

THE STORY

ACT I

Seville. Count Almaviva, disguised as a poor student named Lindoro, comes to the house of Doctor Bartolo and serenades Rosina, who is Bartolo's ward. Figaro arrives to the scene and promises to help Almaviva secure Rosina's hand, and when Rosina appears on the balcony with a note stating her desire to escape, Figaro hatches a plan: Almaviva should gain entry into Bartolo's house on the pretext of being a soldier billeted there.

Inside, Rosina reflects on "Lindoro's" enchanting voice and resolves to meet him. Bartolo enters with the music master Don Basilio, who warns him about Almaviva. Wasting no time, Bartolo decides to marry his ward, but Figaro overhears him and informs Rosina, while promising to deliver a message from her to Lindoro. Bartolo suspects that Rosina has written a letter, but Rosina protests her innocence. Almaviva, now disguised as a soldier, arrives and reveals himself to Rosina as her secret admirer. Bartolo, annoyed at the "soldier's" drunken behavior, claims exemption from billeting orders and has the police take him into custody. Almaviva reveals his true identity to the Sergeant and is released, much to the surprise of everyone (besides Figaro).

ACT II

Almaviva enters the house, this time disguised as Don Alonso, a music teacher substituting for a supposedly sick Basilio. When Bartolo becomes suspicious, "Alonso" gains his trust by telling him that he has intercepted a note from Almaviva to Rosina. He offers to sow doubt in Rosina's mind by telling her that the note was given to him by another woman, to prove that Lindoro is toying with Rosina on Almaviva's behalf. Bartolo, now reassured, allows Alonso to stay and fetches Rosina for her lesson. Rosina recognizes Alonso as Lindoro, but Figaro arrives to provide a useful distraction by giving Bartolo a shave. Suddenly, Basilio arrives looking perfectly healthy; Almaviva bribes him to feign illness and rushes him out of the house. Figaro distracts Bartolo while the lovers make their plans to elope, however Bartolo overhears them and flies into a rage.

Learning that Alonso is a fraud, the doctor sends Basilio to fetch a notary so he can marry Rosina that very evening. He then shows Rosina her letter to Lindoro, as proof that he is in league with Almaviva. Heartbroken, Rosina agrees to marry Bartolo and reveals the escape plan. When Figaro and Almaviva arrive via the balcony, she unleashes her anger upon them. Almaviva finally reveals his true identity to Rosina and she is delighted. As they prepare to escape, they realize they are trapped. Basilio enters with the notary, but is bribed and threatened to be witness to the marriage of Rosina and Almaviva. Bartolo finally appears, but is too late to intervene. Young love has won the day.