

**MADAME
CAILLAUX**

Written by

ANTHONY E. GALLO

Address
Phone Number

Characters

Henriette Caillaux, Wife of Caillaux
Joseph Caillaux, Former Prime Minister
Gaston Calmette, Publisher of Le Figaro,
Judge Louis Alabanel, Presiding Judge
Berthe Gueydan, Caillaux' first wife
Charles Chenu, Calmette attorney
Fernand Labori, Henriette Caillaux's
Henry Bernstein. Most popular playwright in France
Charles Peguy, French Philosopher
Rosetta Figlini, Henriette's Personal Maid
Nancy, Journalist
Estelle, Journalist
Suzette
Jean
Yvette
Marie
Guard 1
Guard 2
Pierre
Bishop 1
Bishop 2
Adrien Cirac
Ensemble

SCENE 1 PARIS 1910 SUZETTE'S BEDROOM

Joseph Caillaux is in bed
with Suzette.

CAILLAUX

Ma Cherie!

SUZETTE

Mon amour!

CAILLAUX

Je t'aime!

SUZETTE

I have lusted for you all these years,

CAILLAUX

I thought so. Moi aussi. Kiss me again.

SUZETTE

What! How!

CAILLAUX

Those sideward glances.

SUZETTE

Did my husband notice?

CAILLAUX

No. Such a good man. I doubt it.

SUZETTE

Kiss me again.

CAILLAUX

I am insulted.

SUZETTE

Why?

CAILLAUX

Because you never noticed my sideward glances. Pure unadulterated lust. You are so beautiful.

SUZETTE

Oh, I love you!

CAILLAUX

And I have some very good news for you.

SUZETTE

Oh?

CAILLAUX

About your husband.

SUZETTE

Yes?

CAILLAUX

I am promoting him tomorrow to Associate Director of Finance.

SUZETTE

Oh, my Lord.

CAILLAUX

It is well deserved. He is an outstanding employee with total allegiance to me.

SUZETTE

And a wonderful husband.

CAILLAUX

His pay will increase by 40 percent.

SUZETTE

I am so worried that he will come home at any time.

CAILLAUX

Impossible. He is very busy where he is and besides, my driver outside is on the lookout for me.

SUZETTE

You don't miss a thing, do you?

CAILLAUX

That's right. I must leave now.

SUZETTE
Will you come again.

CAILLAUX
No.

SUZETTE
Why?

CAILLAUX
In deference to your husband. He is my best employee
and a very fine man.

SUZETTE
You are so wonderful.

CAILLAUX
I try.

SUZETTE
I hope that is not your way of dumping me.

CAILLAUX
Absolutely not. The next time you see me and I see
you, realize that my heart will be throbbing and I
will be lusting for you.

SUZETTE
My husband is so fortunate to have a boss like you.

CAILLAUX
And also fortunate that he has a good wife like you.

SUZETTE
Kiss me again.

CAILLAUX
And don't be surprised if he gets at least two more
promotions this year.

SUZETTE
Oh, Prime Minister Caillaux.

CAILLAUX
Once. Not now.

SUZETTE
All right! . MINISTER OF FINANCE.

CAILLAUX
Right.

SUZETTE
And the brightest man in France,

CAILLAUX
My enemies do not think so. And I have millions of
them

SUZETTE
Poor people

CAILLAUX
Kiss me , ma Suzette.

SUZETTE
A goodbye kiss!

SCENE 2 BERTHE BEDROOM

Joseph Caillaux and Berthe
Gueydan are in bed.

CAILLAUX
Ma Berthe!

BERTHE
Mon Jo!

CAILLAUX
Ton Jo!

BERTHE
I can not live without you.

CAILLAUX

I can not live without you.

BERTHE

I think of you morning, noon, and night.

CAILLAUX

We can never part.

BERTHE

I will die without you.

CAILLAUX

I can not bear the thought of not being with you.

BERTHE

Then.

CAILLAUX

Will you marry me?

BERTHE

Oh, my. Lord. You have made me the happiest woman in the world. Yes! I accept!

CAILLAUX

I jump for joy.

BERTHE

And I will make a great first lady for, as surely you will again be prime minister. I will be the greatest first lady in France's history

CAILLAUX

That I do not doubt.

BERTHE

I will work at it morning, noon, and night. Prime Minister Joseph Caillaux.

CAILLAUX

And your husband?

BERTHE

We have been married in name only for a decade. He was shoved on me when I was 19 and he was 32.

CAILLAUX

I am aware.

BERTHE

My marriage to this artist has been loveless and sexless.

CAILLAUX

But surely he will want to be paid off.

BERTHE

Not if he has custody of the child.

CAILLAUX

You are willing to give up custody>

BERTHE

Certainly. With periodic visits, I suppose.

CAILLAUX

Indeed. I shall still give him a settlement. At least several hundred thousand francs. Money talks.

BERTHE

You are so generous. And kind.

CAILLAUX

To be with my love! Yes I am.

BERTHE

I am the happiest woman in the world. Now kiss me again.

SCENE 3 HENRIETTE RAYNOUARD 'S RESIDENCE FOUR YEARS
LATER

Henriette Raynourard and
Joseph Caillaux are having
tea.

CAILLAUX

Henriette.

HENRIETTE

Yes, my love!

CAILLAUX

I love you!

HENRIETTE

But you are a married man.

CAILLAUX

In name only.

HENRIETTE

And I am a married woman.

CAILLAUX

In name only.

HENRIETTE

Yes, but I am a mother also.

CAILLAUX

Irrelevant.

HENRIETTE

I have never been an especially nurturing mother.

CAILLAUX

Parenting is not my stronghold. I want no children.

HENRIETTE

More tea?

CAILLAUX
I only want one thing.

HENRIETTE
Yes?

CAILLAUX
You!

HENRIETTE
But Berthe?

CAILLAUX
Tonight she is playing the role of France's future
first lady. FOR THE SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE EVENING

HENRIETTE
What!

CAILLAUX
She is entertaining 400 people at my home.

HENRIETTE
And you are not there.

CAILLAUX
Because she is entertaining 400 people. I am an
escapee.

HENRIETTE
But she support you totally.

CAILLAUX
A thousand times more I want.

HENRIETTE
But...

CAILLAUX
I need peace and quiet!

HENRIETTE

Oh, my Joe.

CAILLAUX

And that peace and quiet I get here!

HENRIETTE

Oh my Joe!

CAILLAUX

Henriette, you have given me love and peace of mind
for the past three months

HENRIETTE

I love you.

CAILLAUX

I can only be happy with you.

HENRIETTE

Oh, my love

CAILLAUX

I want you to marry me.

HENRIETTE

I accept

CAILLAUX

We are one.

HENRIETTE

My love.

CAILLAUX

My husband.

HENRIETTE

And Berthe.

CAILLAUX

She will be paid off nicely. She will demand blood,
mind you.

Oh my Joe. HENRIETTE

And get it. CAILLAUX

But... HENRIETTE

And your husband? CAILLAUX

He will be accommodating. HENRIETTE

And I will take care of him nicely. CAILLAUX

My Joe. HENRIETTE

My Henriette. CAILLAUX

SCENE 4 CAILLAUX RESIDENCE A WEEK LATER

Berthe is seated. Fernand Labori enters.

LABORI
The butler sent me to your drawing room directly.

BERTHE
Yes, Mr. Labori. What can I do for you.

LABORI
I come on a matter of the greatest delicacy.

BERTHE
Yes?

LABORI
I must be a bearer of news.

BERTHE

Yes?

LABORI

I am here at the behest of Mr. Joseph Caillaux

BERTHE

Oh, yes. I have not seen him for days.

LABORI

I am aware.

BERTHE

The answer is no.

LABORI

How do you know what I am going to ask.

BERTHE

The entirety of France knows.

LABORI

Then you know why I am here.

BERTHE

Yes.

LABORI

I want you to know that Mr. Caillaux extends to you his greatest apology, and regrets any damage he many have done you.

BERTHE

He has destroyed me.

LABORI

I am so sorry,

BERTHE

I have considered suicide.

LABORI

Please..

BERTHE

But will not give him that satisfaction. After 4 years of marriage and my total devotion to him.

LABORI

I know.

BERTHE

I gave up my child and husband for him.

LABORI

I know,

BERTHE

And have devoted everyday of my life to him.

LABORI

Right.

BERTHE

And he leaves without a word.

LABORI

Life is not always fair.

BERTHE

And then sends a lawyer to see me.

LABORI

Right.

BERTHE

What do you have to say.

LABORI

Mr. Caillaux wants a divorce. But recognizing the pain you are going through he will make a very generous settlement.

BERTHE

Yes. But I may not be willing to grant the divorce.

LABORI

Surely you have already seen your attorney.

BERTHE

I have.

LABORI

And given our laws....

BERTHE

Of course I have.

LABORI

And?

BERTHE

I will have no recourse but to make my case public.

LABORI

Exactly.

BERTHE

And?

