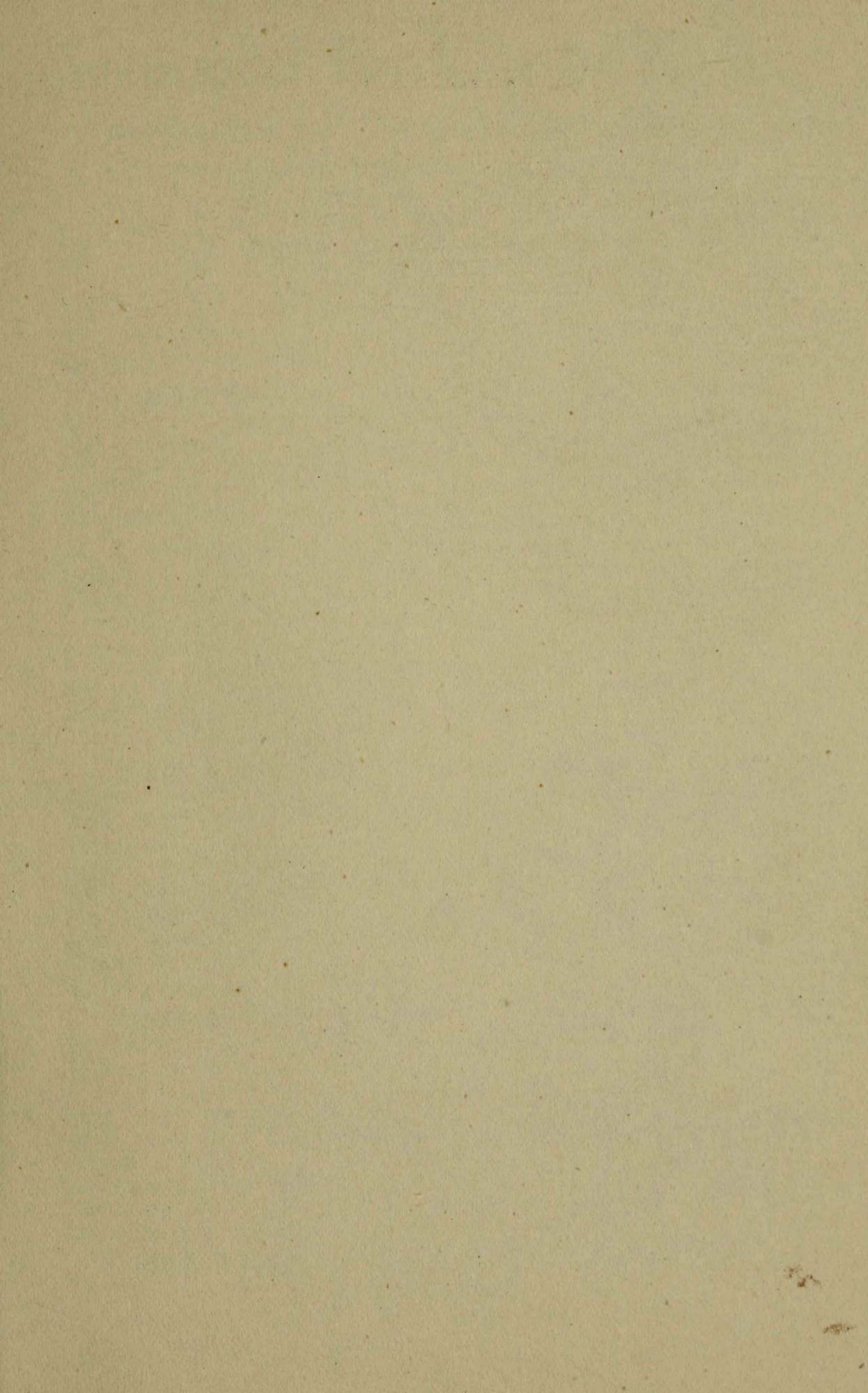




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BLUEBEARD

BARBE BLEUE

A Play for Children in
Three Scenes

*arranged to be given
in English or French*

By

CAROLINE WASSON THOMASON

author of

“Red Riding Hood,” “Cinderella,” “The Three
Bears,” “Beauty and the Beast”

