

NUNS
a satirical comedy

By

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Cast of Characters

SISTER CATHRINE:	Irish, Addictive Smoker, Drinker, gambler. Trouble maker. Tall
SISTER ROZA:	Sidekick to CATHRINE, smart, pragmatic. short
SISTER BERNADETTE:	Virginal, innocent, easily swayed. Fetish for women in crochet
MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: :	Dogmatic, stern but not without vices. Evil in a subtle way. Manipulative.

ACT I

1

SCENE 1

1

LIGHTS UP

We open on a bare stage. Three nuns enter looking very nervous. They are looking around as if someone is looking for them or they expect to be found.

SISTER CATHRINE: Can you see anyone ?

SISTER ROZZA: No. You ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: All clear.

SISTER CATHRINE: Thank god, I thought we'd never get away.

SISTER ROZZA: Yeah

SISTER BERNADETTE: Cigarette ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Thanks .

SISTER ROZZA: Cheers.

BERNADETTE - looks for her cigarettes.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Oh dear !

SISTER ROZZA: What ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: I think I left them inside.

SISTER CATHRINE: Tell me you're joking.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Sorry.

SISTER CATHRINE: Sorry, Do you have any idea what I go through to get us here.

SISTER ROZZA: Calm down.

SISTER CATHRINE: Calm down. Calm down ! I haven't had a cigarette since YESTERDAY ! AND NOW THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY I HAVE UNTIL TOMORROW IS GONE AND YOU'RE TELLING ME TO CALM DOWN.

SISTER ROZZA: Sister relax.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I'll go back inside and get them.

SISTER ROZZA: You can't. If mother superior sees you she'll make you do dishes.

SISTER CATHRINE: And were stuck out here with nothing.

SISTER BERNADETTE: It's okay. Look.

BERNADETTE takes out half a cigarette.

SISTER CATHRINE: Give me that. Did you bring the lighter ?

SISTER ROZZA: Of course.

SISTER ROZZA: takes out a lighter and tries to light the cigarette but it doesn't work.

SISTER ROZZA: (CONT'D) It's not working.

SISTER CATHRINE: Keep trying.

SISTER BERNADETTE:: Give it to me.

BERNADETTE tries it. Still doesn't work.

SISTER BERNADETTE: (CONT'D)I think it's out of fluid.

SISTER CATHRINE: OUT OF FLUID ! HOW COULD IT BE OUT OF FLUID. DIDN'T YOU FILL IT UP !

SISTER ROZZA: It's a disposable.

SISTER CATHRINE: Disposable ! You bought a disposable lighter ? What good is that ? It's not as if we can go out and buy lighters whenever we want, is it ?

SISTER ROZZA: Can't exactly go out and get lighter fluid either .

SISTER BERNADETTE: Wait nearly got it.

They try again and get a small flame. SISTER CATHRINE: puffs away

SISTER CATHRINE: Oh yes, Oh yes, Oh God. That is better then sex.

SISTER ROZZA: Pardon ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: How do you know it's better then sex ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Uumm...well think about it you can suck on a cigarette and....

SISTER BERNADETTE: puts her hands over her ears.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Thank you I don't need to hear any more.

SISTER ROZZA: Actually cigarettes are better then men.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I don't need to hear this.

SISTER ROZZA: They don't leave the toilet seat up for one.

SISTER CATHRINE: They don't hog the sheets

SISTER ROZZA: They don't care what you look like naked.

SISTER BERNADETTE: You two need to go to confession.

SISTER CATHRINE: A cigarette is always long and hard.
She looks at the half smoked cigarette.

SISTER CATHRINE: (CONT'D) Most of the time.

SISTER BERNADETTE: You two have a very unhealthy preoccupation with sex.

SISTER ROZZA: Sister don't be such a fuddy duddy.

SISTER CATHRINE: We're just having a little fun.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I suppose. It's not as if you would really do anything... like that.

CATHRINE & ROZZA shoot each other a knowing look. BERNADETTE: catches it.

SISTER BERNADETTE: (CONT'D) Sisters ?

SISTER ROZZA: (GUILTY) What ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: Tell me you haven't..

SISTER CATHRINE: Alright. We won't tell you.

SISTER BERNADETTE: gasps and does the sign of the cross.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Mother Mary and Joseph.

SISTER ROZZA: Actually Brother Michael if you must know.

SISTER CATHRINE: I thought he was gay.

SISTER ROZZA: Bi actually.

SISTER BERNADETTE: This is sinful. I must report this to mother superior.

SISTER CATHRINE: Whoa ! Hang on a second.

SISTER ROZZA: If you say anything she will ask exactly how you found out. Which means you will have to tell about our little sessions together.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I am willing to suffer the consequences of my actions. And I will do penance accordingly.

SISTER CATHRINE: And the fact you also found out about her and Father Calligan.

SISTER BERNADETTE: What do you mean ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Lets just say their shoes share the same space under the bed.

SISTER BERNADETTE: No, you are lying.

SISTER CATHRINE: I wouldn't lie. It's a sin.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Then how do you know ?

SISTER ROZZA: We've seen the video.

SISTER BERNADETTE: How could there be a video unless someone filmed.

SISTER ROZZA: Brother Samuelson. For a bottle of scotch no less.

