baron,
was to marry.

DON SIMONE

And I am
Don Simone, the uncle
of exactly the very Baron
who is to marry today.

I therefore grant you permission
to play and to sing here
at your pleasure.

FOLLETO

You bestow on us a singular kindness.

DON SIMONE

And if you do not want to stay at the inn,
I also offer you a small apartment
in my house.

(Oh, with her eyes she has already charmed
me.)

BETTINA

We accept your invitation with pleasure.

FOLLETO

You are very kind.

DON SIMONE

Tell me:
Rather than singing on the square,
why, beautiful girl,
do you not play in the theatre?

BETTINA

Because I cannot sing from music.

DON SIMONE

But I know many, my dear,
who are much less talented than you!

BETTINA

The theatre, my lord, is not for me.
**There is quite of a profit to be made
for us girls
by singing silly songs
in squares and villages.
A little wink at one,
a caress and a smile to another:
and the dear simpletons
believe all that we tell them
and give us presents,
and we are happy.**

She goes in.

DON SIMONE

(Oh, I am already head over heels in love
with her.)

Go ahead! Everybody, come into my palace.

He goes in.

FOLLETO

These dumb and very rich gentlemen
are exactly the kind that we like.
Merry friends, let's go, let's go.

He goes in.

SCENE II

*DONNA LISETTA in travel attire, with
DON MARTINO dressed as an officer.*

DONNA LISETTA AND DON MARTINO

**Traveling is wonderful,
it fills one's heart with happiness,
it makes it jump with joy,
it makes it jubilant.
Whip, whip, postilion,
play, play the post horn,
it cheers me up, delights me,
keeps me in high spirits.**

DON MARTINO

Right then, sister;
we are agreed: here is the portrait.

Produces a portrait from his bag.

With it and a little cunning
I will make your fortune and mine.

DONNA LISETTA

But the undertaking, brother, seems difficult.

DON MARTINO

Cupid will assist me.
The Baroness fell for a dolt
and rejected my sincere love,
but she shall be my bride in spite of herself.

DONNA LISETTA

May Cupid make it possible.

DON MARTINO

As I already told you,
this Don Pistacchio...

DONNA LISETTA

... is a fool.

DON MARTINO

And the Baroness, Donna Rosa...

DONNA LISETTA

... his bride to be...

DON MARTINO

... has sent me here to show
her portrait to said gentleman.

DONNA LISETTA

And instead...

DON MARTINO

... I will show him yours.

DONNA LISETTA

And if he likes it?

DON MARTINO

I swear by Mars, my protector,

that I will marry Donna Rosa, and you the Baron.

DONNA LISETTA
This will be fun.

DON MARTINO
And now, Lisetta,
go back to the inn
and leave it to me.

DONNA LISETTA
What if by chance
Donna Rosa also shows up there?

DON MARTINO
Act naturally,
she doesn't know you.

DONNA LISETTA
Of course.

DON MARTINO
Go, tarry no longer, dear sister.

DONNA LISETTA
Bring me good news and soon.
She goes in.

DON MARTINO
The task is difficult indeed. But look at all
the people coming out of that palace!
Judging from the large retinue,
the way the man is dressed
and carries himself, it must be the Baron.
Keep on your toes, Martino.

SCENE III

*DON PISTACCHIO in pompous attire with
Servants and Retainers carrying petitions,
and DON MARTINO.*

DON PISTACCHIO
**Now that I am smartly dressed,
move aside, Parisians,
you are rag dolls
in comparison.
I am good looking and well dressed,
gallant and kind.
Nature cast me
in the French mold.**

Hey you, servants, bring me
my judge's chair over here.

*To the servants, who bring a
large armchair.*

Before it sees me married today,
the village, the hamlet, shall
receive paltry thanks from me.

DON MARTINO
(He is really a fool.)

DON PISTACCHIO
Come on, peasants,
what do you want from me?
Grace? Justice? Well! You'll get them.
Good old man, what do you want?
They killed your ass?
No matter, we all must die.
A farmer blinded your ox?
He shall pay for glasses for it.
You have nothing to eat?
Then fast, and shut up.
You have debts? Pay them. What's that?

Your wife ran away? Do the same.
Quiet... Take it easy... For God's sake!
My head is spinning.
I heard you, now go away;
everyone will receive their due, don't worry.
The peasants leave.

DON MARTINO
(What a charming dolt!)

DON PISTACCHIO
(Who is this?)
What can I do for you?

DON MARTINO
Do you know me?

DON PISTACCHIO
I have not had the good fortune, Sir.

DON MARTINO
I have come to you as an ambassador.

DON PISTACCHIO
And who sends you?

DON MARTINO
Your bride.

DON PISTACCHIO
The Baroness?

DON MARTINO
That's right.

DON PISTACCHIO
Oh, what a pleasant surprise!
Bring a chair, quickly. Have a seat and let's
talk.

*The Servants bring a chair and
Martino sits down.*

DON MARTINO
The noble, lovely and virtuous
Baroness, your future wife,
has sent me here today on an important mis-
sion:
what it is, the messenger learns from the
message itself.

DON PISTACCHIO
(Oh, I'm getting confused. Well, don't lose
heart,
let's answer this harbinger of love.)
Insomuchas, comma, and full stop...
Verbi gratia... id est... indeed rest assured
when to this land
my betrothed will come,
my servants shall welcome her
in full pomp.

DON MARTINO
(He is truly amusing.)
Sir, before she sets foot in your land,
to avoid any possible misunderstanding,
she wants you to examine her portrait.
Here it is: if you like it,
she will come straightaway; if you don't,
she will go home without delay.

DON PISTACCHIO
Beautiful, beautiful, wonderfully beautiful.
Splendid, absolutely splendid.

DON MARTINO
Does she please you?

DON PISTACCHIO
Oh, what a beautiful nose!
What a majestic mouth!

DON MARTINO
Please observe
her grace, her beauty,
her spirit and gentleness; and of all her quali-
ties
here is the most effective of all:
vivacious eyes under jet black eyelashes.

DON PISTACCHIO
Oh what eyes, what eyes! Forgive me,
what is your name?

DON MARTINO
My name is Don Martino:
the famous Captain of the infantry.

DON PISTACCHIO
Feel right at home in my house.

DON MARTINO
(That's what I intend to do.)
Then, your bride ...

DON PISTACCHIO
Tell her that I wait for her,
that her nose, that her eyes
have bombarded my heart:
that I feel inside me
an arsenal, a fire, the heat of hell,
after seeing her portrait.

DON MARTINO
Prepare my horse, groom.
(The deed is done.)

**Proud of my accomplishment,
I'll go with such great news
to brighten up the heart
of your fair bride.**

**Friend, I can already
picture the Baroness
jumping for joy,
laughing and dancing.**

**Come on good people, let us
dance in proper order
a Taichi in German style,
let's twirl around.**

**La laira, what delight,
la laira, what fun,
la laira, now turn,
la laira, now hop,
la laira, what happiness.**

DON PISTACCHIO
**La laira,
get lost, your Lordship.**

DON MARTINO
**Here I go, full of glory,
yes, I mount the horse,
but when I return
we shall resume our dance.**

He leaves.

DON PISTACCHIO
May a nice misfortune strike
him, me, and she who sent him.
With his dancing, he has completely crippled
me.

He leaves.

SCENE IV

DON SIMONE, then BARONESS ROSA in travel attire, with her retinue of Servants.

DON SIMONE
I have prepared a feast,
with only the choicest and most renowned delicacies,
to celebrate the arrival of the bride.
What's going on? I hear such a commotion over there! Now I see:
Guests are arriving at the inn;
I see a gentlewoman, and servants.

BARONESS
(Is this the inn? That, then,
is the house of the Baron? Ah, I'm impatient to meet the Captain, as agreed,
to find out how my portrait was received.)

DON SIMONE
(Goodness gracious, what a gorgeous female!)

BARONESS
(I wonder who that man is.)

DON SIMONE
(She's looking at me!)

BARONESS
(He's growing confused.)

DON SIMONE
(She seems puzzled.)

BARONESS
(Could he be the Baron?)

DON SIMONE
(Could she be the Baroness?)

BARONESS
(Let's ask him.)

DON SIMONE
(She's coming this way.)

BARONESS
Your servant.

DON SIMONE
Your most humble servant.

BARONESS
Forgive my asking. Sir, who are you?

DON SIMONE
Baron Don Pistacchio's
senior pistachio,¹
that is to say, I am his uncle, Don Simeone.

