

# **TERESA**

BY

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Teresa Characters

**Teresa**

**King Philip**

**Friar Antonio**

**Father Alberto**

**Friar Severino**

**Benjamin**

**Lopez**

**Inquisitor**

**Sister Olga**

**Sister Maria**

**Pedro**

**Sister Sarafina**

**Novice Norma**

**Eufrasia**

**Narrator**

**Sound Design**

**B**

## SCENE 1 THE CATHEDRAL

We hear Gabriel Faure's Kyrie  
Eleison in the background.  
Monsignor Lopez stands before  
the Crowd.

LOPEZ

Children of God!

CROWD

God have mercy!

LOPEZ

We are gathered here today to cleanse the Body of Christ.

CROWD

Praise be to God.

LOPEZ

But we do so in love and not hatred.

CROWD

Praise be to God and his Angels an Saints

LOPEZ

The world is in chaos. All over Europe the heretics have  
taken control of the Church and the precious body of Christ.  
The enemies of God are intent in destroying both his name and  
his body on earth.

CROWD

Save us God.

LOPEZ

But relief is in sight.

CROWD

Praise God!

LOPEZ

Spain will now have an important weapon to fight off the Devil and the injustices which he has imposed upon the world..

CROWD

Hallelujah!

LOPEZ

This new body is an institution founded in love. It is called the Holy Inquisition, a tribunal to seek out truth and help all people but specially our fellow Spaniards.

CROWD

Spain! Spain! Spain!

LOPEZ

And you know we have been blessed with many Maranos and Mariscos in our midst. To save this Christian nation, our beloved Ferdinand and Isabella, their souls now rest in heaven, gave both Jews and Moslems the right to remain in our beloved Spain on the premise of becoming Christians. Or to leave.

CROWD

Yes! Yes! Yes!

LOPEZ

But now some have gone astray. We hear complaints from brethren. We hear from merchants that a number of Maranos Spaniards of mixed blood have been known to purchase traditional Jewish foods during the High Holy Days. . The culprits have been found and punished. And given a choice of truly converting or leaving.

CROWD

Hurrah!

LOPEZ

But the devil is still in our midst. Those who would defile God, Church and Country. are usually the are enemies within.

CROWD

OHHHH!

LOPEZ

And therefore we have set a special council to guide us through this difficult period. The council will be fair but by the time it is all through Spain, the Church and human decency will be saved.

CROWD

Rah! Rah! Rah!

LOPEZ

The Holy Inquisition is here. And if you know of any heretical practices, defilements, the breaking of Church Law, please do God's Will and immediately inform members of the Inquisition. 9

CROWD

YES!

LOPEZ

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU!

CROWD

AND WITH YOU TOO.

SCENE 2 CARMELITE CONVENT IN AVILA MEDITATING ROOM

Olga and Maria are standing  
whispering

OLGA

She has been in rapture for two hours now.

MARIA

Now. But then three hours before then.

OLGA

Oh dear.

MARIA

I've never heard such gibberish before.

OLGA

Oh Stop! You've never been in the elevated state.

MARIA

I'm not crazy either .

We hear Teres in an elevated  
state..

TERESA

If Lord, thy Love is strong  
If, Lord, Thy love for me is strong  
As this which binds me unto thee,  
What holds me from thee Lord so long,  
What holds thee Lord so long from me?  
O soul, what then desirest thou?  
Lord I would see thee, who thus choose thee.

A should in God hidden from sin,  
What more desires for thee remain,  
Save but to love again,  
ND all on flame with love within,  
Love on, and turn to love again.

We hear her shrieks and murmurs 9

MARIA

She is having a convolution.

OLGA

Let us call for help!

MARIA

She will survive.

OLGA

And if she does not

MARIA

Then she will not. And perhaps go to heaven.

OLGA

I hope so.

## SCENE 3 THE NEXT DAY THE DINING ROOM

Sisters Olga, Sarafina, and Maria, are preparing the dining room table.

SARAFINA

Is our newest novice settled in? 9

OLGA

Yes. AS is her maid.

SARAFINA

And her hairdresser?

OLGA

I told her she would have to leave.

MARIA

That may get us in trouble with the Duke.

OLGA

So be it.

SARAFINA

He's one of the richest men in Spain..

SARAFINA

Teresa made the hairdresser go back.

MARIA

But the Duke is so generous with our convent.

SARAFINA

Bringing maids and hairdressers is a bit much. She already has our finest accommodations.

MARIA

We continue to be a major repository for unmarried daughters.

SARAFINA

Some rich, some poor. But now all that is to end.

MARIA

How?

SARAFINA

She is making us all take the vow of poverty.

MARIA

We already did

SARAFINA

Now it will be enforced.

MARIA

I'll believe it when I see it.

OLGA

Is it true that we are being divided into two orders. The calced and the Decalced

MARIA

I don't know about you but intend to keep my shoes on. I do not feel any holier without them.

SARAFINA

Enough...

OLGA

Why are you setting the table for five?

MARIA

That's what I was told to do.

OLGA

I was told to set the table for two.

MARIA

She changes every minute. She is in a sour mood today. 9



OLGA

Teresa?

MARIA

Who else!

OLGA

She said that Father Lopez is dining with us.

MARIA

Impossible!

OLGA

Why impossible!

MARIA

He hates her!

OLGA

That is no deterrent to our Mother Superior. She's always entertaining people who hate her. 9

MARIA

She may be wining and dining her future jailer.

OLGA

Presuming he doesn't hang her first.

MARIA

Or he gets mysteriously hung.

Teresa enters almost while reading a book.

TERESA

Where are the two buckets I requested.

MARIA

I don't recall any request for buckets.

TERESA

I requested two buckets of water with some soap and a brush.

MARIA

Olga, she must have spoken to you.

OLGA

Absolutely not.

TERESA

Don't argue about it. Just get some buckets with soap and water.

OLGA

You asked for them already and I have them set for you.

TERESA

I will get it. On second thought I do not think we will need it. One of the dining room chairs will do.

A knock at the door. Monsignor Lopez enters, The two nuns exit immediately..

LOPEZ

Good morning.

TERESA

It's afternoon.

LOPEZ

Are you already being disagreeable?

TERESA

Not at all. I have been waiting for you.

LOPEZ

You have set out a table. Are you expecting guests.

TERESA

I am.

LOPEZ

Who?

TERESA

You.

LOPEZ

I have now become one of your favorites!

TERESA

You have always been.

LOPEZ

Entangling me in your snare!

TERESA

How am I entangling you?

LOPEZ

You are a shrewd woman !

TERESA

I don't think so.

LOPEZ

And a conversos to boot.

TERESA

I am what I am! I am proud of my father, my very religious mother, and my Jewish grandfather who converted to our religion with the Grace of God.

LOPEZ

You are bringing shame to the church, the Carmelite Order and the Crown..

TERESA

All that!

LOPEZ

AND TO WOMEN ESPECIALLY.. You are a woman. Act like one!

TERESA

I try.

LOPEZ

Then obey the men who surround you!

TERESA

I do.

LOPEZ

Like who?

TERESA

My confessors, you, the Church Fathers, the Pope and Jesus of Nazareth above all.

LOPEZ

Ah, confessors! You go through confessors as if they were flies.

TERESA

I am always looking for the right one to help me with my spiritual growth.

LOPEZ

I so far count 34 of them.

TERESA

That is an exaggeration.

LOPEZ

Your mysticism fools no one!

