

THE DIABOLICAL PLAN

A MELODRAMA

CHARACTERS:

JOSEPH – THE HERO
MARY – THE VIRGINAL MAIDEN
SELINA – THE EVIL TWIN SISTER
COUNT LUCIFER – THE VILLAIN
ESMERALDA – THE GYPSY

SCENE 1

(Mary and Joseph walk onto the stage looking dreamfully at the sky)

J: Oh Mary! Even though I'm a poor farmer, I'm still the richest man when I'm with you.

M: Oh Joseph! I'm the happiest maiden alive when I'm with you too.

(Mary and Joseph sit down on a seat, and look at each other)

J: These past two years, your beauty and love has overwhelmed my heart, and I can't live without you.

M: Oh Joseph!

J: Your presence is like a ray of sunshine that beams through the morning dew. You light up my life.

M: Oh Joseph! Your words touch my heart and soul. I don't know what to say.

(Joseph kneels on the ground, and grabs Mary's hand)

J: Then let me take your hand and we will be joined in the most holiest of unions.

M: Of course Joseph, I would not have it any other way. *(aside) Could this be? This is the happiest day of my life.*

(A sign is held up to the audience saying "Hooray! Hooray!")

J: Finally, we can live together happily in a cottage, not far from here, where we will have two children, one named John, the other Martha, and we will live there until the end of our days.

(A sign is held up to the audience saying "Sighs")

M: Oh Joseph! Hither, we must go tell Father, and my dearest Mother of our betrothal. They will be ever so happy.

(Mary and Joseph walk off stage)

END OF SCENE 1

SCENE 2

(Count Lucifer and Selina sneak onto the stage, looking around in their evil lair. Count Lucifer is hunched over, and Selina has her hands on her hips, both looking angry)

CL: Something must be done, and with haste if we are to succeed. We need a diabolical plan. (Thinks hard) Think! Think!

S: I agree. If I am to have Joseph in my grasp...

CL: ...and I Mary...

S: ...we must act quickly!

CL: Quickly!!

(Both think very hard walking around with evil looks on their faces)

CL: I have it!

S: What? Tell me of your plan!

CL: We tell the gypsy a terrible secret about Mary and Joseph!

S: What? That is your plan.

(Count Lucifer turns to Selina looking angry)

CL: Have you something better?

S: No I don't! But what terrible secret? Mary and Joseph are as 'good' as they come. So good they're boring. Fool! Keep thinking!

CL: No you stupid wench! We 'make up' something terrible! Something that will break them up forever! Then you steal away Joseph, and I will have Mary...I will have Mary... Mary.

(Count Lucifer has an evil yet dreamy look on his face)

S: We make up something... something terrible.

(Selina walks around thinking, and then gets an idea)

S: Something like...

(Selina leans over to Count Lucifer and whispers something inaudible, then both Selina and Count Lucifer turn to the audience and smile evilly and laugh)

CL: Brilliant my dear. Lets do it now, for we have wasted too much tie. Haste!

(Both Count Lucifer and Selina sneak off the stage.)

END OF SCENE 2

SCENE 3

(Count Lucifer and Selina walk onto the stage towards the Gypsy who is already on the stage mumbling to herself)

E: Cross my palm with silver, and I will reveal your future.

S: No you old hag! I... I mean we have a secret for you.

E: (aside) *What secret is this? I sense an evil aura in their presence.*

CL: No, we couldn't possibly tell her.

E: Oh tell me, I won't spill a word.

(Count Lucifer and Selina look at each other very devilishly)

S: (aside) So pathetic, she will believe everything she is told.

CL: I've seen and heard very horrid secrets, but this is the worst of them all.

S: We can't possibly tell the secret of Joseph, and his soon-to-be wife.

E: Tell me now! I won't breathe a word of this.

CL: Lean in and all will be revealed.

(All three characters lean in together and Count Lucifer whispers to the Gypsy the secret)

E: A more dreadful secret I've never heard.

S: We must be gone. Do not tell Mary.

(Count Lucifer and Selina sneak off, leaving the Gypsy mumbling to herself)

END OF SCENE 3

SCENE 4

(Mary walks onto the stage holding a basket of wildflowers)

M: Oh, I hope my dearest fiancé will adore these majestic wildflowers I have picked for him.

(The Gypsy walks onto the stage looking everywhere for Mary. When she sees her, she walks over to her)

E: I beg your pardon Ma'am.

M: Well good morning to you dear Gypsy. How may I be of service to you?

E: Are you soon to be married to Joseph the farmer?

M: Why yes, he asked me but yesterday. Why do you ask?

E: Oh, I have news of him. News that I must tell the truth about your soon to be husband; oh, but it is too terrible...

(Mary looks very worried and scared)

M: Oh Gypsy, tell me what is it?

(The Gypsy whispers the secret in Mary's ear. Mary is suddenly shocked)

M: No, it cannot be! I don't believe it!

