

**FAIRIES VERSUS FACTS**

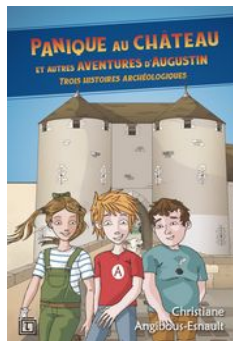
**THE PLAY**

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**FICTORIAL - TUTORIAL FOR TRANSPOSING  
A FICTION INTO A PLAY**

October 2018 - February 2019  
**Script by Jean-Olivier Gransard-Desmond**  
translated by **Ch. Angibous-Esnault, Ch. Walot and J. Diboine**

based on the archaeological novel  
**FÉES CONTRE FAITS**  
from  
*Panique au château, trois aventures archéologiques d'Augustin*  
(*Panic in the castle. Three archaeological adventures of Augustin*)  
written by Christiane Angibous-Esnault



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## CASTING



**AUGUSTIN**



**OCTAVE**



**MANON**



**ANTONIN**



**LUCIE**



**ÉVA**



**PROF. MONDÈS**



**PROF. MONTSARD**



**THE AUTHOR (NARRATOR)**



**LILOÉ**



**TIMÉO**



**MAËLYS**

## TEXT AND STAGE DIRECTIONS

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ÉVA, *running up the stairs and shouting*

Hey, guys! Guys! Guys! I have a great idea...!

THE GROUP, *with a finger over their mouths and signs to be quiet*

Shhhhh!

TIMÉO, *in a righting tone of voice*

We are in a library, don't shout like that!

LILLOÉ, *gently mocking*

That's Eva! Always full of enthusiasm!

ÉVA, *grumbling a little and then whispering very low*

I've just had a great idea for sharing our passion for books.

All together....

LUCIE, *cutting her off and laughing*

So with you, it's all one or the other. I didn't hear anything!

ANTONIN, *speaking to Eva*

Lucie is right. OK, we're in a library and it's not about shouting, but let's not overdo it.

Can you repeat that?

TIMÉO, *bidding and mocking a little*

At the same time, it's just us today. We can talk normally!

ÉVA, *a little annoyed*

Make up your mind! Well, I'll start again!

*separating each whispered syllable exaggeratedly but loudly enough*

I had an i-de-a for the six of us to share our passion for books.

*and resuming in a normal voice*

Look what I found!

*and she shows the book Panic in the Castle*

TIMÉO, *astonished and mocking*

It's a book, so what?

MAËLYS,

Oh yes, I read it, I borrowed it here, it's great!

ÉVA, *looking important*

Yes ! And it's not just any book. It contains a great possibility for fun !

MAËLYS

What do you mean?

ÉVA

Usually we share our readings by reading to each other the passages we liked.

Here we can do more!

THE GROUP, *surprised and questioning, waiting for answers*

What about it?

So what?

Go on!

ÉVA, *very pleased with her effect*

In the case of this novel, we can turn its contents into a play. It's enough for the six of us to do a skit!

THE GROUP, *looking at their friend without understanding*

ÉVA, *happy with her effect*

You'll understand! The author, Christiane Angibous-Esnault...

TIMÉO, *interrupting her*

Wow, don't you have a more complicated name?

ANTONIN, *interrupting him in turn*

Oh, that's fine! Christiane Angibous-Esnault is not like

*adding precious mimics as he speaks*

Alain de la Michaudière Demangeau Viguerie...!

GROUP *bursting out laughing*

MAËLYS, *serious*

Let's let Eva finish. Her idea sounds very nice!

ÉVA

Thank you miss!

So Christiane Angibous-Esnault had a fantastic idea. One of the short stories...

TIMÉO, *interrupting her*

I thought it was a novel!

ÉVA

Actually, it's a collection of three short stories about archaeology...

LUCIE, *interrupting her very enthusiastically*

About archaeology? Cool! So it's about dinosaurs?

