

# ***The Three Musketeers***

*a new musical*

Book & Lyrics by

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Music by

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Based on the novel by

Alexandre Dumas

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**Cast of Characters**  
(*in order of appearance*)

D'Artagnan	18. A Gascon -- a country boy -- smart, but rough around the edges. Young, headstrong, proud, quick to love, quick to take offense -- but endlessly loyal and courageous. He wants very much to make his mark on the world as a lover, a fighter, a noble man.
Athos	38. A Musketeer. An aristocrat whose troubled past leads him to fits of black depression. He is quiet, courageous, honorable to a fault, a brilliant man who never offers an unsolicited opinion. He drinks to excess and despises all women. A truly noble, but deeply troubled soul.
Porthos	Late 20's. A Musketeer. Well meaning and a good comrade, with an unfortunate tendency toward vanity. He loves to put on airs -- especially toward the ladies. He knows he deserves all the finer things in life -- if only he could find the proper lady to provide them.
Cardinal's Guard #1	A swordsman.
Cardinal's Guard #2	A swordsman.
Aramis	20's. Cultured. A Musketeer. A good man somewhat torn between his belief that he has been called to the priesthood -- and his love of the company of beautiful women.
Cardinal's Guard #3	A swordsman.
Cardinal's Guard #4	A swordsman.
Louis XIII	24. Vain, mistrustful of everyone. He would far rather be out hunting and leave the governing of France to The Cardinal -- whom he loves, hates, mistrusts and envies immeasurably.
Monsieur de Treville	40's. Captain of the King's Musketeers. A diplomat caught between two powerful and often opposing forces: The King and the Cardinal. Still, he manages to remain honest and fiercely protective of his men.
Planchet	20's. Clever, bright, of the peasant class. He's realistic about his prospects in life, and smart enough to attach himself to a good master. A gem in the rough.
Monsieur Bonacieux	A pompous toady. He is so entirely self-absorbed he misses nearly everything going on around him.

Constance Bonacieux	Early 20's. Beautiful in an earthy way. A common servant to the queen of France, not a lady in waiting. She has become a trusted confidant of the queen through her loyalty, her quick eye, and her raw intelligence -- nothing at court escapes her. In matters of the heart, she is an innocent.
Duke of Buckingham	George Villiers, 33. A soldier, statesman, and lover -- not necessarily in that order. His passions sometimes come before the good of England (of which he is de facto regent). A larger-than-life figure who lives life to the fullest.
Anne of Austria	Queen of France. 24. Trapped in a loveless marriage to an indifferent King, and persecuted by the Cardinal because of her loyalties to -- and intrigues with -- her native Spain. She has found passion in the arms of the English Duke of Buckingham. Her decisions are guided more by her heart than her head. Her ties with Spain and England are more personal and familial than political.
Cardinal Richelieu	Armand Jean du Plessis, 40. Born to a family of good name but no wealth or position. Through his unparalleled brilliance and exceptional loyalty to the royal family he rose swiftly from a minor bureaucrat to become the most powerful and feared man in France. Never religious, he was named Cardinal for political reasons. His loyalty to Louis XIII is absolute. Richelieu conducts wars, builds roads, writes plays, directs the economy, heads the church, and assures the power of France for the next hundred years. He destroys the enemies of Louis without qualm and directs a secret police second to none. He is respected, feared, worshipped and despised, but the single motivation in all he does is the good of the state.
Comte de Rochefort	40's. A spy for His Eminence, obeys without question and without scruple, amoral but not evil. Also plays...
Milady de Winter	26. Beautiful, gracious, with a sweet, open face framed by soft blond curls. As angelic of appearance as she is demonic of soul. She is devoid of morals and faithful only to herself. So skillful is she at deception that her victims never see beyond her guile. She is the embodiment of evil.
Patrick	Body servant to Buckingham, would give his life for the Duke.
Mme. de Lanoy	A Lady in Waiting
Mme. de Guisse	A Lady in Waiting
Lady I	A Lady in Waiting

Lady 2	A Lady in Waiting
Kitty	A simple serving girl who has lost her heart to a dashing soldier.
The Abbess	A woman of God
Lord de Winter	30's. An English aristocrat and soldier. He mistrusts his sister in law, but stands by her for love of his late brother.
Felton	Early 20's. An English Puritan and soldier. He is upright, loyal, honest to a fault. He serves first God, and Lord de Winter a close second. He is without guile.
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Doubling:	Cardinal's Guards 1, 2, 3 & 4 are played by Rochfort, Patrick, de Winter & Felton respectively. Lady 1 & Lady 2 are played by Kitty & The Abbess.

## Synopsis of Scenes and Songs

### ACT I

- Scene 1: Paris -- the first Monday of April, 1625 -- Outside the Place Royal*  
 Adventure.....D'Artagnan
- Scene 2: Behind the Luxembourg*  
 Adventure (reprise) .....D'Artagnan
- Scene 3: The chambers of Louis XIII*
- Scene 4: D'Artagnan's rooms*  
 Planchet's Song .....Planchet  
 All for One .....Athos, Porthos, Aramis & D'Artagnan
- Scene 5: Bonacieux's rooms/an anteroom to the queen's chambers*  
 Don't Speak of Love.....D'Artagnan, Constance, Anne & Buckingham
- Scene 6: The Cardinal's chambers, around Paris, and M. Bonacieux rooms.*  
 Do This For Me.....Richelieu, M. Bonacieux, Rochefort, Milady, Louis, Ann & Constance  
 For Love of Me .....Constance & D'Artagnan
- Scene 7: Buckingham's chambers*  
 To What End.....D'Artagnan & Planchet
- Scene 8: Grand Ballroom at the Louvre/the queen's anteroom*  
 Expectation ..... Louis, Richelieu, Anne and Company
- Scene 9: M. De Treville's chambers, 3 inns*  
 Summer.....Athos
- Scene 10: Milady's Apartments & various other places...*  
 Breathless .....Milady & D'Artagnan  
 Kiss Me!.....Milady & D'Artagnan  
 What I Shall Do! .....The Company

## ACT II

*Scene 1: Athos' Apartments*

*Scene 2: The Cardinal's Chambers*

Compromise ..... Richelieu

*Scene 3: A nearby inn*

It Was You ..... Athos

*Scene 4: The castle of Lord de Winter & on the road*

Psalm ..... Milady

This Woman ..... de Winter

This Man ..... Milady

Psalm/This Woman ..... de Winter, Milady & Felton

*Scene 5: The chambers of the Duke of Buckingham*

I Loved Her ..... Buckingham & Felton

*Scene 6: The convent at Bethune*

For Love of Me reprise ..... D'Artagnan & Constance

*Scene 7: A house in the woods/The riverbank*

Before God and Before Man ..... Athos, Porthos, Aramis, D'Artagnan & de Winter

*Scene 8: The Cardinal's chambers*

*Scene 9: Athos' rooms.*

Remember ..... D'Artagnan, Athos & Company

**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(The curtain rises on the exterior of the Palais Royal, Paris, April, 1625. Sitting on a stump, polishing his sword, is D'Artagnan, a well built if rather rustic looking teenager wearing a faded wool doublet, a leather baldric and a cap with a slightly dispirited feather. He regards the sword, filled with all the apprehension, enthusiasm and bravado of a young man determined to make his mark on the world.)*

**D'Artagnan**

This morning, for the last time, I left the house of my father. He sent with me three gifts: First, our good name, second, his sword, and third, this letter I bear with all my hopes: My introduction to Monsieur de Treville, the captain of the king's musketeers...

*(He springs to his feet, sword in hand, with all the charming hubris of youth.)*

Adventure!  
Standing far from home, on the road alone,  
Adventure!  
Everything at stake, fortune mine to make,  
That's adventure!

Fit for any quest, put me to the test, I'll be brave and I'll be strong.  
Now that I'm a man, every way I can, doing right and righting wrong!

Yes, adventure!  
With my swift right arm, keeping maids from harm,  
Adventure,  
And the stranger's touch, or the lover's clutch,  
That's adventure!

In the sweet desire of a lady's fire, I can quench a lady's need.  
And whatever task, that that maid might ask, I'm prepared to do the deed.

Yes, adventure!  
I'll fight any fight, scale any height.  
Adventure!  
And a sword that's drawn makes me no man's pawn.  
That's adventure!

Never one step back, leading each attack, people soon will know this face.  
Seizing every chance, in the halls of France, I shall carve myself a place!

Adventure!  
 And I swear above, by the life I love,  
 this sword to glorify.  
 Every foe to meet, never to retreat,  
 by this oath to live or to die!  
 Adventure!

*(As D'Artagnan's song ends, the booming chime  
 of a clock tower is heard.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Dear God! I shall be late for my appointment with Monsieur de Treville!

*(D'Artagnan rushes toward the gate, running  
 directly into Athos who is just entering.)*

**Athos**

Ouuuuu!! What in hell...

**D'Artagnan**

Your pardon, sir. I am in a hurry...

**Athos**

Your pardon, sir? You find you're in a hurry? You run into me like a bull and think "your pardon" is sufficient? Clumsy fool! It was wounded already...

**D'Artagnan**

My faith, it wasn't intentional. Nevertheless, I have said "your pardon." It appears to me that is quite enough. But I will say it again -- your pardon sir. Now please leave hold of me.

**Athos**

Obviously a country boy. No manners.

**D'Artagnan**

Wherever I am from, I warn you, You're not the one to teach me to behave.

**Athos**

Perhaps I will.



**D'Artagnan**

Name the place and time.

**Athos**

Behind the Luxembourg, half past one.

**D'Artagnan**

I'll be there.

*(Off on a run, D'Artagnan is passing Porthos.)*

**Porthos**

Twelve pistoles it cost me. The finest gold baldric in all of Paris!

*(Porthos is spreading his cape, showing off a gold baldric to Cardinal's guard #1.*

*D'Artagnan becomes tangled in the cape, which rips off. The baldric is half fake, no back.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Excuse me, sir. Here, monsieur, your cloak...

**Porthos**

"Excuse me, sir?" You clumsy oaf! Are you blind?

**D'Artagnan**

I can see well enough to notice what others may not.

**Porthos**

I'd watch that mouth my boy -- unless you wish a thrashing.

**D'Artagnan**

A thrashing? Strong words from such a dandy!

**Porthos**

From a man who meets his enemies face to face.

**D'Artagnan**

I'm sure you won't turn your back on them...

**Porthos**

I'll meet you later, boy. Behind the Luxembourg. Two o'clock.

**D'Artagnan**

Make it half past. I have another engagement.

*(Porthos exits and Again D'Artagnan looks toward the heavens.)*

By God... In the unlikely event I should survive this afternoon -- I promise to practice nothing but absolute politeness and humility.

*(D'Artagnan would be off at a run again, but he sees Aramis enters with Cardinal's Guard #2. Aramis drops a handkerchief and steps on it. D'Artagnan is torn for a moment, but forces himself to stop and play the gentleman.)*

I can do this. Perfectly polite. Never another quarrel. I can do this.

*(He approaches Aramis and retrieves the handkerchief.)*

Your pardon sir, your handkerchief I think? I saw it fall. I'm sure you'd hate to lose it.

**Aramis**

I fear you are mistaken, sir. The handkerchief's not mine.

**D'Artagnan**

Oh, no. I'm sure it's yours, I saw it fall before you stepped on it.

**Aramis**

I say you didn't. You see? I've my own right here.

**Cardinal's Guard #2**

And scented too! What lady has left you this? Ah! Initials on the corner... R and L is it?

**Aramis**

Excuse us for a moment.

*(Aramis takes D'Artagnan aside.)*

**D'Artagnan**

I'm sorry sir, I didn't know.

**Aramis**

You think I tread on lace without a reason?

**D'Artagnan**

I've said "I'm sorry." That will do.

**Aramis**

It was asinine for you to pick it up.

**D'Artagnan**

And asinine for you to have dropped it in the first place.

**Aramis**

We'll settle this later. Name the place and time.

**D'Artagnan**

Behind the Luxembourg. Half past three.

*(Athos and the guard leave.)*

I am such an ass. Ah well. At least I shall be killed by a musketeer... It only remains to discover which one.

*(He trudges off, sword in hand, to meet Athos.)*

**Scene 2****Athos**

Good then, you're on time. You have no seconds?

**D'Artagnan**

I know no one in Paris. And yourself?

**Athos**

Here they are now.

*(Porthos and Aramis are entering.)*

**Porthos**

This is who you're fighting?

**Athos**

The same. He hurt my arm.

**Porthos**

But he and I have our own business to attend to.

**D'Artagnan**

Ah, but not for another hour.

**Athos**

And what's the cause of yours?

**D'Artagnan**

Call it a quarrel over fashion.

**Aramis**

But this is mad. We too are crossing swords as well.

**D'Artagnan**

But an hour later still. And since all three of you are here... Allow me to apologize.

**Athos**

Apologize?

**D'Artagnan**

You misapprehend me sirs. As Monsieur Athos has the prior claim, he has the honor of killing me first. I apologize only to the others to whom I may not be able to discharge my duty.

**Athos**

What gall. I like that. If one of us doesn't kill you, I'll see you to the best dinner in the city.

**D'Artagnan**

And should I survive, I happily accept. And so. En garde!  
*(But four Cardinal's guards are upon them.)*

**Porthos**

The Cardinal's guards!

**Aramis**

Sheathe gentlemen! Sheathe!

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

Stop there! What's this? Dueling against the cardinal's edicts?

**Cardinal's Guard #2**

You are under arrest. Come with me if you please.

**Porthos**

I'll not be arrested. Not while I'm a musketeer.

**Cardinal's Guard #3**

Put down your swords or we charge.

**Aramis**

There are four of them.

**Athos**

And only three of us.

**Aramis**

None the less...

**D'Artagnan**

Pardon if I correct you sir. We are four.

**Athos**

This isn't your fight.

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

Withdraw boy. We'll agree to that.

**Porthos**

What are you waiting for?

*(D'Artagnan breaks away from the action.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Adventure! There's a choice to make, there are sides to take,  
Adventure...

*(D'Artagnan turns again.)*

We are four. If you'll have me.

**Athos**

What's your name?

**D'Artagnan**

D'Artagnan, sir.

**Athos**

Then Athos, Porthos, Aramis and D'Artagnan - We charge!

*(The sides rush together into combat...)*

**Scene 3**

*(The Chambers of Louis XIII. Treville enters.)*

**Louis**

Come here Treville! Come here that I may growl at you. You are the captain of my musketeers! You – you are to see to their conduct! Do you know that his Eminence has been making fresh complaints against your men? Why they must be very devils!

**Treville**

On the contrary, sire, they are good as lambs, but what are they to do? The Guards of Monsieur the Cardinal are forever seeking quarrels... The poor fellows are obliged to defend themselves.

**Louis**

Defend themselves! They have dispatched four of the Cardinal's guards! Four, do you hear? His eminence is fairly fuming. Now how did this happen?

**Treville**

Why, as I heard it sire, in the most innocent manner possible. Three of your best musketeers were on their way to make a picnic behind the Luxembourg with a young friend they had met only that afternoon. But just as they were laying out their meal, who should come along?

**Louis**

Who?

**Treville**

Four of the Cardinal's guard. Four of them! Now what could this number of men be about in such a deserted place?

**Louis**

They were there to duel? Contrary to all my edicts against dueling?

**Treville**

I'm sure I couldn't say. I leave it for you to judge. You are not called Louis the Just for nothing.

