

**EXT. PARIS. TREE LINED AVENUE. DAY**

Dawn mist lingers in the air.

D'ARTAGNAN stands at one end, in his shirtsleeves, his sword drawn, a dagger in his other hand. ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS gather around him. Opposite them is PRIDEUX, his sword at the ready.

ARAMIS eyes PRIDEUX with cool respect then pats D'ARTAGNAN on the shoulder.

ARAMIS  
What's the vital thing to remember  
in a duel?

D'ARTAGNAN  
Honour?

PORTHOS cuffs him on the back of the head.

PORTHOS  
Not getting killed. Right, biting,  
kicking, gouging. It's all good.

ATHOS leans in to talk quietly to D'ARTAGNAN.

ATHOS  
You don't have to do this. It's  
Musketeer business.

D'ARTAGNAN  
I can handle it.

He hands ATHOS his glove, ATHOS takes it, steps back and holds it poised. Even before ATHOS drops it to the ground, PRIDEUX launches a furious assault.

As PRIDEUX comes at him he spins and cracks his arm at the elbow, making D'ARTAGNAN drop the dagger. D'ARTAGNAN manages a few blows with his sword but, PRIDEUX punches him in the face, sending him sprawling in the dirt, then kicks him in the head.

He moves in for the kill but D'ARTAGNAN rallies with an eye-watering kick in the balls.

PORTHOS beams proudly and turns to ARAMIS.

PORTHOS  
I taught him that move.

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**CONTINUED:**

D'ARTAGNAN staggers to his feet. Swords clash, early morning sun flashing off the blades. Both men pant for breath, sweating despite the cold.

ATHOS watches intently, whilst PORTHOS giggles.

The sword fight continues, but finally D'ARTAGNAN beats down PRIDEUX'S defence and sends his sword flying and landing in the ground a fair distance away.

Suddenly a group of heavily armed RED GUARDS gallop over.

OFFICER  
Lay down your weapons!

PORTHOS mutters to ARAMIS.

PORTHOS  
Red Guards.

ARAMIS cries out to the others.

ARAMIS  
Red Guards!!!

They all scarper.

But D'ARTAGNAN stops to retrieve his dagger; too late. He tries to run but the GUARDS are already on him. ATHOS, ARAMIS and PORTHOS stop running and looks over as the RED GUARDS descend on the fleeing D'ARTAGNAN.

ATHOS  
Nothing more we can do for him.

PORTHOS  
No point all of us getting arrested.

ARAMIS  
He knows the Musketeer motto.

He pats the other two on the back.

ARAMIS (cont'd)  
Every man for himself.

The three of them run off, leaving D'ARTAGNAN still running from the RED GUARDS.

D'ARTAGNAN gets knocked to the ground and the RED GUARDS circle him on their horses.

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**CONTINUED:**

RED GUARD  
You're under arrest for illegal  
duelling.

D'ARTAGNAN manages to get to his feet but another RED GUARD  
kicks him down.

TITLES

**INT. CHATELET. HALL. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN, hobbled and in chains is towards his cell by a  
couple of GUARDS, then thrown inside.

JAILER  
Hey Vadim ...

**INT. CHATELET. CELL. DAY**

The JAILER turns to the cellmate sat in the shadows.

JAILER  
... company for you!

One of the GUARDS kicks D'ARTAGNAN in the ribs as he pushes  
him further inside the cell.

VADIM looks out from the shadows, D'ARTAGNAN stares back at  
him.

TREVILLE (V.O.)  
You all knew the ...

**EXT. MUSKETEERS GARRISON. COURTYARD. DAY**

TREVILLE prowls in front of the assembled MUSKETEERS, with  
ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS prominent.

TREVILLE  
... penalty for duelling but you  
let d'Artagnan go ahead regardless.

ARAMIS mutters to PORTHOS.

ARAMIS  
I don't like this. I've never been  
unpopular before.

TREVILLE  
Did any of you think at all?

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

PORTHOS

Try trading places with me.

ARAMIS

But you're used to it. I'm more the romantic hero type.

TREVILLE walks along the front line, speaking directly to ARAMIS, PORTHOS and ATHOS.

TREVILLE

D'Artagnan is in prison because of you; alone, friendless, condemned. I hope you're very proud.

ATHOS stares back grimly.

TREVILLE steps back and addresses everyone.

TREVILLE (cont'd)

Dismissed!

All the MUSKETEERS move off.

TREVILLE (V.O.)

D'Artagnan was taken to the Chatalet at ten this morning.

**INT. MUSKETEERS GARRISON. TREVILLE'S OFFICE. DAY**

TREVILLE addresses ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS.

TREVILLE

He's awaiting execution at His Majesty's pleasure.

He looks grave, but then suddenly his whole manner relaxes.

TREVILLE (CONT)

Congratulations. You had me convinced and I knew the whole thing was a charade.

ARAMIS

We certainly fooled the rest of the men. They hate us.

PORTHOS

They think we betrayed a friend. It makes me sick.

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**CONTINUED:**

TREVILLE

Provoking a duel was a brilliant idea. The world had to believe d'Artagnan's arrest was genuine.

ATHOS

I still think one of us should have done it.

TREVILLE

Vadim would never trust a King's Musketeer. It had to be someone he didn't know.

ATHOS

He's a Gascon farm boy - promising but raw. There's too much at stake.

TREVILLE

Well he has to prove himself sometime, so why not now?

PORTHOS

Well, I think he can do it. And I'm a pretty good judge of character.

ARAMIS

Huh! You're a terrible judge of character, especially when you're sober.

TREVILLE

Vadim stole enough gunpowder to start a small war. Where is it? What was he planning? Where are his men? If d'Artagnan can bring us the answers then his life is worth the risk.

ATHOS doesn't reply. His disquiet is obvious.

TREVILLE (cont'd)

Tomorrow is Good Friday; the Queen pardons a few deserving prisoners at this time every year. I've put you all on her guard detail. You can check on him then.

**INT. CHATELET. CELL. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN wakes, stiff and sore, to see VADIM flipping a coin between his fingers like a street magician. He notices

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**CONTINUED:**

D'ARTAGNAN watching and opens his hand to show the coin has disappeared. D'ARTAGNAN smiles in appreciation.

D'ARTAGNAN  
How did you do that?

VADIM  
The secret to a good trick; make  
people look the wrong way.

He shows the coin in is now in his other hand.

They hear the rattle of keys in the door and looks up as the JAILER comes in with bowls of lukewarm gruel. D'ARTAGNAN looks into his with disgust and pulls out a bedraggled dead mouse.

D'ARTAGNAN  
What's this?

JAILER  
Mutton stew.

D'ARTAGNAN  
You know mutton is the one that  
goes "baa" and has wool on it.

The JAILER smiles then kicks the gruel out of D'ARTAGNAN's hand and spills it over the floor. Then he turns and hits D'ARTAGNAN with a cudgel.

JAILER  
You can starve for all I care,  
Musketeer.

He marches out.

D'ARTAGNAN looks up to see VADIM staring steadily at him.

D'ARTAGNAN  
I'm no Musketeer. They betrayed me  
and I hate them for it.

VADIM says nothing, but curls back into the shadows.

ARAMIS (V.O.)  
A beautiful morning ...

**EXT. MUSKETEERS GARRISON. COURTYARD. DAY**

CONSTANCE sees ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS walking across the courtyard.

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**CONTINUED:**

ARAMIS  
... Madame BONACIEUX.

CONSTANCE  
I doubt if it looks so good from  
inside the Chatelet prison.

Her icy glance takes in the three of them.

ATHOS  
You've heard about d'Artagnan.

PORTHOS  
You know, these stories can be  
greatly exaggerated.

CONSTANCE  
Really?

PORTHOS  
Hmm.

CONSTANCE  
I was told you led him into danger  
and then abandoned him.

PORTHOS  
That one's about right.

CONSTANCE  
He's your friend. What are you  
going to do about it?

ARAMIS  
We've been getting along well, but  
I wouldn't say friends exactly.

CONSTANCE catches him with a resounding slap.

CONSTANCE  
He trusted you!

BONACIEUX races down the steps, horrified.

