

TEA TIME FOR THE GENERAL

OR

MURDER AT MIMI'S CAFÉ

A FARCE

BY

CAROL WOLF

TEA TIME FOR THE GENERAL

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MURDER AT MIMI'S CAFÉ

A FARCE IN FOUR SCENES
SET IN A CAFÉ IN THE HEART OF PARIS
IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE WAR

BY

CAROL WOLF

Carol Wolf
Box 207
O'Neals, CA 93645
559-642-3387
CAROLWOLF@STI.NET

Representation:
Gurman Agency, LLC
212 749-4618
rights@gurmanagency.com

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CHARACTERS:

(3 FEMALE, 4 MALE, ONE MUSICIAN)

MIMI.....FEMALE, MIDDLE-AGED, HEART-BROKEN OWNER OF MIMI'S CAFÉ

HENRI.....MALE, MIDDLE-AGED, WAITER AT MIMI'S CAFÉ, AND MEMBER OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE

SIMONE.....FEMALE. SIMPLE FRENCH COURIER FOR THE RESISTANCE
THIS ACTOR ALSO PLAYS:

RUDOLF VON HIMMELFEUER... (IN DISGUISE AS A MALE) SS STURMBAHNGRUPPEN-FUHRER AND GODSON OF "UNCLE ADOLF"

AND:

GEORGES.....(IN DISGUISE AS A MALE) LEADER OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE

ANTOINE.....(MALE OR FEMALE) THE PIANO PLAYER AT CHEZ MIMI

RAOUL MERCED.....(MALE) PREFECT OF POLICE, AND FRENCH COLLABORATOR
THIS ACTOR ALSO PLAYS:

GENERAL MORGENTAG....THE SCOURGE OF PARIS, GENERAL OF THE OCCUPYING FORCES

LOUIS LEVIF.....(FEMALE DISGUISED AS A MALE), RAOUL MERCED'S SERGEANT
THIS ACTOR ALSO PLAYS:

GERTRUDE.....GENERAL MORGENTAG'S DRIVER

CHARLOTTE.....(MALE, CROSS-DRESSING) THE FAMOUS PARISIAN CHANTEUSE
THIS ACTOR ALSO PLAYS:

FIFI THE INFORMER...INFORMER TO THE POLICE PREFECT

AND:

SS SOLDIER.....A SUPPOSED SOLDIER OF THE SS

JIMMY DEARBORN...(MALE) DOWNED AMERICAN FLYER HIDING IN PARIS

SETTING: CHEZ MIMI, A CAFÉ IN THE HEART OF PARIS IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

Tea Time for the General
or
Murder at Mimi's Café
by Carol Wolf

Scene 1

(Lights up on Mimi's Café in the heart of Paris in the last days of the War, 1944. It is early evening.)

(Henri is wiping tables when Simone runs in. She is carrying a package.)

SIMONE

Where is Mimi? Please, I must speak to Madame Mimi at once.

HENRI

Who?

SIMONE

Madame Mimi. Is this not Chez Mimi, the famous French café in the heart of Paris in the last days of the War?

HENRI

Perhaps.

SIMONE

I was told to bring a message here to Madame Mimi. Oh – I understand. I must first give the password. “The winter snows are melting.”

HENRI

“And France will bloom again.” *Bon.* What is the message, little one?

SIMONE

Wait. Should you not say, “The rivers are flooding their banks?”

HENRI

Only if there is danger.

SIMONE

But there is! That is what I am supposed to –

HENRI

Sh! Not so loud. You don't know who might be listening.

SIMONE

Here? In a French café in the heart of Paris in the last days of the War? Sure these are all good French people?

HENRI

You think good French people can afford these prices? Spies, all of them. Russian, German, British, American, and even French –

SIMONE

French spies? Collaborators? Disgusting! Tell me who they are and I will spit on them.

HENRI

Not while they are customers.

(Mimi enters.)

Madame Mimi! A courier. She has a message.

MIMI

Another courier? What is it now? You – pardon. I thought... It's nothing. Go back and tell Georges everything is ready for his meeting.

HENRI

Georges?

MIMI

Yes, Georges.

HENRI

The leader of the French Resistance, the leader of us all, whom no one has ever seen, is meeting here, today?

MIMI

Oui.

HENRI

Why don't you tell me this?

MIMI

I forgot.

SIMONE

Georges is coming here?

MIMI

Haven't I just said so? Go back and tell him everything is ready. All of the section leader of the Resistance will be here for his important meeting. Tell him don't worry.

SIMONE

But the rivers are flooding! The rivers are flooding!

MIMI

What?

SIMONE

I was sent here to tell you there is danger. This whole section of the heart of Paris is being cordoned off by police. There will be a document inspection. Everyone is to be questioned.

MIMI

Everyone?

SIMONE

Everyone.

MIMI

Oh, *merde*.

(Enter Antoine, the piano player. He hurries to the piano to climb under it.)

ANTOINE

Madame! Madame!

MIMI

What is it, Antoine?

ANTOINE

Police! They're coming from everywhere, they're coming here –

MIMI

Come back here, Antoine. Don't you dare hide under the piano.

ANTOINE

But Madame –

MIMI

Pull yourself together.

ANTOINE

The prefect of police is coming here himself!

Raoul Merced?

HENRI

Him.

ANTOINE

That arch French traitor and collaborator. I spit on him.

SIMONE

MIMI

Don't spit now, little one. Run. Go to the safe house and tell them the meeting has been cancelled. Get word to Georges.

The rivers are in flood!

SIMONE

(Exit Simone)

Antoine, go to the kitchen and tell the Bechstein family to put on their aprons and pretend to cook something. Tell them to look busy this time!

MIMI

Oui, Madame.

ANTOINE

(Exit Antoine)

And you, Henri, go upstairs and tell our guests in the secret room stop singing English flying songs and be like little mice until the police have gone.

MIMI

Oui, Madame.

HENRI

And make sure you are carrying the right documents this time.

MIMI

Of course.

HENRI

(Henri starts to exit. Enter Simone)

Madame, it's too late. I couldn't get through.

SIMONE

MIMI

Oh, well. Henri, go! Sit down, little one. I will bring you a coffee, and you can be one of the guests.

(Exit Henri)

SIMONE

But what do I do with this?

(She holds up the package)

MIMI

What is it?

SIMONE

The underground newspaper, Liberté. If I am caught with it, I will be shot.

MIMI

Distribute it. Give everyone a copy.

(They start to do so. [They distribute programs.]
Antoine enters.)

ANTOINE

The Bechsteins have put on water to boil.

MIMI

That's all?

ANTOINE

They say it's all they know how to cook.

MIMI

Good enough. Go, play something. Act natural.

(Enter Henri.)

HENRI

Madame!

MIMI

What now?

HENRI

Martin is gone.

MIMI

Who?

HENRI

Your cousin, he who was bombed out in Toulouse. Who has lost his voice, and his memory, and is working here until you can find him new lodging closer to the seaside, to recover his health.

MIMI

Oh, the American flyer.

HENRI

Shh! He is gone.

MIMI

No, no. He has not come back.

HENRI

Back from where? The gendarmes are everywhere, they are coming this way.

MIMI

The Englishmen's singing disturbed him. He went for a walk.

HENRI

A walk?

MIMI

He is an American. He has never seen Paris.

HENRI

Madame! What are you thinking of? If he is caught, and questioned, we could all be arrested by the Gestapo.

(They both look around)

Is that what you want?

MIMI

Of course not. I only thought he should see a little of Paris while he was here.

HENRI

He is supposed to be hiding.

MIMI

Well, at least he is not here to have his papers checked. Stop worrying, Henri.

