

Forgive Me

written by

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INT. CHURCH - SACRISTY - DAY

Father Douglas (27), baby faced, paces the floor in a cassock two sizes too small. He smacks his head to get in the zone.

FATHER DOUGLAS
I can do this! I can do this!

INT. CHURCH - OUTSIDE CONFESSIONAL - DAY

A dozen penitents wait. There are murmurs of discontent.

LADY 1
What's taking him so long?

LADY 2
He's no Father McBride, for sure.

They watch a sweet old lady exit the confessional, sobbing.

LADY 1
Now there's a sinner before us all.

INT. CHURCH - INSIDE CONFESSIONAL - LATER

Near darkness. A woman speaks in a husky voice.

PENITENT 1
...those are my sins of the flesh,
Father. Let the Lord see me as the
naked whore I am.

She giggles.

There's silence except the clicking of the priest's ROSARY.

PENITENT 1 (CONT'D)
Are you still there, Father?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Yes...yes...I am...umm....say five
Our Fathers, six Hail Marys, and
I...recommend a month of celibacy.

PENITENT 1
A month, Father?

FATHER DOUGLAS
I think it appropriate, yes.

PENITENT 1
Do you not think we might
come to a little arrangement, huh?

FATHER DOUGLAS
I'm afraid I don't understand.

She shuffles closer. And whispers.

FATHER DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
I...I...don't think
you...umm...fully understand the
Sacrament of Confession.

PENITENT 1
Father McBride thought I had a very
good handling of it.

FATHER DOUGLAS
Let us pray...quickly.

PENITENT 1
Yer sure you won't have a blow-job?

He sighs and dismisses her with a wave of his hand.

INT. CHURCH - FRONT DOOR - LATER

LONNY KNOX (60's), thick set and gruff, with a revolver in
his hand, bursts into the church.

LONNY KNOX
For the love of god, I'm too old
for this shite.

LONNY KNOX (CONT'D)
McBride! Where are yer?

He stalks down the aisle.

LONNY KNOX (CONT'D)
McBride!!!

INT. CHURCH PEWS - CONTINUOUS

He chuckles at the sight of a head ducking below the altar.

LONNY KNOX
Come out, Father or I'm afraid I'll
have to hurt yer!

Lonny frowns as Douglas' startled face comes into view.

LONNY KNOX (CONT'D)
Who the feck are you?

FATHER DOUGLAS
I'm...Father Douglas.

Lonny presses the gun against the priest's temple.

LONNY KNOX
Where's McBride?

Douglas looks like he's been asked to explain calculus.

FATHER DOUGLAS
He's not here.

LONNY
I can see that. Where is he?

FATHER DOUGLAS
He's...ummm...sick.

LONNY
He'll be sick when I kill him!

Lonny appraises the quivering Douglas, clearly unimpressed.

LONNY (CONT'D)
Okay, you'll have to do!

INT. CONFESSIONAL - MOMENTS LATER

Lonny keeps the gun aimed at Douglas through the partition.
One of the men farts LOUDLY.

LONNY
Ooof! I'll confess to that.

Lonny makes the sign of the cross with the gun.

LONNY (CONT'D)
Forgive me Father for I have
sinned.

FATHER DOUGLAS
What is the nature of your sin?

LONNY KNOX
Nah-ah Father. You don't need to
stand on ceremony and all.

FATHER DOUGLAS
I don't understand...

LONNY
Just absolve me of my sins!

FATHER DOUGLAS
But...you haven't made your
confession yet.

LONNY
Sure I did. I told you I have
sinned. Now do your bit.

FATHER DOUGLAS
You see...umm...there's more to it
than that. If you...

Lonny cuts him off.

LONNY
Father, yer beginning to grate my
balls, yer hear me?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Oh right the thing is I can't
absolve you without a confession.

LONNY
You can't or you won't?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Well, it's just quite important.

LONNY
Here's what we're gonna do, Father.
You're going to give me absolution
right fecking now or I'm going to
blow your fecking brains out.

Silence.

LONNY (CONT'D)
Did you hear me Father?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Y..yes.