SISTER CATHRINE: A very good bottle of scotch.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Brother Samuelson!

SISTER CATHRINE: He likes to watch.

SISTER ROZZA: Very artistic with the lens.

SISTER CATHRINE: Bit arty for my liking.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I don't believe any of this.

SISTER CATHRINE: We can show you if you like.

SISTER BERNADETTE: NO ! Please I really don't.....

SISTER ROZZA: And it's not just the Mother superior. Sex, drugs rock and roll
There all into it.

SISTER CATHRINE: Yep. Brother Edwards' quite the head banger.

SISTER BERNADETTE: This is wrong I need to report this.

SISTER ROZZA: To whom ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: I..I'll go to the Bishop.

ROZZA and CATHRINE burst into laughter.

SISTER BERNADETTE: (CONT'D) What's so funny ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Let's just say we've also seen his private videos.

SISTER ROZZA: And he looks very smart in leather.

SISTER CATHRINE: Let me put it this way. You can do anything you want.

SISTER ROZZA: Provided your discreet and don't tell anybody.

SISTER CATHRINE: Anything and I mean anything.

SISTER ROZZA: Except smoke.

SISTER BERNADETTE: And why is that ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Well, for starters smoking is bad for you.

SISTER ROZZA: It's also political.

SISTER BERNADETTE: That's ridiculous.

SISTER CATHRINE: It's like this Cigarettes are owned by big business. And even though they don't admit it, corporations influence government policy.

SISTER ROZZA: The government gets support from corporations during election time and even though they can't be seen to support corporations they can't win without them.

SISTER CATHRINE: And once they're in power the corporations exercise their influence. But the government still puts up the front to oppose cigarettes in order to keep the votes of the people.

SISTER BERNADETTE: And what about the Medical association ?

SISTER CATHRINE: The medical association.

SISTER ROZZA: Don't get us started about them

SISTER CATHRINE: The medical community is funded by the Government and the corporations.

SISTER ROZZA: It needs the funding from both to stay in business. So even though it is seen to be against cigarettes it doesn't do a lot really.

SISTER BERNADETTE: This has nothing to do with the church or what seems to be going on here.

SISTER CATHRINE: That's were you're wrong.

SISTER ROZZA: Even though Church and state are separate, they're not really.

SISTER CATHRINE: The church and the government have been in bed together for a long time.

SISTER ROZZA: Each lends support to the other.

SISTER CATHRINE: But everything needs to be seen to be above board.

SISTER ROZZA: Otherwise the people will get wind that something isn't right. And neither the government, the corporation or the church want that.

SISTER CATHRINE: Which is why we are not allowed to smoke.

SISTER BERNADETTE: They turn a blind eye to everything else except smoking.

SISTER CATHRINE: (nods) It's political and corporate poison.

SISTER BERNADETTE: But it's discrimination.

SISTER ROZZA: Tell me about it.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I mean we should have the right to choose for ourselves if we want to smoke.

SISTER CATHRINE: No argument there.

SISTER BERNADETTE: We should stand up for our rights. We should protest.

SISTER CATHRINE: Hold on a second sister.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Shout from the roof tops.

SISTER ROZZA: What ? No ! No, shouting.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Come out of the closet. (yells) I'M A SMOKER AND I'M PROUD OF IT !

SISTER CATHRINE: Will you keep it down.

SISTER ROZZA: Mother superior will hear you.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I DON'T CARE. MOTHER SUPERIOR IS A SINNER.

CATHRINE puts her hand over BERNADETTE's mouth.

SISTER CATHRINE: Be quiet dammit.

SISTER BERNADETTE: We need to write up petitions, picket the bishops office. Burn huge cigarette effigies outside the Vatican.

SISTER ROZZA: Activism isn't the answer.

SISTER BERNADETTE: No, we have to stand up for our rights.

SISTER CATHRINE: Protesting doesn't work. People lose interest after the first few minutes of a rally.

SISTER ROZZA: It's a headline one day and kitty litter the next.

SISTER BERNADETTE: But smokers need a voice they have to be heard.

SISTER CATHRINE: It's not how things are done.

SISTER ROZZA: Real change happens from within.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I don't understand.

SISTER CATHRINE: The same things that keep corporations, governments and the church in power is the same tool that can be used to bring change.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Funding ?

SISTER ROZZA: Leverage.

SISTER CATHRINE: If you have leverage you have power.

SISTER BERNADETTE: But we don't have any leverage.

SISTER CATHRINE: Oh but we do.

SISTER ROZZA: DVD's

SISTER BERNADETTE: Oh.(realizes) OH !

SISTER CATHRINE: When the time is right.

SISTER ROZZA: Soon we won't have to hide behind the convent.

SISTER BERNADETTE: But won't we go to hell for this.

SISTER CATHRINE: The devil is a business man.

SISTER ROZZA: I'm sure we can come to some arrangement.

The cigarette butt is offered to SISTER BERNADETTE:.She takes it and gleefully drags on it.

SCENE 2

CATHRINE, is preening herself. At least as best she can considering her attire.

SISTER ROZZA: Another date with Brother Michael ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Actually, No. Brother Simon has asked me to assist him in preparing his art class.

SISTER ROZZA: (knowingly) Oh, really.

CATHRINE just grins. Clearly there is more to it.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I think it's very commendable.

