

The Devil is a Woman

*1935, Paramount Pictures, directed by Josef von Sternberg,
Screenplay by John Dos Passos*

CAPTION READS

The action of the story takes place during a carnival week in the south of Spain, at the beginning of the century.

GOVERNOR

Gentlemen, I'm going to be brief. Tomorrow the carnival begins. Unfortunately every crook within a thousand miles, every political offender in exile will try to take advantage of the masquerade. If you catch a man stealing, shoot him, less trouble afterwards. But I want no useless arrests. Last year the jail and the hospital were a disgraceful sight. I definitely do not want any interference with the people's pleasures. And if you must make one or two useless arrests because you will not listen to me, then make them. But no more. Dismissed.

ANTONIO

Say, where are all the pretty girls today?

MAN

Girls? Watch this.

ANTONIO

Watch this.

ANTONIO

Would you please give my card to the lady of the house.

BUTLER

Which lady, sir?

ANTONIO

The lady who lives here.

BUTLER

What is her name, sir?

ANTONIO

Look here, your mistress expects me.

BUTLER

Sorry, sir. I'm not so ...

Note reads

It is my custom to go driving - each evening - in the Avenue of the Sycamores. Concha Perez

PASQUAL

Antonio

ANTONIO

Pasqual. What luck. How wonderful to see you again.

PASQUAL

You young idiot. What if you're recognized? Turn around. Sit down. Turn your back. What on earth ever tempted you to leave Paris?

ANTONIO

I'm on my way back there now. I came to see my parents.

PASQUAL

But there's a price on your head. Don't you know we have a new governor who eats Republicans for breakfast?

ANTONIO

I'll risk it until the carnival is over. But how are you Pasqual, let me look at you. You changed. Have you been ill?

PASQUAL

My health has been excellent.

ANTONIO

I hardly knew you without a uniform. I suppose it's another one of your adventures. Captain Pasqual Castelada in search of another beauty.

PASQUAL

I've left the army. Resigned my commission. As for the ladies my friend, for three years I haven't even looked at a woman. But enough of my affairs? What of yours? Why don't you leave while you can to safety.

ANTONIO

Leave? I have an appointment this evening with the most beautiful creature I have ever seen.

PASQUAL

Advice may sound strange coming from me. I can't ask you to ignore the gentler sex. Were I to live my life over again I'd probably do the same foolish things once more. But be careful Antonio.

ANTONIO

The boys in the club would laugh their heads off if they heard you were offering moral advice to the young. But while you're on the subject of advice. Do you happen to know a goddess in town by the name of Concha Perez?

PASQUAL

The name is not unfamiliar to me. She lives at the end of the Plaze del Traempo, doesn't she?

ANTONIO

Yes, anything wrong with that?

PASQUAL

You mean to tell me you don't know who Concha is? Concha the singer, the toast of Spain?

ANTONIO

Is she the toast of Spain? Well then, I'm in luck. For the last five years I've known nothing but jail, exile and manifestos. Apparently you don't like her, do you?

PASQUAL

She's the most dangerous woman you'll ever meet.

ANTONIO

You must be mad to talk like that. What's she done to you?

PASQUAL

There's no pleasure for me to talk about the past. But, I was returning from a holiday in France about five years ago. Our train ran into an avalanche. We were snowbound for about three days.

PASSENGERS

(Spanish)

PASQUAL

Portor!

CONCHA

I don't want a portor.

PASQUAL

How about an address, Concha, where I can write you. Perhaps I can find time to visit you someday.

CONCHA

What do you take me for?

PASQUAL

Come on now, stop this nonsense. Where can I get in touch with you?

CONCHA

Mother says no flies enter a closed mouth.

PASQUAL

As the devil would have it, I was in town one day with nothing to do. And joined some fool committee or other that was investigating labor conditions in a cigarette factory. I'd heard there was a pretty girl there.

MANAGER

Now, gentlemen, you've heard a lot of stories about our cigarette factory. They are not true. Our girls are all well behaved. They earn a great deal of money. And they wouldn't exchange the position for any other on earth.

INSPECTOR

Is something in your eye?

MANAGER

Not at all. Now follow me and I'll show you where we make our shipping cases.

INSPECTOR

Do the girls make the shipping cases, too?

MANAGER

Yes.

INSPECTOR

Oooh.

CONCHA

The Captain has an eye for the ladies, hasn't he?

PASQUAL

Well, of all people. How did you get here, Concha?

CONCHA

Lord knows. I don't remember.

PASQUAL

I never expected to find you in a place like this. I suppose you must make a lot of money here.

