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present

# Fallen Angels

BY NOËL COWARD

March 13 – April 15, 2012 • Upperstage

## TEACHER PACKET

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# Fallen Angels

BY NOËL COWARD

away on a golf outing, the two women await a visit from this former flame while gradually getting drunk and pondering whether they can remain firm in their marriage vows against the lure of lost romance. This comedy of manners by one of Great Britain's premiere playwrights shows us the real housewives of London—circa 1955.  
*(Contains adult situations)*

Witty dialogue, glamor, and madcap humor bubble out of control in Noël Coward's 1925 farce, revised by the playwright in the 1950s. Two upper-class friends, Julia and Jane, share a past love. With their husbands

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# Bursting the Social Bubble

by Janet Allen, Artistic Director

I hope, as you experience the late winter–early spring productions we are creating for you, that you notice that you’re laughing a lot. We’ve selected two “comedies of manners” for your enjoyment and placed them back to back so you can compare them: *God of Carnage*, a 21st century take on the genre (with precious few manners on display), and *Fallen Angels*, Noël Coward’s 1925 exploration of young marriage and its perils—revised in the 1950s (with manners still being shed left and right). If *God of Carnage* perhaps feels a little like *The Sopranos* (without the guns), then *Fallen Angels* might be a precursor to *Desperate Housewives* and *Sex in the City*.

The plays have a lot in common. In both of them, we delight in seeing the façade of decent, even sophisticated behavior disintegrate into mud-slinging chaos, as the married couples in both plays discover how thin the veneer of proper social behavior is when the right combination of circumstances back them into corners. In each play, these apparently grown-up characters get to act upon some primal human urges. They blurt out just what they are thinking, while desperately trying not to—and then really enjoying the experience! And they decimate everything around them while causing wild gales of laughter among those of us lucky enough to witness the madness.

There is no question that Noël Coward is the 20th century master of the *bon mot*, as well as one of our greatest dissects of marriage and friendship. There was never a relationship so sturdy that Coward couldn’t figure out how to drive a comedic wedge through it. In *Fallen Angels*, we lament more the possibility that the excellent friendship of Jane and Julia will hit the rocks than we fear the possibility that each could also lose her marriage. Somehow, the preservation of the friendship between the two women

is really the emotional core of the play, even though the most overt threat to their stability is the extent to which the mythical Maurice might disrupt the connubial bliss of the Banburys and/or the Sterrolls. Comedy is meant to upend the social world as we know it, and then restore that social order—mostly!—and Coward certainly loves the energy that is unleashed when that social order comes tumbling down.

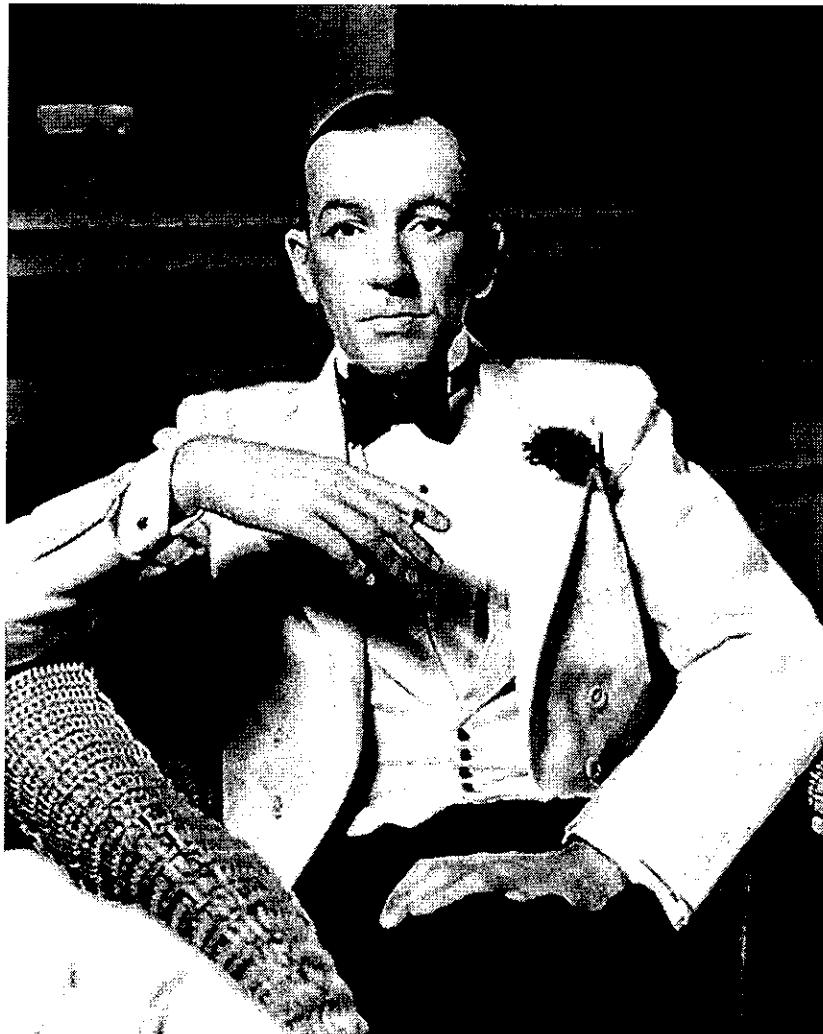
Something about Coward also makes us colonials happy in some of the same ways that *Downton Abbey* has had many of us glued to *Masterpiece Classics* this winter. The lovely accents, the servant class, the pretty dresses, the polished manners, the clarity of gender definitions, the geographic proximity to European culture—all give us a sense of *noblesse oblige*. But Coward turns much of this on its ear: the maid is far smarter and worldlier than her employers, the dresses are an encumbrance, the women struggle with their French, and the male hierarchy crumbles into bluster and comedic confusion. Thank goodness for Noël Coward, who knew just how to burst every social bubble and keeps us laughing—not only at our British ancestors, but at ourselves.



