
Sinners and Saints

A comedy in two acts

FIRST ACT – SAMPLE

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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
NICK	Sailor, older brother of Anthony, son of The Folks	32ish	Male
CAROLINE	Darlene's dysfunctional friend	28ish	Female
DARLENE	Nick's girlfriend	28ish	Female
ANTHONY	Priest, Nick's younger brother, son of The Folks	25-27	Male

SETTING
FAMILY LIVING ROOM
FOUR ACTORS REQUIRED

ACT 1, SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP ON:

Time: Winter Day.

Place: A middle class, very Catholic living room.

The muted sound of ITALIAN RESTAURANT MUSIC Italian Dinner, Background Music, Folk Music from Italy (on YouTube)

DR is the front door into the house with a hall tree for coats and a small watering can.

UC is the back door to the house that has a window.

An entrance into the kitchen and an entrance into the bedroom/bathroom are on the DR wall.

On an audience facing wall is a

*24" x 32" picture of Saint Teresa in nun's habit.
(playwright can supply artwork)*

DC is the living with a traditional sofa with end tables and lamps and matching sofa chair.

There's an aquarium with fish; a parrot (PETIE) in a cage, six to eight green plants in planters. A leafy plant in an antique planter is featured.

Welcome home NICK banners and balloons are strung up. A dinner plate size birthday cake is on the coffee table.

Petie's voice is a crackly parrot.

ANDREW (30) ENTERS through the DR door, takes off and hangs up his coat on the hall tree. He is dressed in priest attire, black with a clerical collar.

The music ends.

ANDREW (to the parrot) Good morning Petie.

PETIE *(squeaky voice)* Gmorning!

Andrew takes the watering can, moves towards Petie.

It's fuffen time, fuffen time', fuffen' time!

Andrew pours water into Petie's water bowl.

ANDREW Petie, stop that!

Andrew moves towards a dozen plants spread around the living room.

He stops, pulls at his collar.

It's as hot as fuffen Hades in here! *(throws head back)* I'm mimicking a bird!

Andrew puts down the watering can, rushes to the picture of Saint Teresa.

(to the picture) It's not swearing. It's a meaningless word, something Petie picked up.

Andrew crosses himself, tears over to the thermostat. He squints closely at the thermostat.

Eighty-six!

Andrew turns the thermostat down, turns to Petie.

Mommy and Daddy must have soup for blood!

Andrew takes off his clerical collar, opens his collar, puts the clerical collar on an end table.

They need February Florida sunshine more than the need to welcome number one son's return . . .

Andrew checks the time on his watch.

. . . who should be arriving any minute. Don't worry, I'll be dropping in on a regular basis to take care of everything.

(MORE)

Andrew waters the plants, paying special attention to the leafy plant in the antique planter. Turns to Petie.

Five years of Navy life can change a man.

Andrew checks his watch.

He's likely stumbled upon a young lady.

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

Andrew reacts to the SOUND of a train passing through, Andrew rushes to the picture of St. Teresa, steadies the picture. The train sound passes.

Andrew straightens and talks to the picture.

ANDREW Saint Teresa, you know Nick won't be happy to learn I'm a priest, leaving him the only grandchildren option for Mom.

Andrew's hands remain on the picture, talks to the picture.

Nick's not going to like my vocation choice, so the two of us need to keep level heads. Mom wants me to find him a bride from the congregation. *(stressed)* Some could label me a pimp priest!

Andrew crosses himself.

Heaven forbid! *(kisses picture)* This time we'll need a miracle.

PETIE Fuffen right!

A drunken male voice off stage sings "They Were Jolly Good Fellows". The melody is "He's A Jolly Good Fellow".

Andrew genuflects then moves to and sits on the sofa.

The front door bursts open and NICK (32), STUMBLES in. Nick wears a sailor uniform, is drunk, slurs words, holds a bottle of booze.

DARLENE (28), a flashy girlfriend, is propped under one arm, holding Nick up.

Andrew jumps up.

Darlene dumps Nick on the sofa.

NICK Hi, Andy. It's been five short years.

DARLENE I'm Darlene, the love Nick left behind, but caught up with a few hours ago. Hi.

Andrew gives a halfhearted wave.

NICK Darlene, this is my baby brother, Andy. The only thing we have in common is parents and a boatload of nosey relatives.

ANDREW And Petie.

Nick kisses the bird cage, collapses back onto the sofa.

(to Nick) Five years ago I called Darlene and told her about you joining the Navy.

NICK *(not hearing him)* My Darlene. Ta daaaa!

Darlene and Andrew shake hands.

Where's The Folks?

ANDREW It's February. They're headed to Florida.

NICK Florida?

ANDREW You left the voice mail message this morning.

NICK I did. *(to Darlene)* Didn't I?

Darlene nods.

ANDREW They'd booked the time share months ago, had plane tickets, planned tours. Won't be back for a couple months. I'm your welcoming committee. Are you okay?

NICK Right as rain. *(to Darlene)* Baaaa. I'm the black sheep.

Nick chuckles.

DARLENE I drove Nick here. I should be going.

ANDREW Please stay. I've got news.

Darlene points to the banners and decorations.

DARLENE (to Nick) Your family has been looking forward to your arrival.

Nick sees the decorations and the cake. He stands.

NICK For me?

Nick stands, picks up the cake, his hand under it. Moves toward Andrew.

ANDREW You wouldn't.

NICK (thinks) Not with an adult present.

Nick puts the cake on the table. Nick points to the cake and decorations.

You did all this?

ANDREW The Folks. It was a last-minute whirlwind decorating frenzy before taking the cab to the airport. They want you to stay here.

Andrew takes an envelope from his pocket.

(to Darlene) You wouldn't be Catholic by any chance?

DARLENE Anglican.

ANDREW Close, but no cigar.

PETIE No cigar! No cigar!

NICK Petie knows. I've missed his timely insights. Andrew hands Nick the envelope.

ANDREW From Mom. It's got the house and car keys and a long note saying how I'm supposed to find you a Catholic wife.

Nick pockets the envelope.

NICK How do you . . .

ANDREW It's all I've heard since you left?

NICK They've been okay?

ANDREW Dad isn't as active as he once was, on blood pressure pills. Mom's pretty much the same.

NICK Still crazy?

ANDREW Worse since you left.

NICK Her letters were all hugs and kisses.

ANDREW She missed you.

