

The Parting

Edward Lambert

The Parting (Chimera)

a scene from a chamber opera

for three voices and chamber organ or piano

words from

Federico García Lorca

music by

Edward Lambert

The Parting is based on a fragmentary play by Federico García Lorca. Enrique is going on a journey and he will be away 'for a long time'. His wife watches from a window and the voices of his children cry out for presents. An old woman appears and offers to help with his luggage. As they disappear into the distance, the wife and children are left alone.

Characters

ENRIQUE, *tenor*

HIS WIFE, *soprano*

AN OLD WOMAN, *contralto*

VOICES OF THEIR SEVERAL CHILDREN, *spoken & pre-recorded*

Scene: outside the house

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The Parting

scene from a chamber opera

Edward Lambert
text after Federico Garcia Lorca

$\text{♩} = 60$

Wife (*at the window*)

Wife

Enrique

Enrique

Good - bye.

Fare - well.

Org.

12

W.

E.

Good - bye.

Fare-well.

I'll be

Org.

18

E.

gone for a long time.

Children's voices

Yes, a squir-rel for you, as well as

V.

A squir-rel!

Org.

24

E.

birds no-one's e - ver had be-fore.

V.

I want a li - zard! I want a

Org.

25

E. You're so ve - ry dif - ferent,

V. mole!

Org.

28

E. my chil - dren. I'll see to e - very - thing you want.

Org.

34

E. You're so ve - ry dif - ferent,

Org. *f*

41

Old Woman (*suddenly appearing*)

O.W. So ve - ry dif - ferent! Can I car - ry your

E. my chil - dren. Who are you?

Org. *p*

[Children's laughter is heard]

O.W. 48 bags? Are they your chil-dren?

E. 8 No. They are.

Org. 48 *p*

O.W. 55 I've known your wife for a - ges,

Org. 55

O.W. 61 their mo - ther. I was her fa -

Org. 61

O.W. 66 - - mily's groom, now - - - a-days a

Org. 66

71 75

O.W.
 beg - gar: and bet - ter off! Hor - ses,

Org.

O.W.
 ha! How I ha - - - - - ted hor - - - - - ses!

Org.

O.W.
 Ta - king the reins is so ve - ry hard, ta - king the

Org.

O.W.
 reins is so ve - ry hard. Once a - fraid of them,

Org.

94 97

O.W.
 ne - ver for - got - ten. Curse _____

Org.

O.W. ¹⁰⁰ hor - - - ses, curse, ³ ³

Org. ¹⁰⁰

O.W. ¹⁰⁶ all hor - - - ses! 110 No, no. Give me tup-pence and I'll

E. ⁸ Enrique *[Taking his bags]* Leave me a-lone.

Org. ¹⁰⁶ *f*

O.W. ¹¹² car-ry your lug-gage Your wife — will be grate-ful. She's not a fraid of hor - ses. She's hap - py. ³

E. ⁸ Let's go,

Org. ¹¹²

O.W. ¹¹⁹ Oh, a train! That's some-thing else. Trains — are ea -

E. ⁸ I've got a train to catch.

Org. ¹¹⁹ *p*

124

O.W. sy, they're not a - live. They move.

Org.

129

O.W. that's all. But hor - ses... Look!

Org.

134

$\text{♩} = 80$

Wife

W. En-ri-que, En-ri-que, make sure you write! Don't for-get me!

Org. *f*

138

W. Old Woman

O.W. Ah, re-mem-ber how you as a boy jumped the fence and climbed the tree just to see her!

Org.

142

W. e - ver, I'll re - mem-ber for e - ver!

E. So will I, So will I.

Org.

146

W. He has won - - - der-ful eyes, won - - -

O.W. There are worse things in life,

E. She has won - - - der-ful eyes, won - - -

Org. *pp*

W. - - - der-ful eyes, but what I love,

O.W. worse things, worse things in life.

E. - - - der-ful eyes, but what I

Org.

159

W. love most, love most, what I love most is his strength, but what I

O.W. Worst of all is wat-ching the ri - ver flow by,

E. love, love most, love most, love most is her strength, but what I love,

Org.

