

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

Written by
Moliere

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CAST OF CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

ARGAN: A Hypochondriac

TOINETTE: A Servant

GUY (pronounced the French way - GHEE) - A Musician

ANGELIQUE: A Daughter, Argan's youngest

LOUISON: A Daughter, Argan's eldest

BELINE: A Wife, Argan's second

CLEANTE: A Florist, and Suitor to Angelique

MONSIEUR De BONNEFOI: A Lawyer

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS: Father of Thomas Diafoirus

THOMAS DIAFOIRUS: Son of Monsieur Diafoirus, and Suitor to Angelique

BERALDE: Brother of Argan

FLEURANT: An Apothecary

DOCTOR PURGON: A Doctor

PRE SHOW

Each night, outside the theatre, a man is busking. His name is GUY. He doesn't speak. He is deeply involved in his accordion playing. A hat is on the ground next to him, with a sign that reads "Support The Arts - It May Change Your World View - Every Bit Helps - All Money Goes Towards Getting A Bigger Sign".

OPENING INTERLUDE

Inside Argan's sitting room, the tables and shelves are cluttered with many sympathy flower arrangements in various states of decay.

A group of PARISIAN TOWNSPEOPLE enter the room, bringing more floral arrangements, and address ARGAN who sits in his wheelchair.

PARISIAN TOWNSPEOPLE

(Singing)

Wishing you well
Thinking of you
Sending warm thoughts
Bonjour Monsieur, get well soon
Monsieur, Bonjour, get well soon
Monsieur, Monsieur
You were so happy not so long ago

Get well soon
Though you're immune
You sing the same sad tune
Grey and gloom
Inside your room
Outside it's bright and blue

Do do do get well soon
Do do do get well soon

Get well soon
And start anew

(MORE)

From all that you've been through
Take good care
And don't despair
While life just passes you

How to cure
How to be sure
And not obscure your true view

PARISIAN TOWNSPEOPLE

(Singing)

We have sympathy for you
What else more can we do
Pray and plead to restore you
Find a way

PARISIAN TOWNSPEOPLE (CONT'D)

(Singing)

(Get well soon)
(Let us play)
(Get well soon)
(Come what may)

PARISIAN TOWNSPEOPLE
(CONT'D)

(Singing)

Get well
Bonjour Monsieur
Bonjour
Monsieur, Monsieur
You were so happy not so long ago

Do do do get well soon
Do do do get well soon
Ooo get, yea get well soon.

The song ends. The Parisian Townspeople leave Argan alone on stage amidst a stack of papers. He has a coughing spasm, and deposits a wad of phlegm into a nearby spittoon.

ACT 1. SCENE 1.

ARGAN sits in his armchair reviewing the large stack of bills in his lap. Next to him is a table with an even larger medical text book laying on top of it.

ARGAN

I'm sick. Sick, I tell you. Sick of all these bills. Bills and bills for potions and pills... and a Magnus Anus Protainus? What the hell is that?

He checks his papers.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Ah yes, a large protein enema. That was a dark day indeed. And for what? I think Dr. Purgon is taking advantage, prescribing medication that's wholly unnecessary. For surely what would one need with a large protein enema?

He reads a large medical book.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Magnus Anus Protainus for the treatment of Stolidus Longaminus, a rare disease which is characterized by the following symptoms: dizziness, nausea, headaches, menstrual cramps and leprosy. Mon Dieu! I have all those things!

Back to his papers.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

And he's only prescribed one dose this month? Is he mad? I'll need at least two more. I'll send word to my apothecary, Monsieur Fleurant, to request the refill. He shouldn't complain, what with all the money I shovel at him. He's making a killing by keeping me alive. Though for sure these statements must be padded, I highly doubt I owe this much. Look here, three additional types of enemas, isn't anything ingested anymore? One to promote healthy movement of the bowels, one to aid in the release of flatulence and one is a lemon scented room deodorizer. That all sounds important.

(Then)

What's this item for thirty francs? An elixir to drive out bad humours. I do need that. I am ill-humored. 30 doses of purified whey to refresh the blood - 45 francs each, a small sum to pay for fresh blood. Mine was beginning to stale. An astringent to aid in good sleep. You can't put a price on good sleep. Oh wait, you can, 50 francs. And finally 107 francs for Fastidium Veneneum, a mixture to help expel my bile. An excess of bile was explained to me as the reason I'm so angry and depressed. I'd sooner be happy and content than angry and depressed. Of course, it's not a matter of choice, is it? I wish it were; I remember this concoction. It was a vile bile remover, made up of the larvae of giant ants mixed with fly infested cheese milk and blended together with duck eggs that have been incubated until the fetus is all feathery and beaky. Protein supplements go up the backside, this I had to eat. As hard to swallow as these invoices. Still...

He does some quick calculations on an abacus.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

...The good doctor's math seems accurate. And the medicine obviously necessary. One need only look at me to see what poor health I'm in. And as my dear old granny used to say, "If you don't have your health..."

(Woeful pause)

She died before she could finish that sentence. Alas, she didn't have the benefits of modern medical science and trustworthy practitioners such as Doctor Purgon and Monsieur Fleurant to aid her in her time of need. Heaven rest her soul. No doubt, I'll soon join her... and others who have left me...

SCENE 2.

As before.

ARGAN

Toinette! Let's have all this taken away. I needn't be reminded of the cost of poor health, it's its own keepsake. Though with any luck, I'll be paying discounted prices soon enough. Toinette? Where the devil is that useless servant wench? Anybody? It's no use. I am always left alone.

His coughing fit begins again.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Toinette!!!

TOINETTE enters.

TOINETTE

I'm coming, I'm coming! You needn't yell.

ARGAN

No? And yet it's the only way you'll hear me!

TOINETTE

Maybe I'm hard of hearing, have you ever thought of that?

ARGAN

Maybe you're hard of listening, I have thought of that. Maybe it's because of all the talking you do. Clearly you need to learn to speak less and use your ears more because I'm tired of repeating myself. I'm tired of repeating myself. If I had any sense, I'd-

She feigns hitting her head on the side of a table behind Argan.

TOINETTE

Ow!

What happened?
ARGAN

I hit my head.
TOINETTE

You hit your head?
ARGAN

I tripped on the back of your chair.
TOINETTE

And hit your head?
ARGAN

I did. I think I'm seeing double.
TOINETTE

Don't come here then. I don't want to see double.
ARGAN

I don't think it's catchy.
TOINETTE

Everything is catchy. Keep your distance. I can scold you well enough from here.
ARGAN

There is a knock on the door.
ARGAN (CONT'D)

Who's that?
TOINETTE

Probably the new valet.
ARGAN

What happened to the old valet?
TOINETTE

You fired him because you thought he had small pox.
ARGAN

(Remembering)
I remember now. He did have small pox.
TOINETTE

He had acne.

ARGAN

That's just as bad!

TOINETTE

I think you'll like the new one, his immune system is quite strong.

ARGAN

Where did you find him?

TOINETTE

He's my brother.

ARGAN

Has he ever been a servant before?

TOINETTE

No. But I will show him how it's done.

ARGAN

He's more likely to learn how it's not done. You have to train them when they're young. Babies! They're like sponges. That's why they clean so well.

TOINETTE

I'm sure he'll be able to soak it up.

Toinette opens the door. GUY enters with some bags including an accordion case. He looks as he did when he played music outside the theatre.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Master, this is Guy.

ARGAN

Bonjour Guy. I know Toinette told you the job is yours, but in fact I make the decisions around here. I have a few questions for you and your answers will determine whether or not you shall stay in my employment.

TOINETTE

I probably should tell you my brother is mute. He doesn't speak.

ARGAN

He doesn't speak?

(Then)

He sounds perfect. You're hired.

TOINETTE

I knew you'd fancy him. He's a likeable sort for whom it's impossible to say a bad word, much like myself.

ARGAN

Let's hope he's not an impudent clown ... much like yourself.

(To Guy)

You see Guy, the key is to respect your master. It sounds simple enough and yet most servants can't seem to get this right. They fail to realize that everything they do is a reflection of the household they serve. So the servant must do his or her best to present a professional demeanor. Beyond that, the job is not too hard. It requires good listening obviously, a trait your sister seems to struggle with. Hopefully for your sake, poor listening is an attribute unique to her and not something shared by her entire family.

TOINETTE

I suppose now would be a good time to tell you he's also deaf.

ARGAN

What?

TOINETTE

You needn't yell.

ARGAN

How can he possibly be a valet? He can't even hear the doorbell ring.

TOINETTE

Nobody ever rings the doorbell. They always knock.

ARGAN

...Fine.

(Then)

But how does one communicate with him?

TOINETTE

Sign language, of course.

ARGAN

You know sign language?

TOINETTE

I have a deaf brother how else am I supposed to communicate with him?

ARGAN

Very well. But he'd better not be a problem.

TOINETTE

I promise you master, he'll be no trouble at all. I'll teach him everything he needs to know. Beyond that, he is nothing if not respectful and diligent.

ARGAN

Then perhaps he should be teaching you.

TOINETTE

Of course.

ARGAN

I had to call you three times before you came here? A servant is never supposed to keep a master waiting and it's not the first time you've done that! Yet every time I wish to reprimand you, you seem to get yourself hurt.

She again feigns hitting her head on the side of a table behind Argan.

TOINETTE

Ow my head!

ARGAN

Again?

TOINETTE

(Feeling her head)

Is that blood? Can you tell me if I'm bleeding?

ARGAN

Don't come near me with your blood, woman, are you insane?

TOINETTE

You make me so nervous when you yell at me I can hardly stay on my feet. And look, I may have brain damage.

ARGAN

You had brain damage well before today!

TOINETTE

Your yelling hurts my brain.

ARGAN

If you're hurt see a doctor.

TOINETTE

Right now?

ARGAN

No not now, obviously. You have to help me now! On your own time.

TOINETTE

And on my own dime.

ARGAN

You don't expect me to pay for your foolishness?

TOINETTE

I certainly can't afford it.

ARGAN

That's not my problem.

TOINETTE

There ought to be a public option for health care, don't you think?

ARGAN

No.

TOINETTE

A government option that competes with the big shots-

ARGAN

Absolutely not!

TOINETTE

-So poor servants like myself can see a doctor if we have brain damage.

ARGAN

If it's a pre-existing condition, they won't help you.

TOINETTE

I think it's a good idea.

ARGAN

No one cares what you think. But for the record, you're wrong. If your little socialist fantasy were to actually come true, it would raise the national debt to trillions of dollars and if you think I'm paying for that with my hard earned money, you really are brain damaged. Next thing you know there will be immigrants in the waiting room, death panels, gay marriage and Nazis. We're far better off keeping things status quo. I promise you that! Change... is highly over-rated.

TOINETTE

I just thought I'd act in my own best interest for once.

ARGAN

If you ever want to join the middle class, you'll stop doing that.

TOINETTE

Very good.

Argan lets loose a huge gurgling burp.

ARGAN

Now look what you've done. You've got me all excited. I've got to take a pill.

TOINETTE

I thought you take the pill first, then get excited.

He grabs his walking stick and gets to his feet.

ARGAN

Ask my daughter Angelique to come here. I need to speak with her at once. And clean up this mess! I'll be back in a moment.

Argan exits leaving Guy and Toinette alone.

Beat.

GUY

That man is a blustery malcontent windbag.

TOINETTE

I know.

GUY

Why did you tell him I was mute?

TOINETTE

So you wouldn't call him a blustery malcontent windbag to his face.

GUY

It's the truth, isn't it?

TOINETTE

You have a tendency to speak the truth without any regard of the consequences. I am merely protecting you from yourself.

GUY

And why did you tell him I was deaf?

TOINETTE

Because I'm also protecting you from him. He won't yell at you as much if he thinks you can't hear him.

GUY

And now we have to speak sign language every time we're in public?

TOINETTE

Yes.

GUY

Good thing our parents were deaf. I just hope your sign language skills are up to par.

TOINETTE

Are you kidding me?

(Signing and speaking)

My sign language skills are top notch.

Any time sign language is used a voice over is heard translating what the characters are saying. Currently the voice over says: "My potatoes taste great with children."

GUY

Clearly.

TOINETTE

You can put your stuff in my room. I'll straighten up here.

GUY

How lucky for you.

TOINETTE

It's not glamorous what I do and I'm not even sure it's important. But that's my lot in life. And now it's yours, too. Not everyone gets to experience something important or meaningful. Some people have to clean.

GUY

I write music, Toinette. That is important and meaningful. You know, one song can change the way people view the world.

TOINETTE

Yes, but you haven't written that one song yet, have you? So until you do, grab a mop. If you're going to be here, you need to have a purpose. People will take note if you don't.

Guy exits. Toinette straightens Argan's papers.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

I have a purpose. The important people make the mess, I tidy up. And thankfully no matter how many times I straighten things they always make it dirty again. Their disarray is my job security and this family is pretty good at creating chaos. I wonder what else I'll get to clean today?

Scene 3.

ANGELIQUE enters.

ANGELIQUE

Toinette! Have you seen my dear, sweet father?

TOINETTE

No. I've seen the other one. Irritable and cranky.

ANGELIQUE

I know at times he can be a bear. But underneath he has a good heart.

TOINETTE

He would argue against that and I might be inclined to agree.

ANGELIQUE

In spite of his gruff demeanor, I encourage you to treat him with love.

TOINETTE

Love between the classes? I'm just a servant, dear girl. That would be highly inappropriate.

ANGELIQUE

I don't think so. Love is never inappropriate. Love is the answer. Love is always the answer. What makes the world go round?

TOINETTE

Love.

ANGELIQUE

What is Aphrodite the Greek Goddess of?

TOINETTE

Love.

ANGELIQUE

What do they call bread baked en masse?

TOINETTE

(Confused)

Loaf.

ANGELIQUE

Yes, but what do you bake it with?

TOINETTE

Love.

ANGELIQUE

Precisely. There's nothing else but love.

TOINETTE

Sadly, that's not true. There's also pain.

ANGELIQUE

Pain? What is this pain you speak of?

ARGAN (O.S.)

Toinette!

TOINETTE

He's calling now.

ARGAN (O.S.)

Did you find Angelique?

ANGELIQUE

(Excited)

He wants to speak with me?

TOINETTE

He does.

ARGAN (O.S.)

Toinette!

TOINETTE

Mind my brain, Master! I've found her.

(Then, to Angelique)

He says it's urgent.

ANGELIQUE

(Excited)

It is indeed. Did he tell you what it's about?

TOINETTE

No, but I have a feeling you know.

ANGELIQUE

I do.

TOINETTE

Does it have to do with love?

ANGELIQUE

It does! It has to do with my love, Cleante. Did I tell you about Cleante?

TOINETTE

No. I don't believe you have.

ANGELIQUE

Oh Cleante. What a dream.

She looks to the heavens and begins the following speech.
It's one Toinette has clearly heard before as she mimics it exactly, every word, every sigh, every dramatic pause.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

I met him at the theatre. He went with his aunt, I went with Uncle Beralde. His aunt and Beralde knew each other and introduced us. He... was... so... polite. He shared his program with me, but I couldn't take my eyes off him because he's absolutely adorable. I love him. I know some might think me foolish to feel the way I do, but I don't think I am and I don't think it's a coincidence that we sat together. It's fate, kismet, karma, call it what you will. But it's real.

