



CELEBRATING *FOUR* DECADES

The Paradis Files Large Print Synopsis.

Prologue

The ensemble of actors introduce themselves and the characters they are playing.

Scene 1

The gossips set the scene, as is their role for most scenes. Theresia and Gerda, her maid, are in an empty classroom at the end of term. Theresia's students have just left. Her mother, the Baroness von Paradis, arrives. She is not welcomed by her daughter.

Scene 2 – a memory:

Theresia refuses to play the piano in her music lesson with Salieri whose behavior is inappropriate. Theresia rejects Salieri's advances and so he tells the Baroness that Theresia is in love with Herr Mozart. The Baroness is furious.

Scene 3

Gerda encourages Theresia to talk to her mother.

Scene 4 – a memory:

As Theresia plays for the Empress, her mother and father discuss their concern that she may never marry if they are not able to cure her blindness.

Scene 5

The Baron and Baroness hire various doctors try to cure Theresia's blindness.

Scene 6

Gerda comforts Theresia. The Baroness tells Gerda she needs Theresia's forgiveness. Gerda warns that some wounds cannot be healed.

Scene 7

The Baroness asks Theresia for forgiveness. Theresia cannot forgive the Baroness and suggests her father loved her more.

Scene 8 – a memory:

Theresia feels alive and free as she tours Europe.

The Baroness, against her will, tours with her daughter.

The Baron stays behind at court.

Scene 8a

Theresia and her father miss each other. Gerda suggests the Baron would be shocked by the fun Theresia is having.

Scene 9

The Gossips encourage Theresia to speak about the baby she lost. Gerda and Theresia confront the Baroness, who prayed for the baby's death.

Scene 10

The Baroness pleads for forgiveness again, admitting she now sees how wrong she was.

Theresia and her mother connect in their shared experience of baby loss.

Scene 11 – a memory:

The Baron is furious with his wife for not giving him a son.

Scene 12

Theresia realises her father did not love her as she thought, and begins to understand her mother.

Scene 13

The Baroness asks if Theresia will play the piano for her.

The Baroness wants Theresia to go on tour again so the world can appreciate her brilliance but Theresia loves her school and her students.