

# Imaginary Invalid

Written by

Moliere

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CAST OF CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

ARGAN: A Hypochondriac

TOINETTE: A Servant

GUY (pronounced the French way - GHEE) - A Musician

ANGELIQUE: A Daughter, Argan's youngest

LOUISON: A Daughter, Argan's eldest

BELINE: A Wife, Argan's second

CLEANTE: A Florist, and Suitor to Angelique

MONSIEUR De BONNEFOI: A Lawyer

MONSIEUR DIAFOIRUS: Father of Thomas Diafoirus

THOMAS DIAFOIRUS: Son of Monsieur Diafoirus, and Suitor to Angelique

BERALDE: Brother of Argan

FLEURANT: An Apothecary

DOCTOR PURGON: A Doctor

ACT 1. SCENE 1.

ARGAN sits in his armchair reviewing the large stack of bills in his lap. Next to him is a table with an even larger medical text book laying on top of it.

ARGAN

I'm sick. Sick, I tell you. Sick of all these bills. Bills and bills for potions and pills... and a Magnus Anus Protainus? What the hell is that?

He checks his papers.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Ah yes, a large protein enema. That was a dark day indeed. And for what? I think Dr. Purgon is taking advantage, prescribing medication that's wholly unnecessary. For surely what would one need with a large protein enema?

He reads a large medical book.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Magnus Anus Protainus for the treatment of Stolidus Longaminus, a rare disease which is characterized by the following symptoms: dizziness, nausea, headaches, menstrual cramps and leprosy. Mon Dieu! I have all those things!

Back to his papers.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

And he's only prescribed one dose this month? Is he mad? I'll need at least two more. I'll send word to my apothecary, Monsieur Fleurant, to request the refill. He shouldn't complain, what with all the money I shovel at him. He's making a killing by keeping me alive. Though for sure these statements must be padded, I highly doubt I owe this much. Look here, three additional types of enemas, isn't anything ingested anymore? One to promote healthy movement of the bowels, one to aid in the release of flatulence and one is a lemon scented room deodorizer. That all sounds important.

(Then)

What's this item for thirty francs? An elixir to drive out bad humours. I do need that. I am ill-humored. 30 doses of purified whey to refresh the blood - 45 francs each, a small sum to pay for fresh blood. Mine was beginning to stale. An astringent to aid in good sleep. You can't put a price on good sleep. Oh wait, you can, 50 francs. And finally 107 francs for Fastidium Veneneum, a mixture to help expel my bile. An excess of bile was explained to me as the reason I'm so angry and depressed. I'd sooner be happy and content than angry and depressed. Of course, it's not a matter of choice, is it?

(MORE)

ARGAN (CONT'D)

I wish it were; I remember this concoction. It was a vile bile remover, made up of the larvae of giant ants mixed with fly infested cheese milk and blended together with duck eggs that have been incubated until the fetus is all feathery and beaky. Protein supplements go up the backside, this I had to eat. As hard to swallow as these invoices. Still...

He does some quick calculations on an abacus.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

...The good doctor's math seems accurate. And the medicine obviously necessary. One need only look at me to see what poor health I'm in. And as my dear old granny used to say, "If you don't have your health..."

(Woeful pause)

She died before she could finish that sentence. Alas, she didn't have the benefits of modern medical science and trustworthy practitioners such as Doctor Purgon and Monsieur Fleurant to aid her in her time of need. Heaven rest her soul. No doubt, I'll soon join her... and others who have left me...

SCENE 2.

As before.

ARGAN

Toinette! Let's have all this taken away. I needn't be reminded of the cost of poor health, it's its own keepsake. Though with any luck, I'll be paying discounted prices soon enough. Toinette? Where the devil is that useless servant wench? Anybody? It's no use. I am always left alone.

His coughing fit begins again.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Toinette!!!

TOINETTE enters.

TOINETTE

I'm coming, I'm coming! You needn't yell.

ARGAN

No? And yet it's the only way you'll hear me!

TOINETTE

Maybe I'm hard of hearing, have you ever thought of that?

ARGAN

Maybe you're hard of listening, I have thought of that. Maybe it's because of all the talking you do. Clearly you need to learn to speak less and use your ears more because I'm tired of repeating myself. I'm tired of repeating myself. If I had any sense, I'd-

She feigns hitting her head on the side of a table behind Argan.

