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“The dramatic works of Moliere : rendered into English by Henri Van Laun ; illustrated with nineteen engravings on steel from paintings and designs by Horace Vernet, Desenne, Johannot and Hersent; complete in six volumes. ([18--])”

THE DRAMATIC WORKS OF M O L I E R E

RENDERED INTO ENGLISH

[by] HENRI VAN LAUN (1820–1896)

A NEW EDITION With a Prefatory Memoir, Introductory Notices and Notes  
ILLUSTRATED WITH

NINETEEN ENGRAVINGS ON STEEL  
FROM PAINTINGS AND DESIGNS BY  
Horace Vernet, Desenne, Johannot and Hersent

COMPLETE IN SIX VOLUMES  
VOLUME IV

PHILADELPHIA, GEORGE BARRIE, PUBLISHER

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GEORGE DANDIN; OU, LE MARI CONFONDU.  
C O M E D I E .

GEORGE DANDIN; OR, THE ABASHED HUSBAND.  
A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS.

(THE ORIGINAL IN VERSE.) JULY 18TH 1668.

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**GEORGE DANDIN; OR, THE ABASHED HUSBAND.****GEORGE DANDIN: OU, LE MARI CONFONDU.)****ACT I.****ACT I SCENE I. GEORGE DANDIN, alone.**

AH! what a strange thing it is to have as a wife a woman of noble birth! and what a good lesson my marriage is for all peasants who wish to raise themselves above their condition, and to ally themselves, as I've done, to a nobleman's family. Nobility, in itself, is good; it's certainly a thing worthy of respect: but it comes with so many strings attached that it's better not to come in contact with it. I've become, to my cost, very knowledgeable on that subject and understand now the ways of noblemen, when they allow us to enter their families. We ourselves count for very little in the bargain: they only marry our money; and I'd have done much better, rich as I am, to marry a good and honest peasant's daughter, than to take a wife who holds herself above me, is ashamed to bear my name, and imagines that with all my wealth I've not paid enough for the honour of being her husband. George Dandin! George Dandin! You've committed the greatest folly in the world. My house has become unbearable to me now, and I never go in without finding some source of worry there.

**ACT I SCENE II. GEORGE DANDIN, LUBIN.**

DAN. (*Aside, seeing Lubin come out of his house*) What the devil is that fellow doing in my house?

LUB. (*Aside, perceiving George Dandin*) There's someone looking at me.

DAN. (*Aside*) He doesn't know me.

LUB. (*Aside*) He suspects something.

DAN. (*Aside*) Really! he barely acknowledges me.

LUB. (*Aside*) I'm afraid he'll say that he saw me come from the house.

DAN. Good day to you.

LUB. Your servant.

DAN. You're not from around here, I believe?

LUB. No: I've come only to see tomorrow's celebrations.

DAN. I say! tell me, please, didn't you come out of that house?

LUB. Hush!

DAN. What?

LUB. Be quiet!

DAN. What's the matter?

LUB. Not a word! You mustn't say that you saw me come out of there.

DAN. Why?

LUB. Well! because . .

DAN. Because of what?

LUB. I'm afraid they might be listening.

DAN. No, no.

LUB. You see, I've just been delivering a message to the mistress of the house from a certain gentleman who's sweet on her; and it mustn't be known. Do you understand?

DAN. Yes.

LUB. I've been told to take care that no one should see me; and I ask you, at least, not to say that you've seen me.

DAN. I have no intention.

LUB. I'm very glad to do things secretly, as I've been told.

DAN. You're doing well.

LUB. The husband, from what they tell me, is a jealous fellow, who won't allow others to make advances to his wife; and all hell would break loose if it came to his ears. You understand, don't you?

DAN. Very clearly.

LUB. He must know nothing of all this.

DAN. Of course.

LUB. They wish to tread carefully to deceive him. You understand me?

DAN. Perfectly.

LUB. If you go and say that you've seen me come out of his house, you'll spoil the whole business. Do you understand?

DAN. Yes, I do. I say? What's the name of the man who sent you there?

LUB. He's our squire, Viscount of ... something or other... Goodness! I never remember how the devil they pronounce that name. Monsieur. Cli... Clitandre.

DAN. Is it that young courtier who lives...?

LUB. Yes; not far from those trees.

DAN. (*Aside*) That's why this civil young spark has just come to live so close to me. I was certainly right to be worried; and having him as a neighbour had already made me suspicious.

LUB. Goodness! He's the most gentlemanlike man you've ever come across. He's given me three gold pieces only to go and tell the lady that he's in love with her, and that he very much wishes to have the honour of being able to speak with her. You can imagine it wasn't much trouble to be so well paid for it, compared with a day's work, for which I get only ten sous.

DAN. Well! have you delivered your message?

LUB. Yes. I found inside there a certain Claudine, who immediately understood what I wanted, and who let me speak with her mistress.

DAN. (*Aside*) Ah! rascally maid!

LUB. Goodness! that Claudine's a pretty piece of work: I've taken a fancy to her, and it'll be her fault if we don't get married.

DAN. But what answer has the mistress made to this Mr. Courtier?

LUB. She told me to tell him... wait; I don't know if I shall remember it all... that she's very much obliged to him for his affection, and that, on account of her husband who is strange, he must be careful not to show his feelings, and that they must think of some way to arrange to talk with each other.

DAN. (*Aside*) Ah! good-for-nothing wife!

LUB. Heavens! That'll be funny; because the husband won't suspect the trick; that's the best of it, and he'll be the laughing stock with his jealousy. Isn't it so?

DAN. That's true.

LUB. Good-bye. Not a word, mind! Keep the secret carefully, so that the husband doesn't hear of it.

DAN. Yes, yes.

LUB. As for myself, I'll act as if I knew nothing. I'm a cunning fellow, and I'm the picture of innocence.

**ACT I SCENE III. GEORGE DANDIN, alone.**

Well! George Dandin, you see how your wife treats you! That's your reward for having wished to marry a lady of noble birth! You're treated like a dog, without being able to revenge yourself; and nobility ties your hands. When wife and husband are social equals, he at any rate has the right to be avenge himself; and if this were a country wench, you'd now have full licence to vent your anger by giving her a good thrashing. But you wished to have a taste of nobility; and you were tired of being master in your own house. Ah! I'm bursting with rage, and would willingly box my own ears. What! to listen impudently to the loving words of some fop, and to promise him at the same time to return his feelings! Damn! I'll not let such an opportunity slip by. I must, immediately, go and complain to her father and mother, and make them witness, so as to get my own back, the vexations and sorrows which their daughter causes me. But here they come, just at the right moment.

**ACT I SCENE IV. M. DE SOTENVILLE, MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, GEORGE DANDIN.**

M. DE S. What is the matter, son-in-law? You seem quite upset.

DAN. With good reason, and ...

MAD. DE S. Heavens! son-in-law, how impolite you are, not to bow to people when you come to speak to them!

DAN Well! mother-in-law, it's because I have other things on my mind; and...

MAD. DE S. Again! Is it possible, son-in-law, that you are so unaware of good manners and is there no way of teaching you how to behave among high class people?

DAN. What do you mean?

MAD. DE S. Will you never divest yourself, with me, of the familiarity of that word, mother-in-law, and can you not become accustomed to calling me Madame?

DAN .By Heavens! If you call me son-in-law, it seems to me that I may call you mother-in-law.

MAD. DE S. That remains to be seen, and the case is not the same. Please understand that not you are not to use that word with a person of my rank; that, although you may be our son-in-law, there is a great difference between us, and that you ought to know your place.

