

## VILE AFFECTIONS

ON A BLACK SCREEN:

INSERT: CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST - 1853

VOICEOVER #1

How did you find out she married him?

VOICEOVER #2

I warned you, Roger. You never listened.

ROGER

*(Offscreen)*

You hate the Indian too.

VOICEOVER #2

True. As would any man passed over.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE BIG SUR COAST - DUSK

We see several shots of towering waves crashing against the crags.

ROGER  
*(Offscreen)*  
 We share that.

VOICEOVER #2  
 Miguel Chavez of Santa Barbara! A cowboy, not a soldier! Why him? I'm twice the man. Wounded at the Battle of San Simeon!

EXT. THE OUTSKIRTS OF A SETTLEMENT - NIGHT

A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN rides her horse at breakneck speed.

ROGER  
*(Offscreen)*  
 Clementina should have been mine!

As she enters the main road of the small town, we see a crude sign: SANTA LUCIA.

EXT. IN A DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Two MEN are conversing in the shadows. They see the young woman dismount and tie her horse to a post. They hide.

EXT. A SMALL HOUSE IN SANTA LUCIA - NIGHT

Before the young woman can knock, the door opens, revealing a TALL BRONZE MAN, dressed in vaquero garb. The man lifts the woman and closes the door with his boot as he carries her inside.

The two men emerge from the shadows and spy into a window.

MAN #2  
*(Whispering)*  
 I'll bide my time.

Roger's eyes narrow.

MAN #2  
 I'll feign loyalty to him.

THROUGH THE WINDOW: The bronze man and woman embrace and kiss. He is at least twice her age.

ROGER  
(*Whispering*)

No!

The bronze man slides a ring onto the young woman's wedding ring finger.

Tears of joy stream down her face. The bronze man pulls an ORNATE STRAWBERRY-DECORATED HANDKERCHIEF from a pocket and dabs her tears.

MAN #2  
Let's pay a visit to her father.

The two men rush off.

INT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT

The bronze man carries the young woman to his bed.

INT. A BEDROOM - NIGHT

An ELDERLY MAN tosses and turns in his sleep.

ROGER  
(*Offscreen*)  
Judge Babcock!

Judge Babcock opens his eyes.

ROGER  
(*Offscreen*)  
Thieves! Guard your house! Your  
daughter! Your treasure!

Judge Babcock reaches for his gun and holster hanging on his bed frame.

EXT. THE STREET IN FRONT OF JUDGE BABCOCK'S HOME - NIGHT

Judge Babcock, his pistol drawn, appears on the balcony of his home.

BABCOCK  
Show me the varmints!

ROGER  
Is your family safe?

MAN #2  
Are your doors locked?

BABCOCK  
What's going on?

MAN #2  
Get dressed! You've been robbed!

BABCOCK  
Lead me to 'em!

MAN #2  
Half your soul is stolen! A brown  
goat is fucking your white lamb!

BABCOCK  
Who's out there?

Man #2 nudges Roger.

ROGER  
Roger.

Babcock slides the pistol back into its holster.

BABCOCK  
I've ordered you to stay away! You  
can't have my daughter! It's final!

ROGER  
But Your Honor!

BABCOCK  
I can make your life hell!

MAN #2  
We come to help you! If you don't  
act, your grandchildren will have  
hooves!

BABCOCK  
Who are you?

MAN #2  
The one who tells you your daughter  
and the Indian are now making the  
beast with two backs!

BABCOCK  
You're a snake!

MAN #2  
And you are...a judge!

ROGER  
Your Honor...if she is in your house,  
throw me in irons!

Judge Babcock leaves the balcony. The second man turns to  
Roger.

MAN #2  
I must go to the Presidio. The  
Indian must be there within an  
hour. Bring the judge.

The second man hurries off.

EXT. AT THE DOOR OF JUDGE BABCOCK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Judge Babcock emerges from his house. Roger steps from the  
shadows and meets him.

BABCOCK  
It's true. She's gone.

ROGER  
As I said.

BABCOCK  
With the Indian? Are they married?

ROGER  
I believe so.

Babcock starts walking, just for the sake of motion.

BABCOCK  
He's twice her age! He must have  
used that Mexican magic. What do  
they call it?

Roger takes the Judge's arm and guides him down the street.

ROGER  
*Brujeria.*

BABCOCK  
If only I'd let you have her!

They walk a bit.

BABCOCK  
Where are they?

ROGER  
Follow me.

BABCOCK  
I'll reward you well.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET IN SANTA LUCIA - NIGHT

The tall bronze vaquero, Man #2, and OTHER MEN walk down  
the street.

MAN #2

I may be a soldier. I do not murder innocents. Some call it a weakness.

BRONZE VAQUERO

That is your strength, Diego.

DIEGO

(MAN #2)

Nine or ten times, Octavio, my knife was poised.

OCTAVIO

Your judgement as always: impeccable.

DIEGO

The judge tried to turn me against you. But you are safely married, yes? Beware. The judge has a powerful ally in the governor.

OCTAVIO

My service to the governor speaks for itself. My love for Clementina is deeper than the ocean. I am invulnerable.

Some MEN with torches approach from the direction of the Presidio.

OCTAVIO

Who are they?

DIEGO

Chavez and some deputies. Go with them.

OCTAVIO

A man of my station must wait to be summoned.

Chavez and the men stop.

CHAVEZ

Sir! The governor calls you.

OCTAVIO

What's the matter?

CHAVEZ

The bandit Murrieta's on the rampage  
again.

As the group heads toward city hall, Judge Babcock, Roger  
and OTHER MEN emerge from an alley.

DIEGO

(To Octavio)

It's Babcock. He wants your head.

Roger extends an arm, stopping Judge Babcock.

ROGER

(To Babcock)

It's the Indian, Your Honor.

BABCOCK

Cut 'im down!

Babcock's men draw their pistols. Octavio's men match them.

OCTAVIO

Your Honor, my respect for you is  
sufficient. You don't need guns.

BABCOCK

Where is my daughter? What magic  
have you worked?

Octavio is silent.

BABCOCK

She swore she'd never marry. Why  
you? (To his men) If he resists,  
shoot him!



OCTAVIO

No! If I wanted to fight, I'd've  
lain you all low! *(Beat)* Where can  
we go to settle this?

BABCOCK

Jail!

OCTAVIO

The governor has called me.

ROGER

He's right, Your Honor.

BABCOCK

Then we'll let the governor  
settle this.

INT. PRESIDIO CHAMBERS - NIGHT

The GOVERNOR is in a discussion with several OFFICIALS.

GOVERNOR

These reports are all contradictory.  
How many men ride with Murrieta? I  
hear one hundred.

OFFICIAL

I hear two hundred.

A RIDER enters, breathless.

RIDER

Sirs! Murrieta's sacked Soledad!

OFFICIAL

Santa Rita must be next.

GOVERNOR

Under the powers granted me by  
the California Claims Act of 1851,  
and the Foreign Miners Act, I here-  
by order the California Rangers

to Santa Rita. (*Beat*) Where is  
General Octavio Perez?

Judge Babcock, Octavio, Chavez, Diego, Roger and the other  
men enter the chambers.

Judge Babcock nods to two of the officials in a familiar  
way.

GOVERNOR

General Perez, you will lead the  
California Rangers to Santa Rita at  
Once. Your mission: Destroy the  
Murrieta Gang.

Octavio Perez nods. The governor sees Judge Babcock.

GOVERNOR

Your Honor, I did not see you. We  
lacked your counsel tonight.

BABCOCK

I beg your pardon, Governor. I have  
a grief--which I know pales beside  
this general calamity--but I must  
resolve it.

GOVERNOR

What's the trouble, friend?

BABCOCK

My daughter!

GOVERNOR

Dead?

BABCOCK

To me. Stolen by Indian magic!

GOVERNOR

Whoever did this shall pay.

BABCOCK

Thank you, sir. Here is the man.  
This Indian. Whom you need to  
save us.

All present murmur their sympathies for Judge Babcock.

GOVERNOR

(To Octavio)

Explain yourself.

BABCOCK

He can only agree.

The governor raises his hand to quiet the judge.

OCTAVIO

Gentlemen: I have married this old  
man's daughter. I know I do not speak  
well, and am a soldier. I know only war.  
But Clementina has gentled me. There  
was no magic.

BABCOCK

He used magic. My daughter would  
never consent otherwise!

GOVERNOR

My friend, we need proof.

An OFFICIAL leans forward.

OFFICIAL

Octavio. Did you win my niece fair  
and square?

OCTAVIO

Send for the lady. If she disputes  
me, hang me at sunrise.

GOVERNOR

Someone fetch Clementina.

OCTAVIO

Diego...

Diego leaves.

OCTAVIO

Her father loved me, invited me to his ranch. He asked me to recount my adventures.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. A PATIO AT THE RANCH - DAY

Judge Babcock and Octavio sit under a grape arbor, drinking wine, near a firepit where a goat roasts on a spit.

From a nearby chair, Clementina listens. She watches Octavio in a kind of rapture.

OCTAVIO

*(Offscreen)*

How I fought in my first battle at age seven. Of victories, disasters, and my capture. Of being sold into slavery. My journeys through Mexican deserts, and the strange things I saw. Out of the corner of my eye, I'd see Clementina.

OCTAVIO

*(Continued offscreen)*

She contrived to meet me alone. I beguiled her with the dangers I had passed.

EXT. IN A WILLOW THICKET BY A RIVER - DAY

Octavio and Clementina, who is weeping, walk by a river.

OCTAVIO

*(Offscreen)*

She said if I had a friend who loved her, I should teach him my stories.

She wept.

Octavio removes the strawberry handkerchief and wipes Clementina's tears from her cheeks.

OCTAVIO  
The magic was hers.

Octavio and Clementina embrace.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. THE CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Diego and Clementina enter.

GOVERNOR  
*(Musing to himself)*  
If only my daughter had been won  
like this...

Clementina nods to two of the men.

CLEMENTINA  
Uncle Gabriel...Cousin Luis...

The two men nod to Clementina.

