

077 DUBHTHACH (CONT'D)  
(irritated again)  
And take that... mangy thing with  
you!

MUSIC TRANSITION.

9

INT. KITCHEN, CHIEFTAIN'S HOUSE - DAY

9

BRIGID STANDS AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE KITCHEN.

078 BRIGID  
(hushed, to fox)  
Stay outside, little lad.

BRIGID STEPS INTO A COSY, LOW-CEILINGED TIMBER  
HUT. A POT OF WATER BUBBLES ON THE FIRE.

Side 1  
START >>>

079 BRIGID (CONT'D)  
(a bit tearful)  
Hello? My name is Brigid -

AOIFE IS SEATED, CHOPPING VEGETABLES. SHE LEAPS  
UP FROM HER STOOL.

080 AOIFE  
Brigid! Is it really you?

081 BRIGID  
The Chieftain sent me down here.  
I'm a good dairy maid, but I've not  
done much cooking -

082 AOIFE  
(brimming with joy)  
My name is Aoife. I was there the  
day you were born, Brigid.

083 BRIGID  
You... you knew my mam?

084 AOIFE  
I did! Oh, she was my dear friend.

085 BRIGID  
What was she like?

086 AOIFE  
Sit down here, love. We'll chop  
vegetables for the stew.

STOOLS SCRAPE AS THEY SIT AND CHOP VEGETABLES.

087 AOIFE (CONT'D)

Broichsech was from Hispania. She was captured by Irish raiders and brought back here as a slave. She was radiant. Even Dubhthach could not resist romancing her, and he has no tolerance for Christians.

088 BRIGID

(stunned, overwhelmed)

My mam was a Christian?

089 AOIFE

Yes, love! She would talk to me for hours about Heaven, the angels, and the Triune God.

090 BRIGID

(hopeful)

You... you know a lot about what it is to be Christian?

091 AOIFE

Only what your mam shared with me. I wish I knew more.

092 BRIGID

Do you know what it means to consecrate yourself to God?

093 AOIFE

Consecrate?

094 BRIGID

It means becoming a nun. A bride of Christ. That's what I hope to do.

095 AOIFE

(imploringly)

Brigid, you must not tell the Chieftain about this.

096 BRIGID

But I must! I would have just now, but he was so angry at me.

097 AOIFE

(imploring)

Brigid, listen to me. You cannot tell him. On the day you were born, an angel appeared.

098 BRIGID

An angel? Truly? What did he say?

099 AOIFE

He...

(stalling)

...pass me those carrots there.

BRIGID ROLLS A FEW CARROTS ACROSS THE TABLE.

100 AOIFE (CONT'D)

(hesitates because she's  
withholding the truth)

He... The angel didn't say anything  
that's important right now, my  
love.

MUSIC CUE: A TENDER TUNE THAT BUILDS IN  
INTENSITY.

101 AOIFE (CONT'D)

But the Chieftain refused to  
believe it was an angel and... he  
let his fear of the fairy folk get  
the better of him.

(tears pricking)

That's why you were sent away and  
now that you've finally found your  
way back to us, if you refuse to do  
your duty to the clan, he'll be  
fuming, and I couldn't bare to -

BRIGID'S STOOL SCRAPES A SHE STANDS:

102 **BRIGID**

(passionate now)

But Aoife, I must have Christ in my  
life!

<<< END

103 AOIFE

(matching her agitation)

You do have Christ in your life!  
I... I baptized you!

MUSIC CUE: IT'S A HUGE REVELATION.

104 AOIFE (CONT'D)

I was told to take you away, but  
halfway through the journey, I  
stopped by a stream...

Flashback to the night Aoife took baby Brigid away:

A FIERCE IRISH WIND OVERLAYS THE SCENE (THE SFX  
OVERLAPS THE FINAL LINE OF AOIFE'S PRECEDING  
LINE, LEADING US INTO THE FLASHBACK). A HORSE  
SNORTS IN THE DISTANCE. A STREAM RUSHES.

049 BRIGID

(earnest)

To the only man I wish to wed. He loves me. He speaks to my heart. He is magnificent! He has taken me in His arms and transformed me! He will always love me -

050 DUBHTHACH

(demanding)

Tell me the name of this lad!

051 BRIGID

His name is Jesus Christ.

052 KING OF LEINSTER

His name is - ?