TOINETTE

I met him at the theatre. He went with his aunt, I went with Uncle Beralde. His aunt and Beralde knew each other and introduced us. He... was... so... polite. He shared his program with me, but I couldn't take my eyes off him because he's absolutely adorable. I love him. I know some might think me foolish to feel the way I do, but I don't think I am and I don't think it's a coincidence that we sat together. It's fate, kismet, karma, call it what you will. But it's real.

Beat. Angélique returns to Toinette.

TOINETTE

Oh Cleante, yes you have mentioned him.

ANGELIQUE

I knew from the moment I saw him, he was the one.

TOINETTE

(skeptically)

Oh please dear girl, not love at first sight?

ANGELIQUE

No. It's love in hind sight. Because in the moment that we met I traveled through time and saw a future where my maid servant convinced me there is no such thing as love at first sight. So I turned my back on Cleante only to realize later I did indeed love him but it was too late. I had grown up alone with no one to talk to but the very maid servant who poisoned my ideas of love in the first place.

TOINETTE

So you're saying I still work here in the future.

ANGELIQUE

I'm saying he is my destiny. And I'm pretty sure he feels the same.

She shows Toinette a ring on her finger.

TOINETTE

(Taken aback)

Is that an engagement ring?

ANGELIQUE

No. But it's the ring you get right before an engagement ring.

TOINETTE

A promise ring?

ANGELIQUE

The one right before that.

TOINETTE

Friendship ring?

ANGELIQUE

Just before that.

TOINETTE

...Onion?

ANGELIQUE

It's an acquaintance ring. It signifies that we've met and the meeting was positive. Don't you see. It's love!

TOINETTE

But is it ever-lasting love? What if it's just a moment?

ANGELIQUE

Uncle Beralde says love is important even if it only lasts a moment.

TOINETTE

Your uncle Beralde and I disagree on this matter. And no doubt, your father, should he hear of it, would disagree as well. So I suggest you put that token away before he sees it.

ANGELIQUE

Don't be silly, Toinette. I needn't hide this from him. The reason papa wishes to see me is to tell me Cleante has asked for my hand in marriage.

TOINETTE

Your hand in marriage? He barely knows you.

ANGELIQUE

He gave me an acquaintance ring! You think he gives that to someone he barely knows?

TOINETTE

It is apparent to me you are the mess I must clean up today.

ANGELIQUE

Excusez moi?

TOINETTE

You have set yourself up for heartache. You've met him only a week ago, you think he'll ask for your hand in marriage so quickly?

ANGELIQUE

I do think that.

TOINETTE

Just because you think it doesn't make it true.

ANGELIQUE

Doesn't it?

SCENE 4.

ARGAN enters.

ARGAN

Angelique. You have been asked for in marriage.

ANGELIQUE

Oh daddy! How exciting!

ARGAN

Don't yell, it disrupts the removal of my bile!

ANGELIQUE

I'm sorry father I can't control myself.

ARGAN

I take it by your reaction this pleases you.

ANGELIQUE

It pleases me to have an opportunity to show my obedience to you.

ARGAN

Such a treasure. It amazes me that from my disease-ridden loins there should spring forth two daughters of such perfection. The youngest, Angelique, a vision of grace and beauty. And her older sister, Louison. A bright girl and of course, equally lovely...

LOUISON enters. She is strange looking with a large hump on her back.

LOUISON

Hello father.

ARGAN

...On the inside.

LOUISON

I heard you speaking of grace and beauty. I assumed you were speaking of me.

ARGAN

I was speaking of your sister, actually.

LOUISON

Pretty runs in our family.

ARGAN

It does.

LOUISON

Did I hear correctly? Is Angelique to be married?

ARGAN

She is.

LOUISON

But I am the eldest daughter. Isn't it tradition that I should marry first?

ARGAN

Louison, am I such an ogre as to stand in the way of true love merely because it upsets some antiquated tradition?

LOUISON

No, father, of course not.

ARGAN

Now, congratulations are in order. Angelique landed herself a bright young man with a promising future. And not too bad looking, I might add.

ANGELIQUE

You're right about that, daddy.

ARGAN

You've seen him then?

ANGELIQUE

I must admit, we were introduced at the theatre just last week.

ARGAN

I am glad to hear he's to your liking. I know a father's taste is not always the same as his daughter's.

ANGELIQUE

What's not to like? He's tall.

ARGAN

Tall enough, I suppose.

ANGELIQUE

Muscular.

ARGAN

Underneath all the fat, sure.

ANGELIQUE

Chiseled features.

ARGAN

With rounded edges.

ANGELIQUE

Strong chin.

ARGAN

There's a chin?

ANGELIQUE

He's gorgeous!

ARGAN

I didn't take that close a look at him. I am just happy there's going to be a doctor in the family.

ANGELIQUE

He's a doctor? I thought he said he was a florist.

TOINETTE

(Aside)

I think I know what's going on here.

ARGAN

No, he's a doctor. Or will be tomorrow just like his uncle.

ANGELIQUE

My uncle said his uncle was dead.

TOINETTE

(Aside)

Something tells me they're talking about two different people.

ARGAN

Your uncle knows very well his uncle is not dead and the boy is to be a doctor.

ANGELIQUE

That's odd. I wonder why he would say that?

TOINETTE

(Aside)

It's only a matter of time before they realize their folly.

ANGELIQUE

Daddy, I am confused at the discrepancies occurring within our conversation but I don't really care because I'm happy and I needn't question such details.

ARGAN

Excellent. Then that concludes our little talk. Adieu.

ANGELIQUE

Adieu.

TOINETTE

Adieu? Wait! Why aren't you realizing your folly? Do I have to spell it out for you?

ARGAN

What are you babbling on about?

TOINETTE

(To Argan)

Master. What are the initials of Angelique's new fiance?

ARGAN

T.D.

TOINETTE

(To Angelique)

Angelique. What are the initials of the man you met at the theatre?

ANGELIQUE

C.S.

TOINETTE

T. D. C. S. Do you know what that means?

ARGAN

It's a type of enema.

ANGELIQUE

It spells love.

LOUISON

It's Latin for I'm pretty.

TOINETTE

(Frustrated)

What we've got here is failure to communicate.

ARGAN

What is she talking about?

ANGELIQUE

I don't know father. And I don't care. All I know is I'm getting married to Cleante.

ARGAN

Cleante? Who is Cleante?

ANGELIQUE

The man who asked for my hand.

ARGAN

No. The man who asked for your hand is young Thomas, nephew to Doctor Purgon and the son of his brother-in-law Monsieur Diafoirus.

ANGELIQUE

You mean Cleante didn't ask for me in marriage?

ARGAN

(To Angelique)

I don't even know who Cleante is.

ANGELIQUE

He's the man I met at the theatre last week.

ARGAN

You think I'd let you marry a man you just met?

ANGELIQUE

You are letting me marry young Thomas. I haven't met him at all.

ARGAN

I've met him and he's good enough for me. That's why I arranged this union.

ANGELIQUE

Arranged the union?

LOUISON

You said it was true love.

ARGAN

I'm sure once young Thomas sees how lovely Angelique is it will be true love.

LOUISON

You could have arranged it with me. I'm lovely, too.

ARGAN

(Gently)

You are lovely, but... you do have a hump.

LOUISON

I know! I'm perfect!

ANGELIQUE

I thought he asked for my hand, now I find out he was prodded.

ARGAN

Hardly prodded. I merely asked his uncle to ask his father to ask him to ask me for your hand and so he has.

ANGELIQUE

But does he love me?

ARGAN

He doesn't know you. How can he love you?

ANGELIQUE

How can he marry me if he doesn't love me?

ARGAN

He will grow to love you.

ANGELIQUE

But Cleante loves me now!

ARGAN

If this Cleante loved you now then he would have asked to marry you. But he didn't. Thomas did. And I accepted on your behalf.

ANGELIQUE

You already accepted?

ARGAN

I have. Because I knew it would please you to have an opportunity to show your obedience to me.

ANGELIQUE

That was back when I thought I was getting what I wanted!

ARGAN

Well now you're getting what I want. I should think that would make you just as happy.

ANGELIQUE

Merde Balls!

Angelique exits in tears.

TOINETTE

I don't think she's just as happy.

ARGAN

Nevertheless, a daughter must be obedient to her father in matters of love.

LOUISON

It seems you pick and choose the antiquated traditions you ignore to satisfy your own agenda.

ARGAN

Whose agenda should I satisfy? I'm a sick man, you know.

LOUISON

(Crying)

Yes. And I'm pretty!

Louison exits after her sister.

TOINETTE

I don't think she's just as happy either.

ARGAN

It amazes me that from my disease-ridden loins there should spring forth two daughters of such defection.

TOINETTE

Why don't we leave your disease-ridden loins out of this.

ARGAN

Be gone, you jade.

TOINETTE

Jade? That's Shakespeare for whore, you know.

ARGAN

Out, baggage!

TOINETTE

That means whore, too!

ARGAN

Farewell, my concubine!

TOINETTE

First tell me why you have arranged this match between Angelique and the young Thomas.

ARGAN

She should count herself lucky. If it were up to their stepmother, Angelique and Louison would be put in a convent to become nuns.

TOINETTE

And I am sure your wife has her reasons for that. Thankfully, it's not up to her, it's up to them.

ARGAN

It's up to me. And as I am sick and infirm I wish to have in-laws who are doctors to see to my weakening condition.

TOINETTE

You already have doctors waiting on you hand and foot.

ARGAN

And they charge me an arm and a leg to do so! I wish to have them for free!

TOINETTE

It won't be for free. It will be at the price of your daughters' happiness.

ARGAN

If I am dead will they not be unhappy anyway?

TOINETTE

You're not dying! You are the picture of health!

ARGAN

Picture of bad health!

TOINETTE

Please. If a picture says a thousand words then the picture of you would say "not sick" 1000 times.

ARGAN

That's 2000 words you incompetent hussy!

TOINETTE

I am not a hussy! I'd never sell my body for a buck. And I'd certainly never sell my children's bodies to save a buck.

ARGAN

They are not your children.

TOINETTE

I've helped raise them since they were children. They'll listen to me as much as you, if not more.

ARGAN

They won't listen to you. I don't care what you think. I know what I know.

TOINETTE

Just because you "know" it doesn't make it true.

ARGAN

Yes, it does. Mark my words, my daughter will marry this man or I will force her into a convent.

TOINETTE

Where she'll live happily ever after.

ARGAN

This is not a fairy tale or a massage parlor. Not everyone gets a happy ending.

TOINETTE

So you'll steal one from your children.

ARGAN

If I have to. And you won't stop me.

TOINETTE

I won't have to. You will stop you. Fatherly love will stop you. Whether you like to admit it or not, I believe you are naturally kind-hearted.

ARGAN

Dim-witted drudge!

TOINETTE

To them, obviously. Not to me.

ARGAN

You're wrong.

TOINETTE

If I am, then gird your disease-ridden loins because I will fight you on this every step of the way.

ARGAN

You scrub of a servant! What kind of way is this to talk to your master? Come here! I will teach you some manners!

TOINETTE

I see the thought of beating me has added some color to your face. You look downright virile.

ARGAN

I'm weak and you know it.

TOINETTE

So I needn't worry about getting a beating.

ARGAN

Oh you need to worry about getting a beating, all right.

TOINETTE

Only a healthy man can give a good beating.

ARGAN

If I had any strength, I'd give you a good beating.

TOINETTE

What a bind you're in.

ARGAN

I'll put you in a bind!

TOINETTE

If you weren't sick.

ARGAN

I'm sick as a dog!

TOINETTE

Then you can beat me when you're well. Until then, bonne chance!

Toinette exits.

ARGAN

Come back here!

SCENE 5.

BELINE enters.

BELINE

Poopums? Is everything all right?

ARGAN

My dear wife. Thank heaven for you.

BELINE

What could possibly make you so upset?

ARGAN

That impertinent servant, Toinette. We must get rid of her at once.

BELINE

If you like, we can fire her immediately.

ARGAN

Good. Because otherwise I fear she will be the death of me.

BELINE

On the other hand she is very skillful.

ARGAN

Surely you don't mean that.

BELINE

I do. Perhaps your standards are just too high.

ARGAN

I don't think I have high standards. I just want someone who is not insolent.

BELINE

We can get someone like that, but the non-insolent servants are far more expensive.

ARGAN

Maybe it's worth it. Because it can't be good for my heart the way she makes my blood boil and the veins pop out of my head.

BELINE

Are you kidding? That's supposed to be very good for your heart! It strengthens it. Just like bacon.

ARGAN

The bacon has been making me sick.

BELINE

The bacon's been keeping you alive! Don't you dare stop eating it!

(Then, near tears)

I would perish if something happened to you.

ARGAN

Oh my dear Bon Bon. No one loves me the way you do.

BELINE

I'm certain that's true.

ARGAN

You fill me with such calm... which is quite remarkable considering how turbulent that insipid, disrespectful know-nothing makes me feel! She thwarts me in everything with her sassy back talk and constant contradicting of every word I say!

BELINE

If she puts you in such a passion, I will have a word with her.

ARGAN

You'll need more than one word to get through to that nincompoop. It will take you at least five just to get her to come when called.

BELINE

(Calling)

Toinette!

TOINETTE enters immediately, followed by GUY.

TOINETTE

Here I am.

ARGAN

See how she contradicts me!

BELINE

Toinette, I'd like to have a word with you.

(Re: Guy)

Who's this?

TOINETTE

This is my brother, Guy. He's the new valet.

BELINE

Do we need a new valet?

(To Guy)

What's your purpose?

ARGAN

He can't hear you. He's deaf and mute.

BELINE

Very well. He can stay so long as he doesn't interrupt.

(Then, to Toinette)

As for you, why have you put my husband in such a rage?

TOINETTE

I, madame? I don't know what you mean. My only aim is to please master in everything.

ARGAN

She lies!

TOINETTE

I would never!

ARGAN

(To Toinette)

Did you not moments ago debate me on the matter of my daughter?

TOINETTE

I was merely offering an alternative opinion.

ARGAN

You hear this? Servants! With opinions! Alternative ones, no less!

BELINE

You know it is not your place to insert your point of view in any of your master's affairs.

TOINETTE

Yes, madame. He simply mentioned that he wishes Angelique to be married to young Thomas Diafoirus and I believed he would do better to put her in a convent.

BELINE

It doesn't matter what-

(Immediately to Argan)

You know, she does have a point.

ARGAN

That's not what she said at all! You should have heard her before. She challenged my authority!

TOINETTE

I did no such thing. I don't know why he- Sacrebleu!

BELINE

What? Why do you say "Sacrebleu?"

TOINETTE

The doctor warned me this might happen.

BELINE

What?

TOINETTE

Visual and auditory hallucinations.

ARGAN

Rubbish! I'm not having hallucinations.

TOINETTE

It's when you see and hear things that did not happen.

ARGAN

I am not seeing or hearing things that did not happen!

TOINETTE

Often triggered by schizophrenia.

ARGAN

(Laughing, then)

Schizophrenia?

BELINE

You don't think you have it?

ARGAN

I don't know. I did use that public rest room two years ago. Can you catch it from a toilet?
What are the other symptoms?

TOINETTE

A person with schizophrenia is often very skeptical...

ARGAN

I can't believe I have schizophrenia.

TOINETTE

Stubborn...

ARGAN

I refuse to believe I have schizophrenia.

TOINETTE

Religious...

ARGAN

Please God anything but schizophrenia!

TOINETTE

Repetitive...