BARONESS
(I don't like this encounter at all! And I don't see the Captain anywhere yet.)
Pacing back and forth restlessly.

Don Simone
(Does she want to perform a contredanse here?)

BARONESS
Is it true that soon
the Baron's bride is to arrive?

DON SIMONE
Yes, Madam.

BARONESS
But...
I don't see any feast being prepared!

DON SIMONE
That's because it's ready and, Madam,
the bride has not arrived yet.

BARONESS
And what if she has?

DON SIMONE
It would be a great surprise.

BARONESS
I won't conceal it any longer: I am the bride.
With gravity.

DON SIMONE
The bride? Welcome!
Oh, what a fortunate encounter, what joy!
I'll fetch my nephew right away.

**My jewel, wait just a little moment.
Don Pistacchio will be here presently:
make merry everyone, play, dance,
for the bride has arrived.**

**Shout "viva, viva!" you lads;
come quickly, you lasses;
if you have any fresh eggs or hens,
bring them as presents.**

He leaves.

SCENE V

DONNA LISETTA with her retinue, and the above, then DON PISTACCHIO.

DONNA LISETTA
(All is well, Lisetta. Don Pistacchio has already been given your portrait by Martino;
just a little courage now, and the deed is done.)

BARONESS
(What haughty airs!)

DONNA LISETTA
(I believe she must be the Baroness.)

BARONESS
(What fine humor!)

DONNA LISETTA
(My heart is beginning to throb.)

DON PISTACCHIO
Pages, footmen, hurry,
line up along the stairway,
while I formally welcome her.

BARONESS
(There he is!)

DONNA LISETTA
(That must be him!)

DON PISTACCHIO
(One of these two must be my bride:
let's see if the portrait told the truth.

Looks at Donna Lisetta.

There are the jet black eyelashes
and vivacious eyes.)

DONNA LISETTA
(He's looking at me! I'll curtsy.)
She curtsies to the Baron.

BARONESS
(How familiar she appears
to be with the Baron!) Pardon me,
do you know that your bride is here?

DON PISTACCHIO
I do indeed.

BARONESS
And how long will she have to wait
before you pay her a compliment?

DON PISTACCHIO
I'm here for that purpose.

BARONESS
Well then, let's hear it.

DON PISTACCHIO
To Lisetta.
(Madam, the blush on my cheeks
will tell you that I love you:
the beauty of your eyes
has turned me to stone like Mark Anthony.
Console me with marriage.)

DONNA LISETTA
Ha, ha, what a delectable spouse you are,
handsome, polite, and witty.

DON PISTACCHIO
To the Baroness.
There you are.

BARONESS
What do you mean?

DON PISTACCHIO
What do I mean? The compliment.

BARONESS
But you haven't said a word.

DON PISTACCHIO
(Now I understand, the lady is hard of hearing.)

BARONESS
(He is obviously crazy.)

DON PISTACCHIO
Here, Madam, I am...

BARONESS
No! Talk to me.

DON PISTACCHIO
But my bride...

BARONESS
Your bride deserves more respect.

DON PISTACCHIO
Then let me do my duty.

DONNA LISETTA
(This misunderstanding is quite amusing.)

BARONESS
Have you seen the portrait?

1. Pistacchione, augmentative of pistacchio (Engl. "pistachio"); a play on words in today's sense of "peanut" (non valere un pistacchio).

DON PISTACCHIO
One moment.

BARONESS
Me, pay attention to me.

DON PISTACCHIO
I have.

BARONESS
And did it please you?

DON PISTACCHIO
Very much.

BARONESS
Well, if it pleased you, why don't you offer your bride a word of greeting, of welcome?

DON PISTACCHIO
(This deaf person is trying my patience.)

DONNA LISETTA
(I'll go along with this and have some fun.)

BARONESS
What! Have you lost your tongue?
Ah! Your silence tells me that you don't love me.
Ah, women, believe me, men are false and don't deserve our faithfulness.
Only a fool can trust them.

**She that believes you, men,
liars and deceivers as you all are,
shall suffer and pine away
and be forever miserable.**

**You have a heart of stone,
you are not truthful,
your love is wicked
and full of deception.**

**Those barbarians, oh women,
deserve this sort of talk,
to be sweet with them
is not worth it.**

She goes into the inn.

SCENE VI

LISETTA and DON PISTACCHIO.

DON PISTACCHIO
That lady is mad, or possessed.

DONNA LISETTA
So, let's get back to us: do you love me or not?

DON PISTACCHIO
Who says anything to the contrary!
I am your Don Pistacchio, and that's that.

DONNA LISETTA
Then let's get married now.

DON PISTACCHIO
Now? Let's go inside.

DONNA LISETTA
But first you must promise that you won't betray me with any other beauty.

DON PISTACCHIO
Yes, I promise.

DONNA LISETTA
And if you do not keep your promise?

DON PISTACCHIO
You may shoot me four times with a musket.

DONNA LISETTA
Consider it carefully.

DON PISTACCHIO
I know what I'm saying.

Donna Lisetta
You may die young.

DON PISTACCHIO
My faith will be unwavering and strong.

DONNA LISETTA
And a sign will forewarn you of your death.

DON PISTACCHIO
A sign, what sign?

DONNA LISETTA
A horn signal will announce my revenge.

DON PISTACCHIO
A horn signal?

DONNA LISETTA
Yes.

PISTACCHIO
And you, my sweet bride, come to your wedding bringing along such a sound?

DONNA LISETTA
I've warned you.

DON PISTACCHIO
Well, we're agreed.

DONNA LISETTA
Then let's go inside.

DON PISTACCHIO
Let's go, let's go.
They leave.

SCENE VII

The BARONESS and DON MARTINO come out of the inn, then DON SIMONE.

BARONESS
Just tell me, how did the bridegroom react to my portrait?

DON MARTINO
In a nutshell, Madam, he's not quite right in the head.

BARONESS
What?

DON MARTINO
Another bride! I heard that he hides her in his house, the liar.

BARONESS
Ah, my suspicions were legitimate.

DON SIMONE
(Oh, the bride is still here!) Baroness, has my nephew Don Pistacchio come to pay you his respects or has he not?

BARONESS
Don Pistacchio is an ungrateful man.

DON MARTINO
A double-dealer.

DON SIMONE
My nephew, the Baron?

BARONESS
Yes, he's a swindler.

DON MARTINO
A deceiver.

DON SIMONE
But why?

BARONESS
He's hiding another bride in his house.

DON SIMONE
Another bride? Ha, ha, that's ludicrous.

BARONESS
I'm telling you.

DON MARTINO
I've seen her.

DON SIMONE
Seen her? You must have dreamt her.

BARONESS
Outrageous!

DON MARTINO
Shameless!

Pacing furiously across the stage.

DON SIMONE
Audacious!

Hey there, Pistacchio, Pistacchio!

SCENE VIII

DON PISTACCHIO from the balcony, then in the street, and the above, then DONNA LISETTA.

DON PISTACCHIO
Who's calling me?

DON SIMONE
Come down here quickly.

DON PISTACCHIO
I can't right now.

DON SIMONE
Why?

DON PISTACCHIO
I am conversing with my bride about various things.

BARONESS
Did you hear that?

DON SIMONE
Hey, nephew, you rascal! Come down here immediately, otherwise I'll kill you.

DON PISTACCHIO
Now? What a nuisance.
Goes in.

DON MARTINO
What do you say to that?

DON SIMONE
I am flabbergasted.

BARONESS
You'll see that I'm right.
Enraged.

DON MARTINO
With this sword,
I shall avenge you.

BARONESS
I want to see him dead.

DON SIMONE
Let's first hear what this whole mess is
about.

DON PISTACCHIO
Here I am.

DON SIMONE
Tell the truth:
who do you have up there?

DON PISTACCHIO
The bride! Don't you know?

DON SIMONE
The bride? Which bride?

DON PISTACCHIO
The bride who is to be married to me.

BARONESS
Ah, traitor!
My friend, what are you waiting for?

DON MARTINO
I shall run him through with four straight
thrusts.

DON PISTACCHIO
Help, uncle Simone.

DON SIMONE
You deserve it, you rogue.

BARONESS
A noblewoman like me treated in such a
way!

DON MARTINO
I'll teach you to respect ladies.

DON PISTACCHIO
This is nonsense! Who is this woman?

DON SIMONE
Enough! She's your wife.

