17th century Spain, Madrid, the capital.

Love’s intrigues, entertainment, conspiracies, and adventures.

Hernando is flirting with Lucindo, catching his eye.

Fenisa looks on from her window.

Doristeo appears. She is interested in catching Gerarda’s eye. Captain Bernardo, Lucindo’s father, appears along with Belisa, her daughter Fenisa, and their maid Mirinshita.

Fenisa notices Lucindo and purposely drops her handkerchief. Captain Bernardo is charmed by Fenisa.

Belisa, the mother, thinks that it he is interested in her, but it turns out that he wants her daughter, as the Captain asks Belisa for Fenisa’s hand in marriage. Fenisa hears this and tells Mirinshita.

They think of a genius plan. She announces that she agrees to the marriage! In reality, it is an excuse to make meetings between herself and Lucindo easier. Fenisa complains to the Captain that his son is courting her. He in turn, promises to put an end to it at once and sends Lucindo off to Portugal to serve in the army!

Lucindo and Hernando, his servant, are taking a stroll and happen to see Doristeo and Gerarda together through the window. Hernando tries to convince Lucindo to forget Gerarda and to give his love to Fenisa instead. He has an idea; he will dress as a woman and act as Lucindo’s lover, thus making Gerarda jealous!

Lucindo and Hernando, dressed as a woman, enter, and indeed Gerarda burns with envy. She wants to have both at once - Doristeo and Lucindo - and cannot decide whom she wants more.

Doristeo is enraged by the new relationship between Gerarda and Lucindo. Lucindo orders Hernando to remove his wig and dress and explains that it was all an act since he is now in love with Fenisa.

When they meet, Fenisa explains to Lucindo that her whole act in front of his father was just an excuse to meet him and that she agreed to the marriage only in order to be able to meet with Lucindo.

Doristeo pleads before Gerarda to forget Lucindo - why just yesterday he was with somebody else! Gerarda replies that it only made her love for Lucindo stronger and that now she must find a way for Lucindo to stop seeing the other woman he was with the day before.

Lucindo and Hernando meet Doristeo alone and frustrated. The three of them come up with a plan to teach Gerarda a lesson.

Belisa, Fenisa’s mother, dreams of the Captain. Fenisa comes up with a genius plan. She tells her mother that Lucindo wants to marry her - Belisa! The mother is not convinced but agrees that this is the only way to save Lucindo from being sent off to serve to Portugal.

Gerarda is enraged. She must confront Lucindo. Suddenly, Doristeo enters! He challenges Lucindo to a duel for Gerarda’s love. The fight begins. Lucindo strikes Doristeo, and he falls as if dead.

Hernando, dressed as Lucindo, calls for Belisa and declares his love for her. Belisa is baffled. She tells the Captain that his son wants her hand in marriage. Bernardo decides not to stand in the way, as long as he gets Fenisa!

Fenisa proposes not to delay the wedding but to connect the two weddings - both couples will marry simultaneously!

At the church, in the quiet night, Gerada enters, grieving over Doristeo and falls to her knees next to his body.

What happens next, dear audience, you shall find out for yourself...