

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

JULES VERNE

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THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

JULES VERNE

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By

Translated and adapted from
The Companions of Marjoram

By
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c 2003

Etext by Dagny

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CHARACTERS

SIMPLICE, a ferryman of the St–Romans on the Isere ferry

GUERFROID, a wine grower

LANDRY, a shepherd

BONIFACE, an hotel keeper

MARCELINE, his daughter

DAME MONIQUE, his wife

The action takes place in the village of Saint–Romans in Languedoc.

The stage represents a low hall in the inn of Saint Paterne. At the back a double door, opening on the river Isere. To the right of this door a window; to the left, the opening of a wine room furnished with, casks both empty and full. Side doors on the right and left. Tables and benches.

(MARCELINE is listening to the voice of Simplicie in the distance.)

SIMPLICE: Pretty one, before the day is over
We will reach the beach.

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Come, before the end of the day
We'll chat about love on the beach.

MARCELINE: (running in) Ah! Thank god! I hear him. Here he is !

(Marceline listens.)

SIMPLICE: There, we'll talk about intended love.
A nice pastime for the one who loves you!
There, we'll talk about love
From sundown to sun up.

MARCELINE: Ah! Thank God!
He's here!

(She opens the door.)

SIMPLICE: (entering) I am here!

TOGETHER

SIMPLICE: Tonight, I'm no longer afraid.
him Courage.

MARCELINE: My courage astonishes me!
Tonight he's no longer afraid. It's love that gives me
Courage.

His courage astonishes me!
It's love that gives

SIMPLICE: If Mr. Boniface
Separates us and runs me off,
I'll laugh at his threats,
I'll stare him in the face.

MARCELINE: In the face!

SIMPLICE: In the face!

MARCELINE: Like this!

SIMPLICE: Like this!

MARCELINE: Less boldly.

SIMPLICE: Like that.

MARCELINE: More politely.

SIMPLICE: With effrontery,
Insolently,
Proudly.

MARCELINE: (aside) What a change.

TOGETHER

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

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SIMPLICE: Tonight, I'm no longer afraid. **MARCELINE:** My courage astonishes me! His courage astonishes me!
him Courage. Courage. Tonight he's no longer afraid. It's love that gives me It's love that gives

MONIQUE: (entering) What have I seen?

SIMPLICE: (terrified) Heaven!

MARCELINE: (retaining him) Well!

MONIQUE: What are you doing in my home?

SIMPLICE: I

MONIQUE: Speak!

MARCELINE: (low to Simplicie) Well go on, speak!

SIMPLICE: I I, so much the worse my word! (pointing to Marceline) To my love I am coming to pay a visit.

MONIQUE: Eh! What!
By my holy patroness!
Miss is giving
A gallant rendez-vous.
In our home!
Let's go find her father;
He will know, I hope,
How to run this man
Out of here.

TOGETHER

SIMPLICE: hope, **MARCELINE:** Go find her father Go find my father, And, despite him, I
He will not dare, I hope, Not to leave here. To send him away from here.

(Monique leaves.)

MARCELINE: If my father runs you off,
You laugh at his grimaces,
You brave his threats,
You will confront him in his face.

SIMPLICE: In his face!

MARCELINE: In his face!

SIMPLICE: In his face.

MARCELINE: Like this

SIMPLICE: Less boldly.

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MARCELINE: Like that.

SIMPLICE: More politely.

MARCELINE: With effrontery,
Insolently,
Proudly.

SIMPLICE: (aside) Annoying moment!

TOGETHER

SIMPLICE (aside) I feel my heart beating, afraid.
MARCELINE: (aside) Despite myself I'm shivering, I feel his heart beating, He's afraid.
Audacity abandons him,
There he is shivering, I'm

(Monique returns with Boniface who is armed with a stick.)

MONIQUE: There he is!

BONIFACE: Get out of here!

SIMPLICE: Dear Mr. Boniface!

BONIFACE: Get out of here! I'm running you off!

MARCELINE: (low to Simplicie) There you are, face to face!

SIMPLICE: What must I do?

MARCELINE: (low) Stay put!

BONIFACE: Begone!

MARCELINE: Speak.

BONIFACE: Shut up, you.