**Louis**

And these four were defeated by our three and a mere boy?

**Treville**

As you say, sire.

**Louis**

Why, this is a victory! A complete victory! The Cardinal will be positively apoplectic! Where are the three of them?

**Treville**

Just outside.

**Louis**

Well why are you standing there, bring them in. Ah! But tell them to use the back stairs on the way out. There's really no need for the Cardinal to know they were here.

*(The Three Musketeers and D'Artagnan enter.)*

**Louis**

Gentlemen, gentlemen, come in and face my displeasure. Four of the Cardinal's guards cut down in one afternoon? This is too much! One now and then I say little about, but four, I repeat is too much! And you young man, the Cardinal has told me you dispatched two of them yourself?

**D'Artagnan**

It is true, sire. I beg you...

**Louis**

Fine lad! Splendid boy, Treville. And you wish to be a musketeer? That's what you told me, Treville? Why don't we start him off in the Royal Guard? What do you say to that young man? Then, If I you're good, in a year or two, we can speak about the musketeers perhaps...

**D'Artagnan**

Your majesty! It is more than...

**Louis**

*(Handing D'Artagnan a bag of gold coins.)*

Keep up the good work, young man, and here, a little reward, a trifle. Four dead, Treville, just wait 'till I see the Cardinal! Come along, Treville. And remember men -- the back stairs.

*(The King and M. de Treville exit.)*



**D'Artagnan**

Sweet Jesus how much is here? Twenty... Forty... Here we'll each take a quarter.

**Aramis**

It was given to you...

**D'Artagnan**

Come now, it's only fair -- I only killed two of them!

**Athos**

It seems I owe you a dinner, my friend.

**D'Artagnan**

My friend... Sweet Jesus, I'm in Paris. I have made three of the best friends a man could have. And I have met with the King. My fortune is made! What do I do with all of this?

**Porthos**

A true gentleman requires only one thing.

**D'Artagnan**

And that would be...

**Porthos**

Why a good lackey of course -- to show off to one's enemies. Leave it to me, my friend! Leave it to me...

#### Scene 4

*(D'Artagnan's room. Planchet is sitting on a stool, polishing D'Artagnan's boots.)*

#### Planchet

I come up from Orleans to Paris, I did,  
a peasant boy hungry and cold...  
But fortune was with me, I met a fine soldier  
with a bag full of gold! To be out of the cold, I'll smilingly serve howsoever I'm  
told...

Now, a thriving young lackey to a rich lad was I,  
thankful that fortune had smiled.  
But his money ran out and my fortune as well.  
He's fine-looking, true, but my pay is overdue. And what good's a master fine  
who hasn't a sou?

I told him I'd not eat the scraps from his plate, and no longer sleep on the floor.  
I yelled it was rotten to fool a poor lad, that I'd serve as his lackey no more.

He's not only fine looking, but strong and quite quick,  
I found as my face hit the door.  
He beat me quite fully then instructed me well,  
Battered and sore, could I ask for more? He made sure to show me what a servant  
was for...

Since his prospects look good and my prospects are nil,  
I'll look to the future and stay with him still.  
If just for the thrill.

*(There is a pounding at the door.)*

#### D'Artagnan

*(off)*

Get the door, Planchet! For what do I keep you?

#### Planchet

For about a quarter of what I am worth.

*(Planchet admits Bonacieux and leaves.  
D'Artagnan enters from another room.)*

#### Bonacieux

Good afternoon.

**D'Artagnan**

To what do I owe the honor, sir?

**Bonacieux**

How to begin? May I sit down? Such a state of affairs... How to begin... I have heard Monsieur D'Artagnan spoken of as a brave young man.

**D'Artagnan**

I will not contradict you.

**Bonacieux**

Then hear me -- in strictest confidence monsieur. I have a wife. She is seamstress to the queen, and lacking neither charm nor virtue. I married her three years ago even though her dowry was rather small. Because, you see, she has a place at court.

**D'Artagnan**

And so?

**Bonacieux**

Well, monsieur, yesterday morning... You see... Terrible thing... My wife has been abducted!

**D'Artagnan**

By whom?

**Bonacieux**

I must suspect... A man who pursues her, not for love, but intrigue! Can I trust you?

**D'Artagnan**

You can trust me.

**Bonacieux**

I fear intrigue.

**D'Artagnan**

I fear nothing. Now tell me.

**Bonacieux**

I believe that it is not on account of any intrigues of her own that my wife has been carried off -- but because of those of a lady much greater than herself...

**D'Artagnan**

You mean her Maj...

**Bonacieux**

Speak nothing! I have said nothing! But understand that a certain English duke may soon arrive, drawn by letters forged to trap both of them. You understand? My wife, monsieur, is deep in all of this. The queen turns to her, abandoned by the king, watched by the Cardinal, betrayed by everyone. She was to conduct this duke in secret to the Louvre. I know this is why she has been carried off. If you can only find her, I swear by the name of Bonacieux...

**D'Artagnan**

But a moment sir, your name... Bonacieux? It somehow seems familiar...

**Bonacieux**

Yes, it may. I'm your landlord.

**D'Artagnan**

My landlord! Ah! That would explain it then. I have not seen you in some time...

**Bonacieux**

Four months to be exact, though I assure you, I'm not counting.

**D'Artagnan**

An excellent reason to assist you.

**Bonacieux**

And if you, and those three fine musketeers who are always with you were to foil the Cardinal's plans...

**D'Artagnan**

An even better reason.

**Aramis**

*(off)*

D'Artagnan! Are you home?

**D'Artagnan**

*(Letting in Athos, Porthos and Aramis)*

Is it one already? Come in. Friends: My landlord, Monsieur Bonacieux.

**Bonacieux**

Your servant, gentlemen. I must be going. It is agreed then?

**D'Artagnan**

My word.

*(Bonacieux exits.)*

There now! I have taken on a task for us, my friends -- an adventure -- if you will join me.

**Aramis**

An adventure? Of what sort?

**Athos**

What does it matter as long as it's D'Artagnan who asks?

**Porthos**

If I'm to put myself in danger, I should like to know to what purpose.

**Athos**

Bah! Remember our pact gentlemen. Better yet -- swear. Hold out your hands and swear.

**Porthos**

Very well -- but if this "adventure" ruins another uniform...

**Aramis**

There's the spirit.

**Athos**

Come now! Say it! Together gentlemen: All for one, one for all.

**Athos, Porthos, Aramis & D'Artagnan**

All for one, one for all.

**Porthos**

Put it to the test then:

If I were in a duel, and my sword should break in twain,  
Would you throw to me your own without delay?

**Athos**

Of course I would.

**Porthos**

And if I had lost at gambling would you lend me all you had  
Even if there were no chance I could repay?

**Athos**

In a moment.

**Porthos**

And if in dark despair one day I came to ask you for some wine  
And that bottle was your last, what would you say?

**Athos**

I'd say good sir, please take my clothing, take my money, take my land.  
But don't touch my rosé unless you wish to lose a hand.

**Athos, Porthos, Aramis & D'Artagnan**

All for one! One for all!

**Athos**

But lay a hand upon my spirits and you're asking for a brawl.  
And what about you sir?

**Porthos**

What about me?

**Athos**

Say if one day in battle, my horse should break and run,  
would you give me yours to ride into the fray?

**Porthos**

You know I would.

**Athos**

And if my house were burning would you run into the fire,  
Just to save my favorite stock of chardonnay?

**Porthos**

You have to ask?

**Athos**

And with my wardrobe ashes, and naked in the street,  
Could I wear your finest doublet for a day?

**Porthos**

My doublet? You are joking! But I'd see you clothed of course.  
I'm sure that you'd look fetching in the blanket off my horse.

**Athos, Porthos, Aramis & D'Artagnan**

All for one! One for all!

**Porthos**

That doublet cost a fortune. And besides you're far too tall.

**Aramis**

At least I have a more generous nature than the two of them.

**Porthos**

Oh have you now?

**Porthos**

If a bandit with a cudgel, tried to bludgeon in my head,  
Would you throw yourself between to take the blow?

**Aramis**

On my honor.

**Athos**

And if all of us were starving, and you found a crust of bread  
And you are famished -- would you share it even so?

**Aramis**

Don't insult me.

**Porthos**

And if your mistress tired of you and she should simply catch my eye,  
would you retire so that your friend could have a go?

**Aramis**

My mistress has more taste, but should I catch you in the act,  
You would not leave the bedroom with your manhood still intact.

**Athos, Porthos, Aramis & D'Artagnan**

All for one! One for all!

**Aramis**

And be sure my aim is good even if the target's small.

**Athos, Porthos & D'Artagnan**

Ooooooo....

**Athos, Porthos, Aramis & D'Artagnan**

Yes, all for one! One for all!  
I will be right there beside you, whatever might befall.  
All for one! One for all!  
All for one, until we've won, when the adventure is begun  
We're standing tall to heed the call of all for one...  
one for all!

*(Blackout.)*



**Scene 5**

*(Bonacieux' rooms. Bonacieux is being taken away by Cardinal's Guard #4, #1 and #3.)*

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

Get him out of here.

**Bonacieux**

Stop! Help! Where are you taking me?

**Cardinal's Guard #3**

Shut the fool up. Get him to the Bastille.

**Bonacieux**

The Bastille! No, God no!

**Cardinal's Guard #4**

Quiet, or I'll take your head off right here.

**Bonacieux**

*(As Guard #4 drags him off)*

No! I beg you! Mercy! Mercy!

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

They said she'd come here. How did she escape?

**Cardinal's Guard #3**

How should I know? Don't get too rough with her this time. We don't want her dead.

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

Another escape, it'll be you in the Bastille.

**Cardinal's Guard #3**

Quiet! There now, there's someone coming...

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

Just get my hands on the wench, I'll make her talk...

*(Constance enters and is jumped by the men.)*

**Constance**

Let me go! For God sake, turn me loose!

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

Keep hold of her!

**Cardinal's Guard #3**

She bit me!

**Constance**

Let go of me! I can't breathe!

**Cardinal's Guard #1**

She's fainting...

**Cardinal's Guard #3**

Hold her tight now...

*(But D'Artagnan has leapt through the window.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Unhand the lady!

**Cardinal's Guard #3**

Get him!

*(The fight is brief. D'Artagnan kills Guard #1 and disarms guard #2 who flees. He goes to assist Constance who is just coming to.)*

**Constance**

Let me go, I say! Who are you? Let go of me...

*(Constance begins beating D'Artagnan.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Ouch! It's all right! Ouch! I won't hurt you. Ouch! I'm here to help you. They've gone.

**Constance**

Gone? Have they gone? Who are you?

**D'Artagnan**

My name is D'Artagnan. It was I who just rescued you.

**Constance**

Rescued... But how did you know...

**D'Artagnan**

I live just upstairs. I can hear everything through the floorboards.

**Constance**

They'll be back. I've got to...

*(She tries to rise but falls back into  
D'Artagnan's arms.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Be easy. We're safe here. Rest another moment.

**Constance**

I must thank you then, Monsieur. You have surely saved my life.

**D'Artagnan**

No thanks is necessary. Any gentleman would have done as much.

**Constance**

But it wasn't any gentleman who did so. It was you. Monsieur! Are you blushing?

**D'Artagnan**

Perhaps. I have never rescued a beautiful lady before.

**Constance**

Then we are equal. For I have never before been rescued.

**D'Artagnan**

God! You are beautiful.

**Constance**

Monsieur. Remember yourself. I am married.

**D'Artagnan**

That will never do. I could fall in love just looking at you like this.

**Constance**

*(Laughing in spite of herself.)*

Love me? You've known me three minutes.

**D'Artagnan**

Three minutes or three centuries -- it doesn't matter. What if I can't help myself...

**Constance**

You are impudent, monsieur. Do you fall in love with every woman you rescue?

**D'Artagnan**

How can I know? You're my first. But I know I could love you.

**Constance**

*(She sings lightly, amused.)*

Don't speak of love.

We have only met. You presume too much.

Don't speak of love.

That was not a look. This was not a touch.

Don't speak of love knowing well that I'm not free.

And don't assume I see in you whatever you see in me.

**D'Artagnan**

Don't speak of love.

When with every word you become more dear.

Don't speak of love.

For the words you speak aren't the words I hear.

Don't speak of love. Just the word starts a fire.

And each time you turn away, just sharpens my heart's desire.

**Constance**

Don't be foolish.

**D'Artagnan**

Don't be angry  
Love can spark from just a glance.

**Constance**

Must my savior be a madman?  
Give me peace.

**D'Artagnan**

Give me half a chance.

**Constance**

I'll give you a black eye if you come any closer. Now just sit quietly for a moment -- over there. I have to collect my thoughts.

**D'Artagnan**

I'll be quiet as that corpse there.

**Constance**

Oh, good.

*(In another area, in an anteroom to the queen's chambers, Buckingham is pacing. Anne enters.)*

**Buckingham**

Your majesty!

**Anne**

Why are you here. You already know that it was not I who wrote that letter.

**Buckingham**

I have lost nothing by the journey, because I see you.

**Anne**

Yes, and in doing so you risk both your life and my honor. I see you only to tell you that everything separates us: The depths of the sea, the enmity of kingdoms, the sanctity of vows. We will never see one another again.

**Buckingham**

Upon what am I to live then? I have nothing but memory.

**Anne**

Say nothing. It is useless. I have never said I love you.

**Buckingham**

You have never said you did not.

**Anne**

Don't speak of love.  
 We have never met. You presume too much.  
 Don't speak of love.  
 That was not a look. This was not a touch.  
 Don't speak of love knowing well I'm not free.  
 And knowing that I see in you all you see in me.

**Buckingham**

Don't speak of love.  
 When with every word you become more dear.  
 Don't speak of love.  
 For the words you speak aren't the words I hear.  
 Don't speak of love. Just the word starts a fire.  
 A flame that consumes me in a hopeless desire.

**Anne**

You're too near now.

**Buckingham**

And a world too far.  
 Love can spark from just a glance.

**Anne**

Must my savior be a madman?  
 Give me peace.

**Buckingham**

Give your heart a chance.

**Anne**

You will go now.

**Constance**

We'll have to go. It's not safe here.

**Anne**

It's not safe here.

**D'Artagnan**

I'll take a look.

**Buckingham**

Just let me look at you.

**Anne & Buckingham**

Don't speak of love.  
We have only met. You presume too much.

**D'Artagnan**

You're so lovely.  
You're so lovely.

**Constance**

Don't speak of love.  
That was not a look. This was not a touch.

Not so lovely.  
Not so lovely.

**Constance & D'Artagnan**

Don't speak of love when it never can be.  
Beyond the years, in spite of vows,  
nor across the sea.

Just a sudden look...  
Just a stranger's touch.

**Anne, Buckingham, Constance and D'Artagnan**

Don't speak of love.

**Anne**

Not this love, Not this love...

**Buckingham & D'Artagnan**

When with every word you become more dear.

**Constance**

Not so fond, my dear...

**Anne, Buckingham, Constance and D'Artagnan**

Don't speak of love.

**Buckingham**

All my love...

**Anne & Constance**

For the words you speak aren't the words I hear.

**D'Artagnan**

Sudden love, my dear...

**Anne & Buckingham**

Don't speak of love. Just the word starts a fire.  
A flame that consumes me in a hopeless desire.

**Constance & D'Artagnan**

Just the danger  
makes my heart beat...

**Anne & Constance**

You're too near now.