HENRI

Stop worrying? We have a documents factory in the cellar, we have an illegal radio in the larder –

It is disguised.

As a sewing machine.

It's good.

You think they won't notice that? In the larder?

They haven't yet.

We have explosives and bomb-making equipment in the cold room –

Where else? No one will search there for long.

And the Bechsteins are all over the kitchen.

They are disguised as sous-chefs.

And there are two British flyers in the secret room upstairs drinking wine and singing sentimental songs in a whisper, and giggling, and one American flyer taking a walk around Paris. And the police are one their way here. We could be betrayed at any moment. We could be shot.

And then we would be at peace. All right. Go and look for Martin.

(He starts out. Enter Raoul Merced, the Prefect of Police, and Louis Levif, his sergeant, at his heels.)

Going somewhere, Henri?

Of course not. Where should I go? I work here.

LOUIS

Documents inspection! Everyone! Monsieur le Capitaine will see all documents. Maintenant! Mon Capitaine!

(Snaps to attention)

All is prepared.

RAOUL

Merci.

LOUIS

(Snaps to attention)

Mon Capitaine!

RAOUL

Henri. Your papers. Don't look at me like that. How long have we known one another?

HENRI

I don't know you at all, Monsieur le Capitaine.

RAOUL

Henri, we chose different roads, that is all. You chose to suffer through the war with Madame Mimi, and her Café, while I –

HENRI

You chose to collaborate.

RAOUL

That's right. And what has it gotten me? A big house in town –

HENRI

It was owned by the Kellers.

RAOUL

Paintings, silver, good clothes –

HENRI

Belonging to people you have deported.

RAOUL

Belonging to the enemies of the German Reich. I do my duty, I get rich.

HENRI

Someday, Raoul –

RAOUL

Yes, Henri? Yes?

Henri. No.

MIMI

Very wise. Papers, Madame.

RAOUL

Mon Capitaine, should I arrest this man?

LOUIS

Not at all. You will find his papers are perfectly in order. Madame?

RAOUL

You have looked at those paper a hundred times, Capitaine. Do you think that someday they will change?

MIMI

Purely a formality, Madame. But this is a day for such formalities. You have heard that this section of the heart of Paris has been cordoned off? Louis?

RAOUL

Oui, mon Capitaine, it has been done, in every direction.

LOUIS

(Snaps to attention)

I have ears.

MIMI

But why, Madame. Do you ask yourself this?

RAOUL

Why, mon Capitaine?

LOUIS

You wonder, you worry.

RAOUL

She worries.

LOUIS

Silence!

RAOUL

Mon Capitaine!

LOUIS

RAOUL

You are concerned. You know as well as I do that Georges, the leader of the French Resistance, your leader, Madame, is coming here today to your Café here in the heart of Paris in the last days of the War, for an important meeting. You know it, I know it.

LOUIS

I know it.

RAOUL

Louis knows it.

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine!

MIMI

And where did you get this information, Capitaine?

RAOUL

From a reliable source. From Fifi the Informer. His information is always correct.

MIMI

Always.

RAOUL

I have come to make the capture of my career. A capture so important that everyone will hear of it. Everyone will hear of me.

LOUIS

Oui, mon Capitaine.

RAOUL

Everyone is allowed into the area. No one is allowed out. And thus we shall capture – Georges.

MIMI

Ah, bah. There is no such person. Has anyone seen him? Does anyone know who he is? No.

RAOUL

And thus he has confounded the Germans for so long. But today he will be here. Fifi the Informer has said so. I know that you are also involved with the Resistance, Madame. Have I not said that one day I would prove it? Georges will be arrested here. All of you will be arrested. And all of you will be shot. And I will be rewarded as I deserve.

LOUIS

And I will be the first to congratulate you, mon Capitaine.

MIMI

Who is this?

RAOUL

My bodyguard. Fifi the Informer tells me that Georges has told the Resistance that I am to be taken care of. Ha! So, Louis looks after me.

LOUIS

Oui, mon Capitaine.

MIMI

The Resistance has threatened – you?

RAOUL

Not everyone appreciates what I have done for France since the Occupation.

MIMI

Don't you mean Germany?

RAOUL

It's the same thing. Your Café, Madame, will be greatly honored today.

MIMI

By the capture of a Resistant? I don't think so.

RAOUL

No, Madame, by a guest I have invited to observe the capture of Georges. General Morgentag is coming here.

MIMI

General Morgentag?

HENRI

The Scourge of Paris?

RAOUL

General of the Occupying Forces. Oui. He is coming here to regard my efficiency as I carry out this arrest. Everything must be prepared for the General's arrival. He must have the best table. Do you hear me, Madame?

MIMI

General Morgentag here, in my Café.

HENRI

She is overwhelmed by the honor.

RAOUL

I thought so. I am making perfectly sure that my work here today will be rewarded as I deserve.

HENRI

Aren't you forgetting? The war will soon be over. Do you think the true French people will allow you to keep your spoils?

RAOUL

But I have a plan. With this capture, this final demonstration of my value to the Germans, my welcome in Germany will be assured. I look forward to a long and wealthy life. Sergeant.

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine!

RAOUL

Check the entrances.

LOUIS

I have done so, mon Capitaine.

RAOUL

Well then do so again. Everything must be perfectly correct for the General, and for the capture of Georges.

LOUIS

Oui, mon Capitaine.

(Exeunt Raoul and Louis.)

(Antoine gets something out of the piano bench, and comes over.)

ANTOINE

Did he say – General Morgentag –

HENRI

Is coming here today, yes.

ANTOINE

I will kill him.

(Reveals a big heavy pistol)

HENRI

No! Antoine!

MIMI

Antoine – give that to me.

ANTOINE

But I wish to kill him, the General who has done so many bad things to the people of Paris. Perhaps if I kill him, I won't be so afraid anymore. I am always, always afraid.

(Enter Simone)

SIMONE

Madame – a car has arrived outside. A big, black car – is it true that General Morgentag is coming here?

MIMI

Oui.

SIMONE

Then I will kill him.

(She pulls out a little gun)

HENRI

There will be no killing here. Haven't we trouble enough?

MIMI

Give me that. If anyone is to kill General Morgentag, it will be me.

HENRI

Mimi – no.

MIMI

Yes, why not? Haven't I lived long enough?

HENRI

Mimi – you are forgetting – our guests in the attic – our cooks in the kitchen – our little factories downstairs – they all need your help to continue –

MIMI

But if the General is killed here, the uproar will warn Georges so that he will keep away and he will be safe. Henri, I want to do it.

HENRI

Mimi, if the General is killed here, it will mean – the Gestapo.

(Everyone looks around)

Georges would never escape. And neither would anyone else.

MIMI

Quickly, hide the gun. Both of them. Before he comes.

(Enter Raoul and Louis, escorting Charlotte, the famous Parisian chanteuse.)

LOUIS

Make way! Make way!

RAOUL

This way, Mademoiselle. Henri, the General's table – at once.

HENRI

But that is not General Morgentag.

CHARLOTTE

No. Of course not.

RAOUL

Henri, this is Charlotte.

HENRI

Charlotte, the famous Parisian chanteuse?

CHARLOTTE

I am she. I have been told to come to Chez Mimi, the famous French café in the heart of Paris in the last days of the War.

RAOUL

She is General Morgentag's guest. Take care of her.

HENRI

Of course. This way, Mademoiselle.

(Mimi approaches. Exit Raoul.)

MIMI

Mademoiselle.

HENRI

Madam Mimi, may I present Charlotte, the famous Parisian chanteuse.

MIMI

I have heard of you, Mademoiselle.