SIMPLICE: I

BONIFACE: Huh?

MARCELINE: Will you say something!

SIMPLICE: I I, so much the worse, my word! (pointing to Marceline)
I am coming to ask for your little girl.

BONIFACE: Eh, what! Can one understand
Such a demand
Without suddenly
Raising his hand!

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Since he's staying, I intend,
With this stick, to pommel him
On the subject, by the hour
On his back.

TOGETHER

SIMPLICE: (aside) If I stay, he's going To drub me by the hour! (reaching the back) Let's turn our back On their proposal.

MARCELINE: (retaining him) **MONIQUE AND BONIFACE:** Stay still, stay! It's necessary since he's staying And don't go on the spot With this stick, on the spot, To turn your back. To drub him on his back.

BONIFACE AND MONIQUE: Let's go! Let's go! Let's go! Show us your heels Or we will thrash you. We will beat you with a stick!

SIMPLICE: (aside) **MARCELINE:** (aside) Soon we will return Cursed be cowards. And we shall see. Cursed be cowards.

(Simplice escapes by the rear.)

BONIFACE: (drying his face) Ah! The wise guy!

MARCELINE: There, he's gone!

BONIFACE: To dare to introduce himself into my home to romance my daughter

MONIQUE: It's your fault, too. I always told you. You don't know how to make either your daughter or your wife respected. And if I weren't here If I didn't get involved sometimes, God knows what would happen.

BONIFACE: Monique, my dear Monique, let's not quarrel.

MONIQUE: Go, go, Mr. Boniface you don't deserve a wife like me

BONIFACE: It's true, that there are only compliments to be made to Monique on her wisdom and her good health.

MARCELINE: The fact is that nobody has a face as vermilion as hers!

MONIQUE: I boast of it! And here are two strong arms which will know how to protect me, if needed, from gallants. (to Marceline) As for Simplicite, he has only to set his foot here again and I will take it upon myself to throw him out the window, On that, goodnight. (she leaves)

BONIFACE: She's right. That cursed boatman deserves a good beating!

MARCELINE: Why? For having dared to ask for the hand of your daughter?

BONIFACE: Him, my son-in-law! A coward who's afraid of me!

MARCELINE: He's only a coward because he doesn't have a wife to protect him.

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BONIFACE: A ninny.

MARCELINE: A ninny because he's in love.

BONIFACE: A poor devil of a boatman who has only his boat.

MARCELINE: His wife will bring him what he lacks.

BONIFACE: Shut up!

MARCELINE: I'm shutting up.

BONIFACE: Oh! Triple dummy that I am! (striking his head) Stupid donkey!

MARCELINE: What's the matter?

BONIFACE: How could I have forgotten. (calling) Hola! Tomassin! Andeol! (enter two valets) Quick! Tables! Mugs!

MARCELINE: What's the matter, my God?

BONIFACE: It's that It's that The Knights of the Daffodil have retained this room for tonight and that they could come from one moment to the next.

MARCELINE: The Knights of the Daffodil!

BONIFACE: A troupe of young wise guys who go from village to village seducing the wives, carrying off the girls, drinking the best wines of the wine cellars, and roughing up recalcitrant inn keepers. They recognize each other by their Daffodils!

MARCELINE: Wow! (aside) My! my! my!

BONIFACE: They are coming tonight for the fest of Saint Severin, and they have to gather here, at nightfall, to cross to the other side of the river. (mysteriously) The wine grower Guerfroid and Landry the shepherd have told me they will be the first to arrive, and they advised me to fill the mugs in advance. (taking two mugs from the table) That's what I'm going into the cellar for. (heading towards the wine room) As for you, do me the pleasure of going to your room.

MARCELINE: But, father

BONIFACE: You will tell your stepmother to do it, also.

MARCELINE: Yes, father.

(Boniface exits.)

MARCELINE: (alone, going to open the door) See if Simplicie has come back! If he was only half as brave as Dame Monique. (sings)

Oh, what a bore to love a timid lad.
Wouldn't it be a hundred times better
If he were intrepid?

