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Rosita (1923)

Ernst Lubitsch (1892-1947)

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OVERVIEW

Auteur: Ernst Lubitsch was a German-American film director, producer, writer, and actor. He is famous for urbane comedies of manners. With the growth of his prestige, his films came to be known as having *the Lubitsch touch*. Lubitsch was born in 1892 in Berlin, as the son of Simon Lubitsch, a tailor, and Anna (née) Lindenstaedt. His family was Ashkenazi Jewish. He did not enter his father's tailoring business, and by 1911, he was a member of Max Reinhardt's Deutsches Theater. Lubitsch was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director three times for *The Patriot* (1928), *The Love Parade* (1929), and *Heaven Can Wait* (1943). In 1946, he received an Honorary Academy Award for his contributions to the art of motion pictures. His best-known works are *Trouble in Paradise* (1932), *Design for Living* (1933), *Ninotchka* (1939), *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), *To Be or Not to Be* (1942) and *Heaven Can Wait* (1943). Lubitsch died of a heart attack on November 30, 1947, in Hollywood at the age of 55.

Film: *Rosita* is an American silent, historical, comedy-drama film directed by Ernst Lubitsch. The film stars Mary Pickford. It is based upon an 1872 opera *Don César de Bazan* by Adolphe d'Ennery and Philippe Dumanoir. Raoul Walsh is the uncredited, second director of the film. The writers of the screenplay are Edward Knoblock, Hanns Kräly, and Norbert Falk. The cinematography is by Charles Rosher. Upon its release, the film met with great success and earned over \$1 million. However, for reasons unknown, Pickford thought the film was a failure. She allowed *Rosita* to decay while preserving most of her filmography. In the 1960s, a nitrate print of the film was discovered in Russian archives. It was repatriated by The Museum of Modern Art. In 2016, work restoring the film began as recent breakthroughs in digital restoration made it possible to reclaim many of the film's damaged images. The restoration of the film held its world premiere at the 74th Venice International Film Festival in 2017.

Historical background: *Rosita* is based upon an *opéra comique* in four acts by Jules Massenet. *Opéra comique* is a genre of French opera that contains spoken dialogue and arias. *Opéra comique* is not necessarily comical or shallow; for instance, *Carmen*, perhaps the most famous *opéra comique*, is a tragedy. The French libretto is by Adolphe d'Ennery, Philippe-François Pinel "Dumanoir, and Jules Chantepie, which was based on the play by d'Ennery and Dumanoir, which was first performed at Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Martin in 1844. This play drew on the character of Don César de Bazan which the readers can encounter in the 1838 drama *Ruy Blas* by Victor Hugo, although it has little connection with the plot of Hugo's drama.

SYNOPSIS

Seville, a city in Spain, is sunk in the depths of depravity. The king pays a visit to this city at the time of a carnival. Rosita is a girl who lives in Seville, she is a beloved street singer who is praised by the public. She is also the only one who works in her family, so her family is entirely dependent on her work. One day, a tax collector comes to ask for taxes from her and she becomes utterly engaged. Therefore, she writes a song to mock the king. The soldiers arrest her for insulting the king. The king, on the other hand, visits her anonymously and is impressed by her charm and beauty. As she is being taken to prison, a captain called Don Diego sees her and tries to prevent her from being arrested. However, he cannot persuade the soldiers and is also arrested. They fall in love at the police station. Soon, Rosita is released from prison and taken to the palace under the king's orders. The king tries to get closer to and seduce her, however, Rosita does not allow this. She does not want to be close to the king, but she accepts living

in a villa under her poor family's pressure. Even though they move to a villa as a family, they are still not respected by the servants. Rosita's mother demands that she be married to a nobleman. The king chooses Diego for her to be her husband, knowing that Diego will be hanged later on. Diego, however, wishes not to be hanged but shot like a respectable soldier. The king accepts his last wish on the condition that he will be married to a woman, not knowing who she is. At the wedding, Rosita and Diego are married with their eyes covered. However, Rosita takes off her cover and looks at her husband. She is shocked to learn that Diego is her husband. He is, nevertheless, taken back to jail immediately. Rosita asks the king to set Diego free. The king pretends to have accepted her wish, however, after she leaves, he orders his officials to kill Diego. Meanwhile, the queen finds out about her husband's new affair and is angry at him. She makes sure that Diego is not executed. Rosita is soon informed that Diego has been shot. Believing him to be dead, she attempts to kill the king in her despair. At that moment, she sees that Diego is still alive and the lovers are reunited. The king leaves the lovers and sees his wife waiting for him in the carriage. The queen explains to him that she ordered the guards to spare Diego.

