

SCENE 4

Set: The Café...

(WOMEN sitting around, waiting for the men to return... The NIECES are at one table, THERESE and HORTENSE at another. DENISE is refilling their wine glasses.)

DENISE

More sauterne, Therese?

THERESE

Oh, I shouldn't... Well, perhaps a little.

DENISE

Hortense?

HORTENSE

Why not?

SIMONE

How long have the men been gone?

DENISE

About four hours...

HORTENSE

Longer.

INEZ

It feels strange, sitting here without them.

HORTENSE

Just us women.

NICOLE

Nice.

DENISE

And how you spoke up to Barnaby at the meeting. That was wonderful.

HORTENSE

It felt good.

NICOLE

(raises her glass)

Here's to you, Hortense.

SIMONE

(raises hers)

Hortense!

(THEY drink.)

INEZ

No matter how long they look, they won't find the Baker's wife and Dominique, I'm sure of it.

HORTENSE

Imagine those two... running off like... like a pair of criminals.

THERESE

That's what they are, criminals... All the trouble they've caused! Disgusting!

SIMONE

They just don't care about anything but themselves...

INEZ

So selfish...

NICOLE

Terrible...

HORTENSE

What can possibly make people act that way?