

Simon: A beautiful encounter

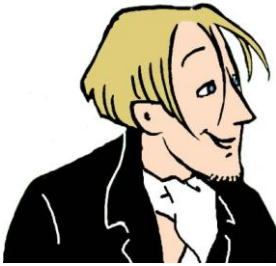
Simon: *She is so pretty, that girl selling flowers! I don't have time to stop because of my appointment with Professor Balthazar, what a pity! **If** she is still here when I leave the university, I **will buy** some flowers for my cousin Adelaide. And **if** I **can** talk to her, I **will try** to find out **if** she's free. **If I am** lucky, she **will be** free. And **if I am** really lucky, she **will like** me! Why not? It's not impossible. It's even quite possible! I think I saw her looking at me...*



*But what **if** it **was** not me she was looking at, I **would seem** really stupid to think so... Maybe she was looking at someone near me? No, I don't think so. I don't think there was anyone near me. I have to believe in my luck. So, see you later, lovely flower seller!*

Simon: *Hello, Professor Balthazar!*
 Pr Balthazar: *Hello, my dear Simon. Now, what brings you to see your old history professor?*
 Simon: *Well, up at the castle I have discovered something very strange... Can I show you a photo I took? I have had it enlarged...*
 Pr Balthazar: *Of course, Simon.*





Simon : A strange collection ...



Simon: You know that my cousin, Count Archie Bald of Castle-Bellevue, has some antique collections...

Pr Balthazar: **If I didn't know, I would not be** a historian, my dear Simon. At the moment I am preparing a series of radio programmes on origins of the site.

Simon: Really? I didn't know that!

Pr Balthazar: Every Monday, from 9 o'clock to 10 o'clock.



Simon: That's wonderful! And **if you could take** a close look at a secret collection belonging to the Count, perhaps you **would be able** to say what it is... Here is a photo of the collection.

Pr Balthazar: Let me see... This is very strange indeed... a pink ballet shoe... Of course, **if I had** a magnifying glass, I **would be able** to identify the initials on them better.

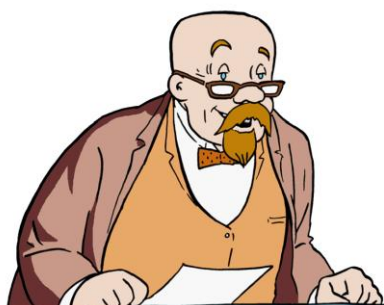
Simon: I think it's VP.



Pr Balthazar: Then it's a shoe belonging to Vania Poposka! And this beautiful comb, it was a lucky charm owned by Rosella Bergame.

Simon: Who is she?

Pr Balthazar: Ah! **If you were** my age, you **would know**! She acted in almost all the films by Barbini. And that is a champagne cork with a number inside. **If I could** hold it, I **would tell** you if it was part of the collection of the famous writer Dora Doriana.



The silver cup, which looks in very bad condition, probably belonged to the opera singer Carlo Azzuro. **If he knew** that his precious cup was in the Count's possession he **would be** very angry!

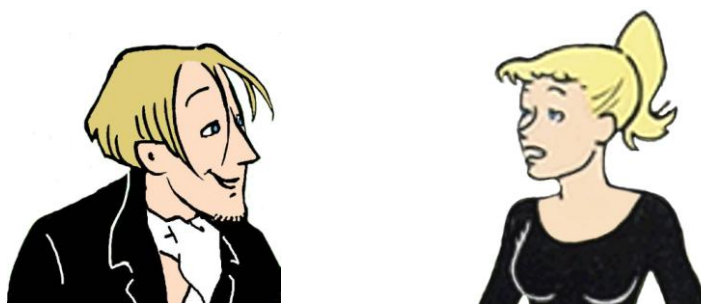
Simon: Dream or reality?



Simon: Oh! What bad luck! My pretty flower seller has gone! **If** she **had** still **been** there, I **would have bought** some flowers. Of course, I **would have said** that they were for my cousin Adelaide who is an old lady! And **if** there **had** not **been** any other customers, she **would** perhaps **have spoken** to me for a moment, just to make conversation, while she was arranging the bouquet... So, **if I had had** more courage, I **would have asked** her what her name was... Oh but I am always dreaming! **If I had hurried** a little more when leaving the University, I **would** not **have** missed her!



Oh!... I must be dreaming! No, it's not a dream! It really is my lovely flower seller sitting on the bench! This must be a sign! **If I had** not **come** through the park on my way home, I **would have had** very little chance of seeing her again one day! And **if** it **had** not **been** so sunny, we **would** not **have** thought to come here! Excuse me, Miss! May I speak to you for a moment? I have something extraordinary to tell you.