CHARACTERS

Rosita: A beloved street singer who is praised by the crowds, she impresses the king with her beauty

The king: The king of Spain, a lecherous man that lusts after many women

Don Diego: A captain who tries to prevent Rosita from being arrested and later falls in love with her

The Queen: A wise and observant woman aware of her husband's lecherous disposition

Rosita's mother: A woman with several children who does not work and is drenched in poverty

Rosita's father: A poor man who does not work and frequently argues with his wife

Rosita's brothers & sisters: Children who are too young to work

Jailers: Jailers who keep an eye on Don Diego and frequently make fun of his situation

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Rosita

Rosita is the main character of the film. She is a singer and an entertainer who plays the guitar. She is loved by the whole town. However, she also has a big family that is financially dependent on her. Moreover, the king demands that they pay heavy taxes. These conditions cause her to rebel against the authorities artfully and start the series of events that put her in a comical drama.

Courageous: Rosita is a courageous person. She does not hesitate to rebel against the king with her songs and tell the harsh truth about the authorities. As she sings in her song, '*flowing right out of our pockets are our poor hard-earned pesetas...while the King and Queen fop in velvet and silk dresses. We are tired of being poor when the castle is full of riches...join us now in a stand for justice...everyone this song reaches*'. To be able to sing this song's lyrics means that she is not afraid of the possible consequences and even a death sentence. Her values are justice, fairness, and equality. And she is not afraid to live her life according to her values. This shows us the high degree of her courage. Rosita also asks and even begs the king to spare Don Diego. This once again shows us her bravery and her ability to let her pride and ego aside to be able to do what she knows is right and true.

Lively: The reason why Rosita is loved by so many people in the town is her lively and enthusiastic nature. She is full of life and energy and can influence people through her songs. It can be said that she has a natural and inborn charm and this gives her the power to delight, attract, or fascinate others.

The King

Beginning from the first scenes of the film, the lecherous nature of the king is witnessed by the viewers. He loves the company of women, perhaps to an excessive degree that borders on infidelity. Moreover, he does not seem to have any moral scruples regarding his behavior. Later in the film, the king is struck by Rosita's beauty and charm and thus becomes obsessed with her. His lecherous and selfish nature becomes more apparent after his encounter with Rosita.

Lecherous: The example that underlines the king's lecherousness is when he is playing a game with three women and starts kissing their hands. His behavior is inappropriate considering that he is married to the Queen. However, he does not seem to care about his marriage. In a further scene, he plays on the seesaw with two women which is again an inappropriate behavior that he exhibits. His lecherousness also becomes apparent in his immoral and inappropriate advances toward Rosita. He tries to kiss her or hug her which all make Rosita uncomfortable. The king, however, does not have enough self-awareness to realize that he is making the other person uncomfortable. Or even if he can realize the problems with his behavior, he does not care.

Selfish: The king is a selfish person. He only cares about his own interests, and not those of the public. The songs that Rosita writes and sings show us the king's selfishness and uncaring attitude towards the citizens of Spain: '*We are tired of being poor when the castle is full of riches...join us now in a stand for justice...everyone this song reaches.*' The king also pretends to spare Don Diego to make himself appear in a good light to Rosita whereas in truth, he does not care about the life of Diego at all and wants him dead so that Rosita will only be his. His greed and ego cause him to act in these ways.

The Queen

The queen does not seem to play a major role in the film at first sight. However, when we look deeper, we see that she has a main role that determines the course of important events. She is a rather quiet, silent person who seems to be living in her inner world. In actuality, she is very observant and can recognize patterns in the events surrounding her. She can be considered to be the wise woman of the story.

Wise: The Queen is a wise woman. She is not reactive. Even though she knows about the flings and the king's disposition to infidelity, she does not react or respond in anger. She waits for the right time to intervene in events. As soon as she realizes that the king's fling with Rosita is getting out of hand, she realizes that she needs to do something about this situation. Therefore, she cancels the death sentence of Don Diego.

Don Diego

Don Diego is a captain whom we the viewers first meet while Rosita is being brought to the police station. He tries to talk to and persuade the soldiers so that they let Rosita free. However, this does not work, and Diego fights with one of the soldiers. Later, he is arrested just like Rosita. They fall in love with one another at the police station.

Courageous: Don Diego is a courageous person just as Rosita is. He does not fear any consequences of his actions because he does what he believes is right and just. The scene where we witness his bravery is when he sees Rosita for the first time while she is being held by the police and he goes near one of the officials and asks them to leave her alone. He says to the officials: 'Shame on you gentlemen! To attack a lady! Now is the time of the Carnival, a time for freedom of songs and speech.' These lines emphasize not only his bravery but also the importance he gives to *freedom*, in particular *freedom of songs and speech*.