SILENCE. THEN DUBHTHACH AND THE KING BURST INTO ROARS OF LAUGHTER.

053 KING OF LEINSTER (CONT'D)

(wiping tears of laughter)

Oh, Dubhthach. What entertainment you've brought to my door today!

MUSIC TRANSITION.

7

INT. CHIEFTAIN'S COTTAGE - DAY

7

DUBHTHACH ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY BRIGID.

054 GRAINNE

Dubthach, my love. You're back... and Brigid, too?

Father and daughter have been arguing the whole journey home and and they bring this mood with them into the house:

055 DUBHTHACH

Summon the tailor, Grainne. We're ordering a wedding gown.

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056 BRIGID

(exasperated teen)

We went through all this on our journey back - how many times do I have to explain it?! Now that I'm free, I don't want a tie to a husband or a home...

057 GRAINNE

What on earth is going on?

Side 2  
START >>>

058 **BRIGID**

...I want to take care of people.  
With God helping me.

059 GRAINNE

God? What god?

060 DUBHTHACH

The King frees you, then offers to  
wed you to his bard, and you  
refuse?!

061 GRAINNE

(gasps)

Oh no...

062 **BRIGID**

I had no choice.

063 DUBHTHACH

Because of Christianity? Do you  
know what people will say if they  
find out my daughter thinks she's  
betrothed to a deity?!

064 **BRIGID**

(emboldened)

His name is Christ, Dad. Your  
superstitions sent me away when I  
was a baby. And now you won't let  
me give my heart to God. But can't  
you see that there's a new light in  
Ireland? Why are you afraid of it?

065 DUBHTHACH

(triggered, remembering  
prophecy)

There's no... new light... in  
Ireland! And never tell me what I'm  
afraid of.

(beat)

You'll be married by the end of the  
week. To anyone that will take you.

066 **BRIGID**

(tears coming)

Please don't make me do that.

<<< END

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067 GRAINNE

(cold, clipped)

Brigid. You're a girl. You don't  
get to decide what happens to you.

AOIFE (CONT'D)

Your face is bright red and I've never seen hair that color in all my days! You look like you should be put in a jar and pickled with the rest of these vegetables!

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Side 3  
START >>>

093 BRIGID

Patrick said it was a miracle when it happened the last time, but...

094 AOIFE

(first she's heard of this)

The last time?!

095 BRIGID

(as if it's no biggie)

Oh, I caused a landslide of bread and butter in the larder.

096 AOIFE

(flummoxed)

Did you now?

097 BRIGID

Aoife, I'm so happy the prayer I said last night has been answered, but there's no way God is performing miracles through me! Who am I to be deserving of such a blessing?

098 AOIFE

(takes a deep breath, turns sombre)

Brigid, when the angel came on the day you were born... he came with a prophesy. You're chosen by God, my love.

099 BRIGID

What? Why didn't you tell me before?

100 AOIFE

I was worried for you. I wanted to keep you close. To keep you safe. Ireland clings to the old traditions and laughs at those who challenge them. But you, dear Brigid, have stood up to your dad and forged a new road ahead.

(MORE)

AOIFE (CONT'D)

You will spread the light of the faith in Ireland. You will care for her people. I can see that now.

(reaching for a hug)

Come here to me.

AOIFE AND BRIGID EMBRACE.

101 **BRIGID**

Oh, Aoife.

102 AOIFE

You must find a Bishop at once and take your vows, before Dubhthach changes his mind. I've heard folk talk of a monastery a few days' walk west, in Ardagh, not far from the River Shannon.

103 **BRIGID**

(awed)

A monastery? A walled village where Christians live and work and pray together? There will be nuns and monks there, Aoife!

104 AOIFE

Yes, my girl. Now listen, it's a great responsibility you have been tasked with. The more folk you help, the more folk will appear who need help. Are you absolutely certain you want to cross over that bridge?

105 **BRIGID**

All I've ever wanted to do my whole life is help those in need. To give them nourishment, safety and love. I've never felt hungry or unsafe, and now I see why: I have been wrapped in God's love since the day I was born. Oh, how I long that everyone in Ireland should know God's love, Aoife.

<<< END

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106 AOIFE

I will pray for you, Brigid.

MUSIC TRANSITION: BRIGID EMBARKS ON A JOURNEY.