

THE RICH ALSO CRY

ACT I

Queen Maria

1: Lady –in-waiting

2: Lady –in-waiting

Queen Maria is sitting on her throne gazing at the sea. Her loyal ladies-in-waiting are standing next to her. One is holding a sunshade over the Queen's head. The other maid is combing the Queen's hair.

1: Which is your motherland, dear Maria?

QM: Motherland? I was born in Germany. My father was Scottish and my mother was Russian. And I live in Romania.

1: And yet, and yet? Where do you feel at home?

QM: Right here – in Balchik and at my favourite palace. And do you know why? It was here that I came to know true love.

2: What are you talking about, my dear one. You have children and an influential husband – the King of Romania.

QM: Yes, this is so, but love is something more powerful than this. Love is the most powerful things in the world.

1: Do you mean to say that that poor fisherman means more to you?

QM: Of course, of course!

2: You look sad today. You look sad and very worried.

QM: Yes, I am. Look at the sky! Look at the sea! There is a storm coming! A violent storm!

2: What does it matter? It will pass. It will be over.

QM: I am waiting for Ali to arrive today. He is already on his way and I don't know if he will survive in this rough sea.

Maria stands up and looks intently at the sea, expectantly.

1: Stop worrying about him! He is young, brave and fearless. He will always survive.

2: Love will always survive!

All three take each other by the hand and repeat 3 times:

Queen M, 1 and 2: Love will always survive! (x3)

ACT II

Queen Maria

1: the first son of Maria

2: the second son of Maria

Queen Maria is sitting on her throne gazing at the sea. Her two sons appear, both of them bedraggled and disheveled.

1: Didn't I tell you to leave her alone? Stop thinking about her!

2: I don't take my orders from you! I am in love with her!

QM: What is the matter? What's this uproar?

1: Mother, he stole my beloved! They even make secret plans to run away together to a far-off land!

2: Beloved? She is just a dancer at a night-club. I am just having fun!

QM: Wait! Wait! Stop a minute! Hear reason!

1: I won't give up!

2: Neither will I!

The sons start up a quarrel and begin to fight. Maria stands up and tries to separate them. At this instant, one of the sons takes out a pistol and wants to shoot his brother.

1: Now, you'll see! Go ahead! You will get what you deserve!

2: I am not afraid of you! You miserable.....

Accidentally, the first son shoots his mother in the shoulder and Queen Mary falls to the ground.

1: Mother! Are you ok???

2: Mother! Behold what your favourite son has done!

QM: I am fine, children! I love both of you! I am strong! I will survive!

The sons support the wounded Queen from both sides and all three bow to the audience.

ACT III

Queen Maria

Ali

Queen Maria is sitting on her throne in a state of expectation. She is worried! Ali enters. He rushes towards her. He kisses her hand and continues kissing her arm until he reaches her neck.

QM: My darling! At last! I was up all night! I was worrying about you!

Ali: I am finally here! There was a great storm! My boat was shattered to pieces. I had to swim to reach the shore!

QM: **You are so brave! You are so great!**

Ali: Love is brave! Love is great!

They embrace each other. He kneels down and grabs her hands in his.

Ali: I will take you away! I want us to be together! Only you and me!

QM: You know it's impossible, Ali! It is my destiny. I am wretched but I can't change anything!

Ali: Listen to me, Maria! Nothing and no one else matters! Can't you see?!

QM: All the same, we must be reasonable! I have a family, 6 children. You have one too! Our love is doomed!

Ali rises to his feet and looks at the sea! Then he turns round to face her.

Ali: The expanse of the sea is endless. Endless as my love for you

QM: Such is my love for you too! That is the most important thing!

They take each other's hands again!

** Queen Maria of Romania was the last Queen consort of Romania. She was enchanted by the beauty of the town of Balchik and ordered the building of a summer residence. Unhappy in her marriage, which was a political union, Queen Marie spent most of her time in this Quiet Nest Place. Legend has it that she was in love with a Turkish tradesman and she used to sit and gaze at the sea waiting for him while watching the sunset.*