

THE LOVE DOCTOR

by Moliere

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THE LOVE DOCTOR

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by Moliere

Translated/Adapted by © F. J. Morlock

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By F. J. Morlock

CHARACTERS

Sganarelle (father of Lucinda) (Moliere)
Lucinda
Clitandre (lover to Lucinda)
Lucrece (cousin of Sganarelle)
Lisette (Lucinda's servant)
Aminte (neighbor of Sganarelle)
Mr. Guillame (a seller of tapestry)
Mr. Josse
Dr. Tomes
Dr. Des Fernandes
Dr. Macroton
Dr. Bahays
Mr. Filerin
A Notary
Champagne (Sganarelle's valet)

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PROLOGUE

Comedy, Music, Ballet

COMEDY

Leave, leave our vain quarrel. Let's not dispute our talents one after the other. And of a greater glory

Pride ourselves today Let's all three write in a passion without equal To give pleasure to the greatest king in the world.

ALL THREE TOGETHER

Let's all three unite in a passion without equal. To give pleasure to the greatest king in the world.

COMEDY

From his deeds, greater than can be believed. He sometimes comes to relax among us.

Is there greater glory?

Is there sweeter happiness?

ALL THREE TOGETHER

Let's all three unite in a passion without equal. To give pleasure to the greatest king in the world.

THE LOVE DOCTOR

ACT I

SGANARELLE

Ah — what a strange thing life is and how I can indeed say with that great philosopher of antiquity that he who has money has troubles and that no misfortune ever comes without another! I had only one wife — who died.

MR. GUILLAME

And how many do you want to have?

SGANARELLE

She died my friend. That loss is very painful to me, and I cannot think back on it without weeping. I wasn't very satisfied with her conduct — and we often quarrelled with each other, but still, death puts all things to right. She's dead; I weep for her. If she were in life, we would be quarrelling. Of all the children that heaven gave me, it left me only one daughter, and that daughter is all my trouble for I see her in the most somber melancholy in the world in a dreadful sadness whose cause I don't even know and there seems no way of extracting her from it. As for me, I'm losing my wits and I need good advice on this matter.

(to Lucrece) You are my niece.

(to Aminte) You are my neighbor.

(to Mr. Guillame and Mr. Josse) And you, my pals, and my friends — I beg you to advise me all that I must do.

MR. JOSSE

As for me, I hold that finery and fancy dress are the thing which most rejoice girls — and if I were like you, I would buy for her, from today a beautiful ornament of diamonds, rubies or emeralds.

MR. GUILLAME

And I, if I was in your place, I would purchase a beautiful hanging tapestry of forest scenery or characters that I would put in her room to rejuvenate her spirit and sight.

AMINTE

For myself, I wouldn't do much that way — and I would marry her very quickly and the quickest way I could — with this person who you got for her, they say, ask if there is time.

LUCRECE

And as for me, I hold that your daughter is not at all fit for marriage. She has a very delicate complexion and not very healthy and it would be a determination to send her soon to the other world by exposing her, the way she is — to having children. The world is not at all her thing — and I advise you to put her in a convent — where she will find diversions more in accord with her humor —

SGANARELLE

All this advice is assuredly admirable but I hold them a little biased and find that you advise me quite well for yourselves. You are in the business, Mr. Josse, and your advice smells of a man who wants to rid himself of his stock in trade.

You sell tapestries, Mr. Guillame and you have the look of having some hanging that inconveniences you. The one you love, dear cousin, is rumored to have some inclination to my daughter, and you wouldn't be annoyed to see her married to someone else. As for you, my dear niece, it's not my plan to marry my daughter with just anybody — and I have my reasons for that — but the advice you give me to make her a nun is from a woman who indeed might charitably wish to be my sole heir. So, gentlemen and ladies, although your advice may be the best in the world — you'll understand, if you please, why I am not following it.

(All leave except Sganarelle.)

SGANARELLE

So there go my fashionable advice givers.

(Lucinda enters.)

SGANARELLE

Ah, there's my daughter taking the air — she doesn't see me. She's sighing — she's raising her eyes to heaven.

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(to Lucinda) May God protect you! Hello, my darling. Hey there! What is it? How are you doing — ? Alas, always sad and melancholy like this — and you don't want to tell me what's wrong — ? Come on — open your little heart to me. There, my poor darling, to me. There, my poor darling tell, tell, all your little thoughts — to your little papa — pretty. Courage! Do you want me to kiss you? Come on!

