

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—

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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.