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"PAUL AND VIRGINIA"

A C T I

DISCOVERED: Mme. de La Tour, Margaret and Dom.

MME. DE LA TOUR.

(After recitative)

So then, you like myself have read in their hearts ?

MARG.

Yes, even as you I have perceived that their friendship is now succeeded by a love more tender.

MME DE LA T.

Rejoice! 'tis as I wished; it thus fulfils the dream that in times gone by we both cherished, when, pillowed on the breast, each sweet babe sank to rest.

MARG.

(Joyfully) Ah! then you would consent?

MME DE L. T.

Consent? How can you doubt? you have been like a sister to me! You it was who first received me when I came in my deep sorrow; when friendless and forlorn, - by my father accurs'd, here I sought shelter from the world on this lone island.

MARG.

But you forget!

MME. DE LA.

No, no! -- you see-- I remember well!

MARG.

(Hesitatingly) I-- I'm so lowly-- but an ignorant peasant, who here in exile hides her shame. I had no husband-- my son has no name.

MME.

Ha! I have lost him who called me wife so fondly. From my proud, noble race, whose wrath I dared to brave, no hope of help or pardon remains. But as our children are young, there's no hurry, as our humble estate is all too small for them. Leave, then, in peace that love of which they're unconscious; 'tis to make them more happy we their hopes will delay.

MARG.

Speak! what is your plan; 'twill surely be for the best.

MME.

'Tis to send Paul to India for a while.

DOM.

(Advancing) Eh? Madame? What you say is surely but a jest--- or is it true, dear mistress? My warning heed meanwhile, and seek not to ~~arx~~ alarm us.

SONG.

(Dominique)

(After Trio, and chorus)

MME. DE LA TOUR.

(Joyfully) Ah! a vessel has arrived from France to-day. perhaps it brings----

DOM.

What?

MME:

My auht's forgiveness.

MARG.

yes, who knows byt your noble aunt at length may deign to relent and pardon you at last.

MME.

Heaven grant it be true! (To marg.) Let us go!  
Come quickly! (They are going)

DOM.

Whither would you go, mistress?

MME.

To Port Louis.

MARG.

What dark presentiments oppress me!

DOM.

you'll want me----

MARG.

No! You stay and guard the house. Come, Margaret!  
(Exit Mdme and Margaret R.U.E.)

(After chorus exeunt) (Alone)  
 They have left me, and I must guard the house alone. (sits with  
 ill humor) What! they would send Master Paul to India? poor  
 boy! My poor dear children! But I'll be silent. Who knows?  
 perhaps her aunt has at last decided to forgive her, and this  
 letter which we are awaiting will bring us the good tidings.

(It commences to rain)

Recitative, Domingo.

VIRGINIA.

(At end of trio, Paul, Virginia and Meala)  
 (aside to Paul) But where can our mothers be?

PAUL.

At Port Louis; I understand that a ship arrived from France--  
 their native land. On what do you reflect?

VIRGINIA.

On the anguish I behold in this poor hunted woman who has  
 roamed thus far alone, braving the one in whose bosom all  
 pity is unknown.

PAUL.

And who'll give us counsel, say, thy mother?

VIRGINIA.

When Heaven guides, dear brother--if thy heart is like mine, in-  
 deed---what other counsel do we need?

PAUL.

Thy heart may mislead thee; an escaped slave we dare not  
 keep.

VIRGINIA.

(Turning again to Meala) I will ask your pardon. Lead me  
 to your master.

MEA.

Must I again fall into his power!

VIRGINIA.

Have courage--all hope is not o'er. When Heaven inspires us  
 with noble thoughts, we need not fear to speak, for by its aid  
 hard hearts are oftentimes swayed.

MEALA.

Alas! Through forests drear your path will lead you and  
 swollen rivers you must ford

VIRG.

(Recitative) ~~xxx~~ MY brother, etc.

VIRGINIA.

(After trio, Paul, Virginia, Meala)  
Now lead the way and I will follow you to the master you fear.

