

FATHER FLYNN

May I come in?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

A third party would be required.

FATHER FLYNN

What was Donald's mother doing here?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

We were having a chat.

FATHER FLYNN

About what?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

A third party would truly be required.

FATHER FLYNN

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

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You can stop it at any time.

FATHER FLYNN

How?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Confess and resign.

FATHER FLYNN

You are attempting to destroy my reputation.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

What are you doing in this school?

FATHER FLYNN

I'm trying to do good.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Even more to the point, what are you doing in the priesthood?

FATHER FLYNN

You are singlehandedly holding this school and this parish back.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

From what?

FATHER 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.

FATHER FLYNN
No, this is about your unfounded
suspicions.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
That's right. I have suspicions.

FATHER FLYNN
Why do you suspect me? What have I
done?

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

FATHER FLYNN
That's completely untrue. Did you
talk to Mr. McGinn?

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

FATHER FLYNN
Did his mother have something to
add to that?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
No.

FATHER FLYNN
So that's it.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I am not satisfied.

FATHER FLYNN
Ask the boy, then.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
He'd protect you.

FATHER FLYNN
Why would he do that?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Because you have seduced him.

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

SISTER ALOYSIUS
That's right.

FATHER FLYNN
But this has nothing to do with the wine. Not really. You've 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.

FATHER FLYNN
So you admit it.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Certainly.

FATHER FLYNN
Why?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I know people.

FATHER FLYNN
That's not good enough.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
It won't have to be.

FATHER FLYNN
How's that?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
You will tell me what you have done.

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

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

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

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Yes.

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

SISTER ALOYSIUS
It might.

FATHER 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?

FATHER 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.

FATHER FLYNN
Are you serious?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I am.

FATHER FLYNN
That's all?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
That was all.

FATHER FLYNN
But that's nothing.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
What are you doing now?

FATHER FLYNN

I'm writing down what you say. It might be important when I have to explain why you have to be removed.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

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

FATHER FLYNN

What'd he say?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Who?

FATHER FLYNN

The pastor.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I did not speak to the pastor. I spoke to a nun.

FATHER FLYNN

You should've spoken to the pastor.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I spoke to a nun.

FATHER FLYNN

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?

FATHER FLYNN

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?

FATHER FLYNN

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

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I'm not calling the pastor.

FATHER FLYNN

I'm a good priest.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

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

FATHER FLYNN

What nun did you speak to?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I won't say.

FATHER FLYNN

I've not touched a child.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You have.

FATHER FLYNN

You haven't the slightest proof of anything.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

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

FATHER 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, though 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?

FATHER FLYNN

Have you never done anything wrong?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

I have.

FATHER FLYNN
A mortal sin?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Yes.

FATHER FLYNN
And?

SISTER ALOYSIUS
I confessed it, Father.

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 the same. A dog that bites is a dog that bites. Did you give Donald Miller wine to drink?

FATHER FLYNN
No.

SISTER ALOYSIUS
Mental reservations?

FATHER 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.

FATHER FLYNN
Wait. 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's an emotion, not a fact.

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

FATHER FLYNN
You'd leave me nothing.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

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

FATHER FLYNN

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

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Why, because 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. That
can be got by any drunkard with his
tot of rum.

FATHER FLYNN

I can fight you.

SISTER ALOYSIUS

You will lose.

FATHER FLYNN

Where's your compassion?

SISTER ALOYSIUS

Nowhere you can get at it. Stay
here. Compose yourself. You can use
the phone, if you'd like. Good day,
Father. I have no sympathy for you.
I know you are invulnerable to true
regret. And cut your nails.