LABORI

He is willing to make a generous settlement.

BERTHE

OF course.

LABORI

He is willing to give you the largest financial settlement in French history.

BERTHE

No surprise.

LABORI

What!.

BERTHE

How much.

LABORI
2 millions francs.

BERTHE
Ha. My lawyer will contact you.

LABORI
How much?

BERTHE
Nine million francs.

LABORI
Madame...

BERTHE
Plus the home here.

LABORI
Madame!

BERTHE
Contact my lawyer.

LABORI
Madame!

BERTHE
The conversation is over.

LABORI
But..

BERTHE
Please leave.

LABORI
Yes Madame.

He exits. She puts her head on the table and begins crying for an extended period. The crying gets louder and louder.

BERTHE

I will never recover. I still can touch his clothing, which Gaston Calmette called the most elegant in all of Europe. I still crave for his oh so slim body. I feel his lips on mine. Oh help me Lord. This madness... . (She begins crying again) And oh I have the letters. They are mine. All of them! All of them!

SCENE 5 THE CAILLAUX RESIDENCE FOUR YEARS LATER

A beautifully decorated living room Henriette Caillaux, wearing an enormous diamond wedding ring, fills two glasses with champagne, Joseph Caillaux enters with a bouquet of flowers.

HENRIETTE

Ma chérie!

CAILLAUX

Henriette. Happy fourth anniversary.

HENRIETTE

Four years of bliss.

CAILLAUX

How time flies.

HENRIETTE

Four years and not a single argument.

CAILLAUX

You have made me the happiest man in the world

HENRIETTE

I can not live without you.

CAILLAUX

Surely this union is blessed by Providence.

HENRIETTE

We will be dining at Maxims.

CAILLAUX

Our favorite restuarant.

HENRIETTE

Plus four dinners in our honor during the week.

CAILLAUX

I am so glad to see you smile.

HENRIETTE

Why my love?

CAILLAUX

You have been so heart-trodden lately.

HENRIETTE

I have not!

CAILLAUX

Yes you have!

HENRIETTE

Let us not have our first argument ever.

CAILLAUX

Yes, my love.

HENRIETTE

How do you know?

CAILLAUX

How do I know she ask! I see the sad look on your face and then you turn towards me and you put on the smile that has won my hear heart.

HENRIETTE

Oh, my love!

CAILLAUX

And then I hear you at night. Screaming my name and telling me how much you love me in your dream.

HENRIETTE

All because of that man.

CAILLAUX

You mean.....?

HENRIETTE

Who else?

CAILLAUX

He only wants to totally destroy me.

HENRIETTE

The whole world knows it.

CAILLAUX

Yes. But his power is unabated.

HENRIETTE

Even against Joseph Caillaux. THE JOSEPH CAILLAUX.

CAILLAUX

He is the first enemy I have ever had that I wish were dead. In fact I have often thought of putting a gun to his head and killing him.

HENRIETTE

Don't even think of it. You will be hung, and I cannot live without you.

CAILLAUX

I do not know how to destroy this evil man. The power of the press!

HENRIETTE

First he attempted to destroy you politically.

CAILLAUX

And failed.

HENRIETTE

Then he attempted to destroy by writing contrived stories about your massive corruption!

CAILLAUX

And failed.

HENRIETTE

Now he attacks you personally.

CAILLAUX

And going for the throat.

HENRIETTE

The morning paper is gone. Did you take it?

CAILLAUX

Yes.

HENRIETTE

You rarely take it with you.

CAILLAUX

Oh.

HENRIETTE

Why?

CAILLAUX

Because.....

HENRIETTE

Because there is something you do not want me to read.

CAILLAUX

Yes.

HENRIETTE

I want it now. You are afraid to let me see it.

CAILLAUX

Let me tell you briefly what it says.

HENRIETTE

Yes?

CAILLAUX

Gaston published a letter I sent to Berthe in which I refer to my self as Ton Jo.

HENRIETTE

Oh, my god!

CAILLAUX

That is the issue. She was still married to her first husband.

HENRIETTE

(Crying) Gaston is out to kill you!

CAILLAUX

Yes, he is.

HENRIETTE

He infers an adulterous relationship!

CAILLAUX

Which it was. Now please be calm

HENRIETTE

She denies it?

CAILLAUX

Ha! And you know about Calmette. Gaston arrived in Paris twenty years ago with 26 francs in his pocket. Today he is a multi millionaire. And as a journalist! How many journalists do you know who have become quasi billionaires.

HENRIETTE

How did he do it?

CAILLAUX

He married the publisher's daughter. That is only a small part of it. He has also accepted what amounts to bribes from every lobbyist and interest group in France. But does it cleverly. He is a corrupt man.

HENRIETTE

And he charges you with corruption. This man drives me mad. And why is he out to destroy you!

CAILLAUX

Three reasons, I want to change the tax laws and impose an income tax to be fair to all Frenchmen. France's most powerful forces are opposed it. Second, I want peace with Germany. For two reasons. We have much to gain by working with the Germans. Second I think we will lose that war. With one caveat: That the Americans are not dumb enough to enter the War. Remember one thing. Germany will dominate Europe not only now but for years to come. Economically if not militarily.

HENRIETTE

Mon jo! YOU ARE SUCH A GOOD MAN! Always thinking of what is best for France and for French men and women! Not a selfish bone in your body.

CAILLAUX

My Henriette.

HENRIETTE

Someone removed my gun from the case it was in. Who was it.

CAILLAUX

It was I!

HENRIETTE

Why!

CAILLAUX

I was afraid you would use it on yourself.

HENRIETTE

Joseph!

CAILLAUX

I know how much you love me.

HENRIETTE

Return it.

CAILLAUX

No!

HENRIETTE

You love me that much.

CAILLAUX

I need you now more than ever and love you more than ever.

HENRIETTE

We will fight this together. Now to dinner we go.

CAILLAUX

Kiss me, My love.

HENRIETTE

I know why you really removed the gun.

CAILLAUX

I told you.

HENRIETTE

You told a little white benevolent lie.

CAILLAUX

Please tell me why I removed the gun.

HENRIETTE

Removing the gun will not impede what I want to do.

CAILLAUX

You would not even think of it! Would you, my Love.

HENRIETTE

I am an independent woman.

CAILLAUX

And a liberated woman.

HENRIETTE

And yes, I know what you are afraid of.

CAILLAUX

NO! I FORBID IT!

HENRIETTE

I will walk the four corners of the earth to protect the man I love.

CAILLAUX

I forbid it! And I know how to stope it.

HENRIETTE

I have already composed my note to be sent to Mr. Gaston Calmette.

CAILLAUX

NO!

HENRIETTE

I have not sent it.

CAILLAUX

What you want to do is unheard of. It is I should do what you want to do.

HENRIETTE

I have always deferred to your wishes.

CAILLAUX

Yes you have. And I to yours! But here there is no compromise!

HENRIETTE

Then what do we do. For the last four months he has been attacking you every day of the week. Every single day of the week. Not one daily attack. Not two. But an average of five. You make the front page of Le Figaro more often than Prime Minister Boncarre and all the members of the cabinet.

CAILLAUX

Because they are irrelevant.

HENRIETTE

And Calmette now will devote every edition to attack your personal life! The publications of the Ton o breaks the most of French journalism ethics. And he is out to destroy you. I can not sit by calmly, which is what you are trying to make me do.

CAILLAUX

For once and for all: YOU WILL NOT CHALLENGE GASTON CALMETTE TO A DUEL.

HENRIETTE

He would not stand a chance against me.

CAILLAUX

I do not doubt that. I am an excellent marksman. But I cannot hold a candle to you.. If you insist on this, I WILL CHALLENGE HIM TO A DUEL.

HENRIETTE

You cannot! He will kill you. He does not stand a chance against me.

CAILLAUX

Never in French or any other history has there been a pistol duel between a man and woman. Besides he would probably turn you down, send you a bouquet of rose. And that would be the end of it. I would look like a fool and a man not strong enough on his own to challenge his archenemy to a duel, but instead sends his wife out defend his owner. YOU WOULD END OUT DESTROYING ME! Do you understand that, my love.

HENRIETTE

I do.

CAILLAUX

Then relent.

HENRIETTE

I will. Oh my husband. Kiss me.

CAILLAUX

Your love for me is grater than the whole wide world.

HENRIETTE

Without doubt.

CAILLAUX

And mine is greater than the universe.

They kiss.

HENRIETTE

My love!

CAILLAUX

My love!

We hear the voice of a boy
shouting out off stage.

NEWSBOY (O.S.)

Read all about it! Read all about it! Caillaux big
time adulterer and seducer/

WOMAN (O.S.)

This is the fifteenth day that Le Figaro has
discussed Joseph Calmette's sex life

MAN (O.S.)

One thing, my dear. It's probably all true.

WOMAN

And worse.

SCENE 6 1914 ANTI ROOM OF GASTON CALMETTE'S OFFICE
EDITOR OF LE FIGARO.