CONCHA

If I work all week I make enough money to bring some flowers to my mother on Sunday.

PASQUAL

Living with your mother?

CONCHA

Who did you think I was living with?

PASQUAL

You know what that is, Concha?

CONCHA

Oh, yes. It's gold. It's more than I make in a whole year.

PASQUAL

It's yours if you'll sell me one of those cigarettes you roll with your pretty hands.

CONCHA

You better take two in case you become impatient.

PASQUAL

Impatient? Why should I become impatient?

CONCHA

Because I want you to wait for me outside.

CONCHA

So you did wait, didn't you.

PASQUAL

Yes, I waited.

CONCHA

I didn't think you would. I know that you're an important person. Your friends might not like to see you in such company.

PASQUAL

Are you glad that I waited, Concha?

CONCHA

Come and take me home.

CONCHA

Here we are.

PASQUAL

Quite a climb. How does your mother get up here?

CONCHA

Oh, mother can climb anything. Look, mama. I've got a fish.

MAMA

How you going to feed it?

CONCHA

Don't worry about that mother. Make this gentleman welcome, he's my friend.

PASQUAL

Captain Costela, charmed beyond words Senora.

MAMA

Excellency. Make this humble house your own.

PASQUAL

What is the exact relationship of this gentleman.

MAMA

Your excellency, a cousin.

MAMA

Oh. Plenty of garlic. Is it paid for?

CONCHA

And sausage, mother. Try it. And look mama, gold.

MAMA

How did you earn all that, Concha?

CONCHA

I earn anything? Don't be foolish mother.

MAMA

Your excellency, if my husband were alive, he has been in the endurance of God for the last 15 years, he'd have beaten her black and blue. But don't be deceived by her language. My daughter is a good girl. Oh, we could be rich, my daughter and I. We could have mules and necklaces and live in the country. But wickedness has never spent a night here. How I worry when I see my daughter leave in the morning.

CONCHA

How can you say that mother, when you sleep all day?

MAMA

There, you see what bad examples these factory girls are? All the ugly words she must hear. If my daughter had listened to them she would have gone wrong long ago. What makes young girls go wrong, your excellency is the advice of women not the eyes of men.

PASQUAL

Here's a cure for oil, Senora.

MAMA

Your highness, how can I thank you?

CONCHA

I'll take care of that, mama. I'll thank him. You don't need to bother.

MAMA

I see. This will be enough for the rent, and this for the water and this for the...

CONCHA

...baker.

MAMA

...the baker, the doctor but I'm afraid there'll be hardly enough to keep Concha out of the factory.

PASQUAL

I understand.

MAMA

Here, here, here. And the landlord thought that he was going to throw us out.

PASQUAL

It's easy to see who runs this shop. When the time comes for a sweetheart to offer himself he'll have to talk to you and not to your mother.

CONCHA

You don't happen to know of anyone?

PASQUAL

Let me see now. No, I don't think so.

CONCHA

Oh, you think too much. You know of nobody at all. Let me go. Don't you touch me. Or I call for help.

PASQUAL

Are you mad, Concha? I came here as a friend. Suddenly you throw yourself into my arms and now you accuse me.

CONCHA

I kissed you because I loved you for a minute. But I won't let you kiss me without loving me.

PASQUAL

So you don't think I love you, my child?

CONCHA

No. I please you. I amuse you. But I'm not the only one, am I? Answer me, Pasqualito. I want to know, am I or am I not?

MAMA

What happened my child?

CONCHA

Give the man a finger and he bites off the whole hand.

MAMA

Well, I'll go get dinner ready.

PASQUAL

I don't think I wanted to see her again. but I went there. Not once. Thirty times. She was never home. Her mother told me she was either out with her cousin or was going to her dancing lessons. Finally, after three months of this. I told her mother that I loved Concha. That although there were certain ties I couldn't perform I wished to provide for her daughter. Take charge of her education. In otherworlds make myself her protector. I assured her that she and Concha would never want for anything. To prove my sincerity, well the old lady got quite a sum out of me that time.

CONCHA

I'm deeply offended.

WRITER

I'm deeply offended.

CONCHA

What did I write last?

WRITER

You are deeply offended.

CONCHA

I never want to see you again.

WRITER

I never want to see you again.

CONCHA

And my mother doesn't want to see you again.

WRITER

And my mother doesn't want to see you again.

CONCHA

As I write this...

WRITER

As I write this...

CONCHA

...my heart is bleeding.

WRITER

...my heart is bleeding.