LONNY
So, what yer waiting for?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Umm...well, I'm not sure how
killing me would help you?

LONNY

Oh you're not, are you Father? Well
let's find out, shall we?

There's the unmistakable CLICK of the gun's safety.

An extended silence.

LONNY (CONT'D)

I'm going to kill you now, Father.

FATHER DOUGLAS

Y...yes.

Lonny belly laughs.

LONNY

You're a stubborn fecker, I'll give
you that Father. They're a big pair
of gilhooleys you've got on yer.
You're not afraid of dying, Father?

FATHER DOUGLAS

I've never really thought about it.

LONNY

Huh. Suppose you got front row
seats in the big house upstairs?

FATHER DOUGLAS

There's a place for all of God's
children if they are free of sin.

LONNY

Father, the bastards are gonna get
me soon. I can't die without yer
wiping me slate clean. Yer get me?

FATHER DOUGLAS

You're ready to make a confession?

LONNY

I'm not giving yer the A to fecking
Z of Lonny's sins without yer
promising absolution!

FATHER DOUGLAS

Okay...I'll see what I can do.

There's silence. Douglas coughs politely.

LONNY

Forgive me Father for I have
sinned.

FATHER DOUGLAS
What is the nature of your sin?

LONNY
I guess He'll want to know about
the murders?

FATHER DOUGLAS
S..so...you've killed people?

LONNY
Aye but nothing for you to worry
about, Father. You can't covet
another man's Grade A, it says so
in the bible. So no need to go a-
poking into it and all.

FATHER DOUGLAS
But God sees everything.

LONNY
That's grand so He knows and I
knows, let's leave it at that.

FATHER DOUGLAS
And do you feel remorse?

LONNY
I never feel anything I can't
spell, Father.

We hear the sound of a DOOR CREAKING open.

Hazy light sweeps across the startled faces of both men.
Followed by a menacing silence.

Lonny motions to the door with the gun.

LONNY (CONT'D)
You haven't seen me, right?

Douglas exits.

INT. CHURCH - OUTSIDE CONFESSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

He squints into the light.

FATHER DOUGLAS
Hello? Is anyone there?

A cute, little dog scampers towards him. It offers a paw.

FATHER DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Hey boy, how did you get in?

Douglas looks expectantly for its owner.

FATHER DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
(whispering)
C'mon, you can't stay in here.

Still nervous, he starts to open the door. The dog HOWLS...

FATHER DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Sssh...go on...shoo!

The dog doesn't move.

Douglas closes the door and walks into...

SIOBHAN (60s), petite, classy, in a black designer dress and veil. She lays a gloved hand on the priest's shoulder.

SIOBHAN
You're not leaving us father?

Douglas shrieks. Then, seeing Siobhan, relaxes.

FATHER DOUGLAS
Oh hello there. No...no, I was just
well, was going to see who this
little fella belonged to?

Siobhan looks down at the dog who sits proudly at her feet.
She purses her lips.

SIOBHAN
I wonder if you could help me with
a more pressing problem, Father?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Oh...yes. Of course.

SIOBHAN
I had agreed to meet someone here
but as you can see...

She gestures to the empty church.

Douglas fidgets with his cassock.

FATHER DOUGLAS
N..no, it's just me...and Jesus.

He attempts a smile.

Siobhan shakes her head, disappointed.

SIOBHAN

Oh dear, Father. Let's try again.

Douglas squirms.

Siobhan flashes an ugly mugshot of Lonny into his face.

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)

He doesn't look much like Jesus
now, does he? Where is he, Father?

Douglas forensically studies the photo.

FATHER DOUGLAS

Umm..no...well...

She takes a seat in a pew. Calm.

SIOBHAN

Now, I'll just sit here Father and
let you have a little think if
perhaps it wasn't Jesus I heard you
talking to before. And if by any
miracle of God you find yourself
mistaken, you can tell Mr Knox that
I am waiting.

Siobhan leafs through a bible. Douglas rushes away.

He stops abruptly.

HE LOOKS UP TO:

An ethereal light emanating from a statue of Jesus.