M. DE S. That is enough, my love; let us drop the matter.

MAD. DE S. Good Lord! Monsieur de Sotenville, you are more forgiving than anyone I know, and you do not know how to make people give you your due.

M. DE S. Lord! excuse me: I do not require any lessons on that subject; and in the course of my life, I have shown by a score of acts of bravery that I am not a man ever to allow any disrespect to my rank; but let a warning be enough for him. Please, let us know, son-in-law, what you have on your mind.

DAN. Since I am to speak categorically, I shall tell you, Monsieur de Sotenville, that I have cause to...M.  
 DE S. Careful, son-in-law. Let me tell you that it is not respectful to address people by their names, and that we must say, "monsieur" only to those above us.

DAN. Well then, Monsieur only and no longer Monsieur de Sotenville, I must tell you that my wife gives me...

M. DE S. Stop! Let me also tell you that you must not say my wife when you speak of our daughter.

DAN. I'm mad! What! Isn't my wife my wife?

MAD. DE S. Yes, son-in-law, she is your wife; but you are not allowed to call her so. You could only do so if you had married one of your kind.

DAN. (*Aside*) Ah! George Dandin, what a hole you've got yourself into! (*Aloud*) Ah! please, forget your high rank for a moment, and allow me to speak to you now as best I can. (*Aside*) A plague on all this nonsensical tyranny! (To M. de Sotenville) I tell you then that I am very much displeased with my marriage.

M. DE S. And the reason, son-in-law?

MAD. DE S. What! to speak thus of an matter from which you have derived such great advantages!

DAN. And what advantages, Madame, since "Madame" it is to be? The bargain has not been a bad one for you; because, if you'll allow me to say so, had it not been for me, your affairs would have been in pretty bad shape, and my money has been used to fill fairly large holes; but, as for myself, please tell me, what have I gained by it, except the lengthening of my name, and instead of George Dandin, to have received, through you, the title of M. de La Dandinière?

M. DE S. Do you consider as nothing, son-in-law, the advantage of being allied to the house of Sotenville?

MAD. DE S. And to that of La Prudoterie, to which I have the honour to belong; a house where the females have the right to pass on their nobility to their offspring, and which, by that valuable privilege, will make your sons noblemen.

DAN. Yes! That's fine, my sons will be noblemen: but I'll be a cuckold, if something isn't done.

MAD. DE S. What does this mean, son-in-law?

DAN. It means that your daughter doesn't behave as a wife ought to behave, and that she does things which are dishonourable.

MAD. DE S. Beware! Take care what you are saying. My daughter belongs to too virtuous a race, ever to do anything that might offend honour; and in the house of La Prudoterie, thank Heaven, it has been observed that for more than three hundred years no woman has behaved in an unseemly manner.

M. DE S. Lord! there has never been a flirt in the house of Sotenville; and bravery is not more hereditary in the males than chastity in the females.

MAD. DE S. We have had a Jacqueline de la Prudoterie, who would never consent to be the mistress of a duke and peer, governor of our province.

M. DE S. There was a Mathurine de Sotenville who refused twenty thousand crowns from one of the King's favourites, who asked only for the favour of speaking to her.

DAN. Well! your daughter is not so straight-laced; and she has become accommodating since she's been with me.

M. DE S. Explain yourself, son-in-law. We are not people to support her in any wrong doing, and we would be the first, her mother and I, to do you justice.

MAD. DE S. We do not joke about matters of honour; and we have brought her up most strictly.

DAN. All I can tell you is that there is here a certain courtier, whom you have seen, who is in love with her under my very nose, and whose advances she has very humanely received.

MAD. DE S. By the Heavens above! I would strangle her with my own hands, were she to deviate from her mother's virtuous path.

M. DE S. Lord, I would kill her with my own sword, and her suitor also, if she had acted dishonourably.

DAN. I've told you what's going on to justify my complaints; and I ask you for satisfaction in this matter.

M. DE S. Do not worry: I will get it for you from both; and I am not afraid of anyone. But are you quite positive about what you have told us?

DAN. Quite.

M. DE S. Take great care; for, between gentlemen, these are touchy matters; and you must not make a mistake.

DAN. I have said nothing, I tell you, that isn't true

M. DK S. My love, go and talk to your daughter, while I, with my son-in-law, will go and speak with the man.

MAD. DE S. Is it possible, my dear, that she could so forget herself, after the good example which, as you well know, I have set her?

M. DE S. We are going to clear the matter up. Follow me, son-in-law, and do not trouble yourself. You shall see what we are made of, when people attack those who belong to us.

DAN. There! he's coming toward us.

**ACT I SCENE V. M. DE SOTENVILLE, CLITANDRE, GEORGE DANDIN.**

M. DE S. Do you know me, Sir?

CLIT. Not that I am aware of, Sir.

M. DE S. My name is Baron de Sotenville.

CLIT. I am very happy to hear it.

M. DE S. My name is well known at court; and in my youth, I had the honour of being one of the first to distinguish myself among the vassals at Nancy.

CLIT. Very good.

M. DE S. Monsieur, my father, Jean-Gilles de Sotenville, had the honour of being present at the great siege of Montauban.

CLIT. I am delighted to hear it.

M. DE S. And one of my ancestors, Bertrand de Sotenville, was so respected in his lifetime that he was granted permission to dispose of all his property to join the Crusades.

CLIT. I can easily believe it.

M. DE S. It has been reported to me, Sir, that you are in love with, and forcing your attentions on a young person, who is my daughter, and in whose welfare I am interested (*pointing to George Dandin*), as well as in that of this man whom you see, who has the honour of being my son-in-law.

CLIT. Who? I?

M. DE S. Yes; and I am glad to have the opportunity of speaking with you, in order that you may clarify matters.

CLIT. What terrible slander is this! Who has told you that, Sir?

M. DE S. Somebody who believes himself well informed.

CLIT. That somebody has told a lie. I am a gentleman. Do you think me capable, Monsieur, of such a base act? What! I, be in love with a young and beautiful person who has the honour of being the daughter of the Baron de Sotenville! I respect you too much for that, and am too much your humble servant. Whoever has told you this is a fool.

M. DE S. Come, son-in-law.

DAN. What?

CLIT. He is a rogue and a villain.



M. DE S. (*To George Dandin*) Answer him.

DAN. Answer him yourself.

CLIT. If I knew who it could be, I would in your presence run my sword through his body.

M. DE S. (*To George Dandin*) Prove your assertion.

DAN. It's fully proven. It's true.

CLIT. Is it your son-in-law, Monsieur, who...

M. DE S. Yes, it was he who complained to me about it.

CLIT. He certainly may thank his stars that he belongs to you; otherwise, I would teach him a lesson for talking in such a manner about a person like me.

**ACT I SCENE VI. M. and MADAME DE SOTENVILLE, ANGELIQUE, CLITANDRE, GEORGE DANDIN, CLAUDINE.**

MAD. DE S. As far as that is concerned, jealousy is a strange thing! I have brought my daughter here, to clear the matter up in the presence of everyone.

CLIT. (*To Angelique*) Is it you then, Madam, who have told your husband that I am in love with you?

ANG. I? And how could I have told him so? Is it so then? I should really like to see you in love with me. Just try it, I beg you; you will find out whom you have to deal with. It is something I advise you to try! Have recourse, just to see, to all the lovers' tricks: just attempt, for the fun of it, to send me messages, to write me secretly some love letters; to watch for the times my husband is away, or when I am going out, to talk to me of your love. Just try, I promise you you shall be received in the right manner.

CLIT. Please, Madame, gently; there is no need to lecture me, or to be so scandalised. Who told you that I thought of being in love with you?

