

# ACT I

## PROLOGUE

*Bells. A MAN enters leading some SHEEP. He waits.*

## SCENE I

HALLWAY

*A luxurious mansion on the Calle de la Providencia. The home of LUCÍA and Edmundo NOBILE.*

*A member of staff, LUCAS, is putting on his coat and hat. As he hurries off, JULIO, the Butler, calls after him.*

JULIO        You! Where d'you think you're going?

LUCAS        For a walk. I won't be long.

JULIO        A walk? We've a dozen people coming for dinner and you're going for a walk?

LUCAS        I wish I didn't have to leave.

JULIO        You're not going anywhere, Lucas!

LUCAS        I have to go!

JULIO        You have to take the coats.

*They struggle for a moment. JULIO relents.*

JULIO        Very well, go! But don't ever set foot in this house again!

*LUCAS stumbles off.*

*JULIO cannot speak. BLANCA is now crying helplessly. LUCÍA goes to her.*

Blanca! Why are you crying?

COLONEL What is the Doctor's opinion?

DOCTOR The butler's strange resistance against obeying orders confirms my observations. Since last night, not one of us, try as he might, has been able to leave this room. What is happening to us?

*Fear is in the air. A huge thunderstorm outside. Thunder cracks, lightning flashes. The room slowly moves into shadow. Time passes. It is evening. Confidence has given way to despondency. Everyone is silent. BLANCA plays the piano. At the end we hear the clock strike seven.*

#### PIANO INTERLUDE

BLANCA Over the sea,  
over the sea,  
Where is the way?  
Birds, tell me!

Over the sea  
on islands of gold  
a mighty tall nation  
of giants stroll.

A mighty tall nation  
upright and pure,  
ruled by a king  
like none before.

*The CROWD has grown in size. A scuffle.*

POLICE      Keep out!

CHORUS      Let us pass!

POLICE      Get back!

CHORUS      They need our help!

POLICE      You're not allowed!

CHORUS      We'll get them out!

POLICE      You have been warned!

*Some POLICEMEN draw guns.*

CHORUS      Don't shoot!

POLICE      Don't move!

CHORUS      We're not dogs!

POLICE      Not one more step!

CHORUS      We're going in!

POLICE      You have to stop!

CHORUS      Down with the pigs!

POLICE      You must go back!

*The CROWD finally overwhelms and surges past the POLICEMEN, and then, just as suddenly, they stop, helpless.*