

THE MISADVENTURES AND MISFORTUNES OF PLANCHET, SERVANT
TO A MUSKETEER

EPISODE 5 - LOW SPIRITS

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FADE IN:

EXT. TAVERN BEER GARDEN - LATE AM

Early 17th Century. A walled garden with benches and tables, empty apart from PLANCHET and MOUSQUETON who are seated together drinking. Planchet, 40's, is a shabbily dressed dumpy servant. Mousqueton is also a servant but younger and noticeably better dressed, he also has a small rucksack.

PLANCHET

Well Mousqueton this is the life -
wine, sunshine and a free afternoon!

MOUSQUETON

If only our masters would go off on
their adventures more often!

PLANCHET

I'll drink to that!

Enter MARGUERITE DE PARDAILLAN DE GONDRIN. Marguerite wears tattered grimy clothing and her hair is in disarray. She rushes towards Planchet and Mousqueton, out of breath.

MARGUERITE

(distressed, frantic)

Help me monsieur's?! Help me for the
love of god!!?

PLANCHET

What is wrong miss?

MARGUERITE

The guards, they're after me!

MOUSQUETON

Why are they after you, have you done
something wrong?

MARGUERITE

They're right behind me! They're
coming - quick hide me!!

MOUSQUETON

We'd like to help miss, but if you're
wanted by the authorities we can't get
involved? Sorry?

Marguerite looks pleadingly at Planchet, as Mousqueton nods to Planchet to suggest he should refuse her also.

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PRISON GUARD #1 is not seen initially, only heard from a distance. He is male and about 30 years old.

PRISON GUARD #1 (O.S)
(calling)
Quickly, she went that way!

Taking Planchets pause as agreement Marguerite DIVES UNDER THE TABLE to hide, directly between his legs.

PLANCHET
Oh *mon dieu*!

DISSOLVE TO :

OPENING TITLES SEQUENCE

Titles should include the title of the current episode

DISSOLVE TO :

EXT. TAVERN BEER GARDEN - LATE AM

Planchet and Mousqueton are seated, Marguerite is hiding beneath the table between Planchets legs. Two PRISON GUARDS are standing near Mousqueton and Planchet.

Prison Guard #1 was heard previously, he is scruffy.

PRISON GUARD #2 is younger, both dressed as per their profession and with an air of menace.

PRISON GUARD #1
(to Mousqueton)
So you've seen no other persons enter
or leave this garden?

MOUSQUETON
No officer, I'm sure we would have
noticed. Right Planchet?

Planchet NODS but fidgets nervously. He pours himself more wine as Marguerite stares up at his face from in-between his legs, unseen by the two guards.

PRISON GUARD #2
This escaped woman might look sweet
and innocent, but she is a danger -
both to herself and others.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOUSQUETON

What has she done?

PRISON GUARD #1

Murder for one thing.

PRISON GUARD #2

Yeah - they say she castrated a man
with her teeth! A dangerous lunatic!!

Planchet SPITS OUT his wine and looks down between his legs
at Marguerite. She shakes her head and mouths the word "NO".
The two Guards exchange questioning glances.

MOUSQUETON

Oh forgive my friend here, he is a
real 'bon vivant' - and this wine is
shocking stuff...

PRISON GUARD #2

Yes, I hear this place is cheap and
nasty? I never come here myself?

Guard #1 leans closer to Planchet.

PRISON GUARD #1

(to Planchet)

You would of course tell us - if you
had saw or heard anything??

PLANCHET

(flustered, stammering)

Oh... Well... Oh course... I...

There is the sound of a COMMOTION nearby, of breaking glass
and a CRY of a woman - from just around the corner.

PRISON GUARD #2

(nodding to Prison Guard #1)

It came from over there sir - quick!

PRISON GUARD #1

Thank you for your co-operation!

The two Guards hurry away towards the source of the
disturbance and disappear from view.

Mousqueton stands and hastily packs his rucksack.

MOUSQUETON

Well Planchet, thank you for a lovely
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOUSQUETON (CONT'D)
afternoon but I really must be going?

Planchet sighs with relief as Marguerite scrambles out.

MOUSQUETON (CONT'D)
(to Marguerite)
Good day Miss. 'Bye Planchet!

Mousqueton makes a quick bow to Marguerite then hastily exits in the opposite direction taken by the two guards.

MARGUERITE
Do not worry monsieur, those guards
did not speak the truth! I am no
murderer - I've never hurt anyone in
all my whole life!

PLANCHET
Well, there's a relief?

MARGUERITE
Would you mind escorting me out of
here - those men will be back soon and
I don't know this part of town?

PLANCHET
Oh, er, well... I...?

MARGUERITE
Just around the block would suffice? I
can make my own way once I'm safe,
then I won't bother you further?
...Please??

Marguerite adopts a pleading look and begins to SNIFFLE.

MARGUERITE (CONT'D)
(conveniently upset)
There's no-one else around I can turn
to! Oh please help me monsieur?

PLANCHET
Alright mademoiselle, don't get upset
- I'll escort you around the block if
then that's what you want?

Marguerite stops whimpering and Planchet pauses to drain the last mouthful of wine then leads Marguerite to the gate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGUERITE

Oh monsieur, thank you! Thank you!

DISSOLVE TO :

EXT. PARIS STREETS - MIDDAY

The streets are filled with filth, dung and are over-looked by crooked buildings. Several PARISIANS (non-speaking) wander - mostly thieves, prostitutes, beggars and villains. Planchet is leading Marguerite along through the grime.

MARGUERITE

Thank you again for your kindness, monsieur. My name is Marguerite de Pardaillan de Gondrin.

PLANCHET

(surprised)

You're a noble woman?

MARGUERITE

Yes, indeed. I should explain that you're not exactly seeing me at my best right now? I must look frightful?!

PLANCHET

Well I am Planchet. Just plain simple 'Planchet' - and I look like this all the time, unfortunately... So why were those guards after you then?

MARGUERITE

I won't lie to you Planchet. I had been imprisoned, wrongly imprisoned - for crimes that I did not commit. But I have escaped and made my way here to Paris, in search of my relatives.

PLANCHET

Oh, I see?

MARGUERITE

It's a long story, one that I still don't yet fully understand myself... It all started as a squabble over inheritance that spiralled wildly out of control... It seems peoples true nature will emerge when there is a bit of money at stake?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET

Yes indeed - that is something I can well understand, only too well...

MARGUERITE

There has been a murder committed, but not by me. The victim was Claude, my poor dear brother. Before him my dear mother died too, just a month earlier!

Marguerite's eyes WELL-UP, so Planchet passes her his grotty handkerchief.

PLANCHET

So you're looking for your relatives?

Marguerite blows her nose and hands back the soggy handkerchief.

MARGUERITE

I have a cousin here - Annette de Pardaillan de Gondrin. But I don't know the exact address and no-one seems to have heard of her. You don't know her, I suppose?

PLANCHET

(shakes head)

No, sorry... I rarely talk with aristocrats, other than being kicked-out of their way.

MARGUERITE

All I know it's in the Precinct of 'Philippe Auguste' somewhere, wherever that is?!

PLANCHET

Oh? Well that's something then! I happen to live by there myself - on the outskirts though, where it's a bit cheaper. I'll be heading through there on the way home. Perhaps you'd like to walk with me?

MARGUERITE

(nodding furiously)

You wouldn't mind??

PLANCHET

To be honest my plans for today only
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 PLANCHET (CONT'D)
involved drinking and resting and
drinking some more, so why not?

 MARGUERITE
Then thank you indeed Planchet! Kind
man that you are!

Planchet takes Marguerites hand and leads her along the
streets, heading out of sight.

Unknown to both RENARD THE HENCHMAN (non-speaking) has been
watching them from a door nearby, he follows stealthily.
Renard is unkempt, 25 and clad in dark leather clothing.

DISSOLVE TO :

EXT. MARKET AREA, PARIS STREETS - EARLY PM

The squalid street expands into a small market area and there
are more Parisians - including street-urchins and pick-
pockets. At the food-stalls are shifty-looking merchants
selling awful produce to gullible customers.

Planchet is escorting Marguerite past the stalls, she looks
hungrily at the food. Renard follows from a safe distance.

 PLANCHET
So you think its all down to your
step-father, this Forsdyke character?

 MARGUERITE
It has to be! When he married my poor
widowed mother within a month she was
dead, a month later my poor brother
followed. I would be next to inherit
but Forsdyke had me committed!!

 PLANCHET
Committed?

 MARGUERITE
Locked in the madhouse, doubtlessly so
he can take over the estate and
plunder it to his hearts content!

 PLANCHET
Ah - that's the English for you, they
seem a shifty lot to me...?

Marguerite stops in her tracks and STARES AHEAD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET (CONT'D)

What is it?

Planchet follows where Marguerite is staring - at one of the stalls buying dubious-looking bread is ANNETTE FORSDYKE. Annette is similar in age and appearance to Marguerite, but neat and clean, dressed in dark velvet clothing.

