
AMELIA

A new English opera.

Text by
Henry Carey

Music by
John Frederick Lampe

First performance: 13 March 1732, London.



Cara lettrice, caro lettore, il sito internet **www.librettidopera.it** è dedicato ai libretti d'opera in lingua italiana. Non c'è un intento filologico, troppo complesso per essere trattato con le mie risorse: vi è invece un intento divulgativo, la volontà di far conoscere i vari aspetti di una parte della nostra cultura.

Motivazioni per scrivere note di ringraziamento non mancano. Contributi e suggerimenti sono giunti da ogni dove, vien da dire «dagli Appennini alle Ande». Tutto questo aiuto mi ha dato e mi sta dando entusiasmo per continuare a migliorare e ampliare gli orizzonti di quest'impresa. Ringrazio quindi: chi mi ha dato consigli su grafica e impostazione del sito, chi ha svolto le operazioni di aggiornamento sul portale, tutti coloro che mettono a disposizione testi e materiali che riguardano la lirica, chi ha donato tempo, chi mi ha prestato hardware, chi mette a disposizione software di qualità a prezzi più che contenuti.

Infine ringrazio la mia famiglia, per il tempo rubatole e dedicato a questa attività.

I titoli vengono scelti in base a una serie di criteri: disponibilità del materiale, data della prima rappresentazione, autori di testi e musiche, importanza del testo nella storia della lirica, difficoltà di reperimento.

A questo punto viene ampliata la varietà del materiale, e la sua affidabilità, tramite acquisti, ricerche in biblioteca, su internet, donazione di materiali da parte di appassionati. Il materiale raccolto viene analizzato e messo a confronto: viene eseguita una trascrizione in formato elettronico.

Quindi viene eseguita una revisione del testo tramite rilettura, e con un sistema automatico di rilevazione sia delle anomalie strutturali, sia della validità dei lemmi.

Vengono integrati se disponibili i numeri musicali, e individuati i brani più significativi secondo la critica.

Viene quindi eseguita una conversione in formato stampabile, che state leggendo.

Grazie ancora.

Dario Zanotti

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Men

OSMYN grand visier, commander of the Turks **BASSO**

CASIMIR prince and general of the Hungarian
army **TENORE**

RODULPHO his friend, in love with Augusta

Women

AMELIA wife of Casimir **SOPRANO**

AUGUSTA sister to Casimir, in love with
Rodulpho **CONTRALTO**

Officer, Guards, Attendants, etc.

The frontiers of Hungaria towards Turkey.

The argument

Casimir, prince and general of the Hungarian army, being unfortunately defeated in a war between him and Osmyn grand visier of the Turks, is taken prisoner. Upon the arrival of this unhappy news, Amelia, Casimir's wife, resolves to try all possible means to effect his redemption; accordingly she advises Rodulpho, a young prince, and an intimate friend of Casimir, to dress himself in a Turkish habit, and present her to Osmyn as a captive taken by him, imagining that if she could be brought into the presence of the grand visier, he would be so deeply captivated with her beauty, that she could easily induce him to grant any favour, upon a seeming condescension to any thing he should ask of her in return: with this view she is carried to Osmyn, upon whom she had the influence she promis'd herself, and compleated the redemption of her husband. Amelia having thus successfully obtained her desired ends, soon after meeting with a good opportunity, when Osmyn was engaged in other affairs, makes her escape with Rodulpho by night, and disappoints the grand visier of his expectation. Augusta, Casimir's sister, all this while missing Amelia, and Rodulpho her lover, supposes they are gone upon some vicious design; and Casimir himself not finding them at home at his return, concurs with her in the same opinion, so that upon her coming back they meet with a reception much contrary to what they might naturally hope for after so dangerous an adventure, being both instantly put into confinement: Amelia so highly resents this undeserved usage, that she advises Rodulpho not to give Casimir any immediate satisfaction about their undertakings; but Rodulpho finding that such a delay would be of dangerous consequence (a day being already fix'd for their execution) resolves to conceal it no longer, but in a letter to Casimir gives a genuine account of all their proceedings, the truth of which he is so well convinced of, that he is instantly reconciled to both his deliverers, and gives Augusta to Rodulpho in marriage as a gratuity for his extraordinary friendship.