ARGAN

Please God anything but schizophrenia!

TOINETTE

(Thinking)

And one more...?

ARGAN

Religious?

TOINETTE

Yes.

ARGAN

Please God anything but schizophrenia!

BELINE

My poor husband dying from schizophrenia!

TOINETTE

I don't think it's fatal.

BELINE

Oh it's fatal. And what will I do without him once he leaves? The misery of it all!

She starts to cry.

ARGAN

Dear wife. You know if something should happen to me, you will be provided for.

BELINE

I don't even want to think about that!

(Then, immediately)

What do you mean?

ARGAN

In the six months we've been married, you have taken care of me so well. Feeding me bacon and cheesecake and scaring me at night to build up my reflexes. I want to make sure you'll be protected when I'm gone.

BELINE

Oh please! I don't want to hear another word of this! Go on.

ARGAN

As you know, I have put you in my will.

BELINE

I don't want to speak about your will! The very thought of it consumes me in a tsunami of grief! Continue.

ARGAN

This will give you ownership of all of my possessions after I've passed.

BELINE

But I don't want you to pass, ever! Does that include the stocks and annuities?

ARGAN

Everything, once I am gone.

BELINE

And when will that be?

ARGAN

What?

BELINE

I mean, I don't care! I don't want any of it! All I want is you!

(Then, reaching in her pocket)

What's this in my pocket? Oh yes, I almost forgot. You received a message today from a Monsieur De Bonnefoi.

ARGAN

Monsieur De Bonnefoi? He is my attorney. He drafted my will.

BELINE

Is that who he is? I've never met him. So I wouldn't know.

ARGAN

What did he say in the message?

BELINE

He wishes to speak with you. I didn't get all the details because I don't like to intrude in your business affairs but it's something about there being a problem with your will and you may have to adjust it so as to give me all your money before you die. I wasn't really paying attention.

ARGAN

If there's a problem with my will then I should see Monsieur De Bonnefoi at once. I don't want there to be any legal issues which might prevent me from taking care of you after I'm gone.

BELINE

I am in no hurry to see him. It is far too agonizing for me to participate in this type of conversation as it supposes a future that doesn't include my sweet, dear- Oh my word, there's Monsieur De Bonnefoi now!

She is pointing to someone out the window.

ARGAN

I'll be. That is Monsieur De Bonnefoi. How did you know it was him? I thought you never met.

BELINE

(Covering)

We have never met. But... well how many lawyers do you know?

ARGAN

True, I only know the one. But how did you know he was a lawyer?

BELINE

He's obviously a lawyer. You can tell by his briefs.

ARGAN

Of course.

TOINETTE

How did she know he was wearing briefs?

ARGAN

What?

BELINE

Toinette, why don't you help your master find his jacket seeing how we have a guest.

ARGAN

Good point, dear. This robe is in need of a cleaning.

BELINE

I'll see Monsieur De Bonnefoi in.

ARGAN

Nonsense. What do we have servants for?

(To Toinette)

Toinette tell your brother to see Monsieur De Bonnefoi in. He's at the front door.

Of course. TOINETTE

She signs to Guy. We hear the translation: "Can you see if Mr. De Boobie is neutered?"

GUY

(Signed and heard via voice over)
I'd rather not. This job can suck it.

What did he say? ARGAN

He said yes. TOINETTE

Very good. ARGAN

(To Beline)
Bon Bon, I'll have Guy attend to you and our guest until I return. Is that alright?

BELINE

(To Toinette)
You said he's deaf and mute, right?

Yes ma'am. TOINETTE

Can he read lips? BELINE

No, he's also illiterate. TOINETTE

Of course it's alright. I have nothing to hide. BELINE

Toinette and Argan exit.

BELINE (CONT'D)

(Calling after them)
Take your time. Toinette, perhaps you should press the jacket before he puts it on. And steam clean it. It's important he look his best.

SCENE 6

GUY enters followed by M. DE BONNEFOI carrying some papers.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Good day. My name is Monsieur De Bonnefoi-

BELINE

It's OK. He's not here.

M. DE BONNEFOI

(Re: Guy)

But what about-

BELINE

He's a deaf illiterate mute. We can talk freely.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Very well then. I love you.

BELINE

I love you, too. All I want is for us to be together.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Then forget this plan to take Argan's money and come with me.

BELINE

I will. You're absolutely right. We don't need Argan's money. After all, you are an attorney, you make a good living.

M. DE BONNEFOI

More than enough.

BELINE

Of course while you are off at work, I'll be alone missing you terribly.

M. DE BONNEFOI

I know. I will miss you, as well.

BELINE

All I want to do is be with you all day long. Hold you, kiss you, love you.

She kisses him.

M. DE BONNEFOI

If we took Argan's money, I wouldn't have to work.

BELINE

That's brilliant. And if we continue with the plan, we won't have to wait until Argan is dead.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Then let's continue with the plan. Because I can't wait much longer.

BELINE

So you'll convince Argan to hand over his money to me now instead of waiting till he's gone...

M. DE BONNEFOI

I will.

BELINE

...And you'll advise him to send his daughters to a nunnery.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Tell me again why that part's important?

BELINE

With them in a nunnery they won't marry. If they don't marry, they receive no dowry. That means more money for us, and the more money we have the less time you need to work and the more time we can hug and kiss and love.

She kisses him.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Oh how I adore your logic. Though I do worry a little about sending girls to a convent against their wishes.

BELINE

Nonsense. My father put me in a convent against my wishes and I turned out just fine.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Then it's settled. I'll do everything you ask. I don't foresee any problems.

BELINE

It will require some deception on your part.

M. DE BONNEFOI

That could be a problem.

BELINE

Why? You're a lawyer.

M. DE BONNEFOI

I know, so I'm not very good at lying. And... I have my condition.

BELINE

What condition?

M. DE BONNEFOI

No! I'll be fine! You needn't worry.

BELINE

Worry about what?

M. DE BONNEFOI

My condition.

BELINE

What condition?

M. DE BONNEFOI

It's nothing serious. It's only triggered when my heart rate is elevated which only happens when I'm lying. But I haven't had an episode in such a long time so I'm certain I've overcome it.

BELINE

You're sure?

M. DE BONNEFOI

I swear to you I'm not nervous about this in the slightest.

He faints.

Argan enters.

ARGAN

Sorry for the delay.

(Then, seeing De Bonnefoi)

Mon Dieu, what happened to Monsieur De Bonnefoi?

BELINE

I'm not sure.

De Bonnefoi wakes with a start.

M. DE BONNEFOI

I like to eat peaches!

ARGAN

What?

M. DE BONNEFOI

Oh. Sorry. How long was I out?

BELINE

Not long.

M. DE BONNEFOI

I apologize for that. You see I'm narcoleptic.

ARGAN

Perhaps you should stand over there.

M. DE BONNEFOI

It's not catchy.

ARGAN

Everything is catchy.

M. DE BONNEFOI

As you wish.

ARGAN

Your disease notwithstanding, my wife and I are glad you are here. I don't believe you've met Beline.

M. DE BONNEFOI

No, I haven't.

He faints.

ARGAN

What a peculiar condition.

BELINE

Narcolepsy? Yes very peculiar. Though I've heard people who have it are usually the most trustworthy.

ARGAN

Is that right?

De Bonnefoi wakes with a start.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Lipstick is funny.

(Then)

Sorry. Where were we?

ARGAN

This is my wife, Beline. Beline, this is Monsieur De Bonnefoi.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Pleasure.

BELINE

Charmed.

ARGAN

Beline just informed me of the message you left her. About my will.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Yes. I am afraid we have a slight problem. Since drafting the document, I have discovered a little known by-law in our country's constitution that forbids a husband to will anything to his wife in the event of his death.

ARGAN

Are you serious?

M. DE BONNEFOI

Absolutely.

He faints.

BELINE

What a trustworthy man.

ARGAN

Clearly.

De Bonnefoi wakes with a start.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Pigs are people, too... sorry.

(Then)

There is, however, a legally acceptable alternative which should give you peace of mind as it relates to your wife.

ARGAN

Do tell.

M. DE BONNEFOI

If custom forbids you to decree all your possessions to your wife after you are dead, you can simply hand them over to her now.

ARGAN

Give her all my money now?

M. DE BONNEFOI

As a gift. There is no law saying you can't give a gift to your wife.

ARGAN

Maybe not a law, but it is frowned upon, is it not?

M. DE BONNEFOI

No. It's not. It is quite encouraged so wives won't be inclined to leave their stingy, stupid, incontinent husbands for younger, better looking, continent men.

BELINE

But that would never happen here. I don't need gifts from Argan. He is himself a gift! I love his gift! He can give me all of his money as a gift?

M. DE BONNEFOI

He can.

ARGAN

I'm not sure how comfortable I am with that idea.

M. DE BONNEFOI

If you trust her enough to handle your affairs once you are gone, it stands to reason, you trust her to do the same while you are alive.

ARGAN

My affairs will be considerably less complicated when I'm dead. They are quite complex now what with all my medical expenses. I'd hate to burden her with them. I am sure she's got enough affairs of her own.

BELINE

What?

ARGAN

And I have my children to consider. If I wish to marry them off, their suitors will require a fair dowry. I don't wish to tax my wife with these types of financial calculations.

BELINE

I wouldn't underestimate a woman's ability to be calculating.

ARGAN

I beg your pardon?

BELINE

To calculate. We are a lot more capable than most men give us credit for. But I suppose it's their condescension of us that strengthens our character. My father thought I was inadequate in every way, but look at me, I turned out just fine.

(MORE)

BELINE (CONT'D)

Anyway, I don't want your money! All I need is you. Why don't you put your daughters in a convent? I don't want your money.

M. DE BONNEFOI

A convent is a wise idea. It would reduce the complexity of your affairs and there would be no need for financial calculations.

ARGAN

I can't do that. Not for Angelique, anyway. The die is cast for her. She will marry young doctor Thomas tomorrow.

M. DE BONNEFOI

A doctor in the family? That ought to help with your medical expenses.

ARGAN

Yes. I am hoping it might.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Is your other daughter arranged to be married, as well?

ARGAN

No. Louison, sadly, will be a little more difficult to find a match for.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Perhaps then a convent is a good choice for her.

ARGAN

Much like her sister, she has her heart set on finding love.

BELINE

Don't discount the love a girl can have for God. Sometimes it's the best choice for a young woman. In my early years I devoted my life to Jesus. I wore a bracelet that said "What would Jesus do?" And a watch that said, "What time would Jesus think it is?"

M. DE BONNEFOI

Monsieur Argan the solution seems clear. Tomorrow your daughter Angelique will marry a doctor thereby reducing your substantial medical bills. At the same time, you can place your other daughter, Louison, in a convent where she can devote her life to God and leave you comfortable in the knowledge that her quest for love is satisfied on a daily basis by the Lord. Once both of your daughters are provided for, I suggest you give yourself the gift of peace by giving your wife control of your assets, thus freeing you of the stress associated with them, as well as any worries you might have that Madame Beline won't be taken care of upon your death, which God willing, won't be for some time.

BELINE

I pray it's not. And perhaps freeing you of stress and financial burden might be just the way to get you back on your feet. I have no interest in your money. But if taking it will make you healthier and extend our time together, then I will make that sacrifice because I love you so.

ARGAN

Monsieur De Bonnefoi, do you really think this is the best thing for me and my family?

M. DE BONNEFOI

Do I?

He positions himself in front of Argan's empty wheel chair.

M. DE BONNEFOI (CONT'D)

I do.

He faints into the chair.

ARGAN

Then let us all adjourn to the study.

(To Beline)

If you are to take over my finances tomorrow, I must educate you on everything there is.

They exit, Beline pushing De Bonnefoi. Guy is left behind.

SCENE 7

Louison and Angelique enter.

LOUISON

I'm certain Beline is up to something. We need to find out what it is.

ANGELIQUE

Look it's Toinette's brother, Guy.

LOUISON

The one who's deaf and mute?

ANGELIQUE

Yes. Maybe he heard something.

LOUISON

He's deaf and mute.

ANGELIQUE

You should ask him.

LOUISON

He's deaf and mute.

ANGELIQUE

I know. Ask him.

LOUISON

(To Guy, humoring Angelique)

Excuse me, Guy? Any chance you heard anything suspicious between Beline, Monsieur De Bonnefoi and my father? You can whisper it in my ear if you wish to be discreet.

She places her ear next to him.

LOUISON (CONT'D)

(Mockingly)

You don't say. You don't say. You don't say!

ANGELIQUE

What's he say?

LOUISON

He doesn't say! He's deaf and mute!

ANGELIQUE

Then what's his purpose?

Toinette enters.

TOINETTE

Ladies. Is there a problem?

ANGELIQUE

Your brother won't talk to us.

LOUISON

(Weakly)

He's deaf and...

ANGELIQUE

He was here with daddy and Beline and Monsieur De Bonnefoi. I had hoped maybe he heard something.

TOINETTE

Maybe he did. I'll ask him.

She signs to him. We hear the translation: "Do you know I'm not wearing panties?"

GUY

(Signed and heard via voice over)

Did a blind man teach you sign language?

TOINETTE

(Frustrated, sotto to Guy)

Never mind that. Just tell us what you know!

Guy signs as Toinette translates for the girls.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

He says the gold digger...

LOUISON

ANGELIQUE

Beline.

Beline

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

And the narcoleptic...

LOUISON

ANGELIQUE

Monsieur De Bonnefoi

Monsieur De Bonnefoi.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Are having an affair

ANGELIQUE

LOUISON

Mon Dieu!

Mon Dieu!

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

...In the hopes of stealing all the money from the hypochondriac.

LOUISON

ANGELIQUE

Daddy!

Daddy!

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

He also says the hypochondriac...

LOUISON

ANGELIQUE

Daddy,

Daddy,

?

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

...Plans on having the pretty daughter...

	ANGELIQUE		LOUISON
Me.		Me.	
		TOINETTE (CONT'D)	
...Married to the doctor tomorrow.			
		LOUISON	
You.			
		ANGELIQUE	
Merde on a stick!			
		TOINETTE	
Lastly, the gold digger...			
	ANGELIQUE		LOUISON
Beline.		Beline.	
		TOINETTE (CONT'D)	
...Talked him into having the other daughter...Who is also pretty...			
		LOUISON	
Me.			
		TOINETTE	
...Join a convent where she will become a nun.			
		LOUISON	
Oh for the love of Christ!			
		ANGELIQUE	
This is awful!			
		LOUISON	
He's making me a nun.			
		ANGELIQUE	
He's making me marry Thomas.			
		TOINETTE	
He's making a fool of himself, letting this woman take all his money.			
		LOUISON	
Let father dispose of his money as he sees fit, but don't let him put me in a convent.			

ANGELIQUE

And don't let him force me to marry someone I don't love.

TOINETTE

I won't let him do any of it. We have to talk some reason into your father.

ANGELIQUE

It won't be easy. As weak as he claims to be, he can be powerfully stubborn.

LOUISON

If only there was someone whose strong will rivaled even our father's.

BERALDE enters.

BERALDE

I wrestled a bear today!

ANGELIQUE

Uncle Beralde!

LOUISON

Uncle Beralde!

They run up and hug him.

BERALDE (CONT'D)

Girls! Your beauty grows every day by leaps and bounds. How is that possible?

LOUISON

I don't think it is. I am already so beautiful now.

BERALDE

You are. And Angelique, you look like a girl in love.

