

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Lady Pope

"Pilot"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN

1. INT. CHURCH. BELOW A BEAUTIFUL MOSAIC'ED APSE. DAY

The words "800 A.D." appear on the screen, we hear a big bell "DONG" and the words fade away as we pan onto:

A beautiful mosaic of Jesus performing the miracle with the loaves and fish with a wand. A hand places the last mosaic tile, completing the last fish.

We follow the hand down and pan out to see an older artist admire his work.

He takes a rag out of his pocket and cleans his hands as he looks at his work with pride. A priest enters hurriedly.

PRIEST

Hello there!

ARTIST

Ah, father, I'll be right down!

The artist smiles as he carefully puts away his tools one at a time.

PRIEST

Maybe don't take it all down just yet!

ARTIST

Eh? Sorry Father, I can't hear a word up here, the echo, you know, I'll be right down though! Hope you've brought your gold today!

The artist laughs as he hoists his heavy bag on his shoulders, and begins tottering down an impossible amount of scaffolding, singing "Pay day, my favorite day" but also groaning every few steps from the weight. The priest waits awkwardly below.

ARTIST (cont'd)

Father!

PRIEST

Bad news...

ARTIST

Great news!

ARTIST

I've just finished...

PRIEST

Right, er- well...

ARTIST

No... No "Well"! Come on, first it was "big, bushy beard", then it was "no beard". Don't tell me we are back to beard again!

PRIEST

No! We're still solidly team no beard! But, well, we've sort of decided, we don't want Jesus to have the wand anymore.

ARTIST

[beat]

...But how will he do his magic tricks?

PRIEST

Miracles hehe, And, just, y'know like, with his hands.

The priest does a sort of jazz hands

ARTIST

...That's so stupid.

PRIEST

No, *wands* are stupid! He's the son of God, not some common place sorcerer! Magic is demonic, Jesus does *miracles*.

ARTIST

Are you guys taking away Moses's magic staff then?

PRIEST

...That's different.

ARTIST

Because he's not a demi-god like Jesus.

PRIEST

Son of God! Look I CAN have you exiled for blasphemy y'know, so, maybe remember who you're talking to.

ARTIST

{shaking his head as he sighs}
Whatever. Sorry. Wizard Jesus was my
favorite. [he looks up] I just think
you guys are making a huge mistake
here in your marketing. People **love**
magic.

PRIEST

[angry] Look, can you just-

ARTIST

Alright! Alright...No wand. Just...
magic hands...Guess I'll just scale
this terrifying, creaky scaffolding
again, eh?

PRIEST

If we pay you an extra day's wages
will you just shut up and do it?

ARTIST

Double it

PRIEST

No.

ARTIST

Fine.

FADE OUT

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2. INT SMALLER CHURCH, INSIDE A CONFESSIONAL

We see FATHER JO taking the confession of a man. Father Jo is a woman disguised as a man so that she may work as a priest. Throughout this scene we use the confessional as a split screen to highlight the differences between the two characters.

MISOGYNIST

I just don't understand *why* God made women. I mean he made Adam first right, and he nailed it! So why did his second draft come out so... stupid?

FATHER JO

MMmmm...[using a lowered voice] perhaps it was because Adam needed Eve. Adam was not able to handle Eden alone. Eve was an improvement- she was the softer side of Adam that was missing.

MISOGYNIST

[beat]...Nah, I don't think so. No, Adam was doing fine. I mean he wasn't talking to any evil snakes, like an idiot right?

FATHER JO

Without Eve, where do you think we'd be?

MISOGYNIST

Eden! No Eve, no Apple, the living is easy.

FATHER JO

So, you would like men to give birth?

MISOGYNIST

[shudders] AUCH! NO! GROSS!

FATHER JO

[trying a different tack] Did you know your mother?

MISOGYNIST

My mother was the ONE exception. A saint. Perfect in every way.

FATHER JO

...and she was a woman...

MISOGYNIST

How dare you. Ok, look if women weren't completely horrid, God would let them be priests too, but instead, if a woman were ever caught in the clergy, her punishment would be to be torn apart by wild dogs!

FATHER JO

She'd be drawn and quartered in the town square actually...[Ready to be done with it] Okay, what about Mary, mother of Christ?