DON PISTACCHIO
**She, a wife! Whose wife?
My bride? Oh no, Madam!
One wife inside, one wife outside,
how many wives am I to marry?**

DON SIMONE
Your wife is this one.

DON PISTACCHIO
My wife, hey, is this one here.

DON MARTINO and BARONESS
**If you make me angry,
a head will
get blown to pieces.**

DON PISTACCHIO
**Don't get worked up, ladies and gentle-
men,
I'll marry this one, I'll marry that one,
and a third one too, if I must.**

DON SIMONE, BARONESS AND DON
MARTINO
**What joy I feel in my heart!
You've made me happy.**

BARONESS
Give me your hand.

DON PISTACCHIO
Yes, beloved, here it is.
The sound of trumpets is heard.

DON SIMONE, BARONESS and DON MARTINO
Quiet! What sound is this?

DON PISTACCHIO
I'm as good as dead, my dear friends.

BARONESS and DON MARTINO
You're joking.

DON SIMONE
What are you saying?

DON PISTACCHIO
As good as dead, yes, sir.

DONNA LISETTA
**With the welcome and melodious echo
of this pleasant sound,
dear bride and groom,
may Cupid make you happy.**

DON PISTACCHIO
**I, however, do not wish
to get married to such sounds,
for horns have always been
harbingers of grief.**

DON SIMONE, BARONESS and DON MARTINO
What stumbling block is this?

DONNA LISETTA
(You're done for.)

DON SIMONE, BARONESS and DON
MARTINO
Come on, give me/her your hand.

DONNA LISETTA
(Four musket shots.)

DON SIMONE, BARONESS and DON
MARTINO
Baron, what's on your mind?

DON PISTACCHIO
Four musket shots.

DON SIMONE, BARONESS, DON MARTINO,
DONNA LISETTA, and PISTACCHIO
**What a terrible mess.
My heart is pounding.
My head is spinning,
is reeling, is confused:
it's like a ship at the mercy of the waves,
tossed by the winds;
and about to be sunk
by a furious storm.**
*They all go inside the Baron's
house.*

SCENE IX

*The Baron's chamber.**BETTINA and FOLLETO.*

BETTINA
Come on, don't bother me.
If we are to be good friends,
then stop talking about jealousy.

FOLLETO
That hardly seems very harmonious to me.

BETTINA
But it is.

FOLLETO
But it's not proper
to play the coquette before my eyes.

BETTINA
With whom?

FOLLETO
With whom? With Don Simone. Man alive!

BETTINA
Oh, my dear, how foolish you are.

FOLLETO
On the contrary, I am much too clever.

BETTINA
It's his money, his gold chest,
his diamonds that I want.

FOLLETO
If that's the case, then I of course allow it.

BETTINA
Tell me, have you seen the bride?

FOLLETO
I've seen her and, I think,
not for the first time.

BETTINA
It also seems to me
as if I know her from somewhere.

FOLLETO
Shall we not pay our respects?
Bettina
You know, that's not a bad idea!
In this way we can obtain her protection.

FOLLETO
But this Baron is rather crazy.

BETTINA
I can't imagine that.

FOLLETO
Upon my soul!
It is only because of his riches
that she's marrying him.
Oh, this gold, this gold is a grand thing.
**Whoever has money,
my pretty little face,
is respected
by this one and that:
whoever has no money,
suffers mistreatment.
Whoever has money
eats well all the time,
satisfies his appetite,
eats to his heart's content;**

**whoever has no money
goes on an empty stomach.**

**Whoever has money
is lucky in love,
and has a very good time
with the ladies:
whoever has no money
dies all alone.**

**In a word, Bettina,
whoever has dough
will even get the blindworms
to sing for him.**

They leave.

SCENE X

*LISETTA, then DON PASTACCHIO and
DON SIMONE with a small jewelry case,
and the above, then FOLLETTO and BETTINA.*

DONNA LISETTA

Ha, ha, ha, my trick
worked really marvelously...
What a loud voice! Shush, shush!
Look, the Baron is shouting at his uncle;
I think I'll listen in on their dispute.

She withdraws a bit.

DON PISTACCHIO

But if I assure you
that I inspected the portrait very carefully.

DON SIMONE

You're blind, Pistacchio.

DON PISTACCHIO

(Oh, here she is just in time.
See for yourself, stupid uncle, that I am right:
vivacious eyes under jet black eyelashes.)

DON SIMONE

(Whose eyes, nose, and tail are you talking
about?
All these signs are false.)

DON PISTACCHIO

(But the jewels...)

DON SIMONE

(The jewels are for another, not for this one.)

DON PISTACCHIO

(Oh, what a fine mess!)

DONNA LISETTA

Baron, you traitor, you shall die!

DON PISTACCHIO

(Dear uncle, you are my ruin.)

BETTINA

Oh, dear lady,
How..., when..., what a coincidence!

FOLLETTO

Your Highness here?

BETTINA

Illustrious Baroness...
my beautiful mistress... Your Highness
here?
In this house?

FOLLETTO

Your father, the Duke –
how is his health?

BETTINA

The Duchess –
is she well?

DONNA LISETTA

Who are you?

FOLLETTO

I once had the honor
of serving your uncle, the Count, as a page.

BETTINA

And I was the chamber maid
of the Marquise, your sister.

DONNA LISETTA

Delighted.

DON PISTACCHIO

(The fat's in the fire.)

DONNA LISETTA

(The fools are a bit confused.)

DON SIMONE

(Therefore, the other...)

DON PISTACCHIO

(...is the false bride.)

DON SIMONE

(Now we're in a unpleasant situation.)

DON PISTACCHIO

(And it's your fault, bonehead.)

DONNA LISETTA

(Let's wait and see what they do.)

DON SIMONE

(Time to make amends.)

DON PISTACCHIO

(Give me the case.
I'll straighten things out.)

DON SIMONE

(Here.)

DON PISTACCHIO

My Lady, you know,
we have mistaken fireflies for lanterns.

DON SIMONE

And sheep for mountains.

DON PISTACCHIO

Therefore deign to accept
these few baubles.

BETTINA

Those are jewels.

FOLLETTO

They're beautiful.

DONNA LISETTA

I do not accept presents
from enemies.

DON PISTACCHIO

Come, put them on.

DON SIMONE

Take and enjoy them.

BETTINA

You are prudent.

FOLLETTO

Full of kindness.

DON PISTACCHIO

If Your Highness desires to be entreated even
more,
I prostrate myself before you.

DON SIMONE

I, too, kneel before you.

BETTINA

I, too, lie at your feet.

FOLLETTO

On his knees,
Folletto also humbles himself.

DONNA LISETTA

Enough, you have won: I consent to the pre-
senting of the gift.

**I'm full of love and compassion,
I boast of a tender heart
in which love reigns all the time
with peace and faithfulness.**

**Chase from your doubtful soul
all dark suspicions,
for to fear my pure love
is a terrible cruelty.**

She leaves.

FOLLETTO

Bettina, let's follow the mistress.

BETTINA

Today we've made a good catch.
They leave.

SCENE XI

*DON PISTACCHIO, DON SIMONE,
the BARONESS, and DON MARTINO talking
to each other.*

BARONESS

Has the Baron understood
that he insulted me?

DON MARTINO

Yes, Madam.
And to make amends he wants
to make a present of jewels to you.

BARONESS

My heart again beats calmly.

DON PISTACCHIO

(There is the false bride.)

DON SIMONE

(At this point
we must throw her out of our house.)

DON MARTINO

To the Baroness.

(Our friend is here.)

BARONESS

(I see him, but he seems wary.)

DON MARTINO

(He must, I daresay, suspect that you
are still angry.)

DON PISTACCHIO

Get out of here, impudent woman.

BARONESS

Who, me?

DON PISTACCHIO
You, madam,
liar of a Baroness.

BARONESS
Ah no! I shall not tolerate
any more insults. I appoint you
To Don Martino.
to be avenger of my wrongs.

DON MARTINO
Well then, shall we?
*To Don Pistacchio, drawing his
sword.*

DON PISTACCHIO
Uncle, Sir...

DON SIMONE
It's your problem; show your courage.

DON MARTINO
Draw your sword!

DON SIMONE
Quickly.

DON PISTACCHIO
Not so fast.
First dispel a doubt for me, your Lordship.
Didn't you show me a portrait of my bride?

DON MARTINO
Yes, sir.
Here it is: isn't this the one?
*He shows him Donna Lisetta's
portrait.*

DON PISTACCHIO
Precisely.
And only this one pleases me;
vivacious eyes under jet black eyelashes.