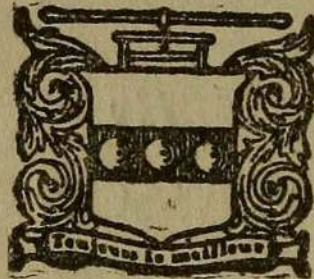


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Bluebeard

Barbe Bleue



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no 1

BLUEBEARD

BARBE BLEUE

CHARACTERS

Personnages

BLUEBEARD	<i>Barbe Bleue</i>
MRS. BLUEBEARD, HIS WIFE	<i>Madame Barbe Bleue, sa femme</i>
THE LADY OF RANK, HER MOTHER	<i>La Dame de Qualité, sa mère</i>
ANNE, HER SISTER	<i>Anne, sa sœur</i>
THE DRAGOON, HER BROTHER	<i>Le Dragon, son frère</i>
THE MUSKETEER, HER BROTHER	<i>Le Mousquetaire, son frère</i>
THE NOBLEMAN	<i>Le Gentilhomme</i>
THE HONEST MAN	<i>L'Honnête Homme</i>
THE WIVES OF BLUE- BEARD	<i>Les Femmes de Barbe Bleue</i>

TIME OF PLAYING

Forty-five Minutes

Told in Three Scenes — All in Bluebeard's
Drawing-room

COSTUMES, ETC.

BLUEBEARD. Red and yellow striped robe coming almost to his feet. Blue stockings, red felt slippers. High red and yellow turban. Blue beard. If desired the long white beard on a "Santa Claus" mask can be dyed blue.

MRS. BLUEBEARD. Scene I. Purple, panel-front gown with yellow decoration, train. Hair in high, oriental style. Scene II. Persian kimono, bedroom slippers, hair hanging loose, carrying candle, wearing light scarf over shoulders. Scene III. Same as Scene I, except with hair tied back carelessly, and hanging down back.

LADY OF RANK. Scenes I and II. Black silk long coat, furs, hat with heavy plumes, elaborate strand of beads.

ANNE. Scene I. Green long coat, green stockings, white slippers, green hat with white plumes. Scene III, first same as I, then she removes wraps; thin, sea-green gown, hair in low coil with brilliant comb decorations.

THE BROTHERS. Khaki uniforms, leggings, bright sashes, red and green respectively, swords, red and green caps, respectively.

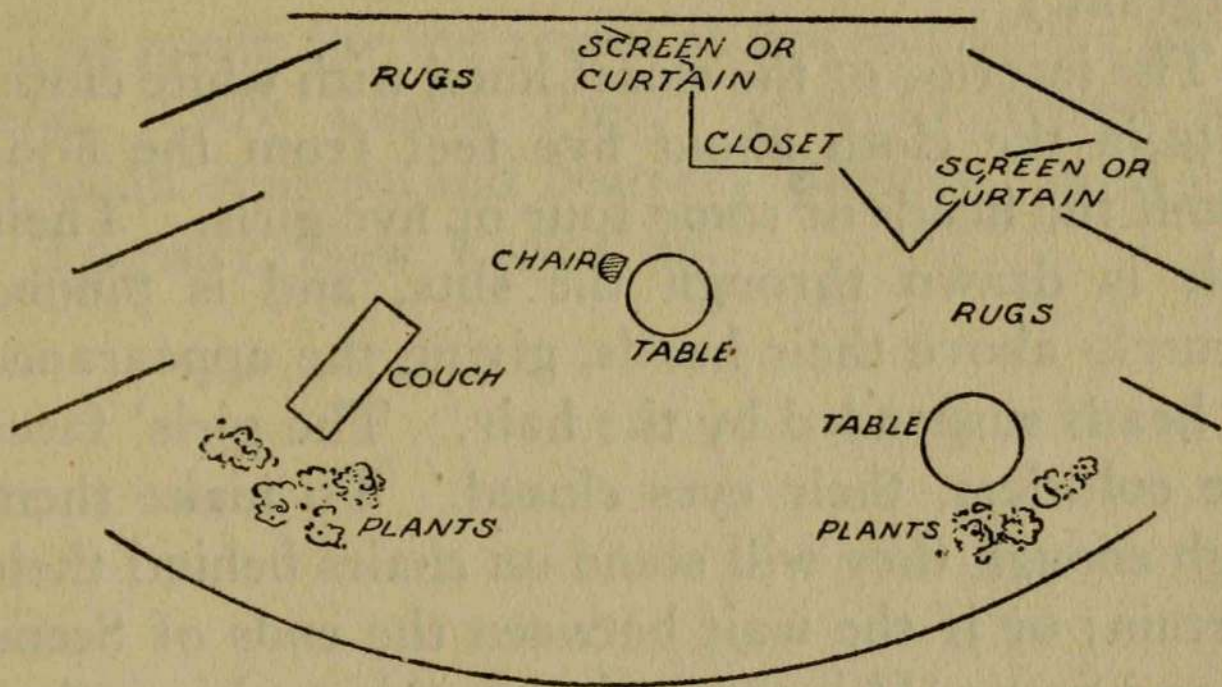
THE NOBLEMAN. Dress coat, frilled blouse, knickerbockers, red stockings, pumps, red hat with white plume.

