

Madame Butterfly
Indianapolis Opera

Act I.

Pinkerton

And the walls – and the ceiling...

Goro

They will come and will go,
just as it may suit your fancy
to exchange and to vary
new and old in the same surroundings.

Pinkerton

The marriage chamber,
where is it?

Goro

Here, or there!... according...

Pinkerton

A wonderful contrivance!
The hall?

Goro

Behold!

Pinkerton

In the open?...

Goro

A wall slides outward...

Pinkerton

I see now!... I see it!... Another...

Goro

Runs along!

Pinkerton

And so the fairy dwelling...

Goro

Springs like a tower from nowhere,
complete from base to attic.

Pinkerton

Comes and goes as by magic!

Goro

This is the trusty handmaid,
who waits upon your wife, faithful and devoted.
She is embarrassed at such great honor.

Pinkerton

Her name?

Goro

Miss Gentle Breeze-of Morning.
Ray-of-the-golden Sunbeam.
Sweet-scented Pinetree.

Pinkerton

Foolishly chosen nicknames!
I will call them scarecrows!
scarecrow first, scarecrow second, and scarecrow third!

Suzuki

Your Honor deigns to smile?
Your smile is fair as flowers.
Thus spoke the wise Ocumama:
A smile conquers all, and defies
every trouble. Pearls may be won by smiling;

Smiles can open the portals
of Paradise.
The perfume of the Gods,
the fountain of Life,
Thus spoke the wise Ogunama:
A smile conquers all,
defies every trouble.

Pinkerton

When they begin to talk,
alike I find all women.
Why do you look?

Goro

Watching for the bride's arrival.

Pinkerton

All is ready?

Goro

Ev'ry detail.

Pinkerton

You shining light of brokers!

Goro

Here comes the Consul.

Sharpless

Ah! the scramble up
has left me breathless!

Pinkerton

Good-day, friend, welcome.

Goro

Good-day, sir, welcome.

Sharpless

Ough!

Pinkerton

Quickly, Goro,
fetch some refreshment.

Sharpless

Lofty!

Pinkerton

But lovely!

Sharpless

Nagasaki, the ocean,
the harbor...

Pinkerton

This is a dwelling
which is managed by magic.

Sharpless

Yours?

Pinkerton

I bought this house
for nine hundred and ninety nine years,
but with the option, at every month,
to cancel the contract!
I must say, in this country,
the houses and the contracts are elastic!

Sharpless

The man of business profits by it.

Pinkerton

Surely.

Pinkerton

The whole world over,
on business and pleasure,
the Yankee travels all danger scorning.
His anchor boldly he casts at random...
Milk-Punch, or Whisky?
His anchor boldly he casts at random,
until a sudden squall
upsets his ship, then up go sails and rigging.
And life is not worth living
if he can't win the best
and fairest of each country,...

Sharpless

That's an easy-going gospel...

Pinkerton

and the heart of each maid.

Sharpless

A very easy gospel
which makes life very pleasant,
but is fatal in the end.

Pinkerton

Fate cannot crush him, he tries again undaunted.
No one and nothing
breaks his plucky spirit.
And so I'm marrying in Japanese fashion,
tied for nine hundred
and ninety nine years!
Free, though, to annul the marriage monthly!

Sharpless

An easy going gospel.

Pinkerton

``America for ever!"

Sharpless

``America for ever!"

Sharpless

Is the bride very pretty?

Goro

Fair as a garland
of fragrant flowers. Brighter
than a star in the heavens.
And for nothing: one hundred
yen!

If your Augustness will entrust me,
I have a fine selection...

Pinkerton

Go and fetch her, Goro.

Sharpless

What folly has seized you!
Do you think you are
intoxicated?

Pinkerton

May be! Perhaps! Depends
what you call intoxication!
Is't love or fancy,
I cannot tell you. All that I know is,
she, with her innocent charm has entranced me.
Almost transparently fragile and slender,
Dainty in stature, quaint little figure,
Seems to have stepped down
straight from a screen.
But from her background of varnish and lacquer,
Suddenly light as a feather she flutters,
And like a butterfly, hovers and settles,
With so much charm, such seductive graces,
That to rush after her a wild wish seized me
Though' in the quest her frail wings should be broken.