BONACIEUX  
My most humble apologies, sir! I  
can't think what came over her.

ARAMIS  
Your wife's actions were fully  
justified. It is I who should  
apologise.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

He bows with charm and tact. BONACIEUX isn't sure what to say. In the end he simply grabs CONSTANCE'S arm and hustles her away. ARAMIS rubs his sore cheek, watching admiringly.

ARAMIS (cont'd)  
God, I love that in a woman.

PORTHOS  
What? Passion?

ARAMIS  
Violence.

He smiles.

**INT. CHATELET. CELL. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN watches VADIM idly flipping the coin between his fingers.

D'ARTAGNAN  
So how did they catch you?

VADIM  
I was visiting my mistress. Let's just say I was surprised in a delicate situation.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Did she betray you?

VADIM  
I left someone I trusted keeping watch. He fell asleep.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Then you and I have something in common. We've both been let down. And we're both going to hang.

VADIM drops the coin.

VADIM  
Not me. I'm going to walk out of here in broad daylight. And not a soul will lift a finger to stop me.

He bends to pick the coin up but then starts to contort with some kind of spasm.

D'ARTAGNAN looks worried and starts banging on the bars.

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**CONTINUED:**

D'ARTAGNAN  
Jailer! Jailer!

**EXT. CHATELET. FRONT COURTYARD. DAY**

QUEEN ANNE, pretty and smiling, is greeted by the Chatelet's governor, LECLERC.

LeCLERC  
Good morning, Your Majesty. A few fortunate souls will be granted their freedom today.

ANNE  
I wish I could pardon all your prisoners.

LECLERC kisses her hand.

TREVILLE smiles politely.

TREVILLE  
Your Majesty should not waste her sympathy on those who do not deserve it.

ANNE  
All men need hope, Captain. Without it, why should they lead a decent life?

TREVILLE doesn't look convinced. PORTHOS, ARAMIS and ATHOS watch closely as a group of ragged PRISONERS file into the courtyard, escorted by PRISON GUARDS.

ANNE looks at the line of PRISONERS stood in front of her and turns to LECLERC.

ANNE (cont'd)  
They look half-dead, poor things.

PORTHOS and ATHOS stand with the other MUSKETEERS looking at the emaciated prisoners.

D'ARTAGNAN (V.O.)  
Quick ...

**INT. CHATELET. HALL/CELL. DAY**

The JAILER is doing his rounds.

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**CONTINUED:**

D'ARTAGNAN  
... jailer! Help, jail ...

The JAILER looks in at VADIM convulsing on the floor of the cell.

JAILER  
What's wrong with him?

D'ARTAGNAN  
Can't you see he's having a fit?

JAILER  
He's faking.

He unlocks the door and steps inside.

Holding out a stick he pushes D'ARTAGNAN against the wall with it, then steps closer to VADIM and rolls the convulsing prisoner over with his foot.

He sees the gold coin lying in the dust and bends down to pick it up.

Grinning to himself he stands and starts to make his way towards the cell door.

VADIM (O.S.)  
Of course I was faking.

The JAILER turns and looks shocked to see VADIM standing behind him holding up the set of keys.

VADIM  
Looking for these?

He smashes his fist into the JAILER's face, knocking him out cold.

**EXT. CHATELET. FRONT COURTYARD. DAY**

QUEEN ANNE addresses the PRISONERS.

ANNE  
In his great mercy and in the name  
of God, the King has granted you  
clemency.

She steps closer.

**INT. CHATELET. HALL/CELL. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN watches as VADIM drags the JAILER'S body across the cell and locks him in his own manacles.

D'ARTAGNAN  
You still have to get past the  
guards.

VADIM grins confidently and heads for the door. D'ARTAGNAN calls after him urgently.

D'ARTAGNAN (cont'd)  
Take me with you, Vadim. Don't  
leave me here.

VADIM considers him for a second.

D'ARTAGNAN  
I can help you.

VADIM abruptly, leans down and unlocks D'ARTAGNAN'S manacles.

They hurry out together, VADIM locks the door behind them.

VADIM edges down the hall with D'ARTAGNAN close behind. A PRISONER calls through the bars to them.

PRISONER  
Vadim! Don't leave us here.

VADIM looks at D'ARTAGNAN and throws him the keys.

VADIM  
Let them out.

D'ARTAGNAN looks unsure.

**EXT. CHATELET. FRONT COURTYARD. DAY**

ANNE gives each prisoner a little leather purse of money.

ANNE  
I hope this small gift will help  
you in your new lives.

Each PRISONER bows with gratitude.

TREVILLE glances across at ATHOS and nods, ATHOS slips quietly away passing PORTHOS on his way.

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**CONTINUED:**

ATHOS  
I'm going to check on D'Artagnan.

As the PRISONERS are escorted away, TREVILLE shares a moment with ANNE.

ANNE  
Did you see the gratitude on their faces, Captain? Mercy is more effective than any whip or gallows.

TREVILLE  
The worst offenders would only consider Your Majesty's gentle nature a weakness. Some men are just born bad.

**INT. CHATELET. DUNGEONS. DAY**

The ESCAPED PRISONERS led by VADIM are now revolting against the GUARDS.

EXT/INT. CHATELET. DUNGEONS. DAY

ATHOS approaches the doorway.

A GUARD opens the door from him and he steps inside.

Suddenly the ESCAPING PRISONERS rush at the GUARD and pull him down. VADIM turns to D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM  
This way.

ATHOS sees D'ARTAGNAN with VADIM at the back of the crowd. He starts to back out and calls to the other MUSKETEERS outside.

ATHOS  
Prisoners escaping!!

The ESCAPING PRISONERS rush at ATHOS.

D'ARTAGNAN runs after VADIM.

**EXT. CHATELET. INNER COURTYARD. DAY**

ATHOS retreats into the inner courtyard firing at the enraged PRISONERS.

**EXT. CHATELET. FRONT COURTYARD. DAY**

TREVILLE, ANNE, ARAMIS and PORTHOS look up in consternation at the sound of the shot.

TREVILLE immediately pulls out his sword as he puts a protective arm around ANNE.

TREVILLE  
Protect the Queen!

**EXT. CHATELET. INNER COURTYARD. DAY**

ATHOS is in mid fight with some of the ESCAPING PRISONERS, with the help of some of the GUARDS.

PORTHOS  
This way!

PORTHOS and ARAMIS see ATHOS as the GUARDS pour in behind them and raise their muskets but ARAMIS shouts.

ARAMIS  
Don't shoot! There's a Musketeer in there!

He grabs the GUARD's musket.

ATHOS is being pinned against the wall by a group of PRISONERS.

ATHOS (O.V)  
Vadim has escaped!!

ARAMIS aims his musket but another PRISONER tries to push him aside, ARAMIS gets the better of him and manages to fire at the PRISONERS attacking ATHOS.

One of them is hit in the back and falls to the ground, allowing ATHOS to overcome the others.

**INT. CHATELET. DUNGEONS/CORRIDOR. DAY**

VADIM leads D'ARTAGNAN along a corridor. They hear the shouting and musket shots above their heads. A door ahead of them opens and a GUARD enters.

VADIM  
Get back.

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**CONTINUED:**

VADIM and D'ARTAGNAN dart into the shadows and watch as the GUARD runs past them. They move to the door.

**EXT. CHATELET. FRONT COURTYARD. DAY**

VADIM and D'ARTAGNAN emerge into the outer courtyard to find the COURTIERS, GUARDS and TREVILLE with their backs turned to them as they fight off the ESCAPING PRISONERS.

GUARD (O.V.)  
Close the door.

TREVILLE has no idea that VADIM is now behind them as he calls to one of his men.

TREVILLE (O.V.)  
Get the Queen out.

Before D'ARTAGNAN can react, VADIM runs out and grabs ANNE, looping the chain of his manacles around her neck. She screams in shock.

He calls out into the crowd.

VADIM  
Oy! Oy!

He holds a musket to her throat.

VADIM (cont'd)  
Stop! Or your Queen dies!

TREVILLE lowers his pistol. The hubbub sinks into an eerie quiet.

GUARDS point their guns towards VADIM but ANNE is directly in front of him. TREVILLE turns on them fiercely.

