



In Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, the March sisters perform a melodrama, entitled *Operatic Tragedy*. Below is a summary of the plot of the play.

**Act One:** This act is set in a cave. Hugo sings of his hate for Roderigo, his love for Zara, and desire to kill Roderigo. He goes to the witch, Hagar, for magic potions to make this happen.

**Act Two:** Roderigo and Zara meet at a tower and sing their love for each other and desire to run away together. Her father, Don Pedro, rushes in and drags Zara away.

**Act Three:** Hagar comes to the castle hall to warn the lovers of Hugo's plans. She foils his plans by switching the drinks. Hugo dies of poisoning.

**Act Four:** In a prison, Roderigo considers killing himself because he's been told Zara has deserted him. He hears her singing a love song that tells of her danger. A key is found to unlock the door and chains. He goes off to save her.

**Act Five:** The set for this act is not described. Don Pedro and Zara fight about her future. Roderigo comes to take her away. A servant comes with a letter and money from Hagar. Her generosity makes the marriage possible and Don Pedro gives his blessing.