TOINETTE

Ow!

ARGAN

What happened?

TOINETTE

I hit my head.

ARGAN

You hit your head?

TOINETTE

I tripped on the back of your chair.

ARGAN

And hit your head?

TOINETTE

I did. I think I'm seeing double.

ARGAN

Don't come here then. I don't want to see double.

TOINETTE

I don't think it's catchy.

ARGAN

Everything is catchy. Keep your distance. I can scold you well enough from here.

There is a knock on the door.

ARGAN (CONT'D)

Who's that?

TOINETTE

Probably the new valet.

ARGAN

What happened to the old valet?

TOINETTE

You fired him because you thought he had small pox.

ARGAN

(Remembering)

I remember now. He did have small pox.

TOINETTE

He had acne.

ARGAN

That's just as bad!

TOINETTE

I think you'll like the new one, his immune system is quite strong.

ARGAN

Where did you find him?

TOINETTE

He's my brother.

ARGAN

Has he ever been a servant before?

TOINETTE

No. But I will show him how it's done.

ARGAN

He's more likely to learn how it's not done. You have to train them when they're young. Babies! They're like sponges. That's why they clean so well.

TOINETTE

I'm sure he'll be able to soak it up.

Toinette opens the door. GUY enters with some bags including an accordion case. He looks as he did when he played music outside the theatre.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Master, this is Guy.

ARGAN

Bonjour Guy. I know Toinette told you the job is yours, but in fact I make the decisions around here. I have a few questions for you and your answers will determine whether or not you shall stay in my employment.

TOINETTE

I probably should tell you my brother is mute. He doesn't speak.

ARGAN

He doesn't speak?

(Then)

He sounds perfect. You're hired.

TOINETTE

I knew you'd fancy him. He's a likeable sort for whom it's impossible to say a bad word, much like myself.

ARGAN

Let's hope he's not an impudent clown ... much like yourself.

(To Guy)

You see Guy, the key is to respect your master. It sounds simple enough and yet most servants can't seem to get this right. They fail to realize that everything they do is a reflection of the household they serve. So the servant must do his or her best to present a professional demeanor. Beyond that, the job is not too hard. It requires good listening obviously, a trait your sister seems to struggle with. Hopefully for your sake, poor listening is an attribute unique to her and not something shared by her entire family.

TOINETTE

I suppose now would be a good time to tell you he's also deaf.

ARGAN

What?

TOINETTE

You needn't yell.

ARGAN

How can he possibly be a valet? He can't even hear the doorbell ring.

TOINETTE

Nobody ever rings the doorbell. They always knock.

ARGAN

...Fine.

(Then)

But how does one communicate with him?

TOINETTE

Sign language, of course.

ARGAN

You know sign language?

TOINETTE

I have a deaf brother how else am I supposed to communicate with him?

ARGAN

Very well. But he'd better not be a problem.

TOINETTE

I promise you master, he'll be no trouble at all. I'll teach him everything he needs to know. Beyond that, he is nothing if not respectful and diligent.

ARGAN

Then perhaps he should be teaching you.

TOINETTE

Of course.

ARGAN

I had to call you three times before you came here? A servant is never supposed to keep a master waiting and it's not the first time you've done that! Yet every time I wish to reprimand you, you seem to get yourself hurt.



She again feigns hitting her head on the side of a table behind Argan.

TOINETTE

Ow my head!

ARGAN

Again?

TOINETTE

(Feeling her head)

Is that blood? Can you tell me if I'm bleeding?

ARGAN

Don't come near me with your blood, woman, are you insane?

TOINETTE

You make me so nervous when you yell at me I can hardly stay on my feet. And look, I may have brain damage.

ARGAN

You had brain damage well before today!

TOINETTE

Your yelling hurts my brain.

ARGAN

If you're hurt see a doctor.

TOINETTE

Right now?

ARGAN

No not now, obviously. You have to help me now! On your own time.

TOINETTE

And on my own dime.

ARGAN

You don't expect me to pay for your foolishness?

TOINETTE

I certainly can't afford it.

ARGAN

That's not my problem.

TOINETTE

There ought to be a public option for health care, don't you think?

ARGAN

No.

TOINETTE

A government option that competes with the big shots-

ARGAN

Absolutely not!

TOINETTE

-So poor servants like myself can see a doctor if we have brain damage.