MARGUERITE

My cousin! Over there!! Look!!!

Marguerite rushes towards Annette who turns and walks in the opposite direction, walking briskly.

MARGUERITE (CONT'D)

Come on, quick! I can't lose her!!

Planchet rolls his eyes and hurries after Marguerite.

PLANCHET

Hold on, wait for me!

As Marguerite hurries she suddenly stops - as if seeing something 'unseen' before her. She shakes her head.

MARGUERITE

(to nothing)

No Claude, don't be silly! She is our cousin!! Of course I can trust her.

Planchet stops beside Marguerite and looks around.

PLANCHET

Who are you talking to?!

MARGUERITE

Oh, er... Nothing! Come on!

PLANCHET

I saw you talking to someone??

MARGUERITE

Just thinking out loud...

Meanwhile Annette continues walking briskly away, almost now out of sight as she moves into the crowd. Marguerite resumes her pursuit and Planchet follows, struggling to keep up.

Unseen by both Renard follows them.

KITTY POIRIER is hurrying through the crowd in the opposite

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

direction, carrying a basket of groceries. Kitty is a maidservant, young and dressed as befitting her station.

PLANCHET

Hold on Marguerite - wait for me!

In his haste Planchet bumps into Kitty, knocking the groceries everywhere.

KITTY

Hey - be careful you idiot!?

PLANCHET

(embarrassed)

Oh hello Kitty! Sorry?!

KITTY

Oh Planchet - it's you?

(Curtsies politely)

Sorry - Milady is wild for some snacks and I am in a bit of a rush! That terrible woman is never satisfied...

Marguerite and Annette have now vanished, Muldrac hurries after then, now ignoring Planchet.

PLANCHET

Here Kitty, let me help you?

Planchet helps recover Kittys dropped groceries, these are now partly caked in muck.

PLANCHET (CONT'D)

Looks like some are a bit dirty?

KITTY

To be honest, I dread to think what she gets up to with these courgettes anyway, so I don't think it matters.

Planchet looks a little puzzled but soon the items are re-packed in Kittys basket. Kitty straighten her dress.

KITTY (CONT'D)

Sorry I cannot stay to chat, I daren't keep madam waiting!

PLANCHET

No problem, I know what she's like! But it was nice to see you again though?

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CONTINUED:

Kitty rushes away, heading out of sight.

PLANCHET (CONT'D)
 (looking around, to self)
 Well at least that nutty noblewoman is
 finally gone?

Marguerite SCREAMS somewhere in the distance. Parisians nearby gaze around but do nothing to help. Planchet pauses and looks towards the screaming.

PLANCHET (CONT'D)
 (conflicted, to self)
 No - I've done my bit! I don't even
 know her!

Planchet begins to walk away but Marguerite SCREAMS again.

Planchet stops and turns towards the disturbance. This time the crowd fans out so Marguerite comes into view. She is being dragged away both by Renard and Annette.

MARGUERITE
 Help! I'm being kidnapped!

ANNETTE
 Come on Renard! Hold her still! What a
 stroke of luck running into her here?!

Marguerite writhes and struggles but Renard is very strong - her captors drag her away, pushing-past any Parisians.

PLANCHET
 (to self)
 Perhaps I should just see where they
 take her?? She seems very upset?

Planchet follows them.

DISSOLVE TO :

INT. LADY WINTERS RECEPTION ROOM - EARLY PM

As per previous episodes this is Lavishly decorated. MILADY DE WINTER reclines on a chaise-Longue, reading a newspaper and sipping a glass of wine.

Milady, 22, is a beauteous full-figured woman and wears expensive looking clothes and finery.

There is a KNOCK, Kitty enters, escorting FRANÇOIS DE

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CONTINUED:

CHIVERNY inside.

De Chiverny, 40's is dark-haired with goatee beard and is rather dashing, suave and smartly dressed.

KITTY

This way please, sir?

DE CHIVERNY

(bowing)

It is a pleasure to meet you again,
Milady De Winter.

Milady discards her paper and extends her hand, which De Chiverny kisses.

MILADY

Ah François, its been too long? I hear
your mistress left Paris after some
'embarrassing incident' with the King?

DE CHIVERNY

Yes, a temporary misunderstanding. She
plans to return after spending some
time away enjoying the country air.

MILADY

Ah, of course? Won't you be seated?

DE CHIVERNY

(Sitting down)

Thank you.

MILADY

Would you care for any refreshments?

DE CHIVERNY

No I am fine, thank you.

MILADY

Kitty - did you get all the items I
requested?

KITTY

Yes madam - I got back only minutes
ago from the market.

MILADY

Well I forgot to add 'Morteau Sausage'
to the list...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KITTY
(rolling eyes)
Well I can go out AGAIN madam?

MILADY
Thank you - do that. And that will be
all Kitty.

KITTY
Yes, Milady.

Kitty curtsies and exits the room, a little irritated.

The moment the door closes De Chiverny and Milady pounce upon each other in a passionate embrace and De Chiverny paws lustily at Milady's cleavage.

MILADY
(between kisses)
Careful François, you'll tear the
fabric! Not so rough!!

DISSOLVE TO :

INT. MILADY DE WINTERS HALLWAY - EARLY PM

Other than the front door, other doors lead to Milady's study and stairs lead up to Milady's bedroom. There is a large oriental urn and a clothes-press.

Kitty closes the door of the reception room behind her and proceeds towards the front door. She pauses as MUFFLED CRIES OF PASSION begin from the room she just left.

MILADY (O.S)
(muffled, growing louder)
Yes... YES... OH YES!!

Kitty roll her eyes and shakes her head disapprovingly, then continues on her way.

DISSOLVE TO :

EXT. HOUSE OF FORSDYKE - EARLY PM

The House of Forsdyke is a large town house in the vicinity of the streets and market area seen before. Renard and Annette are dragging Marguerite towards the front door.

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CONTINUED:

MARGUERITE

(screaming)

Let me go! help! Someone help me!!

The front door opens, presumably those inside have heard Marguerite's screams - and out come GUILLAUME MULDRAC followed by ARCHIBALD FORSDYKE and finally BLANCHARD (non-speaking).

Muldrac is about 35 and like Renard he is dressed in dark clothing, he is the main Henchman of Forsdyke.

Forsdyke has a curled moustache, he is 50 and large, dressed in fine clothing and has an air of self-importance.

Blanchard is a servant - an elderly male, tall and skinny. He has a BRACE OF PISTOLS tucked in his belt.

FORSDYKE

(to Marguerite)

Well my dear, reunited at last?!

(to all)

Quickly - get her into the house!!

Muldrac helps Renard restrain Marguerite, allowing Annette a moment to straighten her clothes. Blanchard holds open the front door as Marguerite is dragged closer.

MARGUERITE

(screaming)

Help! Someone help me - I'm being kidnapped!!

ANNETTE

Always such a drama-queen, aren't you Marguerite? Well now you'll get what's coming to you!

Planchet approaches, looking nervous and unsure.

PLANCHET

Hey there - what is happening here?
What are you doing to this girl?!

All pause and turn to Planchet.

FORSDYKE

Who the devil are you sir?

PLANCHET

Never mind me - what about this girl?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGUERITE

Planchet - help me! This is the man I told you about - it's Forsdyke! He wants to kill me!! Save me!!!

FORSDYKE

Don't believe this girl - she is quite mad! We are her relatives and this is all for her own good!

ANNETTE

Yes, my poor cousin is deranged!

Approaching unnoticed is CYRANO DE BERGERAC. Cyrano is tall and elegant, with a hat, cloak and sword and a very big nose.

MULDRAC

Blanchard - the guns!

Blanchard hands Muldrac a pistol and he cocks the other.

FORSDYKE

This is no business of yours, so be on your way! Unless you want to be shot?!

Annette assists Renard holding Marguerite. Feeling unusually braver, Planchet steps closer.

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)

A foolish choice? And your last.

Forsdyke nods to Muldrac. Muldrac attacks Planchet, kicking him over onto his back. Muldrac aims the pistol at him.

MARGUERITE

No! Planchet!! Please don't kill him!!

Suddenly the pistol is KNOCKED from Muldracs hand by the tip of a sword - as Cyrano leaps forward, dramatically.

PLANCHET

Cyrano?! I've never been so happy to see someone in my whole life!?

CYRANO

Still getting yourself in trouble then, eh Planchet? You're lucky I happened nearby!

Cyrano pulls Planchet to his feet with his free hand, then turns to face Forsdyke and bows politely.

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CYRANO (CONT'D)

I am Hercule Savinien Cyrano De Bergerac.

FORSDYKE

Yes, I've heard of you? I am Archibald Forsdyke, personal friend and advisor to The Cardinal Richelieu.

Blanchard now aims at Cyrano - unafraid Cyrano looks sternly at him. Blanchard reconsiders and lowers the pistol.

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)

What gives you the right to stick your... Er... your 'attention' into our family business?