Sharpless

The other day, she came up
to call at the Consulate!
I did not see her, but I heard her speak.
And the mystery of her voice
touched my very soul.
Surely, love that is pure and true, speaks like that.
It were indeed sad pity
to tear those dainty wings,
and perchance to torment a trusting heart.

Pinkerton

Dearly beloved Consul,
allay your fears! We know

Sharpless

It were indeed sad pity...

Pinkerton

men of your age look on life with mournful eyes.
No harm I reckon these wings to raise
and guide them to the tender flights of love!

Sharpless

No cry of anguish should ever be uttered
by that gentle and trusting little voice.

Pinkerton

Whisky?

Sharpless

Yes, mix me another.

Sharpless

Here's to your friends and relations at home.

Pinkerton

And to the day on which I'll wed
in real marriage a real wife a wife from America.

Goro

See them! they've mounted the summit of the hill!
A crowd of women hustling,
Like the wind in branches rustling,
Here they come bustling!

Butterfly's Friends

Ah! ah! ah!

Friends

Ah! ah! ah! ah!
ah! what a sky! and what a sea!

Butterfly

There is one step more to climb.

Girl Friends

How long you tarry,

Butterfly

One moment.

Friends

at last the summit.
Look, oh look, the mass of flowers!

Butterfly

Across the earth and o'er the ocean,

Friends

what a sky! and what a sea!

Butterfly

Balmy breeze and scent of spring are blowing

Sharpless

Oh happy prattle, careless days of youth!

Butterfly

I am the happiest maiden,
the happiest in Japan,
in all the world!

Friends, I have obeyed
the summons, the sweet summons of love,
upon the threshold standing,

Friends

Oh, what flowers what a sea!
What a sea! how many flowers!
Best of luck, good luck attend you,
gentle maiden,

Butterfly

Ah, here the glory
that life or death can offer doth now await me.

Friends

but 'ere you
go beyond the threshold which invites you,
turn and admire,

Friends

Turn and admire
all the things your heart holds so dear;

Friends

admire the lovely sky, the lovely flowers and the sea!

Butterfly

Dear maidens, I hastened here
at the call of my heart,
at the call of my beating heart!
I have come hither at the call of my heart!

Friends

Best of fortune attend on you
gentle maiden, but 'ere
you cross o'er the threshold
pause and look behind
you, and admire the things you hold the dearest!

Friends

Best of fortune attend on you
gentle maiden, but 'ere
you cross o'er the threshold
pause and look behind you, and admire and wonder!

Butterfly

We're there now.
F. B. Pinkerton. Down.

Friends

Down.

Pinkerton

Come, my darling!
How do you like your new house?

Butterfly

Mister F. B. Pinkerton
forgive me...
I should like to... a young girl's few possessions.

Pinkerton

But where are they?

Butterfly

They are here... are you angry?

Pinkerton

Nay, angry,
why dear little Butterfly?

Butterfly

Silken kerchiefs... For smoking... A colored ribbon.
A little silver buckle...
And a mirror... And a fan...

Pinkerton

What is that you have?

Butterfly

A little jar of carmine.

Pinkerton

Oh fie!

Butterfly

You mind it?
There!

Pinkerton

And that thing?

Butterfly

That I hold most sacred.

Pinkerton

And am I not to see it?

Butterfly

Not here in public.
Pray excuse me.

Goro

It was sent
by the Mikado to her father, with a message...

Pinkerton

And her father?

Goro

Was obedient.

Butterfly

The Ottokè.

Pinkerton

These small figures? Can you mean it?

Butterfly

The souls of my forefathers.

Pinkerton

Ah! I bow before them.

Butterfly

Hear what I would tell you:
Yesterday I crept softly to the Mission.
Entering on my new life,
I wish to adopt another religion.
No one knows what I've done,
neither friends nor relations. My fate I have to follow,
And full of humble faith,
I bow before the God of my dear master.
The Fates have willed it.
For me you spent a hundred yen,
But I shall take care to be most frugal.
And to give you more contentment,
I can almost forget my race and kindred!
My love!

Goro

Everyone, silence!

Girl Friends

Madame Butterfly.

