

# The Daughter of the Regiment (La fille du régiment)

by Gaetano Donizetti

## Cast

MARIE (soprano)  
MARQUISE (mezzo-soprano)  
TONIO (tenor)  
SERGEANT SULPICE (bass)  
HORTENSIUS (bass)  
CORPORAL (bass)  
FARMER (tenor)  
DUCHESS DE CRAKENTORP (spoken role)  
NOTARY (spoken role)  
CHORUS: soldiers, peasants, guests of the Marquise

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## ACT I

### *An army camp site in the Tyrol*

*(An army camp site in Tyrol. At right a cottage, at left the outskirts of a village. In the rear the mountains. As the curtain rises, the Tyroleans are on observation on a hill. A group of women is kneeling in front of a statue of the Madonna. The Marquise of Berkenfield is sitting in a corner, sick with fright, supported by Hortensius who gives her smelling salts. In the distance, cannon shots are heard.)*

### **No. 1. Introduction and Prayer**

TYROLEAN SOLDIERS  
Man the battle stations,  
You've heard the command!  
The foe is approaching,  
We'll make a stand.  
Be on your guard.

### WOMEN

Most holy virgin,  
Graciously hear us,  
We pray to Thee.  
Stay ever near us,  
Watch over me,  
Protect our soldiers,  
We pray to Thee.

HORTENSIUS (to the Marquise)  
Be calm, I beg you, my dear lady,  
Master your fear and take a deep breath.

### MARQUISE

This is too much!  
Surrounded by the foe!  
Good Lord! My fate is worse than death!

### SOLDIERS

Prepare yourself for battle  
And be on guard!

### WOMEN

Most holy virgin, etc....

A PEASANT (from the hill)

They are gone!  
They are retreating!  
The danger is past,  
we are safe!

PEASANT WOMEN

Oh, what good news,  
our prayers have been answered,  
We are safe at last.

MARQUISE

How dreadful are the times of war  
For such as me,  
of rank and station!  
Such discomfort and aggravation!  
Life has no real style anymore!  
No time for tea or social graces,  
For musicale or fancy ball,  
For royal hunts and sporting races.  
For such as me the foe callously  
Show no respect at all.

PEASANTS

No respect at all!

MARQUISE

I've been told the Frenchmen are inhuman,  
Their soldiers are uncouth and bold,  
That they seduce most any woman,  
Let her be young, let her be old  
(*meaningfully*) Or not so old!  
I know (what will happen in my case,  
I'm certain of what will befall,  
For they are blind to beauty and virtue,  
They will show no respect at all.

MARQUISE, CHORUS

O those terrible Frenchmen,  
They'll show no respect at all.

THE PEASANT

They won't attack,  
The enemy's retreating!

HORTENSIUS, PEASANTS, SOLDIERS

They won't attack!  
They are retreating!

MARQUISE

And I hope they'll never come back!  
May those Frenchmen never come back.

ALL

The danger is over,  
They will not attack,  
The foe is retreating,  
Their future is black.  
They've taken a heating,  
Happy days are back.  
All our tribulation.  
At last shall cease,  
And the population  
Will taste the joys of peace.

MARQUISE

Will wonders never cease?

ALL

From now on our nation  
Will prosper in peace!

MARQUISE

The danger is past,  
Thank God, we're safe.  
Our noble name  
Incurred no shame.

## Dialogue

MARQUISE

My dear friends,  
don't abandon me!  
My poor nerves are in a state!  
Those terrible soldiers.

HORTENSIUS

I shall be here to defend you  
and protect you, madame.

MARQUISE

Go! Make sure that there's no more danger.  
I shall wait for you  
and above all, keep a careful eye on my carriage,  
my gold and my jewels.

HORTENSIUS

Yes, madame.

MARQUISE

My friends,  
I'll stay close to you ...  
I entrust myself to you.

## Recitative

SULPICE

Holy smoke of a cannon!  
 How they're running!  
 Those chicken-hearted rabbits!  
 How they're shaking in their boots!  
 We're here to bring them peace,  
 that at least they should know.  
 This proclamation makes it clear to ev'ryone.  
 All men will be protected,  
 if they do not resist and,  
 of course, all the women,  
 provided they are pretty.

MARIE (Off-stage)

La La lalalalalala!

SULPICE

Who is that?  
 O, that's Marie,  
 our daughter,  
 the honor and glory,  
 the jewel of the Twenty-first!

## No. 2. Duet

SULPICE

There she is, our Marie!  
 By heaven, she is lovely!  
 What other regiment  
 can boast of possessing such a daughter!

MARIE

And I am proud.  
 All of you brought me up,  
 it's you who gave me love and friendship  
 as my guardians in my childhood years.

SULPICE (joyfully)

So we did.

MARIE

It was you who acted as my father and my  
 family so very well.

SULPICE

So we did.

MARIE

And if I may say so,  
 I think I have been worthy of you.

SULPICE

Yes, you have made us all very proud of you.

MARIE

Because I am brave.  
 I have the heart of a grenadier!  
 The thunder of battle was my cradlesong,  
 I live like a soldier  
 And here in the camp is where I belong.  
 I march with my regiment  
 And hold my head high,  
 "For emp'ror and country"  
 Is my battle cry.  
 For glory,  
 for vict'ry, for France  
 I would die.

SULPICE

I must confess,  
 her education,  
 All that she knows she owes to me.  
 No other girl in all creation  
 Can ever hold a candle to Marie.

