

Grüber: Thank you sir. Um, let me see, yes, the Bells, the Bells...
(Grüber exits through the door.)

General: What a strange evening. Well, at least my money is safe. **(He goes to the safe and opens it. He reacts.)** WHAT? I have been burgled! GUARDS!!!
(Blackout.)

ACT TWO SCENE SIX FANNY'S BEDROOM

(Fanny is asleep in her bedroom. Leclerc is also in the bed, unseen under the covers. René and Edith enter followed by Crabtree and Michelle.)

Fanny: **(Woken by the sound.)** Aaaahhh! Who is this in my room?

René: Shut up you silly old bat. It is only us.

Edith: Sorry Mama.

Fanny: Why must you disturb me so late at night?

René: Ask her... **(He points at Michelle.)**

Michelle: Now listen very carefully, I shall say this only once.

Fanny: What was that?

Michelle: I shall say this only once.

Fanny: Good.

Michelle: Our latest plan to catapult the airmen back to England has failed.

René: There's a surprise.

Crabtree: The elastic bond snapped.

Michelle: We need to call London to tell them the bad news.

René: I wish you would leave us in peace and stop these stupid schemes. I have only just got back from the chateau with the forged money and your bomb. What were you thinking of, trying to blow up the General?

Fanny: **(To Edith.)** Why have I been left alone so long?

Leclerc: **(Sitting up in the bed next to Fanny.)** I had a headache.

- Edith:** What is Monsieur Leclerc doing in your bed?
- Fanny:** He was sleeping in the cellar, and I felt sorry for him. It is very windy down there.
- Leclerc:** It is not much better up here.
- Fanny:** Am I not allowed a little romance and attention?
- René:** I'm surprised you'd get any from him.
- Edith:** My mother and Leclerc... it is very romantic!
- René:** It is certainly rheumatic. Come on let's get this over with quickly.
- (René, Edith, Crabtree and Michelle lift up the bed to set up the radio.)**
- Leclerc** I hope this does not happen on the honeymoon!
- Fanny:** Why not? Nothing else will happen.
- René:** **(To the radio.)** 'Allo, 'allo! This is Nighthawk. Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Over.
- Fanny:** **(Holding her ear trumpet to her ear and interrupting)** Of course I can hear you.
- René:** Not you! Shut up!
- Radio:** **(In a French accent)** 'Allo, Nighthawk. Are you receiving us? Over?
- René:** **(To the radio.)** Receiving you loud and crackling. Over.
- Radio:** Pass your message. Over.
- René:** **(To Edith.)** What is the code to tell them the British airmen are still here?
- Edith:** **(Reading from the code book.)** "The little cupboard is full."
- Fanny:** Ah? What is that?
- René:** **(To the radio.)** The little cupboard is full! Over.
- Fanny:** **(Interrupting again)** Oh no, no, no. I have not used it all the day!
- Radio:** Understood. Philip and John are going for a swim. Heloise is expecting a visit from the stork. Over.

- René:** (To Edith.) What is that supposed to mean?
- Crabtree:** Leave it to moo. (Into the radio.) Allo Allo, secret agent Crabtree cooling. Give me Wombledon sox two, sox two
- Radio:** Receiving you lewd and clore. Hold the loon, I will connoct you.
- René:** Not another one!
- Radio 2:** (A very English voice.) Hello. Johnson's tailors. How can I help you?
- Crabtree:** (He breaks the connection.) Bigger. A wrong nimber. I will go and chick it in my address bike.
- Michelle:** We will return soon!
- René:** Oh, good...
- (Crabtree and Michelle exit out of the window.)
- Mimi:** (Off stage.) Stop! You cannot go in there!
- (Grüber enters with Mimi close behind. Grüber carries a camembert cheese.)
- Mimi:** I could not stop him!
- Grüber:** Good evening, everyone.
- Fanny:** A German in my bedroom! They rape defenceless women!
- Mimi:** Believe me, this one doesn't.
- Leclerc:** I will protect you, Fanny!
- Fanny:** Do your worst! I am prepared to die for France. I have been prepared for thirty years.
- René:** God clearly doesn't want the aggravation. (To Grüber.) What are you doing here Lieutenant?
- Grüber:** I am sorry to intrude René, but I have something for you...
- René:** Something for me Lieutenant?
- Grüber:** Yes, here. I stole this from the General.
- (Grüber hands over the cheese to René, who looks inside.)

