

*Sample dialogue*  
**NO TRIFLING WITH LOVE**

[song: Guardians]

**Master Blazius**

LET THOSE WHO WISH TO LEARN SOME NEWS  
FIRST BRING ME A GLASS OF WINE  
ANTOINE TURNED TWENTY-ONE TODAY  
A BETTER MAN YOU'LL NEVER FIND!

MY STUDENT'S FULL OF FLOWERY PHRASES  
TRAVELED TO SO MANY PLACES  
HALF THE TIME YOU DON'T KNOW  
HOW TO ANSWER HIM!

**Dame Pluche**

BRING ME A GLASS OF WATER, RABBLE...  
WHY ARE YOU SO SLOW?  
KNOW TODAY YOUR MASTER'S NIECE  
ARRIVES AT THE CHATEAU

SHE'S FINISHED WITH HER EDUCATION  
IT'S A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION  
NEVER HAVE YOU SEEN SUCH PURITY

**Master Blazius & Dame Pluche**

HE'S / SHE'S A DIAMOND  
FROM TOP TO TOE  
THAT IS WHAT I LONG TO SHOW  
IT'S TO MY CREDIT  
I'M HIS / HER GUARDIAN

**Dame Pluche**

HER PURITY AND GOODNESS  
WOULD PUT A MONK TO SHAME

**Master Blazius**

HE CAN'T SEE A BLADE OF GRASS  
WITHOUT GIVING YOU THE LATIN NAME!

**Dame Pluche**

HER BEAUTY MAKES THE ANGELS SIGH

**Master Blazius**

WHEN IT RAINS, HE'LL TELL YOU WHY

*(Lights up on Antoine and Camille)*

**Antoine and Camille**

IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHO HAS IT BETTER  
YOU....OR I!

WE ARE DIAMONDS  
FROM TOP TO TOE  
THEY WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW  
THAT THEY DESERVE OUR PRAISE  
WE'RE THEIR PROTEGES!

**All**

THEY (WE) ARE DIAMONDS  
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE  
IT'S DUE TO THE GUARDIANS' PROFICIENCY  
IT'S TO THEIR CREDIT  
THEY (WE) ARE GUARDIANS!

**The Baron**

Father Bridaine, let me introduce Master Blazius, my son's tutor. My son yesterday, at eight minutes past twelve noon, turned twenty-one years old. He has earned his degree, and passed in three subjects. Master Blazius, I introduce to you Father Bridaine, parish priest, and my dearest friend.

**Blazius**

Passed in *four* subjects, your lordship: literature, philosophy, law *and* physiognomy.

**Baron**

Yes, all right, all right.....go to your room, my dear Blazius; my son will be here soon. Freshen up a bit, and return when the bell rings.

*(Blazius exits)*

**Bridaine**

Shall I tell you what I am thinking, my lord? Your son's tutor smells strongly of wine.

**Baron**

What? Impossible !

**Bridaine**

I am as sure as I breathe. He spoke to me very closely just now. He smells dreadfully of wine.

**Baron**

No more of this. I tell you, it is impossible.

*(Dame Pluche enters)*

There you are, good Dame Pluche! My niece is with you, no doubt ?

**Dame Pluche**

She is following me, my lord. I preceded her by a few steps.

**Baron**

Father Bridaine, my friend. I present to you Dame Pluche, my niece's governess. My niece, yesterday at seven o'clock p.m., turned eighteen years of age. She is leaving the best convent in France. Dame Pluche, I present to you Father Bridaine, priest of the parish, and my friend.

**Dame Pluche**

The best convent in France, my lord and, I may add, the most sanctimonious girl in the convent.

**Baron**

Yes, yes, very good. Run along, Dame Pluche, and get yourself together. My niece will be here shortly, I do hope. Be ready when the dinner bell rings.

*(Exit Dame Pluche)*

**Bridaine**

That old lady seems rather.....pompous, doesn't she?

**Baron**

Pompous, perhaps, but...her virtue is beyond reproach.

