

Rebecca - The Musical (Picture Book)

Sequence of Scenes and Music Titles

Rebecca is the name of deceased first wife of the wealthy Englishman Maxim de Winter. Everyone who knew Rebecca speaks with admiration of her beauty, her charm and her sophistication/savoir-vivre. Even though she herself isn't present anymore, her spirit is still living in Manderley, Maxim's ancestral home. When the widower marries again, a young woman finds herself surrounded by the shadows of the past. She senses that Rebecca left a dark secret behind. Bit by bit, she discovers the truth and through the fight for her husband grows into a strong and confident woman.

FIRST ACT

Prologue - Ruins of Manderley

Years after the dramatic events, the female narrator - called simply "I" like in the novel - dreams of Manderley. In the night-time ruins of the former Manderley mansion, the shadows of the past are arising. The memories are coming alive again.

Prolog - Ich hab geträumt von Manderley - "I", Shadows
(Prologue - I dreamt of Manderley)

Lobby of a hotel in Monte Carlo

"I", the narrator, sees herself again in a hotel lobby in Monte Carlo. It's April 24th 1926. She is working as the companion to a rich American woman named Mrs. Van Hopper. Through her she becomes acquainted with Maxim de Winter who, like her, hails from England. Mrs. Van Hopper takes away "I" 's last bit of self-confidence.

Du wirst niemals eine Lady - Mrs. Van Hopper, „I“
(You are never going to be a lady)

Hotel Patio

When the young woman appears alone for breakfast the next morning, Maxim de Winter asks her to sit at his table. A holiday romance develops between them, which gives the other hotel guest ample opportunity for gossip. "I" falls in love with Maxim, although he seems cold and gruff sometimes.

Mrs. Van Hopper's decision to leave Monte Carlo means the end of her dream for "I".
Petit Dejeuner - Ensemble

Cliff

Am Abgrund - "I", Maxim
(At the abyss)

Cote d'Azur - Monte Carlo

Zauberhaft natürlich - Maxim
(Enchantingly natural)

Mrs. Van Hopper's suite in the hotel

Everything is ready for departure. Wistfully, "I" remembers the wonderful days spent with Maxim. He enters, and when he hears that "I" is supposed to depart with the American, he asks her to accompany him to Manderley as his wife. They get married and spend cheerful days in Venice.

Zeit in einer Flasche - "I"
(Time in a bottle)

Italy

Wedding - Orchestra

Hall of Manderley

Seven weeks later, the couple arrives at Manderley. In the big mansion, the domestic staff has gathered for the reception. "I" meets the friendly and helpful manager of the estate, Frank Crawley. Mrs. Danvers, the housekeeper, is a woman with austere features, dressed in black. She doesn't hide her contempt for the "new" Mrs. de Winter. Her loyalties still lie with the deceased Rebecca.

Die neue Mrs. de Winter – Ensemble, Mrs. Danvers, Frank Crawley
(*The new Mrs. de Winter*)

Morning room

Mrs. Danvers remembers her former mistress Rebecca while tending the orchids. When "I" enters the room, the housekeeper shows her the davenport desk of the deceased and a china figurine depicting Cupid. Mrs. Danvers leaves the room and "I" accidentally lets Cupid fall to the floor when she hears voices from the hallway. She is hiding the shattered pieces in a drawer when Maxim's sister Beatrice appears with her husband Giles. The two of them live nearby and have come to welcome the new Mrs. de Winter. Beatrice accepts "I" at once and takes her sisterly into her arms.

Sie ergibt sich nicht – Mrs. Danvers
(*She doesn't surrender*)

Die lieben Verwandten – „I“, Beatrice, Giles
(*The dear relatives*)

Library

Maxim and „I“ decide to give a costume ball. Mrs. Danvers interrupts the cheerful conversation to report the disappearance of the valuable china figurine. Contritely, the new lady of the house admits to breaking the figurine. Maxim becomes exasperated and even angry.

Bist du glücklich? – "I", Maxim

(Are you happy?)

Bist du böse? – "I", Maxim

(Are you angry?)

Suite in the east wing

According to the customary aristocratic lifestyle, Maxim and "I" sleep in separate rooms in the remodelled east wing of Manderley. During the night, though, an oppressive feeling of fear creeps up on both of them. They gather courage with the feeling that they can defeat the shadows of the past together.

Hilf mir durch die Nacht – "I", Maxim
(*Help me through the night*)

Beatrice's house

After a phone conversation with "I", Beatrice is worrying about her brother. In her experience, Maxim is only hard and unfair when he is very desperate.