(aside) I'm furious to see her in this mood —

(to Lucinda) But talk to me — do you want to make me die of annoyance — can't I know where this great languor comes from? Tell me the cause and I promise I will do everything for you — yes, you only need to tell me the subject of your sadness; I assure you here, and promise you, there is nothing I won't do to satisfy you — it's only to be said — are you jealous of one of your companions that you see better dressed than you? Is there some new material you want to have a dress made out of? No. Is your room not fancy enough and you want some closet — from the fair at Saint Laurent? That's not it — do you want to learn something and you want me to give you a teacher who will show you how to play the harpsichord? Nope. Are you in love with someone and you'd like to get married?

(Lucinda makes an affirmative sign, Lisette enters)

LISETTE

Well, sir — you've just had a conversation with your daughter — have you discovered this cause of this melancholy?

SGANARELLE

No — she's a slut who infuriates me.

LISETTE

Sir — let me do it — I'm going to sound her out a little.

SGANARELLE

It's not necessary — and since she wants to be in the mood, I'm of the opinion to leave her there —

LISETTE

Let me do it, I tell you. Perhaps she'll disclose herself more freely to me than to you. What! Madame — you don't tell us what's wrong with you — and you want to afflict everyone this way — ? It seems to me that one doesn't act the way you are doing — and that if you have some reluctance to explain yourself to your father, you ought not to have any to disclosing your feelings to me. Tell me — do you want something from him? He's told us many times that he would spare nothing to satisfy you. Aren't you given all the freedom you want? And the gifts and the walls — don't they engage your soul's attention? What! Have you received some insult from someone? When! Don't you have some secret inclination that you want your father to marry you to? Ah — I understand you, that's the thing! What the Devil! Why so many names? Sir, the mystery is solved and —

SGANARELLE

Go ungrateful daughter — I don't want to speak to you anymore and I leave you in your obstinacy —

LUCINDA

Father, since you really want me to tell you this thing —

SGANARELLE

Yes, I am losing the friendship that I had for you.

LISETTE

Sir, her sadness —

SGANARELLE

She's a slut who wants to make me die —

LUCINDA

Father, I really want —

SGANARELLE

This is the reward I get for raising you the way I have —

LISETTE

But, sir —

SGANARELLE

No — I'm against her in a terrible rage.

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LUCINDA

But father —

SGANARELLE

I no longer have any tenderness for you.

LISETTE

But —

SGANARELLE

She's a bitch.

LUCINDA

But —

SGANARELLE

An ingrate.

LISETTE

But —

SGANARELLE

A slut who won't tell me what's the matter with her.

LISETTE

It's a husband she wants.

SGANARELLE

(pretending not to understand her) I abandon her —

LISETTE

A husband.

SGANARELLE

I detest her —

LISETTE

A husband.

SGANARELLE

And I renounce her as my daughter.

LISETTE

A husband.

SGANARELLE

Don't even talk to me about her anymore.

LISETTE

A husband.

SGANARELLE

Don't speak to me about her anymore. (he exits)

LISETTE

A husband, a husband, a husband.

LISETTE

They say truly there is no one more deaf than those who don't want to hear.

LUCINDA

Alas, Lisette — I was wrong to hide my unhappiness — and I had only to speak to have whatever I wanted from my father! You see him.

LISETTE

On my oath — he's a villainous man — and I admit to you it would give me extreme pleasure to play him some trick — but why does it come about, Madame, that up to now you've hidden your illness from me —

LUCINDA

Alas! What would have been the use in discovering it to you sooner? And wouldn't I have been better off hiding it all my life? Do you think I have not foreseen all you see now, that I didn't probe to the depths all my father's feelings — and that the refusal that he gave to the one who asked for me through a friend, didn't choke every sort

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of hope in my heart?

LISETTE

What! It's this stranger who asked for you.

LUCINDA

Perhaps it's not right for a girl to explain herself so freely, but still I confess to you that if I were permitted to desire something — this would be what I want. We've had no conversation together — and his mouth has not declared the passion that he has for me — but in all the places that he was able to see me — his looks and his actions have always spoken so tenderly and the request he made for me seemed to me that of such an honest man that my heart couldn't prevent itself from being sensible of his ardor — and how the hardness of my father has reduced all this tenderness.

