

READINGS

Lord Pinkleton – (Announcing in the town square): Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Eight o'clock and all is well. A great day in the kingdom. In one month will be our first free election for Prime Minister of the land. The candidates are Jean-Michel and our current Lord Protector, Sebastian. But tomorrow, all women, come to the palace and try on the glass slipper. Whosoever fits it shall be married to the Prince! This is the biggest news cycle I have ever shouted. I'll be back at eleven with local weather and sports. HEAR YE!

Jean-Michel – [Speaking to Ella and Crazy Marie about the unjust system.] Why is it always the very poorest who are the most generous? It breaks my heart. And do you know why the poor are the kindest, Ella and Crazy Marie? Because it is a corrupt system, with a smashed moral compass. (Proudly) Today I will be going alone to the castle to protest the corruption that riddles our government! You must come with me! I shall shout to the prince! He will have no choice but to listen!

Gabrielle – [Telling Ella her secret plan to go on a date with Jean-Michel] Ella, over here. I am going to tell Madame, that I am sick - I'm not really sick, I'm pretending! It's just like when Charlotte was in school and pretended to be sick to get out of things she didn't like, like the third and fourth grades. I will be sick just as we are leaving for the carriage. Madame and Charlotte will leave without me. (Growing excitement) I will then change back into my regular clothes and meet my secret crush, Jean-Michel - I'm taking him up on his offer to go help in a soup kitchen! I get to ladle!

GABRIELLE

(entering from behind the screen in a simple dress)

Good evening, Jean-Michel.

JEAN-MICHEL

Good evening, Gabrielle. I much prefer you in this simple attire. You no longer look like a carnival attraction.

GABRIELLE

You speak such kind words to me, all the day long. And what of the soup kitchen this evening?

JEAN-MICHEL

Our first responsibility is with the poor. Then we shall march to the palace steps and I shall speak with the Prince.

GABRIELLE

Ella might be a help, you know she's talked to the prince.

JEAN-MICHEL

What?! Ella talked to the Prince?!

GABRIELLE

She went to the ball! They were talking about the kingdom and how to make things better. And tonight she is going to the banquet!

JEAN-MICHEL

The world is upside down!! But don't you know what this means? If she really talked to the Prince, then I can talk to him and he'll be open to my suggestions. What do you call this feeling I have?

GABRIELLE

Optimism

JEAN-MICHEL

Optimism. I have to do this more often

GABRIELLE

You can march up to the Prince and talk to him

JEAN-MICHEL

I can march up to the Prince and talk to him.

GABRIELLE

You can be a leader!

JEAN-MICHEL

I can be a leader!

GABRIELLE

You can be my boyfriend!

JEAN-MICHEL

I can be your boyfriend! Whoa, left turn! What are you doing? This looks very counter-revolutionary.

GABRIELLE

I like the man who wants to change the world, but I also like the man who brought me flowers.

JEAN-MICHEL

Who brought you flowers? Oh, I did. No, I couldn't.

GABRIELLE

You just said so. Optimism.

JEAN-MICHEL

Optimism?

GABRIELLE

Let yourself go.

JEAN-MICHEL

I could be your boyfriend?

GABRIELLE

Yes! Yes!

JEAN-MICHEL

Am I your boyfriend?

GABRIELLE

Yes!

JEAN-MICHEL.

YES! YES!!!