TERESA

I try to fool no one. I only approach God every day.

LOPEZ

You use that same story with everyone.

TERESA

Am I the devil?

LOPEZ

Worse. You're the devil woman.

TERESA

Ha!

LOPEZ

Have you no shame. I now have but one request! I have made this request at least ten times.

TERESA

And have I always obeyed.

LOPEZ

NO! I have warned you about spreading your order.

TERESA

We are Carmelites.

LOPEZ

BEHAVE LIKE ONE. 9

.

TERESA

Come here.

LOPEZ

What do you want? 9

TERESA

I want to show my love for God.

LOPEZ

Ha!

TERESA

I want to wash your feet.

LOPEZ

Mockery of the lowest order.

TERESA

No I want to wash your feet.

LOPEZ

You mock Peter and Jesus with the washing of feet.

TERESA

You are a worthy man. And I want to show you my respect for you.

LOPEZ

Stop!

TERESA

No I must wash your feet.

LOPEZ

Go away.

TERESA

I am here and intend to stay here

LOPEZ

Then you must follow my orders.

TERESA

I will obey.

LOPEZ

You will not open any more convents?

TERESA

I will obey.

LOPEZ

You said that the last time

TERESA

I will not open any convents where they are not wanted. 9

LOPEZ

Amen.

TERESA

Amen.

LOPEZ

And remember that you must obey orders.

TERESA

I want to wash your feet.

LOPEZ

Stop this sacrilege.

TERESA

Was Jesus committing a sacrilege when he washed the feet of Peter? 9

LOPEZ

Oh insolent conversos. You commit sin by comparing me to Peter.

TERESA

We are all equals.

LOPEZ

Obey my orders.

TERESA

Yes, Father.

LOPEZ

Now and forever!

TERESA

Yes, Father.

SCENE 4 --- ROYAL PALACE, KING PHILIP'S BEDCHAMBER

King Philip and Eufrasia de Guzman are kissing in bed.

EUFRASIA

I love my Lord and Master

PHILIP

My Eufrasia. My sister's lady -in -Waiting

EUFRASIA

That I am. But I am also something else.

What is that? 9

PHILIP

I am His Majesty's lady- in- waiting.

EUFRASIA

I do not make you wait too long.

PHILIP

I am always here for his highness' beck and call. I am pleased to be of service to my Master.

EUFRASIA

Indeed .

PHILIP

The plight of the King is not an easy one.

EUFRASIA

And I take comfort in you and my Queen.

PHILIP

Sometimes I think you only love the queen.

EUFRASIA

Not true. How many diamonds have I given you. Of course, I love the Queen. She is my wife. And I am a devoted husband.  
9

PHILIP

But I want the biggest diamond of all.

EUFRASIA

Which diamond is that?

PHILIP

I want your heart.

EUFRASIA

You have it.

PHILIP

But I want you all for myself.

EUFRASIA



PHILIP

Well, that is not possible.

EUFRASIA

You told me you did not love the queen.

PHILIP

I did not love my first queen. I love this queen very much.

EUFRASIA

And why did you not love the first queen.

PHILIP

Rest her soul. She was not lovable.

EUFRASIA

Queen Mary? Your double cousin?

PHILIP

That she was. But had none of the charm as Aunt Catherine of Aragon.

EUFRASIA

Oh.

PHILIP

Mary was the second most repulsive woman in England..

EUFRASIA

Who was the most repulsive?

PHILIP

Her sister Elizabeth.

EUFRASIA

They say she is a virgin.

PHILIP

If you were as repulsive as she is you too would be a virgin.

EUFRASIA

I am not virgin. Thanks to you, my Lord. And I have been with no other man. 9

PHILIP

Why, of course.

EUFRASIA

I always want to serve my king. I love no one more. But  
you only love the queen.

PHILIP

Elizabeth of Valois I love. And I love you too. In a  
different way.

EUFRASIA

But she hates me.

PHILIP

My Elizabeth ---unlike that British Elizabeth, hates no one.

EUFRASIA

She turned her back on me.

PHILIP

Shall we change the subject?

EUFRASIA

I just love you so much, Your majesty.

PHILIP

I am aware.

EUFRASIA

A suggestion?

PHILIP

Yes?

EUFRASIA

I 'd like for you to remove the other woman in your life.

PHILIP

There is no other woman!

EUFRASIA

Yes there is. She is always by your side.

PHILIP

What! Who!

EUFRASIA

That Jewish woman.

PHILIP

What Jewish Woman?

EUFRASIA  
She's in this room now!

PHILIP  
You are out of your mind.

EUFRASIA  
No I am not.

PHILIP  
Which Jewish woman! You're wearing out my patience!

EUFRASIA  
You know who I mean. Teresa.

PHILIP  
Ah yes the granddaughter of a a Maranos. Hardly qualifies as Jewish. And she is not in this room. I have met her only once.

EUFRASIA  
She is lying down near your bed.

PHILIP  
What!

EUFRASIA  
She has been lying with you for months... Maybe years! 9

PHILIP  
Shall I have you committed?.

EUFRASIA  
No.(Giggling)

PHILIP  
Where is she?

EUFRASIA  
In that little black book beneath your Bible.

PHILIP  
TERESA! That is but one book. Her other works are inside  
the desk. I have already read them

EUFRASIA  
Just like I said.

PHILIP  
Reading an author's books at bedtime is not the same as lying  
with them Surely I do not sleep with the a Biblical  
authors. You jest!

EUFRASIA  
No I do not.

PHILIP  
She is already a married woman!

EUFRASIA  
She's a nun.

PHILIP  
She say she is married to Christ.

EUFRASIA  
Ha!

PHILIP  
And you referred to her as that Jewish woman.

EUFRASIA  
Well she is!

PHILIP  
Her grandfather was a convert. She's Christian.

EUFRASIA  
A Maranos?

PHILIP  
My subjects as well.

EUFRASIA  
Because they pay you of.

PHILIP  
What!

EUFRASIA  
They pay you off. And handsomely!

PHILIP  
Do not ever use that term about me, They do not pay me off.  
They pay me.

EUFRASIA  
Whatever. 9

PHILIP  
BE SEATED!

She sits

EUFRASIA  
Yes my Lord.

PHILIP  
Pay me off sounds corrupt. They are not corrupt.

EUFRASIA  
Yes Sir.

PHILIP  
In fact they do not pay me . They pay the Crown.

EUFRASIA  
Yes sir.

PHILIP  
Now why do you want to destroy that saintly woman!

EUFRASIA  
She is a woman. But she is not saintly.

PHILIP  
Says who?

EUFRASIA  
As a woman, she is dangerous because she does not know her  
place.

PHILIP  
Shall we say she is an exceptional woman.

EUFRASIA

She is also immoral!

PHILIP

Immoral!

EUFRASIA

Yes!

PHILIP

Says who?

EUFRASIA

I have been informed from people in Avila who know her.

PHILIP

You mean in the convent.

EUFRASIA

Yes.

PHILIP

Ah so you have spies!

EUFRASIA

If that is what you call them.

PHILIP

Why do you not like her?

EUFRASIA

She is a woman. What more can I say.

PHILIP

You do not like women?

EUFRASIA

I have been taught from earliest childhood that a woman must know her place.

PHILIP

But she meditates and writes about God.

EUFRASIA

And she has you duped!

PHILIP

I beg your pardon!