CYRANO

I have the distinction of being one of the Kings Musketeers - a keeper of the Peace. I cannot help but notice this young lady is very distraught, not too mention very noisy?

ANNETTE

This girl is my cousin - we are taking her home for 'treatment'. She is very disturbed - not of sound mind!

MARGUERITE

Lies! I am perfectly sane! Annette, you turncoat - I trusted you!?!

Annette smiles coldly at Marguerite.

MARGUERITE (CONT'D)

I am distressed its true - but because they are forcibly trying to carry me away! Planchet here was good enough to try and prevent them!

Muldrac retrieves his pistol but stuffs this into his belt instead of fighting, wary of Cyrano.

PLANCHET

I don't really know this lady though Cyrano - I only met her earlier!

Annette nods to Muldrac - he wanders slowly towards the house, hoping not to draw attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORSDYKE

This unfortunate woman had been
committed to an asylum but escaped -
she is not fit to roam the streets!

CYRANO

(sheaving his sword)
Where is your proof of all this?

FORSDYKE

I... Er... Don't have the papers on
me... But you can tell from looking at
her that she is deranged?

MARGUERITE

More lies! Don't listen to this
nonsense, I beg of you monsieur!

Cyrano steps closer to Annette and Renard and TAPS this hilt
of his sword. Taking the hint they release Marguerite.

CYRANO

Regrettably I am no expert in the
human psyche... All I see is a
distressed young lady. And Planchet,
with whom I am already acquainted -
both found in a state of distress?
Although such things are quite normal
for him, it seems?!

FORSDYKE

The Cardinal he shall hear of it if
you persist in interfering?

CYRANO

The Cardinal is not my master, nor do
I answer to him or his friends.

ANNETTE

My cousin and now daughter-in-law
belongs home with us. We are rough
with her but only because we care!

MARGUERITE

(to Annette, shocked)
You have married Forsdyke?! *Mon Dieu!*

Muldrac disappears inside the house.

CYRANO

You have no lodgings here in Paris
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRANO (CONT'D)
mademoiselle? Nowhere to stay?

MARGUERITE
No - but I've no desire to be forced
to remain here with Forsdyke!

PLANCHET
She could stay with me!

MARGUERITE
Could I?! Oh thank you Planchet!!

PLANCHET
Er - just for a day or so, there's
room at the moment as D'Artagnan is
away on business.

FORSDYKE
Now you go too far sir! I demand
satisfaction for this outrage!?!

CYRANO
A duel?

FORSDYKE
Indeed sir! At noon tomorrow, at the
Saint-Gervais-Saint-Prottais ruins!

PLANCHET
I'm not afraid of you - I'll be there!

CYRANO
Ah - excellent Planchet! And then it
seems for now then that this matter is
settled?

PLANCHET
Thank you Cyrano - yes!

FORSDYKE
Very well - but only until our matter
of honour is concluded. By then I'll
have all the committal papers ready
and waiting!

FADE TO

EXT. STREETS LEADING TO D'ARTAGNANS HOUSE - MID PM

Even more dung-filled with more run-down houses. D'Artagnan's

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

shared house is in the distance, this is in a poor state of repair as seen in previous episodes.

Planchet and Marguerite are walking towards the house, unaware that Muldrac is stealthily following.

MARGUERITE

Thank you again, Planchet. I won't be any bother... I take it you have fought duels before?

PLANCHET

Not as such... In fact I usually try to avoid them. Maybe I could just hide up somewhere instead?

MARGUERITE

But you have to go through with it! Or you'll never be able to hold your head up in public again!

PLANCHET

I won't be able to hold my head up at all - if I'm dead.

MARGUERITE

I thought you might have asked Cyrano to be your second? He is a famous duellist after all?

PLANCHET

Only when it comes to swords, as far as I know pistols aren't his thing?

MARGUERITE

Perhaps I should have warned you that Forsdyke is something of a crack-shot? He was a Captain in the English army.

PLANCHET

Maybe I can make a run for it? I hear Marseilles is nice this time of year.

MARGUERITE

Planchet, I hope you are joking? This is a matter of honour!

PLANCHET

A matter of suicide, perhaps?

They arrive at D'Artagnans house. Planchet fumbles for a key

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

as Marguerite looks up at the squalid building unimpressed.
Unseen by both Muldrac creeps closer and is keeping watch.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MILADY'S BEDROOM - LATE PM

A gilded four-poster bed dominates the room, there is expensive looking furniture and a large number of grooming tools. De Chiverny sits in the bed, in his underwear. Milady is beside him in her dressing-gown with underwear beneath.

MILADY

François - let's play a little game?

DE CHIVERNY

A game Anne?

MILADY

One that's a lot of fun - and something I enjoy immensely...

DE CHIVERNY

What sort of game?

Milady takes out long silk strands, much like rope. She kisses De Chiverny passionately for a moment then quickly ties one of his hands with the silk to a banister.

DE CHIVERNY (CONT'D)

Well - I don't know about this? This isn't really my thing!

MILADY

I'll put on a little show for you, but you won't be able to touch... That's the fun - the reward more satisfying!!

Milady ties De Chiverny's other hand, he WINCES as she pulls it TIGHTER. She smiles and quickly ties both his feet, then slides off the bed. Milady peels off her dressing gown and starts a SEDUCTIVE DANCE, swaying about.

DE CHIVERNY

(becoming keener)

Oh yes, I can see what you mean now?!

De Chiverny watches Milady with growing enthusiasm and pulls ineffectively at his bindings - he is trapped.

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CONTINUED:

Milady peels off items of underwear in a teasing manner and throws her stockings over De Chiverny's head. His eyes bulge with excitement. Soon Milady is down to her bloomers (with her back to the camera).

De Chiverny shakes the underwear from his head and gasps in horror as he looks at Milady's bare chest.

DE CHIVERNY (CONT'D)

What's that marking there? Is that a
fleur de lis???

Milady's FLIPS INTO A BESERK FURY - she SNARLS and pounces upon De Chiverny and wraps her underwear around his neck.

DE CHIVERNY (CONT'D)

(choking and dying)

Wait! Stop! I can't breathe?!

Milady is FURIOUS and continues to STRANGLE De Chiverny in a frenzy of rage. He CHOKES and struggles helplessly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. D'ARTAGNANS ROOMS - LATE PM

Untidy, squalid with a small cooking/dining area in one corner and a bedroom area opposite, divided by drapes.

Marguerite has removed some of her ragged clothing and is showing Planchet the tops of her shoulders and cleavage.

CLOSE UP AND PAN OUT FROM MARGUERITE'S CLEAVAGE.

MARGUERITE

See Planchet? No *fleur de lis*
anywhere!

PLANCHET

(trying not to oggle)
Oh yes? No marks at all?

MARGUERITE

As you know, if I was a murderess I'd
have been branded?

Marguerite pulls up her tattered blouse.

PLANCHET

Yes indeed? Well thank you for putting
my mind at rest on the matter?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGUERITE

There is one thing though. Something
you should perhaps know about me?

PLANCHET

Oh? What is that?

MARGUERITE

(embarrassed and unsure)
Do you... Do you believe in ghosts,
Planchet?

PLANCHET

(nervously)
Ghosts? Why do you ask?

MARGUERITE

My late brother Claude... He has never
really left me. I can see him even at
this very moment, standing just behind
you over there!

PLANCHET

(looking around nervously)
What? But I see nothing?

MARGUERITE

Sometimes I can only see him in
glimpses, in the corner of my eye.
Sometimes he comes much closer and I
can even hear him whispering!!

PLANCHET

I can't see him? We're alone?

MARGUERITE

It seems that only I can ever see him?
And it is for this reason Forsdyke was
able to accuse me of being deranged
and had me committed!

SUDDENLY there is a POUNDING on the door downstairs.

Planchet JUMPS with fright.

PLANCHET

(stammering)
Oh - it's, it's, it's just the door!
Someone is knocking downstairs...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGUERITE

It's not Forsdyke again is it, have they found me here?

PLANCHET

I'll go and see who it is. You wait up here though, just in case?

Planchet hurriedly leaves the room, relieved.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. D'ARTAGNANS ENTRANCE HALL - AFTERNOON

The shared entrance hall has not been decorated or properly-maintained for years. Stairs lead up to Planchets room and an internal door leads to a private area (of the landlord).

Planchet hurries down stairs to open the front door - as someone is HAMMERING from outside.

Planchet opens the door to reveal BRISEMONT.

Brisemont is scruffy, with a thick stubble and a scar. His appearance hints of his former occupation as a grave-robber.

He is carrying a wrapped package which he thrusts rather rudely into Planchets arms, winding him slightly.

BRISEMONT

Delivery for Monsieur D'Artagnan!! A special gift, from Milady de Winter, which she hopes will bring him all the happiness he deserves.

PLANCHET

Oh? Er? Thank you?

Planchet absent-mindedly throws the parcel onto a nearby side-table. Brisemont GASPS and leaps back for cover.

