hungry and needy as ever, begging food from Alma, Mortificación and Desnudez, as well as the audience. Alma asks Desnudez to kill Apetito again, and Desnudez tells her that for the moment, she must ignore him, and learn to resist his pleas. Apetito becomes frustrated that no one is paying attention to him, and again feigns reform. Desnudez will not allow it, and with the help of Alma, Mortificación and Oración, she kills him again, this time with a sword to ensure that he will not return. Alma and the three virtues (Mortificación, Oración and Desnudez) rejoice as the play comes to a close.

Bernarda, annoyed that Cosme is constantly jealous of her friends, decides to play a small trick on her husband. She invites the Painter over to "paint" a picture of Cosme. In order to set her plan in motion, she and the painter drug Cosme, making him fall asleep.

After Cosme falls asleep, Bernarda and her friends execute their plans. First, she gives the sword-wielding Valiente a letter for him to write when he needs to disguise himself as the mailman (or Correo). Second, she invites her old flame, the Cortesano, to flirt with her, trying Cosme's patience. After arranging everything, Bernarda claps her hands and giggles with glee.
Although most of her friends are in on the joke that Bernarda is playing on Cosme, her servant, or Criada, does not know what is going on. Bernarda explains the joke to her and invites her to bring out her new “painting.”

Upon waking up, Cosme realizes that he is stuck in a painting! Terrified of the Painter, Cosme tries to his best to avoid his paintbrush. Bernarda has her servants dust off Cosme, as if he really were a painting.

The Cortesano finally makes his long-awaited appearance and attempts to seduce Bernarda, causing her to forget about her husband and run away with him. Cosme is infuriated after the Cortesano gives Bernarda some lovely ribbons.

Immediatly following the Cortesano, the Valiente comes storming onto the stage, waving his sword and stabbing at the “painting.” Cosme, fearing for his life, tries to dodge the quick thrusts. Eventually, Bernarda is able to calm the Valiente down and remind him of his responsibility to dress-up as the Correo.

Disguised now as the Correo, the Valiente gives the letter that “Cosme” wrote to Bernarda from his hunting party in la Zarzuela. Along with the letter, the Correo gives Bernarda two partridges with painted red feet.

While Bernarda reads the letter, Cosme becomes more and more convinced that he actually wrote it. In fact, he even goes so far as to elaborate on his experiences in la Zarzuela! After realizing that the Correo brought food, Cosme complains that he is hungry and would like to eat. Bernarda warns Cosme that eating will cause the Painter to return.
As if he were listening all along, the Painter comes running onto the stage and begins touching-up his "painting," much to Cosme's dismay. When asked what type of paint he uses, the Painter confesses to using cheap wine.

The Painter invites everyone to make their own corrections to the "painting."

After feigning to be dead, Cosme scares Bernarda. They argue for a few moments but finally reconcile their differences and ask each other for forgiveness. The play ends as all the characters dance off stage.

Bernarda and her friends dance around Cosme, singing the *ronda*. At the end of their dance, they all take turns fixing the "painting." After the Painter offers a final correction, Cosme falls out of the picture frame onto the floor.