ARGAN

If it's a pre-existing condition, they won't help you.

TOINETTE

I think it's a good idea.

ARGAN

No one cares what you think. But for the record, you're wrong. If your little socialist fantasy were to actually come true, it would raise the national debt to trillions of dollars and if you think I'm paying for that with my hard earned money, you really are brain damaged. Next thing you know there will be immigrants in the waiting room, death panels, gay marriage and Nazis. We're far better off keeping things status quo. I promise you that! Change... is highly over-rated.

TOINETTE

I just thought I'd act in my own best interest for once.

ARGAN

If you ever want to join the middle class, you'll stop doing that.

TOINETTE

Very good.

Argan lets loose a huge gurgling burp.

ARGAN

Now look what you've done. You've got me all excited. I've got to take a pill.

TOINETTE

I thought you take the pill first, then get excited.

He grabs his walking stick and gets to his feet.

ARGAN

Ask my daughter Angelique to come here. I need to speak with her at once. And clean up this mess! I'll be back in a moment.

Argan exits leaving Guy and Toinette alone.

Beat.

GUY

That man is a blustery malcontent windbag.

TOINETTE

I know.

GUY

Why did you tell him I was mute?

TOINETTE

So you wouldn't call him a blustery malcontent windbag to his face.

GUY

It's the truth, isn't it?

TOINETTE

You have a tendency to speak the truth without any regard of the consequences. I am merely protecting you from yourself.

GUY

And why did you tell him I was deaf?

TOINETTE

Because I'm also protecting you from him. He won't yell at you as much if he thinks you can't hear him.

GUY

And now we have to speak sign language every time we're in public?

TOINETTE

Yes.

GUY

Good thing our parents were deaf. I just hope your sign language skills are up to par.

TOINETTE

Are you kidding me?

(Signing and speaking)

My sign language skills are top notch.

Any time sign language is used a voice over is heard translating what the characters are saying. Currently the voice over says: "My potatoes taste great with children."

GUY

Clearly.

TOINETTE

You can put your stuff in my room. I'll straighten up here.

GUY

How lucky for you.

TOINETTE

It's not glamorous what I do and I'm not even sure it's important. But that's my lot in life. And now it's yours, too. Not everyone gets to experience something important or meaningful. Some people have to clean.

GUY

I write music, Toinette. That is important and meaningful. You know, one song can change the way people view the world.

TOINETTE

Yes, but you haven't written that one song yet, have you? So until you do, grab a mop. If you're going to be here, you need to have a purpose. People will take note if you don't.

Guy exits. Toinette straightens Argan's papers.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

I have a purpose. The important people make the mess, I tidy up. And thankfully no matter how many times I straighten things they always make it dirty again. Their disarray is my job security and this family is pretty good at creating chaos. I wonder what else I'll get to clean today?

Scene 3.

ANGELIQUE enters.

ANGELIQUE

Toinette! Have you seen my dear, sweet father?

TOINETTE

No. I've seen the other one. Irritable and cranky.

ANGELIQUE

I know at times he can be a bear. But underneath he has a good heart.

TOINETTE

He would argue against that and I might be inclined to agree.

ANGELIQUE

In spite of his gruff demeanor, I encourage you to treat him with love.

TOINETTE

Love between the classes? I'm just a servant, dear girl. That would be highly inappropriate.

ANGELIQUE

I don't think so. Love is never inappropriate. Love is the answer. Love is always the answer. What makes the world go round?

TOINETTE

Love.

ANGELIQUE

What is Aphrodite the Greek Goddess of?

TOINETTE

Love.

ANGELIQUE

What do they call bread baked en masse?

TOINETTE

(Confused)

Loaf.

ANGELIQUE

Yes, but what do you bake it with?

TOINETTE

Love.

ANGELIQUE

Precisely. There's nothing else but love.

TOINETTE

Sadly, that's not true. There's also pain.

ANGELIQUE

Pain? What is this pain you speak of?

ARGAN (O.S.)

Toinette!

TOINETTE

He's calling now.

ARGAN (O.S.)

Did you find Angelique?

ANGELIQUE

(Excited)

He wants to speak with me?

TOINETTE

He does.

ARGAN (O.S.)

Toinette!

TOINETTE

Mind my brain, Master! I've found her.

(Then, to Angelique)

He says it's urgent.