LISETTE

Go — let me do it. Whatever complaint I may have about your secrecy from me, I don't want to forego assisting you in your love affair — and since you have enough courage —

LUCINDA

But what do you expect me to do against a father's authority — ? And if he is inexorable to my prayers?

LISETTE

Go, go — it's not necessary to let oneself be led like a ninny so long as honor isn't offended — one can free oneself a little from the tyranny of a father. What's he pretend you are doing? Aren't you of an age to be married? And does he think you're made of marble? Go, one more thing — I want to serve your passion — from now on, I take on myself the care of his interests and you will see I know some tricks — but I see your father — let's go back in and allow me to act.

(The women leave Sganarelle)

SGANARELLE

Sometimes it's good not to seem to hear things one hears only too well — and I've wisely been spared the declaration of a desire I am not resolved to satisfy. Has there ever been seen a greater tyranny than this custom they want to impose on fathers, nothing more impertinent and more ridiculous than to amass wealth with great work and to raise a daughter with great care and tenderness to be despoiled of both by the hands of a man who pays us nothing? No, no — I mock that custom and I intend to keep my wealth and my daughter for myself.

LISETTE

(running around the stage and pretending not to see Sganarelle) Ah — misfortune, ah, disgrace! Ah, poor Mr. Sganarelle — where shall I find you?

SGANARELLE

(aside) What's she saying?

LISETTE

(still running) Ah! Wretched father! What will you do when you learn this news?

SGANARELLE

(aside) What can it be?

LISETTE

My poor mistress.

SGANARELLE

(aside) I am ruined.

LISETTE

Ah —

SGANARELLE

(running after Lisette) Lisette.

LISETTE

What misfortune!

SGANARELLE

Lisette.

LISETTE

What an accident.

ACT I

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SGANARELLE

Lisette.

LISETTE

What fatality.

SGANARELLE

Lisette.

LISETTE

(stopping) Ah! Sir!

SGANARELLE

What is it?

LISETTE

Sir.

SGANARELLE

What's wrong —

LISETTE

Your daughter —

SGANARELLE

Ah! Ah!

LISETTE

Sir, don't cry like that, for you'll make me laugh.

SGANARELLE

Speak quickly then.

LISETTE

Your daughter — completely taken by the words you said to her and by the terrifying rage she saw you in against her and full of despair — opened the window which looks on the river —

SGANARELLE

So!

LISETTE

Then, raising her eyes to heaven — "No," she said, "it is impossible to live with the wrath of my father — and since he renounces me as his daughter — I intend to die."

SGANARELLE

And she threw herself in?

LISETTE

No sir, she shut the window quietly, and went to put herself on her bed. There she took to crying bitterly, and suddenly her face went pale, her eyes turned, her heart failed her and she remained like that in my arms.

SGANARELLE

Ah — my daughter!

LISETTE

By means of torturing her, I made her come to self, but this thing takes her back moment by moment, and I think she won't last the day.

SGANARELLE

Champagne! Champagne! Champagne! Quickly, find me some doctors and in quantity. Can't have too many in such a situation. Ah, my daughter, my first daughter —

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1ST INTERLUDE

Champagne, Sganarelle's valet dances to the door of four doctors. The four doctors dance and ceremoniously go into Sganarelle's house.

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ACT II

LISETTE

Sir, what do you intend to do with four doctors? Isn't one enough to kill a person?

SGANARELLE

Be quiet. Four opinions are better than one.

LISETTE

Can't your daughter die without the help of these gentleman here?

SGANARELLE

Do doctors cause death?

LISETTE

Doubtless and I knew a man who could prove it with good reasons — so you never had to say — such and such a person died of fever and the flux in the breast, but "she died of four doctors and two pharmacists".

SGANARELLE

Hush! Don't offend these gentlemen.

LISETTE

My word, sir, our cat survived a jump from the roof of a house to a street, and it went 3 days without eating and it couldn't move foot or paw — but it was really lucky there were no cat doctors, for her affair would have been done — and they wouldn't have failed to purge and bleed her.

SGANARELLE

Will you shut up? I tell you. But look what impudence! Here they are.