ACT THE FIRST

Scene the first

*Scene, a spacious country.
Osmyn at the head of the Turkish army.*

OSMYN Here let the wearied army rest awhile,
that ere we farther march,
we may have time sedately to consult
the measures neccessary to be taken
to make the Turks victorious;
then nought remains, but with undaunted courage
to prosecute our scheme.

What toil! what danger! and what care!
To glory lead the way:
commanded by the god of war,
the brave with joy obey.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the second

*A court before Casimir's palace.
Casimir, Amelia, Augusta, and Rodolpho.*

AMELIA
(to Casimir)

O let me die, while yet I see
the comfort of my heart;
for worse than instant death 'twill be
from thee, my love, to part.

CASIMIR Weep not, Amelia,
my country's safety loudly calls me hence,
and I must now inevitably leave thee:
how can these eyes behold Hungaria ravag'd
by bold invading Turks?
No, heaven is guardian of our righteous cause,
and Casimir its instrument of vengeance.
Farewel, my dear, till conquest brings me back,
to lay my laurels at Amelia's feet.

Continued on next page.

CASIMIR

(To Rodulpho)

Rodulpho! I intrust thee with a charge
dearer to me than all terrestrial blessings,
my sister, and my wife:
attest your friendship by a faithful care.
Once more farewell, my friend and sister;
and oh my dearest wife! farewell.

What heart can help bleeding, my charmer!
to leave one so virtuous and fair;
sure heav'n will let nothing alarm her,
but make her, for my sake, its care.

(Exeunt Casimir and Amelia different ways.)

Scene the third

Augusta and Rodulpho.

AUGUSTA Oh what a dismal day is this, Rodulpho!

RODULPHO Despair not, princess, of your brother's safety;
am not I almost equally concern'd?
To Casimir my friendship is so great,
that, but for your dear sake,
arm'd by his side with pleasure would I march
to shield him, and to share with him the danger.

AUGUSTA Are you already weary of your charge?
Go, follow him, it is not yet too late,
I need not your protection.

Leave me, leave me,
don't deceive me:
faithless lover!
I discover
that another has your heart.
All your smiling
is beguiling,
all your passion
affectation,
go, I see through all your art.

RODULPHO You wrong me, fair Augusta;
can you condemn my real friendship
to him, whom you so dearly value?
You are the only one of all the sex
that ever gain'd my heart:
why would you then torment me thus,
and wound me with such undeserv'd reproaches?

Friendship, glory, I disdain,
thee, my charmer, to obtain:
who can other beauties prize
that has seen those conqu'ring eyes?
Wrong not then my flame sincere,
by suspicion too severe,
since 'tis past all pow'r to move
the ardour of my constant love.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the fourth

A prospect of the Turkish camp.

Osmyn, Officers, Guards, and Attendants.

OSMYN Be this the day appointed
to rush with fury on our christian foes.
Now, now, my mussulmen, exert your courage;
those, who in this engagement fall,
will be abundantly rewarded
with the eternal joys of paradise:
the rest with spoil and conquest will return.
Inseparable blessings thus attend us,
whether we live or die,
we're sure of happiness.

I'll destroy the proud foe in his glory,
from our presence he shall fly,
for I'll conquer or die,
to dubious fear I am a stranger:
let all be so brave, that the story
may be noted by fame,
from the Ganges to Thame,
and equal the height of our danger.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the fifth

Rodulpho and Amelia.

RODULPHO Oh princess! why this solemn face of mourning?
Provoke not providence by your distrust;
'tis time enough to grieve when there's occasion.

