

**THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF ARSENE LUPIN, #1**  
**THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN**

A radio play by Jake Lewis  
Based on the story by Maurice Leblanc

Characters

Announcer

Bernard d'Andrezy ("DON-dre-ZEE")

Telegraph Operator

Ship's Officer

Passengers 1-3

Monsieur Rozaine

Miss Nelly Underdown

Madame Jerland

Stranger

Justin Ganimard

Scene 1

**ANNOUNCER:** Good evening and welcome to the JVTC Radio hour! Tonight, we present a classic tale of suspense and intrigue -- *The Arrest of Arsene Lupin* by Maurice LeBlanc! This edge-of-your-seat caper was the first Lupin story told about the gentleman-burglar, and begins aboard a transatlantic steamer, going from France to New York City! Our Narrator, Bernard D'Andrezy is embarking on a leisurely holiday, but it's not long before Arsene Lupin makes some waves and rocks the boat.

*Music: Parisian/noir theme*

*Music soon fades and gives way to the sound of the sea.*

**D'ANDREZY:** (*Narrating.*) To begin, I must start at the end. A most strange ending, indeed, particularly when one considered how favorably things started. My name is Bernard D'Andrezy, and I was aboard the swift and

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

comfortable transatlantic vessel, La Provence. The time passed agreeably amongst the shipmates, rather enjoying the feeling of being on our own island, as it were. Disconnected from the world from whence we came. It may strike one as unusual when the following is considered: We travelers, confined to so intimate a space for the duration, managed to engage in such gaiety and camaraderie to fight both the angry onslaught of the waves and the agonizing monotony of the calm and sleepy water. And yet, we embark upon that short voyage nonetheless, with a mingling of fear and excitement.

Fear. Yes. Because we all knew that despite the open sea before us, we were still tethered to the land by the reach of the wireless telegraph. It made us feel as though we were being followed from that receding world.

*SFX: Storm*

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* It was on the second day, at a distance of 500 miles from the French coast, when a storm fell upon us. It is a wonder that even part of the telegraph message, which set the events in motion, ever got through.

*SFX: Storm*

*SFX: Telegraph being received*

**TELEGRAPH OPERATOR:** *(Reading.)* Arsene Lupin, gentlemen thief. Stop. Is aboard your vessel. Stop. First cabin, blonde hair, wound right arm. Stop. Traveling alone under the name of R--"

*SFX: Lightning/thunder crash*

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* The electric waves were interrupted by the crash and tumble of those in the ocean around our floating island, leaving us only to know the first initial of the assumed identity. I, of course, did not know this telegraph operator, but it was hardly news that could be contained.

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

*SFX: Excited murmuring voices*

**PASSENGER 1:** Arsene Lupin in our midst! I've read all about him in the newspapers these past few months!

**PASSENGER 2:** It was he, was it not, who was engaged in a relentless battle with the shrewd detective Ganimard?

**PASSENGER 3:** I've heard that he broke into the residence of Baron Schormann, but left with nothing!

**P1:** Then how did anyone know he was there?

**P3:** Why, he left his card, of course! And upon it were the words "Arsene Lupin, gentleman-burglar, will return again when the furniture is genuine!"

*SFX: Passengers laughing lightly...from nerves or amusement?*

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* The question now turned to how Lupin would be recognized. After all, his trademark was his ability to disguise himself so thoroughly. One moment he might be a blonde-haired, blue-eyed Russian bookmaker, and the very next, a hunchbacked, hirsute horse trainer. All any of us knew was that he was wandering within the limited bounds of this transatlantic steamer, and would be so until we reached New York Harbor, five days hence.

**NELLY:** And you, Monsieur D'Andrezy, I see you eavesdropping there in the shadows! You are a friend of the captain's. Surely you know something more?

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* I would have been delighted if I had anything to tell the magnificent creature, but I informed her I had no definite knowledge. Yet there was this... *(To NELLY:)* Can we not, mademoiselle Underdown, investigate the mystery quite as well as Detective Ganimard, the sworn enemy of Lupin?

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**NELLY:** I am sure I would have no idea where to begin such a probe!

**D'ANDREZY:** Ah! But you are mistaken! Do you not remember the key we already hold to solving this mystery?

**NELLY:** What key is that?

**D'ANDREZY:** In the first place, Lupin calls himself Monsieur R.

**ROZAINE:** Very vague information, isn't it?

**D'ANDREZY:** (*Narrating.*) This last comment was uttered by the man accompanying the lovely Miss Nelly. I had seen him as a rival ever since boarding, and despite my growing affection for her, and her acceptance of my attention in some small degree, it seemed that she much preferred this fellow's quiet and refined tastes as opposed to my Parisian frivolity.