**Bridaine**

But the tutor smells of wine. I am absolutely certain of it.

**Baron**

Father Bridaine, there are moments when I doubt your friendship. Are you trying to contradict me? Do not speak of that matter. Now then, I have been considering the idea of marrying my son to my niece. They are a match made in heaven. Their education has cost me six thousand crowns.

**Bridaine**

Will the wedding ceremony take place here or in Paris?

**Baron**

That is just what I expected, Bridaine! I was absolutely certain you would ask that question! Well, then, my friend — what would you say if those very hands — yes, Bridaine, your own hands — don't look at them so disparagingly — were destined to bless the happy realization of my dearest dreams? Eh?

**Bridaine**

I am silent; gratitude seals my lips!

**Baron**

Look out of this window. Do you see my servants crowding to the gate? My two children are arriving at the same moment! It is the happiest combination! I have arranged things in such a way that all is foreseen; my niece will be introduced by this door on the left, my son by the door on the right. What do you say to that? It will be the greatest delight to me to see how they will address one another, and what they will say. The children loved each other since the day they were born.

*(beat)*

Say, I have an idea!

**Bridaine**

What is it, my Lord?

**Baron**

During dinner, without it seeming...planned — do you understand, my friend ? — while toasting a glass of wine — uh...do you know Latin, Bridaine ?

**Bridaine**

I should hope so!

*(Grandly)*

*In vino, veritas!*

**Baron**

*(Confused)*

No, no, no.....*Latin*, Bridaine!

*(Bridaine stares blankly)*

Oh, never mind, never mind. I would be very happy to see you test my son, discreetly of course — in front of his cousin—that cannot fail to make a favorable and lasting impression! Ask him to speak a little Latin; not precisely while we're eating...that would spoil our appetites, and as for me, I don't understand a word of it, but after dessert, don't you see?

**Bridaine**

If you don't understand a word of it, my lord, probably your niece suffers the same affliction!

**Baron**

All the more reason. Would you have a woman admire what she understands? Were you born in a barn, Bridaine? That is a pathetically impalpable piece of reasoning.

**Bridaine**

I don't know much about women; but it seems to me difficult to admire what one does not understand.

**Baron**

Ah, Bridaine, but *I* know them; I know the charming, indefinable creatures!

**[SONG: Indefinable Creatures]**

**Baron (Cont)**

WHEN SHE SAYS IT'S TIME TO TALK  
THAT'S WHEN YOU TAKE A WALK  
PACK YOUR BAGS AND LEAVE TOWN!  
IF YOU STAY  
YOU'RE GONNA PAY!  
YOUR HEAD'LL BE REELING  
SHE'LL ONLY WANT YOU BOTH TO GET  
IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FEELINGS

THE OLDEST TRICK THAT'S IN THE BOOK  
IS WHEN SHE ASKS YOU "HOW DO I LOOK?"  
SHE NEVER WANTS AN HONEST REPLY!

**Bridaine**

IT'S A STICKY SITUATION  
SHE JUST WANTS YOUR ADULATION

**Baron and Bridaine**

ALL YOU CAN EVER DO IS LIE  
THESE CHARMING INDEFINABLE CREATURES!  
WITH SUCH ENIGMATIC FEATURES  
TEND TO DRIVE THE AVERAGE MAN INSANE!

YET IT'S QUITE THE DILEMMA  
HOW SOME MEN MANAGE TO GET 'EM

*(instrumental as the two men try an awkward dance)*

**Baron**

Shall we dance?

**Bridaine**

All right, but I get to lead.

**Baron**

You led last time.

**Bridaine**

Yes, my Lord.

**Baron**

Don't step on my feet!

**Bridaine**

I haven't started yet.

**Baron**

Well, when you do....see that you don't.