Henriette Caillaux,
beautifully dressed, is
seated. Marie enters with an
elegant tea serving set.

MARIE

Madame Caillaux. Monsieur Calmette expresses his
apology for the long wait but hopes to see you
shortly. Will you have some tea?

HENRIETTE

No, thank you. I have already had my tea.

MARIE

Monsieur Calmette wants you be perfectly comfortable
while you wait. He should be ready to see you
shortly. .

HENRIETTE

He is such a kind man.

MARIE

He certainly is.

CALMETTE (O.S.)

Marie, I will be out shortly.

Calmette appears. Marie
exits.

HENRIETTE

Monsieur Calmette.

CALMETTE

Madame Caillaux. I regret having had you wait so
long.

HENRIETTE

Ah, Monsieur Calmette, so kind of you to see me with
your very busy schedule

CALMETTE

It is indeed a pleasure to meet you, Madame Caillaux.

HENRIETTE

And you too, Monsieur Calmette.

CALMETTE

So what can I do for you?

HENRIETTE

I should like to bring up the matter of the letter of
my husband to his first wife.

CALMETTE

Ah Yes. The ton Jo letter. I have nothing personal
against you or your husband

HENRIETTE

I am sure. But I am bothered by the publication of
that letter.

CALMETTE

And this too shall pass. I assure you. Do not be concerned.

HENRIETTE

I understand you have other papers that belong to my husband.

CALMETTE

Papers?

HENRIETTE

Letters?.

CALMETTE

Not to my knowledge.

HENRIETTE

Why are you publishing my husband's letters?

CALMETTE

I have published but one. And a letter to his first wife.

HENRIETTE

Why did you publish it!

CALMETTE

It is my duty as a journalist.

HENRIETTE

You have attacked my husband for telling the truth.

CALMETTE

How have I attacked ?

HENRIETTE

First you went after the throat. Now the heart.

CALMETTE

What do you mean?

HENRIETTE

You attacked my husband on issues and corruption.
Having failed you now attack his character.

CALMETTE

I have not attacked his character.

HENRIETTE

You published his letter to Berthe

CALMETTE

I only published one letter.

HENRIETTE

Did you have to?

CALMETTE

As public figure his private life is subject to
investigation.

HENRIETTE

My husband is not an adulterer.

CALMETTE

Why of course not. I did not say he was.

HENRIETTE

You published the letter.

CALMETTE

Yes. But...

HENRIETTE

Where he addressed Berthe in the familiar Ton?

CALMETTE

That is right.

HENRIETTE

And you knew what the inference would be.

CALMETTE

I am a journalist. Not a moral interpreter.

HENRIETTE

You have made him a criminal.

CALMETTE

Hardly.

HENRIETTE

Well now you have. I have a gift for you Monsieur
Gaston

CALMETTE

Indeed.

HENRIETTE

Here.

She pulls out a gun and shots
him in the head si times.
We hear screams.

A guard rushes into the room
and grabs her.

GUARD

You are a murderess!

HENRIETTE

Take your hands off me.

GUARD

Yes, Madame.

HENRIETTE

Do not touch me. I AM A LADY!

GUARD

Yes, Madame!

HENRIETTE

Do not touch my fur coat.

GUARD

Yes, Madame.

HENRIETTE

Now get the police..

GUARD

Yes, Madame.

HENRIETTE

But my chauffeur r will drive me to the police station.

GUARD

You must wait for the police.

HENRIETTE

My chauffeur r will drive me to the police station.

SCENE 7 THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME

Bishop Ardon is at the
pulpit. We hear newspaper
boy shouting from the
background

NEWSBOY

Read all about it! Read all about it! Minister's
wife kills Gaston!. Read all about it. Read All
about it!

We hear the introit of
Faure's Requiem

BISHOP ARDON

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

CONGREGATION

Amen.

BISHOP ARDON

Today, I speak about a national malaise.

CONGREGATION

Amen.

BISHOP ARDON

A state of sin which has lasted too long.

CONGREGATION

Amen.

BISHOP ARDON

And that is the failure of our moral and political leaders living in sin.

CONGREGATION

Amen.

BISHOP ARDON

This week, 8 million copies of Paris' forty newspapers were sold compared to 4 million which are usually sold.

CONGREGATION

OH!

BISHOP ARDON

And we know the reason for it. People like to read about sin!

CONGREGATION

Yes!

BISHOP ARDON

A dreadful murder was committed in this city.

CONGREGATION

Yes.

BISHOP ARDON

St. Paul admonishes us throughout his epistles. To live clean lives. We must not give in to the forces of lust and corruption

CONGREGATION

Amen.

BISHOP ARDON

Christ tells us to avoid sin and corruption .

CONGREGATION

Amen

BISHOP ARDON

Jesus spoke of the corruption those in power.

CONGREGATION

YES!

BISHOP ARDON

And we see it in our society. The grips of the church have been loosened by our highest leaders.

CONGREGATION

Yes!!

BISHOP ARDON

We face a grave moral crisis. Immorality pervades society beginning with the very top of our society. Our political leaders are immoral. They take on other men's wives. And the sanctity of women has been violated by the women who live in sin with these men.

CONGREGATION

Amen!

BISHOP ARDON

St. Paul said it best. This is the will of God : that you refrain from immorality, that each of you know how to acquire a wife for himself in holiness and honor, not in lustful passion as do the Gentiles who do not know God; not to take advantage of or exploit a brother in this matter, for the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you before and solemnly affirmed. For God did not call us to impurity but to holiness. Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, who also gives his holy Spirit to you

CONGREGATION

Yes.

BISHOP ARDON

We now face the trial of the century. All of the deadly sins are put before us in this trial. Murder, lust, betrayal, slander, adultery, lying, deception

CONGREGATION

What do we do!

BISHOP ARDON

We pray that the devil will be removed from our lives.

CONGREGATION

Amen.

SCENE 8 THE BOUCHER RESIDENCE

CONGREGATION

Yvette and Jean Boucher are setting the dinner table for guests.

YVETTE

Antoine and Marie will arrive at any time now.

JEAN

You are so wound up in that trial that you don't even have dinner ready.

YVETTE

I know my love. I am sorry.

JEAN

My love. I too am caught up in this story. So is all of Paris and the world. You would never think we are about to go to war with the Franks. Those monsters.

YVETTE

I weep for Madame Caillaux.

JEAN

Let us not go though that again. She is a murderess.

YVETTE

You are heartless.

JEAN

You are more wrapped p in this trial than I am.

YVETTE

I don't think so.

JEAN

For God's sake. We are about to declare war on Germany and all we worry about is that innocent woman.

YVETTE

The murderess?

JEAN

You know our guests will feel differently

YVETTE

I will not even bring the subject up.

A knock is heard at the door

YVETTE

Come in.

Marie and Pierre enter.

MARIE

My dearest Yvette.

YVETTE

Marie, we have waited so long to do this.

MARIE

You all look so well.

JEAN

Such a stressful week.

MARIE

Now we shall eat?

YVETTE

Are you upset by the trial?

MARIE

I can't think of anything else

YVETTE

Let us sit down to dinner. The trial has me all nervous.

MARIE

I haven't been able to think about anything else.

JEAN

The whole Nation is on edge.

MARIE

The Nation! You mean the whole world. From America to China. The Eskimos in Alaska

PIERRE

You realize that we are about to declare war on Germany.

MARIE

And that scoundrel sides with them.

PIERRE

What scoundrel?

MARIE

Joseph Caillaux!

PIERRE

But he's a patriot!

MARIE

A patriot!

PIERRE

Yes.

YVETTE

He's a German sympathizer.

PIERRE

Where did you learn that. It is a lie.

MARIE

About this farce of a trial. Let us turn back to the question of men and women. Men and women are different.

JEAN

I do not accept that.

PIERRE

That is because you are such intellectual.

YVETTE

Shall we sit for dinner. And I want to hear a solemn promise that the trial will not be mentioned again tonight.

PIERRE

I promise.

YVETTE

And the others.

MARIE

I will try.

YVETTE

Thank God.

MARIE

You realize that at this very moment there must be at least a million couples around the word.

YVETTE

I would say two million. And perhaps we can discuss the trial after dinner.

SCENE 9- HENRIETTE CAILLAUX THE COURTROOM JULY 10, 1914

Henriette Caillaux is on the stand. Interrogated by Jude Alabanel, Chenu and Labori

ALABANEL

You are Madame Henriette Caillaux, wife of the finance minister and former prime minister

HENRIETTE

Yes. I am.

ALABANEL

And how long have you been married?

HENRIETTE

Four years. The four happiest years of my life.

ALABANEL

Did you kill Gaston Calmette. On March 1914.

HENRIETTE

I did and I did not, your Honor.

ALABANEL

What do you mean?

HENRIETTE

Because the woman who killed Gaston Calmette is not the woman I know as me.

ALABANEL

Explain.

