



**KATERI:** Hello, children — what are you laughing at?

**CHILDREN:** CHRISTIAN! CHRISTIAN! LAZY CHRISTIAN!

**KATERI:** (LAUGHING) Yes that is what I am — but why do you call me that? I have two other names — Tekakwitha — and now my new name, Katharine.

**CHILDREN:** (IN SINGSONG CHANT) Christian — Christian — Christian — Lazy Christian.

**KATERI:** O well, if you won't talk to me, I'll go away. But I like your new name for me, you know. I'm proud to be called "Christian".

**CHILDREN:** CHRISTIAN! CHRISTIAN!

**ONE CHILD:** She doesn't mind — it's no fun if she doesn't mind. Let's throw rocks at her. Her uncle, the Chief, will be glad if we hit her — he hates her now that she is a Christian. Come on, let's see how well she likes being stoned.

**SOUND:** Shouts and laughter fading

**MUSIC:** Wild with drums fading to BG.

**SOUND:** Fading in: Drunken voices, wild laughter

**1st MAN:** Come out — join the dance, O Christian. Here is a fine brave to woo you!

**2nd MAN:** Yes, let's forget about your ugliness, O Christian, with firewater and dancing.

**KATERI:** (FADING) Dying Christ, protect me.

**MUSIC:** Organ up and fading to BG.

**KATERI:** Father, I am filled with fear that some day my courage will fail me. Would it not be possible for me to find haven at the Sault and live at peace with other Christians?

**BLACKROBE:** It might be done. Have you heard of Chief Hot Ashes, who preaches in the lodges of your people?

**KATERI:** O, yes.

**BLACKROBE:** He, with two companions, is coming to speak here. I will ask for his help in the matter. Be here on Sunday in the early evening.

**MUSIC:** Organ up and out

**SOUND:** Voices talking quietly in BG. Stir as of people collecting

**1st VOICE:** He was a Chief — a warrior — now he preaches to us.

**2nd VOICE:** Let us listen to what he has to say.

**1st VOICE:** He is showing pictures — let us go nearer to him.

**2nd VOICE:** Here is Tekakwitha — O Tekakwitha — will you take us up nearer to Hot Ashes so that we may see the pictures.

**KATERI:** Yes, follow me — but you must be quiet and listen.

**HOT ASHES:** Brothers in Christ — I have only begun to be a man since knowing God. I thought I was brave when I withstood a foe in battle, but look at this picture which shows real bravery. This is the way Christ died — slowly — blood running down his face from the crown of thorns on his head — the bones in his hands and feet crushed by the nails — his body a mass of sores from the wicked lashes — That was bravery — for he could have come down from the Cross — but he stayed there and died without a groan and cry for help. This he did for us — for you and for me (FADING)

**MUSIC:** Organ up and out

**BLACKROBE:** I have made arrangements for you to go with Hot Ashes and his companion, who is your cousin. They will guide you to the Sault and protect you on the trip.

**KATERI:** This is a good time — for my Uncle has gone to trade down the River. Can we go soon?

**BLACKROBE:** Tomorrow at dawn.

**KATERI:** O, Father, how can I ever thank you?

**BLACKROBE:** I want no thanks, child. Continue to show your love for God by living a good life and I will be pleased with you — but the more important thing is that God will be pleased with you. Here is a letter addressed to the Fathers at the Sault. Give it to them as soon as you arrive. And now goodbye, Katharine, and may God protect you!

**MUSIC:** Up and out

**SOUND:** Running feet. Heavy breathing

**MAN:** Chief! Chief! (PANTING) I have come to tell you (PANTING) Tekakwitha is gone.

**UNCLE:** Gone? Where?

**MAN:** To the Christian settlement at the Sault!

**UNCLE:** The Blackrobes — how I hate them! They come into our land and take our people away from us. Quick — we'll go after her — she can't have got far away, alone in the woods.

**MAN:** She isn't alone — Hot Ashes and one other are with her.

**UNCLE:** Hot Ashes? That traitor! Give me my gun — three bullets I have — one for each of them.