E: I'm so sorry, but it's the truth.

(Mary falls to her knees)

M: Nooooooooo! Woe is me, woe is me.

(The Gypsy goes to Mary to try and comfort her)

M: Please Gypsy, leave me.

(The Gypsy leaves Mary crying on the ground)

END OF SCENE 4

SCENE 5

(Selina walks onto the stage towards Joseph who is already on the stage)

S: (aside) *Aha, there he is, so handsome, so bold, and soon he will be mine. But wait I must compose myself or he will guess my diabolical plan.*

(Selina yells out, with an evil smile)

S: Hello Joseph.

J: Selina! What in heavens name are you doing here? Be gone! Mary will be here soon, and I don't want her thinking anything of this unheard of visit.

S: No, I don't think Mary will be coming; I have something terrible to tell you about your so-called beloved fiancé.

(Selina leans toward Joseph and whispers the secret in his ear, sending Joseph falling to his knees)

J: No, it cannot be, the love of my life has turned on me, my heart will be broken forever.

END OF SCENE 5

SCENE 6

(Count Lucifer walks onto the stage towards Mary, and laughs evilly)

CL: There she is. So sweet, and innocent. But not for long! I will comfort her now, hen she is at her most vulnerable, and when she least expects it, I will steal her away! Ahahahaha. But I must compose myself, or she will guess my ill intents.

(Count Lucifer walks over to Mary, and yells out)

CL: Oh sweet and lovely Mary, whatever is the matter?

(Mary answers Count Lucifer with sobs between)

M: Oh Mr Lucifer, something terrible has happened! So terrible I cannot speak of it without crying!

CL: Oh Mary, hw awful. Pray! Tell me what concerns you! Is it Joseph?

M: The Gypsy woman told me a terrible secret, which he has kept from me!

CL: Say what is it?

(Between her sobs, Mary leans over to Count Lucifer and whispers to him the secret)

M: I can never see him again; he has hurt me so! How could he do such a thing?

CL: Oh Mary! This secret is terrible! But I have known all along he was a bad man, unworthy of your love.

(Count Lucifer takes Mary's hand)

CL: Come to my house, and over dinner we can talk of his terrible deed. (aside) *But really, I will take her away and ravish her. Mwahahaha!*

M: (aside) *Should I go with him? ... I have heard that he is an evil man, but he is being so kind, I think these rumours are wrong. I am so sad about Joseph, I need to be comforted, and Count Lucifer does not seem evil.*
Yes Mister, I will go with you.

END OF SCENE 6

SCENE 7

- J: I can't believe it, how could Mary betray me like this. I thought she loved me....why..... why.
- S: Come with me, I'll take you somewhere, we can discuss my sister's unforgivable wrong doing.
- J: I don't understand, I loved her I was sure she loved me, maybe I was wrong.
- S: Don't worry about her, I'm here now. (aside) *Excellent, he's all mine.*
- J: Thank you, but Mary was my sunshine, my life..... (aside) *Maybe Selina isn't as bad as they say. Right now she is the support I need.*
- S: I'm sorry, but you know what she did was so terribly unfaithful, how could you live with her, knowing what has happened? (aside) *My plan is working so smoothly. I wonder how Count Lucifer is going.*

(Selina starts to think, then when she realizes what she's doing, snaps out of it)

- J: I understand what you're saying. I don't know how or why this could happen...
- S: Well, I would never think of doing such a thing especially to such a kind, gentle man like you. (aside) *I'm so very close.*
- J: My head says I should forget Mary, that she has hurt me so much ... But my heart loves her so deeply. (aside) *I think Selina really cares.*
- S: I'm here for you. I do care, more than Mary does, since she is what is causing you this pain ... I would treat you like you deserve to be treated, like the wealthiest king.

(As Selina talks to Joseph, he really isn't paying any attention to her)

- J: Thank you for understanding me, Selina, I'm glad you're here.
- S: I will just go to ... make you some chamomile tea to help you sleep ... (aside) *But really, I'm to meet Count Lucifer.*

(Selina walks off stage)

END OF SCENE 7

SCENE 8

(The Gypsy walks onto the stage rummaging in her tavern)

- E: Alas! I have no more mystic herbs and plants. Oh what a tragedy! I must fain go in search f more. But whither shall I go? Ah, I know; the woods near that creepy castle.

(The Gypsy walks along looking around until she comes to Count Lucifer's castle)

- E: I sense a foreboding aura emanating from that building. I do find thes vibes make me uneasy. For I must investigate.... But wait, I hear voices; I will hide over here and listen to their conversation.

