



SR. AMNESIA. *(looks at REV. MOTHER for a moment, takes a deep breath and like a tape recorder running at "Minnie Mouse" speed starts.)* Hello, you have reached the Convent of Mount Saint Helen's...*(gibberish...ending with)* beeeeeeeeeeeep! *(pause)* and Sister Marie Eugene had to go down to the Board of Health for questioning!

REV. MOTHER. Oh, no! Now you've done it, Amnesia. Now you've really done it! This is a fine mess you've gotten us into!

SR. AMNESIA. *(starts to cry)* But, I didn't mean to. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to!

(SR. AMNESIA runs out left door followed by SRS. ROBERT ANNE & LEO. SR. HUBERT gets up from the counter and comes to REV. MOTHER.)

SR. HUBERT. Regina, you didn't have to be so hard on her.

REV. MOTHER. Oh, you know I didn't mean it. Go and see if she's alright.

SR. HUBERT. Me!?

REV. MOTHER. Yes, you!

SR. HUBERT. *(starting toward left door)* Tote that barge. Lift that barge. What is this? Showboat!!! *(She exits.)*

REV. MOTHER. I tell ya, it's not easy being a Mother Superior these days. Trying to be a leader in these permissive times is almost impossible. Take Sister Robert Anne for example. When she entered the convent they told me she was streetwise. Now, I thought that meant she knew her way around town! That girl knows things you couldn't show on Cable television. Why, just this morning she comes into my office and says she's writing a book for her gym class on feminine hygiene. Do you know what she's gonna call it? *The Catholic Girl's Guide to an Immaculate Conception!!!* I'm tellin' you, it is not easy!

Sometimes I wonder why I ever became a nun in the first place.

I didn't have to, ya know. *(She flicks her veil off her*



shoulders like a movie star pushing her long hair back.) I started out as a tightrope walker! – I’m not makin’ this up! My mother and father had a high wire act. They were billed as “Two Tons on a Tightrope!” Well, our whole family’s a bit on the hefty side. My father said if we worked real hard we could be better than the Flying Wallendas – all us kids were in the act – well, all except Mary Claire – that’s our sister. She took up with a contortionist and one night they were trying out a new position when, uh, well, uh *(She realizes her story is getting embarrassing.)* – that’s another story. I was telling you about the act.

Anyway, we got booked in London and we had a wire stretched across the river – no net mind you! Well, “Two Tons on a Tightrope” were up there when suddenly the wire snapped and BOOM – BOOM – Two Tons in the Thames! Right then and there I promised the Lord if He’d save them I’d become a nun! Well, how did I know He was gonna come through?!! I thought they were goners for sure!

Well, since the Lord kept His part of the bargain, I figured I’d better keep mine, so here I am. But you wanna know the truth? *(very touchingly)* Now that I’m here, I wouldn’t have it any other way.

(Music Cue 12: TURN UP THE SPOTLIGHT)

REV. MOTHER.

I SEE THE SPOTLIGHT
 AND THOUGH IT’S NOT RIGHT
 I SIMPLY CAN’T RESIST IT’S CALL.
 FOR SOME NUNS IT’S BINGO
 AT THE PARISH HALL.
 TURN UP THE SPOTLIGHT
 AND I HAVE A BALL!
 I LOSE MY HEAD, THEN
 I KNOW I’M DEAD WHEN