Lucia di Lammermoor

Gaetano Donizetti
Ravenswood Castle, Scotland

On the wind-swept Scottish heath, two noble families, the Ravenswoods and the Ashtons, are embroiled in a bloody civil war, and years of merciless slaughter have decimated both families. On one side stands the young Edgardo Ravenswood, the sole surviving member of his family. On the other side stands the callous and cruel Enrico Ashton, who hopes to win back some of his lost money and power by forcing his beautiful sister, Lucia, to marry the rich stranger Arturo Bucklaw. Yet Lucia has no interest in her brother’s schemes. And she is already in love—with Edgardo Ravenswood, her family’s arch enemy. Thus begins the story of Lucia di Lammermoor—a story of how love, disloyalty, and the thirst for power can lead to madness, bloodshed, and even death.
Watchmen search the gardens of Ravenswood Castle for a trespasser.

Ironically, the “trespasser” is none other than Edgardo Ravenswood, the last surviving member of the family that once owned the castle.

I WAS BANISHED FROM MY HOME WHEN THE ASHTON FAMILY TOOK OVER MY LAND. NOW, I MUST HIDE IN THE RUINS OF AN OLD TOWER INSTEAD OF LIVING IN MY GRAND MANOR.
The Ashtons, too, have fallen on hard times, and Enrico hopes to use his beautiful sister, Lucia, to mend his fortunes.

We're almost out of money. If only my sister, Lucia, would marry the rich nobleman Arturo, that would solve the problem.

Be kind. She is still grieving your mother's death.

But I've heard she's secretly seeing Edgardo Ravenswood. I'd rather see her dead than in my enemy's arms.

Lucia and her friend Alisa come to the garden fountain. According to a local legend, this is where a jealous man from the Ravenswood family once stabbed the woman he loved.

I saw the ghost of the fountain, you know. She beckoned to me, and the water bubbled and turned blood-red.

But this time, Lucia has come to the fountain for a different purpose.

Can you keep a secret? I'm in love with Edgardo Ravenswood! This is where we meet!

That's not good . . .
Edgardo arrives. He tells Lucia that he must leave for France on a political mission, but he hopes to ask Enrico for her hand in marriage before he goes.

YOU KNOW I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO MARRY YOU.

THEN PROMISE ME, AT LEAST, THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL TO ME.

YOU MUSTN'T TELL MY BROTHER. HE'D BE FURIOUS IF HE KNEW!

I PROMISE!

Many weeks have passed since Edgardo’s departure for France, and Lucia eagerly waits for a letter from her beloved. But Enrico has devised a cruel trick.

I'VE INTERCEPTED ALL HIS LETTERS, AND NOW I'VE GOT A FAKE LETTER FOR LUCIA.

DEAR LUCIA, I'M BREAKING OFF OUR ENGAGEMENT . . .

Lucia is heartbroken.
Raimondo doesn’t realize that Enrico is a cruel liar, and he believes the false letter from “Edgardo” is real.

A great trumpet fanfare announces Arturo’s arrival at the castle for Lucia’s wedding.

You might as well marry Arturo for your family’s sake.

What fun! It’s my wedding day!

For Enrico, this is a business transaction rather than cause for celebration.

With a shaky hand, Lucia signs the paper.

Sign the marriage contract!
...just as her beloved Edgardo rushes through the door!

LUCIA! YOU COULDN’T WAIT FOR ME?

MY ENEMY! WHAT IS HE DOING HERE!

The party descends into general chaos while Lucia, horrified that she has signed her life away at the very moment of Edgardo’s return, sits alone, lost in her own sad world.

As a storm rages outside, Enrico comes to the ruined tower to pay Edgardo a visit.
YOU HAVE DISHONORED ME AND MY FAMILY. I’VE COME TO CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL.

VERY WELL. WE’LL FIGHT TOMORROW AT DAWN IN THE RAVENSWOOD CEMETERY.

Back at the castle, the guests are celebrating Lucia and Arturo’s wedding when Raimondo enters with terrifying news.

I WAS WALKING THROUGH THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY WHEN I HEARD SCREAMS. I OPENED THE DOOR OF LUCIA’S ROOM AND FOUND LUCIA CLUTCHING A DAGGER AND ARTURO DEAD IN A POOL OF BLOOD.
The grief has driven Lucia mad. As she descends the stairs, she thinks she is marrying Edgardo.

LISTEN: THERE’S THE SOUND OF OUR WEDDING HYMN! DO YOU SMELL THE CANDLES? FINALLY, EDGARDO, WE CAN BE TOGETHER!

Edgardo waits at the Ravenswood cemetery for his fight with Enrico. A group of men enters.

I HAVE LOST MY WHOLE FAMILY, AND NOW I’VE LOST LUCIA.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

LUCIA IS DEAD.
Crazed with grief, Edgardo thinks he sees Lucia's ghost walking through the graveyard. Taking out his dagger, he drives it into his own heart.