

FORGIVE ME

Written by

Ben Marshall

For Create50 - the Impact

Act III

INT: COUNTRY KITCHEN - DAY

RUTH (50s) buttons up her dress. Flushed. Satisfied. Sat on the table. She hops down, gazing at TOM (40s). He buckles his trousers. They share a glinted smile. Her's drops suddenly.

RUTH
Will be any moment now.

Tom offers Ruth her silk scarf off the floor. Loving eyes.

TOM
Don't think about it.

Tom can't resist. He presses Ruth against the backdoor. Pulls her hair free. She caresses his jaw. They kiss passionately.

Ruth feels for the window blind. Knocks hanging photos. She spies out through a gap and pushes Tom back, alarmed. They glare at the door.

RUTH
This is it! God knows I love you.

The door handle jolts. Ruth and Tom's fingers slip apart. A key jostles the lock. The door opens, revealing JOHN (50s). A VICAR, in regalia -robe and collar.

John kisses Ruth, routinely. Obligated, she hugs back. He strokes her cheek. Pink blush against his pale skin.

JOHN
Sorry, I left as soon as I could.

RUTH
Other people need you John. I know.

TOM
I didn't want to miss you.

Ruth re-ties her hair into a bun. Tom and John shake hands, rigidly. John notices Tom's un-tucked shirt. He spots CLOSE IN: John and Ruth's wedding picture on the wall, crooked.

INT. COUNTRY KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Ruth opens the door, showing Tom out. John adjusts a picture CLOSE IN: a young robed John beside proud parents. Next to handsome Tom who stands slightly away.

TOM
Give my love to Mum and Dad. You've earned your place to be with them.

RUTH

No-one is guaranteed a place Tom.
Not even your brother.

Tom's hand lingers on Ruth's shoulder as he passes. Obvious, even to John's peripheral vision.

JOHN

Can anyone guess what delayed me?

Tom stops. Ruth huffs at John's smug expression.

JOHN

I don't normally hear confessions.
Church was full of them today.

Palpable awkward silence . Tom exits.

EXT. BACK EXIT (FROM JOHN'S POV) - MOMENTS LATER

Tom walks away. Weeps into Ruth's scarf. Drinks it's scent.

JOHN (O.S.)

Try to guess Ruth. What's the most
popular confession I heard today?

INT. COUNTRY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

John watches Tom through the blind. He turns to Ruth for a response. She gives nothing, controlled. He moves close.

JOHN

Give up?... It's Thomas. Many
regrets bear his name and deed.

Ruth's mask slips into confusion. Vulnerable.

RUTH

Your Tom?

JOHN

That's right. Seems Thomas has been
lifting hearts and skirts in the
parish for years. He has a thirst
for the older... sad...self-pitying
type. Makes you wonder doesn't it.

John walks away leaving Ruth. To SOB. He looks skyward.

JOHN

(whispers)
Forgive me.