

Setting:

French *salon*, eve of the Revolution

Crime: Murder of Marguerite de La Valierre, Duchess of Louvois, who was found dead in Isole's room, her fingers tinged purple, a torn scrap of paper with Anne's name clutched in her hand

Timeline of events:

Anne arrived while Isole was still making final adjustments, so she helped with preparations
Louise and Baie arrived at the same time as Leonardo. He and Baie left to look at the artwork in the chateau after greeting the others

The duchess arrived with Charles and Jeanne, arguing quietly with the former
Joseph, Rose, Minamille, and Jaques arrived together, having split a carriage, all discussing the merits and shortcomings of the American Revolution

Isole took Rose and the duchess to see the fountain she'd just installed in the gardens

Ciren and Moliare arrived together, apologizing for the delay that had been caused by them needing to change after adding color to their most recent wax figure

Henri and Louis arrived last, both already somewhat intoxicated. Henri skulked off when the duchess reprimanded them; Louis argued with her.

Joseph pulled the duchess aside to calm her down

Food and drinks were served. Louise poured a glass of wine for the duchess.

Henri was overheard muttering about "the violet violence of death"

Jaques presented his speech refuting Voltaire's argument against the Catholic Church, because how could any institution that gave you chocolate every Sunday be bad?

Jeanne brought the duchess a pastry with colorful icing

Minamille told a story about an evil barber who killed people

Characters:

Jaques Arouet, Voltaire's younger brother (jealous, bitter)

Louise de Marsan, former governess to the Bourbon children

Minamille Robspierre, Robspierre's cousin

Baie du Barry, daughter of the famed royal mistress Madame du Barry

Isole de Vichy-Chamrond, the contemplatively quiet hostess
Henri, Marquis de Sadd, childhood friend of the Marquis de Sade
Anne Godwin, Mary Wollstonecraft's editor and writing partner
Ciren Grosholtz, Madame Tussand's younger sister
Moliere Curtius, close collaborator of Madame Tussand
Jeanne Poisson, chief lady-in-waiting and advisor to the duchess
Joseph-Ignace Pistolet, prominent member of the Third Estate/National Assembly
Rose Clary, Joseph's fiancée, recently moved to Paris from her family's farm in the south of France
Louis de La Valierre, the duchess's son
Charles de La Valierre, the duchess's husband
Leonardo Animazione, Italian artist (who hasn't been paid for his latest commission by the duchess)
Investigator

Prologue: Gossip (all sourced from "Une Fille Bavarde," clippings of which will be scattered around)

Baie is an illegitimate royal child

Henri is childhood friends with the Marquis de Sade

Joseph is responsible for the Tennis Court Oath

Louis is rebelling against his parents

Leonardo is rumored to be most sought-after up-and-coming artist in royal and noble circles

Louise was (in)famously strict with her charges

The duchess is the king's sister, putting her and her children in line for the throne (as long as they're legitimate)

The duchess staunchly opposed the National Assembly and is NOT beloved by the anti-monarchists

Act I: Murder!

The duchess changed her will recently and left everything to Jeanne (she'd come to Louise for advice about it, to make sure she was making the right choice)

Charles thinks Louis isn't his son (Charles shouts it in anger at Louis's antics)

Curtius uses real corpses for his wax models of nobility (he came to Henri to ask if he had any)

The duchess took Rose under her wing, a sort of guide to the big city, but secretly she was mocking the new girl and aimed to humiliate her (she gossiped about her to Baie, even making a snide comment today about Rose's "peasant-like" interest in Isole's garden)

The duchess was a major patron of Voltaire, and Jaques has been trying to win her over to no avail. He's rather bitter about it

Minamille has been spending a lot of time tinkering with a strange machine with a big blade

Louis and Henri have been sneaking out to sketchier parts of Paris lately

Intermission: Find the timeline

Act II: Accusations

Louis IS Charles's son (Jeanne knew that it was impossible for the duchess to have had anyone else's child)

Charles thought the duchess had been cheating with Joseph (Joseph always brought her flowers)

Minamille and Joseph have been handing out flyers that seem to condemn all nobility (Baie saw them while she was out shopping)

Isole and Anne write the anonymous gossip column, which the duchess recently found out. And they had a BIG story on her

Louise is actually a softie (Baie grew up with her, too, so she knows)

None of the nobles have paid Leonardo, including the duchess, and it's making him consider joining the anti-monarchists (Leonardo breaks down and tells everyone in a speech about the plight of the starving artist. Really chews the scenery)

Louis followed his mother's lead in insulting Rose for her country ways, so Joseph challenged him to a duel (Joseph calls him a coward because Louis never showed up)

Louis shoots back that he knows Joseph was just suggesting a game of tennis, not the revolutionary act he's earned fame for (the duchess was threatening to send that to "Une Fille")

The duchess HAD read Jaques's writing, but she disagreed with his ideas about replacing all nobility with gorillas, so she kept him from being published

Act III: Revelations

Minamille was actually just trying to come up with a new way to cut hair, inspired by a horrible experience with a particularly mean barber. He calls his invention the Red Hair Ring.

Charles WAS right that the duchess was in love with someone else: Jeanne

Anne found out about the affair between Jeanne and the duchess, but decided to tell the duchess that someone leaked her secret rather than running the story

Henri and Louis have been writing a play together. Henri is sad, not sadistic. The play is about a sad foxglove plant who laments that it will never be held like the other flowers because it's so poisonous.

Rose and Joseph planned the murder together — she knew which flower to take from the garden, and Joseph gave them to her, then created the distraction using his tennis skills