

(MICHELLE enters, dressed in a grubby shirt and dungarees, with oil marks on her face and a wrench in her hand. She ushers the three ladies to the bar.)

MICHELLE. Listen very carefully. I shall say this only once. The airmen were not picked up by the British planes. I have had to bring them back here.

EDITH. Where are they?

MICHELLE. I snuck them in around the back. Fortunately, we have a new plan. Where is René?

EDITH. He is having a well-deserved lie-down. Tell me the plan, Michelle, and I will see that he gets it.

MIMI. I will also see that he gets it.

YVETTE. And I will give it to him better than anyone!

(EDITH looks suspiciously at the two girls then shrugs it off.)

MICHELLE. Very well. On Saturday night we have a troupe of dancers coming to Nouvien to put on a free show for the townsfolk. After the show, we will disguise the airmen as dancers, and they will leave with the other performers.

EDITH. Dancers? Performing here? But what about my cabaret! The café patrons will be devastated if I do not sing for them.

MICHELLE. There are more things at stake here than a bruised ego, Madam Edith! We must do our duty to France.

EDITH. You are right, Michelle. And yet, the Resistance also has a duty to my husband, the brave war hero who often risks all to help you.

MICHELLE. And what is it he wants from me?

EDITH. If René does not give the Germans fifty thousand francs by Saturday night he will be shot.

MICHELLE. That would be a shame, but there are other café owners in Nouvieu.

EDITH. And what if he were to try to buy his freedom by revealing what he knows about the Resistance?

MICHELLE. Then I would shoot him myself! But this is too big a gamble to take...very well, we will assist him. I will get this money somehow. And how will he explain where he got the money without betraying us?

YVETTE. Why do we not hold a fundraising night on Saturday? We could use your dancers, and Madam Edith's floorshow and pretend that we have raised all the money ourselves?

MIMI. Raise fifty thousand francs with Madam Edith's singing? Are you mad?

EDITH. It is an excellent plan. The Resistance gets what it wants, we get what we want, and everyone wins.

MICHELLE. And we will of course steal the money back from the Germans as soon as possible. I will send word when we have the money. Madam Edith, start practising for this entertainment spectacular.

EDITH. Immediately. *(She opens her mouth and takes a breath to sing.)*

MICHELLE. But wait until I have left first.

(MICHELLE exits. MADAM EDITH looks a tad put out.)

YVETTE. Madam Edith, Mimi and I must now start to raise what we can in case the Resistance are unsuccessful.

MIMI. *(Motioning towards the COLONEL and GEERING.)* And with the clientele we have to hand they will take a lot of raising.