

Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien (I Don't Regret Anything)

Written by bluelover

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On October 24, 1960, when Charles Dumont and Michel Vaucaire visited Piaf's home at Boulevard Lannes in Paris, she received them very impolitely and unfriendly. Dumont had several times tried to offer Piaf his compositions, but she disliked them and had refused them – the standard was too low according to her. She was furious that her housekeeper Danielle had arranged a meeting with the two men without informing her. So she let them wait an hour in her living room before she appeared. *"As you can see I am extremely tired"*, she said to them very irritated.

"Hurry up, only one song! Quick to the piano, go ahead!"

she commanded. Nervous and perspiring Dumont sang the song in a low voice. When he finished there was a big silence waiting for Piaf's verdict.

"Will you sing it again?"

asked Piaf in a sharp voice. When he was hardly halfway she interrupted him.

"Formidable [Fantastic],"

she burst out.

"Formidable,"

she repeated,

"this is the song I have been waiting for. It will be my biggest success! I want it for my coming performance at L'Olympia!"

"Of course, Edith, the song is yours,"

said Vaucaire, delighted.

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The composer Charles Dumont tells in the book "Edith Piaf, Opinions publiques," by Bernard Marchois (TF1 Editions 1995), that Michel Vaucaire's original title was "Non, je ne trouverai rien" and that the song was meant for the popular French singer Rosalie Dubois. But thinking on Edith he changed the title to "Non, je ne regrette rien".

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