

EUGENE ONEGIN – FULL STORY SYNOPSIS

ACT I

It is autumn, and at the Larin estate in the countryside, **Madame Larina** thinks about her youth; she was in love, but courted by another man whom she eventually married. She is now widowed, and has two daughters: **Tatyana** and **Olga**. Olga is being courted by the poet **Lensky** who lives nearby; he stops by unexpectedly, bringing his friend **Eugene Onegin**. Tatyana falls in love at first sight.

Tatyana asks her nurse **Filippyeva** about her first love and marriage, and spends the subsequent night pouring her heart out in a letter to Onegin. She finishes as the day breaks, and persuades Filippyevna to have her grandson deliver the message.

Onegin returns to the estate to respond to Tatyana's letter; he admits that he was touched by the sentiment, but that marriage is not for him; he can only offer her friendship. He advises her to take care of expressing herself so forwardly, as less of a gentleman might take advantage of her innocence.

ACT II

January at the Larin Estate. The local community has been invited to celebrate Tatyana's name day, and Lensky has invited Onegin to join. Surprised and annoyed by the scope of the celebration, Onegin soon grows bored, and takes his revenge on Lensky by flirting and dancing with Olga. Infuriated with Onegin's increasing attention, and with Olga's lighthearted reciprocation, Lensky's jealousy grows. He confronts Onegin, dissolves their friendship, and challenges him to a duel.

Before the duel, Lensky contemplates his poetry, his love for Olga, and death. Neither Lensky nor Onegin want to fight, but neither moves to stop the duel. Lensky is killed.

ACT III

St. Petersburg. Onegin has recently returned after several years travel following the duel. At a ball, Prince Gremin introduces his young wife. Onegin recognizes her—Tatyana—and realizes he is in love with her. He sends her a letter, and goes to the palace to convince her to run away with him. She admits that she still loves him, but she will not leave her husband.