ANGELIQUE

I am!

BERALDE

Yet I see some sadness behind your eyes.

ANGELIQUE

There have been complications.

BERALDE

If it was easy it wouldn't be worth it. The greater the obstacle...

BERALDE, ANGELIQUE AND
LOUISON

...The more glory in overcoming it.

ANGELIQUE

Assuming you can overcome it.

BERALDE

You're fighting for love. What could possibly stop you?

TOINETTE

Your brother and his wife.

BERALDE

Toinette, you're looking radiant.

TOINETTE

You're back from another adventure, I see.

BERALDE

Life is an adventure. And a life spent with you would be the greatest one of all.

He kisses her hand.

TOINETTE

That's a highly inappropriate thing to say to a servant.

BERALDE

I don't think of you as a servant.

TOINETTE

Nevertheless, please allow me to take your jacket.

BERALDE

Thank you.

He removes his coat. His shirt is completely tattered.

TOINETTE

What happened to your shirt?

BERALDE

Sometimes clothes can get tattered when you grab life by the balls.

TOINETTE

It doesn't look like it was life's balls you were grabbing.

ANGELIQUE

Forget about whose balls he was grabbing!

TOINETTE

(To Beralde)

Argan is forcing Angelique to marry Purgon's nephew tomorrow.

ANGELIQUE

Tomorrow? I'm in anguish!

TOINETTE

And at Beline's urging, he's going to put Louison in a convent.

LOUISON

That makes me very NUN-plussed!

TOINETTE

Something must be done.

BERALDE

I'll talk some sense into him.

ANGELIQUE

And Cleante. Someone must talk to Cleante, as well. I fear if he hears that I'm to marry tomorrow he'll think I don't love him.

LOUISON

And I fear that if all of my potential suitors hear that I am to join a nunnery, they too will lose interest in me.

ANGELIQUE

You must tell Guy to find Cleante and have him tell my love the truth.

LOUISON

He's deaf and mute. He can't tell him anything.

ANGELIQUE

Right.

(Then, to Toinette)

Have him speak to all of Louison's potential suitors, as well.

TOINETTE

Not to worry. I'll have Guy take care of it.

Toinette signs to Guy. The following translation can be heard: "I need you to eat a shoe and then call me Spanky LaRue the shoe eating wench of Pie Town!"

Guy shakes his head and exits.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Ladies, it's going to be all right. I promise you.

LOUISON

Thank you, Toinette.

ANGELIQUE AND LOUISON

What would we do without you?

Louison and Angelique exit.

BERALDE

What would any of us do without you?

TOINETTE

It seems you're determined to find out.

BERALDE

It was only a small bear. You should have seen it.

TOINETTE

No thank you. I'd rather not watch you die.

BERALDE

I'll see to it you don't.

TOINETTE

When will you speak to your brother?

BERALDE

Let me see. I'm keeping a list of things I'd like to accomplish today...

He takes out a small but ornate notebook and begins to read.

BERALDE (CONT'D)

Wrestle a bear. Check. See my nieces. Check. Spend the rest of my life coiled in ecstasy with Toinette...

(He writes)

...Talk to my brother.

TOINETTE

It's not possible.

BERALDE

To talk to my brother? I don't see why not.

TOINETTE

To spend the rest of your life coiled in ecstasy with me.

BERALDE

It's true heaven forbids some pleasures, but a compromise can usually be found. Perhaps let's start with a kiss?

TOINETTE

Is that on your list, as well?

He writes.

BERALDE

Your kiss is on my list.

TOINETTE

Beralde, please... why don't you go to your brother's closet and pick out a new shirt.

BERALDE

Very well, my dear, I will. But please know when I come out of the closet, it'll still be you I'll want to kiss.

(Then)

I'm off to get a new shirt. Isn't life grand!

He exits.

ACT 2. SCENE 1.

There is a knock on the door. TOINETTE opens it and CLEANTE flourishes in carrying an enormous bouquet of flowers.

TOINETTE

May I help you?

CLEANTE

That all depends on whether or not you believe in love. I, for one, do. I believe it has the power to overcome any obstacle. Climb every mountain. Ford every stream.

TOINETTE

Cleante?

CLEANTE

It is I.

TOINETTE

That was fast.

CLEANTE

You must be Jeanette.

No. TOINETTE

Barrette . CLEANTE

No. TOINETTE

Baguette? CLEANTE

No. TOINETTE

Pause.

Chia Pet? CLEANTE

Toinette. TOINETTE

Toinette! Yes. Toinette. Your brother told me everything about you. CLEANTE

He told you everything about me? TOINETTE

He charaded me everything about you. CLEANTE

Did he charade to you what's happening with Angelique? TOINETTE

He did. She is to be fried by the proctor named Hummus. CLEANTE

She is to be the bride of a doctor named Thomas. TOINETTE

Mon Dieu! That's even worse. I'm glad I came. I must find out if she loves this Hummus or if in fact it's me that's in her heart, as I hope it is. CLEANTE

TOINETTE

I am afraid her heart is not a consideration in this union. Her father has his heart set on the doctor.

CLEANTE

But love can't be disregarded. If literature has taught us anything, it's taught us love conquers all. Romeo and Juliet.

TOINETTE

They both commit suicide.

CLEANTE

Guinevere and King Arthur.

TOINETTE

Guinevere cheats on King Arthur.

CLEANTE

Oedipus and Jocasta.

TOINETTE

Oedipus was Jocasta's son. Have you read these books?

CLEANTE

I don't have to read a book to know what it says.

TOINETTE

Yes, you do.

CLEANTE

You sound like someone who's been hurt.

TOINETTE

Because I think you have to read a book to know what it says?

CLEANTE

Because you're afraid of love.

TOINETTE

How do you know what you're feeling with Angelique is really love?

CLEANTE

It feels like love.

TOINETTE

Just because you feel it doesn't make it true.

CLEANTE

Doesn't it?

TOINETTE

You can't stay.

CLEANTE

I certainly can't leave. I must know her heart.

TOINETTE

You think you can simply march in here and talk to another man's fiancée as to how she feels about you? Her father won't allow it.

CLEANTE

I have a plan.

TOINETTE

You do?

CLEANTE

I will call myself Tartuffe and pretend to be pious and speak with divine authority. Your master, who will not know I am The Imposter, will invariably fall under my influence and allow me to speak with whomever I like.

TOINETTE

I don't think that's going to work.

CLEANTE

What if I pretended to be a miser with a big chest of money?

TOINETTE

No.

CLEANTE

A bourgeois gentleman.

TOINETTE

No.

CLEANTE

A learned lady.

TOINETTE

I hate all those people!

CLEANTE

Well aren't you The Misanthrope.

TOINETTE

We'll just say you are a friend of her music teacher coming to teach her a lesson in his stead because he is obliged to go the country.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Brilliant. You can call me the magnificent lover.

Beat.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

(To the audience, explanatory)

The Magnificent Lovers is also a Moliere play. I told the writers it was too obscure to be funny.

CLEANTE

Perhaps if I say it again later on in the show it might get a bigger laugh.

TOINETTE

I don't think so. It's too intellectual. This audience likes more juvenile humor.

ARGAN (O.S.)

I don't remember eating corn.

TOINETTE

See.

(Then)

Now wait in the hall so I can announce you.

Cleante exits to the hall.

SCENE 2.

ARGAN enters with a dead duck on his head.

ARGAN

Toinette.

TOINETTE

Master- Did you know there is a duck on your head?

ARGAN

Yes of course I know there's a duck on my head! What do I look like, an idiot? Dr. Purgon suggested I wear it to help ward off avian flu.

TOINETTE

What kind of quackery is that?

ARGAN

Quackery, is it? I suppose you think you're more learned than Dr. Purgon. Can you cure pickled blood, bone fever or any other malady?

TOINETTE

(laughing)

Don't you mean mallard-dy? Mallard... It's a type of duck...

ARGAN

Oh, that is funny. I see why I should listen to you over Purgon. He's only a respected doctor. You're a joke.

TOINETTE

They say laughter is the best medicine.

ARGAN

It's not. Lemonade sitz baths are. So you should keep your jokes to yourself and just do as you're told. When you get your degree then you can open your mouth with your biting wit and even start charging for it.

TOINETTE

I would never charge you.

ARGAN

Thank you.

TOINETTE

(Re: The duck)

I'd just put it on your bill.

ARGAN

I am expecting Monsieur Diafoirus and his son. Have they arrived?

TOINETTE

No, but there is another gentleman here to see you.

SCENE 3.

Toinette calls offstage.

TOINETTE

Excuse me, Monsieur. My master will see you now.

Cleante re-enters room.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Please speak softly as he is very ill and loud noises agitate him greatly.

CLEANTE

I'll do my best not to upset Monsieur Argan.

TOINETTE

I was talking about the duck.

CLEANTE

(To Argan)

Monsieur, I've been sent by your daughter's music teacher. He was obliged to go to the country for a few days and has asked me to give Mademoiselle Angelique her music lesson in his place.

ARGAN

Excellent. I look forward to hearing it.

(To Toinette)

Call Angelique.

TOINETTE

Master, I think it might be best to take the gentleman to her room.

ARGAN

I don't care what you think. Bring her here.

TOINETTE

He can not give her a good lesson if they are not left alone.

ARGAN

He better hope he can, as he will give her the lesson not only in front of me, but in front of our guests, as well. It's a perfect opportunity to show off Angelique's beautiful voice for her groom to be.

(To Cleante)

You'll have no trouble teaching her in our presence, I trust.

CLEANTE

No trouble at all.

TOINETTE

But she was so upset earlier-

ARGAN

Nonsense! You think I don't know my own daughter? Nothing gives her joy like her music class. The way that nothing gives you joy like debating me on every single thing.

(Then, looking offstage)

Here she comes now.

(To Cleante)

You shall see.

(To Toinette)

And since I no longer need you to find her, perhaps you can without argument check on the whereabouts of our guests. Now!

TOINETTE

Yes Monsieur.

Toinette exits.

SCENE 4.

Angelique enters.

ARGAN

(To Angelique)

Angelique, your music teacher has gone off to the country for a few days so he has sent this gentleman in his place.

ANGELIQUE

It's you! I can't believe you're here! This is so amazing!

ARGAN

(To Cleante)

I told you! She loves her music class.

ANGELIQUE

Now that my music class is about to begin, there's nothing that can make me unhappy. Nothing.

Toinette re-enters.

TOINETTE

Master, Monsieur Diafoirus and his son Thomas have arrived.

ANGELIQUE

Merde Missile! Father, I'd rather do my studies in private.

ARGAN

And I'd rather you didn't. I'd like young Thomas to see just how extraordinary a girl you are.

(To Cleante)

My daughter, you see, is to be married tomorrow.

CLEANTE

She is to make someone a very lucky man.

ARGAN

They both are lucky for he is a wonderful match. He is a doctor and the nephew of my own physician, who I needn't tell you is quite extraordinary.

TOINETTE

You needn't tell anyone that. He makes you wear a duck on your head, who would believe it?

ARGAN

Please inform the music master, if he has returned to town, he is invited to the wedding. As are you, if you are inclined to attend.

CLEANTE

There is nothing I'd like to see more than your daughter marry the man she loves.

SCENE 5.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS and his son, THOMAS enter.
Monsieur Diafoirus has a duck on his head.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Bonjour to you all. I hope we're not disturbing.

ARGAN

Not at all.

(Seeing the duck)

Avian flu?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

No. Not to worry. I am merely wearing this as a precaution since I heard you might have it.

ARGAN

It's distinctly possible. I am susceptible to most new types of influenza. Avian flu. Swine flu. And the most fatal: Butterfly.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Heaven forbid you get that killer.

ARGAN

Thank you. And thank you for coming. We would of course have come to you but my state of health forbids me from leaving my home.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

It is our pleasure to come here. After all, we are to be family.

ARGAN

Yes, we are.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Not by procreation of course.

ARGAN

No, of course not.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

That would imply that you and I had mated and had our own babies.

ARGAN

We didn't do that.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Since we're both men, giving birth to babies is highly unlikely.

ARGAN

Or completely.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Not necessarily. Male sea horses actually give birth to their own children. They have brood pouches where the eggs are fertilized before being released into the world.

ARGAN

I hadn't thought of that.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

I think of things all the time. It's because of my brain. I am told it's quite big.

ARGAN

Really? Are they not all the same size?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

No. Mine's bigger. They have a way of measuring it now. Mine is exceptionally large. Bigger than my brother-in-law's, in fact.

ARGAN

Than Dr. Purgon's?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Oh yes. His brain is not so large as people think. It's girthy. But girth is not nearly as important as length when it comes to brain potency. I have great length.

ARGAN

Too bad you're not a doctor.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Yes, well, I would have been of course, but you see, I'm color blind. But fear not, a Diafoirus will be a doctor in one day. My son.

ARGAN

Yes, of course.

(To Thomas)

We're all very pleased for you.

THOMAS

(Nervously)

Thank you, Monsieur. I also humbly thank you for taking me into your home and taking me as your son, no less. I understand you don't have a son. I suppose I should feel lucky for that for if you did, no doubt he would be marrying Angelique. But you don't and so you've chosen me. I hope you'll find, you've chosen wisely. I'll dedicate my life to proving you have. In fact, I'll not only prove that I am the best man for your daughter...

(Beat)

Thank you.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Well spoken, don't you think?

ARGAN

Very impressive.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

(To Thomas)

Now address the girl.

THOMAS

Yes, father.

(To Angelique)

Madam... oiselle... Your beauty is like a shining star. I can't stare straight into it for fear it may blind me. But unlike a star, you are not a big ball of gas. You smell like roses in the springtime that rise from the ground to greet the sun. You're not thorny though, like a rose. And I am glad when I touch you, I don't have a little prick. Your skin is smooth like the bottom of a newborn baby. But unlike the bottom of a newborn baby, I would never wrap you in a diaper. Because you are completely capable of controlling your bowel movements and not discharging them upon the floor beneath you... which is good because I am on the floor beneath you, humbly throwing myself at your feet and offering myself as your faithful and obedient husband, if you will have me.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Beautiful! That was beautiful. And he is twice the doctor as he is a poet.

ARGAN

If this is true, it would be most pleasant to be one of his patients.

TOINETTE

I'm feeling a little sick now.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

He has made me quite proud given all of the obstacles he had to overcome to become the doctor you see before you. Things were difficult for him. Because of who I am and the size of my brain... and his appearance obviously pales in comparison to mine, as does his charm and wit... Let's face it, I cast a very large shadow, and as you know, when there is no light it's hard to grow. But he has grown, that much is clear. It is an enormous success for which I can't take full responsibility obviously because... I don't want to seem arrogant... But mostly I'm responsible that he is the way he is today... because of the words I've said to him. If you say enough words, they do listen and eventually they think it for themselves. And then it becomes true. It takes time, but it's worth it. Slow growing trees bear the best fruit. And though it's harder to engrave in marble than in sand, it lasts longer and is far more valuable.

ARGAN

That much is true.

(To Thomas)

And tell me young man, as a doctor do you align yourself with the opinions of the ancients as your uncle does?

THOMAS

My uncle taught me the opinions of the ancients himself as he didn't trust the university to do a thorough enough job.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

It's probably worth noting that I would have taught him the opinions of the ancients but unfortunately I'm color blind.

ARGAN

Of course.