EUFRASIA

My Lord and Master. Philip of Spain and the king of all Europe. You are so kind and good. But you have fallen under the spell of this devil woman.

PHILIP

Simply because I read her reflections!

EUFRASIA

She is beguiling.

PHILIP

She is a saint in the opinion of many.

EUFRASIA

Not the people I know.

PHILIP

She opens convents.

EUFRASIA

Let me read you something. "I saw in his hand a long spear of gold, and at the iron's point there seemed to be a little fire".

PHILIP

Oh stop!

EUFRASIA

"He appeared to me to be thrusting it at times into my heart, and to pierce my very entrails; when he drew it out, he seemed to draw them out also, and to leave me all on fire with a great love of God."

PHILIP

From her writings for God sake!

EUFRASIA

Let me continue:

"The pain was so great, that it made me moan;

EUFRASIA

and yet so surpassing was the sweetness of this excessive pain, that I could not wish to be rid of it. The soul is satisfied now with nothing less than God saw in his hand a long spear of gold, and at the iron's point there seemed to be a little fire. "

PHILIP

I have always enjoyed this passage.

EUFRASIA

Of course. It is filled with sex!

PHILIP

Read more.

EUFRASIA

"The pain is not bodily, but spiritual, though the body has its share in it. It is a caressing of love so sweet, which now takes place between the soul and God that I pray God of His goodness to make him experience it who may think that I am lying."

PHILIP

You are misinterpreting.

EUFRASIA

Let me read more.

PHILIP

Please.

EUFRASIA

"Many people are shocked that they never "saw" the face of orgasm before, even though they have seen this most famous photos dozens of times. We are truly in times of "revelations" and if we can now! See orgasm as spiritual ecstasy, then we should know that our partners with whom we have sex, are a path to our evolution, our path to the ultimate destination, which is a reunion with God.

PHILIP

But...



EUFRASIA

She even turned her mysticism into sex.

PHILIP

Not quite. What is this so objectionable? She is writing of her relationship with God

EUFRASIA

Ha!

PHILIP

And it is plagiarized!

EUFRASIA

What!

PHILIP

Have you ever read the Bible?

EUFRASIA

I am a woman and therefore do not read the Bible.

PHILIP

Well let me tell you it is from the Songs of Solomon which was quoted by Jesus. Now let us change the subject.

EUFRASIA

And about all her confessors?

PHILIP

Yes. So what?

EUFRASIA

She has 11 even of them.

PHILIP

Actually 13. She is trying to achieve a state of grace free of sin.

EUFRASIA

And have you heard about the latest?

PHILIP

The Jesuit.

EUFRASIA

The 23 year old Jesuit. So handsome!

PHILIP

And?

EUFRASIA

And he has convinced her to stop praying.

PHILIP

What!

EUFRASIA

And has asked her to substitute corporal punishment on herself instead.

PHILIP

What!

EUFRASIA

She has been beating herself daily.

PHILIP

Oh, my God.

EUFRASIA

But fear not!

PHILIP

Why not?

EUFRASIA

She has fired him.

PHILIP

What!

EUFRASIA

Well her confessors either come to take control of her or they get fired.

PHILIP

You are going too far.

EUFRASIA

But there is one thing they all have in common.

PHILIP

What' s that?

EUFRASIA

By the end of the month she becomes their confessor, too

PHILIP

She is a woman of spirituality!

EUFRASIA

Ha!

PHILIP

How do you know so much about her?

EUFRASIA

I have heard!

PHILIP

I want sources!

EUFRASIA

My good friend, Sister Maria.

PHILIP

So you have spies on her?

EUFRASIA

Not really!

PHILIP

They are spies!

EUFRASIA

Well.

PHILIP

Why?

EUFRASIA

She is the devil woman!

PHILIP

We differ.

EUFRASIA

We differ.

SCENE 5 CONVENT DINING ROOM

We hear choral music in the background. The nuns are praying.

ALL

Hail Mary, full of Grace the Lord is with thee, Blessed Art  
...

We hear loud shouting outside  
The two friars enter

CROWD

Ha! Ha! Ha! Let us beat them.

TERESA

What is that ruckus all about.

CROWD

Throw more rotten tomatoes.

OLGA

(Running to the window)

Two men are being dragged through the streets in ropes. And they have tomatoes all over Them.

CROWD

Poor fellas need sex. Ha Ha Ha.

MARIA

It's two friars.

CROWD

Boo! Boo! Boo!

MARIA

They keep throwing rotten food at them.

TERESA

Those poor men.

SARAFINA

Oh my God. They look like ...

TERESA

Who!

MARIA

Brothers ...

TERESA

Yes!

MARIA

I can't say.

CROWD

Pigs! Pigs! Pigs!

TERESA

Please!

SARAFINA

Severino and Antonio!

TERESA

I don't believe it.

MARIA

I do.

OLGA

I've known about them for years.

TERESA

Known what?

OLGA

Their visits to Dona Violet's house.

TERESA

Oh Dear.

CROWD

Did you have a good time boys. Ha! Ha! Ha!

WOMAN

Did it feel good.

CROWD

Men of the cloth ! Here's an egg for you!

MAN

And some dung.

CROWD

Ha! Ha! Ha!!

CROWD

HA! HA! HA! OFF TO THE WHOREHOUSE YOU GO! FRIAR ANTONIO!  
FRIAR SEVERINO! THEY CAUGHT YOU. HA HA HA

TERESA

Inhumane!

OLGA

Thank God! They aren't Carmelites!

MARIA

Thank God

OLGA

Yes. It's hilarious.

Hilarious?  
TERESA

Of course it is!  
MARIA

I am not amused  
TERESA

You are always one to say we should have a sense of humor.  
OLGA

Scorn and derision is not humor.  
TERESA

They are sinners!  
MARIA

We all are. Open the door and let them in.  
TERESA

No!  
OLGA

We will be shamed  
MARIA

And scorned.  
OLGA

Have not fear.  
TERESA

Please!  
OLGA

I WILL LET THEM IN!  
TERESA

PEOPLE WILL THINK WE ARE THE OTHER WOMEN'S HOUSE ON THE STREET.  
OLGA

People will be people. In the meantime let us follow the Christ example.  
TERESA

Olga and Norma run out of the room

We are disgraced.

OLGA

Our reputation is ruined.

NORMA

Teresa goes to door and shouts  
out

Please free these men.

TERESA  
Enough cruelty.

Ha Ha ha.

CROWD

Free them!

TERESA

Here they are. They are yours. From one women's house to  
another house of women

CROWD

A convent and a whorehouse!

MAN

Enjoy yourselves!

CROWD

Begone!

TERESA

Ha!

CROWD

Brother Antonio and Brother  
Severino, with food and waste  
over their faces and clothing  
come in.

ANTONIO

You have risked your reputation for us.

SEVERINO

You are a saint indeed.



ANTONIO

Why did you do this for us?. This can only hurt you!

SEVERINO

We are disgraced..

ANTONIO

And humiliated!

Teresa offers them two wet towels.

TERESA

Clean yourselves off with these towels. I will have tea for you

ANTONIO

You are so kind, Sister.

SEVERINO

We must go. They are waiting for us at the monastery.

ANTONIO

We have more punishment awaiting us.

TERESA

Am I correct in presuming you will never go to Signora Violet's house again?

ANTONIO

I will try.

JACOB

Me, too!

TERESA

That means you will go back.

BOTH

We will try not to.

