

(Name of Project)

by
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)
Address
Phone Number

INT. THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Flynn appears. He has been awaiting her return.

FLYNN
May I come in?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
A third party would be required.

FLYNN
Yeah. What was Donald's mother
doing here?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
We were having a chat.

FLYNN
About what?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
A third party would truly be
required, Father. Why - -

Flynn enters the office.

FLYNN
No, Sister. No third party. You and
me are due for a talk. You have to
stop this campaign against me!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
You can stop it at any time.

FLYNN
How?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Confess and resign.

FLYNN
You are attempting to destroy my
reputation!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
What are you doing in this school?

FLYNN
I'm trying to do good!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
What are you doing in the
priesthood?

FLYNN

You are single-handedly holding
this school and this parish back!

SISTER ALOYSIUS

From what?

FLYNN

Progressive education and a
welcoming Church.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You can't distract me, Father. This
is not about my behavior, it's
about yours.

FLYNN

No, this is about your unfounded
suspicions.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

That's right. I have suspicions.

FLYNN

WHY do you suspect me? What have I
done?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You gave that boy wine, and you let
him take the blame.

FLYNN

That's completely untrue! Did you
talk to Mr. McGuinn?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

All McGuinn knows is that the boy
drank wine. He doesn't know how he
came to drink it.

FLYNN

Did his mother have something to
add to that?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

No.

FLYNN

So that's it.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I am not satisfied.

FLYNN
Ask the boy then!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Oh, he'd protect you.

FLYNN
Why would he do that?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Because you have seduced him.

FLYNN
You're insane! You've got it in
your head that I've corrupted this
child after giving him wine, and
nothing I say will change that.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
That's right.

FLYNN
But this has nothing to do with the
wine. Not really. You had a
fundamental mistrust of me before
this incident! It was you that
warned Sister James to be on the
lookout, wasn't it?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
That's true.

FLYNN
So you admit it!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Certainly.

FLYNN
Why?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I know people.

FLYNN
That's not good enough!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
It won't have to be.

FLYNN
How's that?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
You will tell me what you have
done!

FLYNN
Oh I will?
Sister James is convinced I'm
innocent.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Oh, so you talked to Sister James?
Well, of course you talked to
Sister James.

FLYNN
Did you know that Donald's father
beats him?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Yes.

FLYNN
And might that not account for the
odd behavior Sister James noticed
in the boy?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
It might.

FLYNN
Then what is it? What? What did you
hear, what did you see that
convinced you so thoroughly?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
What does it matter?

FLYNN
It matters! What does it matter? I
want to know.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Out this window I saw you grab
William London's wrist...and I saw
him pull away.

FLYNN
Are you serious?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I am.

FLYNN
That's all?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Yeah. That was all.

FLYNN
That's nothing!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
This morning, before I spoke with
Mrs. Miller, I took the precaution
of calling your last parish.

FLYNN
What'd he say?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Who?

FLYNN
The Pastor.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I did not speak to the Pastor. I
spoke to a nun.

FLYNN
You should have spoken to the
Pastor.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I spoke to a nun.

FLYNN
You know that's not the proper
route for you to have taken,
Sister! The Church is very clear.
You're supposed to go through the
Pastor.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Why? You have an understanding, you
and he?

FLYNN
No, you have no right to go
rummaging through my past!

SISTER ALOYSIUS
You have a history. This is your
third parish in five years. Why?

FLYNN

Call the Pastor. Ask him why I left! It's perfectly innocent.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I'm not calling the Pastor.

FLYNN

I'm a good priest!

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You will go after another child and another child, until you are stopped.

FLYNN

What nun did you speak to?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I won't say.

FLYNN

You haven't the slightest proof of anything.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

But I have my certainty, and armed with that, I will go to your last parish, and the one before that if necessary. I'll find a parent. Trust me, Father Flynn, I will.

FLYNN

You have no right to act on your own! You have taken vows, obedience being one! You answer to us! You have no right to step outside the church!

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I will step outside the church if that's what needs to be done, till the door should shut behind me! I will do what needs to be done, though I'm damned to Hell! You should understand that, or you will mistake me. Now, did you give Donald Miller wine to drink?

FLYNN

Have you never done anything wrong?

He's on dangerous ground.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I have.

FLYNN

A mortal sin?

She is vulnerable and yet...

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Yes.

FLYNN

And?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I confessed it, Father!

FLYNN

Then whatever I have done, I have left in the healing hands of my confessor. As have you! We are the same!

SISTER ALOYSIUS

No, we are not, we are not the same! A dog that bites is a dog that bites!

SISTER ALOYSIUS (CONT'D)

Did you give Donald Miller wine to drink?

FLYNN

No.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Mental reservation?

FLYNN

No.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You lie. Very well then. If you will not leave my office, I will. And once I go, I will not stop.

She goes to the door. Suddenly, a new tone comes into his voice.

FLYNN

Wait!

A silence falls.

FLYNN (CONT'D)

I can't say everything, you understand? There's things I can't say. Even if you can't imagine the explanation, Sister, remember there are things beyond your knowledge. Even if you feel certainty, it is an emotion, not a fact.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You will request a transfer, and take a leave of absence until it's granted.

FLYNN

You'd leave me nothing.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

It's Donald Miller who has nothing, and you took full advantage of that.

FLYNN

I've done nothing wrong. I care about that boy.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Why? 'Cause you smile at him and you sympathize with him, and you talk to him as if you were the same? You are a cheat. And that warm feeling you experienced, when that boy looked at you with trust, was not the sensation of virtue.

FLYNN

I can fight you.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You will lose.

FLYNN

Where's your compassion?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Nowhere you can get at it.

Sunlight starts to illuminate the office.

SISTER ALOYSIUS (CONT'D)

Stay here. Compose yourself. You can use the phone if you like. Good day, Father.

She starts to go, has one more thought.

SISTER ALOYSIUS (CONT'D)

I have no sympathy for you because
I know you are invulnerable to true
regret.

She heads to the door.