

CONFESSIONAL COASTER  
by Cali Grzybowski  
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CAST

Abby - teenager, in youth group  
Father Ted - 30s, field trip leader  
ANNOUNCER - Six Flags Worker

(FATHER TED addresses the field trip group  
at SIX FLAGS. Abby is among the group.)

FATHER TED

Alright everyone, I hope you're enjoying this year's field trip so far! I really am proud that the parish was able to raise enough money to get the whole youth group out here to Six Flags. Now, pair up! This ride is a partner ride, and there should be enough people for every row.

ABBY

Father Ted, could I ride with you on this one? I really need to talk to you about something.

FATHER TED

Oh, um... I'm not much of a roller coaster goer, Abby. Why don't you just talk to me after the ride?

ABBY

Please, Father Ted? It's important.

FATHER TED

Well... I - I suppose so.

(The seat belts lock down from above over  
their heads. They put their hands on the handles  
in front of them.)

FATHER TED

Oh, wow. That's intense, ha. Okay, Abby, what is it you need to talk about?

(The ride starts.)

ABBY

Well, I think I'm confused.

FATHER TED

Confused about whaaaaaa - Wait a minute. *I'm confused*. I thought this was just a fast ride. Why are we going up? This isn't an UP ride right? I thought this was a STRAIGHT ride not an UP ride.

(Panic sets in Father Ted.)

ABBY

Father Ted, I really need to say this. This ride isn't straight and neither am -

(The ride accelerates upward.)

FATHER TED

Oh God, Oh Sweet God! Can we pump the brakes! I THINK I'M DYING! I CAN'T BREATHE! Mother Mary and Joseph!

ABBY

I know that this is an uncomfy conversation, and the church says a lot of things about being ga-

(The ride dips. Abby keeps talking, but all that can be heard is Father Ted's screams.)

FATHER

FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT IS HOLY STOP! PLEASE GOD STOP! WHY THE HELL WOULD PEOPLE DO THIS?!

ABBY

Father, are you okay?

FATHER

This needs to stop, now! I can't take it!

ABBY

I know that you think it's a choice, but-

FATHER

Abby, I'm gonna I'm about to hurl -

(Father Ted starts gagging, getting more and more exaggerated.)

ABBY

Father Ted, I didn't think you'd be this closed off. You're young, you're progressive -

(the ride plummets downward in its peak moment of speed.)

FATHER TED

AHHHHHHHH! ABBY BE SO FORREAL WITH ME RIGHT NOW! JESUS H! I know you're gay! Your parents know you're gay! THE WHOLE TOWN KNOWS YOU'RE GAY!

ABBY

What?!

FATHER TED

GOD ALMIGHTY, YOU THINK THE CARABINER AND THE SHAGGED MULLET WERE FOOLING ANYONE? WE DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS! EVERYONE WAS JUST WAITING FOR YOUUUU TO SAY IT!

ABBY

But Father Ted, my parents can't know. They've never talked to me about -

FATHER TED

Abby, your top Spotify artist of the year was Boy Genius, AND your "Spotify Sound Town" put you in *Burlington, Vermont*?? They're not idiots! Girl, I was about to call you in for a wellness check when I saw your most streamed song was "Liability" by Lorde.

ABBY

Everybody knows?

FATHER TED

We were all there for the battle of the bands. "Casual" by Chappell Roan? Even your grandma knew, and she's hard of hearing!

(The ride slows, and comes to a halt.)

ABBY

Oh. I guess I didn't realize it was that obvious.

FATHER TED

Look, Abby, I am so sorry for lashing out at you. Like I said.. not a roller coaster person. But the important thing is that you feel comfortable being honest, and that your community loves you.

ANNOUNCER

Hey everybody, we're experiencing a medical emergency right outside the ride. So while we wait for the ambulance, we're gonna let you ride again without waiting in line!

FATHER TED

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING MEEEEEE!

(blackout.)