MARIE

The thunder of battle, etc...

SULPICE

I praise the day when Providence decided  
 To trust you to our loving care,  
 The day your laughter broke the silence  
 Of our camp, ringing through the air.

MARIE

Each one of you, a tender father,  
 Gave me rides upon his back.

SULPICE

So we did.

MARIE

And my bunk,  
 as befits a soldier's little girl,  
 Was an army trunk.

SULPICE

Where you would lie in peaceful sleep

MARIE

There I would lie in peaceful sleep

BOTH

To the sound of the rolling drum.

MARIE

But that is past,  
now that I'm older  
Ev'ry man gives me his salute.

SULPICE

As is expected of doting fathers  
Showing you their due respect.

MARIE

On marches or on days of battle I'm on duty,  
rain or shine —

SULPICE

To help and bring the wounded comfort,  
Pouring out a cup of wine.

MARIE

And later on in time of leisure,  
Who entertains you with a song?

SULPICE

Whose friendly smile gives us pleasure?  
That's right, it's no one but Marie.

MARIE

But to show the men that I was worthy  
And to prove to them what I could do,  
I became a true vivandière.

SULPICE

Appointed unanimously, too.

MARIE

You bet!

BOTH

Vivandière, appointed by complete acclaim!

MARIE

And what is more, if I were needed,  
I'd even march with all you men.

SULPICE

She would even march!

MARIE

Yes, I'd even brave a hail of bullets  
And just like you, I'd go and fight.

SULPICE

She would go and fight.

MARIE

They say I take after my father.  
I surely do.

SULPICE

Yes, indeed you do.

MARIE

Banners high!

SULPICE

Banners high!

MARIE

That's our battle cry!

BOTH

Banners high!

MARIE

The thunder of battle was my cradlesong!  
The call of the trumpet, the roll of the drum!  
Rataplan, rataplan, rataplan,  
Forward march!

SULPICE

The roll of the drum, here we come!

MARIE

Present arms!  
Salute and forward march!

## Dialogue

SULPICE

Our men tell me that lately you seem to be  
avoiding them.

MARIE

Well, there is a young man, a Tyrolean,  
who saved my life.

SULPICE

Who saved your life?  
How is that, please?

MARIE

I'll tell you:

### No. 3. Chorus and Song of the Regiment

SOLDIERS (pushing Tonio)  
Come on! come on!  
Move! Move!  
Wretch that you are!  
March! March!  
Son of a dog!  
You have spied all around the camp!

MARIE (noticing Tonio)  
O, my God, it's Tonio, yes it is!

SULPICE  
Drag him in here!

MARIE (to the soldiers)  
Let him go!  
(*softly to Sulpice*)  
It's he!

SULPICE  
I see, it's the young man who loves you.

TONIO (aside)  
There is Marie. What will I do now?

MARIE (*softly to Tonio*)  
What has brought you to our camp?

TONIO (softly to Marie)  
What else but you, my dearest love?

SOLDIERS  
He's a traitor,  
Agitator,  
He came here to prowl and spy.  
Now or later  
He must die.

MARIE  
Not so fast, wait just a moment!  
Hear me out!

SOLDIERS  
He's a traitor,  
And a traitor must be punished,  
He must die.

MARIE  
No, he won't!  
He has saved me from mortal danger.

SOLDIERS  
What's she saying?

SULPICE  
Is that true?

SOLDIERS  
Explain what he has done.

MARIE  
One day, I climbed a craggy mountain.  
I would have fallen to my death,  
He rescued me at risk of his own life.  
Now do you still want to kill him?

SULPICE, SOLDIERS  
No indeed, not at all.

SULPICE  
If this is true, then he is welcome,  
He'll be our friend.

TONIO  
I'm very glad. For as your friend  
I can come here, and then I can be near  
The girl I love and treasure.

SULPICE  
And now my friends, let us honor the man  
Who saved Marie from mortal danger.  
Fill your cup, and drink to him who saved her  
life.

SOLDIERS  
A toast to him who saved her life.

SULPICE  
A round of rum!  
We'll celebrate her rescue!

SOLDIERS  
We'll celebrate her rescue!

SULPICE  
Let's drink to Bavaria  
Which we will conquer soon.

TONIO  
No, no, not that!  
I'd rather break my glass!

SOLDIERS  
What was that?

TONIO

Here's to France  
And all my gallant friends!

SOLDIERS

Here's to glory and to vict'ry!  
To France and all you friends.

SULPICE (to Marie)

But to complete the celebration  
You have to sing the song we love.  
The song of our regiment,  
The Twenty-first.

TONIO, SOLDIERS

Go ahead! Go ahead!  
And sing the Regimental song.

### **Song of the Regiment**

MARIE

We are the best,  
Second to none,  
Each one of us  
Is perfect and peerless!  
We are the best  
Under the sun,  
No one so daring, so dashing,  
And fearless.  
We are the pride,  
The glory of France,  
The champions in war  
And in romance.  
Champions in love,  
Past comparing.  
In the East, in the West,  
We're the best, by far,  
Yes we are, yes we are,  
We're the cream of the crop,  
We're the top!

SOLDIERS

In the East, etc.

TONIO

Long live the Twenty-first.

SULPICE

Now verse number two.

MARIE

When vict'ry's won  
And peace has come,  
Then ev'ry man Gets a decoration.  
Lay down your gun,  
Put down your sword,  
Take up the plough  
In peaceful occupation.  
Yes, ev'ry man,  
Each grenadier,  
Each one a hero,  
We have no peer.  
Champions in war,  
Champions in love,  
Past comparing,  
In the East, in the West, etc...

