

from
THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES
by Molière

Translated by Peter Holdway

Act IV Scene vi lines 1143-1181

HORACE

How delighted I am to see you here once more.
I've just had a very close shave, let me tell you;
Just after I left you, I saw out of the blue,
Alone on her balcony Agnes standing there,
With the breeze from the trees taking in some fresh air.
Well, she signalled to me to stay right there and wait,
Then came down to the garden to open the gate.
We went up to her room, but once we were in there,
She heard her jealous jailer, outside on the stair;
She had to think quickly, or we'd have been scuppered,
So she ever so slickly shut me in a cupboard.
At last, after destructively venting his spleen
Smashing whatever he could, and causing a scene,
This poor jealous man, without explaining his rage,
Left the bedroom, then she let me out of my cage.
A close shave, but tonight I'll be coming back round
To enter her bedroom, without making a sound.
With a ladder and Agnes, whose heart I must win,
Love will give me a leg up and get me back in.
I wanted to tell you, since you're my only friend,
And to tell you increases my heart's joy no end.
You'll share in my success, like a father to son.
Now I'm off. I must work out what needs to be done.

(exit)