

Please note that not all pages are included. This is purposely done in order to protect our property and the work of our esteemed composers.

If you would like to see this work in its entirety, please order online or call us at 800-647-2117.

ROMAN FEVER

Opera in One Act based on a story by Edith Wharton

Text

by

ROGER BRUNYATE

Music

by

ROBERT WARD

Characters in the Opera

ALIDA (Mrs. Delphin) SLADE

dramatic soprano

JENNY SLADE, *her daughter*

high soprano

GRACE (Mrs. Horace) ANSLEY

mezzo-soprano

BARBARA (Babs) ANSLEY, *her daughter*

mezzo-soprano

A WAITER

baritone

Copyright © 1993 by Roger Brunyate and Robert Ward.

Based on the story *Roman Fever* by Edith Wharton.

Used by permission.

*The texts for the Quartet in Scene 6
and for the Waiter's part throughout
are by the composer.*

Scene 1 Alida and Grace

The setting represents the terrace restaurant of a Roman hotel perched on the edge of the Capitoline Hill overlooking the Forum and, beyond it, the Colosseum. At one side of the stage, on a slightly higher level, is part of the outdoor dining area of the restaurant, with one or two tables visible. On the other side of the stage, the terrace is bounded by a low stone balustrade, beyond which the ground drops steeply down to the Forum. A few outdoor chairs, of basketwork or wrought iron, are set near the balustrade. There are two entrances. A break in the balustrade gives onto steps or a steep path leading down the hill. On the other side of the stage, beyond the tables, is the doorway leading back into the interior of the restaurant. A small table by this door holds various waiter's necessities, and a practical telephone.

It is around four-thirty in the afternoon. The terrace is unoccupied except for two American ladies, MRS HORACE ANSLEY and MRS DELPHIN SLADE, who, having taken tea together, are lingering at their table. It is spring in the year 1927.

ALIDA, the more dynamic of the two, is taller and more strongly-built than her friend, more striking in her features, and more energetic in her actions. There is a heightened, vivid quality about her entire personality which underlines her image of herself as a leader in her society. GRACE is slighter and paler, with once-fair hair now showing a trace of grey. Although less imposing at first glance, she has a natural air of distinction, softened by a considerable charm and even beauty. Beneath her quiet and self-contained manner one senses an enigmatic personality that is never fully revealed. Both ladies are in the ripe maturity of their middle forties. Both are well-cared-for and well-to-do, and both dress with impeccable taste.