THOMAS

In any case, I am inclined to believe what was taught to me by my uncle, and not be taken in by the supposed new "facts" being taught by the "educators" in the "university" that I went to in "Paris".

ARGAN

I am very glad to hear you say that. Your uncle is a very talented doctor.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

As I could have been-

ARGAN

Had you not been color blind.

(To Thomas)

And I am certain you will join in his footsteps.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

He already has.

(To Angelique)

You would do well, young lady, to see your future husband at work.

(To Thomas)

Tell her about the dead woman.

ANGELIQUE

What dead woman?

THOMAS

Angelique, if it pleases you, I will be dissecting a dead woman tomorrow. You can join me if you wish.

TOINETTE

What a wonderful invitation. So much better than an evening at the theatre, don't you think?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

I'm sure you'll find him quite gifted with the dead ladies.

ANGELIQUE

(To Thomas)

I am certain your skills are as your father says. You needn't prove them to me.

ARGAN

No, but perhaps it's time you prove yours to him. Let's have a performance, shall we?

ANGELIQUE

No father. Please no.

ARGAN

(To Cleante)

Please make my daughter sing before the guests.

TOINETTE

Master, I am not sure this substitute teacher will have anything prepared for public display.

CLEANTE

It's all right. Actually, I have just the thing to amuse our present company.

TOINETTE

It needn't be much. Just a verse. Or a chorus. Or a pre-chorus. Something small.

CLEANTE

It's an operetta.

TOINETTE

That's doesn't sound small.

ARGAN

Operetta?

CLEANTE

It's a light opera.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

An opera with fewer calories.

ARGAN

Excellent. I'm in the mood for a low-calorie opera.

(To Cleante)

Does it have a name, this operetta?

CLEANTE

Yes. It's called The Man Who Loved A Woman But The Woman's Father Was Determined To Have Her Marry A Nervous Idiot So The Man Had To Pretend To Be Someone He's Not So He Could Learn If The Woman Loved Him Back And If So They Could Plot Together As How To Foil The Father's Plan.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Mon Dieu! How does that fit on the marquee?

CLEANTE

This is the moment in the operetta where the man finally speaks to the woman in song in order to learn her heart.

Music plays and Cleante begins to sing.

CLEANTE (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Well well well baby
I fell fell fell baby
Please tell me
Am I your fella, baby?
Cause I'm not well
No baby I'm not well
I'm lovesick
Fever burns right to my feet
I'm lovesick
Please say you can feel my heat
I'm lovesick
And I know for sure
That your love's my cure

ANGELIQUE

(Singing)

Daddy's wary
He's sayin' I must marry
Some other guy so scary
It's got me torn in two
My heart is black an blue
Yeah I need some healin'
Through and through
And only you will do

I'm lovesick

(MORE)

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

And you're my remedy
I'm lovesick
You're the only cure for me
I'm lovesick
But here in your arms
I'm healed by your charms

CLEANTE & ANGELIQUE

LOUISON

(Singing)
Love, so lovesick
Love, so lovesick

(Singing)
(Tell me how you're feelin)
(Tell me how you feel)

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(Singing)
Oh my heart it's pounding
With love's sweet sounding

CLEANTE

(Singing)
Feel my pulse how it's racing
And there's no erasing how
I need healing now

CLEANTE & ANGELIQUE

(Singing)
And only you know how

CLEANTE

ANGELIQUE

(Singing)
You're so je ne sais quoi
Never again an au revoir
Mon Cheri sweet femme
I'll steal you away from daddy

(Singing)
It's only vous et moi
We'll run away from them
Je taime...je taime...

CLEANTE AND ANGELIQUE

(Singing)
We're gonna fly away

LOUISON

(Singing)
Tell me more, tell me more

CLEANTE AND ANGELIQUE

(Singing)
Let him search high and low
He'll never know
Search far and wide
He'll never find
You and me
We'll always be together

LOUISON

(Singing)
Tell me more, tell me more

CLEANTE AND ANGELIQUE

(Singing)
We'll run away in the night
Hold each other tight
Daddy nowhere in sight
Nurse each other with a love so right...

ARGAN

I've heard enough!

The music abruptly stops.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

I don't like this operetta after all.

ANGELIQUE

Was it my performance?

ARGAN

No my dear, your performance was lovely, but the writing seemed completely unbelievable. That a daughter would be so disobedient to her father so as to plan to run away and marry someone else against his wishes, it's absolutely absurd.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

I didn't care for the melody myself. It seemed very Cro-Magnon and I prefer music a little more catatonic.

ARGAN

(To Cleante)

In any case, thank you Monsieur for your time.

CLEANTE

Very good.

(To Angelique)

Mademoiselle Angelique, perhaps for your next lesson you should practice that other operetta that your music master set aside for you.

ANGELIQUE

Remind me which one that is.

CLEANTE

The one entitled I Shall Sneak Up To Your Room Shortly So We Can Continue Our Conversation And Determine How Best To Proceed With Our Plans To Run Away And Marry.

ANGELIQUE

I will practice it most diligently. I shall also practice Please Be Discreet As I Don't Want My Father To Have Any Idea What We Are Up To Because If He Finds Out He Will Likely Put Me In A Nunnery.

CLEANTE

Wonderful. You might also want to take a look at Not To Worry My Dear Sweet Love Your Father Will Never Know As I Am Quite Stealthy.

ANGELIQUE

I shall. I Knew I Loved You The Moment I Met You And Even Though My Maid Servant Tried To Talk Me Out Of It, I'm Overjoyed You Feel The Same... is another operetta I like and hope to one day learn.

CLEANTE

You may also want to study-

ARGAN

Enough! That's plenty of homework for her. Just memorizing the titles seems a dreadful task.

CLEANTE

Au revoir, then.

Cleante exits.

ANGELIQUE

Father, if I may, I'd like to walk him out.

ARGAN

You may not. We have guests. One of whom has asked you a question to which you owe an answer.

SCENE 6.

BELINE enters.

BELINE

I hope I'm not interrupting.

ARGAN

Ahh, Mon Petit Eclair! You are just in time. Please meet Monsieur Diafoirus and his son, Thomas?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Enchante'.

He kisses her hand.

BELINE

Merci.

THOMAS

Madame.

He goes to kiss her hand but sneezes on it by accident.

ARGAN

This man has offered his hand to our dear Angelique and though an informal agreement has already been made, we will now give witness as she formally responds in kind.

ANGELIQUE

Daddy, please.

ARGAN

What please? Did you not hear him? He is at your feet offering himself as your faithful and obedient husband.

TOINETTE

And grateful that you haven't discharged your bowels on top of him while you consider the kind offer.

ARGAN

Do you accept his proposal?

TOINETTE

Or do you poop on his dreams?

ARGAN

All you have to do is say yes as we have already discussed.

ANGELIQUE

I don't understand why it needs to be said at this very moment.

ARGAN

Because the proposal was made at this very moment.

ANGELIQUE

But why was it made in such haste? Surely it would be prudent for us to take our time and get to know each other.

(To Thomas)

Don't you agree?

THOMAS

It's enough for me to know that this is what my father wants.

ANGELIQUE

(To Argan)

Well, it's not enough for me. I can't fake the way I feel. And I can't marry for any reason other than love. I must follow my heart.

ARGAN

Do you love me? If so, then surely doing what I ask is following your heart.

ANGELIQUE

How come you don't follow your heart as it relates to my wishes?

ARGAN

Because I don't make decisions based on my heart. That only leads to pain. Thomas is a logical match. He is from a well-respected family. He can take care of you and provide you with everything you could want or need from a husband.

ANGELIQUE

I already told you. I just want love from my husband. That's all I need.

BELINE

That's all I need, too. Oh look, Monsieur De Bonnefoi is here.

Monsieur De Bonnefoi enters.

ARGAN

Excellent. Monsieur De Bonnefoi, will you draw up a marriage contract between my daughter and young Thomas here?

M. DE BONNEFOI

I will.

ANGELIQUE

Draw up what you like! I'll never sign it! Never! You can all kiss my sweet round Merde Maker!

Angelique exits.

ARGAN

(Calling off to Angelique)

Be it in a wedding dress or a nun's habit, one way or another you will be hearing church bells ring!

(Then, to Thomas and Monsieur Diafoirus)

Monsieur Diafoirus, Thomas. I apologize for what has happened here today, but I will bring her to reason.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Of course you will. Children are always strong-willed. Always going on about their wants. The key is to break their spirit and force them to do your bidding.

BELINE

My father trampled all over my wants and I turned out just fine.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

The contract of marriage, will it include the terms of your daughter's dowry, as well?

ARGAN

Of course. I have made Monsieur De Bonnefoi aware of those terms, so you can trust him. Isn't that right, Monsieur De Bonnefoi?

M. DE BONNEFOI

You can trust me one hundred percent.

Monsieur De Bonnefoi faints.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Mon Dieu!

ARGAN

That's normal.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Perhaps my son should see to him.

ARGAN

I would rather your son see to me, if he be so inclined. This day has made my heart race.

BELINE

I can attend to Monsieur De Bonnefoi.

ARGAN

Thank you my dear. Your love for me is as always the only elixir I need to keep me strong.

She drags Monsieur De Bonnefoi out.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

I'm weak. I need some elixir to keep me strong.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Perhaps a quick diagnosis would be in order, my boy. Monsieur Argan does look flush.

THOMAS

If you say so, father.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Why don't you listen to his heart.

ARGAN

That would give me great comfort.

Thomas puts his ear to Argan's heart.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

What do you hear?

THOMAS
It's beating.

ARGAN
Is that bad?

THOMAS
It's probably not good.

ARGAN
I knew it! Do you know what's causing it?

THOMAS
A beating heart?

ARGAN
Dr. Purgon thinks it's my liver. He recommends I eat raw meat with lots of salt and a side of tobacco.

THOMAS
That sounds right. Are you exercising?

ARGAN
I am. A little.

THOMAS
Perhaps you should cut that out.

ARGAN
Thank you so much for your help doctor. Do you recommend I take anything?

THOMAS
Yes. Have you any... estrogen?

ARGAN
I do as a matter of fact. In enema form.

THOMAS
You should take some now. It will put you at ease.

ARGAN
Very good.

BELINE and Louison enter.

BELINE
Gentlemen. So sorry to interrupt again.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

We were actually just done.

ARGAN

And I could use your help administering an enema.

BELINE

Joy. I want nothing more than to do that, but first I have some upsetting news.

ARGAN

If it's upsetting news, I'd rather you tell me after I've taken my medicine.

BELINE

Very well.

(To Louison)

Louison, you stay here. We'll be back in a moment.

ARGAN

(Waving)

Monsieur Diafoirus, Thomas.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Adieu, monsieur.

ARGAN

I look forward to seeing you both again, next time as family.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Yes. Not by procreation of course. We're not sea horses, after all.

Argan and Beline exit.

THOMAS

Are we leaving now father?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

I am. I want you to stay. Find Argan's daughter and win her over. If she only marries for love, then show her why she should love you.

THOMAS

Why should she love me?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Why should she love you? My dear boy, you're confident...

THOMAS

(Uncertain)

...True...

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Optimistic...

THOMAS

...True...

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

And you have a way with words...

THOMAS

...Tru- yes...

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

And unlike other men who only do what they're told, you are your own man.

THOMAS

If you say so.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

I know so.

THOMAS

I don't feel like my own man.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Nonsense.

THOMAS

I don't feel comfortable with what I'm doing.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Which makes me all the more proud that you do it.

THOMAS

I would never be disobedient. I'm just not sure I'm very good at the things you want me to do.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Whatever you decide you have my full support.

THOMAS

I want to be an artist.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Absolutely not! You'd be a penniless loser! The medical profession is the most lucrative. You must be a doctor.

THOMAS

Sometimes I think I sound like an idiot.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Like other doctors, in time, you'll learn to ignore those feelings and replace them with feelings of superiority and condescension.

THOMAS

Is that what uncle does?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Your uncle thinks he's the center of the galaxy and we're all his little planets orbiting around him. Venus, Mercury, Jupiter, Neptune. I'm not a planet. I'm a star! And so are you! It's time we become the sun and Dr. Purgon becomes Uranus.

This confuses Thomas slightly.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS (CONT'D)

He's a doctor? Well tomorrow, so will you be! And you'll be married to Argan's daughter, to boot. Let's see him look down his nose at us now. Find the girl. Make her love you. I'm counting on you!

Monsieur Diafoirus exits. Thomas walks over to Louison.

THOMAS

Excuse me. Are you Angelique's sister?

LOUISON

Isn't it obvious? We're practically identical.

THOMAS

Do you know where I might find her?

LOUISON

I do. Do you hope to win her heart?

THOMAS

Yes.

LOUISON

Then it's not her you should find, it's me.

THOMAS

I've already found you.

LOUISON

Then you're in luck. Because the key to a woman's heart is through her sister.

THOMAS

I didn't know that.

LOUISON

I can tell you everything you want to know about Angelique.

THOMAS

That would be helpful.

LOUISON

We don't have much time though, and there is an awful lot to learn.

THOMAS

Then I won't leave your side until I've learned it all.

LOUISON

Excellent. However, I must warn you: Too much time spent with me and it may be my heart you long to win.

THOMAS

I'll take my chances.

LOUISON

It's my beauty, you see. Often when I walk down the street heads turn and children weep at my perfection.

THOMAS

How lucky for you not to know what it's like to be flawed.

LOUISON

It's not luck.

THOMAS

I, on the other hand, have numerous deficiencies. You needn't look any further than my stomach for starters. I've clearly inherited my father's predisposition for fatness. I have a large bulbous mass where my belly should be.

LOUISON

I wouldn't dwell on it. Though I have no such flaws of my own, if I did I'd sooner go around thinking I'm pretty... than lamenting the poor genetic hand I've been dealt.

THOMAS

You think that really works?

LOUISON

I think it might. Life is, after all, what you make it.

Beat. Then Thomas' attention is drawn off stage.

THOMAS

Your father is coming.

Louison leads Thomas off the other direction.

LOUISON

Wait for me in my room. Then I'll tell you everything.

THOMAS

Thank you! I think you may have just saved me.

Thomas exits.

SCENE 7.

ARGAN and BELINE.

ARGAN

Ah Beline, there's no end in sight to the limits of your love.

BELINE

(Sotto)

Oh there was an end in sight.

ARGAN

Now you said you had some upsetting news. Let's put all this seepage behind us. What is it exactly that's reared its ugly head?

BELINE

I was walking past Angelique's room and I heard a man in there.

ARGAN

Are you sure? You saw him?

BELINE

I didn't see him. As I opened her door, he jumped out the window.

ARGAN

I'll speak with Angelique at once.

BELINE

She has locked herself in her room. But Louison was in with them both.

ARGAN

I'll speak with her then. I smell something rotten. Don't worry, I'll get to the bottom of this.

BELINE

I'll leave you to it.

Beline exits.

ARGAN

Louison, do you have something you want to tell me?

LOUISON

No.

ARGAN

Don't lie to me.

LOUISON

I'm not. There is nothing I want to tell you.

ARGAN

As the oldest child do you not share partial responsibility for your younger sister?

LOUISON

I do.

ARGAN

And if your younger sister has a strange man in her room isn't the responsible thing to do to alert me?

LOUISON

Yes.

ARGAN

And yet there was a man in her room who you saw and you said nothing?

LOUISON

I didn't find him strange.

ARGAN

I think you are purposefully toying with me.

LOUISON

Father, I am simply trying to protect my sister. Isn't that the responsible thing to do?