MISOGYNIST

I don't know...she seems fine?

FATHER JO

Wooooow...blasphemy in the Lord's own home.

MISOGYNIST

What?? No!

FATHER JO

Ohhh yeah, no sorry, I wish I could help you but you blasphemed in Jesus's own house about *his* mother so he heard it! Let's see what they recommend for penance.

We see Father Jo pull out a small penitence book with various sins and penance to dispense. We see a line added "Sin: Being a total Ding Dong. Penance: fuck him up"

FATHER JO (cont'd)

Ah, I see, it says here you must do one act of service for a woman each day for...a month and pray for Mary's forgiveness in prayer every night for an hour.

MISOGYNIST

Well that seems excessive.

FATHER JO

You could just suffer the eternal damnation if you prefer. There are wild dogs there.

MISOGYNIST

No, no! I'll do it. Please, could you put in a good word for me with Them upstairs? Tell 'im I didn't mean anything by it.

FATHER JO

Of course. In the name of the father, the son and holy spirit...and also Mary in her infinite, very feminine wisdom. Amen.

MISOGYNIST

Amen.

They both exit the confessional into a beautiful, classic cathedral.

3. EXT CONFESSIONAL

MISOGYNIST

Thank you Father, thank you

FATHER JO

Of course, *child*.

Father Jo watches as the confessor walks away and out of the church

FATHER JO (cont'd)

[In her normal voice] What a fucking asshole. Why are men such monsters. I'm so glad I'm not-

Father Jo turns around towards the alter, to reveal that just behind her is a stunned man.

STUNNED MAN

Uh...

FATHER JO

[sputtering in her lower voice] What are- How- Are you here for confession? Because confession is over actually and it's really rude to listen in-

STUNNED MAN
Oh no, I'm not here for-

FATHER JO
-On a confession. We no longer do public confessions for a reason you know, and being a busybody -

STUNNED MAN
No you don't understand-

FATHER JO
Is actually a sin in and of itself! But you can confess that sin tomorrow, or better yet? Go to a different church and confess to a different

STUNNED MAN
Father, I was sent to-

FATHER JO
Father, yes exactly, because really I'm much too busy today! So glad you understand.

Father Jo has been able to move around the man and starts to walk backwards towards the alter.

FATHER JO (cont'd)
Right, so good bye. Be well! Don't sin out there!

Father Jo takes some water and splashes it towards the man

FATHER JO (cont'd)
There, a holy blessing for you. Amen!
Goodbye!

Father Jo hastily signs a cross towards the man and then having reached the alter stairs, turns and walks quickly into the back of the church.

4. INT THE LITTLE ROOM BEHIND THE ALTER.

The room is darker than the light filled cathedral and holds the mass accouterments. Father Jo, hands on the table, takes a breath to calm down, spots the holy wine. Head shaking over the whole ordeal she pours a goblet and shoots the wine back. Seeing the Eucharist, Father Jo grabs a handful and shoves them in her mouth.

ERRAND BOY
[clears throat] Father?

Father Jo screams. We see a young Errand Boy, standing in the corner.

FATHER JO
Holy Mother of God, does no one KNOCK
in this church??

ERRAND BOY
The Pope is calling a meeting, sir.

FATHER JO
Ah. Probably wants to know if we can
increase his clothing allowance.

Jo smiles at the boy conspiratorially waiting for him to
laugh but the errand boy just stares at Jo horrified.

ERRAND BOY
[whispers] His Holiness would never.

FATHER JO
Right, well! I best get going. Can't
keep his holiness waiting now can I?

Father Jo gets up to leave the same way she came in, takes a
second to peer out to see if the Stunned Man is still in the
cathedral, and then decides to use the side entrance the
Errand boy used.

FATHER JO (cont'd)
Actually, this way is probably
better, more stairs. Gotta keep it
tight for the Lord! Ok bye. God Bless

FADE OUT

FADE IN

5. INT THE PAPAL MEETING ROOM

We see a big room with two long wooden tables on each side.
There is a massive chair at the end of the table which looks
a lot like a throne, it sits empty. The room is mostly full
of bishops, men ranging from their 20s to their 80s

We pan to two of the sitting bishops whispering. CHARLES, a
young French man and William an Italian man with some
conspicuously nice Gold jewelry. Both are in their 20s.