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To boldly raise his eyes!
If they marry us,
Does he want them to laugh
At his clumsiness?
Alas! such a fiancé
The world's upside down.
If the spouse is wise
In his household,
He keeps power undivided.
It's a good custom,
And it's a great shame,
When, by chance, we usurp it.
Plague on husbands who wear the skirts!

(ii)

Oh, what a bore to love such a timid lad!
Who's going to protect the house
If fear makes him an invalid
And deprives him of his reason!
If some tender lover
Comes to surprise me,
So much the worse for a husband too slow
Who allows a gallant to do whatever.
If the husband is wise
He keeps all the power undivided.
It's a good custom
Because it's a great shame,
When by chance, we usurp it.
Plague on all husbands who wear the skirts!

(Simplice jumps precipitously through the window.)

MARCELINE: God!

SIMPLICE: Hush! It's me!

MARCELINE: Ah! What a fright you gave me.

SIMPLICE: I just met two men down there who are heading this way, and I came to warn you.

MARCELINE: What's the good?

SIMPLICE: You don't know that I recognized them by their Daffodils!

MARCELINE: Ah, bah! They are the happy companions that my father was telling me about just now.

SIMPLICE: Frightful good for nothings!

MARCELINE: Charming lads!

SIMPLICE: Who respect nothing.

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MARCELINE: Who are afraid of no one!

SIMPLICE: Who drink, who swear as if damned!

MARCELINE: Who know how to protect their loves!

SIMPLICE: You wouldn't want me to be like them!

MARCELINE: You wouldn't do so badly, if you already resembled them a bit.

SIMPLICE: Me!

MARCELINE: In your place, I would ask them to take a role in their band for a while!

SIMPLICE: What! You want?

MARCELINE: And if it's necessary for that to prove to them you have some courage you will tell them the story of this poor devil who drowned in the Isere and that you saved

SIMPLICE: What! You remember it

MARCELINE: Yes, I remember it! Didn't you give me as a fiancée bouquet, those beautiful beribboned flowers that this man delivered to you saying: this will bring you luck!

SIMPLICE: And you kept them?

MARCELINE: They are upstairs in my room, and you will see them on my bodice the day when you become completely brave.

SIMPLICE: Oh! really! don't worry! If that's what you need, you are going to see. (going to the window) There they are: let's escape!

MARCELINE: Ah! I will embolden you despite yourself. (she escapes and locks the door)

SIMPLICE: Hola! Marceline! They're here! I'm dead! (hiding behind an empty wine cask)

LANDRY: Long live old wine!

GUERFROID: Long live young girls!

LANDRY: The sight of bottles

Fills our hearts with joy!

GUERFROID: The sight of red lips

Works even better

LANDRY: (spoken) Heyo! Colleague!

GUERFROID: (spoken) Heyo! companion! Heyo!

TOGETHER Tick, tock! Mug against mug! Tick, tock! What a happy shock! Straight as a rock! Proud as a cock! Let's drink in block The whole wine cellar! And if someone unwisely braves and defies us Let's beat him

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from head to toe!

(They rap the boards with their hobnailed canes. Simplice is hiding in the cask.)

GUERFROID: Oh, the good life!
Gay and hearty fellows,
Shepherds and winegrowers,
Our fate is worthy of envy.
Oh, the good life!
Strong, young and handsome,
Winegrowers and shepherds
Our fate is worthy of envy.
They have to see us set the fashion
For the guys' assembly
We fight and twirl the baton
In the midst of melees.
To laugh, to sing, morning and night,
And all week, too
Good God! colleague, they have to see us!
We're worth the trouble!

LANDRY: Well! They will see us
Always on holiday!
They will hear us
Repeat with all of our might:
Wine's a gift from the gods!

GUERFROID: Love is the pleasure of the gods.

LANDRY: Good wine that sparkles
Rejoices the eyes!

GUERFROID: A pretty girl
Does more for me!

LANDRY: (spoken) Ohey! Colleague.

GUERFROID: Ohey! Companion, ohey!

TOGETHER Clink! Clank! Glass against glass! Clink! Clank! What a joyful shock! Straight like a rock! Proud like a cock! Let's drink en block The entire wine cellar! And if some fool braves and defies us, We'll beat him from head to toe! Clink! Clank! Glass against glass! Clink! Clank! What a joyful shock! Straight like a rock! Proud like a cock!