CLOSE UP: on Douglas' upturned face. Bathed in a warm light.

FATHER DOUGLAS

Jaysus!

SIOBHAN (O.S.)

Tick-tock now.

INT. CHURCH - INSIDE CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Douglas enters.

FATHER DOUGLAS

(whispers)

Okay...ummm...I'm here, so...

LONNY
(whispers)
I've seen him, Father.

FATHER DOUGLAS
Who?

LONNY
You know, Jesus?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Jaysus. Now there's a...

LONNY
I've been a bad man, father. Done
bad things. For what, eh? For what?

FATHER DOUGLAS
The thing is...

LONNY
I want a pure life. Like yours.

FATHER DOUGLAS
...there's someone here to...

Lonny throws his gun through the partition. He starts to
hyper-ventilate. Hits himself in the head, repeatedly.

LONNY
(hysterical))
There's bad things coming my
way...bad things...He knows...

Douglas eyes the gun warily.

SIOBHAN (O.S.)
Here I come, Father, ready or not.

FATHER DOUGLAS
Now you haven't got time to ...

LONNY
I've always known it...my time
would come...I'm gonna burn in
hell...an eye for an eye, that's
what'll He want...

Douglas looks at the gun with more curiosity.

SIOBHAN (O.S.)
Now where could he be?

FATHER DOUGLAS
 So why don't you ever so quickly
 make your confession before...

Lonny starts battering himself around the head again.

LONNY
 You stupid, stupid, eejit...

Douglas seizes the gun in a two-handed grip - aims at Lonny.

FATHER DOUGLAS
 In God's name, if you don't make
 this confession, I'll kill yer
 myself!

Lonny blinks. He gives a crooked smile.

LONNY
 Well this is a first for us both,
 Father. It's a slippery slope...

FATHER DOUGLAS
 Confess man! Now!

Lonny closes his eyes. Makes the sign of the cross.

LONNY
 Forgive me Father for I have
 sinned. My last confession
 was...well..it's been too long.
 These are my sins...

(Lonny continues to read out a long list of crimes throughout
 the next two scenes)

INT. CHURCH - OUTSIDE CONFSSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

Siobhan listens.

She quietly draws back the curtain to reveal Douglas aiming
 the gun at her.

SIOBHAN
 What the hell are you doing Father.
 Put that away for God's sake before
 someone sees you.

INT. CHURCH - INSIDE CONFSSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

She squeezes inside and calmly disarms Douglas like she might
 take a water pistol off a naughty child.

Lonny, oblivious, continues his monologue.

LONNY

...then there were the Maxwell brothers or were they cousins, not sure, to be honest, not sure they knew. But they knew how to feck me off sure enough...

INT. CHURCH - INSIDE CONFESSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

Siobhan lowers herself onto Douglas' lap. She listens to Lonny before turning back to Douglas, clearly impressed.

SIOBHAN

How did you do it, Father? I've never know him to actually confess.

Douglas, flustered, tries to meekly push Siobhan off him.

FATHER DOUGLAS

You...can't be in here...the...the Seal of Confession...sanctity...

SIOBHAN

Oh hush, Father. Lonny and I don't have any secrets.

She pouts.

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)

Well, just one or two, perhaps.

FATHER DOUGLAS

You can't kill him, he's just about to make a confession.

SIOBHAN

Kill him? Why on earth would I want to do that? He's my husband! Not a very good one but he's mine.

Douglas, dazed, shakes his head. He and Siobhan listen to Lonny rattling off another sin.

LONNY

...so there's Bygone Benny hanging on to the edge of his balcony, his knuckles all white, begging me to help him. And I know now, I should have pulled him up, let bygones be bygones and all. But I didn't. So that was Bygone Benny....

Siobhan nudges Douglas.

SIOBHAN
Ask him if he had acted alone.

Douglas coughs to interrupt Lonny.

FATHER DOUGLAS
Did you have a partner in crime?

LONNY
Who yer been talking to, Father?

FATHER DOUGLAS
No...no-one. Just us...and Jesus.