HENRI

She is a friend of General Morgentag.

CHARLOTTE

Don't look at me like that, Madam. I am not his friend, as you put it. But when the General of the Occupying Forces sends a car for you, and tells you to meet him at Chez Mimi, the famous French café in the heart of Paris in the last days of the War, what can you do?

MIMI

Refuse.

CHARLOTTE

I can't.

MIMI

You never do. You have been seen with the General everywhere, since he entered Paris.

CHARLOTTE

Madam, have pity on me. I can't help myself.

HENRI

Why not?

CHARLOTTE

I am an addict, Monsieur. The General – he gives me chocolate. Where else can I get it? In the middle of the War? Please don't hate me. I too am French – in fact, today I have determined to end it all.

(Takes a pistol from her purse)

I know what General Morgentag has done to our country. He tried to hide it from me – but I have eyes, don't I? And a woman's heart, like other women.

HENRI

I suppose.

CHARLOTTE

I am going to kill him. I hate him. And I hate myself for needing him.

MIMI

No! Not that way. Not in my Café. Do you want to bring the Gestapo down on these innocent people?

(Everyone looks around)

Sit down. Act natural. Antoine, play something. Let no one suspect that this is not a completely ordinary Café.

(Charlotte goes to powder her nose. Exit.)

HENRI

Madam, Martin has still not returned.

Scene 1

16

Who?

MIMI

Martin, Martin, your cousin, from Toulouse –

HENRI

Oh, the American –

MIMI

Sh!

HENRI

If he doesn't come back, he can't be questioned. Act natural – serve the customers.

MIMI

End Scene 1

Scene 2

(Follows directly upon Scene 1; no lighting change)

(Enter Jimmy Dearborn, the American flyer, unconvincingly disguised as a French waiter. He is singing an American hit song, and his dog tags are hanging out of his shirt.)

HENRI

Martin! Martin!

JIMMY

Huh? Oh, hi, Henry.

HENRI

“Henri.” Hush – you must be very careful. The police are everywhere. This section of the heart of Paris has been cordoned off.

JIMMY

I saw the soldiers outside. But it’s natural, isn’t it? Paris is occupied.

HENRI

We know. Now remember. Your name is Martin.

JIMMY

Right.

HENRI

You are Madam’s cousin. You suffered bombing in Toulouse.

JIMMY

I got it, I got it.

HENRI

You are a little deranged, and so you do not speak. You have been hit on the head in the bombing.

JIMMY

Right, don’t worry about it. Henry, I gotta tell you, Paris is a great town.

HENRI

Martin – sh!

JIMMY

Don’t worry! Madam!

(Mimi comes over)

JIMMY (cont.)

I gotta thank you – for sending me on that walk. Paris is great. I met this girl. Only time I've ever been in Paris, I met the prettiest girl. We talked. I could hardly understand her, but she's so sweet.

MIMI

Hmph.

JIMMY

I'm in love! I'm in Paris and I'm in love! I've gotta see her again.

MIMI

Love. Pfui.

JIMMY

I've fallen in love in Paris. Just like in the movies.

MIMI

Be quiet and go back upstairs.

(She goes)

JIMMY

What's the matter with her? Wasn't she ever in love?

HENRI

Her? Oh, yes. But it ended badly. It was in the Great War. She was in love with a famous French flyer. On the last day of the war, 1918, he flew away in the morning in his aero plane, and he never returned. What happened to him – no one knows. She never saw him again.

JIMMY

Something – must have happened to his plane –

HENRI

Someone said they saw the plane go down. It was burning –

(Jimmy goes rigid)

JIMMY

No – no – fire in the cockpit – we're hit – fire – mayday – mayday – look out! We're going down! I'm burning! Agh!

HENRI

Stop it! Pull yourself together!

(Jimmy falls down.)

(Enter General Morgenstern, accompanied by Gertrude,

his driver, in Nazi uniform, and Louis Levif)

GERTRUDE

Achtung!

LOUIS

Attention tout les mondes! General Morgentag, General of the Occupying Forces!

(General Morgentag comes past them)

GERTRUDE

Heil Hitler!

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

MORGENTAG

Heil. So. This is Chez Mimi. The famous French Café in the heart of Paris, et cetera. Charming.

(Sees Jimmy on the floor)

What's this?

HENRI

It's nothing, Monsieur le General. A waiter has fainted from hunger.

MORGENTAG

Get him up.

GERTRUDE

Up! Up!

LOUIS

Up!

GERTRUDE

Heil Hitler!

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

MORGENTAG

Heil. He has been questioned?

LOUIS

Oui, mon General. Everyone in this Café has been questioned.

MORGENTAG

Take him back to the kitchen.

To the kitchen!

LOUIS

The kitchen!

GERTRUDE

Heil Hitler!

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

GERTRUDE

(Henri sees Jimmy off to the kitchen and comes back without exiting. Exit Jimmy.)

Heil, heil. So. This is where Georges will come today, according to the infallible information of Fifi the Informer?

MORGENTAG

Oui, mon General.

LOUIS

And then we shall capture him.

MORGENTAG

Oui, mon General.

LOUIS

Good. Until then, everything must look normal. Happy people enjoying the cuisine of the famous French Café in the heart of Paris in the last days of the War.

MORGENTAG

I thought Raoul Merced, the police captain, was planning to capture Georges.

HENRI

No, no. Why should he get the credit? Especially today when I have received word that Georges, the leader of the French Resistance, intends to assassinate me. Me!

MORGENTAG

No.

HENRI

Ja. Captain Raoul Merced says that he will capture George here today, and he asks me here to watch. To watch, I ask you. So the Sergeant and I will turn the tables on Raoul Merced, and we will capture Georges ourselves. Is that right?

MORGENTAG

Heil Hitler!

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

GERTRUDE

Heil, heil.

MORGENTAG

Who is this?

HENRI

MORGENTAG
Fräulein Gertrude, my driver. All the good looking young men have gone to war. They send me this.

GERTRUDE

Heil Hitler!

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

GERTRUDE

Heil Hitler

MORGENTAG

Ja, ja.

LOUIS
Mon General, I am honored to report, all entrances are watched, everything is in perfect readiness.

MORGENTAG
Very good. Examine everyone. Let no one pass. Now we will find this Georges.

LOUIS

Papers! Papers!

HENRI

You have looked at these already.

MORGENTAG

But I have not. What is your name.

HENRI

Henri.

Occupation?

MORGENTAG

HENRI

Simple French waiter in a French café in the heart of Paris –

MORGENTAG

– in the last days of the War, ja, ja.

LOUIS

Mon General, his papers confirm this.

MORGENTAG

Give me those.

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

GERTRUDE

Heil Hitler!

MORGENTAG

Heil.

(Consults Henri's papers.)

You were a gunner in the last war.

HENRI

Oui.

MORGENTAG

Fighting against us. The Germans.

HENRI

Oui.

MORGENTAG

You were decorated for bravery.

HENRI

Non.

MORGENTAG

No? It says here you were decorated for bravery.

HENRI

Non. It was only to cover the hole.

What hole?

MORGENTAG

In my chest. I was wounded.

HENRI

In the chest?

MORGENTAG

Non. I was wounded in the arm.

HENRI

But you had a hole in your chest.

MORGENTAG

That is where the arm landed. They had to dig it out. You see? This one is new.

(Shows the General his arm.)

MORGENTAG

You lost your arm in the war?

HENRI

Non. I have my arm.

MORGENTAG

You have -- ?

HENRI

It is in a box upstairs. I lost my leg in the war.

MORGENTAG

Your leg?