**Baron**

WHEN SHE SAYS THERE'S NOTHING WRONG  
YOU KNOW NOTHIN'S RIGHT!  
TO FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE  
YOU'D BE UP ALL NIGHT!  
INSTEAD OF TELLIN' YOU  
SHE'LL YELL AT YOU  
FOR NOT BEING SMARTER

**Father Bridaine**

SHE WON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM,  
SHE'D PREFER TO BE A MARTYR

**Baron and Bridaine**

THESE CHARMING INDEFINABLE CREATURES!  
WITH SUCH DELECTABLE FEATURES  
TEND TO DRIVE THE AVERAGE MAN INSANE!

AND YET WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE  
WHAT AM I....WITHOUT ONE!?

*(Enter on one side Antoine, Camille on the other)*

Ah! Good day, children! Good day, my dear Camille, and you, my dear Antoine! Kiss me and kiss each other.

**Antoine**

Good day, father, and you, my darling sister. How delightful; how happy I am !

**Camille**

How do you do, father...and you, cousin?

**Antoine**

How tall you are, Camille, and as beautiful as the day!

**Baron**

When did you leave Paris, Antoine ?

**Antoine**

Wednesday, I think — or Tuesday. Why, you are transformed into a woman! So I am a man, am I? It seems only yesterday I saw you only so high

**Baron**

You must both be tired. It has been a long journey, and the day is hot.

**Antoine**

Oh, no, not at all! Look how pretty Camille is, father.

**Baron**

Come, Camille, give your cousin a kiss.

**Camille**

I beg your pardon?

**Baron**

A compliment deserves a kiss. Give her a kiss, my boy!

**Antoine**

Lovers may kiss one another...friends rarely do so.

**Camille**

Neither friends nor lovers should accept anything they cannot repay.

**Baron**

*(To Father Bridaine)*

This doesn't seem to be a good omen, does it?

**Father Bridaine**

*(To the Baron)*

Too much modesty is a defect, no doubt ; but marriage has a way of bringing couples out of their shells.

**Baron**

*(To Master Bridaine)*

I am shocked — I am hurt! That answer displeased me. Pardon me ! Did you see that she made a show of crossing herself ? Come here, and let me speak to you. It pains me to no end. This moment, that was to be so sweet, is completely spoiled for me. I am annoyed... distraught. Everything is going to Hell!

**Father Bridaine**

Talk to them; look at them turning their backs on each other.

**Baron**

Well, children, what in the world are you thinking of? What are you doing there, Camille, in front of that tapestry?

**Camille**

*(Looking at a picture)*

That is a fine portrait, uncle. Isn't she my great grandmother?

**Baron**

Yes, my child, or, at least, your great grandmother's sister; since the charming lady never contributed — except, I believe, in *prayers* — to the enhancement of the family. She was a devout woman, I declare.

**Camille**

Oh yes, a saint. She is my great aunt Isabel. How becoming she looks in that nun's dress!

**Baron**

And you, Antoine, what are you doing behind that flower pot?

**Antoine**

That's a charming flower, father. It is called a heliotrope.

**Baron**

Are you joking? What a fancy name for such an insignificant flower! It is no bigger than a fly.

**Antoine**

That little flower no bigger than a fly is worth having all the same.

**Father Bridaine**

No doubt our young scholar is right. Ask him what species it belongs to, or how it gets its color, he will entrance you with a description of said plant, from its roots to the tips of its leaves.

**Antoine**

I...don't know so much about it, Your Reverence. I just think it smells good, that's all.

**Baron**

Venerable Dame Pluche, I am pained.

**Dame Pluche**

Is it .....*possible*, my lord ?

**Baron**

Yes, Dame Pluche, possible. I had planned it for a long time now — I had even put everything down in my journal— that this day was to be the most enjoyable of my life. Yes, my good madam, the most enjoyable. You know how I planned to marry my son to my niece. It was



**Baron (Cont)**

decided, arranged — I had even asked Father Bridaine to perform the ceremony, here in this very room — and I see, that these children speak to each other coldly; they have not said a word.

**Dame Pluche**

There they come, my lord. Do they know of your scheme?

**Baron**

I dropped a few hints to each of them in private. I think it would be well, since they are thrown together now, that we should sit down under this welcome shade and leave them to themselves for a moment, while we listen in, of course.