**Buckingham & D'Artagnan**

And a world too far.

**Anne, Buckingham, Constance and D'Artagnan**

Love's a moment stopped in time.  
Always yearning, always madness  
Half in torture, half sublime.

**Anne, Buckingham, Constance and D'Artagnan**

Don't speak of love...

**Anne & Constance**

Please, never

**Anne, Buckingham, Constance and D'Artagnan**

Don't speak of love...

**Buckingham & D'Artagnan**

Always...

**Anne, Buckingham, Constance and D'Artagnan**

Don't speak of love.

**D'Artagnan**

I think the coast is clear.

**Constance**

I have business at the palace.

**Anne**

I hear someone. Please go. As you love me, please go.



**D'Artagnan**

Wait! When will I see you again?

**Constance**

Leave the matter to me and rest easy.

**Buckingham**

I love you... Wait, please... Anything. Give me something, something to treasure -- something to remember you...

**Anne**

Will you depart? If I give you what you demand?

**Buckingham**

Yes.

**Anne**

This very instant?

**Buckingham**

I swear it.

**Anne**

*(From a small box she pulls a sash with 12 diamond studs. She hands both to him.)*

Here, my Lord. Keep this in memory of me.

*(Buckingham takes the box, drops to his knees and kisses her hand. Then he rises and goes. Ann turns away from the door, weeping.)*

**Scene 6**

*(The Cardinal's chambers. Richelieu is sitting at a small desk as Bonacieux pleads.)*

**Bonacieux**

I tell you, I've done nothing. Whatever my wife has done, I know nothing! If she is guilty, I renounce her! I curse her!

**Richelieu**

You are accused of high treason.

**Bonacieux**

But I swear to you, I know nothing about it.

**Richelieu**

You have conspired with your wife, and with the Duke of Buckingham.

**Bonacieux**

No! My wife! I swear it was she alone! She said that Cardinal Richelieu had drawn the Duke of Buckingham to Paris to ruin him -- to ruin the queen.

**Richelieu**

She said that?

**Bonacieux**

Yes, sir, but I told her she was wrong... that his Eminence was incapable...

**Richelieu**

Hold your tongue! You are stupid.

**Bonacieux**

That's exactly what my wife said, sir.

*(There is a knock.)*

**Richelieu**

Yes?

**Rochefort**

Milady de Winter has just arrived your Eminence.

**Richelieu**

Bring her in. I'll... dispose of this matter quickly.

*(Rochefort bows and exits.)*

**Bonacieux**

*(Dropping to his knees.)*

Your Eminence? Oh, forgive me, your Eminence! I didn't know! How could I know? Are you truly the Cardinal -- the great Cardinal -- the man of genius that all the world reveres?

*(The Cardinal seems about to make a short reply, but suddenly stops.)*

**Richelieu**

Rise my friend! You are a worthy man.

**Bonacieux**

The cardinal has touched me with his hand! I have touched the hand of the great man! The great man has called me his friend!

**Richelieu**

Yes, my friend, yes, and as you have been unjustly suspected, well, you must be indemnified. Here, take this purse of a hundred pistoles, and pardon me.

**Bonacieux**

I pardon you, monseigneur! Of course I pardon you, monseigneur!

*(Milady & Rochefort enter.)*

**Richelieu**

Only one thing I ask, could do this for me?

**Bonacieux**

Ask any task, sir, I swear I will do it.

**Richelieu**

As you may know, your wife is now free  
Welcome her home now, but don't overdo it.

Take notice of all that she says!  
 Don't let a moment go unwatched, unheeded.  
 Should anything rouse your suspicion,  
 Get word to me quickly and you'll have succeeded  
 in serving me consummately. Do this for me.

**Bonacieux**

Of course, sir! With pleasure.

**Richelieu**

That's all you need know now.

**Bonacieux**

I'm your servant for life sir!

**Richelieu**

I'm sure. You may go now.

*(Bonacieux bows out backward, tripping.)*

**Milady**

What was that?

**Richelieu**

It defies description. But he'll make a fair spy upon his wife. Now, on to matters of greater urgency:

You're sure she has seen him alone?

The queen and the duke? They have met, no mistake now?

**Rochefort**

Your spy is quite sure of the facts.

**Richelieu**

That's all well and good, but what did she take now?

**Rochefort**

Concealed in a small rosewood box,  
 Were the twelve diamond studs Louis gave her last autumn.  
 He was seen as he passed the south gate.  
 The box in his hand with her seal on the bottom.

He's taken the studs, that is sure. Given by her.

**Richelieu**

I'm sure you will do this for me.

**Milady**

You only need speak. The task's undertaken.

**Richelieu**

You'll set sail for London tonight.

**Milady**

I'm seeking the duke? Or am I mistaken?

**Richelieu**

He's giving a fete on the sixth,  
 He'll wear the queen's diamonds, to show his devotion.  
 Get just two of them in your possession.  
 Cut them off while you are dancing -- or cause some sort of commotion.  
 I only need two, do you see? Do this for me.

**Milady**

I'll send word when I have them. A clear enough thing.

**Richelieu**

And now that it's settled, I must see the King.  
*(The Cardinal strides to the king's chamber.)*

**Richelieu**

Sire, could you do this for me?  
 Your lady, the queen has asked for a ball now.  
 Let's humor her, say two weeks hence?  
 She's looked so unhappy of late, why not call now,  
 And give her the news of this fete?

**Louis**

You're too good, my friend. She'll be quite delighted.

**Richelieu**

Perhaps she can wear her new studs,  
The diamonds you gave her?

**Louis**

She was so excited...

**Richelieu**

Indeed, how thrilled she will be, if you do this for me.

**Louis**

A ball in a fortnight, all Paris atwitter...

**Richelieu**

And draped from her shoulder your diamonds will glitter...

**Louis**

You've mentioned those diamond studs twice now, Richelieu. What are you thinking?

**Richelieu**

All that I do, I do to serve your majesty.

**Louis**

We'll see what Anne thinks of this.

*(Leaving Richelieu, Louis stomps to Anne's  
rooms. Constance is helping her dress.)*

**Louis**

My dear, you will do this for me.  
Prepare for a ball, with an orchestra, dancing.  
Two weeks from tonight, I believe.  
And wear if you will, on your shoulder enhancing  
your gown, the diamonds I gave you.

**Anne**

The diamond studs sire, you gave as a present?

**Louis**

The same. Why, I thought you'd be pleased.

**Anne**

Indeed I am sure. It's sure to be pleasant.

**Louis**

Such elation's a rare thing to see. You will do this for me.  
(*Louis exits.*)

**Anne**

Dear God, all is lost then. Buckingham has them.

**Constance**

My lady, I'm here for you. What may I do for you?

**Anne**

How can you do this for me?  
Spies everywhere... The Cardinal who hates me.  
You'd never see London alive.  
The king must know too. You see how he baits me.

**Constance**

Your highness, we all have our friends.  
My husband, I'm sure, will do as I ask.  
I'll send him to London this night.  
I'll answer for him to accomplish the task.

**Anne**

The Cardinal's behind this decree. Can you do this for me?

**Constance**

Always my lady.

**Anne**

You're the last I can trust in...

**Constance**

I promise, my lady, You can always trust in me.

**Constance & Anne**

He (You) will do this for me.

*(M. Bonacieux's rooms. Constance and her husband are speaking.)*

**Constance**

But it's only a small thing I ask.

**Bonacieux**

A journey to England is no trifling task.

**Constance**

But the fate of the Queen is in your hands.

**Bonacieux**

Not three minutes back, and you're making demands.

**Constance**

Monsieur, as you love me, I beg you to hear.  
 The matter is desperate, I spoke for your loyalty.  
 Deliver this letter to London...  
 Life hangs in the balance, the fortunes of royalty.  
 How great a reward you could see,  
 If you do this for me.

**Bonacieux**

Money means nothing to me.  
 Plus your intrigues are costly. I scarce can afford you.

No! In your absence, I am a changed man.  
 The Cardinal himself had me in for a chat.  
 He gave me his hand and a hundred pistoles.  
 He called me his friend! What say you to that?

**Constance**

You've danced with the devil then?



**Bonacieux**

I serve his eminence!

**Constance**

One in the same, I say. What of the queen then?

**Bonacieux**

Your mistress a Spaniard! An enemy of France.

**Constance**

You traitor! How dare you? Denouncing the queen?

**Bonacieux**

You're only a woman. Keep to your cooking.

**Constance**

I'd known you were greedy, cowardly and mean.  
But never before thought you evil.

**Bonacieux**

Say what you will. I serve only his Eminence.  
You see he rewards my loyalty well.  
But perhaps I can help you in some other way...  
To whom is this letter? Go on, you can tell...

**Constance**

The letter is nothing.

**Bonacieux**

Go on, tell me everything.

**Constance**

Affairs of her family...

**Bonacieux**

Why don't you wait here, then...

**Constance**

Where are you going?

**Bonacieux**

You'll wait right here?

Wait for me...

Do this for...

Do this for...

Do what you're going to do,  
but just do this for me!

**Constance**

Wait and see...

Do what you...

Don't wait for...

Do what you're going to do,  
but don't do this for me!

*(Bonacieux exits. Constance paces, in turmoil  
as D'Artagnan swings through the window.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Allow me to tell you, you have a bad sort of husband.

**Constance**

You overheard us?

**D'Artagnan**

The floorboards. Remember?

**Constance**

But what? What did you hear?

**D'Artagnan**

Enough to understand that your husband is a fool -- for which I am sorry -- and that you are in trouble -- of which I am quite glad -- as it gives me an opportunity of placing myself at your service. And finally, I heard that the queen wants a brave, intelligent, devoted man to make a journey to London for her. I have at least two of those three qualities, and here I am.

**Constance**

But how can I trust you? You are almost a boy. How can I give you such a letter?

**D'Artagnan**

You were about to give it to your husband.

**Constance**

He had sworn to love me -- and the queen.

**D'Artagnan**

But I am here. And I *do* love you.

**Constance**

You say so.

**D'Artagnan**

I am honorable.

**Constance**

You say so.

**D'Artagnan**

Then put me to the proof. My lady, will you trust me?

**Constance**

Trust you? You know nothing of this, of how many lives rest on this one thing you ask. I swear to you, before God who hears us, that if you betray me, I will kill myself while accusing you of my death. Do you understand?

**D'Artagnan**

I swear I'd die before I'd break your trust.  
 And love you past the time I'd turned to dust.  
 Without knowing why, I'll perform any duty you'll give me to do.  
 Just admit you only dare to trust in me, because somewhere, some way, you love  
 me too...

You only trust my words for love of me.  
 You only hold to hope for love of me.  
 Beyond thought, beyond vows, you believe me because  
 within, you know me.

You only touch my face for love of me.  
 You only meet my eyes for love of me.  
 All that's strong, all that's good finds its way to my soul,  
 because you love me.

Spoken without speaking, in your faith, you give your love.  
Sharing all your secrets, shows your heart so clearly.

That you only turn away for love of me.  
Say you tremble just for love of me.  
Don't pull back, turn aside, just gaze into my eyes,  
for love of me.

### **Constance**

So much you ask for me to set aside,  
To surrender myself to a man I do nothing of.  
And yet, I am poised at this moment to do whatever you ask,  
Yes, admitting the extent that I trust in you, hiding naught, to set aside the mask...

I'm ready to risk all for love of you.  
Confiding every trust for love of you.  
Beyond thought, beyond vows, I believe you because,  
Somehow, I love you.

I only risk my name for love of you,  
Place all within your hands for love of you.  
Not a doubt, not a pause for it's clear, very clear  
that you love me too.

### **Constance & D'Artagnan**

Spoken without speaking, in your faith, you give your love.  
Deep inside your eyes, I see your heart too clearly.

That you only clutch my hand for love of me.  
Twist deep into my soul for love of me.  
Every word, every breath, from this moment 'till death. //  
Is only for love of you.

### **D'Artagnan**

I'll go. Give me the letter. I'll go this instant.

### **Constance**

But how will you go? Your regiment... your captain...

### **D'Artagnan**

I'll go to Treville. He'll see to a leave for me.

**Constance**

But if you are followed, if you are taken.

**D'Artagnan**

I'll ask leave for my friends as well -- the musketeers. They'll go with me. If four set out, surely one will arrive.

**Constance**

But one more thing. You have, perhaps, no money.

**D'Artagnan**

Perhaps is one word too much.

**Constance**

Then take this bag.

**D'Artagnan**

The Cardinal's? We shall save the queen with the Cardinal's gold. You are perfect.

*(He takes Constance in his arms.)*

I will come back for you.

*(He kisses her passionately.)*

**Constance**

Yes. I believe you.

*(Without another word, D'Artagnan rushes from the room.)*

Spoken without speaking, in your faith, you give your love.  
Deep inside your eyes, I see your heart too clearly.

For you only clutched my hand for love of me.  
Twist deep into my soul for love of me.  
Every word, every breath, from this moment 'till death,  
Is only for love of you.

**Scene 7**

*(Buckingham's Chambers. Buckingham is busy as Patrick enters.)*

**Patrick**

My lord: There is a French guardsman outside with his lackey. He has a letter that he says he will deliver only into your hands.

**Buckingham**

A letter from?

**Patrick**

He will not say.

**Buckingham**

Send them in.

*(Patrick steps aside and admits D'Artagnan and Planchet, rather road-worn, tired and battered.)*

Well?

**D'Artagnan**

You are the Duke of Buckingham?

**Buckingham**

I am.

**D'Artagnan**

For you. I am to wait for a reply.

**Buckingham**

*(Reads the brief letter and looks up again.)*

Dear God, I have compromised the queen.

**D'Artagnan**

Not if I return with what she gave to you.

**Buckingham**

They are here.

*(He begins to open the box from the queen.)*

But how did you manage to cross the channel with this letter -- The Cardinal sees everything...

**D'Artagnan**

My friends and I were discovered long before we reached Calais. The three men I love best in the world, I have left somewhere on the road: one was caught in a duel, one in an ambush, the third was lying wounded. I don't even know if they are still alive.

**Buckingham**

*(Pulling out the ribbon with the diamond studs.)*

Here are the diamonds then. I entrust them to you. For the sake of the friends you have left behind, get them safely to Paris. But wait! Bloody hell! Who did this?

**D'Artagnan**

What?

**Buckingham**

Look! There were twelve. Two have been cut off. Who...

**D'Artagnan**

Ten will not serve.

**Buckingham.**

That woman! The one they call Milady... Only she was close enough.

**D'Artagnan**

Then the Cardinal has them -- or soon will.

**Buckingham**

Not if we move fast enough. Patrick!!

**Patrick**

*(entering)*

My Lord?

**Buckingham**

Close the ports. Detain the French ambassador. No ships are to sail without my direct order.

**Patrick**

And if His Majesty should ask the reason that his ports are closed?

**Buckingham**

Say that I have decided upon war with France and it is my first act of aggression.

**Patrick**

Yes, my Lord.

*(He exits.)*

**Buckingham**

If she has not yet left for France, she will not now. It will give us time.

**D'Artagnan**

You have just begun a war? For the love of the queen?

**Buckingham**

For the love of your queen, I would split the world in two. Stay here. I'll have food sent up for you and your lackey. Before sunrise there will be two new studs made to match the ten here. And the only ship to leave England will be the one I send you home upon. Patrick! My jeweler!

*(Shouting, Buckingham leaves the room.)*

**Planchet**

We are at war?