TREVILLE  
Hold your fire!

ATHOS, ARAMIS and PORTHOS rush back from the inner courtyard, stopping as they see the stand-off. ATHOS sees D'ARTAGNAN, they exchange a look.

VADIM  
Back! Back!!

They all take a few steps back.

VADIM looks at LECLERC.

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**CONTINUED:**

VADIM (cont'd)  
Open the gate!

TREVILLE sees that LECLERC is frozen with panic. He takes over, calm but intensely watchful.

VADIM (cont'd)  
Open the gate!

D'ARTAGNAN nods at TREVILLE. TREVILLE turns to LECLERC.

TREVILLE  
Do as he says.

LECLERC  
Do it! Open the gates!

GUARDS rush to open the gates.

The open gates reveal the sight of about NINE or TEN ARMED MEN waiting outside. Their guns are all trained on the courtyard. At the head of them, on horseback, is FELIX.

FELIX  
Vadim!

VADIM smiles in triumph at D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM  
You see. I told you they'd let me walk out of here.

VADIM glances round. D'ARTAGNAN talks quietly to VADIM.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Hurt the Queen and we're all dead. You don't need her anymore, let's go, come on.

VADIM considers, then smiles politely at ANNE.

VADIM  
Your Majesty, my apologies. I hoped that, apart from this, you've enjoyed your trip.

He kisses her on the cheek and pushes her towards the guns of the waiting GUARDS then he and D'ARTAGNAN turn and run towards FELIX and his men.

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**CONTINUED:**

LECLERC

Shoot them! Don't let them escape.

The response is a volley of shots from both sides. ANNE stumbles in confusion, caught directly in the cross-fire. She looks around in panic as bullets fly. Seeing the danger ARAMIS now forces his way past the GUARDS and races towards her through the hail of bullets, he catches her around the waist and sends her tumbling to the ground with him. A bullet creases his cheek but he covers her safely with his body as GUARDS dash past them, firing at the escaping D'ARTAGNAN, VADIM and his MEN. Feet stampede over and past them.

VADIM jumps on his waiting horse, one of his men is shot and falls to the moat below.

VADIM turns and sees D'ARTAGNAN fighting off some of the GUARDS.

VADIM

Oy!

D'ARTAGNAN turns, rushes over to the waiting horse and climbs up, then he, VADIM and FELIX gallop off together.

**EXT. CHATELET. FRONT COURTYARD. DAY**

ANNE lies on the ground, her eyes tightly shut, ARAMIS still holding onto her.

ARAMIS

Don't worry, it's fine. Look at me,  
look at me, it's over.

She looks up into his eyes.

ARAMIS (cont'd)

I've got you.

She smiles at him.

ANNE

So you have.

They share a look then ARAMIS comes to his senses and starts to get up.

ARAMIS

My apologies, your Majesty.

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**CONTINUED:**

He helps her to her feet.

ANNE

You're hurt.

She reaches out to touch the wound on his cheek, he touches her hand and smiles.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. CARDINAL'S OFFICE. DAY**

CARDINAL RICHELIEU contemplates TREVILLE and ATHOS, his sarcasm fuelled by frustrated anger.

CARDINAL

My God, what is Vadim planning?  
War? Rebellion? I must know. Keep  
me informed of developments.

TREVILLE nods then he and ATHOS start to leave.

CARDINAL (cont'd)

My men have orders to shoot Vadim  
on sight. If d'Artagnan is with  
him, he too is in grave danger. His  
life is in his own hands now.

TREVILLE and ATHOS exit.

The CARDINAL is left alone.

MILADY comes in from a hidden ante-room; she is carrying a small bunch of freshly cut Forget-me-nots.

CARDINAL (cont'd)

You heard all that?

MILADY

Of course. D'Artagnan's death would  
be a waste.

CARDINAL

I'm not here to indulge your  
romantic whims.

MILADY

Romance has nothing to do with it.  
I laid a perfect trap for him. He  
should be dead. He isn't. That  
makes him unique. I can do  
something with a man like that.

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**CONTINUED:**

CARDINAL

Why should he still trust you?

MILADY

Because he's already half in love with me.

CARDINAL

You left him with a bloody dagger in his hand, facing the noose. What kind of idiot would overlook that?

She acts out her little speech.

MILADY

"Forgive me, d'Artagnan. The man was a beast, I, I stabbed him in self-defence and then I panicked. I never meant you to take the blame. I was in torment when I heard, you who were so good to me, so loving, so kind. Let me make amends in any way you desire."

The CARDINAL is unnerved and turned on. Abruptly she switches off the performance as though flicking a switch.

MILADY (cont'd)

Five years in your service and you still doubt me?

CARDINAL

D'Artagnan's fate is a matter of indifference to me. Your task is to find Vadim.

She picks up her Forget-me-nots and heads for the door.

CARDINAL (cont'd)

Are those flowers me?

MILADY

No.

She exits.

**INT. CELLAR. DAY**

FELIX uses a mallet and chisel to remove VADIM's manacles. VADIM looks over at D'ARTAGNAN sat in the other corner of the room.

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**CONTINUED:**

VADIM

My friend Felix thinks I was wrong to bring you here. He doesn't like Musketeers.

D'ARTAGNAN

I told you, I'm not a Musketeer.

He holds up his chains to be removed.

D'ARTAGNAN

I am a wanted man on the run. What else have I got?

VADIM

Let me suggest another possibility.

He places the stool in front of D'ARTAGNAN who then places his chains on the seat. VADIM crouches down beside him with the mallet and chisel in his hand.

He suddenly grabs one of D'ARTAGNAN's fingers while FELIX holds D'ARTAGNAN still.

He raises the big wooden hammer ominously over the chisel.

VADIM (cont'd)

We're going to play a little game to find out the truth. I'm going to hack your fingers off one at a time, until you admit to being a spy.

D'ARTAGNAN

And what if I'm not?

VADIM

Then you'll be counting on your toes. But you'll be alive.

VADIM readies the hammer.

FELIX

Come on, Vadim. Cut him.

D'ARTAGNAN braces himself for the agony. A moment of sickening tension, but D'ARTAGNAN holds his nerve. VADIM suddenly brings down the hammer with brutal force but shifts the chisel at the last second to the lock of the manacle.

D'ARTAGNAN flinches as his manacles burst open. VADIM smiles and tosses the hammer to one side.

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**CONTINUED:**

VADIM

We can trust him. I know a man's character by looking into his eyes. I'm never wrong. He's good.

FELIX looks unimpressed.

FELIX

You're making a mistake.

VADIM turns to D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM

Take no notice of our Felix. There's more brains in a fish.

D'ARTAGNAN nods.

VADIM (cont'd)

Welcome to our glorious enterprise. We're going to build a new France.

D'ARTAGNAN

How?

VADIM

We kill the King and Queen. The poor and the dispossessed will rise up and join us. Taking back what belongs to them.

FELIX

We'll be heroes.

D'ARTAGNAN tries to contain his frustration.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. STATE ROOM. DAY**

ARAMIS and PORTHOS stand waiting.

PORTHOS

The way I look at it, you saved her life. So she's probably grateful.

ARAMIS

But we did put her in danger in the first place. So, she might want to see us whipped.

PORTHOS

I hadn't thought of that. Oh, you've upset me now.

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**CONTINUED:**

PORTHOS and ARAMIS stand to attention as ANNE enters with a LADY IN WAITING.

ANNE  
Monsieur Aramis! Bravest of all the  
King's Musketeers.

ARAMIS shares a sly grin with PORTHOS as he bows modestly.

ARAMIS  
Only amongst the bravest, your  
Majesty.

He smiles with great charm. ANNE grins at him for a while.

ANNE  
Perhaps your friend would grant us  
a moment's privacy?

PORTHOS bows and walks to the other side of the big room.

ANNE smiles, suddenly a little shy and steps forward to look at ARAMIS's cheek where he was wounded.

ANNE (cont'd)  
Does it hurt?

ARAMIS  
Oh, not at all. Well, perhaps it is  
a little sore ...

She lets her hand rest on his face near the wound. PORTHOS glances over.