ANG. How do I know, after what they have told me?

CLIT. They may say what they like; but you know whether I spoke to you of love when I met you.

ANG. You should have done so, you would have received a hearty welcome!

CLIT. I assure you that you have nothing to fear from me; that I am not a man to cause pain to beautiful women; and that I respect you and your parents too much, to have even the thought of falling in love with you.

MAD. DE S. (*To George Dandin*) Well, now you see!

M. DE S. Now you are you satisfied, son-in-law. What do you say to that?

DAN. I say that these are cock-and-bull stories; that I know what I know; and, since I am to speak plainly, that she's just now received a message from him.

ANG. What! I have received a message?

CLIT. I have sent a message?

ANG. Claudine?

CLIT. (*To Claudine*) Is it true?

CLAU. Really, that's a terrible lie!

DAN. Hold your tongue, you slut. I know your tricks; and it was you who let the messenger in just now.

CLAU. Who? I?

DAN. Yes, you. Don't look so innocent.

CLAU. Alas! how full of wickedness people are nowadays, to suspect me thus, I, who am innocence itself!

DAN. Hold your tongue, you bad lot. You pretend to be a saint, but I've known you for a long time; and you're a sly rogue.

CLAU. (*To Angelique*) Madame, have I...

DAN. Hold your tongue, I tell you; you might bear more guilt than all the others; and your father isn't a nobleman.

ANG. It is a falsehood so gross, and which affects me so much, that I do not even have the strength to deny it. It is truly horrible to be accused by a husband, when one has done nothing to him that was not fitting! Alas! if I am to blame at all, it is for treating him too well.

CLAU. That's true.

ANG. My great misfortune is that have too much regard for him; and would to Heaven that I could tolerate, as he says, the attentions of someone else! I would not be so much to be pitied. Good-bye; I am leaving, and I can no longer bear to be thus insulted.

**ACT I -SCENE VII. M. and MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, CLITANDRE, GEORGE DANDIN, CLAUDINE.**

MAD. DE S. (*To George Dandin*) See, you do not deserve the virtuous wife we have given you.

CLAU. Indeed, it would serve him right if she made his words come true; and if I were in her place, I wouldn't hesitate. (*To Clitandre*) Yes, Monsieur, to punish him, you must make advances to my mistress. Don't give up, I tell you; it will be worth your while; and I offer to assist you, since he's already accused me of having done so. (*Exit Claudine*)

M. DE S. You deserve, son-in-law, to have these things said to you; and your behaviour sets every one against you.

MAD. DE S. Go, endeavour to treat a gentlewoman better; and take care not to commit any more blunders of this kind in the future.

DAN. (*Aside*) It makes me mad to be put in the wrong, when I am in the right.

**ACT I SCENE VIII. M. DE SOTENVILLE, CLITANDRE, GEORGE DANDIN.**

CLIT. (*To M. de Sotenville*) You see, sir, how falsely I have been accused; you are a man who knows the code of honour; and I demand satisfaction for the insult that I have suffered.

MAD. DE S. That is just; and it is the way we must proceed. Come, son-in-law, give Monsieur satisfaction.

DAN. What do you mean satisfaction?

M. DE S. Yes, it is right according to our rules, for having wrongly accused him.

DAN. That's something with which I don't agree at all, that I've wrongly accused him; and I know what I think of it.

M. DE S. That does not matter. Whatever thought may remain in your mind, he has denied it; that must satisfy people, and no one has the right to complain of any man who gainsays a thing.

DAN. And so if I found him in bed with my wife, all he would have to do is deny it?

M. DE S. Do not argue. Apologise to him as I tell you.

DAN. Me? I am to apologise to him after...

M. DE S. Come, I tell you; there is nothing to hesitate about, and you must not be afraid of overdoing things, since you are guided by me.

DAN. I can't...

M. DE S. Heavens! son-in-law, do not make me angry. I would be siding with him against you. Come, be guided by me.

DAN. (*Aside*) Ah! George Dandin!

M, DE S. First, take your cap in your hand: Monsieur is a nobleman, and you are not.

DAN. (*Cap in hand, Aside*) I'm boiling with rage!

M. DE S. Repeat after me: Monsieur...

DAN. Monsieur...

M. DE S. I beg your forgiveness... (*Seeing that George Dandin hesitates to obey*) Ah!

DAN. I beg your forgiveness...

M. DE S. For the bad thoughts I have had about you.

DAN. For the bad thoughts I've had about you.

M. DE S. It was because I did not have the honour of knowing you.

DAN. It was because I didn't have the honour of knowing you.

M. DE S. And I beg you to believe...

DAN. And I beg you to believe...

M. DE S. That I am your servant.

DAN. Do you want me to be the servant of a man who wants to make me a cuckold?

M. DE S. (*Threatening him again*) Ah!

CLIT. It is sufficient, Monsieur.

M. DE S. No. I want him to finish, and wish everything to be done as it should be: That I am your servant.

DAN. That I'm your servant.

CLIT. (*To George Dandin*) Monsieur, I am yours with all my heart; and shall forget all that has happened. (*To M. de Sotenville*) As for you, Monsieur, I wish you good day, and am sorry that you have suffered some annoyance.

M. DE S. I am your servant; and, whenever you like, I invite you to come and hunt a hare.

CLIT. You do me too much honour. (*Exit Clitandre*)

M. DE S. That is the way to deal with problems, son-in-law. Farewell. Remember that you have entered a family that will support you, and not suffer you to be in any way offended.

**ACT I SCENE IX. GEORGE DANDIN, alone.**

Ah! how I ...it's your fault, it's your fault; George Dandin, it's your fault; you've made your bed and now you must lie in it; you've precisely what you deserve. Come, all I have to do is make the father and mother see the truth; and perhaps I'll be able to find a way.

## Acte II

### ACT II SCENE I. CLAUDINE, LUBIN.

CLAU. Yes, I guessed rightly that it must have come from you, and that you told someone, who reported it to master.

LUB. Really, I barely mentioned a word of it to a man, so that he'd not say that he'd seen me come out of here. People must be great chatterboxes in these parts!

CLAU. Truly, the Viscount has chosen his servant wisely, taking you for his messenger; and he's used a fellow who'll bring him luck..

LUB. Never mind, I'll be cleverer next time, and take greater care.

CLAU. Yes, yes, it's about time!

LUB. Let's speak no more of this. Listen.

CLAU. What am I to listen to?

LUB. Just turn your towards me.

CLAU. Well! what is it?

LUB. Claudine?

CLAU. Well?

LUB. Come! Don't you know what I mean?

CLAU. No.

LUB. Good Heavens! I love you.

CLAU. Really?

LUB. Yes, truly, truly! you must believe me, since I swear it.

CLAU. Good for you!

LUB. I feel my heart going pit-a-pat when I look at you.

CLAU. I'm delighted.

LUB. What do you do to be so pretty?

CLAU. I do what others do.

LUB. Look, there's no need to make a fuss; if you like, you'll be my wife, I'll be your husband, and we'll both be man and wife.

CLAU. Perhaps you'll be jealous like the master.

LUB. No.

CLAU. Personally, I hate suspicious husbands, and I want one who is shocked by nothing; one so full of trust and so sure of my chastity, that he could see me in the midst of thirty men without feeling uneasy.

LUB. Very well; I'll be just like that.

CLAU. It's the silliest thing in the world to mistrust a woman and to torment her. The truth of the matter is that one gains nothing by it: it only gives us ideas; and most of the time, husbands make themselves what they are by the fuss they make.