LANDRY: (rapping on the table, spoken) Hola! hey! Papa Boniface!

GUERFROID: Hola!

BONIFACE: (coming from the cellar) Here! Here!

LANDRY: Hurry up, slow poke!

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GUERFROID: Make it snappy!

BONIFACE: (placing the mugs on the table) There! There!

GUERFROID How's your wife?

BONIFACE: My wife?

LANDRY: She's still young?

BONIFACE: Young meaning young if you like.

GUERFROID: (rapping the table) We want to know if she's young?

BONIFACE: (altered) She is young!

LANDRY: And your daughter, Marceline? Pretty? Is she still pretty?

BONIFACE: My daughter Marceline! Pretty if you like.

LANDRY: (rapping the table) We want to know if she's pretty!

BONIFACE: She is very pretty!

GUERFROID: On that note, busy yourself with supper, and take care that no one come to disturb us, or we will trim his ears.

SIMPLICE: (aside) I am dead!

LANDRY: What's that noise?

GUERFROID: Someone spoke.

BONIFACE: It was the rats!

LANDRY: Get going, scamper off.

BONIFACE: Right! (he leaves by the left)

GUERFROID: The country was good, colleague!

LANDRY: We are not returning empty hearted, companion! (Simplice peeps out) And what we did with those victims!

GUERFROID: Did we ever murder those dandies from the Midi! (Simplice hides himself) You know quite well that ten fine stout lads from Arles or Tarascon wouldn't frighten you, Landry!

(Simplice shows his head.)

LANDRY: You know, Guerfroid that fifteen blokes from Provence or the Carmogues wouldn't make you flinch.

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GUERFROID: Well said. (he chugalugs his entire mug)

LANDRY: Well drunk!

GUERFROID: (elbowing him) Say, Landry?

LANDRY: Huh, Guerfroid?

GUERFROID: Do you understand?

LANDRY: I understand you well enough!

GUERFROID: Did we come here, in advance, to rest?

LANDRY: Are we going to only sleep and drink while waiting for the others?

SIMPLICE: (aside) What do they mean?

GUERFROID: (pulling Landry aside) The Dame Boniface did you notice her?

LANDRY: Less than you, colleague!

GUERFROID: A well shaped woman! and whose got arms! and shoulders!

LANDRY: Keep going!

SIMPLICE: (aside) Poor Boniface!

GUERFROID: It's true she won't listen to any joking and that her imbecile of a husband never takes his eye off her, but we will find a way to get her away from him.

LANDRY: Well said! (he drinks)

GUERFROID: Well drunk!

LANDRY: (pulling Guerfroid aside) In your turn, Guerfroid, didn't you see trotting around the house a tender shoot of a girl, the sight of her alone puts you in good humor?

SIMPLICE: What's he saying?

GUERFROID: The daughter of Old Man Boniface!

SIMPLICE: (loud) Marceline!

GUERFROID What's that ?

LANDRY: Huh?

(Simplice rolls with his cask.)

TRIO

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GUERFROID: Who goes there?

LANDRY: Stop there!

SIMPLICE: Hay, there!

TOGETHER

GUERFROID AND LANDRY **SIMPLICE** *May the plague get him!* Ah! Against their rage
He heard everything ! Can I be protected? We'll force him to shut up The more I consider. Or
indeed all is lost. The more I see I am lost! Let's break something of his, Oh, the terrible thing. Ribs,
legs or arms, Oh, what a scrape, For fear he'll cause us And what horror they're causing me
Some new trouble. The fear of death If he comes, this devil of a man, Before they've murdered me To
discover our secrets, With blows with sticks First of all let's kill him, If I can do it like And we'll
worry about it later! Like I am going!

LANDRY: Look us in the face!

SIMPLICE: Mercy! mercy!

GUERFROID: Where'd you get this audacity?

SIMPLICE: Terror is freezing me!

LANDRY: What new sort of wine
Is escaping from its cask?

SIMPLICE: Mercy! Mercy!

GUERFROID: No grimaces
Or I will smash you
Into twenty pieces!

SIMPLICE: (stumbling) Cursed casks!

