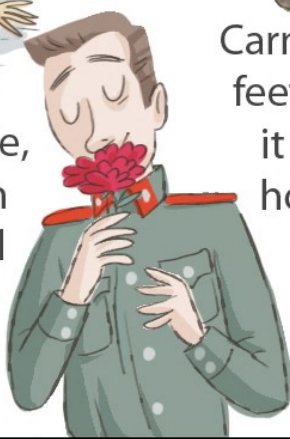




At a cigarette factory in Seville, soldiers watch as the women rest from their work. The beautiful gypsy Carmen taunts the men and sings of how love is something wild and free. But the corporal Don José ignores her.



Carmen throws a flower at José's feet. He is spellbound, but hides it when Micaëla, a girl from his hometown, arrives. She brings a letter from his mother and shyly delivers a kiss. José is disturbed by his earlier thoughts of Carmen.



A fight breaks out between Carmen and another girl. José is ordered to take Carmen to prison, but she convinces him to let her escape. As she runs off, he is arrested instead.



In Lillas Pastia's tavern, Carmen and her friends entertain soldiers and guests. The famous toreador Escamillo enters, accompanied by a crowd of admirers. He flirts with Carmen, but she rebuffs him, saying she is in love with someone else.



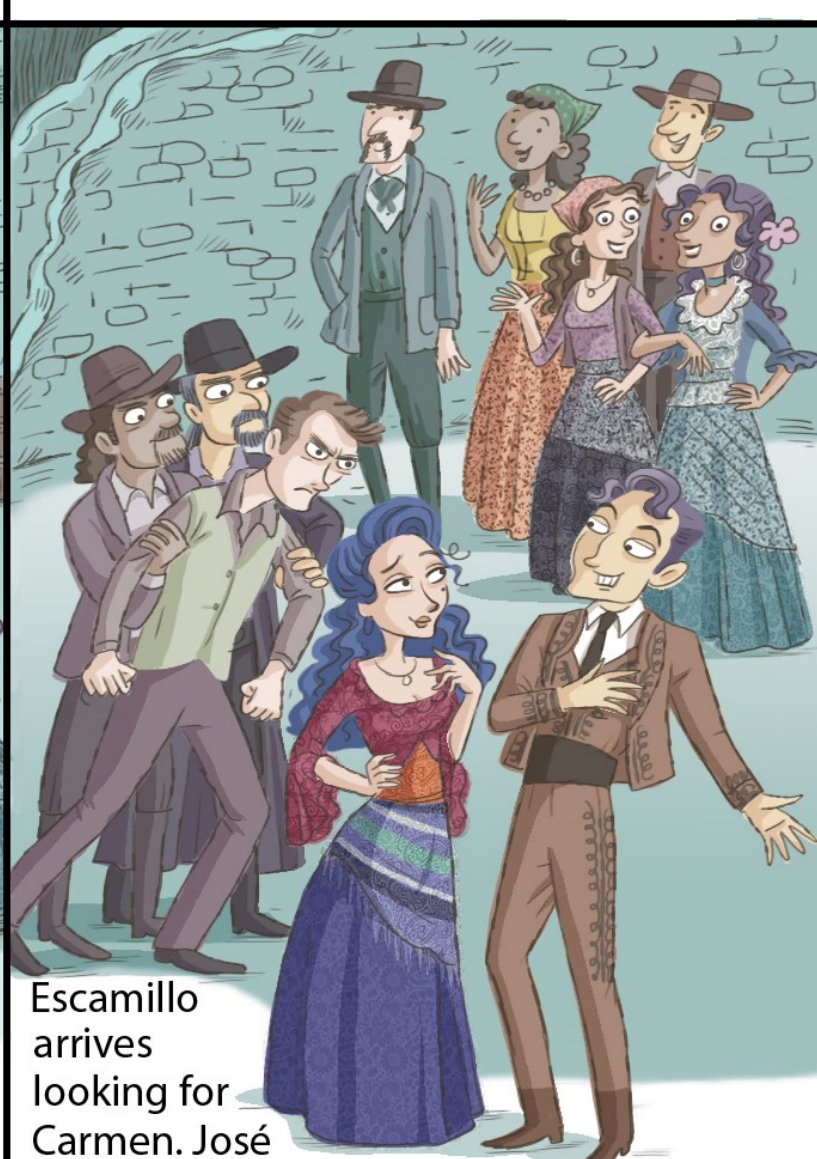
When the crowd has left, the smugglers Le Remendado and Le Dancaire join the women. José, newly released from prison, enters the tavern and declares his love for Carmen. But despite Carmen's entreaties, he won't join their smuggling operation.



José's commanding officer bursts into the tavern and interrupts the smugglers' meeting. José is enraged and jealous of his attentions to Carmen and fights him. With his army career ruined, José joins Carmen and the smugglers.



She is tired of his jealousy and encourages him to go back to his mother. When Carmen and her friends read their fortunes, Carmen's cards spell death.



Escamillo arrives looking for Carmen. José can't control his jealousy and attacks him. Carmen breaks up the fight. Before leaving, Escamillo invites everyone, especially Carmen, to his next bullfight.



Micaëla has found the mountain hide-out and comes to tell José that his mother is dying. She persuades him to leave with her. José is still mad with jealousy and warns Carmen that they will meet again.



At the arena in Seville, the crowds cheer the arrival of the bullfighters. Carmen arrives with Escamillo, admired by all.



José is nearby, and Carmen stays outside the arena to meet him. José begs Carmen to begin a new life with him, but she refuses and tells him that she no longer loves him.



Still professing her love of freedom above all else, Carmen throws down the ring José had once given her. José seizes her and stabs her to death.