Butterfly

Madame F. B. Pinkerton.

Sharpless

The best of wishes.

Pinkerton

I thank you most sincerely.

Sharpless

We shall meet tomorrow.

Pinkerton

I surely hope so.

Goro

Posterity.

Pinkerton

I'm much obliged.

Sharpless

Be careful!

Pinkerton

And here we are with family.

Let's hurry in earnest.

Hip! Hip!

Chorus

O Kami! o Kami!

Pinkerton

Let's drink to the newly married couple,

Chorus

O Kami! o Kami!

Pinkerton

Let's drink to the newly married couple.

Chorus

O Kami! o Kami!

Let's drink to the newly married couple.

Her uncle, the Bonze

Cho-cho-san!

Cho-cho-san!

Abomination!

Butterfly and Chorus

Uncle Bonze!

Goro

A plague on this intruder!

What on earth brought him hither

of all troublesome people?

The Bonze

Cho-cho-san! Cho-cho-san!

The Bonze

Cho-cho-san!

What were you doing at the Mission?

Chorus and the Cousin

Respond, Cho-cho-san!

Pinkerton

What's that lunatic shrieking?

The Bonze

Respond, what did you do?

Friends

Respond, Cho-cho-san!

The Bonze

How then, don't you even falter?
Are these the fruits of evil?
She has renounced us all!

Chorus

Hou! Cho-cho-san!

The Bonze

She's renounced, let me tell you,
her true religion

Chorus

Hou! Cho-cho-san!

The Bonze

Kami sarundasico!

Chorus

Hou! Cho-cho-san!

The Bonze

In everlasting torment
may your wicked soul perish!

Pinkerton

Enough, do you hear me!

The Bonze

Come with me all we'll leave her!
You have renounced us all!

Friends

We renounce you!

Pinkerton

Leave this instant!
In my house, I'll have no yelling and no Bonzo!

Chorus

Hou! Hou! Cho-cho-san!
Hou! Cho-cho-san!]

The Bonze

Kami sarundasico!

Chorus

Hou! Cho-cho-san!
Hou! Cho-cho-san!

Pinkerton

Dearest, my dearest, weep no more.
Let the frogs croak their loudest.

Chorus

Hou! Cho-cho-san!

Butterfly

How they yell!

Pinkerton

All your respected tribe
and all the Bonzes in Japan
are not worth a tear
from those dear little eyes of yours.

Butterfly

Really?
I'll weep no more.
And now I'm scarcely grieved at their desertion.

So sweet are your words of comfort,
Which fall like gentle balm on my heart.

Pinkerton

What's this? my hand?

Butterfly

They tell me
that abroad, where the people are more cultured,
this is a token of the highest honor.

Suzuki

And Izaghi and Izanami
sarundasico, and Kami

Pinkerton

Who's murmuring in there?

Butterfly

It is Suzuki who offers up
her evening prayer.

Pinkerton

Evening is falling

Butterfly

With shadows and quiet.

Pinkerton

You're here alone.

Butterfly

Alone and renounced!
Renounced, and yet I'm happy!

Pinkerton Come hither, the shosi.

Butterfly

Yes, we are all alone
The world is yonder.

Pinkerton

And your raging uncle!

Butterfly

Suzuki, bring my garments.

Suzuki

Goodnight.

Butterfly

I long to be rid
of this ponderous obi,...
A bride must be robed
in a garment of white.
He's peeping and smiling,
concealed by the lattice,
Oh, could I but vanish,
my blushes to hide!

Pinkerton

Just like a little squirrel
are all her pretty movements!
To think that pretty plaything
is my wife! My wife!
But her charm
is so alluring,
My heart
is beating madly
with passionate longing!

Butterfly

I hear his angry voice
still shouting curses...

Butterfly they've renounced her,
They've renounced her, still she's happy.

Pinkerton

Child, from whose eyes the witchery is shining,
now you are all my own.
You're clad all in lily white raiment.
How sweet are your tresses of brown
in your snowy garment.

Butterfly

I am like
the Moon's little Goddess,
the little Moon-Goddess who comes down by night
From her bridge in the star-lighted sky.

Pinkerton

Bewitching all mortals...

