

018 CATELINE

I am not! I'm an honest person.  
Your Uncle Claude is my son, and I  
don't expect any greatness from  
him.

019 ROCH

(playful scolding)  
Grandmère!

ROCH FASTENS A METAL BELT BUCKLE AROUND HIS  
WAIST.

020 ROCH

I'm fully dressed. How do I look?  
Acceptable for dinner with the  
family?

021 CATELINE

I don't understand you young people  
with those short tunics! Walk me to  
dinner, my handsome grandson.

LIGHT ARS NOVA-STYLE MUSIC.

6 INT. MONTPELLIER MANOR - DINING CHAMBER - NIGHT

6

Jean, Libèra and Claude wait at the dinner table.

022 CLAUDE

Where is our mother and your son?  
We've waited long enough. Alert the  
servants that we'll start eating.

Side 1  
START >>>

023 JEAN

We can wait longer, Claude. You've  
always been impatient.

024 LIBÈRA

Jean is right. Cateline and Roch'll  
be along shortly.

025 CLAUDE

That son of yours can be quite  
immature. Making the Governor of  
Montpellier and his wife wait with  
all the pressure you two are under.  
Why, if I were Governor -

026 JEAN

(firm)  
But you are not, little brother. I  
am.

(MORE)

JEAN (CONT'D)

And you are fortunate that I allow you to live at the Governor's Manor as my assistant.

027 CLAUDE

(pulling back)

Yes, of course. I'm sorry to have lost my patience.

THE WOODEN DOOR TO THE DINING CHAMBER OPENS.

028 LIBÈRA

Ah! Here they come now. See - no harm done.

WOODEN CHAIRS SLIDE OUT.

029 ROCH

Sorry we're late, Father, Mother, Uncle Claude. Grandmère and I got to talking.

030 JEAN

Dare I ask about what?

031 CATELINE

Some things are best left between a grandmother and her grandson.

WOODEN CHAIRS PUSH IN AS THEY ALL SIT.

032 CLAUDE

I was just going to discuss with the Governor the delicate state of Montpellier. The pestilence is spreading at such a rapid rate...

033 LIBÈRA

It's heart-breaking. Makes one ashamed to sit down and eat a meal while so many are suffering.

034 CLAUDE

I'm sure my big brother has a plan, Libèra. Don't you, Jean?

035 JEAN

(troubled)

Unfortunately, there's very little anyone can do. There's no cure for this plague.

036 ROCH

We can always pray for them,  
Father.

037 LIBÈRA

Our son's correct. Yes, we must  
pray for those ailing.

038 CLAUDE

I'm afraid the people might need  
more than prayer.

039 JEAN

And what would you suggest, Claude?

040 CLAUDE

Perhaps you should be out among the  
people beyond the manor walls.  
Visit the sick. Show them that you  
do care.

041 CATELINE

You don't know of what you're  
speaking, Claude. Jean cannot put  
himself in harm's way.

042 ROCH

Grandmère, perhaps Uncle Claude's  
correct. Father's presence may give  
the dying comfort. And the Lord  
will protect him.

043 CATELINE

No. I will not have it! It's much  
too dangerous.

044 JEAN

Roch's right. I could visit the  
Montpellier hospitals and let the  
families know they have support of  
their Governor.

045 LIBÈRA

And I'll go with you, as your wife,  
and show support for the mothers of  
dying children.

046 JEAN

No, Libèra, you will stay. <<< END

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047 LIBÈRA

I'm not a simple dog you can  
command, Jean.