LISETTE

Take care, you're really going to be edified. They're going to tell you in Latin that your daughter is sick.

(Enter Doctors Tomes, Des Fernandes, Macroton and Bahays)

SGANARELLE

Well, gentlemen?

DOCTOR TOMES

We've seen the patient sufficiently and there is no doubt, she's full of impurities.

DOCTOR TOMES

I mean that there are many impurities in her body — a number of corrupted humors.

SGANARELLE

Ah. I understand you.

DOCTOR TOMES

But — we are going to consult together.

SGANARELLE

Come — get them chairs —

LISETTE

(to Dr. Tomes) Ah, sir, you are involved!

SGANARELLE

(to Lisette) How do you know this gentleman?

LISETTE

From having seen him the other day at the home of a good friend of your niece's.

DOCTOR TOMES

How's her coachman doing?

LISETTE

Fine. He's dead.

DOCTOR TOMES

Dead?

LISETTE

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Yes. **DOCTOR TOMES**

That cannot be.

LISETTE

I don't know if it can be — but I know quite well he's dead.

DOCTOR TOMES

He cannot be dead, I tell you.

LISETTE

And as for me, I tell you he's dead and buried.

DOCTOR TOMES

You are mistaken.

LISETTE

I saw the funeral.

DOCTOR TOMES

That is impossible. Hippocrates says that this sort of illness doesn't terminate in less than 14 or more than 21 days — and he only fell ill six days ago.

LISETTE

Hippocrates can say what he pleases — but her coachman is dead.

SGANARELLE

Peace — argumentation! Come one, let's get out of here. Gentlemen, I beg you to consult in the best way.

Although it is not the custom to pay in advance — sometimes, for fear of forgetting — and so it may be taken care of — here —(giving each money and receiving from each a different gesture in return)

(The doctors sit down and cough)

DR. des FERNANDES

Paris is strangely large and it's necessary to make long treks when business requires.

DOCTOR TOMES

I have to confess I have an admirable mule for that, and you'd hardly believe the work I get out of him every day.

DR. des FERNANDES

I have a marvelous horse and he's a tireless animal.

DOCTOR TOMES

Do you know the road my mule took today? First, I went by the Arsenal — from the Arsenal to the middle of Faubourg Saint Germain to the end of the Marais — from the end of the Marais to Port Saint Honore — from Port Saint Honore to Faubourg St. Jacques, from St. Jacques to the Porte Richlieu, from the Porte Richlieu to here — and from here, I've got to go again to the Place Royale.

DR. des FERNANDES

My horse has done all that today — and moreover I've been to Ruel to see a patient.

DOCTOR TOMES

But by the way — what side are you taking in the quarrel between the two doctors, Theoplurastus and Artemius? For it's an affair dividing our whole association.

DR. des FERNANDES

As for me, I am for Artemius.

DOCTOR TOMES

And me too. It's not that his opinion, as has been seen, didn't kill the patient — and that of Theoplurastus was not much better — assuredly — but still, he was wrong in the circumstances — and he ought not to be of an opinion different from his elder — what do you say about it?

DR. des FERNANDES

Doubtless. One must always preserve the formalities whatever may happen.

DOCTOR TOMES

As for me, I am devilishly strict, at least, so long as it's between friends — and they brought us together one day — three of us — with a doctor from elsewhere — for a consultation. But I stopped the whole business and wouldn't endure anyone giving an opinion if things weren't going to be in order — the people of the house did what they could — and the illness pressed on — but I didn't want to give up — and the patient died bravely during

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this argument.

DR. des FERNANDES

It's very well to teach people to live and show them how dumb they are.

DOCTOR TOMES

A man dead is only a dead man and there are no consequences — but a formality neglected brings a notable prejudice to medicine itself.

SGANARELLE

(entering) Gentlemen, my daughter's suffering is getting worse — I beg you to tell me quickly what you have decided.

DOCTOR TOMES

Go ahead, sir —

DR. des FERNANDES

No, sir — speak, if you please.

DOCTOR TOMES

You are mocking —

DR. des FERNANDES

I shall not speak first.

DOCTOR TOMES

Sir.

DR. des FERNANDES

Sir.

SGANARELLE

Hey — merry gentlemen, leave all these ceremonies and think that things are pressing.