160

W. love, love most, love most is his strength, what I

O.W. Worst of all is watching, watching the river flow by,

E. love most, love most, love most is her strength, is her strength, what I

Org. *p*

168

W. love most, I love most, love most is his strength. He'll be warm

O.W. and that would be worse still after a storm. You think

E. love most, I love most, love most is her strength. She'll be warm

Org. *pp*

170

W. at night, warm, warm at

O.W. the worst thing about a storm, about a storm is the de-

E. at night, warm, warm at

Org.

173

W. night but I'll be a - lone and cold.

O.W. struc - tion it cau - ses, while I be - lieve the worst thing...

E. night but I'll be a - lone and cold. The

Org.

177 recit.

O.W. Think of the sea:

E. worst thing in the world is an old ser - vant, a beg - gar. Get mo - ving, it's time!

182

O.W. in the sea... Have you for - got - ten an - y - thing?

E. Move! I said. I've left e - very - thing per - fect - ly or - ga - nised.

187

$\text{♩} = 60$

O.W. Your chil - dren.

V. Pa - pa, pa - pa, pa - pa, pa - pa, pa - pa, pa - pa!

Org. *f*

192

E. 

V. My chil - dren. — I don't want the squir-rel. If you bring me the

Org. 

195

V. squir-rel I won't love you a - ny-more. Don't bring me the squir-rel. I don't

Org. 

197

V. want it. Nor I the li - zard. Nor I the mole. We want you to bring us


Org. 

200 *[They quarrel]*


V. sam-ples of stones. No no, no no, I want my mole. No, the mole is for me!

Org. 

204 **Old Woman**

O.W. 

E. **Enrique** You said they were dif - ferent. E-nough! You'll all be hap - py. Yes, all so dif - ferent. Lu-cki-ly.

Org. 

208 *[Sad]*

O.W. What? *[forceful]* Lu-cki-ly. Don't be sad. She's your

E. Lu-cki-ly. Good - bye.

Org. *p*

214

W. *[They leave]* I'll wait for you. Fare - well.

O.W. wife and she loves you: you love her. Don't be sad.

Org. *dim.*

VOICES
Goodbye.

WIFE (calling after them)
See you soon.

VOICE OF ENRIQUE
[Distant]
Soon.

222 $\text{♩} = 48$

W. My heart _____

Org. *p*

226

W. aches, my heart aches.

Org.

230

W. Ah! If he'd on-ly de - spise me!

Org.

234

W. I want him to de - spise me, to de-spise me... and

Org.

236

237

W. love me, love me, love me, love me. I want to run a-way and let him

Org.

240

W. catch me.

Org.

W. ²⁴⁴ *3* *3*
 I want him to set me on fire, set me on fire.

Org. ²⁴⁴

W. ²⁴⁷ *b2.*
 Fare - well, fare-well, En-

Org. ²⁴⁷

249

W. ²⁵¹
 ri - que, En-ri - que, En - ri - que, I love you, I love you! You're get - ting

Org. ²⁵¹

W. ²⁵⁴ *3* *3*
 smal-ler. Jum - ping from boul - der to boul - der. A dot now.

Org. ²⁵⁴

W. ²⁵⁷ *3* *3*
 I could swal-low you, could swal-low you like a bean, En-ri-que. **Children's voices**

V. ²⁵⁷ Mom-

Org. ²⁵⁷

260

W. Don't go out. There's a cold wind _____ co-ming up. I said don't!

V. ma!

Org.

VOICES

[Quickly]

Papa! Papa! Bring me the squirrel!

- I don't want the stones. The stones would break my nails.

Papa! - He can't hear you. - Papa, I want the squirrel.

[Starting to cry]

Please God, bring me the squirrel!

263

Org.

267

Org.

270

Org.

The Parting (Chimera)

from Federico García Lorca.

Scene: Outside the house

ENRIQUE

Farewell.

WIFE (*at the window*)

Goodbye.

ENRIQUE

I'll be gone for a long time.

VOICE 1

A squirrel.