Drink your tea. TERESA

Thank you. Thank you. BOTH

This tea is so good. ANTONIO

Was this your first time at Senora . TERESA

No! BOTH

Can it be our last? TERESA

We will try! BOTH

Can't you say no?. TERESA

Yes. BOTH

That will take you out of the devil's snare. TERESA

Of course. SEVERINO

We will try. ANTONIO

I will pray for you. TERESA

Thanks. ANTONIO

Let us pray together that this temptation goes away. TERESA

We well pray. BOTH

TERESA

Good Lord. Please send the Holy Spirt to save Brothers Antonio and Severino from the devils snare. So as you were tempted so they are tempted. As you drove seven evil spirits so drove those spirits out of them. And me.

ALL

Amen.

TERESA

May the Holy Spirt fall upon you.

BOTH

Yes.

ANTONIO

But Sister, can I share something with you?

TERESA

Yes

ANTONIO

We still want to go back.

TERESA

God is patient.

Suddenly, Lopez walks in.

LOPEZ

Good evening everyone. What a friendly circle here.

TERESA

The gentlemen are having some tea. Join us.

LOPEZ

No I have much to do. And the friar's n must report back to their order for obvious reasons. Nice of you to entertain them. Since they can no longer spend time at Senora Donna's house, perhaps they can spend more time at your house.

TERESA

I entertain no one, but offer tea.

LOPEZ  
To sinners and the like.

TERESA  
When in distress I offer to all

ANTONIO  
We must go.

SEVERINO  
At once.

LOPEZ  
Yes "Gentlemen." Your order awaits you.

SEVERINO  
Yes, Father.

LOPEZ  
Now begone.

TERESA  
You are always welcome here.

LOPEZ  
The audacity!

The friars exit quickly.

LOPEZ  
They flee.

TERESA  
Have they not had enough humiliation?

LOPEZ  
They are immoral men.

TERESA  
And therefore awaiting God's redemption.

LOPEZ  
Only you would take that stance. And now let us talk again  
about what I came for.

TERESA  
I am here to listen.

LOPEZ  
You promised to stop building convents

TERESA  
Yes I did.

LOPEZ  
And you lied!

TERESA  
Yes I did.

LOPEZ  
And you will pay for this!

TERESA  
I will take whatever comes to me.

LOPEZ  
You will appear before the tribunal.

TERESA  
If they want to jail me for opening convents, they can.

LOPEZ  
Defiant!

TERESA  
I will accept whatever punishment I get I am but a woman.

LOPEZ  
And that you will!

TERESA  
Only God can determine. I am especially susceptible. I am the most corrupt of all women relying on my own will power. Only the Holy Spirit helps me. Left to my own devices I would be at Senora Donnas house rather this convent.

LOPEZ  
May God have pity on you!

TERESA  
I must get back to my work.

LOPEZ  
The devil's work!

## SCENE 6 RECEIVING ROOM THE NEXT DAY

Teresa and Father Alberto are seated.

ALBERTO

Ah yes. Sister.

TERESA

Father, I have been looking forward to your arrival for months now. And here you are now.

ALBERTO

I understand you have had a many confessors.

TERESA

Yes I have.

ALBERTO

How many?

TERESA

Eight, I believe..

ALBERTO

I understand twenty five.

TERESA

Some I have already forgotten. But most I have not. My confessors are very important to me.

ALBERTO

Most Christians have one confessor in a lifetime.

TERESA

I am different.

ALBERTO

Why?

TERESA

Because my confessor is my road to God.

ALBERTO

The confessor is everyone's road to God.

TERESA

But I am so corrupt.

ALBERTO

You say you can be bribed with a sardine.

TERESA

That is correct.

ALBERTO

Which means that you have already solved your problem by admitting that you are corrupt.

TERESA

And only saved by the will of God.

ALBERTO

Why would God abandon you!

TERESA

Because left to my own devices I would abandon God.

ALBERTO

I do not think so!

TERESA

But the Devil is always anxious to take my soul. And It is very difficult to discern between what tis of the devil and what is of God.

ALBERTO

Perhaps you complicate too much.

TERESA

Perhaps.

ALBERTO

I have had a whole history of your confessors.

TERESA

Sometimes we have made peculiar choices.

ALBERTO

I'll say. That 23 year old Jesuit who got you to whip yourself He must have chuckled!

TERESA

Sir!

ALBERTO

And then the village flirt.

TERESA

That was resolved by God.

ALBERTO

Only after throwing the evil amulet in the water?

TERESA

YES. How do you know?

ALBERTO

There are no secrets in Avila.

TERESA

I guess not.

ALBERTO

How do you know that the destruction of the amulet ended the curse.

TERESA

I know.

ALL

But that is superstition. Therefor...

TERESA

You do not want to be my confessor?



ALBERTO

Have you ever thought of simply turning everything over to God?

TERESA

But I must do my part.

ALBERTO

Have you ever thought of following St. Augustine's advice?

TERESA

Which says?

ALBERTO

Love God and do whatever you want.

TERESA

That won't work for me.

ALBERTO

Have you ever thought of giving it a try.

TERESA

Will not work.

ALBERTO

You are stubborn!

TERESA

I always obey my confessors.

ALBERTO

I quite frankly don't know how to be your confessor.

TERESA

Will you try.?

ALBERTO

I don't think it will work

TERESA

Why not?

ALBERTO

I understand that most of your confessors before they left ended out having you as a confessor.

TERESA

Not quite.

ALBERTO

Well I think I might fall in the same trap?

TERESA

Does that mean you will not be my confessor?

ALBERTO

Yes .

SCENE 7. TERESA'S OFFICE

Teresa is writing at the desk. A young novice, Norma enters

NORMA

You called for me, Sister?

TERESA

Oh please have a seat young lady. I wanted to speak with you for a brief moment.

NORMA

Oh, Sister I am so sorry to give you so many problems.

TERESA

So you want to leave the order?

NORMA

I do not.

TERESA

But I have been lead to be.....

NORMA

I MUST leave the calling!

Why? TERESA

I am in love. NORMA

When did this happen? TERESA

Before I came here. NORMA

Your father did not approve of the match. TERESA

That is right. NORMA

Will he approve now? TERESA

It is irrelevant. NORMA

What! TERESA

The man I love has married another woman. I will see him no more. NORMA

So why do you want to leave the order since you cannot marry him. TERESA

I cannot think of God. I only think of him. NORMA

But what will you do? TERESA

I must build a new life. I just wish I had eloped with him. Can I leave? NORMA

Again! Why do you want to leave now that he is married to another woman. TERESA

NORMA

I am in melancholy. I know he will never stop loving me.

TERESA

But you can not go back to him.

NORMA

I know.

TERESA

Benjamin's son?

NORMA

Yes. Some say he is the fairest man in Spain. I say the entire world. Are you tempted by men?

TERESA

I have always been.

NORMA

I mean real men and not Jesus of Nazareth.

TERESA

He counts too.

NORMA

And how have you been able to resist?

TERESA

Help from the Holy Spirit.

NORMA

Why?

TERESA

God only knows why.

NORMA

Please Sister. My world is shattered.

TERESA

You must realize that we are all alike. My temptations with men go back far and long.

NORMA

And how do you overcome.

TERESA

I did not. I transferred my love for men to the love of Jesus.

NORMA

I am aware of that.

TERESA

And?

NORMA

I do not have your strong faith. I may think of Jesus but I crave for a man's body. I am ashamed. I am so sad.