Loving: Don Diego is in love with Rosita. He loves her truly as can be seen in his concern for Rosita. Even while he is awaiting his death by being shot, he asks one of the sailors about what happened to Rosita. This shows us that Diego, unlike the king, is not solely concerned with his self-interest and truly cares about Rosita's well-being.

Rosita's mother

Rosita's mother is a middle-aged woman who has three more children other than Rosita. She is very poor and does not work as she has to take care of the children. Her husband is, likewise, unemployed. Because of her poverty, she has never had the opportunity to live in comfort and luxury.

Greedy: Rosita's mother can be said to be greedy. This greed can be observed in her interactions with her daughter. When Rosita is offered to live in a villa by the king, the mother asks her to immediately accept the offer by putting her pride aside: *'Haven't I raised you? Who taught you to wear a comb in your hair, to sing—to dance the seguidilla, and the malagueña?'* Another instance where the mother's greed and pride come to the forefront is when she realizes that the servants are making fun of them because they are not of noble blood. She demands that Rosita be married to a nobleman so they will not be mocked by others anymore. She even goes to the king to settle this matter. All these acts show us her ambition, greed, and ego that cannot bear to be seen as *inferior*.

THEMES

SOCIETY

Class One of the major themes that build the background of the film is the problem of class. Rosita belongs to the lower classes and her family is very poor. Likewise, most of the population in the country is poor. However, the king and the aristocratic class live in luxury, not caring about the hardships the public endures and the poor conditions that define them. Rosita is arrested because she rebels against the king, the most important person in the social hierarchy. If the person she wrote her songs against was a villager, none of the legal actions would have been taken against Rosita. Thus, whoever has the most status and is on top of the social hierarchy, determines what happens to whom. The class differences and the acts of injustice cause Rosita to write her songs.

JUSTICE

Injustice As mentioned in the class section, there are a lot of instances of acts of injustice that happen. The reason for this is that the higher classes live luxurious and flamboyant lives while the lower classes are deprived of their basic necessities and live in poverty. Rosita's being arrested is one of those acts of injustice where the voice of the lower classes is suppressed for the self-interest and benefit of the king. She is almost about to get a death sentence just like Don Diego does. The only reason she is spared is because of her charm and beauty which impresses the king. Thus, the lives of the citizens do not matter in the slightest. Only the king's will and self-interest determine the outcome of a situation such as whether a person will live or die. Even though, when looked at from an objective perspective, the king is an irresponsible, lecherous person, he is nevertheless the one who gives the death sentences to the citizens of the public because of his status in the social hierarchy. These cases all illustrate the instances of injustice that take place throughout the film.

Punishment Don Diego's punishment is already planned. The only thing he did to get this punishment is the fact that he tried to protect Rosita from being taken to the police station and the importance he gave to freedom of speech and songs. Therefore, it can be said that the punishment he got from the king, that is the death sentence, was an unjust one. If it was not for Rosita's begging, the king would not have accepted to spare his life. However, even this apparent sparing of Diego's life was a lie on the part of the king. The king only wanted to present himself in a good light to Rosita and not really spare Diego's life. If it was not for the queen's intervention, then Diego would not have been alive at the end of the film. Thus, the punishments that are given are unjust ones.

POLITICS

Rebellion Rebellion is the action or process of resisting authority, control, or convention. Rosita rebels against the king. Thereby, she engages in criminal activity according to the law of the country. Her rebellion is against the injustices that she perceives in society. The luxurious lifestyle of the aristocratic class and the high taxes that the king demands causes her to write her rebellious songs against the king: *Seville is asleep, and under yonder bright moon that in heaven waxes, shines the almighty King's palace with the help of growing taxes. Flowing right out of our pockets are our poor hard-earned pesetas...while the King and Queen fop in velvet and silk dresses. We are tired of being poor when the castle is full of riches...join us now in a stand for justice...everyone this song reaches.* As can be seen in the lyrics of Rosita's song, she aims to awaken the public from its slumber and make poor citizens aware of the

pervasive and entrenched inequality and injustice in society. Even though her rebellion seems just from the point of view of the citizens, it is a criminal act from the view of the king and thus causes her to be arrested.

PSYCHOLOGY

Sadness Rosita is hopelessly sad when she finds out that the execution has been carried out. Because she thinks that Diego has been killed, she goes to pieces. She becomes neurotic and wishes to get her revenge on the king. Her neuroticism can be seen when the king will be her guest, and the servants ask her whether they should set a breakfast table for two, she smiles neurotically: 'For three! Let Death be our guest.' Her sadness is thus reflected in her innuendo.