BARBE BLEUE

THE HONEST MAN. Dress coat, frilled blouse, knickerbockers, gray stockings, pumps, gray hat with black plume.

THE WIVES OF BLUEBEARD. See Description of Bluebeard's Closet.

SCENE PLOT



SCENES I, II AND III. In Bluebeard's drawing-room. The walls and floor covered with rugs with oriental designs. A long mirror. Two small tables with Persian coverings. A large chair at one table. A small couch draped with fantastic drapery. Several potted plants, rich in color.

DESCRIPTION OF BLUEBEARD'S CLOSET

If the stage is large the closet may extend completely across the back, there being a curtain used to conceal the interior from the audience until the proper time. Probably, however, a series of two or three screens at one side of the stage would fit the ordinary high school stage better. (See diagram.)

The interior of the closet lined with white cloth. Slits in the cloth about five feet from the floor admit the heads of some four or five girls. Their hair is drawn through the slits, and is pinned securely above their heads, giving the appearance of heads suspended by the hair. The girls' faces are colorless, their eyes closed. To make them high enough they will stand on chairs behind their curtain; or if the wait between the ends of Scene II and Scene III is too trying in this position, they may sit on chairs placed on a table.

A few headless dress forms, representing bodies, are lying about, or standing about. There is a chopping block, the cutlass, or hatchet, stuck into it. A whetstone is also lying on the block. There are a few bones, and perhaps a skull scattered about. Sheets of paper stained red will give the appearance of spots of blood.

PROPERTIES

The puddle of blood into which the key drops may be a shallow vessel of red ink.

Keys on ring, bowl of water, soap, brush. Bluebeard's wife must not forget her handkerchief, scarf and candle for Scene II. Papers for Bluebeard. A ladder for Anne outside.

MUSIC

The music for the round at the end of the first scene, "My Castle Fine," may be found in "French Rounds and Nursery Rhymes," sold by G. Schirmer, New York City.

BLUEBEARD

BARBE BLEUE

SCENE I — Bluebeard's Drawing-room

TIME. *One month after the marriage of Bluebeard and the younger daughter of the Lady of Rank had been concluded.*

(THE WIFE *is reclining on a divan. Sighs deeply, seems unhappy.*)

(*Enter BLUEBEARD*)

BLUEBEARD. I am obliged to make a journey out of town, for six weeks at least, upon a matter of importance.

Je suis obligé de faire un voyage en province, de six semaines au moins, pour une affaire de conséquence.

WIFE. Oh! For six weeks!

Oh! De six semaines!

BLUEBEARD. Yes, for six weeks at least. I beg you to amuse yourself during my absence.

Oui, de six semaines, au moins. Je vous prie de vous divertir pendant mon absence.

BLUEBEARD

WIFE. My good friends —

Mes bonnes amies —

BLUEBEARD. Send for your good friends. Take them to the country if you wish. Everywhere make merry.

Faites venir vos bonnes amies. Menez-les à la campagne, si ça vous plaît. Partout faites bonne chère.

WIFE. Thank you very much, husband.

Je vous remercie, mon mari.

BLUEBEARD (*displaying a bunch of keys*). There are the keys to the two large stores of furniture.

Voilà les clefs des deux grands garde-meubles.

WIFE (*taking the keys*). Yes.

Oui.

BLUEBEARD (*indicating other keys*). There is the one to my strong boxes where my gold and silver are.

Voilà celle de mes coffres-forts, où sont mon or et mon argent.

WIFE. Yes, yes! Your gold and your silver!

Oui, oui! Votre or et votre argent!

BLUEBEARD. There is the one to my gold and silver plate, which is not used every day.

Voilà celle de la vaisselle d'or et d'argent, qui ne sert pas tous les jours.

WIFE. Gold and silver plate!

BARBE BLEUE

La Vaisselle d'or et d'argent!

BLUEBEARD. There is the one to my caskets where my precious stones are.

Voilà celle de mes cassettes, où sont mes pierreries.

WIFE. Jewels!

Pierreries!

BLUEBEARD. And there is the pass-key to all the apartments.

Et voilà le passe-partout de tous les appartements.