TERESA

Remember rule number one from Sister Teresa.

NORMA

Yes.

TERESA

A sad nun is a bad nun.

NORMA

So I am bad. I agree.

TERESA

I did not say that.

NORMA

But you did.

TERESA

You are a bad nun!

NORMA

What!

TERESA

Because you are not a nun. A sad nun is a bad nun.

NORMA

I shared my true feelings

TERESA

I am more afraid of one unhappy nun than a crowd of evil spirits.

NORMA

Is it wrong to be sad?

TERESA

From sour moments and sad faced souls good lord deliver us.

NORMA

I am so evil!

TERESA

You are not.

NORMA

You are a saint

TERESA

I am alive not dead. And no way am I a saint.

NORMA

Many perceive you as one.

TERESA

Let us get back to you. So many mothers will not allow their daughters to marry a man of a lower status.

NORMA

That is my situation.

TERESA

I understand.

NORMA

I lost the man I love.

TERESA

Oh?

NORMA

Rafael.

TERESA

How so?

NORMA

(Crying) I can love no other man.

TERESA

Stop crying my dear.

NORMA

I cannot stop.

TERESA

Why did you not marry him.

NORMA

My family would not approve. He does not come from the right social background.

TERESA

And so now you want you go back to him?

NORMA

Yes.

TERESA

That settles the problem

NORMA

It does not.

TERESA

Why not?

NORMA

Because he is already married.

Oh my dear. TERESA

But I Still love him. NORMA

That is not good. TERESA

But that is not the problem. NORMA

What is the problem. TERESA

He is now broken. NORMA

What? TERESA

He is married and with two children. NORMA

You should be happy for him. Unless..... TERESA

No he is a horrible husband and father. NORMA

What! TERESA

Yes. He beats his wife and children and drinks endlessly. NORMA

So God has saved you from him! TERESA

No! NORMA

Why not! TERESA

I still love him. NORMA



TERESA

Even knowing....

NORMA

Yes. I know you think I am horrible.

TERESA

No the devil has a long sway.

NORMA

What do I do.

TERESA

Pray!

NORMA

A predictable answer!

TERESA

It works.

NORMA

It's easy for you.

TERESA

Not at all. I have fallen into temptation many times.

NORMA

But you always recover.

TERESA

We will discuss that another time. For the time being. Do you want to go home/

NORMA

I cannot.

Sister Olga enters.

OLGA

The hog farmer is here to see you.

TERESA

Let him in.

OLGA

He has several hogs set aside for us.

TERESA

How generous.

Norma rushes out, crying  
mercilessly. Benjamin, the hog  
farmer, enters.

TERESA

Please come back.

OLGA

I must leave.

BENJAMIN

Have I caused all this uproar.

TERESA

Not at all, Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

I have left some lamb for you.

TERESA

You're so generous.

BENJAMIN

The young novice?

TERESA

Do you know her?

BENJAMIN

She seems familiar. I must go now.

TERESA  
Weeping nuns are useless.

BENJAMIN  
How now!

TERESA  
Sit down and have some tea.

BENJAMIN  
I don't want to disturb you.

TERESA  
Please sit and have some wine.

BENJAMIN  
I must go.

ACT 2

SCENE 1 CONVENT KITCHEN THE NEXT DAY

Teresa is working in the kitchen  
and praying.

TERESA  
Lord.

VOICE  
Yes, Teresa.

TERESA  
You are a scoundrel.

VOICE  
Oh?

TERESA  
Lord!

VOICE  
Yes! My Teresa.

TERESA  
Lord.

Yes, Teresa. VOICE

Hear me. TERESA

Yes! My Teresa. VOICE

No wonder you have so few friends! TERESA

Why? VOICE

Just look at the way you treat us! TERESA

Ha! Ha! Ha! VOICE

You laugh. TERESA

It could be worse! VOICE

A knock at the door

Come in. TERESA

Benjamin, a farmer, enters with a large cut of recently cut pig

I have another lamb for you. BENJAMIN

Your are overly generous. We eat very little. But I will share with all the convents. TERESA

Have yourself a good meal. BENJAMIN

TERESA

I eat little.

BENJAMIN

Why?

TERESA

It detracts from my spiritual journey.

BENJAMIN

I admire your journey. But you should get some rest and food.

TERESA

Hear my latest prayer.

BENJAMIN

Pray tell!

TERESA

"Enjoy Me."

What a burden I thought I was to carry -  
a crucifix, as did He.

Love once said to me, "I know a song,  
would you like to hear it?"

And laughter came from every brick in the street

And from every pore

In the sky.

After a night of prayer, He

Changed my life when

He sang,

LAUGHTER CAME FROM EVERY BRICK

Just these two words He spoke  
changed my life,

"Enjoy Me.

BENJAMIN

Ah nice.

TERESA

Do you like it?

BENJAMIN

Beyond me. Aren't you also working on something else?

TERESA

I am now working on way The Way of perfection and The Seven Dwelling Places.

BENJAMIN

I worry about you, sister.

TERESA

Why?

BENJAMIN

You work too hard. Why?

TERESA

The inner voices call upon me to do God's will.

BENJAMIN

But you are a good person.

TERESA

I am not.

BENJAMIN

Have it your way.

TERESA

What makes you say I am a good person?

BENJAMIN

You have not killed anyone. You are not promiscuous to my knowledge. You don't rob and so and so on. And you're praying morning noon and night and then go through those histrionic sessions.

TERESA

Histrionic sessions!

BENJAMIN

Now, now, now. ..I was joking.

TERESA

I am a virgin who has not killed nor robbed. But I am a sinner. But I am only saved by God's intervention.

BENJAMIN

You know I think you take religion too seriously.

TERESA

Go away! Religion can not be taken too seriously

BENJAMIN

Maybe God wants a break.

TERESA

Benjamin!

BENJAMIN

Can't you wait till you die?

TERESA

I swear, Benjamin you are impossible. But the mystical life is not for everyone

BENJAMIN

Do you ever relax.

TERESA

When I have time. Have you ever tried mysticism?

BENJAMIN

Naw!

TERESA

Why not?

BENJAMIN

Puts me to sleep.

We hear knocking at the door

TERESA

Sister Norma?

Norma enters. She takes one look at Benjamin and begins crying.

NORMA

I must go!

TERESA

But..

NORMA

I must go!

She rushes out.

TERESA

Oh dear. She come to say goodbye before taking a break from the convent. And then she becomes overcome by something. A self indulgent and emotional novice does not make a good bride for Christ.

BENJAMIN

Ah yes.

TERESA

She seems to know you.

BENJAMIN

She may.

TERESA

SHE KNEW YOU.

BENJAMIN

Yes she does.

TERESA

I ask no more questions.

BENJAMIN

You know why she knows me?

TERESA

No.



BENJAMIN  
That is the reason she is here.

TERESA  
What!

BENJAMIN  
My son!

TERESA  
What!

BENJAMIN  
Has she ever told you about him?

TERESA  
She said nothing when she joined the order.

BENJAMIN  
She is to be pitied. I knew she had gone off to a convent  
but had no idea it was here.

TERESA  
She is in a state of confusion.

BENJAMIN  
Because of my son.

TERESA  
Your son?

BENJAMIN  
He mistreated her.

TERESA  
The convent is not meant to be a repository for broken  
hearted women.

BENJAMIN  
Poor girl.

TERESA  
Why?