Butterfly

Then she takes them,
And she wraps them in mantle of white
And away she bears them, To realms high above.

Pinkerton

But dear one, as yet you have not told me,
Have not told me yet that you love me
Do you think that my Goddess
knows the sweet words I am yearning to hear?

Butterfly

She knows, but perhaps will not say them,
For fear she may die of her love,
for fear she may die of her love!

Pinkerton

Fear not, my dearest, for love does not mean dying,

rather living, And it
radiates happiness celestial.
I see it shine, as in your eyes, dearest, I'm gazing.

Butterfly

I used to think: if any one should want me...

Pinkerton

Why do you falter?

Butterfly

I used to think: if any one should want me
Then perhaps for a time I might have married
'Twas then that the Nakodo
Came to me with your marriage offer
But, the truth I must confess:
At the beginning, all he said was useless.
A stranger from America!
a foreigner! a barbarian!
Forgive me, I did not know...

Pinkerton

My gentle darling! and then?
Continue...

Butterfly

But now, beloved
You are the world, more than the world to me.
Indeed I liked you the very first moment
That I saw you.
You're so strong,
so handsome! Your laugh
is so open and so hearty!
The things you say are so fascinating.
Now I am happy.
Yes, I am happy.
Ah, love me a little,
oh, just a very little,

As you would love a baby
'Tis all that I ask for.
Ah, love me a little
I come of a people
accustomed to little;
Grateful for love that's silent;
Light as a blossom
And yet everlasting
As the sky, as the fathomless ocean.

Pinkerton

Give me your darling hands that I may kiss them
My Butterfly! aptly your name was chosen,
Gossamer creation...

Butterfly

They say that in your country
If a butterfly
is caught by man,
He'll pierce its heart with a needle,
And then leave it to perish!

Pinkerton

Some truth there is in that,
And can you tell me why?
That you may not escape.
See, I have caught you...
I hold you as you flutter.
Be mine.

Butterfly

Yes, yours forever.

Pinkerton

Come, then, come then...
Love, what fear holds you trembling.
Have done with all misgivings.

The night doth enfold us!
See the world lies sleeping!

Butterfly

Ah! Night of rapture!

Pinkerton

Come then, come then.

Butterfly

Stars unending!
Never have I seen such glory!

Pinkerton

The night doth enfold us!
Ah! hasten, hasten!
The night enfolds us!..
See the world lies sleeping!

Butterfly

Night of rapture! Stars unending!

Pinkerton

Hasten, hasten!

Butterfly

Never have I seen such glory!

Pinkerton

Hasten, hasten!

Butterfly

Throbbing, sparkling, each star in heaven,

Pinkerton

Come, my dearest!

Butterfly

like a fiery eye is flashing. Oh!
Oh! how kindly are the heavens,
Ev'ry star that shines afar!
Is gazing on us, lighting our future for us...

Pinkerton

Cast all fear from out your heart!
Close to my heart I hold you.
You're mine now,
ah! come, come you are mine now
Ah! come then, see the
whole world lies a-sleeping!..
Close to my heart I hold you,
come!

Butterfly

Oh how kindly are the heavens
on us shining!

Pinkerton

See the world lies a-sleeping.
Ah! come! ah, come then, dearest!
Ah! come, come then, be mine
ah come!

Butterfly

see the stars!
Ah, lovely night!
Thy perfect calm is breathing love
near and far!

End of Act I.**Act II.****Suzuki**

And Izaghi and Izanami
Sarundasico and Kami
My head is throbbing!
and thou,
Ten-Sjoo-daj!
Grant me that Butterfly
shall weep no more, no more, no more!...

Butterfly

Lazy and idle
are the Gods of Japan!
The God my husband prays to
Will give an answer far more quickly
To those who bow before him.
But I am afraid he knows not
That here we are dwelling.]

Butterfly

Suzuki, How soon shall we be starving?

Suzuki

This is all that is left us.

Butterfly

No more? Oh, we have been spendthrifts!

Suzuki

Unless he comes, and quickly,
Our plight is a bad one.

Butterfly

He'll come, though.

Suzuki

Will he come?

Butterfly

Why did he order the Consul

To provide this dwelling for us?

