

Caroline is on holiday in the Valley of the Loire, looking at châteaux.

Caroline is visiting the château where Leonardo da Vinci lived when he was elderly. She is in the basement carefully looking at models of inventions.

Caroline returns upstairs and views various rooms. In one room, on the wall, is a reproduction of the Mona Lisa painting. The original is now in the Louvre in Paris. Caroline wonders if the original was displayed on a wall when Leonardo da Vinci was here. Maybe not in the place where the reproduction is now displayed, maybe not in this room.

Caroline goes upstairs and views the bedrooms. On some walls are displayed rich tapestries.

Caroline walks onto a long covered balcony and looks out at the area in front of the château and gazes out at the landscape for a while.

Caroline returns into the building and continues looking at the rooms, going from room to room and each time she returns to a room noticing some detail that she had not noticed before.

Caroline goes for a walk in the grounds of the château.

As she walks she wonders whether Leonardo da Vinci walked in these grounds, or maybe as he was elderly perhaps he could not walk very far.

Caroline begins to muse and thinks of a play, a fiction, yet maybe, just maybe. ....

If this is a movie then the story is acted out.

Leonardo da Vinci is sat, to the right of our view, facing to our left, playing chess with another gentleman.

A servant enters from our left, through a door.

“Master Leonardo, the Queen is approaching with her retinue.”

“The Queen. Show her in please.” says Master Leonardo as he rises from his chair.

The servant leaves.

Master Leonardo readies himself for the arrival of the Queen.

The Queen, accompanied by a few ladies, enters.

“Good day Master Leonardo.” says the Queen.

Master Leonardo gently bows a little and replies.

“Good day my lady.”

“Master Leonardo I would like to walk in the grounds here and I would like to have you accompany me please.”

“My lady, I am honoured at the thought, but it is a long way and I am elderly, would that I could.”

“Ah, Master Leonardo, I shall walk, yet you shall travel in a litter. I have had a litter made especially - like a small coach but carried by long handles at the front and at the rear and carried by some of the palace guards, taking turns. That way we may travel where an ordinary coach pulled by horses cannot go, along woodland paths and so forth.”

“My lady, I am delighted.” says Master Leonardo.

“Good, I will wait outside while you prepare yourself for the journey. Please do not rush, it is a sunny day and I will happily look at the garden nearby while you prepare.”

With that the Queen departs to our left, through the door.

‘I wonder which language, or even languages, they would have used.’ thinks Caroline. ‘French? Italian? Maybe Latin? ... I wonder how they would have communicated through the language barrier - if indeed there was a language barrier for them - maybe Leonardo da Vinci had learned to speak in French.’

Caroline walks through the woods and sees panels displayed amongst the trees, including some with greatly enlarged images of the faces of various ladies copied from within some of the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci.

Caroline arrives at a large open grassed area with some specimen trees around it.

Caroline stands in the middle of the large open grassed area and videos the view as she holds her video recorder at eye height, slowly turning through a little over two revolutions so that she can later select a complete panorama to include within a video.

Caroline moves about ten metres away and places her bag upon the ground. Caroline sets up her video recorder on her bag and points it to the place where she had stood and starts recording.

Caroline moves forward ten metres to where she had stood before, pauses, then twirls on the spot.

As she twirls Caroline cries out

“Bonjour les chênes.”

“Bonjour les arbres.”