

Original Play

“3 Hail Mary’s”

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An Original Play

FADE IN:

INT - ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH - JUST AFTER SATURDAY NIGHT MASS
CUSTODIAN JESUS MARTINEZ IS CLEANING THE CHURCH AFTER SATURDAY
NIGHT MASS - FRANKIE MARTIN, LOCAL RESIDENT, WALKS IN TO THE
CHURCH LOOKING FOR THE PRIEST, FATHER SHAMBLES.

[ACTION]

IN A DIMLY LIT CHURCH THE CUSTODIAN STARTS HIS POST-SERVICE
CLEANUP RITUAL. RESTING HIS MOP AGAINST A PEW HE ENTERS THE
PRIEST'S SIDE OF THE CONFESSIONAL AND STARTS TO DUST THE
INTERIOR AS THE DOOR SHUTS BEHIND HIM.

FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH A YOUNG MAN ENTERS, CLEARLY
DISTRAUGHT, AND WALKS TOWARD THE ALTAR. AS HE PASSES THE
CONFESSIONAL, HE HEARS SOUNDS EMANATING FROM THE INSIDE AND
ASSUMES THE PRIEST IS IN THERE SO HE ENTERS AND KNEELS.

JESUS MARTINEZ

How can one priest be so messy in
just one afternoon of confessions
OH MY GOD!!!

FRNKIE MARTIN

(screams) Jesus I need help

JESUS MARTINEZ

(startled he mumbles) Ah it's
pronounced "Hey Soose"

(loudly) WHAT NOW?

UPON HEARING THE VOICE FROM OTHER SIDE OF
THE COFESSIONAL FRANKIE SPEAKS

FRANKIE MARTIN

Oh, you're here father thank God!
bless me father for I have sinned...

JESUS MARTINEZ

Whoa wait I..I..I'm not...

FRANKIE MARTIN

PLEASE father I know it's not your regular confession hours, but I need to get something off my chest I can't keep it in anymore...

JESUS MARTINEZ

(mumbles to himself loudly) Oh my God he thinks I'm Father Shambles

FRANKIE MARTIN

YES, father that's it, wow you're good, my life IS in shambles.

JESUS MARTINEZ

No no no...Oh My God, son this can't go on...

FRANKIE MARTIN

Oh of course, I'm sorry father, I'll go on...you see it's what I've done or maybe what I'm about to do...

FINALLY GIVING IN TO THE SITUATION, JESUS DECIDES JUST TO RELAX AND LISTEN AND TRY TO GET FRANKIE ON HIS WAY

JESUS MARTINEZ

About to do? I don't think confession works that way. You kinda have to commit a sin to confess one.

FRANKIE MARTIN

Yeah, I get it father sorry, but you see by the time I confess this I may have already committed the sin. Okay look it's like this. Maggie, that's my wife, well she and I have been married for 2 years. At first everything was well you know incredible...the sex was (long pause)

JESUS MARTINEZ

(grinning almost salivating)
WAS...was what? I mean please go
on...

FRANKIE MARTIN

Seriously? (looking confused) Well
she could arch her back in such a
way...but father that's not
important. After about a year it
all started to change. She stopped
everything.

JESUS MARTINEZ

(horrified) EVERYTHING?

FRANKIE MARTIN

She stopped working outside the
home. She stopped cooking, laundry
and she spent hours going to
movies and shopping God knows
where. Hell, I'd come home after
working 2 jobs AND THE HOUSE WAS A
FUCKING MESS! WHAT WAS I TO DO?

JESUS MARTINEZ

(mumbling) I'd dump the bitch!

FRANKIE MARTIN

Yeah father, exactly, she also
lost the ITCH. She barely looked
at me let alone have sex. We went
from 3 or 4 times a day to
NOTHING!

JESUS MARTINEZ

3 or 4 times? Jesus, Mary and
Joseph son what the HELL did you
do?

FRANKIE MARTIN

Pardon? I mean I don't know father
I've been trying to figure it out.
I've tried everything to change
who I am and what I've done. The
only thing I can think of is she's
replaced me with the cat...

JESUS MARTINEZ

You lost me there, son...

