

Jean is the manor's thirty-year old valet, chosen as Miss Julie's lover on Midsummer's Eve, and the second major character in the play. Later he plays the gallant while seducing of Miss Julie, honorably hesitating before her advances, telling a heart- rending tale of his childhood love for his mistress, and generally making her believe in his gentleness. Imagining Julie in increasingly degrading fantasies, Jean stops being a cowed, reluctantly seduced servant to a sadist revealing in Julie's ruin. Upon the consummation of their romance, when Jean finds that Miss Julie is penniless, he rejects her and confesses that he has deceived her, cruelly leaving her to her disgrace. Indeed, the reminders of the Count-- his boots, the speaking tube, Jean's livery, and, most importantly, the ringing bell-- automatically reduce Jean to a lackey. The class and gender battles end with Julie's and Jean's submission to their absent sovereign.