

The House of Bernarda Alba

By Federico García Lorca

An Easy Read synopsis



The Characters



Bernarda Alba

A widow with 5 daughters. Her husband has just died. She is 60 years old.



Maria Josefa

Bernarda Alba's mother who is kept locked up in the back of the house. She is 80 years old.



Angustias

Bernarda Alba's oldest daughter from Bernarda's first marriage. She is 39. She has more money than the others. Angustias is engaged to Pepe.



Magdalena

Second oldest daughter of Bernarda Alba. She is 30.



Amelia

Third oldest daughter of Bernarda Alba. She is 27.



Martiro

Fourth oldest daughter of Bernarda Alba. She is 24.

The Characters



Adela

Youngest daughter of Bernarda Alba. She is 20. Adela is a free spirit and does not like being told what to do.



Signer Maid and Speaker Maid

The Maids work for Bernarda. They usually appear together. One maid signs while the other maid speaks.



Poncia

Bernarda Alba's head maid. The Maids and Poncia notice a lot of things happening around the house. They do not like Bernarda.



Prudencia

Bernarda Alba's friend. She comes to visit Bernarda in the second half of the play.

The actor playing Prudencia also plays a Beggar Woman near the start of the play. She will wear different clothes to play the different parts.

About The Play



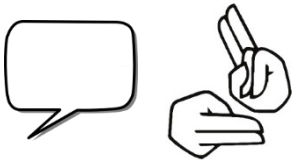
The House of Bernarda Alba is a play.
This is a story told by people acting on stage.



Blood Wedding was written by a man called **Federico Garcia Lorca** who was from Spain.



Jo Clifford has changed the Spanish words into English words.



Sometimes the actors will use British sign language. Sometimes the actors will describe what can be seen on stage. This is so everyone can understand the story.

The Story: Act One



Bernarda's husband has just died. The play takes place in her house. The weather is very hot.



La Poncia and the maids complain about Bernarda. They think she should pay more attention to her daughters instead of how clean her house is.



The maids and La Poncia talk about how Pepe is going to marry Angustias because she has a lot of money.



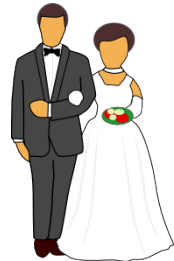
Bernarda says everyone in her house has to go into mourning for eight years. This means they won't see anyone outside the house.



Bernarda gets angry with Angustias because she has been looking at the men outside. The daughters leave the room.



Bernarda and Poncia talk about Angustias.



Amelia, Martirio and Magdalena talk about men. Magdalena tells Martirio and Amelia that Pepe is going to marry Angustias.

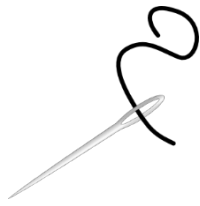


Bernarda gets very angry with Angustias because she has put make up on.

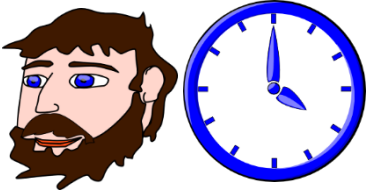


Bernarda and Angustias are interrupted by Maria Josefa, who arrives yelling that she wants to get married and run away. Bernarda and her daughters lock Maria Josefa up in her room.

The Story: Act Two



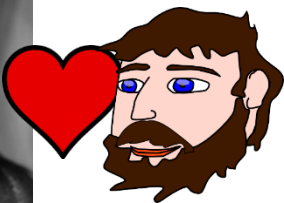
The daughters are sewing and talking about Pepe. Adela is in her bedroom.



Angustias says she was talking to Pepe until one in the morning but Poncia says she heard him outside the window at four in the morning.



Angustias says that Adela is jealous of her.



Everybody leaves except Adela and Poncia.

Poncia says she knows Adela is having an affair with Pepe.



Angustias says someone has taken her picture of Pepe. The sisters argue. Martirio stole the photograph.

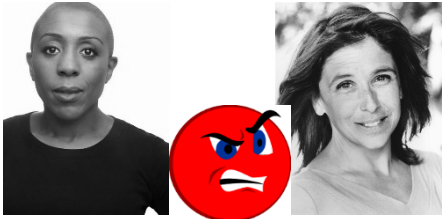


Poncia tells Bernarda to pay more attention to what her daughters are up to.

The Story: Act Three



Bernarda talks to her friend Prudencia.



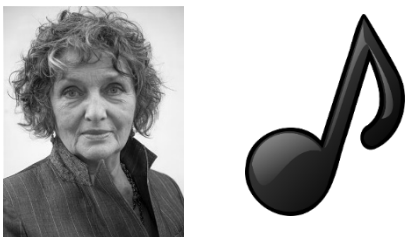
Poncia and Bernarda argue again.



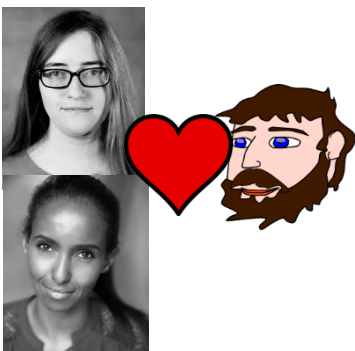
It is night time. Angustias tells Bernarda she is worried that Pepe is hiding something from her.



Poncia and the Maids say they are worried about what is going to happen between the daughters and Pepe.



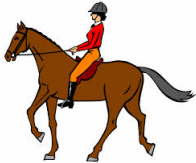
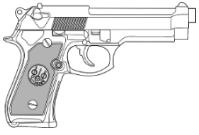
Maria Josefa enters with a baby lamb. She sings a song. Martirio sends her to bed.



Adela and Martirio have an argument. They both love Pepe. Everybody arrives. Adela says she will be with Pepe no matter what.



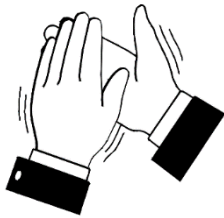
Pepe arrives. Adela tries to get to him but Martirio stops her.



Bernarda gets her gun and goes outside. She shoots at Pepe but he gallops off on his horse.



Adela thinks Pepe is dead. She kills herself.



The play is finished. The actors will take a bow.



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