CHARLES (FRENCH ACCENT)
I hope we're doing another sacraments
tastings, I feel like the blood of
Christ should be a nice Bordeaux

WILLIAM

Charles, you're treading on blasphemy.... It should obviously be a Montepulciano, you French swine.

CHARLES

Montepulciano? I didn't realize we were trying to punish the parishioners.

Enter Jo

JO

What's this meeting about? The pope wants a bigger clothing allowance or something?

Charles laughs, William laughs despite himself. Jo breathes a sigh of relief, back in her element. Their joy is cut short by a man clearing his throat behind them, we cut to reveal the Pope- think Jeff Goldblum. The Errand Boy stands very close to him at attention.

POPE

[stern] Good afternoon. No, this meeting is not about increasing my clothing wages. [he breaks] But I mean, maybe it should be! There's this hat I've had my eye on... I mean this is not what God's chosen messenger should be wearing!

Jo makes eye contact with the errand boy, an "I told you so" look. The errand boy scowls back. The pope walks across the room to sit on his throne.

POPE (cont'd)

But for today we're meeting because the most important part of the Christian calendar is upon us.

CHARLES

Christmas??

The errand boy and some of the bishops get excited, we hear some "ooo's"

POPE

...What? No, Christmas literally *just* happened.

WILLIAM

Remember? We did the white elephant?

The excited bishops grumble "oh right"

POPE

Yeah and I somehow really lucked out
this year...

We do a quick cut to seeing the Pope at Christmas very obviously being given the most ornate golden cup, while the other gifts are small things like oranges.

POPE (cont'd)

No, I'm talking about the Easter season and Lenten. Now who can remind Charles why Lenten is important?

JO

Lenten is when we aspire to be like our lord Jesus Christ. We fast and deny ourselves the simple pleasure to gain control over our base human desires in an attempt to understand the lord.

POPE

Yes, to gain control. Lenten is a great time for us to solidify our power, if we can control what the people eat, they're ours...I mean the Lord's. Ours for the Lord. The common folk need us to lead them. Otherwise, it's all Hell and eternal damnation for their sins.

CHARLES

They should just do what I do, buy indulgences to pay off their sin debt.

POPE

Ho, ho, if only they would Charles, I'd be wearing that new hat already!

He laughs and elbows the Errand Boy who nods quickly, not sure why he's nodding.

POPE (cont'd)

[back to business] In any case, we must lead people away from sin and what is the real gateway sin?

WILLIAM

Dancing in a barn!

CHARLES

Reading!

JO

Being a woman?

POPE

All very good guesses but I was thinking: gluttony. Sins start at the table. So tonight, go home and think on which foods are most tempting and tomorrow we can discuss and make our own list of forbidden fruits as it were.

Chuckling at his own joke he gets up as if to leave and stops, realizing.

POPE (cont'd)

Oh right, I almost forgot the other reason we're here today! I trust you all have been remembering to pray for our dearly departed Bishop Luke who died in that freak bloodletting accident.

CHARLES

Not enough leeches they said.

WILLIAM

What a way to go.

POPE

Anyway, I've added a new bishop to the council.

He motions and we cut to the door revealing, DANIEL, the stunned man from the church.

POPE (cont'd)

Meet Daniel. Sorry, I thought you would be coming with Father Jo?

DANIEL

Hello. Well, I went to the church as you said but [a beat]...then I just decided to explore the city a bit myself.

POPE

Just as well. Jo, Charles, William, I've told Daniel he can stay with you. You have an extra room I believe?

JO

We do, but it's so drafty. Very cold. Not sure Daniel would be comfortable there really.

POPE

Excellent. Then it will be perfect to prepare him for Lenten. Daniel, you're giving up good sleep for Lenten, welcome to Rome.

He turns before he leaves

POPE (cont'd)

Oh and put that meeting about getting me that new hat on the books for next week, eh?