HENRI

Oui. I woke up one morning and it was gone. Together with half my platoon. I never saw any of them again. Or my leg. They gave me this one in the hospital.

MORGENTAG

See this?

HENRI

Your hand?

MORGENTAG

Cut off by shrapnel.

You lost it?
HENRI

In the war. Never saw it again.
MORGENTAG

In the last war?
HENRI

The Great War, ja.
MORGENTAG

I knew someone who found a hand.
HENRI

You did?
MORGENTAG

Oui. Just a hand. Perhaps it was yours.
HENRI

(Enter Charlotte)

Is anybody going to buy a girl a drink?
CHARLOTTE

Charlotte! Liebchen! You're here!
MORGENTAG

Oui.
CHARLOTTE

Sit, please – a chair –
MORGENTAG

A chair for the General!
GERTRUDE

A chair for the General!
LOUIS

A chair for the General.
HENRI

And one for the lady –
MORGENTAG

And one for the lady –
GERTRUDE

And one for the lady –
LOUIS

A chair –
HENRI

Heil Hitler!
GERTRUDE

Heil Hitler!
LOUIS

Thank you. I'll stand.
CHARLOTTE

Get out of here!
MORGENTAG

But, mon General, for your protection, the threat to your life –
LOUIS

Out of here! And you too!
MORGENTAG

Heil Hitler!
LOUIS

Heil Hitler!
GERTRUDE

Go!
MORGENTAG

(Gertrude and Louis go)

Sit down, liebchen. Please

No.
CHARLOTTE

MORGENTAG
But if you sit down, mein Schatz, I could tell you what we are doing here. What I've asked you here to come and see.

CHARLOTTE
You're going to catch Georges.

MORGENTAG
Yes. That's it.

CHARLOTTE
So. Catch him.

MORGENTAG
We are waiting, Schatzie, for Georges to arrive. And while we are waiting, we can – talk. Eh?

CHARLOTTE
What should we talk about?

MORGENTAG
You haven't yet asked me if I brought the chocolate.

(Pause. Then Charlotte gives in.)

CHARLOTTE
What kind.

MORGENTAG
Dutch.

CHARLOTTE.
Ah. Give it to me.

(He gives her the package)

MORGENTAG
Now you are my good little liebchen.

CHARLOTTE
Don't watch me. Please. Have them play something. Antoine – sing something. Lights.
Please.

MORGENTAG
You want to eat it – in the dark?

CHARLOTTE
I can feel them all watching me. No one has seen chocolate like this in so long. Play something,
Antoine. Sing.

MORGENTAG
Very well.

(He signals. The lights go down. There is a spotlight

on Antoine)

ANTOINE
(Sings)

When I see you again
There'll be roses in December
When I see you again –

(Mimi comes over. Lights come up)

MIMI

Wait. Let me see him just once. The General who occupies Paris.

MORGENTAG

Madame? Do I know you?

MIMI

No.

MORGENTAG

You look so familiar to me. Something about your expression.

MIMI

Many French women, mothers and wives, must look at you in the same way I do.

MORGENTAG

That's enough. I am only doing my job. Play it, Antoine.

ANTOINE
(Sings)

When I see you again –

CHARLOTTE

Wait. Madame Mimi is right. I can't look at you anymore. Not even for chocolate. I won't see you again.

MORGENTAG

Nonsense. This is no time for spectacle, Liebchen. Next time I will bring you – Belgian chocolate!

CHARLOTTE

No!

(She starts to cry)

MORGENTAG

Yes. Play it again, Antoine.

Wait –
ANTOINE

I said play it!
MORGENTAG

All right, all right.
ANTOINE

(He sings)

When I see you again
There'll be roses in December
When I see you again
Oh how then we'll remember –

(Charlotte gets up crying and runs out. Morgentag goes after her.)

Liebchen, wait!
MORGENTAG

(Antoine goes on singing.)

How we laughed on that day
And the sun shown in your hair
When I sent you on your way
With a kiss, without a care –

ANTOINE

(A shot rings out in the darkness. Silence. Then ☺)

The General has been shot!
HENRI

Is he dead? Tell me he is dead?
MIMI

I don't know.
HENRI

Should I sing it again?
ANTOINE

No!
HENRI & MIMI

(The lights come up. Enter Louis)

LOUIS

No one is to move. The General has been murdered. You are all under arrest.

MIMI

Nonsense. You can't arrest us all.

LOUIS

Madame, I have just done so.

(Enter Jimmy)

JIMMY

Madame, you gotta help me. I saw her.

MIMI

Who?

JIMMY

Simone. The girl I fell in love with just today in Paris.

HENRI

Martin! Martin! Sh! Hush!

LOUIS

Who is this?

HENRI

This is Madame's cousin, Martin. He has suffered bombing in Toulouse. He has been hit on the head. And now he can't speak.

LOUIS

But I heard him speak.

HENRI

He is deranged.

JIMMY

No I'm not. I saw her running away just now.

LOUIS

Who?

HENRI

Who?

MIMI

Who?

JIMMY
The girl I love. The girl I met in Paris.

LOUIS
Monsieur, you are under arrest.

JIMMY
What for?

LOUIS
What for? You are obviously a spy. And you are witness to the murder of General Morgentag.

JIMMY
I am not.

HENRI
How could he be? He is a waiter, he was in the kitchen. I saw the woman who killed the General. She ran from here while Antoine was singing.

ANTOINE
But – I wasn't that bad.

LOUIS
You are under arrest as well.

HENRI
But why?

LOUIS
For your involvement in the murder.

HENRI
But this is nonsense.

LOUIS
And you will come along as well.

ANTOINE
I was playing the piano.

LOUIS
And you –

MIMI
What have I done?

LOUIS
It's your Café. You must be involved.

MIMI

Pfui.

LOUIS

You will all come down to headquarters with me immediately for your interrogation.

(Enter Raoul Merced.)

RAOUL

No one is going anywhere.

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine!

RAOUL

What do you think you're doing, eh?

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine, there has been a murder. General Morgentag has been shot.

RAOUL

I know he has been shot, you fool. What do you mean by making these arrests without my authority?

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine, I felt sure that you would wish –

RAOUL

Silence!

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine!

RAOUL

You thought you would betray me, by making these arrests yourself, and impressing the Germans? But it is I who will solve the murder, and I who will make the arrests.

LOUIS

Oui, mon Capitaine.

RAOUL

There is simply no loyalty anymore. Now. Who saw the murder. Eh? Speak up.

LOUIS

The General was shot as he left the Café running after a woman, mon Capitaine. This man saw a woman fleeing the scene.

(He indicates Jimmy)

HENRI

But he can't speak.

LOUIS

He can speak. Mon Capitaine, this man is a spy, and probably therefore involved in the murder.

RAOUL

A spy?

JIMMY

I am not a spy!

HENRI

Hush, for God's sake.

JIMMY

Forget it. I am not a spy. There are some insults that a red-blooded American won't stand for, and that's one of them. I'm a pilot, not a spy. And I'm not a cold blooded killer.

RAOUL

You look like a spy.

JIMMY

My uniform – it's under my jacket, what's left of it. Most of it was burned when I bailed out.

RAOUL

So you say.

JIMMY

Look for yourself!

RAOUL

But no. Thin of this from my point of view, my friend. If I turn in a downed American pilot, I get perhaps a pat on the should. But if I turn in a spy –

JIMMY

I'm not a spy, damn you!

RAOUL

If I turn in a spy, I get a promotion. And a reward. Isn't that right, Sergeant?

LOUIS

Oui, mon Capitaine.

RAOUL

Therefore, I think you are a spy.