## The Coward behind Coward

by William Brown, Director

I was 23 years old when I appeared in my first Noël Coward play. I was a young actor who had never left West Virginia playing the worldly, middle-aged Charles Condomine in *Blithe Spirit*. Can you imagine? I was probably horrible—but there were certain advantages to not knowing how to play Coward. I didn't know there was a Coward "style," or that Coward was supposed to be brittle or arch. I just saw a guy who was in a terrible jam, trying to negotiate life with both his living second wife and his dead first wife, all in the same house. Many years later, I still marvel at how psychologically astute Noël Coward's plays are. I've acted or directed nearly a dozen productions of his plays, and he is, of course, disarmingly funny. But he is also smart, humane, and shockingly candid.



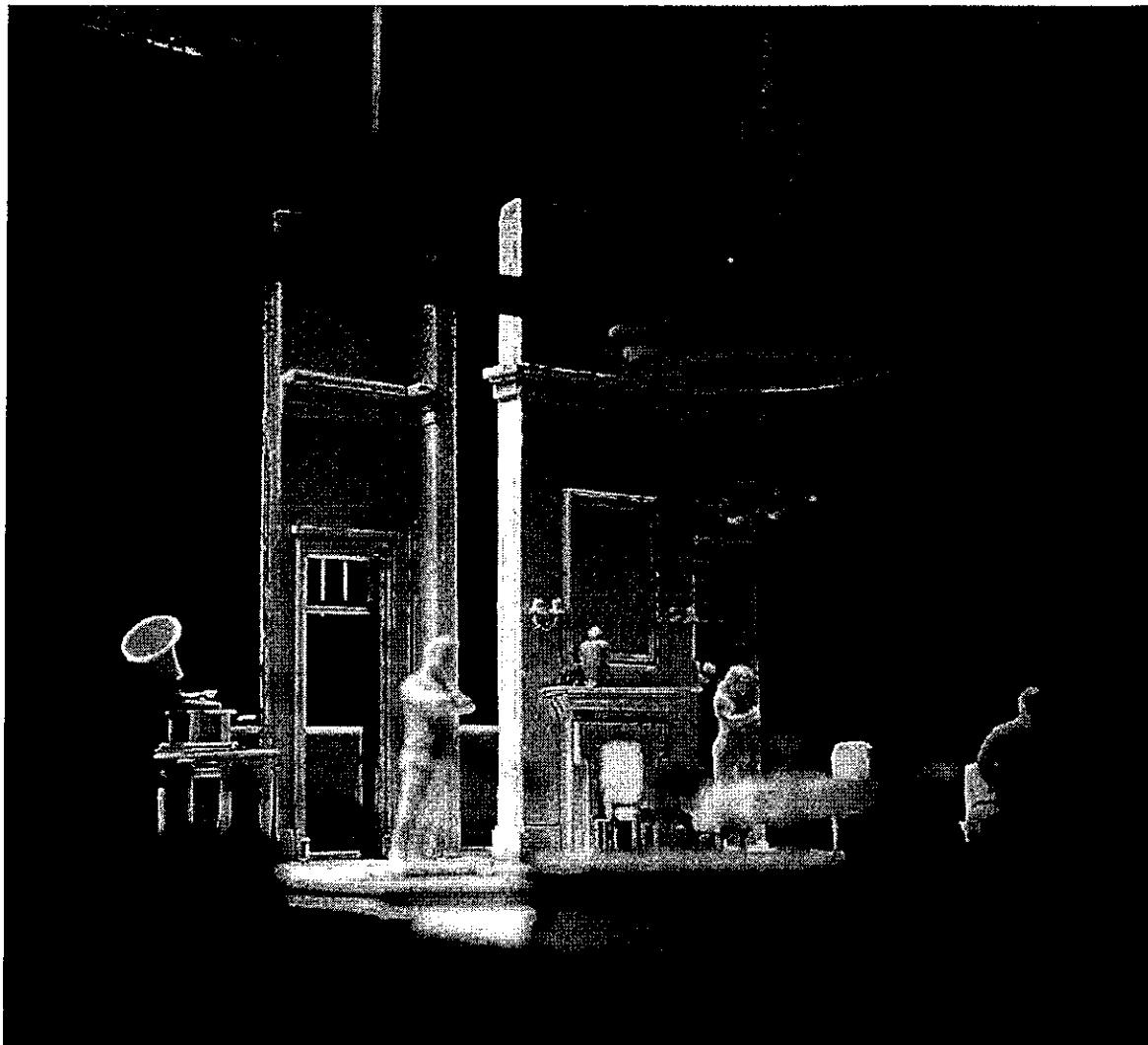
Coward writes characters who are tremendously needy. They are children dressed up as adults. Their behavior is appalling. And that's the hook. They behave the way we wish we could. Beautifully dressed, knowing perfectly well how they *should* behave, they stride into a room blissfully unaware of the seismic danger ahead.

