

## DANCENY & VALMONT & MARQUIS 2

*(Danceny comes in and embraces Valmont impulsively)*

Danceny: Thank you, Monsieur, for everything.

Valmont: I was afraid I'd been a sad disappointment to you.

Danceny: Of course, I'm disappointed not to have seen Cecile for more than a month, but I believe I have you to thank for keeping our love alive.

Valmont: Oh, as to love, she thinks of little else.

Danceny: I had so hoped you'd be able to arrange a meeting between us in the country.

Valmont: Well, so had I. I made all the necessary arrangements, but she was adamant.

Danceny: I know. She said in her last letter you'd been trying to persuade her.

Valmont: I did what I could. In many respects, I've found her very open to persuasion, but not, alas, on this issue.

Danceny: Yes, she said I couldn't do more myself than you've been doing on my behalf.

Valmont: She's a most generous girl.

Marquis: What else did she say?

Danceny: She said she'd seen signs of a change of heart in her mother. Perhaps in the end, she'll come round to the idea of our marriage.

Marquis: That would be wonderful.

Danceny: Anyway, how is she? That's what I've really come round to ask you, Monsieur.

Valmont: Blooming. I really think the country air has done her good. I think she's even begun to fill out a little.

Danceny: Really?

Valmont: And of course, she sends you all her love. She and her mother will be returning to Paris in about a fortnight, by which time the situation should be resolved, and either way, she's longing to see you.

Danceney: I don't know how I can bear to go another two weeks without seeing her.

Marquis: We shall have to do our very best to provide some distraction for you.

Danceney: Without your friendship and encouragement, I can't think what would have become of me.

Marquis: My dear, if you'd be so kind as to wait in the carriage for a few minutes, there's a matter I must discuss with the Vicomte in private.

Danceney: Of course. *(To Valmont, shaking his hand)* I don't know how I can ever repay you.

Valmont: Don't give it another thought. It's been delightful.

**END**