

## **Side 2: Lettice/Linda**

LINDA

Sister, please! Sister!  
I'm looking for lovers!

LETTICE

Lovers? You seek your lovers in the woods? To fornicate beneath the sky, ah! That is the greatest sin!

LINDA

Not my lovers, sister. Only people who meet here. Enos and Timion. Do you know them? People who come here?

LETTICE

To love? In the damp grass? Why some stable boys from the Duke's farm might squirm like maggots in the moss, but no sensible creature of God comes to the forest to love.

LINDA, *speaking to the enormous oak tree onstage*  
Why have you brought me here?

LETTICE

I do not know your purpose. I await someone and would ask you to be on your way.

LINDA

Who? Not a lover, sister?

LETTICE

Me? A lover?

I am a sister of the Holy Order of the Virgin Mary, the guardian of chastity and good.

I await a dear girl who is like a daughter to me to help her escape an unhappy marriage...

LINDA

And she's coming here you say?

*An audible reaction from the oak. Linda turns to the oak as Lettice keeps speaking. She places her hand on it as if receiving a message.*

LETTICE

We planned our meeting for mid-day at the old oak. She would come here as a child to dream. I was charged with her, and we would play merry games under these boughs.

LINDA, *aside to the oak*  
You want me to do what?

LETTICE

And now we shall play one more game. I shall take her away to a hidden cloister, far from Cethincoille, where she will be safe. It has been so long since I lay eyes on her.

*Linda retrieves a branch from the ground while Lettice talks.*

LINDA

You have not seen her since she was a child?

LETTICE

Nay, I have not. A child of God, through to the marrow in her merry bones...

*Linda knocks Lettice out with the branch.*

LINDA

Forgive me, Sister. The oak told me to do it.