(A drum roll is heard.)

SULPICE

They are sounding the call!  
On your way,  
Ev'ryone must obey  
The military rule.

(to Tonio)

And now, my boy, out of here.

MARIE

The prisoner is mine,  
I will vouch for him.

SULPICE

Well, that is up to you.  
Come and join the men.

SULPICE, SOLDIERS

When the call is sounding,  
We all must obey.  
When the drums are pounding,  
Quick, it's up and away.  
On the eve of battle  
Be of good cheer,  
Let the sabres rattle,  
Victory is near.  
On the eve of battle  
Be carefree, be gay,  
Never mind tomorrow,  
We live for today.

SULPICE

(spoken over music)

Are you coming, Marie?

MARIE  
*(shakes her head "no")*

SULPICE  
You're pouting?

MARIE *(nods)*

SULPICE  
As you wish, my daughter. *(leaves)*  
Ah, what a nasty disposition!

*(The soldiers leave with Tonio.)*

### Recitative

MARIE  
They have dragged him away by brutal force.  
And I had to let him go!  
So he could see me just once again,  
he has risked his life.

*(noticing Tonio coming down the mountain)*

MARIE  
It's you!

TONIO  
Here I am again!

MARIE  
You came back!

TONIO  
I pretended to go with them  
and I let them believe it.  
But at the first chance  
I turned round and fled.  
That old sergeant let out an awful curse.

MARIE  
My father!

TONIO  
Not your father, no, that big fat oaf!

MARIE  
He is my father.

TONIO  
No, the old one.

MARIE  
He is my father, too.

TONIO  
But say, Marie, do you by any chance  
have as your father the entire regiment?

MARIE  
Exactly, for the regiment  
has adopted me as their daughter.

TONIO  
If that is so,  
the situation changes a lot.

MARIE  
What do you mean?  
Why did you come back  
when you could have escaped?

TONIO  
Must I explain it?  
You want to know the reason?  
It's because I love you  
and I would rather die than lose you.  
You must believe, Marie, that I love you.

### No. 4. Duet

MARIE  
So, then, you love me?

TONIO  
How can you ask me?  
Hear me out.  
Only wait, before you judge me.

MARIE *(smiling)*  
All right, go ahead,  
And let me be the judge.

TONIO  
The very day you crossed my way  
And I embraced you,  
Forlorn and frightened,  
Life was different.  
My future brightened  
And I loved you more than I can say.

MARIE

Sir, you're wrong.  
It's imagination  
And that is all.

TONIO

Only wait, you haven't heard the end.  
You must believe my declaration.

MARIE

All right, go ahead,  
And let me be the judge.

TONIO

The lovely land I knew from childhood,  
And the friends that I cherished, too,  
All of this I would leave behind.  
I would gladly give them up for you.

MARIE (maliciously)

To be indifferent and disloyal  
Is very shameful,  
That is all I have to say.

TONIO

Away from you  
I could no longer bear to suffer  
In sheer despair.  
There was nothing I would not dare.  
I came here in the face of all danger.  
Made my way to this camp to see you,  
For without you I could no longer go on living.

MARIE

If you're really in love,  
It seems to me,  
You would want to go on living,  
Dear sir:  
Your pleading is so tender.  
O, say it once again.  
I'll let my heart surrender,  
To love that's so sincere.

TONIO

Please let your heart surrender,  
Because I hold you dear.  
My love is true and tender,  
Undying and sincere.

MARIE

Your words are so appealing I cannot help  
respond.  
They touch my deepest feeling,  
They speak of love so fond.

TONIO

To you I am appealing,  
I beg you to respond.  
Your words are so appealing,  
They speak to me of love.  
You must believe how much I love you.  
But do you love...

MARIE

Then let me tell you.

TONIO

Well, then, go ahead,  
And let me be the judge.

MARIE

Before I met you, I was flirtatious,  
I took pleasure in being coy.  
That is over, and I'm beginning  
To know another kind of joy.  
Until today I loved to fight the foe.  
Now I am happy to surrender  
To an enemy I know.  
On that day in the mountains  
When you appeared  
And saved me from certain death.  
You gave to me this lovely fragrant flower,  
A magic charm that never lost its power.  
And since that day I kept it near my heart.  
Do you still doubt me,  
do you believe me?

TONIO

I believe you!

MARIE

Your pleading is so tender,  
Oh, say it once again,  
I'll let my heart surrender  
To love that's so sincere.



TONIO

Please let your heart surrender  
Because I hold you dear.  
My love is true and tender,  
Undying and sincere.  
With you I want to share my life.  
You must become my wife.

MARIE, TONIO

You're mine forever,  
We'll soon be man and wife,  
We'll lead a happy life.  
I'm yours forever,  
We'll soon be man and wife,  
We'll lead a happy life.

## Dialogue

SULPICE

*(surprising them at the moment when Tonio embraces Marie)*

Ah! Damn it all! Again that Tyrolean!

*(Marie and Tonio leave.)*

HORTENSIUS

There's the French officer I was telling you about.

Don't be afraid — he's awfully ugly,  
but a very pleasant fellow.

MARQUISE

It's just his uniform that upsets me so!

HORTENSIUS

*(presenting the Marquise to Sulpice)*

This is Madame the Marquise who desires to speak to you.

SULPICE

Ah — Madame the Marquise.

MARQUISE

Yes, captain.