WIFE. I shall guard them carefully.

Je les garderai avec soin.

BLUEBEARD (*voice becoming louder*). As for this little key, it is the key of my closet at the end of the drawing-room — there.

Pour cette petite clef-ci, c'est la clef de mon cabinet au bout du salon — là-bas.

WIFE. Oh! I have not been in that room.

Oh! Je n'ai pas été dans cette chambre.

BLUEBEARD. Open all the doors, go everywhere, but this little closet —

Ouvrez tout, allez partout, mais ce petit cabinet —

WIFE. But what is in the closet?

Mais qu'y a-t-il dans le cabinet?

BLUEBEARD. I forbid your entering this little closet!

BLUEBEARD

Ce petit cabinet, je vous défends d'y entrer!

WIFE. What!

Comment!

BLUEBEARD. And I forbid your doing so in such a way that, if you happen to open it, you must expect everything from my anger!

Et je vous défends de telle sorte, que, s'il vous arrive de l'ouvrir, il faut vous attendre à tout de ma colère.

WIFE. Mercy! I shall not open it! But what is in it?

Mon Dieu! Je ne l'ouvrirai! Mais qu'y a-t-il dans lui?

BLUEBEARD (*sternly*). Will you obey my command strictly?

Observerez-vous exactement mon ordre?

WIFE. I promise to obey your order strictly.

Oui, je promets de l'observer exactement.

BLUEBEARD (*embracing her in perfunctory manner*). Good-bye.

Adieu.

WIFE. Good-bye — a pleasant trip!

Adieu — bon voyage!

(*Exit BLUEBEARD*)

WIFE. Dear me! I am frightened! What is in that closet of Bluebeard?

BARBE BLEUE

Vraiment! Je suis effrayée! Qu'y a-t-il dans ce cabinet de Barbe Bleue?

(She approaches the door of the closet on tip-toe, fits the key in the lock, removes it, shakes her head.)

No, he forbade my entering there!

Non, il m'a défendu d'y entrer!

(Enter the LADY OF RANK, ANNE, the DRAGOON, the MUSKETEER, the NOBLEMAN, and the HONEST MAN.)

LADY. Greetings, daughter!

Bonjour, ma fille!

DRAGOON. Good-day, sister!

Bonjour, ma sœur!

MUSKETEER. Good-day, little sister!

Bonjour, ma petite sœur!

ANNE *(kissing her)*. How pretty you are, dear!

Que tu es jolie, ma chérie!

NOBLEMAN. How are you, Madam?

Comment vous portez-vous, Madame?

WIFE. I am very well, thank you, Sir.

Je me porte très bien, merci, Monsieur.

HONEST MAN *(bowing low, and kissing her hand)*. Madam, accept my sincere compliments, if you please.

BLUEBEARD

Madame, acceptez, je vous prie, mes compliments empressés.

WIFE. I thank you, my friend.

Je vous remercie, mon ami.

LADY. We did not wait to be sent for.

Nous n'avons pas attendu qu'on nous envoyât chercher.

ANNE. We are impatient to see all the richness of your house.

Nous avons de l'impatience de voir toutes les richesses de ta maison.

WIFE (to all her guests). I am delighted that you have come.

Je suis bien aise que vous soyez venus.

ANNE. We did not dare to come while your husband was here because of his blue beard, which frightens us.

Nous n'osions venir pendant que ton mari y était, à cause de sa barbe bleue, qui nous fait peur.

LADY. See the keys! Gracious me!

Voyez les clefs! Bon Dieu!

WIFE. Yes, Bluebeard gave them to me. Here are the keys to my two large stores of furniture.

Oui, Barbe Bleue me les a données. Voici clefs de mes deux grands garde-meubles.

LADY. Your two large stores of furniture!

BARBE BLEUE

Tes deux grands garde-meubles!

WIFE. Here is the one to my strong boxes where my gold and silver are.

Voici celle de mes coffres-forts, où sont mon or et mon argent.

DRAGOON. Your gold and silver!

Ton or, et ton argent!

WIFE. Here is the one to my gold and silver plate, which is not used every day.

Voici celle de ma vaisselle d'or et d'argent, qui ne sert pas tous les jours.

MUSKETEER. Gold and silver plate! My stars!

La vaisselle d'or et d'argent! Ma foi!

WIFE. Here is the one to my caskets where my precious stones are.

Voici celle de mes cassettes, où sont mes pierreries.

ANNE. Precious stones!

Les pierreries!

WIFE. And here is the pass-key to all the apartments.