CONCHA

And my eyes are filled with tears.

PASQUAL

When I received her letter I rushed to her home, but they had disappeared. Mother and daughter, bag and baggage, without a trace. Then about three months later, after I'd given up hope of ever seeing her again she suddenly appeared.

PASQUAL

You, Concha.

CONCHA

Were you expecting someone else?

PASQUAL

Come in.

CONCHA

I thought I'd stop by to see if you were in. Since you didn't care to look for me it's I who looked for you.

PASQUAL

I haven't slept a wink since you left me. Why did you run away like that? Where the devil did you go to? Why did you send me that stupid letter?

CONCHA

I was angry because you had given us too much money.

PASQUAL

I only wanted to help you.

CONCHA

I thought it would spoil our friendship.

PASQUAL

Friendship.

CONCHA

But now that the money is gone and nothing is left but my affections for you. I can no longer live without seeing you.

PASQUAL

Oh, Concha. Why did you stay away so long?

CONCHA

What if someone saw me come in? My name would be ruined. It was foolish of me to come here.

PASQUAL

No, it wasn't. It was wonderful, Concha. I've been thinking things over for some time now. and I would be happy to make you my wife and none could ever speak ill of you.

CONCHA

But no one speaks ill of me now.

PASQUAL

Did you hear what I said, Concha? I just offered to marry you. To give you the honor and protection that go with my name.

CONCHA

Ha. That's exactly what I told mother. The moment I came here you'd become serious. I didn't want to come here only she needs money so badly.

PASQUAL

Well, at least you're honest Concha, even if you don't love me.

CONCHA

But I do love you. Don't leave now and I told mother I wouldn't accept any money from you.

PASQUAL

How much does she want?

CONCHA

She had many debts. She needs a lot.

PASQUAL

Well, money means little to me, Concha. Of course I'll help you.

CONCHA

You're not helping me. If you want to help my mother that's your affair. She's waiting outside. You can discuss money with her just as you did before. Mother!

MAMA

Your excellency.

PASQUAL

Senora, make this humble house your own.

MAMA

Oh, your excellency. How well you look. Oh, how good it is to see you again. My daughter talks of you all the time. She loves you more than anything. Your excellency, I have missed you so much.

PASQUAL

Well, sir. they vanished again. It was months before I saw her again. I don't believe that destiny is controlled by a throw of dice, but it couldn't have been merely a succession of accidents. I'd been sent down to the coast to inspect some defenses and while there it was my bad luck to run into her once more.

CONCHA

(sings) I'm romantic. So romantic that I often wish I had a modest heart. But believe me. Please believe me when I tell you that I haven't got a sweetheart.

SINGERS

(sing) Do you mean to say that you have none?

CONCHA

Did you hear me say that I had none? No I only said I haven't one. Three sweethearts have I. Three handsome sweethearts. And one is a son of a...

SINGERS

One is a son of a...

CONCHA

One is a son of a...

SINGERS

One is a son of--who!

CONCHA

..a gardener.

SINGERS

A gardener? A gardener.

CONCHA

He gives me daisies and roses and orchids regardless of the price and other things that are so nice. Three handsome sweethearts. And one is the son of a...

SINGERS

One is a son of a...

CONCHA

One is a son of a...

SINGERS

One is a son of a--whoo!

CONCHA

...a farmer.

SINGERS

A farmer? A farmer.

CONCHA

He gives me butter and carrots and onions no other farmer would. And other things that are so good.

Three handsome sweethearts. And one is a son of a...

SINGERS

One is a son of a...

CONCHA

One is a son of a...

SINGERS

One is son of a--whoo!

CONCHA

...a baker.

SINGERS

A baker? A baker.

CONCHA

He gives me biscuits and cookies and pastries a queen could even eat. And other things that are so sweet.

SINGERS

Sweethearts, all three

CONCHA

To all three I'm true.

SINGERS

Sweethearts all three.

CONCHA

And I could be as true to you.

AUDIENCE

Bravo!

CONCHA

Arturo, a cup of coffee.

PASQUAL

My emotions seem to make little impression on you. Aren't you afraid of anything, Concha? Have you no fear of death?

CONCHA

No, not today. I feel too lucky. Why do you ask. Are you going to kill me?

PASQUAL

You play with me as if I were a fool. What I gave gladly, you took like a thief.

CONCHA

I thought you would be glad to see me. I'm sorry I sat down.

PASQUAL

Don't go. Please don't go. I've looked for you so long. I've missed you. I don't want to offend you. Perhaps I'm a bit nervous. Don't go, please.

