ROCHEFORT
He’ll have a headache when he wakes up. What do you keep in that bag?

MILADY
Heavy things. You were supposed to meet me ten minutes ago, Rochefort.

ROCHEFORT
My apologies, Milady. This young rascal insisted on fighting.

MILADY
Dueling is outlawed in Paris. The last thing we need is unwanted attention…

ROCHEFORT
He started it!

(MILADY looks down at D’ARTAGNAN.)

MILADY
Who is he?

ROCHEFORT
Another farmer yearning to be a musketeer.

MILADY
Boys and their foolish dreams.

ROCHEFORT
This boy is different. He has a connection to Monsieur de Treville.

MILADY
Treville?!! My God, Rochefort – what are you waiting for? Kill him! Kill him!

(She pulls a knife and starts for D’ARTAGNAN. ROCHEFORT stays her hand.)

ROCHEFORT
Milady, this boy is unable to defend himself.

MILADY
What does that matter? He knows Treville! And if Treville finds out that you and I met today, he’ll go straight to the King…

ROCHEFORT
Treville won’t find out.
MILADY

How can you be certain?

ROCHEFORT

The boy doesn’t know who we are—he just arrived in Paris today. And he hasn’t actually met Treville. Not yet, anyway.

(ROCHEFORT crouches down and starts searching D’ARTAGNAN’s pockets.)

MILADY

But you said...

ROCHEFORT

I spoke hastily. What I meant was, he carries a letter of introduction to Monsieur de Treville.

(ROCHEFORT pulls D’ARTAGNAN’s wallet out of his pocket, opens it and removes a letter. He shows it to MILADY.)

Which he will never deliver. And you know as well as I do that Treville won’t see anyone without an introduction. So you see, Lady de Winter—there is no need for split blood. We are quite safe. Now as to the purpose of our meeting—Cardinal Richelieu has orders. You are to return to England without delay, and notify him immediately if the Duke of Buckingham leaves London.

MILADY

Any other instructions?

ROCHEFORT

Yes. In here. But you are not to read them until you cross the Channel.

(He pulls out a sealed envelope and hands it to her.)

MILADY

Very well. And where will you be?

ROCHEFORT

I am to stay here in Paris and keep an eye on Her Majesty. Remember now, the moment Buckingham makes a move...

MILADY

Yes, yes—have I ever failed you before?

(D’ARTAGNAN groans.)

ROCHEFORT

Then away with you—before we’re seen!