

013 NUN COMMUNITY
 (chanting in Latin)
*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
 Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et
 nunc, et semper: et in Saecula
 saeculorum. Amen.*

OUTSIDE, A TOWER BELL SOUNDS FIVE TIMES.

014 TERESA
 May the Lord bless us, protect us
 from all evil and bring us to
 everlasting life.

015 NUN COMMUNITY
 Amen.

Teresa (30s) is the Prioress. A fair leader, but lacking confidence due to her youth. Mystically insightful.

016 TERESA
 (softly)
 That concludes our Vespers for
 another day, my daughters. Let's
 prepare for supper and recreation.

FOOTSTEPS ON STONE FLOORS AS THE NUNS MOVE
 THROUGH THE BUILDING. WALLA FROM THE NUNS AS
 THEY CHATTER SOFTLY AMONGST THEMSELVES.

Constance (20s) is the youngest nun and ingenue. Charlotte (70s) is the oldest, uses a crutch, cheeky and full of vim.

A CRUTCH HITS THE STONE FLOOR AS CHARLOTTE WALKS

017 CONSTANCE
 (softly)
 How was your afternoon of silent
 work and contemplation, Sister
 Charlotte?

**Side 1
 START >>>**

018 CHARLOTTE
 Most rewarding, child. After fifty-
 three years here behind these walls
 in Compiègne, silence is never
 empty but filled with His loving
 presence. And you, Sister
 Constance?

019 CONSTANCE
 I'm still adjusting to the quiet,
 but I was tending the pear trees in
 our monastery's orchard today and I
 felt very close to God.

020 **CHARLOTTE**

Ah! The orchard is my favorite place to know Him. You're due to take your vows very soon?

021 **CONSTANCE**

Yes. I can't wait for the wedding day. I will dance and sing with joy, like Our Holy Mother Saint Teresa of Avila.

022 **CHARLOTTE**

(chuckles)

How I loved to dance when I was your age. Unfortunately now I'm 78-years-old and forced to hobble around with this crutch!

023 **CONSTANCE**

(affectionately)

When I wed the Divine Bridegroom, you and I shall dance, crutch and all.

(offers hand)

Here, take my hand, Sister Charlotte. We're on kitchen duty together this evening.

024 **CHARLOTTE**

Ah, yes! With the Mother Prioress and Sister Euphrasia. That should be interesting.

025 **CONSTANCE**

(tactfully)

Has Sister Euphrasia always been so...so...

026 **CHARLOTTE**

Headstrong? Restless? Exasperating?

027 **CONSTANCE**

(blushing)

Yes.

028 **CHARLOTTE**

(amused)

Don't worry, child. Our Holy Mother wanted all her sisters to know each others' eccentricities. The difference in personalities within our community teaches us patience and generosity.

029 CONSTANCE
Of course.

030 CHARLOTTE
And I must say we've all been
greatly tested in that lesson since
we elected our current Mother
Prioress, instead of Sister
Euphrasia.

<<< END

MUSIC TRANSITION.

7 INT. KITCHEN, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - EVENING 7

BUBBLING SOUP IS BEING LADLED INTO BOWLS. THE
ATMOSPHERE IS SERENE.

031 TERESA
I always look forward to your
cabbage soup, Sister Charlotte.

032 CHARLOTTE
Thank you, Mother.

033 CONSTANCE
We don't eat much, but what we do
eat, we prepare well.

034 TERESA
Oui! We are French, after all!

EUPHRASIA ENTERS

Euphrasia (50s) is sharp and quick-witted, doesn't hold back
about things, prone to dramatics.

035 EUPHRASIA
(agitated)
Sisters! I must speak!

036 TERESA
Then speak, Sister Euphrasia!

037 EUPHRASIA
I have an urgent letter from my
cousin. There's been an uprising in
Paris! The French Guard has
evacuated and left the city to be
ransacked by...revolutionaries!

THE GROUP GASPS IN DISTRESS. A BEAT WHILE THEY
ALL PROCESS IT.