ANNE  
Poor gallant Aramis.

Then, shy and a little awkward, ANNE takes a plain crucifix from around her own neck.

ANNE (cont'd)  
Accept this gift as a token of your  
Queen's gratitude.

He bows his head and she laces it around his neck.

ANNE (cont'd)  
May it keep you safe, always.

They gaze at each other for a second. She can't help blushing as she goes out.

PORTHOS returns to stand by ARAMIS.

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**CONTINUED:**

PORTHOS

You know you were giving her the stare?

ARAMIS

What stare?

PORTHOS stares at ARAMIS.

ARAMIS (cont'd)

She's a very attractive woman.

PORTHOS

She's not a woman. She's The Queen. Or have you forgotten about Adele Besette already?

He sniggers.

ARAMIS

Adele chose the Cardinal over me. She left Paris.

PORTHOS

Fine. But please set your sights a little lower, for all our sakes.

He walks off.

**EXT. PARIS. STREETS/ALLEY. NIGHT**

A busy street in a poor part of Paris. Candlelight and lamps illuminate the moonlit streets. A hooded VADIM hurries through the empty market.

A moment later D'ARTAGNAN appears, following him. VADIM slips down an alley. D'ARTAGNAN follows cautiously.

**EXT. RUE LAGRANGE. SUZETTE'S HOUSE. NIGHT**

VADIM approaches SUZETTE PINAULT waiting in a doorway.

VADIM

Suzette.

She grins when she sees him and rushes over. They kiss on the lips, then she leads him inside.

D'ARTAGNAN stops a PASSER-BY and points at the house.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

D'ARTAGNAN

This house, do you know who lives here?

PASSER-BY

Suzette Pinault. Everybody knows Suzette around here.

He sniggers and pats D'ARTAGNAN on the shoulder then hurries off.

D'ARTAGNAN starts to edge closer and then suddenly finds himself slammed up against a wall, a pistol at his head. FELIX is on the other end of the gun.

FELIX

You've got five seconds to explain what you're doing before I blow your brains into the next street.

D'ARTAGNAN

I was visiting my mistress.

FELIX

Prove it.

**EXT. STREET. BONACIEUX HOUSE/COURTYARD. NIGHT**

D'ARTAGNAN approaches the BONACIEUX home, FELIX's pistol jammed in his back. CONSTANCE is in the lamp-lit yard with her MAID, who is taking in the washing.

D'ARTAGNAN

That's her.

FELIX

How do I even know you've met her?  
Huh?

D'ARTAGNAN looks at FELIX then darts across the street and takes the startled CONSTANCE by the waist and crushes her lips to his.

The MAID stares in astonishment. CONSTANCE wriggles in his grasp.

D'ARTAGNAN

Shh, we're being watched. For God's sake kiss me back. And make it look good.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

CONSTANCE sees FELIX across the road just as D'ARTAGNAN draws her close for another kiss.

FELIX watches.

CONSTANCE whispers to D'ARTAGNAN.

CONSTANCE  
You're a wanted man. The Guards are everywhere.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Whatever you've heard about me, don't believe it.

CONSTANCE glares at the MAID, who scurries inside.

She then embraces D'ARTAGNAN and whispers fiercely in his ear.

CONSTANCE  
You're making a habit of this.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Believe me, I wouldn't unless I had to.

CONSTANCE  
That's flattering. And no tongues.

She wriggles as he nuzzles her ear intimately.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Go to Athos. Tell him to get here as soon as possible.

CONSTANCE  
Come inside. You're not safe on the streets.

D'ARTAGNAN  
You are the kindest and best woman on earth. You know that?

CONSTANCE  
Or the most stupid.

FELIX watches as CONSTANCE hurries into her house. D'ARTAGNAN crosses back to FELIX, smiling roguishly.

D'ARTAGNAN  
She's in a good mood. I may be some time.

**(CONTINUED)**



**CONTINUED:**

FELIX  
Vadim will hear of this.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Tell him.

FELIX looks at him suspiciously but finally turns away.

D'ARTAGNAN (V.O.)  
Vadim plans to murder the King and  
Queen.

**INT. BONACIEUX HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT**

ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS listen to D'ARTAGNAN.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Some fantasy of a peasant  
rebellion.

ATHOS  
Have you seen the gunpowder? Any  
weapons?

D'ARTAGNAN shakes his head.

ARAMIS  
What about his men?

D'ARTAGNAN  
In hiding.

ATHOS  
When is this plan supposed to take  
place?

D'ARTAGNAN  
Vadim's careful. He doesn't say  
much.

PORTHOS  
Does he trust you?

D'ARTAGNAN  
As much as he does anyone. Felix  
doesn't, but I can handle him.  
Vadim once said the secret to a  
good trick is to make people look  
the wrong way.

ARAMIS  
What do you think he meant?

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

D'ARTAGNAN  
Honestly? I have no idea.

ATHOS  
You've done enough. We'll take it  
from here.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Pick him up now and the King and  
Queen are still in danger.

ATHOS  
What do you suggest?

D'ARTAGNAN  
I go back in.

CONSTANCE comes in with wine and glasses. She puts them down  
on the table as the men lapse into awkward silence. She  
looks at D'ARTAGNAN.

CONSTANCE  
They told me about the duel and  
your imprisonment. That it was all  
faked.

ARAMIS  
Rather well, you have to admit.

CONSTANCE slaps him. He looks at her in shock. PORTHOS  
sniggers, she throws him a look.

ARAMIS (cont'd)  
What for this time?

CONSTANCE  
Letting me think the worst.

She turns on D'ARTAGNAN, her emotions boiling over.

CONSTANCE (cont'd)  
First I thought you were a  
condemned man, then a fugitive and  
now this. How many ways can a man  
think of to get himself killed?

She goes out, slamming the door. ARAMIS smiles.

ARAMIS  
I think she likes you.

ATHOS walks up to D'ARTAGNAN.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

ATHOS  
It's too dangerous.

D'ARTAGNAN  
I can do this. Trust me.

ATHOS looks to the others, they say nothing, he turns back to D'ARTAGNAN and reluctantly nods his consent and pats him on the shoulder.

D'ARTAGNAN (cont'd)  
This evening Vadim visited a woman called Suzette Pinault. You'll find her in the Rue LaGrange. She's his mistress.

He hurries out. ATHOS looks at ARAMIS and PORTHOS.

ATHOS  
Tell me we've made the right decision.

ARAMIS  
Absolutely.

PORTHOS  
Definitely.

Neither of them look completely convinced. ATHOS sighs.

ATHOS  
Well. What could possibly go wrong?

**INT. BONACIEUX HOUSE. HALL. NIGHT**

CONSTANCE walks out with D'ARTAGNAN.

CONSTANCE  
If you've heard of anyone wanting a room, I'd be glad to know. My husband needs the money.

He starts to walk off.

CONSTANCE (cont'd)  
It's not easy to find decent lodgers. Every time one of them gets themselves killed in a duel, or thrown in the Chatelet, or murdered in some intrigue or other, it's a tremendous inconvenience. Of course, it's less cooking and  
(MORE)

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

CONSTANCE (cont'd)  
cleaning. In fact, I wish my  
lodgers would die more often, so I  
could have an easier life.

He walks back up to her, takes her hand and kisses it.

BONACIEUX (O.S.)  
You!

D'ARTAGNAN turns to see BONACIEUX marching over.

BONACIEUX  
How dare you show your face here  
again!!

He turns towards the door, shouting.

BONACIEUX (cont'd)  
Guards! Guards!

CONSTANCE rushes to him and bars the door with her body.

CONSTANCE  
This isn't what it seems ...

BONACIEUX  
Stand aside. He is a fugitive from  
justice.

CONSTANCE doesn't move.

BONACIEUX (cont'd)  
I order you to move!

CONSTANCE  
Order away. I'm staying here until  
you stop shouting and listen.

PORTHOS, ARAMIS and ATHOS appear.

ATHOS  
Step back please, Monsieur.

BONACIEUX  
This man is a wanted criminal.

ATHOS rests his hand meaningfully on the hilt of his sword.

ATHOS  
I said step back.