LONNY
I'm not an easy man to love,
Father. But Siobhan was Bonnie to
my Clyde, yer get me?

FATHER DOUGLAS
Was? Where is she now?

LONNY
On the run. Left me after she
killed that cop in the strip club.

Siobhan pushes herself off Douglas' lap.

SIOBHAN
C'mon you big daft eejit. The
priest can't be hearing this tripe.

Lonny peers excitedly through the partition.

LONNY
Siobhan, is that you?

He hesitates as he stands.

LONNY (CONT'D)
Thank you, Father.

FATHER DOUGLAS
I'll see you again, I hope.

INT. CHURCH - OUTSIDE CONFESSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

Lonny and Siobhan kiss passionately.

LONNY
He was here, you know.

SIOBHAN
Who?

 LONNY
Jesus.

 SIOBHAN
Jaysus! I've heard it all now.

 LONNY
I'm free of the shackles of sin.

Siobhan shakes her head, disbelieving. They walk out of the church, laughing, kissing, groping.

INT. CHURCH - INSIDE CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Douglas buries his face in his hands and sobs. Only when he lifts his head up do we realise he's laughing, hysterically.

INT. CHURCH - SACRISTY - LATER

Douglas enters. He whistles, a code.

For a beat, there's silence.

Then Father McBride (50s) in a vest and underpants steps into view. He looks solemn.

 FATHER DOUGLAS
No! Tell me you got him?

McBride can't suppress the smile growing from within.

 FATHER MCBRIDE
Every word. Every crime. And the
bonus of his missus too.

 FATHER DOUGLAS
We got him! We got him!

Both men grab each and jump excitedly.

 FATHER MCBRIDE
I can't believe he confessed.

 FATHER DOUGLAS
Because I am a very upstanding
member of the cloth.

Both men laugh.

FATHER DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Which is more than can be said of
you or so I'm told!

FATHER MCBRIDE
Yer know yer can't break the
Sacrament of the Confession!

FATHER DOUGLAS
We're not priests. We can do what
the feck we want!

FATHER MCBRIDE
We'd better get that wire off you.

Douglas gathers his cassock over his waist to reveal a wire
taped to his stomach. McBride kneels in front of him - starts
tugging at the tape wire running into Douglas' underpants.

FATHER MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
Darn thing is caught, hang on.

Douglas launches into an elaborate stretch, eyes closed. The
cassock drops over McBride's head.

SIOBHAN (O.S.)
Well, well. Who would have thought?

He urgently taps McBride on the head.

Unaware, McBride emerges, red faced. He holds the wire aloft.

FATHER MCBRIDE
Got it!

Elation turns to fear when he sees Siobhan.

SIOBHAN
Ah the missing Father McBride!

FATHER MCBRIDE
You can't be here! The Sacristy is
for the clergy only.

Siobhan pouts.

SIOBHAN
Yes. You're quite right. But then
none of us are priests now, are we?

Douglas and McBride exchange a worried look.

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)
Don't look so worried gentlemen. I
only wanted to talk about...

There's a GUNSHOT. McBride keels over, dead. Siobhan, gun in
hand, peers down at him, content.

 SIOBHAN (CONT'D)
Well, I say talk...you see the
thing with talking is sometimes,
rare as it may be, people listen.

Douglas vomits violently.

Siobhan offers him a sympathetic smile.

 SIOBHAN (CONT'D)
Lonny never confessed because he
never knew who was listening.

She pulls the wire free from McBride's hand.

 SIOBHAN (CONT'D)
To be fair, I think he was thinking
of God rather than the Garda.

 FATHER DOUGLAS
How..did..?

 SIOBHAN
...I know?

She takes aim at him using a double-handed grip.

 SIOBHAN (CONT'D)
You held the gun like a Guard.

 FATHER DOUGLAS
I...won't say a word...I promise!

 SIOBHAN
Aww. Nobody's saying another word!

She fires a single shot between Douglas's eyes. She coolly
places the wire and recorder into her handbag.

Closes her eyes and makes the sign of the cross.

 SIOBHAN (CONT'D)
Forgive me, Father.

She exits.

THE END