SISTER CATHRINE: Do you now ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: The importance of art in ones overall education is so often overlooked. What sort of art will you be preparing ? Still life's perhaps ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Trust me there will be nothing still about it.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I don't understand.

SISTER CATHRINE: This will be more an appreciation of the human body.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Wonderful. Figure drawing can be very stimulating.

SISTER CATHRINE: Stimulating, yes.

BERNADETTE notices the looks and giggles CATHRINE and ROZZA are passing back and forth.

SISTER BERNADETTE: You're not really helping Brother Simon with his drawings are you.

SISTER CATHRINE: Of course I am. But what he will be drawing won't be on display in the class.

SISTER BERNADETTE: That's disgusting.

SISTER CATHRINE: Oh, Bambi. I thought you'd learnt by now. Anything is fair game.

SISTER BERNADETTE: So you've said. I'm still adjusting to that.

SISTER CATHRINE: Well don't sweat it. Just remember the commandments.

SISTER BERNADETTE: The Ten commandments.

SISTER CATHRINE: The unwritten commandments.

SISTER ROZZA: Thou shalt do whatever thou wants provided thou doesn't get caught.

SISTER CATHRINE: Thou shalt do whatever it takes not to get caught.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, but what if Brother Michael finds out....

SISTER CATHRINE: Finally, and most importantly. THOU SHALT NOT SQUEAL.!

SISTER ROZZA: Violation of this last one can result in eternal damnation.

SISTER CATHRINE: You got that. ?

SISTER BERNADETTE:
Oh yes. I understand perfectly.

SCENE 3

SISTER CATHRINE walks on. She is adjusting her head wear as if she has just got out of bed. SISTER ROZZA walks by .

SISTER ROZZA: Wrong side of the bed this morning Sister Cathrine ?

ROZZA continues on her way with a wry grin. SISTER BERNADETTE: walks by.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Wrong side of the bed this morning Sister .

CATHRINE frowns. That is the second person who said that. MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA stops and looks at her.

SISTER CATHRINE: You're not going to tell me I got out of the wrong side of the bed are you Mother Superior ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Actually, I was wondering why you're wearing Brother Simons slippers.

CATHRINE looks down at the slippers. Clearly she has been caught out. She knows, and she knows that she knows, etc.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: It doesn't matter. I'm sure there is a rational explanation.

CATHRINE smiles. She has been left off the hook for now. She starts to leave but Patricia stops her.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Sister ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Yes, Mother Superior.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Is that nicotine I can smell ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Smoking is against the rules.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Indeed.

SISTER CATHRINE: There would be harsh punishment if I was to smoke.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Precisely.

SISTER CATHRINE: So it would be in my best interest not to smoke.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Absolutely.

SISTER CATHRINE: Will that be all, mother Superior ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: For now.

SISTER CATHRINE: How is father Calligan ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Well, I suppose. Why do you ask ?

SISTER CATHRINE: I understand he was having back trouble. Pulled a muscle Overexerting himself I heard.

Patricia picks up on the double meaning. She knows what CATHRINE is really talking about.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Father Calligan is not a young man any more.

SISTER CATHRINE: No, he isn't he really should take better care , especially when lifting heavy weights. Mind you a good massage in the right place would relieve the tension and leave him feeling very satisfied .

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: He is taking medication for his ailments.

SISTER CATHRINE: Yes, I'm sure with the right medication he will be UP in no time. But a good rub gets surprisingly fast results.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Father Calligan can take care of himself but thank you for being concerned. I'm sure he will appreciate it. You may go now sister. And make sure you return Brother Michaels slippers to him.

CATHRINE leaves with a smile. BERNADETTE enters.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Sister BERNADETTE:. A word.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, Mother superior.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Do you spend much time with Sisters' CATHRINE and ROZZA ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: I join them for morning prayers and we sometimes have kitchen duty together.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Have you noticed them doing anything...unconventional. ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: (nervous) Unconventional ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Anything that should be brought to my attention.

SISTER BERNADETTE: (trapped) Uh..Um Goodness me, I'm late for confession. I.I.I really should be going.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: You are aware you are obliged to report any misconduct by any of the sisters.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, mother superior, I am aware of that.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: So I can count on you to do the right thing.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Always.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Thank you.

BERNADETTE can not get away quick enough. Patricia grins. She knows they are up to something and BERNADETTE knows what it is. But she needs proof.

SCENE 4

SISTER BERNADETTE has something hidden in her sleeves she looks around. There is nobody to be seen. She looks at a magazine covered with brown paper wrap. She gets excited when she opens the magazine and turns the pages. When she gets to the centre she holds it upright like a centrefold. She looks as if she is about to have an orgasm CATHRINE and ROZZA have been watching from the sidelines.

SISTER CATHRINE: My god, what have you got there ?

BERNADETTE quickly tries to hide the magazine, but there is no place to hide it.

SISTER BERNADETTE: (guilty, embarrassed) Nothing.

SISTER ROZZA: Come on lets see it.

SISTER CATHRINE: You've got a porn magazine haven't you ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: NO ! OF COURSE NOT .

BERNADETTE, tries her best to conceal the magazine but ROZZA manages to get her off her.

SISTER BERNADETTE: (CONT'D)GIVE THAT BACK !