HENRIETTE

Because I was made a different woman, a woman rendered irresponsible by emotions more powerful than will itself.

ALABANEL

Are you saying a crime of passion.

HENRIETTE

Yes. I am saying an act of passion

ALABANEL

Why>

HENRIETTE

Because Mr. Calmette was killing my husband.

ALABANEL

And?

HENRIETTE

Le Figaro attacked my husband everyday. Sometimes once, sometimes twice, sometimes ten times. I will never forget February 3, 1914 when Calmette had 17 articles on my husband. All of them negative beyond belief. Each day brought new attacks First, Gaston Calmette tried to kill my husband with lies. That having failed he then tried assassinating his political character, starting with corruption, and that having failed he next tried to get him on his moral character

ALABANEL

What do you mean.

HENRIETTE

The Ton Jo letter.

ALABANEL

Do either attorneys have any questions?

CHENU

Yes your honor.

ALABANEL

Begin.

CHENU

Madam Caillaux. Do you mean to say you had not planned this murder?

HENRIETTE

I am not a murderess.

CHENU

It appears that you visited the Office of Gaston Calmette and 15 minutes later he was dead. Did you pull the trigger?

HENRIETTE

Yes.

CHENU

Why?

HENRIETTE

Because I lost my mind. I love my quiet home life. But I also value my standing in society. Le Figaro made my husband miserable on both counts. Polite society expelled me. And brought slander and hatred into my home. I became distraught nervous and. I could not sleep. My staff said I seemed depressed. I was described as having the aura of a hunted animal.

CHENU

But it was you who pulled the trigger.

HENRIETTE

No. It was pulled by a crazed woman who is not I.

CHENU

Thank you, Mr. Caillaux.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Mr. Labori, you may now examine the accused.

LABORI .

Mrs. Caillaux. Did you aim the gun at Gaston Calmette temple on the night of March 16

HENRIETTE

Yes I did.

LABORI .

Had you planned to kill him.

HENRIETTE

Yes I did.

LABORI .
Why?

HENRIETTE
I lost all control

LABORI .
What do you mean when you say you lost all control?

HENRIETTE
I am a woman.

LABORI .
Did you consider him the mortal enemy?

HENRIETTE
Yes I did.

LABORI .
Why?

HENRIETTE
Because he had attacked my husband over 8000 times in a two year period.

LABORI .
Exaggerated perhaps?

HENRIETTE
Since there is no more justice in France, I resolved that I alone would be able to stop this campaign. The campaign to which she referred was, of course, the alleged slander published by Calmette.

JUDGE ALABANEL
When did you decide to carry through with this murder?

HENRIETTE
That woman made the decision to protect her beloved husband by sacrificing myself.

JUDGE ALABANEL
You mean the other you.

HENRIETTE

Yes.

ALABANEL

Do you we have any other questions?

CHENU

No

LABORI .

No.

ALABANEL

We will meet tomorrow.

SCENE 10 JOSEPH CAILLAUX ON STAND NEXT DAY

Joseph Caillaux is seated

ALABANEL

You are the husband of Henriette Caillaux?

CAILLAUX

Yes, your honor.

ALABANEL

And you consider yourself the victim of a long campaign by Le Figaro Newspaper?

CAILLAUX

The campaign has been going on over a two year period.

ALABANEL

Some of the pieces have been entertaining.

CAILLAUX

But at my expense. Let me cite a few of the. "A Bald Don Juan".
 "Ego, excess and enormous success" . "The ultimate demagogue" and No one could invent a main like this

ALABANEL

The one I have enjoyed the most is that " Emil Zola would have been hard pressed to find a person like this.

LABORI .

That is only the tip of the iceberg. Calmette Gaston was relentless in his mockery.

CHENU

This chatter is totally irrelevant to the guilt or innocence of Madame Caillaux.

ALABANEL

On March 16, were you aware that Madame Caillaux intend to murder Gaston Calmette?

CAILLAUX

No, Your Honor.

ALABANEL

What was her disposition in the days prior to March 14, 1913.

CAILLAUX

She was in a depressed state of mind. I was quite concerned.

ALABANEL

Explain.

CAILLAUX

Her appetite, the worried look on her face, and I heard her crying at night while she was sleeping

ALABANEL

Did you seek help for her?

CAILLAUX

I did not. Nor did I think I need to.

ALABANEL

I now allow questioning for the two lawyers. Mr. Chenu?

CHENU

Mr. Prime Minister. Had Madame Caillaux give you any inkling that she intended to murder Gaston Calmette.

CAILLAUX

No she did not. She had for months been uneasy following each attack on me in Le Figaro.

CHENU

Did you allay her fears.

CAILLAUX

I tried.

CHENU

Why did Le figaro come after you with vengeance.

CAILLAUX

Three reasons. I believe in peace with all our neighbors including the Germans. An income tax to tax the rich,

CHENU

Did you have any personal animosity towards R. Calmette

CAILLAUX

No

CHENU

Thanks you that will be all/

LABORI .

Mr. Caillaux. Did you have any reason to believe that Madame Caillaux would murder someone.

CAILLAUX

No. I did not.

LABORI .

Had she given any indication that she intended to murder.

CAILLAUX

No,

LABORI .

Did you have any other invitations that day.

CAILLAUX

I a certain. We average about 7 invitations a day.

LABORI .

And the Italian Embassy Annual party?

CAILLAUX

Ah yes. We had intended to go.

LABORI .

And so thank you. That will be all.

SCEN 11 BERTHE GUEYDAN ON STAND

Berthe Gueydan is seated

ALABANEL

You are Berthe Gueydan?

BERTHE

Yes. That is one name. The other is Madame Berthe Caillaux.

ALABANEL

We already have a Madame Caillaux in the room.

BERTHE

That is the second Madame Caillaux.' I am the first.
I have the option of using either name.

ALABANEL

Which do you prefer.

BERTHE

Madame Gueydan.

ALABANEL

You were once married to Joseph Caillaux?

BERTHE

I gave him the best years of my life.

ALABANEL

Why are you taking notes.

BERTHE

For my records

ALABANEL

That is not permitted in the Court.

BERTHE

I can not stop.

ALABANEL

I order you to stop.

BERTHE

I must take these notes for my records.

ALABANEL

Very well then.

BERTHE

Thank you honor. I mean no disrespect.

ALABANEL

How did the Ton Jo letter get into the hands of Le Figaro newspaper?

BERTHE

I do not know. You will have to ask Le Figaro Newspaper.

ALABANEL

I would now like to call on Joseph Caillaux . He has asked to be heard, to present his side of the story.

BERTHE

NO!

ALABANEL

He must be able to defend himself.

BERTHE

He is a monster!

ALABANEL

You must either respect the Court or I will ask you to leave this room.

BERTHE

Ye, your honor. (She begins crying)

ALABANEL

Minister Caillaux. You may address the court.

CAILLAUX

I must first address Berthe Gueydan directly, your Honor.

ALABANEL

This is our choice!

CAILLAUX

I have been accused of wronging by you, Berthe Gueydan. That assertion is erroneous.

BERTHE

You are a dog! No shame!

ALABANEL

Guards. Please remove this woman.

BERTHE

I will not leave!

ALABANEL

Then you must remain quiet unless called upon. When he is finished, you may speak your rebuff.

BERTHE

Yes, your honor.

ALABANEL

Proceed , Mr. Caillaux.

CAILLAUX

I must tell you for the public record, Madame Gueydan, you have attacked me publicly by my count at least 240 times. Today I must set the record straight-- why you were unfit to be my wife.. Between a man to whom everyone one grants authority, vigor, and power , and you in whom these qualities are overdeveloped as well, it was impossible that things would last. You were too strong-willed, too forceful, and too intelligent or my needs. How Could I have remained with you given our conflict of natures at once opposed to each other and too similar

Berthe begins crying loudly again

ALABANEL

Madame Gueydan you must control yourself.

BERTHE

Yes, your Honor.

ALABANEL

Please continue, Mr. Caillaux

CAILLAUX

The error of our wedding is that this woman was my intellectual peer. And because I had married inappropriately, I agreed to pay FOR my fault. As part of the divorce settlement I paid the handsome sum of 18,000 francs a year plus investments worth 220 thousand francs. The largest settlement in French history. It also was half of my fortune.

BERTHE

No amount of money can repair the emotional damage you have done me. And he continues to lie. His alimony is but a drop in the bucket compared to his vast holdings, however they have been acquired

CAILLAUX

Permit me say that you possessed not a centime why you came into my house!

ENSEMBLE

BOO! BOO! BOO! BOO! BOO! BOO! BOO! BOO!

ALABANEL

With that the court will recess for lunch.

SCENE 1 MAID COURTROOM

Rosetta Figlini is seated on
the stand

JUDGE ALABANEL

Your name is Rosetta Figlini?

ROSETTA

(Begins crying) Yes Your Honor.

JUDGE ALABANEL

May I ask why you are crying?

ROSETTA

I do not want to be here.