PLANCHET (CONT'D)

Hey - are you alright?

BRISEMONT

(returning to his feet)

Oh yes, sorry - I have been a bit jumpy of late. Must be my nerves!

PLANCHET

It's quite alright, I know the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET (CONT'D)
feeling! Well good day then?

Brisemont opens his mouth to speak but Planchet SLAMS the door shut in his face.

MARGUERITE (O.S)
(calling from upstairs)
Everything all right, Planchet?

PLANCHET
(Calling back)
Don't worry Marguerite, just a delivery. I'm coming back up now!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. D'ARTAGNAN'S ROOMS - AFTERNOON

Marguerite has been making herself more presentable, looking at her reflection in a saucepan.

Planchet enters, carrying the parcel from Brisemont. Marguerite notices the parcel with interest.

MARGUERITE
Anything exciting?

PLANCHET
I've not opened it yet, but I doubt it somehow...

Planchet begins to unwrap the parcel, but Marguerite snatches his hand suddenly to stop him.

MARGUERITE
Wait a moment Planchet! Stop!!

PLANCHET
What's wrong?

MARGUERITE
The name scrawled on the wrapping - it says "D'Artagnan". It's not yours!

PLANCHET
Oh yes, I hadn't noticed?

Planchet absent-mindedly throws the parcel into the corner.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET (CONT'D)

That's my... Er... Servants name by the way. D'Artagnan.

MARGUERITE

Oh, that useless one you mentioned?

PLANCHET

Ah yes, that's the one. Bit of a layabout really. I only employ him out of sheer kindness.

MARGUERITE

I was wondering if perhaps I can impose a little more on your great kindness, Planchet?

PLANCHET

In what way?

MARGUERITE

May I take a bath and get clean?

PLANCHET

Oh! Why yes - there's a tin bath we share with downstairs. I'll go and fetch it and fill it for you?

MARGUERITE

What about you though? This room seems to offer very little privacy?

PLANCHET

I'll take a short walk - we need some shopping done anyway...

In her happiness Marguerite pecks Planchet on his cheek - he blushes with surprise.

MARGUERITE

Afterwards I'll start cleaning and tidying too, this place looks like it really needs it? You really should discipline that servant of yours??

Planchet shuffles uncomfortably but nods.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET LEADING TO D'ARTAGNANS HOUSE - NIGHT

There are lights shining out from the windows of various houses, the upstairs of D'Artagnans house has a few candles burning only. Muldrac is lurking outside, looking bored.

D'ARTAGNAN arrives, heading for his front door. He is a Cadet in the Kings Guard, 20, dressed in a hat and cloak.

Muldrac realises that he looks suspicious and walks away WHISTLING an early version of "Ah - mon beau Chateau".

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. D'ARTAGNANS ROOMS - NIGHT

Lit only by a couple of candles. Planchet lays in the doorway in his 'bed' - a blanket in the doorway between bedroom and living area - SNORING loudly. Marguerite is asleep in the main bedroom, nude beneath the blankets. Her tattered clothing is hanging up on an indoor clothes-line to dry.

D'Artagnan enters the room quietly, carrying a candle. He pulls off his hat, cloak, boots and sword then heads across to his bedroom, stepping carefully over Planchet.

D'Artagnan enters the bedroom and sits on the foot of the bed, not noticing its occupant. He pulls off most of his clothing then pulls aside the blankets. Marguerite SCREAMS!!

MARGUERITE

Help! Intruder! Rape!!

Planchet staggers up sleepily from the doorway as Marguerite pulls the sheets over herself, covering her modesty.

D'ARTAGNAN

(shocked)

Planchet - why is there a naked woman in my bed?!

PLANCHET

It's not what you think sir, I can explain!

D'ARTAGNAN

Well I know you are a true-blooded Frenchman, but this had better be damned good?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET

(to Marguerite)

It's all right Marguerite, this is the man I told you I live with. He is not an intruder.

MARGUERITE

(becoming calm)

Oh? Oh I see??

D'ARTAGNAN

(to Marguerite)

Please excuse us, mademoiselle?

Planchet and D'Artagnan retreat from the bedroom and pull the curtain-divide closed behind them to give Marguerite more privacy, they converse quietly.

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)

What have you been up to you devil?!?

PLANCHET

This woman is Marguerite, she is...er... my cousin.

D'ARTAGNAN

Oh? And what's she doing here?

PLANCHET

Those in league with the Cardinal are after her! They want to kidnap her!!

D'ARTAGNAN

Agents of the Cardinal? What do they want with her??

PLANCHET

Her secrets - she knows of a plot involving a... er... a ruthless English spy called 'Forsdyke'.

D'ARTAGNAN

Forsdyke? What a silly name.

PLANCHET

There's a big story behind it, but she's basically in need of somewhere to stay. Just for a night or two!

D'ARTAGNAN

I see... Well? You could have asked me
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)
first though?

PLANCHET
I didn't know she was coming, I ran
into her unexpectedly in town...

D'ARTAGNAN
I can understand you wanting to help
your cousin, I suppose?

PLANCHET
I thought she can help with the
laundry while she's here and do some
dusting for us?

D'ARTAGNAN
Actually I thought it seemed a bit
tidier here when I came in?

PLANCHET
There's a bit of *coc-au-vin* left by
the sink, she cooked that up earlier.
She's a real whizz in the kitchen sir!

D'ARTAGNAN
Ok Planchet, she can stay - but just
for two nights. Anything's better than
your cooking!

PLANCHET
Thank you, sir! You won't regret it!!

D'ARTAGNAN
Now Planchet I need some sleep, I'm
very tired. Try not to snore?

D'Artagnan and Planchet settle down in the doorway, side by
side. After a moment D'Artagnan pulls most of the blanket
over himself, leaving Planchet with very little.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MILADY DE WINTERS HALLWAY - EARLY MORNING

Kitty opens the front door. Brisemont is calling.

BRISEMONT
Hello Kitty my girl!

Brisemont steps inside and grabs Kitty's backside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KITTY

(pulling away)

Hey Brisemont - keep your hands to yourself!? I've not forgotten how you helped Milady beat me the other day?

BRISEMONT

Yeah, and I am sorry about that Kitty. I couldn't exactly tell her I wouldn't help now, could I? Speaking of 'her' - is she in?

KITTY

'She' is in, but she does not want to be disturbed. She is upstairs 'entertaining' a gentleman friend at the moment...

MILADY (O.S)

(from upstairs)

More..... More... Yes... YES!!

BRISEMONT

Ah, so I can hear? And in true French fashion!? But at least she's in an agreeable mood today??

KITTY

It's disgusting, they've been at it for hours! Yesterday was much the same, but someone else... I don't know what the neighbours will say?

BRISEMONT

Well I just popped by to let her know the package was delivered. She also wants help moving something today, something for Forsdykes Old Water Mill? But I can come back later?

KITTY

Maybe that would be better? You look rather tired?

BRISEMONT

I was up late, out on the prowl... I'll be off to bed for a nap then? You can tuck me in, if you'd like??

Brisemont attempts to fondle Kitty but she pulls away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KITTY

No thank you! If you were out you didn't get that other note I dropped off at yours then?

BRISEMONT

Note? What note?

KITTY

Another note from Milady. I think it said not to deliver something, now some silly rich girl is involved?

BRISEMONT

Not deliver it? Oh *merde*!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. D'ARTAGNANS ROOMS - EARLY MORNING

It is noticeably CLEANER and tidier. Planchet and D'Artagnan are asleep on the floor, between the bedroom and living area.

POV UP from the sleepers. Marguerites beaming face is looking straight down at them, she is in an old nightshirt of D'Artagnan's - much cleaner than before.

MARGUERITE

(cheerfully)

Good morning sleepy heads!! I hope you like bacon and eggs for breakfast?

BACK TO SCENE

Planchet and D'Artagnan awaken and stagger up. They begin to pull on their clothing and sit at the table. A breakfast of soggy bacon, runny eggs and black toast lays before them.

PLANCHET

Marguerite this is monsieur D'Artagnan. This is Marguerite.

D'ARTAGNAN

Bon jour Marguerite, I take it you slept well?

MARGUERITE

The best nights sleep I've had in many months, thank you monsieur.

Planchet and D'Artagnan begin to eat their breakfasts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'ARTAGNAN

I've told Planchet that I have no objections with your staying for a day or two. He mentioned you have some 'trouble' at the moment?

MARGUERITE

Why thank you! Yes - but I'd rather not go into all that really? And I'll be sure to help out around the house while I'm here. Although it's not really up to you though, is it?

PLANCHET

What she means is, it's up to the landlord downstairs - as it's his property.

D'ARTAGNAN

Ah yes, I see? I'm sure that old miser would probably try to charge us more rent if he knew there were more!

Planchet and D'Artagnan eat their unappetising breakfasts - after a few bites D'Artagnan exchanges a questioning look at Planchet but Planchet continues eating and oblivious.