Et voici le passe-partout de tous les appartements.

NOBLEMAN. The pass-key to all the apartments — you are lucky!

Le passe-partout de tous les appartements — vous êtes heureuse!

BLUEBEARD

WIFE. And this key, this little key, it is the key to Bluebeard's closet — there.

Et cette clef, cette petite clef, c'est la clef du cabinet de Barbe Bleue — là-bas.

HONEST MAN. Bluebeard's closet? My dear friend, what is in Bluebeard's closet?

Le cabinet de Barbe Bleue? Ma chère amie, qu'y a-t-il dans le cabinet de Barbe Bleue?

WIFE (*slowly*). I do not know.

Je ne sais pas.

(WIFE and HONEST MAN walk toward the closet door. The others go about admiring the furniture and draperies.)

LADY. See the number and the beauty of the tapestries! (*Points down corridor outside.*)

Voyez le nombre et la beauté des tapisseries!

NOBLEMAN. And the sofas, the cabinets, the stands, and the tables.

Et des sofas, des cabinets, des guéridons, et des tables.

ANNE. And the mirrors in which one can see himself from head to foot.

Et des miroirs où l'on se voit depuis les pieds jusqu'à la tête.

DRAGOON. Our sister is very happy and fortunate.

Notre sœur est très heureuse, et très fortunée.

BARBE BLEUE

MUSKETEER. These furnishings are the most beautiful and the most magnificent that anyone has ever seen. Our sister is indeed fortunate.

Ces garnitures sont les plus belles et les plus magnifiques qu'on ait jamais vues. Notre sœur est bien fortunée.

(Exit LADY, ANNE, the brothers, and the NOBLEMAN, all intent upon the surroundings.)

HONEST MAN (*who has tried the closet door several times as he and WIFE have conversed*). Are you happy in your elegant surroundings?

Êtes-vous heureuse dans ce milieu élégant?

WIFE. Why, yes — but the Bluebeard closet!
Eh bien, oui — mais le cabinet de Barbe Bleue!

HONEST MAN (*sighing*). That I might have been rich!

J'eusse été riche!

WIFE. I do not understand —

Je ne comprends pas —

HONEST MAN. I said nothing. (*Aside.*) She does not know that I have adored her for a long time.

Je ne dis rien. Elle ne sait pas que je l'ai adorée depuis longtemps.

BLUEBEARD

(Enter LADY, ANNE, the BROTHERS, and the NOBLEMAN.)

LADY. We are going now, daughter; I am glad that I gave you to Bluebeard.

Nous nous en allons maintenant, ma fille. Je suis bien aise de te donner à Barbe Bleue.

DRAGOON. Good-bye, sister. We shall return tomorrow.

Au revoir, ma soeur. Nous reviendrons demain.

MUSKETEER. Farewell, sister. We shall return tomorrow.

Adieu, ma soeur. Nous reviendrons demain.

ANNE. I shall return tomorrow also, sister, very early.

Je reviendrai demain, aussi, ma soeur, be bonne heure.

HONEST MAN. And I shall return sometime — I hope!

Et je reviendrai un jour — j'espère!

NOBLEMAN (laughing). Madam's house is splendid! Let us sing "My Castle Fine!"

La maison de Madame est très belle! Chantons "Mon beau Château!"

ALL (cluster about WIFE and sing).

BARBE BLEUE

MY CASTLE FINE (*Round*)

MON BEAU CHÂTEAU

Ah, my castle fine,
Tra la la la la la la,
Ah, my castle fine,
Tra la la la la lay.
Better still is mine,
Tra la la la la la la,
Better still is mine,
Tra la la la la lay.

*Ah, mon beau château,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
Ah, mon beau château,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.
Le nôtre est plus beau,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
Le nôtre est plus beau,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.*

We will break it down,
Tra la la la la la la,
We will break it down,
Tra la la la la lay.
Tell us what you'll take,
Tra la la la la la la,

BLUEBEARD

Tell us what you'll take,
Tra la la la la la lay.

*Nous le détruirons,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
Nous le détruirons,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.*

*Laquelle prendrez-vous,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
Laquelle prendrez-vous,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.*

What you now see here,
Tra la la la la la la la,
What you now see here,
Tra la la la la la lay.

What will you give her,
Tra la la la la la la la,
What will you give her,
Tra la la la la la lay.

*Celle que voici,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
Celle que voici,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.*

*Que lui donnerez-vous,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
Que lui donnerez-vous,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.*

BARBE BLEUE

Pretty jewels fine,
Tra la la la la la la,
Pretty jewels fine,
Tra la la la la lay.
But we won't have these,
Tra la la la la la la,
But we won't have these,
Tra la la la la lay.