SULPICE (aside)

Thanks. They are promoting me damned quickly.

HORTENSIUS

This is what it is about: Madame —

SULPICE

Silence in the ranks.

Madame will do me the honor of telling me.

MARQUISE

Dear captain —

SULPICE (aside)

Thank you.

MARQUISE

I have decided to give up my journey  
and return to my chateau,  
but our mountains are full of soldiers,  
and I am afraid.

SULPICE

You are very gracious, Madame Marquise.

MARQUISE

Therefore I thought that the French,  
being as chivalrous as they are brave,  
would not refuse a request from you to  
protect me as far as my chateau.

SULPICE

How far is it from here?

MARQUISE

From that mountain you can see the towers of  
Berkenfield.

SULPICE

Of Ber —

HORTENSIUS

— kenfield.

SULPICE

Beg pardon, Madame,  
what's the name of your chateau?

MARQUISE

Berkenfield, of course,  
the same name as mine.

SULPICE (bursting out)

You! Damn it — could it be — ah,  
forgive me!

MARQUISE

What are you trying to say?

SULPICE

That name sounds very much like Robert's name.

MARQUISE

Captain Robert!

SULPICE

You knew him?

MARQUISE (animatedly)

Very well, indeed, sir.

*(recollecting herself)*

I mean to say — not I —

but a member of my family.

My sister.

Yes, captain, it was my sister, who knew him very well.

SULPICE

And this sister —

MARQUISE

She is no longer alive.

But from her marriage to this Frenchman a child was born.

SULPICE (excitedly)

A daughter!

MARQUISE

How did you know?

Indeed a poor child that the captain placed in my guardianship before he died.

But the old servant to whom the baby was entrusted also lost his life.

So the sole heiress to my fortune and my name...

SULPICE

Your niece?

MARQUISE

Who today would he a baroness —

was lost, abandoned,

trampled upon in the crowd —

died, the poor little thing.

SULPICE

Saved, saved! Madame Krikenfield, saved, thanks to us!

MARQUISE

Ah, dear heaven, sir — help me, sir!

SULPICE

Saved, I tell you! By brave men.

MARQUISE

You know her, then?

SULPICE

Do I know her!

HORTENSIUS

Where is she?

SULPICE

Right nearby.

MARQUISE

Ah, captain, give me back my niece, my child.

Take me to her.

For you have proof, have you not?

SULPICE

Proof! *(opening his pouch)*

I have it — a letter I have never been able to read.

MARQUISE

But one word more, sir.

This child, is she worthy of me

and of the Berkenfield name?

SULPICE

*(continuing to rummage in his pouch)*

of the Berken — I should say so.

MARQUISE

She was brought up —

SULPICE

On solid principles.

She is very distinguished.

MARIE

*(enters, chasing a soldier*

*who has been stealing her cooking pot)*

Damn you!

SULPICE

There she is.

MARQUISE

I have read it all, sir.

This letter is definitely from Captain Robert.

MARIE  
What's that lady talking about?

SULPICE  
She says, she says,  
my child — that you are her niece — and she is  
your aunt.  
(*pushes her into the arms of the Marquise*)

MARIE (explosively)  
My aunt — you are my aunt? Impossible.  
Ah, hell!

MARQUISE  
Dear Heaven! She swears.

HORTENSIUS  
What an upbringing!

MARIE  
All right — I'm going to introduce my father to  
you,  
the whole regiment.

MARQUISE  
Later, perhaps. (*softly to Hortensius*)  
It is necessary to take her away from these  
people here.

HORTENSIUS (*softly*)  
As quickly as possible.

MARQUISE  
Hortensius, ask for horses immediately.  
Mademoiselle Marie,  
it is necessary that you assume  
the title and rank belonging to you.  
And you will come with me immediately.

MARIE  
Come with you — abandon them, my friends?

MARQUISE  
I desire it and, if need be, I insist on it.

MARIE  
And by what right, Madame?

MARQUISE (with emotion)  
By the right your unfortunate father gave me,  
when he died.

MARIE  
My father!

MARQUISE  
Read what he wrote to me.

MARIE (reading)  
Tomorrow, perhaps,  
I will no longer be alive.  
I entrust my daughter to your hands.  
She has no one in the world but you to depend  
on.  
(*softening, to the Marquise*)  
Ah, Madame!

SULPICE (moved, to Marie)  
Come on, courage, you must!

MARIE  
Well, then, I shall have, but you will  
all come with me, all of you.

HORTENSIUS  
Merciful heaven! A regiment!

MARQUISE  
We shall see about that.  
Come, dear niece!  
Hurry up, Hortensius!

SULPICE  
Hurry up, Hortensius!  
(*A drum roll is heard. The soldiers are rushing  
in from all sides.*)

## No. 5. Chorus

CORPORAL, SOLDIERS  
Rataplan, rataplan, rataplan!  
To the rhythmical beat  
Of the fife and drum  
We are marching, here we come!  
Rataplan, rataplan, rataplan,  
Forward march, here we come.  
We march along with colors flying  
We are the gallant soldiers of the Twenty-first!  
Fearless and strong,  
In faith undying,  
We march proudly to battle  
While cannon and rifle shots burst.  
Rataplan, rataplan, rataplan!

## Dialogue

CORPORAL

Who is coming there? Eh!  
It is the young peasant from this morning.  
A new recruit — a new soldier!

