**FASTRADA, CHARLES, PIPPIN, LEWIS**

FASTRADA

Terrible. A son speaking against his very own father that way! In fear of my beloved husband's life, I

brought Pippin's activities to his attention.

Pippin is disloyal to you, my lord …

CHARLES

Every son is disloyal to his father at one time or another, my lady …

FASTRADA

But Lewis loves you, my lord …

CHARLES

Lewis is an asshole, my lady.

FASTRADA *(To audience)*

Despite this rejection, I took upon my tiny shoulders the task of effecting a rapprochement between two

men for whom I felt … deeply …

FASTRADA

My Lord?

CHARLES

Yes, my lady?

FASTRADA

Will you be praying at Arles next month?

CHARLES

No, I don't think so, my lady.

FASTRADA

Oh, but my lord, you always feel so much better after your yearly prayer.

CHARLES

I do?

FASTRADA

Yes, you do*.*

CHARLES

Bye. (*CHARLES exits).*

FASTRADA

I sought out Pippin.

Your father loves you, Pippin.

PIPPIN

Freedom and dignity for all men is more important than the love between one father and one son.

FASTRADA

Still, your name will be on his lips when he prays… (Pause) …at Arles… next month….*alone…*

PIPPIN

Alone?

FASTRADA

And unguarded.

PIPPIN

What date?

FASTRADA

The fifteenth. Pippin, Pippin, I beg you to bring this estrangement to an end

PIPPIN

I intend to.

FASTRADA

May I tell your father of this resolve?

PIPPIN

No. Let it be a surprise. *(PIPPIN exits.)*

FASTRADA

A surprise. *(To audience)* I love surprises.

*(LEWIS is revealed)*

LEWIS

Mama … if Pippin kills Father …

FASTRADA

You’ll be next in line for the throne, darling.

LEWIS

But if Father discovers Pippin’s plot and executes him …

FASTRADA

You’ll be next in line for the throne, darling.

LEWIS

Mama, no matter what happens … I’ll move up!

FASTRADA

Yes, darling.

CHARLES

Well, I'm off to Arles to pray.

LEWIS

Safe travels, Father!

CHARLES

Goodbye! *(CHARLES goes.)*

FASTRADA *(Bows low)*

Goodbye, my lord… Oh my. Events move so swiftly, it's hard for a simple woman like me to keep up.

But something tells me that one day…soon…I will be able to say what every mother wants to say…"My

son, the King".