

ACT ONE

Scene Seven

(The alleluia continues as UNDERSCORE. A simple indication of a church. ANDRE stands off to the side with A NUN who holds a collection basket. A statue and a group of tourists are moving into place. They are listening to a DOCENT, who has her back to us. All as the scene is arriving:)

ANDRE	NUNS
With the compliments	ALLELUIA ALLELUIA
of Monsieur Jameson	ALLELUIA ALLELUIA
NUN	ALLELUIA ALLELUIA
Ah, merci.	ALLELUIA

(As the NUN exits with ANDRE'S donation, we are hearing:)

DOCENT

The Abbey of Beaumont sur Mer was founded in the year 1403 with a grant from Charlemagne in commemoration of a miracle that is yet to occur. Thank you for your attention, and Ave Maria.

(The Group exits, the DOCENT turns around and ANDRE sees it is MURIEL.)

	ANDRE
Madame...	
	MURIEL
Hello.	
	ANDRE
What are you doing here?	
	MURIEL
I have spent the last five days trying to find the Prince's country on the map. Is it to the right or the left of the Alps?	
	ANDRE
Yes.	
	MURIEL
Oh. Anyway, I thought as long as I'm here I should pitch in. I'm a docent at our museum back home and minored in Art History, so I know a lot about these places. Or I just make it up.	
<i>(as three more tourists enter:)</i>	
May I call your attention to the Rapture of Louise LeBoeuf. Following a brief career	

(MURIEL)

as a Gregorian Chanteuse, this poor peasant girl married the CEO of a major pharmaceutical company, and after eighteen years of devotion caught him with a dental hygienist half his age. Praying for guidance, she took him to the cleaners, had some work done, and voila!

(The tourists move off.)

ANDRE

That's not her story.

MURIEL

No, it's mine, but that story works in every century... Did His Highness receive my scarf?

ANDRE

Ah, yes, it was the hit of the battlefield.

MURIEL

You know, I've been searching the papers, but there's not so much as a mention...

ANDRE

Well, it's just a little revolution, we don't like to make a fuss.

MURIEL

Oh, but you must. If you'd like I can talk to some of the other women around town, rally the troops. You know I'm in charge of snacks for our neighborhood watch and telemarketing coach for our local PBS fund drive.

ANDRE

You have a lot of energy, don't you?

MURIEL

Well, I have a lot of time.

ANDRE

Yes, well, let me talk it over with the other rebels and we'll get back to you. In the meantime, it was lovely running into you, have a safe journey home, and goodbye.

MURIEL

Goodbye.

(She exits. She immediately returns.)

Maybe I should stay. Should I stay? I should stay.

ANDRE

Why?

MURIEL

Should he need me, if there's something more I can do.

ANDRE

Madame, please. Your generosity is already legend.

MURIEL

Oh?

ANDRE

(confidentially)

Between us, there is talk of a statue.

MURIEL

Of me?

ANDRE

Try to act surprised.

MURIEL

Oh, I am. I only got a tote bag from PBS.

ANDRE

(beat, then pointing off)

Well, there goes your group. Don't lose them. Goodbye.

MURIEL

Goodbye.

(She exits. She immediately returns.)

Could I be a stamp instead?

ANDRE

A stamp?

MURIEL

(indicating head and shoulders)

I think I'd rather be a stamp.

ANDRE

Then a stamp you will be.

MURIEL

Really?

ANDRE

An entire nation will lick your head.

(points off)

Look, they're getting so small in the distance, like tiny little people going away. Go, be one of them.