TRANSITION WITH MUSIC.

8 **EXT. CLAIRVAUX GARDEN - DAY**

LIGHT INSECT BUZZING. SLIGHT BREEZE.

061 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
Bernard, the letter you wrote to Robert, the contents have spread.

Side 2
START >>>

062 BERNARD
Has Robert repented? Is he returning?

063 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
Your letter has caused a church-wide scandal!

064 BERNARD
It is a scandal that Cluny snatched Robert away from us.

065 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
That is not what the people of the surrounding villages are saying. The Cluny monks have accused you of slander, Bernard. Of defaming their Order and monks. In fact, they are now slandering all Cistercians.

066 BERNARD
That is absurd.

067 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
They are making very serious accusations, Bernard, and they are using your own words against you.

068 BERNARD
The excesses of Cluny that I warned Robert to be aware of are clear for anyone to see.

069 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
You must write an Apology.

070 BERNARD
I will not apologize for pointing out a true weakness of Cluny.

071 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
No, I mean you must defend your position.
(MORE)

WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY (CONT'D)
Clearly state your argument while showing that your rebuke of Cluny does not proceed from envy but from true concern for the emerging deviations in the Rule of St. Benedict.

072 BERNARD
A defense will only make the situation worse! I am a simple monk, William. I do not want to be drawn into public drama.

073 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
Bernard, your letter to Robert has pulled you into the public sphere whether you like it or not.

074 BERNARD
This is beyond my capability.

075 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
The faithful are in upheaval. Cluny has an illustrious reputation, as does Clairvaux. But this apparent rivalry is dividing The Body of Christ. The people are taking sides in heated arguments.

076 BERNARD
I provided fraternal correction. I have nothing against Cluny monks, only their immoderate behavior.

077 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
Slander is a poison which kills charity, both in the slanderer and in the one who listens. You must make it clear: Cluniacs and Cistercians are not enemies. You are brothers in Christ.

078 BERNARD
Writing something like this is so loathsome. I simply do not have the leisure to take on such a task. It will take me away from my prayer.

<<< END

079 WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
Eternal souls are at stake, and will be lost if you do not take action. You are the only one who can do this, Bernard.