Now answer that!

And why was he so careful

To have the house provided with safe locks,

If he did not intend to come again?

Suzuki

I know not.

Butterfly

Know you not?

Then I will tell you. 'Twas to keep outside

Those spiteful plagues, my relations, who might annoy me;

And inside, 'twas to give to me, his wife, protection,

His beloved little wife Butterfly.

Suzuki

I never heard as yet

of foreign husband

Who did return to his nest.

Butterfly

Ah! Silence, or I'll kill you.

Why, just before he went,

I asked of him, You'll come back again to me?

And with his heart so heavy,

To conceal his trouble,

With a smile he made answer:

``O Butterfly

My tiny little child-wife,

I'll return with the roses,

The warm and sunny season

When the red-breasted robins

Are busy nesting."

He'll return.

Suzuki

We'll hope so.

Butterfly

Say it with me:

He'll return.

Suzuki

He'll return.

Butterfly

Weeping? and why? and why?

Ah, 'tis faith you are lacking!

Hear me.

One fine day we'll notice

A thread of smoke arising on the sea In

the far horizon,

And then the ship appearing;

Then the trim white vessel

Glides into the harbor, thunders forth her cannon.

See you? Now he is coming!

I do not go to meet him. Not I! I stay

upon the brow of the hillock, And wait there... and wait

for a long time, But never weary

of the long waiting.

From out the crowded city

There is coming a man,

a little speck in the distance, Climbing the hillock.

Can you guess who it is?

And when he's reached the summit,

Can you guess what he'll say?

He will call: ``Butterfly" from the distance.

I, without answering,

Hold myself quietly concealed,

A bit to tease him and a bit so as not to die

At our first meeting; and then, a little troubled
He will call, he will call:
``Dear baby wife of mine, Dear little orange blossom!"
The names he used to call me when he came here.
This will all come to pass as I tell you.
Banish your idle fears, For he will return I know it.

Goro
Come. She's here.

Sharpless
I am seeking...
Madame Butterfly...

Butterfly
Nay, Madame Pinkerton,
excuse me.
Oh!
Why, here is the Consul; yes, the Consul!

Sharpless
What, you remember?

Butterfly
You are welcome, Be seated
You're most honorably welcome!

Sharpless
Thank you.

Butterfly
And your honorable ancestors,
Is their health good?

Sharpless
I hope so.

Butterfly
You smoke?

Sharpless
Thank you. I'm here...

Butterfly
Augustness, The sky
is quite unclouded.

Sharpless
Thank you...
I have...

Butterfly
You prefer, most likely
to smoke American cigarettes?..

Sharpless
Well, thank you.
I have to show you...

Butterfly
A light?

Sharpless
I've a letter from Mister Pinkerton...

Butterfly
What? really?
How's his honorable health?

Sharpless
He's quite well.

Butterfly
Then I am the happiest

woman in Japan. Would you
answer me a question?

Sharpless
Gladly.

Butterfly
At what time of the year
in America, Do robins nest?

Sharpless
Are you serious?

Butterfly
Yes...
Sooner or later than here?

Sharpless
Tell me, why?...

Butterfly
My husband gave his promise
He would return in the joyous season,
When robin red-breasts rebuild their nests.
Here they have built them thrice already, But
I thought that over there,
They might do so more rarely.
Who's laughing?
Oh, the nakodo.
A wicked fellow.

Goro
I was...

Butterfly
Silence.
Why, he dared...

No, first I'd like
your answer; Answer me what I asked you.

Sharpless
I am sorry, but I don't...
I never studied ornithology.

Butterfly
Orni...

Sharpless
...thology.

Butterfly
Ah, then
you cannot tell me?

Sharpless
No.
We were saying...
Now at last! Now if you please, be seated here,
And read this letter through with me.

Butterfly
Show me.
On my lips, on my heart...
You're the best man
that ever existed!
Begin, I beg you.

Sharpless
``Dear Friend, I beg you seek out
that child, that pretty flower,"

Butterfly
Does he truly say that?

Sharpless

Yes, he truly says so;
But if you interrupt so...

Butterfly

I'll be quiet, and listen.