ARGAN

You must protect her from herself! It's highly inappropriate what she did.

LOUISON

I don't think it is.

ARGAN

You would never have a man in your room.

LOUISON

Sure I would. I have one now.

ARGAN

Don't mock me. I don't like it.

LOUISON

Is it so hard to believe there's a man in my room?

ARGAN

What's so hard to believe is your disrespectful tone. And now though it pains me to do this, I think you'll have to be punished.

LOUISON

Punished? What will you do? Have me stand in a corner?

ARGAN

I am going to spank you.

LOUISON

Spank me? What am I, seven?

ARGAN

If you act like a child, I will treat you like one. Now I am going to put you over my knee.

He goes to grab her. Suddenly she screams.

LOUISON

Ow! Oh father!!!! Ow! Why?!?

ARGAN

What happened? I didn't touch you.

LOUISON

You did touch me! You touched... my hump. Why?

She falls to the ground.

LOUISON (CONT'D)

Don't you know... what that does... to me.

She's dead.

ARGAN

What have I done? What have I done? No!

He screams in agony.

Suddenly Louison comes back to life.

LOUISON

I'm alive! It was your remorse that brought me back.

ARGAN

You deceive me thus? You know what you nearly did to me?

LOUISON

I'm sorry father, I just didn't want to be spanked.

ARGAN

Then you will tell me everything! No more games!

LOUISON

Very well. It was the man she met at the theatre. He had heard Angelique is to be married to the doctor and couldn't stay away. He says he loves her.

ARGAN

And what does she say?

LOUISON

She says she loves him too. Then he knelt down before her and kissed her hands and she said nothing will get in the way of her being with him.

ARGAN

And then?

LOUISON

My stepmother approached and he fled out the window. That's it. I've told you everything.

ARGAN

You didn't have to make this so difficult.

LOUISON

You didn't have to make it so difficult either, papa.

She heads to the door but before she leaves Argan stops her.

ARGAN

Are you mad that I arranged this marriage or that I simply didn't arrange it with you?

LOUISON

I propose that if you let a boy spend a little time with me, you won't have to arrange it at all.

ARGAN

You're fooling yourself.

LOUISON

I'm trying to. Won't you let me?

Louison exits. A moment later, Toinette enters.

TOINETTE

Why is Louison so upset?

ARGAN

I'm upset, as well. Why don't you ask about me? You know I almost had to spank her?

TOINETTE

Spank her? Are you mad?

ARGAN

You're darn right I'm mad. These selfish kids. They say they love their father but all they really love are themselves. Where on earth do they get it from?

TOINETTE

I wonder.

ARGAN

Don't sass me, Toinette. Not now. Today's events have made me sicker than usual.

TOINETTE

Sick in the head maybe, but it has nothing to do with today.

ARGAN

Enough.

TOINETTE

This is all about the past and you know it. Things you can't get over.

ARGAN

I said enough!

Toinette recoils. She's pushed him too far.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

You crossed the line! I am not your friend. I am your master! You will not talk to me like that. It's inappropriate. You're inappropriate! With me! With my brother! Don't think I don't know.

TOINETTE

You have no idea what you're talking about.

ARGAN

Don't I? You think I'm blind? I see the way you two are. You wish to deny it?

Toinette looks down, unable to deny anything.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

It ends now!

Toinette still doesn't look up at Argan.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

You hear me? Angelique will marry the young doctor and Louison will join a convent! And you, you peon, will mind your station! You will say nothing against my plans or I will put you on the street and your brother, as well! Are we clear?

TOINETTE

...Crystal.

Argan exits. A moment later Beralde enters.

BERALDE

What a great day to be alive!

TOINETTE

Where have you been?

BERALDE

Changing my shirt.

TOINETTE

It took you that long to go to your brother's closet and change your shirt?

BERALDE

My brother has nothing in his closet but robes and gowns. They're not fit to die in. So I went home and got something nice. I want to look my best for our first kiss.

TOINETTE

Your brother has lost his mind. When are you going to talk to him?

He pulls out his ornate notebook.

BERALDE

It's on my list of things to do.

TOINETTE

You'd better move it to the top.

BERALDE

Our first kiss is at the top.

TOINETTE

It's not going to happen, Beralde! Why must you persist?

BERALDE

Why won't it happen?

TOINETTE

Because it won't last and you know it.

Beat.

BERALDE

There is something inexpressibly charming in falling in love and, surely, the whole pleasure lies in the fact that it doesn't last. Nothing lasts. Flowers don't last. I see that hasn't stopped you from buying them.

TOINETTE

I didn't buy them.

BERALDE

Sleigh rides don't last, but I'd hate to think you'd deny yourself that pleasure simply because it's fleeting.

TOINETTE

Glances should be fleeting. Not love.

She begins to sing. The song is reminiscent of Carole King's "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?". Louison, Thomas, Angelique and Cleante enter and sing in the background.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Today you're here I see now

(MORE)

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

You give your heart to me now
Today the way you speak is oh so sweet
But what will happen tomorrow?

CLEANTE, ANGELIQUE, THOMAS
AND LOUISON

(Singing)

Sha La
Sha La, La La La La La

TOINETTE

(Singing)

Is this a moment's passion?
That changes like the fashion?
Why must I trust the warming of this heat
What's gonna happen tomorrow?
Sha la la

Today you say it's just one kiss
You say that we should live for fun
But how can I know all this bliss
Will be strong in the long run?

Toinette tries to run off but Beralde grabs her by the arm.

BERALDE

Don't think for one moment that I don't appreciate your concerns because I do. The truth is, I don't know what tomorrow brings. It might bring pain. Today brought love. Today was a good day.

TOINETTE

But if tomorrow brings pain, will today still be good? Wouldn't you regret?

BERALDE

I wouldn't, no. I could never regret the day I fell in love.

TOINETTE

But how can you call it love when it's over so quickly?

BERALDE

I don't know. I only know how I feel. And I know this: before it's all over, I'm going to kiss you.

She breaks away from him.

TOINETTE

(Singing)

I need to know your yearning
It is a fire that's burning
Today and then the next day and beyond
Will you still love me tomorrow?
Will you still love me tomorrow?
Will you still love me tomorrow?
Will you still love me tomorrow?

She exits, leaving Beralde alone.

Intermission.

ACT 3. SCENE 1.

Argan is asleep on the couch. Guy enters with his guitar. He plays a melody. Then he addresses the audience.

GUY

I hope you don't mind if I play. No one's around but the old man, and he's asleep. He's dreaming about something. Which is fine cause it gives me a chance to finish my song. But I can't seem to get the lyrics. I just don't know what to write about that will change people's world view.

He pulls a book from his back pocket

GUY (CONT'D)

I got this book, "How To Change People's World View"

He reads from the book.

GUY (CONT'D)

(Reading)

It says if you want to write good lyrics for your song, you gotta interact with the people. So...

He scans the room and spots an audience member.

GUY (CONT'D)

You. Let's interact.

Awkward pause.

GUY (CONT'D)

So...What's your name?

[The following audience interaction is only an example and will likely change with every performance.]

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(Bob.)

GUY

Bob what?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(Bob Jones.)

GUY

Where you from?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(Iowa.)

GUY

How old are you, Bob?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(57.)

GUY

What do you do for a living?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(I sell Post Its.)

He starts to strum his guitar, possibly inspired. Possibly about to sing. Then stops, abruptly.

GUY

Nope. I got nothing. This book doesn't know what it's talking about. There is no way a song about (Bob Jones the 57 year old Post It salesman) is gonna change people's world view. No offense.

(Then)

I'll think of something. Maybe Argan has the right idea. A good nap. They say all the answers to life's mysteries can be found within our dreams.

(To Argan)

Isn't that right, old man? Sweet dreams.

Guy exits. Dream Ballet begins.

DREAM BALLET

The lights shift and music plays as TOINETTE, ANGELIQUE and LOUISON enter and stand upstage assuming the role of the Dreamettes.

DREAMETTES

(Singing)

Rechercher...
Rechercher...
Rechercher...

Argan enters looking younger and more sprightly. He is not wearing his standard robes. Rather, he is dressed in a suit and looks full of life.

ARGAN

(Singing)

There was a man
He was aware
That what he had could never last
It was too beautiful

A woman enters and crosses to Argan. She looks young and happy. This is Argan's first wife, SANDRINE, the mother of Louison and Angelique. Sandrine is played by the actor who plays Beline.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

(Singing)

He had a love
She was his life
And every day it came to pass
She would sing to him

SANDRINE

(Singing)

Life is a dance
Our hearts are the song

(MORE)

SANDRINE (CONT'D)

Dreams will follow
When you dance along

Sandrine and Argan dance.

DREAMETTES

(Singing)

Sun comes up and brightens up the sky
Skies clear when you are here
Sunbeam, moonbeam
Life's a dream

Sandrine exits and returns with two babies.

ARGAN

(Singing)

Now to the man
She gave such gifts
And though the world was in his hands
He was blind to see that

SANDRINE

DREAMETTES

(Singing)

Life is a dance
Our hearts are the song
Dreams will follow
When you dance along

(Singing)

Rockabye Baby

Sandrine and Argan dance holding the babies.

DREAMETTES

(Singing)

Sun comes up and brightens up the sky
Skies clear when you are here
Sunbeam, moonbeam
Life's a dream

Sandrine passes a baby to “Angelique Dreamette” and the other to “Louison Dreamette”.

DREAMETTES (CONT'D)

ARGAN

(Singing)
Bon Anniversaire
Bon Anniversaire
Bon Anniversaire
Bon Anniversaire

(Singing)
The happy days went by
The happy days went by
Then happy days went bye bye bye

Doctors and orderlies appear and encircle Sandrine, who appears to be growing sick.

ARGAN

(Singing)

Why! Why! Why!

DREAMETTES

(Singing)

Life is a dance
Our hearts are the song
Dreams will follow
When you dance along

The doctors carry Sandrine away. Argan sinks into a melancholy. He is escorted by two doctors to his wheel chair where they place his robe on him and sit him down. The once young and happy man has now fully transformed into the Argan we know today. Sick and depressed.

The lights and music fade. The dream ballet is over.

ARGAN wakes with a start.

BERALDE enters.

BERALDE

Argan, my dear brother. You're looking well!

ARGAN

Are you mad? I am at death's door!

BERALDE

What horrible news. That will be the death of you!

ARGAN

I know! I can go at any moment!

BERALDE

Then let there be no moments wasted. There are mountains to climb! Oceans to swim!
Women to love!

ARGAN

You don't expect me to do those things in my condition?

BERALDE

I can think of no better time.

ARGAN

You do it then. Have fun.

BERALDE

I have done it. I've climbed the tallest peaks, swum with dolphins, skinny dipped at
midnight.

ARGAN

With dolphins?

BERALDE

Sure! Why not? I'm not afraid to live.

ARGAN

You think I am?

BERALDE

Have you ever jumped out of a plane?

ARGAN

Of course not.

BERALDE

Have you ever run with the bulls?

ARGAN

Don't be absurd.

BERALDE

Have you ever grown a mustache and pretended to be a gay porn star?

ARGAN

These are dreams!

BERALDE

Then live your dreams, brother.

ARGAN

I'm too busy trying to stay alive. I've no time to experience life. Now if you'll excuse me, I am expecting my apothecary to come and administer an important medication.

BERALDE

You have time to take your drugs, I see.

ARGAN

Yes, I do. They keep me from dying.

BERALDE

No they don't. We're all dying. Nothing can stop that. Not even those charlatans you call doctors.

ARGAN

Charlatans, eh?

He pulls out some eye drops.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

I suppose you think these eye drops that were prescribed to cure bowlegs and pigeon toes aren't real?

BERALDE

As a matter of fact.

He pulls out some powder.

ARGAN

And what about this foot powder whose application results in bad mojo to be drawn off through the feet. Is that fake, too?

BERALDE

Yep.

ARGAN

And my hydraulic cellulite remover?

Pulls out cellulite remover.

BERALDE

It's all crap!

ARGAN

You are so naive.

BERALDE

You throw your money away on this rubbish thinking it will make you better.

ARGAN

What will make me better then, if not this?

BERALDE

Love.

ARGAN

You sound like my daughters.

BERALDE

They're right. The best thing for anyone is to find someone they love... and who loves them back.

ARGAN

I had someone I loved. And she loved me back. But that wasn't enough, because now she's dead.

BERALDE

Everyone dies.

ARGAN

But why her? She had such strength. And spirit. She loved to dance. For no reason at all. She...

BERALDE

She lived.

ARGAN

Until she died.

BERALDE

I only wish the same for you.

ARGAN

I had hoped finding another good woman might make my ailments go away.

BERALDE

Perhaps you haven't found a good woman.

ARGAN

You mind what you say about Beline. I will not tolerate it.

BERALDE

How can you be so blind?

ARGAN

I have many infirmities but blindness isn't one of them.

BERALDE

I'd argue it's the only one of them.

SCENE 2.

TOINETTE enters with FLEURANT. Monsieur Fleurant appears androgynous, and bears some resemblance to Andy Warhol.

TOINETTE

Monsieur Fleurant is here to see you, master.

ARGAN

Ah, Monsieur Fleurant. Come in. Come in. Is it time for my daily dose of purified bat guano?

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

Actually, I have good news Monsieur Argan.

ARGAN

I needn't take the medication today?

(To Beralde)

It comes in the form of an injection. I'm pretty good at taking my medicine, but this needle is somewhat daunting.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

(Amused)

No, you still must take the guano... along with this other shot.

He pulls out the biggest needle known to man.

ARGAN

Yves Saint Laurent! Look at the size of that!

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

It's a new serum Dr. Purgon has developed just for you.

ARGAN

Can't it come in pill form?

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

(Gleeful)

...Possibly. I didn't ask.

(Then)

I have to inject this into your spine.

ARGAN

That sounds painful.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

(Rapturous)

It does, doesn't it?

ARGAN

You'll do it quickly though?

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

No, I won't. The procedure lasts 47 minutes.

ARGAN

But it doesn't hurt for 47 minutes, does it?

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

Of course not. It will hurt for at least 3 hours.

ARGAN

Do you have anything for me to bite on to keep from screaming?

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

Why would I want to keep you from screaming?

(Then)

Turn over, please.

BERALDE

This is ridiculous. Get that thing away from him.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

Excuse me.

ARGAN

Brother please! Don't interrupt.

BERALDE

You don't even know what that poison is he's putting in your body.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

He doesn't need to know. It should be enough that Dr. Purgon finds it necessary.

BERALDE

It's not enough!

ARGAN

It is!

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

Then bend over.

BERALDE

Look at how much pleasure he's getting at the prospect of causing you pain.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

I love my work, is that a crime?

BERALDE

It's sadistic what you do.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

I'm in health care, a little sadism is useful. If you masochists don't like it, you should stay well. Yet you do so much to hurt yourselves, one can only assume that you enjoy it.

ARGAN

We'd better enjoy it. It costs enough.

TOINETTE

If there was a public option it might cost less.

ARGAN

You be quiet!

TOINETTE

So the have-nots can have access to just as much sadism as the haves.

ARGAN

You and your socialist fantasies. Don't you understand, you have-nots will never have what the haves have.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

There's nothing more enjoyable than seeing a have-not thinking he's a have simply because he was manipulated against his own best interest into denying something to someone who has less.

ARGAN

(Incompetently gleeful)

I know. Isn't it great?