NICK Is that everything?

ANDREW There's other news.

NICK Good or bad?

ANDREW That depends.

NICK On what?

ANDREW It just depends.

Andrew reaches to his neck for his clerical collar, feels it gone, looks around for it. Nick thinks.

NICK Our Folks can't afford a Florida timeshare! Plane tickets! Tours! They must have won the lottery! They're rich?!

Nick takes a long swig from his bottle.

Let's celebrate!

ANDREW No lottery win. They saved for Florida. The news is about me.

NICK You?

ANDREW Yes, me.

NICK Lay it on me, Kid.

ANDREW I'm now Father Andrew.

NICK That makes me an uncle! Wow!

ANDREW Nick . . .

NICK A boy, or a girl?

Nick looks around for his clerical collar.

ANDREW Nick, it's . . .

NICK It's gotta be one or the other! *(pause)* Twins! Where's the lucky woman?

Nick grabs Andrew's left hand.

Not married, yet you've started your family. Kid, you've grown a set of balls!

Andrew finds his clerical collar, puts it on.

ANDREW It's not what you think.

NICK Kids are good, right?

DARLENE Nickie! Father Andrew?

NICK I'm lost. What's going on!

ANDREW Nick. I'm a priest.

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

Nick collapses on the sofa.

NICK Not the kind that says mass, make sinners repent, etcetera, etcetera? My God, you've got to be kidding me!

ANDREW It's true.

NICK You're a priest! Wow! Mom will be happy.

ANDREW She is.

NICK What we have here is a fate worse than marriage. Mother will be desperate for grandchildren. You've created misery for me!!!

ANDREW Nick. It's my life, my calling.

NICK Call back! Tell them it's a wrong number.

DARLENE *(to Andrew)* I could get coffee?

ANDREW There's instant.

DARLENE I'll get them while you boys . . . enjoy your quality time.

ANDREW Coffee's in the far cupboard.

Darlene EXITS into the kitchen area.

How's Navy life?

NICK I want to talk about you . . . us!

ANDREW I haven't seen you in years, so . . .

NICK *(interrupting)* You'll be pleased to know the country is safe and secure because of our Navy.

ANDREW Who's after us now?

NICK There's a lot that doesn't get on the ten o'clock news.

ANDREW Oh, really?

NICK Oil tankers held for ransom is a bad thing. Pirates!

ANDREW You guard oil tankers.

NICK Sometimes we find ourselves in the middle of an almost empty ocean with a problem ship lurking in a shipping lane. We take preventative action.

Nick makes a sinking motion with his hand.

Everywhere else it's business as usual.

ANDREW I had no idea.

NICK You have your own parish?

ANDREW Yes, it's here; a large parish; needs three priests.

NICK If I'd stayed, didn't join the Navy, we'd be men about town, have a hell of a good time together, like before.

ANDREW I'm comfortable with my decision.

Darlene ENTERS with Nick's coffee, gives it to him. They sit.

NICK *(to Darlene)* Thanks. *(to Andrew)* What about no women, no fun? In a few years you'll be so frustrated, altar boys will look good.

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

NICK A man needs a woman from time to time.

ANDREW So there's a downside. People shoot at you. I'd call that a huge downside to Navy life.

NICK Some of my best buds were killed.

ANDREW There's a downside to everything.

NICK One big difference.

ANDREW What's that?

NICK I shoot back.

ANDREW I'll prepare your room.

NICK No, I'll do it.

ANDREW *(determined)* I'm doing it!!

Andrew EXITS into the bedroom area. Nick hugs Darlene.

NICK Darlene, my dear Darlene, you've made homecoming bearable.

DARLENE You've come home to a caring family.

NICK I'm not the same as I was. Stuff happened.

DARLENE Navy stuff?

NICK Fire fights. Being covered in the blood and guts of my best buds changed me. *(pause, looks into her)* I might be crazy.

DARLENE Eccentric, not crazy.

NICK If I enter a church then you'll know I'm crazy.

DARLENE Okay.

NICK Andy's gotten himself into a real jam.

DARLENE His choice.

NICK It was an impulsive, immature choice. If I could get him a good lay, he'd think like the man I knew.

Darlene thinks.

DARLENE Oh? *(pause)* I've got a friend who might be able to help.

NICK How?

DARLENE Caroline is an internet designer by day, but by night she has an unusual hobby.

NICK One that will help Andy?

DARLENE She seduces married men. She gets a charge out of seeing unfaithful husbands squirm when she waves bye-bye. Occasionally she'll call the wife and ask for the guy, just to know she's got him.

NICK Major wacko.

DARLENE She was my neighbor a couple years ago. We remained friends.

NICK A good friend?

DARLENE Yeah.

NICK Really?

Nick shrugs.

DARLENE Caroline is not me! Look, nobody's perfect, right? I understand her. Forget it. It was just an idea.

NICK What's the plan?

DARLENE If I explain Andrew's problem to Caroline, for a price, she'll seduce him. She'd see it as a unique challenge.

NICK I've got money saved.

DARLENE Caroline will want you because you're with me. Promise me you won't sleep with her.

NICK Promise.

DARLENE She's got a hot body and can be very convincing.

NICK Okay, Love, I promise I won't sleep with or lay a hand on your friend Caroline, on my honor as a warrior for our country. Saving the Country and Andy is all I'm interested in.

DARLENE There's a minor problem, she's . . . *(pause)*

NICK What? . . . a serial killer?

DARLENE She's got a bad mouth.

NICK I'm a sailor, heard it all!

DARLENE I have school tomorrow, so I need to leave.

*They kiss. Darlene puts on her coat and EXITS out the DR door.
Nick walks around, finger samples the cake, relaxes on the sofa.*

Andrew ENTERS from the bedroom.

ANDREW Darlene left?

NICK She's a teacher. Early class tomorrow.

ANDREW Mom wants me to find you a Catholic wife. So?

NICK Not any kind of wife.

Nick takes a sip of coffee, puts down the cup, leans forward, looks at Andrew.

You get God and I get grandchildren guilt! Is that fair?

Andrew shrugs.

I'd rather face pirate bullets than our Mom.

ANDREW I'll tell Mom nobody in the congregation is good enough for her number one son.

NICK I find sober talk tiring. Going to bed.

ANDREW The time could come when you might want to settle down.

NICK When I don't want the Navy, I don't re-enlist. How about you?