BENJAMIN  
You have heard of the father of the Prodigal son?

TERESA

Of course.

BENJAMIN

I envy him.

TERESA

The Prodigal Father!

BENJAMIN

His prodigal son left. Mine remained and caused more misery around him.

TERESA

Norma was one of many of them then?

BENJAMIN

At least ten. She loved my son. More than any woman could love any man. A young man who has had too much love given to him. And he is the prodigal son who stayed at home and ending out making other women including his present wife miserable.

TERESA

Enough. I have had my own list of broken hearted relationships

BENJAMIN

What!

TERESA

Yes.

BENJAMIN

But you are so holy!

TERESA

I don't think so. I have no will power save for the saving grace of God.

BENJAMIN

You have actually had affairs?

TERESA

Almost. But then the Holy Spirit stepped in and saved me.

BENJAMIN

Well to be honest I heard rumors about you and one of your confessors.

TERESA

Father Garcia. I became very emotionally attached to him. But the Holy spirit stepped in.

BENJAMIN

And then it was over?

TERESA

No. He became even more attached to me. And before long I became his confessor. Not a healthy thing.

BENJAMIN

So there was some substance to the rumors.

TERESA

Almost. I am a virgin and will always remain one. But he had been having an affair with the devil woman.

BENJAMIN

What!

TERESA

Father was a very troubled man. He could not break from the snare of the devil woman. I actually think he exaggerated her prowess and power over him.

BENJAMIN

He did not.

TERESA

How do you know?

BENJAMIN

I saw her many times.

TERESA

Oh?

BENJAMIN

No I saw her. I did not visit her. But what does his have to do with his infatuation for you?

TERESA

Because I asked the Holy Spirit to break the hold.

BENJAMIN

And?

TERESA

The hold did not subside.

BENJAMIN

So what did you do?

TERESA

That is when I asked him about his amulet.

BENJAMIN

And?

TERESA

He told me that she had given it to him.

BENJAMIN

And?

TERESA

I asked him to give it to me. Which he did. And then I ran to the Adaja River. I threw it into the river.

BENJAMIN

Wow!

TERESA

And the spell was broken.

BENJAMIN

And what happened to Mary and Jesus and all that good stuff.

TERESA

Well the spell was broken.

BENJAMIN

Sounds like superstition to me.

TERESA

Were you on my mystical journey you would understand.

BENJAMIN

I have enough problems with my earthly journey let alone a mystical journey.

TERESA

Then I will pray for you.

SCENE 2 CONVENT DINING ROOM

Teresa , Sister Olga and Maria  
are seated beside her.

TERESA

You have al been working so hard. It is time to rest.

ALL

We love our work.

TERESA

Let me read you my newest prayer.

ALL

Please!

TERESA

God alone is enough."  
Let nothing upset you,  
Let nothing startle you.

TERESA

All things pass;  
 God does not change.  
 Patience wins  
 All it seeks.  
 Whoever has God  
 Lacks nothing:  
 God alone is enough

ALL

How beautiful.      Indeed.

Suddenly we hear gasps of griefs  
 and horror. Suddenly the two  
 friars enter.

ANTONIO

Have you heard!

TERESA

Hear what!

SEVERINO

The suicide.

ALL

Suicide!

ANTONIO

Monsignor Lopez took his own life.

TERESA

Dear, God. When!

ANTONIO

His body was found in his room.

TERESA

What!

ANTONIO

Blood splattered all over the place.

TERESA

Surely this is a mistake.

SEVERINO

No.

OLGA

What would make him do such a thing!

ANTONIO

We do not know for certain.

MARIA

Surely?

SEVERINO

He had lost all hope.

MARIA

Why?

SEVERINO

We have only heard rumors.

MARIA

What!

TERESA

Surely..

ANTONIO

He was caught in an embarrassing moment, we hear.

TERESA

Such as?

ANTONIO

In flagrante delicto.

TERESA

My Latin is not that good.

ANTONIO

You know what it means.

.

ANTONIO

He was caught in the presence of another man in his bedroom.  
And in the kneeling position.

SEVERINO

They had been waiting for him.

TERESA

Who?

SEVERINO

His enemies. He had more than you do. Life may be easier for  
you now.

TERESA

No. We have had the loss of an individuals life.

ANTONIO

He took his own life

SEVERINO

You are aware of what the Holy Inquisition would do to him?

TERESA

I am.

ANTONIO

And also they found out that he was conversos like you and I.  
To him that was another disgrace.

TERESA

We must now pray for him.

SEVERINO

What!

TERESA

He needs our prayers.



ANTONIO

You are aware that he can not be buried on sacred ground.  
Which means he will be buried outside the church.

TERESA

We pray for him.

OLGA

I shall also pray as will all the nuns.

TERESA

Won't you join us.

ANTONIO

Yes.

SEVERINO

Yes

All begin praying.

TERESA

Our father. We ask you to welcome the soul of the tragic  
Monsignor Lopez. Please forgive him all his sins. Do not  
judge him by this senseless suicide. Do not judge him for  
a moment of severe melancholy. Hear our prayers. Now let us  
kneel to recite the Rosary.

Monsignor Pedro enters.

ALL

Good evening.

PEDRO

I hope I am not interrupting anything!

TERESA

We are in prayer.

PEDRO

How nice. Are these afternoon prayers?

TERESA

For the soul of Monsignor Lopez.

PEDRO

Aha. What I thought. You are praying for an enemy of the church and the people, and a man who died in disgrace.

TERESA

Nevertheless he deserves our prayers.

PEDRO

I always thought there was something going on between you two. After all he was a Maranaos like you.

TERESA

We had many differences of opinion. But now he is dead and we must pray for him

PEDRO

You are disobeying church teachings.

TERESA

I do not know those teachings.

PEDRO

In the name of the Church and the Inquisition, I forbid you to pray for this enemy of God!

TERESA

We will obey your orders.

PEDRO

I knew you would be reasonable.

TERESA

Yes Sir.

PEDRO

I must go now. And you have been warned.

He exits.

OLGA

We now have an order.

NORMA

I have another suggestion.

OLGA

Yes?

NORMA

I think we should pray for the souls of members of the clergy in Avila whow have died in the last 24 hours.

TERESA

Amen.

ALL

Our Father who are art in heaven...

SCENE 3 PHILIP'S CHAMBERS

Philip stands before Eufrasia.

PHILIP

What can I do for you my dear Eufrasia?

EUFRASIA

Let me show you what she has done.

PHILIP

Who!

EUFRASIA

That Jewish Woman.

PHILIP

You mean Mary the mother of the Nazorean?

EUFRASIA

No. I mean that Teresa woman.

PHILIP

Who is only one quarter Jewish. The Virgin was four quarters Jewish.

EUFRASIA

You are mocking me!

PHILIP

And then her son was only half Jewish. I don't know what you would call the other half, but don't even go there. Ha Ha Ha. So what about Teresita?

EUFRASIA

ARE YOU READY TO BE SHOCKED?

PHILIP

YES.

EUFRASIA

Sister Maria sent me one of her prayers. PRAYERS! MIND YOU!

PHILIP

And?

EUFRASIA

It is filth from beginning to end.

PHILIP

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

EUFRASIA

Listen.

PHILIP

Proceed.

EUFRASIA

"I saw in his hand a long spear of gold, and at the iron's point there seemed to be a little fire. He appeared to me to be thrusting it at times into my heart, and to pierce my very entrails;

EUFRASIA

when he drew it out, he seemed to draw them out also, and to leave me all on fire with a great love of God.!"

