

(Name of Project)

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EXT. PARKCHESTER - A QUIET HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - DAY

Mrs. Miller and Sister Aloysius walk along.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Have you met Father Flynn?

MRS. MILLER  
Just seen him on the altar, haven't met him face to face. No. Just, you know, heard from Donald.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
And what does he say?

MRS. MILLER  
Oh, you know, "Father Flynn, Father Flynn." He looks up to him. The man gives him his time, which is what the boy needs. He needs that.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Mrs. Miller, we may have a problem.

MRS. MILLER  
Well, I thought there musta been a reason you wanting to see me. Principal's a big job. I just want to say though, it's just till June.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Excuse me?

MRS. MILLER  
Whatever the problem is, Donald just has to make it till June. Then he's off into high school.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Right.

MRS. MILLER  
If Donald can graduate from St. Nicholas, he's got a better chance of getting into a good high school. And that would mean an opportunity at college.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Well, I don't see anything at this time standing in the way of his graduating with his class.

MRS. MILLER  
Well, that's all I care about.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I doubt that.

MRS. MILLER  
Try me.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I am concerned about the  
relationship between Father Flynn  
and your son.

MRS. MILLER  
You don't say. Concerned. What do  
you mean, concerned?

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
That it may not be right.

MRS. MILLER  
Well, there's something wrong with  
everybody, isn't that so? Got to be  
forgiving.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I'm concerned, to be frank, that  
Father Flynn may have made advances  
on your son.

MRS. MILLER  
May have made.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I can't be certain.

MRS. MILLER  
No evidence?

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
No.

MRS. MILLER  
Then maybe there's nothing to it.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I think there is something to it. I  
think Father Flynn gave Donald that  
altar wine.

MRS. MILLER  
Why would he do that?

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Has Donald been acting strange  
lately--?

MRS. MILLER  
(overlaps)  
No.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Nothing out of the ordinary?

MRS. MILLER  
He's been himself.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Alright.

MRS. MILLER  
Look, Sister. I don't want any  
trouble.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I don't uhh...I'm not sure you  
completely understand.

MRS. MILLER  
I think I understand the kind of  
thing you're talking about. But I  
don't want to get into it.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
What's that?

MRS. MILLER  
Look, I only have a few minutes.  
Not to be disagreeing, but if we're  
talking about something floating  
around between this priest and my  
son, it ain't my son's fault.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Oh, I'm not suggesting that--.

MRS. MILLER  
(overlaps)  
He's just a boy.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I know.

MRS. MILLER

Twelve years old. If somebody should be taking blame, it should be the man, not the boy.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I know. I agree with you completely.

MRS. MILLER

You're agreeing with me, but I got called to the principal if you know what I'm saying.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I am concerned about Donald's welfare.

MRS. MILLER

You honestly think that priest gave Donald that wine to drink?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Yes, I do.

MRS. MILLER

Then how come my son got kicked off the altar boys if it was the man that gave it to him?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I know. The boy got caught, the man didn't.

MRS. MILLER

So go after the man.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I intend to.

MRS. MILLER

Sister, you ain't going against no MAN in a ROBE and win. He's got the position.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

And he's got your son.

MRS. MILLER

Let him have him then.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

What?

MRS. MILLER  
It's just till June.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Do you know what you're saying?

MRS. MILLER  
Know more about it than you.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I believe this man is creating or  
may have already brought about an  
improper relationship with your  
son.

MRS. MILLER  
I don't know.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I know I am right.

MRS. MILLER  
Why you gotta know something like  
that for sure when you don't?

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
What kind of mother are you?

MRS. MILLER  
Excuse me, but you don't know  
enough about life to say a thing  
like that, Sister.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I know enough.

MRS. MILLER  
You know the rules maybe, but that  
don't cover it.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I know what I won't accept!

MRS. MILLER  
You accept what you gotta accept  
and you work with it.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
This man is in my school.

MRS. MILLER  
Well, he's gotta be somewhere and  
maybe he's doing some good, too.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
He is after the boys!

MRS. MILLER  
Well, maybe some of them boys want  
to get caught! That's why his  
father beat him. Not the wine.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
What are you telling me?

MRS. MILLER  
I'm talking about the boy's nature  
now, not anything he's done. You  
can't hold a child responsible for  
what God gave him to be.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I'm only interested in actions,  
Mrs. Miller.

MRS. MILLER  
But then there's the boy's nature.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Leave that out of it.

MRS. MILLER  
Forget it then. You're the one  
forcing people to say things. My  
boy came to your school 'cause they  
were going to kill him in the  
public school. His father don't  
like him. He come to your school,  
kids don't like him. One man is  
good to him. This priest. Then does  
the man have his reasons? Yes.  
Everybody does. YOU have your  
reasons.  
But do I ask the man why he's good  
to my son? No. I don't care why. My  
son needs some man to care about  
him and to see him through the way  
he wants to go. I thank God, this  
educated man with some kindness in  
him wants to do just that.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
This will not do.

MRS. MILLER  
It's just till June.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I'll throw your son out of this  
school.

MRS. MILLER  
And why would you do that if it  
didn't start with him?

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Because I will stop this.

MRS. MILLER  
You'd hurt my son to get your way?

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
It won't end with your son.

MRS. MILLER  
Throw the priest out then.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I am trying to do just that.

MRS. MILLER  
Then what do you want from me?

Sister Aloysius struggles for a moment.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
Nothing. As it turns out.

MRS. MILLER  
Please leave my son out of this. My  
husband will kill that child over a  
thing like this.

SISTER ALOYSIUS  
I will try.

MRS. MILLER  
I'm late. Sister, I don't know if  
you and me on the same side. I'll  
be standing with my son and those  
who are good with my son. It'd be  
nice to see you there. Good  
morning.

She goes, leaving Sister Aloysius, who is shaken