*Fallen Angels* was written in the twenties, but he reworked the script in the fifties. Sir Noël preferred the fifties version, and that is the one we are doing. It is the perfect time period for a play about two young women, married for five years, who begin to fear that adventure and romance no longer have a place in their respectable lives. They could be any of us at any age, trying to do right, but hoping for just a little bit of wrong.

## Mayfair Ladies

**Kevin Depinet** Scenic Designer

*Fallen Angels* is set in a posh London Flat. We have imagined a Victorian parlor updated to the time of Noël Coward's revision of the play, 1955. So you'll notice a few nods to the fifties, specifically in things that Julia would have brought into the house. You'll also see some slits in the walls. My idea was to make the space more permeable. I like the idea of showing things that one might not normally see. In some ways the play is as much about what you don't see as what you do see!



*Preliminary white model by scenic designer Kevin Depinet.*

**Andrew Hansen Composer**

For some shows, all a sound designer-composer really needs to do is get out of the way. This is frequently true of the plays of George Bernard Shaw and Noël Coward. It's tempting to think that this is a byproduct of rich repartee, but I suspect it has more to do with the early 20th century love of drawing rooms. While Shaw might crash an airplane nearby every now and then, and Coward will often want someone to sing, for the most part a drawing room on the stage is just as much a venue for conversation as it is in real life. And nothing defeats conversation more than sonic interruption. What I love about *Fallen Angels* is that Coward has used sonic interruptions to comic effect. And he's once again graced us with a song, although the music in this production is my own contribution. "Even the angels succumb to love" is the translation of Coward's opening lyric. Coward's original melody was adorned with soaring high notes, aching for love. I've re-imagined it as a slowly building song of seduction. Fifties style, of course....



*Preliminary renderings by costume designer Rachel Anne Healy for Fred & Julia, Act I.*

## Playwright Noël Coward

Born in 1899, Noël Coward had become a successful child actor by 1911. He learned the techniques of playwriting by first learning the art of performance.

His first play, *I'll Leave It to You*, was produced in 1920 when Coward was barely 21 years old. By 1924 he has achieved notoriety as the author of *The Vortex*, a lurid study of drug addiction and perverse sexual attraction that reflected the moral turmoil of the 1920s. Indeed, much of Coward's early work, including *Fallen Angels* (1925), explores the sexual and social taboo-breaking of that decade.

After *The Vortex*, Coward's career as a playwright was assured. He soon moved away from the serious themes of that play, however, becoming one of the most prolific and successful authors of light comedy and farce in modern England. Among his best-known works are *Hay Fever* (1925), *Private Lives* (1930), *Design for Living* (1933) and *Blithe Spirit* (1941).



Coward himself cultivated a public persona that incorporated some of the basic features of his dramatic work. As Sarah Duerden tells us, "the name 'Coward' has become synonymous with a certain English style: the elegant silk dressing gown, the cigarette holder, charm, wit, clipped phrases, upper-class accents, and sex appeal." What gives Coward's work its peculiar identity is the way these features of British suavity and polish are juxtaposed in his plays with the violent and often absurd behavior produced by the illicit sexual desires of his characters. Out of this contrast between cool manners and hot blood arises the essential comedy of Coward.

## A Noël Coward Timeline

**1899**

Born on 16 December.

*"I was born in Teddington, Middlesex, an ordinary middle-class little boy. I was not gutter, I did not gnaw kipper's heads on the pavement as Gertrude Lawrence always quite untruthfully insisted that she did. But nor was my first memory the crunch of carriage wheels in the drive, because we hadn't got a drive."*

**1911**

First professional appearance as a child actor.

*"My assurance was nothing short of petrifying.... I was a brazen, odious little prodigy, over-pleased with myself and precocious to a degree...."*

**1923**

Writes, directs, and acts in *London Calling*; "Parisian Pierrot" is his first hit song.

**1924**

Writes, directs, and stars in *The Vortex*. With its themes of drugs and sex, the play barely escapes the censorship of the Lord Chamberlain to become an overnight sensation.

*Liliane Braithwaite as a nymphomaniac socialite and Noël Coward as her cocaine-addicted son in The Vortex.*



**1925**

*Fallen Angels* creates another scandal with two married heroines pining for the same former lover.

*"Comedies of manners swiftly become obsolete when there are no longer any manners."*

**1929**

*Bitter Sweet*, a faux-Viennese operetta.

**1930**

*Private Lives* features the quintessential Coward plot: two people unable to live apart and equally unable to live together.

*Gertrude Lawrence, Coward's frequent leading lady and his closest friend since they were child actors, reads the script and wires: "Nothing that can't be fixed." Noël wires back: "The only thing to be fixed will be your performance."*

*Gertrude Lawrence and Noël Coward in Private Lives.*



**1931**

*Cavalcade*, a huge historical epic for the stage expressing Coward's patriotism.

**1933**

*Design for Living*, written for Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne and himself, about three people unable to live apart and equally unable to live together.

**1941**

*Blithe Spirit*, a bit of fluff to help Londoners forget the war for a few hours; for four years, audiences climb over piles of rubble to laugh at a comedy about death.

**1942**

Writes, stars in, and co-directs *In Which We Serve*, a stirring tribute to British valor.

