**BERTHE & PIPPIN**

LEADING PLAYER

Enter Berthe, Pippin’s Grandmother

BERTHE

I can walk by myself!

LEADING PLAYER

Warm…strong… Still attractive…

BERTHE

Very attractive.

LEADING PLAYER

Charlemagne's mother … Exiled from court …

BERTHE

… Due to a personality conflict with her daughter-in-law, Fastrada …

PIPPIN

Grandma…

BERTHE

I hate needlepoint!

PIPPIN

Ah, but you’re so good at it.

BERTHE

Pippin…? Pippin..! Oh, Pippin, I can’t believe it. Oh, how good it is to see you and to hold you.

PIPPIN

Grandma, you look great.

BERTHE

No, I don’t. I look terrible.

PIPPIN

No, you look great!

BERTHE

No, I don't. I look terrible.

PIPPIN

Alright, fine, you look terrible.

BERTHE

Is that any way to talk to your grandma? But, Pippin, actually you look terrible.

You need some fresh air, some good food, some hanky panky.

PIPPIN

I don’t know what I need.

BERTHE

Oh, I know what I need…Some good juicy gossip. Pull up a ball. You gotta tell

me what’s going on at court. Is that good-looking priest still holding confession?

PIPPIN

Grandma, you haven’t changed a bit.

BERTHE

But you have, Pippin. What have you been doing with yourself?

PIPPIN

Well, I went to war.

BERTHE

That explains it.

PIPPIN

I tried to own my own manhood, you know, give my blood back. I wanted to do something important,

something meaningful. But that wasn't it. Now, I just feel empty and vacant. So, I think I need a plan –

Yes, that's it, a goal and a plan. Well, I have a goal -- I want to be fulfilled. But a good plan? That's what

I've been thinking about. You can't just go rushing into whatever comes along and hope for the best, but

on the other hand, you can't wait around wasting time and expect something to fall into your lap…

BERTHE

You lost me in the middle there, Pippin. Stop thinking! You think too much. That’s your problem. You

have to learn to live in the moment. Look at this day. Look at it! Enjoy it. The sun is shining. The air is

warm. And maybe tonight, down at the tavern, there’s that lovely young girl you could hook up with and

do those things you kids do and then come back and tell me everything in graphic detail --

PIPPIN

Grandma, I don’t have time for that.

BERTHE

Time? Now, Pippin, you listen to me. I’m an expert on time.