JIMMY

Look at my dog tags. They'll tell you!

RAOUL

But no. I think your dog tags will be lost, together with what remains of your uniform. So sad. So many things are lost in the war.

JIMMY

Yeah, but I can still tell 'em.

RAOUL

No, sorry, not if you are shot. And that, I fear, is what is about to happen to you.

JIMMY

You lying, cheating, German dog.

MIMI

That is exactly what he is. A German dog. But worse than that, he is a Frenchman, a collaborator, and a traitor.

RAOUL

I don't care what you call me. I am going to survive this war. And you, Madame Mimi, are not.

MIMI

You meant to denounce me from the first, Raoul. I knew it always.

RAOUL

Where were you when General Morgentag was shot?

MIMI

I was –

RAOUL

Don't lie to me, Madame.

MIMI

I was right next to him, at the entrance of the Café.

RAOUL

Pointing a gun at him? Madame? You were seen –

MIMI

Oui. But I didn't shoot. So fast the General was killed. I never had the chance.

RAOUL

I have caught you at last. Threatening a German officer, harboring an American spy –

JIMMY

I'm not a spy. And she didn't harbor anybody. I found my way here – by myself. She just gave me a job.

RAOUL

And she never knew who or what you were.

JIMMY

No. Of course not.

RAOUL

But how will anyone know that? When you are dead, and I have caught -- two spies?

HENRI

You monster, have you no heart?

RAOUL

No, I don't think so.

HENRI

Let her go, Raoul. She has done nothing that no true French patriot would not do.

RAOUL

Let her go?

HENRI

Yes, let her go, Raoul, or I swear –

RAOUL

You swear what, Henri.

HENRI

I'll kill you.

RAOUL

You think you can? Really? Come on, then.

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine –

RAOUL

Watch the others, Sergeant. This won't take long.

(He takes off his gun belt and his uniform jacket. Henri takes off his apron. He and Henri square off. They spar for a few moments, and then Henri hits Raoul a good one and knocks him down. Raoul gets up.)

RAOUL

Now do you feel better?

HENRI

Yes. Come on. I want to feel even better.

RAOUL

No. That's enough. You are under arrest for striking an officer of the gendarmerie, and helping to harbor an American spy.

JIMMY

I'm not –

MIMI

No –

RAOUL

And where were you when General Morgentag was shot?

HENRI

I was – in the Café. Seeing to the customers.

RAOUL

Oh, yes, certainly. And I have caught – three spies.

(Enter Fifi the Informer, bedraggled, hang-dog and scummy-looking. He stands in the doorway, signaling.)

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine, look.

RAOUL

Well. Fifi the Informer.

HENRI

He is not allowed in here, that scum. Get away from here.

RAOUL

Henri, have you forgotten? You are under arrest. Fifi. Come here. Don't be afraid. Yes, come here. Now. You have something to tell me? About the murder of General Morgentag? Or about Mimi's Café? Come, out with it.

FIFI

Pay?

RAOUL

Yes, of course you will be paid. You are always paid, no?

FIFI

Please....

RAOUL

Sergeant, give me a cigarette.

(Louis hands him one)

You want this, Fifi? What have you got to tell me? Tell!

FIFI

The General – was murdered – by Georges. Find the murderer – and you will have Georges. That's what I know. That's all.

RAOUL

Georges, eh?

FIFI

Please....

RAOUL

But you must help us. Help us to find Georges. Tell us everything you know about our suspects, Madame Mimi, Henri, the American spy –

JIMMY

I'm not –

RAOUL

Ah ah – and the woman Charlotte who fled the scene –

FIFI

Yes yes and more, there are more –

RAOUL

Yes, you shall have your cigarette. And you will tell me everything. Come, Fifi. Come!

(Raoul leads Fifi out.)

End Scene 2.

Scene 3

(Enter Raoul, holding a notebook)

RAOUL

Sergeant! Sergeant!

(Louis goes to him.)

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine!

RAOUL

I have interrogated Fifi the Informer thoroughly, and I have constructed my report. We must submit it, so that I can receive my reward from the Germans before the case is taken over by – the Gestapo.

(They both look around)

LOUIS

I, too, have my report, mon Capitaine.

RAOUL

What's this?

LOUIS

Working so closely with you, mon Capitaine, I would of course try to emulate your methods.

RAOUL

What does your report say?

LOUIS

Well I have at first of course reconstructed the crime.

RAOUL

Yes. Of course.

(He writes in his notebook)

How did you put it?

LOUIS

Oh, mon Capitaine, you wish to hear – ?

RAOUL

Read it.

LOUIS

Oui, mon Capitaine! At the famous Chez Mimi in the heart of Paris in the last days of the war –

RAOUL

Yes, yes, yes –

LOUIS

A little after eight o'clock, General Morgentag was murdered. He was shot by a revolver. His death was instantaneous. He was shot by an unknown person, probably the arch-leader of the so-called Resistance, known as Georges. And then I have a list of suspects.

RAOUL

Good, good.

(Writes in his notebook)

They are?

LOUIS

First, the Café owner, Madame Mimi. She has admitted she was in plain view of the General, when he was shot. And she had a revolver, since recovered from the soup tureen in the kitchen.

RAOUL

Had it been fired?

LOUIS

We can't tell. The soup was very thick. But, mon Capitaine, I have since crossed her off my list.

RAOUL

Why?

LOUIS

She is a woman. She cannot be Georges.

RAOUL

Fool. Do you think "Georges" is anything but a name? Madame Mimi, come here. Listen to this. Does your report say, Sergeant, that Madame Mimi bore one child, a daughter, at the end of the last war?

LOUIS

No, mon Capitaine.

RAOUL

Does it say what happened to that child? Well, Madame Mimi? What did happen to the child, on the first day of the German Occupation of Paris?

MIMI

I don't know.

RAOUL

You do know.

MIMI

I only know I lost her.

RAOUL

Yes. You lost her in the war. She was arrested on the first day of the Occupation for standing in the way of a tank battalion entering Paris. She was arrested by the Gestapo.

(Everyone looks around)

And she was interrogated by General Morgentag. Wasn't she, Madame?

MIMI

Yes. I know that now.

RAOUL

And you have never seen her since. You hated the General, didn't you, Madame?

MIMI

Of course I did, you stupid fool. I never tried to hide that.

RAOUL

And you hate the Occupation, too. Don't you.

MIMI

Of course. What do you take me for?

RAOUL

I take you for – Georges.

MIMI

Very well. Just as you say. I am Georges.

LOUI

But, mon Capitaine. The other suspects.

RAOUL

Yes, yes. I have them all.

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine, they cannot all be Georges. What about the Mademoiselle Charlotte, the General's – friend.

RAOUL

Fifi the Informer informed me that they were only -- friends.

LOUIS

But Mademoiselle Charlotte was made an addict by the General, an addict of chocolate, which only he could procure for her.

But what about Henri?

RAOUL

(Henri comes over.)

HENRI

What, me?

RAOUL

Toi. Oui.

LOUIS

But, mon Capitaine, Henri was still in the Café when the shot was fired. He has said so.

RAOUL

But was he?

LOUIS

And what of Simone, the simple French girl who was seen fleeing from the scene of the crime?

(Jimmy comes over.)

JIMMY

I said I thought I saw her. That's all.

LOUIS

Or General Morgentag's driver, who has mysteriously disappeared?

RAOUL

Enough! We must have a completed report. You are all witnesses to this crime! You will each make a statement which will be taken down as evidence --

(Enter SS Sturmbahngruppenführer Rudolf von Himmelfeuer, with an SS Soldier accompanying him.)

SOLDIER

Achtung! Heil Hitler!

