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AGNES OF GOD (K.C.)

MOTHER MIRIAM

Doctor Livingston I presume?

I'm Mother Miriam.

~~Ruth~~. You needn't call me Mother
if you don't wish. Most people find
it uncomfortable.

MARTHA

Well.... I...

M. MIRIAM

I'm afraid the word brings up the
most unpleasant connotations in this
day and age...

MARTHA

Yes...I...

M. MIRIAM

You can call me Sister.

MARTHA

Thank you.

M. MIRIAM

You must have tons of questions.
You may smoke if you want to. Just
don't tell any of the Sisters. They
wouldn't understand, especially
Sister Marguerite. She'd scare the
pants off Queen Elizabeth. -Besides,
I miss them.

MARTHA

You were a smoker?

M. MIRIAM

Two packs a day.

MARTHA

I can beat that.

M. MIRIAM
Unfiltered. (beat) Well, you have questions. Fire away.

MARTHA
Who knew about Agnes' pregnancy?

M. MIRIAM
No-one.

MARTHA
How did she hide it from the other nuns?

M. MIRIAM
She undressed alone...she bathed alone.

MARTHA
Is that normal?

M. MIRIAM
Yes.

MARTHA
How did she hide it during the day?

M. MIRIAM
(indicating her habit)
She could have hidden a machine gun in here if she had wanted to.

MARTHA
Didn't she have any physical examinations in this time?

M. MIRIAM
We're examined once a year. Her pregnancy fell between the doctor's visits.

MARTHA
Who was the father?

M. MIRIAM
I haven't a clue.

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MARTHA

What man had access to her?

M. MIRIAM

None as far as I know.

MARTHA

Was there a priest?

M. MIRIAM

Yes, but I...

MARTHA

What's his name?

M. MIRIAM

Father Martineau, but I don't see him as a candidate.

MARTHA

Could there have been anyone else?

M. MIRIAM

(pause) Obviously there was.

MARTHA

And you didn't try to find out who?

M. MIRIAM

Believe me, I've done everything possible short of asking Agnes.

MARTHA

Why haven't you asked her?

M. MIRIAM

She can't even remember the birth. Do you think she'd admit to the conception?

MARTHA

Look, someone gave her the baby.

M. MIRIAM

Yes, but that was some ten months ago. I fail to see that the identity of that somebody has anything to do with this trial.

MARTHA

Why do you think that?

M. MIRIAM

Don't ask **me** those questions dear, I'm not the patient.

MARTHA

Well I'm the doctor. I'm the one who's going to decide what is, or is not important here.

M. MIRIAM

Look doctor, I don't know how to tell you this politely, but I don't approve of you. Not you personally...

MARTHA

The science of psychiatry.

M. MIRIAM

Exactly. I want you to deal with Agnes as speedily and as easily as possible. She won't hold up under any sort of cross examination.

MARTHA

I am not with the Inquisition.

M. MIRIAM

And I am not from the Middle Ages. I know what you are! I don't want that mind cut open.