DON MARTINO
(A dexterous switch...)
See for yourself.
*Shows the Baroness her own
portrait.*

BARONESS
Yes, it is I.

DON SIMONE
If I may, I'd like to see it, too.
*Looks at the portrait of the
Baroness.*

Nephew, you are crazy:
this is no portrait
to be scorned.

DON PISTACCHIO
But I told you
that I like it from head to toe.

BARONESS
Then I am your bride.

DON PISTACCHIO
My bride is that one.

DON SIMONE
It's this one.

DON MARTINO
Here we go again.

DON SIMONE
You're wrong.

DON PISTACCHIO
Wrong my foot.
What a hellish muddle
I've got myself into! Dear women,
my sweet brides,
if you cause men so many problems,
I give up, this is not for me.

**Fair ladies, I have gone bankrupt,
the shop is empty.
I'm no longer available,
this ware is not for sale.**

**I haven't even got married yet
and already my house is like hell,
what is it going to be when I'm wedded,
with two wives?**

**You are lovely,
she is pretty,
you are a viper,
she is jealous,
you want me,
she yearns for me.
Women like to be in the saddle
but I am no saddle horse
to be ridden to exhaustion.
To satisfy two women,
to put an end to this dispute,
to be a Baron is not enough,
but rather a Tunisian Bassà.**

He leaves.

SCENE XII

*The BARONESS, DON MARTINO and
DON SIMONE.*

BARONESS
My dear Don Simone.

DON SIMONE
Dear Don Mayhem, rather,
I'm not accustomed to all this commotion.
I am confused, more than confused.
He leaves.

BARONESS
What do you have to say to that?

DON MARTINO
That Don Pistacchio
doesn't want to recognize you as his consort.

BARONESS
Then...

DON MARTINO
I shall challenge him to a duel,
unto the death.

BARONESS
Oh, good!

DON MARTINO
And moreover, my lady,
to prove to you my sincere love,
I'd be ready to marry you, and thus put him
to shame.

BARONESS
First avenge me.

DON MARTINO
And then?

BARONESS
And then
perhaps I'll grant your wish.

DON MARTINO
Hush, he's returning.

BARONESS
I withdraw and trust in you.
She withdraws.

DON MARTINO
I will avenge you, and have my fun with him.

SCENE XIII

*DON PISTACCHIO, DON SIMONE who turns up
unexpectedly, and the above.*

DON MARTINO
**If you don't marry
the beauty in the portrait this instant,
then draw your sword, come forward,
and let's get on with the duel.**

DON PISTACCHIO
**Sir, I'm no such fool,
she's the only one I love and adore;
I want her, I yearn for her,
indeed I will marry her.**

DON SIMONE
**Good, good, I'm satisfied,
then it's settled;
fetch the Baroness
and let's celebrate the marriage.**

SCENE XIV

*DONNA LISETTA and the BARONESS from
opposite sides, and the above.*

DONNA LISETTA
Here I am, who's calling me?

BARONESS
Who wants me? I'm here.

DON PISTACCHIO and DON SIMONE
*Don Pistacchio to the Baroness
and Don Simone to Donna
Lisetta.*

**A more annoying woman than you
has never been known.**

BARONESS
What audacity!

DONNA LISETTA
What arrogance!

DON PISTACCHIO and DON SIMONE
You're being inconsiderate.
As above.

DON MARTINO, BARONESS and DONNA
LISETTA
**Ah, I can't tolerate this,
what manners!**

BARONESS
**But tell me, young lady,
what do you want from my bride-
groom?**

DONNA LISETTA

**You must be insane, Madam,
Don Pistacchio is my husband.**

DON PISTACCHIO

Which of you is the Baroness?

BARONESSA

I am.

DONNA LISETTA

I am.

DONNA LISETTA, BARONESS, DON
PISTACCHIO, DON SIMONE, and DON
MARTINO

**One sings here on a single tone,
and makes no cadences.**

DONNA LISETTA

**Look at the fine lady,
the fair bride!
I'm consumed
with rage.**

BARONESS

**Look at the bride,
the charming lady!
You're an insolent vixen,
full of cunning.**

DONNA LISETTA

Show some respect, audacious woman.

BARONESS

Be careful, you flirt.

DON PISTACCHIO, DON SIMONE and DON
MARTINO

**A great flash of lightning
is about to strike.**

DONNA LISETTA and BARONESS

Let go of my arm.

DON PISTACCHIO, DON MARTINO and DON
SIMONE

What a predicament.

DONNA LISETTA and BARONESS

I'm blind with fury.

DON PISTACCHIO, DON MARTINO and DON
SIMONE

Ladies, that's enough.

DONNA LISETTA and BARONESS

Tremble, tremble...

DON PISTACCHIO, DON MARTINO and DON
SIMONE

Put out your fire.

DONNA LISETTA and BARONESS

Ruin, ruin...

DON PISTACCHIO, DON MARTINO and DON
SIMONE

The bomb has exploded.

DONNA LISETTA and BARONESS

Revenge, revenge...

DON PISTACCHIO, DON MARTINO and DON
SIMONE

A great flash of lightning...

DONNA LISETTA, BARONESS, DON
PISTACCHIO, DON SIMONE, and DON
MARTINO

**Calm down,
ladies, enough.
Never has my heart
been more enraged.**

SCENE XV

A garden.

*BETTINA and FOLLETO with two
accompanying musicians.*

FOLLETO

**Oh, what a beautiful little garden!
It cheers me up, oh my Bettina.
Here I will teach you
my new song.**

BETTINA

**Yes, this place pleases me.
Tune the instruments.
But, friends, be forewarned,
I mostly sing off-key.**

FOLLETO

Are you ready?

BETTINA

Are you ready?

FOLLETO

First I'll sing alone.

BETTINA

Good, then I won't get mixed up.

BETTINA and FOLLETO

**I am attentive and listening /
Be attentive and listen.**

FOLLETO, then BETTINA

**In the countryside
the beautiful, colorful
birds sing
in this manner:
Chiò, chiò, chiò, chiò.
Nfri, nfri, nfri, nfri.**

FOLLETO

**You're doing it wrong,
that's not it.**

BETTINA

This time I'll be more attentive.

FOLLETO

**Yes, my mistress.
And you will be accompanied
by the beautiful trills
of the dear cricket:
tri, tri, tri, tri.**

BETTINA

**And you will be accompanied
by the beautiful trills
of the dear cricket:
Nfri, nfri, nfri, nfri.**

FOLLETO

Tri, tri, tri, tri.

BETTINA

Chiò, chiò, chiò, chiò.

FOLLETO

Tri, tri, tri, tri.

He corrects her.

BETTINA

Is it right now?

FOLLETO

No, that's not it.

BETTINA

Who's coming?

FOLLETO

People, it would seem.

FOLLETO and BETTINA

**Perhaps it would be better
to practice over there.**

*They retire to the back of the gar-
den.*

SCENE XVI

*DONNA LISETTA, then DON PISTACCHIO, then
DON MARTINO. then DON SIMONE and the
BARONESS.*

DONNA LISETTA

**Sweet breezes that peacefully
murmur through these saplings,
appease the jealous pounding of my
heart
ah, for pity's sake!**

DON PISTACCHIO

**Birds that cheerfully
chirp and sing in these surroundings,
fly to the fair lady I adore
and bring her here.**

DONNA LISETTA

I am here, silly.

DON PISTACCHIO

Not silly, but madly in love.

DON PISTACCHIO and DONNA LISETTA

**Ah, because of you I cannot rest,
this heart has no more peace.**

DON MARTINO

**(Torn between distress and sweet hope,
my poor heart is confused:
but if Lisa marries him
soon it will find comfort.)**

DON SIMONE and BARONESS

(Hush, hush, we've found them.)

DON MARTINO

(Their arrival is not welcome.)

DON PISTACCHIO

Darling, darling.

DONNA LISETTA

Dearest, dearest.

DON PISTACCHIO and DONNA LISETTA

Love takes my breath away.

DON MARTINO, DON SIMONE and BARONESS

(Rage plays havoc with my heart.)

DON SIMONE

**Now be careful, Sir Nephew,
if you take a false step,**

**I'll split that metal head of yours
with a cudgel.**

BARONESS

**Now be careful, you liar,
do you see this knife?
If you keep up this crazy act of yours
I'll drive it into your heart.**

DON MARTINO

**If you don't do your duty,
I'll discharge
this pistol down the pipes
of your throat.**

DONNA LISETTA

**My dear husband-to-be,
if you leave me for that woman
I'll fulfill that promise
of four musket shots.**

DON PISTACCHIO

**Musket shots from my bride!
Cudged by my uncle!
Here a pistol, there a knife,
I'll meet a glorious death.**

DON MARTINO and DON SIMONE

So, what have you decided?