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

And now, Monsieur Argan, it's time for your injection.

BERALDE

Get that thing away from him, I said.

ARGAN

Beralde, don't get involved.

BERALDE

If you want to impale him with that, you're going to have to go through me first.

TOINETTE

Beralde, that needle is long enough to go through you first.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

You will move or you will be injected.

BERALDE

I'd like to see you try!

Monsieur Fleurant goes to inject Beralde, but Beralde manages to grab the needle, knock Fleurant off balance and inject the needle into Fleurant's behind.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

Ahhhhh!

TOINETTE

Beralde, you just gave him a taste of his own medicine.

BERALDE

It was a long shot but I had to try.

ARGAN

I'm on pins and needles wondering what will happen next.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

There's a giant syringe in my ass!

TOINETTE

That wasn't clever wordplay at all.

MONSIEUR FLEURANT

Prick up your ears, Monsieur Argan! When Dr. Purgon hears of this, your hopes of finding a physician to treat you will be like finding a needle in a haystack. And your chances for survival without a good doctor will be shot to hell and that will be a bitter pill to swallow!

He exits.

TOINETTE

That wasn't so bad.

ARGAN

(To Beralde)

You maniac! Look what you've done.

BERALDE

I've saved you from being lanced by that madman!

ARGAN

Dr. Purgon has his pride. He won't stand for this.

BERALDE

I don't care. You don't need him.

ARGAN

I do need him you fool! It's you I don't need! I must try and stop Fleurant before he leaves.

Argan exits.

BERALDE

I think that went pretty well.

TOINETTE

Do you?

Beralde takes out his notebook.

BERALDE

(Marking it off)

Check.

TOINETTE

This has gotten out of control.

BERALDE

Someone needed to say something. He's completely hypnotized by those con artists.

TOINETTE

I know he is, but telling him that won't help.

BERALDE

I think it will.

TOINETTE

Purgon will come. Argan will beg forgiveness. And then he will be at their mercy more than ever before, which will only strengthen his resolve to have Angelique married to Thomas and Louison sent to a convent. How will that help?

BERALDE

We've gotten to spend all this extra time together.

TOINETTE

Please! This is hardly the moment.

BERALDE

Dear girl, I take the moments when I can get them. You and I are alone, what would you have me do?

TOINETTE

Concentrate on the more immediate problem.

BERALDE

I am. You see the day is almost over and as you know I made this list of things I wanted to accomplish before it ended.

He once again pulls out his notebook.

TOINETTE

I am well aware of your list and if sticking a large needle in Monsieur Fleurant's ass is on it, you can check it off.

BERALDE

Before it's all over, I'm going to kiss you.

TOINETTE

Yes, yes, I know. We sang about this before. And now I'm in no mood for a reprise. We must consider your nieces.

BERALDE

I'm sure you'll think of something.

TOINETTE

You won't help?

BERALDE

Oh I'll say something which, without meaning to, will trigger the perfect idea from you. Consequently you'll respond, "Of course. Beralde, you're brilliant. You've just given me the perfect idea" and then we'll be on our way.

TOINETTE

I highly doubt it's going to work out that way.

BERALDE

You have to trust in the process. You'll think of something.

TOINETTE

Stop saying that! It's not my job to think of something. It's just my job to clean.

BERALDE

And look what a mess you have here.

TOINETTE

I'm just a servant!

BERALDE

No! Not to me you're not! You realize without you, my life... all our lives would be in disarray. You straighten things up. You fix it. You make things "get better" You are the doctor! Not Purgon.

TOINETTE

Of course. Beralde, you're brilliant. You've just given me the perfect idea.

BERALDE

I think that merits a kiss.

TOINETTE

Come with me. We have to find my brother.

BERALDE

Why?

TOINETTE

I know his purpose!

Toinette and Beralde exit.

SCENE 10.

ARGAN enters.

ARGAN

Zut alors! I just missed him. I hope this doesn't jeopardize my relationship with Dr. Purgon. Fleurant will go straight to Purgon's office and tell him the news, then Purgon will wish to confront me in person. I must come up with an excuse and I don't have much time.

He picks up his abacus and does some calculations.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

If the average walking speed for a man is 3.5 Miles per hour and Purgon's office is approximately point zero three tenths of a mile away, he should be arriving at my door in 7 seconds.

A badass funk riff kicks in.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

That's Purgon's fanfare now. He's early!

A procession of MINIONS enter dancing, followed by PURGON.

PURGON

(Singing)

At last I'm here to touch you
And I know just how much you
Need me to light the way
Take heed of what I say

Gonna make a house call
I'll make a house call
Here I come

To make it right
When you cry out in the night

(MORE)

PURGON (CONT'D)

Use my skills
On your ills
I'll press this
Caress that
Undress this, yes

PURGON (CONT'D)

(Singing)
And leave you breathless
Breathless
Breathless
Yeah
So you're in shock, well I'm the rock, you
must believe
Heaven sent for your lament - for all you
grieve
Say "I believe"
And I'll set you free
Of all your misery

MINIONS

(Singing)
(he's gonna leave you)
(here to relieve you)
(better believe)
(breathless)
(breathless)
(breathless)
(I believe)
(say aah)

PURGON (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Use my skills
On your ills
I'll press this
Undress that
Caress this
And leave you

The song ends in a big musical climax, with Purgon and the minions freezing in a dramatic tableau.

BERALDE walks up to Purgon who is still frozen in the tableau for dramatic effect.

BERALDE

Hello, I'm Beralde, and you are...

ARGAN

You idiot.

Argan throws himself at Purgon's feet.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Dr. Purgon, what an honor it is to have you in my home. It's been some time since you've made house calls.

DR. PURGON

Lift up your weak hands and feeble knees, Monsieur Argan. Don't let that which is lame be turned aside but rather let Me heal it.

ARGAN

I had worried you'd be angry with me.

DR. PURGON

I am not a vengeful doctor. I am merciful, righteous and just.

ARGAN

And I am your humble patient.

DR. PURGON

Humble? Humility suggests obedience. And yet did you not refuse to take a remedy which I had ordered?

ARGAN

It was a misunderstanding.

DR. PURGON

A special serum which I took the trouble of composing myself.

ARGAN

I had intended-

DR. PURGON

And whose impact on your health would have been substantial.

ARGAN

My brother, you see-

DR. PURGON

Your days would have been one hundred and twenty years.

ARGAN

Would have been?

DR. PURGON

What a fearful outrage against medicine.

ARGAN

I understand you're upset.

DR. PURGON

When the trust between patient and doctor has been compromised-

ARGAN

I do trust you.

DR. PURGON

But can I trust you? Can I trust that you will be a devoted patient? One whose allegiance to me, the diagnoses I make and the prescriptions I order will be respected and unquestioned?

ARGAN

You understand, it is not my fault.

DR. PURGON

Who else could be responsible for your health if not you?

ARGAN

I wanted to take the medicine.

DR. PURGON

But you didn't. And with every action or inaction comes an equal and opposing reaction. I am sad to say, your inaction was quite significant.

ARGAN

Meaning?

DR. PURGON

Meaning the consequences are equally significant.

ARGAN

...Meaning?

DR. PURGON

Meaning death.

ARGAN

Because I didn't take one injection?

DR. PURGON

Absolutely. Your problem, as I have said time and time again, is your liver. That injection's purpose is to keep your liver functioning properly. Without the proper function of the liver, the colon starts to dilute. That causes the bladder to expand and the spleen to engorge. Everything in the body is connected. Cure one thing, you can cure them all. Ignore one thing, you set off a fatal chain reaction.

ARGAN

An engorged spleen is fatal?

DR. PURGON

Once the spleen engorges it cause the hands to enlarge. Big hands make the wrists weak which in turn makes the rib cage contract until it squeezes your heart... and you die.

ARGAN

It's that quick?

DR. PURGON

No, not quick. Slow and painful. But irreversible. You have killed yourself. I tried to save you but you spat in My face, so now, though I have the antidote-

ARGAN

I thought you said it was irreversible.

DR. PURGON

Irreversible save for the one antidote that I have but don't intend to give because our trust has been broken, so now vengeance will be mine!

He heads for the door.

DR. PURGON (CONT'D)

Au revoir, Monsieur Argan.

ARGAN

You said you weren't a vengeful doctor.

DR. PURGON

I said, Au revoir.

BERALDE

(To Argan)

He wants you to beg.

ARGAN

Then I'll beg.

BERALDE

Don't. I've already sent for another doctor.

Dr. Purgon freezes and slowly turns around.

DR. PURGON

You did what?

BERALDE

I think it's time he had a second opinion.

DR. PURGON

There is no second authority on this matter. When God told Abraham he had to cut off his foreskin, did Abraham reply I want a second opinion?

BERALDE

Perhaps he should have.

DR. PURGON

He didn't. He accepted the word of the Almighty as fact and shredded his own foreskin with a sharp rock.

ARGAN

I'm uncomfortable with this analogy.

BERALDE

I suppose in that case, it was clear Abraham was talking with the highest authority. That's not the situation here.

DR. PURGON

There's no doctor more authoritative than Me in all of France.

BERALDE

Which is why I sent a letter on my brother's behalf to a doctor outside of France.

DR. PURGON

You did what?

BERALDE

Argan, it may please you to know that your symptoms have intrigued the renowned Dr. Clanahan of Scotland.

DR. PURGON

Dr. Clanahan? I have never heard of him.

BERALDE

Really? He is the foremost expert on conditions of Argan's specific nature. I would be amazed if his name does not sound familiar.

DR. PURGON

What's his first name?

BERALDE

Reumik.

DR. PURGON

Reumik Clanahan. The name does sound familiar.

BERALDE

(To Argan)

On a whim I sent him a description of your condition. I didn't think he'd write back, and if he did, I thought it only to tell me that you are clearly touched in the head and perfectly healthy.

ARGAN

I am not healthy.

BERALDE

Clearly not, as Dr. Clanahan has sent me word that your case intrigues him and he is traveling to see you.

ARGAN

Traveling from Scotland?

BERALDE

Yes.

ARGAN

Now?

BERALDE

Yes.

He grabs his abacus.

ARGAN

If the average walking speed for a man is about 3.5 Miles per hour and Scotland is about 657 miles from France...

A Scottish fanfare is heard.

BERALDE

That's Reumik Clanahan's fanfare now.

ARGAN

He's early!

Toinette enters dressed as Dr. Clanahan. Purgon's minions lead her in. She is playing a bagpipe as her fanfare morphs into a Scottish version of the song "Thank You For Being A Friend" (the theme from Golden Girls).

The fanfare concludes.

TOINETTE

Good day. I am Dr. Reumik Clanahan.

BERALDE

Dr. Clanahan, thank you for making the long journey.

TOINETTE

When I read your letter describing your brother's symptoms, I knew I had to come. I've traveled the world seeking out patients with seemingly incurable conditions.

DR. PURGON

This man's condition is severe but not incurable. I have been treating him for some time now.

TOINETTE

You have been treating him, but not curing him. If you were curing him, it wouldn't take some time.

DR. PURGON

There are no immediate remedies.

TOINETTE

There are, they're just less lucrative and so less preferred.

DR. PURGON

If you are suggesting I've not cured him merely to line my pockets-

TOINETTE

It's either that or you're incompetent. You choose.

DR. PURGON

You insignificant little bug! You'll rue the day-

TOINETTE

No! You'll rue the day you messed with Reumik Clanahan!

ARGAN

Gentlemen, please.

DR. PURGON

These are my minions. Who gave you permission to use my minions to make your entrance and sing your fanfare?

TOINETTE

They were your minions. Now they follow me.

Toinette claps and the minions all exit.

DR. PURGON

I don't like the accusations being thrust my way. Certainly not by a man whose own credentials have yet to be proven to my satisfaction.

TOINETTE

You'd like proof, would you?

DR. PURGON

Yes, I would. You walk in here like some kind of God. Let's see you perform a miracle. If you can.

TOINETTE

I can do all sorts of things. Make a blind man see. Make a deaf man hear.

DR. PURGON

Impossible.

BERALDE

We have a deaf man here. Deaf and mute to be exact.

DR. PURGON

Then let this doctor cure him and make him normal.

There is a collective gasp in the room.

TOINETTE

The only thing that needs to be cured is your tendency for political incorrectness. Deafness is not a disease that needs to be cured. And normal is not a goal but rather a state of mind. Any deaf person will tell you that.

DR. PURGON

Clearly not this one as he is also mute. So quit stalling and prove your mettle.

TOINETTE

I will. And when I do, you will defer to me, Dr. Purgon.

DR. PURGON

If you do.

ARGAN

You need to speak sign language with him. Do you speak sign language, doctor?

TOINETTE

Does this answer your question?

She signs to Guy. The following translation is heard:
“Don’t forget to see Measure for Measure, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Pirates of Penzance and the other fine shows this season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.”

Beat.

ARGAN

Impressive. Do you speak sign language Dr. Purgon?

DR. PURGON

No.

TOINETTE

In a moment he won’t need to. Not for this patient anyway.

ARGAN

I think he’s trying to communicate.

GUY

(Signing and heard via voice over)

I hate you right now. I am so tired of being a pawn in these games of yours. You call this a purpose? It’s disrespectful and beneath me. I should be writing music that changes the way people view the world. This is the last time I will do any thing of this nature. Understood? Also, someone in this room farted.

ARGAN

What did he say?

TOINETTE

He’s excited to finally have the opportunity to hear and be heard.

DR. PURGON

Then by all means work your magic.

TOINETTE

Hardly magic. There are channels along which the energy of the psychophysical system flows.

(MORE)

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

When patterns of physiological and emotional disharmony are discovered, it is usually caused by blockages or disruptions of that energy flow. To correct such malfunction, specific points are stimulated. All I need do to enable his speech and hearing is simply touch him... right here.

She touches his heart.

Guy

I can speak. I can hear.

An angelic sound is heard.

GUY (CONT'D)

(Suddenly inspired)

I can sing!

Music plays. He sings a song whose lyrics are in part made up of the audience member's information from earlier.

GUY (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Life is like a bowl of (**Post Its**)
Still you're feeling blue
Cause there you are stuck in (**Iowa**)
And don't know what to do.

But happiness it can be
Easy as one, two, (**57**)
Just remember to smile and laugh all the while.
Sweet Child
Then life's a buzz
I know this because
That's what (**Bob Jones**) does.

Guy's song ends triumphantly.

ARGAN

That song totally changed my world view.

DR. PURGON

I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes.

ARGAN

Remarkable. Dr. Clanahan, I am your willing patient. I beg of you, please cure me!

TOINETTE

Have you any objections, Dr. Purgon?

DR. PURGON

(Humbled)

No.

TOINETTE

Then I will help you, Monsieur Argan. As I recall in your brother's letter, he tells me your symptoms are as thus: palpitations, mucus, shortness of breath, elongated breath, medium length breath, dry mouth, wet mouth, big mouth, hiccups, hic-downs, sudden weight gain after meals, sudden weight loss after bowel movements, a pain in the eye while drinking tea, hyperbole, dyslexia, the ability to read Hebrew, the sensation that you have to pee followed by 30 seconds of peeing. Is that accurate?

ARGAN

It is.

TOINETTE

It's clear to me what the root of your problem is.

DR. PURGON

It's his liver, isn't it?

TOINETTE

It's his brain.

DR. PURGON

Yes. I agree. It's obviously his brain.

BERALDE

You just said it was his liver.