Sharpless

``Those were happy days together;
Three years are now gone by since"—

Butterfly

Then he too has counted!...

Sharpless

``Perhaps dear Butterfly
remembers me no more."

Butterfly

I not remember?
Suzuki, tell him quickly.
``Remembers me no more!"

Sharpless

O Patience!
``If she still
cares for me, and expects me"—

Butterfly

Oh, what glorious tidings!
You blessed letter!

Sharpless

``On you I am relying
to act discreetly, And with tact
and caution to prepare her...

Butterfly

He's coming

Sharpless

the blow to..."

Butterfly

Tell me? quickly! quickly!

Sharpless

(Well really!)
(Here I ought to prevent her...
That devil of a Pinkerton!)
Now say,
what would you do, tell me, Madam Butterfly...
If he were never to return again?

Butterfly

Two things I might do:
Go back... and entertain
the people with my songs...
Or else, ...better... to die.

Sharpless

I am loth indeed to tear you
From illusions so beguiling;
But I urge you to accept the hand
of wealthy Yamadori.

Butterfly

You, you, Augustness! You tell me this?... You?

Sharpless

Holy Powers, what can I do?

Butterfly

Here, Suzuki, come quickly, please,
Show his Honor to the door.

Sharpless

You dismiss me?

Butterfly

I beseech you,
let my words be quite forgotten.

Sharpless

I was brutal, I admit it.

Butterfly

Oh, you've wounded me so deeply,
Wounded me so very deeply!

Butterfly

'Tis nothing, Thank you!
I felt ready to die... But see, it passes,
Swift as shadows that flit across the ocean.
Ah, am I forgotten?

Butterfly

Look here, then! Look here, then! Look here then!
Can such as *this child* well be forgotten?..

Sharpless

Is it his?

Butterfly

What Japanese baby ever was born with azure eyes, I wonder?
Such lips too? and such a head of golden ringlets?

Sharpless

'Tis his image.
Has Pinkerton been told?

Butterfly

No. No.

I bore this child when he

was far off, In his big native country.

But you will write and tell him,

There awaits him a child who has no equal!

And would you tell me then, that he won't hasten

Over land, and over sea!

Do you know, my sweet, what that gentleman
had heart to think?

That your mother should pick you up,

And forth should wander in rain and wind

Through the town, seeking to earn enough

For bread and clothing.

And then before the kindly people

To stretch out a trembling hand:

``Listen, listen to my sad song.

Show love to an unhappy mother and take pity!"

And Butterfly, in her horrible fate, dances for you

And as she has done, the geisha will sing!

And the joyful and happy song

Will end in anguish

Ah! No more! This practice that brings dishonor!

Kill me! Kill me!

I'll never dance again!

I'd rather my life be cut short!

Ah! Death!

Sharpless

(Pitiful soul!)

I must be going.

You will forgive me?

Butterfly

Now you give him your hand, love.

Sharpless

What pretty golden ringlets!

Darling, what do they call you?

Butterfly

Respond:

Sir, my name now is *Sorrow*, But yet,
Write and tell my father: on the day
Of his returning,
Joy... Joy shall be my name.

Sharpless

Your father shall be told, that I will promise,...

Butterfly

You'll see, little love
My grief, and yet my comfort,
my own little love,
Ah! you will see
That your protector soon will be here,
And take you and me to his own country,
take you and me far away.

[a cannon shot]

Suzuki

A cannon from the harbor!
Look, it's a ship of war!

Butterfly

White, white,... the American
stars and stripes!... It's pulling
into port to anchor!
Keep my hand steady
that I may read the name,
The name, there it is: ABRAHAM LINCOLN!
They all were liars!
liars! liars! But I
knew it always. Just I who love him!
Now do you see the folly of doubting?
He's coming! He's coming! He's coming!
Just at the moment you all were saying:

Weep and forget him. My love wins the day!
See, my love and my faith have won completely.
He's here, he loves me!
Shake that cherry tree till every flower
White as snow, flutters down,
His noble brow, in a sweet-scented shower
I would caress.

Suzuki

Be calm, I pray, this weeping—

Butterfly

Nay, laughing, laughing! When
may we expect him up here?
What do you think? In an hour?

Suzuki

Too soon.