ANDREW A calling is different.

NICK Right. I shoot back.

LIGHTS OUT

(END ACT 1, SCENE 1)

ACT 1, SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP ON:

Time: The next morning.

Place: The same.

A few instrumental bars of "Sweet Caroline" plays softly.

The song ends.

A doorbell RINGS. It RINGS again.

NICK (O.S.) Just a minute!

Nick SCOOTs IN from the bathroom. His hair is wet and he wears a robe. He has a towel over his shoulders. He opens the door.

CAROLINE ENTERS wearing a long coat and rapidly chews gum. Her voice is high pitched, girlish.

CAROLINE Hi. I'm Caroline, Darlene's my best friend?

NICK Caroline? Oh, that Caroline.

CAROLINE Yeah.

Caroline takes off her long coat, hands it to Nick who hangs it on the hall tree.

Nick is taken aback by her attractiveness. She's gorgeous, tall woman in low-cut top and tight leather slacks -- a flashy dresser.

There's a touch of hardness in her face -- 50% bad makeup, 50% bad experience.

NICK Sorry. I'm not an early riser . . . you understand.

Caroline's look mentally disorbes Nick.

CAROLINE You're Nick. (pause) Got du picture.

NICK Have a seat. Darlene said, uhm, yes, you are one very . . . I'll get tea.

Nick nervously dries hair with the towel.

CAROLINE Don't want no tea.

NICK Something stronger?

CAROLINE Nuttin'.

NICK How are you on this beautiful morning?

CAROLINE Just anoder mornin'.

NICK So, you're fine?

CAROLINE I'm here ain't I. You're Darlene's sailor friend, Nick?

NICK Right.

CAROLINE Darlene told me about you, all about you.

Caroline smiles as she sits at the end of the sofa. Nick smiles back.

Yeah. We're close, Darlene and I.

Nick sits at the other end of the sofa.

NICK She said you'll help me with a certain problem.

CAROLINE Do your priest brother.

NICK You're direct.

CAROLINE Yeah. Once a wife hired me to tempt her fu . . .

Nick rushes over to her; puts a finger to her lips.

I can't say ffff . . .

Nick puts a finger to her lips.

NICK Not in my parent's home. It's not allowed.

CAROLINE They're not here.

NICK Doesn't matter.

Nick points to the picture of Saint Teresa.

Saint Teresa doesn't approve of that word.

CAROLINE Oh.

NICK We say fuff or fuffen instead. It's like chewing nicotine gum instead of smoking.

CAROLINE What the fuff? Sounds weird. What the fuff?! Better. As I was saying, a wife hired me to tempt her . . . fuffen husband.

NICK How did that turn out?

CAROLINE *(giggling)* Tempted him into a fuffen divorce.

NICK Perfect. I want Andy to step away from the priesthood. Can you tempt him in that direction?

CAROLINE I'll give you the good friend discount on account of Darlene. I'll be doin' it for Darlene, sisterly love at my reduced fee.

Caroline moves closer to Nick.

Just him?

Nick nervous stands.

NICK Yes, just him.

Caroline stands, moves close to Nick. He moves away.

CAROLINE For now.

NICK Andy thinks he's happy as a priest. You're sure you can change his mind?

CAROLINE He's a guy.

NICK You'll take the, uhm, the assignment?

CAROLINE I call them missions.

NICK A one woman missionary.

CAROLINE Yeah. Sounds odd don't it.

NICK About the fee?

CAROLINE Five hundred, in advance, and it's a done deal.

NICK You mentioned a discount?

CAROLINE It cost du wife a fuffen grand tu tempt her husband, so I got a kind heart when it comes to, you know, friends and family helpin' family.

NICK That's very generous. How do I know you'll . . .

CAROLINE (interrupting) Darlene knows I complete all my missions.

Nick takes out his wallet, counts out five hundred and hands it to her. They high five each other. She stuffs it in her purse.

Darlene says you've got a plan.

NICK I'd like you to contact him in church, through the confessional.

CAROLINE You want me to go into one of those (*thinks*) fuffen little closets?

NICK It's a confessional.

CAROLINE Magicians have closets like that. You know what happens tu girls who go into 'em?

NICK That's entertainment. Thousands watch.

CAROLINE They fuffen disappear! And everyone claps like it's a fuffen good thing!

NICK But he brings them back again, and everyone claps, right?

CAROLINE If du molecules don't go together right, I could come back in fuffen jumbled weird pieces!

NICK'S (*thinks, looks away*) A jumbled, weird, piece.

CAROLINE I don't like fuffen dark places!

NICK You'll see fine. It's not a transporter room. No trap doors. No magic. You won't disappear.

CAROLINE You've done it?

NICK Years ago. It's easy.

CAROLINE Like me?

NICK We're working on this together. Your mission is my mission. It's a joint mission.

CAROLINE You're the general and I'll be the soldier.

NICK If soldiers looked like you war would be obsolete.

Caroline puts her arms around Nick.

CAROLINE Make love, not war.

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

Nick moves away.

NICK So, back to our mission.

CAROLINE The small room where I won't disappear. You're fuffen sure?

NICK Absolutely. When you confess, tell him you slept around and how men used you, and dumped you, and you'll never trust another man.

CAROLINE Like du way you're usin' me?

NICK My God, Caroline, you set the price!

CAROLINE I did, didn't I? Fuff. My thoughts skip around a lot.

NICK You're doing me a big favor. I appreciate it.

Caroline moves toward him.

CAROLINE I like to be appreciated.

Nick moves away.

NICK I'm sure you will be, but not by me in the normal sense, although under different circumstances, I definitely would.

CAROLINE We'll fuffen see, won't we?

NICK First you make him think you hate men, get his sympathy, then seduce him and save him from a life without women.

CAROLINE Makes me feel like a fuffen superhero.

NICK No masks, capes, cuffs or whips. You're not saving the world, just my brother.

CAROLINE You're no fun.

NICK He'll go for you the way you are. Go in on Saturday. That's when they have confessions. He's always had a sympathetic ear for a sob story. Check back here with your progress report every Sunday morning.

CAROLINE What's wrong with my place?

NICK There's a lot of cousins, uncles, a large family. They'll be at the church to hear Andy speak. Come here on Sunday mornings and it'll be perfect.

Caroline moves toward him.

