

**REV. SERIES 2**

EPISODE 6

by

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JUNE 2011

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1

**INT. CHURCH: ORGAN. DAY 1 (1008) - DAY**

1

ADAM is at the impressive organ keyboard. He begins to play.

A couple of the main keys let out duff or flat noises. Several keys don't work at all. Musical phrases fail to resolve - or end with a disappointing plonk.

ADAM frowns at the poor, unloved thing. He hears a shout from below. Behind him in the church...

NIGEL

Adam! Adam? Is that you?

ADAM comes to the balcony edge, looks down. NIGEL waves a letter/document up at him, excitedly.

NIGEL

Great news. The dates for my Ordination Training interviews.

NIGEL grinning. As far as he's concerned he's already in - he's a slam dunk as a vicar.

2

**INT. CHURCH: ORGAN. DAY 1 (1009) - DAY**

2

NIGEL has joined ADAM. Talking eagerly about his application, while ADAM tries another tune on the broken keyboard.

ADAM

I wish this was a more musical church. I want something inspiring for the Dedication Festival at the end of the year. Something glorious. Transcendent. As we worship, so we live. Here we've got no choir, a broken organ, and a CD player from a car boot sale.

NIGEL

I imagine I'll have a large choir in my church. We must stay in touch when we're both vicars.

ADAM

I didn't know you'd put yourself up for ordination training.

NIGEL

(of course noise)  
Mn. Nearly a year ago. Your predecessor was always very encouraging.

NIGEL (cont'd)

Always saying things like "you really should go and get your own parish." He'd have written me a glowing reference. As I'm sure you will.

ADAM

Yes.

NIGEL

I've got the Director of Ordinands interview first, which I'm rather looking forward to. Who is the new DDO?

ADAM

Not been appointed yet.

NIGEL

I can't decide whether I'd prefer a nice rural Cotswold parish, or a church on Piccadilly or in Knightsbridge.

ADAM goes back to playing a moment. Then turns in his seat and gives NIGEL a level look, engaging properly with the issue for the first time.

ADAM

Nigel, are you sure you want to be a priest?

NIGEL

One of the things I realised on that Towards Ordained Ministry Course - was how much better I'd be than all the other people there.

ADAM

How do you know you're being called by God?

NIGEL

I sometimes hear Him in the night, like in the 1st Book of Samuel. Only instead of going "Eli, Eli," he goes "Nigel, Nigel".

ADAM

Yes, I'd be careful about saying that.

NIGEL

(tiny twitch of panic)  
I shouldn't say that?

ADAM

The Bishops' Panel will be very wary of anyone who's got certainty about being called to God. It's frowned on to chase preferment. It's right to be doubtful.

NIGEL

Quite right, good point. Be doubtful.

NIGEL makes a note of 'Be Doubtful' in a pad. ADAM irritated -

ADAM

Don't write that down.

NIGEL

Don't you ever feel like some advancement Adam? Getting a nice cathedral job? Becoming a little Bishop? Or a big canon?

ADAM

I'm not really interested in any of that. I joined the Church to be a parish priest. In a place like this.

(bangs a broken organ key)  
I think that's why I got ordained.

NIGEL

Oh I see how to do the humble, doubtful thing. You're very good at it.

ADAM

No that is what I think.

NIGEL

Superb. It's very convincing.

ADAM

It's the truth. I've got no interest in becoming a Dean or a Bishop.

NIGEL

Brilliant. You'll be Archbishop at this rate.

3

**INT. VICARAGE: HALLWAY. DAY 1 (1627) - DAY**

3

ADAM enters through the front door as ALEX comes downstairs with a packed rucksack.

ADAM

Nigel wants to get ordained, would you believe it. I'll have to fill out one of those endless reference forms for him.

ALEX dumps rucksack goes to get her coat.

ALEX

(perfunctory)

Do you? Oh dear.

ADAM's phone beeps with a message. He reaches for it...

ADAM

You're home very early. Where you going?

ALEX

Shropshire.

He doesn't listen because he's reading his phone, and looking at his watch and thinking about his evening.

ADAM

(re text)

I've got that 'Facing the Future' seminar. Few drinks afterwards with Bishop Peter. Where are you going?

ALEX

I'm going away for the weekend.

ADAM

Are you?

(ALEX face says yes)

Oh no, sorry I've done it again. I keep doing this don't I?

ALEX

What?

ADAM

You tell me things and I don't take them in. I don't listen. I had no idea you were away this weekend.

ALEX

I didn't tell you this.

ADAM

Oh, it isn't something I didn't listen to?

ALEX

I've only just decided to go.

Beat. ADAM senses things are wrong. Asks properly...

ADAM  
Where are you going?

ALEX  
I just told you.

ADAM  
Yes, you said Shsss.... Pfff...

ALEX  
Shropshire. With Lisa and Sue and  
Maria and Howard. They're doing a  
walking weekend. Climbing Rodney's  
Pillar. I said I'd join them.

She moves briskly, with a smile, to the front door. Opens it.

ADAM  
When are you back?

She stops in the doorway and looks at him seriously.

ALEX  
I don't know Adam. I don't know.

ADAM  
Alex...? What's the matter?

ALEX  
I just want to reassess life for a  
moment.

This doorstep moment suddenly becomes the biggest crisis of  
their quiet lives. ADAM's face is going - why?

