

Here is a brief recap of the story of Bizet's *Carmen*, courtesy of the **Paris Opera** who, some years ago, thoughtfully provided this synopsis for the benefit of its English and American patrons. And we do promise you that all of this is verbatim and absolutely genuine . . .

Act One.

Carmen is a cigar-makeress from a tabago factory who loves with Don José of the mounting guard. Carmen takes a flower from her corsets and lances it to Don José.

Duet: "Talk me of my mother"

There is a noise inside the tabago factory and the revolting cigar-makeresses bursts into the stage. Carmen is arrested and Don José is ordered to mounting guard her but Carmen subduces him and he lets her escape.

Act Two.

The Tavern. Carmen, Frasquita, Mercedes, Zuniga, Morales.

Carmen's aria: "The sistrums are tinkling"

Enter Escamillio, a balls-fighter.

Enter two smugglers.

Duet: "We have in mind a business"

But Carmen refuses to penetrate because Don José has liberated from prison. He just now arrives.

Aria: "Slop, here who comes!"

But hear are the bugles singing his retreat. Don José will leave and draws his sword. Called by Carmen shrieks the two smugglers interfere with her but Don José is bound to dessert, he will follow into them.

Final chorus: "Opening sky wandering life"

Axt Four.

A place in Seville.

Procession of balls-fighters, the roaring of the balls heard in the arena.

Escamillo enters.

Aria and chorus: "Toreador, Toreador, all hails the balls of a Toreador"

Enter Don José.

Aria: "I do not threaten, I besooch you"

But Carmen repels him wants to join with Escamillio now chaired by the crowd. Don José stabs her.

Aria: "Oh rupture, rupture, you may arrest me, I did kill der"

He sings: "Oh my beautiful Carmen, my subductive Carmen."