

The Cloistered Soul

Rachel Connor

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Characters

Sister Agatha, a nun
Sister Geraldine, a younger nun
Mother Marie-David, the Mother Abbess
Bridget, a postulant

Time

Present

Place

Note on punctuation and formatting:

Bridget Oh. At last. This is it, right

Geraldine (v/o) Something about her, something - her clothes are wrong. The wimple big

Mother Abbess You *are* Bridget? Sure, you must be. Mother Cecilia
- O
silence?

BRIDGET ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR

Bridget The oh, s

You got the letter, though, right?

Mother Abbess She said you were due this afternoon.

such a
-

David. This is Sister Agatha.

Bridget I missed the train. Then I got lost. It were a nightmare.
The directions feel my coat. See? Totally soaked.

Agatha

Mother Abbess Tomorrow is the time to talk
things through. Now, Sister Agatha will show you to

AGATHA AND BRIDGET WALK DOWN THE CORRIDOR.

THERE IS THE CLANGING SOUND OF THE ENCLOSURE GATE
BEING SHUT AND LOCKED, A METALLIC, ECHOING, RING.

SCENE 4, INT. % 5 , ' * (7 ¶ 6 & (// 1 , * + 7

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ENTER THE ROOM

Bridget Oh, this is

Agatha Is something wrong?

Bridget

Agatha You can put your luggage down now.

Bridget Right, yeah. Thanks.

So how long have you been a

Agatha You must be tired from the journey. And eager to be out of those wet things. Here, you can use this to get dry.

AGATHA HANDS BRIDGET A TOWEL

SCENE 6, EXT. CONVENT GARDEN, DAY

GERALDINE IS GARDENING WITH HER HEADPHONES ON,
LISTENING TO THE PSALM FROM LAUDS (INVITATORY
SURREXIT DOMINUM . TRACK 1). WE HEAR THE MUSIC AS

THROUGH HER HEAD. "O LORD, GOD OF SAUL, REBUKE HIS
ACCOMPANYING HER AS S[LP]-2(CC)(OMPA)-(NYI)-2(NG HE)7JETBTF512TF512S[LP]

Geraldine Oh! You gave me a fright there.

GERALDINE REMOVES HER HEADPHONES

Agatha Sister Eustochium needs you in the
delivery of hosts to send out.

Geraldine

Agatha Well I suppose we should remember that it love in action.
Service, I mean.

Geraldine We

Sister - I wanted to say - we missed you. This morning. At
practice.

Agatha This morning? I had reading to do.

Geraldine You always avoid it.

Agatha - t so much to do. Mother
asked me to write this paper for the

Geraldine You know you?

Agatha So is *Lectio Divina*.

Geraldine For you it is.

Agatha For all of us.

Geraldine

Agatha

For a stupid, blind moment of anger; . There was
no need for *me* to pay, he said. No need to imprison myself.

But my deal. I thought I could save his soul.

I left him. I walked down the corridor. And there was the
terrible sound of the gate closing behind me.

Bridget never guess.

Agatha Sorry?

Bridget *born* Catholic.

Agatha Look, we should get back to Babel.

BRIDGET SIGHS AND BEGINS TO RECITE FROM GENESIS.
FADE TO SILENCE AS SHE READS.

Bridget Genesis. Chapter 11. Now the whole earth had one language
and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from
the east that they foun

BRIEF SNATCH OF A SOLO VOICE SINGING (LAMENTATION
ORATIO JEREMIAE: TRACK 3)

SCENE 10, INT. CONVENT COMMON ROOM, DAY

RECREATION TIME. BRIDGET AND AGATHA ARE READING.
VPOÜÖJÁPÒÁUWÖÁUÖÁVÖSÖÁ
CLOCK IN THE
BACKGROUND

GERALDINE ENTERS

Geraldine Ignatius.

Bridget Is it her birthday?

Geraldine eBay.

Bridget What stuff?

Geraldine Linen bags for the drawer scents. Ap
online. She says loads of money but, to be
honest, I addicted. You should see her when she
wins. She runs up the corridor, and she kind of - thumps the
air, i

Bridget

Agatha Sister Ignatius would impressed by you speaking that
way.

Geraldine t a

Agatha Thank you.

Geraldine Letterbox Link

Agatha They put people in touch with each other.

Bridget In touch? Can I see?

BRIDGET SNATCHES THE LETTER

Geraldine Bridget!

Bridget

SCENE 12, EXT. CONVENT GARDEN, DAY

Bridget at. I

Agatha I faith.

Bridget I want to know. Where you where people - come from. What makes people join, and that.

Agatha People join for all kinds of reasons.

Bridget Well, doh. Obviously. Like, your thing what matters to you most ? And the other day. You said you converted after Uni. But, I mean, if you loved your studies so much carry on with them?

Agatha I

Bridget Why not?

Agatha Something - happened.

Bridget What? What happened? Were you in

Agatha - the only thing I can say is that I. Well. I saw what I needed to do. It was a sudden realisation. But it was very powerful.

Bridget If it was sudden you must have, you know, left things behind. Something.

Agatha I prayed a great deal. I thought it would be the right thing. I could give my life in service if you understand. I could withdraw.

Bridget I there anyone you miss?

Agatha There there was - someone.

Bridget Tell me. Please.

Agatha I talk about it.

SCENE 13 , 17 \$ * \$ 7 + \$ 1 6 NIGHT

Agatha (v/o) Her questions puncture the silence.

Bridget (v/o, whispering)

Why did you choose this life?