AMELIA I feel a secret boding in my soul,
a thousand dismal apprehension
by turns torment, and rob me of my rest.

Distracting fears,
tormenting cares,
perplex my doubtful mind;
till his return,
for whom I mourn,
no pleasure can I find.

RODULPHO Stop this effusion of your tears, my princess!
(to Amelia) Your hope for Casimir's good success
should over-weigh the balance of your grief.

Enter Augusta, behind.

AUGUSTA So close! so kind!
'Tis proper to observe them.

AMELIA Rodulpho! Well I know your hearty wishes,
but still the immenseness of my passion
extends to a far greater pitch,
than you can think, or I press.

AUGUSTA So very fond! confound her, o ye gods!

RODULPHO
(to Amelia)

Oh let not fears,
or anxious cares,
the fair Amelia discontent;
for soon we may
expect the day,
which shall our mutual joy cement.

(Exeunt Rodulpho and Amelia.)

Scene the sixth

Augusta alone.

A faithful friend!
A chaste and virtuous wife!
Is this the lover has so often vow'd
eternal constancy to me?
Is this the wife so generally fam'd
for exemplary goodness?
How is my brother and myself abus'd!
But he shall know, and I'll revenge their infidelity.

Vengeance! Vengeance! swift overtake 'em,
may they never more be blest!
May the gods as wretched make them,
as they've render'd me distress'd.
Rise, ye fierce infernal legions,
from the dismal shades below!
Bear 'em to your darksome regions,
plunge 'em deep in endless woe.

(Exit.)

Scene the seventh.

A pavilion.

Osmyn, with Attendants.

OSMYN At length the sultan's arms
have prov'd triumphant,
and conquest is the premium of our courage.
Bring forth the once renowned Casimir,
now Osmyn's captive, and the sultan's slave.

(Casimir enters in chains.)

OSMYN Well, Casimir! you see the fate of war
is now decided in our favour;
these chains are not to be compar'd
with the severities I can inflict,
unless, upon the terms I shall propose,
you purchase your redemption.

CASIMIR Osmyn! I rather choose to die,
than on inglorious terms to purchase life,
for death is welcome after this defeat.

OSMYN Christian! 'tis vain to hope immediate death,
for I'll consummate my revenge
by a protraction of thy misery:
were we to live the series of an age,
my vengeance then would be the more compleat.

The eagle with its prey,
through aether cuts his way,
retaining fast his trembling prize;
with a relentless breast,
he bears him to his nest,
and makes him there a sacrifice.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the eighth

A room.

Amelia and Rodulpho.

(Enter messenger with a letter.)

AMELIA Let me not hear you speak,
(to messenger) your looks at once declare
that you're the bearer of unwelcome news:
give me the letter.

(Reads, and swoons, Rodulpho runs to her.)

RODULPHO Dearest Amelia!
Why this sudden change?

Enter Augusta, aside.

AUGUSTA A very kind embrace!

AMELIA Give me the letter, 'tis no doubt the last
that I shall from my dearest lord receive.

Come, sad companion of eternal grief!
Let floods of tears to sorrow give relief.
I'll read and kiss thee all the tedious day,
and o'er thee weep till sight is wept away.

(Exit Amelia.)

RODULPHO Lovely Augusta, follow your sad sister,
and try to comfort her in this affliction.

AUGUSTA No.
I have too many sorrows of my own,
you best can sooth her anguish:
leave me to myself.

RODULPHO I cannot leave you thus.

AUGUSTA I will be left, this is no time
for idle compliments.

(Exit Rodulpho.)

AUGUSTA

That all succeeding times
may shun such monstrous crimes,
ye gods, exert your power?
On all who thus offend,
let fiery wrath descend
in an unbounded shower.

The end of the first act.

ACT THE SECOND

Scene the first

Scene Osmyn's pavilion.

Casimir, chain'd at the entry.

Enter Rodulpho in a Turkish habit, with Amelia, likewise disguised.