**NELLY:** He is traveling alone, as I recall.

**D'ANDREZY:** Indeed! And we are informed he has blonde hair!

**NELLY:** That certainly should narrow it down! But, how shall we ever proceed even with this information?

**D'ANDREZY:** Come, now, Miss Underdown. Where does one find a list of names aboard a sailing vessel?

**NELLY:** Why, the passenger manifest!

**D'ANDREZY:** Of which I already have here in my pocket!

**NELLY:** You are progressing very fast, monsieur!

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**D'ANDREZY:** We must if we are to apprehend this thief before he steals from us! Therefore, I have gone through the list and found only thirteen men whose name begins with the letter R in the first cabin.

**NELLY:** (*Sarcastically.*) Only thirteen?

**D'ANDREZY:** Dear lady, do not be so negative at the outset! Upon closer scrutiny, I have learned that nine of them are traveling with women, children, or servants. That leaves just four men to investigate.

**P1:** Well, go on, don't keep us in suspense!

**D'ANDREZY:** Yes, of course. First, the Marquis de Ravendan--

**NELLY:** The secretary to the American Ambassador. I know him.

**D'ANDREZY:** Then we shall scratch him from our list, as you would certainly not associate with a criminal such as Lupin!

**ROZAINE:** Go on.

**D'ANDREZY:** Certainly. Major Rawson--

**P2:** He is my uncle.

**D'ANDREZY:** Monsieur Rivolta.

**RIVOLTA:** Here!

**P3:** That man could not be called blonde!

**D'ANDREZY:** Hmm, could you not be Lupin, concealed under that heavy black beard?

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**RIVOLTA:** You are welcome to give it a firm tug if you like to prove my innocence.

**D'ANDREZY:** I find no need to be so extreme. Very well, then! We are forced to the conclusion that the guilty party is the last one on the list!

**NELLY:** What is his name?

**D'ANDREZY:** Monsieur Rozaine. Does anyone know him?

*Beat.*

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* It was then that Miss Underdown turned to the taciturn young man she had been traveling with and who had been suspicious of my detecting endeavors.

*SFX: Gasp*

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* Of course. He was the aforementioned M. Rozaine! It did not help his case that he was of blonde hair. I was in shock myself, but soon realized that the idea that he was Lupin was an absurd one, because he projected an air of absolute innocence.

**ROZAINÉ:** Why do I not respond, you wonder? It is because I had already reached the same conclusion.

**NELLY:** But you have no wound!

**ROZAINÉ:** Correct. I lack the wound.

**RIVOLTA:** But how can we know for sure, sir? Your shirtsleeves are down.

**ROZAINÉ:** Very well. Allow me to show you my bare arm so you can see for yourself.

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* He rolled up his left sleeve and removed the cuff, exposing his arm, void of any mark or laceration. Yet he did not deceive me. As I was about to call attention to the fact that his right arm may be the injured one, our attention was diverted.

**JERLAND:** My pearls! My jewels! They've been stolen! Someone has stolen them all!

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* It appeared that Arsene Lupin, gentleman burglar, had finally made his appearance.

*Music: Mystery fanfare*

### Scene Two

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* It turned out that not all of Madame Jerland's jewels had been pilfered, but only the most valuable stones. Clearly the work of someone with a discerning expertise in this area, such as Arsene Lupin!

**JERLAND:** How could this have happened? I have barely left my room all morning except to take tea!

**D'ANDREZY:** What is striking is how your room opens onto a much traveled corridor, yet no one saw anything. Were your jewels left out in the open, Madame Jerland?

**JERLAND:** Certainly not! Do I look like a fool? They were in a case hidden within my hatbox, as you can see from the complete mess he made of them here!

**ROZAINÉ:** He has removed them from their mountings too. *(Beat.)* I only mean, it was done by a skilled hand.

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* Following Rozaine's peculiar statement, almost an admission of guilt one might say, we departed and went to our own cabins until dinner, a couple hours hence. What had only hours earlier been an air of gaiety aboard the ship, was now one of fear and distrust.

