

PORTHOS SIDES

59.

CONSTANCE

Then I shall treasure it all the more. Goodnight.

(D'ARTAGNAN kisses her hand. CONSTANCE exits. D'ARTAGNAN watches her go. RICHELIEU, who has been watching this exchange, exits opposite, unseen by D'ARTAGNAN. The scene shifts to the Lodge. ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS enter, laughing, carrying goblets of wine. PORTHOS carries the wine jug. D'ARTAGNAN is now staring at the moon.)

ATHOS

Join us in a drink, D'Artagnan! What an adventure, eh, gentlemen?

START

ARAMIS

I still can't believe we did it.

PORTHOS

Oh, we did it all right. How I wish I could have seen Richelieu's face last night when the Queen entered wearing those diamonds!

ATHOS

(Raising his glass)

To D'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers! All for one...

(PORTHOS and ARAMIS raise their glasses.)

ARAMIS/PORTHOS

And one for all!

(D'ARTAGNAN continues to stare out the window, ignoring them.)

ATHOS

D'Artagnan...?

D'ARTAGNAN

Isn't the moon lovely?

PORTHOS

Oh ho! Staring at the moon, are we? That can only mean one thing... Gentlemen, D'Artagnan's in *love*.

ATHOS

No – never that!

ARAMIS

A fate worse than death!

D'ARTAGNAN

Yes, I admit it – I am in love. I'm in love with the most beautiful, the most wonderful woman...

PORTHOS

Is there any other kind?

D'ARTAGNAN

Have you never been in love, Porthos?

ATHOS

Of course he has – with his food and his fine clothes.

PORTHOS

Don't listen to that buffoon, D'Artagnan. It so happens that I *have* known the love of a good woman.

ATHOS

The good woman who pays for his food and his fine clothes...

D'ARTAGNAN

If you love her, why haven't you married her?

PORTHOS

Well, lad... it's not that simple.

ATHOS

What Porthos is trying to say is that he's not sure that the woman-in-question's husband would approve of the match.

D'ARTAGNAN

Her husband? You mean she's married...?

PORTHOS

Well...

D'ARTAGNAN

Porthos!

PORTHOS

Come now, D'Artagnan, it is not unusual for the common man to have a mistress in today's world.

D'ARTAGNAN

But you are not a common man! You are a musketeer, and as such you are held to a higher standard. Your morals should be exemplary! Just look to Aramis... he would never behave in such a base manner. Why, I've heard from his own mouth his desire to take Holy Orders and he is always reading Scripture...

PORTHOS

You mean he hasn't told you why he was thrown out of the seminary? He hasn't told you about that beautiful temptress Marie de Chevreuse?

(Furious, ARAMIS whips out his sword and threaten PORTHOS with it.)

ARAMIS

Be careful, friend. The last man who insulted that lady sleeps in the cemetery.

PORTHOS

I meant no insult, Aramis.

END

(Beat. ARAMIS sheaths his sword.)

D'ARTAGNAN

Who is Marie de Chevreuse?

(No response.)

I thought you were intended for the priesthood, Aramis.

ARAMIS

I was. And I was ready to take my final vows... then I met Marie. I was her Latin tutor. We fell in love. Then one day her suitor saw us together. He was furious. He called her all sorts of insulting names. To defend her honor, I challenged him to a duel...

D'ARTAGNAN

Did you kill him?

(ARAMIS nods.)

ARAMIS

The seminary was rocked by the scandal. The Abbott told me that those who lived by the sword must die by the sword then sentenced me to serve five years as a King's Musketeer. I have one month left of my commission.

D'ARTAGNAN

And the lady?