(They all four speak at once)

DOCTOR TOMES

The illness of your daughter —

DR. des FERNANDES

The opinion of all these gentlemen together.

DR. MACROTON

After careful consultation —

DR. BAHAYS

To reason —

SGANARELLE

Hey, gentlemen, speak one after the other — mercy —

DOCTOR TOMES

Sir, we've considered your daughter's illness, and my opinion is that it proceeds from a great heat in the blood — thus, I conclude to bleed her as soon as you can.

DR. des FERNANDES

As for me, I say that her illness is a mixture of humors caused by too much eating, so I conclude to give her an emetic.

DOCTOR TOMES

I contend that an emetic will kill her.

DR. des FERNANDES

And I that bleeding will kill her.

DOCTOR TOMES

Really, just to make yourself look clever.

DR. des FERNANDES

Yes, that's my opinion and I will lend you the crown in all types of erudition.

DOCTOR TOMES

Do you recall the man you caused to croak a few days ago?

DR. des FERNANDES

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Do you remember the lady you sent to the next world three days ago?

DOCTOR TOMES

(to Sganarelle) I've told you my opinion.

DR. des FERNANDES

(to Sganarelle) I've told you my ideas.

DOCTOR TOMES

If you don't bleed your daughter right away, she's a dead person.

(he leaves)

DR. des FERNANDES

If you do bleed her, she won't live more than a quarter of an hour.

(he leaves)

SGANARELLE

Which of the two to believe? And what decision to take on such opposed opinions. Gentlemen, I conjure you to decide me and tell me without passion what you think is the most proper thing to treat my daughter.

DR. MACROTON

Sir — in these matters, one must proceed, no — and with circumspection, and do nothing, as they say — on the fly — the worst fault one can do is to cause dangerous consequences, according to our master Hippocrates.

DR. BAHAYS

It's true one must be careful what one does — for this is not child's play here — and when one fails, it's not easy to repair the fault and to reestablish what one has ruined, experiment cautiously — that's what, it's a case of reasoning above all — of weighing things carefully — of considering the temperament of people — of examining the causes of the illness and of seeing the remedies one can bring to it.

SGANARELLE

(aside) The one tortures it — and the other runs the post.

DR. MACROTON

Then, sir, to come to the point, I find that your daughter has a chronic illness and that she can be at risk if she doesn't get help — moreover, the symptoms that she has are indicative of a sooty and corrosive vapor, which dot the membranes of her brain. Now this vapor, that we call in Greek at-mos, is caused by putrid humors which are tenacious and conglutinous and have their origin in the lower bowels.

DR. BAHAYS

And as these humors have been engendered over a long period of time they've reheated themselves and have acquired this malignity which steam towards the region of the brain.

DR. MACROTON

So, indeed, then to draw out, detach, remove, expel, evacuate, the aforesaid humors — there must be a vigorous purgation — but before going any further, I find it relevant and it wouldn't be inconvenient to use small palatines remedies, meaning little soft enemas and cleansing of julep and refreshing syrups that one can mix in her tea.

DR. BAHAYS

Then we will come to the purging — and the bleeding, which we will repeat if need be.

DR. MACROTON

It's not that with all this your daughter may not die — but at least you will have done something and have the consolation of knowing that she died properly.

DR. BAHAYS

It's better to die according to the rules than to escape despite the rules.

DR. MACROTON

We have told you our thoughts sincerely.

DR. BAHAYS

And we've spoken to you as we would speak to our own brother.

SGANARELLE

(to Macroton and stretching his words) I render you very humble. Thanks. (to Dr. Bahays stammering) And you are infinitely obliged by the trouble you have taken.

(the two doctors leave) Here I am now a little more uncertain than I was before. The devil! A fantasy has

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come to me. I have to go buy some snake oil and make her take it — snake oil is a remedy which many people are very fond of. Hola!

(Scene is now street)

SGANARELLE

Hola! Sir — I beg you give me a bottle of your snake oil which I will pay you for.

OPERATOR

(singing) Can all the gold of all the climbs that surround the ocean ever pay for this important secret?

My remedy cures through its rare excellence — more ills than you can count in a year.

OPERATOR

The Itch

Scabs, scurvy

Fever

Plague

Gout, syphilis

Measles

and stooping Oh the tremendous power of snake oil.