**D'Artagnan**

And for an impossible love.

**Planchet**

And our friends?

**D'Artagnan**

Porthos was wounded, Aramis set upon...



**Planchet**

Remember how Athos shouted for us to go on as he held three men back.

**D'Artagnan**

So much blood. And more to come.

To what end?

What price upon the lives of my friends?

If I could turn back -- had it all to do again,

Tell me, would I?

**Planchet**

To what end.

We all do what we must do in the end.

Don't think of going back when it's too late to make amends.

No, you wouldn't.

**Planchet & D'Artagnan**

It's all so clear at the beginning, nothing questioned, nothing feared

And then you find the way is not so clear.

Still you try to do your duty, forge ahead whatever comes...

**D'Artagnan**

Never knowing the cost.

**Planchet**

Even if you knew the cost...

**Planchet & D'Artagnan**

Still having to pay when the price becomes to dear.

To what end?

**Planchet**

I'm still standing by you.

**D'Artagnan**

At least you're still beside me, my friend.

**Planchet & D'Artagnan**

Looking backward is seductive, but there's nothing there to gain.  
And look behind too much, and there is nothing left but pain.

**Planchet**

Look ahead.

**D'Artagnan**

Look ahead.

**Planchet**

It's all we have

**D'Artagnan**

All we have.

**Planchet & D'Artagnan**

All we have is the chance for a better tomorrow.

*(The lights fade to black.)*

## Scene 8

*(The Grand Ballroom at The Louvre. In attendance are Louis, Richelieu, Milady, Rochefort, Treville & D'Artagnan with Planchet. Bonacieux hovers alone. Constance stands in the shadows.)*

### The Company

What a night for a ball, what a fabulous fete.  
The pantomime ready, the players all set.  
Faces are painted, self-confident, yet...  
Expectation.

A spark in the air, concealed with some style.  
The tension is palpable, as is the guile.  
An offhand remark, a treacherous smile...  
Expectation.

Too many whispers near too many fans,  
And something approaching alarm.  
Words left unfinished on silken divans,  
A coup de grace met with some charm...  
What's the harm?

An uncertain glance, a stranger's remark,  
A guess, then a rumor, a shot in the dark,  
An arrow that misses, a word finds the mark.  
Expectation.

### Offstage Voice

His Eminence, Cardinal Richelieu.

### Richelieu

And where is her highness? The night is half gone.

### Louis

She'll be down in a moment, she's looking quite wan.

### Richelieu

She's wearing the twelve diamond studs, I assume?

**Louis**

And if she is not, what am I to presume?

**Richelieu**

All will be clear when she enters the room.

**Offstage Voice**

Her highness, Anne of Austria, Queen of France.

*(Anne enters, sans diamond studs.)*

**Louis**

Madame, I requested that you wear a certain diamond ribbon. Why then do I find your shoulder bare?

**Anne**

I feared, sire for their safety.

**Louis**

You were wrong, Madame. I gave them as a present to adorn you. Get out! When you return, I will expect to see them there.

**Anne**

Your majesty.

*(She bows and leaves.)*

**The Company.**

A suggestion of anger, the start of a tear?  
A moment of triumph, a moment of fear.  
Too loud to ignore and too silent to hear...  
Expectation.

**Richelieu**

Your highness, a moment.

**Louis**

What are you about?

*(Richelieu hands him two diamond studs.)*

**Richelieu**

If the queen has the diamonds which I very much doubt. Count them and see if these two she's without.

**Louis**

Has she entered the room? No I can't see from here.

**Richelieu**

Relax, my dear friend, soon all will be clear.  
See for yourself, for the queen now draws near.

**The Company**

Expectation.

**Louis**

I'm pleased that you have humored me and worn the gems, my queen. But two, it seems are missing, as plainly can be seen.

**Anne**

But, your highness, if you give me these, I shall then have fourteen.

**Louis**

Richelieu, what is the meaning of all this?

**Richelieu**

Only that I was desirous of giving the queen a small gift, and hesitated to offer them myself.

**Anne**

I am all the more grateful, being certain these two studs alone have cost you more than all the others cost his majesty.

**The Company**

A lost expectation, but one must go on.  
Unfinished business is left for the dawn.  
an unwary moment, a dagger that's drawn.  
Expectation... Expectation... Expec...

*(Constance takes D'Artagnan's hand.)*

**Constance**

Come with me.

*(The Ballroom darkens as Constance leads D'Artagnan to Anne's anteroom.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Why am I here?

**Constance**

Trust me.

**D'Artagnan**

Wait! Will I see you again?

**Constance**

Tonight. I promise. Tonight.

*(She leaves as the queen quietly enters from the other direction. D'Artagnan drops to his knee.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Your highness!

**Anne**

Take this. In gratitude.

*(He kisses her hand. She slips from the room, leaving D'Artagnan gazing at a diamond ring.)*

**D'Artagnan**

A sovereign who's grateful, a reckoning delayed..  
 Friends to be rescued and debts to be paid.  
 A late assignation, with a beautiful maid..  
 Expectation...

**Scene 9**

*(The chambers of M. de Treville.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Monsieur, I have come to ask your help.

**Treville**

It is yours. Just tell me what you require.

**D'Artagnan**

A woman -- a woman whom I have sworn to protect -- disappeared last night. She is a servant to the queen, Monsieur, Constance Bonacieux. Just outside the Louvre. A beggar saw it all. She was dragged away by three men, All directed by a woman. The one they call Milady.

**Treville**

I can see the queen. Her majesty has many friends. Perhaps your young lady can be found. And this one you call Milady, If she is who I believe her to be, I know her brother-in-law. Something may be learned from that quarter. In return, I only ask that you follow this advice:

**D'Artagnan**

I will do whatever you say.

**Treville**

If I were to guess, I would say that at the ball last night, the queen's happiness and the Cardinal's displeasure had something to do with your trip to England. No. Not a word. I have guessed too much already. But understand that if you were to meet with some accident, there are those who wouldn't grieve. Let me suggest that -- for your health -- You might wish to take in the waters of Forges. On your way, you could inquire of the friends who did not return to Paris with you.

**D'Artagnan**

I take you at your word, sir. I will go and find my friends.

*(In another area. Porthos is sitting up in bed. He quickly pulls up the bedclothes to hide a large, bloody bandage on his shoulder.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Porthos You're alive! What happened? Why haven't you come home?

**Porthos**

Oh, just a sprain... It's kept me stuck here in bed. You should have seen me! I dispatched four assailants. But it seems in walking from the battle, I turned my ankle. It simply won't heal...

**D'Artagnan**

What relief! Down below we were told you were wounded.

**Porthos**

Foul liars! Only jealous of my unquestioned victory.

**D'Artagnan**

We'll leave you with your ankle now we know you're safe -- that it's only a sprain.

**Planchet**

One of those strange sprains that bleed from the shoulder.

**D'Artagnan.**

Quiet! I think Porthos would rather have his shoulder punctured than his vanity.

**Planchet**

Believe me, his vanity will mend sooner. He cares for it well.

**D'Artagnan**

*(Laughing.)*

Oh shut up. Let's see what's become of Aramis.

*(Aramis is in another area, in a cassock and whipping himself with a knotted cord.)*

**D'Artagnan**

But my friend, what is this? What on earth are you doing?

**Aramis**

When we were ambushed I found I was wounded -- I was actually near death. I made a promise to God. I have determined to return to my studies for the priesthood. I've put them off too long.

**D'Artagnan**

And I see how serious you are by the way you do penance. So I suppose I'll just tear up this letter



I found waiting for you. Scented with some perfume. Bah! For a priest, that will never do.

**Planchet**

Allow me, I'll take it down to the fire master...

**Aramis**

You touch it and you die.

*(Aramis reads the letter.)*

I thought she had forgotten me. I thought she despised me. She was only detained at Tours! She still loves me!

**D'Artagnan**

But what of the church?

**Aramis**

*(He is ripping off the cassock and cavorting around in his underwear.)*

To hell with the church. Planchet -- you want to burn something, burn this cursed whip! Order up some wine! She loves me! She loves me!

*(D'Artagnan and Planchet discover Athos, very drunk, reclining against a vat of wine.)*

**Athos**

Go back or I'll shoot!

**D'Artagnan**

Athos? Is that you?

**Athos**

D'Artagnan? It's about time. I was running low on the landlord's wine.

**D'Artagnan**

Athos! You're drunk. What in hell are you doing down here?

**Athos**

Well, those five men set upon us. I called for you to run. Then I fought my way down here to the cellar and barricaded myself in. See! I've made myself a fair fortress.

**D'Artagnan**

The innkeeper is upstairs weeping. He's next door to ruined. You see, all of his food, all his wine, all his provisions, in fact were locked up down here with you.

**Athos**

And it's made me many fine meals I assure you. I have no sympathy. He was part of the plot, so he got what he deserved. Sit down, friend, there's still one more bottle.

**Planchet**

He's not drunk enough?

**Athos**

You want to try me, boy? I said to sit down. The whole evening's before us. What is the matter my friend? What has happened? You have a sad air about you.

**D'Artagnan**

We'll talk of it later.

**Athos**

Later? Why later. You think I am drunk? Well, remember, I am never so clear -- and certainly never so honest as when I am drunk. And I am VERY drunk. Tell me then -- why the face?

**D'Artagnan**

A woman -- the woman I love -- she's been carried off -- kidnapped.

**Athos**

Why, you have been rescued then.

**D'Artagnan**

What are you saying?

**Athos**

Rescued I say. The Cardinal's done you the favor of carting off your mistress. Did she love you?

**D'Artagnan**

I know she did.

**Athos**

There is not a man lives who does not believe his mistress loves him -- and there is not a man lives whose mistress has not deceived him.

**D'Artagnan**

Speak you -- who hate all women and have never loved one.

**Athos**

I could tell you a tale of love -- of real love -- that could chill those moonstruck eyes of yours into frozen little bagatelles of ice.

**D'Artagnan**

*(Settles back, Planchet beside him.)*

All right, tell me then. Tell me who you loved.

**Athos**

Not me. A friend.

**D'Artagnan**

Ah! A friend.

**Athos**

Yes. A friend.

She was sixteen, my friend twenty-eight, it was summer.  
The face of a seraphim, burning with love, early summer.  
A voice that was soft with the chant of the siren  
Fairness so exquisite... Skin so untouchable...

So much I loved. Hours of love. She was sweetness.  
Two melt into one. That was our love. Utter sweetness.  
Hands as soft as the glance of her eye.  
A smile to melt stone, an innocence waiting...  
And I married her.

*(Athos pauses, seeming lost for a moment...)*

We were riding that day, chasing through fields. It was summer.  
Her hair flying back. Trees racing by, early summer.  
Sunlight and sod and the grass and the wind rushing...  
A crack and a rip, flying and falling and...

There she was on the ground. Still on the ground.

Stumbling to her, tears streaming down my face.  
 Sure she was finished, clutching, caressing her...  
 Praying she's breathing, dress torn from her shoulder.  
 Her shoulder. She's moving. Dress torn from her shoulder...  
 There it was. There. On her shoulder.

Branded, my friends. My darling was branded.  
 Some executioner left his mark scorched on her.  
 Just a small fleur de lis -- for the guilty, condemned to die.  
 Still I'd believe her. However the brand was made.  
 She need only tell me. Who did this awful thing?  
 Who had defiled her? Just who and I'd slit their throat.  
 Who, tell me... Who, please God... Who, tell me, I'll believe.  
 Who, tell me, who, my love, Who did...

Then I looked in her eyes. That was all. Only that. No more Summer.  
 She knew and I knew, everything gone. That was Summer.  
 The shriek that escaped from her lips...  
 Like daggers her eyes as she clawed at me, tore me.

With the hiss of an Asp she spit venom with truth.  
 Church vessels stolen, a lover, then many more.  
 Bottomless fury as she gloated of murder,  
 and greed and of poison and betrayal,  
 Hatred and crime and deception and fools.  
 And the biggest fool I.

Why not tell all? My dagger was in her hand.  
 Coming so quickly -- flashing there in her hand.  
 Then buried, just here. In my side to the handle.  
 Four inches of steel. I just stared at the handle.

Then I did what had to be done.  
 I ripped at her dress, twisted it round her neck.  
 Then to the tree. Dragged her there by her neck.  
 And gasping, still stuck like a pig, dripping blood,  
 I hanged her.

*(There is a silence as Athos drinks.)*

### **Planchet**

Jesus Christ.

**D'Artagnan**

She is... dead then?

**Athos**

Who knows? You'd have to ask my friend. Here, try some of the Burgundy. It's exquisite.  
*(Athos smiles and opens another bottle.)*

**Scene 10**

*(D'Artagnan & Milady are in her sitting room,  
just beyond is her bedroom.)*

**Milady**

*(laughing)*

You are as charming as you are gallant, my fair Gascon.

**D'Artagnan**

And your enchantment, Milady, is matched only by your beauty.

**Milady**

What luck that Monsieur de Treville introduced you to my brother-in-law.

**D'Artagnan**

No indeed. The luck was that your brother-in-law introduced me to you. I had seen you many times from a distance, and knew I had to find you.

**Milady**

You are too kind.

**D'Artagnan**

It is an easy thing to be kind to such a gentle creature as yourself.

**Milady**

Your words bring a blush to my cheek.

**D'Artagnan**

Do I dare I think your blush may have the meaning I hope for?

**Milady**

Surely you can read its meaning. Have I not made it clear to you...

Everything you say, how your gaze may stray, more with every day,

Leaves me breathless, ever more breathless.

Every word I hear, your desire's clear, every time you're near,

Leaves me breathless, ever more breathless.

**D'Artagnan**

Intoxicating eyes, captivating gaze,  
 Breathless every moment you are there.  
 Captured by your look, caught with your allure,  
 Breathless and too charmed to even care.

Every smile you share, each expression rare, every touch I dare,  
 Leaves me breathless, ever more breathless.  
 Every curve of you, every turn you do, every rendezvous,  
 Leaves me breathless, ever more breathless.

**Milady & D'Artagnan**

Stirred by every touch, roused with each caress,  
 breathless in that moment we're alone.  
 Dreaming when awake, burning in my dreams,  
 forced to quell every passion I have known.

For every day gone by, every way I try, each infernal sigh,  
 Leaves me breathless, ever more breathless.  
 All the need I see, every urge in me, every agony,  
 Leaves me breathless, ever more breathless,  
 Ever more breathless.

*(They end with a long, slow kiss.)*

**Milady**

Will you come to me? Tonight? At eleven there would be few prying eyes...

**D'Artagnan**

More I could not ask.

**Milady**

*(rings a small bell.)*

Kitty will show you out by another way -- the way to use tonight. You understand?

**D'Artagnan**

Perfectly. Until tonight... My love.

*(Kitty enters)*

**Kitty**

Milady?

**Milady**

Yes. Until tonight. Kitty, show D'Artagnan out -- by the Rue de la Guerre.

**Kitty**

Yes, Milady.

*(They leave. Kitty closes the door between the sitting room and bedroom and stops.)*

**Kitty**

Monsieur Chevalier, will you speak with me?

**D'Artagnan**

I am at your service, my dear.

**Kitty**

Do you love her so dearly, Monsieur?

**D'Artagnan**

If I do, I am insane. Perhaps I am... Who can say?

**Kitty**

Alas, monsieur, that is too bad. Because you see, my mistress does not love you at all.

**D'Artagnan**

Has she charged you to tell me this?