It turns into a kids game with ROZZA and CATHRINE passing it back and BERNADETTE trying to grab it off them.

SISTER CATHRINE:
What is this ?

SISTER ROZZA: It's not porn. At least I don't think it is.

SISTER CATHRINE: It's half naked women... wearing crochet.

BERNADETTE has an involuntary orgasmic spasm at the word crochet. CATHRINE and ROZZA look at each other, Astonished.

SISTER ROZZA: You've got to be kidding.

SISTER CATHRINE: You get turned on by half naked women wearing crochet.

BERNADETTE has another involuntary spasm.

SISTER CATHRINE: (CONT'D) NO WAY !

BERNADETTE manages to grab the magazine back. The others start to laugh.

SISTER BERNADETTE: It's not polite to laugh at other peoples... quirkiness.

SISTER CATHRINE: Are you kidding ? This is hilarious.

They continue to laugh.

SISTER ROZZA: How do you think I'd look in a set of Doilies?

Holds her hands to her breast as if she was modeling a bikini.

SISTER CATHRINE: Doilies, You'd need a quilt to cover that lot.

ROZZA hits her but she knows it all in fun. They continue to laugh but BERNADETTE is clearly upset and may even cry. ROZZA nudges CATHRINE indicating they should stop.

SISTER CATHRINE: Cheer up, it's not the weirdest fetish you could ever have.

SISTER ROZZA: But it certainly leaves one in STITCHES.

SISTER CATHRINE: KNOT really my sort of thing.

BERNADETTE starts to walk away.

SISTER ROZZA: Wait, come back.

SISTER CATHRINE: We're sorry.

BERNADETTE stops.

SISTER ROZZA That was very mean of us.

SISTER CATHRINE: We apologize. WOOL you ever forgive us ?

BERNADETTE starts to move away.

SISTER CATHRINE: (CONT'D)No, Wait ! Forget I said that. Let me PATCH things up.

BERNADETTE has had enough, she storms away this time and doesn't come back.

SISTER ROZZA: Sister, wait.

SISTER CATHRINE: I'm sorry I couldn't help it.

SISTER ROZZA: I think we upset her

SISTER CATHRINE: Whod've thought. Women in crochet.

SISTER ROZZA: I suppose it could have it's appeal.

CATHRINE looks at her as if to say don't tell me your a weirdo.

SISTER ROZZA: (CONT'D) For some people.

SISTER CATHRINE: You know where looking at this all wrong.

SISTER ROZZA: Explain.

SISTER CATHRINE: Little miss innocent has something she wants to keep secret.

SISTER ROZZA: And...

SISTER CATHRINE: (wry grin)It means she's open to exploitation.

SISTER ROZZA: What exactly do you have in mind ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Not sure yet. Working on it, though . And believe me, it will be good.

they exit.

SCENE 5

SISTER ROZZA: Why don't we just take it over there ourselves ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Too risky. Mother superior's been watching me like a hawk. If she catches us with this it'll be bathroom duty for a year.

SISTER ROZZA: Are you sure we can trust her ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Of course we can. She's as innocent as a Disney movie.

BERNADETTE enters.

SISTER BERNADETTE: You asked to see me sister.

SISTER CATHRINE: Yes, Bambi. I need you to run an errand for me. Please take this box to Brother Samuelson and in return he will give you a camera tape which you are to

return with immediately to me.

SISTER BERNADETTE: May I inquire what's in the box.

SISTER ROZZA: Best if you don't.

SISTER BERNADETTE: If I recall our previous conversation correctly could it perhaps be some form of beverage.

SISTER ROZZA: It isn't wise to make too many inquiries.

SISTER CATHRINE: Oh, don't be ridiculous. Yes, it's scotch and Brother Samuelson will be very annoyed with you if any is missing before it gets there.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I would never dream of...

SISTER CATHRINE: See to it you don't. Now run along, Brother Samuelson is getting thirsty.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Of course.

SISTER CATHRINE: And make sure you hurry back.

BERNADETTE rushes off eager to please.

SISTER CATHRINE: Only a matter of time, sister. Then mother superior won't feel so superior anymore.

SISTER ROZZA: Smoking rights will be ours.

SISTER CATHRINE: Why stop at smoking, why not really use this ?

SISTER ROZZA: Explain.

SISTER CATHRINE: I'm thinking promotion,. BIG PROMOTION.

SISTER ROZZA: I think we're getting ahead of ourselves here.

SISTER CATHRINE: Think of it Mother superior CATHRINE.

SISTER ROZZA: Mother superior ROZZA.

SISTER CATHRINE: Why stop there ? Why not Bishop or Cardinal CATHRINE.

SISTER ROZZA: Let's not get carried away sister.

SISTER CATHRINE: POPE CATHRINE !

SISTER ROZZA: Lets keep it real, shall we.

SISTER CATHRINE: My God, there's no end to what we could do.

SISTER ROZZA: You're starting to sound like a comic book villain.

SISTER CATHRINE: Really ? Perhaps I should work on my maniacal laugh.

She tries a villainous laugh. It is more tragically comic than villainous.

SISTER CATHRINE: What do you think ?

SISTER ROZZA: You sound like a constipated cat choking.

SISTER CATHRINE: Everyone's a critic.