DR. PURGON

I said it's all connected! So if I say the liver, I obviously mean the brain. Everything is connected to the brain.

TOINETTE

He's right.

DR. PURGON

There, you see!

TOINETTE

Everything is connected to the brain and as everything seems to be the problem with you, Argan, the solution is quite clear.

DR. PURGON

A protein enema!

TOINETTE

We must cut out the brain.

DR. PURGON

We must cut out the brain.

ARGAN

We must cut out the brain.

(Then)

Cut out my brain? Are you sure there isn't a pressure point you can touch?

TOINETTE

Your condition is too far gone for that. This is the only way you'll survive.

BERALDE

This seems rather extreme. Purgon, do you agree with Dr. Clanahan's recommendation?

DR. PURGON

I agree 100 percent. It's plainly obvious this is what must be done. In fact, had you not been so dismissive of me earlier you would have seen this is the antidote to which I was referring.

BERALDE

This doesn't seem like an antidote. It seems like murder. Argan, you can't believe this.

ARGAN

I don't see why I shouldn't. Two of the most respected doctors in the world have diagnosed me.

BERALDE

And suggested you remove your brain! This is not a reasonable recommendation. I'd sooner follow the medical advice of my baker or my shoe cobbler or even my servant than listen to these two frauds.

DR. PURGON

Only an idiot would take medical advice from a servant. If you wish to count yourself among the idiots in the world, by all means, but I certainly wouldn't recommend this poor, sick man to follow your lead.

BERALDE

Argan, you are not sick, I promise you.

DR. PURGON

(Laughs)

If he is not sick, then as his doctors we must be the idiots.

BERALDE

And does the opposite hold true, as well? If you are the idiots, then this man must not be sick.

DR. PURGON

Sure, why not? Either way, it's irrelevant. We're brilliant.

TOINETTE

Well, I know I am. You I'm not so sure.

She removes her disguise.

ARGAN

Toinette?

DR. PURGON

What's the meaning of this?

TOINETTE

You said yourself only an idiot would take medical advice from a servant.

DR. PURGON

Who is this woman?

ARGAN

This is my servant.

TOINETTE

Guess what that makes you?

BERALDE

How do you feel, brother?

TOINETTE

We just proved your doctor a fool.

DR. PURGON

You've done nothing of the kind.

ARGAN

You were going to cut out my brain.

DR. PURGON

So?

ARGAN

I don't think that would have helped.

DR. PURGON

Who cares what you think or don't think. You're the patient! You're not being paid to think. That's my job.

Beat.

ARGAN

I'm not sure I like the job you're doing.

DR. PURGON

You think I need you? I don't. This town's filled with people just like you. Simple-minded imbeciles who don't even know how to put on a band-aid. Believe me, you're easily replaced.

ARGAN

Then it's time you found someone else.

DR. PURGON

Fine. You fools! Who's going to take care of you now?!? WHO'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU NOW?!?

DR. PURGON (CONT'D)

(Singing reprise)

I came to heal
The pain you feel
And bring relief

But all is lost
You'll pay the cost
Of disbelief

For the seeds you've sown
Have cursed your wicked bones
The end is near
Affliction so severe

(MORE)

I'm laughing
You're crying
I'm living
You're dying

Breathlesssssss!!!!

The music fades out with a whimper and, dejected, Dr. Purgon exits.

TOINETTE

He needs to work on his bedside manner.

BERALDE

Are you alright, brother?

ARGAN

I don't know.

TOINETTE

You don't know? That's progress.

ARGAN

Who am I if I am not ill?

TOINETTE

It's time you find out.

ARGAN

I've let it define me for so long.

BERALDE

You have people who love you. Let them define you.

ARGAN

My wife does love me, it's true.

BERALDE

Your wife is a greedy shrew who wants you dead.

ARGAN

Mind your manners, Beralde.

BERALDE

It's painful to learn the truth.

ARGAN

I won't ask you again!

BERALDE

Beline is a bloodsucking parasite!

He grabs Beralde and punches him in the stomach.

ARGAN

I have warned you not to speak of her that way!

BERALDE

It's so good to finally see some life in you.

ARGAN

I'll kill you if you say another word.

BERALDE

I would happily give my life to see you live yours. Especially without that gold digger.

ARGAN

I warned you!

He chokes Beralde against the wall.

TOINETTE

Enough! Beline does just want your money. And I can prove it if you'll let me.

Argan puts Beralde down.

ARGAN

And if you can't, you both will give her the respect she deserves.

TOINETTE

Fine. But you must do exactly as I say.

ARGAN

What do you require?

TOINETTE

I need you to die.

ARGAN

I don't like this plan.

TOINETTE

I need you to pretend you are dead. Here on the couch. Then I shall call my madame and you shall hear the truth.

ARGAN

Very well. Let's put an end to this now.

(To Beralde)

Beralde, when you're proved wrong, you will apologize or I will finish you.

BERALDE

And when you're proved wrong, Argan, you'll want to apologize but it won't be necessary. I already forgive you.

Argan crosses to the couch.

ARGAN

And now I die... feeling more alive than ever.

BERALDE

We should all be so lucky.

Argan enacts a dramatic death scene which goes on too long.

TOINETTE

Just die already!

BERALDE

Don't rush him dear girl, preparation is vital. When the time comes in truth, we have but one opportunity to get it right.

Argan finally concludes and lies motionless on the couch.

TOINETTE

Finally.

(To Beralde)

You need to get out of sight.

BERALDE

You are right. But before I go...

He grabs Toinette and kisses her. It's a kiss full of passion and love. For a moment, she reacts in shock, but then fully falls into his embrace and kisses him back.

They part and Beralde walks over to Guy.

BERALDE (CONT'D)

Guy, I loved your song. Perhaps you'd like to sing for me?

GUY

(Beaming)

Thanks (**Bob Jones**) !

Beralde and Guy begin to exit. Before they do, Beralde takes out his notebook, and turning back to Toinette, he marks his list one last time.

BERALDE

Check.

Guy and Beralde exit.

Argan suddenly sits up.

ARGAN

Are we doing this or what?

TOINETTE

We're doing it. Ready?

Argan once again pretends to be dead.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

It's show time.

(Then)

No! No! Madame, come quick! This can't be. No!

BELINE and DE BONNEFOI enter.

BELINE

Why are you yelling, girl?

TOINETTE

It's my master, your husband. He's gone!

M. DE BONNEFOI

Gone?

BELINE

What do you mean?

TOINETTE

See for yourself! One moment he was calling me a meatheaded Dumbkopf, and the next...

BELINE

Is he really dead?

TOINETTE

I am afraid so. I am so sorry.

Beline approaches Argan.

BELINE

Oh dear...

(Then)

Finally! What a happy day!

TOINETTE

Madame?

BELINE

Happy, happy day!

TOINETTE

You're happy that he is out of suffering?

BELINE

I am happy that I am out of suffering! What an insufferable goon he was! He was a wretch. An unpleasant troll and the world is a better place without him. You wish to shed tears over him? Don't. He's not worth them. But I'll tell you what he is worth. A lot of money for me.

(To Monsieur De Bonnefoi)

Oh darling, all of our scheming turned out to be entirely unnecessary. He really was sick.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Yes. And now you and I no longer need to hide our love.

BELINE

Now that he's gone, nothing needs to be hidden anymore. I hate you too.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Excusez-moi?

BELINE

Almost as much as I hated him.

M. DE BONNEFOI

You said you loved me terribly.

BELINE

Yes. When it came to loving you, it was terrible. I was only using you to get what I wanted. It's a little trick I learned from my father. And now that Argan's dead, all of my hard work has paid off.

Argan sits up. Monsieur De Bonnefoi is dumbfounded at the sight of him.

BELINE (CONT'D)

(Not yet seeing Argan)

Don't look so surprised De Bonnefoi. Everyone lies to get what they want. That's the way of the world. Those who lie best get more than everyone else. And no one lies better than me.

She sees Argan. She screams.

BELINE (CONT'D)

Argan!

(Then)

Merciful Heavens, you're alive!

ARGAN

Enough.

BELINE

I can explain!

ARGAN

You deceitful woman.

BELINE

But I love you!

ARGAN

You make me sick.

BELINE

But Argan-

ARGAN

Out!

BELINE

Poopums-

ARGAN

NOW!

She collects herself and then heads for the door. Before exiting, she turns to Argan.

BELINE

So I'm the bad guy then? Just because I cheated on you, wished you dead and tried to steal your money, I'm the bad guy? I'm the product of a bad guy, does anyone care about that? Like a mutated gene, I inherited these tainted values. What's your excuse? So you can cast me aside for being exactly what I was taught to be? It makes no difference; I'll be just fine. To hell with all of you!

She exits.

TOINETTE

(Calling after her)

It's never too late to have a happy childhood!

(To De Bonnefoi)

And you, lawyer, you didn't really think she loved you, did you?

He heads towards the door, but turns to Toinette before leaving.

M. DE BONNEFOI

Of course not.

He faints offstage.

ARGAN

I was so blind. And now that she's gone, I can plainly see there is no one who loves me.

TOINETTE

Not true. You have two wonderful daughters who adore you.

ARGAN

If they were to come into this room to find me lying here, their response wouldn't be much different from hers.

TOINETTE

I see them coming now. Why don't we find out?

ARGAN

You understand, Toinette, if their reaction is the same... there will be no more need for pretending.

TOINETTE

I understand. Now off to sleep with you.

Argan once again begins his dramatic death scene.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Is this really necessary?

He's finally motionless.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

And here we go again.

(Then)

No! Why! This cannot be! Take me! Why?

Angelique, Louison and Cleante enter.

ANGELIQUE

What is it?

TOINETTE

It's your father. He's... gone...

ANGELIQUE

Gone? Dead? No!

LOUISON

How is this possible? I never dreamed he was really sick.

ANGELIQUE

What will we do without him?

LOUISON

Papa!

ANGELIQUE

Daddy! Why?

CLEANTE

My love, I am so sorry.

ANGELIQUE

I can't run away and marry you. He wouldn't have wanted that and now I want nothing more than to see him happy.

CLEANTE

I understand. Though I love you more than anything, perhaps it wasn't meant to be. I could have sworn it was, though. Like Antony and Cleopatra, Tristan and Isolde, Jack and Jill. Have we done this to ourselves? I'd hate to think that our conspiring in any way contributed to his untimely death.

LOUISON

No. He was sick. Though none of us believed it, he clearly was ill. If I caused you any grief father, I apologize. I know it was your intent that I join a convent. If it will finally give you peace, I will do so and pray to you every day.

They all start to cry. Finally, Argan sits up and starts to cry with them. Now Toinette joins in.

ANGELIQUE

Wait a minute, you're alive.

LOUISON

Can it be?

They embrace him.

ANGELIQUE

I'm so happy you're not dead.

LOUISON

Leapin' Lazarus, you were pretending? Oh touche, papa, touche!

ARGAN

I've been such an ignorant fool. I found myself at a crossroads when your mother died. I chose sadness and anger and sickness. And thought my own children didn't love me.

ANGELIQUE

But we do, daddy.

LOUISON

More than anything. And if it proves it, I shall join a convent.

ANGELIQUE

I'll marry Thomas. Just please don't leave us.

ARGAN

Never. And nothing would give me greater joy than to see you both happy. You needn't join a convent, Louison. And you, Angélique, don't have to marry Thomas. I see there is already a man worthy of you, and it is him.

CLEANTE

You may call me The Magnificent Lover.

ARGAN

I beg your pardon.

CLEANTE

Cleante! My name is Cleante.

ARGAN

Dear daughter, if you wish to marry Cleante, I give you both my blessing.

She and Cleante embrace and then fall to the floor
entwined in each other's arms.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

It thrills me to see you happy.

ANGELIQUE

I am, daddy.

ARGAN

Though I must admit, it would have been nice to have a doctor in the family.

Thomas enters.

THOMAS

Louison, will you marry me?

LOUISON

What?

THOMAS

I know this is sudden. But you were right. Too much time spent with you and it's become
your heart I long to win. Love has struck me like lightning!

LOUISON

Oh Thomas, it's struck me, too! Yes. Yes, I will marry you.

Louison and Thomas embrace then fall to the floor
entwined in each other's arms.

ARGAN

I will have a doctor in the family.

THOMAS

And I have decided to quit family medicine.

ARGAN

Eau de Toilette!

LOUISON

But what about your father?

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS enters.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Yes, Thomas. What about me?

THOMAS

Father, I thought you left.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

I did, but returned when I sensed your disobedience. I also forgot my duck.

He grabs the duck he was wearing on his head earlier.

THOMAS

Please don't be mad. I have never been anything but obedient to you. You wanted me to marry Argan's daughter. And so I will. Just not the one you thought.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

I also wanted you to be a doctor.

THOMAS

Yes and I wanted to be an artist. It turns out there is a field of medicine that lets me do both. I shall be a plastic surgeon.

LOUISON

Oh Thomas, what a good idea!

ARGAN

Yes, that's excellent. Perhaps you've noticed my daughter's big hump?

THOMAS

I have. It's what I find most attractive about her. Perhaps I'll add humps to all my patients, so they might hope to be half as beautiful as her.

Louison and Thomas embrace again.

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS

Oh my son. I've been such a fool I've wasted all this time insisting you do what I want. When in fact doing what you want, is what I want.

ARGAN

It seems we both have been fools wasting time. But I won't frivol away another moment.

TOINETTE

Lovers filled with love. Fathers filled with gratitude and everyone filled with greater understanding. I think we just might have found a happy ending for all.

ARGAN

(Playfully)

Just because you think it doesn't make it true.

TOINETTE

Doesn't it?

ARGAN

(He smiles at her)

Thank you for everything... my friend.

(Then, to everyone)

A happy ending! That's cause for celebration!

Everyone celebrates. Music and revelry fill the air.

GUY enters and he and Toinette meet down center. Guy hands Toinette Beralde's notebook.

GUY

(Signing only . Not heard over voice over)

Beralde is dead. He checked everything off his list and now he's done.

Toinette is affected by the news, but doesn't seem surprised.

GUY (CONT'D)

(Signing and speaking)

Was he... ?

TOINETTE

(Signing and speaking)

Yes. Very sick. For a long time.

GUY

(Signing and speaking)

He seemed so alive.

TOINETTE

(Signing and speaking)

Yes. He was. So alive.

Lights fade on everyone but Toinette and Guy. Guy begins to play a song on his guitar. Toinette begins to sing.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Hey there it's me
I feel you here
Feel you near

You taught me to see
How it slips away
Live while we may

Life is not for sorrow
Ours is not tomorrow
Hold on to me today

Argan approaches Toinette and Guy.

ARGAN

(Singing)

In this time and in this place
I'll let the sunshine in
Don't matter where I been
Or what tomorrow brings

Do the things I wanna do
It's time to dance along
It's time to sing the song
'Cause life ain't long

TOINETTE AND ARGAN

(Singing)

All we have is now
All we have is now

The rest of the cast with the exception of Beralde join Argan, Toinette and Guy downstage and begin to sing.

ALL BUT BERALDE

(Singing to audience)

Hey there I see
All you there
You took time to be
With me here

Your eyes all a shining
Hearts all a beating
There's no denying
This time is fleeting

Hold - on to me
And we won't conceal this
We'll let it be this
Moment to feel this now

All we have is now
All we have is now
All we have is-

Suddenly, the music stops and the lights crash to black.
Silence.

Curtain.