**Kitty**

No, I tell you because... Because... All is fair in matters of the heart.

**D'Artagnan**

Ah! I see...

**Kitty**

But you don't believe me.

*(Milady's little bell is heard.)*

Go, quickly. She mustn't know we've been speaking!



**D'Artagnan**

Go to your mistress.

**Kitty**

But...

**D'Artagnan**

Go!

*(D'Artagnan shoves Kitty toward the door and manages to hide himself just as Milady enters.)*

**Milady**

Are you stupid that you don't respond when I call? Has he gone?

**Kitty**

Yes, Milady.

**Milady**

God, what a fool.

*(She sits and writes a brief note.)*

**Kitty**

A fool? I had thought Milady loved him...

**Milady**

Love him? Don't be inane. You know the Comte de Wardes is the only man I would give a snap of my finger. D'Artagnan is firmly on the hook, my dear. That idiot nearly made me lose face with His Eminence. Oh, Believe me, I'll be revenged. Love him? I detest him.

**Kitty**

But has Madame not already taken revenge on his little woman... His little Constance?

**Milady**

And you see how quickly he's forgotten her? I've tucked her safely away -- until I need her. Now be quiet. Here: Take this to the Comte de Wardes. Bring me his answer.

**Kitty**

Yes madam, surely...

**Milady**

Then don't just stand there! Fly!

*(Milady hands Constance a folded note and sweeps out. D'Artagnan emerges.)*

Now you see monsieur?

**D'Artagnan**

Let me see it.

**Kitty**

But, sir...

*(D'Artagnan reads aloud.)*

**D'Artagnan**

“My dear Comte. Know that my love for you burns as bright as ever. And I know from both your words and deeds that you are devoted to me and will do all I desire. Come here tonight at eleven. You will meet on the Rue de la Guerre a young guardsman. Quarrel with him on some pretext. When you have killed him, come to me. Your reward will be all you have dreamed.”  
God! What a creature this is!

**Kitty**

So you see you must not come here tonight.

**D'Artagnan**

Oh, I will come.

**Kitty**

But, monsieur...

**D'Artagnan**

Here, give me some paper.

**Kitty**

Monsieur! What are you doing?

**D'Artagnan**

You are supposed to bring a reply from her lover, the Comte de Wardes, are you not?

**Kitty**

Yes, but...

**D'Artagnan**

Then here it is.

*(He reads what he has written.)*

“Milady de Winter, my dearest heart. While I wish I could do all you require, you must not wait for me tonight. I have so many affairs of this kind, I am forced to apportion myself. When your turn comes, I shall have the honor to inform you of it. I kiss your hands. The Comte de Wardes.”

**Kitty**

But Monsieur! This will put her in a rage.

**D'Artagnan**

I count on it, my sweet. I count on it.

*(The lights fade out, and restore in a moment in Milady's boudoir. Milady, in nightclothes, is pacing in a fury as Kitty enters.)*

**Kitty**

D'Artagnan is here, Milady.

**Milady**

Well, don't just stand there. Have him in you simpleton.

**Kitty**

Yes, Milady.

*(Milady re-reads the note from de Wardes.)*

**Milady**

“When my turn comes!!” Oh, this will not do. This will not do at all.

*(D'Artagnan enters.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Tonight you look radiant! You're flushed. Are you well?  
Should I go?

**Milady**

If I am flushed, it is only because I see you.  
Do you love me?

**D'Artagnan**

Can't you feel my emotions?

**Milady**

I can... But how can I know?  
Kiss me.

*(As they kiss, Milady slides the doublet off  
D'Artagnan's shoulders.)*

I feel your embrace, yet how far would you go  
for that love?

**D'Artagnan**

To the ends of the earth! Anything!  
The stars up above...  
Come again, kiss me.

**Milady**

I have an enemy. One who insulted me,  
smeared my good name, lied and dishonored me...

**D'Artagnan**

Name him. My arm is yours. Ask what you will, I'll agree.  
Kiss me.

**Milady**

The Comte de Wardes is the villain I name.

**D'Artagnan**

What would you have me do? What is the game?

**Milady**

Spit him upon your sword like a roast pig.

**D'Artagnan**

And in doing so, win you?

**Milady**

My heart ever true...

**D'Artagnan**

Show me.

**Milady**

My pet, the things I will show you...

**D'Artagnan**

Show me.

**Milady**

*(Unlacing the neck of her robe.)*

My love... How I will show you...

**Milady & D'Artagnan**

Tonight let us show how much we are willing to do...

Kiss me...

*(They fall to the bed as the lights fade to black as music crashes in. When the lights return, both are in bed, partially covered by a sheet, Milady in a low-cut gown that drapes from her shoulders, D'Artagnan naked, or nearly so.)*

**Milady**

You will find de Wardes then? This very morning?

**D'Artagnan**

You love me truly? With all your heart?

**Milady**

Have I not just proven it?

**D'Artagnan**

Then you will forgive me a small foolishness?

**Milady**

Forgive you, my love? I would forgive you anything.

**D'Artagnan**

Then, forgive me. I cannot kill the Comte de Wardes -- not, at least, without committing suicide.

**Milady**

What is this! Are you afraid of him?

**D'Artagnan**

No, I'm afraid I AM him.

**Milady**

What do you mean?

**D'Artagnan**

I mean that the letter you received from the Comte de Wardes -- the one that put you in such a fury -- That letter was written by me.

**Milady**

*(Suddenly all comes clear to Milady. Her face contorts in a fury. With both fists she delivers a great blow to D'Artagnan's chest.)*

No!!! You vile cur!

*(She begins to bolt from the bed, but D'Artagnan has grabbed the shoulder of her nightdress. As she springs to her feet, the dress rips from her shoulder. A fleur de lis is branded there. Both of them freeze for an instant.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Dear God... Your shoulder...

**Milady**

You wretch! You have my secret. By God, you will not leave this room alive!

*(She springs for her table and turns back to D'Artagnan holding out a dagger. She rushes at him, but D'Artagnan grabs his sword. He covers himself with a pillow and backs from the bed, all the while holding Milady at bay.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Back! Get back!

**Milady**

*(screaming as if insane)*

You vile snake! Scoundrel! Infamous liar! I'll see your blood! You hear me! Your blood!

**D'Artagnan**

Calm yourself, lady, or I'll cut a second fleur de lis on your other shoulder.

**Milady**

Die!

*(She throws herself at D'Artagnan, but Kitty, alarmed by the noise, has opened the door.)*

**Kitty**

What is wrong... What has hap...

*(D'Artagnan shoves her back through the door and escapes, slamming the door in Milady's face and propping a chair beneath the handle.)*

**Milady**

You filthy swine! Vicious wretch! Open this instant! Now! Lecher! Villain! Liar! Assassin!! Assassin!!!

*(Violently, she is stabbing through the thin wood of the door with her knife.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Quickly! Give her time to think, and she'll have us killed by the servants.

**Kitty**

You can't leave like that...

**D'Artagnan**

Give me something -- anything. Hurry! Hurry!

**Kitty**

*(Giving him her cloak.)*

Here. Run!

*(D'Artagnan and Kitty rush from the room. Milady has dropped to the ground, spent and gasping. She takes a moment, controls herself, and then she rises like a Phoenix.)*

**Milady**

What I shall do!  
 He never has known vengeance like the vengeance that I bring.  
 What I shall do!  
 Cold as ice and swift as death, before he's felt a thing.  
 What I shall do!  
 Payment may be lengthy and retribution slow.  
 But come it will in darkness, and the fools will never know  
 what I shall do.

*(D'Artagnan and Kitty are on a dark street.)*

**D'Artagnan & Kitty**

How did it go so far?

**D'Artagnan**

I lost my head.

**Kitty**

I lost my reason.

**D'Artagnan & Kitty**

How did it go so far, and how long shall we have to watch behind?



**D'Artagnan**

How many days, how many years...

**D'Artagnan & Kitty**

Through the changing of how many seasons?

**Milady, D'Artagnan & Kitty**

What I shall do!

**Athos**

*(Alone in his room.)*

What shall I do to stop the memory...

**Buckingham**

*(Alone in his room.)*

Memories of her...

**Athos**

When I can still see her smile?

**Buckingham**

For just a smile...

**Athos**

What shall I do to end the hatred.

**Bonacieux**

*(Alone in his room)*

How she must hate me.

**Buckingham**

Does she love me?

**Athos & Buckingham**

What shall I do to end the pain...

**Bonacieux**

But there still is much to gain...

**Athos & Buckingham**

Still so much pain!

**Constance**

Refuge here with holy sisters. Pray he'll somehow come for me.

**Abbess**

You are safe within these walls.

**Constance**

Pray that he still loves me,

**Abbess & Constance**

Pray for all that still may be...

**Kitty & D'Artagnan**

When will it end?

**Constance & Abbess**

What still may be...

**Milady**

How it will end...

**Richelieu**

What I shall do to make them mine,  
heart and body!

**Louis, Treville, Porthos & Aramis**

Sides must be taken!

**Richelieu**

What I shall do to win their mind!

**Rochefort.**

Live to fight, fight to serve.

**Richelieu**

Men like that should not be broken,  
heart nor body!

**Louis, Treville, Porthos & Aramis**

Never show weakness!

**Richelieu**

To have a hundred of their kind!

**Rochefort.**

Know your foe, know him well.

**Richelieu**

Make what allies you can make, but break the enemy within.

**Louis, Treville, Porthos, Aramis & Rochefort. (The Fighters)**

Take your side, and take your chances, and be certain that you win.

**Milady & Constance**

I shall win!

**Bonacieux, Athos, & Kitty**

How to win?

**Richelieu, D'Artagnan & Buckingham**

Never doubt that I'll win!

**Planchet**

You see, Monsieur, I am here at your side!!!

<b>Milady</b>	<b>D'Artagnan &amp; Constance</b>	<b>The Fighters</b>
What I shall do!	To cross the oceans...	In...
He never has known vengeance	To find my love.	His...

like the vengeance that I bring.  
 What I shall do!  
 Cold as ice and swift as death,  
 before he's felt a thing.  
 What I shall do!  
 Payment may be lengthy  
 and retribution slow.  
 But come at will in darkness,  
 and the fools will never know  
 what I shall do.

**Bon:** His friend!  
**Planchet & Abbess**  
 I'm standing by you.  
 to the end.  
**D'Art, Constance & Buck**  
 Just to be near you...  
 Again to hear you...  
**Bon:** His friend!  
**Athos**  
 To crush you from my mind.

Service  
 Fight-...  
 ing...  
 ever...  
 Arm...  
 and...  
 sword now...  
 to...  
 the...  
 death...

### **Kitty**

If only he could love me too!

### **Richelieu**

What I shall do to make them mine,  
 heart and body!  
 What I shall do to win their minds!  
 Men like that should not be broken,  
 Heart nor body.  
 To have a hundred of their kind...

### **Milady**

What I shall do!  
 They will be mine!  
**Planchet & Abbess**  
 Always with you!  
**Milady**  
 What I shall do!  
 Before I am done  
 What I shall do!

### **D'Art, Buck, Cons, Kit**

Loving  
 always  
 Wanting  
 Always  
 Needing  
 Always

### **The Company**

Only God in heaven knows the things that I shall do.  
 And woe to those who try to stop me, Pay the devil all that he is due.  
 God forgive me, God forgive me for what I must do,  
 I shall do! I shall do!

*(Blackout)*

**Act II, Scene 1**

*(Athos' apartments. D'Artagnan bursts in wearing only Kitty's cloak. Athos bursts into laughter.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Stop it. Don't laugh. On my word, it is no laughing matter.

**Athos**

The matter may not be laughable, but you make a poor strumpet...

**D'Artagnan**

Will you give me something to wear?

**Athos**

*(Tossing D'Artagnan some clothes.)*

I'm sorry. Truly. But you're so pale. Are you wounded? What is it my friend?

**D'Artagnan**

Are you certain she is dead?

**Athos**

Who?

**D'Artagnan**

The one you spoke of that night -- the woman with the brand - with the fleur de lis?

**Athos**

God! Was I so drunk that I...

**D'Artagnan**

Yes, you told me everything. But I must know: Is she dead? Are you certain?

**Athos**

She must be. Yes, she has to be...

**D'Artagnan**

That creature of the Cardinal's, the one who calls herself Milady... There's a brand on her shoulder. I saw it. A small fleur de lis.

**Athos**

Dear God.

**D'Artagnan**

She's twenty-six or twenty-eight?

**Athos**

Fair hair... Blue eyes...

**D'Artagnan**

The brand is deep and red.

**Athos**

As if rubbed raw in efforts to remove it... No. She has to be dead.

**D'Artagnan**

She is not.

**Athos**

She knows you saw the brand?

**D'Artagnan**

She tried to kill me.

**Athos**

Then she will try again.

**D'Artagnan**

I still have my sword. I'll be fine.

*(There's a beating at the door. Athos admits Planchet.)*

**Planchet**

Master! Finally... I've been looking everywhere. A letter...

**D'Artagnan**

A letter? From whom? Why the haste...

**Planchet**

It has the seal of the Cardinal.

*(D'Artagnan takes the letter and reads.)*

**D'Artagnan**

I am summoned to the Palais Cardinal. Tonight at eight o'clock. I am called before his eminence. Surely she hasn't had time...

**Athos**

How could she... It's barely after daybreak. But the Cardinal may have other reasons...

**Kitty**

Who knows what she has done? She is close to the Cardinal. She could tell him anything...

**Athos**

An invitation from his eminence cannot be refused.

**D'Artagnan**

No. It can't. I'll be there.

**Athos**

And so will I. I'll find Porthos and Aramis. We'll wait for you outside.

**D'Artagnan**

And if I don't emerge?

**Athos**

Well, it's been some time since we've had a skirmish with the Cardinal's guards. Monsieur de Treville must think us dead.

**Scene 2**

*(Richelieu's chambers. He is working on a manuscript. He turns and holds it up.)*

**Richelieu**

Miriam, a tragedy in five acts. I should like to complete it before I lead the troops for La Rochelle. D'Artagnan is it? From Gascony?

**D'Artagnan**

Yes, your eminence.

**Richelieu**

On your first day in Paris, you had chance for some swordplay behind the Luxemburg...

**D'Artagnan**

My friends and I...

**Richelieu**

Were on a picnic. Yes, I know. You were then placed in the guards of the king. Monsieur de Treville has given you hope you might some day wear a musketeer's uniform.

**D'Artagnan**

Monseigneur is correctly informed.

**Richelieu**

Since that time you have done many things. You were in your landlord's apartments one afternoon, with a young woman -- when it might have been better for you to be elsewhere. You lately made journey to England, leaving some friends to rest along the way. The cause of your visit?

**D'Artagnan**

Monseigneur, I went...

**Richelieu**

Hunting at Windsor -- or elsewhere. That's not my concern. Upon your return you were met by some august personage. I see you wear the souvenir she left you.



**D'Artagnan**

I fear I've incurred your displeasure Monseigneur.

**Richelieu**

How could that be, monsieur? I punish the people who do not obey. Not those like you, who obey -- but too well. However, given all that's transpired you can't have helped but notice you retain a remarkable health. You are brave, Monsieur D'Artagnan. You are prudent, which is better still. But you are young. You are scarcely entering in the world and have made powerful enemies. If you do not take great heed, they will destroy you. You made your way to Paris on the hopes of making your fortune.

**D'Artagnan**

I am at the age of foolish hopes, Monseigneur.