BABCOCK  
Daughter. Tell them what happened.

CLEMENTINA  
Father, I am forever your daughter.  
And Octavio is my husband. Just as  
my mother chose you over her father,  
I choose Octavio as my master.

Babcock drops his head. Then he looks at Octavio.

BABCOCK  
Come here, Indian. *(Octavio strides  
up to his father-in-law)* I give you  
what I would keep from you. *(Beat)*

I'm glad I have no other daughter. I  
would become a tyrant. *(To the governor)*  
I accept the marriage.

Judge Babcock forces a smile onto his face.

GOVERNOR  
*(To Judge Babcock)*  
The victim who smiles steals some-  
thing from the thief.

Judge Babcock acknowledges his friend's support.

BABCOCK  
Now, to the Murrieta problem.

GOVERNOR  
Octavio, duty calls you and your  
Rangers to Santa Rita. You have  
promoted Miguel Chavez to lieu-  
tenant, yes?

OCTAVIO  
Yes.

CLOSE ON Diego, containing his rage.

GOVERNOR  
We realize this is your wedding  
night, but...

OCTAVIO  
My allegiance is to you, sir. Please  
maintain my wife in my absence.

GOVERNOR  
Judge Babcock?

BABCOCK  
Not under my roof.

OCTAVIO  
On that we agree.

CLEMENTINA

Sir...I married a warrior. Let me go with him.

OCTAVIO

Sirs: My wife will not deter my mission.

GOVERNOR

(To Clementina)

Then leave tonight.

CLEMENTINA

Tonight?

GOVERNOR

Tonight. Octavio, leave an officer behind. We'll meet here tomorrow, then send your orders--and your wife--to you.

OCTAVIO

I trust Diego completely. He will escort her, and his wife Emilia will serve as her attendant.

Diego nods.

OCTAVIO

We must maintain our marriages.

GOVERNOR

(To Judge Babcock, *approvingly*)

Your Indian son-in-law is white inside.

The council disperses. Babcock, who seems ill, approaches Octavio.

BABCOCK

Keep your eyes open, Indian. She deceived her father. She may deceive you.

OCTAVIO

I know her better. *(To Clementina)*  
Come. We have one hour to pack.

Everyone exits the chamber but Diego and Roger.

ROGER

I'm going to throw myself in the  
sea.

DIEGO

For love? Roger...in all my 28 years,  
I never met a man who knew how to  
love himself.

ROGER

What should I do?

DIEGO

Sharpen your will. You wish to write  
novels?

ROGER

Yes.

DIEGO

Get your head out of the clouds.  
Pay attention to the real world.

ROGER

That's all?

DIEGO

And fill your saddlebag with gold.  
Clementina will tire of the aging  
Indian. She'll look for a man of  
means. Like all women.

ROGER

You're a true friend. *(Beat)* I'll  
sell my land.

DIEGO



I'll give you a good price.

Roger hands Diego a bag.

ROGER  
Some jewels for Clementina.

Diego holds up a hand in refusal.

ROGER  
Tokens of my sincerity. Please.

Diego takes the bag of jewels.

DIEGO  
Get some shut-eye. We'll meet  
tomorrow.

Roger leaves. Diego walks over to the governor's chair and sits in it. He muses aloud.

DIEGO  
How to play my hand? *(Beat)* Chavez  
is the key...I'll put a bug in the  
Indian's ear that Chavez lusts for  
Clementina...The Indian is so gul-  
libile...he trusts appearances...  
thinks all men are as honest as he...  
I'll lead these cattle by the nose.  
*(Beat)* Straight to hell.

INT. A BEDROOM IN A HOUSE IN SANTA LUCIA - NIGHT

Lit by kerosene lamps, Miguel Chavez and a WOMAN nestle in bed.

WOMAN  
How long will you be gone, Miguel?

CHAVEZ

As long as it takes, Blanca.

BLANCA

Let me come.

CHAVEZ

That would be unprofessional.

BLANCA

If you are not back in a week,  
you'll see me in Santa Rita.

CHAVEZ

Please. No.

BLANCA

Clementina gets to go.

CHAVEZ

She is my commander's wife.

Before Blanca can reply, Chavez covers her mouth with his.

CHAVEZ

The head of Murrieta will guarantee  
my career. We'll marry when I return.

BLANCA

I don't know if I can wait.

Blanca pulls Chavez's lips to hers.

EXT. A HILLTOP - DAY

Dark clouds gather over the rolling hills in the distance.

Octavio, Chavez, and Diego are lying on their bellies on a hilltop. Octavio looks in the distance through his spyglass.

Just below them, sheltered in an oak grove, the other men rest with their horses.

Octavio removes the spyglass from his eye.

OCTAVIO  
No sign of Murrieta.

DIEGO  
*(Reaching for the spyglass)*  
Permission, sir?

Octavio hands the spyglass to Diego, who puts it to his eye.

DIEGO  
With all due respect, sir, you  
can't always trust your eyes.

POV THROUGH THE SPYGLASS:

Diego's field of vision roams the countryside, settling for awhile on THREE HUGE ROCKS. He moves the spyglass below them. He stops at an arroyo.

We see a BANDIDO peer over a large rock. Using a hand with THREE FINGERS, he signals someone behind him, then runs, crouching, to another rock.

DIEGO  
*(Offscreen)*  
Three-fingered Jack Garcia. Murrieta's right hand man.

END POV.

Octavio takes the spyglass from Diego, who points into the distance below. Octavio peers through the spyglass.

OCTAVIO  
Good work, Diego.

Octavio hands the spyglass to Chavez, who takes a look.

OCTAVIO  
Chavez. Take Diego and the men over

there. Where the arroyo narrows. Set up an ambush.

CHAVEZ  
Yes, sir.

DIEGO  
And you, sir?

OCTAVIO  
I'll circle behind them. Murrieta's mine.

DIEGO  
I fear for your safety, sir.

OCTAVIO  
After all the battles we've endured?

DIEGO  
You're married, sir.  
Octavio slaps Diego on the back.

OCTAVIO  
You're a good man, Diego.

EXT. ABOVE THE ARROYO - DAY

As lightning cracks in the distance, Chavez directs Diego and the rest of the men to strategic points over the arroyo. They take their positions, their rifles ready.

Diego signals to Chavez, then points below to the middle distance.

POV CHAVEZ:

Two dozen BANDIDOS work their way down the arroyo.

EXT. ELSEWHERE ABOVE THE ARROYO - DAY

Octavio, rifle in hand, leaps like a panther from rock to rock.

Seeing something, he dives behind a boulder, then looks over it.

POV OCTAVIO:

A MEXICAN on horseback picks his way down the arroyo, signaling to his men periodically.

OCTAVIO  
(*Offscreen*)  
Murrieta. You're mine.

Thunder booms. Octavio looks in the distance.

We see a wall of inky black clouds moving in, and as they move, we see a tower of rain advancing.

OCTAVIO  
Flash flood!

As Octavio ponders what to do, a KNIFE-WIELDING BANDIDO leaps on him from behind.

Octavio turns as the bandido is still airborne.

The Mexican lands on Octavio, who blocks the knife. The two men wrestle, and roll down the hill as rain starts to fall.

Below them, a trickle begins to flow through the arroyo. The trickle grows into a stream.

Octavio and the Mexican roll into the arroyo as the rain turns to sheets.

We hear an oncoming roar of water.

Octavio stabs the Mexican with the Mexican's knife. He stands and sees Murrieta on horseback, his rifle aimed squarely at Octavio.

As Octavio reaches for his pistol, a wall of water roars around a bend and consumes Murrieta and his horse.

The cascade carries bushes and boulders and Murrieta and his horse. As it reaches Octavio, he lunges for the bridle of Murrieta's horse as the bandido and his mount sweep by.

As the trio rolls below and above the waves, Octavio and Murrieta try to push each other to their deaths.

EXT. ABOVE THE ARROYO - DAY

Under a driving rain, Chavez, Diego and his men watch the flash flood below them sweep everything away, including Murrieta's men.

CHAVEZ  
Where's Octavio?

DIEGO  
Not even he could survive this!

EXT. THE TOWN OF SANTA RITA - DUSK

Dominated by its mission tower, a luxury hotel, and its spacious plaza, with its fountain, the medium-sized town of Santa Rita sits on a ridge over the Big Sur Coast.

EXT. SANTA RITA PLAZA - DUSK

Chavez, Diego and the men ride into the muddy plaza.

Followed by EMILIA, Clementina runs out of a hotel. She grabs the reins of Chavez's horse. She looks up at Chavez.

Chavez shakes his head. As Clementina faints, Emilia catches her.

EMILIA  
My poor, poor girl. *(She looks at Diego)* Husband. What happened?

DIEGO

*(Dismounting)*  
Flash flood.

EMILIA  
*(Nodding toward a tree  
with a bench under it)*  
Help me.

Diego and his wife Emilia carry Clementina to the bench and lay her down. Emilia cradles Clementina's head in her lap.

EMILIA  
Not married even a day...

VOICE  
*(Offscreen)*  
Yo!

Everyone looks up to a MAN in a bell tower.

CHAVEZ  
What do you see?

MAN  
A tall man leading a horse!

All eyes turn toward the road leading into the plaza.

A figure approaches in the distance.

From his position on his horse, Chavez has the best view.

CHAVEZ  
HE COMES!

We see Octavio, mudspattered and limping, leading a loaded horse.

As they approach, we see that Murrieta is tied like a bedroll over the horse's back.

DIEGO  
I'll be damned. *(To his wife)*

Emilia, revive the girl.

CLOSE ON Octavio as he staggers toward the plaza.

The man in the bell tower rings the booming bell.

DIEGO  
I smell a hanging.

As everyone rejoices, Octavio leads the horse and his quarry into the plaza.

Chavez welcomes Octavio.

OCTAVIO  
Secure the prisoner. *(Beat)* Where  
is Clementina?

DIEGO  
Over there, sir.

Emilia revives Clementina. With Emilia's help, Clementina sits up.

EMILIA  
*(Pointing)*  
Your man is safe.