Anger Both Rosita and Don Diego display anger throughout the film. First of all, Rosita is infuriated because of the taxes that the king wants them to pay. She finds the taxes to be unjust for the public. Therefore, she expresses her anger and frustration with the higher classes through the songs she writes. Don Diego also becomes angry when he sees Rosita being taken away to the police station. The reason for that is because the carnival represents *freedom of speech and songs* and Rosita is arrested because she has expressed her views against the king. He thinks that she shouldn't have been arrested for merely having expressed her point of view and made clear her stance. Therefore, he becomes angry. Another instance where we see Rosita's anger is when she finds out that Diego has been executed. She cannot stand to learn the fact that Diego has been executed for merely defending her. Thus, she almost comes to the point of dragging a knife through the king's heart. It is not only anger that causes her to act in this way but also her sense of justice and fairness.

FLAWS

Greed Greed can be seen most prominently in the king and Rosita's mother. The king has a lecherous nature and thus lusts after many women. His lust is ultimately an expression of his craving or greed which makes him go after sensual pleasures. His greed causes him to act unfaithfully to his wife. Moreover, he also makes inappropriate advances toward Rosita. His greed for her even causes him to sign the death sentence of Don Diego because he wants Rosita to be only his. Secondly, greed is also observable in Rosita's mother. Because she has lived a poor life all these years, she yearns for a better and more luxurious lifestyle. Therefore, she immediately wants her daughter to accept to live in the villa. Furthermore, later in the film, she also demands that Rosita be married to a nobleman so they will never be made fun of by their servants. It can be said that her yearning to have a better, more comfortable, and high-status life is fueled by her greed.

QUEST

Explore Rosita explores the life of the higher classes as she starts to live in a villa that the king offers to her. She experiences a life of luxury and comfort. Her whole family also does. Moreover, before experiencing these fortunate circumstances, she also experiences jail life, that is, she knows what happens to those who get punished by the king and/or the aristocratic classes. In the later parts of the film, she almost loses the love of her life, Don Diego. Thus, she experiences despair and hopelessness; nevertheless, at the end of the film, she is reunited with the love of her life. She finally has true happiness after having undergone many unfortunate circumstances and hardships.

RELATIONSHIP

Multiple partners Rosita falls in love with Don Diego from the first moment she sees him. However, certain circumstances cause her to yield to her family's pressures and stay in the village that the king arranges for her. The king, on the other hand, does not find it morally unacceptable to have multiple partners nor does he have any scruples about his frivolous and lecherous disposition. Even the queen asks the king at the very end of the film whether Rosita constitutes a threat to her. This shows us that the queen also accepts the promiscuous nature of the king.

Love The love between Don Diego and Rosita is true and deep. They first fall in love at the police station. Don Diego's protection and act of bravery impress Rosita. They both end up in jail. Rosita makes everything she can so that Don Diego is spared. Diego, likewise, worries and is concerned about Rosita's fate. In the end, the lovers have united thanks to the intervention of the queen.

CHANGE

Transience Rosita first of all loves in love with Don Diego. However, later on in the film, because of her poverty, she accepts to be one of the 'beloveds' of the king and lives in a villa. This shows us that even though the love between two people is strong, various causes can cause them to separate and go different ways. So the relationship between the king and Rosita begins. Even though Rosita and her family live in the villa, they are truly respected by even the servants. Thus, Rosita's mother demands from the king that she be married to a nobleman. As a twist of fate, the man she marries happens to be the man she loves, that is, Don Diego. From then on, she is both married to Don Diego and is one of the beloved women of the king. This shows us the transient, unstable, and uncertain nature of relationships. At the end of the film, the queen makes sure the fling of the king does not get out of hand from which we can conclude that the relationship between the king and Rosita has come to an end.

SCENES

The lecherous king The film starts with the king. He is playing a game with three women. Then he starts kissing their hands. From this first scene, we can understand his lecherous nature. Then an official enters the room, the king sends the women away. The official asks him whether he will sign a death sentence. The king looks at himself in the mirror. Later, he signs the document.

Thin threads of sunlight shimmer in the spring afternoon. The smell of roses bursts through the open window. And the foolish breeze whispers foolish thoughts.

Court people are playing in the garden. One of the rings that they play with flies and ends up going through the king's head. The king takes the ring off and looks out the window to see who threw the ring. Two young women bow toward him reverentially. When the king sees the women, he smiles lecherously.



The wise Queen Next, we see the queen and an official talking to each other. The official says: 'Your majesty, the town of Seville, which has already sunk into the depths of depravity and sin, is now having a carnival.' The queen listens to the official. Then when she looks out the window, she sees the king walking with the two women. She shakes her head in disapproval but does not react otherwise. The official continues: 'Your majesty, there is a carnival in Seville, and the people abandon themselves to the most unbridled debaucheries.' The queen nods her head, smiles wisely, and then leaves the room.