PHILIP

Nothing here.

EUFRASIA

Let me read more.

"The pain was so great, that it made me moan; and yet so surpassing was the sweetness of this excessive pain, that I could not wish to be rid of it. The soul is satisfied now with nothing less than God.

The pain is not bodily, but spiritual, though the body has its share in it. It is a caressing of love so sweet, which now takes place between the soul and God that I pray God of His goodness to make him experience it who may think that I am lying."

PHILIP

A spiritual exercise!

EUFRASIA

To me it sounds sexual.

PHILIP

I can not believe that you....

EUFRASIA

Let me finish

Many people are shocked that they never "saw" the face of orgasm before, even though they have seen this most famous painting dozens of times. We are truly in times of "revelations" and if we can now see orgasm as spiritual ecstasy...

PHILIP

Stop!

EUFRASIA

And finally she says...

PHILIP

Stop!

EUFRASIA

Then we should know that our partners with whom we have sex, are a path to our evolution, our path to the ultimate destination, which is a reunion with God.

PHILIP

She is speaking of a union with God.

EUFRASIA

By way of sex!

PHILIP

Nonsense!

EUFRASIA

She even turned her mysticism into sex.

PHILIP

You are aware what her source for that material is?

EUFRASIA

No.

PHILIP

I thought you were learned.

EUFRASIA

I am but a woman.

PHILIP

Do you know the Bible?

EUFRASIA

My Latin is not good.

PHILIP

It's from the Bible.

EUFRASIA

I am not well versed in the Bible

PHILIP

You should be. It is from the Song of the Solomon.

EUFRASIA

A love song?

PHILIP

From Solomon to God.

EUFRASIA

Oh.

PHILIP

And often cited by Jesus.

EUFRASIA

I see.

PHILIP

So now you see!

EUFRASIA

I do not. She still does not have the right to feign a relationship with Jesus of Nazareth.

PHILIP

Even with His approval?

EUFRASIA

Let's romp in bed.

PHILIP

ON that we agree.

SCENE 4 OUTSIDE TERESA'S PRAYER ROOM

Sisters Olga and Maria are  
outside Teresa's private chapel.

OLGA

I am getting worried

MARIA

Why?

OLGA  
The screams!

MARIA  
She is enraptured

OLGA  
But surely she gives God a headache.

MARIA  
Let God decide.

OLGA  
Listen closely.

TERESA

Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love;  
in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me.  
For I know my transgressions;  
My sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone have I sinned; I have done what is  
evil in your eyes  
So that you are just in your word, and without reproach in  
your judgment  
Behold, I was born in guilt, in sin my mother conceived me.  
Behold, you desire true sincerity; and secretly you teach me  
wisdom.  
Cleanse me with hyssop,\* that I may be pure; wash me, and I  
will be whiter than snow.

OLGA  
She has stopped.

MARIA  
Perhaps she has fallen asleep.

OLGA  
Don't count on it.

MARIA  
This has been going on now for three hours.

OLGA  
The last time it was nine hours.



## SCENE 5 PHILIP'S CHAMBERS

King Philip is writing at this desk. Eufrasia enters.

PHILIP

My dear Eufrasia.

EUFRASIA

My king!. I have been lonely without you.

PHILIP

I saw you last week.

EUFRASIA

That is too long.

PHILIP

Well matters of state have kept me busy.

EUFRASIA

Being King of the world is not easy.

PHILIP

I am glad you understand. But as you know I love you dearly.

EUFRASIA

His Majesty has been so kind to me.

PHILIP

You are dear to me.

EUFRASIA

And I have some news which may please you.

PHILIP

Yes?

EUFRASIA

I have changed my mind about Teresa.

PHILIP

A surprise indeed. What brought about this change in opinion? She's about to appear before the tribunal.

EUFRASIA

A woman has a right to change an opinion.

PHILIP

Why of course.

EUFRASIA

But I do believe she should act more like a woman.

PHILIP

M-m-m

EUFRASIA

I came to discuss another matter

PHILIP

Ah yes...

EUFRASIA

A matter of the highest importance.

PHILIP

I am sure.

EUFRASIA

I do not know how to break this to you...

PHILIP

Fear not.

EUFRASIA

The king is with Child.

PHILIP

My queen should be giving birth at any moment.

I know!

EUFRASIA

Are you delighted?

PHILIP

I am. But more delighted about something else...

EUFRASIA

What is that?

PHILIP

You are about to become a father even again. I am the mother of the second child. And in a dream I was told it would be a boy. Needless to say, only you can be the father.

EUFRASIA

I know that.

PHILIP

I am a shamed woman. But I am honored to bear his Majesty's child.

EUFRASIA

I am glad that you are.

PHILIP

Are you aware what the queen said about me? That I was not only your Sisters's lady in waiting but the lady in waiting to everyone else.

EUFRASIA

No I did not.

PHILIP

Now you are aware of my position. I suppose I will have to leave the court.

EUFRASIA

Not exactly.

PHILIP

What?

EUFRASIA

PHILIP

I have found a father for your child. And a husband for you.

EUFRASIA

You mean you already knew?

PHILIP

There are no secrets at court.

EUFRASIA

Who?

PHILIP

The prince of Ascoli. A very near and dear friend of mine who feels honored to raise your child as his own.

EUFRASIA

But the prince of Ascoli is elderly.

PHILIP

He is. But a handsome man.

EUFRASIA

But worse, he is impoverished.

PHILIP

Not after this morning. He now owns lands and livestock and gold.

EUFRASIA

Oh, my Lord!

PHILIP

I am very Christian and will do the right thing by God.

EUFRASIA

Oh, My Lord.

PHILIP

And you can never see me again.

EUFRASIA

Why not?

PHILIP

Because you are now the Princess of Acsoli and the wife of my friend.

EUFRASIA

Why yes! Of course!

PHILIP

And I wish you both a happy marriage.

EUFRASIA

We will both love you.

PHILIP

I thank you.

SCENE 6 MEDITATING ROOM THE NEXT WEEK

Tersa is seated in the room

TERESA

How dependent is your body's life on water and food and air?  
 I said to God, ' I will always be.  
 Our bodies are the leaves of God.  
 The apparent seasons of life and death  
 our eyes can suffer;  
 but our souls, dear, I will just say this forthright:  
 they are God  
 Himself,  
 we will never  
 perish  
 Unless He  
 Does.

VOICE

My Teresa.

TERESA

Shepherd, shepherd, hark that calling  
 Shepherd, shepherd, hark that calling!  
 Angels they are and the day is dawning.  
 What is this ding-dong,  
 Or loud singing is it?  
 Come Bras, now the day is here.  
 The shepherdess we'll visit.  
 Shepherd, shepherd hark that calling!  
 Angels they are and the day is dawning.  
 O, is this the Alcade's daughter,  
 Or some lady come from far?  
 She is daughter of God the Father,  
  
 And she shines like a star.  
 Shepherd, shepherd, hark that calling!  
 Angels they are and the day is dawning

SCENE 7      THE TRIBUNAL COURTROOM      LATER

The Tribunal Judge faces Teresa.

INQUISITOR

Teresa of Jesus.

TERESA

Your Holiness.

INQUISITOR

Also Teresa of Avila?

TERESA

Yes your Holiness.