CLOSE ON Clementina, rapturous.

OCTAVIO  
To the hotel! Tonight we celebrate!

Clementina runs up to Octavio and embraces him.

Roger, now wearing a full beard, comes out from behind a tree and appears by Diego.

Chavez leads the horse and Murrieta away. Except for Diego and Roger, the cheering men and women leave the plaza.

EMILIA  
Husband! Come!



DIEGO

*(Sourly)*

In a minute! *(To Roger)* You want a wife? How badly?

ROGER

*(Protesting Diego's  
perceived implication)*  
Emilia treats you well.

DIEGO

Watch Chavez closely tonight. Clementina desires him. You have a rival.

ROGER

Chavez? He's an *honorable* man.

DIEGO

Young, handsome and white. Octavio is the devil in disguise. His honey's eye's already wandering.

ROGER

*(Disbelievingly)*

Miguel Chavez?

DIEGO

He is not what he seems. Scratch the skin of a well-educated man and the beast emerges.

Diego prods Roger with his finger.

DIEGO

Provoke him tonight. When he lashes out, Octavio will be duty-bound to remove him. Then your road to Clementina will be paved. Now get some rest.

Roger leaves.

DIEGO

Jealousy. Not even an Indian war-

rior can master the green-eyed  
monster.

INT. THE HOTEL - NIGHT

A huge fiesta overflows from the hotel bar into the streets. As a band plays, Diego, Emilia and Roger are already there, drinking with a LOCAL OFFICIAL.

DIEGO

*(Raising his glass  
to the official)*

Alcalde Montano...we appreciate  
your hospitality!

ALCALDE MONTANO

I've arranged luxury suites for  
the Rangers who saved my town.  
Stay as long as you wish. I've  
ordered a week of fiestas!

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

Octavio, Clementina, and Chavez are strolling toward the revelry. Octavio and Clementina are arm-in-arm.

OCTAVIO

I want to thank you, Miguel.

MIGUEL

For?

OCTAVIO

For having been the go-between.

MIGUEL

It was nothing. You and Clementina  
were meant for each other.

Clementina impetuously breaks free from Octavio and kisses Chavez.

CLOSE ON Octavio, noting this affection.

CLEMENTINA

You were so sweet, Miguel!

OCTAVIO

*(Laughing)*

And for your troubles, you'll stand guard tonight. Make sure the men don't drink too much. We don't want another San Juan Bautista.

CHAVEZ

I'd already assigned Diego...

CLEMENTINA

*(Playfully chastising Chavez)*

Miguel...

INT. THE HOTEL - NIGHT

Alcalde Montano sees Octavio, Clementina and Chavez as they enter. He rises, drink in hand.

MONTANO

Silence! Silence, everyone!

The hotel quiets down.

Diego gives Roger a raised eyebrow as the trio enters.

MONTANO

Santa Rita welcomes General Octavio Perez! A toast to the warrior Octavio!  
*(All drink)* And to his new bride!  
*(All drink)* Heaven bless Santa Rita  
 and its noble savior!

Chavez comes up to Diego, Emilia and Roger.

Emilia smiles at Chavez.

CHAVEZ

*(To Diego)*

May I kiss your wife hello?

DIEGO

If she gives you as much of her lips  
as she gives me of her sharp tongue,  
you'll soon have enough.

All laugh uncomfortably as Chavez kisses Emilia's cheek.

CHAVEZ

(To Diego)

We're on guard duty.

DIEGO

We're not to blame because Octavio's  
not had his honeymoon! (Beat) His  
young wife must be...hungry by now.

CHAVEZ

She is an exquisite lady.

DIEGO

Full of game! Don't be cheap, sir!  
Let's toast to the newlyweds!

CHAVEZ

You know I don't hold liquor well.

DIEGO

One cup!

EMILIA

Husband...

DIEGO

(Pressing a cup  
into Chavez's hand)

One cup!

CHAVEZ

I drank a toast with Clementina  
earlier.

DIEGO  
Be gallant, sir! Drink!

Chavez downs the liquor.

Diego slaps Chavez's back.

DIEGO  
That's our man! Now let's go guard  
these revelers!

Diego winks at Roger and, carrying a bottle of whisky,  
guides Chavez outside.

Roger is staring at Clementina as the band starts playing.  
Octavio wheels Clementina around the dance floor.

Everyone cheers the newlyweds.

EXT. ON THE STREET - NIGHT

Diego and Chavez patrol the street as the fiesta gains  
intensity. All are excited by the prospect of Murrieta's  
hanging the next morning.

Diego swigs from the bottle.

DIEGO  
*(Singing)*  
Let me hear the glasses clink!  
Let us hear the glasses clink!  
A soldier's a man.  
His life's but a span.  
Why then let a soldier drink!

Everyone cheers.

CHAVEZ  
Excellent!

DIEGO  
I learned it in Texas! Where they  
know how to drink!

Chavez takes the bottle from Diego.

CHAVEZ  
To the health of Octavio!

He swigs a huge slug. All cheer.

CHAVEZ  
Now, to duty.  
Chavez strolls down the street, tottering a bit.  
Roger walks up to Diego.

DIEGO  
Follow him!

Roger re-enters the crowd.

A REVELER comes up to Diego.

REVELER  
The lieutenant is drunk!

DIEGO  
You saw him swipe the bottle  
from me. All my efforts to  
cure him, for nought.

There's a commotion in the crowd, which separates,  
revealing Roger and Chavez squaring off.

CHAVEZ  
You rich layabout! You will NOT  
tell me how to do my duty!

A LOCAL DEPUTY runs up to separate them, but not before  
Chavez punches Roger in the face.

The deputy, Diego and two other MEN wrestle Chavez to the  
ground. Chavez punches the deputy in the face.

The deputy draws his gun and points it at Chavez.

DEPUTY  
Be still!

DIEGO  
Someone fetch Octavio!

Chavez is swinging wildly as Octavio appears.

OCTAVIO  
What's going on?

ROGER  
*(Wiping the blood  
from his nose)*  
This drunkard assaulted me!

DEPUTY  
And me!

Everyone present agrees. Chavez is still swinging his fists.

Octavio pulls his pistol and fires it into the air. Chavez comes to his senses.

OCTAVIO  
The next man who moves is dead!  
*(Beat)* Diego, what happened?

DIEGO  
I wish to God I hadn't seen it.

OCTAVIO  
You?

ROGER  
With great tact, I observed to  
the lieutenant that he was drunk.

OCTAVIO  
Lieutenant Chavez?

Chavez hangs his head.

DIEGO

Sir, have mercy on him. He's a glorious fighter who lost control. Let men be men, sir.

OCTAVIO

I know how deeply you care for Miguel. *(To Chavez)* I too love you. But you can ride with me no longer. *(To the deputy)* You are?

DEPUTY

Deputy Harry Love.

OCTAVIO

May we deal with him?

DEPUTY LOVE

I was a high-spirited soldier once.

OCTAVIO

Thank you. *(To Diego)* Take him to the stockade.

Clementina appears.

CLEMENTINA

What's the matter?

OCTAVIO

It's all settled, darling. Come to bed. *(To Diego)* When the prisoner is sequestered, return here. Pacify these streets.

DIEGO

'Night, sir.

Everyone moves off into the night.



Diego escorts Chavez in the other direction.

CHAVEZ

I'm ruined.

DIEGO

What, your reputation? This could work in your favor, friend. Reputations rise and fall for no reason. When word gets out you're a brawler, the men will respect you all the more.

CHAVEZ

Help me.

DIEGO

Hmmm. *(Beat)* Octavio loves you.  
*(Beat)* And he owes you so much for having been the go-between with Clementina. *(Beat)* Go to the young bride. Impress her with your remorse. Her husband's wrapped around her finger.

EXT. THE STOCKADE - NIGHT

Diego and Chavez arrive at the stockade. Diego unlocks the door and opens it.

CHAVEZ

*(Entering)*

I hate myself.

DIEGO

Easy, friend. I'll release you tomorrow.

Chavez embraces Diego.

DIEGO  
You'll see Clementina?

Chavez nods as Diego locks the door.

DIEGO  
*(To himself as he walks  
away from the stockade)*  
The devil always masks his greed  
with generosity. Now I'll pour  
poison into the bride's ear.

Diego encounters Roger.

ROGER  
Here you are! *(Beat)* I'm out  
of money and must return home.

Diego takes Roger by the arm and escorts him back toward  
the center of town.

DIEGO  
It's not lack of money, Roger.  
You lack patience. Your rival's  
lost his position. Stay.

ROGER  
And I'll win her?

DIEGO  
Absolutely. Go to your room and  
write a book.

Diego slaps Roger on the back and pushes him down the  
street.

DIEGO  
*(To himself)*  
Strike while the iron's hot, my  
Daddy always said.

INT. THE HOTEL - NIGHT

Octavio, Clementina and Emilia talk at a table while the party continues and the band plays on.

Diego appears over his wife's shoulder. He kisses her on the head.

OCTAVIO

Diego! Sit. How is Miguel?

DIEGO

*(Joining them)*

Sleeping it off. I suggest you...

OCTAVIO

Release him in the morning. In time for the hanging.

Diego removes a bullet and two cups from his pocket and places them on the table.

OCTAVIO

Again, this game?

DIEGO

So much has happened tonight. Let's relax!

Diego slickly places the bullet under a cup and moves them around as he speaks.

DIEGO

Though your eyesight's like a hawk's when it comes to choosing a wife... you cannot follow my nimble hands.

Diego stops moving the cups.

DIEGO

Do you trust your eyes, sir? They've deceived you before.

CLEMENTINA

Darling, choose that one!

Octavio, shaking his head, points to the other cup. Diego turns it over. There's nothing. Then Diego turns over the other cup, revealing the bullet.

OCTAVIO

Two out of three!

Clementina touches Octavio's hand.

CLEMENTINA

Darling...to bed?

Octavio looks at his young new wife.

EXT. THE PLAZA - MORNING

A HANGMAN prepares the gallows.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Emilia and Diego are dressing.

