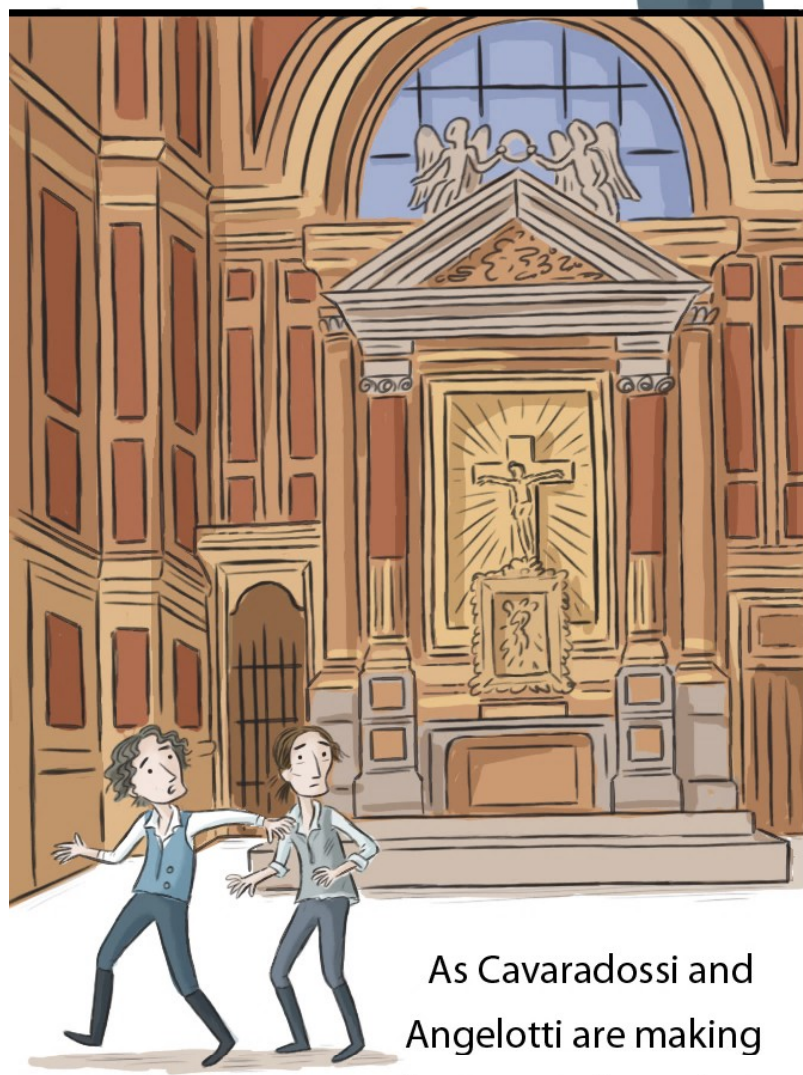


The escaped political prisoner Angelotti hides in a chapel in a Roman church, where the artist Cavaradossi is painting a portrait of Mary Magdalene.



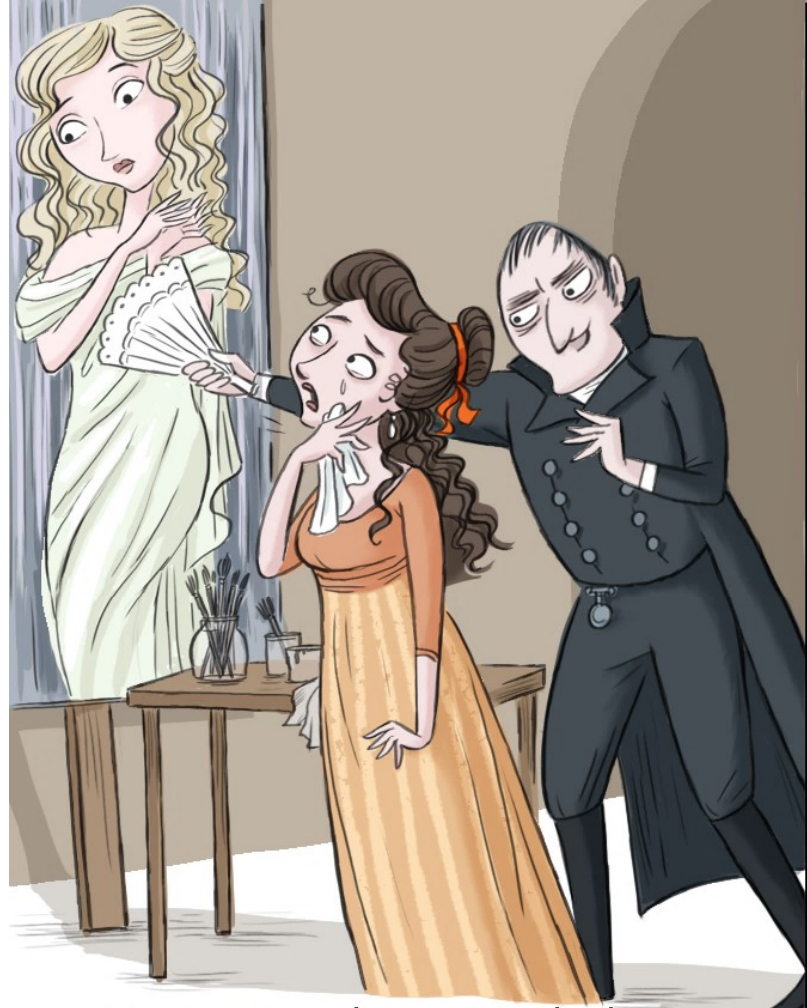
Cavaradossi is helping Angelotti when Tosca, the great opera singer, arrives. She loves Cavaradossi, but has a jealous nature and is suspicious of the voices she heard. Cavaradossi reassures her, and she departs.