ALEX  
I haven't seen you one night this  
week. If you've got no time for me,  
how will you have time for a  
family?

For a moment he's got no answer to that.

ALEX  
You said you'd give up smoking and  
drinking.

ADAM  
I have.

She goes to his coat, pulls out a pack of 10 fags.

ALEX  
What's this then?

A car pulls up at the end of the drive - and honks.

ALEX

That's Howard. I'd better go.

ADAM

Alex...

ALEX

I think you think God will just provide us with a child if we're lucky. *If we deserve it.* I'm afraid that's not good enough for me. Do you want a child with me?

ADAM

Yes. Of course I do.

ALEX

Really? Why don't you think about it? While I think about whether I really want one with you.

And she walks away - in some distress - up the drive towards Howard's car. Leaving ADAM alone in his home for the weekend.

4

**INT. NURSING HOME: JOAN'S ROOM. DAY 1 (1812) - DAY**

4

ADAM is making two G&Ts. Across the room JOAN is dancing with some earphones in, smoking. We can't hear the music but her flowing moves are an unself-conscious delight.

ADAM finishes making their drinks. He smiles at her...

ADAM

What are you listening to?

Eventually she notices him holding the drinks. She effortlessly picks one off him as she passes him in a sweeping dance move.

ADAM

What you listening to?

JOAN

What?

He indicates... earphone. She takes one ear out.

ADAM

What are you listening to?

JOAN

This and that. Different things. All the music from my life. Do you like Dizzy Gillespie? I knew one of his trombonists. Extraordinary man. Very talented.

JOAN (cont'd)

He took me to his room at The Savoy. We drank champagne and talked all night about jazz and the war. And then he ravished me on the sofa.

(guilty pleasure memory,  
maybe a laugh)

Wonderful. Come and dance with me Alan.

ADAM gets happily sucked into her dancing. It's a rather wonderful sight watching them dance together.

JOAN

Do you want a copy? I can burn you a copy. It's got all the music I listen to when I want to escape.

ADAM

Okay. Thank you Joan.

They keep dancing.

5      **INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 1 (2042) - NIGHT**

5

ADAM alone in low lighting with his laptop contemplating NIGEL's reference form. JOAN's CD playing on the CD player.

He's feeling defeated by the form. Due to inactivity the PC goes to a screen saver picture of smiling ALEX. It stares at his lovely wife. It sparks him into calling her.

Reaches for his phone. About to dial. Hesitates. Should he bother her or not? He can't resist. Dials... gets machine.

ADAM (INTO PHONE)

Hi darling it's me. I hope you're having a nice time up Rodney's Pillar. I'm not. I'm just trying to do Nigel's reference form.

(makes comic puffing noise)

Question 19; how would I describe Nigel's leadership style? I can't just put shit, can I? Maybe I should?

(he laughs to her)

Do you think I can just pass the buck on Nigel? Be vague and let the Bishops' Panel decide. It's their job after all.

(then what's really on his  
mind)

I wonder what you're doing now? Maybe you're in your tent? You're probably in the pub. With Mel and Sue.



ADAM (INTO PHONE) (cont'd)  
(little beat)  
And Howard.

The doorbell goes.

ADAM (INTO PHONE)  
Oh that'll be my pizza. I'd better  
go. I hope you're having a nice  
time.  
(beat)  
I miss you.

Hangs up.

6      **EXT/INT. VICARAGE: FRONT DOOR. DAY 1 (2043) - NIGHT**      6

It's a PIZZA MAN in 'PIZZA U LIKE' branded Scooter  
waterproofs and helmet. He holds up a pizza box triumphantly.

COLIN  
You an Animal Feast and cheese?

ADAM  
Yes. Thanks. It's 8.99 isn't it?  
Let me see if I've got change.  
(rummages pockets)

COLIN  
Don't worry about that Vicarage.

ADAM looks up on 'Vicarage'. COLIN pops his visor up. Da-DAH!

ADAM  
Colin? Have you got a job?

COLIN  
Yeah, it's great. Started  
yesterday. I get £5.93 an hour. And  
a pizza for lunch worth up to 7.99.

7      **INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 1 (2051) - NIGHT**      7

ADAM in front of his laptop. ADAM listening to music playing  
on the CD player.

COLIN sits in his waterproofs (helmet now off) at the table  
making his way through most of ADAM's pizza out its box.  
Throughout the scene COLIN's radio cackles with pizza  
requests and order/directions.

COLIN  
I think this music's a bit boring  
for church.

ADAM  
Don't like it?

COLIN  
If you want uplifting you should  
play AC/DC's 'Let's Get It Up.'  
That's uplifting.

ADAM  
Yes it sounds uplifting. Did you  
bring my salad?

COLIN  
You wanted that?

For some reason best known to himself COLIN suddenly responds  
to a burst of radio chatter.

COLIN  
Roger, roger, roger, roger. En  
route.

But he doesn't budge from his seat. Takes the final meaty  
pizza flap.

COLIN  
I'm sorry you're eating pizza  
alone, and that Alex has left you?  
(pizza into gob)

ADAM  
What? She hasn't left me.

COLIN  
I know what that feels like. Bloody  
women. Yeah?

ADAM  
No, she's just in Shropshire. On a  
walking holiday.

He gets a sympathetic, even pitying, look for that brave lie.