EMILIA

I worry for Miguel.

DIEGO

I'm doing all I can for him.  
I released him this morning.  
He'll press his case with  
Clementina. Will you help?

EMILIA

Of course.

There's a knock at the door. Diego opens it, revealing Miguel Chavez.

EMILIA

Miguel! Come in. You look as  
though you haven't slept.

Chavez enters the room.

CHAVEZ  
(To Emilia)  
Can you get me to her?

EMILIA  
Of course.

DIEGO  
I'll accompany Octavio to the  
gallows inspection.

Diego leaves the room.

CHAVEZ  
I've never known a man more honest  
than your husband.

EMILIA  
I'm sure Clementina is already  
speaking with her husband about  
you. He loves you, you know. (Beat)  
I'll fetch her.

EXT. THE GALLOWS - MORNING

Octavio and Diego inspect the gallows.

OCTAVIO  
Murrieta must die with dignity.

DIEGO  
Every man deserves that, sir.

INT. THE HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Chavez paces nervously.

Emilia and Clementina enter. Chavez stops his pacing.  
Emilia takes a seat by the window.

CLEMENTINA

I'm doing all I can. I brought your case up in bed this morning. Octavio was not pleased.

Chavez hangs his head.

CLEMENTINA

Be patient, dear Miguel. Octavio loves you. He'll relent.

Chavez takes Clementina's hand and kisses it.

CHAVEZ

Whatever becomes of Miguel Chavez, he's never anything but your true servant.

CLEMENTINA

Keep your distance from him for awhile.

CHAVEZ

He'll forget me!

CLEMENTINA

With Emilia as a witness, I swear it won't happen. Wear a happy face, friend.

Emilia sees something outside the window.

EMILIA

They're coming! (To Miguel) You must not be seen Here!

Chavez makes for the door.

CLEMENTINA

No, stay. We can resolve it all now.

Chavez bolts out the door.

EXT. THE STREET - MORNING

Diego and Octavio are strolling toward the hotel. They see a FIGURE slink out the front and down the street.

OCTAVIO  
Is that Miguel Chavez?

DIEGO  
Your eyes deceive you, sir. Miguel  
is no snake.

INT. THE HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Octavio and Diego enter the room.

Clementina rushes up to Octavio and kisses him.

CLEMENTINA  
How goes the hanging?

OCTAVIO  
You'll see for yourself.

CLEMENTINA  
I couldn't bear it. *(Beat)* I've  
been speaking with a suitor here.

OCTAVIO  
Who?

CLEMENTINA  
Miguel Chavez.

OCTAVIO  
Did he leave just now?

CLEMENTINA  
Yes. But his grief stays here. Diego,  
would you bring him back?

OCTAVIO

Not now.

CLEMENTINA  
This afternoon?

OCTAVIO  
No.

CLEMENTINA  
Tonight?

OCTAVIO  
No.

CLEMENTINA  
Tomorrow?

OCTAVIO  
I have very important business here.

CLEMENTINA  
Dear husband, when Miguel was your  
go-between, and I rejected you, he  
took your side.

OCTAVIO  
All right! I'll meet with him as  
soon as I can! *(To Emilia and Diego)*  
I cannot deny her!

CLEMENTINA  
Emilia. Let's walk to the church. I  
want to pray for Murrieta's soul.

Emilia and Clementina leave.

OCTAVIO  
*(To Diego)*  
Lord help me if I ever stop loving  
that woman.

OCTAVIO  
*(Continued)*



One more check of the gallows.

EXT. ON THE STREET TO THE GALLOWS - MORNING

Diego and Octavio approach the gallows.

DIEGO

Sir?

OCTAVIO

Yes?

DIEGO

When Miguel was your go-between,  
Did he know you loved Clementina?

OCTAVIO

Of course. Why?

DIEGO

Just curious.

They climb the stairs to the gallows.

OCTAVIO

Be frank, Diego.

DIEGO

I thought he didn't know her.

OCTAVIO

I wouldn't have trusted him otherwise.

DIEGO

Indeed?

OCTAVIO

Is he not honest?

Diego pulls on the rope.

DIEGO

Honest?

OCTAVIO

Honest.

Pause.

DIEGO

For all I know.

OCTAVIO

Well, what do you think?

DIEGO

Think?

OCTAVIO

Stop echoing me! Is Miguel hiding something?

Diego checks the trap door.

DIEGO

You know I respect you.

OCTAVIO

And that's why you're hesitant.  
Respect this warrior. I can take  
whatever you say.

Pause.

DIEGO

I judge Miguel Chavez to be honest.

OCTAVIO

I think so, too.

Diego bangs his hand on a beam, checking to see if it gives.

DIEGO

Men should be what they seem.

OCTAVIO

You're protecting me, Diego.

DIEGO

I'm torn, sir. *(Beat)* What if  
I'm wrong?

OCTAVIO

Not to speak honestly with your  
superior is wrong, Diego.

DIEGO

A man's reputation is all he has,  
sir. A man steals my gold, he steals  
trash. But a man who steals my good  
name robs me of something no good to  
him. Which makes me poor indeed.

OCTAVIO

Speak, man!

DIEGO

Beware the green-eyed monster. It'll  
eat you alive! Better not to know.

OCTAVIO

You don't make me jealous when you  
Tell me how wonderful my wife is!  
She had eyes. She chose me!

The two men climb down the stairs.

Octavio's starting to doubt himself.

OCTAVIO

I need proof.

Pause.

DIEGO

Have you seen how your wife flirts  
with Miguel? It's harmless, yes?

The two men stroll back toward the plaza.

DIEGO

She deceived her father to marry you, sir. It was your warrior aspect that terrified and seduced her.

OCTAVIO

True.

DIEGO

Show her that face again!

Pause. Octavio glares at Diego.

DIEGO

I beg your pardon, sir.

OCTAVIO

No, no...I'm in your debt forever.

Pause.

DIEGO

Sir...return Miguel to his post.  
But not too soon...until you've had a chance to watch him. *(Beat)*  
Now permit me to bring Murrieta to his execution.

Diego peels off, while Octavio continues toward the plaza.

OCTAVIO

I'd rather be a toad in a cave than possess the thing I love to be used by others.

EXT. THE GALLOWS PLACE - NIGHT

The whole town of Santa Rita, plus the California Rangers, have turned out to see the hanging. Only Chavez, Emilia and Clementina are absent.

ALCALDE MONTANO  
Let justice be done!

Octavio, on horseback, surveys the scene.

OCTAVIO  
*(To himself)*  
Where's Miguel?

Octavio nods to Diego who, with two other men, controls the handcuffed Murrieta.

Diego and the two men lead Murrieta up the gallows stairs.

When they arrive at the hanging spot, Diego offers Murrieta a blindfold. Murrieta shakes his head.

Diego loops the noose around Murrieta's neck.

OCTAVIO  
Do you have any last words?

MURRIETA  
*(Looking directly  
at Octavio)*  
*Viva la raza.*

This wounds Octavio, who blanches. He nods to Diego.

Diego pulls the wooden handle which releases the trap door.

Murrieta's fall is broken by the rope. He contorts spasmodically, then is still.

Some in the crowd cheer, but others are sobered by the sight of man dying.

OCTAVIO  
*(To Diego)*  
See to his dignified burial.

INT. A STABLE - DAY

Murrieta's corpse is stretched out on a work table, on which a LARGE GLASS JAR full of a CLEAR LIQUID also sits.

Diego lifts an AXE over Murrieta's neck. Diego slams the axe down on Murrieta's neck, cleanly severing the head.

Diego lifts the head by its hair and places it in the jar. Diego screws the lid onto the jar.

DIEGO

By this proof I'll win the bounty.

Diego lifts Murrieta's headless corpse and tosses it into a COFFIN.

EXT. A GROVE OF TREES ON A CLIFF ABOVE THE SEA - DAY

Octavio and Clementina sit on a blanket, eating fruit. A few feet away, on another blanket, Emilia enjoys the sunny day over the Big Sur Coast.

CLEMENTINA

How are you now, my dear?

OCTAVIO

I am to blame.

CLEMENTINA

Why is your voice so faint?

OCTAVIO

A pain in my forehead. Here.

CLEMENTINA

You have suffered much.

Clementina pulls the strawberry handkerchief from her bosom. She applies it to Octavio's brow. He knocks her hand away. The handkerchief flies in the air. Blown a bit by the sea breeze, the handkerchief falls to the ground a few feet away.

OCTAVIO

Let us go for a walk. Emilia, would you excuse us?

EMILIA  
I'll meet you back in town.

Octavio and Clementina rise. Arm-in-arm, they stroll along the cliff edge.

Emilia reaches for the handkerchief and picks it up.

EMILIA  
A hundred times, my husband begged me to steal this. Now the wind has blown it to me.

INT. THE HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Diego lies on the bed, brooding, while the sounds of festivities pour through the window.

Emilia enters.

DIEGO  
I'm in a foul mood. Stay away.

EMILIA  
I have something to cheer you up.

Emilia climbs atop Diego and reaches into her blouse's cleavage.

DIEGO  
I'm not in the mood, woman!

Emilia pulls out the handkerchief and waves it seductively.

DIEGO  
You stole it?

EMILIA  
It fell. Look, here it is.

Emilia rubs the handkerchief on Diego's face.

DIEGO  
Good wife. Give it here!

EMILIA  
What will you do with it?

Diego snatches the handkerchief from Emilia.

DIEGO  
As I said. I'll make a copy of it.  
For you.

EMILIA  
*(Seductively)*  
The poor girl will go mad when she  
misses it.

Diego rolls away, disappointing Emilia.

DIEGO  
There's a banquet downstairs. Join  
it. *(Beat)* Now!

Emilia leaves.

DIEGO  
I'll plant this in Chavez's room.  
When he returns it to the Indian,  
the spark will blow the dynamite.

INT. A HOTEL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Diego turns a corner and runs into Octavio.

OCTAVIO  
Thank God I found you. My head  
reels.

DIEGO



I'm sorry to hear that.