**Richelieu**

There are no foolish hopes but for fools. What would you say, Monsieur D'Artagnan, to a commission in my guards?

**D'Artagnan**

Monseigneur... I may speak freely?

**Richelieu**

Yes, speak.

**D'Artagnan**

All my friends are in the kings musketeers and guards, and by an inconceivable chance, my enemies are all in the service of your Eminence. I should, therefore be ill received here and ill regarded there if I accepted what Monseigneur offers me.

**Richelieu**

That is to say, you refuse to serve me, monsieur.

**D'Artagnan**

Monseigneur...

**Richelieu**

Very well then, remain free. I wish you no ill, but it is quite trouble enough to defend our friends. We owe nothing to our enemies. Take care of yourself, Monsieur, from this moment I

withdraw my hand from behind you. I would not give a sou for your life.

**D'Artagnan**

Monseigneur, I have done only what I believed to be right. Would you have me do otherwise?

**Richelieu**

Young man, if I shall be able to say to you at any other time what I have said to you today, I promise you to do so.

*(Richelieu bows and turns back to his work.  
D'Artagnan hesitates, then leaves.)*

There are men who are beyond all price.  
Those who never bend despite the vagaries of fate.  
Such men are dear to me.

Fighting a continent, holding together a kingdom,  
so much can be lost, so much falls away.  
Through the years, through the struggles, what is the compromise?  
What must be held to? What is untouchable?

Far out at sea, with the waves pouring in, storm raging,  
heavy laden, what gets thrown from the boat?  
Charity? Honesty? Pity? Desire? What have you lost,  
In that desperate hour, clawing to keep all the others afloat?

Will I sacrifice him? Will I take him as my own?  
What may I still have to do that may damn me?  
Holding on forever to that one sure belief:  
That if I lose my soul, If I offer my soul,  
What does it matter, if while I'm alive, the soul of a nation can somehow survive.

I look to the sky, searching the void.  
Is God watching over? Was he ever there?  
And if he does see, then why is he silent?  
How can we know, how are we to know,  
when no way is moral, which way to choose?  
When whatever you do, somehow justice and mercy and honor may lose.

*(He becomes quiet as he repeats...)*

Only God in heaven knows the things that I shall do.  
And woe to those who try to stop me, they shall pay the devil his due.  
And if I lose my soul, if I offer my soul,  
Dear God forgive me, for what I must do,  
I shall do!

**Scene 3**

*(The common room of an inn. Athos, Porthos and Aramis are seated around a table drinking.)*

**Aramis**

You think he's safe tonight? She's tried twice now for his life: first the assassins on the Rue de Rivoli...

**Porthos**

Yes, and the poison in the wine. By my faith, I would have liked it better if one of us could have stood guard duty with him.

**Athos**

He'll be fine. At least at watch he has only the English army to fear.

**Aramis**

We must make a plan gentlemen. This can't go...

**Athos**

Quiet. The door.

*(The Musketeers spring to their feet as two hooded figures enter.)*

Who goes there?

**Richelieu**

*(removing his hood)*

Who has the right to ask?

**Athos**

Excuse me, your Eminence. I didn't recognize...

**Richelieu**

But I recognize the three of you. I know you are not quite my friends. I'm sorry for that. But you are still loyal servants of his majesty. Go on, Rochefort. You have business. These three will wait and guard me home.

**Rochefort**

I'll send word at the proper time.

*(He pulls up his hood and quickly leaves.)*

**Richelieu**

I won't be more than half an hour. Wait for me here. Allow no one upstairs.  
*(He exits by another way.)*

**Porthos**

The cardinal is meeting someone? At a common tavern?

**Aramis**

Someone, it must be presumed, that cannot afford to be seen at the Palais Cardinal.

**Porthos**

There were voices from upstairs earlier.

**Athos**

What voices?

**Porthos**

No fire is lit. I could hear voices quite clearly through the chimney.

**Athos**

Then, gentlemen, perhaps we should move our party closer to the fire.  
*(Above, Richelieu is speaking with Milady.)*

**Richelieu**

Sit down Milady. Let us talk. You will sail tonight for London. Contact Buckingham before the week is out.

**Milady**

I beg your Eminence observe, that since the affair of the diamond studs, His grace distrusts me.

**Richelieu**

You needn't steal his confidence this time. Just see the duke and tell him I am aware of all of his preparations for war. But let him know they give me no uneasiness, since at the first shot taken by the English, I will ruin the queen. He knows I have the means.

**Milady**

And if, in spite of this, the duke continues with the war?

**Richelieu**

Then I shall have no recourse but to pray for one of those events which have been known to change the destinies of states.

**Milady**

If your Eminence would quote to me some one of these events?

**Richelieu**

In 1610, King Henry was about to enter Flanders...

**Milady**

When he was killed by a knife in the Rue de la Feronnerie.

**Richelieu**

Precisely. There will be, in all times and in all countries, fanatics asking only that they be given the opportunity to sacrifice themselves as martyrs to a cause. The Puritans despise the Duke of Buckingham. Their preachers call him the Antichrist. All that's needed then, would be some woman, handsome, young and clever, who has been offended the duke -- someone he has betrayed and ruined.

**Milady**

No doubt such a lady could be found.

**Richelieu**

If such a woman placed a knife in the hands of this fanatic, seeking only to be a martyr for his faith... But where to find such a woman?

**Milady**

She is found.

**Richelieu**

And the fanatic with the knife?

**Milady**

He will be found. Let's be sure then that I am clear on your instructions. I shall see the duke and tell him what you have said. If he persists in waging war, then there is nothing more I can do no more than pray to God to work a miracle to save France.

**Richelieu**

I see you understand.

**Milady**

I have heard the instructions of your Eminence as concerns your enemies. Will Monseigneur now permit me to speak to him of mine?

**Richelieu**

Have you enemies?

**Milady**

The first, a girl named Constance. She was in my care for a time.

**Richelieu**

I know of her.

**Milady**

She's been hidden by the queen. I need only to know where.

**Richelieu**

I see no problem in that. She has been placed in the convent of Bethune.

**Milady**

Your eminence is well informed. But there is another. You know him well. He has assaulted your guards. It was he who caused the failure of the matter of the diamond studs. He knows it was I who had his mistress carried off and has sworn to kill me.

**Richelieu**

Yes. I know the man you speak of.

**Milady**

I want a fair exchange then: Life for life. Man for man. Simply one for another.

**Richelieu**

I don't know what you mean, nor do I wish to know. Do whatever you will do -- it won't concern me. Do you understand?

**Milady**

Were I a Medici or Borgia, those words would be sufficient. There are those who can act without fear of retribution. Milady de Winter is not one of them.

**Richelieu**

Give me a pen.

**Athos**

Listen more if you will. I have to go.

**Aramis**

But what do we tell his Eminence?

**Athos**

Whatever you like.

*(Athos exits.)*

**Richelieu**

*(Handing her the paper he has written.)*

Here. I have done what you asked. See that you do the same.

*(Richelieu exits as Milady reads aloud:)*

**Milady**

"December Third, 1627. It is by my order and for the good of the state that the bearer of this has done what has been done. Richelieu."

*(Milady smiles as Richelieu enters below.)*

**Richelieu**

Where is monsieur Athos?

**Aramis**

There was a disturbance outside. He's gone ahead to make sure the way is safe.

**Richelieu**

He can meet us on the road. Come gentlemen. I am suddenly tired. See me safely home.

*(The three exit, then Milady enters, puts on a cloak and opens the door. But Athos is there.)*

**Athos**

Do you know me madam?

*(She opens her mouth, but only a hiss escapes.)*

I perceive you do.

**Milady**

The Comte de la Fère...

**Athos**

Yes, Milady, come expressly from the grave,  
for the pleasure of paying you a call.  
I know you are a demon, set upon us all.  
Once before you crossed my path. How were you saved?

I thought I had crushed you, was I mistaken,  
Or did hell spit you back? Is it hell that I blame?  
Was it hell that made you rich, hell that changed your name?  
Hell may raise up whom heaven has forsaken.

But hell can neither take away the stains from your soul,  
nor the brand from your body.

**Milady**

What do you want with me?

**Athos**

I know it was you who stole two diamond studs,  
to cause the downfall of the queen.  
I know it was you who had the girl carried off  
when you thought yourself unseen.

I know it was you, fatal in your wrath,  
asked D'Artagnan blood in exchange for your bed.  
And again it was you, your secret uncovered,  
who has time and again, sworn to see him dead.



A life for a life -- is that how you put it?  
 The Cardinal was there, a bargain was made:  
 A man for a man, one for another,  
 D'Artagnan's blood for the Duke's? Is that how you're paid?

**Milady**

It is you who are Satan.

**Athos**

Perhaps, but regardless, listen well.  
 Do what you like with Buckingham, he's nothing to me.  
 But touch one hair of D'Artagnan, my companion, my friend,  
 You harm this man I love, and I swear,  
 that despite all that has been, all that has passed,  
 Milady, that crime shall be your last.

**Milady**

D'Artagnan has crossed me. D'Artagnan shall die.

*(Athos draws his pistol, cocks it, and slowly  
 presses it to her forehead.)*

**Athos**

Madame, you will this instant deliver to me the paper the cardinal signed, or upon my soul, I will  
 blow your brains out.

*(She draws the letter from her bosom.)*

**Milady**

Take it and be accursed.

**Athos**

And now -- now that I have drawn your teeth, viper, bite if you can.

**Scene 4**

*(A small room in the castle of Lord de Winter.  
Milady is being escorted in by Felton.)*

**Milady**

Tell me! I demand it! On whose orders was I taken from my ship? On whose orders was I conducted here? On whose orders am I a captive?

*(de Winter enters.)*

**de Winter**

That will be all Mr. Felton. You may go.

*(Felton exits.)*

**Milady**

You? My... My dear brother? But why have you brought me here?

**de Winter**

On the contrary, my dear sister-*in-law* -- why have you returned to England?

**Milady**

Why only -- only to see you.

**de Winter**

Ah! To see me.

**Milady**

Of course to see you. What is so astonishing in that?

**de Winter**

Then you see how well I have anticipated your every desire. I have discovered what ship you were upon. I have had you brought here. I have arranged a room for you -- where, to satisfy our mutual desire of seeing each other, you may see me every day.

**Milady**

I am then -- a prisoner?

**de Winter**

Do you find yourself badly lodged? Are the apartments not what you are used to? Simply tell me then, how your household was arranged by your first husband and I shall do my best to arrange something similar.

**Milady**

My first husband? You mean your brother, of course.

**de Winter**

No, I mean your French husband. In case you've forgotten, I can write the Comte de la Fère for the information. He is still living, of course. He now calls himself Athos, I believe. In fact, it was upon his kind suggestion that I arranged to have you brought here...

*(Milady throws herself at de Winter, tearing at him with her nails.)*

Come! I know you are accustomed to assassinate people, but I warn you, I'm perfectly willing to defend myself.

**Milady**

Yes. You are cowardly enough to raise your hand against a woman.

**de Winter**

Perhaps. But I'm sure mine would not be the first hand to be placed on you.

*(He slowly reaches out his hand and touches the spot on her shoulder where she is branded. She recoils.)*

Be assured there are judges in England who would take a dim view of a bigamist, a murderess and a harlot -- who would send you to an executioner who would make both of your shoulders alike. And except for the memory of my brother, I would do it with my own hands. For his sake, I have simply made arrangements to have you conducted, one week from now to one of our southern colonies, where you shall live out the last of your wretched days. Mr. Felton, come in now.

*(He enters.)*

Look at this woman. She is young. She is beautiful. She possesses all the earthly seductions. She is, in a word, a monster who, at twenty-six has committed more crimes than can be counted. She will try to seduce you. Perhaps she will try to kill you. Felton, I have raised you up from misery. I have been your friend, your benefactor, your father. Guard me -- guard yourself against this woman. Swear to me. On your faith as a Puritan, swear to me.

**Felton**

My lord, I swear it.

**de Winter**

If she tries to leave this chamber, shoot her. And now, Madame, try to make your peace with God, for you are judged by men.

*(De Winter & Felton exit. Milady paces. Time passes... In another part of the stage, Athos and D'Artagnan are discovered.)*

**D'Artagnan**

She is at the convent at Bethune? By God, I'll leave for there this moment...

**Athos**

And how will you gain her freedom? Are you going to batter down the convent walls my friend?

**D'Artagnan**

If I have to.

**Athos**

Here's a more practical plan: I'll go to Treville this moment. Treville will see the queen. By tomorrow – the day after at worse – we will have an order for your young lady's release.

**D'Artagnan**

But two days... When that creature knows where she is hidden as well...

*(D'Artagnan and Athos disappear. Milady, hearing footsteps, slumps in her chair as if having fainted, a beautiful martyr. Felton enters with her dinner tray. He sees her and calls out.)*

**Felton**

Lord de Winter. The lady has fainted.

**Milady**

Oh... Oh, God... God, how I have suffered.

**Felton**

Suffered, madam?

*(de Winter enters.)*

**de Winter**

What is this? Has the corpse revived already?

**Felton**

It seems so, sir.

**de Winter**

Don't be deceived. It is only the first act of the comedy. The second act is certain to commence soon.

**Felton**

I had thought so my Lord, but I wished to be certain.

**de Winter**

Try some of the fowl, Milady. It's delicious. On my honor, it is not poisoned. I have an excellent cook -- and as he is not my heir -- I have every confidence in him.

*(In a rage, Milady grabs the knife on her dinner plate, but alas, it is only a butter knife.)*

See how she holds that knife, Felton? See how well she handles it. That knife was for me -- or perhaps you.

**Felton**

I see, my Lord.

*(De Winter and Felton exit. Time passes...  
Again, D'Artagnan is discovered in another  
area. Athos enters.)*

**D'Artagnan**

At last!

**Athos**

I have the order -- in the queen's own hand.

**D'Artagnan**

Porthos and Aramis are waiting at the city gates -- still three days to Bethune if the horses hold out...

*(Again the action shifts to Milady's prison.  
Milady paces. Then, as morning dawns, she  
throws herself on her knees and begins to sing:)*

**Milady**

Thou leavest thy servants, Lord, to see if they be strong;  
 But soon thou dost afford thy hand to lead them on.  
 For all my tears, my cares, my exile and my chains,  
 I have my youth, my prayers, and God, who counts my pains.  
*(Felton enters.)*

**Felton**

Woman! Why do you sing that?

**Milady**

Your pardon. I had forgotten that psalms were out of place in this castle. But may I not pray?

**Felton**

Pray, madam? That is not a Catholic mass.

**Milady**

A mass! I am not a corrupted Catholic, like Lord de Winter.

**Felton**

Of what religion are you then, Madame?

**Milady**

I will tell it, on the day when I shall have suffered sufficiently for my faith!  
*(With utter devotion and radiance, she launches into the second verse.)*

One day our doors will ope, with God come our desire;  
 And if betrays that hope, to death we can aspire.  
 Let me to Baal be sent, To lions the martyr's thrown!  
 To God thou shall repent. From th'abyss he'll hear my moan!

I am caught in the hands of my enemies! Well, let God save me, or let me perish for my God!  
*(Felton exits, shaken. Time passes... Athos, Porthos, Aramis and D'Artagnan are discovered in another area. Wind and rain.)*

**Porthos**

The ferryman says he won't cross – not in this gale

**D'Artagnan**

*(drawing his sword)*

He will when I ask him...