ARAMIS  
I suggest you do as he says.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

BONACIEUX  
Is this a threat?

PORTHOS steps over.

PORTHOS  
Not yet.

BONACIEUX finally steps aside nervously.

ARAMIS  
Good decision.

D'ARTAGNAN pauses by CONSTANCE.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Once again, I'm in your debt.

He goes as do the other three.

ATHOS glances at BONACIEUX.

ATHOS  
Good evening.

CONSTANCE hurries inside.

**EXT. STREET. BONACIEUX HOUSE. NIGHT**

D'ARTAGNAN rounds the corner when suddenly TWO RED GUARDS rush after him.

GUARD  
Hey you, D'Artagnan!

D'ARTAGNAN runs for it.

**EXT. ALLEY. NIGHT**

D'ARTAGNAN finds himself at a dead end. He tries a front door but it is locked.

The two GUARDS turn the corner and see him. The leading GUARD draws his sword.

GUARD  
Surrender or die.

Suddenly MILADY appears behind him and stabs him in the back with her dagger. The RED GUARD cries out and drops dead. His stunned COMRADE is confused to see a MILADY standing behind

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

him. She has a short pistol pointed at him. She fires. He collapses, dead.

D'ARTAGNAN

You! Who are you?

MILADY

Your guardian angel. Now where is Vadim?

D'ARTAGNAN only stares at her. She moves closer to him, smiling seductively in the half-light.

MILADY (cont'd)

I have a powerful patron. He can grant you all the riches and power you desire. If you take me to Vadim.

D'ARTAGNAN

You betrayed me. You set me up.

MILADY

Now I've saved your life.

She moves intimately close to him.

MILADY (cont'd)

It wasn't only murder that made our night together memorable.

She kisses him softly, her lips playing on his.

MILADY (cont'd)

You're at the crossroads, d'Artagnan. Don't take the wrong path. Choose the Musketeers and you choose oblivion.

He hesitates, his throat dry.

ATHOS (O.S.)

D'Artagnan?

MILADY spins at his voice, holds her dagger against D'ARTAGNAN's throat and whispers in his ear.

MILADY

Another time.

She runs to the end of the alley and disappears. A moment later ATHOS arrives with PORTHOS and ARAMIS close behind. He

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

skids to a halt as he sees the DEAD BODIES in front of D'ARTAGNAN. He stares incredulously.

ATHOS  
Go! We'll deal with this.

D'ARTAGNAN makes a run for it.

ATHOS (cont'd)  
Porthos, follow D'Artagnan, watch his back.

ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS pick up the BODIES and drag them to the side of the alley.

**EXT. STREET OUTSIDE VADIM'S HIDEOUT. NIGHT**

D'ARTAGNAN hurries back in the moonlight.

PORTHOS watches him from around the corner as he goes inside.

FELIX (V.O.)  
We can't trust him, Vadim.

**INT. CELLAR. NIGHT**

VADIM gazes coolly at D'ARTAGNAN as FELIX rants at him.

FELIX  
He's a spy and a traitor.

VADIM  
You fell asleep when you were meant to be watching my back. So no one's perfect.

FELIX looks sullen. VADIM turns his penetrating gaze back to D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM (cont'd)  
This woman, she's important to you?

D'ARTAGNAN  
Yes, she is. I had to see her again. It could be the last time.

VADIM  
You said nothing?

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

D'ARTAGNAN

Vadim. I was careful. No one saw me.

VADIM

I understand love, d'Artagnan, believe me. But, next time you want a conjugal visit, you ask, you understand?

D'ARTAGNAN nods.

VADIM (cont'd)

Now get some sleep. You'll need it.

OUT ON D'ARTAGNAN.

**EXT. SUZETTE'S HOUSE. DAY**

ATHOS and ARAMIS enter.

SUZETTE (V.O.)

I've never been this close to a Musketeer with my clothes on before.

**INT. SUZETTE'S HOUSE. DAY**

SUZETTE PINAULT on the edge of her bed. With ATHOS and ARAMIS stand in front of her. She is relaxed and flirtatious.

SUZETTE

I must be in trouble.

ATHOS

We know you've seen Vadim, Suzette. You have a choice. You can go to the gallows with him.

ARAMIS

Or you can save yourself.

SUZETTE

I'm not denying anything. I saw him.

ATHOS

Why didn't you report it?

**(CONTINUED)**



**CONTINUED:**

SUZETTE

Because I don't want to get involved with the Guards. Besides, we used to be quite close.

ATHOS

You were lovers.

SUZETTE

Ooh, you're a sharp one.

ATHOS

What did he want?

SUZETTE

He said he was going away; he wanted me to go with him. I said no.

She turns to ARAMIS.

SUZETTE (cont'd)

Has anyone ever told you you've got lovely eyes?

ARAMIS

The Captain mentioned it only this morning.

ATHOS

If you don't tell us the truth, we could have you whipped.

SUZETTE

It's usually the other way round with you boys. But if the money's right.

Her eyes flash with humour.

ARAMIS

Where did you first meet Vadim?

SUZETTE

At the Louvre Palace. I was a scullery maid. He was a servant.

ARAMIS

Vadim worked at the Palace?

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

SUZETTE

For two years. That's where he became obsessed with the King. He really hated him.

ARAMIS

Tell us about that.

SUZETTE

He said King Louis had broken his promises to the people. He talked about it all the time.

ATHOS

Did he say he wanted to kill him?

SUZETTE

I don't remember. Maybe.

ARAMIS sits next to her, his face close to hers.

ARAMIS

Vadim stole enough gunpowder to wipe out dozens of innocent lives. Is that what you want?

SUZETTE

He came to see me, I sent him away. I don't know where he is, I don't know what he's doing. That's all.

ARAMIS turns to ATHOS and stands up.

SUZETTE (cont'd)

Look, if I knew any more, I'd tell you. Well, I don't want to hang.

ATHOS

Very well. I believe you.

SUZETTE

Any time you want your sword polished, handsome, just let me know.

ARAMIS smiles, then he and ATHOS leave the room.

ARAMIS

She's covering for him.

ATHOS

Don't let her out of your sight.

**(CONTINUED)**

CONTINUED:

CARDINAL (V.O.)  
The King ...

INT. LOUVRE PALACE. CARDINAL'S OFFICE. DAY

The CARDINAL stands staring out of the window, TREVILLE and ATHOS are with him.

CARDINAL  
... must be informed. Vadim has both the intelligence and the means to launch a serious attempt on his life. And all over some mad attempt at rebellion?

ATHOS  
According to d'Artagnan.

TREVILLE  
Did you know Vadim worked at the Palace?

CARDINAL  
Of course not. You better speak to Lavoie about that.

ATHOS  
Lavoie?

CARDINAL  
First Gentleman Of The Bedchamber.  
More regal than the King himself.

He stares out for a moment.

CARDINAL (cont'd)  
If I was planning to kill the King, how would I do it?

TREVILLE  
Notre Dame. The Royal Family always show themselves to the people after Easter Mass. It's tradition.

CARDINAL  
Not anymore.

LOUIS (V.O.)  
Gunpowder!

INT. LOUVRE PALACE. KING'S QUARTERS. DAY

KING LOUIS and QUEEN ANNE stand with the CARDINAL, TREVILLE and ATHOS.

LOUIS  
Muskets? Good God!

ATHOS  
The threat to Your Majesty's life is real and immediate.

CARDINAL  
It would be madness to attend the Easter Mass.

TREVILLE  
Decoys will go in Your Majesties' place. We will lure Vadim from hiding with a false target.

LOUIS  
You're going to let the attempt go ahead?

ATHOS  
We'll capture the conspirators in the act of sedition, hopefully without a shot being fired.

ANNE  
The people know their King and Queen too well. It seems to me, Captain, your plan must fail without the King's authentic presence.

TREVILLE looks at her sharply.

ANNE (cont'd)  
Your men have protected me once. I am sure they will do so again. The King and I should attend Mass as planned.

LOUIS gives her a startled look but doesn't want to appear weak in her company.

LOUIS  
My father never shirked a public obligation, no matter what the threat to his person ...

