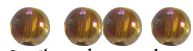









Ernani



The bandits sing a drinking  song, but their leader,  Ernani, a former nobleman, is  pensive - his love Elvira, is to marry Silva against her will in the morning.

The bandits pledge to help free her at sunset!



Elvira scorns  Silva's  jewels and riches, longing only for her true love, Ernani. She also rejects  King Carlo, thief of Ernani's lands, when he comes to woo her. When Carlo becomes forceful Ernani intervenes and Silva  finds his betrothed



With two seducers - *One of whom is the King!*

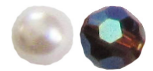
Elvira begs Ernani to flee his enemies promising him her unfailing heart.




In the morning Ernani, disguised as a  pilgrim, is granted shelter by Silva.


Ernani learns Elvira believed him dead and planned to kill herself on

The altar at her wedding to Silva. Silva finds the lovers embracing,



But his jealous rage  is interrupted by the Kings arrival...

Keeping his word he continues to shelter Ernani-and Carlo takes Elvira hostage.

Ernani owes his life to Silva who wishes to duel  with him.


He pledges instead to die at the  sound of Silva's horn at any time-



If he will help save Elvira.

While awaiting news of his election at the tomb of Charlemagne, Carlo discovers

Rebels including Ernani and Silva planning his assassination!

Three cannon  shots announce his election as Holy Roman Emperor!



Elvira begs for Ernani's life and Carlo chooses to begin his

Reign with clemency and Ernani and Elvira's marriage.

Silva vows to live only for vengeance.



Elvira and Ernani's two hearts  are at last united in marriage ----

But in the distance Ernani hears the sound  of Silva's horn.

Ernani begs for time to sip from the cup of love, but Silva offers only a blade or poison.

Elvira protests their hearts are one and the chosen blade



must kill them both.

As he stabs himself Ernani begs Elvira to live to love



his memory...



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