DONNA LISETTA and BARONESS

So, what shall we do?

DON MARTINO and DON SIMONE

So, what have we resolved?

DONNA LISETTA and BARONESS

Will you marry me, yes or no?

DON MARTINO, DON SIMONE, DONNA
LISETTA, and BARONESS

Make up your mind, I'm waiting.

DON PISTACCHIO

**Go to the devil, all of you.
You're really trying
to drive me insane.**

DON MARTINO, DON SIMONE, DONNA
LISETTA, and BARONESS

But this...

DON PISTACCHIO

I'm not listening.

DON MARTINO, DON SIMONE, DONNA
LISETTA, and BARONESS

But this...

DON PISTACCHIO

I won't listen.

DON MARTINO, DON SIMONE, DONNA
LISETTA, and BARONESS

**But this is a breach of promise,
you will pay for it.**

DON PISTACCHIO

They make me dizzy.

SCENE XVII

*BETTINA and FOLLETO, who come forward
from the back of the garden, and the above.*

BETTINA and FOLLETO

**Be quiet please,
quiet, ladies and gentlemen**

**do not make any noise,
we are trying to sing.**

DONNA LISETTA, DON MARTINO, DON
SIMONE, and BARONESS

My anger is about to boil over.

DON PISTACCHIO

My head is spinning.

DONNA LISETTA, DON MARTINO, DON
SIMONE, and BARONESS

Baron, Baron, be sensible.

DON PISTACCHIO

I've gone mad, I'm seized with a frenzy.

BETTINA and FOLLETO

**What a commotion,
what can the matter be?**

TUTTI

**It's like an organ playing,
with high notes, low notes, flutes,
and many strange voices
singing with it.**

**The basses strike up,
and the two sopranos imitate!
Oh, what sweet unison singing,
what sweet sounds!**

**One moment they all get louder,
the next they all become softer...
slow... soft... together...
no, not so loud...**

**Alas, what a pandemonium,
like in a synagogue.**

End of the Act One

ACT TWO

SCENE I

*A study. FOLLETO and BETTINA, then
DON PISTACCHIO and DON SIMONE.*

FOLLETO

What do you think, Bettina,
of this business?

BETTINA

It's so new and nice,
cheerful, delightful, and unique
that we could indeed sing it in the squares.

FOLLETO

I think I hear people coming.

BETTINA

Don Simone is coming this way
with his crazy nephew.

FOLLETO

Let's withdraw quietly and slowly.
They hide.

DON PISTACCHIO

No, no more wife, I've made up my mind,
I'll die without an heir.

DON SIMONE

But your bride...

DON PISTACCHIO

Anyone who wants her may have her.
What with her and the other,
my dear uncle, I'll lose my mind.

DON SIMONE

But listen to the idea
that occurred to me.

DON PISTACCHIO

Let's hear it.

BETTINA

(We want to hear it, too.)

DON SIMONE

Without delay
I'm going send a courier to Naples.

DON PISTACCHIO

What for?

DON SIMONE

To summon
two famous lawyers
who will advise us,
and tell us how to proceed in this case.

DON PISTACCHIO

Hurrah for uncle Simone.

DON SIMONE

So, what do you think?

DON PISTACCHIO

Your idea is as sweet as sugar.

DON SIMONE

Let's hurry and dispatch the courier.
He leaves.

FOLLETO

Did you hear that?

BETTINA

I heard everything.

FOLLETTO

The mistress
must be forewarned of this business.

BETTINA

You know, that's not a bad idea.

FOLLETTO

Perhaps I may get some reward.

Bettina

And what about my share?

FOLLETTO

Your share goes without saying.

BETTINA

Go to her, then,
off you go, leave.

FOLLETTO

One must be smart, Bettina.

**A clever and skilful man
has money to spend and lives well;
I'm a master in this,
I can give lessons to anyone:
He who uses his brain,
with cunning and ingenuity,
always makes a good impression
and leads the world around by the nose.**

He leaves.

SCENE II

BETTINA, then DON SIMONE.

BETTINA

Indeed, if one is adroit in this world,
he has a better chance of making his fortune.

DON SIMONE

I just sent the courier to Naples.

BETTINA

Your servant, sir.

DON SIMONE

Oh, beautiful Betta.
I am your slave, my heart.

BETTINA

My heart?

DON SIMONE

It's no use;
you already know, my dear,
that I pine away for love of you.

BETTINA

You're making fun of me.
I am a poor girl.

DON SIMONE

But I will make you rich, beautiful Bettina.

BETTINA

(Let's seize the opportunity.)
Rich? Ah, I don't believe you.

DON SIMONE

Rich, richer, wealthy.

BETTINA

But look, Your Lordship,
*She pulls an empty purse from
her pocket.*

I haven't a penny in my purse.

DON SIMONE

You're right. Here, take this my sweet love.
He gives her his purse.

BETTINA

Now I'm beginning to believe you, sir.

DON SIMONE

Give me your dear little hand.

BETTINA

Oh, I'm ashamed.

DON SIMONE

Why?

BETTINA

Because I blush
to show it, without a single ring.

DON SIMONE

Then take this one.

He gives her a ring.

BETTINA

Oh, how beautiful.
Thank you!

DON SIMONE

Do you love me?

BETTINA

Damn you...

Rubbing her nose.

DON SIMONE

What makes you angry?

BETTINA

A sneeze;
it feels like it's coming and then it goes
away.

DON SIMONE

Here, have some snuff, my darling.
Produces a snuff-box.

BETTINA

Oh, thank you!
She takes a pinch.

DON SIMONE

Sniff forcefully.

BETTINA

Achoo!
Sneezes.

DON SIMONE

Bless you.

BETTINA

That's good tobacco!

DON SIMONE

It's from Seville.

Do you like it? Why don't you answer?

BETTINA

To be sincere,
I like the snuff-box better.

DON SIMONE

The snuff-box is yours then; and also
my heart, and all the rest.

BETTINA

For the moment, sir, this is enough.

**No, I'm not so
impolite, sir,**

**your generous heart
remains better where it is.**

**But if you like mine,
I'll give it to you under one condition:
that it be a fair exchange
between us.**

**What do you say, agreed?
I am ready, you take mine
and give me yours,
and I'll be happy.**

**(What a dear simpleton,
what a dumb suitor.)
Enough, otherwise love
will consume me.**

She leaves.

DON SIMONE

This girl will never again sing on squares.
She pleases me, and before evening
I'll make her the bride's waiting maid.

He leaves.

SCENE III

*A hall with some chairs. DON PISTACCHIO,
then a servant, then DON SIMONE.*

DON PISTACCHIO

What devil made me want to get married!
I'm looking forward to consulting the law-
yers,
in order to put an end to the quarreling and
strife.

What's going on? Why are you running?
Are they already here?

To the servant.

I'm relieved. Who is it? They're coming up
the stairs?

But who, you ass? Oh, the lawyers. Ugh!
Uncle! Uncle! Quick, go and see
where Don Simone is, where he's hiding.

Excitedly.

DON SIMONE

What's all this shouting, are you crazy?

DON PISTACCHIO

They're here, they have arrived.

DON SIMONE

Who has arrived?

DON PISTACCHIO

The doctors, good heavens, the lawyers.

DON SIMONE

Ah, good. And where are they?

DON PISTACCHIO

They are coming up the stairs.

DON SIMONE

Let's go meet them.

DON PISTACCHIO

They're already here.

DON SIMONE

What majestic airs!

DON PISTACCHIO

They look like two Egyptian satraps.

DON SIMONE

What gravity.

DON PISTACCHIO
Pay attention and be quiet.

SCENE IV

DON MARTINO and DONNA LISETTA wearing lawyers' gowns, and the above.

DON MARTINO
**Here come Baldo and Bartolo,²
here comes Solon.**

DONNA LISETTA
**Here comes Demosthenes,
here comes Cicero.**

DON MARTINO
Salvete Domini.

DONNA LISETTA
Valete amici.

DON MARTINO and DONNA LISETTA
**We are here to uphold
the truth.
But since it's a case
of matrimony,
Cornelius Tacitus
will rule.**

DON PISTACCHIO
Signoris benvenutis.