OCTAVIO

I would not mind if every man in this town tasted her sweet body, so long as I didn't know. I'm not fit for command anymore.

DIEGO

Impossible, sir!

OCTAVIO

Prove my love a whore! Give me visual proof! If you don't, you'd be better born a dog than face my rage!

DIEGO

Sir, I...

OCTAVIO

This is torture. Give me proof. Or die.

DIEGO

To be direct and honest is not safe. Thank you for the lesson, sir.

Pause.

OCTAVIO

I am confused. Unbearably.

DIEGO

You are eaten by passion. How can I calm you? Help you catch her in the act? *(Beat)* Sir, I heard Miguel calling out in his sleep to Clementina, ''We must hide our love! If only the Indian were dead!''

Octavio goes to his knees.

OCTAVIO

No!

DIEGO

It was only a dream.

OCTAVIO

I'll tear her to pieces!

DIEGO

Sshhh. Did you not give her a handkerchief spotted with strawberries?

OCTAVIO

My first gift.

DIEGO

Today I saw Miguel wipe his face with it.

OCTAVIO

It all adds up...I must avenge this!

Octavio starts to rise.

DIEGO

Do not rise yet.

Octavio goes back down to his knees. Diego joins Octavio.

DIEGO

Let God witness my vow. As my penance, I pledge myself to my wronged commander's service.

Octavio and Diego rise together.

OCTAVIO

Miguel Chavez must be dead within three days.

DIEGO  
But let *her* live.

EXT. SANTA RITA PLAZA - DAY

Emilia and Clementina are strolling in the plaza.

CLEMENTINA  
Where did I lose that handkerchief?

EMILIA  
I do not know.

CLEMENTINA  
I would rather have lost my purse  
full of gold. Octavio will be  
outraged.

EMILIA  
Is he the jealous type?

CLEMENTINA  
He knows nothing of jealousy.

Emilia sees Octavio walking toward them.

CLEMENTINA  
How are you, my love?

OCTAVIO  
Well. And you?

CLEMENTINA  
Well.

Octavio takes her hand.

OCTAVIO  
Your hand is moist.

CLEMENTINA

I would not know why.

OCTAVIO  
It's a good hand. An honest one.

CLEMENTINA  
With this hand I gave you my heart.  
(Beat) And now, your promise.

OCTAVIO  
What promise?

Octavio runs his hand over his brow, examines his hand, and sees he is sweating.

CLEMENTINA  
That you will speak with Miguel.

OCTAVIO  
May I borrow your handkerchief?

Clementina withdraws a handkerchief from her blouse and offers it to Octavio.

OCTAVIO  
The one I gave you.

CLEMENTINA  
I don't have it.

Octavio takes a deep breath.

OCTAVIO  
My mother was given that by a descendant of an Aztec king. A magic fetish to win my father. Her last wish was that I give it to my wife.

CLEMENTINA  
Truly?

OCTAVIO

Yes.

CLEMENTINA  
I wish I'd never seen it.

OCTAVIO  
Did you lose it?

CLEMENTINA  
No. But what if I had?

OCTAVIO  
Find it.

CLEMENTINA  
Please. See Miguel.

OCTAVIO  
The handkerchief!

CLEMENTINA  
Miguel shared dangers with you.  
You love each other!

OCTAVIO  
The handkerchief!

Octavio stalks off.

Emilia and Clementina sit by the fountain.

EMILIA  
This man is jealous.

CLEMENTINA  
Forgive me. I lost it.

EMILIA  
Takes awhile to know a man. They  
are stomachs. We are food. When men  
are full, they belch us out.

Diego and Chavez approach.

Chavez tips his cowboy hat to Clementina.

CHAVEZ

Have you spoken for me?

CLEMENTINA

His mood is black. Be patient.

DIEGO

I have seen him in battle. He can be dangerous. I'll go see him.

Diego leaves.

CLEMENTINA

Octavio is a great man. I don't understand why something so small has him so upset.

EMILIA

I'm sure something goes badly in his mission here.

CLEMENTINA

He needs me.

Clementina pecks Chavez on the cheek and leaves with Emilia.

EXT. THE HILLS OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

Octavio and Diego gallop their horses over the Ventana Range, thousands of feet over the Pacific Ocean.

As they near an oak grove, they slow to a trot.

OCTAVIO

This is just what I needed, friend.

DIEGO

A beautiful day, yes?

OCTAVIO  
To hell with that damned handkerchief!

Diego laughs.

DIEGO  
It was such a small thing. And it  
was no longer yours, but hers.

OCTAVIO  
Yes.

DIEGO  
To give to whomever she pleases.  
Or who pleases her.

Octavio raises his hand to his brow. He swings off his horse.

OCTAVIO  
I must lay down.

DIEGO  
Below those trees, sir. There's  
a brook.

EXT. THE STREETS OF SANTA RITA - DAY

Chavez walks as if in a trance.

Blanca sees him.

BLANCA  
Miguel!

Chavez sees Blanca and focuses his eyes as Blanca approaches.

CHAVEZ  
Blanca. What brings you here?

BLANCA

You. *(Beat)* I couldn't wait.

CHAVEZ

I'm in no shape to entertain you.

Chavez takes the handkerchief out of a shirt pocket.

CHAVEZ

This is the most I can offer.

Blanca inspects the strawberry embroidery.

BLANCA

It's beautiful. A woman gave you this?

CHAVEZ

I found it in my room. Take it. Leave me for now.

BLANCA

Why?

CHAVEZ

If Octavio sees me with a woman, he may question my dedication to duty.  
Blanca rubs the handkerchief over her cheek.

BLANCA

Until tonight?

CHAVEZ

Yes, bad girl. Yes.

EXT. UNDER THE OAK TREES - AFTERNOON

Diego rubs the sleeping Octavio's temples.

Octavio awakens.

DIEGO

Ssshhh. Rest, sir. I understand



your burden. Do you remember that  
whore I bedded after the Battle of  
San Simeon?

OCTAVIO  
She was no whore.

DIEGO  
She was a woman. And she betrayed  
me for an innkeeper.

Octavio nods.

Diego laughs ruefully.

OCTAVIO  
What?

DIEGO  
Do you remember your wound?

OCTAVIO  
I do.

DIEGO  
You went down with a bullet in  
your thigh--here (*He touches Oct-  
avio's thigh*)--and our flag fell...

Diego rises. He extends a hand to Octavio, who takes it and  
stands.

OCTAVIO  
And you carried it high, with your  
pistol spitting lead at the enemy!

Diego leads Octavio into the brook, where a pool shines in  
the sunlight.

DIEGO  
We conquered the world, sir.

Diego splashes water onto Octavio's face to refresh him.

Octavio seems re-energized. He smiles at Diego.

OCTAVIO

I'll be cunning in my patience.  
Then her blood will flow.

DIEGO

Let us return to town. I'll lure  
Miguel to my room. From your place  
in the closet, you'll hear every-  
thing.

INT. DIEGO'S ROOM - EARLY EVENING

CLOSE ON Octavio's eye, peering from a crack in the closet door.

Diego and Chavez enter. Diego lifts a bottle of whisky. He pours himself a glass, then gestures to Chavez, who shakes his head.

DIEGO

*(Chuckling)*

Of course... *(Beat)* How goes it  
with Clementina?

CHAVEZ

You know. Why torment me?

DIEGO

Perhaps Blanca can be of help.

CHAVEZ

You saw her?

DIEGO

Emilia told me.

CHAVEZ

I begged her not to come.

Diego leers knowingly at Chavez, as though to say, 'But of course. She'd get in the way of your designs on Clementina.'

DIEGO

She told my wife you will marry her.

CHAVEZ

Never. Her vanity makes her believe it.

There's a knock at the door.

DIEGO

Come in!

Blanca enters.

CHAVEZ

Why won't you stay away?

BLANCA

Here's your precious handkerchief!  
You and your lie about finding it  
in your room! Some whore gave it  
to you!

Blanca flings the handkerchief at Chavez, who catches it.

CLOSE ON the heavily-breathing Octavio in the closet, sweat pouring down his face.

CHAVEZ

I...I'll see you at dinner.

Blanca wheels, opens the door, then slams it behind her.

DIEGO

You'll dine with her?

CHAVEZ

If I don't, she go crazy in the streets, slandering me.

DIEGO

Look...I'll join you both. To make sure things stay calm.

CHAVEZ

Thank you!

DIEGO

Now git along.

Chavez leaves. Octavio emerges from the closet.

OCTAVIO

How shall I kill him?

DIEGO

You saw the handkerchief?

Octavio collapses on the bed.

DIEGO

From your wife, to his whore.

OCTAVIO

My heart is stone. (*He strikes his chest*) It hurts my hand. This hand that will make her pay.

Octavio starts to sob.

OCTAVIO

I, who vanquished armies! I'm a common cuckold! My own officer! Give me poison for her!

DIEGO

Strangle her in the bed she contaminated.

OCTAVIO

Yes. Better.

DIEGO  
I'll take care of Chavez.

INT. THE HOTEL DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Diego, Chavez, Emilia and Blanca eat silently at a table.

Octavio sulks before a mound of food in a corner.

Clementina enters with a MUD-SPATTERED RIDER.

CLEMENTINA  
*(Calling out  
across the room)*  
Darling! A message from Santa Lucia.  
We're going home! And my uncle and  
my cousin have arrived!

The rider strides to Octavio's table and hands him a letter. Octavio rips it open. Clementina's Uncle Gabriel and her Cousin Luis enter, looking weary from the journey.

DIEGO  
*(Calling out)*  
Welcome to Santa Rita!

RIDER  
How goes my friend Miguel Chavez?

DIEGO  
He lives.

CLEMENTINA  
*(To Gabriel)*  
Something happened between Miguel  
and Octavio. Maybe you can help.

Gabriel smiles solicitously to his niece.

OCTAVIO

*(To the letter)*  
Are you sure of that?

CLEMENTINA  
Darling?

OCTAVIO  
*(Reading aloud)*  
''You must not fail to do this.''

Clementina is puzzled.