TONIO (appears)

Yes it is true, I am a soldier!  
I got my uniform today.  
Here is my cap, I proudly wear it,  
I'm one of you as of today.  
My love inspired me to dare it,  
Love alone has shown me the way.  
To win her who won my admiration  
I have chosen this new vocation.  
It's my only aim in life,  
That she will consent to be my wife.

CORPORAL

It seems to me our friend is in love!

TONIO

I ask for the hand of your daughter.

SOLDIERS

What? You want to marry Marie?

TONIO

Listen to me, please  
You are her father, listen to me,  
For I know it depends on you  
To let me marry Marie.

SOLDIERS

We can never allow our daughter  
To wed a man who has been our foe.  
No, we can't let her fall so low.  
She cannot marry you,  
No, never!

TONIO

So you refuse?

SOLDIERS

Yes, we refuse,  
Because her hand is promised  
To one of us alone.

TONIO

But, my friends, hear me out.  
I am one of you.  
You are her father,  
Therefore I beg you,  
Hear me out.

SOLDIERS

That will not do.

TONIO

But your daughter loves me!

SOLDIERS (surprised)

How can that be? It can't be true.

TONIO

Yes, she loves me, I tell you!

SOLDIERS

You say that she loves you?

TONIO

Yes, she loves me with all her heart.

SOLDIERS

This suitor, what of him?  
Since she seems to love him,  
Should we like a father  
Consent on the spot?  
But why must she marry  
Some Tom, Dick or Harry?  
It is just too had  
And it makes us mad!  
He is such a greenhorn!  
How shall we take action?  
To whose satisfaction?  
She's so far above hint,  
Why then must she love him?  
Such a stupid clod!  
She deserves a god!

TONIO

What's your answer?

CORPORAL

If that is so, we give you our consent.

SOLDIERS

Yes, we are giving you our consent.

TONIO (enthusiastically)  
 Day of glory, day of joy!  
 I'm a lucky, a lucky boy!  
 I have won her, won Marie,  
 I'm a soldier and a husband-to-be!

SOLDIERS  
 But will you love her  
 And protect her forever?

TONIO  
 I swear I will!

SOLDIERS  
 Do you swear that's the truth?

TONIO  
 Day of glory, day of joy, etc....

## No. 7. Finale

TONIO  
 At last I have achieved my goal.  
 Marie and I can marry!

SULPICE  
 Sorry, she can't marry without express  
 permission  
 from her aunt who will take her away.

SOLDIERS  
 Take our daughter away?  
 What do you mean, how so?

TONIO  
 She can't take her away,  
 For she belongs to me.  
 I will not let her go.

MARIE  
 Yes, I must leave.

## Romance

He spoke the truth, my friends,  
 I have to leave you!  
 I part from you with heavy heart  
 But when I'm gone you must not let it grieve  
 you.  
 No more tears, no regrets,  
 That will be my consolation,  
 A last farewell.  
 How I hate this separation,  
 Dear friends, good-by!

TONIO, SULPICE, CORPORAL  
 All of my joy goes with Marie.

TONIO  
 Nothing is left in life for me.

SULPICE, CORPORAL  
 What greater loss could ever he?

MARIE  
 I cannot bear to say good-by  
 To all I cherish,  
 To my childhood, to those for whom I care.  
 All the joys of my life that we share,  
 Now are over.  
 Instead of love and friendship  
 They offer me riches.  
 But I must leave!  
 Ah, no more tears, no regrets,  
 Think of me always.  
 Good-by, my friends, good-by!

TONIO  
 Ah, my dear friends, don't let her go!  
 Please find a way, she must not leave,  
 Don't let her go!

CORPORAL, SULPICE  
 How sad to lose our dearest child,  
 I can't believe that this is so!

SOLDIERS  
 Marie, don't go! no, don't go!

TONIO  
 Ah, I will follow you if you go!

SULPICE  
 No, you can't leave us now,  
 For you are one of us!

MARIE

Must you stay, Tonio?

TONIO

Yes, my beloved!

MARIE

To lose you now will break my heart!

TONIO

I love you, Marie!

MARIE

To lose you, on the day  
When you were to be my husband!

TONIO

I love you, I love you!

SULPICE

He must stay with us.

MARIE

Why did you have to join them now,  
Tonio dear?

TONIO

I did it for you, my love, for you!

SULPICE

We must part from Marie,  
What a horrible day!  
The devil with that woman  
Who is stealing her away!

SOLDIERS

We must part from Marie, etc....

SULPICE, SOLDIERS

She who always was near us  
Through the good and the bad,  
She who knew how to cheer us,  
Through the good and the bad!  
Marie was our guardian angel,  
The greatest luck we ever had!

MARIE, TONIO

Ah, there's no more hope,  
There's no more future.  
All our joy lasted but one day.  
How can I live my life without you,  
My one and only love?

SOLDIERS

To hell with that woman!

TONIO

My heart is yours, Marie, forever.  
Before long I shall follow you,  
No one can keep me away from you.

MARQUISE

Marie, we're leaving,  
We must get started,  
The coach is here, we must depart.  
Marie, we're waiting, don't delay,  
Make haste, come on, make haste,  
There is no time to waste.

MARIE

Tonio, don't forget me,  
My dear Tonio, farewell!

HORTENSIUS

We must depart, we must move on,  
The coach is waiting.  
My dear Madame, make haste.

SULPICE, SOLDIERS

Enough, my child,  
And no more weeping.  
Salute your daughter,  
That's more in keeping.  
The devil with that woman who is stealing her  
away.  
And now it's time,  
That we march on our way.