CONCHA

Coffee? Did I order coffee Pasqualito?

PASQUAL

The lady said champagne.

PASQUAL

All that night I walked the streets with a fever. I cursed myself. I called myself coward. I burned with shame this despicable role I played. I told myself there were only two ways out. Either to leave her or to kill her. I chose a third.

CONCHA

Pasqualito. this is La Touresta, the one-eyed. This is Captain Castelad.

TOURESTA

Welcome to your own house, your excellency.

CONCHA

She really has one eye.

TOURESTA

...such a gentleman.

CONCHA

And with that one eye she can only see money.

TOURESTA

Some day you'll have a theater of you own. When I was your age...

CONCHA

Yes, I know. All the men were crazy about you. Come one Pasqualito.

TOURESTA

She packs them in like sardines, Captain. Like sardines.

CONCHA

And some day you'll offer me more money

TOURESTA

Who knows.

CONCHA

Yes, who knows?

PASQUAL

I should have changed to civilian clothes.

CONCHA

But I like your uniform Pasqualito. Oh, I forgot to thank you for the flowers.

PASQUAL

I love you, Concha. Life without you means nothing.

CONCHA

One moment and I'll give you a kiss.

CONCHA

Morinito! Where have you been for two days, you bad boy. Pasqual, this is Morinito, the bull fighter.

PASQUAL

It's an extraordinary pleasure.

CONCHA

Have you ever seen him fight?

PASQUAL

No, but I've read the reviews.

CONCHA

Oh, critics don't value genius. He such a baby. Some day all Spain will know his name. Won't it, Morinito. Have you had anything to eat today?

MORINITO

What time is it?

CONCHA

What time is it Pasqual?

PASQUAL

About nine o'clock.

CONCHA

Nine o'clock and no food. It's easy to see why bullfighters don't live long.

PASQUAL

Perhaps there are other reasons for their untimely deaths.

CONCHA

Oh, no. A jealous man is no more dangerous than a blind bull. Here darling, buy yourself something to eat.

PASQUAL

This Morinito, this genius of yours, What exactly does he mean to you?

CONCHA

He's so young and so poor. I hardly know him.

PASQUAL

I gathered as much.

CONCHA

Oh, you're so sweet Pasqualito.

PASQUAL

How much do you want to release Concha from her contract?

TOURESTA

What?

PASQUAL

I said how much do you want to release Concha from her contract?

TOURESTA

Before she came here, my house was emptier than a bull ring when it rains. She is having a great career here.

PASQUAL

I'm not interested. How much?

TOURESTA

What will she say when she hears about this? She has a temper. As you probably know.

PASQUAL

I'll take care of her. Think it over.

CONCHA

I'm exhausted. I'm going upstairs to lie down for awhile. Why don't you go back to the hotel.

PASQUAL

No, I prefer to wait here.

CONCHA

Then why don't you go out and get some fresh air.

PASQUAL

It's raining. I'd rather stay in.

CONCHA

Do as you like.

PASQUAL

Is Concha still asleep?

WOMAN

Asleep. How should I know?

PASQUAL

Come on. You're going with me. I'm not going to hurt you but come on.

CONCHA

I'm not going to leave here and you're not going to touch me. Don't you dare advance another step!

PASQUAL

Well, what have you to say? Invent something! Defend yourself. Lie some more! You lie so well.

CONCHA

First I want to know what you mean by breaking in here like an assassin! And causing this utterly ridiculous scene!

PASQUAL

You've gone too far. You're not going to play with me anymore.

CONCHA

Ha! This is superb. He threatens me. What right have you to tell me what to do? Are you my father? No! Are you my husband? No! Are you my lover. Well I must say you're content with very little.

PASQUAL

Am I?

PASQUAL

I wanted to leave the country. Leave everything. Try and forget her and myself. But you don't know this woman. She wasn't through with me yet.

CONCHA

Good morning. Good morning! Good morning! Good morning! I came to see if you were dead. If you had loved me enough you would have killed yourself last night. Bad. Not made properly. I can make much better chocolate.

PASQUAL

You want another beating? Haven't you had enough? I'm through with you. Why did you come here?

CONCHA

Poor Pasqual. You haven't much faith in me, have you?

PASQUAL

I haven't much faith in anything.

CONCHA

But I love you Pasqual. Look at me. Look Pasquilito, I'm black and blue. I know I've been cruel. But I'll make up for it. Tell me what you want me to do.

PASQUAL

Oh, Concha. Let's leave this miserable place.