(Count Lucifer and Selina walk onto the stage)

- CL: Mwahahaha! I feel utterly diabolical. My evil plan is nearing completion.
- S: Our evil plan.
- CL: Of course, of course. That gullible old gypsy. Ha, she told innocent Mary that dreadful secret never dreaming it was all a diabolical lie! Ahahaha.
- S: Hahahaha, stupid old hag.
- E: (aside) *What's this? Gullible? Stupid? Old? Are they talking of me? How dare they! But wait, I would fain hear more.*
- S: And Mary and Joseph split up! Now Joseph is mine! Mine!
- CL: And beautiful innocent Mary is mine! Mwahahaha!!
- E: Oh no! This is diabolical!
- CL: Even now, poor Mary is locked in my castle, waiting helplessly! Soon.... I will ravish her!! Mwahahaha!

(Count Lucifer and Selina walk off the stage)

- E: Oh dear! How terrible, I must tell Joseph immediately! I'll show this wicked villain and his evil handmaiden! Old and gullible! Bah!

(The Gypsy hurries to tell Joseph)

E: Joseph! I am the bearer of diabolical tidings!

J: Be gone. I am in mourning for the loss of my Mary, the love of my life, my light, my lark, my darling, my dove..... (rambles on)

E: Silence and listen! That terrible secret...

J: Terrible secret?

(The Gypsy leans over to Joseph and whispers the secret in his ear)

J: Ah no!! Must you twist the knife?

E: That terrible secret... is a lie! A falsity!

J: What a lie? (aside) *Can this be?*

E: Aye! It is part of a diabolical plan of Count Lucifer and Mary's evil sister Selina! Even as we speak, Mary is languishing in his terrible castle!

J: No! We must save her! Haste! Haste! Who knows what evil plans he has in store for her?

(Joseph and the Gypsy run off the stage)

END OF SCENE 8

SCENE 9

(Count Lucifer and Selina are on stage, with Count Lucifer pacing up and down evilly, and Selina is standing next to Mary (who is struggling) with her hands on her hips)

M: You won't get away with this!

CL: Who is going to save you?

S: Not Joseph! He is at my house 'preparing' for a night he will never forget! He is mine, sister! Mine!!

M: Selina! How could you? I love Joseph!

(Joseph and the Gypsy appear on the stage, Selina runs away)

J: And I love you Mary!

(A sign is held up to the audience saying: "Hooray! Hooray!")

CL: Blast! I thought you had dealt with him Selina you wench!

(Count Lucifer looks around but can't see her)

M: Oh Joseph! I knew you'd come! I knew you'd save me!

J: And I am here!

(Joseph walks to Mary to free her, but Count Lucifer stands in his way)

CL: Not so fast you sniveling worm! She is mine!

(Count Lucifer pulls out his sword, then Joseph pulls out his)

J: Then I will fight you!

(The grand fight scene occurs. Count Lucifer and Joseph battle for the upper hand. Selina peaks out from her hiding place every now and then to see who is winning. When Count Lucifer is about to kill Joseph, Joseph stabs Count Lucifer in the heart, which makes him fall to the ground helplessly)

J: Ha! Take that you villainous cad! It serves you right for stealing away my sweet love Mary!

CL: Nooooo! I am fatally stabbed! Mortally wounded! This isn't supposed to happen! My diabolical plan... has failed... crumbled to dust... ruined. And now I'm dying... dying... dead.

(Count Lucifer slumps to the ground dead)

J: The evil villain has breathed his last! This vile servant of Satan.....

(Count Lucifer convulses, Joseph stabs his sword into his heart)

J: is dead!

(A sign is held up to the audience saying: "Hooray! Hooray!")

(Joseph turns to Mary and unties her)

M: You have rescued me from that dastardly villain. You have preserved my sacred womanhood... Joseph, thank you!

J: Mary, I love you!

M: And I you!

(Joseph and Mary embrace, and the Gypsy and audience sigh. But suddenly, Selina jumps out from her hiding place)

S: Forgot about me? Die you meddling wench!

(Selina lunges at Mary with a dagger, but Joseph swerves and knocks Selina and her dagger)

J: I should kill you now!

(As Joseph lifts his sword, about to kill Selina, Mary lunges forward, and pushes Joseph out of the way)

M: Joseph, don't! Even though she is evil, even though she tried to break us up forever, tried to kill me... She is still my sister.

(Selina gets up, and turns to her sister)

M: Selina, I forgive you.

S: Oh sister!

(Selina collapses at Mary's feet)

S: Your unwavering kindness has made me see the error of my ways! I apologise for my wrong doings! I will become a nun; live my life in solitude, dedicated to God to try to purge my soul of my sins.

M: No sister!

(Mary helps Selina to her feet)

M: You need not make such a selfless sacrifice! You can live with Joseph and I in our humble abode.

(Selina puts her hand to Mary's mouth making Mary stop speaking)

S: Mary, you are too kind to me. I need to do this....to save my soul.

M: If this is what you want, I respect your decision.

(Selina and Mary hug)

S: Mary, I must go.

(As Selina and Mary part from each other, their hands still connect, and then Selina breaks the connection, and departs. Joseph and Mary watch her leave, smile at each other lovingly, join hands, and walk off stage)

E: And they all lived happily ever after.

END OF SCENE 9

THE END