ÉVA, *a bit desperate*

Not really, no! Dinosaurs are for palaeontologists.

We've already talked about that!

ANTONIN, *didactically*

Oh yes! The archaeologist deals with manufactured objects, like your clothes for example.

That's what allows him to understand human beings.

LILLOÉ

No, that can't be it! It's not old enough!

ÉVA

It's not a question of old or not!

TIMÉO, *annoyed*

OK! If it's for an archaeology class, I'm going back to my reading!

ÉVA, *approving*

You're right, it's not an archaeology class.

So, I was saying that among the three archaeological short stories, there's one called

"Fairies versus Facts" and it takes place in Broceliande.

LUCIE, *enthusiastic*

Wow! Great! I love Arthurian legends. So, what are we going to do?

ÉVA, *explaining*

Well, we'll each take a book. Then we'll decide who plays which character. We're going to imagine we're in Broceliande, and we'll read the passage out loud as we act it out. That's easy!

LILLOÉ, *worried*

But we only have one book!

ANTONIN, *pragmatic*

Let's see if there's another copy here.

MAËLYS

Yes, I know where it is. But there are still four missing!

ÉVA, *determined*

Let's ask the librarian to make us some photocopies.

LILLOÉ, *questioning*

I thought that was forbidden!

ÉVA

She's going to tell us what we can do.

ANTONIN, *taking Eva's book*

Let me see your book? Which pages?

ÉVA

Pages 179 to 187, in my edition.

*taking the book found by Maëlys and leaving*

I'm going! Meanwhile, read the passage already.

*ÉVA comes back a little later and hands over the photocopies*

That's fine! We're allowed to photocopy 10% of the book. With 312 pages, I was able to easily get the 5 pages we need.

So, who's playing who?

GROUP, *all speaking at the same time and wanting to play some of the characters*

Me! Me! I'm playing Augustin!

No, I'm Augustin!

I am playing Manon!

ÉVA, *raising both arms to restore calm and imposing herself*

Wait a minute! I came up with the idea, so I'm the director and I'll choose the roles.

*Reflecting and looking at the children in turn, then handing out the copies*

*Addressing Antonin*

So you, Antonin, will play Augustin the archaeologist. You like science, don't you?

*Addressing Lucie*

You, I can see you as Octave, you always talk about poetry, don't you?

*Pointing at herself*

I'll be Manon, it'll be easier to direct us.

*Addressing Timéo and Liloé*

As you are brother and sister, you will both become teachers.

*Handing the sheet to Timéo*

You will be Mr. Montsard, the history and geography teacher. You always liked to give us good advice.

*Then to Liloé*

And to you... Mr. Mondès. Be careful, he's a French teacher! And he's classy!

*Addressing Maëlys*

You, with your beautiful voice, will be the link of the story by being the narrator.

You are the pivot around which everything revolves. In a way, you replace the author!

Now we have to organize the staging. According to the short story, Octave and Augustin are seated at the beginning with the other students. When Mr. Montsard, who will stand there, calls them, they will stand facing each other, here. Mr. Mondès and Manon are sitting next to each other, here. For the narrator, you will stand to the side here so that we can all hear you.

*Addressing each of her classmates*

Have you all read your script so that you know where you are speaking and which voice to use?

GROUP, *answering in chorus*

Yes.

ÉVA

So, one last thing before we start. Sometimes we're going to speak at the same time. Be careful to keep track of your speaking times.

ANTONIN

As I do theater, I'm already used to this kind of difficulty.

TIMÉO, *annoyed, replies to Antonin*

That's enough! Stop showing off. We just have to concentrate. We'll see who can do it better.

*Antonin shrugs his shoulders.*

*Turning to Éva*

Are we starting or not?

ÉVA

Here we go. First I'll remind you of the context of the extract so that you can get into the mood.

