

HEARD AND NOT SEEN

Written by

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INT. CHURCH - DAY

The place is huge, old and empty, just line upon line of dusty pews with a few sputtering votive candles at the front.

And the confessional booth to the side.

The curtain on the left booth twitches slightly with the merest glimpse of someone entering.

A gun cocks with an unmistakable CLICK.

FATHER (O.S.)
May God, who has enlightened every
heart, help you to know your sins and
trust in his mercy.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Amen. Bless me father as I will sin.

Her voice is soft with age and respect.

FATHER (O.S.)
Did you just hear a click?

WOMAN (O.S.)
Yes.

FATHER (O.S.)
Thank the Heavenly Father then, I
thought the old ears, must be playing
up.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Age is a number not an excuse.

FATHER (O.S.)
True, I think.

Silence.

FATHER (O.S.)
So my child.

A nervous laugh.

FATHER (O.S.)
Something wrong?

WOMAN (O.S.)
My child is why I am here.

FATHER (O.S.)
Ah, have you sinned against them?

The woman ignores the question.

WOMAN (O.S.)
His name is Joseph.

FATHER (O.S.)
A good biblical name.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Why we picked it.

FATHER (O.S.)
And, how have you sinned against Joseph?

A pause, snuffle of tears.

FATHER (O.S.)
Take your time my child.

The nervous laugh again.

WOMAN (O.S.)
I don't have that.

FATHER (O.S.)
Time?

WOMAN (O.S.)
Not, much.

FATHER (O.S.)
Ah, an illness?

WOMAN (O.S.)
What? No, but I have a deadline.

FATHER (O.S.)
(confused)
Sorry? What deadline? What is this all about?

She ignores the question.

WOMAN (O.S.)
His friends called him Joey, not Joe or Joseph, he preferred Joey.

FATHER (O.S.)
Oh...

WOMAN (O.S.)

My sin is one of failure, failure to protect him.

FATHER (O.S.)

Look, I knew Joey a long time ago,
I --

WOMAN (O.S.)

He's dead, I found him this morning
in his apartment, gunshot to the head
and a note.

FATHER (O.S.)

I --

WOMAN (O.S.)

A very long note.

Silence.

FATHER (O.S.)

I was weak, just once, I didn't mean
to --

WOMAN (O.S.)

His letter will be published online
at 3pm.

FATHER (O.S.)

My sins revealed to the world. Is
that why you came to confession?

WOMAN (O.S.)

No.

FATHER (O.S.)

So, the gun?

WOMAN (O.S.)

Murder and suicide are both sins in
the eyes of the Lord.

FATHER (O.S.)

God, help --

EXT. ORNATE GOTHIC CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

GUNSHOT.