SGANARELLE

Sir, I believe that all the gold in the world is not capable of paying for your remedy — but still here's a 30 sous coin for you to take if you please.

OPERATOR

(singing) Admire my snake oil and with the little I sell you — — this treasure my hand dispenses to you — you can brave with assurance all the ills which the wrath of heaven pours on us.

The Itch

Scabs, scurvy

Fever

Plague

Gout, syphilis

Measles

and stooping Oh the great power of snake oil.

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SECOND INTERMISSION

Several travelers and several Scaramouches, valets of the operator rejoice in dancing.

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ACT III

DOCTOR FILERIN

Aren't you ashamed, gentlemen, to display so little prudence for people of your age and for you to be quarrelling like young dolts. Don't you see what evil these sorts of quarrels do us in the world? And isn't it enough that scientists are aware of the contradictions and dissensions that exist between our authorities and our ancient masters, without revealing to people through our arguments and our quarrels the bravado of our art. As for me, I don't understand at all this master scheming of some of our folks and it is necessary to admit that all these arguments have discredited us in a strange manner and that if we aren't careful we are going to ruin ourselves.

I'm not speaking only for my interest, for thank God, I'm very well off — let it snow, let it pour, let it hail. Those who are dead are dead and I have somewhat to spend with the livery — but in the end all these disputes are not good for medicine.

Since heaven has graced us for many centuries people remain infatuated with us — let's not disabuse people with our extravagant cliques and let's profit by their stupidity as softly as we can.

We are not the only ones you know who try to prevail on human weakness. Most of the world studies that and each is forced to take men by their weakness to extract some profit. Flatterers, for example, seek to profit from the love men have to be praised by giving them all the vain flattering they wish and what they do is an act — which can be seen from their considerable fortunes. The alchemists try to profit from the passion for riches by promising mountains of gold to those who listen to them. And the tellers of horoscopes, by their deceitful predictions, profit from the vanity and ambition of credulous spirits. But the greatest weakness of men is the love they have for living and we profit from it, by our pompous bombast and know how to use to our advantage this veneration that the fear of death gives to our profession. Let us preserve the degree of esteem that their weakness places in us and be in concert around the patients to attribute to ourselves the happy outcome of the illness and to cast on nature the blunders of our art. Let's not, I say to you, stupidly destroy the fortunate bias by an error which gives bread to so many people.

DOCTOR TOMES

You are correct in all that you say — but there are heats of blood which sometimes one is not the master.

DOCTOR FILERIN

Come then, gentlemen, put aside your rancor and let's reach your settlement here.

DOCTOR des FERNANDES

I agree. Just let me give my emetic for the patient that needs it and I will let him do whatever he wants to the first patient he's involved with.

DOCTOR FILERIN

One couldn't speak more fairly and that's how to set things straight.

DR. des FERNANDES

That's done.

DOCTOR FILERIN

Put it there — goodbye. Another time, show more prudence.

(Exit Filerin.)

LISETTE

(enters) What! There you are, gentlemen, and you are not thinking of repairing the wrong done to medicine.

DOCTOR TOMES

What do you mean? What is it?

LISETTE

An insolent who had the effrontery to encroach on your profession and without your orders has just killed a man by running him through with a sword.

DOCTOR TOMES

Listen, you play the mocker but you'll fall into our hands some day —

LISETTE

THE LOVE DOCTOR

I'll let you kill me if ever I have recourse to you.

(The doctors leave)

CLITANDRE

(entering dressed like a doctor) Well, Lisette — do you like me like this?

LISETTE

The best in the world and I've been waiting for you impatiently, anyway, nature made me the most humane person in the world and I cannot see two lovers sigh for each other without falling into a charitable tenderness and an ardent desire to assuage the pain they suffer. I intend at any price to extract Lucinda from the tyranny she is under and to put her in your power — you pleased me from the first and I know people and she cannot make a better choice.

Love risks extraordinary things and we have agreed together on a sort of stratagem which perhaps will succeed for us. All our measures have been taken already. The man we're dealing with is not the cleverest fellow in this world — and if this adventure fails us, we will find a thousand other ways — to arrive at our end. Wait for me there, alone, and I'll return to fetch you.

(Clitandre retires to the back of the stage)

LISETTE

Sir! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

SGANARELLE

What is it?

LISETTE

Rejoice!