Look, Caroline, anyone can see you're a rare beauty, but I've promised Darlene not to, you know.

CAROLINE *(not convincing)* In that case, I kinda understand.

Caroline moves toward the front door.

NICK I'd like you to use the back door from now on.

CAROLINE I'm not good enough for the front door?

NICK No. I don't want my nosey neighbours knowing my business.

CAROLINE Okay. Say the mission is accomplished. Then what?

NICK By then I'll be shipped out.

Caroline moves toward the UC back door. Nick gets her coat.

CAROLINE But if you're not, what the fuff then?

NICK We'll cross that bridge . . .

CAROLINE . . . when we're fuffen under it.

Nick gives Caroline her coat.

Caroline winks, puts on her coat and EXITS out the UC back door.

LIGHTS OUT

(END ACT 1, SCENE 2)

ACT 1, SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP ON:

Time: The next Sunday morning.

Place: The same.

A few instrumental bars of "Sweet Caroline" plays softly.

Nick is on the sofa reading a magazine.

A KNOCK on the back door.

Nick opens the door to gum chewing, flashy dressed Caroline.

Caroline ENTERS and hangs up her coat.

NICK Welcome. How are you this fine morning?

CAROLINE Been better, been worse.

They sit.

NICK So, Caroline, how did your first day on our mission go?

CAROLINE I told him I was bad and he wanted to know what my bad was.

NICK Sins. He classifies them.

CAROLINE Sins?

NICK Right. Sins!

CAROLINE I never stole, stabbed, or shot at anyone.

NICK The three Ss of sin -- stole, stab, shoot. Did you think of any nice sins to tell him?

CAROLINE I had to think fast, so I told him I cheated on my fuffen high school exam.

NICK Did you cheat?

CAROLINE No! It's the best I could come up with. If I had more time I'd done a better job. I'm no fuffen good at makin' stuff up.

NICK You lied in the confessional?

CAROLINE Had to.

NICK It's a sin to do that.

CAROLINE Did I screw up?

NICK You've invented a new sin. Terrific. We've got ammunition for the next visit.

CAROLINE Thanks to you, I'm a fuffen sinner?!

NICK For me it comes natural. You'll get used to it. Did you tell him you hated men because of the way they treated you?

CAROLINE Fuff! Was I supposed to tell him that?

NICK That was the plan. Get his sympathy, then work up to the act.

CAROLINE I forgot, so . . .

NICK What did you say?

CAROLINE I said I loved fuffen men, wanted them all the time.

NICK You'll never get his sympathy with that line. You've got to give him a sob . . .

CAROLINE (*proud*) He liked it.

NICK Forget sympathy.

CAROLINE He was feeling something else.

NICK Really? Precisely, what did you say?

CAROLINE I told him night after night I'd have sex with one man after another, over and over late into the fuffen night and that I liked doing it with them. That's the sin he liked the most.

NICK He did?!!

CAROLINE Yeah.

NICK What happened?

CAROLINE He fuffen asked me to join him.

NICK On the other side?!

CAROLINE Yeah.

NICK And?

CAROLINE Next thing I knew I was fuffen doin' it with him.

NICK You accomplished the mission on the first encounter?!!

CAROLINE I did.

NICK Great!

Nick moves to high five her, but she's caught up telling him of her experience, doesn't see it.

CAROLINE Right in the middle of everything an old lady comes into the other side, you know, the confessional?

NICK Old lady?

CAROLINE Yeah. Well, I'm fuffen on top, doin' Andrew.

NICK Old lady?

CAROLINE Yeah. So I had to hold his mouth so he don't fuffen shout Oh God. It's a common reaction. Sometimes it's yes, yes, yes, but seeing as he's a fuffen priest, I expected it'd be oh God.

NICK What about the fuffen old lady?!

CAROLINE She wants somebody to hear her fuffen confession.

NICK No!

CAROLINE I lowered my voice and said *(deep voice)* Dominus Espiritu Santos. *(normal voice)* It's what he said to me.

NICK You accomplished the mission, held his mouth shut and heard her confession?!

CAROLINE What else could I do?

NICK Multi-tasking.

CAROLINE On top of everything . . . *(deep, gravelly voice)* I had to talk like a fuffen man.

NICK What then?

CAROLINE Her confession was a bunch of bull -- gossiping about her neighbor, impure thoughts about wanting her friend's husband, so I stopped her cold, told her that was regular stuff, not sins at all.

NICK You didn't?

CAROLINE I told her to stop wasting my time. Come back with something more interesting.

NICK My God, Caroline, sins are not supposed to be interesting.

CAROLINE I gave her examples too. Like if someone stiffes a waitress for the tip, or doesn't help a friend when they need it, or, and this is a big one, if a man has sex with a woman and doesn't pay up.

NICK Caroline, you can't . . . Did Andrew like it?

CAROLINE Oh, he fuffen liked it alright, loved it, needed it. I could tell.

NICK What then?

CAROLINE I patted him on his bald head and said mission accomplished. It's what I say when I seduce a man from his wife. Makes the experience meaningful. This was the best though because it was your fuffen priestie brother Andrew.

NICK Go back.

CAROLINE About mission accomplished?

NICK Before that.

CAROLINE I patted him on his head?

NICK His bald head?

CAROLINE Yeah.

NICK Caroline, what have you done?

CAROLINE I seduced your fuffen priest brother. Accomplish our mission.

NICK My brother has a full head of hair!

CAROLINE So?

NICK Wrong priest!!

CAROLINE Fuff! Oh, oh, back to the fuffen drawin' board.

NICK That was too easy.

CAROLINE I signed up to seduce a fuffen priest, and as far as I can tell, I did just that!

NICK The wrong priest! So your, our mission, isn't accomplished at all, is it? It's a fuffen active mission. An unfulfilled one.

CAROLINE You're right. Although, I didn't sign up to hear a confession.

Nick shrugs.

The confession 'll cost extra . . . a hundred.

Nick reaches for his wallet, gives her cash.

Caroline puts on her coat and EXITS out the UC back door.

Nick EXITS into the kitchen.

LIGHTS OUT

(END ACT 1, SCENE 3)

ACT 1, SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP ON:

Time: Next Sunday morning.

Place: The same.

The muted sound of ITALIAN RESTAURANT MUSIC as before.

Andrew ENTERS through the front door, hangs up his coat and goes through the chores of taking care of the plants, fish, Petie and picture throughout the conversation.

