



Witness:

Jean-Paul Lefevre, bookseller in Paris

“I saw Mademoiselle Éloïse on the afternoon of the incident. She came into my shop around half past two to pick up a copy of Emile by Rousseau. We spoke at length about the nature

of justice. She seemed thoughtful, even hopeful — not angry or unwell. She left just before three o’clock, and I watched her turn toward the apothecary district. I cannot say where she went next, but she was in no rush. If she were planning something wicked, she did not show it.”



Witness:

Claudine Marceau, kitchen maid at the de Villon estate

“On the evening Madame died, I saw someone matching Eloise’s description arrive just before supper. She greeted the baron politely and helped serve the tea tray. But I remember clearly — the tea had already been brewed by the upper cook.

Mademoiselle didn’t touch the cups again after placing them.

Later, when Madame collapsed, Mademoiselle looked as shocked as the rest of us. If she meant to poison anyone, she hid it well — but I don’t believe she did.”



Witness:

Henri Dubois, apprentice at La Vigne Apothecary

“Roughly a week before Madame de Villon’s death, I sold a small pouch of dried belladonna to a woman matching Éloïse Boucher’s description. She

was wearing a gray shawl and carried a worn copy of *The Spirit of the Laws*. She told me it was for ‘educational purposes.’ I didn’t question it — many healers use such herbs in their studies — but I now realize how foolish I was. Belladonna can be deadly, and I fear it may have been used for harm.”



Witness:

Victoire Leclerc, seamstress and neighbor

“I saw Mademoiselle Éloïse entering the back gate of the de Villon estate the morning before the party. She was alone and carried a small bundle wrapped in cloth. She claimed she had come to

return a borrowed book, but no one came to meet her at the gate, and she let herself in. I found it odd at the time, but thought little of it. Now I wonder if that bundle held something more than just a book.”