*SFX: Knocking on door.*

**D'ANDREZY:** Just a moment!

*SFX: Door opens.*

**D'ANDREZY:** Miss Underdown!

**NELLY:** Nelly, please.

**D'ANDREZY:** Nelly, then. And to you, I am Bernard.

**NELLY:** Bernard, my father's name! I was hoping...

**D'ANDREZY:** Yes?

**NELLY:** ...That you would accompany me to dinner.

**D'ANDREZY:** I would be honored! However...

**NELLY:** You wonder about my companion, Rozaine.

**D'ANDREZY:** You have found me out!

**NELLY:** *(With great shock.)* He has been arrested by the captain!

**D'ANDREZY:** For the theft of M. Jerland's jewels? Oh dear!

**NELLY:** I must say I'm relieved that Lupin has been caught. Although it does not speak well for me that I saw through his deception so easily!



THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**D'ANDREZY:** Come now, how were you to know?

**NELLY:** I had only met him one day prior, you know. Really no time at all to get to know someone. *(Beat.)* And yet...

**D'ANDREZY:** And yet?

**NELLY:** And yet...I am hungry. Let's speak no more of this subject of Lupin and enjoy the rest of our time together.

**D'ANDREZY:** Then let us leave this matter here!

*SFX: Door closing.*

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* At dinner, Miss Under--Nelly and I-- sat at the captain's table, an old friend of mine being a friend of his. The mood on the ship returned to its former state before the matter of Arsene Lupin had occurred. Indeed, games along the forward deck and dancing along the aft one resumed after dinner, and lasted until midnight, when I suddenly found myself with an opportune moment with Nelly.

**NELLY:** My, the moon is so bright!

**D'ANDREZY:** You cannot see such beauty in Paris.

**NELLY:** This moment, here, with you. It will stay with me long after we part in America.

**D'ANDREZY:** Nelly, now that your paramour has been uncovered as Arsene Lupin...

**NELLY:** Yes?

**D'ANDREZY:** I must tell you that my feelings for you are just as strong, if not greater than the moon above us.

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**NELLY:** You are quite the poet, Bernard!

**D'ANDREZY:** Well, I suppose I'm more suited to detecting than poetry to express the ways of the heart.

**NELLY:** I would say you excel at both, and that I feel the same for you! But, of course, we must be careful.

**D'ANDREZY:** Yes, certainly. Eyes watch us everywhere we go, and you have reputations to protect.

**NELLY:** I meant we must first dedicate our energies to unearthing Lupin!

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating:)* And so, we touched our hands together briefly on the railing, and looked into each other's eyes, plumbing the depths behind them.

*Music: Mystery fanfare*

### Scene 3

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating:)* The next morning, as I strolled about the deck, a bounce in my step from my conversation with Miss Nelly the night before, I overheard concerned voices from just ahead.

**P1:** Documents! Certificates of birth!

**P2:** Of course Arsene Lupin will furnish as many as you desire.

**P3:** And as to the wound, he never had it, or could have removed it!

**D'ANDREZY:** What is this all about?

**RIVOLTA:** Monsieur Rozaine has been released from custody!

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**D'ANDREZY:** How come?

**JERLAND:** Why, there was not enough evidence against him, of course!

**P1:** And, in fact, he is the son of a wealthy merchant of Bordeaux.

**NELLY:** Here comes Rozaine now. Please excuse me.

**JERLAND:** I will join you, Miss Nelly.

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* And so Miss Nelly and Madame Jerland regretfully departed our coterie, passing in a wide arc from Rozaine, who approached with pamphlets in his hand.

**RIVOLTA:** What do you have there, Rozaine?

**ROZAIN:** I am offering a reward of 10,000 francs for the delivery of Arsene Lupin, or whoever is responsible for stealing the jewels! And if no one assists me, I will unmask the criminal myself!

**P1:** Monsieur Rozaine against the great Monsieur Lupin!

**P2:** *(Aside:)* Or, one could say, Monsieur Lupin against Monsieur Lupin!

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* And for the next few days, Rozaine was seen going about the ship, day and night, searching, investigating, questioning. Even the captain conducted a thorough going-over of the ship from stem to stern following the theft of his gold watch. Yet both men met with no positive outcomes in Lupin's capture.

*SFX: The sound of waves, seabirds, the click of a camera*

**NELLY:** Lupin may be a wizard, but he cannot just make diamonds or a watch disappear!

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**D'ANDREZY:** The captain should be searching our personal items, too; the linings of our hats, our coats, anything we carry with us.

**NELLY:** Your camera then is susceptible too!

**D'ANDREZY:** Precisely! In an apparatus such as this one, a clever criminal could conceal the jewels while pretending to take pictures with it and no one would suspect anything out of the ordinary.