Agatha (v/o) f the sin-sickness of the soul is a hidden one, let her reveal it only to the Abbess who knows how to cure her own and others'

Bridget (v/o, whispering)

?

Agatha (v/o) That last visit, before I took the veil.
touch him . I remembered when he was
ill, - how I stroked his cheek. It was so hot.

What does it mean? A life sentence. Life. I believed I could
balance things out.

The pact. I was an adult when I made it, but now I think - I
must have had the blind faith of a child. T o faith left.
Only this: the sin-sickness of the soul.

SCENE 1

SCENE 18, INT. CHURCH, DAY

THE ANUNCIATION BELL CALLS THE NUNS TO PRAYER. THE
GATE TO THE CLOISTER IS UNLOCKED AND OPENED.

THE NUNS FILE IN TO CHURCHES(CJ9CBEIL)-6G ,3 BDC BT1 0 0 B. SC#43 CA 12#

SCENE 19, INT. CONVENT, DAY

Bridget

.

Agatha

But the \$ 68.28

Bridget

I *know*. I

This

Agatha

Proof - ? How ~~7~~ Tm(?)6()TJETBT1 0 0 1 23813 32.8 Tm(How)T1 0 0 1 224.

SCENE 20, INT. CONVENT CORRIDOR, DAY

**BRIDGET RUSHES OUT OF THE DOOR AND BUMPS INTO
GERALDINE, WHO IS STARTLED**

Geraldine Bridget!

Bridget

Bridget I was just she

Geraldine She?

Bridget Sister Agatha.

Geraldine
 in to the music room?

Bridget No!

Geraldine What did she say?

Bridget She found something I dropped I've had it for
 years.

Geraldine

Bridget I tried to Oh, I you. Not not yet. I need to talk to
 her.

SCENE 23, EXT. CONVENT GARDEN, DAY

SOUND OF THE ANUNCIATION BELL TOLLING IN THE
BACKGROUND AS THEY LEAVE MASS, BRIDGET IN A HURRY
AND GERALDINE FOLLOWINGidget tw you,

Geraldine Wait!

Bridget

Geraldine important. I need to talk to you. I saw you, in Mass ± just
now. W

Bridget

Geraldine you tell me?

Bridget Tell you what?

Geraldine Th

Bridget mean.

Geraldine

Bridget Who?

Geraldine

Bridget My real mother.
 was when I
 found out but now

Agatha Bridget, what are you

Bridget You left me You
 after me, so you brought me here to be protected by St
 and that's why you decided
 to come so you

Agatha

Geraldine (warning) Sister Agatha.

Bridget Sorry,
 spend all your time hiding from it.

Agatha anything.

Agatha (angry, to Geraldine)
 Sister Geraldine.

Bridget Thank you.
crying and all.

Agatha (still upset)

Bridget I wish it could be you. That - you could be her.
face and touch her.

Agatha Yes.

Bridget Do you understand?

Agatha I think so. I can
Your mother she want you to make the best
choices. To live the right life. her but I we - Sister
Geraldine and I we can help you.

Bridget Do you mean it?

Geraldine Course. But it means you have to face up to things, too.

Bridget You mean, the truth?

Geraldine Yes. But I know you can do it. Y dead strong.

Bridget You said though do you mean it? ?

Geraldine When you love when people love each other. You take
responsibility for each other.

Agatha When people love each other.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE (LAMENTATION ORATIO JEREMIAE:
TRACK 3)

SCENE 24, INT. CHURCH, DAY

THE ANUNCIATION BELL TOLLS, CALLING THE NUNS TO PRAYER. THE GATE TO THE CLOISTER IS UNLOCKED AND OPENED.

THE NUNS FILE IN TO CHURCH AND BEGIN TO SING VESPERS (ANTIPHON NONNE COR NOSTRUM, MAGNIFICAT, TRACK 16)

Geraldine (v/o) The last prayer of Vespers, the Magnificat. Giving thanks for
the day . For everything

Bridget This.

BRIDGET HOLDS OUT THE PRAYER CARD

Geraldine Oh.

-

AGATHA DESCENDS THE STAIRS

Agatha You can give it to me yourself. If you like.

Bridget

BRIDGET HANDS OVER THE PRAYER CARD TO AGATHA

Agatha

Bridget I thought it were all I had of her. I well, not worthless.
But. lost its value.

Agatha the last thing from your childhood. Do you want

Bridget You helped me see straight. About the truth and that
you to have it.

symbolic But
I might never find her
of card will help. And anyway, I were just sort of clinging to
what I thought it meant.
what I should be doing.

Agatha Bridget.

Bridget Yeah?

Agatha Before you go I want to say thank you.

Bridget Why? I as should be thanking you! Both of you.

Agatha Coming here. It was brave. Really brave
Bridget That means a lot, Sister.

BRIDGET TAKES A DEEP BREATH

 Right. Better not keep them waiting.
Geraldine Safe journey.
Bridget I mean it. Thanks. For everything.

BRIDGET LEAVES, CLOSING THE DOOR BEHIND HER

Agatha brave. Braver than I am. This card, it was a talisman for
 her. So to have the strength to let it go
Geraldine Hang it over again.
Agatha What?
Geraldine Look.
Agatha S
Geraldine , then? About you leaving.
Agatha

SCENE 28, EXT. CLOISTER GATE, DAY

Geraldine So. This is it?

Agatha I suppose it is.

Geraldine?

Geraldine Yeah?

Agatha the gate after me?

Geraldine ouse.

Agatha Thank you.

THE CLANGING SOUND OF THE CLOISTER GATE CLOSING.