ANGELIQUE

(Excited)

It is indeed. Did he tell you what it's about?

TOINETTE

No, but I have a feeling you know.

ANGELIQUE

I do.

TOINETTE

Does it have to do with love?

ANGELIQUE

It does! It has to do with my love, Cleante. Did I tell you about Cleante?

TOINETTE

No. I don't believe you have.

ANGELIQUE

Oh Cleante. What a dream.

She looks to the heavens and begins the following speech. It's one Toinette has clearly heard before as she mimics it exactly, every word, every sigh, every dramatic pause.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

I met him at the theatre. He went with his aunt, I went with Uncle Beralde. His aunt and Beralde knew each other and introduced us. He... was... so... polite. He shared his program with me, but I couldn't take my eyes off him because he's absolutely adorable. I love him. I know some might think me foolish to feel the way I do, but I don't think I am and I don't think it's a coincidence that we sat together. It's fate, kismet, karma, call it what you will. But it's real.

TOINETTE

I met him at the theatre. He went with his aunt, I went with Uncle Beralde. His aunt and Beralde knew each other and introduced us. He... was... so... polite. He shared his program with me, but I couldn't take my eyes off him because he's absolutely adorable. I love him. I know some might think me foolish to feel the way I do, but I don't think I am and I don't think it's a coincidence that we sat together. It's fate, kismet, karma, call it what you will. But it's real.

Beat. Angelique returns to Toinette.

TOINETTE (CONT'D)

Oh Cleante, yes you have mentioned him.

ANGELIQUE

I knew from the moment I saw him, he was the one.

TOINETTE

(skeptically)

Oh please dear girl, not love at first sight?

ANGELIQUE

No. It's love in hind sight. Because in the moment that we met I traveled through time and saw a future where my maid servant convinced me there is no such thing as love at first sight. So I turned my back on Cleante only to realize later I did indeed love him but it was too late. I had grown up alone with no one to talk to but the very maid servant who poisoned my ideas of love in the first place.

TOINETTE

So you're saying I still work here in the future.

ANGELIQUE

I'm saying he is my destiny. And I'm pretty sure he feels the same.

She shows Toinette a ring on her finger.

TOINETTE

(Taken aback)

Is that an engagement ring?

ANGELIQUE

No. But it's the ring you get right before an engagement ring.

TOINETTE

A promise ring?

ANGELIQUE

The one right before that.

TOINETTE

Friendship ring?

ANGELIQUE

Just before that.



TOINETTE

...Onion?

ANGELIQUE

It's an acquaintance ring. It signifies that we've met and the meeting was positive. Don't you see. It's love!

TOINETTE

But is it ever-lasting love? What if it's just a moment?

ANGELIQUE

Uncle Beralde says love is important even if it only lasts a moment.

TOINETTE

Your uncle Beralde and I disagree on this matter. And no doubt, your father, should he hear of it, would disagree as well. So I suggest you put that token away before he sees it.

ANGELIQUE

Don't be silly, Toinette. I needn't hide this from him. The reason papa wishes to see me is to tell me Cleante has asked for my hand in marriage.

TOINETTE

Your hand in marriage? He barely knows you.

ANGELIQUE

He gave me an acquaintance ring! You think he gives that to someone he barely knows?

TOINETTE

It is apparent to me you are the mess I must clean up today.

ANGELIQUE

Excusez moi?

TOINETTE

You have set yourself up for heartache. You've met him only a week ago, you think he'll ask for your hand in marriage so quickly?

ANGELIQUE

I do think that.

TOINETTE

Just because you think it doesn't make it true.

ANGELIQUE

Doesn't it?

SCENE 4.

ARGAN enters.

ARGAN

Angelique. You have been asked for in marriage.

ANGELIQUE

Oh daddy! How exciting!

ARGAN

Don't yell, it disrupts the removal of my bile!

ANGELIQUE

I'm sorry father I can't control myself.

ARGAN

I take it by your reaction this pleases you.

ANGELIQUE

It pleases me to have an opportunity to show my obedience to you.

ARGAN

Such a treasure. It amazes me that from my disease-ridden loins there should spring forth two daughters of such perfection. The youngest, Angelique, a vision of grace and beauty. And her older sister, Louison. A bright girl and of course, equally lovely...

LOUISON enters. She is strange looking with a large hump on her back.

