

There was a long pause, during which Thérèse edged closer and closer to Cardillac. Gradually the duke's brow cleared; then he said, in his usual quiet and definite tones:

"Monsieur de Cardillac, if I had searched all France, I could find no man more to my liking than you as a husband to my daughter."

The girl flew to him, and flung her arms around his neck.

"Oh, father, father!" she cried. "I knew you would not disappoint me. You are the greatest man in all France!"

"Oh, yes, he is, Victor," she continued, looking over her father's shoulder. "You come only second."

THE END