

ROCHEFORT SIDES

6.

START

ROCHEFORT

He'll have a headache when he wakes up. What do you keep in that bag?

MILADY

Heavy things. You were supposed to meet me ten minutes ago, Rochefort.

ROCHEFORT

My apologies, Milady. This young rascal insisted on fighting.

MILADY

Dueling is outlawed in Paris. The last thing we need is unwanted attention...

ROCHEFORT

He started it!

(MILADY looks down at D'ARTAGNAN.)

MILADY

Who is he?

ROCHEFORT

Another farmer yearning to be a musketeer.

MILADY

Boys and their foolish dreams.

ROCHEFORT

This boy is different. He has a connection to Monsieur de Treville.

MILADY

Treville?! My God, Rochefort – what are you waiting for? Kill him! Kill him!

(She pulls a knife and starts for D'ARTAGNAN. ROCHEFORT stays her hand.)

ROCHEFORT

Milady, this boy is unable to defend himself.

MILADY

What does that matter? He knows Treville! And if Treville finds out that you and I met today, he'll go straight to the King...

ROCHEFORT

Treville won't find out.

MILADY

How can you be certain?

ROCHEFORT

The boy doesn't know who we are – he just arrived in Paris today. And he hasn't actually met Treville. Not yet, anyway.

(ROCHEFORT crouches down and starts searching D'ARTAGNAN's pockets.)

MILADY

But you said...

ROCHEFORT

I spoke hastily. What I meant was, he carries a letter of introduction to Monsieur de Treville.

(ROCHEFORT pulls D'ARTAGNAN's wallet out of his pocket, opens it and removes a letter. He shows it to MILADY.)

Which he will never deliver. And you know as well as I do that Treville won't see anyone without an introduction. So you see, Lady de Winter – there is no need for spilt blood. We are quite safe. Now as to the purpose of our meeting – Cardinal Richelieu has orders. You are to return to England without delay, and notify him immediately if the Duke of Buckingham leaves London.

MILADY

Any other instructions?

ROCHEFORT

Yes. In here. But you are not to read them until you cross the Channel.

(He pulls out a sealed envelope and hands it to her.)

MILADY

Very well. And where will you be?

ROCHEFORT

I am to stay here in Paris and keep an eye on Her Majesty. Remember now, the moment Buckingham makes a move...

MILADY

Yes, yes – have I ever failed you before?

(D'ARTAGNAN groans.)

ROCHEFORT

Then away with you – before we're seen!

END

(MILADY exits one way, ROCHEFORT the other. D'ARTAGNAN comes to, rubbing the back of his head. Suddenly he notices his empty wallet on the ground.)

D'ARTAGNAN

My letter! Where is my letter?!

(He pats his other pockets in a panic then quickly searches the ground)

That devil with the eye patch – he must have taken it! So you mean to outwit me, eh, monsieur? You shall soon find out that nothing can stop me. I shall find Monsieur de Treville, with or without my letter...

(He raises his sword.)

This I swear by the sword of D'Artagnan!

(Music under as D'ARTAGNAN exits. The scene shifts to the Headquarters of the King's musketeers. MONSIEUR DE TREVILLE is working at his desk. PLANCHET, his servant, enters.)

PLANCHET

Monsieur de Treville...

(DE TREVILLE doesn't look up from his papers.)

TREVILLE

I thought I told you I was not to be disturbed, Planchet.

PLANCHET

Oui, monsieur, but...

(CARDINAL RICHELIEU enters, unseen by TREVILLE.)

TREVILLE

No "buts," Planchet. I don't care if the Devil himself wants an appointment – or for that matter, his henchman, Cardinal Richelieu...

PLANCHET

(Horrified)

Monsieur!