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)

Planchet mentioned you're not a native Parisian Marguerite, just visiting?

MARGUERITE

I have stayed in Paris many times before but I am actually from Vienne, in Nouvelle-Aquitaine.

D'ARTAGNAN

Oh really? I passed through there once, very picturesque? I thought Planchets relatives are all to be found in Picardy though?

MARGUERITE

Oh - I wouldn't know?

D'Artagnan gives Planchet a suspicious look.

PLANCHET

There are so many relatives! They all move around a lot too. Though its correct that I and my immediate family
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET (CONT'D)
are all from Picardy originally.

Planchet and D'Artagnan continue eating.

MARGUERITE
You may have noticed the dust is gone,
the grime is no more and that large
build-up of what I hope was just mud
in the corner has been removed?

D'ARTAGNAN
Yes - it looks a lot better here
already. You'll have to give Planchet
your cleaning tips??

Planchet keeps eating and says nothing. D'Artagnan takes a
reluctant final bite, then pulls on his boots and fastens his
sword to his belt.

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)
Planchet, I need to head out again
today. I can't go into detail but
suffice to say that it's an important
matter, involving my friend Athos. I
will likely be out all day, so don't
worry about cooking for me.

D'Artagnan heads towards the door.

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)
I'll see you both later!

D'Artagnan bows to Marguerite and exits.

Marguerite begins to tidy away the breakfast things - much of
D'Artagnan's meal has been left uneaten.

MARGUERITE
I see what you mean about useless? He
swans around as though it is him
that's in charge!

Planchet looks rather embarrassed.

MARGUERITE (CONT'D)
Oh and don't forget it's your duel
today?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET

(Rolls his eyes)

How could I forget?

MARGUERITE

Why didn't you tell your servant about it? Should he not know??

PLANCHET

I don't like to trouble him. He IS just a servant after all...

MARGUERITE

I assume you still need a 'second'? Perhaps you could have asked him?

PLANCHET

Actually, you've given me a very good idea! I know just who I can call upon to help me...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOUSE OF PORTHOS - MORNING

Porthos and his servant Mousqueton reside in the upper floors of a large impressive-looking townhouse. Planchet is leading Marguerite towards the entrance. Marguerite's clothes have now been cleaned and stitched/repaired.

MARGUERITE

This is a very large house?

PLANCHET

A large house for a large man! Oh - and remember not to comment about the lack of furnishings. That will only upset him.

Planchet KNOCKS LOUDLY on the front door, after a moment this swings open and Mousqueton appears.

MOUSQUETON

(surprised)

Oh Planchet, hello?

(surprised to see Marguerite)

Oh, and hello again, mademoiselle?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOME OF PORTHOS - MORNING

Despite the impressive exterior the home of Porthos is almost empty. There is only one chair and a small gate-leg table.

PORTHOS sits finishing a breakfast of one small croissant, still in his night robe. Porthos is bearded and very large in stature and he has a deep booming voice.

Mousqueton leads Planchet and Marguerite inside.

PORTHOS

Planchet you rascal? Is that you?

PLANCHET

Porthos, old friend, sorry to bother you at this hour?

PORTHOS

Come in, come in... That will be all, Mousqueton.

Mousqueton bows and exits as Porthos rises to his feet.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

And who is this lovely lady?

PLANCHET

Porthos, this is Marguerite de Pardaillan de Gondrin. Marguerite this is Porthos, a royal Musketeer.

MARGUERITE

(curtsies)

Pleased to meet you, Monsieur.

Porthos takes Marguerite's hand and kisses it.

PORTHOS

Forgive my attire mademoiselle, I was not expecting company, and certainly not attractive female company. Please take a seat?

Marguerite sits in the one chair that was previously occupied by Porthos.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

Now then Planchet, what is this all about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET

Porthos I regret to put this upon you,
but I have to fight a duel today.

PORTHOS

A duel? Very commendable! What has
this fellow done, to so incur your
wrath?

PLANCHET

His name is Forsdyke - he is an
Englishman.

PORTHOS

An Englishman? Well that's reason
enough in my book! Funny lot those
English... Black pudding, warm ale, not
to mention dubious sausage... *Eargh!*

PLANCHET

Without wanting to go betray this
ladies confidence, this Englishman has
done great mischief to poor Marguerite
and to her whole family!

PORTHOS

The devil! Well - it sounds a
commendable duel then? Well done old
chap! Top ho!

PLANCHET

I haven't yet arranged for a 'second'
though and don't really know anyone
else I could ask?

PORTHOS

Ah, then say no more - I will gladly
be your second, if you wish? When does
this duel of yours take place?

PLANCHET

At midday today, in the ruins of
Saint-Gervais-Saint-Protais church.

PORTHOS

Midday today? You don't hang around?!
Well as luck would have it I am free
until about two o'clock, so that's
ample time for this business of yours
to be settled...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET
Thank you Porthos.

PORTHOS
Was it to be pistols or swords?

PLANCHET
Pistols.

PORTHOS
Ah, I better have Mousqueton clean my
pistols. Am I to assume you're a
better marksman than a swordsman then?

PLANCHET
If the truth be told, I've never fired
a pistol before...

PORTHOS
(Booming in surprise)
WHAT?!?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COURTYARD OF PORTHOS - MORNING

The shared courtyard is overlooked by several buildings. Porthos is now dressed in his usual flamboyant attire and Planchet and Marguerite are standing behind him. Mousqueton is setting-up a straw target but Porthos FIRES before he gets clear, only just missing him.

PORTHOS
Come on Mousqueton, get out of the
way! Don't dawdle!!

At the sound of the first shot several windows of nearby buildings SLAM SHUT in protest - angry neighbours.

As Mousqueton scurries for cover Porthos thrusts another loaded pistol into Planchet's hand.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)
Here, try this one - its loaded and
ready!

Planchet aims towards the target and FIRES - but misses. There is the sound of BREAKING GLASS.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)
Ah don't worry, that's Madame LeClerk
- -

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

I never liked her much anyway. Take your time when aiming, only squeeze the trigger when you're sure of the target in your sights.

Mousqueton loads another pistol and hands it to Porthos - who then hands it to Planchet, taking the spent pistol.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

Try again!

Planchet takes careful aim this time, as Porthos continues.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

It's probably a good thing you chose pistols. A sword can take months or even years to get any good at... A pistol you just aim and pull the trigger. Practice helps of course! Keep trying - you'll get the hang of it.

Planchet fires and misses again. There is the sound of a CAT SCREECHING in the distance.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

Although you're more likely to die from a pistol shot than a sword wound.

Planchet and Marguerite exchange worried glances.

Mousqueton quickly loads another pistol and hands it to Porthos who then hands it to Planchet. This pistol is more large and elaborately decorated than the others.

Planchet aims and shoots - hitting the target this time.

Marguerite beams and claps excitedly.

MARGUERITE

Bravo!!

PORTHOS

Ah that's more like it! That must be your 'lucky pistol'! I picked that one up years ago from a dead Spaniard. You may borrow it if you like?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHURCHYARD - MIDDAY

The churchyard is desolate and overgrown, the church nearby is disused and falling into ruins. Porthos, Planchet, Marguerite and Mousqueton are present. Opposite them stands Forsdyke, Muldrac, Renard, MONSIEUR DE CAVOIS and DOCTOR PERRAULT (non-speaking).

Monsieur de Cavois is an off-duty Captain of the Cardinals Guards. He is about 45, balding and smartly dressed.

Doctor Perrault is an aging medical doctor, now semi-retired. He carries a doctors bag and wears primitive spectacles.

Muldrac bows at De Cavois and Planchet in turn.

PORTHOS

...And I am the second for Monsieur Planchet. I am Porthos, member of His Majesties Musketeers.

Porthos bows more ostentatiously than Muldrac to all.

DE CAVOIS

Very good. Does anyone have any questions or points they need to raise?

Planchet shakes his head - and begins to shake in general. Porthos gives Planchet a hearty pat on the back, almost knocking him over.

FORSDYKE

There is something I should mention, in case all parties are not aware...

(Points to Marguerite)

This woman is my legally adopted daughter through marriage. She has escaped from an asylum having been found to be of unsound mind.

PORTHOS

What?! That's news to me! By thunder - She was wandering about in my house earlier?!

Porthos looks with surprise at Planchet and then Marguerite.

FORSDYKE

It's true, my man here can show you the documents and the papers for her

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)

arrest.

Muldrac presents Porthos with a bundle of legal papers. Porthos glances through these, confused and flustered.

PORTHOS

Well... Well, er...? I see?

FORSDYKE

(to De Cavois)

As a member of the Cardinals Guards...

(turns to Porthos)

And as a Musketeer, I hope you both agree that this poor deluded woman should not be left to her own recognisance after the duel is concluded? Regardless of outcome??

MARGUERITE

Don't I have a say in all this?

FORSDYKE

Be silent - you little fool!

Renard approaches Marguerite and puts his hands down on her shoulders - deterring her escape.