LOUISON

Hello father.

ARGAN

...On the inside.

LOUISON

I heard you speaking of grace and beauty. I assumed you were speaking of me.

ARGAN

I was speaking of your sister, actually.

LOUISON

Pretty runs in our family.

ARGAN

It does.

LOUISON

Did I hear correctly? Is Angelique to be married?

ARGAN

She is.

LOUISON

But I am the eldest daughter. Isn't it tradition that I should marry first?

ARGAN

Louison, am I such an ogre as to stand in the way of true love merely because it upsets some antiquated tradition?

LOUISON

No, father, of course not.

ARGAN

Now, congratulations are in order. Angelique landed herself a bright young man with a promising future. And not too bad looking, I might add.

ANGELIQUE

You're right about that, daddy.

ARGAN

You've seen him then?

ANGELIQUE

I must admit, we were introduced at the theatre just last week.

ARGAN

I am glad to hear he's to your liking. I know a father's taste is not always the same as his daughter's.

ANGELIQUE  
What's not to like? He's tall.

ARGAN  
Tall enough, I suppose.

ANGELIQUE  
Muscular.

ARGAN  
Underneath all the fat, sure.

ANGELIQUE  
Chiseled features.

ARGAN  
With rounded edges.

ANGELIQUE  
Strong chin.

ARGAN  
There's a chin?

ANGELIQUE  
He's gorgeous!

ARGAN  
I didn't take that close a look at him. I am just happy there's going to be a doctor in the family.

ANGELIQUE  
He's a doctor? I thought he said he was a florist.

TOINETTE

(Aside)  
I think I know what's going on here.

ARGAN  
No, he's a doctor. Or will be tomorrow just like his uncle.

ANGELIQUE  
My uncle said his uncle was dead.

TOINETTE

(Aside)

Something tells me they're talking about two different people.

ARGAN

Your uncle knows very well his uncle is not dead and the boy is to be a doctor.

ANGELIQUE

That's odd. I wonder why he would say that?

TOINETTE

(Aside)

It's only a matter of time before they realize their folly.

ANGELIQUE

Daddy, I am confused at the discrepancies occurring within our conversation but I don't really care because I'm happy and I needn't question such details.

ARGAN

Excellent. Then that concludes our little talk. Adieu.

ANGELIQUE

Adieu.

TOINETTE

Adieu? Wait! Why aren't you realizing your folly? Do I have to spell it out for you?

ARGAN

What are you babbling on about?

TOINETTE

(To Argan)

Master. What are the initials of Angelique's new fiance?

ARGAN

T.D.

TOINETTE

(To Angelique)

Angelique. What are the initials of the man you met at the theatre?

ANGELIQUE

C.S.

TOINETTE

T. D. C. S. Do you know what that means?

ARGAN

It's a type of enema.

ANGELIQUE

It spells love.

LOUISON

It's Latin for I'm pretty.

TOINETTE

(Frustrated)

What we've got here is failure to communicate.

ARGAN

What is she talking about?

ANGELIQUE

I don't know father. And I don't care. All I know is I'm getting married to Cleante.

ARGAN

Cleante? Who is Cleante?

ANGELIQUE

The man who asked for my hand.

ARGAN

No. The man who asked for your hand is young Thomas, nephew to Doctor Purgon and the son of his brother-in-law Monsieur Diafoirus.

ANGELIQUE

You mean Cleante didn't ask for me in marriage?

ARGAN

(To Angelique)

I don't even know who Cleante is.

ANGELIQUE

He's the man I met at the theatre last week.

ARGAN

You think I'd let you marry a man you just met?

ANGELIQUE

You are letting me marry young Thomas. I haven't met him at all.

ARGAN

I've met him and he's good enough for me. That's why I arranged this union.

ANGELIQUE

Arranged the union?

LOUISON

You said it was true love.

ARGAN

I'm sure once young Thomas sees how lovely Angelique is it will be true love.

LOUISON

You could have arranged it with me. I'm lovely, too.

ARGAN

(Gently)

You are lovely, but... you do have a hump.

LOUISON

I know! I'm perfect!

ANGELIQUE

I thought he asked for my hand, now I find out he was prodded.

ARGAN

Hardly prodded. I merely asked his uncle to ask his father to ask him to ask me for your hand and so he has.

ANGELIQUE

But does he love me?