Andrew pays special attention to the plant in the antique stand.

Nick ENTERS from the kitchen area with a pad and pen, surprises Andrew.

NICK Aren't you supposed to be at church? I could do the chores.

ANDREW The Folks asked me to take care of them and I have a little time before mass.

NICK Maybe you can help me with a problem.

ANDREW Sure.

NICK I've kinda lost track of church life. What kinds of sins are there? Are there modern sins or do sins stay the same from generation to generation?

ANDREW Sin is a moral deviation from the path to God.

NICK Actually, I'm helping a friend of Darlene's. She's not sure what a sin is.

Nick takes a pad and pen out ready to write.

ANDREW There's going against the Ten Commandments then the Seven Deadly Sins. Mortal sins. They're the worst. Anger, greed . . .

NICK Say, if I was to confess to a deadly sin, how would it go?

ANDREW Well, everyone confesses differently. It's hard for me to . . .

NICK Example.

ANDREW For the sin of anger a person might say he swore in anger, maybe took the Lord's name in vain in anger. That sort of thing.

Nick writes in the pad.

NICK Is the Lord with a capital or small L?

ANDREW It's the name of your savior!

NICK Capital. Any other . . .

The phone RINGS. Nick answers, talks into it.

Dad. *(pause)* Yeah, that's too bad. *(pause)* Hang on.

Nick takes the phone from his ear, holds a hand over the receiver.

(to Andrew) Dad sounds desperate. He wants you.

Andrew nods.

(into phone) Yes, he's here.

Nick hands the phone to Andrew.

ANDREW *(into phone)* I'm fine. *(pause)* That's terrible.

Andrew makes a face.

(into phone) Let me get this straight. Mom's sister, Maria called and told Mom what? *(pause)* A priest told Maria women need to be paid for sex so their men don't go to Hell? *(pause)* We both know that's ridiculous, but you know Mom. *(pause)* I see how that would drive you crazy. *(pause)* She won't talk about it. *(pause)* I understand. *(pause)* You're running out of cash. *(pause)* No. Not on the phone. I'll talk with her once you're back. Hang in there Dad. Goodbye.

Andrew hangs up and moves toward the front door.

What on Earth would make Mom think such a thing?

NICK A hundred-dollar confession.

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

NICK Shouldn't you be getting on to church?

Andrew checks his watch.

ANDREW I'm late.

Andrew puts on his coat and EXITS out the DR front door.

A few instrumental bars of "Sweet Caroline" plays.

A KNOCK on the back door. Nick opens it.

Caroline ENTERS and hangs up her coat. She chews gum, but her flashy attire has been modified slightly, more traditional.

NICK Good morning.

CAROLINE Lovely day ain't it.

They sit.

NICK How did it go?

CAROLINE Slow, but I got the right fuffen priest this time.

NICK How do you know for sure?

CAROLINE I told him my name and asked for his.

NICK That's never done. How could you think to do that?

CAROLINE I'm not doin' another fuffen wrong priest, so I needed to know who du fuff he was!

NICK He said he was Father Andrew, right?

CAROLINE Yeah. How are you doin' on my sin list?

NICK Short. You could confess to the sin of anger, say you swore, took the Lord's name in vain. That'll get a little mileage.

CAROLINE That's it?

NICK For now. I'll have more next time. How did it go with Andy?

CAROLINE I gave him the line, the one you wanted me to, about how men used me and dumped me, and that I'd never trust another man. You know, I don't think he fuffen bought it.

NICK He didn't believe your confession?

CAROLINE I don't know. Then I confessed to some school stuff that happened. Some I thought might be sins.

NICK Anything to make him want you?

CAROLINE I told him about when the school bully picked on me I was ready, so I picked back.

NICK Sounds fair.

CAROLINE Yeah. I got this small ice pick from my dad's toolbox.

NICK That's an awl.

CAROLINE It wasn't all, but enough to take care of the problem.

NICK You didn't kill him?

CAROLINE Just a couple little holes. First, I got him in the shoulder.

Caroline makes a stabbing motion, her fist hits Nick's shoulder.

Nick grabs at his shoulder and turns away, looks for blood. His other shoulder faces her.

Then I got him in the other shoulder.

Caroline's fist hits him in the near shoulder. Nick grabs at the shoulder and jumps back, looks for blood.

NICK How did he like it?

CAROLINE Blubbered like a fuffen baby. I told him it was no worse than two vaccinations and if he wanted another, to keep it up. That shut him up quick.

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

NICK He didn't report you?

CAROLINE He didn't want any more holes.

NICK I see.

CAROLINE I had trouble making friends after that.

NICK Did Andy believe it?

CAROLINE Of course. That was real. You know, I actually feel lighter, free from it.

NICK Is that everything?

CAROLINE When I was seventeen, in high school, I seduced my best friend's boyfriend. I thought she would thank me for showing her he wasn't good enough for her, but, I guess . . . (*shrugs*) It didn't seem wrong then, but thinking about it now, it coulda been a sin since she stopped being my friend.

NICK Did Andy believe it?

CAROLINE He bought the school sins, but the other, it's hard to tell. He didn't get hot like Baldie. He gave me my penance, said he'd pray for my soul, and that was it.

NICK No hot around the collar? Not a flicker of desire?

CAROLINE I might be losing my touch.

Nick paces back and forth.

NICK Andy's a hard nut to crack.

CAROLINE Anger's a fuffen sin?

NICK Yeah, that's news to me, too. It's a biggie. So, if you swear that's the sin of anger. You really can't see anger, but you sure as fuff can hear it.

CAROLINE It's like you can't see air, but when a fuffen hurricane hits, you know it's there.

NICK If you want to confess stuff, stay away from your past. Say you swore a lot. That'll go a long way.

CAROLINE I'll try, but I'm not a big swearer.

(MORE)

Nick gives Caroline a cold stare.

Not an angry swearer. Just an every day one.

NICK To the church, it doesn't matter.

CAROLINE What'll I say I said?

NICK Fuffen-damn-bloody-bastard's a good one.

CAROLINE Is that one or more?

NICK It's one.

CAROLINE It doesn't sound like one.

NICK Actually, it's probably . . . uuuuh . . . more.

Caroline starts toward the back door.

CAROLINE So I tell him I said fuffen-damn-bloody-bastard?