CONCHA

But I can't. My contract.

PASQUAL

What about your contract. It doesn't end until the season is over.

CONCHA

It doesn't end until the season is over.

PASQUAL

We'll see about that.

TOURESTA

I'll have to close up. And poor little Concha, such a success.

PASQUAL

Stop your cackling. How much do you want?

TOURESTA

I don't want to be in your way, Captain.

PASQUAL

I realize that but I haven't much time.

TOURESTA

What?

PASQUAL

I said I realize that but I haven't much time!

TOURESTA

And Concha, does she agree?

PASQUAL

Yes. Yes, I tell you. How much?

CONCHA

Pasqual, angel. You did buy off my contract.

PASQUAL

Did the old hag tell you? I was going to tell you myself. Will you be content now, Concha?

CONCHA

Of course Pasqualito. Come, give me a kiss. Be careful you'll mess up my hair. You know sweetheart, I need a rest after all this excitement. I think I take a little ride.

PASQUAL

But I plan to leave town with you in an hour.

CONCHA

But didn't you hear what I said? I want to take a little ride.

PASQUAL

Alright. I'll be ready in a minute.

CONCHA

No, you're not going with me.

PASQUAL

Why not?

CONCHA

Because I don't want you to. But I tell you what you can do. You can throw me a kiss from the balcony. Bye bye! Goodbye Pasqualito. If I'm not back in a week don't wait for me!

PASQUAL

I was laughed at of course. There was rather a big scandal. There were questions in parliament. And investigations. I resigned my commission. That made it easier for everyone. I've told you all that's necessary, Antonio. That woman has ice where others have a heart. Not only did she wreck my life. There were others as well. The man she ran off with killed himself. Saved the trouble for the bulls. Antonio, forget about her.

ANTONIO

What a devil of a woman. Did you ever see her again?

PASQUAL

No. I hardly wanted to after that.

ANTONIO

What if you ran into her now with both of you in the same town?

PASQUAL

Impossible. But for your own sake, don't you go near her.

ANTONIO

I wouldn't go near her for anything in the world. I'm leaving for France tonight.

PASQUAL

Swear it.

ANTONIO

I give you my word.

PASQUAL

Well, I better be going. Goodbye Antonio. Think of me once in awhile.

ANTONIO

Goodbye, Captain.

CONCHA

Good evening, stranger. You're late.

ANTONIO

So that's what you're like. I wanted to a good look at the woman who broke the heart of my best friend.

CONCHA

I've broken so many hearts. Who is this friend of yours?

ANTONIO

Don Pasqual.

CONCHA

Oh, Pasqualito. Did I break his heart?

ANTONIO

I could kill you in cold blood for what you've done to him.

CONCHA

I should like some coffee before I die and your soothing company if possible.

ANTONIO

I regret to inform you that my time is limited. I'm leaving tonight.

CONCHA

Come, I'll take you to the train, after the coffee.

CONCHA

Bring me some cards, Pablo.

PABLO

Cards, Senorita?

CONCHA

Bring me some cards. Why don't you take off your mask? Dodging the police or are you ashamed of being seen with me?

ANTONIO

I have nothing to be ashamed of.

CONCHA

You're very fortunate, I have.

ANTONIO

You're a very beautiful woman. It's easy to see why men should lose their heads over you.

CONCHA

Is it easy?

MAN

Good evening. Good evening.

CONCHA

Good evening.

ANTONIO

Nice of you to honor us with your company.

MAN

The honor is all mine.

PABLO

Your party's next door, sir.

CONCHA

Come on now, take off your mask. I've waited long enough. When did you say you were leaving for France?

ANTONIO

I'm fairly certain I'm leaving in two hours.

CONCHA

We'll see. Shuffle them.

ANTONIO

You're not going to play cards with me, are you?

CONCHA

You see, we had to meet. You're the jack of spades and I'm the queen of hearts. Hold them for me. I don't like those black cards. Two kings, too. Clubs and spades. King of spades, now who can that be? The king of clubs is my old friend Paquito, the governor. He's been a lot in my cards lately, But never quite so close. You are afraid of the police!

ANTONIO

Well, to tell you the truth I prefer to avoid them just now.

CONCHA

What did you do?

ANTONIO

Politics. A little bit revolutionary.

CONCHA

Is that all? I thought it was something important. Don't shoot. I know that knock.

MARIA

The letter arrived half an hour ago, Concha.

CONCHA

There's no answer, Maria. You can go home.

ANTONIO

Life is difficult, isn't it, with so many admirers?

CONCHA

Sometimes it is.