*(The drums are beating in the camp. The soldiers present arms to Marie, commanded by Sulpice who is wiping his eyes. Marie, weeping, waves good-by to them. Tonio throws his soldier's cap to his feet in despair. Tableau.)*

**End of Act I**

## ACT II

*(large drawing room  
in the Chateau Berkenfield)*

### Dialogue

MARQUISE *(alone)*

Finally the marriage is settled.  
She'll be married to one of the greatest lords in  
Germany.  
One hundred and fifty branches in his family  
tree.  
Marie should be happy enough with that.

SULPICE

Your old steward said that you were asking for  
me.

MARQUISE

Come here, come closer. I allow it.  
You are a good man, a good soldier, Sulpice.

SULPICE

I should think so, damn it!

MARQUISE

Marie listens to you, you have her confidence.  
You have helped me to make her more docile.  
Thanks to my efforts, her rough bearing  
and her soldierly manners have almost entirely  
disappeared.  
And I have been able to choose a husband for  
her  
who is one of the most illustrious nobles of  
Bavaria,  
the Duke of Krakentorp.

SULPICE

And Marie, I mean Mademoiselle Marie?

MARQUISE

She has consented — but not with the  
enthusiasm  
I would have desired.  
Therefore I count on you to give her courage.  
This very evening we shall sign the contract  
which we will send to the Duke at the court.

SULPICE

Once a vivandière, now a future duchess!

MARQUISE

Quiet! Some of our noble compatriots,  
envious of this union,  
after having done everything in their power  
to discourage the duchess,  
keep insisting that Marie is awkward and badly  
brought up.

I want to astound them by showing off her  
graces, her talents.

I want Marie's charming voice to de-light them,  
to overwhelm them.

Hush! Here she comes.

*(Marie enters.)*

Come here, come here, my child!

*(She embraces her.)*

### Recitative

MARQUISE

We have found the chanson which you are to  
perform.  
It's absolutely charming, "Venus comes down."

SULPICE

My dander's going up.

MARQUISE

What did you say?

SULPICE

I? That it's dandy!

MARQUISE

Venus comes down in a veil of shadows  
to see the god whom she's chosen to love.  
The music is by Maestro Calfariello.

MARIE

Sulpice, say something.

SULPICE

Delightful!

MARQUISE

Well, then, Marie, my silly girl,  
don't just stand there!  
Here is your music.  
I will accompany.  
Now let's begin.

**No. 8 Terzet**

MARIE

The grove lay still and cool at dawning,  
As Venus from the sky above ...

SULPICE (*aside*)

Yes, from the sky, just like a dove.

MARIE

Came down in tender mists of morning  
To seek the object of her love.

SULPICE (*softly to Marie*)

Rataplan, rataplan, rataplan,  
That's the song we used to sing.

MARIE

Rataplan, rataplan, rataplan,  
That's the song we used to sing.

MARQUISE

Indeed, what does this mean?

MARIE

Dear aunt, I beg your pardon,  
I suppose my attention strayed,

SULPICE

I suppose her attention strayed.

MARQUISE

You're doing well, don't be dismayed.

MARIE

Ah, excuse me, dear aunt.  
And this god, on whom the goddess Venus  
Had bestowed her love....

SULPICE

Rataplan, rataplan

MARIE

Bestowed her favor ...

MARQUISE (*spoken*)

Go on, dear!

MARIE

Bestowed her favor and her love,

SULPICE

The prize of love past comparing.

MARIE

The prize of love past comparing.  
In the East, in the West, we're the best, by far,  
Yes we are, yes we are, we're the best, by far,  
We're the cream of the crop, we're the top.  
We're the fabulous Twenty-First.

MARIE, SULPICE (*aside*)

This silly song's not even pretty,  
There's no melody you can hum.  
I prefer a little ditty  
With the thrilling beat of a drum.

MARQUISE (*aside*)

Oh, mon dieu, that's all wrong.  
In my song there's no drum.

MARIE, SULPICE

What a bore!

MARQUISE

Let us go on.

MARIE

I wish I could, but I guess  
I am much too dumb. (*continuing*)  
Philomel grieved for her faithless lover,  
And then, as morning mist will rise ...

MARQUISE (*prompting*)

The lonely valley ...

MARIE

The lonely valley was resounding

MARQUISE

With the wail of her ...

MARIE

With the wail of her plaintive sighs.

SULPICE (*softly to Marie*)

Who cares for sighs of Philomel.  
The devil may take her plaintive sighs.

MARQUISE

Marie dear, let us sigh together.  
Tralalalalalalalala

MARIE (*gaily*)

Tralalalalalalalala



MARQUISE  
That is much too fast,  
That is not the tune, no, no no!

MARIE  
Lalalaaaaaa!

MARQUISE (*spoken*)  
No coloratura, please!

SULPICE  
But it sounds good to me.

MARIE (*softly*)  
Tralalala! Ah!

MARQUISE  
Sing loud.

MARIE  
Ah!

MARQUISE  
Not quite so loud. That's good!  
That's bad! That's worse

MARIE  
Ah! That's enough, I give up.  
In the regiment at least we sang the way we  
liked.

MARQUISE  
Mon dieu! How can you say that,  
How unrefined!

MARIE, SULPICE  
Here we come, here we come.  
That is the regimental song.  
Let us march to the beat of the drum,  
Rataplan, to the beat of the drum!