ADAM  
She is Colin. She's climbing  
Rodney's Pillar.

COLIN  
Is she? Who's she with?

ADAM  
With her friends; Lisa, Sue, Marie  
and Howard.

COLIN  
Howard. Howard? Who's this Howard?  
When he's not licking out four  
women in a tent?

ADAM

Shut up.

COLIN

I'm trying to help. Forget climbing Rodney's Pillar. She'll be mounting Howard's cock. Right now probably. Don't you see what this is mate? It's a cry for attention. That's what women do all day.

ADAM goes to the CD player and turns the music off.

ADAM

That's not the case.

COLIN stands up - pizza over, time to go - gathers his stuff.

COLIN

I'd better get on. These people ordered an hour ago.

He picks up another pizza box. Then as parting wisdom...

COLIN

It's up to you to win her back.

ADAM looks at COLIN - really?

COLIN

Yeah. By twatting Howard.

Doorbell again. It irritates ADAM.

ADAM

Who's that now?

8

**EXT/INT. VICARAGE: FRONT DOOR. DAY 1 (2053) - NIGHT**

8

ADAM opens the door. COLIN with him. It's ADOHA - with a pot.

ADOHA

I heard Alex is away. I know you're a terrible cook darling.

She shows her pot proudly. Lifts the lid for a whiff...

COLIN

He won't want that he's just had my pizza.

ADAM

No you've just had my pizza.

COLIN ignores that and responds to a burst of radio calls instead...

COLIN

Yeah, yeah, roger, roger. En route.

He heads off up the path to his scooter.

9

**INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 1 (2058) - NIGHT**

9

ADOHA comes from the kitchen with a huge steaming plate of hot stew for ADAM. It already feels like she's moved in. ADAM's back on his laptop with Nigel's application form.

ADOHA

Here you are darling. My special Egushi stew and fufu.

It's a chicken, seafood, tomato, spinach stew with mashed yam balls on the side. It does look nice.

She offers him a fork. Watches him expectantly. He starts eating. Makes some yummy noises. Gives her an appreciative look. There's a huge mound of it.

ADAM

Thanks. Yes, it's very nice.

ADOHA

You eat my fufu. I'll tidy up the mess Alex has left in the kitchen. Then I'll do your bedroom.

ADAM

No, that's fine Adoha thanks.

ADOHA

I'm so sorry she's left you.

ADAM

What? She hasn't left me.

ADOHA

It was always going to happen. She had no interest in the church. She never came to the teas. Never did any flowers. You deserve a woman who will support you.

ADAM

No, I don't want supporting. Alex is allowed to go away for the weekend without it meaning we're about to get divorced. Now thank you for the food, but I must have my quiet time now that I always have at 9 o'clock on a Friday night.

But you don't get rid of ADOHA that easily.

ADOHA  
I'll hoover quietly.

10      **INT. CHURCH. DAY 2 (0952) - DAY**

10

Sunday Eucharist. The CONGREGATION singing 'He Who Would Valiant Be'.

ADAM watches the ARCHDEACON sing, standing next to Colin.

He's a transformed man. Simple, spare clerical outfit. No pectoral cross, no purple, no gloves. The very essence of humility and meekness.

11      **INT. CHURCH: AFTER THE SERVICE. DAY 2 (1019) - DAY**

11

The ARCHDEACON standing behind the coffee table, assisting ADOHA. Lots of people to serve. But nothing is too much trouble for him.

ADOHA  
Those two need milk Archdeacon.

ARCHDEACON  
Please call me Robert.

ADAM arrives to be served.

ADAM  
Nice of you to help Adoha with the coffees today Archdeacon.

ARCHDEACON  
I'm happy to help. Please call me Robert.  
(passes a cup to ADAM)  
Would you like more milk than that dear sir?

ADAM  
(perplexed)  
That's fine. Is everything alright?

ARCHDEACON  
Yes. A little tired from five days of fasting perhaps. But I find one comes to God best through subtraction.

That announcement brings silence.

ADOHA

Two more coffees need milk please  
Bob.

Is there the merest hint of a flinch around the ARCHDEACON's  
eye on being called Bob?

ARCHDEACON

These coffees are lovely Adoha. How  
do you do it?

ADOHA

It's just instant.

ADOHA exits, as ELLIE joins for a coffee.

ADAM

Are you going to General Synod next  
week Robert?

ARCHDEACON

Oh no, that's nothing but a  
distraction. A Dostoevskian  
assembly of drunks, dreamers and  
frauds. I never go.

ADAM

You went last time didn't you?

ARCHDEACON

Did I? Oh yes. In body not in  
spirit.

ELLIE's worked out what's going on here... she's in the know.

ELLIE

Archdeacon - are you aware there's  
a vacancy for the Bishop of  
Stevenage at the moment?

ARCHDEACON

Oh no. No. Is there?

ADAM gives ELLIE an 'is there?' look. She confirms it with a  
nod. Meanwhile...

NIGEL

You'd be an exceptional Bishop,  
Archdeacon.

ARCHDEACON

I wouldn't Nigel. That's kind of  
you. But - Nolo Episcopari - I'd be  
unwilling to be a Bishop.

ARCHDEACON (cont'd)

I hunger to communicate the Gospel to the widest possible audience of course, but I fear my soul is unprepared for such a role, even if God was considering me for such a position, which I'm sure He's not.