SISTER ROZZA: Are you sure this will work ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Of course I'm sure. Mother Superior would not want this sort of thing getting out.

SISTER ROZZA: But it already is out. Everyone knows what's going on because everyone is in on it.

SISTER CATHRINE: True but because there is no proof, everyone is happy to maintain the status quo. Once there is proof then action has to be taken otherwise they will be seen to be just as guilty.

SISTER ROZZA: This is a very risky game we're playing, sister.

SISTER CATHRINE: The greater the risk the bigger the reward.

SISTER ROZZA: If we're caught out at the wrong moment. A lot of people could be in serious trouble.

SISTER CATHRINE: Why do you think I sent Bambi to get the tape. If she is caught we can deny all knowledge of the disc.

SISTER ROZZA: She will say she was doing it for us.

SISTER CATHRINE: Her word against ours.

SISTER ROZZA: But she's only young. She has her whole career ahead of her.

SISTER CATHRINE: Which makes her the perfect patsy.

SISTER ROZZA: Let us pray it doesn't come to that.

SISTER CATHRINE: As long as she does exactly as we say everything will be fine.

SCENE 6

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA enters. SISTER BERNADETTE: enters from the other direction clearly in a hurry.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Sister ? Where are you off to in such a hurry.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I've had to run an errand for Sister Cathrine.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: What sort of errand?

SISTER BERNADETTE: She asked me to pick something up for her.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA:
Show me.

BERNADETTE takes out the tape.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: What's this ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: I believe it's A camera tape.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: I can see that. What's on it ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: Sorry. I do not know.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: What would Sister Cathrine: want with a camera tape?

SISTER BERNADETTE: I'm not sure.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Never mind. I need you to dust the chapel before afternoon mass.

SISTER BERNADETTE:

Of course Mother superior. I'll shall do it once I've completed my errand.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Now, sister.

SISTER BERNADETTE: But Sister Cathrine:...

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Give it to me. I'll see that she gets it.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, mother superior.

She hands the tape over.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Thank you. Now go, and make sure you dust all the corners

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, mother superior.

BERNADETTE leaves. PATRICIA grins. This could be just what she needs

SCENE 7

SISTER CATHRINE: and SISTER ROZZA: are eagerly waiting for SISTER BERNADETTE:.

SISTER CATHRINE:

Where is she ?

SISTER ROZZA: I'm sure she won't be long.

SISTER CATHRINE: 30 minutes ! How could it possibly take 30 minutes. She only had to go next door.

SISTER ROZZA: Perhaps Mother superior has detained her.

SISTER CATHRINE: Why ? Why would she do that ? Do you think she knows ? Maybe she found out ? My god if she found out we're ruined.

SISTER ROZZA: Calm down. I think we're getting a little ahead of our selves.

SISTER CATHRINE: Don't you understand if she sees that tape NOW we are through.

SISTER ROZZA: We don't know that she has.

SISTER CATHRINE: We don't know that she hasn't. This can't be happening ! Christ, I need a cigarette.

SISTER ROZZA: We didn't bring any.

SISTER CATHRINE: A cigarette and a scotch.

SISTER ROZZA: We don't have any scotch.

SISTER CATHRINE: Whiskey, Vodka...

SISTER ROZZA: All gone...

SISTER CATHRINE: A BEER ! WE MUST HAVE BEER!

SISTER ROZZA: Sorry.

SISTER CATHRINE: AAAAAAARRRRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHH!

SISTER ROZZA: Calm down. You'll draw attention.

SISTER CATHRINE: I need a fix. Any kind of fix.

SISTER ROZZA: It will be alright.

SISTER CATHRINE: Do we have any glue ?

SISTER ROZZA: No !

SISTER BERNADETTE: arrives.

SISTER CATHRINE: WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: I.I..Mother superior asked me to dust the chapel.

SISTER CATHRINE: Never mind that. Did you get it ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes.

SISTER CATHRINE: Well ?

SISTER CATHRINE: motions to hand it over.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I don't have it.

SISTER CATHRINE: WHAT !!!!

SISTER BERNADETTE: Well, when I mentioned that my errand for you had to be carried out with some urgency. She graciously agreed to bring you the tape herself while I perform my assigned task.

SISTER CATHRINE: WWWWWHHHHHAT !!!!!!!

SISTER ROZZA: You gave the tape to mother superior ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes.

SISTER CATHRINE: NNNNNNOOOOOOOO!!!

SISTER BERNADETTE: Did I do something wrong ?

SISTER CATHRINE: AAAAAARRRRRRGGGGHHHHH!!!!

SISTER CATHRINE: rushes to attack BERNADETTE, But ROZZA stops her.

SISTER ROZZA: Sister Calm down

SISTER CATHRINE: LET ME GO !!!

SISTER BERNADETTE: Oh dear.

SISTER CATHRINE: I'M GOING TO KILL HER !!!

BERNADETTE is very scared.

SISTER CATHRINE: I'M GOING TO RIP YOUR SPLEEN OUT THROUGH YOUR THROAT !!

SISTER ROZZA: I think you should leave.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Might be best.

SISTER CATHRINE: I'LL TEAR OUT YOUR INTESTINES AN USE THEM FOR SHARK BAIT.

SISTER ROZZA: GO !