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

RAOUL

Heil Hitler! Herr Sturmbahngruppenführer! Heil Hitler, heil Hitler!

RUDOLF

Yes. Rudolf von Himmelfeuer. At your service.

RAOUL

This is an honor, a privilege, indeed, permit me –

(He goes to remove Rudolf's coat.)

RUDOLF

Don't touch me.

RAOUL

No, of course not. Forgive me.

RUDOLF

I have come to receive the solution to the murder of General Morgentag that took place not long ago.

RAOUL

You shall have it, Herr Sturmbahngruppenfuhrer.

RUDOLF

What have we here?

RAOUL

Spies, your Excellency. All spies.

RUDOLF

Then why are they not dead?

RAOUL

They will be, Excellency. Immediately. Take them –

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine! Heil Hitler!

SOLDIER

Heil Hitler!

RAOUL

Heil Hitler!

RUDOLF

Wait.

RAOUL

Wait!

RUDOLF

I have –

(He looks at the Soldier.)

SOLDIER

Three and one-half minutes –

RUDOLF

Three and one-half minutes of spare time. I will question them.

RAOUL

But your Excellency, that will not be necessary. I have a full report.

LOUIS

And I too, Excellency.

RAOUL

They are all guilty, I assure you.

RUDOLF

Of course they are guilty. But if I question them, perhaps it will provide me with an amusing anecdote to relate to Uncle Adolf.

RAOUL

Uncle Adolf? You mean –

RUDOLF

Yes. Der Führer. My godfather. I am dining with him –

SOLDIER

Tomorrow, Excellency. At two o'clock.

RAOUL

You are dining with –

RUDOLF

Ja.

RAOUL

You will mention this incident? Perhaps mention my name? Capitaine Raoul Merced, at your service, your Excellency.

RUDOLF

You are a Frenchman, Capitaine?

RAOUL

I was, your Excellency. I was a humble policeman before the Occupation. I have risen to my present rank through my capabilities and my willingness to serve.

RUDOLF

Indeed.

RAOUL

Indeed yes, your Excellency. It was I, in case no one has told you, who denounced the Wachstein family and also the Kellers, and Monsieur LeFevre, the famous philosopher and bookseller.

LOUIS

And Excellency, I helped him.

RAOUL

Sergeant –

LOUIS

Mon Capitaine!

RUDOLF

You are presently living in the Keller's house.

RAOUL

It was offered me, your Excellency, in appreciation for my services.

LOUIS

I wasn't offered anything.

RAOUL

Together with a very good wine cellar belonging to the de Prie family. I discovered them to be harboring an entire family of Jews.

RUDOLF

Yes. You have indeed been busy on our behalf. Uncle Adolf once remarked on this subject, indeed he said to me last – Tuesday, what was it –

SOLDIER

“Die Roten Feuern wussenkinkel von geschachten hatten ganz den Wanderspiegel – “

RUDOLF

No, no, that wasn't it. Rudy, he said – he calls me Rudy – Rudy, we could never keep France so efficiently under our heel if it were not for the willing cooperation of those French who profit by our rule.

RAOUL

Der Führer said that?

RUDOLF

He did.

RAOUL
Heil Hitler!

LOUIS
Heil Hitler!

SOLDIER
Heil Hitler!

RUDOLF
Yes.

RAOUL
Perhaps your Excellency, and Frau Sturmbahngruppenfuhrer von Himmelfeuer, would care to take a glass of wine with me, at my house –

RUPERT
There is no Frau Sturmbahngruppenfuhrer von Himmelfeuer. I am a German SS officer, and I have no time for frivolity. Now. Finish your report. Who killed General Morgenstern?

RAOUL
Your Excellency, the General was killed – by Georges.

RUDOLF
Ah, Georges. The unseen, unknown leader of the so-called French Resistance, whose ruthlessly efficient planning and impossible escapades have caused his name to be spoken, even by – Uncle Adolf.

RAOUL
Uncle Adolf? Heil Hitler!

LOUIS
Heil Hitler!

SOLDIER
Heil Hitler!

RUDOLF
Yes. And I see you have caught him at last.
(Turns to Jimmy)
This must be Georges.

JIMMY
Dearborn, James, lieutenant, U.S. Army Flight Corp, number 5 – 0 – 5 – 0 –

RAOUL
Your Excellency, this is an enemy spy, doubtless in league with Georges and acting in the assassination.

RUDOLF

A spy? But he said he is an American pilot.

RAOUL

Merely a cover story. We will soon break him of it.

JIMMY

You'll never break me you low stinking disgusting rotten person!

RAOUL

You will break. Never fear.

RUDOLF

I should enjoy watching that. And this?

RAOUL

Madame Mimi, also a spy. And this is Henri, her cohort. We have only to ask them a few questions, your Excellency, and the entire conspiracy will fall into our hands.

RUDOLF

(Points at Jimmy, and then the other two)

Georges, the Resistance leader, and two spies. The killer of General Morgentag caught and executed before dinner tomorrow. Uncle Adolf will be very pleased with me.

RAOUL

With – your Excellency? Of course! Of course! But – surely your Excellency will mention – me?

RUDOLF

No. After all, you were only doing your job.

RAOUL

Of course, but perhaps some recognition, some slight reward, a token, only, for my services –

RUDOLF

Oh, Capitaine, you are not actually under the impression that we consider you to be important?

RAOUL

But your Excellency, the Führer has said...

RUDOLF

Not at all. Take the prisoners.

(He starts to go.)

RAOUL

One moment – your Excellency.

RUDOLF

What is it?

RAOUL

Allow me to point out one small detail. Without my report – which I have not yet made – you don't yet know who it was who shot General Morgentag.

RUDOLF

But I do: it was Georges.

RAOUL

But who – is Georges?

RUDOLF

The one person who shot General Morgentag. The one person who knew the General would be here, lured here, in fact, by the information, leaked by Georges, that Georges was coming here to meet with his section heads and then assassinate him.

RAOUL

How do you know all this?

RUDOLF

You must never underestimate the resources of the Gestapo.

(Everyone looks around)

RAOUL

But – this all only happened a short time ago.

RUDOLF

Exactly. General Morgentag was shot by a German Luger. He was shot, in fact, by this very weapon.

(He snaps his fingers, the Soldier produces the gun.)

MIMI

There is no need for further investigation. Herr Sturmbahngruppenfuhrer, I have a confession. I did it. I shot General Morgentag.

RAOUL

That's a lie.

MIMI

How do you know? You weren't there.

RAOUL

(To Rudolf)

Where did you find that gun, your Excellency?

RUDOLF

My men found it, at the bottom of a mud-filled ditch only a few streets away.

MIMI

That's true. That's where I threw it in the uproar following the General's death.

RAOUL

You did do it, then! You are Georges!

MIMI

Not Georges. Only an unhappy old woman whose heart is broken by the Occupation of her country by her bitterest foe. But I have had my revenge. I killed General Morgentag – now shoot me.

HENRI

But it isn't true. Your Excellency, Capitaine, Madame Mimi had the gun, yes, but it was I who ran to her, I took the gun from her – poof! I shot General Morgentag.

RAOUL

Poof?

HENRI

Poof!

RUDOLF

But if you did, why did she say she had?

HENRI

(Taps his head significantly)

It's her heart. It is broken. It leads her sometimes to say such things.

RUDOLF

I see.

RAOUL

Wait – but you didn't have the gun. Neither of you had the gun.

JIMMY

That's right. I had it. I don't know why you people are trying to cover up for me: Stop it. I'm going to be shot anyway, so I may as well set the record straight. For Uncle Adolf.