*De jolis bijoux,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
De jolis bijoux,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.
Nous n'en voulons pas,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lire,
Nous n'en voulons pas,
Ma tant' tire, lire, lo.*

SCENE II — Bluebeard's Drawing-room.

TIME — *The same evening, five hours later.*

(*Enter WIFE.*)

(*She is carrying a candle, and the little key. She goes slowly to the closet door, places the key in the keyhole, removes it, places it in again.*)

WIFE. I cannot sleep until I know what is in the closet.

Je ne puis dormir que je sache ce qu'il y a dans le cabinet.

(*With shaking hand she unlocks the door. At first she cannot see what is in the closet. Then the rays from her candle light up the interior. She screams, and drops the key in a puddle of blood. Finally she recovers a little, and picks up the dripping key, holding it at arm's length.*)

My heavens! It is stained with blood!

Mon Dieu! Elle est tachée de sang!

(*She wipes the key with her handkerchief, then holds up the handkerchief all stained red.*)

BARBE BLEUE

The blood does not go away! Mercy! I shall wash it well.

Le sang ne s'en va point! Bonté du ciel! Je la laverai bien.

(She locks the closet door, and hurries from the room. Returns soon with a bowl of water, some soap, and a brush. She scrubs the key vigorously.)

It remains covered with blood! The key is bewitched, and it is impossible to get it clean. When one cleans the blood from one side it returns on the other! God help me!

Elle demeure toujours maculée de sang! La clef est fée, et il n'y a pas moyen de la nettoyer tout à fait. Quand on ôte le sang d'un côté, il revient de l'autre! Dieu m'assiste!

(Heavy tramping outside.)

Who is there?

Qui est là?

BLUEBEARD (*outside*). It is I. Where are you?

C'est moi. Où êtes-vous?

WIFE (*much terrified*). What shall I do — what shall I do! (*Throws scarf over the bowl, etc.*)

Que ferai-je — que ferai-je!

BLUEBEARD

(Enter BLUEBEARD.)

BLUEBEARD. I received some letters on the way informing me that the business that I was going to look after had been concluded to my advantage. What is the matter with you?

Je reçus des lettres en chemin, qui m'apprirent que l'affaire pour laquelle j'étais parti venait d'être terminée à mon avantage. Qu'avez-vous?

WIFE (*forcing smile*). I — I am delighted at your prompt return, my husband.

Je — je suis ravie de votre prompt retour, mon mari.

BLUEBEARD. I shall want my keys from you again tomorrow.

Je vous redemandera mes clefs demain.

WIFE (*much disturbed*). Yes, yes, tomorrow!
Oui, oui, demain!

CURTAIN

SCENE III — Bluebeard's Drawing-room.

TIME — *The next morning.*

(*Enter BLUEBEARD.*)

BLUEBEARD. Wife, wife! Come here at once.

Ma femme, ma femme! Venez ici tout de suite.

(*Enter WIFE.*)

WIFE. What do you wish, husband?

Que voulez-vous, mon mari?

BLUEBEARD. Give me my keys.

Donnez-moi mes clefs.

WIFE (*strolling about adjusting curtains, attempting to appear calm*). Yes, presently.

Oui, tout à l'heure.

BLUEBEARD (*looking up from papers in which he has been absorbed*). Madam, give me my keys!

Madame, donnez-moi mes clefs!

WIFE. I shall get them!

Je les apporterai!

(*Exit WIFE.*)

BLUEBEARD

(BLUEBEARD strides over to the closet, and tries the door, grimaces, returns to his papers.)

(Enter ANNE.)

ANNE. Good morning, brother-in-law. You have not been away long!

Bonjour, mon beau-frère. Vous n'avez pas été longtemps!

BLUEBEARD. Yes, I returned last evening.

Oui, je suis revenu hier soir.

(ANNE removes her wraps. BLUEBEARD works over his papers.)

(Enter WIFE.)

ANNE. Good morning, sister,

Bonjour, ma soeur.

WIFE (to ANNE). Good morning. (To BLUEBEARD.) Here are your keys.

Bonjour. Voici vos clefs.

BLUEBEARD (after examining the bunch of keys). How does it happen that the key to the closet is not among the others?

D'où vient que la clef du cabinet n'est point avec les autres?

WIFE (quaking). I must have left it upstairs on my table!

Il faut que je l'aie laissée là-haut sur ma table!