LUB. Well! I'll leave you free to do whatever you like.

CLAU. That's the way to behave if you don't want to be deceived. When a husband trusts us, we take only the liberties that we need. It's just the same with them as with those who open their purses to us, saying: "Take what you want". We don't take advantage, and are content with what is right; but as for those who're petty with us, we try to fleece them, and don't spare them.

LUB. Don't worry, I'll be like those who open their purses; just marry me.

CLAU. Very well! We'll see.

LUB. Come here, Claudine.

CLAU. What do you want?

LUB. Come here, I tell you.

CLAU. Careful. I don't like groping hands.

LUB. Just a little bit of love.

CLAU. Leave me alone, I tell you; I'm not joking.

LUB. Claudine.

CLAU. (*Repulsing Lubin*) No!

LUB. Ah! how cruel you are with your fellow creatures! Goodness, how rude to deny people! Aren't you ashamed to be so pretty, and not to let me fondle you? Come!

CLAU. I'll slap your face.

LUB. Oh! how fierce! how savage she is! Awful! you cruel minx!

CLAU. You're getting too bold.

LUB. What would it cost you to let me have my way a little?

CLAU. You must have patience.

LUB. Only a little kiss, an advance on the wedding.

CLAU. I'm your servant.

LUB. Come, Claudine, you can deduct it afterwards.

CLAU. Certainly not! I've been taken in before. Good-bye. Go, and tell the Viscount that I'll be sure to deliver his letter.

LUB. Good-bye, you rough beauty.

CLAU. That's a loving word.

LUB. Good-bye, you rock, you pebble, you stone-block, you everything that is hard in the world.

CLAU. (*Alone*) I must deliver this to my mistress... But here she comes with her husband: let's get out of the way, and wait until she's alone.

**ACT II SCENE II. GEORGE DANDIN, ANGELIQUE.**

DAN. No, no! I'm not so easily deceived, and I'm only too certain that what I've been told is true. I've better eyes than people think; and I was not taken in by your woolly speeches

**ACT II SCENE III. CLITANDRE, ANGELIQUE, GEORGE DANDIN.**

CLIT. (*Aside, at the far end of the stage*) Ah! here she is; but her husband is with her.

DAN. (*Without seeing Clitandre*) Underneath all you hypocrisy, I've seen the truth of what I've been told and the little respect you have for the bond that ties us. (*Clitandre and Angelique bow to each other*) Good Heavens! leave your bowing; it's not that kind of respect I am talking about, and there's no reason to mock it.

ANG. !! I mock it! In no way.

DAN. I know what you're thinking, and understand... (*Clitandre and Angelique bow again*) Again! Please, let's stop joking. I'm well aware that because of your birth, you consider me much beneath you, and the respect I'm speaking about doesn't concern my own person; I'm talking of the respect which you owe to such sacred bonds as those of wedlock. (*Angelique makes a sign to Clitandre*) You needn't shrug your shoulders. I'm not talking nonsense.

ANG. I would not dream of shrugging my shoulders.



DAN. Good Heavens! I'm not blind. I tell you once more that marriage is a bond to which we owe every respect; and that you're very wrong to behave as you do. (Angelique nods to Clitandre) Yes, yes, very wrong, and you needn't nod your head, and make faces at me.

ANG. I? I don't know what you mean.

DAN. I know what I mean; and I know your contempt for me too. If I wasn't born a nobleman, I at least belong to a race that is worthy of respect; and the Dandins...

CLIT. (*Behind Angelique, without being seen by George Dandin*) One moment's conversation!

DAN. (*Without seeing Clitandre*) What?

ANG. What! I have not said a word.

(*George Dandin turns round his wife, and Clitandre retires, making him a profound bow*)

**ACT II SCENE IV. GEORGE DANDIN, ANGELIQUE.**

DAN. There he is, prowling about you.

ANG. Well! is it my fault? What do you wish me to do?

DAN. I wish you to do what a wife who only wants to please her husband would do. Whatever people may say, suitors never trouble a woman unless she wishes it. There's a certain kind of inviting behaviour which attracts them, as honey does flies; and virtuous women have a manner that drives them away immediately.

ANG. I, drive them away! and for what reason? I am not scandalised at being thought handsome, and it gives me pleasure.

DAN. Fine! But how would you have a husband behave during this flirtation?

ANG. Like a man of the world, who is glad to see his wife admired.

DAN. Really! That doesn't suit me; and the Dandins aren't accustomed to that kind of behaviour.

ANG. Well! the Dandins will become accustomed to it, whether they want to or not; for, as to me, I am telling you that I do not intend to renounce the world, and to bury myself alive with a husband. What! because a man takes it into his head to marry us, everything must be at an end for us at once, and we must break off all intercourse with every living being! This tyranny of husbands is an extraordinary thing; and I do not know how they have the audacity to demand that we give up all pleasures; and that we live for them only! I refuse, and do not wish to die so young.

DAN. Is this the way you keep the vows of fidelity which you made to me before everyone?

ANG. I? I did not make them willingly, and you forced them from me. Did you, before marriage, ask me for my consent, and whether I cared for you? You consulted only my father and mother. It is really they

who have married you, and that is why you will do well to complain always to them about the wrongs that you may suffer. As for me, who did not tell you to marry me, and whom you took without consulting my feelings, I declare that I am not obliged to submit, like a slave, to your will; and, with your permission, I mean to enjoy the few happy days of my youth, to take advantage of the pleasant freedom which my age allows, to mix occasionally with fashionable society, and to have the enjoyment of having flattering things said to me. Prepare yourself for this, for your punishment; and thank Heaven that I am incapable of doing something worse.

DAN. Really! That's your attitude? I'm your husband, and tell you that I won't have that.

ANG. And I am your wife, and tell you that I will have it.

DAN. (*Aside*) I feel like beating her face to a jelly and reduce it to such a state as never more to charm those whisperers of sweet nothings. Ah! come, George Dandin; I can hardly restrain myself, and I had better leave this place.

**ACT II SCENE V. ANGELIQUE, CLAUDINE!**

CLAU. I have been waiting for him to go, Madame, to give you this note from you know who.

ANG. Let us see. (*She reads softly*)

CLAU. (*Aside*) From what I can see, what he writes does not seem to annoy her.

ANG. Ah! Claudine, how charmingly this note is worded! How pleasant these courtiers are in all their words and in all their actions! And what are our country people compared with them?

CLAU. I think that, after having seen those people, you won't find the Dandins to your liking.

ANG. Stay here: I am going to write my answer.

CLAU. (*Alone*) I don't think I need to ask her to make it kind. But here comes...

**ACT II SCENE VI. CLITANDRE, LUBIN, CLAUDINE!**

CLAU. Really, Monsieur, you've chosen a clever messenger.

CLIT. I did not dare send one of my own servants; but my dear Claudine, I must reward you for your services to me, of which I am well aware. (*He feels in his pocket*)

CLAU. Oh! Monsieur, it's not necessary. No, Monsieur, there's no need to trouble yourself; I serve you because you deserve it, and because I'm fond of you.

CLIT. (*Giving her some money*) I'm obliged to you.

LUB. (*To Claudine*) Since we're going to be married, give it to me, so that I may put it with mine.

CLAU. I'll keep it for you, with the kiss.

CLIT. (*To Claudine*) Tell me, have you given my letter to your charming mistress?

CLAU. Yes. She's just gone to answer it.

CLIT. But, Claudine, is there no way for me to speak with her?

CLAU. Yes: come along with me; I'll let you speak to her.

CLIT. But will she agree? and is there no risk?

