

### **Side 3 - Sister Mary Catherine, Augusta, Philomena, Sally**

**SISTER PHILAMENA.** (Seeing SALLY:) Oh, hello! Who are you?

**SALLY.** I'm Sal— (Stops herself and extends her hand.) Sister Mary.

**SISTER PHILAMENA.** Sister Mary?

**SISTER AUGUSTA.** But this is Sister Mary.

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** Mary Catherine. Which one are you?

**SALLY.** Excuse me?

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** Which Mary? I'm Mary Catherine,  
and you're Mary...?

**SALLY.** Mary?

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** Sister Mary Mary?

**SALLY.** Well, Bloody Mary was already taken.

(PHILAMENA and AUGUSTA look shocked.)

That's just a little joke.

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** Oh, I get it! Like the cocktail!

**SISTER AUGUSTA.** Shhhh...you mustn't talk about...you-know-  
what...here. Mother Superior feels drinking is one of the greatest  
sins one can commit.

**SISTER PHILAMENA.** She says it leads to a life of vice and sin.  
She's quite passionate about it. She won't even let us say the word.  
We have to say "you-know-what," or "Satan's bathwater" or "the  
devil's hair tonic," or something like that.

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** I didn't know. Please forgive me!

**SISTER PHILAMENA.** Sister Augusta and I didn't know you were

living with us as well, Sister Mary Mary.

**SALLY.** Yes, I was sent here by, um, Cardinal whatshisname...

**SISTER AUGUSTA.** Redding?

**SALLY.** Yes, Cardinal Redding!

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** What a coincidence! He's responsible for my being here as well! And what a coincidence we've arrived on the same day! And we have almost the same name! You're not an orphan too, are you?

**SALLY.** Can't say that I am.

**SISTER PHILAMENA.** Oh, Sister Mary! You're an orphan?

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** My entire family was killed in a terrible car accident outside of Paris. I was brought up in an orphanage for girls. Every one of us became nuns. It was sort of expected.

(Beat.)

Except for one girl. She started a softball team.

**SISTER AUGUSTA.** I'll tell Mother Superior you've arrived, Mary Catherine.

**SISTER PHILAMENA.** And I'll prepare another room.

(They exit.)

**SALLY.** (Awkward silence. Finally...) So, Sister Mary Catherine... how's nun life treating you?

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** Can you keep a secret, Sister Mary Mary?

**SALLY.** You'd be amazed!

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** I'm not really a nun! I mean, I'm

training to be one, but I'm still a novice. I talked with Cardinal Redding and he's allowing me to stay here while I finish up my training. They don't take novices at this order, so I'm pretending that I've already entered the Sisterhood. I've been saddled with guilt ever since I replaced my novice whites with this gown. Please don't tell Mother Superior! I don't want to have to go back. I just know that The Sisters of Perpetual Sewing is my destiny!

**SALLY.** Honey, I won't tell a soul. The way I see it, it's sort of like living with your boyfriend before marrying him.

(Seeing the shocked look on MARY CATHERINE's face.)

Spiritually, I mean.

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** How long have you been a sister, Sister Mary Mary?

**SALLY.** Oh, uh...it seems like such a short time. But I guess it's been since I was...uh...nine?

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** Nine! I've never heard of anyone that young being allowed into the Sisterhood.

**SALLY.** Oh, well, uh...I was in the program for exceptionally pious kids. My brother became a priest when he was seven.

**SISTER MARY CATHERINE.** Oh my! It must seem almost a burden to have so much goodness in you.

**SALLY.** It's the cross I bear. (Realizing her gaffe:) Which isn't to make light of the cross Jesus bore. Uh, I think I'll just pray quietly for a moment.