

9 March – Feast Day of St Frances of Rome

Mid-morning. Still raining, but not as heavily as before.
In the centre, MARY is slumped. There are traces of her
packaging.

ELIZABETH stands beside her and studies a tablet.

ELIZABETH. On. On. (Beat.) Go on. (Reading, muttering,

inaudible.) 'When activated – See Activation. Activation,
activation...' Need to make the font bigger, how do I...

(Pinches screen.) That's too big. Small. Small. Small. (Beat.) That's
too small

ELIZABETH puts the tablet down and walks across the
room. She notices the flowers. She admires them – then
catches herself admiring them.

(To MARY.) I tell her not to waste these lovely flowers
in here. I should ask her to remove them. Interrupting our
Lenten requirements. (Beat.) You are too, I suppose. You
shouldn't have arrived before Easter. They said last week we
had no choice with the slots, but I made perfectly clear... No
matter. It's all God's will. And just in case it isn't... I'll get
the sisters at lunch to say an extra Hail Mary

MARY. Hello

ELIZABETH (beat). You're awake

MARY. I am awake

ELIZABETH. How long have you – I was reading the,
information, to switch you on

MARY. Do you require 'information, to switch me on'?

ELIZABETH. Well, not now. How did I. Why did you speak?

MARY. I speak to communicate

ELIZABETH. No, I – why did you speak just now

MARY. I responded to my name

ELIZABETH. You responded to your – hang on hang on, there was something about that in the – (*Retrieves tablet*) User Manual, yes, 'Assignment' (*Scrolls*) assignment, assignment –

MARY. Do you require assistance?

ELIZABETH. I can do this on my own. (*Inaudible*) 'To commence the primary phase this unit must be primed to yadda yadda yah...' (*Louder*) 'And your robot's name is' ah ha, 'revealed in Section A, click here to', I didn't click it. (*Clicks*) 'Mary'

MARY. Hello

ELIZABETH. You're called Mary

MARY. Hello

ELIZABETH. Will you say that every time I say, Mary?

MARY. I stop when you are sufficiently greeted

ELIZABETH. Right! You're very... It's not as though I was expecting, whizzing and beeping, but. The Reapers can't talk. And you talk... rather well

MARY. Thank you

ELIZABETH. You're welcome

MARY. My speech will develop, the more I listen. I will learn by example, adapt to your requirements

ELIZABETH. How, considerate. Well

ELIZABETH *picks up and rings a small bell*.

Here we go then. Um, welcome, Mary

MARY. Hello

ELIZABETH. How do we. I'm not sure I. Do you have any questions?

MARY. Why did you ring the bell?

ELIZABETH. No I meant, bigger questions, like uh, 'Where am I?', 'What am I doing here?'

MARY. You are in St Grace's Convent, you are talking to me

ELIZABETH. No I, uh. Well, if you really want to, the bell, when we used this room for services, it signified the Holy Spirit was present. Now it just lets someone know I want tea. Oh but I don't want tea. I did that, automatically. I ask for a pot whenever we get visitors and for a moment you. The leaps and bounds we make in a lifetime, eh? I had a Tamagotchi as a child, blew my mind. I haven't kept up with, all these new things, I'm afraid. There must be a word for it. Like a vegan, but for digital things. You could almost be mistaken, for one of us. Not quite. Nobody here can wake up as swiftly as you

MARY. I woke up in 1.1 seconds

ELIZABETH. Oh gosh

MARY. I apologise for the slow speed

ELIZABETH (*bear*). Is that a, joke?

MARY. Yes

ELIZABETH. I couldn't even stand up in 1.1 seconds, I should be so lucky

MARY. Would you like me to time you?

ELIZABETH. Is that another joke

MARY. You can reduce my humour output

ELIZABETH. Can I improve it?

MARY (*bear*). 'I should be so lucky'

ELIZABETH (*bear*). We need to think about your attire. The full habit would be inappropriate, but there's a man with a blog who'll take some pictures in a day or two, and you need to look like part of the. I suppose we'll dress you as a postulant. I keep asking the others to sort through all this, but there'll be a spare tabard in one of the. Of course it's a little ridiculous, but they want a big fanfare in the press about the scheme, part of the, terms and conditions. Not exactly sure what that'll achieve, there was another demonstration just a