René: But it is empty?

Grüber: Ah, the money is safe...

(Grüber starts to unbutton his trousers.)

Fanny: Aaaaaahhhhh!

René: Lieutenant!

(Grüber reveals the money tucked into his undergarments.)

Grüber: I have a large package for you...

Fanny & Edith: Aaaaaahhhhh!

Grüber: I was under orders to bring the money back to the Colonel, but I think you need it more than he does...

(Grüber hands the bundles of cash to René.)

Edith: But now we have both...

René: **(Interrupting her quickly.)** Thank you, Edith. Lieutenant, how can I ever thank you

Grüber: Oh I'm sure I'll think of something. Good night then.

(Grüber exits escorted by Mimi.)

René: Why are people always trying to help me! Now we are back to square one!

(Michelle appears at the window and opens it. She does not come in but peers through.)

René: Will you get down from there?

Edith: Someone will see you!

Michelle: If I am seen I will simply say I am repairing your window.

René: But it is not broken!

(Michelle hits the window. Sound FX: Broken glass.)

Michelle: It is now.

- René:** Oh, thank you. You realise now that the general does not have either cheese and therefore no money and no doubt, he will come here tomorrow to get it back.
- Michelle:** He may have you shot.
- René:** He can join the queue. The undertaker with the dicky ticker is already coming to shoot me.
- Michelle:** The resistance will protect you. Without your help the British airmen will never get home. If necessary, we will shoot you first.
- René:** What!
- Michelle:** Do not worry, we will fake your death so you will be left alone. **(Pause.)** But if the plan fails...
- René:** And of course, your track record is so good...
- Michelle:** ...The Germans may arrest you and we would not want you to suffer.
- Leclerc:** They do not want you to talk!
- Michelle:** Here is a suicide pill hidden in this ring.
(Michelle hands René a ring.)
- René:** Oh Michelle, no thank you, I just want a quiet life.
- Edith:** Take the pill and you'll have one!
- Michelle:** Perhaps you would like to give your wife one?
- René:** Even a Frenchman cannot think of that sort of thing at a time like this.
- Michelle:** I will now depart like a phantom into the night...
(Michelle exits through the window.)
- René:** Well, she was a great help!
(Sound FX: Clatter, pause and a crash.)
- Edith:** What was that?
- René:** Just the phantom falling off the roof! Come let us prepare for tomorrow.
- Edith:** If this is to be your last night alive, we will make it a night to remember. Let me do something that will make you feel warm and wonderful!

René: Good idea. You can fill my hot water bottle.

(Blackout.)

ACT TWO SCENE SEVEN RENÉ'S CAFÉ

(The next day in the Café. Peasants and Germans are gathered at the tables anticipating events! René is in a fluster. Yvette and Mimi are on hand to support him.)

René: Well, I tell you this, it is not good to ponder on the fact that this may be the last day of my life although I suppose things would be somewhat less fraught, and truth to tell, I could do with a lie down. Both the General and the Undertaker want the money and I cannot pay them both.

Mimi: Oh, René, I will defend you from death...

Yvette: Oh, René, I will defend you from death even more...

René: How can you defend me even more from death?

Mimi: We have a plan René. I have a gun here under my apron and it is loaded with blank bullets, and I will shoot you. When I do, please scream and clutch your chest.

Yvette: And I will rush to you, and you will collapse on top of me, which will allow me to apply some false blood to your body without being seen, while under the pretence of giving you the kiss of life.

Mimi: And then I will lift your body off and we shall wail.

Yvette: The General will see you are dead with blood all over you. We will do some more weeping and then carry your body out the back, shove you down into the coal cellar and all will be well.

René: Well, I suppose it's the thought that counts and maybe it will work.

(The Colonel and Geering enter through the main door.)

Colonel: René?

René: Yes Colonel?