FRANKIE MARTIN

Well, a few months ago Maggie got
this cat. She said it was a gift
from a friend and she spends every
waking moment holding it and
petting it. In fact, and this is
strange, she won't let me near the
cat but one day, when she was in
the bathroom, I picked it up and
it actually smelled like Old
Spice. Isn't that weird? Anyway,
I'm convinced this cat is the root
of our problem.

JESUS MARTINEZ

Damn son you really don't
understand confession. Let's get
back to what you are confessing
and get this over with.

FRANKIE MARTIN

I'm sorry father, well you see I
thought if I got rid of the cat
Maggie might go back to the way we
were so...so...I poisoned her...

JESUS MARTINEZ

Okay I'm in over my head here wait
a minute, wait a minute YOU
POISONED YOUR WIFE JESUS!

FRANKIE MARTIN

OH GOD NO NO NO, I poisoned the cat.

JESUS MARTINEZ

Son of a bitch...damn...you scared the shit out of me, son!

FRANKIE MARTIN

WHAT?

JESUS MARTINEZ

Ouch, yeah, I mean oh son that's terrible but it's only a cat..

FRANKIE MARTIN

Really father? I thought all God's creatures were precious.

JESUS MARTINEZ

Yeah well, I guess, but I wouldn't beat myself up over one cat I mean hell they're everywhere. By the way how did you do it?

FRANKIE MARTIN

Well, this is the other part I feel guilty about. At the house we keep a bowl on M&M's on the counter mostly just for company Maggie hates M&M's. Several nights when I came home that stupid cat was on the counter licking the M&M's in the bowl. Of course, I blew up at the damn thing and Maggie got mad, but she didn't put a stop to it.

JESUS MARTINEZ

Son, can we cut to the chase? I'd like to get home to the family sooner rather than later.

FRANKIE MARTIN

The family?

JESUS MARTINEZ

Oh, ah the guys I mean the other fathers. Just go on...

FRANKIE MARTIN

Okay okay...as I said this got me thinking that if I got rid of the cat things might get back to normal, so I devised this plan. I picked up some poison at the hardware store and I coated the M&M's with it. I knew Maggie wouldn't touch them cause she hates them but I knew the stupid cat would. It was perfect! I could simply wait till the cat died then just throw the rest of the candy away and no one would be the wiser. So... just a few hours ago I laced the M&M's, left the house, and told Maggie I was coming here.

JESUS MARTINEZ

Wait, so you really aren't sure if the cat is dead yet right? So just go home and if nothing has happened no harm no foul and if the worst has happened just use it as a reason to cuddle and console her. Shared grief is a natural aphrodisiac. Besides, it's a CAT! The loss of one cat to save a marriage I think God can forgive. Most importantly though, regardless of what happens, don't ever, EVER mention this again to anyone and forget the whole thing. Got it?

FRANKIE MARTIN

Oh, father you've lifted a weight, thanks. But listen shouldn't you give me a penance and offer me absolution. I really think I would feel better if you did.

JESUS MARTINEZ

(mumbles) Yeah ah alright I can do this I've heard it a hundred times. (in a very holy manor) Okay so I want you to say 3 Hail Mary's and don't do this again. Wait there's something else, I forgive you and God probably does too...

FRANKIE MARTIN

I'm going straight home and fix this father, I promise...THANK YOU! You're really good at this...

**FARNKIE RUNS OFF STAGE AND JESUS EMERGES FROM THE CONFESSIONAL.
OFFICER JONES ENTERS THE OPPISITE SIDE OF THE STAGE.**

OFFICER JONES

Jesus, did a young man come into the church this evening? His wife thought he was on his way here.

JESUS MARTINEZ

Officer Jones! Maybe, why do you want him?

OFFICER JONES

Look, Jesus, this is no time to be nosy I just need to find him and bring him down to the station. (pausing) Oh what the heck it will be in the paper in the morning anyway, his wife has been arrested for murder.

JESUS MARTINEZ

MURDER? Who did she kill?

OFFICER JONES

Listen I shouldn't tell you this, Jesus, but looks like she was having an affair and sometime during the evening she and the boyfriend had a fight and she poisoned him. She said her husband was totally unaware of the affair which rules him out as a suspect, but I still feel bad for him. Poor guy. You know the only upside to this is? It's almost poetic justice, for him, right?

JESUS MARTINEZ

You have no idea...

THE END