DON SIMONE
Fate gratias cum nobis sedebare,

DON MARTINO
Sede, amice.

To Lisetta, sitting down.

DONNA LISETTA
Sedebo.

She sits down.

DON SIMONE and DON PISTACCHIO
Assediare.

They sit down.

DON MARTINO
So, gentlemen,
what do you wish to learn
from our scholarly minds?

DON PISTACCHIO
Let me inform you, most excellent,
most learned doctors,
know that my case
is pitiful. I find myself
pulled back and forth between two brides:
and if by chance
I'm forced to take the wrong wife,
I fear I will have also the wrong children;
therefore I need your enlightenment and
advice.

DON MARTINO
Since we're dealing with women,
the case is philosophical.

DONNA LISETTA
Since we're dealing with women,
the case is metaphysical.

DON PISTACCHIO
Since we're dealing with women,
I'll tell you quite sincerely,
the case is quite strange.

DON SIMONE
Now, my gentlemen,
I pray you, mediate our unfortunate case
as quickly as possible.

DON MARTINO
Here, *decisum est*: her, to whom you first
swore love, you must also marry, Sir.

DON PISTACCHIO
Wait, not so fast. She who is refused
will certainly kill me, as she has promised.

DON MARTINO
O magna pravitate, oh what immoderate-
ness!
She who contemplates the death
of the hoped-for husband
no longer deserves the title of wife.
Ergo, if you want my opinion,
you must with good reason marry the first.

DON PISTACCHIO
Well spoken.

DONNA LISETTA
(Let's pretend as if we disagree.)

DON SIMONE
Now I want to hear a second opinion
about this theme.
What would your evaluation be?
To Donna Lisetta.

DONNA LISETTA
De nullitate omnibus.

DON MARTINO
Come, quia, quare, cur?

DON SIMONE
No, not so hasty.
We want to hear what your colleague has to
say.

DONNA LISETTA
In the event, *quod absit*, that she,
to whom he first declared love,
should be the false and not the true bride,
then certainly the maxim
crimen dirimit sponsalitia applies.
That is the law.

DON MARTINO
Nego, nego.

DONNA LISETTA
Probo consequentiam: If this person
To Don Pistacchio.
was to assure the first one that he is her
bridegroom,
and then marries the second,
he would surely break his word.
Et fallax est, in lego de sponsabilibus,
Qui contrahit sponsalia cum duobus.

DON MARTINO
You are an ignoramus!
Stands up.

DONNA LISETTA
Ass!

DON MARTINO
I?

DONNA LISETTA
You.

DON SIMONE
Calm down!

DON PISTACCHIO
Hey there, stop it!
All you're doing is squabbling,
and not reaching a decision,
but I'll teach you all about law.

**Be silent for a moment,
you wise gentlemen,
and see if you dare
to argue with me.**

**Foemina non est foemina?
Hominum non est masculum?
That's why the question is physical.
Physical means medical,
medical is a critical notion,
he who criticizes makes you cry,
he who cries cannot laugh:
so I conclude and end
that women nowadays
are physical as well as critical,
they all make you cry,
and wretched is that masculum
who has to deal with them.**

He leaves.

SCENE V

*DONNA LISETTA, DON MARTINO,
DON SIMONE, and the BARONESS.*

DONNA LISETTA
Let us go, Doctor!
You'll have to answer in court
For this insolence.

DON MARTINO
I am coming.
I am not afraid of an animal!
He leaves.

DON SIMONE
Now that I have received counsel,
I know less than before.
We must have been possessed by the devil
to get involved with this marriage.

BARONESS
Yes, yes, I am leaving. Harness the horses.
To the servant, who leaves.

DON SIMONE
Your servant, Madam

BARONESS
And you still dare
to greet me! At this point
I wish to return to Naples immediately,
where I'll plan my rightful vengeance against
you.

2. Baldo degli Ubaldi (1327–1400), famous medieval jurist from Perugia, commentator on all parts of the Corpus Iuris Civilis; Bartolo da Sassoferrato, Baldo's teacher.

DON SIMONE

What fault is it of mine? Please, Madam, let's be sensible: if you are dissatisfied with my nephew. I will marry you, if you accept.

BARONESS

Are you saying the truth?

DON SIMONE

I speak frankly.

BARONESS

To spite the Baron, I accept the proposal of Don Simone.

DON SIMONE

Oh, for joy! But keep it quiet.

BARONESS

Don't worry, I won't say a word.

DON SIMONE

I'm going secretly to organize our wedding feast.

**My charming bride,
you make me lose my mind;
you comfort my heart,
I can feel it leap.**

**Let me twirl with joy,
and dance a furlana;
for you, my beloved,
I wish to arrange a great feast.**

He leaves.

SCENE VI

The BARONESS, then DON MARTINO.

BARONESS

So be it. This way that impudent man will taste my revenge.

DON MARTINO

Is it true, Madam, that you wish to return to Naples?

BARONESS

I did say it, but for now I should stay.

DON MARTINO

Is there anything new?

BARONESS

Yes, sir.

DON MARTINO

And that would be?

BARONESS

That I'll marry Don Simone.

DON MARTINO

(Oh, wretched me!) But Baroness, your promise, that's not what we agreed. I'm astonished. That's no way to behave. Farewell.

Makes as if to leave.

BARONESS

Wait.

DON MARTINO

I will not.

BARONESS

Listen to me.

DON MARTINO

But if...

BARONESS

Please, I beg you.

DON MARTINO

All right, speak.

BARONESS

Tell me, Don Martino, do you know my temperament?

DON MARTINO

I know that you are an extravagant lady; that you like conversing with people: that you enjoy soirées, a good stroll, merry-making, but you don't like jealousy.

BARONESS

Now that's precisely what I mean; that's why I wish to marry, my dear Don Martin, my courteous and handsome man, someone who is a little older and a bit foolish.

DON MARTINO

What! Do you think that am I jealous?

BARONESS

You're young, I need say no more.

DON MARTINO

But, Madam, I'm not like that.

BARONESS

Then prove it.

DON MARTINO

Oh, good.

BARONESS

Let's pretend I am already your wife: it's evening, and you want to go to bed, while I wish to go to a soirée.

DON MARTINO

You may go, for Don Martino is asleep.

BARONESS

Therefore we are asleep?

DON MARTINO

I am asleep.

BARONESS

Someone knocks at the door. It's a cavalier: I rush to open: the gallant immediately takes me in his arms, and I chat with him in this manner.

DON MARTINO

Go right ahead and chat, for Don Martino is asleep.

BARONESS

**Since my husband is asleep,
my dear and polite cavalier,
we can slip out quietly
and go to the soirée.**

DON MARTINO

**My beloved,
let's go with pleasure;
Don Martino is in bed,
so we can do as we please.**

BARONESS and DON MARTINO

**The husband and wife
are already running into trouble.**

BARONESS

**I am at the soirée,
dancing with this one and that one.**

DON MARTINO

**Dance, dance, so long as Martino
is peacefully asleep.
But if by chance he wakes up
and doesn't find you in bed,
he'll show up at the soirée
and give you a piece of his mind.**

BARONESS

**If Martino does that to me,
I will tame him like this.**

DON MARTINO

**Hit, hit hard,
I'm not the first husband
who patiently lets himself
be slapped by his wife.**

BARONESS

**No, dear Martino,
I am a sensible woman,
modest and patient,
I will remain with you.**

DON MARTINO

**A more good-hearted,
more cheerful husband than I
cannot be found
in the entire world.**

DON MARTINO and BARONESS

**If your lips are sincere
and have told me the truth,
I'll be happy and delighted
forever more.**

They leave.

SCENE VII

A study.

*DON PISTACCHIO, DONNA LISETTA, then
DON MARTINO, and FOLLETO.*

DON PISTACCHIO

No, Madam, I do not want you to go away.

DONNA LISETTA

Let me return to the inn, and you can marry the other.

DON PISTACCHIO

Why marry? I don't want her! I only have eyes for you.

DONNA LISETTA

Ah, liar!
I know you all too well.
You'll not test my constancy any longer.

DON MARTINO

(Here they are. My plan, I trust, is clear to you.)

FOLLETO

(I'll do as you told me.)

DON PISTACCHIO

For the love of Bacchus,

I'll take a knife,
cut open my breast in the middle,
and show you my whole heart.

DON MARTINO
(Go, let's not hesitate any longer.)

FOLLETTO
(I'm already on the way, Sir.)
He leaves.