*(He withdraws to one side with Dame Pluche. Enter Camille and Antoine)*

**[song: Games We Used to Play]**

**Antoine**

IT'S NOT NICE TO REFUSE A KISS

**Camille**

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS

**Antoine**

LET'S STROLL THROUGH THE WILDWOOD

**Camille**

I HAVE NO NEED TO RELIVE OUR CHILDHOOD

**Antoine**

Ah! I know!

LET'S FLOAT  
IN A BOAT  
DOWNSTREAM  
IT'LL SEEM JUST LIKE A DREAM

DON'T FEAR  
YOU CAN STEER  
AND I WILL BE THE NAVIGATOR

**Camille**

I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO LOVE THE PAST  
WITH GAMES WE USE TO PLAY

**Antoine**

THEN I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU

*(Exit in opposite directions)*

**Baron**

*(Entering with Dame Pluche)*

Do you hear, my excellent Dame Pluche? I expected the softest harmony; and I feel as if I were attending a concert where the violin is playing "My heart it sighs," while the flute plays "Long live King Henry." Think of the frightful discord such a combination would produce ! Yet that is what is going on in my hear

**[Song: Discombobulated]**

**Dame Pluche**

CAMILLE'S NOT TO BLAME

**Baron**

WHAT? ARE YOU INSANE?

**Dame Pluche**

NOTHING'S IN WORSE TASTE  
THAN TAKING BOAT TRIPS DOWN THE RIVER  
SHE HAS AN OBLIGATION  
TO PROTECT HER REPUTATION  
YOUR FUTURE DAUGHTER  
MUSTN'T RISK HERSELF ON OPEN WATER!

IT'S BEST TO STAY  
FAR AWAY  
FROM DANGEROUS PURSUITS

**Baron**

REALLY MADAM  
WHAT COULD HAPPEN?  
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A POOR, CONTEMPTIBLE MISGUIDED  
NINCOMPOOP!

*(Enter Blazius, who approaches the Baron)*

**Blazius**

MY LORD IT'S BEEN REPORTED  
THE PRIEST'S WORDS ARE DISTORTED  
HE DRANK WINE FOR HOURS  
THEN HE TRAMPLED ON THE FLOWERS!

**Baron**

THIS REPORT'S ABSURD

**Blazius**

I GIVE YOU MY WORD!  
HE DRANK A DOZEN BOTTLES  
AND WHAT'S MORE  
HIS SPEECH WAS SLURRED

**Baron**

MY BRAIN IS REELING  
LORD, HOW I'M FEELING  
MY IDEAS ARE ALL DISCOMBOBULATED  
THIS IMPORTANT DAY  
SOMEHOW GONE ASTRAY

**Dame Pluche and Master Blazius**

AND YET WE'RE HERE TO RECTIFY  
YOUR PROBLEMS, IF YOU'LL LET US TRY....

*(Enter Master Bridaine)*

**Father Bridaine**

MY LORD, A WORD WITH YOU

**Baron**

OH GOOD LORD, NOT YOU, TOO!

**Father Bridaine**

YOUR SON IS FLIRTING WITH THE PEASANTS

**Baron**

WHAT?! THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!

**Father Bridaine**

I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE

**Dame Pluche**

SEEMS HIGHLY IMMATURE!

**Father Bridaine**

HE PLAYED "DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE" WITH THEM

**Pluche**

A STRANGE WAY TO SEDUCE THEM

**All**

MY (HIS) BRAIN IS REELING

**All (Cont)**

SUCH ANGUISH I'M (HE'S) FEELING  
MY (HIS) IDEAS ARE DISCOMBOBULATED

**Baron**

IT'S ALL ABSURD!

**Father Bridaine**

YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD!

**Baron**

A LAWYER CANNOT FLIRT WITH PEASANTS

**Dame Pluche**

TAKE BACK ALL THE WEDDING PRESENTS!

**Bridaine, Blazius & Pluche**

HE ONCE WAS ELATED  
NOW HE'S AGITATED  
HE'S A DISCOMBOBULATED MAN!