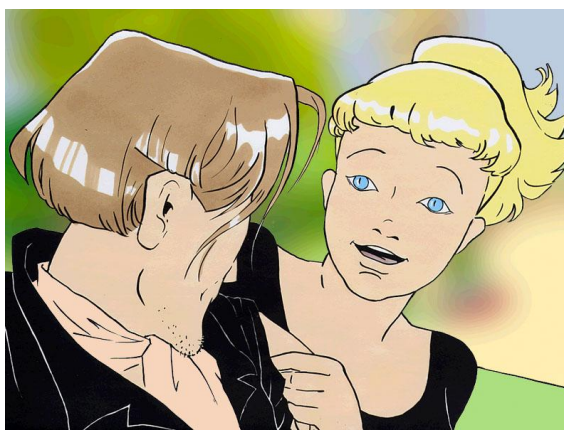


Simon: Attraction...



Sophie: *Er... well... yes of course! Please, do sit down!*

Simon: *Thank you. While I was going to the university, I saw you by your flowers. You looked so pretty! **If I had had** the time, I **would have approached** you to buy some flowers, to get to know you! But I was in a hurry, and when I came out of the university, you were not there any more. **If I had known** that you had gone to the park, I **would have run** there immediately! But I didn't know, and I came here by chance! And **if** it **had not been** such nice weather, I **would have gone** straight home! I live up at the castle. The Countess is my cousin. **If I had bought** some flowers from you, I **would have asked** you your name ...*



Sophie: *Sophie! My name is Sophie. What is yours?*

Simon: *Simon. I hope I am not disturbing you? May I sit here with you for a moment?*

Sophie: *Of course you may, Simon...*

Simon: The beginning of a romance?

Condition...

Advice...

Indirect question...

Result...

Uncertain events...

Sophie: What is that on your belt, Simon? It looks like a key ring with a dried flower inside. Did you make it?

Simon: Not at all! It's Eustace, the gardener at the castle. He makes them, and he gave me one.

Sophie: Be careful, Simon, **if you are not careful** you will lose your key ring ... Look, **I wonder if** the chain isn't nearly broken. **If I were you** I would mend it. **If you have** the right tool, it's easy. **If I were you** I would do it immediately.



Simon: Yes, you are right. I will mend it as soon as I get home, **if it will make** you happy! And **if it will stop** me from losing it.

Sophie: Are you on holiday, Simon?

Simon: No, I am a novelist... I'm going to write a great science-fiction story, **if I can**. I've already begun!

Sophie: Oh! That's amazing! So, **if I understand** you correctly, you are a writer.

Simon: Yes... at least if I find a publisher for my other novels!

Sophie: Oh, **can I ask if you could tell** me more about it?

Simon: If you like, **we could go** and have dinner together to celebrate our meeting.

Sophie: Hmm! **I don't know if** I can. Oh yes, of course I can! That **would be** so nice...

Simon: **We could meet** at 8pm at the pizzeria San Marco, **if that's all right** with you?

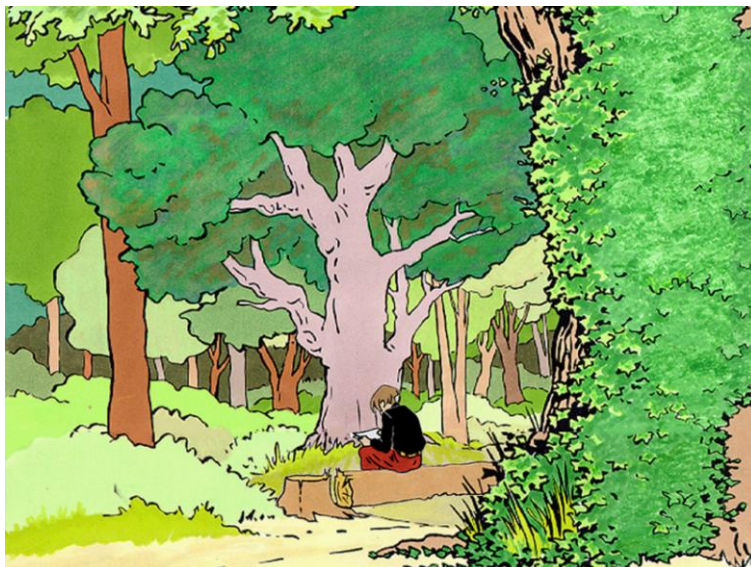
Sophie: Great! Well... see you this evening, Simon!

Simon: See you this evening, Sophie!



Simon : Peace and quiet (almost)...

Simon is writing his diary:



Monday 10th, 5pm.

I decided that I **would go** home through the forest. I was so happy to think that this evening Sophie and I **would have** dinner together at the pizzeria! I wanted to write it in my diary immediately, as I **could not have been able** to wait until I got to my room. And this tree trunk was just waiting for me to sit on it. I knew that it **would not be** very comfortable, but that wasn't important. I wondered what I **would wear** this evening... I still don't know.



Oh look! A woodcutter has started running like crazy over there! But... it looks as if he's running towards me! I think he's panicking! I never thought that one day a woodcutter **would need** my help!