SCENE VIII

*DON PISTACCHIO, DONNA LISETTA,
and DON MARTINO.*

DONNA LISETTA
No, hypocrite, I don't believe you.

DON PISTACCHIO
Seething with rage,
I could tear the hairs out of my wig
one by one.

DON MARTINO
(One should now cleverly bring the intrigue
to an end.)

DONNA LISETTA
(Hush, my brother Martino is here.)

DON MARTINO
Don Pistacchio?

DON PISTACCHIO
Who is it?

DON MARTINO
I'm very happy to find you here
with Madam.

DON PISTACCHIO
Already another complication.

DONNA LISETTA
What do you want from us?

DON MARTINO
I'll tell you in a moment.
Your bride, the Baroness,
is furious with you.

DONNA LISETTA
And I, Sir,
am even more furious with him.

DON PISTACCHIO
Then I give up.

DON MARTINO
She will not make way for Madam.

DONNA LISETTA
And I, you can be sure,
will not make way for her.

DON PISTACCHIO
Help me, Don Martino!
I'm becoming more and more confused.

DON MARTINO
Listen to me: the Baroness intends
to go to the nearby temple
of the famous Cumaean Sibyl...

DONNA LISETTA
To consult the oracle?

DON MARTINO
Yes, Madam.

DON PISTACCHIO
And what are we to do?

DON MARTINO
You must go to the temple, too,
to straighten out all the difficulties
and to hear the oracle's verdict.

DONNA LISETTA
(I already understand everything.)

DON PISTACCHIO
What do you say?

DONNA LISETTA
Let's go. I'm ready.

DON PISTACCHIO
And if by chance
the Sibyl says you must leave me?

DONNA LISETTA
Then we must resign, my beloved;
you'll marry the other one, and that's that.

DON PISTACCHIO
Ah, you wench! And you would have the
heart to leave me?
I feel... poor me... I feel like crying.

DONNA LISETTA
Now I know, my beloved, that you love me.
Ah, no, stop crying! Your sad eyes
must brighten up. Rest assured, my idol,
that I'll love you truly, that this heart
will be yours. Let us go
and hear the oracle. I do not fear
the Sibyl's will. Even to Elysium
I will follow you, faithful and constant,
as wife, friend, or hapless lover.

**Sweet flame of my heart,
I shall love you and be faithful,
and my enamored soul
will overcome the stars.**

**I place all my hope in you;
take comfort, my beloved;
let your eyes brighten up
and sparkle for me.**

**All you beautiful, enamored souls,
who are compassionate and good-
natured,
learn from me
how to comfort a lover.**

She leaves.

DON MARTINO
(Lisetta understood me.)

DON PISTACCHIO
Ah, Don Martino.
She is a true paragon of faithfulness.

DON MARTINO
Now we shall see. To the temple.

DON PISTACCHIO
To the temple.
They leave.

SCENE IX

*A pleasant grove of cypress and myrtle, in
the middle of which stands the temple of the
Cumaean Sibyl; a simulacrum in the shape of
the sun, on which can be seen ornate writing.*

*FOLLETTO, then the BARONESS,
then DONNA LISETTA, then DON MARTINO
and DON PISTACCHIO.*

FOLLETTO
With a little money
I bribed the temple's caretaker
so that he'll let me carry out this sham.
The brides and the Baron
will be here soon;
so be on your toes, Folletto.
People are coming... I'll take my place.
He hides behind the simulacrum.

BARONESS
Here is the temple, here is the place.
The Captain told me to come here in due
time
in order to hear the oracle
of the great, wondrous Sibyl,
and to learn from her the name of the true
bride.

DONNA LISETTA
If I am not mistaken,
this must be the temple.
(There is our friend.)

BARONESS
(My rival is here!)

DONNA LISETTA
(I'll feign indifference.)
Madam, at your service.

BARONESS
Your servant, Madam.

DON MARTINO
So, we have arrived at the temple of the true
and venerable oracle.

DON PISTACCHIO
My Sibyl, I implore you.

DONNA LISETTA
Welcome.

BARONESS
Welcome.

DON PISTACCHIO
Likewise.

DON MARTINO
Take courage, Baron, follow this way.

DON PISTACCHIO
My heart is beating so hard.

DON MARTINO
First of all,
we must pray to our Sibyl.

DON PISTACCHIO
What does one say?

DON MARTINO
There is the inscription.

DON PISTACCHIO
But it's in Greek.

DON MARTINO
Exactly, and now
we have to sing it in Greek,
for it was formulated by the Sibyl herself.

DON PISTACCHIO
I am ready.

DONNA LISETTA
I am waiting.

BARONESS
Me, too.

DON MARTINO
Then let us delay no longer,
and intone the Greek song.

DON PISTACCHIO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
MARTINO, and BARONESS

**Askara ki kila
kiriki ko kola,
ka kara ka kala,
kula kulà.**

DONNA LISETTA and DON MARTINO

**Oh wise,
gracious Sibyl,
we walk in darkness,
give us light,
make us know
the truth.**

DON PISTACCHIO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
MARTINO, and BARONESS

**Askara ki kila
kiriki ko kola,
ka kara ka kala,
kula kulà.**

DON PISTACCHIO and BARONESS

**With your clear
and vast knowledge
put an end
to all our disagreements,
give us comfort
for pity's sake.**

DON PISTACCHIO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
MARTINO, and BARONESS

**Askara ki kila
kiriki ko kola,
ka kara ka kala,
kula kulà.**

FOLLETO

*Speaking from behind the simu-
lacrum.*

**The brides shall be brides: the intended
groom shall not be a groom any more:
this is fate's will.**

DON PISTACCHIO

What a horrible voice!

DON PISTACCHIO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
MARTINO, and BARONESS

What a prodigious oracle!

DON PISTACCHIO

The brides shall be brides.

DONNA LISETTA, DON MARTINO, and
BARONESS

But not the groom, no sir.

DON PISTACCHIO

**That is to say, wretched me,
that I must remain a bachelor.**

DONNA LISETTA, DON MARTINO, and
BARONESS

**That's what the stars want:
submit to heaven's will.**

DON PISTACCHIO

**Cursed Sibyl,
damned oracle.**

DONNA LISETTA, DON MARTINO, and
BARONESS

Don't offend heaven, Baron.

DON PISTACCHIO

These are nothing but lies.

FOLLETO

**Jupiter's lightning
shall punish you immediately.**

*An artificial thunderbolt flashes
from the top of the temple.*

DON PISTACCHIO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
MARTINO, and BARONESS

**Oh, what a frightening sign!
Let me flee, run, hide myself.
Ah, my/your life is finished,
Jupiter, have mercy.**

They leave.

FOLLETO

What a delightful scene;
and now I'll rush home,
where Betta is waiting for me.

He leaves.

SCENE X

*The BARONESS, and DON MARTIN again,
then DON SIMONE.*

BARONESS

Then it was for the Baron
that this prank was organized?

DON MARTINO

Precisely; and I would go against my duty
as husband and Captain
if I didn't reveal to you another secret.

BARONESS

Tell me.

DON MARTINO

You should know
that of all that happened today,
I was the author.

BARONESS

Then she...

DON MARTINO

She, my fair bride,
is as much a lady as you are, and my sister.

BARONESS

Why so many deceits?

DON MARTINO

Because I found myself
rejected in favor of that simpleton;
now you know the whole secret.

BARONESS

But if the Baron is a fool,
then he should on no account
marry your dear sister.

DON MARTINO

No, that I can promise you, my bride.

DON SIMONE

Ah, bride of my heart,
already for an hour Don Simone
has been searching for you like a poodle.

BARONESS

(Let's dissemble.)

DON MARTINO

(Yes, do not give it away.)

BARONESS

Good soul, What news is there?

DON SIMONE

I announce to you that our feast is prepared.

BARONESS

Oh, very good.

DON MARTINO

Long live the happy bridal couple!
Now then, I'll leave you alone.

DON SIMONE

Yes, be so kind.

DON MARTINO

But always remember that your cavalier
is at your service.

BARONESS

Oh, we'll certainly not make use of it.

DON MARTINO

Why?

BARONESS

I do not cheat on my husband,
for he is more handsome than you
and has Parisian charm.

DON SIMONE

I melt away like sugar.

DON MARTINO

Ah, Madam,
you don't know half of my qualities;
if I were to reveal them, you'd be astonished.