DE CAVOIS

I have examined these documents already, they seem in order to me?

PORTHOS

Well then... I suppose so?

Porthos hands the documents back to Muldrac and shrugs helplessly at Planchet.

FORSDYKE

Very good then.

Forsdyke smiles unkindly at Marguerite, who scowls back.

DE CAVOIS

Now Gentleman, let us return to the matter at hand? Please take your weapons and stand back to back.

Planchet and Forsdyke take their places. The others move to a safe distance, Renard leads Marguerite firmly away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DE CAVOIS (CONT'D)
Gentleman, you will both take ten
paces then turn and face each other.
Proceed!

Planchet and Forsdyke move as instructed, Forsdyke stepping with confidence but Planchet is almost stumbling in terror.

DE CAVOIS (CONT'D)
Major Forsdyke, you will now ready
your weapon?

Forsdyke cocks his pistol and adopts a shooting stance - a moment later PLANCHET FAINTS and falls to the ground.

DE CAVOIS (CONT'D)
One moment Major! Don't shoot.

Porthos slaps his forehead and rushes to Planchet and tries to rouse him. Forsdyke sighs then uncocks his pistol.

PORTHOS
(whispering to Planchet)
Get up Planchet you fool! This is
making me look bad!!
(turning to De Cavois)
It seems that monsieur Planchet is
ill?

DE CAVOIS
Well this is most unfortunate? But the
rules in these matters are clear.
Monsieur Porthos - you will take his
place!

PORTHOS
Oh - very well? I wish I'd not have
worn my finest shirt and favourite
waistcoat now though?! *C'est le vie...*

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MILADYS RECEPTION ROOM - MIDDAY

Milady now wears a blue dress and she is reclining on the chaise-lounge drinking a glass of wine. Kitty KNOCKS and nervously enters.

MILADY
Ah Kitty - you have delivered my
message to Forsdyke?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KITTY

To the servant Milady. He tells me
that the Forsdykes are all out at
present...

MILADY

(angry)

What? All out?! Whatever for??

KITTY

(nervous)

Only the old servant - Blanchard - was
at home. He said his master was out
fighting a duel. The lady of the house
was out too, visiting some legal
expert apparently.

MILADY

(becoming angry)

What of our business? I have a
delivery I need resolving!!

Milady hurls her glass to the wall where it SHATTERS.

KITTY

(afraid)

I'm sorry madam! I only did as you
instructed!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHURCHYARD - MIDDAY

The daylight seems to be DIMMING and the sky is suddenly
clouding over. Forsdyke and Porthos face each-other and stand
about 20 paces apart, carrying pistols. Porthos has the large
ornate pistol previously used by Planchet.

De Cavois stands closer but not in the shooting area.

Planchet lies on the ground, semi-conscious with his head
cradled in Marguerites lap. Mousqueton, Muldrac, Renard and
Doctor Perrault are also nearby.

NOTE: CGI may be needed in this scene.

POV from Planchets perspective - looking up to the gathering
clouds and seeing the concerned face of Marguerite looking
down at him (into the camera).

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET (O.S)
(waking)
What... What happened?

BACK TO SCENE

MARGUERITE
Planchet you fainted! Poor Monsieur
Porthos must stand in your place.

PLANCHET
Oh?

MOUSQUETON
A very convenient faint, Planchet?? If
master Porthos dies I'll be out of a
cushy job!

MARGUERITE
Oh no, this is all my fault! When will
all this senseless violence end?!

Planchet sits up and looks around.

PLANCHET
I know I'm still a bit woozy, but is
it getting darker?

MOUSQUETON
Looks like a storm is coming?

DE CAVOIS
(stepping away)
Major Forsdyke, you may aim and fire
when ready?

Forsdyke cocks his pistol and aim at Porthos, who stands
opposite him seemingly rather jovial.

There is a rush of air and the shadowy form of THE GHOST OF
CLAUDE materialises in front of Forsdyke - unseen by everyone
apart from Marguerite. The Ghost is dressed in smart funeral
clothes and is transparent. He is facially similar to
Marguerite but has a moustache.

MARGUERITE
(whispers excitedly)
Claude?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET
(looking around)
Claude - who? Where??

The Ghost extends his arm, his palm blocking the end of Forsdykes pistol. Forsdyke pulls the trigger. There is a BANG AND FLASH, the pistol has misfired.

FORSDYKE
Blast it!

The Ghost FADES AWAY and looks pleased with himself.

The sky becomes brighter again.

Forsdyke throws his broken pistol angrily to the ground.

DE CAVOIS
A mis-fire! I'm afraid that will have to count as your shot, Major.

FORSDYKE
What? But this hardly seems fair?

DE CAVOIS
Monsieur Porthos - it is your turn.
You may aim and fire when ready?

Forsdyke becomes nervous as Porthos cocks his pistol and takes aim. The spectators watch with baited breath. Porthos smiles then raises his pistol up and shoots into the air, missing deliberately.

DE CAVOIS (CONT'D)
A miss! Major Forsdyke - are you satisfied, or shall the duel continue?

FORSDYKE
(rather rattled)
I am satisfied...

DE CAVOIS
Very good - then this matter is concluded. I pronounce this contest to be a draw, with no clear winner.
Gentleman, please shake hands?

Porthos shakes Forsdykes hands in a jovial manner, as Forsdyke recovers his nerves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PORTHOS

Well that was a good show! Better luck
next time then, eh?

Muldrac attends Forsdyke and recovers his broken pistol.
Porthos approaches Planchet, who is being helped to his feet
by Marguerite and Mousqueton.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

Ah, back with us again, eh Planchet?
Well - you missed all the fun. Just a
draw though in the end.

PLANCHET

Thank you for everything, Porthos?

PORTHOS

Don't mention it - what are friends
for? Plus this little adventure has
filled some otherwise empty time. As
for me, I now have an appointment to
keep with the lovely Madame Coqueand...
(to Marguerite)

Goodbye Marguerite, it was a pleasure
meeting you, I hope things work out
for you!

Porthos turns to leave, twirling his moustache contentedly -
then he turns back and hands Planchet the large pistol.

PORTHOS (CONT'D)

Oh and you may keep this as a
souvenir? I have several similar ones
at home... And think you need the
practice?!

Come along, Mousqueton!

Mousqueton bows quickly to Planchet and Marguerite then
hurries away after Porthos, they both exit.

De Cavois bows farewell to all then he also exits.

MARGUERITE

Planchet - are you feeling better now?

PLANCHET

Yes Marguerite, I think so...

As Porthos and Mousqueton disappear from view Muldrac, Renard
and Doctor Perrault close in towards Planchet and Marguerite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Marguerite fusses over Planchet, brushing dirt off him.

Suddenly Marguerite is GRABBED by Muldrac and Renard from behind, taking an arm each. Muldrac holds his hand over her mouth to stifle her scream.

MULDRAC

Not so fast, my pretty one!

PLANCHET

Marguerite! Let her go!

FORSDYKE

(to Planchet)

Make a fool of me, would you?

Forsdyke hits Planchet over his head with the butt of his broken pistol, knocking him unconscious. Doctor Perrault looks down at Planchet with concern, but the angry glare of Forsdyke stops him protesting.

Renard and Muldrac begin to bind and gag Marguerite, who struggles helplessly.

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)

(leering at Marguerite)

Come along my dear, I have 'special plans' for you!!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. D'ARTAGNANS ROOMS - LATE AFTERNOON

D'Artagnan has attempted - with limited success - to prepare a meal, which he is eating as Planchet staggers inside. Planchet has dirt and dried grass over his clothing and has the pistol from Porthos tucked into his belt.

D'ARTAGNAN

Planchet, you're back late? You missed all the fun! In case you were wondering about the scorch-marks by the front door there was a strange explosion earlier.

PLANCHET

Explosion?

Planchet staggers inside and collapses into a chair. He begins dusting dirt and grass from his clothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'ARTAGNAN

I was back early - mid-afternoon there was a knock on the door. I answered and there was two shifty-looking characters - one was an native Indian from the Americas by the look of him.

PLANCHET

An Indian??

D'ARTAGNAN

They said something along the lines of 'You have a parcel that you shouldn't have' - or words to that effect. At first I considered seeing them off with my sword then remembered I'd spotted a parcel. The label had been pulled-off though?

PLANCHET

Ah yes, that came yesterday...

D'ARTAGNAN

I threw it down to them from the window... And a moment later there was a large 'boom' just outside! I bet old Monsieur Bonacieux won't be happy when he sees that crater?

Planchet staggers into the kitchen area and gulps down some water, spilling more than he drinks.

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)

Planchet - are you unwell?

PLANCHET

I'm sorry about dinner sir, I am late because I was assaulted! Cracked over the head and left in a ditch.

Planchet shows D'Artagnan his bump.

D'ARTAGNAN

Robbers? Bandits? And where is your pretty cousin? I was looking forward to seeing her again??

PLANCHET

They took her off too sir!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'ARTAGNAN

Took her? Who took her?