JUDGE ALABANEL

It is your duty as a citizen of France,,,,, and because you are a witness to this case. As agreed to by both sides.

ROSETTA

I am not a citizen of France. I am a citizen of Italy.

JUDGE ALABANEL

And how many years have you lived in France?

ROSETTA

Thirty five.

JUDGE ALABANEL

What is your relationship to Henriette Caillaux?

ROSETTA

I am her maid.

JUDGE ALABANEL

How many years?

ROSETTA

Thirty five. And she is the finest woman on earth.

JUDGE ALABANEL

And were you with Mrs. Caillaux the day of March 19, 1913.

ROSETTA

(Crying) Yes.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Now both Mr. Chenu and Mr. Labori have some questions for you.

ROSETTA

(Crying) I do not want to testify.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Why?

ROSETTA

I have nothing to say.

LABORI

Your honor. Signorina Figlini is very emotional and suffers from asthma. The emotional distress may cause her to have an attack.

ROSETTA

That is right.

ALABANEL

Mr. Labori. Do not speak out of turn. That also applies to you, Signora Figlini.

ROSETTA

(Crying) I want to die.

HENRIETTE

(Shouting out) My Dear Rosetta!

ALABANEL

If I hear one more burst of emotion I am going to have you all dismissed. Now Mr. Chenu. I will ask you to first question the witness.

ROSETTA

(Crying) I want to go home!

ALABANEL

Do you wish to be jailed, Signorina Rosetta Figlini.

ROSETTA

NO!

ALABANEL

Mr. Chenu you may begin asking your questions.

ROSETTA

Please!

CHENU

Signorina Figlini, I just have a few questions for you. All you must do is tell the truth.

ROSETTA

Leave me alone!

ALABANEL

You are being insubordinate to the court.

LABORI

Rosetta, you must cooperate with the court.

ROSETTA

Yes, Mr. Labori.

CHENU

Signorina Figlini, Did you report for work the day of March 19, 1913 a Wednesday.

ROSETTA

Yes but I only work one half a day on Wednesdays

CHENU

When did you work?

ROSETTA

Only in the morning.

CHENU

When the police arrived at the Caillaux home and there was a black dress lying out on the table in Mrs. Caillaux bedroom. Do you recall putting this dress on the table?

ROSETTA

Yes.

CHENU

Why did Madame Caillaux not wear this dress?

ROSETTA

I do not know.

CHENU

You must tell the truth.

ROSETTA

I do not know.

CHENU

You have made an oath before God.

ROSETTA

Yes, I know.

CHENU

Do you attend church.

ROSETTA

Yes

CHENU

How often

ROSETTA

Once a day when I work and twice on my days off.

CHENU

Then you know that you will burn in hell if you lie before this court

ROSETTA

I am not lying.

CHENU

You are not telling the whole truth

LABORI

Your Honor. I object. This irreligious monster who has not seen the inside of a church since his baptismal day, is now torturing this poor woman with taunts at her Catholic conscience. He has not right to do this by every standard.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Objection sustained.

CHENU

Signorina Figlini, Let me ask you. Why did you put out two dresses the Day of march 16. Did Madame Caillaux tell you to do also.

ROSETTA

I do not remember.

CHENU

Surely you must recall why you put two dresses on the memorable day of the murder

ROSETTA

I do not.

CHENU

You put out two dresses that day.

ROSETTA

Yes.

CHENU

Surely you had a reason.

ROSETTA

Madame Caillaux asked me to put out both dresses.

CHENU

Why?

ROSETTA

She was not sure which one she wanted to wear.

CHENU

Do you recall anything about the dresses?

ROSETTA

One was new.

CHENU

At a cost of 10000 francs. The other one was purchased a year ago for 800 francs.

ROSETTA

I do not know what she paid for them

CHENU

And which dress did she decide to wear?

ROSETTA

The black one.

CHENU

And what was the red dress for?.

ROSETTA

She was going to a tea that day.

CHENU

Bu. Then she wore the black dress to visit Mr. Calmette. Is that right?

ROSETTA

She did wear the black dress.

CHENU

Why were both left out for her to wear?

ROSETTA

I only worked half a day that day.

CHENU

And she had not made up her mind before you left?

ROSETTA

I do not know.

CHENU

Both dresses were left out.

ROSETTA

Yes.

CHENU

Was Madame Caillaux invited to an important social function that day.

ROSETTA

I do not know

CHENU

Like a tea?

ROSETTA

I do not know.

CHENU

Are you familiar with Mrs. Jambon.?

ROSETTA

Yes.

CHENU

And then you know she give the most fashionable tea in the entirely of France once a year.

ROSETTA

Yes.

CHENU

And she was going there that day.

ROSETTA

I do not know.

CHENU

Has she gone to this tea before?

ROSETTA

I do not know.

CHENU

Well let me tell you that she has. She has attended this tea for the last four years.

ROSETTA

Perhaps she has.

CHENU

So the morning of July 16th she had not made up her mind.

ROSETTA

I do not know.

CHENU

Mademoiselle Rosetta. You are lying before the court!

LABORI

Your honor. I object. Mr. Chenu man is barbaric.

CHENU

You honor...

ALABANEL

Mr. Chenu. You are merciless. Ask your questions in the right tone..

CHENU

Then let me get to the point. Can Henriette Caillaux come to the stand.

ALABANEL

Yes.

Henriette steps onto the chair.

CHENU

Madame Caillaux. Were you invited to Madame Jambon's tea.

HENRIETTE

Yes.

CHENU

Did you intend to go?

HENRIETTE

I did.

CHENU

And you did not.

HENRIETTE

No.

CHENU

Why?

HENRIETTE

I picked up the morning Figaro.

CHENU

Yes?

HENRIETTE

And read seven more attacks on my husband.

CHENU

What attacks?

HENRIETTE

The one that was most grievous was the personal attack. And we knew that this was only the beginning.

CHENU

How did you know?

HENRIETTE

My heart told me so.

CHENU

So your decision to murder Mr. Calmette was on the spur of the moment?

HENRIETTE

Yes.

CHENU

You lie!

HENRIETTE

NO! NO! No!

We hear voices from outside
the Palace of Justice

ANTI CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

Down with Caillaux! Down with Caillaux!

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

Poor woman! Poor Woman.!

SCENE 2 MARKSMAN SCENE

The court is in session.
Charles Le Droit sits in the
witness stand.

ALABANEL

Both lawyers have been behaving abominably. I will stand for no more of that. One more infraction and both of you will be expelled from the Court of Asize , never more to practice here. Do you understand!

CHENU

Yes

LABORI .

Yes

ALABANEL

Do you both have quercitin for Monsieur Le Droit

LABORI .

I do not.

CHENU

I do

ALABANEL

Proceed,

CHENU

Charles Le Droit. You are the owner of Le Droit Marksmanship School.

LE DROIT

I am.

CHENU

And how long have you been in business.

LE DROIT

Only thirty years. The family business has been in existence for three hundred years

CHENU

So you are a gun seller .

LE DROIT

More importantly we provide training

CHENU

Have any of your students ever engaged in dueling.

LE DROIT

Yes. Twelve of them

CHENU

Against one or the other.

LE DROIT

We provide the best marksmanship instruction in all of France. In which we take great pride

CHENU

Did you sell Henriette Caillaux the gun which she used to murder Calmette Gaston.

LE DROIT

I did.

CHENU

Did you give him training to use it.

LE DROIT

I did.

CHENU

And Henriette Caillaux?

LE DROIT

Henriette Raynouard Caillaux was a student of mine from the time she was six to the time she was 16. The Raynouard family have been our clients for two hundred years.

CHENU

And Joseph Caillaux.

LE DROIT

NO. He has also been trained by us.

CHENU

Has he had as much training as his wife?

LE DROIT

NO.

CHENU

In a duel between Mr. Calmette and Mr. Caillaux, who would win /

LE DROIT

Mr. Calmette.

CHENU

And between Mr. Calmette and Madame Caillaux

The courtroom sighs

LE DROIT

Dueling between men and women are unheard of.

CHENU

I asked you a question. Answer to best of you ability.

LE DROIT

Yes Sir. In a duel, Madame Caillaux would emerge triumphant. She is probably the best shot in the France, Male or female. .

CHENU

Thank you. That will be all.

ALABANEL

Mr. Chenu! What was the purpose of this questioning..

CHENU

It is obvious that Madame Caillaux killing of the innocent Mr. Calmette was pure premeditated murder by an expert shooter.

SCENE 3 OUTSIDE THE PALACE OF JUSTICE

Charles Peguy stands before a large crowd

ENSEMBLE

Peguy! Peguy! Peguy! France's greatest philosopher. SPEAK! SPEAK! SPEAK!

PEGUY

Today I SPEAK. OF FRENCH HONOR!

ENSEMBLE

Yeah! Yeah!

PEGUY

The Duel is at the heart of French. Honor. Duel is a french word and concept which has been adopted by the whole civilized world.

ENSEMBLE

Yes!

