

The Sibling Rivals adapted by Dale A. Girard (Moliere)

F/F SS, R&D, SmS

The SIBLING RIVALS

A SWORD PLAY, adapted by Dale A. Girard (© 9/21/06 – Revised 7/1/08)
(Based on dialogue from Moliere's *The Feminine Savants*, as translated by Timothy Mooney)

Characters (2 Women):

ESTELLE

LISETTE

LISETTE

Estelle, please tell me that this is a joke,
Matters aren't solved with a sword thrust or poke.
Ladies reasonably talk 'bout how they feel,
Men settle affairs of honor with steel.

ESTELLE

Oh, fie, Lissette! If you intend to wed,
Then in so doing you're better off dead.
How can you stoop to play such petty part,
Demean your lofty spirit with the art
Of household chores and bringing up a litter
To please a man! Does this not make you bitter?

LISETTE

No, Estelle, it most certainly does not,
Which is why I scorn the sword that you've brought.

ESTELLE

I see, by now, how foolish notions carry
Your blind intent to match up and to marry.
But, unless your nuptial pact is dissolved,
By the sword this matter needs be resolved.

LISETTE

Why dear sister? What's your reason? Share it.
Is it marriage, or good Monsieur Clairret?

ESTELLE

He has nothing to do with the matter,
And to think so, you're mad as a hatter!
And yet, you must know it is rather crude
To steal a man who, for some other, sued.
Surely, you must –

LISETTE

Ah, that way goes the game!
It is not marriage but Clairret's good name
For which you have thus challenged me to fight.
You mask envy with concern for my plight.

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ESTELLE

How dare you 'cuse me of actions so base,
I'll not stand for such a slap in the face!
If you think that I wish to be his wife,
Take you this sword and defend your life!

[ESTELLE tosses a sword to LISETTE and charges, they fight]

LISETTE

You've no right to challenge Clairet and me
So give up this fight, yield, and let us be.

ESTELLE

No right? Indeed! Would not you now agree
The sighs Clairet's spent have been aimed at me.
But now you have come betwixt he and I,
And for that offense, Lisette, you must die!

[She attacks Lisette once again, they fight, Lisette gains the upper hand]

LISETTE

Listen Estelle, I would never exhort
To stop Clairet from paying you your court,
But once you gave the man such firm rejection
I took the love that came in my direction.
In this, there is no reason to kill me,
As it was you alone who set him free.

ESTELLE

Mayhaps I did, so what is that to you?
You are my rival and shall be run through!

[They fight, Estelle is disarmed. In frustration Estelle charges, and is tossed to the floor.]

LISETTE

Ah! Gently, Sister! Where is that restraint
That lifts above emotion's wicked taint,
And keeps one's anger ever in control?

ESTELLE

Anger? No! You thief of love! It pains my soul,
That in this affair with Clairet you commit
Without your parents' input into it?

LISETTE

Ah, dear Estelle. You need not worry there,
For I've been quite prudent in this affair.
You see, I've already done as you suggest;
And from our parents the wedding is blessed.
The day is won, and the nuptial day set,
I not only have your sword – but Clairet!