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

4. INT THE BISHOP'S HOUSE COMMON ROOM

We see a nice common room with wooden couches laden with fluffy pillows. It's charming and quaint. We see MARY, a very devout maid roughly the same age as the bishops, tending the fire in the fireplace as JO, CHARLES, WILLIAM AND DANIEL ENTER, DANIEL and CHARLES are lugging DANIEL'S chest.

MARY

Another one of ye? How many bishops does one city need?

WILLIAM

Mary, meet Daniel. The new bishop will be staying with us in the spare room.

MARY

Well, I hope you're a better Christian than this lot. They need a good influence around 'em, as I don't seem to be enough.

JO

Mary, could you show Daniel to his room? Charles can help him with his things as he's always boasting about how he's-

CHARLES

Keeping it tight for the Lord

JO

Keeping it tight for the Lord

CHARLES

You laugh, but I am the only one ready to actually fight off the demons of Hell.

Jo watches as they disappear up the stairs. As soon as they are out of sight:

JO

[under her breath] He has got to go.

WILLIAM

[slimy] Why? Why have you been acting so strange around him?

Jo jumps, she didn't think William would hear her but he was closer than she thought he was.

JO

I just... don't need another bishop to keep an eye on. I have my hands full double checking the math on your earnings after all.

WILLIAM

I thought we agreed, I vote with you in council and you never mention the...accidental mistakes I've made with some church funds.

We do a quick cut to see William buying a giant golden pendant with his own face on it.

JO

Oops. Sorry, sometimes I forget to keep quiet when I'm stressed.

WILLIAM

And you're stressed because?

JO

Maybe instead of questioning me, you should be questioning why the Pope sent Daniel into **our** house in the first place. Maybe, the Pope suspects something and sent him here as a spy.

WILLIAM

What do you have to hide?

JO

In case you didn't realize, if your embezzlement comes out from anyone other than me, that's not great for me either.

WILLIAM

Right. Well, if he's a spy then that's great. [beat] We just need to give Daniel no reason to suspect... anything.

JO

Right...right! We just act natural. No one else has figured it out, why would he?

FADE OUT

FADE IN

5. INT. THE POPE'S STUDY

Like the bishops common room, but markedly more opulent. The fireplace is being tended by the Errand Boy. It looks like the room of a king more than a pope. Tapestries adorn the wall, a big fur rug on the floor.

We see one of the bishops, BISHOP MARK, one of the older bishops, from the earlier meeting sitting with the Pope. They're each smoking a pipe, weed not tobacco, and they are high out of their minds. Bishop Mark is tearing apart some weed for his pipe.

BISHOP MARK

Do you think chickens are sexy?

POPE

Mark, what.

BISHOP MARK

No. I mean. Ok, you said that one small sin can lead to the next, right?

POPE

Yes, for the common folk. Those sweet, dumb dumb commoners.

BISHOP MARK

Right and you said sin starts at the table right? But what sin is next... carnal sin right? So maybe some food is just ...sexier.

POPE

Mark I'm still-

BISHOP MARK

Ok! hold on

Mark gets up and goes over to the table of food. The errand boy subtly edges towards the table as well. Mark squints.

BISHOP MARK (cont'd)

What was I doing over here?

POPE

I really hope you're not about to fuck my dinner.

The errand boy grabs the platter away to protect it.

BISHOP MARK
Oh ! Right, I remember, look

He motions to errand boy with the platter to show the Pope the chicken.

BISHOP MARK (cont'd)
What part of the chicken do you like to eat?

POPE
...I like the breast- [shocked]
Woah... you are blowing my mind Mark.
Are chickens too sexy? How did I miss that??

BISHOP MARK
It's because we're too close to [motions upwards] the big guy

POPE
[nods] We're too holy.

BISHOP MARK
Shit

They both take a drag. The errand boy is shaking his head.

POPE
I mean that's why God sent down his son to us.

BISHOP MARK
To find out which animals were sexy?

POPE
To understand the human condition, to understand what it was to be tempted by sin...you wouldn't believe how many scrolls we had to hide of Jesus discovering various sins...

BISHOP MARK
...are you thinking what I'm thinking

POPE
I'm so thirsty?

BISHOP MARK

Oh wow, yes! I am so thirsty. But also I feel like...should we pull a Jesus?