Butterfly

Two hours more likely
Flowers, flowers be everywhere,
As many as stars are in the heavens.
Fetch the flowers!

Suzuki

Not a flower left.

Butterfly

Not a flower left?
Come and help me.

Suzuki

Roses shall adorn
the threshold.

Butterfly, Suzuki

Balmy breath of spring shall
Balmy breath of springtime,
shed her sweetness here.
Let us sow fair April here,

Butterfly

Ah, let the scented balm of spring
shed her sweetness here...

Suzuki

Ah, let the scented balm of spring be shed here.
Lilies?.. violets?..

Butterfly

Come scatter, scatter flowers all over.

Suzuki

Let us sow fair April here.

Butterfly

Let us sow fair April here.
Now round his seat make a garland,
this convolvulus entwining;
Lilies and roses let us scatter,
Let us sow fair April here!

Suzuki

Lilies, roses scatter,
all his seat entwining;
Roses let us scatter,
let us sow fair April here!

Butterfly, Suzuki

In handfuls let us scatter
violets and white roses,
And sprays of sweet verbena,
Petals of every flower!

And sprays of sweet verbena,
Petals of every flower!

Butterfly

Now come and make me fine.
No, first bring me the baby.
Bring me now my wedding obi
Bring it hither quickly.
I would have him see me in it
As on my wedding day.
In my hair we will put
a scarlet poppy...
Like this.

Suzuki

'Tis daylight!...
Cho-Cho-San...

Butterfly

He'll come, he'll come... I know, he'll come.

Suzuki

I pray you, go and rest, for you are weary,
And I will call you when he arrives.

Butterfly

Sweet, thou art sleeping,
Cradled on my heart;
Safe in God's keeping,
While I must weep apart.
Around thy head the moonbeams dart:
Sleep, my beloved!

Suzuki

Poor Madam Butterfly!

Butterfly

Sweet, thou art sleeping,

Cradled on my heart;
Safe in God's keeping,
While I must weep apart.

Suzuki

Poor Madam Butterfly!
Who is it?...
Oh!

Sharpless

Hush!

Pinkerton

Hush!

Suzuki

Hush!

Pinkerton

Hush! Hush!

Pinkerton

Do not disturb her!

Suzuki

She was so very weary!
She stood awaiting you all
through the night with the baby.

Pinkerton

How did she know?

Suzuki

No ship has crossed the harbor these three years
Whose flags and colors Butterfly has not
eagerly seen and examined.

Sharpless

Did I not tell you?...

Suzuki

I'll call her...

Pinkerton

No, no, not yet.

Suzuki

Look around you,
Last night she would have the room
decorated with flowers.

Sharpless

Did I not tell you?...

Pinkerton

Oh, torment!

Suzuki

Who's that outside there
in the garden?
A lady!!..

Pinkerton

Hush!

Suzuki

Who's that? who's that?

Sharpless

Better tell her all.

Suzuki [*in consternation*]

who's that? who's that?

Pinkerton

She came with me.

Suzuki

who's that? who's that?

Sharpless

She's his wife!

Suzuki

Hallowed souls of our fathers!
Ah, the world is plunged in gloom
is plunged in gloom!

Sharpless

We came here so early in the morning
To find you all alone here, Suzuki, that you might give us
your help and your guidance in this our plight.

Suzuki

How can I? How can I?

Sharpless

I know that for such misfortune
There is no consolation!
But the child's future welfare
Must be secured from trouble.

Pinkerton

Oh! the bitter fragrance
of these flowers,
It is poison to my heart!

Sharpless

This gentle lady,
Who dare not enter,
Will give the child
a mother's care!

Suzuki

Woe is me!
Do you ask me
to go and tell a mother...

Pinkerton

Unchanged is the chamber
Where once we loved...

Sharpless

Delay not, call her, delay not,
Call in that gentle lady,
And conduct her here... If even
Butterfly should see her, no matter.
Then with her own eyes she will learn
The cruel truth we dare not tell her.
Go then, speak with that gentle lady,
Go quickly and bring her here,
and bring her here.

Pinkerton

But a deathly chill haunts the air.
And here my portrait...
Three years have passed away,
Three years have passed away,
Three years have passed away
and every day, every hour she counted,
alas, she counted!