ARGAN

He doesn't know you. How can he love you?

ANGELIQUE

How can he marry me if he doesn't love me?

ARGAN

He will grow to love you.

ANGELIQUE

But Cleante loves me now!

ARGAN

If this Cleante loved you now then he would have asked to marry you. But he didn't. Thomas did. And I accepted on your behalf.

ANGELIQUE

You already accepted?

ARGAN

I have. Because I knew it would please you to have an opportunity to show your obedience to me.

ANGELIQUE

That was back when I thought I was getting what I wanted!

ARGAN

Well now you're getting what I want. I should think that would make you just as happy.

ANGELIQUE

Merde Balls!

Angelique exits in tears.

TOINETTE

I don't think she's just as happy.

ARGAN

Nevertheless, a daughter must be obedient to her father in matters of love.

LOUISON

It seems you pick and choose the antiquated traditions you ignore to satisfy your own agenda.



ARGAN

Whose agenda should I satisfy? I'm a sick man, you know.

LOUISON

(Crying)

Yes. And I'm pretty!

Louison exits after her sister.

TOINETTE

I don't think she's just as happy either.

ARGAN

It amazes me that from my disease-ridden loins there should spring forth two daughters of such defection.

TOINETTE

Why don't we leave your disease-ridden loins out of this.

ARGAN

Be gone, you jade.

TOINETTE

Jade? That's Shakespeare for whore, you know.

ARGAN

Out, baggage!

TOINETTE

That means whore, too!

ARGAN

Farewell, my concubine!

TOINETTE

First tell me why you have arranged this match between Angelique and the young Thomas.

ARGAN

She should count herself lucky. If it were up to their stepmother, Angelique and Louison would be put in a convent to become nuns.

TOINETTE

And I am sure your wife has her reasons for that. Thankfully, it's not up to her, it's up to them.

ARGAN

It's up to me. And as I am sick and infirm I wish to have in-laws who are doctors to see to my weakening condition.

TOINETTE

You already have doctors waiting on you hand and foot.

ARGAN

And they charge me an arm and a leg to do so! I wish to have them for free!

TOINETTE

It won't be for free. It will be at the price of your daughters' happiness.

ARGAN

If I am dead will they not be unhappy anyway?

TOINETTE

You're not dying! You are the picture of health!

ARGAN

Picture of bad health!

TOINETTE

Please. If a picture says a thousand words then the picture of you would say "not sick" 1000 times.

ARGAN

That's 2000 words you incompetent hussy!

TOINETTE

I am not a hussy! I'd never sell my body for a buck. And I'd certainly never sell my children's bodies to save a buck.

ARGAN

They are not your children.

TOINETTE

I've helped raise them since they were children. They'll listen to me as much as you, if not more.

ARGAN

They won't listen to you. I don't care what you think. I know what I know.

TOINETTE

Just because you “know” it doesn't make it true.

ARGAN

Yes, it does. Mark my words, my daughter will marry this man or I will force her into a convent.

TOINETTE

Where she'll live happily ever after.

ARGAN

This is not a fairy tale or a massage parlor. Not everyone gets a happy ending.

TOINETTE

So you'll steal one from your children.

ARGAN

If I have to. And you won't stop me.

TOINETTE

I won't have to. You will stop you. Fatherly love will stop you. Whether you like to admit it or not, I believe you are naturally kind-hearted.

ARGAN

Dim-witted drudge!

TOINETTE

To them, obviously. Not to me.

ARGAN

You're wrong.

TOINETTE

If I am, then gird your disease-ridden loins because I will fight you on this every step of the way.

ARGAN

You scrub of a servant! What kind of way is this to talk to your master? Come here! I will teach you some manners!

TOINETTE

I see the thought of beating me has added some color to your face. You look downright virile.

ARGAN

I'm weak and you know it.

TOINETTE

So I needn't worry about getting a beating.

ARGAN

Oh you need to worry about getting a beating, all right.

TOINETTE

Only a healthy man can give a good beating.

ARGAN

If I had any strength, I'd give you a good beating.

TOINETTE

What a bind you're in.

ARGAN

I'll put you in a bind!

TOINETTE

If you weren't sick.

ARGAN

I'm sick as a dog!

TOINETTE

Then you can beat me when you're well. Until then, bonne chance!

Toinette exits.

ARGAN

Come back here!