(CONTINUED)

**CONTINUED:**

CARDINAL

Your father was assassinated. It's simply a matter of common sense to stay away.

LOUIS

Common sense is for Commoners not for Kings! I will not have it said that the son of Henri IV is a coward. It is my task to show courage and leadership. It's yours to protect me.

He walks out, followed by ANNE.

CARDINAL

Perhaps I misjudged that.

TREVILLE

Perhaps you did.

He and ATHOS exit.

TREVILLE (V.O.)

We appreciate you're a busy man, Monsieur Lavoie.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. ROYAL CHAMBERS. DAY**

ATHOS and TREVILLE walk through the royal apartments accompanied by LAVOIE.

LAVOIE

As it happens I do remember Vadim. Gutter born but his intelligence and pleasant looks caught my eye. I thought perhaps with my patronage he might make something of himself.

ATHOS

What were his duties?

LAVOIE

Menial tasks in the kitchens.

ATHOS

Did he ever come into contact with the King?

LAVOIE

A grease-stained servant? I should say not. Only the most favoured

(MORE)

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

LAVOIE (cont'd)  
members of the nobility are granted  
the exquisite honour of gazing on  
the royal countenance. I am pleased  
to include myself in that number.

TREVILLE  
How did Vadim respond to your er,  
patronage?

LAVOIE  
With base ingratitude. There was an  
incident.

A priceless item of the Queen's jewellery went missing.  
Vadim was near the scene.

ATHOS  
What was he doing in the Queen's  
apartments?

LAVOIE  
I showed him round. As part of his  
education, you understand.

ATHOS  
And what was this missing item?

LAVOIE  
A diamond pendant.

LOUVRE PALACE. HALL. DAY

LAVOIE leads TREVILLE and ATHOS over to the GUARDED doors.  
He takes a key from his pocket and unlocks the doors. They  
go inside.

LAVOIE (O.S.)  
The royal vault ...

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. JEWELLERY ROOM. DAY**

The sight that greets them inside is dazzling. Golden  
artefacts and priceless JEWELLERY rest on every surface.  
ATHOS and TREVILLE look around in awe.

LAVOIE  
The value is beyond calculation.

They look at the red velvet cushions each with an item of  
jewellery on it, all except one.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

LAVOIE (cont'd)  
The stolen pendant. That empty  
space is like a dagger in my heart.

**INT. CELLAR. NIGHT**

VADIM pores over a detailed drawing of the square outside Notre Dame, he places two gold coins on top.

D'ARTAGNAN sits next to him.

VADIM  
We strike tomorrow at eleven, as  
the clock chimes. Three men in the  
crowd with bombs, four more  
standing by, should they should  
fail. The King and Queen will be  
dead before a quarter past.

D'ARTAGNAN  
And me? What do I do?

VADIM  
I have a very special destiny for  
you, my friend. This time tomorrow,  
my name will live forever - yours  
too should you play your part.

VADIM offers D'ARTAGNAN his hand. They shake. D'ARTAGNAN reads respect on Vadim's face. VADIM folds up the drawing and hands it to D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM (cont'd)  
Here, take the map. You might need  
it. And buy wine. We should  
celebrate. Go!

D'ARTAGNAN leaves.

**EXT. STREET OUTSIDE VADIM'S HIDEOUT. NIGHT**

D'ARTAGNAN emerges and makes his way across the street.

Checking that no one is watching, he strolls past PORTHOS stood idling his time in a doorway.

D'ARTAGNAN drops the drawing on the ground, not even pausing to break stride.

D'ARTAGNAN  
Give this to TREVILLE.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

PORTHOS bends down and picks up the map.

He looks around and sees VADIM's men entering the house at the end of the street.

**EXT. STREET OUTSIDE VADIM'S HIDEOUT. NIGHT**

SUZETTE hurries through the rain, ARAMIS slips through the shadows following her.

He watches her go inside VADIM'S place.

A second later, a pistol is pointed in his neck.

He moves it away.

ARAMIS  
Careful. Even you couldn't miss  
from there.

PORTHOS is stood behind him holding the gun and sniggers as he puts the gun away.

PORTHOS  
What are you doing here?

ARAMIS  
You saw Suzette arrive?

PORTHOS  
Hmm. Vadim's men too. I counted six  
and at least one more inside.  
D'Artagnan gave me this.

He holds up the map.

PORTHOS (cont'd)  
Vadim's plan.

ARAMIS  
We should strike now.

PORTHOS nods.

PORTHOS  
I'll get the others.

He hurries off.

VADIM (V.O.)  
In a few hours time ...



**INT. CELLAR. NIGHT**

D'ARTAGNAN watches the men gather. VADIM, with SUZETTE at his side, holds a pistol loosely.

VADIM  
... the King will be dead!!

The MEN cheer.

VADIM (cont'd)  
Every man here, I trust like a  
brother. All except one.

He looks amongst them.

VADIM (cont'd)  
We have a traitor in our midst.

VADIM moves from person to person, then stops next to FELIX.

FELIX  
It's not me, Vadim. I would lay  
down my life for you.

SUZETTE  
He knows that, Felix. You're not  
the one.

VADIM keeps his eye on FELIX but raises his gun and points it at D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM  
On your knees.

D'ARTAGNAN  
You're wrong.

VADIM  
Musketeer!

D'ARTAGNAN gets down on his knees.

SUZETTE  
No one outwits Vadim!

VADIM moves behind D'ARTAGNAN then brings the butt of the pistol down savagely on the back of his head.

D'ARTAGNAN falls to the ground.

**EXT. STREET OUTSIDE VADIM'S HIDEOUT. NIGHT**

PORTHOS looks over at TREVILLE, ATHOS, ARAMIS and a troop of MUSKETEERS now stood by him, he nods at TREVILLE who indicates instructions to the others.

The group of MUSKETEERS run silently across the street, led by ATHOS, ARAMIS and PORTHOS. A moment passes, then PORTHOS kicks open the door and the MUSKETEERS flood into the building.

**INT. CELLAR. NIGHT**

They descend into the empty cellar room all their muskets at the ready.

PORTHOS  
No ... I swear they were all in here.

ARAMIS  
There's a back door.

ATHOS notices a dark patch of liquid on the ground and goes to investigate.

ATHOS  
Blood.

ARAMIS  
D'Artagnan?

TREVILLE  
Perhaps. He chose to take the risk. There's nothing we could have done.

ATHOS  
We could have stopped him.

TREVILLE holds up VADIM's drawing.

TREVILLE  
At least he left us this. Our job now is to protect the King. When that's done, we can worry about d'Artagnan.

They turn and leave.

As soon as they have left, a hidden trap door in the floor opens and FELIX looks out, then jumps back inside and shuts the door.

**INT. TUNNELS BELOW CELLAR. NIGHT**

FELIX lowers himself back down.

He turns to VADIM and nods.

FELIX  
They're gone.

VADIM nods and hands him a bomb.

VADIM  
Take it, use it well brother,  
tomorrow is your day.

He turns to wear D'ARTAGNAN slumped body is being held up by a couple of his men. One of them holds a lit candle for vision.

VADIM lifts D'ARTAGNAN's head back by his hair, then turns and blows out the candle and they are plunged into darkness.

BLACK SCREEN

**EXT. CHURCH. SQUARE/FOUNTAIN. DAY**

The square is crowded. The church's great bells chime the hour and KING and QUEEN step out from the Church, followed by the CARDINAL, NOBLES, COURTIERS and SERVANTS.

LOUIS looks nervous as they make their way along by the cheering crowd.

He leads ANNE towards the fountain where the royal carriage is waiting, waving with as much enthusiasm as he can muster.

ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS make their way through the CROWD, keeping a lookout for anything untoward.

The CARDINAL is close to the KING and QUEEN, he looks around nervously.

FELIX is hidden amongst the cheering CROWD he gets his first glimpse of the Royals, grins and makes his way ahead of them.

**INT. TUNNELS/HIDDEN ROOM. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN wakes slowly. His head throbs. He tries to move but finds his arms and legs are tied to a stack of heavy wooden barrels. The barrels are lashed together with thick

(CONTINUED)

**CONTINUED:**

ropes. He is in a sealed room with a door at one end; a candle burns by a solid wall where VADIM is kneeling down.