**1944**

Writes *Brief Encounter*, based on "Still Life" from his 1935 play *Tonight at 8:30*.

**1951**

First cabaret appearance in London.

*"[He looks] like a cardinal suddenly asked to participate in some frenetic tribal rite."*

**1955**

Cabaret performances in Las Vegas.

*"I can't sing ... but I know how to, which is quite different."*

**1960s**

Coward reinvents himself as a character actor in the movies, performing in such classics (camp and otherwise) as *Our Man in Havana*, *Bunny Lake Is Missing*, *Boom!*, and *The Italian Job*.

**1964**

*Hay Fever*, originally produced in 1925, is the first play by a living author to be produced at London's National Theatre. *"It's quite useless to congratulate me on a comeback, I never knew I'd been away."*

**1970**

Knighted in the New Year Honours List. *"I am awfully overcome at this moment, and as you can see, restraining it with splendid fortitude."*

**1973**

Dies quietly in Jamaica, 26 March. *"Goodnight my darlings—I'll see you tomorrow."*



## Questions for Discussion

In the play, Julia and Jane are not entirely satisfied with their marriages. What do you think they feel is missing? Are their expectations reasonable? Why or why not?

Julia and Jane are two characters with many similarities in age, attitude, experience, etc. Fred and Willy are likewise similar. Why do you suppose Coward might have created two pairs of such similar characters in his play? What differences can you find between the characters individually? What differences are there between the two couples? How do similarities draw us towards our friends? How do differences draw us together as well?

*Fallen Angels* is often produced with two well-established actresses of a certain age and stature as Julia and Jane. The IRT has chosen to produce the play with much younger actresses. How does this choice affect the play? How might you perceive the play differently if the married couples on stage were in their 40s or 50s instead of their 20s? How do we expect different generations to behave?

A foil is a character who contrasts with another character in some way. How does the maid Saunders act as a foil to her employers and their friends in the play? How do her actions and her words contrast with those of the other characters? How does her presence illuminate and sharpen our experience of the main characters?

Is the “drunk” scene in the play funny? Why or why not? What makes certain behaviors funny in some situations and not funny in other situations?

In this and many of Coward’s plays, the drive of sex is very powerful for his characters, yet he writes about this urge in a rather indirect way compared to movies and television today. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach? In what dramatic circumstances might one approach be more effective than the other? Why?

What do you suppose happens immediately after the play ends? What happens between Maurice and the two women? How do Maurice and their two husbands interact? Now imagine each of the six characters five years down the road. Are the couples still married? Do they have children? Are they divorced? Are they still friends? What about Saunders and Maurice? What has happened to each of them?

Noël Coward originally wrote this play in the 1920s, then revised it in the 1950s. The IRT is producing this revision, set in the latter decade. What do you know of these two decades? How does this choice of setting affect your perceptions of the play? Do you think it could be set in today’s world? How would today’s attitudes towards relationships (including adultery) affect the situation of the play?

## Writing Prompts

Imagine Fred and Willy on the golf course, or lounging in their hotel suite after their game. What do you suppose they might talk about? What do you imagine they might argue about? Write a scene for the two characters that shows their anger with each other, yet still manages to be comical for the audience watching.

Think about the character of Saunders, the maid. Make a list of all her experiences you can remember from the play. How might all these events be packed into one life? What other places might she have gone, people might she have known, things might she have done? While working as a maid for the Sterrolls, does she have a quiet home life, or is her time off just as exciting as ever? Or is it all a fabrication on her part? As Saunders, write an autobiographical story. Cover the span of her life, or focus in detail on one particular incident. Let your imagination run wild.

## Activities

*Fallen Angels* was considered rather shocking and outrageous when it was originally produced in 1925. What in the play do you suppose prompted this reaction? Do you think audiences today might have a similar reaction? Controversial books, plays, movies, or television programs are often considered shocking by some and acceptable by others. Research works which have provoked such controversy historically. How has public opinion changed over time? What controversial works today—movies, songs, books, etc.—do you imagine might be considered more acceptable in the future?

Why do you suppose Coward chose to have Julia and Jane each have an affair with a Frenchman? Why do you suppose Coward chose to have these affairs with Maurice occur in Italy? What are our stereotypical ideas about the French? About Italy? For that matter, what are our stereotypical ideas as Americans about British people? Research these three countries. Look at not only travel destinations, but also culture, lifestyle, temperament, and attitude. How does the reality differ from our stereotypes? What stereotypes do people of other lands have about America and Americans? How does reality differ from the stereotypes?

When Julia and Jane fight in Act II, they are not only stressed by a day of fear and anticipation, but they are also under the influence of a considerable amount of alcohol. How might the situation play out differently if they were not drinking? Research how alcohol affects us, physically, behaviorally, and psychologically. Look at social attitudes about alcohol. How are they different today from in the past? How are they different in America than in Europe?

