

WALLA: SPECTATORS WAITING FOR A TRIAL TO START.

092 JUDGE

Ordre, ordre.

THE SPECTATORS QUIETEN.

093 ANTOINE

Mesdames et messieurs, my name is Antoine Fouquier-Tinville of the public prosecution. These sixteen women are today arraigned before a judge and the Revolutionary Tribunal. In accordance with the law, no legal assistance is permitted for the defense.

(addressing the nuns)

Mesdames, you are charged with religious fanaticism and conspiring against the state. How do you plead?

A STUNNED BEAT FROM THE NUNS.

094 MARIE-HENRIETTE

Fanaticism? We are charged with fanaticism?

095 ANTOINE

Yes, madame. You are accused of being fanatics.

096 MARIE-HENRIETTE

Monsieur Fouquier-Tinville, in order for us to give you our plea, you will need to tell us the meaning you ascribe to the word 'fanaticism'.

097 ANTOINE

It should be perfectly obvious what I mean by the word.

098 JUDGE

(dry, moving on)

You are accused of conspiring against the state by hiding weapons in your convent that were intended for traitors who had left France.

099 EUPHRASIA

Weapons?

**Side 2
START >>>**

100 TERESA

The only weapon we've ever had in our monastery is this.

(holding up her crucifix)

The crucifix. You cannot prove we have ever had any others.

101 JUDGE

(ignoring her)

An altar furnishing was found that is shaped like a royal cloak, indicating your attachment to the monarchy and, therefore, Louis the Sixteenth and his family.

102 EUPHRASIA

The altar furnishing is shaped like all others! Possessing it is not an indication we are monarchists, and it's certainly not a crime!

103 JUDGE

(ignoring her too)

You have corresponded with those who have fled from France and sent them money.

104 TERESA

(distressed by this)

Those letters included nothing but spiritual advice to those in need. And if that is indeed the crime you wish to charge us with, then the blame lies solely on me. Our Rule forbids all correspondence without the Prioress' permission - even to write to one's families. So, I say again, if this is your strongest evidence against us, then...I...I insist that you take me. If you must have a victim, here I am. My daughters are all innocent. They have done nothing, nor could they do anything, except by my orders.

105 EUPHRASIA

(deeply affected)

Mother...we would never want you to make such a sacrifice for us.

106 TERESA

Sister Euphrasia, it was you who reminded us that Jesus said if you are persecuted in one town, you must flee to the next. If I can save you, I will.

107 ANTOINE

You are forgetting the second charge, of fanaticism, madame.

108 MARIE-HENRIETTE

And you're forgetting to tell us what you mean by that word, monsieur!

109 CHARLOTTE

I don't think he knows what it means.

110 ANTOINE

(irritated, lashing out)
Don't be absurd! I mean by it, your attachment to childish beliefs and your silly religious practices!

MURMURS FROM THE PEOPLE IN THE COURTROOM.

111 MARIE-HENRIETTE

You see! He openly admits we are condemned for clinging to our holy religion! The absurd charges about weapons and royal cloaks are smoke and mirrors.

112 ANTOINE

You are criminals and annihilators of public freedom!

◀◀◀ END

TERESA STANDS.

113 TERESA

Messieurs! You have brought us here under paltry, ridiculous, and utterly false reasons-

114 JUDGE

Quiet, madame! I've heard enough. This Revolutionary Tribunal finds all sixteen women guilty of seeking to destroy public freedom, by force and subterfuge. The penalty is death.