VADIM

I was hoping you'd wake. I wouldn't want you to miss the high point of our brief acquaintance.

D'ARTAGNAN

Where are we?

VADIM

In the tunnels, under the Louvre. They run from the palace to the city wall.

He inserts an unlit candle into a small hole in the lid of the barrel of gunpowder. Tied around the candle is an extremely long fuse.

VADIM (cont'd)

Built by one of our King's forebears as an escape route, bricked up in the time of Henri IV. I discovered them whilst working at the palace kitchens.

He holds his palm outwards and smiles.

VADIM (cont'd)

You can almost feel the heat of the bread ovens. You see D'Artagnan ...

He dips the other end of the fuse into a barrel of pitch.

VADIM (cont'd)

... servants are like rats. They'll find all manner of secret exits and entrances.

He attaches the end of the fuse to another barrel.

VADIM (cont'd)

In exactly fifteen minutes that candle will burn down and light the fuse that will explode the powder stored in those barrels.

D'ARTAGNAN looks at the barrels all around him.

D'ARTAGNAN

Blowing me to pieces.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

VADIM

Well certainly, but that's not the main purpose of the exercise.

D'ARTAGNAN

It really doesn't matter what you do to me Vadim. You've failed. I told the Musketeers, everything.

VADIM squares up to D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM

You told them exactly what I wanted you to tell them. I explained the trick to you d'Artagnan. You should have paid more attention.

He picks up his bag and fills it with more bombs then walks over to the lit candle.

VADIM (cont'd)

Fourteen minutes. Tick tock, tick tock ...

He covers the candle with a glass to protect it from draughts, smiles at D'ARTAGNAN and exits.

D'ARTAGNAN struggles with his bonds, while the candle burns down inexorably towards the black fuse.

**EXT. CHURCH. SQUARE/FOUNTAIN. DAY**

The CROWD continue to cheer and line the street as the KING and QUEEN walk along, followed by the CARDINAL, NOBLES, COURTIERS and SERVANTS.

FELIX looks out from the back of the CROWD and watches as the ROYALS make their way past.

FELIX

Go, go, go!

Then he runs deeper into the cheering supporters.

He shouts out.

FELIX (cont'd)

Death to the tyrants!

The KING and QUEEN look up, everyone looks around.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

LOUIS and ANNE try to run back but another CONSPIRATOR runs from the crowd with his bomb alit.

TREVILLE (O.V.)  
Over there, in the crowd!

ARAMIS  
Move!

TREVILLE (O.V.)  
Protect the King!

The CROWD all start to disperse, guns are pulled out and fired. Innocents are shot.

TREVILLE (O.V.)  
Protect the King!

PORTHOS sees the CONSPIRATOR running towards the ROYAL PARTY with his bomb alight.

PORTHOS  
Down, down, down! Watch out!

PORTHOS throws his dagger, hitting the CONSPIRATOR in the middle of the chest, causing him to drop dead to the ground.

Chaos ensues: and FELIX runs through the CROWD holding out his lit bomb.

ARAMIS sees him and draws his pistol, FELIX grabs an INNOCENT LADY and uses her as a shield.

ARAMIS  
Let her go!

FELIX  
Take the shot! Take it!

ARAMIS fires and the bullet hits the wall behind.

FELIX throws the bomb into the cobbled street and it lands just in front of LOUIS and ANNE.

TREVILLE (O.V.)  
Bomb, bomb! Clear the area!

The Royal Couple are dragged back as ARAMIS throws himself on top of the bomb.

ARAMIS  
No!

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

TREVILLE (O.V.)

Aramis, no!

Pressing his jacket over the bomb, ARAMIS puts out the fuse.

TREVILLE (O.V.) (cont'd)

Move, move, move! Go, go, go, go!

ARAMIS

All clear. It's safe.

ATHOS ushers ANNE and LOUIS towards their awaiting carriage.

ANNE turns and sees ARAMIS clutching the defused bomb, he looks at her then kisses the golden cross she gave him to wear.

Chaos as ANNE, LOUIS and the CARDINAL approach the carriage and climb in.

TREVILLE (O.V.)

Surround the carriage. Go, go, go,  
go, go!

The Royal Carriage speeds off.

ARAMIS hands the defused bomb to ATHOS.

ARAMIS

It's a dud.

ATHOS

They were never meant to go off.  
They're all duds!

FELIX steps out from behind one of the pillars, then quickly rushes off.

ATHOS (cont'd)

He's made us look in the wrong  
direction.

They all look up as they hear an explosion from inside the palace.

ATHOS (cont'd)

The palace! He doesn't want to kill  
the King, he wants to rob him. It's  
a distraction, he's in the  
palace!!!

He runs off with PORTHOS and ARAMIS behind him.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

TREVILLE looks on.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. COLONNADES. DAY**

A solitary figure heads down the walkway, dressed in the livery of a Palace servant, a leather bag slung casually over his shoulder. It is VADIM, in his old palace uniform.

Behind him, a thick cloud of grey smoke. SERVANTS and GUARDS rush past him.

No one pays VADIM any attention in the confusion.

VADIM takes a couple more bombs from his bag, lights them and tosses them behind him causing havoc as he walks on.

**INT. HIDDEN ROOM/TUNNELS. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN watches the candle burning down to a stub as he works frantically at the ropes around his wrists.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. CORRIDOR TO JEWELLERY ROOM. DAY**

VADIM approaches the Jewellery Room. He lights another bomb and throws it in past the gate along the corridor to where two GUARDS are outside a set of double doors.

He presses himself back against the wall and waits for the explosion.

VADIM barely flinches at the ensuing explosion. He simply strolls around the corner stooping to pick up a dented lamp from the debris on the floor and kicks the doors open.

Lighting his way with the torch, he enters the room and looks around at the gold and jewels.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. JEWELLERY ROOM. DAY**

In the drifting smoke VADIM sees gold and diamonds glittering everywhere. He helps himself, swiftly but without panic.

**INT. HIDDEN ROOM/TUNNELS. DAY**

The candle has almost completely burnt down. D'ARTAGNAN works frantically at the ropes around his wrists. It begins to fray and finally breaks.

**(CONTINUED)**



**CONTINUED:**

He notices the candle flame burn all the way down then goes out and nothing happens.

D'ARTAGNAN heaves a sigh of relief.

But suddenly the fuse ignites and starts burning along towards the barrels of gunpowder.

D'ARTAGNAN frantically tries to free his other hand as the light on the fuse gets closer.

Suddenly he is free and manages to quickly pull the fuse out of the barrel just in time.

He lies there for a moment to catch his breath.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. HALL/JEWELLERY ROOM. DAY**

ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS run down the hall just in time to see VADIM emerge from the jewellery room, with his bag over one shoulder and a lamp in the other hand.

ATHOS

There he is!

The MUSKETEERS see him and he makes a run for it, ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS chase after him, their guns at the ready.

VADIM races down the stairs. The MUSKETEERS give chase as they descend into the bowels of the Palace.

**INT. HIDDEN ROOM/TUNNELS. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN hurries towards the door. He goes to try and pull it open, expecting it to be locked but it opens easily and as it opens, it strikes against a flint balanced on the sill. The friction strikes a spark which hisses into life. D'ARTAGNAN watches in disbelief as two separate gunpowder trails burst into life, running towards the barrels like malignant glow-worms. Abruptly the two lines break into two more, then immediately break again. Within a second there are eight separate fuses burning towards the gunpowder.

Quickly D'ARTAGNAN tries to step on them all.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. CELLAR STEPS. DAY**

VADIM makes his way down the stairs.

ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS hurry after him.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. CELLAR. DAY**

They follow VADIM through and see him reach a dead end.

ATHOS  
There's nowhere to run. Surrender  
or die. It's up to you.

VADIM only stares at the wall.

PORTHOS and ATHOS keep their guns pointed at VADIM.

ATHOS (cont'd)  
It's over, Vadim.

VADIM calmly turns and looks at them.

VADIM  
Not quite.

PORTHOS  
Where's d'Artagnan?

VADIM only smiles in reply.

ATHOS  
Is he dead?