RODULPHO Thus far, dread princess!
I have with due fidelity attended,
nor is there any danger in this world,
thro' which I would not venture for your sake,
yet still deliberate once more with caution
the perils of this undertaking.

AMELIA No more objections:
I'm positive to follow my intentions,
or join with me, or leave me to myself.

RODULPHO 'Twas not on my account, but yours,
that I was first induc'd to offer
the well-intended, ill-receiv'd advice.

AMELIA Rodulpho! Well you know my sad misfortunes,
I'm just distracted with a deep despair;
can you not then excuse the harsh expression?

RODULPHO Behold yon wretch that's grov'ling on the ground.

AMELIA By all my hopes of happiness, my husband!

(Amelia running towards Casimir, Rodulpho withholding her.)

RODULPHO For heaven's sake, be not precipitate,
this is no season for discovery.

AMELIA O Rodulpho! how can I behold him!
and be prohibited from speaking to him.

RODULPHO Observe you not a party near approaching?
We're ruin'd if suspected.

So the gentle turtle-dove
bemoans her hapless captive love,
when in the fowler's snare:
she strives to free him, but in vain,
and hovers round, and round again,
then drops, kill'd by despair.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the second

A gallery.

Augusta, with Attendants.

AUGUSTA What, gone! impossible! it cannot be:
to leave the palace thus at dead of night:
oh false Rodulpho!
Traitor to friendship, gratitude, and love!
But much more false Amelia!
The faithless spouse of a distressed husband:
this conduct will imprint a greater wound,
than his defeat and loss of liberty.

To see such woes dear Casimir oppress,
and slighted by a faithless wife,
fills all my soul with exquisite distress,
and makes me weary of this life.
But as an instance of the cordial love
I to my injur'd brother bear,
I'll by th' immortal pow'rs that rule above,
to justice bring the guilty pair.

(Exit.)

Scene the third

Osmyn's pavilion. Casimir at the entry, as before.

Osmyn, Rodulpho, and Amelia.

OSMYN Tell me, my mussulman,
(to Rodulpho) by what happy chance
thou didst obtain this matchless beauty?

RODULPHO On an escort for forage near the city,
I seiz'd this lovely christian,
by majestick looks inspir'd with awe,
I made a solemn vow to bring her spotless
to the victorious Osmyn.

OSMYN This pleasing instance of thy loyalty
shall e'er be graciously remembred,
and thou shalt always be our chief attendant.

(To Amelia.)

Say, beauteous christian,
why thus in sorrow droops that lovely head?
Thou art not fall'n into barbarian hands,
nor wilt thou find us hideous, as we're painted.

AMELIA

The youngling ravish'd from its nest,
expos'd to danger stands,
but joy soon warms its panting breast,
when fall'n in gentle hands.
Little, alas! did I believe
my life would be restor'd
by your dread pow'r, which most conceive
is not to be implor'd.

(Exeunt Osmyn, Amelia, and Rodulpho.)

Scene the fourth

Casimir alone.

O for a deadly instrument, to end
this most accursed life!
Since what I now endure is past forbearance.
No more; it is resolv'd, I'll so provoke him,
that he must kill me, if he has yet remaining
one spark of manhood or resentment.

The furious tiger for a while kept under,
rouses at last, and bursts his chains asunder;
inspir'd with double rage he flies
upon his foes, and self-avenging dies.

Scene the fifth

Enter Osmyn, Amelia, and Rodulpho.

OSMYN Joy of my heart! the longer I converse,
the more I'm ravish'd and delighted
with thy incomparable wisdom.
Thou hast a soul more beauteous than thy form,
nor can I live without the blest enjoyment
of both those excellent perfections.

Lovely creature! while I'm gazing,
ev'ry feature more amazing,
all my soul with raptures charm.
If such pleasure's in beholding,
oh the transport of infolding
so much beauty in my arms!

(Going on, Casimir obstructs 'em.)