SGANARELLE

About what?

LISETTE

Rejoice, I tell you.

SGANARELLE

Tell me what it is and then perhaps I'll rejoice.

LISETTE

No — I want you to rejoice beforehand — so you'll sing and dance.

SGANARELLE

Over what?

LISETTE

On my word —

SGANARELLE

All right.

(he sings and dances) La, la, la — what the devil!

LISETTE

Sir, your daughter is cured.

SGANARELLE

My daughter is cured!

LISETTE

Yes, I am bringing you a doctor, but a doctor of importance, who makes marvelous cures and who mocks other doctors.

SGANARELLE

Where is he?

LISETTE

I'm going to bring him in.

(goes out)

SGANARELLE

We'll have to see if this one is better than the others.

LISETTE

THE LOVE DOCTOR

(returning with Clitandre) Here he is.

SGANARELLE

Here's a doctor with a really fresh beard.

LISETTE

Science doesn't measure itself by the beard — and it's not by the chin that he is skillful.

SGANARELLE

Sir, they tell me that you have admirable remedies to evacuate the bowels.

CLITANDRE

Sir, my remedies are different from those of others. They have emetics, bleedings, pills and enemas, but me, I cure with words, with sounds, with letters — with talismans and with rings made under the influence of constellations.

LISETTE

What did I tell you?

SGANARELLE

Here's a great man.

LISETTE

Sir, as your daughter is all dressed in a chair, I am going to make her come here.

SGANARELLE

Yes, do that.

CLITANDRE

(taking Sganarelle's pulse) Your daughter is really sick.

SGANARELLE

You know that here?

CLITANDRE

Yes, from the sympathy there is between father and daughter.

LISETTE

(bringing Lucinda)

(to Clitandre) Here sir, there's a chair beside her.

(to Sganarelle) Come, let's leave them together.

SGANARELLE

Why, I want to remain here.

LISETTE

You're looking? We have to separate. A doctor has a hundred things to ask that it isn't right for a man to hear.

(Sganarelle and Lisette move away.)

CLITANDRE

(low to Lucinda) Ah, Madame, how great is the rapture in which I find myself. And how little I know how to begin speaking to you! Up to now I've spoken to you only with my eyes — I had, so it seemed to me, a hundred things to say — and now that I have the liberty of speaking to you in the manner I wish — I remain dumbfounded and the great joy I am in chokes off my words.

LUCINDA

I can tell you the same thing and I feel, like you, emotions of joy which prevent me from being able to speak.

CLITANDRE

Oh, Madame, I would be happy if it were true that you feel all that I feel — and it was permitted for me to judge your soul by mine! But Madame, may I at least believe that it is to you that I owe the thought of this happy stratagem which gives me joy in your presence?

LUCINDA

If you don't owe me the idea, you are at least indebted to me for having approved the proposition with great joy.

SGANARELLE

(to Lisette) It seems to me he's speaking awfully close to her.

LISETTE

(to Sganarelle) That's so he can observe her physiognomy and all the features of her face. **CLITANDRE**

THE LOVE DOCTOR

(to Lucinda) Will you be constant, Madame, in all these kindnesses you are showing me?

LUCINDA

But you — will you be firm in the decisions you've taken?

CLITANDRE

Ah, Madame, until death. I want nothing more than to be with you — and I am going to make it appear in what you are going to see me do.

SGANARELLE

(to Clitandre) Well — our patient? She seems to me a little brighter.

CLITANDRE

It's that I've already employed on her one of those remedies that my art shows me. As the mind has a great empire over the body — so often illness proceeds from it — my habit is to run to cure the mind before coming to the body — I have observed her looks, the features of her face and the lines of both her hands and through the science heaven has given me, I've recognized that it was the mind which made her ill, and that all her illness comes only from a disordered imagination, from a depraved desire of wanting to be married. As for me, I see nothing more extravagant and more ridiculous than this wish to be married.

SGANARELLE

(aside) Here's a clever man.

CLITANDRE

And I've had — and will have for it, for my entire life — a terrible aversion to it.

SGANARELLE

(aside) Here's a great doctor.

CLITANDRE

But as one must flatter the imagination of patients, and what I've seen in her of alienation of the mind, and even were there not some peril in giving prompt aid — I've taken her through her weakness and told her I've come to ask for her in marriage. Suddenly her face changed — her complexion lit up — her eyes became animated and if you like, for several days to confirm her in this error, you will see it will extract her from where she is.