The king plays on the seesaw The king, as he is strolling along the garden, sees two women on the seesaw. He starts playing with them. Meanwhile, the queen is approaching them. When the king sees the queen, he jumps off the seesaw and the two women go up with the seesaw. This comical happening brings a sense of lightness to the film.



Seville is on the bank of depravity, the officials say Later on, The king and the queen sit on a bank. Two officials approach them. One of them says to the king and the queen: 'Your majesty, Seville is having a carnival. My duty as a good shepherd of the Lord is to lead these madmen to abstinence, fasting, and prayer. Your majesty, I beg of you—allow me to travel to this vile nest of depravity so I could defeat the demon that has possessed the souls of Seville!' The king cracks a smile and approves. The queen observes him with wise and deep-penetrating eyes. The king says that he must see the condition himself: 'To Seville!' He kisses the hand of the queen. The queen leaves with her servant. After the queen has gone away, the king and the official start to laugh mischievously.



Seville in the days of the carnival

Roses...many roses...and lips red as roses...and laughter sparkling as wine...kisses hot as the sun and songs...songs...songs without end...

Seville looks like it is being dominated by chaos and the wild enthusiasm of the people. It looks like people are all in a frenzy. People are engaging in recklessness, and immorality and exhibiting wild, unrestrained behavior. We see two people kissing and a third person throwing one into the river to separate them. People engage in wild, immoral, and violent modes of behavior for apparently no reason.



Rosita, the hero of the tale, appears Someone shouts: 'Rosita!' Everybody gets excited when they hear this name and starts to gather in the square. Rosita seems to be loved by the whole community. She has a guitar hung up on one of her shoulders.

Seville is asleep, and in the alley, next to the picket fences, she breaks the night's silence with the serenade's unforgettable stanzas. Seville is asleep and yonder by the ivy-beaten wall her sly and enchanting smile beams the black-eyed beauty, Rosita. The stars of her eyes shine brighter and brighter through the veil—there is no beauty more tender than Rosita, the hero of this tale.

A man sees Rosita and cracks a lecherous smile. Then he throws a rose at her. Rosita keeps on playing with the rose in her mouth. Rosita goes near him to play. He looks like he is struck by her beauty. The crowds shout: 'Ole! Rosita! Ole!' Rosita takes the cape of a woman listening to her. She says: 'What a wonderful cape—thank you, señora! You are too kind to poor Rosita.' She puts on the cape. The woman whose cape has been taken gets angry and leaves the scene.



The officials announce the arrival of the king The officials come riding on horses and announce: 'Make way for His Majesty! Make way for the King!' Everybody leaves the square. Rosita paces to and fro. She is angry: 'Carumba! Damn His Majesty, he drove away my audience.'



At Rosita's home; Señora Carmen, Rosita's foster mother, and her husband Rosita's father is resting on a hammock while her foster mother is tending to the three children that she has. The woman is frustrated with the children: 'Don't cry, you little devils. Rosita will come home and give you something to eat.' The kids look like they are malnourished and hungry. The father argues with the mother while one of the children begins to cry.



Home sweet home! Rosita arrives at home Rosita arrives home. Everybody's faces start to shine when they see her. The child stops crying. Rosita starts complaining: 'The crowd was gathering. Everyone would have given me something... suddenly the King appears, and they scatter every which way.'



Rosita is frustrated by the king's tax demands Next, we hear an official knocking on the door. The document the official has brought demands that she pays taxes to the king. Rosita is infuriated: 'Paying taxes to the king? Me? Paying taxes?' She tears the document into pieces and sends the official away in anger. The whole family starts laughing. Rosita is decisive to pay the king: 'I'll pay him with a song he won't forget.' She starts to think of the lyrics to her new song:

Seville is asleep, and under yonder bright moon that in heaven waxes, shines the almighty King's palace with the help of growing taxes. Flowing right out of our pockets are our poor hard-earned pesetas...while the King and Queen fop in velvet and silk dresses. We are tired of being poor when the castle is full of riches...join us now in a stand for justice...everyone this song reaches.

The whole family applauds and congratulates her for the song.



The king sees Rosita and is struck by her beauty That same evening the king decides to find out for himself exactly how deep his subjects had sunk into the depths of depravity. While he is powdering himself before going out, an official enters the room and says to the king: 'Your Majesty, some street singer publicly insults you in her ballads!' The king asks whether she is at least pretty which might be taken to be a tragicomic reaction. The king proceeds to join the crowds who are celebrating wildly and unbridledly. Rosita is singing in the main square with the crowds gathered around her:

Seville is asleep, and under yonder bright moon that in heaven waxes, shines the almighty King's palace with the help of growing taxes. Flowing right out of our pockets are our poor hard-earned pesetas...while the King and Queen fop in velvet and silk dresses. We are tired of being poor when the castle is full of riches...join us now in a stand for justice...everyone this song reaches.

