

MADAME CAILLAUX

Written by

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Address
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Characters

Henriette Caillaux, Wife of Caillaux
Joseph Caillaux, Former Prime Minister
Gaston Calmette, Publisher of Le Figaro,
Judge Albanel, Presiding Judge
Berthe Gueydan, Caillaux' first wife
Charles Chenu, Calmette attorney
Fernand Labori, Henriette Caillaux's
Jean
Yvette
Marie
Pierre
Bishop 1
Bishop 2
Suzette

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.

HENRIETTE

Oh my Joe.

CAILLAUX

And get it.

HENRIETTE

But...

CAILLAUX

And your husband?

HENRIETTE

He will be accommodating.

CAILLAUX

And I will take care of him nicely.

HENRIETTE

My Joe.

CAILLAUX

My Henriette.

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 may 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 o 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 for 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 gong 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)

BERTHE (CONT'D)

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

Pure love. 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 are 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 ion your dream.

HENRIETTE

All because of that man.

CAILLAUX

You mean the bastard?

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

What is wrong with that. She was your wife at the time

CAILLAUX

That is the issue. I was not . 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.

HENRIETTE

He gets the letter in which you address Berthe as Ton Jo while she was still married.

CAILLAUX

And of course you know where Calmette got the letter.

HENRIETTE

She denies it?

CAILLAUX

Ha! And you know about Calmette. Gaston arrived in Paris twenty years ago with 26 dollars in his pocket. Today he is a multi millionaire. 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 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

My Joe!

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.

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 husbands letters?

CALMETTE

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

HENRIETTE

Why did you publish!

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

Where he was addressing his first wife. 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.

GUARD

Yes, Madame/

HENRIETTE

Do not touch my fur coat.

GUARD

Yes, Madame.

HENRIETTE

Now get the police so they can arrest me.

GUARD

Yes, Madame

SCENE 7 THE BOUCHER RESIDENCE

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

YVETTE

Henri 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 dammed woman.

YVETTE

The murderess?

JEAN

You know our guests may feel differently

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 shall we 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

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.

JEAN

Moi aussi.

.SCENE 8 THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME

Bishop Ardon is at the
pulpit.

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

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

And now let me begin my sermon. 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

Yes.

BISHOP ARDON

And we throw our corrupt leaders out of office

CONGREGATION

How!

BISHOP ARDON

How many of you vote! Say Aye if you are eligible to vote?

MEN

Yes

BISHOP ARDON

Every single voice

MEN

Aye!

BISHOP ARDON

And how many of you do vote?

MEN

Aye.

BISHOP ARDON

You must vote out immorality.

MEN

Yes!

CONGREGATION

Ha!

BISHOP ARDON

Remember the lack of morality in our leaders. How many of you are appalled

CONGREGATION

Yes

BISHOP ARDON

Now we know the bare facts. Our former prime minister and cabinet minister, one of the most privileged men in the country

SCENE 9 THE TRIAL JUDGES STATEMENT

The trial begins Judge Albanel is seated. Henriette and Joseph Caillaux. Berthe Gueydan is in another part of the room.

ALBANEL

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.

ALBANEL

What is the problem?

FERNAND LABORI

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

ALBANEL

Berthe Gueydan?

BERTHE

Yes Judge?

ALBANEL

Why do you not want the five letters released?

BERTHE

I want them released

ALBANEL

Where are they?

BERTHE

Mr. Labori has the letters

JUDGE ALBANEL

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.

ALBANEL

Then you say

BERTHE

That is right.

ALBANEL

So be it.

CHENU

That is unacceptable.

ALBANEL

And now Henriette Caillaux

HENRIETTE

Yes your honor.

ALBANEL

Did you visit the office of Gaston Calmette on

HENRIETTE

U did.

ALBANEL

And did you shoot him

HENRIETTE

My husbands honour

ALBANEL

And what prompted you to murder Gaston Calmette ?

HENRIETTE

He brought dishonor to my husband

ALBANEL

How was that?

LABORI

These questions have been answered. I object

ALBANEL

The objection is not sustained

HENRIETTE

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

ALBANEL

And how was this

HENRIETTE

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

ALBANEL

Is that woman in this room

HENRIETTE

Yes.

ALBANEL

Can you face her directly?

HENRIETTE

No

ALBANEL

Then you must

HENRIETTE

I can not.

LABORI

Please excuse her

HENRIETTE

Yes

Act 2

SCENE 1 COURTROOM JULY 28 1914

Judge albanel and the two
lawyers appear

JUDGE ALBANEL

And now we have heard all the arguments.

CHENU

Yes your honor.

LABORI

Yes your honor.

JUDGE ALBANEL

Can you summarize. You first Mr. Chenu.

CHENU

Yes your honor.

JUDGE ALBANEL

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 ALBANEL

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 Caillux killed not of any need for pollical revenge but the feminine desire o preserve her reputation.

BERTHE

LIES! LIES! LIES! I AM A AN INNOCENT WOMAN

JUDGE ALBANEL

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 ALBANEL

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 ALBANEL
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 ALBANEL
The court awaits your judgement.

JURY FOREMAN
Yes your honor.

SCENE 4 THE JURY ROOM

The ten jurors are seated.

JURY FOREMAN
You heard what Albanel 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 7 A AN HOUR LATER

Judge Albanel, 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 ALBANEL

The jury has come up with a decision.

We hear applause and shouting
from the outside.

YVETTE

I cant wait.

JURY FORMEAN

Judge Albanel.

JUDGE ALBANEL

Yes.

JURY FORMEAN

We have come up with our decision.

JUDGE ALBANEL

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

JURY FORMEAN

The decision of the jury is NO.

JUDGE ALBANEL

Was the said homicide committed with premeditated and criminal intent?

JURY FORMEAN

No. Your Honor.

JUDGE ALBANEL

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 8 A WEEK LATER MAXIMS RESTAURANT

Joseph and Henriette are
seated.

JOSEPH CAILLAUX
Ma chérie

MADAME CAILLAUX
Mon Jo.

CAILLAUX
When will that waiter get her. (He shouts out)
GARÇON! GARÇON!

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
We 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 CAILAUX

Why?

WAITER

I do not like serving murderers!

MADAME CAILAUX

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 CAILAUX

Insulting.!

CAILLAUX

We are leaving!

MADAME CAILAUX

Now.

Other patrons applaud

END OF PLAY