MEALA.

I would follow you more gladly from the master, I fear .

END OF ACT I

"PAUL AND VIRGINIA.

A C T II

(After opening chorus)

ST. CROIX.

(After opening chorus enter St. Croix, followed by the overseer and two mulattos) Who here dares to complain or to sing? Silence, all of you! (To negro boy) Hallo! you scoundrel! Get up! go to work, you lazy rascal! (Kicks him) Ha, ha! (to mulatto girl), let's have a look at you. Why, you are not so ugly. Come here! you can bring me my coffee by and bye. But, mind, let me see no more crying. (To the slaves) Perhaps you would like to know who owns you now? 'Tis I! He who sold you to me leaves for France tomorrow. The new Governor will shortly arrive; so let fugitives beware! (Turning to overseer) you must find out some means by which we can capture Meala. Put on her track the fiercest of my blood-hounds. I'll have her alive or dead!

(after Ensemble, Paul, Meala, etc. and Cho)

(Aloud, to Virginia) My charming maiden, prythee tell me your name.

VIRG.

(timidly) Virginia; and this is my brother, Paul.

ST. CROIX.

(aside) She is beautiful! (Aloud) Your sweet voice has won my heart; to you I yield. In truth, it gives me great pleasure to grant your request. For your sake, then, I will pardon her.

VIRG.

O, sir, I thank you!

MEALA.

(aside) How he gazes upon her! (To Virg.) May you be rewarded!

(Paul and Virginia are going)

ST. CROIX.

What's this? You are not going? wait, I pray, until night-fall, when it will be much cooler; and in the meantime I will have some entertainment prepared for you. (To a female slave) Here! bring some fruit and wine; and you, to the other slaves) give yourselves up to play--- it is my will!

MEALA.

(After dance-- chorus)  
(aside) Still his eyes remain fixed upon her. How can I warn them?

ST. CROIX.

Come, my beauty; to pay for your ransom, you shall sing us a song.

MEALA.

Master, I obey!

VIRG.

Ah, poor slave!

MEALA.

(aside to paul and virginia) Listen well to my song!

(Song-- Meala)

ST. CROIX.

(As paul and virg. exit singing "Farewell! Farewell!")  
(angrily to Meala) 'Tis your cursed singing has driven them away!

MEALA.

(Carelessly) 'Twas yourself gave me the order-- you bade me sing!

ST. CROIX.

By jove! do you dare thus to brave me! Here, (to overseer) take her away and give her twelve lashes without delay. With the other, nothing's lost, I'm thinking; I can find her when I please. (Meala is dragged away) Come, slaves, (to the others) now sing and dance while I, goblet in hand, drink of this vintage which fires my senses.

END OF ACT II

"PAUL AND VIRGINIA".

A C T III

DISCOVERED. Virginia, Mme. De La Tour and Domingo)

DOMIN.

(After recitative) Ah! when, in the darkness of the night, I found you in the depths of the forest, why did not some warning voice foretell that this sad time was coming!

(Lifting bag of money which is on the table)  
This gold, sent to us from France, should have brought with it only joy--- not bitter sorrow.

(At a gesture from Madame, Domingo exits C.)

VIRG.

Bitter sorrow! Why, what does he mean?

MADAME.

Ah! forgive me! I dared not before unfold the condition on which we received this gold.

VIRG.

I'm troubled--speak--what is it that's required?

MADAME.

(Giving Virg. a letter) Take this; it will tell thee all.

VIRG.

(After reading letter) O dearest mother! must I leave thee, go to France and bid thee and all I love an eternal farewell?

MADAME.

My dear child, we must submit. your grandaunt has consented to forget the past and begs thee to accept her kind welcome. Thou wilt be her heiress. Think not thy absence need be forever. No, thou wilt return.

VIRGINIA.

No, I can never obey her unfeeling command. O mother! I cannot leave thee. All my soul cries out against it.

MME.

You must go! 'Tis all for the best!

VIRGINIA.

