

089 TERESA
Sister Euphrasia!

THEY'RE INTERRUPTED BY A VOICE SHOUTING OVER THE WALL. IT'S FLORENT (20S, YOUNG AND EASILY LED).

090 FLORENT (O.C.)
Genevieve? Are you in there?
Genevieve?

091 CONSTANCE
Florent?

092 FLORENT (O.C.)
Oui!

It's very unusual for a family member to show up like this.

093 CONSTANCE
Brother! What are you...stop
shouting over the wall - go into
the parlor and we can speak through
the grille.

094 TERESA
We'll come with you, daughter.
We'll put down our veils.

10 INT. PARLOR, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - CONTINUOUS 10

CONSTANCE PULLS BACK A CURTAIN TO SPEAK TO FLORENT THROUGH THE GRILLE.

095 CONSTANCE
Florent, what are you doing here?

096 FLORENT
Maman and Papa sent me. I'm taking
you back home, Genevieve. Come out
from behind those bars.

FYI

097 CONSTANCE
My name is Sister Constance.

TERESA, EUPHRASIA, CHARLOTTE AND MARIE-HENRIETTE SHUFFLE INTO THE PARLOR, VEILS DOWN.

098 FLORENT
No! You're still a novice. You must
have heard you can't take your
vows?! There's no point remaining
here. And frankly it's not safe to
be practicing your faith at all.

099 CHARLOTTE

Not safe? Catholicism is the faith of France, young buck!

100 FLORENT

Not for long, sister. The new France is one of Enlightened philosophical views and scientific progress, not an ancient religion. Come on Genevieve, we need to go.

Side 2

START >>>

101 **CONSTANCE**

Florent, no. I...I know about the new law. God is asking me to show my commitment to our union, so you must let me stay.

102 FLORENT

Are you mad?

TERESA STEPS FORWARD.

103 TERESA

If Sister Constance wishes to stay and remain faithful to her calling, we stand in support of her.

104 **CONSTANCE**

Thank you, Mother.

105 FLORENT

Genevieve, you must have a sense of self-preservation. This grille and these walls will not protect you! There's rumors of more severe anti-Christian decrees on the way.

106 CHARLOTTE

Lord have mercy.

107 **CONSTANCE**

(mustering some courage)
I'm staying here, Florent.

108 FLORENT

I'm not taking no for an answer. Got you!

FLORENT GRABS CONSTANCE'S WRIST THROUGH THE GRILLE BARS.

109 **CONSTANCE**

You're not allowed to reach through the grille! Let me go!

THE NUNS GASP/REACT.

110 FLORENT
Not until you agree to come home.

111 CHARLOTTE
Unhand her, boy! Unhand her!

CHARLOTTE JABS HIM REPEATEDLY WITH HER CRUTCH.
IT HITS UP AGAINST THE IRON GRILLE.

112 FLORENT
Ow! Stop jabbing me with your
crutch, old woman! Ow! Ow!

113 TERESA
Sister Charlotte! What are you
doing?

114 EUPHRASIA
She's protecting us from this
wretch! Here, let me at him with
this broom.

EUPHRASIA POKES HER BROOMSTICK THROUGH THE BARS.

115 FLORENT
Ooft! Ow!

SUITABLY DETERRED, FLORENT UNHANDS CONSTANCE.

116 FLORENT (CONT'D)
You're all mad! I'm not leaving
without you, little sister. Let's
see what the police have to say!

FLORENT MAKES TO EXIT. CONSTANCE CALLS HIM BACK:

117 **CONSTANCE**
Brother, please listen! I'm
grateful to you for being alarmed
by the dangers I may face in
remaining here, but you must
understand that nothing, absolutely
nothing but death, can ever
separate me from the company of my
Mother and Sisters.

118 FLORENT
(shaken by all this)
No, I don't understand! I don't
understand how you can say that!

119 **CONSTANCE**

I'm led by my conscience. Please beg Maman and Papa not to worry about me, since nothing can happen except as it pleases God to allow it. All you need to understand is this: I'm completely at peace.

120 FLORENT

Your affection for God transcends your family? Even though you may never even take your vows?

121 **CONSTANCE**

I...Yes. I'm sorry.

122 FLORENT

(stiffly)

I see. I will tell Maman and Papa of this great love you have described, however distressed by it I am.

(beat)

You'll need courage for what may be ahead. I wish you safety, sister.

123 **CONSTANCE**

(tearing up)

Thank you. Goodbye. And God bless you, dear brother.

◀◀ END

MUSIC TRANSITION.

11 INT. DINING ROOM, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - EVENING

11

PLATES AND CUTLERY ARE PLACED ON THE DINING TABLES. NUNS TAKE THEIR SEATS. TERESA STANDS.

124 TERESA

Daughters, before we begin our supper, I must speak. There are troubled times ahead. As we've heard, more anti-Christian decrees are coming. As Prioress, I'm responsible for your protection. So, if all or any one of my fifteen daughters would like to return to her family, you must do so. I will remain here to care for our monastery until it is safe for you to return.

WALLA: THE NUN COMMUNITY GASP AND WHISPER.