

MARY. Goodbye Mother Elizabeth

ELIZABETH exits.

THERESA starts to clear the tea but is distracted by MARY.

THERESA (pause). I've just poured tea, and I'd feel really rude if I didn't offer you tea, so if someone was to do that, offer you tea, that someone being me, can you physically drink it?

MARY. I can physically drink it

THERESA. Wow. Okay. Tea. How do you usually take it

MARY. I do not 'usually take it'. This is my first cup of tea

THERESA (bear). I feel responsible now, I'd have made it a good pot if I'd known. Not that it won't be a good pot. May not be the best pot. We'll start you off with lots of milk and half a sugar

THERESA makes the cup of tea. She pours the milk, spoons the sugar.

MARY. Do you take 'lots of milk, and half a sugar'?

THERESA. I do! Maybe a few more sugars, guess how many sugars

MARY. One

THERESA. No. (Giggles.) Guess again

MARY (glitches). One

THERESA. No

MARY (glitches). One

THERESA. No, but one and one and one make three, that's how many sugars for me! (Bear.) Are you okay?

MARY. I am, refreshing

THERESA. You'll feel a lot more refreshed after this

THERESA hands over the cup of tea. MARY holds it.

You just sort of – in your mouth

MARY drinks it in one gulp.

You must be able to do such wonderful things. I heard about a robot who could walk through walls and they tried to make that sound like a bad thing, but I thought, that's great, we don't need doors any more

MARY. I am a basic model

THERESA. Don't be putting yourself down

MARY. It is a fact. I have, limitations

THERESA. Mustn't focus on the things you can't do, but the things you can. The Old Mother taught me that. I know one of your talents already – you can stand extreme temperatures. You downed a really hot cup of tea!

MARY. It was not 'really hot'

THERESA (bear. Feels pot). Oh I really messed up your first tea. Sometimes the kettle clicks and it doesn't do anything. This is terrible tea

MARY. Perhaps 'one of my talents' is to drink 'terrible tea'

THERESA (giggles). You're funny. So you'll stay here while we all – I wish I had time to give you a tour. I'll speak very quickly – this room, used to be the big chapel but now we all fit in the little chapel upstairs and it's much much warmer, so this is, well it's nothing really. In the boxes we have the Lesser Relics, which used to be upstairs, but now we're up there they're down here cos I know they're sacred remnants of our holy martyrs but nobody wants to look at their bloody hankies and toenails. Oh goodness I hope it's not a sin to say that, we all think it. We need to hang them up. The Reapers are in the fields all day. I think Sister Philippa worked them too hard before she brought them to the convent cos they all look a bit fed up. What do you think of the view?

MARY. The window is dirty

THERESA. In our convent in Ecuador, they have the most beautiful stained-glass windows and every day someone cleans each piece with a toothbrush

MARY. Should I clean the window 'with a toothbrush'?

THERESA. Not this one, no, we'll need something bigger than that. But don't look at, the glass, look through it. It's all God's earth and it's very very pretty but I think He made this bit a little bit sad. So we won't have to miss it when we go away this summer

MARY. Who is in the garden?

THERESA. Where? The Reapers can't come this close. It's not your reflection, is it? I've done that before. I used to sneak from the school and stare inside. Look at me now. Staring out MARY (*beat*). My vision is, refreshing

We hear the songs of midday prayer. THERESA bolts and skips towards the door.

THERESA. They've started without me! I'll get such a scolding. Um, help yourself to terrible tea. I'll teach you how to make a better pot I promise

MARY. I know how to prepare tea

THERESA. Do you really?

MARY. It is in my skill-set

THERESA. That's amazing. What else can you do?

MARY. Would you like me to list my abilities?

THERESA. Later, yes, I want you to tell me everything. Wait – hang on – can you, drive a car? A manual

MARY. It is in my skill-set

THERESA. You have given me such an idea. Maybe I can learn by example as well

Midday prayer song swells through the space.

MARY starts to hang the relics.

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A pause in the song as PHILIPPA arrives with a mop.

As she cleans, she narrates her actions:

PHILIPPA. Firm grip. Figure-wring. Repeat

MARY. Your instructions may

PHILIPPA. I'll keep it nice and you to be clever. Just need action then

PHILIPPA hands MARY the

PHILIPPA. Firm grip. Figure-you'll need to compensate

MARY. The surface is imperfect

PHILIPPA. Ha. Aren't we all

MARY. No

PHILIPPA. I see we're going

Quick soak. Thorough wring husband had to spend month clearly a later model. Even scuffs on the. Never mind, I'll check on your progress get twice as much done now

PHILIPPA exits. The song

MARY carries on mopping

10 March – *Feast Day of St A*

Early afternoon. The rain is still

MARY is now in her postulant

She's reliving her smiles for the

ELIZABETH enters.

ELIZABETH. I thought that would be a lovely photograph. Even in the background. Did you