OSMYN Darest thou obstruct my way?
 dispatch him straight for his presumption;
 sever his head from his detested body.

(Guards go to kill Casimir, Amelia interposes.)

AMELIA Make here your way, for such a sight
 these eyes can never bear.

(To Osmyn.)

Is this your boasted mildness?
 what from your fury may not I expect
 by this example of your cruelty?

How can you vainly thus pretend
 to love, when yet you hate?
 For if I should but once offend,
 I see my instant fate:
 pity and love to heaven ally'd,
 engross the godlike breast,
 where pity's entrance is deny'd,
 there love can never rest.

OSMYN At your request he lives,
 but we'll no longer stay
 to hear his insults,
 and repent our mercy.

AMELIA You say you love me, let me be convinced
 you plainly do, by condescending
 to reinstate the christian in his liberty;
 for I am shock'd at this barbarity,
 and while my soul with horror overflows,
 I cannot think of love.

OSMYN What is it for your sake
 I would not grant?
 But he's my enemy avow'd;
 to give him freedom is to make him able
 to war against us yet a second time;
 ask any other proof of my affection,
 and my compliance waits on your request.

AMELIA Too well I am satisfy'd with one repulse,
 I shall but ask again to be denied.

(To Rodolpho.)

What shall I do in this perplexity?

RODULPHO Deny her not this instance of your favour,
 it will remove the terrour of her mind,
 if you release him.

OSMYN Such is the ardour of my passion,
that I'll engage her at the dearest rate.

(To her.)

To let you see, my charmer!
I give your love the preference,
above all other views whatsoever,
at your immediate intercession,
this christian has his liberty restor'd;
I only ask the tribute of your heart,
as a return of gratitude.

AMELIA

Who would not with gladness surrender,
a heart to a lover so tender,
whose actions his passion declare?
Assist me, bright goddess of beauty!
and Cupid! instruct me my duty,
to make all his wishes my care.

OSMYN Christian,
(to Casimir) at the request of this celestial creature,
you have your life and liberty.

CASIMIR Angel of goodness!
That from the deep abyss of desperation
has call'd me forth to life again,
once more to come to my Amelia's arms.

OSMYN No more, we will not hear your tedious thanks;
your presence only aggravates my wrath;
so fly while you have free permission.

CASIMIR

To the arms of my dearest I'm flying,
who doubtless with sorrow is dying;
despairing to see me again,
above all the world I adore her;
o how will my presence restore her!
and ease her disconsolate pain!

(Exit Casimir.)

Scene the sixth

Osmyn, Amelia.

OSMYN Now, the delightful object of my soul!
Remains there any favour yet unask'd,
that you can wish, or I confer?

AMELIA Victorious Osmyn!
I need no other proof of your affection.

OSMYN To one so fair and kind,

AMELIA To such a generous mind,

OSMYN, AMELIA surpassing all treasure,
who would not with pleasure
a heart sincere resign!

OSMYN I ne'er can leave thee,
Amelia I'll ne'er deceive thee,

BOTH For ever I am thine.

The end of the second act.

ACT THE THIRD

Scene the first

A room in Casimir's palace.

Augusta alone.

A brother injured lost!
A sister false!
A traitor doubly so to heaven and me!
Why do I yet survive?
Welcome resolution!
Guide thou with friendly force
my trembling hand,
and with this poignard
fathom all my woes.

(Offers to kill herself.)

Scene the second

Casimir enters.

CASIMIR Why, with uplisted arms and pointed steel,
seek'st thou, Augusta, to destroy
a life that's not thy own?

AUGUSTA Ye gods, it is my dear, my injured brother!
O Casimir, this is a dismal meeting!

CASIMIR Is this my welcome?
What is the meaning of this odd reception?

AUGUSTA Ask me not,
too soon, alas, you'll learn
the woeful reason.

CASIMIR Distract me not, but tell me where's Amelia?

AUGUSTA Would she were dead.

