

GIOACHINO
ROSSINI

LE
CONTI
ORZY



Le Comte Ory

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Ory, a dapper young French count, is on a quest to flirt with ladies, have a good time, and eventually fall in love with a noblewoman, and his travels have brought him to the castle of the beautiful Countess Adèle. Ory's page, Isolier, also has his eye on Adèle, but the countess has no interest in either of them: Ever since her brother left for war, Adèle has been stricken with sadness. Day in and day out, she sits in her castle, surrounded only by her faithful ladies-in-waiting and refusing to allow any man to cross the castle's threshold before her brother's return.

Neither Ory nor Isolier, however, will let Adèle's self-imposed isolation thwart their amorous quest. First, Ory dresses as an old hermit; when Adèle, thinking she is speaking with a holy man, tells Ory of her debilitating sorrow, he replies that the best medicine for curing her melancholy is to fall in love. Adèle is intrigued. Next, Ory dresses as a nun to sneak into Adèle's castle—a plan first hatched by none other than Isolier. What follows is a hilarious slapstick comedy of mistaken identities. Yet even amid the ridiculous disguises and comic mishaps, Isolier and Adèle still manage to avoid Ory's mischief and fall in love.

Adèle

A young countess



Isolier

Ory's page



Ory

A young count



A hermit

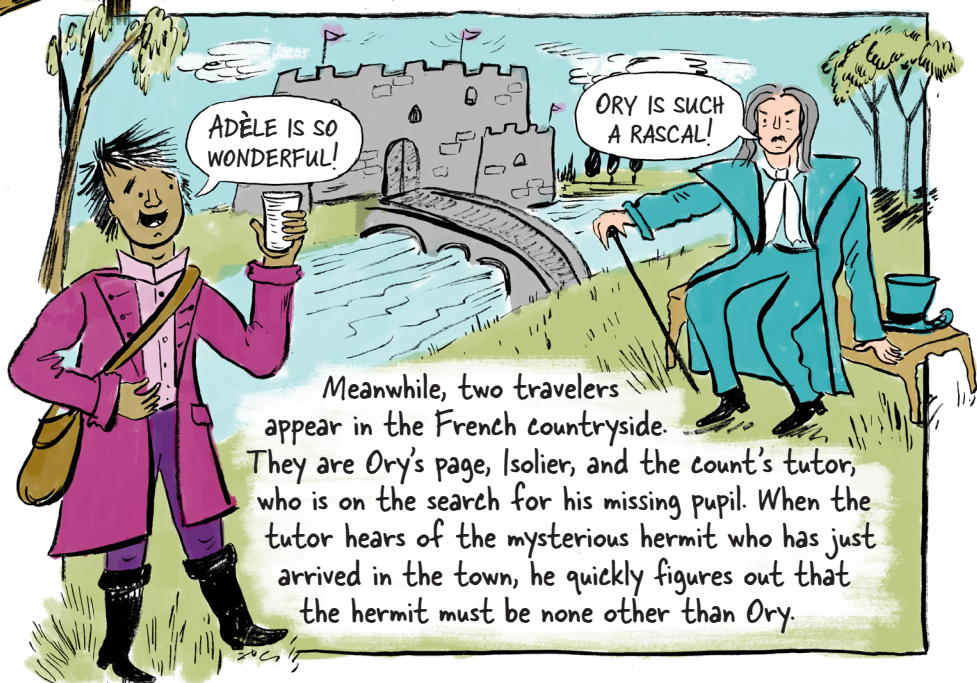
(actually Ory in disguise)



Ory's Tutor



A small town in France has fallen on hard times. All the men in the town have left to fight in the Crusades, and their wives and sisters are left behind to fend for themselves. They appeal to a hermit who has recently arrived in town, begging him to bring their husbands and brothers home soon.

