

CHARACTERS

DONN'ANNA LUNA

LUCIA MAUBEL

FRANCESCA NORETTI, *her mother*

DONNA FIORINA SEGNI, *Donn'Anna's sister*

PADRE DON GIORGIO MEI

LIDA
FLAVIO

} *Donna Fiorina's children*

ELISABETTA, *Donn'Anna's old nurse*

GIOVANNI, *the old gardener*

MOURNERS

ACT ONE

An isolated house in the Tuscan countryside.

A cold and almost empty room of grey stone in DONN'ANNA LUNA's home. A bench, a cabinet, a writing table and a few other pieces of antique furniture with a sense of tranquillity banished from the world. Even the light that comes in from an ample window seems to have originated in a very distant life.

A doorway at the back, and another in the wall on the right, much closer to the back wall than to the proscenium.

As the curtain rises, in front of the doorway on the right, which leads to the room where lies the dying son of DONN'ANNA LUNA, some local women have gathered, some on their knees and others standing, but all bent in the attitude of prayer, with their hands linked in front of their mouths. One group, almost touching the ground with their foreheads, meekly recite the litanies for the dying; others show distress and dismay as they wait for the moment of death. At a certain moment they indicate to the others that they should interrupt the litany, and after a brief silence, they also kneel and first one, then another offers the supreme invocations for the deceased.

Some intoning the prayer, others the refrain.

FIRST MOURNER: – *Sancta Maria – Ora pro eo.*

SECOND MOURNER: – *Sancta Virgo Virginum – Ora pro eo.*

THIRD MOURNER: – *Mater Christi – Ora pro eo.*

FOURTH MOURNER: – *Mater Divinæ Gratiae – Ora pro eo.*

FIFTH MOURNER: – *Mater purissima – Ora pro eo.*

DON GIORGIO (from within): *Proficiscere, anima christiana, de hoc mundo, in nomine Dei Patris omnipotentis, qui te creavit.*