The king does not seem to be listening to the lyrics of the song. He is rather struck by Rosita's beauty:

'She is gorgeous!' The king and his official put on their eye masks. Then they make way for themselves in the crowds. Rosita shouts: 'And now, everyone all together! Louder! Louder! So that the King could hear this in his castle.'

Rosita rebels against the king but is arrested by officials

We are tired of being poor when the castle is full of riches...join us now in a stand for justice...everyone this song reaches. She goes near the king, unknowing who he is: 'Look señor! He doesn't even open his mouth.' She slaps him a few times to make him sing but he does not utter a word: 'Are you mute or something? Why don't you sing?' The king starts to sing because of her insistence. Right at that moment, several officials approach her and say: 'Enough! In the name of the law, I place you under arrest for insulting His Majesty.' She is forcefully taken by the officials. Chaos ensues among the crowds.



Don Diego tries to protect Rosita As she is being taken to the prison by the officials, a man is walking in a nearby street. When he sees Rosita, he goes near one of the officials and asks them to leave her alone. He says to the officials: 'Shame on you gentlemen! To attack a lady! Now is the time of the Carnival, a time for freedom of songs and speech.' The official pushes the man away violently. The man takes out his sword and attacks the official. Meanwhile, Rosita tries to escape from the officials, but to no avail. The man who is called Don Diego wounds the official who collapses to the ground. Don Diego is arrested by other officials.



Rosita and Don Diego fall in love Rosita is brought by the police to an official. She coughs to draw attention to herself. The official gets angry and tells her and Don Diego to sit in a corner. Rosita and Don Diego are attracted to each other. This can be inferred from the way they hold and shake each other's hands while sitting next to each other in the corner.



Don Diego turns out to be a captain Later, the official calls them to come to him and they start arguing with the official. Rosita is taken by one of the guards to a prison cell. Don Diego is searched for any document. A letter is found on him which states: 'This is to certify that any kind of assistance should be rendered to Captain Diego de Bazan who is returning from an expedition in the West Indies.' The official is surprised to read that Don Diego is a captain: 'A captain...baring his sword to protect a harlot?' He shakes his



Rosita is released from prison Rosita is waiting in her prison cell. She communicates with Don Diego who is staying in another cell. Don Diego says to her: 'Don't worry señorita! Tomorrow at sunrise I shall be free...and then I will do anything I can to liberate you.' A few moments later, a guard enters Rosita's cell and frees her. She is then taken to a carriage by the guards. Rosita is surprised and does not understand what is going on. The guard says to her: 'Kind señorita, I am not allowed to tell you what fate awaits you.'

Don Diego wishes to be killed by being shot, like a soldier Meanwhile, Don Diego is still in his cell. A jailor comes to him and gives him some items so he can write. Don Diego laughs at the man. The man looks out the cell bars and tells Don Diego to likewise look out. He says to him that he will forget how to laugh when he hangs from the gallows. When Don Diego looks out and sees the gallows, he is terrified that this will be his fate. The jailor leaves him. Don Diego starts writing a letter with the items the man had brought to him. In the letter, he writes: 'Your majesty, killers, and robbers go to the gallows. I am a soldier. I am innocent of any such crimes. I ask that you grant me my last request—if I am to die. I wish to be shot like an officer of the King. Don Diego de Bazan'.



The king's improper advances make Rosita uncomfortable Rosita is brought to the king. The king comes near her and tries to get close to her, but she pushes away his hand from her chin. The king is surprised: 'Don't you know me? I am the King whom you ridicule in your songs.' She starts to laugh. The king then tries to hug her but she is uncomfortable with such behavior and escapes. The king tries to catch her. Unsuccessful, he rings the bell and calls an official. He says to the official: 'Dress the señorita in clothes suitable for a lady of the court.' He kisses Rosita's hand.



The Queen's arrival in Seville

The Queen arrives in Seville in a luxurious carriage and greets the public.



Rosita is beautifully dressed

Rosita is dressed beautifully in a long dress. She goes to look at herself in the mirror. Then she smells a cup filled with water: 'What sweet water. Where do you have such rivers?' Later, an official takes her back to the king who is highly impressed by her beauty. They hold each other's hands. However, the king tries to get too close to Rosita and hugs her tightly. Rosita resists and tries to defend herself. Finally, she pushes him away. The king leaves the room.



The queen finds out about the king's affection for Rosita She tries to escape, then she encounters the queen. She says to her: 'I don't understand. First I get arrested, dragged down the street, thrown in jail, and then they put me in a carriage, take me to a castle, and give me fine clothes.' The queen replies: 'And *my* dress fits you perfectly.' The queen lets her go. Then the king enters the room and is shocked to see the queen instead of Rosita. The king kisses the queen's hand. She sees the necklace that the king has brought for Rosita. She asks whether the necklace is for her and the king nods. He puts the necklace on her.