POPE

Say...more

BISHOP MARK

We see what it's LIKE to be the common folk. We throw a feast of temptations and see what foods are in the red zone.

POPE

Ooooooh, I like that. Yes, yes yes, a feast of temptations...to understand the common folk.

BISHOP MARK

Right! I mean, for me? I would never. But for the people?

POPE

For the people. We gotta. Make it happen tomorrow. [to the errand boy] Take that sexy chicken out of here.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

6. INT. THE BISHOPS COMMON ROOM

The four bishops are sitting around the fire with Mary, drinking watered down mead and chatting.

MARY

So Daniel, why did you get into the clergy?

DANIEL

I just wanted to help people. Listen to their problems, give them advice.

JO

Among giving them other things, am I right?

[beat] William gives Jo a look

MARY

SO you were raised a good Christian boy then, that's lovely.

DANIEL

Well, no, I was raised a pagan. My family is from York, we prayed to the Norse Gods.

Everyone perks up to this admission, though Daniel seems unaware.

MARY

You poor thing! A savage lifestyle. How were you saved??

DANIEL

Actually, I didn't really need saving- it was a pretty fun way to grow up. We had a lot of lovely festivals and rituals that I still sometimes miss.

JO

So...why did you become a priest? Did you run out of wine or *women*?

CHARLES

For me it was wine.

JO

Women for me, obviously

Another look from William, Charles gives her a high five.

DANIEL

No, I just really responded to the message of hope. The care taken for the community.

MARY

Careful. When you say it like that, it almost sounds like you're just in it for the public works and not for...you know our lord and saviour Jesus Christ. You do now believe in just the one God...right?

DANIEL

I mean, I really don't KNOW. Is Odin any less real than God? Maybe they're the same God understood differently. I don't know! I can't know.

Mary is NOT taking this well

DANIEL (cont'd)

But I do know I respond a lot more to the Bible than any of the Norse stories.

JO

Don't you think that's a pretty flippant way to speak when you're a bishop of Rome? An adviser to the actual pope?

DANIEL

No. In fact, I think to do our jobs well, we at the top *must* be open to questioning what we think we know. To rethinking the rules. That's our job.

Mary fully looks like she's going to throw up and Charles notices.

CHARLES

Wow, look at the fire, seems like it's time to go to bed!

WILLIAM

True, we'll want our energy for tomorrow- talking about the minutia of Lenten rules sounds dreadfully boring even to me.

They all start making their way upstairs

MARY

I'll tidy up down here. Cleanliness is next to Godliness, unless you lot change that of course!! [a strained laugh]

CHARLES

No one is changing anything around here Mary, don't you worry. What can one man do?

CUT TO:

7. INT HALLWAY IN BETWEEN JO'S ROOM AND DANIEL'S ROOM.

We see Jo pause with her hand on her door handle

JO
Why did you lie to the pope today?

DANIEL
I didn't lie to the Pope.

JO
You didn't tell him you saw me.

DANIEL
No, but I didn't lie. I did go to the church and then I did decide to look around a bit before making my way to the meeting. I just left out the middle bit.

JO
Well, thanks.

DANIEL
Look, you don't have to worry about me Jo. Your secret is safe with me.

A tense beat

DANIEL (cont'd)
I judge the people confessing to me all the time. We're only human and frankly some of them are...pretty bad. Anyway, you can relax. I'm not here to narc on anybody. Here to do good.

JO
Good! That's, good. Super good. Ok. Well, then, goooood night?

DANIEL
Good night

FADE OUT

8. FADE IN ON THE GOOD NIGHT MONTAGE

INT WILLIAM'S ROOM

We see William reading by candle light

INT CHARLES'S ROOM

We see Charles has snuck the rest of the mead into his room

INT DANIEL'S ROOM

We see Daniel brooding, looking out the window, then catching himself in the reflection of the mirror, fixing his hair and smiling before going back to brooding.

INT JO'S ROOM

We see Jo getting ready for bed including unbandaging her chest revealing that this bishop, is a woman. We pan out to reveal that we've been looking through a keyhole from Mary's perspective and she is horrified.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

9. INT THE MEETING ROOM IN THE PAPAL BUILDING DAY

We pan across the same room from yesterday's meeting but this time it's filled with a wild party. A surplus of food, every meat you can imagine, cheeses, milk, and loads of wine. Someone is playing a lute. There are also considerably more people, as there are both the bishops from yesterday but also a good amount of women in the room.