UNCLE GABRIEL  
He's reading. What is wrong?

CLEMENTINA  
I don't know. But I want to heal  
them.

OCTAVIO  
On my mother's grave!

CLEMENTINA  
Darling?

LUIS  
He's commanded home. Chavez is to  
replace him.

CLEMENTINA  
Wonderful!

OCTAVIO  
Yes?

CLEMENTINA  
Darling?

OCTAVIO  
You've gone mad.

CLEMENTINA  
Why, sweet Octavio...

OCTAVIO  
(*Rising*)

She-devil!

Octavio slaps Clementina. The dining room goes silent.

CLEMENTINA  
I do not deserve this.

COUSIN LUIS  
If I hadn't seen it with my own  
eyes...Sir! Beg her forgiveness!

OCTAVIO  
Crocodile tears! Out of my sight!

CLEMENTINA  
I will not stay to offend you.

Clementina, rubbing her cheek, starts to leave the dining room.

UNCLE GABRIEL  
She is truly obedient. Call her back!

OCTAVIO  
Mistress!

CLEMENTINA  
Yes?

OCTAVIO  
(*To the rider*)  
What would you do with her?

UNCLE GABRIEL  
Me?

OCTAVIO  
You. Who had me make her turn. Oh,  
she can turn, all right. And she's  
obedient. Weep, woman! Play your  
role for all to see! I must go home.

I'll send for you!

Clementina leaves.

OCTAVIO

*(To the rider)*

Chavez will take my place. Let's  
celebrate. Welcome to Santa Rita!  
*Goats and monkeys!*

Octavio storms out.

RIDER

*(To Diego)*

This is the rock solid Octavio?

DIEGO

He's changed.

RIDER

Changed? He struck his wife! Was  
it the letter?

DIEGO

My duty compels me not to speak.  
Observe him yourself. Go and see.

UNCLE GABRIEL

We all misjudged him.

The rider leaves the dining room.

CLOSE ON Diego, the wheels turning in his head.

EMILIA

How can you just sit there?

Emilia runs out of the dining room.

EXT. THE PLAZA - NIGHT

Octavio paces by the fountain.

EMILIA



Octavio!

OCTAVIO  
Stay away!

EMILIA  
No!

Emilia trots up to Octavio.

EMILIA  
I don't know what this is about.

OCTAVIO  
You've seen nothing?

EMILIA  
Nothing.

OCTAVIO  
You have seen Chavez and her together.

EMILIA  
They are friends. Nothing more.

OCTAVIO  
They never contrived to be alone?  
Sent you to fetch her fan, her  
gloves?

EMILIA  
Never. I'd wager my soul on her honesty. If Clementina's not chaste, no man's happy. The purest of their wives is dirt.

Octavio thinks it over.

OCTAVIO  
Arrange a meeting.

Emilia goes.

OCTAVIO  
My wife is a subtle whore. A vault  
of villainous secrets.

INT. THE ROOM OF OCTAVIO AND CLEMENTINA - NIGHT

Lit by lanterns, Octavio, toying with a knife, sits at a  
table.

There's a knock at the door. Octavio hides the knife.

OCTAVIO  
Enter.

Clementina and Emilia enter.

CLEMENTINA  
What do you wish, darling?

OCTAVIO  
Come here.

Clementina sits across from Octavio while Emilia stands by  
the door.

CLEMENTINA  
What is your pleasure?

OCTAVIO  
Let me see your eyes.

CLEMENTINA  
What do you want?

OCTAVIO  
(To Emilia)  
Wait outside. Alert us if anyone  
comes.

Emilia leaves.

CLEMENTINA  
I know you are angry. But why?

OCTAVIO  
Who are you?

CLEMENTINA  
Your true and loyal wife.

OCTAVIO  
Swear you are honest.

CLEMENTINA  
Heaven knows it.

OCTAVIO  
Heaven knows you are false as hell.

CLEMENTINA  
How, darling? How?

OCTAVIO  
*(Weeping)*  
O, Clementina. Away!

CLEMENTINA  
Why do you cry? If you suspect my  
father is behind the order to call  
you home, do not blame me. If you  
have lost him, I have lost him too.

OCTAVIO  
You mock me.

CLEMENTINA  
I am honest.

OCTAVIO  
I wish you'd never been born.

CLEMENTINA  
Darling...what have I done?

OCTAVIO  
You are a common whore. Don't play  
dumb with me.

CLEMENTINA  
How wrong you are.

OCTAVIO  
Are you not a whore?

CLEMENTINA  
I am a Christian.

OCTAVIO  
Not a whore?

CLEMENTINA  
I shall be saved.

OCTAVIO  
I took you for the cunning whore  
that married Octavio. (*Calling  
out to Emilia as he rises*) Hell's  
gatekeeper!

Emilia enters.

OCTAVIO  
(*Tossing Emilia some coins*)  
Money for your pains. And your  
silence.

Octavio leaves.

Clementina is faint.

EMILIA  
What is the matter with him?

CLEMENTINA  
Who?

EMILIA  
Your husband.

CLEMENTINA

I have no husband. *(Beat)* Tonight,  
lay the wedding sheets on my bed.

Emilia leaves.

INT. THE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Emilia encounters Diego.

DIEGO

How is she?

EMILIA

Very confused.

DIEGO

She needs us.

Diego takes Emilia by the arm and leads her to the door.

INT. OCTAVIO'S AND CLEMENTINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Diego pokes his head inside.

DIEGO

Dearest Clementina...

Diego and Emilia enter. Clementina lays on the bed, her  
hand over her eyes.

DIEGO

How are you?

CLEMENTINA

I can do nothing right.

EMILIA

Octavio called her a whore.

CLEMENTINA

Am I that name, Diego?

DIEGO

What name?

CLEMENTINA

What he said I am.

DIEGO

But why?

CLEMENTINA

*(Crying)*

I don't know.

DIEGO

*(Offering his handkerchief)*

Don't cry.

EMILIA

Any woman would weep. Some devil  
must have said something to Octavio.

DIEGO

Impossible! Octavio is too smart  
for that!

CLEMENTINA

Diego...How can I win him back?  
Without his love, I will die.

DIEGO

It must be some military matter. Not  
you.

Outside, fireworks explode and people cheer.

DIEGO

Do these people do nothing but  
celebrate? *(Beat)* You must both  
put in appearance. And you, Clem-  
entina, a brave face!

Diego helps Clementina up.

Emilia blows out the lanterns.

INT. THE HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

As a band plays and people celebrate, Diego sits at a table, drinking a whisky.

Roger appears and sits with Diego.

DIEGO  
How goes it with you?

ROGER  
You've treated me badly.

Diego pours Roger a glass of whisky.

DIEGO  
How, my friend?

ROGER  
Every day, you avoid me. I am a simple lovesick fool. A laughingstock.

DIEGO  
Drink.

Roger will not touch the glass.

ROGER  
The jewels I gave you to deliver to Clementina would have corrupted a nun. You told me you delivered them.

Roger threateningly reveals the blade of a knife from under his coat.

DIEGO  
Patience.

ROGER  
Get the jewels back.

Diego slaps Roger on the back.

DIEGO

Ah, you have a spine! Your suspicions show you'll be a writer yet! My plan is proceeding. I'll execute the final stage tonight. If by tomorrow you do not enjoy Clementina, kill me.

ROGER

Explain.

DIEGO

Octavio will be replaced by Chavez.

ROGER

If true, he will take Clementina back to Santa Lucia.

DIEGO

Not if Chavez is removed.

ROGER

Explain.

DIEGO

I'll knock out his brains.

Roger looks around to see if they've been overheard.

ROGER

What is my role?

DIEGO

He'll be with his whore tonight. I'll be with them, then leave after midnight. Take him at your pleasure. I'll stand by.

Roger considers this.

DIEGO



Do you want her or not?

ROGER  
I'm in.

DIEGO  
That's my man!

EXT. THE PLAZA - NIGHT

Octavio, Clementina, Cousin Luis, and Emilia stroll in the night.

OCTAVIO  
It was good to walk.

COUSIN LUIS  
(To Clementina)  
Good night, cousin.

OCTAVIO  
(To Luis)  
Will you walk further with me?  
Let us be friends again.

LUIS  
Of course.

OCTAVIO  
Clementina?

CLEMENTINA  
Yes, darling?

OCTAVIO  
Go on to bed. I'll join you soon.  
Dismiss your attendant.

Octavio and Luis stroll off.

EMILIA  
He seems calmed down.

CLEMENTINA

You must go. We must not displease  
my husband.

EMILIA

I wish you'd never seen him!

CLEMENTINA

Even his anger has grace.

EMILIA

I have laid your wedding sheets  
on your bed.

CLEMENTINA

I've been so foolish. *(Beat)* If I  
die before you, wrap me in those  
sheets.

EMILIA

You are too good for him. For this  
earth.

EXT. A STREET IN SANTA RITA - NIGHT

Diego and Roger walk by a tree.

DIEGO

Hide behind this tree. Keep your  
knife ready. Then drive it home!

ROGER

Stay close.

DIEGO

I'll be near. Take a bold stand.

Roger hides behind the tree. Diego hides in the shadows  
between two buildings.

CLOSE ON Diego.

DIEGO

If he kills Chavez, or Chavez kills him...Or if they kill each other, I win. If Roger lives, he'll be so grateful, I'll keep the jewels. If Chavez lives...no, the Indian may put me under Chavez's command.

DIEGO

*(Continued)*

Chavez must die.

Chavez appears on the street, walking with purpose.

As Chavez passes the tree, Roger leaps at him and flails the knife. He misses.

Chavez draws his knife and stabs Roger, who goes down.

ROGER

I'm a dead man!

Diego darts out from the shadows, stabs at Chavez, wounds him in the leg, and runs away.

Chavez falls to the ground.

CHAVEZ

Murder! Murder!

Down the street, Octavio hears Chavez's cry.

OCTAVIO

Diego kept his word!

Octavio runs to the scene of the assault.

ROGER

I'm a wretch!

CHAVEZ

Get a doctor!

CLOSE ON Octavio.

