



**ISSUE
FIVE**

**HELP! I'M STUCK AS A
FRENCH MAID!
A COMIC BY
FAKENAMEYFAKENAMEY**

Hi, my name is Aaron Smith! I'm a college student from the United States.

DRAW
port No. / No. d



Surname / Nom / Apellidos

Smith

Given names / Prénoms / Nombres

Aaron

Nationality / Nationalité / Nacionalidad

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Date of birth / Date de naissance / Fecha de nacimiento

11 November, 2004

Sex / Sexe / Sexo Place of birth / Lieu de naissance / Lugar de n

M

USA

Date of issue / Date de délivrance / fecha de expedición Au

4/14/23

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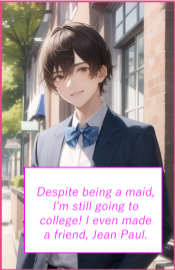
Amendments / Modifications / Enmiendas



I don't know what happened, exactly. I found a great deal for housing during a student exchange... but after the first night, I awoke to find myself a woman! And... a maid!



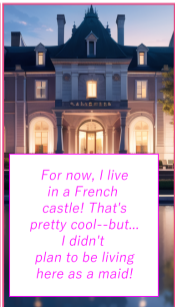
As a maid, I work with Marcel, the Butler.



Despite being a maid, I'm still going to college! I even made a friend, Jean Paul.



I think Aurora, one of Marcel's friends, knows something about my transformation. I think she confirmed this last night, even though I didn't understand all of what she said.



For now, I live in a French castle! That's pretty cool--but... I didn't plan to be living here as a maid!





Il est 6h00 !



*The same wakeup call
every morning...*

*And hanging
there, my
nemesis...
the maid
dress.*

*How would
I be judged
today?*





I had an order to getting dressed by now, and usually started with the white pantyhose anyway.

Still, I lingered, simply feeling their new familiarity. I was hesitating putting on the dress itself...



For with the dress came judgment.



The more I delayed, the more I feared that it would lunge out of the closet at me, like it was controlled by some ghostly apparition.

I knew this was just from my own anxiety, and yet, at the same time, I felt something else... the confidence of certainty.



Part of me wondered if it would ever be possible to lift this curse, pass whatever judgment had been put on me, or if I should just flee to America as a woman now.

Even though it wasn't my usual order, I put on my heels first. Still stalling...



But the castle was waking up. I couldn't keep stalling forever. I had to have courage.





*Lower white skirt
first as always...
then the black dress,
and finally the apron...*



*But first,
a bra...*



*All the while feeling like the
dress was looming behind
me, lurking over
my shoulder...*







*Had I really failed this test?
Was it even possible to pass?
Maybe I had misunderstood everything.*

I felt like this could be the strongest iteration of the curse thus far.

If it was impossible to win, should I even play this game?



As managers barked orders at me, I could barely focus.



*Avez-vous pris du poids?
Je connais une
grande diététicienne.*



*By now I knew
the woman in
green often
said things
that didn't
seem to match
her demeanor.*

*I couldn't
figure out
'pris du
poids' at
all, but
it sounded like
she said
'dietician.'*

*Had I gained
weight?*



I was suddenly so much more worried I'd be called out...



C'était un grand changement! Vous voudrez peut-être attendre quelques jours avant de changer davantage, jusqu'à ce que vous soyez habitué à votre situation actuelle. Il n'y a pas d'urgence!

I'd spent so much energy trying to understand what she said last night, I wasn't at all ready to run into Aurora again today! I wanted to talk to her, but I froze up.



The confidence I'd built over the last few days had been shattered by the changes this morning.



After my shift, I had classes tonight.

Was I fat? Would they laugh at me?




All my clothes 'fit' but somehow the styles had changed on some.



Finally I found some that seemed close to the style I remembered. Once I was in the uniform, I felt like the changes maybe weren't as noticeable. I just wanted to get out of this castle.






I felt alone. They'd see me as an imposter. They'd think I was fat and ugly. I could barely focus on the lecture. Why was I even here?



Yet as the class ended, a familiar voice called to me.

Mademoiselle,
vous voulez
prendre
un café?



Bonjour,
Jean Paul!
Oui, ce serait parfait
aujourd'hui!

*I'd forgotten about coffee
with Jean Paul!*

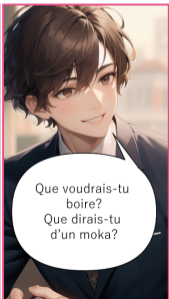


J'adore ce que tu as
fait avec tes
cheveux aujourd'hui !

