

NUNS

The Screenplay adaptation of the award winning stage play

by Robert Luxford

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EXT. CONVENT-DAY

Open on establishing shot of convent. We see the hustle and bustle of convent activity as Nuns go about their business and students go to class. THREE NUNS are off in a hurry somewhere we follow them as they head behind one of the convent buildings

EXT. BEHIND CONVENT-CONTINUOUS

The 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 ROSA

No. You ?

SISTER BERNADETTE

All clear.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

Yeah

SISTER BERNADETTE

Cigarette ?

SISTER CATHRINE

Thanks .

SISTER ROSA

Cheers.

Bernadette looks for her cigarettes.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Oh dear !

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

Sister relax.

SISTER BERNADETTE

I'll go back inside and get them.

SISTER ROSA

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.

SISTER BERNADETTE takes out half a cigarette.

SISTER CATHRINE

Give me that.Did you bring the lighter ?

SISTER ROSA

Of course.

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

SISTER ROSA

It's not working.

SISTER CATHRINE

Keep trying.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Give it to me.

SISTER BERNADETTE tries it. Still doesn't work.

SISTER BERNADETTE

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

Pardon ?

SISTER BERNADETTE

How do you know it's better then sex ?

SISTER CATHRINE

Mumm...well think about it you can suck on a cigarette
and....

SISTER BERNADETTE puts her hands over her ears.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Thankyou I don't need to hear any more.

SISTER ROSA

Actually cigarettes are better than men.

SISTER BERNADETTE

I don't need to hear this.

SISTER ROSA

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

SISTER CATHRINE

They don't hog the sheets

SISTER ROSA

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

Most of the time.

SISTER BERNADETTE

You two have a very unhealthy preoccupation with sex.

SISTER ROSA

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 & Kimberly shoot each other a knowing look. SISTER BERNADETTE catches it.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Sisters ?

SISTER ROSA (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 ROSA

Actually Brother Michael if you must know.

SISTER CATHRINE

I thought he was gay.

SISTER ROSA

Bi actually.

SISTER BERNADETTE

This is sinful. I must report this to mother superior.

SISTER CATHRINE

Whoa ! Hang on a second.

SISTER ROSA

If you say anything she will ask exactly how you found out.

SISTER CATHRINE

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 ROSA

We've seen the video.

SISTER BERNADETTE

How could there be a video unless someone filmed.

SISTER ROSA

Brother Samuals. For a bottle of scotch no less.

SISTER CATHRINE

A very good bottle of scotch.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Brother Samuals!

SISTER CATHRINE

He likes to watch.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

To whom ?

SISTER BERNADETTE

I..I'll go to the Bishop.

Kimberly and Cathrine burst into laughter.

SISTER BERNADETTE

What's so funny ?

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

And he looks very smart in leather.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

Provided your discreet and don't tell anybody.

SISTER CATHRINE

Anything and I mean anything.

SISTER ROSA

Except smoke.

SISTER BERNADETTE

And why is that ?

SISTER CATHRINE

Well, for starters smoking is bad for you.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

Don't get us started about them

SISTER CATHRINE

The medical community is funded by the Government and the corporations.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

Each lends support to the other.

SISTER CATHRINE

But everything needs to be seen to be above board.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

Mother superior will hear you.

SISTER BERNADETTE

I DON'T CARE. MOTHER SUPERIOR IS A SINNER.

Cathrine puts her hand over SISTER 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 ROSA

Activism isn't the answer.

SISTER BERNADETTE

No, we have to stand up for our rights.

SISTER CATHRINE

Protesting doesn't work. People loose interest after the
first few minutes of a rally.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

Videotape.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Oh. (realizes) OH !

SISTER CATHRINE

When the time is right.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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.

INT. NUNS QUARTERS-AFTERNOON

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

SISTER ROSA

Another date with Brother Michael ?

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA
(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 lifes 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.

SIISTER CATHRINE
Stimulating, yes.

Bernadette notices the looks and giggles Cathrine and Kimberly are passing back and forth.

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

SIISTER 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 ROSA

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

SIISTER 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 SQUELL.

SISTER ROSA

Violation of this last one can result in eternal damnation.

SIISTER CATHRINE

You got that.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Oh yes. I understand perfectly.

INT. CORRIDOR- MORNING

Sister Cathrine walks on. She is adjusting her headwear as if she has just got out of bed.
SISTER ROSA walks by .

SISTER ROSA

Wrong side of the bed this morning Sister Cathrine.

Kimberly 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 (CONT'D)

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 (CONT'D)

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.

SIISTER 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 Kimberly ?

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.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA

Well, run along. Don't want you late for confession.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Thankyou.

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.

INT. NUNS QUARTERS-AFTERNOON

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 orgasim. Cathrine and Kimberly have entered quietly and 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 ROSA

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 Kimberly manages to get her off her.

SISTER BERNADETTE

GIVE THAT BACK !