NIGEL

(leaning to ADAM)

I see what you mean about the humble thing. He's even better than you.

ELLIE

If God isn't considering you for it, the Appointments Board might be.

ARCHDEACON

I'm sure not. I doubt it. Tart anyone?

The ARCHDEACON offers up a tray of cakes.

12      **INT. CHURCH. DAY 2 (1042)- DAY**

12

Emptier church now. NIGEL has started collecting hymn books.

ELLIE and ADAM stand together at the edge and watch the ARCHDEACON across the nave be obsequious with some CONGREGANTS.

ADAM

He won't become Bishop. He's been on preferment lists for 10 years, but he never gets close because of his horrible personality.

ELLIE

Maybe the church wants a Bishop with a horrible personality for once?

ADAM

Instead of the spineless drips who normally get it?

He sees her point.

ELLIE

Uh-oh he's coming this way.

While they wait for his arrival...

ELLIE

How's Alex?

ADAM

Yeah she's good thanks. Yeah. Good.

ELLIE

We said we might meet up this weekend, but her phone's off.

ADAM makes an owwww noise and tuts.

ADAM

Yeah it's terrible reception where she's gone. Far away. For the weekend. We like to have weekends apart every now and then.

ELLIE hears the lie in that - she looks square at ADAM with a mixture of genuine (and touching) concern.

ELLIE

I hope she's okay.

She gives him a parting touch or look - then goes to get on with her day.

The ARCHDEACON arrives... NIGEL there too.

ARCHDEACON

Nigel I'm delighted to hear you've put yourself forward for ordination training.

NIGEL

Yes, what do you think my chances are? Pretty solid?

ADAM

How do you think Nigel could help his application Robert?

ARCHDEACON

Perhaps working with teenagers? You could visit the local authority youth drop-in centre? Hang out with the kids. Learn about their problems?

NIGEL

I love teenagers with problems. Sweet. I don't just see myself as a theologian and preacher.

ADAM can't resist abusing his current position of power.

ADAM

Robert. Do you know who his DDO interview will be with?



ARCHDEACON

It's with me. I'm standing in.

ADAM

Did you hear that Nigel? Your DDO interview is with Robert.

NIGEL

Oh oh oh great - my interview's with you is it?

ADAM

That's good news isn't it?

ARCHDEACON

Can't linger. Must get off to mop the loos in a palliative care unit.

The ARCHDEACON smiles and goes.

ADAM

(beat, shared look)

Nigel I'm tired now - can you collect up all the Orders of Service as well?

NIGEL

Of course, yes, definitely.

13      **INT. VICARAGE: UTILITY ROOM. DAY 2 (1506) - DAY**

13

ADAM listening to more potential music for his Dedication Festival on his headphones - while he looks in the fridge, but fails to find anything he wants.

14      **INT. VICARAGE: BEDROOM. DAY 2 (2042) - NIGHT**

14

ADAM (still dressed) lies on the bed, on the phone. Open laptop (with NIGEL's reference) next to him. He looks like some teenager calling a potential girlfriend. Phone rings. It goes to ALEX's answer service...

ADAM (INTO PHONE)

Hi it's me. How are you? I'm still trying to finish Nigel's reference form, would you believe it. It's all I've been doing all day! They're difficult these bloody forms. Question 20; how emotionally stable is the candidate? I've just put 'completely unstable'.

(laughs)

No I haven't. But I don't know what to write.

ADAM (INTO PHONE) (cont'd)  
If I put the truth Nigel doesn't  
stand a chance. And he'll be  
devastated. And angry. So maybe I  
should lie and say he's amazing? No  
I'll tell the truth, but try and  
accentuate the positive.

Beat.

ADAM  
Anyway I miss you. Do you miss me?  
Hope so.

There's a knock at the door - ADOHA sticks her head in - and  
offers up a plate of circular chocs.

ADOHA  
Do you want my profiteroles now  
darling?

ADAM  
Oh yes please. Thank you.

But despite the line he rudely waves ADOHA away. ADOHA scowls  
and goes, like a mum rejected by a teen.

ADAM  
That's Adoha. With my pudding.  
She's round lots. Which is fine.  
It's great in fact. Great -  
puddings. And the house has never  
been so clean.  
(beat)  
Anyway hope you're having a nice  
time - with Howard - and everyone.  
Bye. Bye.

He hangs up. And sits alone for a mo.

15

**EXT. STREET/TRENDY BED SHOP. DAY 3 (1136) - DAY**

15

ADAM and NIGEL walking along with plastic bags full of  
biscuits and loo roll and supplies for the church.

NIGEL  
Have you finished my reference yet?

ADAM  
Not yet.

NIGEL  
If I don't get selected I'll be  
blaming you!

Said as a desperate joke. Then to impress...

NIGEL

I'm going to help out at the  
homeless centre this afternoon.  
Maybe clean some clothes for them?  
Then I thought I might pop in to  
the youth drop in. Offer them some  
solace about the job market.

ADAM

Don't over-egg it Nigel.

ADAM pauses outside a trendy bed shop.

ADAM

Look who it is.

Inside, the ARCHDEACON is browsing the beds, in a plain  
coloured YSL suit. He sits on one bed - bounces on it. Lies  
out horizontal - crosses feet - pretends he's reading.

