

promised. But write—or get out of the difficulty the best way you can. But stay, I hear some clients coming.

DE VERBY

I don't want to see anybody! Everybody, even the Rousseau family, believes that I have left the city.

A SERVANT (*announcing a visitor*)

Madame du Brocard!

DE VERBY

Oh, heavens! (*Rushes into an office on the right.*)

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SCENE FIFTH.

DUPRÉ AND MADAME DU BROCARD. (*She enters, her face hidden by a heavy black veil which she cautiously raises.*)

MME. DU BROCARD

I have been here several times without being lucky enough to find you in. We are quite alone here?

DUPRÉ (*smiling*)

Quite alone!

MME. DU BROCARD

And so this harrowing affair has broken out afresh?

DUPRÉ

It has, unhappily!

MME. DU BROCARD

That wretched young man! If I had not superintended his education, I would disinherit him! My life at present is