THE STORY OF DON QUIXOTE

PROLOGUE

Don Quixote de la Mancha, a chivalrous but befuddled knight, has grown confused by the romances he reads. He is inspired by a vision of Dulcinea, a beautiful girl whom he mistakes for the Virgin Mary. Accompanied by his trusty squire, Sancho Panza, he sets out on an adventure to right the world’s wrongs.

ACT I – SEVILLE TOWN SQUARE

Everyone is bustling in the public square of Seville, Spain. Kitri, the innkeeper’s charming and spirited daughter, mingles and flirts with her sweetheart, Basilio, a handsome and impoverished young barber. Kitri and Basilio want to marry, but Kitri’s father Lorenzo is determined that she marry the rich and silly fop Gamache.

The dashing toreador Espada and his picadors arrive in a whirl of capes, along with the fiery Mercedes.

Don Quixote and Sancho Panza arrive in the square. The fuddled Don mistakes Kitri for Dulcinea. Kitri is trying to extricate herself from the ridiculous Gamache, and the young lovers flee town together, pursued by Lorenzo, Gamache, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

ACT II - A GYPSY ENCAMPMENT

A band of gypsies welcomes Kitri and Basilio.

Meanwhile, Don Quixote becomes confused by the great sails of a windmill in the countryside – he thinks they’re dragons and charges them. He is knocked unconscious, only to fall into a beautiful, vivid dream; a vision of dryads, their Queen, the god Amor, and Dulcinea/Kitri.

As the Don awakes, Lorenzo and Gamache turn up in search of the eloping lovers, but the gypsies help spirit them away. Don Quixote and Sancho help by giving Lorenzo conflicting directions.

Act III – BACK IN THE TOWN SQUARE

Kitri and Basilio have sneaked back to town, hoping to remain inconspicuous. Outside the tavern, Lorenzo catches them and demands that Kitri marry Gamache, who has offered him a lot of gold.

As everyone crowds around, Basilio dramatically draws his razor and pretends to kill himself. Kitri is in on the joke and – aided by the noble Don – convinces Lorenzo to give her and Basilio his blessing before Basilio dies. The moment Lorenzo agrees to the marriage, Basilio jumps up in glee.

Lorenzo and Gamache finally cede to the inevitable, and Kitri and Basilio's wedding celebration takes place. Don Quixote and Sancho Panza ride off in search of further adventures.

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