It turns into a kids game with Kimberly and Cathrine passing it back and Bernadette trying to grab it off them.

SISTER CATHRINE

What is this ?

SISTER ROSA

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 Kimberly look at each other, Astonished.

SISTER ROSA

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
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 ROSA
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.

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

SISTER CATHRINE (CONT'D)
Cheer up, it's not the weirdest fetish you could ever
have.

SISTER ROSA
But it certainly leaves one in STITCHES.

SISTER CATHRINE
KNOT really my sort of thing.

Bernadette starts to walk away.

SISTER ROSA
Wait, come back.

SISTER CATHRINE
We're sorry.

Bernadette stops.

SISTER ROSA

That was very mean of us.

SISTER CATHRINE

We apologize. WOOL you ever forgive us ?

Bernadette starts to move away.

SISTER CATHRINE

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 ROSA

Sister, wait.

SISTER CATHRINE

I'm sorry I couldn't help it.

SISTER ROSA

I think we upset her

SISTER CATHRINE

Whod've thought. Women in crochet.

SISTER ROSA

I suppose it could have it's appeal.

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

SISTER ROSA

For some people.

SISTER CATHRINE

You know where looking at this all wrong.

SISTER ROSA

Explain.

SISTER CATHRINE

Little miss innocent has something she wants to keep secret.

SISTER ROSA

And...

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

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.

EXT. BEHIND CONVENT-DAY

Cathrine and Kimberly are looking around from their hiding place.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

Are you sure we can trust her ?

SISTER CATHRINE

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

Burnadette 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 Samuals 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 ROSA

Best if you don't.

SISTER BERNADETTE

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

SISTER ROSA

It isn't wise to make too many inquiries.

SISTER CATHRINE

Oh, don't be ridiculous. Yes, it's scotch and Brother Samuals 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 Samuals is getting thirsty.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Of course.

SISTER CATHRINE

And make sure you hurry back.

Bernadette rushes off eager to please.

SISTER CATHRINE (CONT'D)

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

SISTER ROSA

Smoking rights will be ours.

SISTER CATHRINE

Why stop at smoking, why not really use this ?

SISTER ROSA

Explain.

SISTER CATHRINE

I'm thinking promotion. BIG PROMOTION.

SISTER ROSA

I think we're getting ahead of ourselves here.

SISTER CATHRINE

Think of it Mother superior Cathrine.

SISTER ROSA

Mother superior Kimberly.

SISTER CATHRINE

Why stop there ? Why not Bishop or Cardinal Cathrine.

SISTER ROSA

Let's not get carried away sister.

SISTER CATHRINE

POPE CATHRINE !

SISTER ROSA

Lets keep it real, shall we.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

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 (CONT'D)

What do you think ?

SISTER ROSA

You sound like a constipated cat choking.

SISTER CATHRINE

Everyone's a critic.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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

SISTER CATHRINE

The greater the risk the bigger the reward.

SISTER ROSA

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 tape.

SISTER ROSA

She will say she was doing it for us.

SISTER CATHRINE

Her word against ours.

SISTER ROSA

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

SISTER CATHRINE

Which makes her the perfect patsy.

SISTER ROSA

Let us prey it doesn't come to that.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

INT. CORRIDOR- DAY

Mother Superior is waling along the corridor. She sees Sister Bernadette clearly in a hurry, coming the other way. She stops her

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 (CONT'D)

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

EXT. BEHIND CONVENT-LATER

Sister Cathrine and SISTER ROSA are eagerly waiting for Sister Bernadette.

SISTER CATHRINE

Where is she ?

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

We didn't bring any.

SISTER CATHRINE

A cigarette and a scotch.

SISTER ROSA

We don't have any scotch.

SISTER CATHRINE

Whiskey, Vodka...

SISTER ROSA

All gone...

SISTER CATHRINE

A BEER ! WE MUST HAVE BEER!

SISTER ROSA

Sorry.

SISTER CATHRINE

AAAAAAAARRRRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHH!

SISTER ROSA

Calm down. You'll draw attention.

SISTER CATHRINE

I need a fix. Any kind of fix.

SISTER ROSA

It will be alright.

SISTER CATHRINE

Do we have any glue ?

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

You gave the tape to mother superior ?

SISTER BERNADETTE

Yes.

SISTER CATHRINE

NNNNNOOOOOOOO!!!

SISTER BERNADETTE

Did I do something wrong ?

SISTER CATHRINE

AAAAAARRRRRRGGGGHHHHH!!!!

Sister Cathrine rushes to attack Bernadette, But Kimberly stops her.

SISTER ROSA

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 (CONT'D)

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

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

GO !

SISTER BERNADETTE

I'll see you at afternoon prayers.

Bernadette runs off

SISTER CATHRINE

AAAAARRRGGGGHHHH !!!!

SISTER ROSA

CALM DOWN !

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

Here sniff this.

SISTER CATHRINE

What is it ?

