

~~M. DANTES:~~

~~'tis nothing, nothing, it will pass (he collapses  
back into his seat)~~

~~DANTES:~~

~~A glass of wine should revive you.~~

~~M. DANTES:~~

~~Indeed... Edmond - go.~~

~~DANTES:~~

~~Papa?~~

~~M. DANTES:~~

~~I will still be here when you return. Go - go and see  
Mercedes! Pass me a blanket and then make that girl  
remember who you are - Captain Dantes!~~

~~DANTES grins, covers his Father with a blanket,  
kisses his forehead and races out.~~

#### Scene 4: Fernand

*A field. MERCEDES, dark and beautiful, sits  
sorting some flowers into a vase, overlooked by  
FERNAND, tetchy and pompous. A pair of CHORUS  
are the servants.*

FERNAND:

Marry me.

MERCEDES:

I've told you Fernand, a hundred times no! You're  
such a boor.

FERNAND:

Then you must refuse me for the hundredth time - just  
be sure.

MERCEDES:

Fernand - I refuse. You are more like a brother to  
me.

~~CHORUS:~~

~~Burn.~~

~~Friendzoned!~~

~~She played the brother card?~~

~~Oof.~~

MERCEDES:

You know I love Edmond and you only want me because you have to beat him at everything. Love is not a game to be won or lost Fernand - there's someone out there for you, I'm sure.

FERNAND:

But you are both so poor - how will you live?

MERCEDES:

Love needs no money.

~~CHORUS:~~

~~Aww.~~

~~Right on.~~

MERCEDES:

Love asks no fee.

~~CHORUS:~~

~~Is she cutting onions or playing with flowers.~~

MERCEDES:

Love should not be an agreement, Fernand. It should be an unstoppable force of passion that cannot be held back.

FERNAND:

I could show that passion to you.

MERCEDES:

I am sure you could - but my final note on love is - that it must be reciprocated. I love Edmond Dantes, poor as he is and none but Edmond shall ever be my husband.

FERNAND:

You will always love him?

MERCEDES:

Of course.

FERNAND:

-and what if he were dead? or if he has forgotten you-

DANTES (OFF STAGE):

Mercedes!? Mercedes?