Female Audition Material

“Sending Down the Sparrows”

(Read each of the speeches below. Make each a distinct character.)

Alina. (A mentally disabled teenaged girl. Here she talks with her brother as she remembers fragments from her childhood.)

Brother, why you cry? Don’t be sad. I miss you! Very much! Very much! (Looking out the window) Look, birdie! A sparrow. Mama says…God watches…He sees…The sparrows. Yes! He knows! All the sparrows. Ten, twelve, eight! He watches! He sees. I cry. Mama sing. Sing birdie song.

Teacher. (A strict follower of the Nazis principles. Here she tells her class why those who are less than perfect should be destroyed rather than be a drain on society.)

The good of the nation goes before the good of the individual. Last year my very own sister gave birth to a severely deformed child. He would have spent his life in an asylum, surely. My sister and her husband decided to let the doctor end the child’s life, in the interest of our Führer, and his plans and hopes for Germany. She even wrote a letter to Hitler to inform him of their sacrifice. He was so pleased that he sent them a certificate marking their service to the Reich and the future of German.

Nurse. (A not unkind nurse in the asylum. Here she tries to get Alina, a disabled patient, to submit to an unpleasant oral inspection by a harsh Inspector.)

It’s all right, Alina. She isn’t going to hurt you. If you open your mouth, I’ll give you a sweet when she’s done. You’d like a sweet, wouldn’t you? Alina, open your mouth my dear. The lady only wants to see your pretty teeth. Just let her have a look and then I’ll get you your sweet.