



Careless Vows by Pierre Carlet de Marivaux

Lucile and Damis have agreed to meet each other, but it is only in order to please their fathers. In fact, individually they have resolved to be frank and to declare openly to the other their dislike of marriage. The plot is only furthered by Lucile's intense curiosity: instead of facing Damis on meeting him, she hides in a back room to spy on him. On learning of his resolve not to marry, she protests and comes out fighting. While Damis is soon won over by Lucile's beauty and vigour, her own motives are falling in love are far more complex and questionable . . .

Careless Vows was first performed in 1732 by the Comédie-Française.

'It is never too comedically busy to stop for contemplative moments – of rue, of melancholy, of wonder' *New York Times*

Genre:	farce	Fee:	£40 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m5 f3	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413185600 £14.99
Set:	a country house	Length:	5 acts
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Damis (*rather embarrassed*) So you don't like cards, madame?

this business between us. It's so unusual, it ought to be unique.

Lucile No, sir.

Lucile Well, I think it is too.

Damis I am very glad to be like you in that respect.

Damis No madame, it isn't. It's only about six months since one of my friends and a lady he was supposed to be marrying found themselves in the same situation as you and me. Same resolution before meeting, about not getting married. Same agreement between them, same promises as I made to get him out of her way.

Lucile It's neither a virtue nor a fault. But, sir, since there's company, why don't you go? It would entertain you.

Damis I'm not in a mood to look for entertainment.

Lucille But are you staying with me?

Lucile In other words, he broke his promise. That's not unusual.

Damis If you will allow me to.

Lucille And yet you have nothing to say to me.

Damis No, madame, he kept it. But our hearts mock our resolutions.

Damis Well now, at this very moment I was thinking about

Lucile Fairly often, they say.

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- *Double Inconstancy* by Marivaux (m4 f3)
 - *The False Servant* by Marivaux (m5 f3 m/f1)
 - *Albert's Boy* by James Graham (m2)
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