

Scene Four

MARIANE: Oh! Fanny, I am feeling very weird! and I have to confess I am terrified of this encounter.

FANNY: But why? what are you upset about?

MARIANE: Oh! Do you have to ask? can't you imagine the torture I'm going through as I'm about to meet my dreadful destiny?

FANNY: I do see, that if you want to die happy, Harpagon is not exactly the one whose arms you'd choose to squeeze you to death; and I can tell from your expression that you're still dreaming about that handsome young guy you mentioned.

MARIANE: Yes, and Fanny, I don't want to stop dreaming about him; his kind-hearted comments when he checks his coat, his generous tips and his thoughtful inquiries about my mother, I must tell you, have really had an impact on me.

FANNY: Do you have any idea who he is?

MARIANE: No, he never introduced himself; but I do know I find him very attractive, and if I had a choice in these matters, he's the one I'd choose; and the fact that he exists is contributing not a little to my terrible torment over the marriage I am about to make.

FANNY: Come on! all young guys are attractive, and know exactly how to make you feel good, but most of them are as poor as church mice; it is much smarter for you to marry some old guy who has got a great deal of money. I'll admit you won't get as much enjoyment in these circumstances, and there is a certain amount of disgust to swallow with a husband like this; but it won't last

long, and his death, believe me, will put you in a position where young admirers will be breaking down the door to marry you, which will make it all worth while.

MARIANE: My God! It's pretty awful, Fanny, that, in order to be happy, I have to hang around waiting for someone to die, and death doesn't always give us what we want when we want it.

FANNY: Are you joking? You will only marry him on condition he makes you a widow soon; it must be there as one of the articles in your pre-nuptial agreement. It would be utterly insulting of him not to die within three months. There he is himself.

MARIANE: Oh! Fanny, what a face!