

- 110 To end the misery that brought me here.
[*She starts to exit.*]
- DORINE Wait! Wait! Come back! Please don't go out that door.
I'll help you. I'm not angry anymore.
- MARIANE If I am forced into this martyrdom,
You see, I'll have to die, Dorine.
- DORINE Oh come,
115 Give up this torment. Look at me—I swear.
We'll find a way. Look, here's your love, Valère.

Scene 4

START

VALÈRE, MARIANE, DORINE

- VALÈRE So I've just heard some news that's news to me,
And very fine news it is, do you agree?
- MARIANE What?
- VALÈRE You have plans for marriage I didn't know.
You're going to marry Tartuffe. Is this so?
- 5 MARIANE My father has that notion, it is true.
- VALÈRE Madame, your father promised—
- MARIANE —me to you?
He changed his mind, announced this change to me,
Just minutes ago . . .
- VALÈRE Quite seriously?
- MARIANE It's his wish that I should marry this man.
- 10 VALÈRE And what do you think of your father's plan?
- MARIANE I don't know.
- VALÈRE Honest words—better than lies.
You don't know?
- MARIANE No.
- VALÈRE No?
- MARIANE What do you advise?
- VALÈRE I advise you to . . . marry Tartuffe. Tonight.
- MARIANE You advise me to . . .
- VALÈRE Yes.
- MARIANE Really?
- VALÈRE That's right.
- 15 Consider it. It's an obvious choice.
- MARIANE I'll follow your suggestion and rejoice.
- VALÈRE I'm sure that you can follow it with ease.
- MARIANE Just as you gave it. It will be a breeze.
- VALÈRE Just to please you was my sole intent.
- 20 MARIANE To please you, I'll do it and be content.
- DORINE I can't wait to see what happens next.
- VALÈRE And this is love to you? I am perplexed.

Who might welcome—

MARIANE I wish it were done.

65 That's exactly what I want, you see.

VALÈRE That's what you want?

MARIANE Yes.

VALÈRE Then let it be.

I'll grant your wish.

MARIANE Please do.

VALÈRE Just don't forget,

Whose fault it was when you, filled with regret,

Realize that you forced me out the door.

MARIANE True.

70 VALÈRE You've set the example and what's more,

I'll match you with my own hardness of heart.

You won't see me again, if I depart.

MARIANE That's good!

[VALÈRE goes to exit, but when he gets to the door, he returns.]

VALÈRE What?

MARIANE What?

VALÈRE You said . . . ?

MARIANE Nothing at all.

VALÈRE Well, I'll be on my way, then.

[Goes, stops]

Did you call?

MARIANE Me? You must be dreaming.

75 VALÈRE I'll go away.

Good-bye, then.

MARIANE Good-bye.

DORINE I am here to say,

You both are idiots! What's this about?

I left you two alone to fight it out,

To see how far you'd go. You're quite a pair

80 In matching tit for tat—Hold on, Valère!

Where are you going?

VALÈRE What, Dorine? You spoke?

DORINE Come here.

VALÈRE I'm upset and will not provoke

This lady. Do not try to change my mind.

I'm doing what she wants.

DORINE You are so blind.

Just stop.

VALÈRE No. It's settled.

85 DORINE Oh, is that so?

MARIANE He can't stand to look at me, I know.

He wants to go away, so please let him.

No, I shall leave so I can forget him.

DORINE Where are you going?

MARIANE Leave me alone.

DORINE Come back here at once.

90 MARIANE No. Even that tone

Won't bring me. I'm not a child, you see.

VALÈRE She's tortured by the very sight of me.

It's better that I free her from her pain.

DORINE What more proof do you need? You are insane!

95 Now stop this nonsense! Come here both of you.

VALÈRE To what purpose?

MARIANE What are you trying to do?

DORINE Bring you two together! And end this fight.

It's so stupid! Yes?

VALÈRE No. It wasn't right

The way she spoke to me. Didn't you hear?

100 DORINE Your voices are still ringing in my ear.

MARIANE The way he treated me—didn't you see?

DORINE Saw and heard it all. Now listen to me.

The only thing she wants, Valère, is you.

I can attest to that right now. It's true.

105 And Mariane, he wants you for his wife,

And only you. On that I'll stake my life.

MARIANE He told me to be someone else's bride!

VALÈRE She asked for my advice and I replied!

DORINE You're both impossible. What can I do?

Give your hand—

VALÈRE What for?

110 DORINE Come on, you.

Now yours, Mariane, Don't make me shout.

Come on!

MARIANE All right. But what is this about?

DORINE Here. Take each other's hand and make a link.

You love each other better than you think.

115 VALÈRE Mademoiselle, this is your hand I took,

You think you could give me a friendly look?

[MARIANE *peeks at VALÈRE and smiles.*]

DORINE It's true. Lovers are not completely sane.

VALÈRE Mariane, haven't I good reason to complain?

Be honest. Wasn't it a wicked ploy?

To say—

120 MARIANE You think I told you that with joy?

And you confronted me.

DORINE Another time.

This marriage to Tartuffe would be a crime,

We have to stop it.

MARIANE So, what can we do?
Tell us.

DORINE All sorts of things involving you.

125 It's all nonsense and your father's joking.
But if you play along, say, without choking,
And give your consent, for the time being,
He'll take the pressure off, thereby freeing
All of us to find a workable plan
130 To keep you from a marriage with this man.
Then you can find a reason every day
To postpone the wedding, in this way:
One day you're sick and that can take a week.
Another day you're better but can't speak,
135 And we all know you have to say "I do,"
Or the marriage isn't legal. And that's true.
Now bad omens—would he have his daughter
Married when she's dreamt of stagnant water,
Or broken a mirror or seen the dead?
140 He may not care and say it's in your head,
But you will be distraught in your delusion,
And require bed rest and seclusion.
I do know this—if we want to succeed,
You can't be seen together.

[To VALÈRE] With all speed,
145 Go, and gather all your friends right now,
Have them insist that Orgon keep his vow.
Social pressure helps. Then to her brother.
All of us will work on her stepmother.
Let's go.

VALÈRE Whatever happens, can you see?
150 My greatest hope is in your love for me.

MARIANE Though I don't know just what Father will do,
I do know I belong only to you.

VALÈRE You put my heart at ease! I swear I will . . .

DORINE It seems that lovers' tongues are never still.
Out, I tell you.

VALÈRE [*Taking a step and returning*] One last—

155 DORINE No more chat!
You go out this way, yes, and you go that.

End of Act Two

