

Scene 12: A Corridor in the Abbey

(SISTER SOPHIA enters, accompanied by a NEW POSTULANT carrying a small traveling bag. She is distinctively and attractively dressed in a drab suit and hat. They start down the corridor. From the opposite side SIX NUNS enter in double file, chanting.)

MUSIC 26: NUN'S PROCESSIONAL: "MORNING HYMN"

NUNS

REX ADMIRABILIS ET TRIUMPHATOR NOBIS,
DUCEDO INEFFABILIS, TOTUS DESIDERABILIS,
TOTUS DESIDERABILIS.

(SISTER SOPHIA and the NEW POSTULANT watch the NUNS as they go down the corridor and disappear, then they exit as the lights fade out.)

Scene 13: The Office of the Mother Abbess, three days later

(The MOTHER ABBESS is seated at her desk and SISTER SOPHIA stands facing her. The NEW POSTULANT is right of the desk, signing her name to a paper.)

MOTHER ABBESS

(Rising)

Sister Sophia, take our new postulant to the robing room. Bless you, my daughter.

(The NEW POSTULANT kneels. The MOTHER ABBESS blesses her. There is a knock on the door upstage right.)

Ave!

(SISTER MARGARETTA enters upstage right as SISTER SOPHIA and the NEW POSTULANT exit upstage right.)

SISTER MARGARETTA

Maria has asked to see you. I know it has taken her a long time.

MOTHER ABBESS

I waited until she wanted to come to me.

SISTER MARGARETTA

It's strange. She's happy to be here – but she's unhappy, too.

MOTHER ABBESS

Why did they send her back – do you know?

SISTER MARGARETTA

She doesn't speak. She hasn't spoken except in prayer.

MOTHER ABBESS

I shall see her.