

ENGLISH DIALOGUE LIST

PROLOGUE

MADELEINE

He put his hand on my throat, as if to strangle me.

But it was to grasp what he couldn't read from my lips.

TECTONIC IMAGERY

MADELEINE V/O

Millions of years ago...continents were not separated from each other as they are now. They formed a single land mass.

Then a violent movement from the centre of the earth...split this huge single surface...and the newly-formed continents began a slow journey...which is still going on today.

Long ago, Europe and North America fitted together perfectly. The Caledonian mountains stretched into the Appalachians. Now they are mostly under the Atlantic.

The long beaches of soft sand which border the continents are in fact nothing more than the scars of a deep wound.

MADELEINE AND THE GUIDE IN PERE LACHAISE CEMETERY

GUIDE

You see that statue over there? It is the grave of the Polish composer Frederic Chopin.

His body is here but, as he wished, his heart is buried in Poland, in the great Cathedral of Warsaw, wrapped in the love letters of George Sand.

This is Euterpe, the Muse of music who mourns the composer she once inspired, Frederic Chopin.

Excuse me. I must go now.

MADELEINE TEACHES AN ART HISTORY CLASS 20 YEARS LATER

MADELEINE

"Liberty guiding the people." Oil on canvas. 259 cm x 325 cm. The first political painting of the Romantic movement. At the left of the painting the man in the top hat is believed to represent Delacroix, who included himself so he'd feel a part of the Revolution.

"The Death of Ophelia." Oil on canvas. 38 cm x 45 cm. Inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet. Act IV, Scene 7, to be precise. It's the scene where Ophelia, having lost her mind, sinks into the river, tangled in her robe.

MADELEINE VISITS ANTOINE IN THE LIBRARY WHERE HE WORKS

MADELEINE

Yes it's been a long time.

You recognized my eyes.

And my smile.

Yes, I cut my hair.

I look like a little girl? Thanks.

I wanted to see you again.

I'd like to see Jacques again too. Have you heard from him?

Yes? He wrote to you? Where is he?

Away, yes, but where?

Do you have his address?

Letters come back...

And you? How are you?

You still work here...

And...what's that?

The head?

Jigsaw puzzles!

Jigsaw puzzles!

...I did a Master's in Art History. And now I teach Romanticism.

We're disturbing them, we're talking too loud.

Jim Morrison's collected poems!

They re-edited it? Can I take it?

I'll bring it back, I just want to borrow it.

Why do I want to see Jacques?

Do I still love him?

I've got to go...

JACQUES ENCOUNTERS THE GODDESS SKADI ON THE ISLE OF SKYE

JACQUES V/O

There was an ancient belief in a mythical goddess named Skadi. Some people say Scotia, or Scotland, was named after her.

Skadi was a figure of both creation and destruction. With one movement of her sword she could split continents.

She demanded a yearly sacrifice of a chosen young man. She'd lead him to her sacred Isle of Skye. There he would learn skills such as fighting. She kept him there for a year and a day. Only when his blood was spilt could the earth become fertile again.

She emasculated him, then sent him back to the mainland. The young hero was destined to do great deeds. And to die a sacrificial death.

JACQUES/JENNIFER MEETS KEVIN IN A NEW YORK RESTAURANT

WAITER

Good evening, Jennifer, you look stunning tonight.

I had a big group, so I had to put all my tables together.

It's a bit like Beirut in here.

May I sit you at the end?

Will it be a Grand Marnier?

JACQUES/JENNIFER

Yes. Without ice, please.

KEVIN

This is an excellent restaurant, but I find it a bit expensive.

JACQUES/JENNIFER

You speak good French. Bravo.

KEVIN

That's because I won the Sweepstakes in Anchorage where I live.

I won first prize: a complete set of Berlitz tapes to learn French. And since there's not much to do in Alaska I played my tapes every night. My goal is to one day understand the beautiful French "poterie."

JACQUES/JENNIFER

Did you say "patrie" or "poterie"?

Oh, poetry!

KEVIN

That's why I like...I like occasions like this where I can use French words I know and learn some new ones.

JACQUES/JENNIFER

Yes, for an American you've a surprisingly large vocabulary. An American who speaks French, I mean.

KEVIN

But, you know, what really...what frustrates me most is sex.

JACQUES/JENNIFER

Oh really?

KEVIN

Yes, for you French people, sex is easy.

JACQUES/JENNIFER

You think so?

KEVIN

We English don't have sex.

JACQUES/JENNIFER

What a shame!

KEVIN

Why is coffee a "he," not a "she"? And table "she," not "he"?

JACQUES/JENNIFER

You mean gender, not sex!

WAITER

If that eskimo's bothering you I can throw him out.

JACQUES/JENNIFER

Quiet, he understands French.

WAITER (TO KEVIN)

Is this coffee OK?

KEVIN

Yes, very excellent.

JACQUES/JENNIFER

How much for the Grand Marnier?

WAITER

Five dollars.

KEVIN

May I pay for your drink?

JACQUES/JENNIFER

Absolutely not.

MADELEINE & ANTOINE LISTEN TO JACQUES/JENNIFER ON RADIO

MADELEINE

It's his voice. But it's a woman. He's reading Jim Morrison. It's Jacques.

ANTOINE

Will you go and see him?

Well, I will go.

ANTOINE ON THE AIRPLANE TO NEW YORK

ANTOINE

You, Jacques...

Forgotten the past. Why?

Gone far away. Left me. Broke my heart.

You and I...friends.

ANTOINE VISITS JACQUES/JENNIFER IN NEW YORK APARTMENT

JACQUES/JENNIFER

How did you find me?

Do I remember...?

A little painter?

I don't know Antoine. Toulouse-Lautrec?

A woman.

Madeleine?

She recognized my voice on the radio

No I live alone. I...

Is there someone in my life?

There's someone in my head, yes.

Yes, he's attracted to me. But it's impossible.

He hasn't even realised...

What do you mean, tell him?

You can't just show up here and meddle in my life...asking me to explain something I don't even understand myself.

How long are you in New York?

You're leav...Antoine!

Why?

You came looking for..J...Jacques.

Now you know Jacques is dead.

Antoine, this...this has given me a voice.

Stay!