

THE CONFESSION: A FARCE

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FADE IN:

INT. CHURCH - EVENING

Only a few lights illuminate the cavernous space. The door to the sanctuary opens, and DAVID SMITH (mid-30s) enters.

He takes a seat next to an occupied confessional, pulls out a kneeler, and kneels to pray.

A few moments later, a WOMAN emerges from the confessional. David rises and enters the room she just occupied.

INT. CONFESSIONAL (PENITENT'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

David kneels in front of the screen concealing his face to the priest, FATHER JAMES MCCABE on the other side.

DAVID

Bless me, Father for I have sinned.

FATHER JAMES

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. I'm Father James McCabe.

DAVID

Good evening, Father.

FATHER JAMES

And what are your sins?

DAVID

Infidelity, lust, and gluttony.

INT. CONFESSIONAL (PRIEST'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

Father James raises his eyebrows in surprise.

FATHER JAMES

Those are serious sins. Are you married?

DAVID

I am.

FATHER JAMES

Even more serious. With whom have
you been unfaithful?

INT. CONFESSIONAL (PENITENT'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

David rests his head against his hands, which are clasped in
prayer.

DAVID

Her name is Betty.

FATHER JAMES

And your wife doesn't know about
Betty?

DAVID

Oh, she does.

FATHER JAMES

(confused)

Wait, what?

DAVID

Well, she knows about Betty, but
she doesn't know what happens
when I'm with Betty.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

David is awake, but his WIFE is sleeping soundly. He quietly
gets out of bed, and leaves the bedroom without her noticing.

DAVID (V.O.)

In the middle of the night, I'll
wake up, and sneak out of our
bedroom.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

David is seen tiptoeing down the hall to the stairwell. He
starts to descend the stairs.

DAVID (V.O.)

I'll go down the stairs to the
kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

David is seen reaching into the fridge. His hand emerges with a piece of Cheesecake on a plate.

DAVID (V.O.)
And Betty will be there, waiting
for me.

PRIEST (V.O.)
She waits for you in the kitchen?

DAVID (V.O.)
(duh)
Of course.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

David is seen on the couch eating the cheesecake, clearly enjoying every bite.

DAVID (V.O.)
Anyway, what's most concerning is
that I don't even have to do
anything.
(a beat)
It just happens.

CLOSE UP ON DAVID'S FACE

His eyes slowly close as he chews his food, he suddenly realizes what's about to happen.

DAVID
(whispering to
himself, through a
bite of food)
No, no, no!

He climaxes.

BACK TO SCENE

A stain appears on the crotch of David's pajama pants.

DAVID (CONT'D)
C'mon, not again.

David places the fork on the plate with the partially eaten cheesecake, and sets the plate on the seat next to him.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CONFESSIONAL (PRIEST'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

Father James looks concerned.

FATHER JAMES

Well, this is very serious indeed. I mean, you are knowingly having an affair. You've even given your lover a key to your house.

DAVID

(confused)

A key?

Father James ignores this and says...

FATHER JAMES

Tell me, does Betty have a husband?

INT. CONFESSIONAL (PENITENT'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

David is thoroughly confused.

DAVID

A husband? What?

FATHER JAMES

Is she married?

DAVID

Why would she be married?

(a beat)

Betty's a piece of cheesecake.

INT. CONFESSIONAL (PRIEST'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

A beat. Father James looks as if he has no idea what is going on.

FATHER JAMES

Excuse me?

DAVID

Betty. She's a piece of cheesecake.

FATHER JAMES

You've been talking about a piece
of cheesecake this entire time?

INT. CONFESSIONAL (PENITENT'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

The look on David's face says "isn't it obvious?"

DAVID

Of course

FATHER JAMES

You named a slice of cheesecake?

DAVID

Oh, come on. It's not that odd.
Other people name their cars--

FATHER JAMES

Yes, but how many of those people
are sexually aroused by their
cars?

DAVID

Look, it's not my fault. It just
happens, it's not like I go
downstairs with the intention of
having an intimate experience
with the cheesecake, I just like
the taste.

FATHER JAMES

Clearly--

DAVID

We're getting off-topic here.

(a beat)

All I'm trying to do is cleanse
my soul.

FATHER JAMES

And I'm trying to figure out what
sin you've committed.

DAVID

Well, I don't think I should be
all that attracted to cheesecake.

INT. CONFSSIONAL (PRIEST'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

Father James's facial expression says "of course you shouldn't, you moron."

FATHER JAMES

You absolutely shouldn't, but the Bible doesn't directly speak on man's relationship to dessert. You can't cheat on someone with food.

DAVID

What about gluttony?

FATHER JAMES

That has more to with how much food you eat. In this instance, I guess I'd ask the size of the piece of cheesecake in question.

DAVID

It's pretty big.

FATHER JAMES

Gluttonously big?

DAVID

How should I know? I'm not a priest.

A beat. Father James sighs heavily. This conversation isn't going anywhere.

FATHER JAMES

Look, if you're looking for penance, then say eight Hail Marys.

DAVID

Thank you, Father.

FATHER JAMES

One more thing.

INT. CONFSSIONAL (PENITENT'S SIDE) - CONTINUOUS

A business card is slid under the screen. David picks it up and reads it.

INSERT - BUSINESS CARD

"SAMANTHA PORTROY - LICENSED THERAPIST," is emblazoned on the card.

BACK TO SCENE

DAVID

You think I need professional help?

FATHER JAMES

You walk into my confessional, and confess to having an illicit relationship with a piece of cheesecake, whom you've taken the time to name.

DAVID

Yeah? And?

FATHER JAMES

I don't think it would hurt to talk to someone about that.

DAVID

Well I'm talking to you.

FATHER JAMES

Yes, and while it is my duty to help you get to heaven, I'm saying that you might want to talk about the problem with someone who can fix it while you are here on Earth.

EXT. CONFESSIONAL - MOMENTS LATER

David takes one more look at the business card.

He returns to the pew he occupied before, and kneels again to do his penance.

FADE OUT.

THE END