Ah, merci!



*"j'adore" meant I love, and
I heard 'tes cheveux.'
'Tes cheveux' was 'your
hair', so he liked my hair.*



Que voudrais-tu
boire?
Que dirais-tu
d'un moka?



I realized as he spoke just how little I'd tried to process anything today. He asked me what I wanted to drink. "Moka" had to be a "mocha" right?



*J'adorerais un moka!
Merci beaucoup!*



Excusez-moi, mais j'ai raté votre nom la dernière fois. Je suis Jean Paul, si tu as oublié.

*Je n'ai pas oublié!
Et désolé,
je m'appelle...*

Excuse me, I missed your name last time. I'm Jean Paul, if you forgot.

I didn't forget! And sorry, my name is...



Shoot! What should I say my name is... Aurora called me 'belle' but I could just say 'Erin'



Je m'appelle Erin.



Et tu es américaine, n'est-ce pas? Tu étudies à l'étranger?

And you're American, right? Doing study abroad?

C'est exact! Désolé, mon français n'est pas très bon.

That's right! Sorry my French isn't very good.



Combien de temps
comptes-tu rester
en France?

*How long will you be
in France?*



*French is funny. Combien
is 'how much' - so asking
how long I'll stay is like
"how much of time" will
you stay in France.*



*Je serai ici
un an.*

*I told him I'd be here
a year, although
it was strange that,
just earlier I'd been
wondering if I should
go back much sooner.*

*But now going back
wasn't on my mind
at all!*



Et toi,
Jean Paul?
Habites-tu
dans
les environs?

*I asked if he lived
nearby.*



Oui, j'habite à proximité.
Mes parents gèrent
une cave et je vis toujours
avec eux. J'espère cependant
déménager bientôt.

*I didn't catch most of that,
but I think he lives nearby.*



Pardon.
"Une cave"?

Oui. Nous faisons
du vin.

Nous possédons
également
un vignoble.

Un Château...

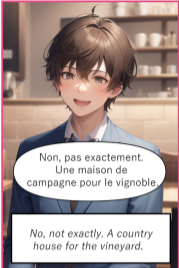
*So his
parents
make
wine?*

*Wait, no, he didn't own
a castle... right?*



Un château?
Comme le Mont Saint-Michel ?

*A castle? Like Castle
Mont Saint-Michel?
(A really big castle)*



Non, pas exactement.
Une maison de
campagne pour le vignoble.

*No, not exactly. A country
house for the vineyard.*



Désolé, je ne voulais
pas t'embrouiller.

*Thankfully,
I'd figured out
"embrouiller"
was "to confuse."*

*So he was sorry for the
confusion, then asked
if I'd had a chance to be
a tourist, I think.*

Si tu n'es en
France que pour un an,
as-tu commencée
à visiter les
sites touristiques?



Non, je me suis concentré sur le travail.

I didn't want to mention being a maid, but I said I'd been busy with work.



Non? Tu n'es pas encore allé à Paris?

No? You haven't yet been to Paris?



De toute façon, j'allais ce week-end à un concert en Paris. J'aimerais te faire visiter !

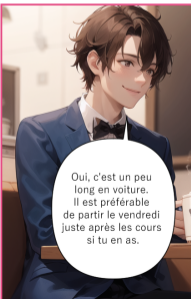
C'est inacceptable !
Tu ne peux pas quitter la France sans avoir vu le Louvre!

*That's unacceptable!
You can't leave France without seeing the Louvre!*

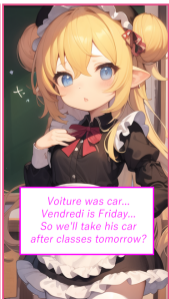
Anyway, I was going to a concert this weekend in Paris. I'd love to show you around



Paris?!



Oui, c'est un peu long en voiture.
Il est préférable de partir le vendredi juste après les cours si tu en as.



Voiture was car...
Vendredi is Friday...
So we'll take his car after classes tomorrow?





Super!
Où dois-je venir
te chercher ?

Great! Where should
I pick you up?



Where should he
pick me up?
I can't give him
the address of the
castle...



Je te retrouverai
ici dans ce café.
De toute façon,
je n'ai pas
cours demain.

I'll just meet you here
at this cafe. I don't
have classes tomorrow
anyway.