CLAU. No, no. Her husband isn't at home; and, besides, he's not the one she has to worry about; it's her father and mother; and as long as they think the best of their daughter, there's nothing else to fear.

CLIT. I shall be guided by you!

LUB. (*Alone*) Goodness, what a clever wife I'll have! What a sharp mind she has!

**ACT II SCENE VII. GEORGE DANDIN, LUBIN.**

DAN. (*Softly, Aside*) There's the man I saw earlier on. Would to Heaven he could agree to bear witness to the father and mother to what they won't yet believe!

LUB. Ah, there you are, Mr. Tittle-tattle, whom I'd begged not to talk, and who'd so earnestly promised that he wouldn't! You're a chatterbox then, and you go and repeat what other people tell you in secret?

DAN. I?

LUB. Yes. You've repeated everything to the husband, and because of you he started a big row. I'm glad to know that you're a gossip; and it'll teach me not to tell you anything anymore.

DAN. Listen, friend.

LUB. If you hadn't chattered so much, I'd have told you what's going on just now; but, for your punishment, you shan't know anything.

DAN. What! What's going on?

LUB. Nothing, nothing. See what you get by gossiping; I'm not giving you another chance, however much you insist.

DAN. Stop for a second.

LUB. No.

DAN. I only want a brief word with you.

LUB. Never. You want to pump me.

DAN. No, it's not that.

LUB. I'm not so stupid. I can see you coming.

DAN. It's something else. Listen.

LUB. It's no good. You'd like me to tell you that the Viscount has just given some money to Claudine, and that she's taken him to her mistress. But I'm not such a fool.

DAN. Please...

LUB. No.

DAN. I'll give you...

LUB. Fiddlesticks.

**ACT II SCENE VIII. GEORGE DANDIN, alone.**

I wasn't able, with this idiot, to put to good use the idea I had. But the fresh news that he's stupidly given me could serve the same purpose; and if the boyfriend is indoors, it could be proof enough for the father and mother, and fully convince them of their daughter's misbehaviour. The difficulty in all this is that I don't know how to take advantage of this piece of news. If I go indoors, the rascal will escape; and whatever evidence I may see of my shame, my oath won't be believed, and I'll be told that I'm dreaming. If, on the other hand, I fetch my in-laws, without being sure of finding the boyfriend inside, it'll come to the same thing, and I'll be in the same plight as before. Couldn't I carefully try to find out if he's still there? (*After having looked through the keyhole*) Oh, Heavens! There's no longer any doubt. I've just seen him through the key-hole. Fate gives me an opportunity to get the better of my opponent; and, to close the case, it sends the required judges at the right moment.

**ACT II SCENE IX. M. DE SOTENVILLE, MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, GEORGE DANDIN.**

DAN. Just now, you wouldn't believe me, and your daughter got the better of me; but now I'm able to show you how she treats me; and, thank Heaven, my dishonour is so plain, that you can no longer have any doubts..

M. DE S. What! son-in-law, you are still harping on that?

DAN. Yes, I am; and I've never had greater cause to do so.

MAD. DE S. You want to give us another headache with this nonsense?

DAN. Yes, Madame, and my headache is worse than yours.

M. DE S. Are you not tired of making such a nuisance of yourself?

DAN. No; but I'm very tired of being made a fool of.

MAD. DE S. Will you never rid yourself of your preposterous fancies?

DAN. No, Madame; but I'd like to get rid of a wife who dishonours me.

MAD. DE S. Good Heavens! son-in-law, be careful how you speak.

M. DE S. Lord! Try to find some less offensive terms.

DAN. A merchant who goes broke cannot laugh.

MAD. DE S. Remember that you have married a lady of noble birth.

DAN. I remember it well enough, and shall remember it only too well.

M. DE S. If you do remember it, endeavour to speak of her more respectfully.

DAN. But why doesn't she try to treat me more honestly? What! because she's a lady of noble birth, she's to be free to treat me as she likes, without my daring to say a word?

M. DE S. What is the matter with you, and what can you say? Did you not see, this morning, that she denied being acquainted with the person you had spoken to me about?

DAN. Yes. But you, what would you say if I show you at this moment that the man is with her?

MAD. DE S. With her?

DAN. Yes, with her, and in my house.

M. DE S. In your house?

DAN. Yes, in my own house.

MAD. DE S. If such be the case, we shall take your side against her.

M. DE S. Yes. The honour of our family is dearer to us than anything; and if you speak the truth, we shall renounce her as our child, and leave her to be punished by you.

DAN. You've only to follow me.

MAD. DE S. Take care not to be mistaken.

M. DE S. Do not make the same mistake as before.

DAN. Goodness! You'll see. (*Pointing to Clitandre, who comes out of the house with Angelique*) There, did I lie?

**ACT II SCENE X. ANGELIQUE, CLITANDRE, CLAUDINE, M. DE SOTENVILLE, MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, With GEORGE DANDIN at the farther end of the stage.**

ANG. *(To Clitandre)* Good-bye. I am afraid that you might be caught here, and I have to keep up appearances.

CLIT. Promise me, then, Madam, to let me speak with you tonight.

ANG. I shall try my best.

DAN. *(To M. and Mad. de Sotenville)* Let's gently get behind them, and try not to be seen.

CLAU. *(To Angelique)* Ah! Madame, all is lost! Here are your father and mother, and your husband with them.

CLIT. Ah, Heavens!

ANG. *(Softly to Clitandre and Claudine)* Take no notice, and leave it to me. *(Aloud to Clitandre)* What! You dare to behave in such a manner, after what happened earlier? and this is the way you hide your feelings? I am told that you are in love with me; and that you intend to try to win my affection; I show my annoyance at this, and make things clear to you to you in front of everyone: you strongly deny the thing, and pledge me your word that you have no thought of offending me; and yet, on the very day, you have the impudence to come and call on me, to tell me that you love me, and to say a hundred silly things to persuade me to respond to your madness: just as if I were a woman who would break the vows which I have pledged to my husband, and would ever stray from the virtuous path which my parents have shown me. If my father knew of this, he would teach you a good lesson for attempting such things! But an honest woman does not like fuss: I have no wish to mention it to him; *(Making a sign to Claudine to bring a stick)* and I want to show you that, even though a woman, I have courage enough to revenge myself for the insults I have suffered. You have not acted as a nobleman should, and therefore I shall not treat you as one. *(Angelique takes the stick, and lifts it against Clitandre, who places himself in such a position that the blows fall upon Dandin.)*

CLIT. *(Crying as if he had been struck)* Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! gently.

**ACT II SCENE XI. M. and MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, ANGELIQUE, GEORGE DANDIN, CLAUDINE.**

CLAUD. Harder, Madame! strike hard.

ANG. *(Pretending to speak to Clitandre)* If you have anything more on your mind, I am ready to answer you.

CLAU. That will teach you whom you're dealing with..

ANG. *(Pretending to be surprised)* Ah! father, you are here!

M. DE S. Yes, daughter, and I am glad to see that in your wisdom and courage you show yourself a worthy offspring of the house of Sotenville. Come here; let me embrace you.

MAD. DE S. Embrace me also, daughter. There! I weep for joy, and recognise my blood in what you have done just now

M. DE S. Son-in-law, how delighted you must be! and how pleasing for you is this incident! You had just cause to be alarmed; but your suspicions are now allayed in the most fortunate manner.

MAD. DE S. Without any doubt, son-in-law; and you must now be the happiest of men.

CLAU. Most certainly. This is what I call a woman! You are too lucky to have her, and you should kiss the ground she walks on.

DAN. (*Aside*) Oh, you wretch!