REPRISE

GUERFROID AND LANDRY **SIMPLICE** *May the plague get him!* Ah! Against their rage
He heard everything ! Can I be protected? We'll force him to shut up The more I consider. Or
indeed all is lost. The more I see I am lost! Let's break something of his, Oh, the terrible thing. Ribs,
legs or arms, Oh, what a scrape, For fear he'll cause us And what horror they're causing me
Some new trouble. The fear of death If he comes, this devil of a man, Before they've murdered me To
discover our secrets, With blows with sticks First of all let's kill him, If I can do it like And we'll
worry about it later! Like I am going!

LANDRY: Answer frankly, or watch out!

SIMPLICE: I was strolling and by inadvertence
I fell into this cask.

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LANDRY AND GUERFROID: Who are you, vile feather-brain?
Answer frankly, or beware!

SIMPLICE: I am the ferryman
Of the Isere ferryboat.
And I'll never ferry anymore
If you don't be nice!
I am the ferryman
Of the Isere ferryboat.

GUERFROID: Then what!
What were you doing there
In the bottom of this barrel?

SIMPLICE: Alas! nothing worth mentioning!
I was closing my eyes and my ears
To rest them.

LANDRY: No, no, you lie!

GUERFROID: Bad luck to the traitor!

SIMPLICE: Who, me? you must know me
I am the ferryman
Of the Isere ferryboat.
And I'll never ferry anymore
If you don't be nice.
I am the ferryman
Of the Isere ferryboat.

LANDRY: And what do you want, ferryman?

SIMPLICE: (aside, hesitating) Come on, courage! (aloud) I claim the honor
Of entering into your company!

GUERFROID AND LANDRY: Ha! ha! ha!
Nice companion he'd make!

TOGETHER

LANDRY, GUERFROID
trickery The poor lad !
abuses them, For a companion !

SIMPLICE He amuses me, he amuses me, **Let's escape by**
From blows with the stick! What a confused expression So long as it
All means are good!

GUERFROID: But to join us, do you know how to drink?

SIMPLICE: No question, much and fast!

LANDRY: You intend to make us believe it?

SIMPLICE: I'll drink the ocean in a gulp.

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GUERFROID: (laughing) What! in a single gulp!

SIMPLICE: Yes, in a single gulp!

LANDRY: (aside to Guerfroid) He must drink, let him be drunk.
He can be useful to us today!

SIMPLICE: At least, they're letting me live!

LANDRY: But do you know how to make love?
And to fight
Like the devil himself?

SIMPLICE: (after having drunk again)
I'll lick
And I'll love
The whole world
In one round.
Yes, I'll love the whole world.

GUERFROID: Well! First off, we'll test you
And then, we will see!

LANDRY AND GUERFROID: Ha! ha! Ha!
Nice companion he'd make!

TOGETHER:

LANDRY AND GUERFROID	SIMPLICE	He amuses me, he amuses me!	Let's escape through
trickery The poor boy,	From blows with a stick!	What a confused expression	So long as it
abuses them For a companion.	All means are good!		

ALL THREE We will drink. We'll laugh, We'll fight, We'll love, And we'll live As good jolly fellows!

LANDRY, GUERFROID AND SIMPLICE: Hey! hey! Old Man Boniface! Hola!

(Enter Boniface holding two mugs which he places on the table. He is followed by two valets bringing supper.)

BONIFACE: Here! here! (noticing Simplicie) This cursed boatman again!

LANDRY: He's one of us (he says some words into the ear of his valets) You understand? (the valet leaves)

GUERFROID: (to Boniface, pointing to Simplicie) He's the one's going to regale us this evening!

SIMPLICE: (aside) If I knew how, I would pay!

BONIFACE: Then he's come into an inheritance.

GUERFROID: Yes, he inherited from his aunt.

SIMPLICE: From my aunt!

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BONIFACE: His aunt! Why she just remarried for the fourth time.

LANDRY: (patting Simplicie on the shoulder) That's not all! (turning to Boniface) This dear friend was polite enough to invite your wife and daughter to share this supper with us.

SIMPLICE: (aside) Ah! my God!

GUERFROID: Aren't they hungry?

BONIFACE: They are hungry if you like!

