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## THE BURIAL

INT. ST. PAUL'S CHURCH - DUSK

A medium sized pine coffin is wheeled out towards the front of the church.

Pushing it awkwardly slow are THREE MALE VOLUNTEERS trying not to step on each others toes.

No flowers or picture await them at the front. Just an ORGANIST to the far left almost asleep.

They stop just shy of the Altar and make adjustments to the coffin.

The oldest SAUL 70, shakily unfolds a blue silk cloth.

He drapes it over the coffin.

Saul pulls out his handkerchief from his pant's back pocket and wipes his wet forehead.

DAVID 20, takes a seat immediately in the pews nearest the door the priest comes out from. Away from them.

His face is damp.

He is covered with sweat stains all over his long sleeved shirt.

Saul, unexpectedly COUGHS violently and barely manages to steady himself with the coffin, moving it a bit off its podium.

The silk blue cloth falls to the floor.

JAMES 52, picks it up. Drapes it back onto the coffin.

Unsure of what to do next, James bows hurriedly in front of the coffin as an apology.

James takes a seat right beside David. His jeans ,filthy at the knees.

His short sleeved shirt is wrinkled, with two missing buttons near the bottom.

Saul removes his suit jacket with some difficulty.

His blue dress shirt clings to his bony back with a dark wet patch.

With a SIGH, James goes to fetch him.

David takes his phone out. Adjusts the volume and plays his game.

He shakes his head and laughs quietly.

Saul thankful, follows James slowly.

James helps him to sit down on the opposite side of the room.

Nearest to the Bathroom sign door.

INT. CHURCH ENTRANCE/PEWS - DUSK

At the entrance of the church, TWO more VOLUNTEERS unlock the door and MOURNERS enter impatiently. The volunteers hand out pamphlets.

Some of the more religious types, dip their fingers into the holy water dish and cross themselves.

Most just adjust their eyes to the dimness of the room.

As they sit, Mourners reach out for anything to use as a fan. Pamphlets, hats, handkerchiefs etc.

The older Mourners whisper softly to one another and shake their heads all the while fanning furiously.

Others, unabashedly remove clothing pieces enough to get comfortable.

The pews fill up quickly.

Impatiently they wait for the priest.

INT. PRIEST'S CHAMBERS- DUSK

FATHER ELLIOT 48, Obese, shaves his beard in front of a round mirror hanging in his chambers.

Finishes and swipe down the loose hairs using a towel.

Father Elliot picks up a delicate golden crucifix chain off his dresser.

Kisses it and slides it over his head and tucks it into his too tight robe collar squeezing his neck.

He makes a face at the mirror and exits his chambers with a satisfied expression.

EXT. CHURCH /STREET - DUSK

A silver Pontiac Grand Am is parked across the Church.

INT/EXT. PONTIAC GRAND AM - DUSK

Inside sits RAYMOND SILVA 30, smartly dressed smoking a blunt.

A Glock 19 is beside him on the passenger seat partially hidden by a CHINESE take-out bag.

He slowly lets out a white cloud of weed smoke blocking his view of the church momentarily. He sees across the street-

A COUPLE ARGUING

On the front steps of the church. Some MUFFLED words are exchanged.

Raymond lowers his window just in time to hear the woman SLAP him HARD across the cheek and storm off.

THE MAN

Short, around 50 rubs his flaming cheek and turns back towards the church almost amused.

EXT/INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Raymond, gently opens one of the church's double doors and steps in.

He gives himself some time to adjust to the dimness.

The Mourners have their heads bowed.

Father Elliot finishes his eulogy. Closes his bible and steps back.

A few COUGHS and SNIFFLES from the Mourners spread around the room.

Father Elliot sits down. The Mourners raise their heads.

Raymond squeezes in the last back row to his left.

A female Mourner about 80 looks at him hard and wrinkles her nose distastefully.

Raymond straight-out his tie reflexively. He smiles. She GRUNTS. Decides to ignore him.

INT. CHURCH ALTAR - EVENING

Father Elliot walks over to the Organist seated to his far left.

ORGANIST

Father Elliot nudges her awake.

Whispers in her ear.

She nods and begins to PLAY A SOMBER TUNE.

COFFIN

Father Elliot removes the silk cloth and lifts the top half of the coffin.

The pure white satin fabric is visible.

He moves to the side and gestures for the Mourners to pay their last respect.

One by one those who care enough to move, go up.

They do not crowd.

They stand before the coffin, cross themselves and sit back down.

Father Elliot drapes the coffin back.

He is just about to lock the coffin for the last time when he STOPS SUDDENLY.

INT. CHURCH ENTRANCE - EVENING

Behind Raymond the double doors of the church BURST OPEN.

FOUR MEN dress in black suits with guns on their hips march in perfect unison towards the coffin.

RAYMOND

Turns away just in time and avoids been seen.

INT. CHURCH - ALTAR - MOMENTS LATER

Their Leader JAKE STONE 40, Muscular, stops in front of Father Elliot.

A BEAT

Father Elliot steps aside. Knows his place.

The remainder of the Men face the Mourners protecting Jake.

Jake peers in.

FARMER BROWN

About 58 years old is dressed in a brown linen suit with brown shiny loafers on his feet.

Jake looks around at the Mourners with a wide grin and lets go of the coffin lid.

It SLAMS SHUT.

MOURNERS

They JUMP and look at one another unsure of what to do.

Those in the first row of pews directly behind Jake and his Men HUSTLE up unceremoniously and leave.

Jake and company sit down. Hi picks up a bible.

INT. CHURCH ENTRANCE- EVENING

Those who can leave the church. Scramble out.

INT. CHURCH ENTRANCE/PEW - EVENING

Raymond catches the eye of Father Elliot.

FATHER ELLIOT

He nods.

INT. CHURCH FRONT ROW - EVENING

Jake catches the nod from Father Elliot.

He Looks back-

RAYMOND

In the last row stares back. Grins. Tips an invisible hat.

Jake WHISTLES .

His Men Stand up. Hands on their gun hips ready.

JAKE

He sneers and makes a gun shape out of his hand and points it at Raymond.

The 80 year old Mourner surprisingly quick on her feet SLIDES away from Raymond

She pushes an elbow into her frozen neighbor. JOLTING her back to the present.

They leave the church without a backward glance.

The room is CHARGED with energy.

Raymond slowly lets his hand slide to his gun at his back.

JAKE

He stands up and moves towards Raymond.

He does not get far.

HIS BODY BUCKLES FORWARD and slumps to the ground.

A DART stick out of his neck.

ORGANIST

Is holding a tranquilizer gun in both her hands.

She shrugs and sits back down.

THE END