BARBE BLEUE

BLUEBEARD. Do not fail to give it to me soon.
Ne manquez pas de me la donner tantôt.

(*Exit WIFE running.*)

ANNE (*examining the hangings*). You have a beautiful house, brother-in-law.

Vous avez une belle maison, mon beau-frère.

BLUEBEARD (*growling*). Yes, Miss. (*Calls.*)
Wife, bring the key!

Oui, Mademoiselle. Ma femme, apportez la clef!

ANNE. Your tapestries and tables are elegant, brother-in-law.

Vos tapisseries, et vos tables sont élégantes, mon beau-frère.

BLUEBEARD (*impatiently*). Wife, bring that key!

Ma femme, apportez cette clef!

ANNE. And your mirrors are magnificent.

Et vos miroirs sont magnifiques.

BLUEBEARD (*stamping*). Be quiet! (*Calls.*)
Wife, bring that key!

Restez tranquille! Ma femme, apportez cette clef!

(*Enter WIFE running. She hands the key to her husband, and turns quickly away.*)

BLUEBEARD

BLUEBEARD (*closely scrutinizing the key*)

Why is there blood on this key?

Pourquoi y a-t-il du sang sur cette clef?

WIFE. I know nothing about it!

Je n'en sais rien!

BLUEBEARD. You know nothing about it! I know all about it. You have dared to go into the closet!

Vous n'en savez rien! Je le sais bien, moi! Vous avez voulu entrer dans le cabinet!

WIFE. Oh, oh! Heaven help me!

Oh, oh! Dieu m'assiste!

BLUEBEARD. Very well, Madam! You shall go and take your place among the women you have seen there!

Eh bien, Madame! Vous y entrerez, et irez prendre place auprès des dames que vous y avez vues!

WIFE (*throwing herself at his feet*). Forgive me, forgive me, my husband!

Pardonnez-moi, pardonnez-moi, mon mari!

BLUEBEARD. NO! Never!

NON! Jamais!

ANNE. What is the matter, my dear sister — what is the matter?

Qu'as-tu, ma chère sœur — qu'as-tu?

BLUEBEARD (*to WIFE*). You must die soon, Madam!

BARBE BLEUE

Il faut mourir, Madame, et tout à l'heure!

WIFE. Since I must die, give me a little time to make my peace with God.

Puisqu'il faut mourir donnez-moi un peu de temps pour prier Dieu.

BLUEBEARD (*taking out his watch*). I grant you seven minutes, but not an instant more.

Je vous donne un demi-quart d'heure, mais pas un moment davantage.

(BLUEBEARD goes to the closet, unlocks it, and enters, leaving the door open. He goes from wife-head to wife-head, shaking his fist. Finally he picks up an enormous cutlass, and begins to sharpen it, occasionally trying the edge.)

ANNE (*slipping over, and looking into the closet*). My heavens! His wives!

Parbleu! Ses femmes!

WIFE. Yes, yes! Anne, my sister Anne, ascend, I pray you, to the top of the tower to see if my brothers are not coming!

Oui, oui! Anne, ma sœur Anne, monte, je te prie, sur le haut de la tour, pour voir si mes frères ne viennent point!

ANNE. Yes —

Oui —

BLUEBEARD

WIFE. They promised that they would return today to see me.

Ils m'ont promis qu'ils me viendraient voir aujourd'hui.

ANNE. Yes —

Oui —

WIFE. And if you see them signal them to hasten.

Et si tu les vois fais-leur signe de se hâter.

ANNE (*running from room*). I am going, I am going!

J'y vais, j'y vais!

(WIFE falls on her knees at a sofa. After a few tense moments she calls to ANNE.)

WIFE. Anne, sister Anne, do you see anyone coming?

Anne, ma sœur Anne, ne vois-tu rien venir?

ANNE (*who has mounted a ladder without*). I see nothing but the sun which makes a dust, and the grass which seems green.

Je ne vois rien que le soleil qui poudroie, et l'herbe que verdoie.

BLUEBEARD (*in censorious tone*). Come quickly!

Viens ici vite. (*Form of address changed from vous to tu purposely.*)

BARBE BLEUE

WIFE. Yet a moment, if you please! (To ANNE.) Anne, my sister Anne, do you see any one coming?

Encore un moment, s'il vous plaît! Anne, ma sœur Anne, me vois-tu rien venir?

ANNE. I see nothing but the sun which makes a dust, and the grass which seems green.

Je ne vois rien que le soleil qui poudroie, et l'herbe qui verdoie.

BLUEBEARD. Come here quickly!