LANDRY: We want them to be hungry!

BONIFACE: They are dying of hunger.

GUERFROID: Start serving!

BONIFACE: (to the waiters) Serve!

GUERFROID: Here are the ladies.

BONIFACE: What do you mean?

GUERFROID: I sent Andeol to warn them.

(Monique and Marceline appear in the doorway. Andeol precedes them. Music from the orchestra.)

GUERFROID: Come in, ladies.

LANDRY: And deign to accept a place at our supper!

SIMPLICE: (aside) I'm not even the one who had the pleasure of inviting them.

GUERFROID: (to Monique) Dame Monique

LANDRY: (to Marceline) Miss Marceline.

(Each takes a place at the table. Simplicie finds himself seated between Guerfroid and Marceline. Marceline is near Landry, Monique by Guerfroid. The music continues.)

BONIFACE: (who has vainly tried to place himself) Hey! why, I don't see any place for me.

LANDRY: Come on, Boniface, some action! Make the plates circulate. Fill the cups. Raise the napkins!

BONIFACE: But why

LANDRY: To the health of Marceline!

GUERFROID: To the health of Dame Monique (Guerfroid tries to embrace Monique)

MONIQUE: (pushing him off) Watch out for a slap!

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SIMPLICE: My word! Let's drink to have courage

GUERFROID: Wine, Boniface, wine!

BONIFACE: Here!

LANDRY: (to Marceline) And you, my pretty, a song!

SIMPLICE: A pretty roundelay, miss.

ALL: Yes! a roundelay.

MARCELINE: (rising) Here goes! (singing) At the market in Beaucaire,

We go there twice a year,
The girls wearing plain skirts,
The lads in white hats.
How noisy! how many people!
They laugh, they dance in a circle
And that's why,
For business,
We go there twice a year.
To the market at Beaucaire!
They sell everything there at high price
And the affluence is great!
More than one customer is taken
By the pretty eyes of a salesgirl,
And asks her
If her heart is included
In the objects she is selling.
The beauty replies in whisper
What's given's not for sale!
At the market in Beaucaire,
We go there twice a year,
The girls wearing plain skirts,
The lads in white hats.
How noisy! how many people!
They laugh, they dance in a circle
And that's why,
For business,
We go there twice a year.

ALL: At the market in Beaucaire,
We go there twice a year,
The girls wearing plain skirts,
The lads in white hats.
How noisy! how many people!
They laugh, they dance in a circle
And that's why,
For business,
We go there twice a year.

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MARCELINE: But if, surprised in his turn,
When love entices it
The heart flees without return
From the bodice of the salesgirl.
Like contraband
They sign the deed
When the beauty demands it.
In all faith and honor
Her hand goes to retrieve his heart!
At the market in Beaucaire,
We go there twice a year,
The girls wearing plain skirts,
The lads in white hats.
How noisy! how many people!
They laugh, they dance in a circle
And that's why,
For business,
We go there twice a year.

ALL: At the market in Beaucaire, etc.
We go there twice a year,
The girls wearing plain skirts,
The lads in white hats.
How noisy! how many people!
They laugh, they dance in a circle
And that's why,
For business,
We go there twice a year.

(They rise and dance around the table.)

LANDRY: (to Marceline) Marceline (whispers to her)

MARCELINE: (moving away) Your servant!

GUERFROID: (to Monique) Charming Monique! (he kisses her)

MONIQUE: (whacking him) Goodnight!

GUERFROID: Now there's a slap that Boniface will pay me for!

(The two women escape and leave.)

LANDRY: (to Simplicie) Keep Boniface busy. (to Guerfroid) The husband mustn't see any more of this.

(Landry and Guerfroid leave by the back. Night begins to come on.)

SIMPLICE: Now they've left! I'd really like to go to sleep too.

BONIFACE: (emptying the bottles) Hey! Hey! My wine is fine!

SIMPLICE: (aside) My head is swimming! Why did they tell me to keep Boniface.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

BONIFACE: (singing and dancing at the same time)

To the faire at Beaucaire
We go there twice a year,
The girls wearing plain skirts,
The lads in white hats.
How noisy! how many people!
They laugh, they dance in a circle
And that's why,
For business,
We go there twice a year.

