

Il Trovatore

Ferrando tells the sad tale of how, long ago, Count Di Luna's infant brother
Was stolen by a gypsy girl. Later, baby's bones were found in the ashes where
The gypsy's mother had been burnt at the stake...

Meanwhile, Leonora awaits beloved troubadour, Manrico, who serenades her
In the moonlight. In the dark, she mistakes lurking Di Luna for Manrico.
The men are wildly jealous-A vicious duel ensues!

Later, the gypsies sing cheerfully at their work.
Manrico's mother, Azucena, tells the sad tale of her Mother's death at the stake
For "bewitching" the di Luna's infant. Her mother cried out to be avenged.
Azucena abducted the infant, to hurl him on the fire in revenge! In grief and distress,
She wrongly threw her own child into the flames. Manrico hearing this
Ponders how a mysterious force kept him from killing Di Luna in the duel.

Manrico receives word that Leonora, believing him dead, and plans to enter the convent.
He rushes to stop her! At the chapel, Di Luna waits to seize his Leonora-
Manrico arrives just in time! Leonora is shocked and thinks Manrico has come from heaven!
Back in the village, Ferrando captures Azucena, he recognizes
Her as the abductor of baby Di Luna!

Manrico and Leonora are about to be wed, when word of Azucena's imprisonment arrives.
Manrico hurries to her rescue, but is also captured.

Leonora offers herself to Di Luna to save Manrico. Di Luna agrees,
But Leonora takes poison so she may remain faithful to Manrico even in death.

Leonora tells Manrico that he will be freed. Realizing she must have promised herself to Di Luna,
Manrico is furious at her unfaithfulness. Sadly, Leonora reveals
She poisoned herself and dies in his arms.

Enraged at being thwarted, Di Luna orders Manrico killed. Azucena reveals
Too late that Manrico was his brother. "Mother," she cries "you are avenged!"

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