Suzuki

Can you ask me
to go and tell a mother...
Woe is me!
Hear my sorrow!
Hallowed souls of my fathers!...
Now all the world is plunged in gloom!
Hear my sorrow!
Hallowed souls of my fathers!...
Ah! all the world is plunged in gloom!

Sharpless

Go, Suzuki, go!

Pinkerton

I cannot remain,

Suzuki

Hear my sorrow!

Pinkerton

Sharpless, I'll wait you
outside...

Sharpless

Is it not as I told you?

Pinkerton

Give her this money, just to support her...
Remorse and anguish choke me,
Remorse and anguish choke me.

Sharpless

I warned you, you remember?
When in your hand she laid hers:
"Be careful! For she believes you!"
Alas! how true I spoke!
Deaf to all entreaties,
deaf to doubting, humiliation,
Blindly trusting to your promise,
Her heart will break...

Pinkerton

Yes, in one sudden moment,
And feel that I shall never, ah never
Free myself from remorse,
no never more! no!

Sharpless

Now go: the cruel truth
she best should hear alone.

Pinkerton

Farewell, o happy home,
Farewell, home of love...
Haunted forever I shall be
by her reproachful eyes...

Sharpless

But now this faithful heart
has already divined...

Pinkerton

Farewell, home where she waited and loved.

Sharpless

I warned you, alas, you see
how true I prophesied!

Pinkerton

I cannot bear to stay,
ah! I cannot bear to stay!
Like a coward, ah! let me fly!
Farewell, I cannot, I cannot stay,

Sharpless

Yes go, and let her learn
the cruel truth.

Pinkerton

ah! I am vile!

Kate

Then you will tell her.

Suzuki

I promise.

Kate

And will you advise her
to trust me?...

Suzuki

I promise.

Kate

I will care for this child as my own.

Suzuki

I trust you. But I must be quite alone beside her...
In this cruel hour... alone! She will weep so sadly!
she'll weep so sadly!

Butterfly

Suzuki! Suzuki! Where are you?
Suzuki!

Suzuki

I'm here... I was praying, and going back to watch...
No...
no... no... no... Do not come... no... no... no...

Butterfly

He's here... he's here... where is he hidden?
He's here... he's here...
Here's the Consul...
and... where is?... where is?...
Not here!.. Who are you?
Why have you come here? No one answers!... Why are you weeping?
No, no, tell me nothing... nothing... Lest I fall dead
at your feet at the words I hear...
You, Suzuki,
are always so faithful, don't weep, I pray!
Since you love me so dearly, say ``yes," or ``no," quite softly...
He lives?

Suzuki

Yes.

Butterfly

But he'll come
no more, They have told you!...
Viper! I want you to reply!

Suzuki

No more.

Butterfly

He reached here yesterday?

Suzuki

Yes.

Butterfly

Who is this lady
that terrifies me? terrifies me?

Sharpless

Through no fault of her own,
She's the cause of your trouble. Ah, forgive her pray.

Butterfly

Ah! She is his wife.
All is dead for me!
All is finished. Ah!

Sharpless

Courage!

Suzuki

Like to a poor imprisoned bird
Beats this little fluttering heart!

Butterfly

Too much light shines outside
And too much laughing spring.
Close them.

Butterfly

Where is the child?

Suzuki

Playing... Shall I call?

Butterfly

Leave my child to play, Leave my child to play...
Go and play.

Suzuki

I'll stay with you.

Butterfly

Go, Go, obey my order.

Butterfly

Death with honor is
better than life with dishonor.

Butterfly

You? you? you? you? you? you?
Little iIdol!

My love,

Pure as lilies and roses,.

Though you ne'er must know it

Through your pure eyes,

Butterfly dies.

That you may go away

Beyond the ocean,

Never to feel the torment when you are older,

That your mother forsook you!

My son, sent to me from Heaven,
Straight from the throne of glory,

Take one last look

and trust your mother's face!

That it's memory may linger,

One last look!

Love, farewell! Farewell, little love!

Go, play, play.

Pinkerton

Butterfly! Butterfly! Butterfly!

END