SIMPLICE: Good night, Boniface!

BONIFACE: Heavens! the Boatman! Ah! ah! ah! You're not leaving my boy! You're not leaving! Why do you want to go?

SIMPLICE: I'm going to go to bed.

BONIFACE: (retaining him) Not at all!

SIMPLICE: I think I've drunk too much!

BONIFACE: Ah, bah! since you're an heir one doesn't inherit every day! Ah! ah! ah!

SIMPLICE: Until tomorrow, Papa Boniface, until tomorrow!

BONIFACE: (retaining him) Wait up. And we'll settle up. It's a question of doing our bill. You don't leave without paying!

SIMPLICE: What's he saying?

BONIFACE: I say you must pay.

SIMPLICE: But but I don't have a wooden nickel to give you! They were making fun of you, Papa Boniface. They were making fun of you ! Ask the companions to pay! Me, I've got nothing!

BONIFACE: (holding him by the neck) Ah! that's the way it is.

SIMPLICE: So, there you are informed! Goodnight!

BONIFACE: One moment, I'm not releasing you.

SIMPLICE: But, since I haven't a sou altogether.

BONIFACE: (taking him by the collar) You won't leave!

MONIQUE: (screaming outside) Ah! rogue! good-for-nothing!

BONIFACE: (releasing Simplicie) That's my wife's voice.

SIMPLICE: (aside) And Landry's instruction!

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

BONIFACE: Let's run, great god!

SIMPLICE: (stopping him and grabbing him by the fist) In your turn, you won't leave.

BONIFACE: Let me go, Simplicie; there's something going on with my wife!

SIMPLICE: Heavens! But I've got a solid fist!

BONIFACE: Let's go! This is not the time to joke!

SIMPLICE: I'm not joking I'm exercising to become strong!

MONIQUE: (outside) Boniface! Boniface!

BONIFACE: Are you going to release me?

SIMPLICE: Why, here, I have pity on you.

BONIFACE: (disappearing through the door on the right) Here I am, Monique!

SIMPLICE: (alone) Heavens! (astonished) I'm stronger than I would ever have thought. I have a solid fist when I want it. Ah! ah! ah ! that poor Boniface. Is it this wine I drank that's giving me courage? Why, no! I recall what Marceline said to me. To be worthy of her I feel myself capable of facing all these Knights of the Daffodil! Marceline! Darling Marceline!

LANDRY: (entering) Marceline!

SIMPLICE: Huh?

LANDRY: May the devil take her! I waited an hour for her under the trees; the little idiot didn't come.

SIMPLICE: (aside) Ha!

LANDRY: I fear that poor Guerfroid hasn't been any luckier than me.

SIMPLICE: Ah! ah!

LANDRY: For I saw the husband running with his valets armed with pitchforks he had only time to jump out the window or risk falling again into the Isere. And this time he would really have been able to stay there. One doesn't always find an imbecile who's devoted enough to save him.

SIMPLICE: Ah, bah! (aside) Heavens it was him!

LANDRY: (pulling him aside) Listen.

SIMPLICE: What is it?

LANDRY: I've one hope remaining.

SIMPLICE: What is it?

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

LANDRY: We are going to pretend to leave, Marceline is going to go to church for the angelus.

SIMPLICE: Yes like every night with Dame Monique.

LANDRY: We will post ourselves in the shadows, we will carry the two of them off we will transport them in your boat and we will take them to the other shore.

SIMPLICE: To the other shore!

LANDRY: Do you understand?

SIMPLICE: Yes –yes the angelus to the other shore that's understood!

LANDRY: Offer to accompany her to the church bring her to me, and by Jove you will be one of us! (heading toward the door)

SIMPLICE: (retaining him) One moment!

LANDRY: What?

SIMPLICE: It's not going to happen!

LANDRY: Huh?

SIMPLICE: (going for his throat) I forbid you to do it!

LANDRY: What's wrong with him?

SIMPLICE: I want to kill you!

LANDRY: You?

SIMPLICE: Yes, me!

LANDRY: Are you crazy?

SIMPLICE: I'm in love with Marceline, that's all.