NICK I don't know! Say you swore! If you talk kinda loud he won't ask you to repeat it.

CAROLINE Good idea. Wish me luck.

NICK Double check it's Andy, Father Andrew.

CAROLINE Okie doakie.

Caroline puts on her coat and EXITS out the UC back door.

NICK *(hollers after her)* And no more fuffen freebees.

LIGHTS OUT

(END ACT 1, SCENE 4)

ACT 1, SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP

Time: Next Sunday morning.

Place: The same.

The muted sound of ITALIAN RESTAURANT MUSIC as before.

Andrew ENTERS through the front door and hangs up his coat.

Throughout the next dialogue Andrew takes the watering can and waters the plants, feeds, the fish, feeds and waters Petie and changes his paper.

Nick ENTERS from the kitchen.

- NICK What are you doing?
- ANDREW The plants, fish and Petie know, and you can't figure it out?
- NICK Do it later.
- ANDREW I'm too busy during the week.
- NICK You're going to drop in every Sunday morning before mass and deal with these, these . . . living things?
- ANDREW All but the big one. So, what have you been doing with yourself?
- NICK It occurred to me I should have a church, so I co-founded my own church. If you could become a priest, I should have my own church.
- ANDREW It's a free country.
- NICK You interested in my church?
- ANDREW Tell me about it.
- NICK It's called the Church of the Good Lay. Darlene and I perform services in her bed.
- ANDREW You're staying out of trouble, aren't you? I won't be bailing you out next week, right?

NICK After all we went through growing up, I can see why you might be concerned. We were a few scrapes, but got ourselves out, and laughed over them the next day.

ANDREW All but the one that sent you running into the Navy.

Andrew's hit a nerve with Nick.

NICK Maybe I was running from Darlene.

ANDREW The crazy bar brawl.

NICK He started it.

ANDREW He did.

NICK I probably should have stayed around.

ANDREW That would have been wise.

NICK I thought he was dead. *(pause)* I reacted. When I got your letter saying he lived I felt like a fool for leaving Darlene, everything.

ANDREW He had a heart attack. I gave him CPR until the paramedics got there. He made a full recovery, didn't remember the fight, but by then you were gone.

NICK I was scared. Now I'm trained to stand and fight. I'm through running.

Andrew finishes his chores and sits on the sofa with Nick.

ANDREW Good.

NICK About sins. I was wondering how some dope would confess them.

ANDREW Each confesses in their own way.

NICK Great help you are.

ANDREW I've got to get going. There's a lot of people in need.

Nick checks his watch, jumps up, rushes to the picture. He stands in front of the picture.

NICK The nine-forty.

Andrew jumps up.

The sound of the train rumbles through.

Nick holds the picture of Saint Teresa from tilting. Nick smiles at a frustrated Andrew.

ANDREW You remembered.

NICK I remember important stuff.

Andrew sits on the sofa. Nick joins him.

Is there anything unusual going on?

ANDREW What do you mean?

NICK Have any of your priests decided to pursue a different lifestyle?

ANDREW We're too busy preparing sermons, administering to the sick, the Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, the choir, hearing confessions. It's a long list. Mostly business as usual.

NICK Isn't there a bald priest?

ANDREW Yes, Father Henry. He's on a retreat. We call him BP for short.

NICK British Petroleum?

A look of disbelief from Andrew.

ANDREW Bald Priest.

NICK So, BP's retreating.

ANDREW It's good for strengthening one's resolve.

Nick takes a sports magazine and looks through it.

NICK He wouldn't be thinking about leaving the priesthood?

ANDREW Why would you, founder of the Church of The Best Lay, be interested in that?

NICK Co-founder, and it's the Church of The Good Lay. I'm interested in what makes a good sin.

ANDREW An oxymoron.

Nick throws down the magazine and jumps up.

NICK I'm no moron!

Andrew jumps back.

ANDREW The words good sin used together is an oxymoron because they are contradictory.

NICK Oh. Like dark lightness or fuffen bad goodness?

ANDREW That's it.

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

NICK You and me could be an oxymoron. We've got contradictory churches.

ANDREW I can see how you could interpret it that way.

NICK I'm the oxy.

ANDREW Mom really missed you.

NICK I missed me, too.

ANDREW You were a pain a lot of the time, but the house was quiet after you left.

Nick sits on the sofa.

NICK I kept pretty busy with one girl or another. I remember the faces but not the names.

Andrew joins Nick on the sofa.

ANDREW Dad noticed there was more gas in the car after you left.

NICK Yeah. One lived on the other side of town. What was her name?

ANDREW Jennifer.

NICK Right. Jennifer . . . the one before Darlene.

ANDREW I was your unofficial scorekeeper. *(pause)* The friend of Darlene's you were helping. How did that turn out?

NICK Making progress, but the mission hasn't been accomplished.

ANDREW Helping someone is good for the soul.

NICK But not the checkbook. So, you've been busy saving souls. Any soul stories to tell?

ANDREW It wouldn't be ethical. Just let me say, the Devil wishes I weren't around.

NICK My church functions very well without a Devil.

ANDREW To each their own church.

NICK Or devil. Any female parishioners stand out from the rest?

ANDREW The Catholic Women's League has four new volunteers, and the choir is growing. The parish is a healthy one. How's your church? Any new members?

NICK Two's the right number for our church. It's written in the charter -- one man and one woman per parish. With my church there's no need to die to go to heaven.

ANDREW We have different heavens.

NICK Do you think BP will be back?

ANDREW Of course, more energized than ever. He's more dedicated to the confessional.

NICK He might like the one-on-one, intimate relationship with parishioners, female parishioners.

Andrew's oblivious, finishes the chores.

ANDREW I should be going.

Andrew puts on his coat and EXITS out the DR front door.

NICK If that fuffen BP nails her again, I'm sending him a bill.

Nick flops on the sofa.

A few instrumental bars of "Sweet Caroline" plays softly.

A KNOCK at the back door.

Nick answers the door and Caroline STEPS IN, hangs up her coat.

Caroline is not chewing gum and is conservatively dressed.

Her voice is more adult sounding. The hard look is mostly gone.

CAROLINE Isn't it a glorious morning?

NICK Looks regular to me.

CAROLINE Maybe you're not fully awake.

NICK Interesting thought. Where'd it come from?

Caroline smug shrugs.

Your visit to the confessional?

CAROLINE It did.