MAD. DE S. What is it, son-in-law? Why do you not thank your wife for the love which you see she shows for you?

ANG. No, no, father, there is no need for that. He does not have to thank me for what he has just witnessed; whatever I have done is only out of self-respect.

M. DE S. Where are you going, daughter?

ANG. I am leaving, father, so not to be obliged to receive his thanks.

CLAUD. (*To George Dandin*) She is right to be angry. She is a woman who deserves to be worshipped; and you do not treat her as you ought.

DAN. (*Aside*) Rascal!

**ACT II SCENE XII. M. and MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, GEORGE DANDIN.**

M. DE S. She is rather angry at what happened just now, and it will pass if you fondle her a little. Farewell, son-in-law; you no longer have any reason to worry. Go and make it up together, and try to calm her by apologizing for your anger.

MAD. DE S. You must consider that she is a girl brought up to be virtuous, and who is not accustomed to see herself suspected of any bad action. Farewell. I am delighted to see your quarrels ended, and the great joy that her conduct must cause you.

**ACT II SCENE XIII. GEORGE DANDIN, alone.**

I won't say a word, for I'd gain nothing by speaking; and never was anything seen equal to my shame. Yes! I marvel at my misfortune and at the cleverness of my rascally wife who always manages to be right, and to prove me wrong. Is it possible that I'll always be outdone by her; that appearances will always go against me, and that I'll not manage to prove the guilt of that shameless creature? O Heaven! Help me with my plans, and grant me the favour of letting the world see that I am dishonoured!

## ACT III.

### ACT III SCENE I. CLITANDRE, LUBIN.

CLIT. It is already pretty dark, and I am afraid that it is too late. I cannot see where I am going. Lubin!

LUB. Monsieur?

CLIT. Is this the way?

LUB. I think it is. Goodness! This is a silly night, to be as dark as this.

CLIT. The night is wrong, certainly; but if, on the one hand, it prevents us from seeing, on the other, it prevents our being seen.

LUB. You're right, it's not as wrong as all that. I'd like to know, sir, since you who are so learned, why there's not daylight at night?

CLI. That is a great question, and which is difficult to answer. You have an inquisitive mind, Lubin.

LUB. Yes: if I'd studied, I'd have thought of things which no one has ever thought about.

CLI. Yes, I believe that. You appear to have a subtle and penetrating mind.

LUB. That's true. Look, I explain Latin although I never learned it; and the other day, when I saw collegium written on a large door, I guessed that it meant college.

CLI. That is admirable. You can read then, Lubin?

LUB. Yes. I can read print; but I've never been able to learn to read handwriting.

CLI. We are near the house. *(After clapping his hands)* This is the signal that Claudine has told me to use.

LUB. Goodness! She's worth a lot of money; and I love her with all my heart.

CLI. That is why I brought you with me to speak with her.

LUB. Sir, I'm...

CLI. Hush! I hear a noise.

### ACT III SCENE II. ANGELIQUE, CLAUDINE, CLITANDRE, LUBIN.

ANG. Claudine?

CLAU. Yes?

ANG. Leave the door ajar.



CLAU. It's done. *(They are groping about for each other in the dark)*

CLI. *(To Lubin)* There they are. Here.

ANG. Here.

LUB. Here.

CLAU. Here.

CLI. *( To Claudine, whom he mistakes for Angelique)* Madame!

ANG. *(To Lubin, whom she mistakes for Clitandre)* What?

LUB. *(To Angelique, whom he mistakes for Claudine)* Claudine!

CLAU. *(To Clitandre, whom she mistakes for Lubin)* What is it?

CLI. *( To Claudine, thinking he is speaking to Angelique)* Ah, Madame, how happy I am!

LUB. *( To Angelique, thinking he is speaking to Claudine)* Claudine! my dear Claudine ‘

CLAU. *(To Clitandre)*. Careful, Sir.

ANG. *(To Lubin)* Stop, Lubin.

CLI. Is it you, Claudine?

CLAU. Yes.

LUB. Is it you, Madame?

ANG. Yes.

CLAU. *(To Clitandre)* You mistook the one for the other.

LUB. *(To Angelique)* Well! at night one can hardly see.

ANG. Is it not you, Clitandre?

CLI. Yes, Madame.

ANG. My husband is snoring nicely, and I have taken this opportunity for us to speak together.

CLI. Let us look for a seat somewhere.

CLAU. That's a good idea. *(Angelique, Claudine and Clitandre sit down at the farther end of the stage, upon a piece of turf at the foot of a tree)*

LUB. *(Seeking for Claudine)* Claudine! where are you?

**ACT III SCENE III. ANGELIQUE, CLITANDRE, CLAUDINE, seated  
at the farther end of the stage, GEORGE DANDIN, partly dressed, LUBIN.**

DAN. (*Aside*) I heard my wife go downstairs, and I have quickly got dressed to go down after her. Where can she have gone? Did she leave the house?

LUB. (*Seeking for Claudine and catching hold of Dandin for her*) But where are you, Claudine? Ah! there you are. Really, your master is nicely caught, and I think it's as funny as the cudgel-blows earlier on, which they have told me about. Your mistress says he's snoring like a pig right now; and he doesn't know that the Viscount and her are together, while he sleeps. I'd like to know what sort of a dream he's having at the moment. It's quite funny. Why does he get it into his head to be jealous of his wife, and to wish to keep her all to himself? It's not proper, and the Viscount does him too much honour. You're not saying a word, Claudine? Come, let's follow them; and give me your little hand for me to kiss it. Ah! how sweet that is! I feel as if I'm eating jam. (*To George Dandin, whom he still takes for Claudine, and who rudely repulses him*) Heaven! How you push me, this little hand is pretty rough.

DAN. Who's there?

LUB. No one.

DAN. He runs away, and leaves me informed of a new wife of my rascal. Now, I must immediately send for her mother and father, so that I may use this incident as a reason to separate from her. Hullo! Colin! Colin!

**ACT III SCENE IV. ANGELIQUE, CLITANDRE, CLAUDINE, LUBIN,  
still seated at the farther end of the stage, GEORGE DANDIN, COLIN.**

COL. (*At the window*) Sir!

DAN. Quick, come down.

COL. (*Leaping out of the window*) Here I am, I couldn't come more quickly.

DAN. Are you there?

COL. Yes, Sir!

(*Whilst Dandin looks for Colin on the side where he has heard his voice, Colin crosses to the other and falls asleep*)

DAN. (*Turning to the side where he believes Colin to be*) Softly. Speak low. Listen. Run to my father-in-law and mother-in-law, and say that I earnestly beg them to come here at once. Do you hear? Eh, Colin! Colin!

COL. (*On the other side, waking up*) Sir?

DAN. Where the devil are you?

COL. Here.

DAN. A curse on the fool who's moving away from me! (*While Dandin returns to the side where he thinks that Colin has remained, Colin, half asleep, crosses over to the other, and falls asleep again*)

I say that you are to go directly to my father-in-law and mother-in-law, and tell them that I implore them to come here immediately. Do you understand me? Answer. Colin! Colin!

COL. (*On the other side, waking up*) Sir!

DAN. The scoundrel will drive me mad. Come here, I say! (*They run against each other and fall down*)

Ah! the wretch! he has maimed me. Where are you? Come here that I may give you a good thrashing. I believe he's running away from me.

COL. Of course I am.

DAN. Will you come here?

COL. Not likely.

DAN. Come here, I tell you.

COL. No. You want to beat me up.

DAN. Well! I will not beat you.

COL. For certain?

