

La Bohème

by Giacomo Puccini





a poet



a seamstress



a painter



a philosopher



a musician



a singer, and
Marcello's
ex-girlfriend



a landlord



Musetta's rich,
new boyfriend

Four artists are hopelessly poor, but live together in a tiny garret in Paris, happily dedicated to their respective arts.



The landlord arrives and demands their rent. Buying time, they give him some wine and listen to his tales about his amorous exploits.



When he accidentally mentions that he is married, they pretend to be horrified and send him away - without paying the rent. Instead, they decide to spend their money at the Café Momus.

With the others gone ahead, Rodolfo stays back to finish writing. Suddenly there is a knock at the door - it is a poor neighbor who has a candle but no matches and needs a light.



She drops her key in the dark, and as they both reach to find it, their hands touch...



Mimi and Rodolfo tell each other about their lives. As the moonlight shines through the window, they realize they've fallen in love.



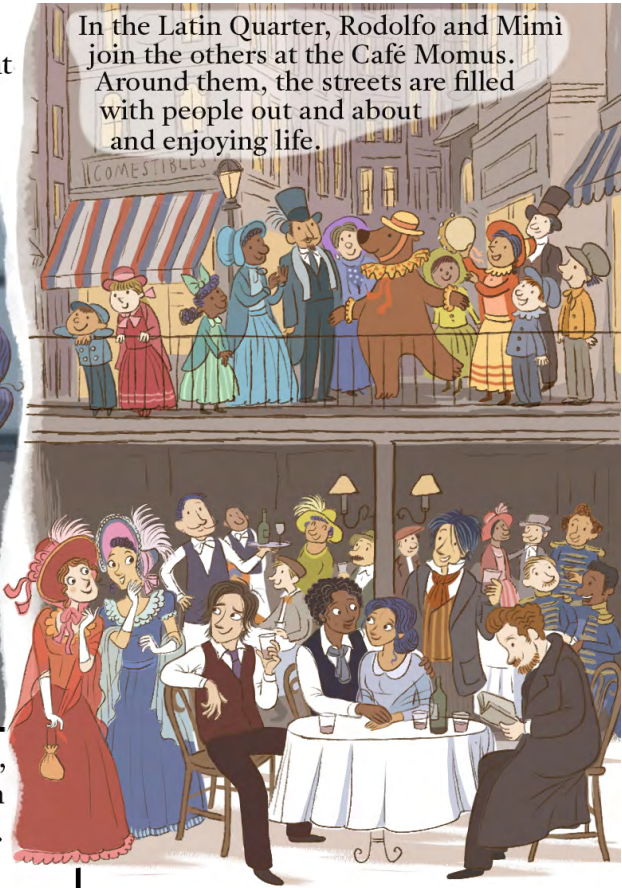
Musetta (Marcello's ex-girlfriend), makes a spectacular entrance with her new, older, wealthy boyfriend.



Then she bursts into song, trying to attract Marcello's attention.



In the Latin Quarter, Rodolfo and Mimi join the others at the Café Momus. Around them, the streets are filled with people out and about and enjoying life.



Musetta sends her boyfriend off to buy her a new pair of shoes, and then sits down by Marcello. When her new boyfriend returns, the group of friends tell the waiter that Alcindoro is paying their bill.





Winter has come. Rodolfo loves Mimi, but she is sick, and he worries that he can't provide for her.



They think about breaking up, but they ultimately decide to stay together until the spring.



Back at the garret, the friends are as poor as ever.



Though Mimi and Musetta are gone, Rodolfo and Marcello try to keep their spirits up and pretend everything is ok.



Musetta arrives half carrying Mimi, who is desperately ill. The friends pool their resources to get money to buy medicine. Exhausted, Mimi lays down to sleep.



Musetta returns with a muff to warm her hands, and the friends think of a happier future - only to discover that Mimi has quietly died. Rodolfo sobs over her body, brokenhearted.