SGANARELLE

Yeah — I really want that.

CLITANDRE

Later, we will use other remedies to cure her entirely of this fantasy.

SGANARELLE

Yes, that's the best thing in the world. Well! My daughter, here's the gentleman who wants to marry you and I told him I really want that.

LUCINDA

Alas — is it possible?

SGANARELLE

Yes.

LUCINDA

But in good faith?

SGANARELLE

Yes, yes.

LUCINDA

(to Clitandre) What — you feel like being my husband?

CLITANDRE

Yes, Madame.

LUCINDA

And my father consents to it?

SGANARELLE

Yes, my daughter.

LUCINDA

Ah, how happy I would be if that were true.

THE LOVE DOCTOR

CLITANDRE

Don't doubt it, Madame. It's not from today that I love you and that I am burning to see myself your husband. I came here only for that — and if you want me to tell you exactly how things stand, this outfit is only an invented pretext and I've only played doctor so as to approach you and obtain what I wish.

LUCINDA

This gives me indeed tender proofs of love and I am as sensible of it as I can be.

SGANARELLE

(aside) Oh — crazy woman — crazy woman — crazy woman.

LUCINDA

Father, do you really intend to give me this gentleman for a spouse?

SGANARELLE

Yes, here — give me your hand. Give me yours a little to see.

CLITANDRE

But, sir.

SGANARELLE

(choking with laughter) No, no, it's to — to satisfy her mind, shake! There that's done.

CLITANDRE

Accept as a proof of my faith this ring, I am giving you. (low to Sganarelle) It's a special ring which cures wandering minds.

LUCINDA

Let's sign the contract so nothing is lacking.

CLITANDRE

Indeed, I really wish it, Madame. (low to Sganarelle) I'm going to bring up the man who writes my prescriptions and make her think he's a notary.

SGANARELLE

Very fine.

CLITANDRE

Hey — bring up the notary I brought with me.

LUCINDA

What! You brought a notary?

CLITANDRE

Yes, Madame.

LUCINDA

I am ravished.

SGANARELLE

Oh — madwoman — oh, madwoman!

(The Notary comes in.)

(Clitandre whispers to the Notary.)

SGANARELLE

(to the Notary) Yes, sir, it's necessary to draw up a contract for these two persons here. Write!

(the Notary writes) Here — let the contract be done. I give her 20,000 shillings in marriage. Write.

LUCINDA

I am much obliged to you, father.

NOTARY

There — it's done — you have only to sign.

SGANARELLE

Here's a contract soon constructed.

CLITANDRE

(to Sganarelle) At least.

SGANARELLE

Hey — no, I tell you.

THE LOVE DOCTOR

(to Notary) Come give him the pen to sign.

(to Lucinda) Come on — sign, sign, sign — go, go, I will sign soon enough, myself.

LUCINDA

No, no — I want to have the contract in my hands.

SGANARELLE

Well, here!

(after having signed) Are you satisfied?

LISETTE

More than you can imagine.

CLITANDRE

All the same, I not only took the precaution of bringing a notary — I even brought singers and instruments to celebrate the wedding and rejoice us — have them come — these are the folks I bring with me to pacify troubled minds with their harmonizing.

(Comedy, Ballet and Music enter)

TOGETHER

Without us, all men would become unhealthy — and we — who are their best doctors.

COMEDY

Do you want to chase off — with soft means

Vapors of the spleen who

Then forget Hippocrates

And come to us!

TOGETHER

Without us — all men would become unhealthy — and we — who are their best doctors —

(While they play, Laughter and the Pleasures dance — Clitandre leads Lucinda off.)

SGANARELLE

Here's a pleasant way of curing! Where are the doctor and my daughter?

LISETTE

They want to consummate the marriage.

SGANARELLE

What do you mean, the marriage?

LISETTE

My word, sir — the goose is cooked and what you thought was a game remains a truth.

SGANARELLE

What the devil? (he wants to go after Clitandre and Lucinda but the dancers hold him back) Let me go, let me go, I tell you! (the dancers keep restraining him) Still? (they try to force Sganarelle to dance) Plague on people!

C U R T A I N