**NELLY:** But don't all thieves leave a calling card?

**D'ANDREZY:** All but one. Arsene Lupin.

**NELLY:** You seem to have some admiration for the man.

**D'ANDREZY:** I'd be lying if I said otherwise. Don't you? He is an artist in his particular line of work, combining business with pleasure.

**NELLY:** Well, if Rozaine is Lupin, his gloomy and reserved demeanor conceals any sense of enjoyment.

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* That evening I tossed and turned, my head awhirl with possibilities. Feeling confined to my room, I quickly dressed and went to take some air.

*SFX: Bell ringing, feet running past, frantic voices*

**D'ANDREZY:** What is the nature of this chaos?

**OFFICER:** A man has been found with his head covered and hands tied!

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* Could it have been Lupin? Apprehended at last, and stuffed into a dark corner? Alas, no. It was poor Rozaine. He had been assaulted, thrown down, and robbed. A card had been pinned to his jacket

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

lapel, reading “Arsene Lupin accepts the 10,000 francs offered by Monsieur Rozaine.” I couldn’t help but smile at the man’s hubris.

**P1:** It seems as though Rozaine could not be Lupin after all! How else could he have bound himself?

**P2:** He may be a gifted thief, but a contortionist he is not!

**NELLY:** Not to mention, the handwriting on the card is nothing like Rozaine’s.

**P3:** This is true! Here is an old newspaper I found on the deck chair there, and look! An article with a reproduction of Arsene Lupin’s handwriting! It is a match!

**D’ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* Our excited imaginations attributed to him miraculous and unlimited powers. He could be someone as distinguished as the noble Marquis de Ravedan -- or even be traveling with wife and child. We no longer stopped with the accusing letter R or the information given by the telegraph operator days before, shortly after our launch. Would we be able to identify Lupin before reaching America, and another, greater robbery was committed?

*Music: Mystery flourish*

### Scene 4

*SFX: Seagulls crying, boat horn blating*

**D’ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* And so, it was our last day aboard the steamer, the American shore fast approaching. Yet, despite the nervous nature of my shipmates, I felt a sense of elation: this mystery had brought Miss Nelly closer to me than otherwise might have been possible had it been free of

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

Arsene Lupin's enigma. Indeed, I felt I owed the gentleman thief a debt of gratitude as she clung to me in these final few hours upon the sea.

**NELLY:** The search for Lupin has been abandoned, it seems.

**D'ANDREZY:** Is that what is making you so pale, Miss Nelly? I assure you, you are in no harm from Lupin while you're at my side.

**NELLY:** I'm just anxious with the anticipation of how this mystery will be resolved. It's like one of those old books my father loved so much and stayed up the whole night reading by candlelight, always letting out a guffaw at the end when he realized the wool had been pulled over his eyes once again.

**D'ANDREZY:** I suspect Lupin is an enthusiast of such twists, too.

**NELLY:** (*Mumbling.*) I shouldn't expect that Lupin escaped the vessel during the voyage.

**D'ANDREZY:** Perhaps he preferred death to dishonor, and plunged into the Atlantic to avoid arrest! (*Laughs.*)

*SFX: Gangway being lowered and put into place*

**NELLY:** See there! They lower the gangplank as we prepare to disembark.

**D'ANDREZY:** Do you see that little man standing at the bottom of the gangway? With the olive-green umbrella?

**NELLY:** Yes, what of him?

**D'ANDREZY:** That is Justin Ganimard. The celebrated detective who has sworn to capture Arsène Lupin. Ah! I can understand now why we did not receive any news from this side of the Atlantic. Ganimard was here, lying in wait! And he always keeps his business secret.

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**NELLY:** Then he thinks Lupin is still here! Oh, I should very much like to see him arrested!

**D'ANDREZY:** You must have patience, dear Nelly! By now, Lupin has seen the net closing in on him and will not be in a hurry to leave the safety of the ship.

**NELLY:** There goes the Marquis de Ravedan, and the Italian Rivolta. And there is Rozaine! Poor Rozaine! (*Beat.*) Look how Ganimard approaches him! Do you think it could really be him after all?

**D'ANDREZY:** Quick, take this camera and capture them together. I am loaded down.

**NELLY:** Alas, I have missed the opportunity! Rozaine has passed beyond Ganimard. Who could he possibly be waiting for?