RUDOLF

Very kind of you.

JIMMY

Not at all. I shot General Morgentag. My mission was to fly to Paris and drop a bomb on his head. Well my plane didn't make it. I was shot down. There was a fire – fire – fire in the cockpit! – bail out – fire – fire!

RUDOLF

He is certainly insane enough to have done it. Take him away. Take them all away. Herr Capitaine, my respects.

RAOUL

Just one moment, your Excellency.

RUDOLF

Capitaine, my time is short.

RAOUL

But I insist. During this interrogation three things kept coming into my mind. First, how is it that you know so much about a crime that was only just committed?

RUDOLF

I told you once, Capitaine. Do not underestimate the Gestapo.

(Rudolf interrupts as everyone starts to look around.)

RAOUL

– Which leads me to my second questions. Excuse me, Excellency. But why are you so short?

RUDOLF

My mother was short.

RAOUL

But as a member of the Master Race? Does not the SS have a height requirement?

RUDOLF

How comes it that I am an officer? My dear Capitaine, you are forgetting Uncle Adolf.

RAOUL

Not for one moment.

SOLDIER

Heil Hitler!

LOUIS

Heil Hitler!

RAOUL

Yes. Which leads me to my third question. What were you doing with that gun?

RUDOLF

I told you. My men found it.

RAOUL

Half-buried in the mud of the gutter. It looks perfectly clean now.

RUDOLF

My men are always meticulous.

RAOUL

But you know, just as I know, your Excellency, that if this gun sent five minutes in the mud of the gutter, then it won't fire, will it. And if you are lying, about where you found the gun – then very likely you are lying about everything. Well, Herr Sturmbahngruppenfuhrer? Will it fire?

(He aims the Luger at Rudolf.)

RUDOLF

You would not dare.

RAOUL

Oh no? But if I do, Uncle Adolf will very soon know my name – one way or the other.

(He cocks the gun, aims at Rudolf, then at the last second points the gun in the air and pulls the trigger. The gun fires resoundingly.)

RAOUL

Well. I believe I have the pleasure of addressing – Georges?

HENRI

No!

MIMI

Georges!

RUDOLF (GEORGES)

(Bows ironically)

Yes, mesdames, messieurs. It is Georges. Caught at last. What can one do?

RAOUL

(To Louis)

Take him.

(Louis and the Soldier grab Georges.)

LOUIS

This is a triumph for you, mon Capitaine. Allow me to congratulate you.

RAOUL

Yes. A triumph! My triumph!

GEORGES

But do you understand the mistake you are making? The huge mistake you have made?

RAOUL

Of course I expected some protest from you, some more lies. I shall have to interrogate you. I will have the truth in the end.

GEORGES

Yes, the truth. And justice. Don't forget justice.

RAOUL

Of course. This will be my greatest interrogation. It must be done slowly, at leisure, so that no mistakes will be made. Next – the interrogation!

End Scene 3

Scene 4

(Raoul confronts Georges.)

RAOUL

Well, Georges, for so I think I may call you.

GEORGES

It does not matter in the least what you call me.

RAOUL

I never thought you'd be so small – so small, and yet you mean so much.

GEORGES

To the Free French people, perhaps.

RAOUL

No, to me. You represent safety, and a life of luxury to the end of my days. Two or three cars. Unlimited gasoline. A house, no, a castle. And women, many beautiful blond women. And money. Oh, the money.

GEORGES

All this? For me?

RAOUL

Oh yes, all this and more. Have you any idea how much the Germans hate you? The railways you've blown up, the detachments you have ambushed, the ton of food you've diverted to the French black market.

GEORGES

Of course I know.

RAOUL

And oh how the Germans wanted it stopped – and now it has been stopped – by me! Himmler shall hear of this, and Herr Goebbels, certainly. Perhaps, even...

GEORGES

Uncle Adolf?

RAOUL

Der Fuhrer, yes whose powers in Germany are absolute. Who can give me – anything I desire.

GEORGES

Tell me, Raoul – if I may call you that.

RAOUL

It doesn't matter in the least what you call me.

GEORGES

I thought not. Tell me, Raoul, what make a good, honest Frenchman become a lapdog, a servant, a slave, even, to his conquering masters? I am interested to know.

RAOUL

What was I before the war?

GEORGES

What was he, Madame?

MIMI

An honest man. A good policeman.

HENRI

Oui, c'est-ça.

RAOUL

I was nothing. The Germans defeated us – oh, I had a good sense of outrage then. The Germans in Paris? No! Let us first burn Paris. I approached two men with my plan –

GEORGES

Armand Deschamps and Pierre Lemonds.

RAOUL

Oui, but my own boss, the prefect of police, he heard what I was up to and he stopped me. He said, what's done is done. Make the best of it. And when the Germans came, he joined the Nazi party.

GEORGES

And when the Germans came, you turned Armand Deschamps and Pierre Lemonds in, as saboteurs, as arsonists.

RAOUL

I caught them red-handed. And for this, I was made prefect of police.

GEORGES

So you did it for power.

RAOUL

And for money. Don't forget the money.

GEORGES

Is it true then, that you receive from the Germans a price per head for every Jewish person you transport out of Paris? Is that true?

RAOUL

But Georges, don't you know? I had heard your sources were infallible.

GEORGES

I want to hear it from you.

RAOUL

Who is questioning who here?

GEORGES

It's whom. Who is questioning whom.

RAOUL

So I didn't get the best education! But I had the Germans, and yes, they pay me for what I do.

GEORGE
(To Mimi)

He has two accounts in Switzerland.

MIMI

I am not surprised.

GEORGES

You have trapped and caught two hundred and twenty-four members of the Resistance.

RAOUL

Oh, no, many more.

GEORGES

No, those were innocent.

RAOUL

No, they confessed.

GEORGES

To the Gestapo, yes. Do you think I do not know my own people? Of those two hundred and twenty-four, one hundred and nine were executed. Thirty-two are still in prison. Three escaped. As for the rest – we don't know.

MIMI

And my daughter? My daughter, Marie? Do you know what happened to her?

GEORGES

Your daughter was captured slightly before the Resistance came into being. I am sorry, Madame.

(To Raoul)

Your crimes against the French people have been numbered. They will be paid for.

RAOUL

Oh, I don't think so. Do you truly think the Allies will win the war? Herr Hitler has immense secret weapons he has been holding back until the right time. Should the Allies attempt a

RAOUL (cont.)

landing – well, I pity them. And now to you. The discussion is over. It is time for the execution.

GEORGES

Wait. Aren't you forgetting something?

RAOUL

No, I don't think so.

GEORGES

But yes, the interrogation. Every member of the French Resistance, I know them all. Don't you want them? Don't you want to wipe out the entire organization, have them all in your hands in a matter of days?

RAOUL

But in your case the interrogation would only be a formality.

GEORGES

But no.

RAOUL

But yes. I would question you, you would refuse to talk. We would torture you, you would scream and refuse to talk. We would torture you again, you would tell us lies –

GEORGES

And spit in your face.

RAOUL

– and then we would shoot you. Let us skip all these unnecessary divertissements. Let us go right to the end.

GEORGES

Try me.

RAOUL

What?

GEORGES

Try me. Ask me anything. Or, as a gesture of my good faith, I will make you an offer.

RAOUL

Do you think that we will deal with you? That we will let you live? You cannot think that.

GEORGES

A man has to hope. Hope is sacred

RAOUL

Very well. What will you offer me?

GEORGES

How about Jean Roland, paymaster of the Resistance, and sometime liaison to Charles de Gaulle?

RAOUL

But he is in London.

GEORGES

No. He is sitting right there.

