

## **Confessional**

**By**

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Scene: A Roman Catholic Church. A priest goes into the confessional. He is about 50 years old and a little overweight. A young man enters the Church, looks around suspiciously and goes into the other side of the confessional.

Young Man: (Disdainfully) What am I supposed to say? 'Bless me Father for I have sinned'? I forget — it's has been such a long time.

Priest: (patiently) Yes, my son. That is how you start.

Young Man: (Defiantly) I have robbed this church and other Catholic churches many times. I have stolen from the collection plate, and taken silver cups from the rectory.

Priest: (gravely) Anything else?

Young Man: Yes. Lots.

Priest: Go on, my son.

Young Man: (quietly) I have defaced statues of the Blessed Virgin and of Jesus.

Priest: (with some alarm in his voice) Anything else, my son?

Young Man: (sarcastically) That's all for now! That's enough is it not?

Priest: (with compassion) Are you truly repentant for your sins?

Young Man: Not at all. I might continue. It depends on you.

Priest: (puzzled) I don't understand, my son.

Young Man: I want you to confess your sins to me, Father. Rather I want you to confess one particular sin. If you confess, I might play your little game.

Priest: (after a pregnant silence) I am afraid it does not work that way. Perhaps you have forgotten. As you said it has been long time.

Young Man: No, I have not forgotten. But now we are playing by my rules, Father. Unless you confess this sin to me, I will make it public.

Priest: (nervously) Wha...what do you mean? I don't understand.

Young Man: (with confidence) Oh, I think you do, Father. Don't you remember me? Little Billy Kelly, your altar boy at St. Mary's twenty years ago? Remember your little parties after mass.

Priest: (softly) No, I don't remember.

Young Man: (Savagely) You sodomized me, you bastard! A ten- year-old little boy! Will you confess?

Priest: Please. Not so loud . . .I don't remember. It was a long time ago.

Young Man: Oh, you remember all right. I want your confession NOW. Now! Or I talk. Do you understand?

Priest: (crushed) All right.

Young Man: OK, you say to me. "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I sodomized Billy Kelly many times".

Priest: Please don't make me say it!

Young Man: Say it, damn it!

Priest (sobbing) Forgive me, Father I have sinned. I sodomized Billy Kelly many times.

Young Man: Very good, Father. Now here is what I want you to do next. Every Sunday I want you to give me one hundred dollars. I don't care how you get the money. I will meet you in the rectory around 11AM. Or else I tell everything. By the way I have your confession on tape.

Priest: On tape? Billy, you are blackmailing me?

Young Man: Billy? No, my name's Charlie. Billy died in prison two years ago. I was his cell mate and he told me about you.

Priest: (stoically) I see.

Young Man: Pleasure to do business with you, Father.

The young man leaves the confessional and strides out of the church. The priest remains with his head in his hands.

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