We end the pan on Jo, Daniel, William and Charles who are standing in the doorway, mouths agape.

DANIEL

Did we miss the meeting?

JO

I don't think so...

CHARLES

I guess God finally started taking some of my prayers seriously.
[looking up] You are not going to regret this.

The Pope sees the four in the door and strides over

POPE

Hello! Come in, come in, I've placed you lot over here. I know this wasn't what we discussed yesterday but last night I had a vision- [bragging] from God! William, do you think chickens are sexy?

WILLIAM

What.

POPE

Exactly! We are too pure! Too holy! We must experience the world as the commonfolk does! So I turned the room into a normal, every day tavern.

WILLIAM

Uhh this-

CHARLES

[hisses] Shut up William. [to the Pope] Yeah, wow! Spot on.

POPE

Thank you, Charles. So today, try to not think of yourselves as men of God and instead think of yourselves as one of the flock. Put yourselves in their shoes, and think of what would tempt *them*.

DANIEL

You want us to succumb to gluttony?

POPE

No! **God** wants you to succumb to gluttony.

CHARLES

What a cool guy!

They take their seats as the Pope raises one of the chalices of wine

POPE

God bless!

CUT TO: A MONTAGE OF BACCHANALIA.

Everyone is drunk, we see bishops laughing with mouthfuls of turkey legs, grease dribbling down their chins. The pope dances with one of the women. Milk is poured into someone's mouth, splashing everywhere.

WILLIAM

No, I hear it now. I do love a juicy thigh...

CHARLES

I mean who doesn't.

More partying, dancing on the tables. We see some of the bishops making out with the ladies. More wine being poured.

POPE

[imitating a commoner badly] I can't wait to get my hands on some udders to get me some milk.

BISHOP MARK

Yeah, no, I hear it.

More partying, someone has tapped a mead cask incorrectly and it's spraying everywhere. The errand boy is trying to clean up spills in the background but there's no way for him to keep up.

We see 4 men playing chicken, the artist from the cold open on a priests back trying to take down an old priest on e the lute players back.

JO

No, you eat the stuffed eggs and tell me if you get a boner.

DANIEL

I assure you, I have eaten a lot of eggs and nary a boner was seen.

JO

Ah, but you weren't thinking like the common folk then.

DANIEL

Touché

JO

Not so loud, Charles will fight you and by the looks of you, you'll probably lose.

WILLIAM

Hiiiiii Jo, may I get your opinion on if you want to fuck one of these desserts over here?

JO

I'll be right back, I gotta go see if the juicy compotes awaken anything within me.

She gets up and they mosey over to the desert table

JO (cont'd)

So where are these sexy little treats-

WILLIAM

What the fuck are you doing?

JO

Looking to see if there's any pudding?

WILLIAM

No. With Daniel.

JO

Oh! Just being casual?

WILLIAM

You're flirting with him.

JO

What!! I am not. You may be into men but I'm not like you.

WILLIAM

No you certainly are not.

JO

I don't know what you mean.

WILLIAM

Well, how's this, Mary went by your room last night and took a peep through your keyhole, worried Daniel might be converting you after the chat by the fireside and can you guess what she saw? Remind me, what's the punishment for lady's caught acting as clergymen again?

JO

[instantly sobered] Death ...by quartering with horses. So, what you're going to out me to the Pope?

WILLIAM

Heavens no. I'm going to continue to be creative with my accounting and are you going to out me? Neigh, I think not.

She turns to leave.

WILLIAM (cont'd)

Wait! You can't be the only tart that goes back to the table.

He hands her some fruit tarts to take back. We watch Jo walk shell shocked back to the table. William watches with a shit eating grin, until he's called over by the Pope.

DANIEL

So, are you different?

JO

What??

DANIEL

Did the compotes awaken anything in you?

She shakes her head and gets up and walks away out the door into the hallway. Daniel follows

EXT. THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE MEETING ROOM

The hallway looks over a courtyard, we can still hear the revelry from inside as Jo leans her head over the side, trying to calm down and breathe in the fresh air.