NIGEL and ADAM are amused. They wave to him through the large  
window, but he's taking the bed testing so seriously he  
doesn't notice them.

NIGEL

Let's go and tell him all the  
pastoral things I'm doing today.

ADAM

Must we?

NIGEL is already pacing inside to do so.

16

**INT. TRENDY BED SHOP. DAY 3 (1137) - DAY**

16

ADAM and NIGEL head towards the ARCHDEACON who's now testing  
the mattress springs with his hands and/or scrutinising the  
headboard craftsmanship...

...before they reach him another MAN joins the ARCHDEACON  
from the other side of the store...

This MAN - this GOD more like - is startling in his looks and  
charisma. Magnificent (and magnificently styled) hair above  
an International tan and Pacific blue eyes. A Tyler Brule-  
esque wealthy, high-end branding and trend consultant.

He places a loving, familiar hand in the small of the  
ARCHDEACON's back.

ARCHDEACON

I quite like this one.

RICHARD

(pulls a face)  
Really?

ARCHDEACON

Yes I don't like it.

They both turn... to find them selves suddenly confronted by two drab clerical men with plastic carrier bags.

ADAM

Hello Archdeacon.

ARCHDEACON

Hello. What are you doing here?

ADAM

We were just passing. Spotted you.

NIGEL

Hello.

ARCHDEACON

Hello.

NIGEL

I'm just going to the Homeless Centre, to wash the needy.

ARCHDEACON

Oh.

NIGEL nods eagerly to show he means it. ADAM and NIGEL look at RICHARD. The awkwardness is global.

ARCHDEACON

(with massive reluctance)

This is my friend Richard.

ADAM

Hello.

THIS MAN THIS GOD: RICHARD

Hello.

NIGEL

Hello. I'm Nigel.

RICHARD

Hello Nigel.

ARCHDEACON

This is Adam Smallbone, one of my priests in the Diocese.

ADAM

Hello.

ARCHDEACON

Although if you're about to start shopping in here I think it's time we reviewed your stipend!

A terrible joke that sounded like 'get me out of here'.

ADAM

Are you going to buy that bed then?

Looking between them - intended as friendly small talk but as soon he's said it he regrets it.

RICHARD

No. Nice to meet you both.

(turns to ARCHDEACON and  
ends things with  
authority)

Now we must get going, or we'll be  
late for Bloomin' Hestonthal. You  
know how angry he gets if we mess  
up his timings. Talk to your  
friends Bobby, I'll see you in the  
car.

RICHARD gives ADAM and NIGEL a professional parting smile -  
then glides across the floor and out.

17      **EXT. STREET. DAY 4 (0857) - DAY**      17

ADAM cycling in his high-viz jacket. Listening to more  
potential music for his Dedication Festival.

18      **EXT. CHURCH. DAY 4 (0901) - DAY**      18

ADAM chains his bike. Music still playing. He's about to  
enter the church - but he sees a TAXI has parked up nearby,  
engine running.

19      **EXT/INT. INDUSTRIAL WASTE LAND/TAXI. DAY 4 (0913) - DAY**      19

BLACK CAB parked on wasteland. CABBIE leans on the bonnet  
reading The Sun, having a fag. Engine on. Meter running.

Inside, ADAM and the ARCHDEACON. Conspiratorial feel.

ARCHDEACON

Let's imagine - just for argument's  
sake - that there was a scenario in  
which I was being considered for an  
episcopal position. I wouldn't want  
it, and I sincerely doubt I am -  
but let's imagine I am.

ADAM

Right. I'm imagining.

ARCHDEACON

In such a hypothetical situation,  
if the Crown Nominations Committee  
were to happen to ask me if there  
were any relationships in my life  
that might "embarrass the church",  
I would very honestly be able to  
say no.

He gives ADAM and heavy look to clarify the truth of that.

ADAM

Oh good.

ARCHDEACON

My private life is private.

ADAM

That's how they should be. Alex is  
always saying that.

ARCHDEACON

Lovely, perceptive Alex. My concern  
is that if certain elements within  
the church *happened* to hear about  
certain aspects of my private life  
they might be open to  
misinterpretation. For instance,  
just to choose one example, you met  
my friend Richard?

ADAM

He seems very nice. Amazing hair.

ARCHDEACON

I'd hate for that "friendship" to  
be misinterpreted by anyone.

ADAM

Are you worried people might think  
you're gay and then you couldn't be  
a Bishop?

The HORROR of saying the words 'gay' and 'Bishop' out loud.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Church Law clearly says that being  
gay is no bar to the Bishopric.

The ARCHDEACON gives ADAM a steady look. They both know  
there's a huge gap between what the Church law says and the  
reality. ADAM decides to wind up the ARCHDEACON.

ADAM (CONT'D)

So long as it's a celibate  
relationship.

Which ADAM finds amusing. The ARCHDEACON scrutinizes ADAM. Makes a decision. Frankness - honesty - is what's required.

ARCHDEACON  
Church Law can say what it likes -  
we both know the Church isn't ready  
for an openly gay Bishop yet.

ADAM  
No.

ARCHDEACON  
One day it will be. But it isn't.

ADAM  
Would you like me to keep quiet  
about your friendship with Richard  
so it can't be misinterpreted?

ARCHDEACON  
Thank you.

ADAM  
There's nothing I'd like more than  
to see you become Bishop of  
Swanage.

