

Feigned Inconstancy by Pierre Carlet de Marivaux



Dorante and the Marquise have a plan to try and reclaim their fickle aristocratic lovers, the Countess and the Captain. They will pretend to fall in love with each in the hope that their lovers will be so full of jealousy that they are reunited with them. With a plan as wayward as this, however, it is no surprise when it all completely backfires . . .

The Feigned Inconstancy was first performed in 1733 by the Comédie Italienne.

'Delightful twists and turns' Australian Stage

Genre:	Farce	Fee:	£40 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m5 f3	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413185600 £14.99
Set:	Countess's house	Length:	3 acts
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Marquise Well, Dorante, your man is in the right of it. We are both jilted, you and I.

Dorante As you say, madam.

Marquise And are we to attempt no remedy?

Dorante What attempt may a man make, madam, other than to urge a suit already odious? I will not do it. How wretchedly are our fortunes mixed! Had only I loved your ladyship instead!

Marquise Then why not do so, Dorante?

Dorante Had I . . . had I that good fortune, madam, to have . . . to have first fallen in love with your ladyship . . . but since I did not . . .

Marquise Faith, you are not used to flattery, I see.

Dorante Your pardon, madam, I am in such a state of despair, my manners are forget. Indeed, I hold your person and good wit in such high esteem, madam, I am sure I must have told myself a thousand times . . . but being, as you see, in this most damnable degree of love for the Countess . . .

Marquise Enough, sir; you have no skill at all in compliment, and must injure my good opinion of myself with every word of extenuation. And therefore, on.

Dorante No, madam, no; believe me. I should love you if I could. It is my duty. If only to punish that perfidious woman.

Marquise If punishment is to be our word, sir, I have some small score to settle of my own.

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *The Game of Love and Chance* by Marivaux (m4 f2)
- *The False Servant* by Marivaux (m5 f3 m/f1)
- *Losing Louis* by Simon Mendes da Costa (m3 f4)