CASIMIR Curs'd be the tongue, that utters such a thought;
is there the wretch can wish Amelia dead?
And art thou she?

AUGUSTA Leave this unnatural sister, Casimir,
and seek thy love, thy dear Amelia.
(aside)
Unhappy man! I cannot undeceive him,
lest that upon so shocking a relation,
some direful resolution should ensue.
(Exit.)

CASIMIR

My charmer's very name
does all my soul inflame,
and fills my heart with joy:
may both our troubles cease,
and everlasting peace
our future time employ.
(Exit.)

Scene the third

*A room in Osmyn's pavilion.
Rodulpho alone.*

The happy time will soon approach,
in which Augusta's jealousy shall have
a most agreeable determination;
for when she knows, that this our quiet departure
was to effect dear Casimir's redemption,
her love, now smother'd by unjust suspicions,
will reassume a greater blaze.

Enter Amelia in a fright.

AMELIA Save me, Rodulpho!
Osmyn no longer will admit denial,
I must, or die, or yield to his embraces.

RODULPHO Amuse him with pretences of compliance,
then when alone, unguarded and dissolved,
he's wholly in your power. This to his heart.
(Offers her a dagger.)

AMELIA What would you have me murder him, Rodulpho?

RODULPHO Call not that murder, princess, which is justice.

AMELIA I will not purchase liberty so dear,
sooner I'll kill myself.

RODULPHO I then suppose, you love this vile barbarian.

AMELIA 'Tis false, I hate him to the last degree,
but yet, I'll not imbrue my hands in blood,
and base assassination.

RODULPHO If you're afraid to prosecute th'attempt,
I'll pierce him with the fatal instrument.

AMELIA Rodulpho, be not rash in your proposals;
who knows, but some bless'd turn,
when least expected,
may profer liberty on easier terms?

Let not mortals tempt their fate,
but for heaven's decision wait,
and by resignation show
what to providence they owe.
That just power, which weighs the crime,
points the punishment and time,
sure, tho' late will interpose,
and save the injur'd from their foes.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the fourth

Casimir alone in an apartment.

She's false, insufferably false!
Then farewell truth and virtue;
Osmyn, restore me to my chains again;
for my Amelia's usage far exceeds
all the barbarity you could invent.

(Goes to kill himself.)

Enter Augusta.

AUGUSTA Why, Casimir, with sacrilegious hands
dost thou attempt what late thou didst condemn?

CASIMIR O my dear sister, sharer of my grief!
Can you forgive those passionate expressions,
which lately came from my unwary tongue?

AUGUSTA It was the height of love for lost Amelia,
which caus'd the inconsiderate resentment.

CASIMIR But now ~ I find your wish was just,
the causeless passion makes me more uneasy.

AUGUSTA No more, my dearest brother!
But let us now revenge the gross offence.

CASIMIR Augusta, your advice I shall accept,
and put it in immediate execution.

Just heav'ns in my resentments join,
the cause is yours as well as mine;
and vengeance, doubtless, is our due:
o let me, while I thus complain,
see both the adulterers once again,
to vindicate myself and you.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the fifth

Amelia and Rodulpho

AMELIA Rodulpho, you have shewn a friendship,
which will admit of no comparison.
O bless'd, tho' mean disguise! in which array'd
we have escap'd without discovery.

(Martial musick at a distance.)

RODULPHO Madam, we're past the extremity of danger;
behold a party of Hungarian horse
this way advancing.

AMELIA Casimir's own troop conducted by himself,
support me heaven in this excess of joy!

RODULPHO Now, now, Amelia, all our past afflictions
have here an ample recompense.

Scene the sixth

Enter Officer.

OFFICER I seize you prisoners to Prince Casimir.

AMELIA Stand off, officious slave;
I am his wife.

OFFICER We know it, madam, 'tis our lord's command,
to bring you both to close confinement.

AMELIA Since he is so rash,
(to Rodulpho aside) let us resolve him nothing;
but still let this unjust suspicion plague him,
till a fit time to prove our innocence.

