

JOAN

I suggest you go find the priest

He exits.

DUNOIS

We're only joking.

JOAN

That kind of thing is funny to you?

DUNOIS

You've witnessed at least a dozen battles; how can you be so squeamish?

JOAN

You think I like watching men die? I wish none of this were necessary.

DUNOIS

We're soldiers, and this is war.

JOAN

An excuse.

DUNOIS

Look, I know you're upset about Paris but it's no—

JOAN

I'm not upset about Paris.

DUNOIS

What then?

JOAN

What does null mean?

DUNOIS

Void. Unfounded.

JOAN

They claim his anointing is unfounded?

DUNOIS

(refers to letter)

What they mean is they refuse to recognize him as king.

JOAN

The truth is inconvenient for them, so they spread confusion to undermine it.

DUNOIS

Confusion?

JOAN

God delegates His authority amongst men. If one of them steps over the boundaries of his allotted authority, he creates confusion, does he not?

DUNOIS

The highest-ranking French nobleman claims there is no difference whether the king is English or French.

JOAN

There is a difference. None but God can declare sovereign power null.

DUNOIS

Perhaps they don't believe the King was anointed by the grace of God.

JOAN

Believe what they will, it's the truth. Charles is descended from royal blood, he was crowned and anointed, like all kings before him, in the Cathedral at Reims by the Archbishop. What's more, God revealed to me that Charles is the rightful king of this land.

DUNOIS

The King isn't the problem; it's you.

JOAN

Are you trying to tell me something?

DUNOIS

There have been rumors floating around about you.

JOAN

What kind of rumors?

DUNOIS

That you are a—witch.

JOAN

You know there is no truth to that.

DUNOIS

The English don't.

JOAN

They say they don't.

DUNOIS

The Earl of Warwick has begun telling the people of Normandy you've gained your victories through dirty tricks.

JOAN

All that means is they're worried.

DUNOIS

How do you figure?

JOAN

Why would Warwick feel the need to spread lies if he didn't think the people were beginning to believe in me?

DUNOIS

Even worse! If you are gaining influence and the Goddamns know it, they'll stop at nothing to take you out.

JOAN

Let them try.

DUNOIS

What do you have to fear? You've survived three separate mortal wounds, you've frightened legions of seasoned soldiers into bending to your will without a fight, you've even cursed people to their death.

JOAN

That's enough. God has saved me, not Satan.

DUNOIS

But look at it as if you were English.

JOAN

You think their point of view is reasonable?

DUNOIS

I didn't say that.

JOAN

It sounds to me as if you think there is stock in their claims that the anointing of King Charles VII is null.

DUNOIS

I assure you, I don't.

JOAN

Then let's strike while we can. If we—

DUNOIS

Stop. We don't have the means to take Paris now.

JOAN

They said that in Orleans.

DUNOIS

But this time there are no other forces. If we brought all of the armies together, maybe we would have 8,000 men, but Paris has 10,000 English and Burgundian soldiers. Likely more by now.

JOAN

We should have moved sooner.

DUNOIS

Perhaps the King is waiting for direction.

JOAN

My Voices have been—unspecific about the next step.

DUNOIS

Well then, there's nothing we can do.

JOAN

They can't command me in all things. Sometimes they sit and wait for me to have faith in my own common sense.

DUNOIS

Pray, tell me. What does your common sense say?

JOAN

To take Paris now before the Goddamns can fortify it against us.

DUNOIS

I don't have the power to give that order.

JOAN

You're maddening.

DUNOIS

Now you know how I feel working with you.

JOAN

The difference is I'm right.

DUNOIS

Not always.

JOAN

I am when God speaks to me.

DUNOIS

Just because you hear his voice doesn't mean you always understand what he is saying.

JOAN

I know I am imperfect. But neither of us can help that, can we?

La Hire enters.

LA HIRE

Joan?

JOAN

Yes?

LA HIRE

That woman is here again: with the baby.

DUNOIS

Tell her we're busy.

JOAN

Tell her to come in.

LA HIRE

So...

DUNOIS

I'm in charge.

JOAN

You're going to send this woman away to prove a point?

DUNOIS

Do what you want then!

JOAN

Tell her to come in, La Hire.

The Woman enters.

WOMAN

Forgive my intrusion.

JOAN

Any improvement?

WOMAN

He didn't wake up this morning.

JOAN

I'm very sorry.

WOMAN

Please, you've no idea how we struggled to have this baby.

JOAN

What would you like me to do?

WOMAN

(puts baby in Joan's arms)

Call him back.

JOAN

From the dead?

WOMAN

If there is anyone who can, it's you.

JOAN

I'm afraid it's too late.

WOMAN

I've heard of your miracles and signs given as you led the king to be crowned.

JOAN

These aren't the kind of miracles I can perform.

WOMAN

How do you know?

JOAN

I've done all the healing I know how to do. Since none of it worked, I don't know if God wills this baby to return.

WOMAN

Then ask him for me. Please.

Joan kneels, cradling the child.

JOAN

Lord, must this child remain lifeless?...Dear baby, in the name of Jesus, I command you to return to you mother, and wake up.

The baby cries.

WOMAN

Jean!

(to Joan)

How can I repay you?

JOAN

You've given me the gift.

WOMAN

Thank you.

Exits.

LA HIRE

Did I just witness—?

DUNOIS

Uh-huh.

JOAN

Do you still think I am a witch?

LA HIRE

Who said—?

DUNOIS

Stop it. What has gotten into you?

JOAN

John, we must do something. Can you abandon your people when they so faithfully believe in us?

DUNOIS

Alright, we can make another request of the King, this time in person.

JOAN

You think he'll see you?

DUNOIS

Oh no, not me. You.

Exits. Transition to antechamber. As the players transition, Joan mutters to herself.

JOAN

No, I want to boost his courage not disparage him...Something is holding him back...Look, I know there is a plan. Why don't you tell me what it is?...When will I be?

SCENE 2

The map plots CORBENY. The antechamber of the throne room. Yolande enters.

YOLANDE

Joan, my dear! How are you?

JOAN

A little tired from the journey.

YOLANDE

Is that all?

JOAN

Apart from the usual.