SISTER BERNADETTE: I'll see you at afternoon prayers.

BERNADETTE runs off

SISTER CATHRINE: AAAAAARRRRGGGGHHHH !!!

SISTER ROZZA: CALM DOWN !

SISTER CATHRINE: CALM DOWN !! WE'RE RUINED EVERYTHING IS RUINED. I need a drink.

SISTER ROZZA: Here sniff this.

SISTER CATHRINE: What is it ?

SISTER ROZZA: Just sniff it.

CATHRINE sniffs it.

SISTER CATHRINE: Whoa ! that's kind of good.

SISTER ROZZA: It's nail polish.

SISTER CATHRINE: Nail polish ?

SISTER ROZZA: Gives you a temporary high.

SISTER CATHRINE: And why haven't you shared it before ?

SISTER ROZZA: I was getting to it.

ROZZA is about to put it back in her pocket but CATHRINE takes it back and takes another sniff.

SISTER ROZZA: Go easy with that.

SISTER CATHRINE: Hey ! It's me.

SISTER ROZZA: That's what I'm afraid of.

SISTER CATHRINE: What ?

SISTER ROZZA: Slow. Take it slow.

After a moment CATHRINE calms down but the effects of the nail polish slowly take effect.

SISTER CATHRINE: She gave the tape to her. Just handed it over.

SISTER ROZZA: In fairness Mother superior can be imposing.

SISTER CATHRINE: We have to get that back before she looks at it.

SISTER ROZZA: It's probably in Mother superiors draw. That thing is locked tighter than a nuns...(realizes) Oh.

SISTER CATHRINE: Little miss crochet. She can help us get it.

SISTER ROZZA: What ? She's the one who gave it to her, remember.

SISTER CATHRINE: And now she can repent for her sins.

SISTER ROZZA: She'll never help us. Not after you threatened to rearrange her internal organs.

SISTER CATHRINE: You're forgetting. We know her little secret.

SISTER ROZZA: Women wearing crochet. It's hardly blackmail material.

SISTER CATHRINE: She's ashamed. Which means she'll do what we want.

SISTER ROZZA: Do what exactly ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Create a distraction. While we break in .

Takes out a pocket knife set.

SISTER ROZZA: I think you've had enough nail polish.

SISTER CATHRINE: Trust me. I know what I'm doing.

She gets her finger caught in the pocket knife.

BERNADETTE enters but turns and starts to walk away when she sees CATHRINE and ROZZA.

SISTER CATHRINE: Oh, Sister Bernadette.

She stops fearing retribution.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, sister.

SISTER CATHRINE: Like to have a word.

SISTER BERNADETTE: (she sees the pocket knife) You'r e not going to do anything nasty to my internal organs.

CATHRINE thinks about it.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Oh dear.

SISTER ROZZA: No, we're not planning anything violent.

CATHRINE gives her a look that says speak for yourself.

SISTER ROZZA: We'd like you to do something for us.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Of course.

SISTER CATHRINE: We need you to keep Mother superior out of her office for half a hour.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I'm not sure how I would do that.

SISTER ROZZA: You're a novice. Ask her for help with your studies.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I suppose I could do that.

SISTER CATHRINE: We don't care what you do, just keep her occupied.

SISTER BERNADETTE: As you wish. May I ask why you need Mother superior away from her office.

SISTER ROZZA: You may not.

SISTER BERNADETTE: If you planning to take something. Like a certain camera tape, then need I remind you sisters that stealing is a sin.

SISTER CATHRINE: The tape is ours. Mother superior stole it from us.

SISTER BERNADETTE: None the less, two wrongs do not make a right.

SISTER CATHRINE: My god, will you listen to her.

SISTER ROZZA: You need not concern yourself with why. Just keep Mother superior away from her office.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Wouldn't that make me an accessory to a crime ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Yes, it would.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Then I'm sorry, I must decline your request for assistance.

SISTER CATHRINE: WHAT !

SISTER BERNADETTE: I cannot be a party to any criminal activity.

SISTER CATHRINE: You're already a party to our little smoking circle.

SISTER BERNADETTE: A minor infringement, compared to what you are asking.

SISTER CATHRINE: Would you rather Mother superior learned of your little fetish.

SISTER BERNADETTE: No...I.. That is very unfair.

SISTER CATHRINE: I know. Life sucks.

SISTER ROZZA: So are we in agreement ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: (reluctant) Very well. I shall do as you ask.

SISTER CATHRINE: Smart move, Bambi.

SISTER BERNADETTE: But you can not continue to use my....differences against me.

SISTER CATHRINE: Why you silly girl ? Of course we can.

SISTER BERNADETTE: It isn't right.

SISTER CATHRINE: No one said it was. But you never surrender an advantage when you have it.

BERNADETTE leaves, unhappy about being blackmailed.

SCENE 8

PATRICIA is walking by BERNADETTE stops. her

SISTER BERNADETTE: Mother superior, do you have a moment.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: I'm very busy sister, can it wait ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: There's something that has been troubling me.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Explain.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Something of an ethical matter.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: What is this about, sister ?

SISTER BERNADETTE: I would like your advice on something.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Oh, yes.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I know that as representatives of the church we must aspire to the highest of ethical standards.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Absolutely.