PLANCHET

Forsdyke - and his henchman.

D'ARTAGNAN

Forsdyke? The Cardinals English spy?

PLANCHET

A spy perhaps... But also her legal guardian or so it seems.

D'ARTAGNAN

Am I to take it he took her back by force then?

PLANCHET

Something like that, but I think Marguerite is in danger. I don't know what Forsdyke has in store for her!

D'ARTAGNAN

This Forsdyke then - he has assaulted my servant, kidnapped my guest and... He is English?! As Athos would say, 'this just won't do'!

DISSOLVE TO :

EXT. FORSDYKES HOUSE - LATE PM

D'Artagnan and Planchet have just been turned away from the front door by Blanchard. Planchet still has the pistol tucked in his belt. Kitty is loitering and as they approach her.

D'ARTAGNAN

No-one is at home? Just that wizened old gargoyle... It wasn't him who beat you up then?

PLANCHET

Give me some credit sir?!

KITTY

Told you both didn't I? Milady sent me here earlier, she is keen to get word to Forsdyke. I've been back and forwards three times now!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'ARTAGNAN

Any thoughts on where they might be then, Kitty?

KITTY

Actually, Brisemont mentioned something about an old water mill??

D'ARTAGNAN

An Old Water mill? Well there's only one around here that I know of and it's been derelict for years?

PLANCHET

Perhaps that's the one then? The English are terribly lazy when it comes to property maintenance.

D'ARTAGNAN

It is about thirty minutes walk from here, if you're up for the walk? It would set my mind at rest to know that Marguerite is at least unharmed?

PLANCHET

Mine too sir.

KITTY

Marguerite? Who is that?

D'ARTAGNAN

Planchets cousin. Thanks for the news though Kitty - we'll catch up properly sometime soon! Come on Planchet!?

DISSOLVE TO :

INT. THE OLD WATER MILL, UPSTAIRS - LATE AFTERNOON

Semi-derelict with an open doorway that leads to an unsafe balcony. Below is a sheer drop into a rubbish-filled pit. Marguerite is bound and gagged - unable to rise from a chair. Forsdyke and Annette are present.

FORSDYKE

(leering at Marguerite)

This venture finally draws to a close... Any last words to say to your little fool of a cousin, Annette?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNETTE

I'm not one to gloat Archie, just get it done quick?

Forsdyke pulls out a knife and waves this at Marguerite.

FORSDYKE

I can do it right now if you like?

(Nods to balcony)

I was thinking a quick stab, let her bleed out, then shove her in the pit?

ANNETTE

Wouldn't the fall alone be enough?

FORSDYKE

Probably, but why take a chance?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELDS NEAR OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

The Old Watermill is in the distance, past a bridge. This has a balcony with PIT directly below. There is a river and a dirt track leading to the bridge by the entrance. D'Artagnan and Planchet head towards the mill.

D'ARTAGNAN

There we are, just ahead. It was a further walk than I remembered?

PLANCHET

My feet hurt...

D'ARTAGNAN

Looks like there's someone there, I see movement on the balcony? Perhaps we could wade across the river to save time, or there's a bridge?

PLANCHET

You know I have a terrible phobia about water sir?

D'ARTAGNAN

Actually I'd forgotten? I thought that was just an excuse around bath time?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BRIDGE BY THE OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

The bridge leads towards the entrance of the Mill. Muldrac and Renard are standing guard. Renard has a long-barrelled musket plus a pistol and club in his belt, Muldrac has a sword and dagger.

As Planchet and D'Artagnan approach Muldrac and Renard rush to meet them on the bridge, blocking their way.

MULDRAC

Hold it you two - this is private property! State your business?

Muldracs hand rests on the hilt of his sword and Renard cocks his musket.

PLANCHET

(whispers to D'Artagnan)
Those are the two who attacked me!

D'ARTAGNAN

(To Muldrac)
I am looking for an Englishman named Forsdyke. Is he here?

Muldrac and Renard exchange worried looks then Muldrac draws his sword and Renard takes aim at D'Artagnan.

D'Artagnan and Planchet draw their weapons, D'Artagnan darts toward Renard and knocks aside his musket, causing him to fire harmlessly to the side.

Muldrac and D'Artagnan begin sword-fighting.

Renard drops his spent musket and pulls out his pistol and aims at Planchet. Planchet cocks his pistol and aims at Renard - they both FIRE at the same time. Renard stumbles to the ground clutching a fatal chest wound.

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)

(surprised)
Good shot Planchet!

Planchet has a small nick in his shoulder - not serious but enough to cause Planchet to nervously retreat.

MULDRAC

(glancing down at Renard)
You'll pay for that! I was a student of the great 'Ridolfo Capo Ferro'
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MULDRAC (CONT'D)
himself!

Muldrac is highly trained as a swordsman and D'Artagnan is an amateur at best. Muldrac dominates the fight until he smashes D'Artagnan in the face with the pommel of his sword.

D'Artagnan is KNOCKED backwards, stunned. Muldrac shoves him backwards over the wall, where he FALLS into the river.

MULDRAC (CONT'D)
(turning to Planchet)
And now for you!

Planchet drops his spent pistol and flees in panic. Muldrac CHUCKLES, briefly glances down over the wall at D'Artagnan then attends to his fallen companion.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELDS NEAR OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

Now the figures of Muldrac and Renard are visible on the distant bridge. Renard lays dying as Muldrac is trying to help him. Planchet is running away from the mill. He pauses and looks for signs of pursuit.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BRIDGE BY THE OLD WATERMILL. LATE PM

Muldrac is attempting to stanch the bleeding of Renard.

PAN TO D'Artagnan's unconscious form which bobs up and down in the river below. He is DROWNING.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELDS NEAR OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

Muldrac and Renard are visible on the bridge. Planchet sees D'Artagnan bobbing in the river.

Planchet turns to resume his escape, then stops, clenches his fists and turns and rushes back to help his master.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE RIVER BY THE WATERMILL - LATE PM

The river has a strong current and is pulling the dazed

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'Artagnan along. In the background the Old Water Mill and the bridge can be seen. D'Artagnan gasps and splutters as the water pulls him under.

Planchet, looking very fearful, wades into the river, reaches with trembling hands and pulls D'Artagnan out to the bank.

D'Artagnan lays on the bank coughing and spluttering.

Planchet shakes with exertion and fear - traumatised.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE OLD WATER MILL, UPSTAIRS - LATE AFTERNOON

Marguerite is now standing but still bound at hands and feet and gagged. Forsdyke gazes out through the broken windows and Annette looks out through the balcony doorway.

ANNETTE

What on earth is going on out there?
Was that shooting?

FORSDYKE

Careful of the balcony, it's not safe.
Don't worry - I'm sure Muldrac and
Renard have things under control?

ANNETTE

I'm going to check?
(heads to the stairs)
You might as well dispose of her, you
know how I hate the sight of blood?

Annette exits via the stairs, heading downwards.

FORSDYKE

(turning to Marguerite)
Alone at last!

Forsdyke pulls a knife from his belt and strokes Marguerites face with the blade. She tries to pull away but falls backwards to the floor as her feet are tied. Forsdyke chuckles and stands over her, groping her as she struggles.

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)

Don't worry my dear, at least you
won't die a virgin...

Forsdyke tears open Marguerites dress, revealing her legs. He then cuts the bindings off her ankles to grope her better.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)

Lovely, lovely... Just like a birthday
gift, waiting to be unwrapped...!

Marguerites stops struggling and looks at Forsdyke in a suggestive manner as he crouches over her and eagerly fumbles the buttons on her blouse. Marguerite suddenly KNEES Forsdyke. He HOWLS with pain and rolls to the floor.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BRIDGE BY THE OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

Muldrac abandons Renard, realising he is dead.

MULDRAC

Ah Renard - I am sorry?

Muldrac looks down from the bridge and sees Planchet and D'Artagnan on the bank, he hastily reloads the pistol.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE RIVER BY THE WATERMILL - LATE PM.

As before, but now a soggy D'Artagnan is attending Planchet, who sits at the bank sobbing and cradling himself.

D'ARTAGNAN

Come on Planchet, don't make all this
fuss - I'm fine now! Even found my
sword! Stop all this blubbering!

Planchet does not reply - he is traumatised.

There is the sound of a SHOT being fired and a musket-ball SLAMS into the river bank near both.

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)

(Looking up at the bridge)
You again!

D'Artagnan charges towards the bridge and Muldrac.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BRIDGE BY THE OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

Muldrac is on the bridge attempting to reload the pistol as D'Artagnan rushes towards him - his soggy clothing hampering his movements. Renards dead body lays nearby.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Annette emerges from inside mill, approaching Muldrac.

ANNETTE

Muldrac - what's been going on out
here? Are we attacked??

Annette notices the corpse of Renard and sees soggy
D'Artagnan approaching with sword drawn.