**Athos**

Be calm. A dead ferryman isn't likely to help matters.

**Aramis**

And the storm is sure to pass by morning

**D'Artagnan**

Damn it all... Another day gone... Another day...

*(In her room, Milady knots together bed sheets, loops one end, and throws the other over a beam. She then stands on a chair as if to hang herself. Felton enters.)*

**Felton**

What is this, Madame?

**Milady**

Nothing, sir. In the boredom of captivity, I amused myself by twisting this sheet...

**Felton**

Then what were you doing upon that chair?

**Milady**

Do not question me. You know that we who are true Christians are forbidden to lie.

**Felton**

Remember, madam, our God forbids falsehood -- but he much more condemns suicide.

**Milady**

When God sees one of his creatures persecuted unjustly, placed between suicide and dishonor, believe me, sir, God pardons suicide for then suicide becomes martyrdom!

**Felton**

Never! As a prisoner, you shall not gain your liberty through me, and living, you will not lose your life through me.

**Milady**

But I shall lose that which is much dearer than life. I shall lose my honor! Only give me a knife -- bring it to me that I may escape this shame.

**Felton**

Who art thou? Who art thou, a demon from hell or a messenger from God?

**Milady**

Do you not know me, Felton? I am neither angel nor demon, I am a sister of thy faith, that is all.  
*(Slow applause is heard from the doorway as Lord de Winter enters.)*

**de Winter**

Bravo. You see, Felton, the comedy has become a tragedy.

**Felton**

My Lord!

**de Winter**

Take care Felton. She is working on you. I can see it in your face. Listen:

This woman!  
 She has betrayed she has beguiled!  
 This woman!  
 she has debased, she has defiled.  
 Bigamy, debauchery and death upon her head...  
 Decay and devastation are what's followed where she's led.  
 Don't dare to be deceived by anything she's said!

This woman!  
 She is cunning and she's cruel.  
 This woman!  
 And if you follow, you're a fool.  
 Her sweetness is seduction, and her softness is a snare  
 Her piety a pretense, My son, you must beware,  
 That is this, this woman!

*(In great distress, Felton rushes out. Lord de*



*Winter follows. Time passes... Athos, Porthos Aramis and D'Artagnan are sitting, nervous and disconsolate. Planchet enters.)*

**Planchet**

Master! The boatman will take is now.

**D'Artagnan**

Thank God!

**Athos**

Two more days lost...

**Porthos**

Wait for me...

*(The men rush out. In the chamber, Milady falls to her knees as her lips move in silent prayer. Felton enters and stands -- uncertain.)*

**Felton**

Milady -- you must tell me. You must tell me everything.

**Milady**

Have you brought what you promised?

**Felton**

How could I...

**Milady**

Then there is nothing to be said.

**Felton**

*(Producing a long, sharp knife.)*

Here it is. Here it is. But I pray you. Don't conceive of using it.

**Milady**

You are indeed a true friend.

**Felton**

But how have you come here! What has brought you to this?

**Milady**

You could never believe me.

**Felton**

I swear I will.

**Milady**

A man -- a demon -- I was but a young innocent.  
This man, this devil, followed me, begging me.  
I told him it was hopeless, that we could never wed.  
He wasn't of our faith. I doubted everything he said.

This man, this cad, he knew he'd never have me.  
This man, so mad, how he plotted, how he planned!  
In the darkness of the night, from my father's house he bore me,  
Stealing me away! Whispering how he'd always adore me.

Determined to keep pure. Nightly how I did reject him,  
I pleaded and I cried. All my tears could not affect him.

Then, Oh horrid memory! He came to me at night.  
Tearing at my garments, he forced some liquid down my throat.  
I choked, I cried as this man drugged me and debased me.  
How I wept and I screamed as he bound me and embraced me!

And when he was finished, had taken all that he desired,  
How he laughed at my disgrace, my violated virtue!  
Then to seal my shame and seal my lips so no one could believe,  
He laid a sickening plan only a demon could conceive.

And he took me, and he tied me as he heated up the iron.  
How it smoked and how it smoldered as it seared into my skin!  
My story ever locked in the silence that the scar commanded.  
Should I utter any word, he could show that I was branded!

*(Milady rips away the shoulder of her dress to  
show Felton the brand.)*

Here Felton! Behold the new martyrdom invented for a pure young girl, so that no one could ever again believe her terrible tale of innocence defiled! Learn so as to make yourself less easily the instrument of unjust vengeance!

**Felton**

My God! But who! Who could have done such infamy?

**Milady**

Who you ask? Who is the ravager of England? Who is the persecutor of true believers, who is the base ravisher of the honor of women. Who protects the Protestants today and will betray them tomorrow?

**Felton**

Yes -- It is he! I knew it had to be he!

**Milady**

It is the Duke of Buckingham!

*(de Winter steps into the room.)*

**de Winter**

Here it is. The last act of the tragedy Felton. Will you believe her?

**Milady**

Dear God protect me!

**Milady**

Thou leavest thy servants, Lord,  
to see if they be strong;  
But soon thou dost afford  
thy hand to lead them on.  
For all my tears, my cares,  
my exile and my chains,  
I have my youth, my prayers,  
and God, who counts my pains.

One day our doors will ope,  
with God come our desire;  
And if betrays that hope,  
to death we can aspire.  
Let this victim to Baal be sent,  
To the lions the martyr be thrown!

**de Winter**

This woman!  
She has betrayed she has beguiled!  
This woman!  
she has debased, she has defiled  
Bigamy, debauchery and death upon her  
head  
Decay and devastation are what's followed  
where she's led.  
Don't dare to be deceived by anything she's  
said!

This woman!  
She is cunning and she's cruel.  
This woman!  
And if you follow, you're a fool.  
Her sweetness is seduction, and her softness

**Felton**

Ah!  
Such  
Tor-  
ment!

Can I believe her?  
End  
this  
tor-  
ture

Thy God shall teach thee to repent.      is a snare  
    Her piety a pretense, My son, you must  
 From th'abyss he'll give ear to      beware,  
    That is this woman!      This angel!  
    my moan!

**de Winter**

Felton! You can no longer be trusted with her. Leave! Now!

**Milady**

Dear God! I am lost... I am lost...

*(Felton rushes from the room -- a madman.  
 Milady grabs the knife and rushes for de Winter  
 who throws her to the floor and leaves the room.  
 Time passes... D'Artagnan & Aramis are  
 discovered.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Where can they be!

**Aramis**

Four good horses are not so easy to find. Ours are nearly ridden to death.

**D'Artagnan**

So close... So close... By tomorrow perhaps – or surely by the day after...

**Aramis**

Here they are. Come on...

*(They run from the stage. Felton slips quietly  
 into the room.)*

**Felton**

Not a sound! I am here to save you. Lord De Winter has sent me to Buckingham to sign the order for your captivity -- but I have other reasons for going there. There is a ship waiting for you, Milady. You will know it by the purple sail. It will bear you safely away from England.

**Milady**

But what of you -- my love... my life...

**Felton**

I have my own business with Buckingham. I will meet you on the boat by three o'clock. If I am not there by that hour, you must sail without me.

**Milady**

I could not... I cannot... There is no life without you. You must tell me. What will you do?

**Felton**

I do only what must be done.

*(He puts a hand to her lips and they steal from the room as the lights fade to black.)*

**Scene 5**

*(Buckingham's chambers. The Duke has just emerged from his bath. Patrick enters.)*

**Patrick**

My Lord, Mister Felton is here from Lord de Winter.

**Buckingham**

Send him in.

*(Felton enters, Patrick retires.)*

**Felton**

My Lord, I have brought the order of deportation for Milady de Winter. Will you sign it?

**Buckingham**

Give it to me.

**Felton**

Do you know Milady de Winter, my Lord? And you will still sign this?

**Buckingham**

Doubtless -- rather twice than once.

**Felton**

You would still sign that order? No! You will not. You will look into your soul and you will do justice to the lady!

**Buckingham**

I would do justice to her by sending her to the gallows.

**Felton**

Milady de Winter is an angel -- I know it. You know it -- and I demand her liberty of you.

**Buckingham**

Are you mad to speak to me thus?

**Felton**

You will hear me to the end. You have seduced this young girl. You have outraged and defiled her. Repair your crimes toward, let her go free and I will exact nothing else from you.

**Buckingham**

Exact from me? Withdraw sir, or I will have you placed in irons.

**Felton**

No! You will sign an order to liberate Milady de Winter. It is in God's hands, my Lord.

**Buckingham**

Never!

*(At the same moment, Felton draws his knife and Buckingham springs for his sword. But at that same moment, Patrick rushes in.)*

**Patrick**

My Lord! A letter from Paris...

**Buckingham**

From Paris...

*(Felton plunges the knife into Buckingham's side. Buckingham falls into Patrick's arms. Felton runs, but is met at the door by Lord de Winter. De Winter throws Felton to the ground and holds a pistol to his head.)*

**de Winter**

Too late by a minute, dear God, too late by a minute.

**Buckingham**

Patrick... Patrick, is it from her?

**Patrick**

Yes, my lord.

**Buckingham**

What has she written to me? Read it.

**Patrick**

“My Lord, as you say you love me, remove those great armaments which you are preparing against France. Put an end to this war, which it is whispered, you pursue only for love of me. Be careful too, of your life, which is menaced, and which will be dear to me from the moment I am not obliged to see an enemy in you. Forever, Anne.”

**Buckingham**

Is that all -- is there nothing else?

**Patrick**

At the bottom, my lord -- beside the seal -- she writes, “Know always that I love you.”

**Buckingham**

I loved her.  
 All the worlds beyond know how I loved her.  
 Never time enough, never near enough,  
 always yearning, always worlds apart  
 Never laughing, never touching,  
 Only grateful I could give my heart  
 And I loved her  
 Beyond vows and wars and countries  
 how I loved her.  
 Longing and praying, doing all that I could do  
 just in hope that she loved me too.

**Felton**

*(looking from the window.)*

Dear God, the purple sail! That's her ship. What is the time, my Lord?

**de Winter**

The time? Are you mad?

**Felton**

I must know... What hour is it?

**de Winter**

It's one o'clock by the tower.



**Felton**

She has sailed. Dear God, what have I done. She has sailed without me.

**Buckingham**

What can I send her? What can I give her... to remember me... Bring the box she gave me...  
*(They sing, their phrases overlapping.)*

**Felton**

I loved her.  
 With an unbroken bond  
 I loved her.  
 Never time enough, never near enough,  
 So much regret.  
  
 Never laughing, never touching,  
 Giving my heart...  
 And I loved her!  
 Beyond vows and wars and countries,  
 how I loved her.  
 Longing and praying,  
 It was all I could do  
 just in hope that she loved  
 me too.

**Buckingham**

I loved her  
 All the worlds beyond  
 know how I loved her.  
 So little time...  
 always yearning, always worlds  
 apart,  
 Never a touch...  
 Only grateful I could give my heart  
 I loved her!  
 Over seas and over mountains,  
 I loved her.  
 And dreaming and craving,  
 doing all I could do  
 She loved me  
 How she loved me too.

**Buckingham**

*(Handing Patrick the bloody knife in the box  
 that had contained the diamond studs.)*

Send her this. It is all I can see now.

*(Felton breaks down on his knees. Buckingham  
 dies, Patrick sobs over the body, sobbing.)*

**Patrick**

My Lord...

**Felton**

So God has willed it.

**de Winter**

Be punished alone for what you've done. But I swear to you that your accomplice is not saved.  
*(Felton looks desperately out to sea...)*

**Scene 6**

*(The Convent at Bethune. Milady, dressed as a novice, is chatting with Rochefort who is pouring wine.)*

**Milady**

How quickly you've come, my dear count. You must have flown on receiving my letter.

**Rochefort**

Your note wasn't clear. I had to be sure.

**Milady**

Quiet. Come closer. Buckingham's ship will not sail. He is dead.

**Rochefort**

Buckingham dead?

**Milady**

Or grievously wounded. You must get word to his eminence.

**Rochefort**

I'll ride to Paris tonight. You've been busy, my dear. Is there anything else?

**Milady**

Beg that His Eminence remember of our bargain. Two men must be arrested and placed within the Bastille. The first is named D'Artagnan, the other one Athos. Tell him I have proof of their treason. The other two he need not worry about. Aramis knows nothing. Porthos is a fool.

**Rochefort**

Good. Is that all? Let me sure I have everything: Buckingham dead. D'Artagnan and Athos to prison. Aramis of no consequence. Porthos a fool.

**Milady**

Your memory is amazing. Commend me to his Eminence.

**Rochefort**

Commend me to Satan.

*(Rochefort leaves. A moment later, The Abbess enters..)*

**Abbess**

Your young friend has been waiting to see you, She's looking quite wan. See if you can help her my dear.

**Milady**

Of course I will. Ask her in.

**Constance**

Excuse me, my friend. I was waiting for your visitor to leave. Can we speak?

**Milady**

Surely, come in. Sit down my dear. You're so frail.

**Constance**

I've been so ill... I've hardly been able to eat... What a blessing you have come here too.

**Milady**

We have both been hunted and betrayed by the Cardinal have we not? It is only natural that we should become as sisters -- closer even than sisters.

**Constance**

I can hardly believe that I finally have a friend here that I can trust -- another who serves the queen.

**Milady**

And as her majesty suffers, so her friends suffer. I just hope that in all her troubles, the queen has not forgotten her poor servants.

**Constance**

Oh no. I know she has not. That is what I have come to tell you! I have just received a letter that assures me I am not forgotten.

**Milady**

A letter?

**Constance**

You see, I shall not be here much longer.

**Milady**

Indeed?

**Constance**

Her majesty has written that someone is coming for me. My only hope... He will be here soon.

**Milady**

Someone is coming? Coming for you? Who? When?

**Constance**

D'Artagnan is his name. He's a soldier in the king's guards. He may arrive any moment -- tonight at the latest. But it is sure to be today. Here! Read it...

**Milady**

Here you say? But what... But are you sure... How do you know this isn't some trap?

**Constance**

Trap? What do you mean?

**Milady**

You have only received a letter -- His Eminence is wily. His forgers are excellent. What if it isn't your lover who comes to rescue you -- but the Cardinal's men, coming to take you away?

**Constance**

God! I never thought of such a thing. But how will I know? If the Cardinal takes me again...

**Milady**

I am here for you. I will help you. I just have to think. Things are moving too quickly. I must have a moment to think.

**Constance**

What will I do? How will I know?

**Milady**

Never fear. I won't leave you. I will wait here with you. If it is a trick of his Eminence, we will escape together. If only there were more time we could...

*(There is some commotion without.)*

**Constance**

Do you hear? Could he be here already?

**Milady**

*(Rushing to the window as Constance rises)*

Men's voices... Stay back! They mustn't see you until we are sure who it is...

*(The Abbess enters.)*

**Abbess**

Constance? There are men here for you -- beating at the gate...

**Constance**

Gentlemen? For me? Tell them... Tell them...

**Milady**

Tell them she will be there in a moment. She has to collect her things.

**Abbess**

Very well. They must stay outside. We'll miss you, my dear. Hurry now.

*(The Abbess kisses Constance and leaves.)*

**Constance**

It is him. It must be him.

**Milady**

No! Dear God! Wait! I can see them clearly now. It is the uniform of the Cardinal's guards.

**Constance**

No! God, no! It must be D'Artagnan. Please, tell me it's him...