ENRIQUE

Yes, a squirrel for you, as well as birds
no-one's ever had before.

VOICE 2

I want a lizard.

VOICE 3

I want a mole.

ENRIQUE

You're so different, my children.
I'll see to everything you want.

OLD WOMAN (*suddenly appearing*)

So very different!

ENRIQUE

Who are you?

OLD WOMAN

Can I carry your bags?

ENRIQUE

No.

[Children's laughter is heard]

OLD WOMAN

Are they your children?

ENRIQUE

They are.

OLD WOMAN

I've known your wife for ages; their mother.
I was her family's groom but
nowadays a beggar - and better off!
Horses, ha! How I hated horses.
Taking the reins is so very hard.
Once afraid of them, never forgotten.
Curse all horses!

ENRIQUE

[Taking his bags]
Leave me alone.

OLD WOMAN

No, no. Give me tuppence and I'll carry your luggage..
Your wife will be grateful. She's not afraid of horses.
She's happy.

ENRIQUE

Let's go: I've got a train to catch.

OLD WOMAN

Oh, a train! That's something else.
Trains are easy, they're not alive.
They move, that's all. But horses... Look!

WIFE

[In the window]
Enrique, Enrique, make sure you write!
Don't forget me!

OLD WOMAN

Ah, remember how you as a boy jumped the fence
and climbed the tree just to see her!

WIFE

I'll remember for ever.

ENRIQUE

So will I.

WIFE

He has wonderful eyes;
but what I love most is his strength.
He'll be warm at night but I'll be alone and cold.

ENRIQUE

She has wonderful eyes;
but what I love most is her strength.
She'll be warm at night but I'll be alone and cold.

OLD WOMAN

There are worse things in life.
Worst of all is watching the river flow by
and that would be worse still after a storm.
You think the worst thing about a storm
is the destruction it causes,
while I believe the worst thing is...

ENRIQUE

[Getting irritated]

The worst thing in the world is an old servant, a beggar.
Get moving; it's time!

OLD WOMAN

Think of the sea: in the sea...

ENRIQUE *[Angry]*

Move! I said.

OLD WOMAN

Have you forgotten anything?

ENRIQUE

I've left everything perfectly organised.

VOICES

Papa!

OLD WOMAN

Your children.

ENRIQUE

My children.

VOICE 1

I don't want the squirrel.
If you bring me the squirrel,
I won't love you anymore.
Don't bring me the squirrel.
I don't want it.

VOICE 2

Nor I the lizard.

VOICE 3

Nor I the mole.

VOICE 4

We want you to bring us samples of stones.

VOICE 3

No, no; I want my mole.

VOICE 4

No, the mole is for me..

[They quarrel]

ENRIQUE

Enough! You'll all be happy!

OLD WOMAN

You said they were different.

ENRIQUE

Yes, all so different. Luckily.

OLD WOMAN

What?

ENRIQUE *[forceful]*

Luckily.

OLD WOMAN *[Sad]*

Luckily.

ENRIQUE

Goodbye.

OLD WOMAN

Don't be sad.

She's your wife and she loves you.

You love her. Don't be sad.

[They leave]

WIFE

[At the window]

I'll wait for you. Farewell!

VOICES

Goodbye.

WIFE

See you soon.

VOICE OF ENRIQUE

[Distant]

Soon.

WIFE

[undresses]

My heart is aching.

Ah! If he'd only despise me!
I want him to despise me... and love me.
I want to run away and let him catch me.
I want him to set me on fire... on fire.
[out loud]
Farewell, farewell... Enrique, Enrique...
I love you. You're getting smaller,
jumping from boulder to boulder. A dot now.
I could swallow you like a bean.
I could swallow you, Enrique...

VOICES

Momma.

WIFE

Don't go out.
There's a cold wind coming up.
I said don't!

VOICES

[Quickly]
Papa! Papa!
Bring me the squirrel!
I don't want the stones.
The stones would break my nails.
Papa!
He can't hear you.
Papa, I want the squirrel.
[Starting to cry]
Please God, bring me the squirrel!