ARCHDEACON  
Stevenage.

ADAM  
Or Stevenage.

ARCHDEACON  
I should head back. Is there  
anywhere I can drop you? I'll take  
you anywhere you like.

20

**INT. CHURCH: VESTRY OFFICE. DAY 4 (1408) - DAY**

20

ADAM and NIGEL. NIGEL is in a complete tizz. For the first time we see his arrogance replaced by panic.

The kettle clicks to the boil. ADAM nods at it re tea...

ADAM  
Nigel?

NIGEL  
My DDO interview is at 5 o'clock.  
I know the Archdeacon is not going  
to recommend me. I just know it.

ADAM  
Nigel?

NIGEL

I've been skateboarding with drug addicts all morning to try and impress him. He's going to fail me.

ADAM

Being called to God is not something you pass or fail.

NIGEL

Yes it is! It is. You fail to become a priest. What am I going to do then? What am I going to do?

ADAM

*Nigel.*

(meaning 'calm down')

Weren't you making me a cup of tea?

NIGEL bows like a sycophant and zips to the boiled kettle.

NIGEL

Oh yes. Let me do that right now.

He makes tea, makes tea. Looks at his watch again...

NIGEL

What do you think the Archdeacon will ask me?

ADAM

He'll certainly want to talk about your personal relationships.

NIGEL

I'm ready for that one. Question 14 on the form. "Who might sustain you in your future ministry?" I just put 'my dear Mum and girlfriend Cherry'. Two people's enough isn't it?

ADAM

Your girlfriend Cherry?

NIGEL

Yes.

ADAM

You've got a girlfriend called Cherry?

NIGEL

Yes. That's a good answer isn't it?

ADAM

It's just you've never mentioned her.



NIGEL

I'm sure I have. But I do like to keep my private life private.

ADAM

Tell me about Cherry.

Silence from NIGEL.

ADAM

What's she like?

NIGEL attempts a picture of a desirable woman.

NIGEL

What's she like? She is gorgeous is what she's like. A real honey. A real honey babe. Lovely legs. But a great personality too. Laughs at all my jokes. Poor mad thing. She's Gluten intolerant. But you can get special pasta for that now. Blonde hair. 5 foot 6 and a half inches. Big breasts. I'm a very lucky man.

It's very unconvincing.

21      **EXT. CLINIC. DAY 4 (1723) - DAY**

21

ADAM listening to AC/DC's 'Let's Get It Up'.

He walks towards (or arrives by bike outside) an institutional building. We don't know what the building's function is yet. But the choice of music is a good one.

22      **INT. PANEL ROOM. DAY 4 (1724) - DAY**

22

Sense of power and sanctuary. A jittery NIGEL sits across a desk from the ARCHDEACON, who's at his most coolly formidable.

NIGEL

I feel the most enormous doubt and uncertainty about whether I should be a priest. I feel inadequate. While simultaneously also knowing that I have all the qualities - or let's say gifts - required to be one.

ARCHDEACON

You've said that twice now.

NIGEL curses his stupidity. Falls silent. Pinched lips.

ARCH flicks NIGEL's application form like a man who isn't hungry considering a long lunch menu. He spots something...

ARCHDEACON  
Just looking at your section on weaknesses here. Perfectionism. Is that really a weakness?

NIGEL  
Um. Ha. Well... I think it could be if I spent so long perfecting the theology of my sermons that it kept me away from the other things I love doing; like washing the homeless and chatting to disenfranchised kids.

The ARCHDEACON frowns at that bollocks. NIGEL shifts around. Dry-mouthed. He knows this is going very badly.

NIGEL  
I've been resisting this Call, and resisting. I'm like Moses that way.

ARCHDEACON  
Who's Cherry? I couldn't work out whether she's a person or a pet.

NIGEL  
She's my girlfriend.

ARCHDEACON  
I see.

The ARCHDEACON gives NIGEL a withering look for that clear lie.

23      **INT. CLINIC: ROOM. DAY 4 (1728) - DAY**

23

C/U on ADAM in some horrible, bare spartan space. We can't tell where he is yet. He sits in thought, music playing on headphones. Prays.

ADAM (V.O.)  
Dear Lord, is my marriage falling apart? Is that what you want? Because I couldn't bear that. I wouldn't survive that. Who's being demanding here? Me? Her? Or You because you want my entire dedication? Please don't make me choose between You and her Lord.

Pause.

ADAM (V.O.)  
Oh well, better get this done.

He holds up and studies a medical tub he's expected to fill.  
WIDE: reveal a box of tissues and porn magazine.

24

**INT. PANEL ROOM. DAY 4 (1729) - DAY**

24

ARCHDEACON and NIGEL.

ARCHDEACON  
Here's a pastoral situation for you to consider - in 50 words or less - as a priest how would you care for a pregnant single mother-to-be?

NIGEL  
I'd encourage her that it doesn't matter that she's ended up in that sad situation. God prefers families of course. But there's no blame attached. No blame. I'd recommend plenty of exercise. I read that yoga is good for stretching the cervix.

(hears himself too late)  
I wouldn't say cervix if I was ordained, of course.

ARCHDEACON  
What would you say?

NIGEL  
I'd say... "down there". And also I'd insist on no alcohol, and definitely no soft cheeses.

The ARCHDEACON's decision is made. If it wasn't already. Which it was.

