

Selfish Flowers

By

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From the dark stage we hear:

MARIE AND JOEY

... Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 As we forgive them that trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 The power, and the glory,
 For ever and ever.
 Amen.

Lights up to reveal Joey and Marie kneeling in their small home. There is a table, 2 chairs, and a pedestal (cubes) on which a totem is standing/leaning. On the table there is a large bone, dirty and raw.

Joey and Marie stand up. Marie goes to clear the bone off the table.

JOEY

Don't! I'm working on that.

MARIE

Can we at least get it off the dinner table? We are expecting company.

JOEY

It's research.

MARIE

It's gross.

JOEY

Marie, Magdalena is coming to help us understand these people and this village so we can save them. Once she and her people conform and convert to the ways of our church, she--

MARIE

Can I at least--

JOEY

She'll forgive us for a messy table when she accepts salvation.

MARIE

But--

JOEY

"Wives submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the lord."

Marie steps away from the bone and sits down. She is defeated but obedient. She never breaks eye contact.

Magdalena enters with watering can in hand, breaking the tension.

MAGDALENA

Padré Jacobson?

JOEY

Magdalena! Yes, please come in. And please call me Joey. Make yourself at, uh... Casa.

MAGDALENA

Thank you.

JOEY

This is my wife Marie.

MAGDALENA

Nice to see you again.

Joey looks at Marie who is slightly ashamed.

MARIE

I was in her garden earlier, gathering flowers, I didn't know they belonged to anyone.

MAGDALENA

Not to worry. Flowers cannot belong to anyone. They are a gift from the earth.

MARIE

They are very beautiful by the way.

MAGDALENA

Thank you, but they are useless.

JOEY

What do you mean?

MAGDALENA

Flowers do not serve a function or give back to the earth. They consume vital nutrients and use them to create a pretty plant that does not yield fruit. They hide behind their appearance to spread their selfish ways to new areas.

MARIE

Those sound like weeds, not flowers.

MAGDALENA

What one believes to be a weed another believes is a flower.

JOEY

Then one of the believers is wrong. Besides, bees use flowers to create honey. That's like a fruit.

MAGDALENA

Yes, bees misuse the flowers for their own needs. Bees take from the unwilling flower to make honey, just like humans take from the flowers to make money. The goal of the flower is to help other flowers so they can fill the world with flowers. Nothing else.

MARIE

That doesn't sound so bad.

MAGDALENA

Until the flowers take from you.

JOEY

Well, humans don't bear fruit either so I'll forgive the flower for its selfish sins.

Joey chuckles to himself.

JOEY

Magdalena, please have a seat.

Magdalena does not sit, but instead walks around the table to the totem.

JOEY

Marie, Magdalena is the village doctor, she was born here, left for school then came back, right?

MAGDALENA

Yes, I have come back to help save my people.

JOEY

That's exactly what we're doing here too. Save your people. In our own way. But we need your help to help them.

MAGDALENA

Where did you get this?

JOEY

I found it on the outskirts of--

MAGDALENA

These hold the spirits of our fallen warriors, they are meant to protect the village from evil.

MARIE

It's kinda cute.

MAGDALENA

It is a totem and it should be respected.

MARIE

What silly superstitions! A statue cannot fend off evil.

JOEY

The lord shall deliver us from evil. The bible tell us to "flee from idolatry" and this is the knowledge we wish to impart upon your village. They trust you and look to you for wisdom and guidance. Together we can show them the errors of their ways.

MAGDALENA

You wish to sow the seeds of salvation in my village.

JOEY

Exactly.

MAGDALENA

I see. Your wife is growing one of your seeds too.

JOEY

...What do you mean?

MAGDALENA

Your wife, she is about 12 weeks along, correct?

JOEY

We can't have children. Since becoming a man of the cloth 5 years ago I have taken a vow of celibacy.

MAGDALENA

I am not mistaken. Her breasts, her complexion. Are you experiencing other symptoms?

Marie does not answer.

JOEY

Marie?

Silence.

JOEY

MARIE! Are you pregnant?!

MARIE

(With tears in her eyes)

Joey...

JOEY

(Spitting venomously in Marie's face)

"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous!!"

MARIE

(Crying)

I'm so sorry.

JOEY

Your apology means nothing to me.

MARIE

Please forgive me.

Joey walks away from Marie then stops.

JOEY

Don't ask me for forgiveness. Ask Him.

Marie slowly kneels, closes her eyes and begins to pray. She can barely speak through her tears while she slowly recites the prayer.

MARIE

Heavenly father...please forgive me... for I have sinned.

As Marie prays, Joey crosses to the table and grabs the bone. Joey then approaches Marie from behind. Quickly he wraps the bone around her neck and begins to choke her. Marie struggles and Joey begins to pray.

JOEY

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for I have sinned.

Magdalena now appears from behind and bludgeons Joey on the back of the head with the watering can. Joey drops the bone and falls to the floor. Marie crosses away while Magdalena grabs the bone from the floor and watches Joey as he

writhes in pain on the floor. Marie slowly reaches for the totem and then approaches Joey. She straddles Joey, sitting on his chest. She readies the totem and begins to push it against his neck. She pushes harder and harder as she speaks.

Marie... JOEY

Heavenly Father... MARIE

Don't... JOEY

Please forgive me... MARIE

"Thou shall not kill!" JOEY

For I have sinned! MARIE

Marie pushed with all her might, Joey then goes limp. Marie removes herself from Joey's body, breathing heavily. Magdalena and Marie look at each other. Magdalena walks over to Marie and puts her arm around her.

You should go. MAGDALENA

What about... MARIE

She looks at the body.

MAGDALENA
I can find a place for him in my garden. The flowers will take care of him.

Black out.

End of Play.