

Case Study, Part 3.

Education of Young Caroline

When she was seven she memorized a poem of five stanzas for the ordination of a young priest. On her seventh birthday, her Rev. Uncle told her that since she was entering her girlhood, she could no longer address him with the familiar German “Du”, but should use the more formal, “Sie.” Nor would he kiss her goodnight, but only bless her.

She was perplexed and whispered into his ear, “But Rev. Uncle, when we are alone, may I say ‘Du?’ He agreed. Often he had visitors and she would call him into the passage to ask her question and use, ‘Du.’” (p. 38)

Her Rev. Uncle was transferred to Eichstaedt when she was ten years old. He gained a reputation as a fine orator. Often she would listen to him practicing his sermons.

One day, at age fifteen, she found herself alone in the Church of St. Walburga. She ascended the pulpit and preached to an empty church for some time. (p. 56)

Just before entering the convent she lived in the Bishop’s residence (Carl Reisach) where she was to learn cooking.

When she graduated at fifteen, she had received the highest honors. However, her Rev. Uncle would never let her accept a first place honor, only third. Even her Benedictine teachers pleaded with him, but he was adamant. After she had come home she threw the third place award in the “lumber room,” in disgust.