# Resources

## Books

*The Noël Coward Reader*, edited by Barry Day (2011)  
*The Letters of Noël Coward*, edited by Barry Day (2007)  
*Noël Coward: A Biography*, by Philip Hoare (1998)  
*Noël Coward: The Complete Illustrated Lyrics*, edited by Barry Day (1998)  
*My Life with Noël Coward*, by Graham Payne, with Barry Day (1994)  
*The Diaries of Noël Coward*, edited by Graham Payne & Sheridan Morley (1982)  
*Future Indefinite*, autobiography (1954)  
*Present Indicative*, autobiography (1937)  
*The Collected Plays of Noël Coward*, including *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, & *Blithe Spirit*

## Websites

<http://www.noelcoward.com/>  
the official website of the Noël Coward estate

<http://www.noelcoward.net/>  
the international society for students, admirers, and experts in the world of Noël Coward

<http://www.musicals101.com/noel.htm>  
Noël Coward 101: brief biography, notes on his musicals, bibliography – part of Musicals 101

## Movies

2008 *Easy Virtue*, based on the play by Noël Coward  
2007 *The Noël Coward Collection*, 7 dvds of Coward plays broadcast by the BBC between 1969 & 1991  
2000 *Relative Values*, based on the play by Noël Coward  
1969 *The Italian Job*, starring Noël Coward  
1968 *Star!*, biography of Gertrude Lawrence starring Julie Andrews, with Daniel Massey as Noël Coward  
1964 *Paris When It Sizzles*, featuring Noël Coward  
1959 *Our Man in Havana*, starring Noël Coward  
1956 *Around the World in Eighty Days*, featuring Noël Coward  
1955 *Ford Star Jubilee—Together with Music*, TV special starring Mary Martin & Noël Coward  
1945 *Brief Encounter*, based on the play "Still Life" by Noël Coward  
1945 *Blithe Spirit*, based on the play by Noël Coward  
1944 *This Happy Breed*, based on the play by Noël Coward  
1942 *In Which We Serve*, written & directed by & starring Noël Coward  
1933 *Cavalcade*, based on the play by Noël Coward

## Music

2010 *Christine Ebersole Sings Noël Coward*, Broadway star sings Coward  
2002 *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*, Broadway legend performs, includes songs by & stories about Coward  
1999 *Twentieth Century Blues*, pop stars sing Coward, including Paul McCartney, Sting, Elton John  
1972 *Bobby Short Is Mad about Noël Coward*, popular cabaret performer sings Coward  
1956 *Noël Coward in New York*, live recording of Coward singing his own songs  
1955 *Noël Coward at Las Vegas*, live recording of Coward singing his own songs

# Text Glossary

Page	
	<i>Act 1</i>
2	<b>Grosvenor Square</b> (pronounced <i>GROVE-ner</i> ) a large garden square in the exclusive Mayfair district of London.
2	<b>Myfanwy</b> ( <i>mi-FAHN-wee</i> ) a Welsh woman's name derived from <i>annwyd</i> , "beloved"
3	<b>Duke of Cidarington</b> this name seems to be fictional
3	<b>Bobby Jones</b> Bobby Jones (1902–1971), a lawyer by profession, was the most successful amateur golfer ever to compete on a national and international level. From 1923 to 1930, he dominated top-level amateur competition and competed very successfully against the world's best professional golfers. With A.G. Spalding & Co., he developed the first set of matched clubs in the early 1930s; the clubs sold very well and are still considered among the best-designed sets ever made.
3	<b>Steel Shafters</b> Prior to the introduction of steel shafts, golfers used hickory shafts, which necessitated a slow, smooth swing that relied on timing for a well-executed shot. Golfers and club designers experimented with steel shafts as early as the 1890s, but didn't fully embrace the new technology until the mid-1920s. Steel shafts not only made for a more durable golf club than hickory shafts, but steel shafts also allowed golfers to hit the ball greater distances by increasing club-head speed. When Spalding introduced the Bobby Jones signature set of irons in 1930, the clubs featured steel shafts that were painted tan to give the impression of hickory.
3	<b>Spaldings</b> Founded by Albert Spalding in Chicago in 1876, Spalding was the first American company to make golf balls. The Wizard, created in 1895, was the first rubber core-built ball with a crack-resistant cover. Spalding went on to introduce dimples—redefining the trajectory pattern of a golf ball in flight—and two-piece performance balls, which are the industry standard today.
3	<b>Chichester</b> Chichester is a cathedral city located 80 miles southwest of London. It is home to some of the oldest churches and buildings in Great Britain. The Chichester Golf Club does not require membership to play, making it an ideal choice for a weekend outing away from home.
3	<b>irons</b> There are three basic kinds of golf clubs; each is composed of a shaft with a grip and a clubhead. <i>Woods</i> are mainly used for long-distance fairway or tee shots; <i>irons</i> , the most versatile class, are used for a variety of shots; <i>putters</i> are used mainly on the green to roll the ball into the cup. An important variation in different clubs is <i>loft</i> , or the angle between the club's face and the vertical plane; it is loft that makes a golf ball leave the tee on an ascending trajectory. The majority of woods and irons are labeled with a number; higher numbers indicate shorter shafts and higher lofts, which give the ball a higher and shorter trajectory. A standard set consists of 14 golf clubs, typically consisting of 3 or 4 woods, as many as 9 irons (including at least one and as many as three wedges), and a putter. Wedges are a subset of the iron family that have higher lofts and shorter shafts, designed to offer greater control for short shots such as hitting the ball onto the green or hitting the ball out of hazards or rough.