ANNETTE (CONT'D)

Renard?! *Mon dieu!*

Annette rushes back inside. D'Artagnan arrives and confronts
Muldrac who discards the pistol and draws his sword.

MULDRAC

Back for another lesson are we? Well
this time I'll finish the job!

Muldrac and D'Artagnan clash swords and resume fighting.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE OLD WATER MILL, UPSTAIRS - LATE AFTERNOON

Marguerite has climbed awkwardly to her feet as only her legs
are now untied. Her hands are still bound and she still wears
a gag. Forsdyke is on his knees, clutching his groin.

Marguerite attempts to run to the stairs but Forsdykes hand
darts out to stop her. She recoils away from his grasp.

FORSDYKE

You're not going anywhere!

Forsdyke staggers to his feet and retrieves his knife, then
chases Marguerite around the room. Marguerite is cornered at
the balcony, which she backs into. Her GAG IS FALLING down
her chin as she glances to the pit behind her.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE RIVER BY THE WATERMILL - LATE PM.

D'Artagnan and Muldrac are sword-fighting on the bridge.
Planchet sits at the river bank nearby, still cradling
himself with tears running down his cheeks.

MARGUERITE (O.S)

(from inside Mill)

Help! Someone help me! Help!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Planchet looks up, wipes his tears and staggers to his feet.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BRIDGE BY THE OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

Muldrac is fighting the soggy D'Artagnan. Planchet is rushing towards them, he grabs the wooden CLUB from Renards belt. Planchet WHACKS Muldrac over his head from behind and continues past him towards the mill. Muldrac slumps down, knocked-out. D'Artagnan looks amazed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE OLD WATER MILL, MAIN ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

The downstairs entrance area has a staircase spiralling upwards to a room above. The rotten front door is bolted, but someone is BASHING the door from the outside and it threatens to break open. Annette is loading a musket.

ANNETTE
(calling upstairs)
Quickly Archibald - they got Muldrac!

MARGUERITE (O.S)
(from upstairs)
help - someone!!

The bolt on the door BREAKS and the door bursts open. Planchet enters, armed with a club. A soggy D'Artagnan follows behind him with sword-drawn, still rather amazed.

Annette FIRES at Planchet and misses. She discards the musket and scampers upstairs.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE OLD WATER MILL, UPSTAIRS - LATE AFTERNOON

Forsdyke is armed with a dagger and approaching Marguerite who is on the balcony, stepping to the edge. Her hands are still tied but she has managed to push off her gag. Another step backwards and she will fall into the pit.

NOTE: CGI may be needed in this scene.

MARGUERITE
You won't get away with this, you
monster!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORSDYKE
(laughing evilly)
By step or by blade, the pit awaits
you, foolish girl!

Forsdyke lunges toward Marguerite with his dagger.

At this moment THE GHOST appears - looking angry. The ghost is unseen by Forsdyke and he extends his ghostly foot. Forsdyke TRIPS over and sprawls forward screaming - past Marguerite - and over the edge of the balcony.

MARGUERITE
(to the ghost)
Claude?! You saved me?!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELDS NEAR OLD WATERMILL - LATE PM

PAN TO the Old Water Mill.

Forsdyke is seen HANGING from the balcony, his legs dangling above the pit below. On the balcony stands Marguerite, whose hands are tied. She looks down helplessly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE OLD WATER MILL, UPSTAIRS - LATE AFTERNOON

Forsdyke is hanging from the edge of the balcony and trying to pull himself back up. Marguerite stands nearby, still with her hands bound. Annette rushes upstairs into the room.

NOTE: CGI may be needed in this scene.

ANNETTE
Archibald?

FORSDYKE
Help me! Annette - over here! Help!!

Annette shoves Marguerite aside and rushes to pull up Forsdyke. As Forsdyke is being pulled The Ghost appears again - now FULLY VISIBLE directly behind Annette.

Forsdyke stares past Annette at the ghost in horror.

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)
(To Ghost)
No - it can't be you! But we killed
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORSDYKE (CONT'D)
you! We killed you!!

Annette turns to see The Ghost. She SCREAMS and releases Forsdyke who plummets down into the pit. Annette then STUMBLES away from the Ghost and also falls into the pit.

The Ghost fades away just as Planchet puffs up the stairs.

PLANCHET
Marguerite!

MARGUERITE
Planchet!!

Planchet drops the club he was carrying and unties Marguerite as D'Artagnan also arrives up the stairs.

D'ARTAGNAN
Where are the Forsdykes?

MARGUERITE
They fell to their doom off the ledge!

D'Artagnan looks even more surprised, but sheaves his sword. Marguerite gives Planchet a peck on his cheek.

MARGUERITE (CONT'D)
(to Planchet)
Thank goodness you arrived in time to
save me Planchet, both you are your
brave servant!

D'ARTAGNAN
(laughing)
What?! Your servant??

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MILADY'S RECEPTION ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Milady is pacing up and down, impatiently. Brisemont KNOCKS on the door and enters. His clothing, hair and stubble are now SINGED and burnt.

MILADY
(angrily)
Well Brisemont - what news?

BRISEMONT
D'Artagnan - that devil - he blew us
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRISEMONT (CONT'D)

up! Poor old Nokoom is still in the hospital. He won't be out for days.

MILADY

Fools! Am I to do everything myself?! And what of Forsdyke? Need I remind you I have a festering corpse that should not be here!!

BRISEMONT

There are reports of a battle at the Forsdykes mill! There are guards and musketeers everywhere! Forsdyke has been killed, joining his victims in his own pit!

Milady glowers with rage and snatches several ornaments from the shelf which she begins to throw around the room.

MILADY

(enraged)

Get out of my sight, you imbecile!

Brisemont ducks from flying ornaments and rushes away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TREVILLES OFFICE, HOTEL DE VILLE - LATE MORNING

Trevilles office is rather untidy. This is HQ of the Musketeers.

TREVILLE is a middle-aged military man with a long moustache and ruddy complexion. He is seated at his desk.

D'Artagnan KNOCKS and enters.

D'ARTAGNAN

Monsieur de Treville, Monsieur des Essarts tells me you wanted to speak to me?

TREVILLE

Ah young Monsieur D'Artagnan! Come in, come in? Congratulations are in order!! Not only do you save a wealthy heiress from her scheming relatives, you single-handedly exposed an illicit mass-grave and solved countless murder cases!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'ARTAGNAN

It seems that I was fortunate sir?
Luck was on my side.

TREVILLE

No need for modesty! Its work like
this that will fast-track you out of
the cadets and straight into the
Musketeers! The King himself now knows
your name and of the great service you
have performed for our city.

D'Artagnan sits opposite Treville and smiles.

TREVILLE (CONT'D)

His majesty tells me he is now
considering approving your application
to become a musketeer, pending
approval from the Cardinal.

D'ARTAGNAN

That is welcome news Sir?

TREVILLE

Well done, well done indeed lad. Your
father will be very proud.

D'ARTAGNAN

Thank you Sir. Might I ask, do you
have any news about the young lady?

TREVILLE

Only that she is already taking full
possession of her lawful estate, being
ably assisted by one Monsieur Bonnaire
- her late father's solicitor.

D'ARTAGNAN

That would be the gentleman she left
my house with earlier then? I barely
had time to say goodbye!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. D'ARTAGNAN'S ROOMS - MIDDAY

The rooms are back to their usual messy state. Planchet is
ineffectively sweeping the floor and muttering to himself as
he works. Unknown to him, he is not alone.

NOTE: CGI may be needed here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PLANCHET

(speaking to self)

Oh Marguerite, you appeared like a bolt from the blue, then disappear again just as fast. I didn't even get to say goodbye...

(sighs)

Oh *mon dieu*, now she's got me doing it and talking to myself!

The GHOST materialises before Planchet - who sees this apparition for the first time. The Ghost smiles and bows politely, as if to thank Planchet for his help.

PLANCHET (CONT'D)

(shocked and terrified)

A GHOST?! Aaaaaaaaaaargh!!!

Planchet drops his broom and FAINTS. The Ghost rolls his eyes, surprised by this reaction then fades away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. D'ARTAGNANS ROOMS - AFTERNOON

As before but now Planchet lays sprawled unconscious on the floor, with a dropped broom nearby. D'Artagnan is shaking Planchet awake.

POV FROM PLANCHET, with D'Artagnan above looking down and SHAKING the camera.

D'ARTAGNAN

(angry)

Asleep on the job again, eh Planchet?

BACK TO SCENE

PLANCHET

(groggy)

Eh, what... Who?

D'ARTAGNAN

Wake up!! Wake up you lazy devil!!

Caught you napping again, didn't I?!

Planchet staggers to his feet as D'Artagnan grabs the broom and begins hitting him over the head with it. Planchet attempts to avoid this by running around the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

D'ARTAGNAN (CONT'D)

You can forget that bonus I was going
to give you this month! And where's my
dinner?!

PLANCHET

(stammering)

But... But... But...?!

DISSOLVE TO:

END CREDITS

END OF EPISODE