NICK Did you . . .

CAROLINE *(interrupting)* No. I've joined the choir and I love it. The songs . . .

NICK Hymns.

CAROLINE Sorry. The hymns are so uplifting. Everyone says I've got a God given singing voice. The people are so friendly, and we all love to . . .

NICK *(interrupting)* The mission! Tell me about the fuffen mission!

CAROLINE I'm getting to that.

NICK My God Caroline, what else matters?

CAROLINE Once I'm baptized, I'm going to join the Catholic Women's League.

NICK Baptized? No baptized. That's not the mission! That's weird stuff! They'll drag you down!

CAROLINE I really fuffen like Andrew.

NICK Do him and be done with him!

CAROLINE It doesn't seem right now.

NICK *(not hearing her)* When's the baptism?

CAROLINE Next Sunday night at the church. Me, another lady and two babies. There's going to be a lot of people there. Darlene's coming. Maybe you'll want to come.

NICK I don't like this.

CAROLINE You're not coming?

NICK I'm trying to save my brother from a life of misery. Going to a baptism will not further that goal, that is, unless you need me to attend.

CAROLINE I do.

NICK Advice. During the baptism don't say "this fuffen water's fuffen cold".

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

CAROLINE I've got complete fuff control. There's a problem.

NICK Would it have to do with me?

CAROLINE If you want us to appear respectable.

NICK I'm quite respectable in my uniform.

CAROLINE My clothes aren't baptism friendly. I was wondering if you wouldn't mind . . .

NICK Two hundred?

Nick gives her money from his wallet.

CAROLINE Thanks.

NICK Is there a seduction at the end of this money train?!!

CAROLINE Definitely.

Caroline EXITS out the DR front door.

NICK *(looks up)* God, please make it so.

LIGHTS OUT

(END OF ACT 1, SCENE 5)

ACT 1 SCENE 6

LIGHTS UP

Time: Next Sunday morning.

Place: The same.

The muted sound of ITALIAN RESTAURANT MUSIC as before.

Andrew waters the plants, Petie and feeds the fish. Nick is on the sofa.

ANDREW You made us a fantastic breakfast. The Navy taught you to cook.

NICK Sunday mornings are special.

ANDREW My parishioners think so.

NICK We got through breakfast without swearing or a food fight. Tell that to your flock.

ANDREW There's nothing to fight about.

NICK Maybe we grew up. Or the picture.

They look toward the picture.

ANDREW She still matters.

NICK Saint Teresa's been with us all our lives.

ANDREW True.

NICK When I was young I thought I'd grow up, meet Saint Teresa and marry her.

They laugh.

ANDREW She helped us over some rough patches.

NICK Remember the sign battle?

ANDREW That was a good one.

NICK A men's dart league and their large sign in the park down the street.

ANDREW Mom wanted the park free from commercials. When she declared war on the dart league we knew it wouldn't be easy.

NICK The picket signs! The entire Catholic Women's League and anyone who could stand, us included, were on that picket line for hours. Remember?

ANDREW Little signs fighting a big sign.

NICK It took me months to clean the red paint from my finger nails.

ANDREW The dart league sign eventually came down.

NICK The only casualties were the park manager's job and our sanity.

ANDREW There's always a price to pay with Mom.

NICK Although, there's an upside.

ANDREW Really?

NICK When I'm in the thick of a fire fight, bullets whizzing around, guess what?

ANDREW What?

NICK I'm not like the others.

ANDREW No?

NICK I'm relaxed.

ANDREW Thanks to Mom?

NICK Yeah. Mom called. She was nagging me to go to your church. I told her I went to a different church.

ANDREW You didn't say you're a Baptist?

NICK I was tempted, but I told her the truth.

ANDREW The Church of The Good Lay?!

NICK Mostly.

ANDREW What's that supposed to mean?

NICK The Church of The Good.

ANDREW Thank God.

NICK Once she was sure I wasn't Baptist, the Church of The Good sounded quite reasonable.

ANDREW Fear of Baptists is a good thing?

NICK She never heard of the Church of The Good, but likes the sound of it.

They laugh.

She wants me to keep going. Wants some good to rub off. She thinks you're a saint. She'll have a photo of you beside Saint Teresa.

ANDREW Down deep I think she'd rather me give her grandchildren.

NICK Yeah.

ANDREW I've heard Darlene's coming to my church next Sunday.

NICK Her friend is getting baptized, so she has to go.

ANDREW Aren't you scared some Catholic good might rub off on Darlene?

NICK Her friend wants someone around she can trust to see to it she doesn't drown in holy water. Consider Darlene and me her life jackets.

ANDREW Darlene's friend will make a very good Catholic. You might enjoy the service.

NICK *(sarcastic)* Right. *(normal)* Will the Folks be back for the baptism?

PETIE Fuffen right! Fuffen right!

ANDREW Of course. It'll be my first baptisms at this parish. They'll take pictures.

NICK It must have happened right after I left.

ANDREW What?

NICK You marching into the cemetery for priest lessons.

ANDREW It's a seminary.

NICK Small difference. Something triggered it, made you run into priesthood.

ANDREW Like you into the Navy?

NICK Exactly. Tell me. I won't tell anyone.

ANDREW One experience showed me the way.

Andrew hesitates.

NICK I'm waiting.

ANDREW A friend broke up with his girlfriend. She knew me, so phoned distraught, wanted me to beg her boyfriend to go back with her.

NICK You've always been a sucker for a sob story.

ANDREW I talked to her, told her she had to accept his right to choose his life's direction.

NICK All's fair in love and war. I get 'em both.

ANDREW We were both vulnerable. The next thing I knew, we were in a full-blown relationship.

NICK Wonderful!

ANDREW It was for a while.

NICK What happened?

ANDREW We had an argument about something silly. The fastest route to the mall.

NICK Really?

ANDREW Her way was shorter. Mine was longer but faster. I tried to explain the parkway would be faster, but she wouldn't listen, made me pull over. She got out of the car and walked home.

NICK Weird?

ANDREW We talked later. I could see it in her eyes. She couldn't tell me, but I knew it wasn't about the fastest route to the mall. It was about the guy she never fell out of love with.

NICK A real jerk.

ANDREW She was my soul mate.

NICK I'm sorry.

ANDREW It's okay. I discovered Jesus. When you love Jesus, He loves you back.

NICK What happened to her?