ANTONIO

On the other hand, life is very easy for me. I'm going to leave you now. I must say I'm grateful to Pasqual for his warning. If it hadn't been for him, I'd have fallen madly in love with you.

CONCHA

If this letter is causing your departure I'll read it to you. Dear Concha, I must see you again. I'm at your feet. I love you more than ever. And do you know who sent this? Your friend, Pasqual.

ANTONIO

You're a liar. Let me see it! He must be mad. Why he told me that you destroyed his life.

PASQUAL

If I'd destroyed your life you couldn't have written such a letter, could you?

ANTONIO

I'd ring your neck.

CONCHA

Kiss me, Antonio. Pasqual, the king of spades.

ANTONIO

Did you write this letter.

PASQUAL

A little earlier in the day you took an oath not to see her...

ANTONIO

Answer me, Pasqual. Did you write this ridiculous letter.

PASQUAL

I hope it provided you both with amusement to know that I still love her. Leave town, Antonio before I lose my temper and call the police.

ANTONIO

I wouldn't put anything beyond you now. All you wanted was to keep me out of your preserves. I'm going stay now inspire of your petty jealousy.

PASQUAL

Call it what you like, I'm not going to lose her.

CONCHA

How can you lose what you never possessed.

ANTONIO

I used to have a lot of respect for you Pasqual but you're behaving like a fool.

PASQUAL

You young puppy, how dare you talk like that.

ANTONIO

We were friends Pasqual. I'll forget the blow.

PASQUAL

Your new victim Concha is a coward.

CONCHA

I don't think he is.

ANTONIO

You know better than to think me a coward. And if you can find any friends to act as your seconds I'll be very happy to discuss that point with them at the hotel tomorrow morning.

PASQUAL

Weapons?

ANTONIO

Pistols.

PASQUAL

Reading the cards is one of her virtues I forgot to tell you about.

POLICEMAN

Who fired the shot?

CONCHA

Was there a shot?

POLICEMAN

This card belongs to your deck, doesn't it?

CONCHA

It's Concha.

ANTONIO

Concha, how marvelous of you to come here. I hope no one saw you.

CONCHA

I was here before, where have you been?

ANTONIO

I was out arranging the dueler.

CONCHA

Why don't you leave for Paris tonight.

ANTONIO

Alone?

CONCHA

I'll come with you.

ANTONIO

You can't. The borders will be watching. Besides we need passports. And then there's the trifling affair with Pasqual in the morning. Which I have no wish to dodge.

CONCHA

Alright, then you will be killed. Pasqual is a dead shot.

ANTONIO

You mean he used to be. Right through the heart, eh? Nonsense, that shot was an accident. He won't hit me.

CONCHA

If you die Antonio, I'll kill myself.

ANTONIO

Let's forget about the duel, Concha. Tonight is the last night of the carnival. Tomorrow will be time enough to think of death.

CONCHA

You too, were thinking of death. Those letters are farewells.

ANTONIO

I wrote them anyway. They are not important.

CONCHA

Who did you write to?

ANTONIO

Oh, lots of people.

CONCHA

Any women?

ANTONIO

Yes. There's a girl.

CONCHA

Where is she?

ANTONIO

In Paris.

CONCHA

Do you love her.

ANTONIO

Why do you ask? You're not interested, are you Concha?

CONCHA

No. Of course not.

ANTONIO

You wouldn't care if I were in love with someone else, would you?

CONCHA

No.

ANTONIO

That isn't true, is it Concha? You would care, wouldn't you?

GOVERNOR

There gentlemen, you've done it. I hope you're pleased. No consideration for me. Close your umbrella. It's not raining anymore. The carnival is over. I told you to be careful with your arrests and what have you done? Turned this peaceful jail into a mad house. There gentlemen, is the direct result of listening to my plea. Stop them. Tear their masks off. Take their tin horns away. Remove every vestige of this nerve shattering carnival. Go! What are you waiting for? I'll teach them to behave.

Alphonso! Alphonso! Alphonso!

GOVERNOR

Let those balloons go. Order my carriage. I want to go home and get some sleep. Who are you? I've had just about enough of this. Take off your mask.

DRIVER

...by this time he might be dead. Perhaps they are both dead.

GOVERNOR

Who may be dead by this time? Make yourself clear.

DRIVER

A duel. They wanted me to drive them. I said "no".

GOVERNOR

Arms! Guns! Horses! Why don't you put up your umbrellas. It's raining!

