

Scene 12

A hallway.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

The sisters made it clear to me that they followed you of their own volition. But they would never have ventured out at all had it not been for you.

DELORIS

I'm sorry! But they just don't want to be stuck behind these walls all the time.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

(a sudden burst of emotion)

These walls are the only protection they have!

DELORIS

But—

MOTHER SUPERIOR

They are my sisters. And I will not allow them to be put in harm's way.

DELORIS

What are you gonna do? Kick me out?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

I will speak to Officer Souther and Monsignor O'Hara. Until then, I shall restrict your activities to a single task. You're a musician. True?

DELORIS

Oh yes.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

So you're comfortable working with other musicians. True?

DELORIS

Oh yes. When it comes to working with others, I have a certain joie de vivre.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

You could sing with our choir.

DELORIS

Are they good?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

There are no words.

DELORIS

Aw that's nice. See what happens when we talk?

(As she exits)

It's a beautiful thing.

(Deloris exits as Monsignor O'Hara enters.)

MONSIGNOR O'HARA

Mother Superior.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Monsignor?

MONSIGNOR O'HARA

This Sunday after mass, we are to be visited by a Mr. Swanson and a Mr. Lardner.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

I do not know these gentlemen.

MONSIGNOR O'HARA

Perhaps you know them as the bachelors who deal in antiques. They have struck a deal with the archdiocese and will be arriving, check in hand. It pains me to tell you that this church will be no more.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

But what of the sisters?

MONSIGNOR O'HARA

They will be split up, sent to various parishes, the older ones will be sent to homes.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

But this is awful. What of my prayers?

MONSIGNOR O'HARA

Mother Superior. Look around. God has answered your prayers. You just don't like the answer.

#7a - Here Within These Walls - Reprise

MOTHER SUPERIOR

HERE YOU'RE GOD'S OWN GUEST,

CELESTIALLY PROTECTED.

ALL'S FOR THE VERY BEST...

(We hear the sound of a poorly played piano as we transition to...)