

HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN

(including the final 15)

Written by

Kerry Douglas Dye

Segment in "The Impact"

ACT III

(the end is nigh)

INT. RECTORY HALLWAY

VINCENT, a hardened middle-aged tough guy, stands outside a wooden chamber door. He's desperate. Rattles the knob.

VINCENT

Father, c'mon. I need three fu--...
Three goddamn minutes.

Silence from the other side of the door.

Vincent swears to himself. He takes a step back, lifts his foot and kicks the door. A slight give. He goes again--

INT. RECTORY BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door breaks open and Vincent enters to find the PRIEST sitting indignantly on the bed. His collar is loosened, a bottle of vodka and glass of orange soda on his night table.

PRIEST

I have nothing for you.

Vincent lifts a pistol and points it.

VINCENT

Forgive me, Father. But I really
gotta get absolution here.

The Priest glares at him. Then:

PRIEST

So get on with it. Kneel.

Vincent quickly kneels and makes the sign of the cross.

VINCENT

Bless me father, for I have sinned.
It's been like eleven years since
my last confession.

PRIEST

What do you wish to confess?

VINCENT

Okay. Well, I pointed a gun at a
priest. Probably oughta get that
outta the way up front. Then, you
know, I stole stuff, fornicated,
regular stuff. But, point is, I
killed three guys. I mean, one guy,
he was a real scumbag... I'm not
sayin' that makes it okay, I'm just
sayin', like, for the record.

(MORE)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

But the other two guys, they were good guys. And I feel bad about it. I repent, Father. Before you and God, I'm really really sorry.

PRIEST

(perfunctory)

I believe that you're penitent. Say fifty Hail Marys, and may God grant you pardon and peace. I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Okay?

Vincent looks up.

VINCENT

So I'm good?

PRIEST

Now, please. It's my last hour too.

Vincent rises, a huge weight off.

VINCENT

Enjoy your orange drink, Father.

He heads to the door and grasps the knob.... From this angle, he can see into the closet, which is open a crack. Inside stands a BOY, 10 years old, in white underwear and nothing else. Shivering, eyes streaked with tears.

Vincent stands at the door for a long moment. Finally, he turns back to the Priest, his eyes burning with rage.

The Priest wilts under Vincent's glare. When he speaks, his voice is weak with embarrassment and self-loathing.

PRIEST

I'm sorry.

VINCENT

Fuck you.

Vincent lifts the gun. Points it at the Priest's head.

The Priest gazes up at the barrel. No fear. Resignation.

PRIEST

God forgives you.

Vincent pulls the trigger.

CUT TO:

Note to filmmakers: in a perfect world, this next scene would be shot in the cathedral proper, with stained glass and a towering crucifix, Vincent and the boy sitting in the pews.

But assuming that's not possible, it works fine in that same rectory bedroom. Just be sure to throw a sheet over the corpse!

INT. CHURCH

Vincent and the boy sit side by side, the boy wrapped in Vincent's oversized suit jacket.

The boy happily drinks from the glass of orange soda. Vincent takes a pull from the vodka, his face grave.

Slight tremors in the walls. The boy, not yet noticing, takes another drink from his glass. Behind him, Vincent's hand lifts the gun toward the back of the boy's head.

The windows are rattling now, the intensity of the tremors increasing...