

AZOLAN & VALMONT 2

Valmont: Well, what treasures do you have in store for me today?

Azolan: A letter to Madame, your aunt, sir. And this one, which Julie managed to get to before it was sealed up to Madame de Tourvel's confessor.

Valmont: Ah, very good! This is excellent. I have a letter for Father Anselme myself; you may deliver them both when you leave.

Azolan: Yes, sir.

Valmont: And what news?

Azolan: No visitors: there still hasn't been a single visitor since she got back from the country. Kept to her room. Bit of soup last night but didn't touch the pheasant. Afterwards, a cup of tea. Nothing else to report. Oh, yes, there is. You wanted to know what she was reading. She has two books by her bed.

Valmont: I don't suppose you found out what they were.

Azolan: Course I did, sir; what do you take me for? Let me think now – one was Christian Thoughts, volume two. And the other was a novel written by some Englishman. Clarissa.

Valmont: Ah.

Azolan: See? I was right, wasn't I, sir? There was no need for me to join her staff now was there? I can find out everything you want to know, no trouble at all.

Valmont: I just thought you might prefer to be paid two salaries, as you were at the time of the Duchesse.

Azolan: Oh well, sir, with Madame the Duchesse, that was quite different. I didn't mind that at all. But I couldn't wear a magistrate's livery, could I? Not after being in your service. One day I'll start saving a bit, like you recommended, but I do like to do justice to you.

Valmont: After letting Madame de Tourvel leave my aunt's house without even managing to warn me, you're lucky to be working for anybody.

Azolan: Now, we've been through all that, sir, haven't we? Not even Julie knew she was going till she went.

Valmont: How is Julie?

Azolan: Seems a bit keener than she was in the country.

Valmont: And yourself?

Azolan: Talk about devotion to duty.

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