

MARGERY

(someone will read Father Thomas' lines for you)

FATHER THOMAS. And yet you awoke one morning to a vision of Jesus Christ in purple – purple? Robes?

MARGERY. Yes, yes, yes, I am rich in His love and I am bringing it to you. Look at me. I am bringing it to you —

FATHER THOMAS. Please stand up!

MARGERY. Who is poorer than I? You said before I'm wrathful and vain. It's true. I have no humility, no generosity, no *temperance* and yet every day I must keep living! I must live on and on and on drinking beer and stuffing myself full of meat. Whereas you -- you devote your life to helping the poor, and God, He is so proud of you. He told me that! He told me that you are kind and good, and that you will continue to live in this blessed goodness for seven more years, and then after seven years, you will die a respected and holy...man...He says...I should ask Him for no more than love – for only love can win what it wills.

FATHER THOMAS. What does that mean, “only love can win what it wills?”

MARGERY. I don't know. You're the priest.

FATHER THOMAS. ...I'll think on it.

MARGERY. Please help me. My friends think I'm a liar. And I'm not allowed to listen to the sermons at St. Margaret's anymore because of my weeping.

FATHER THOMAS. Why do you weep?

MARGERY. Because my heart is burning up. And I want to put out the fire by flinging myself upon on the beautiful things that God has made.

Callback

MARGERY. (*erce*) I'll ask nurse to bring me a steak. I'll ask nurse to bring me a piece of bread. I'll have one piece of bread and that's all. That's it. Maybe I'll just have one piece of bread now. One piece of bread is that breaking a fast? I don't think so. Nurse! No no never- mind. NEVERMIND NURSE. I'll wait until one minute after midnight and then I'll have a steak medium rare and a mug of beer and that's all.

NURSE, COULD YOU BRING ME SOME HERRING?! Oh, I'm having that needle feeling, I'm having that needle feeling Jacob talked about. Jacob. Jacob. NURSE, NEVERMIND. I'll wait until one minute after midnight and then I'll have a steak, a mug of beer and creamy potatoes. Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm creamy potatoes. (**MARGERY** *licks the table.*) NURSE? Oh my heart. My heart is burning up, I wonder if there is the shape of a heart burnt onto my chest. I feel it I can feel it I can feel that there is (**MARGERY** *puts her hands inside her dress.*) It's hot! It's hot to the touch!

(**NURSE** *enters. She is terri ed when she sees MARGERY with her hands inside her dress.*)

IT'S MY NEW DRESS, IT STILL HAS A PIN STUCK IN IT!

NURSE. Oh.

MARGERY. I was pulling out the pin. Oh, here's the pin. There was a pin in my dress. (*Miraculously, there is a pin.*) See?

NURSE. Yes.

MARGERY. (*terri ed*) What did you think it was, a devil?