(The angelus can be heard,)

LANDRY: Ah, bah!

SIMPLICE: And I will prevent you from kidnapping her!

LANDRY: Ah! ah! we are going to see!

SIMPLICE: What are we going to see?

GUERFROID: (entering) Ah! bad kid you let the husband escape !

SIMPLICE: Yes, and I did it deliberately.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

LANDRY: And he's refusing to help me because he loves Marceline.

SIMPLICE: Rather die a thousand times!

GUERFROID: Then his count is good?

SIMPLICE: Yours isn't better!

GUERFROID: Then you want to taste it, my little fellow.

SIMPLICE: As you say, my big boy!

LANDRY: You want to play with the stick!

SIMPLICE: Whenever you like, kids.

GUERFROID: Right away if it doesn't displease you too much.

SIMPLICE: En garde, then, because nothing is more agreeable to me.

GUERFROID: One moment! Let's do this by the rules, because the thing is serious. (he takes off his hat and coat and secures a stick in his hand) Hold yourself on the side, Landry, you are going to judge the hits. (low) He's going to ask mercy of me, he's going to see how I act.

(Guerfroid gives the customary bow and goes on guard.)

SIMPLICE (trying vainly to imitate him) I don't know all your thrusts, but I'm going to play well and with good money. (he seizes his oar and rushes on Guerfroid)

(Boniface, Marceline and Monique enter with torches that light up the stage.)

FINAL SONG:

MONIQUE: Hey! what a row!

Peace!

Calm down!

See what rage!

Those guys are crazy.

LANDRY AND GUERFROID: (rushing on Simplicite) No, we are fighting.
Watch out for the blows!

SIMPLICE: Watch out for the blows!

MONIQUE, BONIFACE: You are crazy.
Listen to us!

GUERFROID: No, no mercy! no mercy!
Let's avenge ourselves, friend, let's avenge ourselves.

BONIFACE: (restraining Simplicite) Peace, hey, peace!

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

MARCELINE: (running in) At your knees,
For my spouse
It's I that ask mercy!

LANDRY AND GUERFROID: Him! Your spouse?
Can you think it!

MARCELINE: Since at last I am sure of your courage,
Look at this withered bouquet,
All beribboned,
That I've pinned to my corsage. (holding her hand to Simplice)
It's my marriage bouquet!

GUERFROID: That bouquet!

MARCELINE: Well!

GUERFROID: I recognize it! It's mine.

ALL: His!

GUERFROID: It was shipwrecked with me on the Isere one night.

MARCELINE: (pointing to Simplice) And he's the one who fished you out of the water!

GUERFROID: What!

LANDRY, MONIQUE, BONIFACE: You!

SIMPLICE: Me!

LANDRY AND GUERFROID: It's incredible!
It's unheard of!
What! It was him!
The poor devil!
What! It was him!

MARCELINE: Yes!
It was him!

ALL: It was him!

GUERFROID: Well! in that case, my boy put it there! (offering his hand)

SIMPLICE: With all my heart!

LANDRY: I'm interested in your luck. (turning towards Boniface) (speaking) Then, she's your wife (pushing Simplice into Marceline's arms)

BONIFACE: (speaking) His wife? If you like!

THE KNIGHTS OF THE DAFFODIL

GUERFROID: (threatening him) We want her to be his wife!

LANDRY, GUERFROID: But listen down there down there.

Don't you hear?

Those are our friends coming to meet us!

Let's not make them wait!

SIMPLICE, MARCELINE, MONIQUE, BONIFACE: (aside) Thank god!

They're going to get out of here!

GUERFROID: (to Boniface) No hard feelings!

LANDRY: (to Simplicie) No hard feelings!

GUERFROID, LANDRY: Come on, Let's go to seek fortune.

(to Simplicie) You will be sacred to us.

LANDRY: But henceforth, bad luck to all!

Excepting you!

TOGETHER:

LANDRY AND GUERFROID: Against all we are linked,

Knights of the Daffodil!

Against all we are linked,

Under the watch!

BONIFACE, MONIQUE, SIMPLICE, MARCELINE:

Against you, the watchful eye,

Knights of the Daffodil!

Against you, the watchful eye

Will be linked!

CURTAIN