DUELER

You will have to hurry, sir. The police may come. If there are no further objections, select your pistol. You'll be placed back to back. March twelve paces, I will count three then you are at liberty to kill each other. I hope your injury will be slight.

ANTONIO

Well, Concha, I might as well say goodbye. One never knows. Anything I might want to say to you now would sound silly.

CONCHA

If we had never met this couldn't have happened. Oh, Antonio. You force this on him, Pasqual. This is murder. Listen to me, Pasqualito. You never loved me or you couldn't do this.

PASQUAL

You know very well that I loved you.

CONCHA

You've obviously mistaken your vanity for love. Make your final mistake. Go and kill the only man I ever cared for. I won't permit this Antonio. I want you to leave here at once!

DUELER

Now gentlemen, when I say "go" march twelve paces and turn to face your opponent. At the count of one cock your pistols. At two raise them and at three take aim and fire at your own discretion. Are you ready gentlemen. Go. One. Two. Three.

CONCHA

Antonio, are you hurt?

ANTONIO

He didn't even take aim at me.

GOVERNOR

Calling gentlemen. A pretty mess. Arrest everybody!

Why don't you gentlemen go to Madrid or Barcelona where they have the police to cope with these things? Don Pasqual. Gentlemen, this is a serious matter. I could have hit it up if it had been anyone else but Don Pasqual hurt. It'll be the devil of me. Stop them! Arrest them! I thought I made myself clear. I want everyone arrested. Here, where are you going?

CONCHA

Good morning, Pacolito.

GOVERNOR

Oh, I should have known. You're the only woman in town worth fighting for. I'm sorry Concha but I'll have to arrest this gallant gentleman. Arrest him I said. Take him away! If only you knew how willingly I'd change places with him for your smile.

CONCHA

Do you still like me Pachito?

GOVERNOR

I haven't slept for 72 hours. This carnival has been purgatory. I am about to go home to my wife which does not make my condition more pleasant. But if you smile at me once more I shall never the less be in heaven.

CONCHA

Go home to your wife, Pachito. I too haven't slept. Maybe we can meet tomorrow.

GOVERNOR

I dream of the moment. Every profession has its compensations - even mine. How's the patient, doctor? Not serious, I hope. It is my wish that the whole affair blow over.

DOCTOR

There are some things beyond even your wish, My patient is seriously hurt. I'm taking him to the hospital and if I get him there alive I will be very pleased. Very pleased. Do you hear me? To the hospital!

ANTONIO

Concha. How is Pasqual? Is he badly hurt?

CONCHA

I don't know. I don't think so. I went to the hospital. but they refuse to let me see him.

ANTONIO

Why didn't he tell me he was going to fire into the air? I did my best to kill him before he'd kill me.

CONCHA

Only Pasqual can do such things. Now, you're in jail. Why didn't you listen to me when I told you to leave?

ANTONIO

I wish I had listened to you. Now I've got to get away before they find out who they've arrested or I'll never get out.

CONCHA

Although you don't deserve it, I'm going to see Paquito. On one condition.

ANTONIO

Concha, how can you joke at a time like this?

CONCHA

Will you take me to France with you?

ANTONIO

You know I wouldn't leave without you.

CONCHA

In that case, I'm going to see the governor.

GOVERNOR

Gentlemen, I'll attend to you later. Leave me. Concha, most beautiful of women.

CONCHA

I'm so unhappy, Paco.

GOVERNOR

I see. Sit down. Draw up a full account of this distasteful affair. Get a statement from everybody you can find. Have it sworn to before a notary. A full account by each witness. the names of the coachmen. And then return it to this office for revision.

CONCHA

I was just going to talk to you about his matter.

GOVERNOR

Concha, I implore you. Don't talk to me about his confounded duel. I am a man of lightning decisions. These trouble makers can't fool with me-Don Pasqual may die!

CONCHA

Don't shout at me Paquito. I'm afraid of you anyway. I thought you were fond of me.

GOVERNOR

It's useless Concha. I know what you want. I cannot release him.

CONCHA

So you can't release him? Of course you can. You can do anything. Do you want me to lose respect for you? Come on Paquito. Two little pieces of paper. Two passports.

GOVERNOR

Two passports. who's the other one for?

CONCHA

There's a girl mixed up in it. A cousin. Manuala.

GOVERNOR

I regret to inform you Concha. I still think it's you.

CONCHA

I? How silly. I hardly know him.

GOVERNOR

I am happy to hear that you hardly know him. This person has been wanted by the police for five years. He doesn't think that we know, but it's unwise to cross my path. Take a look at this. I found it in my files with the following information. Republican. Revolutionary. One of the leaders. We'll put him up against the wall and shoot him.

