**3) Clementina and Arthur**

**Clementina:** Well, Arthur, I hope you are behaving very well.

**Arthur:** I’m *feeling* very well, Lady Clementina.

**Clementina:** That’s not quite the same thing. In fact the two things rarely go together. **(Pause.)** Well, *monsieur le mauvais sujet*, why haven't you been to see me all this time? I do not hear from you for so long, and the day that you contact me I have tradesmen in the house.

**Arthur:** My dear Lady Clem, I am so pleased that *you* were able to visit *me*. I apologise for my absence. I never have a moment to myself.

**Clementina:** I suppose by that you mean that you go about all day long with Miss Sybil Merton, buying chiffons and talking nonsense? I cannot understand why people make such a fuss about being married. In my day we never dreamed of billing and cooing in public, or in private for that matter.

**Arthur:** I assure you I have not seen Sybil for twenty-four hours, Lady Clem. As far as I can make out, she belongs entirely to her milliners.

**Clementina:** Of course. That is the only reason you should wish to see an ugly old woman like myself. I wonder you men don't take warning. *On a fait des folies pour moi*, and here I am, a poor, rheumatic creature, with a false front and a bad temper. Why, if it were not for dear Lady Jansen, who sends me all the worst French novels she can find, I don't think I could get through the day. Doctors are no use at all, except to get fees out of one. They can't even cure my heartburn.

**Arthur:** And that is why I contacted you. **(He goes over to the desk and retrieves the parcel)** I have brought you a cure for that, Lady Clem. It is a wonderful thing, invented by an American.

**Clementina:** I don't think I like American inventions, Arthur. I am quite sure I don't. I read some American novels lately and they were quite nonsensical.

**Arthur:** Oh, but there is no nonsense at all about this, Lady Clem! I assure you it is a perfect cure. You must promise to try it.

(He sits beside Lady Clementina, and hands the parcel to Lady Clementina who unwraps it.)

**Clementina:** Well, the box is charming, Arthur. Is it really a present? That is very sweet of you. And is this the wonderful medicine? It looks like a bonbon. **(She removes the capsule and looks at it)** I'll take it at once.

(Lady Clementina raises the capsule to her lips. With a cry, Lord Arthur stops her.)

**Arthur:** Good heavens, Lady Clem, you mustn't do anything of the kind! **(Then, recovering)** It is a homeopathic medicine, and if you take it without having heartburn, it might do you no end of harm. Wait till you have an attack, and take it then. You will be astonished at the result.

**Clementina: (Holding up to the light the little transparent capsule, with its floating bubble of liquid Aconitine)** I should like to take it now, I am sure it is delicious. The fact is that, though I hate doctors, I love medicines. However, I'll keep it till my next attack.

**Arthur: (Hopefully)** And when will that be? Will it be soon?

**Clementina:** I hope not for a week. I had a very bad time yesterday morning with it. But one never knows.

(The outside doorbell rings.)

**Arthur:** You are sure to have one before the end of the month then, Lady Clem?

**Clementina:** I am afraid so. But how sympathetic you are today, Arthur! Really, Sybil has done you a great deal of good.