OCTAVIO

Diego, you are my teacher. I'm coming  
for you now, Clementina.

Octavio runs away.

INT. OCTAVIO'S AND CLEMENTINA'S HOTEL BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emilia is preparing Clementina's bath.

Clementina, wearing a silk robe, emerges from behind a  
screen.

CLEMENTINA

My mother had a maid who went mad  
when a man left her. She died sing-  
ing a song she called 'Willow.'

Clementina disrobes and climbs into the bath.

EMILIA

Sing it, child.

CLEMENTINA

The poor soul sat sighing by a syc-  
amore tree.  
Sing all a green willow.  
Her hand on her bosom, her head on  
her knee,  
Sing willow, willow, willow.

Clementina stops singing.

CLEMENTINA

Who knocks?

Emilia pours hot water on Clementina's back.

EMILIA

It's just the wind, dear.

Emilia sponges Clementina, who luxuriates.

CLEMENTINA

Oh, these men! Tell me, Emilia.  
Are there women who abuse their  
husbands?

EMILIA

Some.

CLEMENTINA

Would you have another man?

EMILIA

Wouldn't you?

CLEMENTINA

Never. Would you do it for all the  
world?

Clementina signals for a towel. Emilia lifts the towel as  
Clementina rises from the soapy water.

EMILIA

The world is a huge price for a small  
vice. Who would not cuckold her husband  
to make him a king?

Clementina wraps the towel around herself.

CLEMENTINA

Not I. Not for the whole world.

Emilia holds out Clementina's nightgown.

EMILIA

It's nothing you couldn't fix later.

Clementina pulls on her nightgown.

CLEMENTINA

I've never met such a woman.

Clementina parts the curtains of her bed, then climbs  
between her wedding sheets.

EMILIA

If a woman falls, it's her husband's  
fault. We stray because they treat us  
like animals.

CLEMENTINA

Good night.

Emilia bows her head and leaves.

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

Roger and Chavez lay bleeding on the street, crying for  
help.

Down the street, the rider hears the cries.

RIDER

Could be a bandits' trick.

The rider looks around.

RIDER

*(Calling out)*

Is anybody near?

Down the street, Diego appears with a torch.

DIEGO

Where's the trouble?

The rider runs up to Diego.

DIEGO

Did you hear a cry?

Down the street, Chavez lifts his head.

CHAVEZ

Here! Help!

The rider and Diego run up to the writhing Chavez.

CHAVEZ

Diego? I've been stabbed.

Diego stabs the torch into the ground.

DIEGO

*(Checking the wound)*

Who did this?

CHAVEZ

I think I wounded one of them.

DIEGO

Villains!

On a balcony overlooking the street, Gabriel and Luis appear.

GABRIEL AND LUIS

What is this commotion?

DIEGO

Don't just gawk! Help us! *(To the rider)* Help me carry him to a doctor.

Several yards away, Roger comes to.

ROGER

Over here! Help!

CHAVEZ

That's one of them.

Balancing Chavez on the rider, Diego pulls his knife.

Diego runs up to Roger and plunges his knife into Roger's heart.

DIEGO  
*(Moving the knife around  
 inside Roger's chest)*  
 To hell with you!

ROGER  
*(Spitting blood)*  
 Damn you, dog!

Diego rips off Roger's false beard. He drops the false beard to the street.

As Roger passes out, Diego looks around the street.

Gabriel and Luis run up to Chavez and the rider.

DIEGO  
 What kind of town is this?

Diego rips off his shirt as he runs back to Chavez and the rider, who has lowered Chavez to the ground.

DIEGO  
 Let me bind your leg, Miguel.

Blanca runs up, see Chavez, and screams. She kneels over Chavez.

BLANCA  
 Miguel. Miguel!

DIEGO  
 Good woman. *(Beat)* Miguel, who do you think did this?

CHAVEZ  
 I don't know.

DIEGO  
*(To Blanca)*  
 Lend me a garter.



Chavez faints.

BLANCA

Miguel!

Diego grabs the torch and strides over to Roger's corpse.

DIEGO

It's Roger!

LUIS

From Santa Lucia?

Diego runs back to Blanca, Gabriel, Luis, the rider, and Chavez.

DIEGO

You knew him?

RIDER

Yes.

Blanca kisses Chavez. He comes to.

DIEGO

Was there malice between you and Roger?

CHAVEZ

I barely knew of him.

Diego and the rider lift Chavez again. The rider, Gabriel and Luis carry Chavez down the street.

Blanca and Diego go in the opposite direction, and run into Emilia.

EMILIA

Husband! I heard a commotion.

Emilia sees Chavez down the street and brings her hand to her mouth.

DIEGO

Roger stabbed Miguel, who defended himself. Roger is dead.

EMILIA

I cannot believe this!

DIEGO

This is the fruit of whoring. Wife, do you know where Miguel ate dinner tonight?

BLANCA

With me.

EMILIA

Did you conspire against Miguel?

BLANCA

Damn you!

DIEGO

Emilia, go tell Octavio and Clementina what happened.

Emilia leaves.

DIEGO

Blanca, you must change your story. Go be with Miguel.

Blanca runs off.

CLOSE ON Diego.

DIEGO

This night makes me or breaks me.

INT. THE BEDROOM OF OCTAVIO AND CLEMENTINA - NIGHT

Clementina sleeps soundly in the curtained bed.

Octavio enters with a lantern.

OCTAVIO

*(Whispering)*

She must die, or betray more men.  
I'll not shed her blood nor scar  
her snow-white skin.

Octavio parts the curtains and gazes at Clementina.

OCTAVIO

When I have plucked the rose, I  
cannot give it life again.

Octavio kisses Clementina.

OCTAVIO

This sorrow's heavenly.

Octavio kisses Clementina again. She stirs.

CLEMENTINA

Octavio?

OCTAVIO

Yes, Clementina.

CLEMENTINA

Will you come to bed, my love?

OCTAVIO

Have you prayed tonight?

CLEMENTINA

Yes.

OCTAVIO

If you need forgiveness, pray now.

CLEMENTINA

What do you mean?

OCTAVIO

I will not kill your unprepared soul.

CLEMENTINA  
You speak of killing?

OCTAVIO  
I do.

CLEMENTINA  
Then heaven have mercy on me!

OCTAVIO  
Amen.

CLEMENTINA  
Then I hope you will not kill me.

Octavio breathes a crude sigh.

CLEMENTINA  
I fear you when your eyes roll so.

OCTAVIO  
Think on your sins.

CLEMENTINA  
They are loves I bear to you.

OCTAVIO  
And for that you die.

CLEMENTINA  
Kill me for loving? *(Beat)* Why do  
you shake?

OCTAVIO  
Peace and be still!

CLEMENTINA  
What have I done?

OCTAVIO  
The handkerchief I gave you, you  
gave to Chavez.

CLEMENTINA

Never! Send for him and ask him!

OCTAVIO

You must not lie on your deathbed.

CLEMENTINA

Not yet.

OCTAVIO

Soon. Confess freely. Then die.

CLEMENTINA

Lord have mercy on me!

OCTAVIO

Amen.

CLEMENTINA

Mercy on you too! I never offended you. Never loved Chavez but as a friend.

OCTAVIO

I saw my handkerchief in his hand.

CLEMENTINA

He found it then. Send for him.

OCTAVIO

He confessed.

CLEMENTINA

What?

OCTAVIO

That he used you.

CLEMENTINA

How? Unlawfully?

OCTAVIO

Yes.

CLEMENTINA  
He will not say so.

OCTAVIO  
His mouth is stopped. Honest Diego  
followed my order.

CLEMENTINA  
He's dead?

OCTAVIO  
Had all his hairs been lives, my  
great revenge had stomach for them  
all.

CLEMENTINA  
He is betrayed. (*She sobs*) And I  
am done!

OCTAVIO  
You weep for him to my face?

Clementina tries to rise.

CLEMENTINA  
Divorce me. Don't kill me.

OCTAVIO  
Down, whore!

Octavio throws Clementina back down on their bed. She  
struggles. Octavio holds her down.

CLEMENTINA  
Kill me tomorrow. Let me live  
tonight!  
Octavio covers Clementina's mouth. She pulls his hand away.

CLEMENTINA  
Half an hour!

OCTAVIO

No.

Clementina struggles with Octavio. He easily overpowers her.

Octavio reaches for a pillow.

CLEMENTINA

One prayer!

OCTAVIO

It is too late.

Octavio smothers Clementina with the pillow.

CLEMENTINA

*(Muffled)*

O Lord, Lord. Lord!

There's a knock at the door.

EMILIA

Sir!

OCTAVIO

What noise is this?

Octavio cocks an ear, hears nothing, then addresses Clementina.

OCTAVIO

I am cruel, but merciful. Suffer no more.

EMILIA

Sir!

OCTAVIO

Who's there?

Octavio looks up, sees no one.

OCTAVIO

It's Emilia. Come to tell me of Chavez's death. (*He examines Clementina*) She's dead. Still as the grave. Wait. She moves. No. (*Beat*) What to do? If Emilia comes in, she'll speak to my wife.

The weight of Octavio's deed suddenly becomes clear to him.

OCTAVIO

My wife! I have no wife!

Octavio howls huskily.

EMILIA

I must speak with you!

Octavio rises, closes the bed's curtains, goes to the door and opens it.

OCTAVIO

What's the matter now?

EMILIA

Someone's committed murder!

OCTAVIO

We've all gone mad.

EMILIA

Chavez killed Roger.

OCTAVIO

Roger killed? And Chavez?

EMILIA

No.

CLEMENTINA

(*Whispered from  
inside the curtains*)



Miguel lives?

EMILIA  
What's that?

OCTAVIO  
That? What?

EMILIA  
My mistress's voice. (*She rips  
the curtains open*) Clementina.  
Speak!

CLEMENTINA  
I die innocent.

EMILIA  
Who did this?

CLEMENTINA  
Nobody. I myself. Commend me to my  
kind husband...

Clementina shudders and dies.

OCTAVIO  
Why...how was she murdered?

