

Marjorie is alone at the bus stop, John jogs upland stops, struggling for breath.

M Are you okay?

J I'm fine. I uh, I have a prob.. I have asthma. I carry a shot of adrenaline just in case.

M Adrenaline?

J It's produced naturally in the body by strong emotion. Anger, fear, love-

M No, I know what it is. I just didn't know that strong emotions made you breathe better.

J Apparently they do.

M And running in the cold helps your breathing?

J No. It makes it worse, but I figure the more I run then the stronger my lungs'll become and you know, the less I'll be affected by the asthma. It's a theory that I apply to many areas of my life.

M Did you use that theory when you became a priest?

J What. How's.. What do you mean?

M No offense, but I take my Gram to that church because she likes me to go with her, and I love her, not the church. I'm not a big fan of you guys. Not Simian, I don't consider Simian a priest. But I gotta say, I don't have a lot of patience for priests.

J Why not?

M Come on, because. You guys have a problem with women.

J That's ridiculous.

M Except the mother of Jesus. You like her don't you?

J I'm-

M Why the big fascination? Besides the whole mother of God bit.

J Besides? How do you.. The besides is it. God had had it with us before Mary. He'd given up on us completely. I think Mary single handedly changed his mind. I think he fell in love with her.

M And got her pregnant.

J I think I tend to get in a good mood when I go on a trip, and I think this one's having the complete opposite affect on you isn't it. So, I'm Gonna say goodnight-

M I'm sorry. You're right, this trip is putting me in a bad mood. But I like your Mary theory though.

J Thank you.

M you're welcome.

J You know, we were uh, father Joyce actually, was wondering if you'd consider playing her, Mary, I mean, for us in the creche.

M Good one.

J No, we're serious.

M Maybe next Christmas.

J Well, see that's a problem for him, because unless things change for him, very soon, the whole parish really, neither one's going to be around next Christmas.

The bus drives up and parks between them. When it leaves she is gone.