Was ist nur los mit ihm? – Beatrice
(*What is wrong with him?*)

Rebecca's room

During her forays through the house, "I" ends up in Rebecca's former bedroom in the west wing. There she encounters Mrs. Danvers and a stranger. He is Jack Favell, a cousin of the deceased Rebecca. "I" is asked not to tell Maxim about the visit. As thanks for her discretion, "I" gets a tip for the costume ball from Mrs. Danvers. She suggests that "I" turn herself into "the Lady in White" from one of the paintings. Mrs. Danvers tells "I" about Rebecca and seems to be surrounded by invisible shadows.

Sie war gewohnt, geliebt zu werden – Mrs. Danvers, Favell
(*She was used to being loved*)

Unser Geheimnis – Orchestra
(*Our secret*)

Rebecca I – Mrs. Danvers, Ensemble

Kitchen

Everyone is looking forward to the planned costume ball in Manderley. At the same time, there is not a single good word being said about the new wife of Maxim de Winter.

Merkwürdig – Ensemble
(*Strange*)

Boathouse

"I" discovers an abandoned boathouse on the bay of Manderley. There she meets Ben, a mentally retarded man who plays with seashells and talks in confusing rants. When Maxim sees his young wife at the boathouse he gets angry without recognizable cause. He shouts so angrily at "I" that she runs away. This brings Maxim back to his senses again. He wonders if it was a mistake to have come back to Manderley.

Sie's fort - Ben

(She's gone)

Du machst mir Angst - "I"

(You are scaring me)

Gott, warum? - Maxim

(God, why?)

Crawley's office

When "I" asks the manager of the estate, Frank Crawley, why Maxim forbade her to go down to the boathouse, she learns that Rebecca spent the last night before her death there. She died from a sailing accident. "I" gets the feeling of never being able to step out of the shadow of the dead woman. Frank consoles and reassures her.

Das schönste Geschöpf - Orchestra

(The most beautiful creature)

Ehrlichkeit und Vertrauen - Frank Crawley

(Honesty and trust)

Hall of Manderley

One week later, the planned costume ball takes place. Among the guests is also Mrs. Van Hopper. She flirts with Colonel Julien, the chief of police, and emphasizes her assets.

Der Ball von Manderley - Ensemble

(The ball of Manderley)

I'm an American woman - Mrs. Van Hopper

Dressing room

Meanwhile, "I" changes herself into "the Lady in White". Wearing the costume, for the first time she feels up to the task of being the mistress of Manderley. With delight she turns in front of the mirror and looks forward to the guests' astonishment when they will see her coming down the stairs.

Heut Nacht verzauber' ich die Welt - "I"

(Tonight, I'm enchanting the world)

Hall of Manderley

"I" has her big appearance. But the ball guests react to her entrance with consternation: Rebecca wore the same costume at the last ball before her death. Maxim angrily orders "I" to immediately change into something else. Mrs. Danvers smiles evilly.

Finale erster Akt - Mrs. Danvers and Ensemble

(Finale Act I)

SECOND ACT

Entr'Acte - Orchestra

In the hallway in front of Rebecca's room

The morning after the costume ball, "I" is looking for Maxim hoping to reconcile. She believes him to be in Rebecca's room in the west wing. But there she encounters Mrs. Danvers.

"I" confronts her. Mrs. Danvers threatens the young woman with never being able to take Rebecca's place. With imploring words she urges her to take her own life to release herself and Maxim. "I" is on the verge of giving in to the hypnotic force of Mrs. Danvers when thundering explosions wake her from her trance. Signal rockets are rising up on the beach.

Und das und das und das - "I"

(And this and this and this)

Rebecca's room

Rebecca (Lange Fassung) - Mrs. Danvers, "I", Shadows

(Rebecca (Long version))

At the window

Nur ein Schritt - Mrs. Danvers
(Just one step)

Beach

A ship has stranded in the bay of Manderley. In the early morning fog, helpers go out. Curious onlookers and people looking for stranded goods gather on the beach. While searching for Maxim, "I" encounters Frank and Jack Favell. She learns that divers have found Rebecca's boat with a corpse inside.

Strandgut - Ensemble, "I", Crawley, Favell
(Stranded goods)

Boathouse

"I" goes down to the boathouse where Ben is hanging around as always. He hides behind the staircase when Maxim appears. "I" is startled when she sees her husband. He is pale, bleary-eyed, unshaven. Now everything is over, he announces to his young wife. "I" thinks that he wants to end their relationship because he recognized that he would never get over Rebecca. But Maxim surprises her with the statement that he never loved Rebecca, he downright hated her. Then the secret he has kept for a year bursts out of him: He admits to having killed his first wife in the heat of the moment and then scuttling the boat with the body inside.