SISTER BERNADETTE: But we are also human and subject to temptation.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: True but through discipline and training we learn to resist temptation.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yet, there are times when it's still possible to ...fall off the wagon so to speak.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: That is why we have confession so we can be forgiven, repent and move on.

SISTER BERNADETTE: What if we are not being allowed to move on ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: I don't understand.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Well, lets just say, Hypothetically speaking, you have a very human VERY MINOR, personality trait that isn't entirely desirable for, lets say a church vocation. And that VERY MINOR personality trait is being exploited by someone who discovered this .LITTLE QUIRKINESS.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: (the penny drops) I see. Well, HYPOTHETICALLY speaking you would be at a disadvantage with the person.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Very much so.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: And this HYPOTHETICAL person should be ashamed of themselves for such sinful actions.

SISTER BERNADETTE: I agree.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: But what to do. The right thing to do is request this person cease this Unchristian activity and repent for their actions.

SISTER BERNADETTE: If only it were that simple.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: However, people are rarely that co-operative.

SISTER BERNADETTE: So true.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: An alternative would be for the HYPOTHETICAL person to confess their very minor frailties. Then this unchristian person would have no power over them.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Not a very desirable option.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: But one that would allow this Hypothetical person to repent and move on free from this other persons bidding.

SISTER BERNADETTE: That would be nice. However the ramifications of revealing this....MINOR QUIRKINESS would not be beneficial.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: A difficult decision. But one that will show true strength of character.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Are there no other options ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Well, yes. But it certainly isn't something I would endorse .

SISTER BERNADETTE: Of course. What is it?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: If this person has something on you ...uh this Hypothetical person, then they need to get the upper hand by turning the tables on them.

SISTER BERNADETTE: By using some...minor personality fault they have against them.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Or by providing proof of some...unconventional action they've done.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Oh .

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Say a video of them doing this..somewhat compromising action

SISTER BERNADETTE: (the penny really drops) OH, I SEE.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Naturally, you will need someone to shoot this video covertly. Someone willing to do this for a small return. Possibly alcoholic beverages instead of cash.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, I can arrange...I mean,that would be desirable.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: And multiple copies should be made and kept in a secure place.

SISTER BERNADETTE: That would be sensible.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: But this method is not the way a representative of the church should behave.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Of course.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: And there would be a very harsh penalty if I was to DISCOVER someone in this convent undertaking such an activity.

SISTER BERNADETTE: As there should be. Such infractions should not be tolerated.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Then I'm glad you understand. Does this sufficiently answer your inquiry.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, mother superior. Thank you for your wisdom and guidance. It was most helpful.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: No trouble at all. Now, you have duties to perform don't you.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, mother superior.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Then run along and do them.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, mother superior. And thank you again.

BERNADETTE leaves. Patricia allows herself a grin. She is looking forward to what will transpire as a result of this talk.

SCENE 9

CATHRINE and ROZZA enter. CATHRINE has a bandage wrapped around her fingers.

SISTER ROZZA: I thought you said this would be easy.

SISTER CATHRINE: Well, how was I to know she'd be so paranoid?

SISTER ROZZA: Yes, that was a bit extreme.

SISTER CATHRINE: Extreme ! Who keeps a mouse trap in the draw? She must think we're Tom and Jerry ?

SISTER ROZZA: So what now ? The tape wasn't there.

SISTER CATHRINE: It must be somewhere. Has to be in her room.

SISTER ROZZA: That will prove difficult.

SISTER CATHRINE: Yeah, God knows what sort of traps she's got set up there.

SISTER ROZZA: Do we really need the tape. Perhaps Brother Samuelson made copies.

SISTER CATHRINE: No, he says his computer isn't working he didn't have time to get it transferred.

She rubs her fingers gently. She is still suffering from the mouse trap.

SISTER ROZZA: You should get that looked at.

SISTER CATHRINE: It's fine.

SISTER ROZZA: There may be bone damage.

SISTER CATHRINE: It wasn't a bear trap. She's probably keeps those in her closet.

SISTER ROZZA: We need help.

SISTER CATHRINE: From who ? Wyle coyote ?

SISTER ROZZA: If we could find out where the tape really is it would help.

SISTER CATHRINE: Sorry, E.S.P. wasn't on the curriculum.

SISTER ROZZA: Maybe she's already destroyed it

SISTER CATHRINE: No, she would want to look at it first.

SISTER ROZZA: The only one with a camera is Brother Samuelson.

SISTER CATHRINE: She won't go to him, because she knows he's the one who filmed it. So, where could she go.

SISTER ROZZA: That photo store down the street has a tape conversion service.

SISTER CATHRINE: Your right. When he see's what's on it he's bound to make a couple

of copies for himself.

SISTER ROZZA: Copies we can acquire for a reasonable price.

SISTER CATHRINE: Sister, you're a genius.

SISTER ROZZA: It's a gift.

SISTER CATHRINE: Don't let it go to your head.

They exit.

SCENE 10

PATRICIA: is waiting. CATHRINE and ROZZA arrive.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Ah, Sister a word if I may. (she notices CATHRINE favouring her injured hand.) What's wrong with your hand ?

SISTER CATHRINE: (embarrassed) I caught it in a mouse trap.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: How did you do that ?