*introducing the context of the extract the children are going to read*

On the occasion of a school trip to the forest of Broceliande, Mr. Montsard, you Timéo, history and geography teacher, and Mr. Mondès, you Liloé, French teacher, have asked their pupils to prepare a show entitled "Les joutes oratoires du Val sans Retour" (the oratory jousting of the Valley of no Return). For this show, Augustin, you Antonin, and Octave, you Lucie, have decided to confront each other. Octave wants to defend what belongs to the legends. He does it like the bards of the forest. Augustin wants to show what is real. He acts like an archaeologist. This is the D-day. The pupils have set up in front of an old dam on the Val sans Retour path. This is the moment when we intervene.

Your turn Maëlys.

*MAËLYS, playing the narrator*

Mister Montsard consulted his list and announced :

*TIMÉO, playing Mr. Montsard*

Here is the first speaker !

*MAËLYS, playing the narrator*

A student climbed up one side of the dam and told a story.

*LUCIE, playing Octave and in a surprised and skeptical tone*

Isn't that a bit confusing?

*MAËLYS, playing the narrator*

commented Octave.

The two friends laughed discreetly.

The children followed one another and so did the speeches and comments.

*TIMÉO, playing Mr. Montsard*

Octave and Augustin!

*MAËLYS, playing the narrator*

called Mister Montsard.



Leaping to their feet, and hopping on the rocks above the creek, the two children climbed up one side each of the gutted dam. Where the huge dog had frightened them the day before, Octave stood facing Augustin on the other side of the Rauco. Their solemn image imposed silence.

Octave announced:

LUCIE, *playing Octave and declaiming*

Ladies and Gentlemen! Here is the incredible story of Broceliande in a brand new version: "Fairies versus Facts!"

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Octave was majestic. His sudden presence and his grandiose gestures made him immediately the modern heir of the ancient bards. He began:

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

Go forth, O thou valiant knight of science! Do not defy Merlin and his wisdom. Arthur existed, why not his high priest?

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Augustin, addressing his companion, replied:

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin, answering, equally emphatic*

I advance, O bard of the forest! I conceive your opinion, so conceive mine!

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Mister Mondès laughed under his breath. "One all!" he thought.

Taking the floor in turn, Octave, carried away by the grandeur of the place, told a fragment of legend, then Augustin, leaning towards his audience, continued on the same subjects with archaeological information.

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

"Legends resound deep in our hearts, time embellishes them, the wise listen to them! Merlin, Viviane or I are narrators. Follow us valiantly, without fear..."

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin and cutting off Lucie*

"...but not without doubts!"

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Augustin interrupted in an assertive tone, continuing:

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin*

"You mention Viviane, let's talk about her! What about the fairy in the facts? "

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

"See her house of legend, the "Hôtier of Viviane", habitat without any doubt!"

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin*

"Habitat, but that of the dead! A neolithic tomb existing for thousands of years, and long before the fairy who supposedly inhabited it!"

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

"The Tomb of the Giants..."

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin*

"The giants are gone. They probably stepped on the mischievous "grass of oblivion" which makes the one who tramples it lose their way!"

ÉVA, *playing Manon and laughing under his breath*

It's getting tougher !

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

noticed Manon.

LILLOÉ, *playing Mr. Mondès*

Let's hear the rest !

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

replied Mister Mondès.

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

"Let's get back to Viviane. She invites you to dinner. Her tableware is pure gold. Her dishes are refined. Will you succumb?"

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin*

"Gladly! I feel like a knight! But time has passed and we have since excavated!"

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

"Since the Middle Ages the legend follows us!"

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin*

"From the depths of the ages reappears life!"

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

"Spears and shields, Excalibur, the pure!"

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin*

"Sandstone millstones, scrapers, dolerite axes, pottery and flints, it's the Neolithic!"

TIMÉO, *playing Mr. Montsard and interrupting*

It's above all over, children!

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

intervened Mister Montsard.

TIMÉO, *playing Mr. Montsard*

Your time is up !