DAN. Yes. Come close. (*To Colin, whom he holds by the arm*) Good! You're lucky that I need you. Go quickly and ask my father-in-law and mother-in-law, in my name, to come down here as soon as they can, and tell them that it's on a matter of vital importance; and if they should hesitate on account of the late hour, don't be afraid to insist, and to make them understand that it's most important they should come, no matter how they're dressed. You understand me clearly now?

COL. Yes, Sir.

DAN. Go and come back fast. (*Thinking himself alone*) And I, I'll go indoors, to wait till... But I hear someone. Could it be my wife? I must listen, and take advantage of this darkness.

(*He places himself at his door*)

**ACT III SCENE V. ANGELIQUE, CLITANDRE, CLAUDINE, LUBIN, GEORGE DANDIN**

ANG. (*To Clitandre*) Good-bye. It is time to separate now.

CLI. What! so soon?

ANG. We have spoken long enough.

CLI. Ah! Madame, can I ever speak to you long enough, and find in so short a time all the words I need. It would take me whole days to explain to you clearly all that I feel; and I have not yet told you the smallest part of what I have to say to you.

ANG. We shall hear more on another occasion.

CLI. Alas! how you pierce my heart when you talk of leaving; and with what deep grief you leave me now!

ANG. We shall find means of seeing each other again.

CLI. Yes. But I am thinking that, when you leave me, you go back to a husband. This thought kills me; and the privileges a husband enjoys are cruel things for a sincere lover.

ANG. Are you foolish enough to have such anxiety, and do you think it possible to love a certain sorts of husbands? We marry them, because we cannot avoid it, and because we depend on parents, for whom only money matters; but we know how to do them justice, and we take good care not to value them above their deserts.

DAN. (*Aside*) There go our good for nothing wives!

CLI. Alas! One must admit that the one they have given you little deserved the honour he received, and that the marriage of a woman like you with a man like him is somewhat strange.

DAN. (*Aside*) Poor husbands! That's the way they treat you.

CLI. You certainly deserve a very different fate and Heaven did not intend you to be the wife of a peasant.

DAN. Would to Heaven she were yours! You'd speak differently! Let's go in; I've had enough.

(*He goes in and locks the door inside*)

**ACT III SCENE VI. ANGELIQUE, CLITANDRE, CLAUDINE, LUBIN.**

CLAU. Madame, if you have any more bad things to say about your husband, you had better make haste, because it's late.

CLI. Ah! Claudine, how cruel you are!

ANG. (*To Clitandre*) She is right. We must part company.

CLI. Since you wish it, I must submit. But I pray you at least to pity me for the wretched time that I have to live through.

ANG. Farewell.

LUB. Where are you, Claudine, that I may say goodnight to you?

CLAU. Don't trouble yourself. I accept it from a distance, and send the same to you.

**ACT III SCENE VII. ANGELIQUE, CLAUDINE.**

ANG. Let us go in without making any noise.

CLAU. The door's shut.

ANG. I have the master-key.

CLAU. Then open it gently.

ANG. It is bolted from inside, and I do not know what we shall do.

CLAU. Call the boy who sleeps there.

ANG. Colin! Colin! Colin!

**ACT III SCENE VIII. GEORGE DANDIN, ANGELIQUE, CLAUDINE.**

DAN. (*At the window*) Colin! Colin! Ah ! I've caught you, Madame my wife; and you make little escapades while I'm asleep. I'm very glad of it, and to see you locked out at this time of night.

ANG. Well! what great harm is there in taking the fresh night air?

DAN. Yes, yes. This is the right time to enjoy the cool air! It's rather the hot air, Madame Rascal; and we know all about the tryst between you and the fop. We heard the whole of your gallant conversation, and the beautiful verses in my praise which you both sang. But my consolation is that I'm going to be avenged, and that your father and mother will now be convinced of the justice of my complaints, and of your disorderly conduct. I've sent for them, and they'll be here in a moment.

ANG. (*Aside*) Oh Heavens!

CLAU. Madame!

DAN. That's no doubt a blow, which you didn't expect. It's now my turn to win, and I have the means to destroy your pride, and outwit your tricks. Up till now, you've laughed at my accusations, thrown dust in your parents' eyes, and concealed your misdeeds. Whatever I saw, whatever I said, your cunning always got the better of my righteous cause, and you've always found some way to be right; but this time, thank Heaven, matters will be cleared up, and your shamelessness will be made plain.

ANG. Ah! please have the door open for me.

DAN. No, no: you must await the arrival of those I've sent for; I want them to find you out-of-doors at this nice time of night. While you're waiting for them, you could try to think of some new scheme to get out of this scrape; to imagine some way of justifying your escapade; to find some pretty invention to hoodwink people and to appear innocent; the specious pretext of a nocturnal pilgrimage perhaps, or of some female friend of yours in labour, whom you have just assisted.

ANG. No. I have no intention of hiding anything from you. I have no intention of defending myself, or of denying things, since you know all.

DAN. That's because you can find no loophole left to you, and that in this matter, you can't invent an excuse which it wouldn't be easy for me to prove wrong.

ANG. Yes, I confess that I am in the wrong, and that you have reason to complain. But I beg of you not to force me now to face my parents' anger, and to have the door opened promptly.

DAN. You're wasting your breath

ANG. Ah! my dear little husband! I implore you!

DAN. Ah! my dear little husband! I'm your dear little husband now, because you're caught. I'm very glad of it; but you never thought of saying these sweet things before.

ANG. There; I promise never again to give you any cause for displeasure, and to ...

DAN. All that is meaningless. I won't waste this opportunity; and I'm determined that people shall now be thoroughly informed of your misconduct.

ANG. For mercy's sake, let me speak to you. I ask you to listen to me for a minute.

DAN. Well! what is it?

ANG. It is true that I have been at fault; I confess it once again, and that your anger is justified; it is true that I have chosen to slip out while you were sleeping, and that I went out to keep an appointment with the person whom you mentioned. But after all, these are actions which you ought to forgive because of my age; the follies of a young woman who has as yet seen nothing, and has but just set foot in society; liberties which one takes, without thinking of any harm, and which, in reality, have nothing...

DAN. Yes: you say so, these are things in which one is to have implicit faith.

ANG. I do not wish to pretend here that I am blameless towards you; and I only entreat you to forget an offence for which I heartily beg you to forgive me, and to spare me, this once, the vexation of my parents' severe rebuke. If you generously grant me the favour which I ask from you, your obliging attitude, your kindness towards me, will win me over entirely. It will thoroughly touch my heart, and create there for you what neither the authority of my parents nor the bonds of marriage have been able to instil in it. In short, it will cause me to renounce all flirtations, and to be attached solely to you. Yes, I give you my word that from now on, I shall be the best wife in the world to you, and that I shall show you so much love, yes, so much love, that you will be happy.

DAN. Ah! you crocodile, that flatters people the better to strangle them!

ANG. Grant me this favour.

DAN. Nothing doing. I will not be moved.

ANG. Be generous.

DAN. No.

ANG. For pity's sake!

DAN. No.

ANG. I implore you with all my heart.

DAN. No, no, no. I want people to stop being deceived on your account, and I want your shame to be made public.

ANG. Very well! if you drive me to despair, I warn you that a woman, in that state, is capable of anything, and that I shall do something of which you shall repent.

DAN. And what will you do, tell me?

ANG. I shall be driven to the most desperate decision; and with this knife that you see I shall kill myself on the spot.

DAN. Ha! Ha! Fine.