CONCHA

He's much better looking than his photograph, isn't he? Well, Paco I must go. I don't care about this Republican. But that you Paquito should refuse such a small favor, to a lady, is distressing. Very distressing.

GOVERNOR

Don't go, Concha. Please. Ask me anything else... anything. But this affair has kicked up too much excitement.

CONCHA

And all I asked for were two little slips of paper. What a pity. Two little slips of paper from a man I so admired.

GOVERNOR

Come away from the door, Concha. Come away from the door.

CONCHA

Farewell, Paquito. I might have loved you.

GOVERNOR

You can have your two passports. I'll hush up the affair too. You're a magnificent woman, Concha. Let it never be said of Don Paquito that he didn't know how to value...(inaudible)

DOCTOR

You here again? Haven't you caused trouble enough?

CONCHA

Oh, doctor please help me to see Don Pasqual. I'm leaving town tonight.

DOCTOR

I don't know why I should help you. One-sixteenth of an inch more and he would have been dead. I'll give you two minutes-no more.

CONCHA

Thank you, Doctor.

PASQUAL

How'd you get in here? I gave orders that no one should be admitted.

CONCHA

But Pasqualito. I came to find out how you are. Getting yourself shot for me. I didn't think I meant so much to you. You might have been killed.

PASQUAL

Well, what of it? My life is worthless anyway.

CONCHA

No, it isn't. You're wonderful. And I came to thank you for sparing Antonio's life.

PASQUAL

Don't bother. You wanted to know the proof of my love and I gave it to you. That's your thanks. Keep it.

CONCHA

I suppose I deserve this. I know I've always done everything wrong. Will you forgive me, Pasqualito? And then I'll go.

PASQUAL

Will you get out or must I call the attendant?

CONCHA

No. I'll go.

BORDER CONTROL

Good morning.

CONCHA

Good morning.

ANTONIO

Good morning, sir.

BORDER CONTROL

Good morning.

DRIVER

Told you I'd get you here on time. It's still ten minutes. Hurry them through inspector. They want to make connections with the Paris express.

ANTONIO

Here, here.

DRIVER

Thank you, sir. I hope you have a nice trip.

BORDER CONTROL

There you are, sir.

INSPECTOR

Anything to declare?

ANTONIO

No, sir.

INSPECTOR

Anything to declare?

CONCHA

No. Thank you.

BORDER CONTROL

Porter!

INSPECTOR 2

Good morning.

INSPECTOR 3

Good morning.

CONCHA

Good morning.

INSPECTOR 2

Name.

ANTONIO

Miguel Rivera.

INSPECTOR 3

Your name.

CONCHA

Manuala Garcia.

INSPECTOR 2

Place of birth?

ANTONIO

Grenada.

INSPECTOR 3

Place of birth?

CONCHA
Sevilla.

INSPECTOR 2
Married or single?

ANTONIO
Single.

INSPECTOR 3
Married or single?

CONCHA
Single.

INSPECTOR 2
Destination?

ANTONIO
Paris.

INSPECTOR 3
Your destination?

CONCHA
Paris.

INSPECTOR 2
Reason for journey.

ANTONIO
Business. I sell wine.

INSPECTOR 3
Reason for journey.

CONCHA
Pleasure trip.

INSPECTOR 2
You are free to go. The train only stops thirty seconds.

CONCHA
Thank you.

ANTONIO
Have we time enough for wine? We are taking the first train out.

WAITER
Yes sir. Sit down, sir.

ANTONIO
Well, Concha. We had an easy time of it thanks to you.

CONCHA
Yes. We had an easy time of it.

ANTONIO
Come let's forget everything that belongs to Spain.

CONCHA
Give me a cigarette.

ANTONIO
Here's to the future.

CONCHA
The future-and may you be happy.

WAITER
Better hurry, sir. The train doesn't stop very long. Pleasant journey to you sir.

ANTONIO
Come on, Concha. Thank you.

CONDUCTOR
Better get in. We have to leave.

CONCHA
I'm not going. The gentleman travels alone.

ANTONIO
Concha!

CONCHA
Forgive me Antonio. I'm going back to Pasqual. Don't forget me, Antonio.

INSPECTOR
I thought you were going to Paris.

CONCHA
I changed my mind. Would you take me back?

DRIVER
One minute and I'll take the feed bags off the horses.

CONCHA
There's no hurry. Have them finish. Have you a cigarette? You know, I used to work in a cigarette factory.

The End