Rosita tells her family about what happened Rosita enthusiastically tells her family about what happened. She also gives them a piece of the handkerchief that has a beautiful smell. Everybody in the family smells the handkerchief. Then, a carriage arrives at their house. An official comes and says: 'A token of love from His Majesty.' She opens the chest and sees a necklace but does not want to accept it. Suddenly her mother comes and grabs the chest.



Rosita and her family will live in a villa The official continues: 'His majesty wishes to redeem his past mistakes and asks you to accept his villa at the town's gate, complete with all the furnishings.' She nods but does not accept the offer. She closes the door to the face of the official. His mother intervenes: 'Carumba! Damn your pride, Rosita. Think about us!' She starts arguing with her mother and father. The father says to her: 'It is time for you to repay me for all my good deeds...' The mother: 'Haven't I raised you? Who taught you to wear a comb in your hair, to sing—to dance the seguidilla, and the malagueña?' Rosita finally yields to them. The mother calls the official and Rosita gets on the carriage. The whole family also wants to come with her. The official does not want them at first but he accepts it because of Rosita's insistence.



Don Diego is worried about Rosita Don Diego paces to and fro in his prison cell. He knocks on his cell door several times and asks the guardian: 'And what happened to that little girl, Rosita?' The official answers: 'Don't worry. She'll come to watch your hanging.'



In her new home of splendor Rosita wakes up in her new home. She has servants attending to her. She drinks two cups of tea. Her sisters and brothers are playing in the main room. However, one servant gets angry with them. Rosita's little brother starts to cry and goes near Rosita. Rosita becomes enraged and goes to talk to the servants. She overhears them saying: 'To serve these beggars—how humiliating!'



Rosita's mother wishes her to be married to a nobleman Rosita goes to her mother's room. Her mother has been hanging the clothes using a clothesline to dry them in her room. She tells Rosita that they will not be respected as long as Rosita remains a street singer: 'I'll go to the king and demand that he finds her a husband of noble blood.'



At the King's palace in Seville The king receives the letter that Don Diego had written: 'Your majesty, killers, and robbers go to the gallows. I am a soldier. I am innocent of any such crimes. I ask that you grant me my last request—if I am to die. I wish to be shot like an officer of the king. Don Diego de Bazan'. The king puts the letter away. Soon an official comes and says to him: 'A peasant woman insists on seeing the king. She says she is Rosita's mother.' The king accepts to talk to her. Rosita's mother begins to speak: 'Your majesty, I am beside myself...Our servants laugh at us behind our back from dusk till dawn...and only because Rosita doesn't have a title—a noble heritage.' The king laughs and then smiles but he does not want to do anything about this issue. The mother is not content with this: 'You will do nothing? We are not used to such treatments, Señor King. Give Rosita a husband, a noble husband, with a title.' She bows before the king and sets her boundaries: 'No? Then we leave for home this very moment!' The king asks her for some time to ponder this situation. The king looks at the letter of Don Diego once again and says to Rosita's mother: 'Hold it! I have an idea. Patience, my dear Señora, your daughter *shall* receive a title.' After Rosita's mother leaves in a mood of happiness, the king tells his official to marry Rosita to Captain Don Diego and then to make her a widow.



Don Diego's wish is granted An official comes to Don Diego's cell and says to him that the benevolent Majesty has decided to grant him his request: 'As you requested, you will be shut instead of hanged—but only on one condition. On the day of the execution, you shall be married to a woman—a woman who shall remain incognito.' After hearing this, Don Diego starts to laugh neurotically. He asks the official to give his thanks to His benevolent Majesty.



Rosita and Don Diego get married The next day, according to her mother's wish, Rosita is taken to be married—with her eyes covered. The official who brings her to church tells her to cover her face per the king's orders. Don Diego also comes to the church blindfolded. They get married with their eyes covered. Then they hold each other's hands. As they leave the church, Rosita asks one of the officials to let her look at her husband. Even though the official does not accept this, she forcefully takes off her covering and the blindfold of Don Diego. When they see each other, they hug one another. Rosita does not want to let Don Diego go but the soldiers come to take him to the gallows. Rosita falls to her knees in despair. Later, she asks an official to take her to the king at once.



Rosita begs the king for Don Diego's life At the palace, the king is playing cards with the queen. He sees Rosita's carriage arriving at the palace while looking out the window. His entire demeanor changes from that point onward. The king leaves the queen and talks to Rosita as she begs her to spare Don Diego. The queen is looking out on the palace balcony. She hears the king and Rosita speaking to each other. She listens in on their conversation. Rosita says to the king: 'He bared his sword to protect me! Pardon him for my sake.' However, the king does not have much mercy or compassion: 'The law demands his execution!' Rosita cries in despair. She falls on her knees and begs the king. The king's decision is unwavering.