ANDREW Moved away. Don't know where.

NICK Do I know the jerk?

ANDREW You might.

NICK I knew him?

ANDREW Yes.

NICK Did I know her?

Andrew pauses, uncertain, then . . .

ANDREW Jennifer.

Nick stares at Andrew as the word "Jennifer" sinks in.

NICK *(with feeling)* My Jennifer.

Andrew shrugs as his look softens on Nick.

Nick reacts, hangs his head.

I do know what sin is.

Nick recovers, glances out the back door window, sees something, is alarmed. Nick turns quickly to Andrew.

Look, Andy, it's been fun, but don't you have a mass to conduct in . . .

Nick checks his watch.

. . . twenty minutes?

ANDREW Right. Thanks for the talk.

They hug. Andrew EXITS out the DR front door.

A KNOCK at the back door. Nick races to the back door.

A few instrumental bars of "Sweet Caroline" plays.

Nick opens the door and Caroline ENTERS.

Caroline isn't chewing gum, but in a classy blouse, skirt and a tailored jacket. Her hair is more conservative. She's a classy knockout blonde.

Much of her makeup and hard look are gone.

She takes off her coat and gives it to him and he hangs it up.

NICK Caroline!

CAROLINE Nick!

NICK You've changed.

CAROLINE It's my baptism outfit. You paid for half. Is it churchie enough?

NICK Turn around.

She turns around.

In a sexy sort of way, it's perfect for church.

CAROLINE I want to make a good impression.

NICK For Andrew, right?

CAROLINE For him, the choir, and the Catholic Women's League.

NICK What about the mission?

CAROLINE All this confessing is making me feel better about myself. You never came up with any good sins, stuff I can use to impress him with. I've had to come up with my own stuff.

NICK I've had a lot on my mind lately. Sorry. So, how'd it go?

CAROLINE Well, I started out good. I knew it was Andrew and he was in a good mood and so was I, then there was a knock on his door and the bald priest whispered something I couldn't hear, and Andrew got out and baldie got in.

NICK BP? So, did you do BP again?

CAROLINE Niiick! I confessed to seducing my girlfriend's boyfriend when I was seventeen again. This time it didn't feel that awful. I guess that's because I confessed before, so maybe that's a good thing. Anyway, I knew he wanted it.

NICK How did . . .

CAROLINE (*interrupting*) I just know! I told him I was done confessing. He told me he'd like to give me a tour of the vestry. He wanted a quickie, so I raised my volume a little, like you told me, and said I wasn't ready to have fuffen sex with him in the vestry, that I was ready to leave the fuffen church!

NICK Good.

CAROLINE You should have seen the faces of the people in the church when I left the confessional. An old lady, the one next in line, actually passed out. Someone had to revive her.

NICK You made a good, uhm, strong impression.

CAROLINE Are you looking forward to my big moment?

NICK Once you accomplish the mission, it'll change him, turn him around, make him understand that a man must be a man.

CAROLINE You're so selfish.

NICK Me?

CAROLINE My baptism means nothing to you. It's a big deal in a person's life, and you don't care.

NICK I do. It's just . . .

CAROLINE (*interrupting*) No, you don't! If you cared you'd have a card and a little gift. People get stuff, nice stuff for getting baptized.

NICK Oh, I didn't know. Maybe I . . .

CAROLINE I've got my eye on a crystal cross, something to remind me of the event.

NICK How much?

CAROLINE A hundred.

(MORE)

She puts her hand out. He takes out his wallet, gives her the hundred dollars.

It'll remind me of the baptism and you.

Caroline puts on her coat and EXITS out the UC back door.

NICK'S A fuffen hundred-dollar souvenir of the mission. We're getting close, I can fuffen feel it.

LIGHTS OUT

END OF ACT 1, SCENE 6

ACT 1 SCENE 7

LIGHTS UP

Time: Next Thursday morning.

Place: The same.

Church organ music plays.

The front DOORBELL RINGS.

Nick, looking tired, ENTERS, drags himself from kitchen and answers the front door and

Darlene ENTERS, hangs up her coat.

Music ends.

NICK Hi.

DARLENE Are you okay?

NICK I'm the same as always.

DARLENE We haven't had much quality time lately.

They kiss and hug. They move to the sofa.

You've got rings under your eyes.

NICK I've been stressed over the mission.

DARLENE It's as though you're here, but not here.

NICK There's no sane answer to that other than, I'm here.

DARLENE It's hard to explain.

NICK It's the mission! I'll bounce back once it's accomplished.

DARLENE The stress of the baptism could have had an effect. You entered the church and you still seem sane.

NICK It didn't drag me down like I thought it would. I saw how the ceremony can mellow people.

DARLENE It was lovely. Your parents are in their 60's aren't they?

NICK Sixty-sevenish give or take a century.

DARLENE They look so young, so proper at the baptism. They took more pictures than the parents. It's like it was Andrew's baptism.

NICK They like church life.

DARLENE I watched your mom and dad after the ceremony. They were busy quizzing young, single women on their availability. They're determined to find you a Catholic girl. Did you notice?

NICK I noticed you, and my feet wanting to get me out of there.

DARLENE Everyone was dressed up, looked so fresh and clean, made it a nice ceremony.

NICK Andrew wants me to join his church. I want Caroline to seduce him, give him a taste of normal life, so he can eventually create a chapter of our church with his own wife. You're still a member, aren't you?

DARLENE *(she kisses him)* For as long as we are both alive. There's something I think I should mention. It's probably nothing, but I think I should tell you.

NICK I'm listening.

DARLENE Caroline and I like to shop, so Wednesday evening I was to meet her at her apartment. I arrived early. As I was going into her building, guess who I saw coming out?

NICK Santa Claus?

DARLENE Your dad.

NICK Dad? What would he be . . .

DARLENE *(interrupting)* Do you think?

NICK She could've met him at the baptism.

DARLENE Your parents were talking to a lot of young women.

NICK She could be on a new mission?! Did you ask Caroline?

DARLENE I don't talk about her private life with her.

NICK Oh, my God.

DARLENE She's a compulsive seducer. I warned you.

NICK Did he see you?

DARLENE No. I was across the street, in the parking lot.

NICK Good. How did Dad behave.

DARLENE Like a lookout man on a bank job.

NICK She nailed him. I know it.

LIGHTS OUT, END ACT 1 – END OF SAMPLE