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Everyone was listening, impressed. They had the sensation of being in turn in a fantastic epic and then in an international symposium. And despite it all, everything was in harmony. There were no clashes, no opposites, everything held together, clear and obvious. Over all, the magic of the place worked on the audience, provoking a great unity of listening. All were one. As a result, Manon forgot to take pictures.

EVA, *playing Manon, and speaking astonished to Mr. Mondès*

But where did he finally get all this information?

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Behind her, Mister Mondès whispered in her ear.

LILOÉ, *playing Mr. Mondès and in a low voice*

Hush, Miss! You mustn't say it out loud, it's a scoop for your report!

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Intrigued, Manon turned to her teacher, with a questioning look.

ÉVA, *playing Manon*

Please, explain !

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

She asked him.

LILOÉ, *playing Mr. Mondès*

At the suggestion of the mayor, who wants to encourage science and knowledge, we gave your two friends a copy of the excavation report and information on the history and development of the legends during their visit to Trécesson.

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

After a pause, he continued:

LILOÉ, *playing Mr. Mondès*

Let me summarize: from the civilization of megaliths in ancient times, then the settlement of the Celts in Armorica, to the beginning of the 12th century with the appearance of the name Bréchéliant and the transformation of customs into legends thanks to Chrétien de Troyes and his "Knight of the Lion", the story continues with the great rewritings of the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, like that of Creuzé de Lesser with "The Round Table". Thus Augustin and Octave were able to extract, better than I can summarize, the information they lacked.

ÉVA, *playing Manon*

Incredible !

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

exclaimed Manon.

LILOÉ, *playing Mr. Mondès and laughing*

You didn't expect that, did you!

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

said Mister Mondès.

Manon couldn't believe it.

ÉVA, *playing Manon*

Indeed, no!

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

answered Manon in admiration of her two friends. She could physically feel the words, the stories, the characters, the writings, passing under the dome of the forest.

Mister Mondès resumed:

LILOÉ, *playing Mr. Mondès*

The need for spirituality and wonder of our time allows these legends to live on, and today's science allows us to tell a whole new story.

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

He added:

LILOÉ, *playing Mr. Mondès*

It's not incompatible as long as you know how to distinguish between the two!

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

The fiery bard, from the top of his promontory, wanted to conclude:

LUCIE, *playing Octave*

"Let us take the path of the quest together! Let us feed our minds, let us mix our knowledge."

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

And the valiant scientist replied:

ANTONIN, *playing Augustin*

"Let the past feed the future of humanity!"

ÉVA, *playing Manon and whispering to Mr. Mondès*

Perhaps that's what Abbé Gillard meant!

MAËLYS, *playing the narrator*

Manon murmured.

ÉVA, *playing Manon and whispering to Mr. Mondès*

"The door is inside", in each of us, we just have to open it!

TIMÉO, *jumping up and down on the spot*

Wow! That was awesome! We're the best!

LUCIE

Again, again!

ANTONIN

Well, I think the library's going to close now!

LILLOÉ

Yes, but we'd have to do it again!

Are there any other passages in the book where we can do that?

MAËLYS

Yes, if I remember correctly! In the short story called "Panic in the castle", there is a poetry contest in Dourdan and Octave is encouraged by his friends to succeed in writing. There are some good, lively passages.

ÉVA

But even in "Mystery on the Dune" I'm sure you can find excerpts to use in a play. There's a lot of dialogue and suspense too.

ANTONIN

Give me the references of the book. I'll buy it!

TIMÉO

So, let's circulate this one quickly!

Let's give ourselves a month to find another extract and play another scene?

GROUP, *voices mingling*

Okay!

OK!

Yes!

EVA

So, great, here we go! I'm glad you liked it.

ANTONIN, *raising an arm and declaiming*

I can't wait for the rest of Augustin's adventures!

GROUP, *repeating in chorus*

We can't wait for the rest of Augustin's adventures!

ooo