ARCHDEACON  
It's lovely to spend some time with you Nigel. While I can sense you have a strong sense of Call I think it may lie in other directions than the priesthood. So unfortunately I can't recommend to the Bishop that you go to the BAP at this stage.

In the face of defeat NIGEL suddenly becomes bold.

NIGEL  
Talking of lovers - how's Richard?

A thundering, lethal silence. The ARCHDEACON assesses NIGEL. NIGEL pulls him a cocky 'come on then' face. What's this worth to you? It's an impressive piece of brinkmanship.

The ARCHDEACON places NIGEL's form down carefully.

ARCHDEACON

That said I'm always wary of being the one to make the final decision on whether a person's been called by God. In many ways it's something that the Bishops' Advisory Panel are more qualified at than myself. So I think you should go to the BAP and see how you fare. I'll get the Bishop to sponsor you.

NIGEL

(smug, triumphant and  
ironic)

Oh that's wonderful news  
Archdeacon. Thank you so much.

ARCHDEACON

I'm sure Cherry will be delighted  
for you.

They smile at each other with contempt and understanding.

25

**INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 4 (2126) - NIGHT**

25

ADAM at the living room table doing paperwork.

ADOHA steps into frame, holding shirts on hangers.

ADOHA

Here are your shirts for the week  
darling.

ADAM

(very casual)  
Thanks...

It's great having ADOHA as a PA. ADAM loves it. There's a sense of casual routine about this set-up already. He doesn't break a beat from his writing...

ADOHA gives him a brochure.

ADOHA

Here's the brochure on that organ  
restoration workshop you mentioned.

ADAM

Thank you. And can you look into  
train times for me?

ADOHA  
Here you are darling.  
(puts down a print-out)  
And here's your spaghetti  
bolognese.

She puts down a yummy steaming piled bowlful of spag bol.

ADAM  
Lovely. Looks lovely. Thanks.

Said casually while he continues to read some important clergy docs. He keeps reading while she tucks a white napkin into his neck collar - like she's his care worker/mother.

ADOHA  
Here we are darling, don't make a  
mess on your shirt. Do you want  
cheese on top?

But ADAM has stopped listening. He's staring at ALEX - who is standing in the doorway, looking at him. She's come home.

ADOHA becomes aware of ALEX. There's an awkward tension.

ADOHA  
Hello Alex.

ALEX  
Hello Adoha - it's really lovely to  
see you in my home. With my  
husband. Oh no hang on a minute -  
(she has a new thought)  
- it's actually really annoying.

26      **INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 4 (2142)- NIGHT**

26

Glasses of wine. Warmth. Air of reconciliation. ADOHA gone.

ADAM  
Did you have a lovely time?

ALEX  
Yes. It was nice to be away.  
(beat)  
I've brought you some fudge.

She produces a box of tourist fudge. He will genuinely enjoy that.

ADAM  
Thanks. I haven't got anything for  
you. But I did do one thing I think  
you'll like.

Shows her a report from the desk.

ADAM

I went and did a sperm test. You'll be glad to know I'm fertile. 54 million per millilitre. That's just 10% less than the national average.

Pulls a face of faux pride, or amused ruefulness.

ALEX

Oh be still my heart.

But she smiles warmly at him as she says that. Pleased by the facts, but even more pleased by the gesture he's made.

ALEX

Thank you.

She leans forward and kisses him.

ADAM

And no fags.

ALEX

I missed you. I missed waking up with you.

ADAM

I thought you were enjoying waking up next to Howard.

ALEX

With Howard? Are you joking?

ADAM

I thought he'd gone away with you for a reason.

ALEX

Yes, because Howard loves rambling.

ADAM

I thought he was having an affair with you.

ALEX

No. Howard's a very nice man. With an extensive collection of Ordnance Survey maps. But he's a bit boring. In fact he's one of the most boring men I know. And I know lots of clergymen.

He smiles at her joke.

ALEX

I love you. The whole baby thing was making me a bit potty. So let's agree we don't need one.

He smiles. Relief and love.

ADAM  
No we don't need one.  
(beat)  
We've got fudge.

He starts to open the fudge.

27      **INT. PANEL ROOM. DAY 5 (1136) - DAY**

27

FEW WEEKS LATER. The ARCHDEACON sits before the CROWN NOMINATION COMMITTEE, who are sitting in a horseshoe arrangement of armchairs and sofas.

The ARCHDEACON sits before them, with a lectern next to him.

ARCHDEACON  
I don't want to be a Bishop at all,  
but if God is calling me to it, it  
would be obnoxious of me to resist.  
I suppose on the plus side - I do  
love Stevenage and its people.

THE BOARD all nod sagely. Happily. This job is in the bag.  
And everyone, including the ARCHDEACON, knows it.

COMMITTEE MEMBER(O.S.)  
One final question.

PAN along the line of bishops to discover - AN EVANGELICAL at the end of the table. In complete contrast to everyone else's formal and/or ecclesiastical look - he's wearing an open neck plaid Abercrombie-style shirt.

EVANGELICAL MAN  
Are you in a gay relationship?

ON the ARCHDEACON - poker-faced. Facing a massive dilemma.  
His cock crows. Will he deny his lover for advancement?

ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS - lean forward and look at him.

