NUN
of Your
BUSINESS

By Craig Sodaro

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STORY OF THE PLAY

If you're ready for some hard-nosed action, spying, deceit involving a stolen painting, a shady real estate deal, and an auto repair shop that's more a chop shop, stop in at the convent of St. Fermilda. The Sisters of Faith, Hope, and Charity are in the midst of all kinds of intrigue and they're not even sure how they got there! But don't think because they took vows of reverence and poverty that they'll let some hard-nosed hoods get the best of them. After all, the Sisters have work to do for the poor in this rundown neighborhood, and they're bound and determined to do it. Besides, before Sister Boniface became a nun she used to be a bouncer in Vegas! One interior set.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I
Scene 1: One spring evening.
Scene 2: The following evening.
Scene 3: A short time later.
ACT II
Scene 1: The following morning.
Scene 2: A short time later.

SETTING

The play takes in the parlor of the Convent of St. Fermilda which is located in a run-down neighborhood of a large American city. Wing entrances DSL (to bedrooms and basement) and DSR (to kitchen and additional bedrooms). Arch entrance USC leads to the main door and street outside. Window USL should be functional. Desk at left with phone. Chair and Sofa grouping at CS. Prominent sketch, appearing to be a Rembrandt, hangs on USR wall. A television sits SR.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(14 women, 5 men, 1 flexible)

SISTER MOTHER OF MERCY: The leader, level headed.
SISTER LILY OF THE FIELD: A gentle nun who inherits a business chain.
SISTER BONIFACE THE EAGER: Outspoken, used to be a bouncer in Vegas.
SISTER HAROLD THE GREAT: Tough, older nun.
SISTER MARY OF THE LAMBS: Young, sweet nun.
ADELLE ADAMS: Widowed mother who needs a temporary home.
TESSA ADAMS: Her young daughter.
AVERY THOMPSON: Lawyer who's down on his luck.
CAROLE DANE: Former student, now a pop singer.
CARIN LANE: Her partner.
ROZ: Manager of Miracle Mechanics Auto Repair.
MAE: Her secretary.
AGATHA LAWSON: The landlord.
CADWELL CRUMWELL: Owner of Crumwell Industries.
HARRIET BLEAKER: His secretary.
BEATRICE: Homeless friend of Adelle.
ELMO CRANTZ: Carole and Carin's agent.
HARVEY WAGNER: A lawyer for Crumwell.
FELIX: A builder for Crumwell.
OFFICER WILLIAMS: A police officer *(m or f).*

(DOUBLING POSSIBLE: Felix may play Officer Williams.)

PROPS

ACT I
TV Guide - on-stage
Bowl of popcorn - Lily
Stuffed paper bag - Adelle
Backpack - Tessa
Plate of cookies/glass of milk - Lily and Harold
Ten dollars - Lily
Paper bags - Adelle, Tessa, Avery
Portable phone - Mae
Aprons - for all Nuns
Briefcase - Harvey
Candlestick, large book, and pillow - on stage

ACT II
Balloons and streamers
Garbage bag full of blown-up balloons
Two foil-covered trays
“See Dane and Lane at the Community Fair” sign - on stage
Rag for Mae
Eyeglasses, aerosol can, purse - Lily
Gags, ropes - on Harry
Portable phone - Roz
Money - Felix and Elmo
Squirt gun that looks real - Elmo
Purse and plate covered with foil - Roz
Water balloons taped to Elmo
Briefcase - Avery
Box holding Rembrandt print - Tessa

SOUND EFFECTS

Phone ringing, as indicated.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: MOTHER, HAROLD, MARY, and BONIFACE make themselves comfortable in front of the TV. Mother opens a "TV Guide.")

MOTHER: Well, Sisters, I've got the TV listings here. What shall we watch?
BONIFACE: You KNOW what I like.
MOTHER: Now Boniface, you KNOW "NYPD Blue" is too racy for a bunch of old nuns.
BONIFACE: I like its gritty realism, the way it handles everyday problems with uncompromising accuracy.
HAROLD: Go on! You've just got the hots for David Caruso!
MARY: *(Embarrassed.)* Oh, dear!
MOTHER: Really, Sisters! What if the Bishop walked in!
BONIFACE: It would serve him right!
MARY: Boniface, you're bad!
BONIFACE: What's BAD is the peeling paint, the leaky pipes and the broken washing machine!
HAROLD: It's been my week to do the wash, so what are you complaining about?
BONIFACE: Because heaven knows, YOU'D never complain yourself!
MOTHER: We could take a lesson, Sister Boniface the Eager.
MARY: That's what comes of watching too much secular television.
MOTHER: Which brings us back to what we're going to watch.
HAROLD: What's on - aside from Sleeze on the Streets?
MOTHER: Well, there's "Mystery" on PBS.
MARY: That's always tasteful.
MOTHER: *(Reading.)* This week Inspector Burnside must find a psychotic child who has reduced...his mother...to...cinder ash.
HAROLD: Saints preserve us!

MOTHER: How about “48 Hours”?
MARY: They always run interesting stories.
MOTHER: *(Reading.)* Oh dear. “Voodoo Curses That Work” is the topic tonight.
BONIFACE: Anything on Nickelodeon?
MOTHER: “The Partridge Family.”
MARY: Oh, that’s perfect!
BONIFACE: What’s perfect about “The Partridge Family”?
MARY: We can watch it for penance and get a head start on the week.
LILY: *(Enters SR with a bowl of popcorn.)* Here we are, Sisters. Jolly Time!
MOTHER: Thank you, Lily.
LILY: Relish it. It’s the last pack.
HAROLD: We’re out of popcorn, too?
MARY: What are we going to do, Mother?
MOTHER: Perhaps instead of watching television we ought to pray that the check from the Bishop arrives tomorrow.
BONIFACE: It’s been three months since we heard anything from him.
HAROLD: What IS the problem?
MOTHER: Oh, Sisters...it’s time I filled you in completely.
MARY: I think I’d rather watch “NYPD Blue.”
BONIFACE: Somehow realism on TV is so much easier to take than realism in person.
MOTHER: The Bishop is re-evaluating our situation.
MARY: What does that mean?
MOTHER: There aren’t many of us Little Sisters of Faith, Hope, and Charity left, you see. And St. Fermilda Convent is occupying quite a choice corner on this block...and the lease on the land is almost up...and...
BONIFACE: Let’s have it straight, Mother.
MOTHER: The Bishop feels it’s too expensive for us to stay here in the city...ever since he was forced to close the school, he feels our mission should be...redirected.
HAROLD: Redirected? Where?
MOTHER: There’s a farm about fifty miles west.
MARY: A farm?

End of Freeview

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