4 **taciturn**  
habitually untalkative

10 **Madame Carmen Granado**  
this name seems to be fictional

10 **Même les Anges succombent à l'amour,**  
Even the angels succumb to love,  
  
C'est pourquoi donc je vous en prie—  
This is why therefore I pray you— (*je vous en prie* - please)  
  
Dieu qui arrange les jours et le séjours,  
God who arranges day trips and overnight stays,  
(God who determines where we go and when)  
  
Laisse moi encore une heure de paradis.  
Allow me another hour of paradise.  
  
Tous mes amours me semblent comme les fleurs,  
All my loves to me seem like flowers,  
  
Leurs parfums restant douces quand même—  
Their perfume remaining sweet still—  
  
Donne moi tes lèvres, ton âme, et ton cœur,  
Give me your lips, your soul, and your heart,  
  
Parce que follement je t'aime—je t'aime—je t'aime!  
Because madly I love you—I love you—I love you!

11 **the Blue Grotto**  
The Blue Grotto is a noted sea cave on the coast of the island of Capri. Sunlight, passing through an underwater cavity and shining through the seawater, creates a blue reflection that illuminates the cavern.

11 **Capri**  
Capri is an island on the south side of the off the west coast of Italy. It has been a resort since the time of the Roman Republic. In the latter half of the 19th century, Capri became a popular resort for European artists, writers, and other celebrities; it also served as a relatively safe place for foreign gay men and lesbians to lead a more open life.

12 **Brighton**  
A once-fashionable resort town on the coast of England, about 50 miles due south of London.

13 **ninepins**  
Ninepins is an old European lawn game, a variety of bowling, from which ten-pin bowling, duckpin bowling, and candlepin bowling are descended. An indoor version of the game, known as Skittles, remains a popular pub game in England and Wales.

14 **cypresses**  
a tall, slim evergreen tree popular in Italian landscapes

14 **Pisa**  
An historic city in Tuscany on the west coast of Italy

14 **Leaning Tower**  
The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the campanile, or freestanding bell tower, of the cathedral of the Italian city of Pisa. Work on the white marble campanile began in 1173. The tower began to sink after construction had progressed to the second floor in 1178, due to a mere three-yard foundation set in weak, unstable subsoil, a design that was flawed from the beginning. When construction was halted for almost a century because of various wars, the underlying soil was inadvertently given time to settle; otherwise, the tower would almost certainly have toppled. In an effort to compensate for the tilt, subsequent engineers built upper floors with one side taller than the other. Because of this, the tower is slightly curved. Construction was finally completed in 1372. After centuries of further tilting, in 1964 the government of Italy requested aid in preventing the tower from toppling. It was considered important, however, to retain the current tilt, due to the vital role that this element played in tourism. In 1990, after decades of stabilization studies, work began to slightly straighten the tower to a safer angle by removing 50 cubic yards of soil from underneath the raised end. In 2008, another 77 tons of soil were removed. The tower is now believed to have stopped moving for the first time in its history, and engineers claim it will be stable for at least another 200 years.

14 **“Un peu d’amour ...”**  
a little love

15 **“J’arriverai à Londres cette semaine—**  
I arrive in London this week—  
  
**j’espere avec tout mon coeur que vous me n’oubliez pas.”**  
I hope with all my heart that you do not forget me.

15 **Cette semaine!**  
This week!

15 **Patience**  
Patience is a type of solitaire, similar to the American game Klondike. Patience games typically involve dealing cards from a shuffled deck into a prescribed arrangement on a tabletop, from which the player attempts to reorder the deck by suit and rank through a series of moves transferring cards from one place to another under prescribed restrictions.

16 **throw our respective bonnets over the same windmill**  
To throw one's cap or bonnet over the windmill is to act recklessly or unconventionally. The phrase is derived from a passage in the novel *Don Quixote* where the title character throws his cap over a windmill that he has mistaken for a giant, as a challenge. It is from the same passage that we also derive the phrase “to tilt at windmills,” meaning to fight imaginary enemies or engage in futile activity.

21 **Mon cher**  
My dear

21 **Notre cher**  
Our dear

21 **Nous sommes desolees,**  
We are sorry (desolate),

21 **ce n'est pas possible pour nous de vous voir cette fois ...**  
it is not possible for us to see you this time ...

21 **cette fois**  
this time

21 **Pendant**  
while

21 **Nous sommes maries maintenant tres heureusement**  
We are married now very happily (We are now very happily married)

21 **C'est amusement, n'est ce pas?**  
It's funny, is it not?

22 **is beard masculine or feminine?**  
Every French noun has a grammatical gender, either masculine or feminine. A noun's gender is not perfectly predictable from its form, but as a very broad trend, nouns ending in -e tend to be feminine, while the rest tend to be masculine. There are, however, many exceptions. The French word for beard is *barbe*, which is, in fact, feminine.

22 **Nous esperons pour vous voir quelquefois bientot.**  
We hope to see you sometime soon.

22 **Aberdeen**  
Aberdeen is Scotland's third most populous city, a major seaport located on the northeast coast, 500 miles north of London.

### **Act 2**

24 **the Channel Islands**  
Jersey, Guernsey, and several other smaller islands off the coast of Normandy in the English Channel between France and England.

24 **Brussels**  
Since the end of the Second World War, Brussels, the capitol of Belgium, has been a main center for international politics. Hosting principal European Union institutions as well as the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the city has become the polyglot home of numerous international organizations, politicians, diplomats, and civil servants.

25 **nomads**  
Nomadic people all over the world are communities of people who move from one place to another, rather than settling permanently in one location.