PEGUY

France has had a long-standing attachment to the Duel. It is a part o our national honor. Duels have been fought by the most brilliant people in the world. Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, Édouard Manet and Edmond Duranty, ,Alexander Pushkin and Georges d'Anthès and Ben Jonson and Gabriel Spencer

.

ENSEMBLE

Indeed!

PEGUY

It is what sets us apart from the Germans. And why we are on the eve of another war. We are an honorable people and they are not.

ENSEMBLE

Yes!

PEGUY

Unfortunately that German sympathizer inside should have challenged Gaston Calmette to a duel. But did not. Instead he had his wife blow poor Mr. Calmette's brains out. Mr. Calmette left a wife and children behind. They will see him no more.

ENSEMBLE

Caillaux the murderer. MURDERER! MURDERER!
MURDERER!

PEGUY

And she is on trial, not he!.

ENSEMBLE

Yes!

PEGUY

He is on the payroll of German and Jewish industrialists.

ENSEMBLE

Yes.

PEGUY

And wants us to acquiesce to the Germans. In pursuit of peace and reconciliation.

ENSEMBLE

Yes!

PEGUY

Caillaux's failure to challenge Gaston Calmette to a duel is consistent with his unwillingness to stand up to German and defend the national honor of France.

ENSEMBLE

SHAME! SHAME! SHAME! SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!

PEGUY

We must all stand for France, the Fatherland.

ENSEMBLE

YES! YES! YES! YES!

PEGUY

His cowardice DOES NOT REFLECT THE GLORY THAT IS France.

ENSEMBLE

Yes!

PEGUY

Let us all now sing our National Anthem!

ENSEMBLE

Let's go children of the fatherland,
The day of glory has arrived!

Against us tyranny's
Bloody flag is raised! (Repeat)
In the countryside, do you hear
The roaring of these fierce soldiers?
They come right to our arms
To slit the throats of our sons, our friends!

Grab your weapons, citizens!
Form your battalions!
Let us march! Let us march!
May impure blood
Water our fields!

PEGUY

You make me weep. And Look who has joined us. The world's greatest playwright. Henri Bernstein!

ENSEMBLE

Bernstein! Yes! Yes! Yes!

BERNSTEIN

Vive La France! Vive La France! Vive La France!

ENSEMBLE

Vive La France! Vive La France! Vive La France! Vive La France!

BERNSTEIN

We will defeat the Franks!

ENSEMBLE

Defeat the Franks!

BERNSTEIN

And now I will walk into the courtroom

ENSEMBLE

YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!

SCENE 4 INSIDE THE COURTROOM MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is in place.

JUDGE ALABANEL

The court is now in session. Yesterday the session was a circus. I was appalled with the behavior of the two lawyers representing each side. Twenty years ago both Fernand Labori and Charles Chenu distinguished themselves in the Dreyfus case. Yesterday they did not distinguish themselves. I say no more.

Henri Bernstein stands up in the gallery.

BERNSTEIN

Your honor.

ALABANEL

You are interrupting me. Throw him out of this court

BERNSTEIN

(Shouting) Do you know who I am?

ALABANEL

I do not.

BERNSTEIN

I am Henri Bernstein'

ALABANEL

THE Henri Bernstein? The playwright?

BERNSTEIN

I am here. I am here to be heard.

CHENU

(Shouting) He has no right to speak.

ALABANEL

His plays are currently produced in 40 French theatres

CHENU

Not a reason to speak.

LABORI .

As France's greatest living playwright he should be given the right to speak.

BERNSTEIN

I have a brief message. About the honor of our Nation. At this time we must all be Nationalists. Not Globalists. Another name for Seditious!.

CHENU

Stop this man. We must get on with the trial

BERNSTEIN

I wish to make a statement!.

CHENU

He has not right to be here

BERNSTEIN

Yes I do. Let me speak my piece. I speak to defend my honor, Monsieur le President. You have spoken about your own honor through the voice of the press, and I have my honor too.

ALABANEL

Continue. We can not deny him this right.

BERNSTEIN

Let me speak my piece I speak to defend my honor, Monsieur le President. You have spoken about your own honor, Judge Alabanel. Through the voice of the press, and I have my honor too.

ALABANEL

Proceed.

BERNSTEIN

In my youth I committed an idiocy that I regret. I avoided the military service. And then I came to my senses, and enlisted in the French army in 1911 and thus serve my country. I ADORE MY COUNTRY PASSIONATELY. Now I am part of . I am an artilleryman. I am slated to leave tomorrow. This is in contrast to Joseph Caillaux. I don't know what day he leaves. But I must war you Mr. Caillaux that in war you cannot have a woman take you place You have to fight yourself.

ENSEMBLE

Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

ALABANEL

Stop

ENSEMBLE

Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

ALABANEL

Let me be clear about one thin. I am a man of honor Caillaux is not. We are Frenchmen. We are not Barbarian Franks such as we have on our eastern border. The impending war with the Germans is one of masculinely, honor, and the duel. Joseph Caillaux should have challenged Gaston Calmette to a duel rather than sending his wife to assassinate that man of honor, Gaston Calmette. Joseph Caillaux is a coward and a murderer

CAILLAUX

You are a coward and traitor to his country, Henri Bernstein You fat queer..

BERNSTEIN

My honor. I am a a Frenchman. I am not a coward like you; !

LABORI .

You honor please throw this man out of the courtroom

ALABANEL

The court will now close until tomorrow morning

ENSEMBLE

Bernstein! Bernstein!

SCENE 5 SAINT-LAZARE WOMEN' PRISON

Henriette Caillaux is drinking tea. Rosetta Figlini is with her. A knock at the door. Rosetta answers. She accepts several newspapers and hands a tip.

ROSETTA

Thank you.

HENRIETTE

Can you bring me the newspapers, dear Rosetta?

ROSETTA

Madame. It is only filth.

HENRIETTE

I have been told that Le Figaro is complaining about my privileges in this prison,

ROSETTA

What would you expect!

HENRIETTE

You have been weeping all day. Pleased forget what happened in court yesterday.

ROSETTA

I have failed you.

HENRIETTE

Stop!

ROSETTA

Yes, Madame. You are so kind.

HENRIETTE

Mr. Labori is a scoundrel .

ROSETTA

Shall I put the newspapers away.

HENRIETTE

Read me what LeFigaro says about our accomodations here

ROSETTA

I would rather not.

HENRIETTE

Rosetta!

ROSETTA
(Reading)

Mme. Caillaux is luxuriously housed at the prison of Saint-Lazare. Within days prison officials have been accused of affording special treatment and privileges to their celebrity prisoner." Shall I stop reading.

HENRIETTE

No

ROSETTA

Mme. Caillaux is housed in a private, heated cell. She is attended to by her maid, was allowed special visitation privileges, and even dined with her husband in the offices of the prison's director. Two of the nuns who staffed the prison are assigned to watch over her. This special treatment greatly upsets the other prisoners and there is talk of the possibility of a prison mutiny in protest. This outrage is also shared by many on the outside of the prison walls.

HENRIETTE

Untrue

ROSETTA

Prison authorities claim that Mme. Caillaux is being treated according to prison regulations, and that it is the responsibility of the prison doctor to determine the exact details of each prisoner's regimen.

HENRIETTE

Upsetting! Continue

ROSETTA

Rowdy crowds gather on the streets outside the prison whenever Mme. Caillaux left for questioning, or to attend her trial. Dance halls and cabarets in Paris echo with hastily-created songs reflecting popular opinion about the case. At the time of her arrest Mme.

Caillaux had haughtily reminded the police that "I am a lady." France's most popular song now is "A Woman and Lady."

Suddenly we hear the Ensemble
from outside the prison wall.

ANTI CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

The murders lives like a princess.

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

Leave her alone.

ANTI CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

Sing your song lady.

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

Leave her alone!

LADY
(Singing)

The woman stole a piece of bread;

They hustled her roughly in the prisoner's van.

The lady cried: "Touch me not. I have my auto."

They took the woman off to jail, to a dirty little
cell.

But the lady entered the governor's drawing room.

The woman slept on a pallet hard.

But to the lady was given a satin coverlet and its
color was red.

The woman fed on skilly broth.

But the lady got food that was rich and red-blood red.

ANTI CAILLAUX PROTESTOR
 Boo! Boo! Boo!

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS
 Innocent! Innocent! Innocent!

A knock at the door. Rosetta
 answers.

ROSETTA
 Thank you.

HENRIETTE
 Who is it?

ROSETTA
 Maxim's has sent dinner for the evening. And a note
 that Mr. Caillaux will be joining

HENRIETTE
 I have no appetite.

ROSETTA
 You must eat.

HENRIETTE
 O can not

ROSETTA
 For your husband too. And the wine will do you good.

HENRIETTE
 We must share with the nuns.

ROSETTA
 They have been praying for you morning, noon, and
 night.

HENRIETTE
 God bless them

ROSETTA
 And God will intercede and you will be found not
 guilty.

