

CONFESSION

BY

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Characters

FATHERM, a priest.

SINNER..... M

MARC M

JANIE F, pretty.

BIG GUYMale

Note: MARC, JANIE, and BIG GUY can be played by the same actor, given copious wigs.

Setting

A confessional.

Time

The present.

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Scene: FATHER and SINNER each sit in a chair facing House. We imagine that a partition is between them and they cannot directly see each other. Door or curtain Upstage behind SINNER.

Note on the pacing: Fast!!

SINNER

Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been one week since my last confession. This .. aw, man, this is gonna be really hard for me to say. I really don't know how to say this. I mean, I know I say that every week, but really, Father, this time I mean it. I know you take a vow of secrecy and everything, but I can't help feeling a little paranoid anyway about admitting to this. And I'm kind of embarrassed on top of it because I really botched the job, to be honest with you. Whew. Well, here goes. I killed Marc.

(Pause)

FATHER

Who's Marc?

SINNER

Who's Marc?! *Who's Marc?!!* The man who makes my life a living misery! The man I've obsessed about stringing up to a barn beam and hanging by his scrawny grimy neck! Who I dream of seeing lying dead and motionless in a slimy pool of his own blood. The man who's the luckiest man alive! ... Until just a few minutes ago, that is. *That's* who's Marc!

FATHER

Oh, yes. Marc.

SINNER

I – I'm sorry, Father. I just couldn't take it anymore, you know? I thought if he was just out of the way, everything would be perfect. I'd have my chance at true, pure, unblemished happiness. But things are messier now than ever. Janie's beside herself, she doesn't even know I did it.

FATHER

She ... she doesn't?

SINNER

She hasn't the faintest idea. I can't tell her.

FATHER

Why not?

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SINNER

Why not?! *Why* can't I tell Janie?!

FATHER

Er ...

SINNER

You remember who Janie is, don't you?

(Pause)

FATHER

You know I'm terrible with names, Mike.

SINNER

Zach!

FATHER

Zach, right. Would you be so kind as to give me a hint?

SINNER

Janie is Marc's wife! My lover! The woman I've wanted to myself, yearned for desperately, passionately, hopelessly, all these past four agonizing long weeks!

FATHER

Really?

SINNER

Yes!!

FATHER

What about Natalia?

SINNER

Natalia?! Ha ha ha ha ha! That's been over since _____ *(two months prior to current month)*!
And I haven't even slept with her since _____ *(five days prior to current day)*!

FATHER

You've been sleeping with Natalia and yearning for Janie at the same time?

SINNER

Oh, Natalia's just tiding me over.

(Quick, strong rapping on the door.)

MARC *(Off)*

Zach? Open up, it's Marc!

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SINNER

Marc!

FATHER (*Hushed tone*)

I thought you said you killed Marc.

SINNER (*Hushed*)

I did!

MARC (*Off*)

Zach, it's Marc, did you hear me?

SINNER (*Hushed*)

At least I *thought* I did.

MARC (*Off*)

Are you going to talk to me or not?

SINNER

Uh ... Marc *who*?

MARC (*Off*)

What do you mean, Marc who?

FATHER (*Hushed*)

What's Marc's last name?

SINNER (*Hushed*)

I don't remember.

MARC (*Off*)

Marc McKenzie, all right? Now stop screwing with me. Steve's dead, for Chrissakes!

FATHER (*Hushed*)

McKenzie. Ring a bell?

SINNER (*Hushed*)

I'm not sure.

FATHER

(*MARC's last words just sinking in; hushed*)

Steve's dead?

SINNER (*Hushed*)

He is?

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FATHER (*Hushed*)

Who's Steve?

MARC (*Off*)

Zach, you don't let me in I'm gonna go tell Natalia the whole story.

SINNER

Natalia?!

(*Opens door. MARC stands there.*)

How do you know Natalia?

MARC

Same way most people know her.

SINNER

That two-timing whore!

(*Punches MARC, who falls to the floor and lies still.*)

Oh shit. I killed him.

MARC (*Getting up*)

Damn you! She's my barber, you asshole!

SINNER

Goddamn it, how many times does it take to kill you? Leave me alone, I'm in the middle of a confession.

MARC

What should I do about Steve?

(*SINNER slams the door on MARC.*)

FATHER

I must say, My Son, I'm not used to this kind of ruckus in my confessional. Of course, I'm sure that God would forgive you the disturbance of the peace if you were to simply –

SINNER

I repent having caused the ruckus, Father.

FATHER

You are forgiven, my Son.

SINNER

Now as I was saying, I came here because I thought I killed Steve, but apparently I was –

FATHER

You mean Marc.

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SINNER

I mean Marc what?

FATHER

You said you thought you killed Marc earlier.

SINNER

Father, are you paying attention? Marc's the guy who was just here. Now I'm sorry and all, but I need forgiveness before I can muster the courage to face Janie.

FATHER

Janie.

SINNER

Marc's wife.

FATHER

Why does she care that Steve's dead?

SINNER

Steve's dead?

(Rapid strong knocking on door.)

JANIE *(Off)*

Steve? Steve, are you in there?

SINNER

Aw, crap.

JANIE *(Off)*

Steve? Open up, it's Janie.

SINNER *(Hushed)*

I can't face her right now, Father, I just can't. Make her go away, will you please?

JANIE *(Off)*

Steve, Darling? Why are you running away from me? Do you really think this is going to help? You're not even Catholic!

SINNER

Janie, I need to be alone right now, okay?

JANIE *(Off)*

I need to talk to you! I ... I miss you, Steve. It's not the same without you. I'm lost. And my hormones are raging like wildfire and I'm not wearing any underwear.

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SINNER

(Can't resist any longer; opens door.)

I'll meet you at Mindy's at 7, all right?

JANIE

(Stands there looking lovely)

You've been distant these last few days. Is anything wrong? Has something happened?

SINNER

Nothing's happened Janie. Try to understand. I'll explain everything to you later.

JANIE

(Kisses him passionately.)

I'll count the minutes. *(Exit.)*

SINNER *(Closes door)*

What a woman, isn't she? Can you blame me?

FATHER

You're Steve?

SINNER

What? I'm Zach.

FATHER

Janie called you Steve just now.

SINNER

Father, have you been listening to any of this? Steve's dead!

FATHER

Really?

SINNER

Apparently.

(Door bursts open. Enter BIG GUY.)

BIG GUY

Oh good, I've been lookin' all over for you. Look, you gotta come quick, Mr. Freedman. Natalia, she's completely hyperventilating. Janie's at Marc's throat over that black market baby business that got busted open last night, and there's no tearin' her off him. We're afraid she's gonna kill him!

SINNER

Who's going to kill him, Natalie or Janie?

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Either one! **BIG GUY**

Ah, they'll be fine, Steve. **SINNER**

This is Steve? **FATHER**

He's not *that* Steve, he's another Steve. **SINNER**

Oh – **FATHER**

She brought 'em some stiff scotches and candy, but it's not making any bit of a difference. **BIG GUY**

Who brought them, Natalia or Janie? **SINNER**

No, Anne. Anne brought 'em for Natalia and Janie, but it's not helping a bit. C'mon, Mr. Freedman, they always listen to you. **BIG GUY**

Father, looks like I gotta go. I'm sorry. Thanks for all your help. **SINNER (Sigh)**

The Good Lord forgives you, my Son. **FATHER**

See you next week. **SINNER**

I don't doubt it. **FATHER**

BLACKOUT