Before Versailles Character List

CHARACTERS

Louis XIV — King of France from 1643 to 1715

Louise de la Baume le Blanc — maid of honor to Madame; cousin to Francois Choisy — formerly in the household of the late Duke d'Orléans. She was later known as Louise de la Valliere

The King's Household

La Porte* — valet to Louis XIV

Vardes, Vivonne, Brienne, Marsillac, Péguilin — friends and/or gentlemen of the household to Louis XIV; Péguilin is also cousin to Catherine and Guy

El Cid* — Louis XIV's favorite horse

Belle*, Phaedra* — Louis XIV's dogs

The Queen's Household

Maria Theresa — queen of France; infanta or princess of Spain

Olympe — Countess de Soissons; superintendent of the queen's household; niece to Cardinal Mazarin

Athenais de Tonnay Charente — maid of honor to the queen of France; sister to Vivonne, a friend and gentleman of the king's household

Before Versailles Character List

Monsieur and Madame's Household

Philippe — younger brother to Louis XIV, first prince of France; formerly Duke de Anjou, now Duke d'Orléans — known as Monsieur at court

Henriette, Duchess d'Orléans — first princess in France; married to Prince Philippe; sister to Charles II, king of England; known as Madame at court

Guy-Armand Count de Guiche — friend to Prince Philippe; brother to Catherine — cousin to Péguilin

Chevalier de Lorraine — friend to Prince Philippe

Fanny de Montalais* — best friend to Louise de la Baume le Blanc; maid of honor to Madame

Claude*, Madeleine* — maids of honor to Madame

Catherine (the gargoyle) — Princess de Monaco, married to crown prince of Monaco; lady-in-waiting to Madame; sister to Guy-Armand; cousin to Péguilin

Before Versailles Character List

The Queen Mother's Household

Anne — queen mother of France; former regent of France; mother to Louis XIV and Philippe; a princess of Spain

Madame de Motteville — lady-in-waiting to the queen mother

Cinq Mars* — a musketeer of Cardinal Mazarin

Government officials

Cardinal Jules Mazarin — former first minister; deceased

Cardinal Richelieu — minister to Louis XIII; deceased

Viscount Nicholas — superintendent of finance

Colbert — official in Louis XIV's government; former secretary to Cardinal Mazarin

Charles d'Artagnan — lieutenant of Louis XIV's musketeers

Marshall de Grammont — one of the officers of the crown; father to Guy-Armand and Catherine

Monsieur le Tellier, Monsieur Lionne — ministers in Louis XIV's government

Séguier — chancellor of France

Prince de Monaco — prince of a small, nearby kingdom; ally to Louis XIV; his son, the crown prince, married to Catherine

Before Versailles Character List

Characters at court and in and around Paris

Madame de Choisy — noblewoman at court

Francois Timoléon de Choisy — youngest son of prominent noble family; cousin to Louise de la Baume le Blanc

Marie, Duchess of Chevreuse — former lady-in-waiting to Queen Anne

Duchess d'Orléans — widow to the former Duke d'Orléans; the title going to Prince Philippe and Princess Henriette, but the widow is allowed to also keep her title

Prince de Condé — one of the princes of France; a cousin to Louis XIV

Duke de Beaufort — great uncle to the king; illegitimate son of Henri IV, Louis's grandfather

La Grande Mademoiselle (the stalk) — an Orléans, one of the princesses of France; first cousin to Louis XIV

Marie Mancini — niece to Cardinal Mazarin, first love of Louis XIV, married to Prince de Colonna

Madame du Plessis Bellievre — friend to Viscount Nicholas; one of his spies

Moliere — one of France's great playwrights and actors

Lully — one of France's great musicians

Benestrade — the court poet

La Voisin — a witch

Before Versailles Character List

Paul Pellison — a writer; secretary to the superintendent of finance

Ninon de Lenclos — a courtesan

Miss de Chimerault, Miss de Pon, — maids of honor chosen by Madame for Louis to flirt with

Queen Henriette Maria — widow of Charles I of England; mother to Henriette of France known as Madame and also to Charles II of England; daughter of Henri IV; aunt to Louis XIV

Monsignor de Reyes*, Father Edoardo*, Father Gabriel*, Father Uberto* — monks at a monastery near Fontainebleau Palace

Julie* — a peasant

Sandrine* — Louise de la Baume le Blanc's maid servant

Odalisque* — a dog

the boy* — who wears an iron mask

*fictional characters