

KATHERINE  
And teaches an aerobics class called

ALL  
"Jumpin' for Jesus"

KATHERINE  
at her church.

(Transition music as good ol' girls  
prepare for next scene. Katherine  
demonstrates "Jumpin' for Jesus"  
exercises to audience members.)

KATHERINE  
(continuing)  
The most notable thing about me as a child -- before I got  
religious, I mean -- was my obsessive reading. I had always  
been an inveterate reader of the sort who hides underneath the  
covers with a flashlight and reads *all night long*. But I did  
not read casually, or for mere entertainment, or for  
information. What I wanted was to feel all wild and trembly  
inside.

Books which had affected me strongly were *Little Women*,  
especially the part where Beth dies, and *Gone With the Wind*,  
especially the part where Melanie dies. I had long hoped for  
a wasting disease, such as leukemia, to test my mettle. I  
also loved *Marjorie Morningstar*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, and  
*Heidi*. But my all-time favorite was *God's Girl*, especially  
the frontispiece illustration picturing Joan of Arc as she  
knelt and "prayed without ceasing for guidance from God,"  
whose face was depicted overhead, in a thunderstorm. Not only  
did I love Joan of Arc, I wanted to be her.

(Katherine returns to her chair as  
Andrea [as Older Debbi] and Mandy [as  
Younger Debbi] cross down for next  
scene.)

ANDREA  
Debbi sits on the beach feeling awful, and stares at the flat  
gray gulf.

MANDY  
The Gulf of Mexico. Lord.

ANDREA  
Love will get you into things: expand your damn horizons as  
they say.

MANDY  
Lord. If she just had a cigarette. If she just had a beer.  
If she hadn't locked herself out of the damn apartment...