**INT. HIDDEN ROOM/TUNNELS. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN snuffs out one fuse, then another, but then looks around in horror as more fuses ignite and race towards the barrels.

Turning away he hurls himself out into the tunnel.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. CELLARS. DAY**

VADIM still says nothing, but raises his hands and puts his fingers in his ears.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN runs for his life.

**INT. HIDDEN ROOM/TUNNELS. DAY**

The fuses burn closer to the barrels.

**INT. LOUVRE PALACE. CELLARS. DAY**

VADIM stands in silence with his fingers in his ears as he stares back at ATHOS. Then mouths: "Bang".

ATHOS frowns, then turns to PORTHOS and pushes him against the wall.

ATHOS

Get down!

There is an eerie flash of light, the tremendous crack of an explosion and then the wall dissolves showering them in bricks and debris.

VADIM ducks down.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN is thrown forward by the huge explosion behind him.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

VADIM stands up and makes his way through the debris.

He picks up a lit torch and looks down at PORTHOS and ATHOS lying on the floor covered in debris.

He then turns to a huge hole in the wall and heads on through.

**INT. SUZETTE'S HOUSE. DAY**

SUZETTE throws her bag on the bed then turns to her cupboard and pulls out a pile of clothes and stuffs them in the bag.

She goes to her dresser and reaches inside. She brings out a Jewellery box and empties the contents into another leather pouch.

She holds out the Queen's diamond pendant and stares at it glistening in the sunlight.

She is too caught up to be aware of MILADY walking into the room behind her, carrying a tiny dagger.

MILADY grabs SUZETTE around the throat and holds on tight as she thrusts the dagger into SUZETTE's back, then releases SUZETTE and watches her body collapse onto the dresser.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

FELIX and his MEN loom climb down from the trap door and make their way through the darkness.

FELIX  
C'mon, Vadim's mine.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

VADIM makes his way through the darkened tunnel, lighting his way with the burning torch.

FELIX (O.S.)  
Vadim! Show yourself you traitor.

FELIX marches up to VADIM and holds a pistol to his throat. VADIM stays calm.

FELIX  
There was no gunpowder in those bombs! You betrayed us.

VADIM  
You never were very bright, were you Felix.

He reaches out and FELIX gasps in shock as VADIM plunges a knife into his stomach,

VADIM (cont'd)  
Still, you worked it out in the end.

He pulls the dagger out, FELIX groans and drops to his knees.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

ATHOS starts to regain consciousness and manages to get to his knees just as ARAMIS hobbles over to him.

PORTHOS starts to move and cough.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

BANDITS mutter between themselves in the tunnel. They turn and see PORTHOS, ARAMIS and ATHOS step towards them through the billowing smoke.

(CONTINUED)

**CONTINUED:**

PORTHOS  
Hold it right there.

BANDITS  
Musketeers! Kill them!

One of them fires a shot and misses, PORTHOS fires a shot back and hits one of the BANDITS between the eyes.

A sword fight ensues.

**INT. TUNNELS, DAY**

VADIM picks up another torch and stops to listen to the sound of the sword fighting beyond.

Not bothered he turns and starts to move off in the other direction.

D'ARTAGNAN (O.S.)  
Vadim!

VADIM stops and swings around but sees no one.

D'ARTAGNAN (O.S.) (cont'd)  
Behind you.

VADIM turns frantically, holding the lamp up, but still sees no one.

VADIM  
You are full of surprises.

D'ARTAGNAN (O.S.)  
I had a good teacher.

VADIM turns and sees D'ARTAGNAN's face in a flash of light and goes to stab him but D'ARTAGNAN vanishes again in the darkness.

A flash of D'ARTAGNAN's blade in the lantern light and VADIM fends off the blow at the last second. He retaliates but D'ARTAGNAN has already gone.

D'ARTAGNAN  
This way.

VADIM swings his torch and gets a glimpse of D'ARTAGNAN looking at him.

D'ARTAGNAN (O.S.)  
Vadim, this way.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

VADIM can't see anything.

D'ARTAGNAN (O.S.)

Over here.

VADIM turns and sees D'ARTAGNAN waiting in the dark for the next attack. A sword fight begins in flashes of light and darkness.

Finally, D'ARTAGNAN reaches out with his sword and thrusts it straight through VADIM's stomach.

VADIM stops and falls back into the darkness.

D'ARTAGNAN shines the torch, but sees no body.

PORTHOS, ATHOS and ARAMIS run over to him.

ATHOS

So you are alive?

D'ARTAGNAN

I think so.

ARAMIS

Vadim?

D'ARTAGNAN

Wounded, badly. He can't have got far.

They all run off together along the tunnel.

**INT. TUNNELS. DAY**

VADIM walks steadily towards a light at the end of the tunnel, clutching his stomach. There is blood on his hands. He forces himself forward, the light drawing him on.

**EXT. CITY WALLS/STREET. DAY**

VADIM staggers out of the mouth of the tunnel into the blinding light of the day. He is by the city walls, only yards from freedom. He is half-dead but still on his feet.

ARTHOS, D'ARTAGAN, PORTHOS and ARAMIS come out behind him, their swords levelled.

PORTHOS

Stop there, Vadim!

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

VADIM doesn't stop.

PORTHOS (cont'd)

Stop!

The MUSKETEERS surround him and he collapses to his knees.

VADIM looks up at D'ARTAGNAN.

VADIM

I should have strangled you in the Chatelet and saved myself a lot of trouble.

He lurches sideways, collapsing in the dust.

D'ARTAGNAN

Why didn't you?

D'ARTAGNAN leans over him.

VADIM

For the fun of it. It was a good trick. It should have worked.

D'ARTAGNAN

It nearly did.

VADIM falls back and dies.

His clutched hand opens to reveal the coin lying in his palm.

D'ARTAGNAN stares at it, then stands.

**INT. BONACIEUX HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY**

D'ARTAGNAN stands with ATHOS, PORTHOS and ARAMIS in front of BONACIEUX and CONSTANCE.

D'ARTAGNAN

My apologies for the deception, Monsieur, I had no choice.

ATHOS

D'Artagnan was doing his duty at great personal risk. He deserves praise, not blame.

BONACIEUX offers him a tight smile in response.

**(CONTINUED)**

**CONTINUED:**

BONACIEUX

Oh, he is very brave, I'm sure.

ARAMIS

Please accept our profound apologies for any misunderstanding.

PORTHOS

No hard feelings?

BONACIEUX

Of course not. I always knew there'd be a good explanation.

D'ARTAGNAN smiles.

D'ARTAGNAN

I beg Madame BONACIEUX's forgiveness.

CONSTANCE

I trust nothing of the kind will ever happen again.

They don't quite meet each other's look.

BONACIEUX's eyes are full of mistrust as they settle on D'ARTAGNAN and CONSTANCE together.

BONACIEUX

I'll see you to the door.

He leads the men out, D'ARTAGNAN lingers behind with CONSTANCE. There is an awkward silence, then she looks up at him.

CONSTANCE

Things were very quiet before you came here, Monsieur.

D'ARTAGNAN

I'm sorry. You must miss that.

She gazes at him.

CONSTANCE

Not for a single second.

She hurries for the door and exits.



INT. BONACIEUX HOUSE. D'ARTAGNAN'S ROOM. DAY

D'ARTAGNAN enters.

He takes his gloves off and throws them on the bed then stops as he notices a posy of freshly cut forget-me-nots lying on his pillow.

He smiles.

CARDINAL (V.O.)  
You were right about d'Artagnan ...

INT. CHURCH CLOISTERS. NIGHT

The CARDINAL walks with MILADY.

CARDINAL  
... he has the devil's luck. But all the good fortune in the world won't save him if he chooses to be my enemy.

MILADY  
Then I must help him make the right choice.

CARDINAL  
Oh, I don't suppose that there was any sign of the Queen's diamond pendant?

MILADY  
None at all.

CARDINAL  
Pity.

He walks on, slowly disappearing into the darkness at the end of the cloisters.

MILADY turns and smiles as she pulls a delicate chain around her neck from inside her bodice. The diamond pendant glitters magnificently in the candle-light.

TO BLACK