

THE COUNTESS and SUZANNE

THE COUNTESS

So he tried to seduce you, did he?

SUZANNE

I wouldn't call it a seduction. He doesn't take that much trouble with servants.

THE COUNTESS

And Chérubin was there the whole time?

SUZANNE

Under the sofa. Well and then on top of the sofa under the shawl. It's hard to explain. He came to ask me to beg you to speak up for him with the Count.

THE COUNTESS

Why couldn't he ask me himself? I've never refused him anything.

SUZANNE

That's what I said. But he said "Ah, Suzanne, she's so beautiful, so noble ... so intimidating."

THE COUNTESS

Intimidating?

SUZANNE

Then he saw your hair ribbon and practically leapt on me.

THE COUNTESS

My hair ribbon?

SUZANNE

I tried to take it back. "Not for my life", he said.

THE COUNTESS

And then?

SUZANNE

And then because he's afraid to kiss the hem of your dress, he tried to kiss me.

THE COUNTESS

Oh what nonsense. But my husband...?

SUZANNE

... said he'd allow the marriage if I'd allow him to ... well, you...

THE COUNTESS

Yes, I understand. He doesn't love me anymore, does he?

SUZANNE

If he doesn't then why is he so jealous?

THE COUNTESS

Vanity. Pride. I've done nothing to deserve this except loved him too well. And now he's bored with me, Suzanne. ... (She is almost overcome with tears but pulls herself back.)

SUZANNE

Oh, Madame... My heart breaks when I see you like this. You are the kindest, gentlest woman I know and to think of him hurting you by... well, I can't bear it.

THE COUNTESS

Oh, enough now, Suzanne. But I won't let him stop your marriage. I draw the line. Where is Figaro? He's the only one who can help us, now.