Sie's fort (Reprise I) - Ben
(She's gone)

Du liebst sie zu sehr - "I"
(You love her too much)

Confession

Kein Lächeln war je so kalt - Maxim
(There was never a smile as cold as that)

Breakfast room

After "I" learned that Maxim loves only her and that he needs her now, she is a changed woman. Beatrice notices the change at once. She knows that a woman in love is capable of achieving the impossible. "I" is determined to save Maxim from the gallows.

Die Stärke einer liebenden Frau - Beatrice, "I"
(The strength of a woman in love)

Corridor

Die neue Mrs. de Winter (Reprise) - Ensemble
(The new Mrs. de Winter - Reprise)

Morning room

The new Mrs. de Winter has taken over the reigns in Manderley. On her orders, all objects that are a reminder of Rebecca are being removed. The morning room gets aired and altered. Even the painstakingly glued together figurine of Cupid has to go. Mrs. Danvers' objections are in vain. Now it is "I" who gives the orders.

Mrs. de Winter bin ich - "I", Mrs. Danvers
(I am Mrs. de Winter)

Courtroom

The discovery of Rebecca's corpse leads to a preliminary hearing. A jury will decide if there are enough suspicious facts to warrant a criminal charge. "I" reassures Maxim before entering the courtroom and warns him to not let himself get provoked. But during the hearing he feels pushed into a corner and is about to fly into a rage. Before he can reveal his involvement in Rebecca's death, "I" faints. The hearing gets adjourned.

Die Voruntersuchung - Ensemble
(The preliminary hearing)

Library

Jack Favell and Mrs. Danvers both attended the hearing as well. To the surprise of Mrs. Danvers, Favell accompanies her to Manderley to wait for Maxim in the library. He wants to blackmail him with a letter from Rebecca. But Maxim calls Colonel Julien who questions first Favell, then Ben and Mrs. Danvers. It turns out that Rebecca visited a gynaecologist in London the day before she died. Favell suspects that Rebecca was pregnant – by him. This would answer the crucial question of motive for murder. Colonel Julien decides to go to London to question to doctor. Favell and “I” accompany him. Maxim isn’t allowed to leave Manderley.

Verabredung – Orchestra

(Appointment)

Eine Hand wäscht die andre Hand – Favell

(One hand washes the other)

Sie's fort (Reprise II) – Ben

(She's gone – Reprise II)

London / Hall of Manderley

While Colonel Julien, “I” and Favell are calling upon the doctor, the domestic staff of Manderley are agonizing over the question of whether their master will get taken into custody for murder. Finally, the telephone rings. Maxim learns about the results of the doctor’s questioning. Rebecca was terminally ill. She wanted to die. All of a sudden, he realizes that she had been determined to destroy him at any cost.

Sie fuhr'n um acht – Ensemble

(They took the eight o'clock train)

Keiner hat sie durchschaut – Maxim

(No one figured her out)

At the window

Maxim, “I” and Mrs. Danvers are pondering the surprising turn of events. Mrs. Danvers is determined not to tolerate a new Mrs. de Winter in Manderley. In her eyes the madness is shining through.

Ich hör dich singen – Mrs. Danvers, Shadows

(I hear you sing)

Train station in Cornwall

Late at night, Maxim picks up “I” at the station. They fall into each other’s arms, relieved to have escaped Rebecca’s shadow. They look forward to an untroubled future together. A blaze on the horizon alarms Maxim.

Jenseits der Nacht – “I”, Maxim

(Beyond the night)

Manderley in flames

Massive flames hauntingly light up the park and the driveway of Manderley. The staff members try desperately to put out the fire. When Maxim and “I” arrive, Frank explains that Mrs. Danvers set the fire. Maxim watches the house of his ancestors being reduced to rubble and ashes but a feeling of relief mixes in with his grief. Along with Manderley, the demons of the past are burning to ashes.

Manderley in Flammen/Nein, weiss Gott! – Ensemble, Frank Crawley

(Manderley in flames/No, God knows!)

Epilogue – The ruins of Manderley

Decades later: “I” returns to the beginning of her dream. All that is left of Manderley are a few burst walls. She has long since been living with Maxim in a small hotel on the Italian Adriatic Sea, far from the foggy Cornwall. She doesn’t talk to Maxim about the past. Only in her dreams does she sometimes return there.

Epilog – Ich hab geträumt von Manderley (Reprise) – “I”, Shadows

(Epilogue – I've dreamt of Manderley – Reprise)