ANG. But not as fine for you as you imagine. People everywhere know about our quarrels and the constant anger that you feel against me. When they find me dead, no one will doubt that you have killed me; and my parents are certainly not the sort of people to leave my death unpunished, and they will punish you as severely as the law and their furious resentment will allow. That is the way in which I shall find means to take revenge against you; and I am not the first who has had recourse to that kind of vengeance, and who has not hesitated to take her own life, in order to destroy those who have been cruel enough to drive her to this fatal decision.

DAN. Yes, yes! I'm not to be caught in that way. People don't commit suicide anymore; the fad went out of style long ago.

ANG. You may depend on it; and if you persist in your refusal, if you will not have the door opened, I swear to you that I shall show you right now how far a desperate woman's resolve will go.

DAN. Nonsense, nonsense. You just want to frighten me.

ANG. Very well! since it must be, this will satisfy us both, and will show whether I am jesting. *(After having pretended to kill herself)* Ah! it is done. Heaven grant that my death may be avenged as I wish, and that he who is the cause of it may be justly punished for his cruelty towards me!

DAN. What! Could she be wicked enough to kill herself so as to get me hanged? Let's take a candle to go and see.

**ACT III SCENE IX. ANGELIQUE, CLAUDINE.**

ANG. Hush! keep still. Let us place ourselves immediately on each side of the door.

**ACT III SCENE X. ANGELIQUE and CLAUDINE, entering the house as soon as George Dandin comes out, and immediately bolting the door inside;**

**GEORGE DANDIN, with a candle in his hand, without perceiving them.**

DAN. Could the wickedness of a woman go as far as that? (*Alone, after looking everywhere*) There's no one here. Well! I suspected it; and the hussy's gone away, finding that she could gain nothing from me, either by prayers or threats. All the better! it will make matters still worse for her; and her father and mother, who will soon be here, will see her crime all the more plainly. (*After having been at his door, to go in*) Ah! ah! the door has closed. Hullo! ho! someone! open the door for me quickly!

**ACT III SCENE XI ANGELIQUE and CLAUDINE, at the window, GEORGE DANDIN.**

ANG. What! is it you? Where have you been, you wretch? Is this a time to come home, when it is nearly daybreak? and is this the life which an honest husband ought to lead?

CLAU. A pretty thing to go about drinking all night, and to leave a poor young woman by herself at home?

DAN. What! you have...

ANG. Go away, go away, you wretch; I am sick of your behaviour, and I will complain about it at once to my father and mother.

DAN. What! You dare to ...

**ACT III SCENE XII. M. and MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, in their night-gowns, COLIN, carrying a lantern, ANGELIQUE and CLAUDINE, at the window, GEORGE DANDIN.**

ANG. (*To M. and Madame de Sotenville*) I pray you. Come here to avenge me of the most shocking act ever committed by a husband, whose brain has been so muddled by wine and jealousy that he no longer knows what he is saying or doing, and who has himself sent for you to make you witnesses of the most extravagant behaviour you have ever heard of. There he is, coming back as you may see, after making me wait all night for him; and if you listen to him, he will tell you that he has the greatest complaints to make against me; that while he was asleep, I left his side to go gadding about, and a hundred similar tales, which he has invented.

DAN. (*Aside*) What a wicked hussy!

CLAU. Yes, he tries to make us believe that he was inside, and that we were outside; and it's a foolish idea that we cannot drive out of his head.

M. DE S. What! What is the meaning of this?

MAD. DE S. This is confounded impudence, to send for us.



DAN. Never...

ANG. No, father, I can no longer put up with such a husband. My patience is at an end and he has just been saying all manner of insulting words to me.

M. DE S. (*To George Dandin*) Lord! you are a vile fellow.

CLAU. It's unbearable to see a poor young wife treated in this way; Heaven must punish such behaviour.

DAN. Can anyone...

M. DE S. You ought to die with shame.

DAN. Allow me to say two words.

ANG. Just listen to him: he will tell you some preposterous stories!

DAN. (*Aside*) I give up in despair.

CLAU. He's drunk so much that it's impossible to stay near him; and the smell of the wine when he breathes out has come right up to us.

DAN. Monsieur my father-in-law, I implore you...

M. DE S. Go away: your mouth smells of wine.

DAN. Madame, I beg you...

MAD. DE S. Away! do not come near me; your breath is revolting.

DAN. (*To M. de Sotenville*) Allow me to ...

M. DE S. Go away, I tell you, your presence is unbearable.

DAN. (*To Mad. de Sotenville*) For pity's sake, let me...

MAD. DE S. Oh! you make me feel sick. Speak from a distance if you wish.

DAN. Very well, then, I'll speak from a distance. I swear to you that I've not stirred from the house, and that it was she who went out.

ANG. Did I not tell you so?

CLAU. You see how likely that is.

M. DE S. (*To George Dandin*) Enough, you really have a nerve. Come down, daughter, and come here.

**ACT III SCENE XIII. M. and MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, GEORGE DANDIN, COLIN.**

DAN. Heaven is my witness that I was in the house, and that...

M. DE S. Hold your tongue; this extravagance is unbearable.

DAN. May lightning strike me on the spot, if...

M. DE S. Stop wearing us out with your arguments and think of asking your wife to pardon you.

DAN. I! ask for her pardon?

M. DE S. Yes, her pardon, and immediately.

DAN. What! I...

M. DE S. Damn! if you answer me, I shall teach you what it means to make fools of us.

DAN. Ah! George Dandin!

**ACT III SCENE XIV. M. and MADAM DE SOTENVILLE, ANGELIQUE, CLAUDINE, GEORGE DANDIN, COLIN.**

M. DE S. Come here, daughter, so that your husband may ask for your pardon.

ANG. I! pardon him for all that he has said to me? No, no, father, I cannot possibly make up my mind to do so; and I beg of you to separate me from a husband with whom I can no longer live.

CLAU. How can one not be moved?

M. DE S. Such separations, daughter, are not brought about without a great deal of scandal; and you must show yourself wiser than he, and be patient once more.

ANG. How can I be patient after such indignities? No, father, I cannot consent to it.

M. DE S. You must, daughter; I command you.

ANG. These words make me silent. You have absolute authority over me.

CLAU. What gentleness!

ANG. It is hard to have to overlook such insults; but, however difficult it may be to overcome my feelings, it is my duty to obey you.

CLAU. Poor lamb!

M. DE S. (*To Angelique*) Come close.

ANG. Whatever you make me do will be of no use; we shall have to do it again to-morrow, you will see.

M. DE S. We shall put a stop to it. (*To George Dandin*), Come! go down on your knees.

DAN. On my knees?

M. DE S. Yes, on your knees, and immediately.

DAN. (*Kneeling with a candle in his hands, aside*). Oh! Heavens! (*To M. de Sotenville*) What am I to say?

M. DE S. Madame, I beg you to pardon me...

DAN. Madame, I beg you to pardon me...

M. DE S. For the folly I have committed...

DAN. For the folly I have committed ,...(*Aside*) of marrying you.

M. DE S. And I promise you, to behave better in the future.

DAN. And I promise you, to behave better in the future.

M. DE S. (*To George Dandin*) Take care, and remember that this is the last of your misdeeds that we shall endure.

MAD. DE S. By the Heavens above! if you misbehave again, we shall be teach you the respect which you owe your wife, and those from whom she is descended.

M. DE S. The day is breaking. Farewell. (*To George Dandin*) Go in, and learn to behave better. (*To Madame de Sotenville*) And you and I, love, let us go to bed.

**ACT III SCENE XV. GEORGE DANDIN, alone.**

Ah! I give up now, and I can see nothing to be done. When one has married, as I've done, a wicked woman, the best thing one can do is to go and jump in the river, head first.

**THE END**