MARQUISE  
What a disgrace, I can't believe it,  
That goes too far!  
To mix up a song so pretty  
With a military ditty,  
With a vulgar soldier song.

MARIE, SULPICE  
Forward march! Twenty-first!  
Here we come!

MARQUISE  
Oh, what a shock, a vulgar ordinary song!

MARIE, SULPICE  
That is the regimental song.

## Dialogue

MARQUISE  
All this puts my nerves in a terrible state!  
Really, Sulpice, it's your fault, you encourage  
her!

SULPICE  
Certainly. It's a bit dull here.

MARQUISE  
Moreover, today I have gathered together  
the most noble personalities of the country,  
titles equal to my own.  
Be reasonable, my child,  
come along, embrace me,  
hold yourself straight,  
raise your head — there — like that!  
What a pretty duchess you'll make!  
Sulpice, come with me!  
She is charming.  
(*She leaves with Sulpice.*)

## No. 9. Song

MARIE (*alone*)  
There's no more hope. I must do as they say.  
Here I am alone, I see no other way.  
They have given me wealth and a title,  
They thought I would be impressed.  
Instead I live in by-gone memory,  
All my dreams and hopes are laid to rest.  
Beneath the jewels and the laces,  
I bury my grief and despair.  
What use are beauty, frills and graces,  
When my beloved is not here?  
Where are you now, my dearest Tonio,  
You are far away from your bride.  
I'd give my rank and all my riches,  
If you were only here at my side.  
Before very long the guests will be arriving.  
There is no other way,  
I must sign this hateful contract.

(*The sound of a military drum is heard.*)

It's the sound of a drum!  
 Or is it a dream?  
 The drums and the trumpet's,  
 I know the sound so well  
 Ah, it's true,  
 Here they are, all my friends,  
 All my friends, ever faithful,  
 Bringing back the days of the past!  
 They are here, to a marl,  
 All my comrades in arms.  
 Come back, all you golden days  
 When I was happy,  
 Those thrilling olden days,  
 Glorious and carefree!  
 Here's to friendship and happiness,  
 The good times I knew,  
 To daring adventure  
 And love that is true!  
 I'll always remember  
 The days of my glory!

#### SOLDIERS

*(entering from all sides)*  
 Our daughter, we have found you,  
 All your friends from the past,  
 All your friends and your fam'ly,  
 We have found you at last.

#### MARIE

I'm so glad, dearest friends,  
 Here's a hug and a kiss,  
 I'm so happy to see you,  
 Ah, all is not yet lost.  
 My dear friends, what a surprise!  
 Come back, all you golden days, etc....

### Dialogue

#### SULPICE

Our friends, our comrades are here!

#### SOLDIERS

Sulpice! Sulpice!

#### MARIE

Tonio!

#### SULPICE

I salute you, officer!  
 And those poor soldiers,  
 we must have them drink to your health.

#### HORTENSIUS

Woe is me! Soldiers again!

#### MARIE

Hortensius, hurry and bring  
 my aunt's best and oldest wine!

#### HORTENSIUS

Certainly not!

#### SULPICE

You heard the order! March!  
*(The soldiers leave.)*

### No. 10 Terzet

#### MARIE, TONIO, SULPICE

Here we are, all the three,  
 You and I, you and he,  
 I was never so glad and excited!  
 Is it you, is it true?  
 What a joy, once again reunited!  
 It's too good to be true,  
 I can hardly believe,  
 We're together again.

#### SULPICE

Those were the days.

#### TONIO

We were so happy.

#### MARIE

I missed you so!

#### SULPICE

You went away.

#### TONIO

But now we are once more together.

#### MARIE

The good old days are here again,  
 It is just like the good old days!

#### MARIE, TONIO, SULPICE

Here we are, all the three, etc....

#### TONIO

You have to speak for me.

MARIE  
You have to speak for him.

MARIE, TONIO  
I ask that much of you.

TONIO  
You know what you must do.

MARIE  
It now is up to you.

SULPICE  
But, but, but, but  
There's something you don't know.  
Let me explain!

MARIE  
Since I am sure he loves me,

TONIO  
And since I have her love,

MARIE  
And since I love him too,  
You have to speak for him.

TONIO  
It now is up to you.

MARIE  
How can I love another,  
When he loves me, too?

SULPICE  
Oh, damn it, listen to me!

MARIE, TONIO, SULPICE  
Here we are, all the three, etc...

### Dialogue

MARQUISE  
What do I see? A soldier here?  
Standing with Marie?  
Sulpice, you have permitted this?

SULPICE (*aside*)  
Now the fun begins.

MARQUISE  
Quiet!

TONIO  
Madame!

MARQUISE  
Who are you? What do you want?  
What are you doing here?

TONIO  
Please listen to me.

### No. 11. Romance

TONIO  
Indeed I enlisted in the army  
So that I could be near Marie.  
And for her sake I've risked ev'ry danger.  
But in my mind there was a doubt that troubled  
me:  
Just suppose that her new-found riches and  
station  
Should change this angel I adore.  
If she no longer chose to love me,  
I could not bear to go on living any-more.  
So here I am to claim my darling.  
With due respect to you, madame.  
I know that we belong together.  
Please believe how sincere I am!  
We two are made for one another,  
She is the one whom I adore.  
If I were ever forced to lose her,  
I could not bear to go on living anymore.

### Dialogue

MARQUIS (to Tonio)  
Monsieur, my niece is already promised.  
Within an hour the contract will be signed.  
I must ask you to leave this house instantly.  
Sulpice, you stay here!