HENRIETTE

Bless you, Rosetta.

ROSETTA

And now I must join the nuns/

HENRIETTE

Why.

ROSETTA

To pray for you.

SCENE 6 THE NEXT DAY COURTROOM

The court is in session.

ALABANEL

Today, the sixth day of the trial, we have had a request from both lawyers, who after much negotiation have decided which of the letters to present to the jury. After much negotiation they have jointly chosen three letters. The reason for this is to quell all of the rumors since the assassination of Gaston Calmette. Are we in agreement?

CHENU

Yes.

LABORI .

Yes.

ALABANEL

Madame Caillaux has maintained

LABORI .

Today we have agreed to asked to except from we call the letters intimate.

ALABANEL

Why?

CHENU

The embarrassing content.

ALABANEL

Explain.

CHENU

The contents are sensitive.

ALABANEL

Sensitive to whom?

LABORI .

The two women involved.

ALABANEL

Berthe Gueydan?

BERTHE

Yes your honor.

ALABANEL

Would you like to absent yourself from the room in light of both lawyers admonishment.

BERTHE

Absolutely not.

ALABANEL

Henriette Caillaux ?

HENRIETTE

Yes, your Honor.

ALABANEL

Do you wish to remain.

HENRIETTE

Yes, your honor

ALABANEL

Mr. Chenu. You may read from the first letter for the Jury.

CHENU

May I read it privately to the Jury.

ALABANEL

You may not.

CHENU (CONT'D)

Then let me begin. First letter: "We will have to keep our affair quiet until the next election is over. Addressed from Joseph Caillaux to Henriette Claretie (now Henriette Caillaux) at the time dated 19 September 1909.

"My dear Riri. When I met you, my love. I threw myself toward you with passionate fervor. Our life has been so beautiful. We must dump Berthe Gueydan, but be patient in doing so. I will have to get rid of her myself. She wants to become the uncrowned queen of France. I have other plans for her. ...

WE hear a cry from the audience.

BERTHE

God help me. These perfidious people! Stop.

ALABANEL

Please continue

BERTHE

No. I am hurt. I am humiliated

ALABANEL

You were asked if this would , , ,

BERTHE

I am a damaged woman.

ALABANEL

Stop weeping or I shall ask you to leave the room.

BERTHE

I will remain.

ALABANEL

Then

We hear a woman's scream.
Suddenly Henrietta faints

CAILLAUX

The poor woman has fainted because of stress.

ALABANEL

The court is dismissed for the rest of the day.

SCENE 7 THE NEXT MORNING

Juliette Prestat Calmette is
seated at the witness stand.

LABORI .

You are Juliette Prestat Calmette?

JULIETTE

I am.

L

What is your relationship p to Gaston Calmette

JULIETTE

I am his widow. (She begins crying)

LABORI .

And how long have you been married

JULIETTE

9 years.

LABORI .

And he is the father of your children.

JULIETTE

Now our orphaned children Ages 8 6 and 2 (She begins crying again).

LABORI .

(Pulling out handkerchief) Yes Madame Calmette . I know how difficult this is for you.

JULIETTE

So much so.

LABORI .

Can you explain the pain that the children have gone through

JULIETTE

Well.....(She Begins crying uncontrollably.

LABORI .

Now..

JULIETTE

Ell! ...She begins crying again

CHENU

(Shouting out) This is a total sham

ALABANEL

I beg your pardon!

CHENU

This is a total sham

LABORI

Your honor. i..

CHENU

The Calmette were well on their way to a divorce from a miserable marriage

LABORI

How dare you!

CHENU

They had filed for divorce.

LABORI

You talk. Everyone knows that Joseph Caillaux was having a dangling affair with another woman

CAILLAUX

Stop

LABORI

And that.

CAILLAUX

Stop

ALABANEL

Sop. There will be a fifteen minute recess

SCENE 8 THE TRIAL JUDGES STATEMENT

T Judge Alabanel is seated. Henriette and Joseph Caillaux. Berthe Gueydan is in another part of the room.

ALABANEL

More than anyone else in this room I take care to defend my honor and the honor the magistrature- despite what anyone may have said. Fernand. Labori, as attorney for Berthe Gueydan and Charles Chenu, attorney for the Gaston family, have you come to an agreement on the release of the other intimate letters.

CHARLES CHENU

No we have not.

ALABANEL

What is the problem?

FERNAND LABORI

We have eight of those letters. Five are irrelevant to the case.

ALABANEL

Berthe Gueydan?

BERTHE

Yes Judge?

ALABANEL

Why do you not want the five letters released?

BERTHE

I want them released

ALABANEL

Where are they?

BERTHE

Mr. Labori has the letters

JUDGE ALABANEL

Please present them to the court.

LABORI

Do you want them.

BERTHE

Here are your letters. I do not want them. I had nothing to do with their release!

LABORI
You would not give them to me.

BERTHE
And I will not.

ALABANEL
Then you say

BERTHE
That is right.

ALABANEL
So be it.

CHENU
That is unacceptable.

ALABANEL
And now Henriette Caillaux

HENRIETTE
Yes your honor.

ALABANEL
Did you visit the office of Gaston Calmette on

HENRIETTE
U did.

ALABANEL
And did you shoot him

HENRIETTE
My husbands honour

ALABANEL
And what prompted you to murder Gaston Calmette ?

HENRIETTE
He brought dishonor to my husband

ALABANEL
How was that?

LABORI

These questions have been answered. I object

ALABANEL

The objection is not sustained

HENRIETTE

Because he was out to destroy the only man I ever loved and a great man

ALABANEL

And how was this

HENRIETTE

He published a letter sent to his wife before they were married.

ALABANEL

Is that woman in this room

HENRIETTE

Yes.

ALABANEL

Can you face her directly?

HENRIETTE

No

ALABANEL

Then you must

HENRIETTE

I can not.

LABORI

Please excuse her

HENRIETTE

Yes

Scene 5 courtroom july 28 1914

Judge Alabanel and the two
lawyers appear

JUDGE ALABANEL

And now we have heard all the arguments.

CHENU

Yes your honor.

LABORI

Yes your honor.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Can you summarize. You first Mr. Chenu.

CHENU

Yes your honor.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Proceed.

CHENU

The world knows that Henriette and Joseph Caillaux are cold blooded murderers, having sent a fine husband, father and grandfather to his death. Henriette Caillaux committed the murder calmly, deliberately and with premeditated impulse to murder Monsieur Calmette by a vengeful husband whose political ambitions know no bounds.

In this marriage there was an emulation of pride and anger. They both agreed that Calmette had to die, and because Madame shoots as well as Monsieur -and runs less risk for doing so-it was she who took in the task.

She is more male than female, as to merit no indulgence from the Court. They are a despicable couple, selfish beyond control for whom the sacrament of marriage means nothing at all.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Mr. Labori?

LABORI

Henriette Caillaux is a tragic woman. A good woman. Her action on the night of March 9 was the result of unbridled female passions. Her mental stage, all specialists agreed was a subconscious impulse that resulted in a split personality. Henriette Caillaux is the victim.

The real villain is Berthe Gueydan. Who made the entire drama possible. Without the letters she released there would have been no crime passion. Again I emphasize that Henriette Caillaux killed not of any need for political revenge but the feminine desire to preserve her reputation.

BERTHE

LIES! LIES! LIES! I AM AN INNOCENT WOMAN

JUDGE ALABANEL

Madame Gueydan. ! YOU MUST RESPECT THE DECORUM OF THE COURT.

BERTHE

I have been damaged I have been damaged. I am a distressed and dishonored woman. And the seducer and his wife go free.

JUDGE ALABANEL

You must respect the Court or you will be asked to leave.

PIERRE

(Whispering)

She should shut up.

MARIE

She is a damaged woman I weep for her.

YVETTE

She brought it all on herself

JEAN

She too is an immoral woman

LABORI

Your honor I ask that we pity Madam Caillaux, Do not punish her anymore. Preserve our anger for our enemies rather than punish Henrietta Caillaux we must proceed united as one toward the perils that threaten us, the perils we must confront as we reach at long last, the end of these overly long debates.

JEAN

So true

YVETTE

I agree

MARIE

Sh-h-h-h.

PIERRE

It's a lie

MARIE

Agreed

JUDGE ALABANEL

And now will the jury please stand. Thank you Gentlemen. All ten of you. The case is now in your hands.

JURY FOREMAN

We will meet now.

JUDGE ALABANEL

The court awaits your judgement.

JURY FOREMAN

Yes your honor.

SCENE 9 THE JURY ROOM

The ten jurors are seated.

JURY FOREMAN

You heard what Alabanel said

ALL

Yes.

JURY FOREMAN

Men we have e a historic decision to make this afternoon.

SECOND JUROR

Henriette Caillaux cannot be found guilty.

THIRD JUROR

Why?

SECOND JUROR

She is a woman.

THIRD JUROR

So women have a right to kill men in cold blood.