28      **EXT. CHURCH: BENCH. DAY 5 (1719) - DAY**

28

ADAM is listening to music on his iPod again. Cover of 'Knocking on Heaven's Door' or similar.

In front of him COLIN, back in his normal civvies, is very drunk and angry. He's ranting. He's quite scary.

He chucks a beer tin violently at a wall. He realises ADAM is only partially listening -

COLIN  
Take your ears out!

ADAM takes his earphone out to hear:

COLIN  
...so I chuck three Hawaiians at  
his windscreen. He calls the shop  
and the wank stain sides with him  
not me. That job was my last  
chance. That was how I was going to  
sort my life out. And now it's  
over!

He snaps open another beer. Real anger and distress.

ADAM  
We can find you another job.

COLIN  
I don't want another job. Why's  
Nigel up on the roof?

ADAM follows COLIN's gaze - looks up - yes - NIGEL is sitting  
up on the high church roof. Oh no. COLIN shouts up drunkenly.

COLIN  
What you doing you twat?!

29

**EXT. CHURCH ROOF. DAY 5 (1721) - DAY**

29

ADAM comes carefully across the roof to where a morose NIGEL  
is sitting, at the back of the church, looking out over  
London. ADAM knows exactly why NIGEL is up here.

He sits by him.

NIGEL  
Leave me alone.

ADAM stays. He knows NIGEL hasn't been accepted for training.

ADAM  
What happened on The Bishops  
Advisory Panel?

NIGEL  
How can they say I wouldn't be a  
good priest? How can they say that?  
They don't know. How can they say  
they know what God wants? How dare  
they pretend that? I hate them. I  
want to kill them all.

This is the bleakest we've ever seen a NIGEL by a long way.  
He's right on the edge of collapse and real despair.



ADAM

You won't feel this now - but I bet  
- in time - you'll be relieved you  
haven't been accepted for  
ordination, because God wants you  
to do other things.

NIGEL

I want to be a priest. That's all I  
want. And now I never will be. But  
that's who I am - those bastards  
are telling me I'm not who I am.  
Well it is who I am, But they're  
telling me it's not... but I am.

ADAM

I'm sorry Nigel.

NIGEL

If I can't do what I want to do  
what do I do?

ADAM

Many are Called, few are chosen.

NIGEL is unmoved by that idea.

ADAM

Come on, I'll buy you a drink.

ADAM helps NIGEL up - they start off together across the  
roof.

NIGEL

What did you say in my reference?  
Did you give me a bad reference?

ADAM

No, no.

NIGEL is becoming very bitter. Full of angry self-pity.

NIGEL

Did you say I was boring? I bet you  
said I was boring.

ADAM

No. I was very positive.  
(searches for positives)  
I said you were unfailingly  
punctual... and organized.

NIGEL

Boring.

ADAM

I said you had a detailed knowledge  
and love of scripture and  
theological studies.

NIGEL

So boring in other words. What's  
the best thing you said about me?

Beat.

ADAM

I said you were brilliant at  
working alone.

NIGEL

Was that in the question on  
teamwork?

ADAM

I don't think so.

NIGEL

They send me the form Adam. I'll  
see the form.

ADAM

I can't remember exactly which  
question. It's a long form.

He stamps off alone. Suddenly turns.

NIGEL

You fucked me. How can I ever work  
with you again now? Knowing you did  
this to me. You know I'd be a much  
better priest than you. That's the  
tragedy here.

NIGEL goes. ADAM looks down dolefully - to a drunk, violent  
COLIN below, kicking the shit out of a park bin.

Perhaps he puts his earphones back in? While looking down at  
COLIN kick a bin.

30

**INT. CHURCH. DAY 5 (1723) - DAY**

30

ADAM at the side of the church with the CD player. He takes  
out the CD JOAN gave him. He puts it in.

ALEX enters with two large bunches of flowers. ADAM's face  
lights up on seeing her.

ALEX

I've brought some flowers for your  
church.

ADAM

Thank you.

ALEX

I'm not arranging them for you.  
That's a step too far.

ADAM smiles. She goes to open them with some scissors.

ADAM's about to hit play on the CD when he spots the  
ARCHDEACON sitting in a pew on the margins. Sombre manner.

ADAM

Hello Archdeacon. Didn't see you  
there.

ARCHDEACON

I just came in to think.

ADAM surprised by that. ADAM senses he needs ministry.

ADAM

Is something bothering you?

ARCHDEACON

Not really. I saw the Crown  
Nominations Committee today. I told  
them that I'm in an active gay  
relationship with a man I love more  
than words. I think that probably  
means that I'll never be a Bishop,  
don't you?

ADAM is amazed, impressed, even touched by this admission.

ADAM

I think it probably does.

ARCHDEACON

I was just reflecting on the fact  
that that's okay really. What were  
you about to play?

ADAM remembers the CD. Hits play. Music fills the church.

NIGEL enters from the vestry the far side of the church. He  
sits in a distant pew clearly wanting to think alone.

ADAM stands and listens to the music. The ARCHDEACON sits and  
listens. NIGEL sits and listens. ALEX listens while opening  
the flowers, finding a vase. The music fills the space.

Finally COLIN also enters sheepishly through the main doors.  
He sits in a seat near the main doors.

The four men - four failures? - sit in a calm and pensive  
frame and listen to the music. The music catches and reflects  
their moods. They're unified by it. **End.**