Enter Casimir.

CASIMIR O vile lascivious pair!
(disguis'd)

RODULPHO O Casimir!

CASIMIR You have framed, no doubt,
some well concerted story;
but i'm deaf to every thing but vengeance,
take from my presence such detested objects.

Ah traitress, wicked and impure!
How can I possibly endure
to see that odious face?
Oh that my heart had not been set
on one who could her truth forget,
to suffer such disgrace.

(Exeunt.)

Scene the seventh

*An Apartment in Osmyn's pavilion.
Osmyn alone.*

It's certain she is fled, but who could think,
that in such beautiful perfection,
ingratitude could be conceal'd;
'twas for her sake I condescended
to grant the christian life and liberty:
so much her charms have ravish'd all my soul,
that with the fair delusive creature
are all my hopes of comfort fled:
now all my conquests are insipid,
the world and all its rich possessions
cannot redress the anguish I conceive,
by this one woman's imposition.

All my glories I resign,
for a life that's divine;
in a lonely desert cell,
I'll in sweet retirement dwell;
unmolested I intend
all my future years to spend:
now adieu ye worldly joys,
short-lived splendor, courts and noise;
there I only hope to find
solitude, and peace of mind.

(Exit.)

Scene the eighth

A prison.
Rodulpho alone.

To what a hazardous presumption,
Amelia carries her resentment:
but there's no reason I should venture life
upon the caprice of a woman.
This letter shall to Casimir unfold
the whole of our proceeding.

Scene the ninth

A great hall.
Amelia going to execution.
After a dead march, enter Augusta.

- AUGUSTA Now traitress! take the just reward,
your heinous crimes demand;
nor shall Rodulpho longsurvive you.
- AMELIA O let me see my husband ere I die.
- AUGUSTA It is in vain to pray for mercy now.
- AMELIA What has my obstinacy brought upon me!
I have murdered both Rodulpho and myself,
- AUGUSTA Why is her death delay'd?
Dispatch her instantly.

AMELIA Since I must die, I must submit.
But let Rodulpho's life be spar'd,
and tell my Casimir we are the persons,
who sav'd him from the barb'rous cruelty,
which the grand visier threaten'd on him:
tell him, I die his chaste and loving wife,
and that Rodulpho is his faithful friend,
more he will know, perhaps, when it's too late.

Amelia wishes when she dies
her dearest lord may close her eyes,
and heaven may open his:
then will he wish, but all in vain,
to have her render'd back again,
from realms of endless bliss.

*Enter Casimir snatching the headman's sword.
Rodulpho follows.*

CASIMIR O live Amelia! live, thou best of wives!
Rodulpho! live, thou most sincere of friends!
Embrace him, sister!
Who, with my dear Amelia,
effected my deliverance from death.
Bless'd be the day that I was taken captive,
for otherwise I should have never known,
that I had such a wife and such a friend:
unkind Amelia, not to undeceive me!
How could you persevere to such extremity?

AMELIA Unkinder you, that could be so suspicious.

CASIMIR No more reproaches,
but let one general rejoicing
run through our hearts on this occasion.

CASIMIR, AMELIA

Let me press thee, o my charmer,
to a heart that's only thine;
never passion sure was warmer,
never more did souls combine.

CASIMIR

(to Rodulpho and Amelia)

A double nuptial shall resplend the day,
for to reward the friendship of Rodulpho,
I give Augusta to his longing arms.
And as we've all been equally concerned
in a variety of great misfortunes,
so let us now unanimously share
this unexpected interval of mirth.
O my Amelia, pattern to thy sex!
This act of thine convey'd to latest ages,
with honour and applause
shall spread thy fame,
and thousands, yet unborn, revere thy name.

CHORUS

When dangers innocence invade,
just heav'n vouchsafes a timely aid;
and makes with brighter lustre shine
virtues conceal'd in souls divine.

Finis.

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