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Characters:
Daniel Corban
Father
Elizabeth

CORBAN

(Still puzzled)

Yes ...

FATHER

(X R to coffee table)

I'm Father Kelleher: I've just been assigned to this parish.
You knew my predecessor, Father Rinaldi?

CORBAN

(Xs to KELLEHER. Shakes his head)

I'm new around here. Frankly, it never occurred to me there
was a Grossinger Diocese.

FATHER

(Smiles)

This is Sullivan County, you know.

CORBAN

(Xs to bar)

True. A harmless nip, Father?

FATHER

Thank you. The evening is a bit chilly. I hope you don't mind
my barging in like this.

(Hat and coat on sofa)

I like to give a little token of our appreciation when we
receive a large donation. I have a medallion for your wife.

(X to Break Table)

CORBAN

My wife gave you a donation?

(Xs DSC to KELLEHER)

FATHER

Indeed she did, the good woman. Last week she dropped by for
a few minutes' chat ... and gave one hundred dollars. Here's
your medallion.

(X to DSL of coffee table)

CORBAN

And here's your drink. I'll be happy to give this to my wife,
Father -- if she returns. You see, the "good woman" has left
my bed and board.

FATHER

Oh. How unfortunate.

CORBAN

Well, anyway --

(Raises glass)

To the charitable Mrs. Corban!

FATHER

(Following suit)

CORBAN

And may God keep her. I sure haven't been able to.

FATHER

(Xs to Break Table. Drinks)

You seem distressed, my son. Perhaps if you unburden yourself.

CORBAN

Please, Father, no sermons.

(Xs USL of coffee table)

FATHER

Sermons? No, no, no.

(On bench SR of Break Table)

(A beat)

Mr. Corban ... do you still love your wife?

CORBAN

(X USR of coffee table)

Father, just a month ago, the only important things to me were my score on the golf course, my tailor, cocktail parties ... Liz changed all that. She was warm and loving.

FATHER

Saintly qualities.

CORBAN

Who'd think that in the mad, mad world of Harbor Springs, I'd find a girl so introspective, so inward.

FATHER

Inward beauty is the light of God.

CORBAN

St. Tomas Aquinas?

FATHER

You may be right. Do go on --

CORBAN

Two weeks later we were back in Detroit. Father, we were in such a rush. We got married first thing in the morning--

(X SL of coffee table)

right in the office -- My boss and his secretary were witnesses. Liz and I were so anxious to be alone together, Liz must have averaged 90 miles an hour driving here ...

FATHER

Uh-huh -- Go on.

CORBAN

Well ... here we were, Father -- nothing but mountain peaks for miles around. It was perfection.

FATHER

Why did she leave?

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CORBAN

(On stool L of coffee table)
When I said that Elizabeth was inward, Father, I meant she was restrained in public. But here -- one minute gentle as a sylvan brook -- the next, a thundering tidal wave.

FATHER

You put it so picturesquely.

CORBAN

I'm in advertising, Father. Anyway, three nights ago, we had a little squabble. This time I couldn't stop the tidal wave. She stormed out of here, drove off, and I haven't heard from her since.

FATHER

(X DSR of coffee table then up to door)
Mr. Corban ... would you be willing to take your wife back -- without reproaches, without questions -- with nothing but words of love?

CORBAN

Of course.
(Points to the sign in the moosehead)

FATHER

(Xs to door, opens it)
Then you richly deserve good news.
(FATHER goes to front door; beckons)

(CORBAN rises -- puzzled, curious)

(CORBAN stands facing the door. It opens and ELIZABETH stands in the doorway, holding a small overnight bag. SHE is a knockout -- fresh, outdoorsey, and yet, sultry. THEY stare at one another)

ELIZABETH

Danny -- please -- before you say a word -- let me talk. I know I was foolish -- and there's no way I can possibly apologize for my behavior, but if you'll only trust me -- again ... I'll make it work for us -- I know I will.

(CORBAN continues to stare at her, expressionless. SHE notices the sign in the Moosehead. SHE melts; races to CORBAN and embraces him)

Oh, darling -- darling!

(KELLEHER closes door)

(SHE kisses him lightly ... then:)

ELIZABETH (Continued)

Thank you so much, Father. Darling, I'll be right back.

(SHE rushes into the bedroom.
Dresses waiting takes coat and bag)

FATHER

I'm so happy for you both.

CORBAN

Father ...
(Xs USL of coffee table)

FATHER

No need to say anything. It was only my duty.
(Xs DSL of Bar)

CORBAN

Father ... That woman is not my wife.

FATHER

What?
(FATHER looks at him, shocked)

CORBAN

She's not Elizabeth. I have never seen her before in my life.

FATHER

(Xs to CORBAN)
Really, Mr. Corban, you promised there would be no questions --
no reproaches. Well, my task is accomplished.
(HE starts to go)

CORBAN

Father, I don't know that woman!

FATHER

She certainly talks and acts like your wife.

CORBAN

A man should know the woman he married -- especially on his
honeymoon.

FATHER

But you've been under such a strain, Mr. Corban. Perhaps the
sudden shock of seeing her again --

CORBAN

(Xs DSL of sofa)
I'll say it's a shock! Father, that isn't the woman who gave
you the donation last week, is it?
(Xs L to FATHER)

FATHER

Why, yes.