**Milady**

No. Mother of God! They're forcing their way in. Hurry!

**Constance**

What?

**Milady**

Hurry, you fool! Come with me. We'll escape through the garden.

**Constance**

You go on. I can't seem to breathe... God, don't let me faint now.

**Milady**

For the last time... Will you come!

**Constance**

My legs have failed me. Go on alone. Save yourself!

**Milady**

Leave you here? Never!

*(In a frenzy, Milady grabs the Abbess' wine glass from the table and empties the contents of her ring into it.)*

Here. Drink this. It will give you strength.

*(Constance does.)*

This is not the way I wished to avenge myself. But my faith! We do what we can!

**D'Artagnan**

*(off)*

Constance? Constance!

**Constance**

D'Artagnan?

*(Milady makes her escape out the back as Constance slumps to her chair, breathing heavily. In rush enter D'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos, Aramis and Planchet.)*

D'Artagnan! Thank God it's you. Oh, my love. You're here. You're finally here. She told me it was someone else.

**Athos**

She? What "She?"

**Constance**

Why my friend... She just ran, thinking you were from the Cardinal.

**D'Artagnan**

Constance, her name... What was her name?

**Constance**

Yes... The abbess told me... But I feel so... I can't quite see you...

**D'Artagnan**

Your hands are so cold. Athos! What's wrong? She is ill. God, she's losing her senses...  
(*Athos is holding up the fatal glass.*)

**Athos**

God could not allow such a thing.

**D'Artagnan**

Water! Please... Athos... Someone get her water...

**Constance**

I'm all right. Don't worry for me.

**D'Artagnan**

Yes! Yes, you look better now. Thank God. But this woman. Tell us her name.

**Constance**

Why it was Milady. Milady de Winter.

**D'Artagnan**

**Planchet**

**Athos**

No!

Master...

Dear God.

**Constance**

Please. Hold me, my love. I'm so cold... Why is it suddenly so cold?

**D'Artagnan**

Hold on. Hold on to me. I'll warm you. We'll make everything right. I promise you. Just keep holding on.

**Constance**

It's enough... Just to look at you... Just to hold you one more time. If you only knew... If there were just words to tell you how much...

**D'Artagnan**

Spoken without speaking, in your faith, you give your love.  
Deep inside your eyes, I see your heart too clearly.

**D'Artagnan and Constance**

That you only clutch my hand for love of me.  
Twist deep into my soul for love of me.  
Every word, every breath, from this moment 'till death. //

**D'Artagnan**

Is only for love of you.

**Constance**

I'll wait for you, my love.  
Always.

*(She kisses D'Artagnan and dies. D'Artagnan throws himself across her body, sobbing. Lord de Winter bursts into the room and stops dead..)*

**de Winter**

May God protect us. Gentlemen. Please... I am in search of a woman. She must have passed this way, because I see death is here.

**Aramis**

Who are you?

**de Winter**

I am Lord de Winter. Brother-in-law of *that woman*.

**Porthos**

How did you...

**de Winter**

I set out five hours after her from Portsmouth. I arrived three hours after her at Boulogne. I



missed her by twenty minutes at St. Omer. That was when I recognized Monsieur d'Artagnan galloping past. I tried to catch you, but you... But I see, in spite of everything, I am too late. Too late again.

*(Athos picks up d'Artagnan and hugs him as  
D'Artagnan sobs on his shoulder like a baby.)*

**Athos**

Dry your eyes and hear me, my friend. Women weep. Men avenge themselves.

**D'Artagnan**

Yes! Yes. She can't have gone far. We'll find her...

**Athos**

Yes. Rest easy. We will find her. If there is still a God in heaven, we will find her.

### Scene 7

*(A small house in the woods. Outside, a storm is building. There is no rain, but a strong wind is blowing with occasional lightning in the sky with an ominous rumble of thunder. Milady sits writing at a small table with a single candle burning. D'Artagnan bursts through the window. Milady screams and rushes for the door, but when she opens it, Athos is there. Again she shrieks and backs away but is met by Lord de Winter, who has entered from the back. Planchet enters behind D'Artagnan; Aramis and Porthos behind Athos.)*

#### Milady

*(Turning wildly from one to the other.)*

What do you want!

#### Athos

We want Charlotte Backson, who first was called Comtesse de la Fère, and afterwards Milady de Winter, Baroness of Sheffield.

#### Milady

You know that is I. What do you want with me?

#### Athos

We wish to judge you according to your crime. You're free to defend yourself. Justify yourself if you can. D'Artagnan. You have first right.

#### D'Artagnan

Before God and before men:  
I accuse this woman of murder  
Of the poisoning of Constance Bonacieux who died last night.  
And whom I loved.

#### Lord de Winter

Before God and before men:  
I call this woman a conspirator,  
In the murder of the Duke of Buckingham.  
I call this woman a harlot,

In the seduction of Felton, my friend.  
 And I call this woman to account:  
 My sister -- how did your husband die?  
 Assassin of Buckingham, Assassin of Felton  
 Assassin of my brother...  
 I demand justice upon you.  
 And I swear that if it not be granted,  
 I will perform it myself.

**Athos**

I married that woman when she was a young girl.  
 I gave her my wealth. I gave her my name.  
 She took from me my life.

D'Artagnan: What is the penalty you demand against this woman?

**D'Artagnan**

The punishment of death.

**Athos**

My Lord de Winter: What is the penalty you demand against this woman?

**de Winter**

The punishment of death.

**Athos**

Messieurs Porthos and Aramis, you who judge her,  
 What is the penalty you pronounce upon this woman?

**Porthos and Aramis**

The punishment of death.

**Athos**

Charlotte Backson, Comtesse de la Fère, Milady de Winter:  
 Your crimes have wearied men on earth and God in heaven.  
 If you know a prayer, say it -- for you are condemned,  
 and this night you shall die.

*(Milady opens her mouth to speak, but no words  
 will come. The storm building, the men take her  
 from the room, Athos and D'Artagnan leading,*

*Planchet and de Winter holding Milady on each side, Porthos and Aramis following. In half-darkness, with lightning flashing, they come to the banks of a river. There they stop. Porthos and Aramis bind her hands and feet as she screams into the storm.)*

**Milady**

You are cowards, miserable assassins -- six men combined to murder one woman. Beware! If I am not saved, I shall be avenged.

**Athos**

You are not a woman. You are not of the human species. You are a demon escaped from hell, we only send you back again.

**Milady**

If I am guilty, take me before a tribunal. You are not judges! You cannot condemn me!

**de Winter**

I offered you Tyburn. Why did you not accept it?

**Milady**

Because I am not willing to die! Because I'm too young to die!

**Planchet**

My master's lady was even younger.

**Milady**

*(A final, long, agonized cry from the soul as she sinks to her knees.)*

No!!

**D'Artagnan**

Must it be here? Like this?

**Milady**

D'Artagnan! D'Artagnan! Remember that I loved you!

**Athos**

One more step and we shall cross swords.

*(D'Artagnan sinks to his knees, head bowed.)*

I pardon you the ill you have done me. I pardon you my blasted future, my lost honor, my defiled love. I even pardon you my despair. Die in peace.

**Lord de Winter**

I pardon you the poisoning of my brother, the assassination of the Duke of Buckingham, for the death of poor Felton. Die in peace.

**D'Artagnan**

I pardon you for the murder of my love, and for your vengeance against me. I pardon you and I weep for you. Die in peace.

**Milady**

In the name of God! Will no one save me?

**Athos**

It is over.

*(Milady slumps forward, her head bowed.  
Porthos and Aramis kneel, crossing themselves.  
Athos raises his sword overhead.)*

Let the justice of God be done.

*(With a final flash of lightning and deafening  
crash of thunder, Athos brings down the sword  
with all his might as the stage goes black.)*

**Scene 8**

*(The Cardinal's chambers. D'Artagnan is conducted into the room by Rochefort.)*

**Richelieu**

Monsieur, you have been arrested by my orders.

**D'Artagnan**

So they tell me, monseigneur.

**Richelieu**

Do you know why?

**D'Artagnan**

No, I do not, for the only thing of which I am guilty is still unknown to your Eminence.

**Richelieu**

What does that mean?

**D'Artagnan**

If Monseigneur will tell me what crimes I am accused of, then I will tell you of what crimes I am guilty.

**Richelieu**

You are charged with having corresponded with the enemies of the kingdom. You are charged with having given out state secrets. You are charged, in short, with treason.

**D'Artagnan**

And who charges me with this, monseigneur? A woman branded by the justice of the country? A woman who has espoused one man in France and another in England? A woman who has committed murder more times than can be counted?

**Richelieu**

What do you say, monsieur? Of whom do you speak thus?

**D'Artagnan**

Of Milady de Winter, of whose crimes, your Eminence is doubtless ignorant since you have

honored her with your confidence.

**Richelieu**

Monsieur: If Milady de Winter is guilty of these crimes, she will be punished.

**D'Artagnan**

She has been punished, Monsieur.

**Richelieu**

And who has punished her?

**D'Artagnan**

We.

**Richelieu**

She is in prison?

**D'Artagnan**

She is dead.

**Richelieu**

Dead! Did you say she was dead?

**D'Artagnan**

Three times she tried to kill me and three times I pardoned her. She then killed the woman I loved. And so my friends and I took her, tried her and condemned her.

**Richelieu**

So, you have constituted yourself judges, knowing that they who punish without license to punish are assassins?

**D'Artagnan**

Monseigneur. I have no intention of defending myself. I submit to whatever punishment you see fit to inflict. I no longer hold life dear enough to be afraid of death.

**Richelieu**

I can assure you beforehand that you will be tried -- even condemned.

**D'Artagnan**

Another might say that he held his pardon in his pocket. I say only: do what you must.

**Richelieu**

Your pardon?

**D'Artagnan**

Yes, Monseigneur.

**Richelieu**

And signed by whom -- the king?

**D'Artagnan**

No. By your Eminence.

**Richelieu**

By myself? You are insane.

*(D'Artagnan hands the Cardinal the carte blanche Athos took from Milady.)*

**Richelieu**

“December third, sixteen twenty-seven. It is by my order and for the good of the state that the bearer of this has done what has been done. Richelieu.”

*(There is a long silence while Richelieu contemplates. Then, coming to a decision, he rips the carte blanche in half. He then writes a few lines on another piece of paper.)*

Here monsieur: I have taken from you one carte blanche to give you another. Only the name is wanting. You may write it yourself.

**D'Artagnan**

This... Monseigneur. This is a commission to the rank of lieutenant in the Kings' musketeers...

**Richelieu**

I am aware. I just wrote it.

**D'Artagnan**

Monseigneur, my life is yours to do with what you will. But... There are others more deserving



of this favor than I.

**Richelieu**

The name is blank. Give it to whom you will. But remember that it was to you it was given -- by me.

**D'Artagnan**

I shall never forget it. You may be certain of that.

**Richelieu**

You are a brave youth, D'Artagnan. I shall count upon you.

*(D'Artagnan leaves the cardinal's rooms deep  
in thought.)*

**Scene 9**

*(Athos' rooms. Athos paces as Porthos and Aramis sit nervously. D'Artagnan enters.)*

**Aramis**

You're free!

**Athos**

What happened?

**Porthos**

We were ready to storm the palace...

**D'Artagnan**

The Cardinal has given me this.

*(He hands the commission to Athos.)*

**Porthos**

What is it?

**Athos**

A commission. A lieutenant's commission in the King's musketeers.

**D'Artagnan**

Take it, Athos. It is yours. You have earned it.

**Athos**

My friend, for Athos this is too much. For the Comte de la Fère it is too little. Keep the commission, my friend. God knows you've purchased it dearly enough.

**D'Artagnan**

Then Porthos, what about you? Surely a lieutenant's uniform would suit you splendidly...

**Porthos**

Yes. Yes, that would flatter me very much. But as I was just telling these gentlemen, I'm about to be married. I'll be leaving the service of the King in favor of that of a rich widow. I am tired. Take the commission. I have less trying business at my tailor's. Stay well my friend.

*(Porthos hugs D'Artagnan and leaves.)*

**D'Artagnan**

Aramis?

**Aramis**

After what has passed? No. I'm returning to how I began. Next week I enter the order of the Jesuits. Keep this, D'Artagnan. The profession of arms suits you. You'll make an excellent captain. I only waited to see you safe. Take care my friend.

*(He too, hugs D'Artagnan and leaves.)*

**D'Artagnan**

You have all refused me.

**Athos**

Because this could only be yours. Allow me.

*(Athos takes the paper and writes in D'Artagnan's name.)*

**D'Artagnan**

But everyone is gone... Nothing is as I had planned. I had such dreams... My love is gone. Now my friends are gone, and I am left with nothing. Nothing but bitter memories.

**Athos**

You are wrong. You are young. And your bitter memories still have the time to change themselves into sweet remembrances.

Remember...

Always remember.

Live your life, do your duty, trust whom you trust,

Fight all the battles, do what you must,

but always remember.

Think of the good, in time the bad may fall away.

Yes, there are wounds that won't heal, try however you may,

but even the darkest may lighten someday.

That is how we remember.

Remember all those -- every one who was dear.

And always remember your life

As a musketeer.

*(D'Artagnan rests his head on his friend's*

*shoulder, lost in thought as other characters are seen -- each in their own space.)*

**Buckingham**

Remember...

**Anne**

I shall always love you.

**Buckingham**

Though we're apart, know how each night I kiss you.

**Ann**

Remembering...

**Buckingham**

Just remember me,

**Anne**

Counting each day, every hour I miss you.

**Buckingham**

If you'll only remember.

**Richelieu**

We do what we can with the years that we have.  
Time will judge us -- who can know.  
Never forgetting that while we are here,  
how much we can change... the ways that we can go.  
Remember.

**Constance**

Remembering me. Remember I'll always be waiting.

**Milady**

Remember me too. I'll always be part of you... never too far.  
A part of what makes you whoever you are.

**de Winter**

Remember! A life of adventure, leading the best.

**Felton**

Remember. Doing what's right when you're put to the test.

**Felton & de Winter**

Remember. Remembering the good you have done, forgetting the rest.

*(By now Athos & D'Artagnan are barely seen.  
D'Artagnan sits, crying silently. The  
commission he once so longed for is now  
crumpled in his fist.)*

**The company except Athos & D'Artagnan**

Live your life, do your duty, trust whom you trust,  
fight all the battles, do what you must,  
but always remember.

**Planchet**

I know you'll always remember me, master.

**Rochefort**

And me -- how could you forget?

**The Company except D'Artagnan & Athos**

Think of the good, in time the bad may fall away.  
Yes, there are wounds that won't heal, try however you may,  
but even the darkest may lighten someday.

**Planchet & Richelieu**

That is how we remember.

**Constance**

Heartaches and loss become only great loves to be cherished  
No, you won't forget the ones who have perished...

**Aramis & Porthos**

In the passage of time the most frightful of crimes will seem only a great

adventure...

**Milady**

And that's what to remember.  
Always remember...

**The company except Athos & D'Artagnan**

Good times and bad, all the heartbreaks you've had will return a treasured  
adventure.

Those who have gone, in your heart will live on,  
And that's what we must always remember.

**Athos**

Remember all those -- every one who was dear.  
And always remember your life...

**D'Artagnan**

I'll always remember my life...  
As a musketeer.

*(D'Artagnan slowly uncrumples the commission  
to the King's Musketeers. He looks at it with  
new found hope as the music swells and the  
stage fades to black.)*