SISTER ROSA

Just sniff it.

Cathrine sniffs it.

SISTER CATHRINE

Whoa ! that's kind of good.

SISTER ROSA

It's nail polish.

SISTER CATHRINE

Nail polish ?

SISTER ROSA

Gives you a temporary high.

SISTER CATHRINE

And why haven't you shared it before ?

SISTER ROSA

I was getting to it.

Kimberly is about to put it back in her pocket but Cathrine takes it back and takes another sniff.

SISTER ROSA (CONT'D)

Go easy with that.

SISTER CATHRINE

Hey ! It's me.

SISTER ROSA

That's what I'm afraid of.

SISTER CATHRINE

What ?

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

In fairness Mother superior can be imposing.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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

SISTER CATHRINE

And now she can repent for her sins.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

Women wearing crochet. It's hardly blackmail material.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

Do what exactly ?

SISTER CATHRINE

Create a distraction. While we brake in .

takes out a pocket knife set.

SISTER ROSA

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 Kimberly.

SISTER CATHRINE (CONT'D)

Sister Bernadette.

She stops fearing retribution.

SISTER BERNADETTE

Yes, sister.

SISTER CATHRINE

Like to have a word.

SISTER BERNADETTE

(she sees the pocket knife) Your not going to do anything nasty to my internal organs.

Cathrine thinks about it.

SISTER BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

Oh dear.

SISTER ROSA

No, we're not planning anything violent.

Cathrine gives her a look that says speak for yourself.

SISTER ROSA (CONT'D)

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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

SISTER BERNADETTE

Would'nt 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 ROSA

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.

EXT. CONVENT-DAY

Patricia is walking through the gardens 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?

INT. CORRIDOR- DAY

Cathrine and Kimberly are outside Mother Superiors office. Cathrine takes out her pocket knife and jimmys the lock open. They enter

INT. MOTHER SUPERIORS OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

They go to the locked draw and again Cathrine uses her pocket knife to jimmy the lock. It's a little harder then she thought she pulls on the draw real hard. Suddenly she pulls too hard and the draw flies out emptying the contents all over the floor.

EXT. CONVENT-CONTINUOUS

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.

INT. MOTHER SUPERIORS OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

While Kimberly is cleaning up the contents of the draw that spilled out. Cathrine is trying to unlock the other draw. Like the other draw it is a little tight. She is more careful this time. She manages to get it half open. She puts her hand in, searching. Suddenly there is a snap and Cathrine screams.

EXT. CONVENT-CONTINUOUS

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. Thankyou 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 thankyou again.

(CONT'D)

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

INT. NUNS QUARTERS-LATER

Cathrine and Kimberly enter. Cathrine has a bandage wrapped around her fingers.

SISTER ROSA

I thought you said this would be easy.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

So what now ? The tape wasn't there.

SISTER CATHRINE

It must be somewhere. Has to be in her room.

SISTER ROSA

That will prove difficult.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

Do we really need the tape. Perhaps Brother Samuals 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 ROSA

You should get that looked at.

SISTER CATHRINE

It's fine.

SISTER ROSA

There may be bone damage.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

We need help.

SISTER CATHRINE

From who ? Wyle coyote ?

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

Maybe she's already destroyed it

SISTER CATHRINE

No, she would want to look at it first.

SISTER ROSA

The only one with a camera is Brother Samuals.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

Copies we can acquire for a reasonable price.

SISTER CATHRINE

Sister, you're a genius.

SISTER ROSA

It's a gift.

SISTER CATHRINE

Don't let it go to your head.

they exit.

INT. MOTHER SUPERIORS OFFICE- LATER

Patricia is waiting. She just put something in her desk. Cathrine and Kimberly enter.

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA

Ah, Sisters (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 gong 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 Samuals 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 ROSA

It's a physical fitness, video.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

MOTHER SUPERIOR PATRICIA

Explain.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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. That will be all sisters.

They leave.

INT. CORRIDOR- CONTINUOUS

Cathrine almost explodes with frustration.

SISTER CATHRINE

NOOOOOOO !!!!

SISTER ROSA

Calm down sister.

SISTER CATHRINE

She had it with her the whole time.

SISTER ROSA

We will work this out.

SISTER CATHRINE

I should have punched her out and taken the tape.

SISTER ROSA

Violence solves nothing.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

NO ! You will do nothing of the sort.

SISTER CATHRINE

Who's going to stop me. you ?

SISTER ROSA

You're forgetting I hold three black belts.

SISTER CATHRINE

Fair enough. You take her out and get the tape.

SISTER ROSA

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 ROSA

You really should get that hand seen to.

SISTER CATHRINE

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

SISTER ROSA

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

SISTER CATHRINE

Your worse than 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 ROSA

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 ROSA

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

SISTER CATHRINE

We have to get that tape back.

SISTER ROSA

And we will once your fingers are fixed.

Kimberly and Cathrine exit as Bernadette approaches and enters the office.