

Kingdoms
by
Conor O'Hagan

conor@conorohagan.com
(323) 504-0531

EXT. CHURCH - EVENING

The sky is cloudy, and the moon struggles to shine through.

A church stands tall and proud.

Beside the church, a smaller rectory building stands -

INT. RECTORY - EVENING

A picture of Jesus on the wall, looking holy.

A harmless radio station PLAYS in the background.

CORMAC - 60's - reads the paper, his feet up.

JOHN - 20's - looks up at the Jesus picture, unsure. He has rosary beads in his hands, and plays with them constantly.

SEAMUS - 60's - enters the rectory with a tray holding tea, biscuits and cake.

They are all PRIESTS.

Seamus sits, then turns to John.

SEAMUS

You're sure you won't have one?

John nods. Seamus raises his eyebrows. He pours two cups of tea. He adds several spoons of sugar to one, then the other.

SEAMUS (CONT'D)

Didn't Mrs. Conway drop in a fruit cake earlier on.

CORMAC

Dote.

SEAMUS

Absolute dote, yeah.

Seamus takes out the cake and sniffs at it.

SEAMUS (CONT'D)

Heavenly. A slice or two for yourself, father?

CORMAC

Don't I deserve it.

SEAMUS

You do. And you, young buck? Go on, I know you're tempted.

John holds up his hand - no.

SEAMUS (CONT'D)
Suit yourself.

John watches Seamus cutting thick slices of cake. He toys with rosary beads in his hand and MUTTERS a prayer.

Seamus gives a tea to Cormac, leaves the plate of cake slices down and relaxes into his chair.

CORMAC
Cheers.

He takes a noisy slurp and takes a biscuit.

CORMAC (CONT'D)
That's more like it. It's the simple things in life. And well deserved.

SEAMUS
You said it.

CORMAC
Long week. Lots of sermons.

SEAMUS
God's work.

Seamus takes a sip of tea.

CORMAC
I think the Bishop was happy the last day. Wowed him with Paul to the Corinthians.

SEAMUS
Second letter?

CORMAC
Second of course.

Cormac bites into a slice of cake.

SEAMUS
Always a good one to have in the back pocket.

CORMAC
And then I was out in Fatima during the week for the Christening. You know, that Toale family.

SEAMUS
Nice big house?

CORMAC

Nice big house is right. And their potato salad... He did alright that Toale fella, that woman can fairly cook.

Cormac looks to John, who gives no reaction.

CORMAC (CONT'D)

Not much of a talker, this young buck.

SEAMUS

Keeps himself to himself.

CORMAC

Probably tired out from all his morning sermons, eh?

Cormac winks at John and takes a big chomp from his cake.

SEAMUS

Yeah, you must be flat out tired. If you want, we can find a replacement for you for the mornings. What do you reckon?

John says nothing. He gives Seamus a look, and looks away.

SEAMUS (CONT'D)

No? Alright, suit yourself young buck. I guess we have the morning free so.

Seamus laughs and takes a big sup of tea. John looks up at the Jesus picture on the wall. He closes his eyes tight for a second.

CORMAC

Try to enjoy yourself, Sonny. "So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad."

He looks to John, as if quizzing him.

SEAMUS

Ecclesiastes 8: 15.

CORMAC

Time to up your game, young buck. This isn't the seminary any more.

He winks at Seamus. He slurps on his tea again.

John toys with his beads and says nothing.

Suddenly, there is a SLAM on the window. Cormac and Seamus are startled.

SEAMUS
What the hell -

He pulls the curtain aside and looks out. EGG drips down the window.

EXT. CHURCH - EVENING

A group of BOYS are outside, LAUGHING.

MAIN BOY has another egg. He aims and fires it. It SLAMS the window directly in front of Seamus' face.

INT. CHURCH - EVENING

SEAMUS
It's some young lads throwing eggs at us.

Cormac reacts and rises.

CORMAC
Those little beggars. Wait until I get my hands on them.

SEAMUS
Ah, you'd have to be careful with those youths today. You wouldn't know what weapons they could have on them.

John rises and moves to the corner.

Cormac looks out the window too.

CORMAC
Clear off, will you!

The boys make gestures at them and joke with each other. Another boy hurls an egg and points at Cormac, laughing.

John is rustling through presses. He finds a basin.

CORMAC (CONT'D)
That's it. I'm calling the Guards.

Cormac walks over to the phone. 9 - 9 - 9.

CORMAC (CONT'D)
Stand away from that window, you're only encouraging them.

Seamus moves away, at a loss.

SEAMUS
Shocking, altogether.

He sits back down, but on the edge of his seat.

CORMAC
Yeah, how are you, it's Father
Maher here at St. Michael's.
There's a group of youths outside
and they're pegging eggs at the
building. Have you ever heard the
like?

(beat)
Yeah, would you? Thanks, Garda,
that's great. God bless.

He hangs up.

John moves past the two to the door.

SEAMUS
Where do you think you're going?

CORMAC
Don't be a hero, young buck.
Leave it to the authorities.

John brings the basin and some towels and goes outside -

EXT. CHURCH - EVENING

John steps outside. The boys see him coming and begin to run away. They laugh and joke with each other as they run.

The main boy turns and looks back. He catches John's eye and stops, standing and looking back. The smile dies off on his face, and a sense of understanding comes over him.

John allows a slight smile. The main boy offers a cautious wave and runs after his friends.

A cloud moves from in front of the moon. It's full and beautiful.

John turns and looks up, past the huge church, at the full moon. He takes the rosary beads from his pocket. He takes a deep breath, calmed. He smiles.

He turns and begins to clean the egg from the window.

FADE OUT.