Have you no friends, madame?

CONSTANCE

I've never stay in one place long enough to make any. A woman in my position must constantly be on the move. My very life depends on it.

MILADY

I don't understand.

CONSTANCE

MILADY

I have made an enemy of a very powerful man. If Cardinal Richelieu knew where I was...

CONSTANCE

Richelieu?! Oh, Madame, never say that you are in his bad graces as well? How awful!

MILADY

I'm afraid it's true – but tell me, dear child, what have you done to earn the Cardinal's ill favor?

CONSTANCE

Nothing but remain loyal to the Queen. Do you know her, Lady de Winter?

MILADY

I have never had the pleasure, personally – but I hear she is kind and good.

CONSTANCE

She is all that and more! Why, if it wasn't for Her Majesty, I would still be rotting in the Bastille. Instead, I am here and will soon be rescued by my one true love.

MILADY

One true love...? Sister – I'm shocked!

CONSTANCE

Oh, I am not really a Carmelite...

(She removes her veil.)

This is just a disguise to keep me safe.

MILADY

What a relief – especially for your one true love. What's he like?

CONSTANCE

D'Artagnan is the most handsome, the most brave and good.
He loves you?

MILADY

With all his heart. And I him.

CONSTANCE

MILADY

Lovely. When do you expect to see this Monsieur D’Artagnan again?

CONSTANCE

Any day now.

MILADY

That soon? Well, we must drink a toast to celebrate.

(She turns her back on CONSTANCE and pours a glass of wine.)

CONSTANCE

But there is only one glass, Madame.

MILADY

Then we will share – but you must take the first drink.

CONSTANCE

Oh no, Madame...

MILADY

I insist...

(During the following, she removes the vial of poison from her pocket and pours a few drops into the wine.)

You have taken the time to spare a few words with a lonely old woman. It’s the least I can do.

(She turns back to CONSTANCE with the glass of wine.)

To Monsieur D’Artagnan’s future happiness.

(Suddenly we hear the sound of four galloping horses approaching from a distance.)

CONSTANCE

Listen! Someone’s coming!