25 **I was in the desert**  
During the Second World War, the North African Campaign fought in the Libyan and Egyptian deserts as well as Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. The Allied war effort was dominated by the armies of the British Commonwealth.

25 **the Red Cross.**  
The British Red Cross Society is the United Kingdom branch of the worldwide impartial humanitarian organization the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The society was formed in 1870. At the heart of their work is providing help to people in crisis.

25 **ENSA**  
The Entertainments National Service Association or ENSA was an organization set up in 1939 to provide entertainment for British armed forces personnel during World War II. (Despite many talented entertainers and movie stars working for ENSA, the organization was necessarily spread thin over the vast area it had to cover. Thus many entertainments were substandard, and the popular translation of the acronym ENSA was "Every Night Something Awful".)

25 **Demosthenes**  
Demosthenes (384–322 BC) was a prominent Greek statesman and orator of ancient Athens. During his lifetime he was considered the greatest orator of the age, and today he is still considered one of the greatest orators in history. His fame is especially remarkable considering that as a child he stuttered. To overcome this challenge, he practiced speaking with pebbles in his mouth, thus forcing himself to over-articulate.

27 **News of the World**  
The *News of the World* was a national tabloid newspaper published in the United Kingdom from 1843 to 2011. It was at one time the biggest selling English language newspaper in the world, and at closure still had one of the highest English language circulations. The newspaper concentrated on celebrity-based scoops and populist news. Its fondness for sex scandals gained it the nicknames *News of the Screws* and *Screws of the World*. It had a reputation for exposing national or local celebrities as drug users, sex freaks, or criminals, setting up insiders and journalists in disguise to provide either video or photographic evidence. The newspaper folded in 2011 amid public outcry over accusations of interfering with the investigation of a missing teenage girl and phone hacking the families of British service personnel killed in action.

30 **Oeufs au plat Bercy**  
Eggs cooked under the broiler in a small porcelain or china egg dish, served with sausages and tomato sauce. *Oeufs au plat* means eggs in a dish; Bercy is a neighborhood in Paris.

30 **She ought never to have burnt at the stake because she was such a very nice girl.**  
Perhaps a reference to Joan of Arc (1412-1431). A peasant girl born in eastern France who claimed divine guidance, she led the French army to several important victories during the Hundred Years' War, which paved the way for the coronation of Charles VII. She was captured by the Burgundians, transferred to the English for money, put on trial by the pro-English Bishop of Beauvais, and burned at the stake when she was 19 years old.

33 **Florian's**  
Caffè Florian is a coffee house situated on the south side of Piazza San Marco, Venice, with sumptuous frescoed rooms and a large spread of tables on the Piazza. Established in 1720, it is the oldest coffee house in continuous operation in Italy. It is here that Katharine Hepburn met Rossano Brazzi in the 1955 film *Summertime*.

33 **Piazza San Marco**  
Piazza San Marco is the principal public square of Venice, Italy. It is the social, religious, and political center of Venice. The Piazza is dominated at its eastern end by the great church of St Mark. The other three sides feature long arcades lined with shops and restaurants.

33 **the Piazzetta**  
The Piazzetta di San Marco is an adjoining open space connecting the southeast corner of the Piazza to the waterway of the lagoon. The west side features an arcade with cafés and shops. The east side is the arcade of the Doge's Palace, with a veranda above.

33 **lagoon**  
The Venetian Lagoon is the enclosed bay of the Adriatic Sea in which the city of Venice is situated. Its name in the Venetian language, *Laguna Veneta*—from the Latin *lacus*, “lake”—is the source of the international name for an enclosed, shallow embayment of saltwater, a lagoon.

33 **gondola**  
The gondola is a traditional, flat-bottomed Venetian rowing boat, well suited to the conditions of the Venetian Lagoon. For centuries gondolas were the chief means of transportation and most common watercraft within Venice. The gondola is propelled by a person (the gondolier) who stands in the stern facing the bow and rows. Contrary to popular belief, the gondola is never poled like a punt, as the waters of Venice are too deep. Until the early 20th century, gondolas were often fitted with a *felze*, a small cabin, to protect the passengers from the weather or from onlookers. Its windows could be closed with louvered shutters—the original venetian blinds. The primary role of the gondola today is to carry tourists on rides at fixed rates.

33 **serenata**  
*Serenata* is Italian for serenade or, less commonly, a clear sky at night. Both meanings are connected to the Italian word *sereno*, which means calm. In music, a serenade or serenata is a musical composition and/or performance in someone's honor. Serenades are typically calm, light music.

33 **Piccolo Canales**  
Jane may be saying “little canals” in Italian, or she may be referring to Canalle Piccolo, a neighborhood near the Palazzo Loredan and Santo Stefano.

33 **Tournedos**  
The central portion of the beef tenderloin, sometimes referred to in the United States as *filet mignon*.

33 **sauce Béarnaise**  
Béarnaise is a sauce made of clarified butter emulsified in egg yolks and flavored with shallots, chervil, peppercorn, and tarragon. (It is similar to Hollandaise, which uses lemon juice instead of herbs.) Its name is related to the province of Béarn, France. Béarnaise is a traditional sauce for steak.