**When my lips curve up into a smile,
when I cast a sweet glance,
I am like Cupid, shooting arrows,
I cunningly strike the mark.**

**I am a falcon, a hawk,
every woman falls prey to me:
with a caress and a wink,
I conquer them all.**

He leaves.

SCENE XI

THE BARONESS and DON SIMONE.

BARONESS

No, I do not want to have a servant around
me.

Day and night my husband shall be at my
side.

DON SIMONE

Ah, what a dear mouth. My nephew
will drop dead from aggravation.

BARONESS

Ah, if you love me,
never again remind me of that idiot.

DON SIMONE

Let's talk about us.
Soon, my love, we shall be man and wife.

BARONESS

Let us return home quickly.

DON SIMONE

Let's go, my sunshine.
I have had the table set –
princely, royally, lordly.

BARONESS

Oh, my heart jumps for joy in my body.

I hear a pleasant voice

**which comforts me and says:
have hope, for you will be happy,
your heart will find peace.**

It's the voice of love,

yes, I hear it, Sir.

Ah, sweet love, stop it.

my heart is jumping up and down.

**My dear, beloved groom,
I'm full of joy, I'm delighted:
because of you
my happiness is complete.**

They leave.

SCENE XII

A study.

*BETTINA, and FOLLETO,
then DON PISTACCHIO*

BETTINA

Has all that actually happened?

FOLLETO

And that's nothing:
the best has still to come.

BETTINA

I really feel sorry for the Baron!

FOLLETO

There he is, he's coming this way.

BETTINA

Look. look.
he still seems frightened.

DON PISTACCHIO

No, no more marriage, to the devil with it.
Stop making preparations:

To two servants.

Dismiss the stewards,
and also the scullery boys, and the cooks.

The servants leave.

BETTINA

Sir, what's this about! Everyone
is ready to celebrate your wedding.

DON PISTACCHIO

What wedding! I'm leaving to become a sol-
dier.

BETTINA

What?

FOLLETO

Why?

DON PISTACCHIO

That's the will of the Sibyl,
the oracle, misfortune, thunderbolt,
Jupiter, Saturn, the heavens, my ill luck.

BETTINA

I'm dumbfounded.

DON PISTACCHIO

Tell me...
(By Jove, what an idea.)³

SCENE XIII

*DONNA LISETTA, DON MARTINO,
and the above*

DONNA LISETTA

(Hush, here is our friend.)

DON MARTINO

(Let's listen, sister.)

DON PISTACCHIO

To make a liar of the Sibyl,
would you marry me?

DON MARTINO

(Say yes.)

BETTINA

And why not?
It's too good a chance for me.

DON PISTACCHIO

So you will be my wife?

DONNA LISETTA

(Oh, what madness!)

DON PISTACCHIO

Run quickly, go;
stop in my name the servants I dismissed.
Banquet, feast, let everything proceed.

BETTINA

Gladly, I go.

FOLLETO

Happily, I fly.
They leave.

DONNA LISETTA

(Leave it to me now.)
But Don Pistacchio,
if you no longer wish to marry,
at least be kind enough
to attend Don Simone's wedding.

DON PISTACCHIO

My uncle is getting married?

DONNA LISETTA

Yes.

3. This recitative, beginning with Scene XII, exists in two manuscripts by different copyists. The text of the first, with its variant passages, has been used here; the other corresponds exactly to the libretto, and is therefore not reproduced here.

DON PISTACCHIO

I'm thunderstruck!
And who is the bride?

DONNA LISETTA

My rival.

DON PISTACCHIO

My goodness! Then even if
Jupiter reduces me to ashes,
I will marry you to spite her.

DON MARTINO

My, you are inconstant!
One moment yes, the next no.

DONNA LISETTA

Ah, how much, my beloved,
must I suffer on your account!
Have mercy on me, my idol.

Captive and abandoned,

I deserve your pity, not your severity;

**Ah, you wrong your own good heart
if you keep flattering me.**

She weeps.

DON MARTINO

You show a faint heart

when you weep.

To Lisetta.

**Here it is not usual, like on the Ganges,
to make fools of ladies.**

To Don Pistacchio.

DON PISTACCHIO

**If I ever cause any more distress to you,
if I ever warm to anyone else's fire,
may the blind god
cause me to go blind.**

DONNA LISETTA

Then you will marry me?

DON PISTACCHIO

I give you my baronial word.

DON MARTINO

I wouldn't be so sure about it.

DONNA LISETTA and DON PISTACCHIO

Stop bothering us.

DON MARTINO

Enough, enough, we shall see.

DONNA LISETTA and DON PISTACCHIO

Yes, Sir, we want to get married.

DONNA LISETTA, DON PISTACCHIO, and DON

MARTINO

**Let's hurry then to the hall
to celebrate this marriage.**

They leave.

SCENE XIV

*A great hall, illuminated, with a table in the
middle laid for a banquet.*

*BETTINA and FOLLETO, then the BARONESS
and DON SIMONE.*

BETTINA

On your toes, you footmen.

FOLLETO

Attention, waitresses.

BETTINA

Lay the table.

FOLLETTO

Bring the bottles.

BETTINA and FOLLETTO

**Rejoice, shine,
we're going to make merry.**

BARONESS

What a magnificent hall!

DON SIMONE

What a royal palace for love!

BARONESS

It cheers my heart.

DON SIMONE

It's quite comforting.

BARONESS and DON SIMONE

**The banquet, the dancing
will be wonderful.**

LAST SCENE.

*Don Pistacchio, DON MARTINO,
DONNA LISETTA, and the above.*

DON MARTINO

What a beautiful table arrangement!

DONNA LISETTA

What a magnificent hall!

DON PISTACCHIO

What a superbly laid table!

DON MARTINO

What a sumptuous banquet!DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, and DON
PISTACCHIO**It's delightful, wonderful.**

BARONESS and DON SIMONE

**Soon we'll be husband and wife,
you know.**DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
PISTACCHIO, BARONESS, and DON SIMONE**You make us very happy with this news.**

DONNA LISETTA and DON PISTACCHIO

**Soon, ladies and gentlemen,
we, too, will be married.**DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
PISTACCHIO, BARONESS, and DON SIMONE**Then let us celebrate
and enjoy ourselves more.**

DON MARTINO

**Sit down at the table
and let's eat.**DONNA LISETTA, DON PISTACCHIO,
BARONESS, and DON SIMONE**No, first we want to get married.**

TUTTI

**Cupid and Hymen,
light your torches;
hurry and descend
for the time has come.**

DON SIMONE

**Dear bride, give your lovely,
*To the Baroness.*****charming hand to me.**

BARONESS

**Yes, I'm ready, my sweet support:
here is my pledge of love and faithful-
ness.***She gives her hand to Don
Martino.*

DON SIMONE

Goodness gracious, I'm dumbfounded!DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
PISTACCHIO, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**How most amusing!**

DON PISTACCHIO

**Ah, my life, my hope,
*To Donna Lisetta.*****the time has come to get married.**

DONNA LISETTA

**Yes, my heart, you are well worthy of it;
here is my pledge of love and faithful-
ness.***She gives her hand to Don
Simone.*

DON PISTACCHIO

Goodness gracious, I'm dumbfounded!DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**How most amusing!**

DON PISTACCHIO

**But this Baron won't be left hungry;
I have a morsel worthy of a king:
lovely Betta, let's get married.**

BETTINA

**Here is my pledge of love and faithful-
ness.***She gives her hand to Folletto.*

DON PISTACCHIO

**Oh, what a scene,
what a mockery, my goodness!**DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**How most amusing!**

DON PISTACCHIO

**Well then, out of my house,
leave, you impudent women;
the feast is over...**DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**The celebrations must go ahead.**

DON PISTACCHIO

Extinguish the candles.DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**Light more candles.**

DON PISTACCHIO

Clear the table.DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**Bring in the food.**

DON PISTACCHIO

**Extinguish, clear...
I am the one who gives the orders here.**DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**The Sibyl gives the orders.**

DON PISTACCHIO

**O venerable name!
*Under his breath.***DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**You must be quiet now.**

DON PISTACCHIO

What a great wedding I made!DON MARTINO, DONNA LISETTA, DON
SIMONE, BARONESS, FOLLETTO, and
BETTINA**You must be patient.**

DON PISTACCHIO

**With three meatballs in my mouth,
I have to remain hungry.**

TUTTI

**A groom with three brides,
but husband of none,
ridiculous and charming,
whoever wants to see him, here he is.
Go to your places, ushers,
to sell the tickets,
for only two pennies,
you'll all have a great time.***End of the drama*