FOURTH JUROR

Not when it is a crime of passion! Women can not control their emotions.

FIFTH JUROR

Women are the weaker sex. If Henriette were a man she would and should be immediately executed

SECOND JUROR

I cannot go along with this nonsense. In writing the ten commandments, God did not tell Moses that women were exempt from the sin of murder.

FOURTH JUROR

This is sophistry.

THIRD JUROR

Too difficult to explain.

FOURTH JUROR

And misogyny?

THIRD JUROR

Means you hate women.

FIFTH JUROR

I do not I have a wife and five daughters and five sons and 26 grandchildren, and I treat them all alike. And they are all judged alike.

FOURTH JUROR

Get with the present age.

FIFTH JUROR

What is your level of education.

FOURTH JUROR

I have had two years of grade school.

FIFTH JUROR

Let us guide you.

FOURTH JUROR

Guide me.

FIFTH JUROR

Remember that Henriette Caillaux could be you mother or sister.

FOURTH JUROR

Neither one of those women would think of murdering anyone.

FIFTH JUROR

But if they were hurt and their passions were overcome

FOURTH JUROR

Look God gave us ten commandments. He did not give us ten commandments for women We and ten commandments for men.

THIRD JUROR

This uneducated man really is a confused.

FOURTH JUROR

All right, we will call for the vote.

JURY FOREMAN

All those for acquittal say aye.

We hear ayes in a loud voice.

JURY FOREMAN (CONT'D)

All those who vote guilty say aye.

FOURTH JUROR

I vote guilty.

JURY FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Let us have a discussion among ourselves.

SCENE 10 A AN HOUR LATER

Judge Alabanel, Labori, and Chenu are seated. Are seated Marie, Pierre, Yvette, and Jean are whispering.

MARIE

They will find her guilty. And she should hang

JEAN

She is innocent.

PIERRE

How about a wager of 19 thousand francs that she is guilty.

YVETTE

We shall see. Look.

JUDGE ALABANEL

The jury has come up with a decision.

We hear applause and shouting
from the outside.

YVETTE

I cant wait.

JURY FOREMAN

Judge Alabanel.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Yes.

JURY FOREMAN

We have come up with our decision.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Is Madame Caillaux guilty of committing on March 16 a voluntary homicide against Gaston Calmette?

JURY FOREMAN

The decision of the jury is NO.

JUDGE ALABANEL

Was the said homicide committed with premeditated and criminal intent?

JURY FOREMAN

No. Your Honor.

JUDGE ALABANEL

We find Madame Caillaux not guilty.

We hear shouts, applause and
from audience.

ANTI CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

The Feminist Bitch!

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

She is a real woman. That is why she killed the
scoundrel!

ANTI CAILLAUX DEMONSTRATORS

The Feminist killed an innocent. Man.

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

She is but a woman.

ANTI CAILLAUX DEMONSTRATORS

She is a criminal.

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

Women must now carry guns. He was a scoundrel.

ANTI CAILLAUX DEMONSTRATORS

An innocent man murdered.

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

A scoundrel.

ANTI CAILLAUX DEMONSTRATORS

No freedom of the press

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS

Madame Caillaux is an innocent woman

ANTI CAILLAUX DEMONSTRATORS

She will burn in hell.

PRO CAILLAUX PROTESTORS
An innocent woman!

ANTI CAILLAUX DEMONSTRATORS
She should die. Along with her husband.

SCENE 11 A WEEK LATER MAXIMS RESTAURANT

Joseph and Henriette are
seated.

JOSEPH CAILLAUX
Ma cherie

MADAME CAILLAUX
Mon Jo.

CAILLAUX
When will tat waiter get her. (He shouts out)
GARCON! GARCON!

MADAME CAILLAUX
We have been waiting an hour.

WAITER
So sorry Madame. I will be with you shortly.

MADAME CAILLAUX
We will leave then.

WAITER
That option is up to you.

MADAME CAILLAUX
Wee want to speak to the owner.

WAITER
I am the owner

MADAME CAILLAUX
You are treating us unfairly.

WAITER

You can leave if you want!

MADAME CAILLAUX

Why?

WAITER

I do not like serving murderers!

MADAME CAILLAUX

You are speaking to a Prime Minister.

WAITER

A former Premiere, a German and Jewish sympathizer,
and a now about to get to jail

MADAME CAILLAUX

Insulting.!

CAILLAUX

We are leaving!

MADAME CAILLAUX

Now.

Other patrons applaud

SCENE 12 1917 PRISON

Joseph Caillaux had served as Prime Minister of France for only seven months. Despite his short tenure of office, he proved to be a hugely controversial figure.

In particular, he was strongly criticized for his pro-German foreign policy, which large sections of public and political opinion felt was not in the Republic's best interests. To make matters worse, it emerged that Caillaux had been conducting clandestine negotiations with the German government behind the back of...

NEWSBOY

By the spring of 1917, he had become in the eyes of the public "l'homme de la défaite," the man who was willing to effect a compromise peace with Germany at the expense of Great Britain. However, the advent of Clemenceau to power killed all his hopes. This led to his arrest and trial for treason in 1918.[5] After long delay, he was tried on a charge of high treason by the High Court of the Senate, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, the term he had already served. He was also forbidden to reside in French territory for five years and deprived of civil rights for ten years.[2]

END OF PLAY

SCENE 13 LETTER WRITING 1917- 1934

Joseph caillaux, Henriette Caillaux , and Berthe Gueydan writing letters from three podiums.

HENRIETTE

Mon Cherie.

CAILLAUX

Ma Femmel

HENRIETTE

Je t'aime.

CAILLAUX

I write you this letter from prison.

HENRIETTE

I pray for you daily. And yes Clemenceua succeeded in jailing you.

CAILLAUX

On frivolous charges.

HENRIETTE

But you shall go free.

CAILLAUX

Espionage and sedition charges. Collaborating with the Germans. He financed newspapers, and did everything he possibly could behind the scenes to consolidate his position. He became acquainted with the Bolos and the Malvys of political and journalistic life. By the spring of 1917, he had become in the eyes of the public "l'homme de la défaite," the man who was willing to effect a compromise peace with Germany at the expense of Great Britain. However, the advent of Clemenceau to power killed all his hopes. This led to his arrest and trial for treason in 1918.[5] After long delay, he was tried on a charge of high treason by the High Court of the Senate, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, the term he had already served. He was also forbidden to reside in French territory for five years and deprived of civil rights for ten years.

HENRIETTE

They will never forgive you but you did the right thing.

BERTHE

And no I am publishing my work..

SCENE 14 PARIS NOVEMBER 22 1944 COFFEE SHOP ACROSS
FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME.

NADINE

Madam Blursole?

ESTELLE

Nadine?

NANCY

I am sorry I am lat

NADINE

Much joy. Mr. Caillaux did get to see Paris liberated from the Germans.

ESTELLE

At least no one called him a Nazi sympathizer Joseph-Marie-Auguste Caillaux
e.

ESTELLE

Joseph Caillaux had served as Prime Minister of France for only seven months. Despite his short tenure of office, he proved to be a hugely controversial figure. In particular, he was strongly criticized for his pro-German foreign policy, which large sections of public and political opinion felt was not in the Republic's best interests. To make matters worse, it emerged that Caillaux had been conducting clandestine negotiations with the German government behind the back of...

NANCY

And

ESTELLE

By the spring of 1917, he had become in the eyes of the public "l'homme de la défaite," the man who was willing to effect a compromise peace with Germany at the expense of Great Britain.

NANCY

And Clemenceau found a reason to jail him

ESTELLE

And Joseph Caillaux being Joseph Caillaux was resilient and mad it back into the political arena and lived to be in the senate until 1941 when we were invaded by the Germans. The Nazis.

NANCY

Yes. Traitor is what they called him. However, the advent of Clemenceau to power killed all his hopes. This led to his arrest and trial for treason in 1918. Clemenceau wanted d his in jail because e favored a policy of conciliation with German

ESTELLE

After long delay, he was tried on a charge of high treason by the High Court of the Senate, and sentenced to three y

NANCY

Three things that will get anyone in trouble. He opposed the military, wanted to raise taxes, and favored a policy of conciliation with German that aggravated the entire population.

ESTELLE

Well in the end he outlived them all.

NANCY

Henriette died 15 months ago. Berthe Gueydan 4 months ago. And Joseph Caillaux died last. He outlived them all.

ESTELLE

Three years imprisonment, the term he had already served.

NANCY

He was also forbidden to reside in French territory for five years and deprived of civil rights for ten years. But then got out. And outlived his enemy Clemenceau. Mr. Caillaux remained in the French Senate until France surrendered to Germany. No he did not support the Nazis.

ESTELLE

What is that car driving around the church.

Someone said it Berthe Gueydan

ESTELLE

She cant. Shes dead.

NANCY

Stranger things have happened.

ESTELLE

Hell knows nor furor like a woman scorned.

We hear the Marseillaise in
the background