As Cavaradossi and Angelotti are making plans, a cannon shot warns them that his escape has been discovered. They leave for Cavaradossi's home, where Angelotti will hide.



The evil Baron Scarpia, chief of police, has tracked Angelotti to the church, and he finds evidence that Cavaradossi has helped the prisoner escape.



Tosca returns, and Scarpia - who lusts for Tosca - convinces her that Cavaradossi is involved with another woman. She leaves to confront him, and Scarpia has her followed.



At his palace, Scarpia has Cavaradossi tortured in an effort to discover Angelotti's whereabouts. When Tosca arrives in search of her lover, she is overwhelmed by Cavaradossi's suffering and reveals the hiding place.



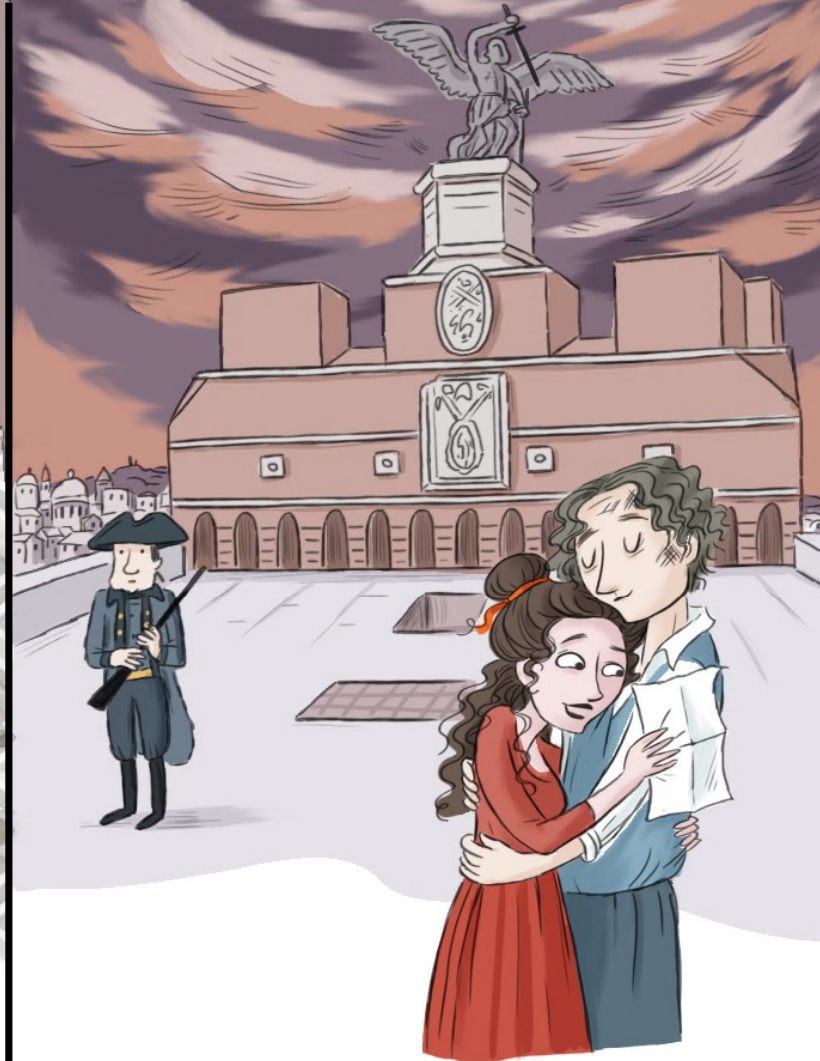
Scarpia's henchmen return with the news that the forces of revolution have won a major battle. Cavaradossi shouts his support for the cause of liberty, and Scarpia condemns him to death for treason.



Scarpia makes an ugly proposal: If Tosca will give herself to him, he will release Cavaradossi. In desperation, she agrees, and Scarpia explains that Cavaradossi will have to pretend to die in a mock execution.



Before giving in to Scarpia, Tosca insists that he sign travel papers for herself and Cavaradossi to leave the city. After he has done so, she grabs a knife and stabs him.



Cavaradossi laments his fate in prison when Tosca arrives and describes what has happened and how they will flee.



After the soldiers fire in the mock execution, Tosca goes to Cavaradossi and discovers Scarpia's final betrayal: The execution was real, her lover is dead.



Vowing to confront Scarpia before God, Tosca climbs to the top of the prison walls and throws herself to her death.

