




















Tosca





Working in the church, Mario  muses on the blonde Magdalene he paints;
But his heart  is only for his dark haired love: singer Floria Tosca. 


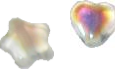

Political fugitive  Angelotti comes to seek sanctuary. His friend Mario offers him
 Food and shelter – *and* there is a hiding place inside the well in his garden.



Tosca  arrives inviting Mario to a moonlit rendezvous...
Jealous  she insists he make the Magdalene's eyes  dark! 




Police chief Scarpia  finds evidence of Angelotti in the church.
Suspicious of Mario's involvement, he will use Tosca's jealousy to discover more. 
As the choir sing:  he thinks only of Mario's death  and his conquest of Tosca.

Later, Scarpia confronts Tosca. He will torture  Mario to learn Angelotti's hiding place.
Unable to bear this she reveals the secret place. She offers to pay for Mario's life, 
 But Scarpia will accept only Tosca's love  for payment.
Tosca Prays, wondering how God could abandon 
She who had lived for art and love  and hurt no one.

 Scarpia arranges a "false execution" and safe passage papers for her and Mario.
Spying a knife on the table, Tosca impulsively stabs Scarpia to death. 
Stunned, she dresses the corpse with candles  and a crucifix. 

At day break, on the roof, Mario offers his ring  as payment to deliver a letter to Tosca.
Overcome with emotion he recalls their starlit nights of love, 
And weeps for the loss of his love and life. 

Tosca arrives, full of hope for their escape. She tells him of the papers, Scarpia's death and
The false firing squad. Amazed he blesses the gentle hands  that could have performed such an act.
They imagine their life of Love together. 

Tosca instructs Mario in "dying", but the firing squad  is real. Scarpia has had his revenge
From the grave.  Pursued for his murder by the officers, Tosca plunges from the roof
To her death,  swearing she will meet Scarpia before God! 