DANIEL

Hey, are you ok?

JO

No. I'm supremely not ok.

DANIEL

What's wrong? Are you sick? Has the mead gone off? That happened in York once, I can try and find some leeches-

JO

No. I- I did something bad and William has found out and, really I knew *someone* was bound to find out, I thought you did yesterday to be honest, and that seemed terrible but now fuck do I wish you'd found out instead of William.

DANIEL

Didja kill someone? Did you kill the bishop I replaced? Ooo or did you kill that dickish confessor? Are you gonna kill again?

JO

What! No! I would never.

DANIEL

Oh. Then it's probably not that bad. Shame. Well, mmmm maybe I can help?

JO

You do not want to help me with this.

DANIEL

I don't know if you heard my whole spiel last night at the fireplace? I kinda got into *this* line of work for *this* kind of work...

Jo laughs and looks at him deciding on whether or not to tell him.

HARD CUT TO A FEW HOURS LATER.

The ladies are gone, some of the bishops are nodding off, black out drunk, other bishops are fully entering their hangover already. The musician is asleep in the corner, using his lute as a pillow. The errand boy is covered in mead, very unhappily standing by the Pope.

POPE

Ok, ok let's focus up here people. So We've ruled out all poultry because every bird has breasts. [aside] We should look into that. Boar we ruled out because it has that white meat that leads the mind astray. what else?

WILLIAM

Nothing from cows.

POPE

OH, yeah, no cows. Those udders? Way too dangerous. I notice no one really touched the fish?

CHARLES

Euch. So many bones. Figuring out how to eat fish is a punishment in and of itself.

POPE

Ok! Well that seems perfect for Lenten? What about that barrel, what's that?

The pope points at a barrel of jellied eels.

BISHOP MARK

These are the jellied eels.

Bishop Mark grabs one of the eels and brings it to the Pope.

BISHOP MARK (cont'd)

Heavens!

He hands off the eel and goes to vomit in a vase in the corner

POPE

That's a good sign!

He holds the eel up in his hand inspecting it

POPE (cont'd)

Yeah...I don't see anything sexual about this food.

He flops the eel around. It's very obviously phallic. He strokes it up and down

POPE (cont'd)

I mean it's too thin to be the leg of a lady.

He waggles it inspecting it.

POPE (cont'd)

I think we can safely say there is nothing sexually tempting about this. They're like the opposite of sexy. Blegh. Slimy. Is this a female or a male?

WILLIAM

No one knows. No one even knows how eels mate. They just appear.

POPE

What luck! Okay. Let them eat jellied eels then.

CHARLES

What I wouldn't pay to not eat jellied eels and fish for forty days.

BISHOP MARK

[still from his vomit vase] Oh hey, that's actually a good idea. We could sell dispensations. They pay us the money, we have a word with the big Kahuna [he points up] to explain and they can eat whatever they want.

POPE

Oooo I LOVE that. Love love love love love. I'm going to have that new hat by Easter. Ok, well it seems like that covers it! [to the errand boy] You get all that? Go spread the word on all forbidden foods.

ERRAND BOY

What if they won't do it?

POPE

Oh, they'll do it. Just remind them
bout the fire and brimstone, oh, and
the jellied eels!

ERRAND BOY

Yes, sir.

POPE

Alright, good meeting. Goodnight. God
bless. I'm outta here.

Everyone starts to slowly shuffle out of the room. Charles
takes a tart on his way out

WILLIAM

Charles, where's Jo?

CHARLES

I think he left sometime between the
blood of Christ waterfall and Mark
trying to piggyback ride the lute
player.

WILLIAM

MMmmm just as well. I cannot believe
I stayed.

CHARLES

Personally, I liked the song you made
up about the thousand tankards of ale
on the wall. Very catchy.

They continue to chat as they walk out the door and the
camera pans across the room. Bishops asleep in their seats,
upturned goblets of wine, so many bird carcasses, the errand
boy cleaning, thoroughly disavowed of his ideas of the
church. We continue the pan through the side door that leads
to a closet to reveal Daniel and Jo making out furiously.

BLACKOUT