

TERESA (CONT'D)
 And in that instant I felt myself
 transported with the community,
 clothed in a white mantle and a
 great black veil..."

THE MUSIC CLIMAXES AND ENDS.

11 INT. RECREATION ROOM, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - NIGHT 11

WALLA: THE NUN COMMUNITY FRET AMONGST THEMSELVES

058 CHARLOTTE
 This enclosure is all I've known
 for fifty-six years.

059 CONSTANCE
 How can this be happening in
 France?

060 EUPHRASIA
 We're a contemplative order. We
 help the people through prayer.
 What use are we out there? God has
 put us here.

061 MARIE-HENRIETTE
 (attempting comfort)
 Carmelite women are strong women.
 We were called to a life of
 austerity. Fasting. Chilblains.
 Itchy habits. We'll take the books
 of the Divine Office with us and
 maintain our rhythm of prayer as
 well as we can. Won't we, Mother?
 (no answer)
 Mother?

Side 1
START >>>

062 TERESA
 (deep in thought)
 My daughters. After I was given the
 heartbreaking news this evening, I
 found myself in the library,
 reading the description of a mystic
 dream that our sister - Sister
 Elisabeth Baptiste - had one
 hundred years ago. It was as
 if...as if God gave me the instinct
 to read exactly what I needed.

063 CONSTANCE
 What was it about, Mother?

064 **TERESA**

Jesus is calling us to follow him,
the Lamb.

065 **CONSTANCE**

Follow...the Lamb? Like the 144,000
in the Book of Revelation?

066 **TERESA**

What I am proposing is that we
offer our lives daily for the
salvation of France.

067 **CHARLOTTE**

(God have mercy)

Dieu ait pitié!

068 **TERESA**

Each day, we will consecrate
ourselves as a sacrifice, so that
the divine peace which His beloved
Son brought to the world will be
brought to the Church and the
state.

069 **CONSTANCE**

Sacrifice, Mother?

070 **TERESA**

We must be open to all that He asks
of us.

071 **EUPHRASIA**

(reeling)

You mean...we are to be martyrs?

072 **TERESA**

I don't believe it will come to
that, Sister Euphrasia. We will
simply offer ourselves to God each
day, and be willing to make
whatever sacrifice is required to
restore peace to France and her
Church.

073 **EUPHRASIA**

(panicked)

You want us to tempt Heaven! By
volunteering ourselves as victims
for that newfangled guillotine!

074 CHARLOTTE

(upset)

Oh, Mother - no! Joining this order as a young girl allowed me to escape the violence of the outside world. Please don't say this is the path He wants for us! I'm afraid of what I might have to endure.

075 CONSTANCE

Don't cry, Sister Charlotte.

076 TERESA

(startled at the fallout)

I'm sorry that I've upset many of you. But try to remember, daughters, my conclusions are not in disagreement with Holy Mother Teresa of Avila's holy intentions for our order.

CHARLOTTE SNIFFS

077 TERESA (CONT'D)

Teresa described us, her sisters, as 'standard-bearers', the unarmed soldiers responsible for carrying the flag in military battles. The standard-bearer is not a combatant, yet is exposed to great danger, and, inwardly, must suffer more than anyone, for they must not allow the standard to leave their hands, even if they are cut to pieces. The Carmelite duty is to suffer as Christ did, to raise the Cross on high, whatever perils they find themselves in. For, if they let the standard fall, the battle will be lost.

078 EUPHRASIA

(deeply troubled)

I know we must hold the flag of faith for Christ, but I just can't see how the horror of decapitation could ever be glorious or salvatory.

079 CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry, Mother. I'm deeply troubled.

080 **TERESA**

I understand, sisters. Please, go. Spend some time with the One who loves us. Then we will meet in the prayer room for our last Compline within these walls, and one last Great Silence in the solitude of our cells. We can talk about it again in the morning.

(blessing)

May the all-powerful Lord grant you a peaceful night and a perfect end.

◀◀ END

081 EUPHRASIA AND CHARLOTTE

Thank you, Mother.

EUPHRASIA AND CHARLOTTE EXIT

082 TERESA

Sister Marie-Henriette and Sister Constance, you do not need to be alone for contemplation?

083 MARIE-HENRIETTE

No, Mother. For some time, I have been asking God to show me a way that I can help bring peace to my beloved France. I agree this is a word from Him.

084 CONSTANCE

The Lord is calling us to follow Him, Mother. And I want to be strong. I want to help save France. Like Joan of Arc, who gave her life for God and country. But at the same time...I am terrified, Mother.

MUSIC TRANSITION

12

INT. PARLOR, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - MORNING

12

ATMOS: MORNING BIRDSONG OUTSIDE

SOME OF THE NUNS SING SALVE REGINA [ADDENDUM 2-A] TO CONSOLE THEMSELVES WHILE THEY DON CIVILIAN CLOTHES.

085 CHARLOTTE

There are so many buttons on these civilian clothes.