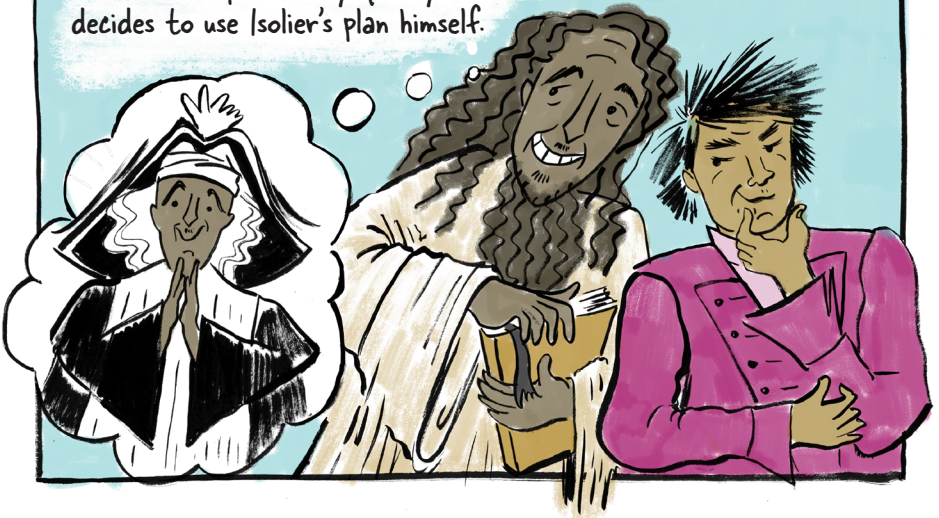


Meanwhile, two travelers appear in the French countryside. They are Ory's page, Isolier, and the count's tutor, who is on the search for his missing pupil. When the tutor hears of the mysterious hermit who has just arrived in the town, he quickly figures out that the hermit must be none other than Ory.



Isolier visits the hermit. The innocent page does not recognize the count (although the count recognizes him), and he tells Ory about his love for Countess Adèle. Isolier even has a plan for getting closer to her: He will dress like a female pilgrim and sneak into the castle.

The unscrupulous Ory quickly decides to use Isolier's plan himself.





Back in her palace, Adèle reflects on Ory's reputation as a shameless seducer. She is thankful that the castle, where no men are allowed, will keep her safe from his wiles.



THANK GOODNESS THESE HIGH CASTLE WALLS CAN PROTECT ME.

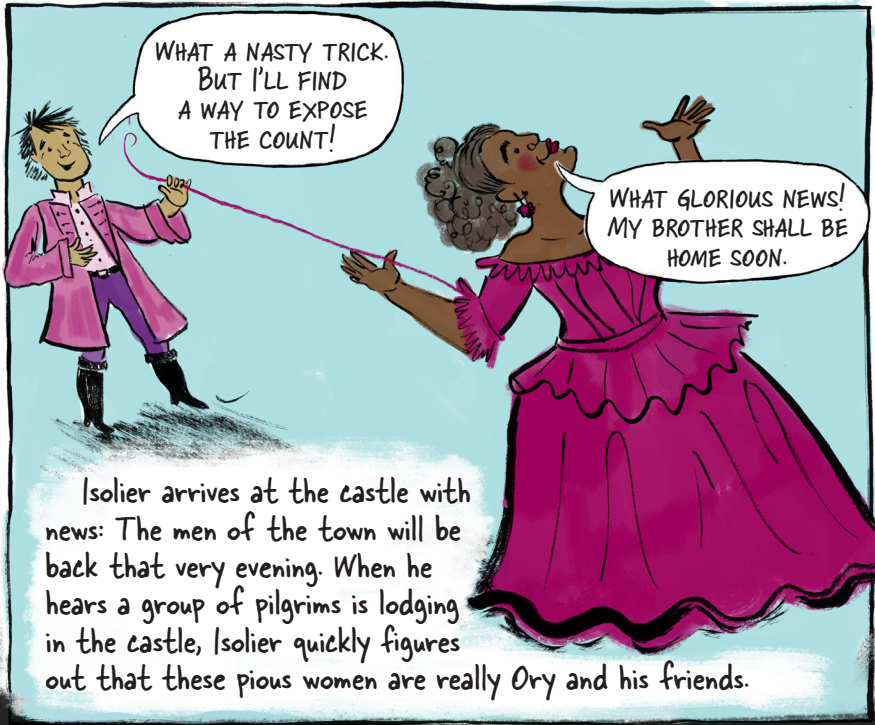


MIGHT YOU, GENTLE LADY, HELP A HUMBLE PILGRIM?

IT WOULD BE AN HONOR.


A terrible storm blows in, and a group of pilgrims, seeking shelter, arrive at the castle. Adèle invites them in. She is struck by the gentleness and humility of the group's leader.





Isolier and the countess are falling for each other, but Ory still has his eyes on Adèle. Under the cover of darkness, he slips into the countess's chambers ... only to find himself embracing Isolier!





Trumpets are heard announcing the men's return to the town.

Ory admits his defeat. He and his knights leave the castle. Adèle welcomes her brother home as she and Isolier celebrate their love.

DEAR ADELE,
ACCEPT MY LOVE.

ALL'S WELL THAT
ENDS WELL.