33 **Pommes Dauphine**  
Pommes dauphine are crisp potato puffs made by mixing mashed potatoes with savory choux pastry (a light pastry dough used to make profiteroles, éclairs, crullers, beignets, etc.), forming the mixture into dumpling shapes, and then deep-frying them. The dish is named after the Dauphine, the title given to the wife of the Dauphin, the heir to the French throne. Pommes dauphine typically accompany red meats or chicken.

33 **those little wooden things in coloured paper**  
A now-rare device, the champagne stirrer or champagne swizzle stick, often with a flayed end (like a branch), was placed or stirred in champagne to reduce or remove the bubbles. Not surprisingly, since champagne was an expensive luxury item, champagne stirrers were often ornamental and made of silver, ivory, or crystal, but less expensive wooden swizzle sticks, possibly with festive paper fringes, would do the job just as well. Champagne stirrers originally developed centuries ago, when carbonation was seen as a defect, a result of an unintended secondary fermentation. They fell out of vogue in the mid-18th century as sparkling champagne became desired. Nonetheless, Victorian ladies and others still stirred their champagne to remove the bubbles and thus discourage embarrassing flatulence.

36 **sweet**  
a British term for dessert

36 **Profiteroles au chocolat**  
Small choux pastry balls filled with whipped ice cream and topped with chocolate.

36 **tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor ... cherry stones**  
In England there used to be a tradition of counting the cherry stones (pits) after a meal was finished in order to work out what one would be when one grew up, or who one would marry. For boys, the rhyme was "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor, Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggarman, Thief." For girls, it was "Lady, Baby, Gypsy, Queen, Elephant, Monkey, Tangerine."

37 **Wouldn't it be awful if the Queen suddenly came in?**  
A new line for the 1950s version of the play. Elizabeth II (born 1926) became queen upon the death of her father, George VI, in February 1952. Her coronation, June 2, 1953, was the first ever televised. Her reign of 60 years is the second-longest for a British monarch; only Queen Victoria has reigned longer (63 years, 7 months).

38 **trunk call**  
the British term for a long distance call.

38 **Exchange**  
Before telephone systems became almost fully automated, exchanges consisted of one to several hundred plug boards staffed by telephone operators: An operator could plug one party into another party's local jack and start the ringing cycle, or plug into a trunk circuit to start what might be a long distance call handled by subsequent operators in another bank of boards or in another building miles away.

39 **Bénédictine**  
Bénédictine is an herbal liqueur beverage developed by Alexandre Le Grand in the 19th century and produced in France. The same company also produces B & B, which is Bénédictine diluted with brandy, making it less sweet than Bénédictine. B & B was developed in the 1930s when consumers began a trend of mixing Bénédictine with brandy to produce a drier taste.

43 **French Revolution**  
The French Revolution (1789–1799), was a period of radical social and political upheaval in France that had a major impact on France and indeed all of Europe. The absolute monarchy that had ruled France for centuries collapsed in three years. French society underwent an epic transformation, as feudal, aristocratic, and religious privileges evaporated under a sustained assault from radical left-wing political groups, masses on the streets, and peasants in the countryside. Traditional, hierarchical ideas of monarchy, aristocracy and religious authority were abruptly overthrown by new Enlightenment principles of equality, citizenship and inalienable rights.

43 **virago**  
a violent, unpleasant woman

43 **Bond Street**  
Bond Street is a major shopping street in the West End of London that runs through Mayfair. It has been a fashionable shopping street since the 18th century and is currently the home of many high price fashion shops. It is one of the most expensive strips of real estate in the world

**Act 3**

45 **Mr. Smucker**  
This may be a sly reference to the J. M. Smucker Company, founded in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1897. Today Smucker is the nation's top producer of jams, jellies, and preserves, but it did not begin operations in Great Britain, Canada, and Australia until the 1980s.

47 **Grand Hotel, Chichester**  
While this is a typical name for luxury accommodations, there does not seem to have been such an establishment in Chichester

51 **ramping**  
behaving violently, as if in state of a great anger

53 **Bow Street**  
Bow Street Police Station is the most famous in London, and from 1740 to 2006 was also the site of the premier London magistrates' court. It is located in central London near Covent Garden.

54 **duster**  
A feather duster consists typically of a wooden-dowel handle with ostrich feathers wound onto the handle by a wrapped wire. Dusters vary in size but are most often between 14" and 32" in total length.

54 **feather flick**  
presumably a variation on the standard feather duster; perhaps a smaller implement with shorter feathers for more delicate work

54 **Bien, Monsieur.**  
Well, sir (very good, sir; yes sir)

54 **Je n'y manquerai pas.**  
I will not fail.

54 **Au revoir, Monsieur**  
goodbye, sir.

58 **telephone block**  
a pad of paper for taking messages

59 **Bayswater**  
a London neighborhood just across Hyde Park from Mayfair, about two miles west.

59 **Granville Hotel, Bayswater**  
another seemingly fictional location

63 **Apre sept ans**  
after seven years

63 **c'est émotionnant!**  
It is thrilling!

63 **Je suis enchanté—ravi**  
I am delighted—enraptured

63 **ma chere Jane**  
my dear Jane

66 **gauche**  
awkward and uncomfortable in social situations

67 **cretonne**  
A strong, printed cotton cloth, stouter than chintz but used for very much the same purposes. It is usually unglazed and may be printed on both sides and even with different patterns. Frequently the cretonne has a woven fancy pattern of some kind that is modified by the printed design. The word is sometimes said to be derived from Creton, a village in Normandy where linen was manufactured.