SISTER CATHRINE: I was looking for something and didn't realize it was there.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Well, that will teach you to look more carefully next time. Go on you'd better get that attended to.

SISTER CATHRINE: Didn't you want to ask me something ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Yes, you sent SISTER BERNADETTE: on an errand to collect a camera tape.

SISTER CATHRINE: Did I ? I can't recall doing that.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: She was quite emphatic that you did.

SISTER CATHRINE: She must be mistaken.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Really. Surprising, she doesn't seem the type to make that sort of mistake. So you don't know anything about a tape ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Nothing relevant.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Fair enough. I have the tape with me. I was going to give it to you at first opportunity, but since you know nothing about it...

SISTER CATHRINE: Oh...Uh wait. Now that you mention it I do seem to recall a presentation I asked Brother Samuelson to prepare. That may be it.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: But you just said you don't know anything about it.

SISTER CATHRINE: It must have slipped my mind.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: What's the presentation about ?

SISTER CATHRINE: It's about...uh..

SISTER ROZZA: It's a physical fitness, video.

SISTER CATHRINE: Yes an exercise tape, rhythmic exercise of sorts for the students.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Explain.

SISTER ROZZA: It illustrates the importance of repetitive exercise.

SISTER CATHRINE: And proper breathing...not breathing too heavy.. when exercising...especially up and down. .movement.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Really. Well of course you know I must approve such a video before you show it to the students.

SISTER ROZZA: Of course. In fact we were planning to discuss it with you.

SISTER CATHRINE: We just wanted to review it before we brought it to your attention.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: No need I will review it myself.

SISTER CATHRINE: Uh...you won't be able to view it as it is...

SISTER ROZZA: Not without a camera. Which is why we were planning to take it to the photo shop to be transferred to disc so we could show it to you.

SISTER CATHRINE: Yes, in fact we could do that right now if you like.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: No need. I will keep it and see to it later.

SISTER CATHRINE: It's no bother, really.

SISTER ROZZA: We can have it done in no time.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: It's not urgent and there is another matter I need to discuss.

SISTER ROZZA: Another matter ?

SISTER CATHRINE: Can't we discuss it after we get the tape transferred. ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: No, It has come to my attention that cigarette butts have been found at the back of the church hall. Do you know anything about this.

SISTER CATHRINE: Possibly some of the students.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: The primary school students ?

SISTER ROZZA: It's possible they could have been taken from their parents without them knowing.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: That's absurd. Still, if it is true we have to put a stop to it.

SISTER ROZZA: We'll look into it straight away.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: See that you do. And I want whoever is responsible to be sent to my office the moment you find out, is that clear ?

SISTER ROZZA: Yes, Mother superior.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Well, off you go before that hand falls off.

SISTER CATHRINE: Are you sure you don't want us to take that video off your hands.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: It will be attended to in due time.

Patricia leaves. CATHRINE almost explodes with frustration.

SISTER CATHRINE: NOOOOOOO !!!!

SISTER ROZZA: Calm down sister.

SISTER CATHRINE: She had it with her the whole time.

SISTER ROZZA: We will work this out.

SISTER CATHRINE: I should have punched her out and taken the tape.

SISTER ROZZA: Violence solves nothing.

SISTER CATHRINE: No, that's where you're wrong. Violence simplifies everything.

SISTER ROZZA: Sister, we will not resort to brutality. We are better than that.

SISTER CATHRINE: Speak for yourself. There's still a chance, she hasn't gone far. I can ambush her knock her out she will never know it was me.

SISTER ROZZA: NO ! You will do nothing of the sort.

SISTER CATHRINE: Who's going to stop me. you ?

SISTER ROZZA: You're forgetting I hold three black belts.

SISTER CATHRINE: Fair enough. You take her out and get the tape.

SISTER ROZZA: No one is going to get attacked. We will think this through calmly and rationally.

SISTER CATHRINE: And while you are being calm and rational, she is going to get the tape transferred and all our plans go down the toilet.

SISTER ROZZA: You really should get that hand seen to.

SISTER CATHRINE: It will be fine. We have to get to the photo shop.

SISTER ROZZA: After you get that hand fixed. Mother superiors' right you're no good to anyone without any fingers.

SISTER CATHRINE: Your worse then my mum. CATHRINE, make sure both shoe laces are tied up. CATHRINE, eat your greens. CATHRINE, what have I told you about playing with mummy's vibrator.

SISTER ROZZA: Clearly a troubled childhood.

SISTER CATHRINE: I suppose the tape can wait. Did you see the way she looked at us? She knows. And she knows we know.

SISTER ROZZA: Of course she knows. But it doesn't matter she can't prove it.

SISTER CATHRINE: We have to get that tape back.

SISTER ROZZA: And we will once your fingers are fixed.

SCENE 11

Patricia approaches SISTER BERNADETTE:

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Sister, do you have a moment.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Of course, Mother Superior.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: There is an errand I need you to run. I'd like you to take this tape down to the photo store and ask for it to be converted to a disc for me.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Of course. (realizes) This looks like the tape Sister Cathrine asked me to pick up.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: At once please sister.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Yes, Mother superior. How many copies should I ask for ?

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA: Just one. And make sure he understands ONLY ONE.

SISTER BERNADETTE: Understood.

BERNADETTE exits,

End of Act 1