**D'ANDREZY:** Come, we cannot stay much longer.

*SFX: Walking off ship*

**GANIMARD:** One moment, Monsieur! What is your hurry?

**D'ANDREZY:** Do you speak to me, sir? I'm escorting Mademoiselle Underdown to her carriage.

**GANIMARD:** If I may cut in, Mademoiselle Underdown--

**D'ANDREZY:** (*Narrating.*) And at this, the detective grabbed my arm.

**GANIMARD:** Arsene Lupin, are you not?

**D'ANDREZY:** (*Laughing.*) No, simply Bernard D'Andrezy. Now, unhand me, please.

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**GANIMARD:** Bernard D'Andrezy died in Macedonia three years ago.

**D'ANDREZY:** If he did, then how should I be standing in front of you? Here are my papers.

**GANIMARD:** They are his, and I can tell you exactly how they came into your possession--

**D'ANDREZY:** You are a fool! Arsene Lupin sailed under the name of R--

**GANIMARD:** Yes, another of your tricks. A false scent that deceived them at Havre. You played a good game, Lupin, but this time the luck is against you!

**D'ANDREZY:** You have no proof!

**GANIMARD:** Ah, but I do!

*SFX: A swift tap of the umbrella on D'ANDREZY's arm.*

**D'ANDREZY:** *(In pain.)* Aah!

**NELLY:** His arm!

**GANIMARD:** Yes, my dear. A gentle tapping of my umbrella against the affected area shows how your dear Bernard D'Andrezy, nee Arsene Lupin, has still not completely recovered from the wound he suffered there.

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* Miss Nelly looked at me, and I had no choice but to acknowledge the truth in Ganimard's deduction. However, I was expecting a reproachful look from her, but this was not the case. Rather, she looked at the camera she still held for me and nodded slyly. She understood. There, within the casing of the camera, lay the 20,000 francs I had taken off of Rozaine as well as Madame Jerland's jewels. The question now remained, what will Miss Nelly do with this private information? Would



## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

she act the part of the enemy and betray me, or of a woman whose scorn is softened by feelings of indulgence and sympathy she recently expressed towards me?

**NELLY:** Goodbye, Mr. Lupin.

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* And with that, she passed in front of me, on her way. I said nothing but bowed low to her, watching her silently as she moved towards the end of the dock and her carriage awaiting her.

**GANIMARD:** Arsene Lupin, by the order of the King of France, you are under arrest for the crimes of thievery, false identification, and causing mischief. Come along with me if you know what's good for you.

**D'ANDREZY:** *(Narrating.)* Just before I passed out of sight of Miss Nelly, I saw her turn to face me. She raised up the arm with the camera, extended it over the lapping, brackish waters by the dock pilings, and dropped the camera in. A small smirk appeared at the corner of her lips, but it and she were soon lost to the crowd, thus passing out of my life forever. What a pity that I am not an honest man!

*Music: Mystery flourish.*

### Epilogue

**STRANGER:** *(Narrating.)* Such was the story of his arrest as narrated to me by Arsene Lupin himself. The story he told established between us...certain ties. Shall I say of friendship? Yes. I believe it is this friendship that causes Arsene Lupin to call on me, and brings, into the confines of my library, his youthful exuberance of spirits, the contagion of his enthusiasm, and the mirth of a man for whom destiny has naught but favors and smiles. *(Beat.)* His portrait? How can I describe him? I have seen him twenty times, and each time he was a different person. Even he himself said to me once...

## THE ARREST OF ARSENE LUPIN

**D'ANDREZY/LUPIN:** I no longer know who I am. I cannot recognize myself in the mirror.

**STRANGER:** Certainly he was a great actor, and possessed a marvelous faculty for disguising himself. Without the slightest effort, he could adopt the voice, gestures, and mannerisms of another person.

**D'ANDREZY/LUPIN:** Why should I retain a definite form and feature? Why not avoid the danger of a personality that is ever the same? My actions will serve to identify me. *(Beat.)* So much the better if no one can ever say with absolute certainty, "There is Arsene Lupin!" The essential point is that the public will be able to refer to my work and say, without fear of mistake, "Arsene Lupin did that!"

*Music: Mystery flourish*

**ANNOUNCER:** And that concludes "The Arrest of Arsene Lupin"! What will happen to Lupin next, and perhaps more importantly, where will he appear? Who will he steal from? Listener, it may be you! Join us again next time on the JVTC Radio Hour as we bring you another *Extraordinary Adventures of Arsene Lupin, Gentleman-Burglar!*

***To Be Continued...***