

SQUIRTS OF MILK HIT A FORGED METAL BUCKET AND A COW MOOS. CHILD BRIGID (AGED 10, AN OPEN, ADVENTUROUS GIRL) CHATS TO THE COW AS SHE MILKS.

051 CHILD BRIGID

We'll fill this milk bucket in no time today, girl. I've learned a new song. You want to hear it?

THE COW MAKES A LITTLE GRUNT.

052 CHILD BRIGID (CONT'D)

I knew you would!

SHE SINGS A MERRY TUNE TO THE RHYTHM OF THE SQUIRTING MILK:

053 CHILD BRIGID (CONT'D)

(singing)

*I saw a stranger yesterday;  
I put food in the eating place,  
Drink in the drinking place,  
Music in the listing place,  
And in the name of the Triune  
He blessed myself and my house,  
My cattle and my dear ones.  
And the lark said in her song  
Often, often, often,  
Goes the Christ in the stranger's  
guise,  
Often, often, often  
Goes the Christ in the stranger's  
guise.*

AS BRIGID GETS TO THE END OF HER SONG, FOOTSTEPS APPROACH.

A BAIL OF HAY HITS THE GROUND WITH A THUD.

054 CHILD CATHAL

A fresh bail of hay for Donella there, Brigid.

CHILD BRIGID STOPS MILKING, SURPRISED TO SEE CHILD CATHAL (PRON 'CA-HILL') HE'S AGED 11, AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND INTELLIGENT LAD WHO IS CURIOUS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY.

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Side 1  
START >>>

055 CHILD BRIGID

You're her favourite cowkeeper, Cathal!

056 CHILD CATHAL

What's that you're singing?

057 CHILD BRIGID

I heard some of the shepherds  
singing it the other day. I think  
it's about a beggar who blesses  
people and cows.

058 CHILD CATHAL

Do you know who 'Christ' is?

059 CHILD BRIGID

No. But the song makes him sound  
like a lad who likes a hearty meal.  
I can relate to that.

060 CHILD CATHAL

(laughing)

Brigid, the shepherds are  
Christians. They worship Christ.

061 CHILD BRIGID

Christ is a god?

062 CHILD CATHAL

He's the only God. Well, I mean,  
he's part of one Triune God.  
Christians don't worship many gods  
and goddesses like we do.

063 CHILD BRIGID

What's 'Triune'?

064 CHILD CATHAL

It means three parts. A Trinity.  
From what I've heard, one part is  
Christ, the lad from your song, and  
he's the son of God the  
Father...and there's a third one. A  
Holy something-or-other.

065 CHILD BRIGID

Three persons in one God. How  
strange that sounds! I've heard  
people talk about Christians, but I  
didn't realise we knew any! Are  
there many Christians here in  
Ireland, Cathal?

066 CHILD CATHAL

I don't think so. But there's a  
strange foreign man named Padraig  
who wanders around telling folk  
about the Christian God.

(MORE)

CHILD CATHAL (CONT'D)  
I can take you to hear him talk the  
next time he's visiting the  
village, if you like?

067 CHILD BRIGID  
(disappointed)  
Our master will never let me leave  
the estate. Dairy maids have no  
business being anywhere but right  
here, milking cows to make sure  
there's cream for supper.

068 CHILD CATHAL  
(eyes lighting up)  
There's cream for supper?!  
(chancing his arm)  
Do you need me to sample it?

069 CHILD BRIGID  
(laughing)  
No! You'll have to wait til supper, <<< END  
greedy guts!

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FADE OUT.

8 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

8

CHILD BRIGID ENTERS THE KITCHEN (A WOODEN HUT),  
STRUGGLING WITH A SLOSHING PITCHER OF MILK AND  
POTS OF CREAM.

070 CHILD BRIGID  
Dierdre? Hello, Dierdre? The  
pitcher is full to the brim today.  
And there's three pots of cream!  
The cows are giving us so much  
milk! Singing to them definitely  
helped.  
(silence)  
Dierdre?

A WOMAN AND TODDLER ARE AT THE DOOR.

071 PREGNANT WOMAN  
Excuse us, girleen.

072 CHILD BRIGID  
(jumps)  
Oh! Hello there! I was expecting  
our cook - Dierdre.