

**By Pharaoh Elisha Brooks**

King John  
playing ping pong  
with France stand clear of Angiers—stand clear of Angiers Chatillion  
spilled King Philip's feeling on—  
King John's palace  
want young Arthur established  
—smell the aroma of war  
the executioner tugs on his sword  
protecting Queen Elinor  
and the English force  
that's King John's mother—

other things seem to be  
the Falconbridge brothers  
got trust issues with each other  
see  
one's a bastard son to his mum's lover  
Lady Falconbridge  
crossed the bridge  
and did  
King Richard  
when she told the bastard he could see it in his skin tissue  
lil' Robert Falconbridge wanted his inheritance  
ever since the display of DNA evidence  
his skeleton  
is gelatin  
his brother's is heaven-sent  
not to mention  
he was born when Papa  
was out at ship  
France lands to Angiers with the Archduke of Austria  
most think he killed Richard Lion but he's an imposter

he talks with young Arthur  
kisses his cold cheek  
—pledges his allegiance until an English defeat  
Constance is the mother of Arthur  
and she's awestruck—defending his right to the throne and his honor  
King Philip—King John—face to face—  
Angiers the place—  
Queen Elinor and Constance with both constant looks on their face  
catfight  
—can't act right  
the ladies is warring too  
the Bastard told Austria—“what the hell you wanna do?”  
“you ain't a hundred proof—  
youza a hole in roof”

the Mayor of Angiers—want some answers—the King of England  
—deserves the region  
they engage in war  
to settle the score  
the Earl of Pembroke—King John’s kinfolk  
ready for the battle when the trumpets blow  
it’s like a stalemate  
—both armies hell-faced  
looking at the Mayor like “where do we go?”

Lewis the Dauphin  
with Lady Blanch and countries together endeavor—it could be a plan  
the parties agree  
to be a part of history  
minds start to race—temperature changes instantly

Constance is in an uproar—  
she looks up towards—  
Salisbury the lord  
Arthur and Salisbury try to calm her down  
—King Philip revealin’ what’s going on how  
she’s all in a rage—  
Bastard and Austria have an exchange  
Cardinal Pandulph—hands off from the pope  
signaling seniority  
attempting authority  
King John says—  
“the church cannot order me”  
“I’m not your orderly  
—now act accordingly”  
the Cardinal threatens ex-communication  
and curses for his foul communication  
he knows he wants a wedge in between the two nations  
convinces King Philip to kill their arrangement  
the disagreement must be settled in blood  
a battle ensues in the plains by the mud so—

Austria’s head is in the hands of the Bastard  
he told em  
he’d kill em  
if he ever got the chancesta  
King John and associates feel kinda ferocious wartime  
Arthur sidelined  
so the focus shift

King John suggest to Hubert to kill the lil’ dooder  
while he prepare taxes for the church money scooper  
in a tent—King Philip crew—  
the Cardinal France feels defeated—

Pandulph says it's marginal  
Constance is stricken with grief  
—prowling like a mad beast  
knowing that her Arthur could become deceased  
Lewis is rather upset  
the Cardinal tells him don't you ever ever give up yet  
you still can touch success  
Arthur out the way—  
you still can touch the throne next  
present it to your wife Lady Blanch after long sex  
Hubert prepares—to burn Arthur's eyes out  
Arthur pleads his case so he takes the kinder route  
He wants to hide it from the King  
things ain't always what they seem  
the executioner feels relieved  
from not having to do the deed

King John gets crowned again  
Pembroke and Salisbury frown within  
like what you really gettin' outta this  
you're making urine out of piss  
a messenger tells King John that his mother's dead  
a prophet named Peter said to take the crown up off his head  
King John sends the Bastard to check up on Arthur Hubert says  
the street say—Arthur's death is upon us  
John blames Hubert fast  
like he ain't put em to the task  
Hubert tells him Arthur still alive—  
don't be so nervous

Arthur's on the wall outside  
of the castle  
he jumps to his death—every bone crackles  
the Lords and the Bastard  
find the body near after  
they think Hubert did it—  
Salisbury draws a dagger  
Hubert convinces the Bastard  
he did no such thing  
he goes to tell the King—

he goes to tell the King  
another coronation for King John  
—this time—the Cardinal puts the crown scepter gleam  
on em—ugh no other nation or team  
stronger still he used Pandulph to get the French movin'  
then he learned his lords have joined the French Union  
young Arthur's dead—the bastard seen the prince ruined  
the Cardinal tells Lewis the Dauphin

to chill  
Lewis says he never will  
you showed me this clever deal  
the crown's halfway on my head  
give it up for Rome and the church—who said?  
it's like taking candy from a baby  
I swear on my unborn baby I'll be king  
no ifs ands or maybes

France is ready to fight the church can't stop it either  
it's a bloody war and King John has a fever  
Chatillion's wounded to death  
he's eager to tell Salisbury and Pembroke—  
the dam been broke  
go beg King John for forgiveness for your revolt  
Prince Henry sees his father's sick and he starts to cry  
the Bastard told King John the Dauphin's coming right before he died

Prince Henry now wears the crown  
the Bastard's far from turnd down  
to defend England—he'd burn all of the world round  
he pledges his loyalty and offers his condolences  
England shall rise King Henry you know what it iz.

The End

*Pharaoh Elisha Brooks played the role of Chatillon in the 2017 performance of King John at Solano State Prison, Level III. After studying the play for several months, Pharaoh decided to write this introduction to the plot of the play.*