

SUOR ANGELICA

By Giacomo Puccini

Angelica lives the convent life of a pious nun, banished there seven years before by her noble family for the disgrace she brought upon them with the birth of her illegitimate son. Since then, she has lived a completely closeted life, without contact with the outside world. Unexpectedly one day, her aunt, a cold and austere woman, arrives in order to make sure Angelica signs away her rights to the family fortune because of her fall from grace. In passing, she mentions that Angelica's son, about whom the nun has thought every day for seven years, had died two years before. In her grief, Angelica drinks a poisoned potion, and realizing her sin of self-destruction, calls to the Virgin Mary to deliver her into salvation. As the other sisters look on, the Madonna appears with a small child, bathed in radiant light, and together they lead Angelica to Paradise .