(MOTHER SUPERIOR)

(Beat)

The material world has no value here. This is a different world you enter now. Behind these walls we live a life of adoration and grace.

#4 – *Here Within These Walls*

This is a sanctuary.

LX 79 GO

OUTSIDE,
LIFE'S A MESS.
NO ONE'S PURE OF SPIRIT ANY LONGER.
THERE'S NO WRONG OR RIGHT
JUST WRONG AND WRONGER.
PEOPLE HAVE AMUSED THEMSELVES TO DEATH –

SPOT 1 ^ ON DELORIS & SPOT 2 ^ ON MOTHER SUPERIOR

OUTSIDE,
LIFE IS GRIM.
FILLED WITH SMUT AND SCANDAL TO THE BRIM.
I SUPPOSE THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR HIM.

(Gestures toward God)

FRANKLY, I DON'T PLAN TO HOLD MY BREATH.

BUT HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS,
DAYS ARE FILLED WITH GRACE,
GOD IS IN HIS PLACE,
HIS WISDOM STILL RESPECTED.
HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS
LIFE HAS A DIFFERENT PACE
THAN LIFE BEYOND OUR DOORS ...
AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,
THIS LIFE'S NOW YOURS.

LX 81 GO

(Deloris, putting a cigarette in her mouth)

DELORIS

Can I get a light? I saw a mess of candles in the other room.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Not. In. Here.

Privacy

DELORIS

(looking around)

Oh – is there a smoking section?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Yes dear. And you're headed for it. LX 82 GO

(She takes the cigarette)

OUTSIDE,
ALL IS VICE.
PEOPLE NOW ARE ABSOLUTELY SHAMELESS.
MOST, INCLUDING THOSE WHO SHALL BE NAMELESS,
HARDLY SEEM TO KNOW OR EVEN CARE.

(We transition to Mother Superior's office)

OUTSIDE, ALL IS SIN.
AND I WON'T HAVE THE OUTSIDE COMING IN.
TRUST ME, IT'S A BATTLE YOU WON'T WIN.
FRANKLY, DEAR, YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER.

Miss Van Cartier, as long as you reside here, you must divest yourself of all worldly possessions. Is that clear?

SO PUT ASIDE YOUR GLUTTONY! LX 83 GO *on music shift*
PUT ASIDE YOUR PRIDE!
AS FOR CARNAL LUST
YOU NEED A BREAK, I TRUST—
PUT IT ALL ASIDE!
PUT ASIDE INTEMPERANCE!
PROFANITY, AS WELL!
PUT ASIDE EACH REMNANT
OF YOUR FORMER WORLDLY SHELL LX 84 GO

Now, when you leave your room you must wear this habit.

(Mother Superior presents a habit)

DELORIS

No way!

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Pardon me?

Privacy

STANDBY
Spot 1 OUT
Spot 2 OUT
DS Column -> Gray

DELORIS

(Deloris looks at the habit)

Well maybe I can dress it up a little.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

We have worn this since the fourteenth century. It does not cry out for accessories.

DELORIS

But if I put on this dress, I will just DROP DEAD.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Well then we have a plan.

LX 85 GO

(Mother Superior exits the office)

MOTHER SUPERIOR	DELORIS	NUNS (Offstage)
HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS,	CHRIST ON A STICK, WHAT A HOLY MESS!	AVE –
ALL IS STRIPPED AWAY.	LOOK AT THIS HUGE FREAKIN' PENGUIN DRESS!	
SURRENDER AND OBEY,	LOOK AT THIS PLACE, THIS IS HELL I GUESS!	MARIA –
THAT'S ALL THAT IS EXPECTED.	SO UN-FABULOUS BABY!	
HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS,	STUCK IN THIS DUMP WITH THAT JESUS FREAK	GRATIA –
ALL ELSE IS KEPT AT BAY –	THERE AIN'T NO WAY THAT I'LL LAST A WEEK	
THOUGH THE WORLD MAY GO ASTRAY,	I'M TOO FABULOUS	PLENA –
HERE ETERNAL TRUTHS HOLD SWAY –	BABY!	

LX 85.5 GO
X away from each other

LX 86 & SPOT 1 OUT GO
on DELORIS ext

(Deloris exits)

MOTHER SUPERIOR	NUNS
HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS	SALVE
LIFE IS TRULY BLESSED!	REGINA
HERE YOU'RE GOD'S OWN GUEST	MATER
CELESTIALLY PROTECTED.	MISERICORDIAE
HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS,	VITA
ALL'S FOR THE VERY BEST,	DULCEDO
AND ALWAYS SHALL BE THUS ...	ET SPES
AND IF HEAVEN'S WILL BE DONE,	NOSTRA SALVE
HERE SHE'LL BE JUST ONE MORE NUN	
SAFE WITHIN THESE WALLS	
AS ONE OF US!	AMEN, AMEN.

LX 88 GO

LX 89, COLUMN @ GRAY & SPOT 2 OUT GO *with applause*

Privacy

Scene 6

The Dining Hall

LX 91 GO *transition set*

The next evening, all the nuns are prepared for supper.

#4a – Meet The Nuns

MARY PATRICK

Christmas Day. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling real joyful. And triumphant.

(Mary Robert enters.)

Oh Mary Robert. Don't you just love Christmas.

MARY ROBERT

(Shy but overcome with emotion)

I—

MARY PATRICK

(A burst of enthusiasm)

CHRIST IS BORN!

MARY LAZARUS

(Walking by)

Thanks for the update.

(The nuns sit.)

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Sisters. Before we begin our humble Christmas feast, prepared for us by Sister Mary Celeste and Sister Mary Irene, let us bow our heads and give thanks to the Prince of Peace.

(All nuns bow their heads. Deloris enters in nun's habit.)

DELORIS

Hey everybody!

(The nuns look at Deloris)

I am starving.

(The nuns look to Mother Superior. Mother Superior looks up.)

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Sisters—allow me to introduce you to our newest member, Sister Mary…Clarence. Named for St. Clarincie of Vienne.

Privacy