(Points to a man in the audience)

Yes, that's him. Do you recognize him now?

RAOUL

Jean Roland, you are under arrest!

GEORGES

But wait. I am not finished. What about Genevieve Falchon, chief saboteur of the coastal section? Responsible for blowing up the Peugeot aero plane factory, six miles of railroad track, and four key depots?

RAOUL

Where?

GEORGES

There.

(Georges points to another member of the audience.)

RAOUL

Oh yes? Who else?

GEORGES

(Points)

Guillaume de Saint-Emy, in charge of food stores.

RAOUL

The black market!

GEORGES

And of course, the genius behind the French underground railroad, who has delivered more than thirty-three hundred allied soldiers and operatives, and other refugees out of Occupied Europe, our own, Madame Mimi.

HENRI

You bastard. You traitor. Shoot him. Someone shoot him before he gives away anymore! Shoot him!

GEORGES

Don't you trust me, Henri? I have called this meeting of all the section leaders of the Resistance, from all over France, to this famous café in the heart of Paris. We are in the last days of the war.

RAOUL

What are you doing?

GEORGES

Opening my meeting, do you mind? You are out of order.

RAOUL

You are mad.

GEORGES

No. You are ill-informed. Look around you. Every person you see is part of the Resistance you have tried to destroy. Don't call your soldiers. Do you really think the men surrounding this sector are your soldiers? They are maquis, special forces under the command of Major Paul Verbaine. There he is. Are you men still in good order?

(Asks a man in the audience.)

Good.

RAOUL

(To the Soldier)

Arrest them! Shoot them! Shoot all of them!

SOLDIER

But Capitaine, don't you recognize me?

RAOUL

No.

SOLDIER

You gave me a cigarette.

RAOUL

No!

GEORGES

You don't recognize Fifi the Informer, who tells you exactly what I want you to know? Or Mademoiselle Charlotte, who told General Morgentag what we wanted him to know.

SOLDIER

(In Charlotte's voice)

But only in return – for chocolate.

RAOUL
Louis! Arrest them, shoot them, now!

LOUIS
Mon Capitaine, I cannot.

RAOUL
Why not?

LOUIS
Because I, too, am one of them.

RAOUL
No! But you –

GEORGES
(To Louis)
Perhaps you should introduce yourself?

LOUIS
Mademoiselle Suzanne Louise Blanche. Free French special operative.

GEORGES
Tell him what your job has been, Mademoiselle.

LOUIS
(To Raoul)
To follow you. To know everything you know, everything you do. Even the numbers of your two Swiss bank accounts.

RAOUL
No!

GEORGES
But yes. You have been financing the Resistance yourself, from your back pocket.

RAOUL
No! You can't do this! No!

(He attacks Georges, who does not try to fight him at all. Louis and the Soldier drag him off and hold him. Georges straightens his clothes.)

GEORGES
We have all met together to dispose of one of the traitors of the French people. The rest will be dealt with before long. But you must be stopped now, Capitaine, before you can do further harm, and before you can escape into Germany.

RAOUL

What are you going to do, shoot me?

GEORGES

No. We shall leave that to the Germans. We will present them with the irrefutable proof that you murdered General Morgentag – get his fingerprints on that gun.

(Louis and the Soldier hold him and force him to grasp the murder weapon.)

That, together with the eyewitness accounts of everyone in this Café, including the General's – friend – will give the Gestapo all the proof they need. Congratulations, Monsieur le Capitaine. You will die a hero of Free France.

RAOUL

And rich. Don't forget, for a little while, I was rich.

(Louis and the Soldier take Raoul away. Exeunt.)

GEORGES

May France be free of all such men, forever.

(Jimmy approaches Georges)

JIMMY

So you're really Georges.

GEORGES

That's right.

JIMMY

The head of the French Resistance? Master mind of all those operations?

GEORGES

Oui.

JIMMY

What?

GEORGES

Yes.

JIMMY

I wonder if you would do one thing for me?

GEORGES

For you, a brave American flyer who risks his life to help liberate our country? Of course.

JIMMY

Well, gee, it's just my job.

GEORGES

What do you want me to do?

JIMMY

I met a girl, in Paris. Prettiest girl you ever saw, and I fell for her like the whole Krupp factory going down to a well-placed megaton bomb.

GEORGES

You what?

JIMMY

I fell in love.

GEORGES

Really? You like her?

JIMMY

I love her. But see, I'm kind of in a situation here. I've got to get back to my outfit in London. And Simone, that's her name, Simone. I think she's in trouble.

GEORGES

You do?

JIMMY

She ran away after the shooting. I don't know where she is.

GEORGES

That could be very bad trouble.

JIMMY

Can you find her? I mean, would you? Find her and keep her safe, and tell her Jimmy's coming back for her if he has to drop a bomb on old Adolf Hitler himself, right on his head, to do it.

GEORGES

How do you know she wants you?

JIMMY

Well that's just it, I don't. But I'm coming back to ask her, just the same. Will you do it.

GEORGES

What will you give me?

JIMMY

Anything!

(Starts emptying his pockets)

Will you give me – a kiss?

GEORGES

Huh?

JIMMY

A kiss.

GEORGES

That's – that's – no!

JIMMY

Very well.

GEORGES

(Turns away)

JIMMY

Wait. My Dad's got a shoe factory. I can send you some really good shoes – bunches of 'em. I know you French need shoes.

GEORGES

A kiss, or nothing. For Simone.

JIMMY

You French are disgusting. All right. For Simone.

GEORGES

Close your eyes.

(They kiss)

JIMMY

Wait a second –

GEORGES

Hush.

JIMMY

But –

GEORGES

Sh. Not yet.

(Addresses the Café)

It is true, as some reports have stated, that General Morgenstern was killed by Simone. But who is Simone? A simple courier for the Resistance, who volunteered this once for a more important and dangerous duty? Or is Simone merely yet another disguise, another alias, of the one called Georges?

(Georges starts taking off his uniform)

And who, after all, is Georges? A pilot of the Great War, who flew away on the last day before the Armistice, in nineteen-eighteen, and was never heard from again?

MIMI

No. Not Georges.

GEORGES

Or is it his child, his only child, who, on the first day of the Occupation, in memory of her father kept alive for her by her beloved maman, stepped in the way of an entire German tank battalion as they paraded down the Champs Elysees?

MIMI

But you – you are not – you cannot be!

GEORGES

That girl was arrested and given over to the Gestapo. Released some weeks later she was transported out of Paris by partisans, and brought to a doctor, who gave her a new face. A face not even her own mother would know. As an unknown, undocumented person, I became Georges, and served France, for freedom, in my father's name. But now the days of the leader of the Resistance are numbered. All of you have been briefed. All of you know your duties up to the last days of the coming invasion of the Allies. It is time for Georges to fly away. But who will remain? Madame Mimi, close your eyes. Do you know me? Do you know your own child, your daughter –

MIMI

Marie!

(They embrace)

Georges is no more. But we all know what to do. The end is in sight at last. Long live the Republic! Long live the Allies! Long live France!

HENRI

Sing! Citizens, sing!

(Antoine plays, everyone sings Le Marseillaise)

Allons enfants de la Patrie
 Le jour de gloire est arrivé.
 Contre nous, de la tyrannie,
 L'étandard sanglant est levé,
 l'étandard sanglant est levé,
 Entendez-vous, dans la compagne.
 Mugir ces farouches soldats
 Ils viennent jusque dans nos bras
 Egorger vos fils,
 vos compagne.

Aux armes citoyens!
Formez vos bataillons,
Marchons, marchons!
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons.

(Blackout)

THE END