

THE DINGDONG

By

Mark Shanahan

Adapted from "Le Dindon"
by
Georges Feydeau

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ACTOR 1

Lucy Vatelin: The wife of a French lawyer. She dresses in a straight laced manner, her hair tight and her clothes fashionable yet modest. She's bright, shrewd and sweet. Yet, she has a little more spunk than even she knows!

Mme. Pinchard: A bit older. Deaf, gassy and sweetly in love with her husband. She dresses in an unattractive fashion with librarian glasses.

ACTOR 2

Dr. Pontegnac: A cad. A dark suited Lothario who runs after every girl he sees. He's a bit of an overgrown teenager and a real schemer. He needs to satisfy his every urge.

Soldignac: An Hungarian businessman, born in Marseilles, now living in Italy. Genial, emotional and a little dim. Also a boxer.

Pinchard: A country doctor on holiday to Paris with his wife. He's older and therefore easily irritated. He's a horny bastard but he loves his wife.

ACTOR 3

Vatelin: A Paris lawyer. He's a bit of a nerd, with his glasses and bow tie. He's bright and enthusiastic. Above all, he loves his wife even though he can act like a real dingdong sometimes.

ACTOR 4

Redillon: A handsome, refined, French Dandy with standards. His clothes are ostentatious with a scarlet shirt and a flamboyant coat. He has a good heart underneath his lecherous exterior.

Bellboy: A 17 year old virgin, trying his best to keep the hotel running.

Policeman: A Parisian policeman. Slight French accent.

ACTOR 5

Mme Pontegnac: A tough Parisian woman with a gruff exterior. She's suspicious of her husband's every move. A bit of a bulldog, she likes fine clothes and fine appearances .

Fabiola: An Italian sex pot. She's alternately elated and suicidal within the same breath. Like Anna Magnani with a touch of Lucille Ball thrown in. But, you know, REALLY Italian.

Mandy: A savvy New York seductress with Manhattan moxie. At times, a breathy, sweet siren like Marilyn Monroe. She's smart cookie, in control, she's looking for love and she knows what likes.

Sexy French Maid: A French maid who is sexy. Slight French accent.

ACT ONE

THE LARGE VESTIBULE OF A FRENCH TOWNHOUSE APARTMENT. 1939.

LUCY (ACTOR 1) enters, frantically. The locks of her tightly pinned hair are coming undone. She manages to shut the door just as a leg is jammed through! PONTEGNAC (ACTOR 2) is chasing her.

LUCY

Ohmigod! Ohmigod! Ohmigod! Leave me alone! Go away, Monsieur!

PONTEGNAC (OFF STAGE)

Madame, please! Just hear me out!

LUCY

Charles?! Are you home? Charles?
Oh, My God, I'm on my own here!

PONTEGNAC

Please, Madame! Please! I'm begging you!

LUCY

And I'm begging *YOU*, go away!

PONTEGNAC

If I could just get a word in!

LUCY

Oh, you're trying to get in more than that!

PONTEGNAC bursts in. He is dressed in a dark suit and loud tie. The two square off like two animals before an attack.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Get back, you!

PONTEGNAC

Now please, Madame! You have nothing to fear! God, I've dreamed of this.

LUCY

Well, keep dreaming, buddy. You don't know who you're dealing with. I'm not scared of you!

She takes a swipe at him!

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PONTEGNAC

Aw, don't play hard to get! Admit it, you like me. My intentions may be dishonorable, but they're not insulting! You ran before I could express my feelings!

LUCY

You chased me ten blocks! Everyone this side of the Seine heard you shout that you wanted to make passionate love to me! Are you crazy?

PONTEGNAC

Yes, I am! Crazy about you! I can't help it! The heart wants what it wants. I'll do anything you ask. Anything!

LUCY

Then leave!

PONTEGNAC

Anything but that. Since the moment I saw you sitting in that cafe eight days ago, I've thought of nothing but you.

LUCY

You've been following me for eight days?

PONTEGNAC

You must've noticed me! A smile here? A wave there? You couldn't have missed me across the street.

LUCY

I'm sorry but I took absolutely no notice of you!

PONTEGNAC

The way you were ignoring me I thought you were sending me some kind of a signal! After all, we are made for each other!

LUCY

You've got some nerve! Monsieur, I don't even know you!

PONTEGNAC

And there's so much of me to know.

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LUCY
You disgust me!

PONTEGNAC
It's not disgust, it's attraction.
A common mistake. I can do things
for you. Things you never dreamed
of. I can bring you to the heights
of ecstasy. Come to me,
Marguerite!

LUCY
My name is Lucy!

PONTEGNAC
Come to me, Lucy!

LUCY
Monsieur! I am an honest woman!

PONTEGNAC
Perfect! I love honest women! In
fact, I'm married to one!

LUCY
Wait, what? You have a wife?

PONTEGNAC
Sometimes!

LUCY
I'm calling my husband!

PONTEGNAC
Wait, what? You have a husband?

LUCY
Oh, you better believe it! He's a
big, hulking, brute! And extremely
jealous!

PONTEGNAC
That's never stopped me before.

LUCY
Just who do you think you are,
anyway?

PONTEGNAC
I thought you'd never ask! My name
is---

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VATELIN (ACTOR 3) enters. He is anything but her
description. In fact, he slightly built and sports a charming
little signature bow tie.

VATELIN

Pontegnac! My goodness! What a
surprise! I thought I heard someone
out here!

PONTEGNAC

Oh, my God!

LUCY

Charles, you know this man?

VATELIN

Of course, I do, honey! This is
Pontegnac! We went to University
together! Well, how *about* that!
Dear Old Pontegnac! In my house!

PONTEGNAC

Well, how about *that*! Dear Old
Vatelin! What a surprise!

VATELIN

What do you mean a surprise! Didn't
you expect to find me in my own
home?

PONTEGNAC

No! I mean, yes! I meant ...what a
surprise visit! By me!

VATELIN

Oh, I see! Of course!

LUCY

Well, this is rich!

VATELIN

You've always said you'd drop by
but I never thought you actually
meant it!

PONTEGNAC

Neither did I!

VATELIN

I'm delighted!

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PONTEGNAC

Of course you are! And now I should
be going!