The king finally accepts to pardon Don Diego Rosita says to the king that she hates him: 'I hate you! Filthy king! Dirty little king!' She takes off her jewelry and throws them on the ground to the feet of the king. The king finally changes his decision: 'Very well, I shall pardon him, but justice must be served—at least for the sake of appearances.'

The Queen decides to put an end to the king's fling that has gotten out of hand Meanwhile, the queen hears everything that is being said. She is jealous and heartbroken: 'A harlot insults the king, and he doesn't even bother to call the guards. Is it possible that a mere fling has gone this far?' She takes out her mirror and looks at the reflection that the king and Rosita make. Rosita is caressing the king's hair as he is writing a document to pardon Don Diego. The Queen: 'No...it is time to take measures—to put out the burning passion in the king's heart— before it gets out of hand.' The king tells Rosita that the execution shall proceed as planned, but the rifles will be loaded with blanks. Rosita kisses the king out of happiness, takes back the pieces of jewelry she had thrown to the ground, and leaves the room.



The king's real intentions come to the surface An official enters the king's room. The king says to the official: 'An evil twist of fate! I married her to the man she loves. *He must die!*' Thus, he changes the document he had signed. Meanwhile, the queen hears all of the king's plans. The king returns to his card play with the queen, unknowing that the queen has heard all of the conversations.



Don Diego learns that his execution will be merely for appearances Don Diego is waiting for his fate. He says to a guardian: 'I want to see that woman— my wife.' The guardian shakes his head in disapproval. At that moment, Rosita comes to his cell. She hugs him. She says to Don Diego that the execution will be merely for appearances. After learning that he will be safe and they will be able to be together, they hug each other. Someone brings them food. They sit at the table and celebrate their future freedom and love. Then they kiss each other.



Execution time has arrived Dawn...and like the sound of a distant surf, the last excitement of the Carnival reaches through the walls of the prison. A priest and officials come to take Don Diego to execution. Don Diego and Rosita hug each other and shake hands. Rosita pretends to be crying. After the officials go away, she breaks into a peal of laughter.



The Queen intervenes Meanwhile, the queen also arrives at the scene. She asks a soldier whether he has received a second order from the king: 'No? Then proceed.'



Execution happens One of the officials comes back to Don Diego's cell and hears Rosita laughing. He says to her that the king's last order is Don Diego will be killed. At that moment, the rifles are fired in the main square. Don Diego seems to have been shot and collapses to the ground. Rosita looks out the cell bars and sees Don Diego appearing lifeless on the ground. After seeing this, she can barely stand on her feet and is almost about to faint. She goes downstairs to Don Diego. Soldiers put a cloth above him and are about to carry him away. Rosita thinks that he has passed away and starts to cry in despair. She tells the soldiers to take his body to her villa. The priest takes Rosita to a carriage.



Rosita's rebellion against the king Rosita is brought to the main square. The crowds cheer for her: 'Rosita! Sing to us, Rosita!' Rosita sees the soldiers carrying Don Diego's body. Then she takes up her guitar and starts singing: 'Seville, awaken from your slumber—our hearts have fire still. Give a promise to Rosita to be free again, Seville. Keep our promise to the letter, even death we will not fear. Hear this, oh cruel ruler, for your crimes you shall pay dear.' There is great enthusiasm among the crowds.



Rosita's despair almost causes her to kill the king Rosita returns to the villa one last time, to spend a final moment alone with the body of her beloved. Her servants tell her: 'Senora, His Majesty will honor you with his presence. Shall we set a breakfast table for two?' She smiles neurotically: 'For three! Let Death be our guest.' The king comes and kisses her hand. They sit at a table to eat. Rosita looks at him strangely. The king is surprised to see the setting for three. Rosita takes him to the place where Don Diego's body is lying. She tells him to look at the body: 'Murderer!' She is about to drag a knife to his heart.



Don Diego turns out to be alive At that moment, Don Diego awakens. He smiles. Rosita cannot believe that he is alive. He says: 'Your majesty, thank you for your kindness.' Rosita hugs Don Diego. The king does not understand what has happened and how Don Diego is still alive. Rosita asks the king to eat at the table but he leaves quickly.



The Queen reveals her intervention to the king In the carriage, he sees the queen waiting for him. She says to him: 'My dear, I have long known about your frivolous disposition. But your affection for this Rosita is starting to get out of hand...That is why I decided to cancel your last order.' The king now understands everything. 'Rosita is no threat to me. Isn't that right, my dear?' The king looks out the carriage window and sees Rosita and Don Diego bowing to them on the balcony.