EMILIA  
Who knows?

OCTAVIO  
You heard her. Not I.

EMILIA  
I'll get Deputy Love.  
Octavio grabs Emilia.

OCTAVIO  
I killed her!

Realization crosses Emilia's features.

EMILIA

She's more the angel. And you?  
A bronze devil!

OCTAVIO

She was a whore.

EMILIA

Liar!

OCTAVIO

She was false as water.

EMILIA

And you will burn.

OCTAVIO

Chavez fucked her. Ask your  
husband. I served justice. Your  
husband knows everything.

EMILIA

My husband?

OCTAVIO

Your husband.

EMILIA

That she was an adulteress?

OCTAVIO

With Chavez.

EMILIA

My husband?

OCTAVIO

Yes. He told me first. An honest  
man.

EMILIA

My husband?

OCTAVIO

Why do you repeat yourself? Woman,  
your *husband*.

EMILIA

(To Clementina)

Oh, mistress... (To Octavio) My  
husband told you she was false?

OCTAVIO

He, woman. Do you know the word?  
My friend, your husband. Honest  
Diego.

EMILIA

He lies to the heart. (She looks  
*straight at Octavio*) She was too  
fond of her filthy bargain.

Octavio raises a hand.

EMILIA

Go ahead! You, ignorant as dirt!  
Go ahead!

INT. A HOTEL STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Diego and the rider are climbing the stairs. They hear the  
commotion and run up the stairs.

INT. THE BEDROOM - NIGHT

EMILIA

I'll scream it to the world! Help!  
THE INDIAN KILLED CLEMENTINA! MURDER!

Diego and the rider burst into the room.

GABRIEL

What's the matter?

EMILIA

Now you are here, Diego? You  
have done well.

Gabriel and Luis run into the room.

DIEGO

What's going on?

EMILIA

This villain says you told him  
his wife was false. Speak.

DIEGO

I told him what I thought. Then  
he found out for himself.

EMILIA

Did you ever tell him she was false?

DIEGO

I did.

EMILIA

You told a wicked lie!

DIEGO

Hold your tongue, woman!

EMILIA

I will speak! My mistress lies here  
murdered in her bed!

GABRIEL

No!

EMILIA

You set this in motion.

OCTAVIO  
She is dead.

LUIS  
Monster!

EMILIA  
I smelled it.

DIEGO  
What, are you mad? Go to your  
room.

EMILIA  
I will never go home.

With a groan, Octavio falls on the bed.

EMILIA  
Yes, lay down and roar! You killed  
the sweetest innocent who ever  
lifted her eye.

OCTAVIO  
(*Rising*)  
She was foul. (*To Gabriel*) I barely  
knew you, uncle. I killed her.

GABRIEL  
(*To Clementina*)  
I am glad your father's dead. (*To*  
*Octavio*) Your union killed him.

OCTAVIO  
Diego knows she fooled with Chavez  
a thousand times. He confessed. She  
gave him the handkerchief my father  
gave my mother.

EMILIA  
No!

DIEGO  
Hold your peace!

EMILIA

Let all the angels and devils  
condemn me, I will speak!

DIEGO

Be wise. Leave.

EMILIA

I will not.

Diego draws his knife, its blade still red with Roger's  
blood. He holds it in front of him.

RIDER

You draw against your wife?

EMILIA

Indian, I found your handkerchief and  
gave it to my husband, who often begged  
me to steal it.

DIEGO

You lie!

EMILIA

I do not, gentlemen.

Octavio draws his knife and lunges for Diego. The rider  
intercepts him. They struggle.

The rider disarms Octavio.

Exploiting the confusion, Diego stabs Emilia.

Clutching her wound, Emilia falls to the floor.

EMILIA

Lay me by my mistress's side.

Diego runs out of the room, through the window.

Emilia crawls to the bed and pulls herself upon it, through the curtains.

GABRIEL

After him!

Gabriel, Luis and the rider run after Diego.

OCTAVIO

Every runt gets my sword.

Octavio sighs as though the life force is escaping.

OCTAVIO

Let it go...

Emilia snuggles next to the dead Clementina.

EMILIA

Your song... *(She sings)* 'Willow, willow, willow.'... Indian, she was chaste. She loved you.

Emilia shivers and dies, cradling Clementina.

EXT. THE HOTEL - NIGHT

Diego, his gun drawn, leaps downward from balcony to balcony.

Diego jumps down to the street. He looks in every direction, then runs through the plaza toward the edge of town.

INT. OCTAVIO'S AND CLEMENTINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel, out of breath, staggers back into the room.

Inside the curtained bed, Octavio, hearing Gabriel enter, pulls a deringer out of his boot.

OCTAVIO

I have a gun, Gabriel. I'm coming

out.

GABRIEL

Then you'll die like a dog.

OCTAVIO

Pull the curtains aside and speak  
with me.

Gabriel pulls the curtains apart and looks upon the bed.

OCTAVIO

Look. I have a weapon. A better one  
never warmed a soldier's boot. This  
soldier who...I won't hurt you. My  
journey's over. *(He looks at Clem-  
entina)* Pale as your nightgown. Cold  
as your chastity. Whip me, devils!  
Roast me in sulphur! O, Clementina!

Octavio wails.

EXT. OUT BY THE GALLOWS - NIGHT

Diego, atop the gallows used to hang Murrieta, is  
surrounded by Deputy Love, the rider and several men, who  
advance slowly on their bellies.

DIEGO

Crawl like snakes!

Diego fires at them.

The rider crawls toward the gallows from behind Diego.

Diego's pursuers return his fire. Diego dives to his belly.

Diego goes up to his knees. He puts the pistol's barrel in  
his mouth.

DIEGO

Prepare a bed for me, Satan!



Before Diego can pull the trigger, the rider leaps on him from behind, grabs his pistol arm, and pulls the gun out of Diego's mouth as it fires.

INT. OCTAVIO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The rider, Deputy Love, Luis and the other men enter, with Diego as their prisoner.

Chavez is carried in by two men, who then lower him so he can stand.

CHAVEZ

Where is he?

OCTAVIO

I was General Octavio Perez...

Octavio leaps from behind the bed curtains and slings a knife at Diego. It enters Diego's shoulder, wounding him.

GABRIEL

Hold him!

Some men hold Octavio.

Diego pulls the knife out of his shoulder.

DIEGO

I told you not to trust your eyes.

OCTAVIO

You'd be happier dead.

GABRIEL

(To Octavio)

Once you were valiant. What can be said to you?

OCTAVIO

That I did it all in the name of honor.

LUIS

Did you and this wretch conspire  
to kill Miguel?

OCTAVIO

Yes.

MIGUEL

Sir, I never gave you cause.

OCTAVIO

I beg your pardon. (*He nods toward  
Diego*) Now ask that devil why he  
ensnared my soul.

DIEGO

What you know, you know. From this  
moment I will never speak.

RIDER

Not even to pray?

Gabriel removes papers from his coat and proffers them  
toward Octavio.

GABRIEL

Found in Roger's pockets. Plans to  
kill Miguel Chavez.

Octavio's eyes roll back into his head.

CHAVEZ

No...

GABRIEL

And this, a letter to the wretch,  
demanding his jewels be returned.

Pause.

OCTAVIO

Miguel...how did you get the hand-  
kerchief?

CHAVEZ

I found it in my room. (*Points at Diego*)  
He confessed he planted it there.

Octavio hangs his head.

CHAVEZ

Diego planned to send us all to hell.

GABRIEL

(*To Octavio*)

You must come with us. Miguel Chavez  
will take over. You'll be tried in  
Santa Lucia.

OCTAVIO

Allow me a word. (*He struggles free  
of the men holding him*) I served well.  
Testify to it. Speak of me as a man  
who loved well, but not wisely. Of  
one not easily jealous, but who was  
carried away. Who tossed his jewel  
into the sea. Say that I took a dog  
by the throat and--(*He pulls the  
derringer from his boot*)--and shot him.

Octavio fires a shot into his heart.

GABRIEL

God, no!

Octavio swoons and blood pours down his chest. He staggers  
to the bed, pulls the curtains apart, and stares down at  
Clementina.

OCTAVIO

I kissed you before I killed you. Now  
I die, upon a kiss.

Octavio falls onto Clementina, still cradled by the dead  
Emilia.

Everyone is speechless.

CHAVEZ

I was afraid of this. A warrior so great could do nothing else.

Gabriel looks into Diego's face.

GABRIEL

Look at this bed. This is your work. Deputy, seal off the room. *(To the men restraining Diego)* We're off to Santa Lucia.

The rider and the men, bearing Diego, exit the room.

CLOSE ON Miguel Chavez, looking at Gabriel, then at the bodies on the bed.

EXT. THE BIG SUR COAST - DAY

Men row a boat out into the Pacific Ocean.

Gabriel and Luis sit in the stern, watching over TWO ENSHROUDED CORPSES. The men stop rowing, and raise their oars. Gabriel stands. The boat rocks. He steadies himself on Luis's shoulders.

GABRIEL

Octavio and Clementina, we commend you to eternity. My God join you together, where men drove you asunder.

Gabriel nods to the men. They raise the enshrouded corpses and slide them into the ocean.

INT. BELOW THE WATER'S SURFACE - DAY

The two enshrouded corpses pierce the surface, and float downward.

EXT. THE PRESIDIO GALLOWS - DUSK

Lifeless Diego, twisting in the wind, hangs by the neck, his hands tied behind him.

A half-dozen crows perch on the gallows above Diego.

CLOSE ON Diego, his eyes still bugging out, the trace of a smile frozen on his face.

INSERT:

''DEPUTY HARRY LOVE, CLAIMING THE BOUNTY, PRESENTED THE JAR CONTAINING THE HEAD OF FAMED BANDIDO JOAQUIN MURRIETA TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE IN STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA. ON JULY 28, 1853, THE LEGISLATURE AWARDED THE BOUNTY TO DEPUTY LOVE.

''SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE HEAD WAS EXHIBITED FOR ONE DAY ONLY.''

FADE TO BLACK.

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