INQUISITOR

We have spent one full year investigating charges against you  
 and they are grave indeed.

TERESA

Yes Your Holiness.

INQUISITOR

We have had many of letters charging you and your order with  
 grave matters .

TERESA

Yes, Your Holiness.

INQUISITOR

The charges have been severe. Heresy, histrionics, sexual orgies, superstition, witchcraft, and some others.

TERESA

I will be more than happy to answer any specifics.

INQUISITOR

You must.

TERESA

I will humbly respond.

INQUISITOR

And we have twice as many letters not only defending you but holding you as the model for a saint.

TERESA

Yes, Your Holiness.

INQUISITOR

Three of the supporters wanted you to be canonized.

TERESA

I appreciate the support. But I am only a sinful human.

INQUISITOR

But I must ask you about the charges. You have already answered many of these questions. The first is that you were involved in sexual orgies which were described in detail to the tribunal.

TERESA

I deny these charges. I was born a virgin. I shall die a virgin. You can make any examination you want.

INQUISITOR

The charges seemed to be without support except that they came from two witnesses.

TERESA

May I know who they are?

INQUISITOR

Of course not. When Ferdinand and Isabella set up this Holy Body the organizers wanted to make certain that those who agreed to act as witnesses for the tribunal should be protected.

TERESA

Yes, your Holiness.

INQUISITOR

We have had several accusations that the Carmelite nuns, mentioning specifically Sisters Olga, Sarafina, Norma and several others as having encounters with numerous men. We have signed statements from the woman admitting all.

TERESA

Those statements were forced. Those women were born virgins and will die virgins.

INQUISITOR

And your confessor, the Jesuit?

TERESA

Absolutely not.

INQUISITOR

And your other confessors?

TERESA

Absolutely not.

INQUISITOR

So you have had no such affairs.

TERESA

I had one lifetime affair and it is still going on.

INQUISITOR

So you admit it!

TERESA

Yes.

INQUISITOR

Can you name that person?

TERESA

Jesus of Nazareth. And I am with him unto eternity.



(Winking) So noted. INQUISITOR

Yes, your Holiness. TERESA

And the heresies? INQUISITOR

You are aware that all have been reviewed by the Vatican. TERESA

Yes. But there continue to be indeed complaints. INQUISITOR

I will defend everything I have written. TERESA

And we shall call you again as needed. INQUISITOR

Thank you, Your Holiness. TERESA

All exit. We hear whispers from Benjamin, Antonio, and Severino

Will she go to prison? ANTONIO

No. SEVERINO

Of course not. BENJAMIN

But.... ANTONIO

She goes free! JACOB

Why? BENJAMIN

ANTONIO

The inquistor is having other problems.

BENJAMIN

But the evidence?

SEVERINO

Is light.

BENJAMIN

Yes!

ANTONIO

And one more thing. The King maintains neutrality.

BENJAMIN

I understand he will do nothing to defend her.

ANTONIO

That is right. But he sleeps with all of her works beside his bed

BENJAMIN

And the Inquisitor knows that?

ANTONIO

Everybody knows that.

SEVERINO

One one more thing. She comes from a rich family.

ANTONIO

And?

SEVERINO

She has nothing.

BENJAMIN

Meaning they have no assets to go after. And a rich family to face.

SEVERINO

Smart man.

SCENE 8 TERESA'S BEDROOM

All the nuns, the friars,  
Benjamin, Norma, Olga and Maria  
are kneeling surrounding Teresa  
in her bed.

ALL

Save her soul, O Lord.

CROWD

Blessed be Teresa! Blessed be Teresa! Blessed Be Teresa!

OLGA

I believe I hear some breathing.

TERESA

Surely the hour of my death is here.

OLGA

Not yet, Sister.

TERESA

I want to see the face of God.

MARIA

You have already seen the face of God.

BENJAMIN

The barber surgeon is coming here to cup bleeding and  
hemorrhaging.

TERESA

That will only cause more hemorrhaging.

BENJAMIN

Do you have any regrets before you die.

TERESA

Only that I hope to be saved.

BENJAMIN

You have had last rites.

TERESA

But...

BENJAMIN

If you are not saved, no one is saved.

TERESA

Foolish man.

OLGA

You need some water (Makes her sip water)

TERESA

Oh the pain. I hear a voice.

BENJAMIN

Whose Voice?

TERESA

The only man I have ever loved.

ABENJAMIN

What are your last words?

TERESA

I thank God for making me a daughter of the Church.

ALL

Amen.

## SCENE 9 THE CATHEDRAL

We hear Faure's Reuqiem.  
Antonio, Severino, Benjamin  
Olga, Norma and Maria stand.

BENJAMIN

Today, at this memorial Mass we share our thoughts about Sister Teresa and share some of her familiar prayers. What did she say?

ANTONIO

Let nothing perturb you, nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything."

BENJAMIN

May today there be peace within.

SEVERINO

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

ANTONIO

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

OLGA

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

SARAFINA

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

OLGA

It is there for each and every one of us. It is love alone that gives worth to all things.  
Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away:  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things.  
Whoever has God lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices." Christ has no body now on earth but yours,

SEVERINO

And I loved her prayers.

SEVERINO

No hands but yours,  
 no feet but yours,  
 Yours are the eyes through which to look out  
 Christ's compassion to the world  
 Yours are the feet with which he is to go about  
 doing good;

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now."

It is foolish to think that we will enter heaven without  
 entering into ourselves."

BENJAMIN

A great lady indeed.

SEVERINO

And there is more.

Untilled ground, however rich, will bring forth thistles and  
 thorns; so also the mind of man."

"

SARAFINA

She feared the devil. Here is what she says.  
 The devil frequently fills our thoughts with great schemes,  
 so that instead of putting our hands to what work we can do  
 to serve our Lord, we may rest satisfied with wishing to  
 perform impossibilities."

MARIA

This Beloved of ours is merciful and good. Besides, He so  
 deeply longs for our love that he keeps calling us to come  
 closer.

OLGA

God calls to us in countless little ways all the time.  
 Through illnesses and suffering and through sorrow he calls  
 to us.

NORMA

"Trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be."

ALL

Teresa! Teresa! Teresa! WE LOVE YOU. HEAR OUR PRAYERS IN  
 HEAVEN!

## SCENE 10 THE ASCOLI PALACE

Eufrasia de Guzman, The Princess of Ascoli, is seated in a chair and knitting.

## EUFRASIA

I love to knit.

Ever since my beloved husband, the Prince of Ascoli died, it is my chief pastime and knitting here I can reflect on both my late husband and his highness King Phillip, now dead nearly a quarter of a century. Both men were saints. I am now nearly 90 years old. This is a special day for me. For Teresa, our Teresa of Avila, now dead nearly 40 years is about to be canonized a saint. I want to support that cause.

I once hated Teresa. But I have come to accept her and all that she stands for. She was a truly inspired woman and mystic and showed how to achieve the elevated state with God. The poor woman died so many years ago, and ever since then the world has been clamoring for her canonization. Her position in Spain was apparent when King Charles grandson, the heir to the throne, was baptized -he was wrapped in the stole St. Teresa wore. There is even talk about making her a doctor of the Church, the first woman in history to do so.

I also think Philip should be canonized. His whole life was dedicated to his God and his country. Yet life was so hard on him. He died in a tiny room at L'Escorial Convent.

May God bless all of you.

We hear the introit from Verdi's Requiem Mass in the background

END OF PLAY

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