Viens ici vite!

WIFE. I am coming! (To ANNE.) Anne, my sister Anne, do you see anyone coming?

Je m'en vais! Anne, ma sœur Anne, ne vois-tu rien venir?

ANNE. I see a great dust that is rising in this direction!

Je vois une grosse poussière qui vient de ce côté-ci!

WIFE. Is it my brothers?

Sont-ce mes frères?

ANNE. Alas! No, my sister, it is a flock of sheep!

Hélas! Non, ma sœur, c'est un troupeau de moutons!

BLUEBEARD. Do you not intend to come!

Ne veux-tu pas venir!

WIFE. A moment more! (To ANNE.)

BLUEBEARD

Anne, my sister Anne, do you see anyone coming?

Encore un moment! Anne, ma sœur Anne, ne vois-tu rien venir?

ANNE. I see two horsemen who are coming in this direction, but they are still far distant!

Je vois deux cavaliers qui viennent de ce côté-ci, mais ils sont bien loin encore!

ANNE (*a moment later*). God be praised! They are my brothers!

Dieu soit loué! Ce sont mes frères!

WIFE. God be praised!

Dieu soit loué!

ANNE. I am signaling them as well as I can to hasten.

Je leur fais signe tant que je puis de se hâter.

(BLUEBEARD now enters the drawing-room raging, gnashing his teeth, etc. WIFE staggers to her feet, takes a few steps toward him, and again falls to the floor.)

BLUEBEARD. That does no good! You must die!

Cela ne sert de rien! Il faut mourir!

(Then in the most approved villain-kills-the-heroine style he gathers up her hair in one hand, and with the other he lifts the cutlass high, and is about to bring it down.)

BARBE BLEUE

WIFE. Grant me one brief moment to collect myself!

Donnez-moi un petit moment pour me recueillir!

BLUEBEARD. No, no! Commend yourself to God!

Non, non! recommande-toi à Dieu!

(There is an uproar outside. BLUEBEARD'S arm remains suspended. The door bursts open, and in rush the two brothers with drawn swords.)

BLUEBEARD. My wife's brothers!
Les frères de ma femme!

(BLUEBEARD drops his cutlass, and seeks refuge in his closet. The brothers force the door open, and "pass their swords through his body, and leave him dead," says the story. They close the door of the closet.)

(ANNE has followed her brothers in, and is kneeling beside her sister.)

DRAGOON. My sister, you are saved!
Ma sœur, tu es sauvée!

MUSKETEER. Yes, my sister, Bluebeard is dead!

BLUEBEARD

Oui, ma sœur, Barbe Bleue est mort!

ANNE. God be praised!

Dieu soit loué!

(They lift WIFE to her feet.)

*(Enter the LADIES OF RANK, the NOBLEMAN,
and the HONEST MAN.)*

LADY. My dear child, we know all about it —
we see it all!

*Ma chère enfant, nous le savons bien — nous
le voyons bien!*

HONEST MAN *(taking the WIFE'S hands)*. My
gracious friend, how you have suffered!

Ma gracieuse amie, que vous avez souffert!

LADY. Bluebeard had no heirs. So you are
mistress of his entire estate.

*Barbe Bleue n'avait pas d'héritiers. Ainsi tu
es maîtresse de tous ses biens.*

WIFE. I shall use one part to marry sister
Anne to this young Nobleman whom she has
loved for a long time.

*J'en employerai une partie à marier ma sœur
Anne avec ce jeune gentilhomme dont elle est
aimée depuis longtemps.*

NOBLEMAN. Thank you, dear Madam!

Je vous remercie, ma chère Madame!

ANNE. Oh! My sister!

Oh! Ma sœur!

BARBE BLEUE

(ANNE and the NOBLEMAN go apart.)

WIFE. And I shall use another part to buy Captain's commissions for my dear brothers.

Et j'en employerai une autre partie à acheter des charges de capitaine à mes chers frères.

DRAGOON. I thank you, sweet sister!

Je te remercie, ma douce sœur!

MUSKETEERS I thank you, sweet sister!

Je te remercie, ma douce sœur!

(The brothers stand aside talking excitedly with their mother.)

WIFE. And I shall use the rest —

Et j'en employerai le reste —

HONEST MAN. Will you not use the rest in marrying an honest man who will make you forget the unfortunate time you have spent with Bluebeard?

N'employerez-vous pas le reste à vous marier à un honnête homme qui vous fera oublier le mauvais temps que vous avez passé avec Barbe Bleue?

CURTAIN



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