SULPICE  
I?

MARQUISE  
We are alone, Sulpice, you are an honest man.  
You would not want to ruin a poor woman  
who is confiding in you.

SULPICE  
On my honor as a soldier, I wouldn't.

MARQUISE

My family's exceptionally high station,  
their desire to have me marry a man worthy of  
my name,  
condemned me to remain single far beyond the  
age  
when other girls of my station are usually  
married.  
I was thirty years old, and though still beautiful,  
I was unmarried.

SULPICE (*aside*)

Poor girl.

MARQUISE

Captain Robert saw me and was attracted by....

SULPICE

They say that he was....

MARQUISE

Charming. I loved him, and despite my horror of  
a misalliance,  
I would have given him my hand,  
if his departure on a new campaign  
had not separated us abruptly at Geneva  
where I had followed him in my weakness.

SULPICE

Ah, ah.

MARQUISE

Some time later I waited for him in this chateau,  
but I returned here alone, without her....

SULPICE

Her? Who?

MARQUISE

My daughter.

SULPICE

Marie!

MARQUISE

My daughter, whose birth I had to conceal  
in order to prevent my life from being ruined.

SULPICE (*aside*)

Yes, yes, I begin to see it all.

MARQUISE

Do you understand, now, why,  
surrounded by a nobility so proud and haughty.  
I tremble that my secret may be revealed before  
everyone?

Do you also understand that I love Marie,  
and that to take her from me  
would mean taking my very life away?

SULPICE

She shall not be taken away from you, Madame.

(*Music begins.*)

MARQUISE

This marriage saves everything.  
It gives a name and a title to someone  
whom I cannot acknowledge....  
Persuade Marie to agree,  
and I will be eternally grateful to you.

SULPICE

Trust in me, Madame.

A soldier's heart never deceives, never betrays.

HORTENSIUS

Madame, the noble guests are beginning to  
arrive,  
the notary is already waiting in the library.

MARQUISE (*aside*)

Ah, good Lord! What a moment!

HORTENSIUS (*announcing*)

The Duchess of Krackenthorp.

MARQUISE (*going to meet her*)

Ah, Duchess. My niece and I  
have been awaiting you most eagerly.  
I shall have the honor of presenting her to you  
presently.

THE DUCHESS

Is she not here?

MARQUISE

She will be ... she is busy with her preparations.  
She wants so much to please you, dear Duchess.

THE NOTARY (*producing the contract*)

Is everybody present?

THE DUCHESS (sarcastically)  
Everybody, except the future.... *(furiously)*  
This is no way to behave  
with the foremost nobility of the country!

MARQUISE *(aside)*  
Ah, I am going to die!

DUCHESS  
What an affront, what a scandal!  
I, the Duchess of Krackenthorp!

## No. 12 Finale

MARQUISE  
Ah, there she is!

MARIE  
*(rushing toward her, her voice choked with emotion)*  
My mother!

MARQUISE  
Marie, my child!

SULPICE  
Be careful, ev'ryone is watching you.

DUCHESS  
Well, my dear Marquise....

MARIE  
Oh, I must obey....  
The contract ... give it to me ...  
I am ready.  
*(Noise is heard outside.)*

ALL  
What on earth, what is that dreadful noise?

TONIO (off-stage)  
Ev'ryone come with me!

GUESTS  
Who let these soldiers in?

SOLDIERS  
*(entering with Tonio)*  
We have come to help our daughter,  
This is why you see us here.  
Dear Marie, don't be afraid,  
We have come to take you back.  
All your troubles now are over,  
We are coming to your aid.

TONIO  
We came to set you free,  
We cannot let you marry  
A man you do not love.  
We cannot let you suffer  
And leave you to your fate.  
We came to set you free  
Before it is too late.

SOLDIERS  
We came to set you free!

GUESTS  
What do you mean?

TONIO  
It's time you all should know it.

TONIO, SOLDIERS  
Marie is no noble lady,  
She's the daughter of the regiment!

GUESTS  
Past belief, not a noble lady,  
She's the daughter of the regiment.

SULPICE  
Now all is lost!

GUESTS  
Are you really?

MARIE  
Yes, poor helpless baby, abandoned in wartime,  
By luck I was left to the care of these men.  
They were my fam'ly and my only parents,  
They gave me shelter, love and a home.  
Could I forget what they have done,  
When I owe them my life and home?

GUESTS

The girl is very charming,  
She has a noble heart,  
She is honest and kind,  
And I'm taking her part.

MARIE

Now you know all,  
If I put my name to this contract

TONIO

What will she do?

MARIE

I would die.

MARQUISE

Dearest child, my dear Marie,  
How you have suffered.  
You must not sign it, do not sign.

GUESTS

I do not understand this.

MARQUISE

This is too much!  
Marie is my daughter!  
Now no more pride,  
I give you the love of your choice,  
He shall be your husband and my son!

MARIE

Tonio!

TONIO

Marie!

SULPICE

God bless her heart,  
And if I dared, for what she did,  
I'd give her a kiss!

MARIE, TONIO, SULPICE, SOLDIERS

A toast to the future,  
To love and friendship,  
May fortune smile on us,  
And bring us luck!  
Forever and ever!

MARIE

Here's to friendship and happiness,  
The good times I knew,  
To daring adventure  
And love that is true!  
Here's to you,  
all you golden days,  
When I was happy,  
Those thrilling olden days,  
Days of the past!

ALL

Forever and ever!

**End of the opera**