

Swordsong

By David Richmond and Drew Fracher

JULES

You have displeased Plillipe, the King's brother. You know of him?

MAUPIN

If you lot are his emissaries, then I know him well enough.

Now, One at a time or in concert, Gentleman? I must arrange my evening.

GEORGES

I will teach you some manners-;

MAUPIN

And I will teach you some fencing- a fair exchange.

GEORGES

Malapert trull! En garde-

(-and he lunges into action. Very eager, energetic, and green. His attack is so ferocious Maupin nearly lets it pass.)

MAUPIN

Calmly, sir- you seem anxious to retire early..the night is young,.. as are you; unless you want to die that way, keep your guard up.. *(he comes in wide open, and she hits him. He crumples.)* You were fairly warned... next? Smartly, gentlemen, I have other engagements-

JACQUES

I'll take a pass- *(they engage.)* D'Aubigny, is it? I studied with your father-

MAUPIN

Jacques! I remember you- paid no more heed then than now- but- for my father's sake- *(she hits him)* -live, with a memento, to brag you crossed the two best swords in Paris.

JULES

Come then. Let us conclude this sorry business- *(they engage)*...the notorious Maupin...D'Albert mentioned you... in a whorehouse in Liege... *(Some quick and deadly fencing here)*

MAUPIN

He spoke of it...said he went there to take some blue ointment for your sister... *(A flurry of first class exchanges, and Maupin hits him.)* -spend some time with your family, monsieur, while you recover. Good evening, gentlemen.

JULES

You are noticed, Maupin. And you keep bad company. Armangac and Florensac.. they rhyme, and Phillipe hates an easy rhyme.

MAUPIN

I keep the company that pleases me. You, Jules.. keep very bad company indeed.

(Maupin returns to the ballroom as the torches are extinguished, walks to the royal dias, and presents herself. Standing next to Louis is Phillipe- Monsieur- and close by, Florensac.)