And yet my whole being cries out "Remain!"

MADAME.

If I bid thee go, my dearest child-- it is, alas! for him--

VIRG.

For him--- Paul?--



MADAME.

He must toil for his bread, aye, day by day. And when you two are united---

VIRGINIA.

(hiding her head on her mother's breast) Oh, my mother!

MADAME.

(With great gentleness) You see, my child, I have read your secret. A mother, you know, is clear-sighted. I have long read in your actions his affection and yours.

VIRGINIA.

Alas! I did not know it myself until to-day; for the first time I have learned how deeply I love him--'twas last night served to show it.

(ROMANZA----- VIRGINIA)

MADAME.

(After song)

Think of the bliss that awaits thee on thy return and dry thy tears.

VIRG.

Alas! I cannot!

MADAME.

At least be silent. Let not a word or look betray your misery to Paul. Be sure you still hide your love from him.

VIRGINIA.

It is your will?

MADAME.

Ah, Aye, darling, reflect! await the close of day. Father Pierre, a holy man who loves thee well will then come to thee. Heed well his counsel and may it move you to obey my behests. 'Tiss all that thy mother demands.

(Virginia gently releases herself from her mother, who exits)

Ah! too well I foresaw this blow 'neath which I die!  
What shall I do! Alas! What shall I resolve!  
How shall I reply!

(Recitative) To Dom.)

(After Solo and recitative Virg. and Domini) enter Paul and Marg.)

PAUL.  
 (pausing on threshold) praps there may be some cause. But who is that strange young lady? You! (virginia is mute) Stay! (virg. about to go) Why seek to fly? why leave me? She still doth not reply and even avoids my gaze. (seeing money on table and jewels with which she is adorned) Can that gold and those gems thus change my sister's heart?

VIRG.  
 (aside)(snatching off the necklace) Ah! I must fly, or I shall tell him all. (She goes off hurriedly)

PAUL.  
 (after she has gone off) I'm in a maze! Tell me what has happened, or the pain will drive me mad.

MARG.  
 paul!

MARG.  
 Tell me quickly what it means. It portends misery-- that I know--- I feel the blow, although it's yet unseen.

MARG.  
 paul, my son, the letter which came held out the hope that Virginia at last might recover her riches, and she---

PAUL.  
 speak quickly!

MARG.  
 Soon goes to France--

PAUL.  
 To France!

MARG.  
 Her mother desires it--she must obey.

PAUL.  
 And must she go! Ah! I never knew till now how much I loved her.

~~PAUL~~ MARG.  
 MY son!

PAUL.  
 I lose her-- live without her-- ~~never!~~ Virginia--- never! Say, is it riches she asks? Well, this arm alone can conquer India-- shall win her honors and lay its treasures at her feet.

MARG.  
Another obstacle stands between you. In the life which begins for Virginia to-day, she must choose for her husband a man, alas! whose name is unstained!

PAUL.  
Mother, what do you mean?

MARG.  
Paul, thou dost force me to tell thee a secret which darkens thy life, which shadows all thy future. Abandoned and betrayed, bearing thee in my arms, I fled into exile.  
~~Why~~ With thy birth began thy sorrows.

PAUL.  
Great heaven! and is this my crime? I insult me, ye who will-- shame alone have I for my birthright!

MARG.  
Can you  
^ forgive me, my son? (Kneels)

PAUL.  
can I forgive ?

(Solo, Paul.)

(After recitative , etc. St. Croix and others)

PAUL.  
Enough, sir! Cease your falsehood and feigning. you have come here to seek your slave?

ST. CROIX  
What then?

PAUL.  
She is here, under my protection.

ST. CROIX.  
And by what right, sir, do you retain my slave-- my property?

PAUL.  
Right or no right, she has trusted her safety to me, and I will defend her with my life.

ST. CROIX  
Stand back, sir, and let me pass, or by Heaven---

(Mela who has entered, rushes forward at the feet of St. Croix)

MELA.  
No, no! rather kill me!

PAUL.