FASTRADA

Terrible. A son speaking against his very own father that way. In fear for my beloved husband’s life, I brought Pippin’s activities to his attention (to CHARLES) 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

Despite this rejection, I took upon my tiny shoulders the task of affecting a rapprochement between two men for whom I felt... deeply. (Seductively) My lord?

CHARLES

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

Oh well, good-bye!

FASTRADA

Good-bye! I sought out Pippin. You 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 at Arles- -next month- -alone.

PIPPIN

Alone?

FASTRADA

And unguarded!

PIPPIN

What date?

FASTRADA

The fifteenth. (PIPPIN contemplates) 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, no, no, no. Let it be a surprise. (HE exits)

FASTRADA

A surprise. (To audience) I love surprises!

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!

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".