

OLD, NEW, BORROWED AND BLUE

Written by

Mateo Manrique Amaya

Third Draft

E-mail mateomanriqueamaya@gmail.com

1 OVER BLACK

1

VICTORIA (V.O.)
Bless me, Father, for I have
sinned.

FADE IN:

2 INT. CHURCH - CONFESSIONAL - DAY

2

A SCREEN OPENS letting light leak in. VICTORIA (32) excited and nervous, wears a WEDDING DRESS, PEARL EARRINGS and an ANTIQUE LOCKET.

Through the screen, FATHER GABRIEL's (35) hands can be seen making the sign of the cross. He is dressed in CLERICAL VESTMENTS: a buttoned up black cassock, a stark white collar and a ROSARY on top of it.

VICTORIA
It's been sixteen years since my
last confession.

Victoria crosses herself.

FATHER GABRIEL
It's not mandatory to confess
before a wedding.

His voice is soothing. She takes a deep breath while holding a SILVER SIXPENCE between her middle and index fingers.

VICTORIA
I know. I just thought it'd do me
good.

FATHER GABRIEL
That's all right. What is it your
soul seeks to share today?

VICTORIA
Well, I'm the biggest gossip, I J-walk-- sometimes. I tell people I won't be late, but I always am. I have tried hard drugs and used the Lord's name in vain. I cheated on my Bar Exam; told my mom to go to Hell last week; I haven't prayed in months. I steal from my neighbors' lime tree and I haven't been a virgin for fifteen years.

She swallows hard and puts her hands in praying position.
Around her left hand, a BLUE RIBBON.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

(rushed)

I'm sorry, Father, for these and
all my sins.

FATHER GABRIEL

Very well. Take a deep breath...

She does.

FATHER GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I believe you need to rekindle your
relationship with God. Talk to Him
again... Think about why you are
really here. What do you soulfully
repent for?

She SIGHS while looking at her HEELS. He is looking upwards.

VICTORIA

I think I regret my first marriage.

FATHER GABRIEL

Remember: mistakes are not sins.

VICTORIA

He was old-er. I was traveling the
world and we got married in Vegas.

Father Gabriel is impassive. He has already heard that
hundreds-- if not millions-- of times.

FATHER GABRIEL

Do you think your heart was aligned
with your soul?

VICTORIA

Not really... it was a fling, more
transactional than anything. Like,
I knew I had the feeling I was
doing something wrong. The guy had
kids and I hadn't even finished law
school.

FATHER GABRIEL

I'm afraid there is no penance for
such an affair... Always ask God
for guidance and you shall receive
it.

VICTORIA

Sometimes I think I am not good for people.

FATHER GABRIEL

(moved)

Every day is a new opportunity.
Search your heart for positive traits you can offer and share them with God.

Victoria CHUCKLES SOFTLY and runs her hand over her face until it holds her chin.

FATHER GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I'm sure you've already thought of more than one.

Father Gabriel smiles back, knowing well he is not seen.

VICTORIA

Umm. I... the second time I got married was to my best friend's boyfriend-- please don't judge me.

FATHER GABRIEL

Only He can.

VICTORIA

Right, right... His visa was about to expire and hers was being processed. So, I stayed married with my borrowed husband for over two years.

FATHER GABRIEL

That was positive, for sure. At times the greater good is complicated and speculative but, I assume this time it was harmless?

VICTORIA

Mostly: they managed to stay together-- still are, but I think that might've hurt my relationship with my boyfriend.

FATHER GABRIEL

Your fiancé.

Beat.

VICTORIA

Late-boyfriend.

FATHER GABRIEL

Why do you think that would've hurt him?

VICTORIA

He wanted to get married afterwards... I wasn't ready. I thought it was naive to marry a third time-- Welp, look at me now.

Victoria shrugs and LAUGHS.

FATHER GABRIEL

Mistakes allow us to transform our soul; they make us stronger, wiser.

VICTORIA

I don't think not marrying him was a mistake, Father.

(snuffles)

He wasn't ready either... I mean, he was sharp, determined but I think he wanted to get married 'cuz he knew I could-- with those two under my belt.

(beat)

I didn't want him to be another one. I wanted him to be "the one."

Gabriel talks slowly. His eyes are fixed on the screen, but he remains facing forward. He knows who Victoria is.

FATHER GABRIEL

Did you have the opportunity to tell him while he was with us?

VICTORIA

He thought I was bluffing, making excuses. And we tried to brush it off until he couldn't anymore.

Victoria is trying to keep it together.

FATHER GABRIEL

Have you spoken to him after his passing?

VICTORIA

Hundreds of times.

FATHER GABRIEL

That's how we make amends and get closure when we can't say goodbye.

VICTORIA
Yeah but I'm afraid it's useless.
He's still going to be dead.

Father Gabriel SWALLOWS HARD. Victoria realizes who he is.

FATHER GABRIEL
Then, why keep doing it?

Victoria looks down. She doesn't answer. She has a tear running down her face.

FATHER GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Solace? Guilt?

VICTORIA
Somewhere along the line he started
losing his way. It was in the
finest of details at first, then
came the day he just-- gave up...

She is CRYING now.

FATHER GABRIEL
(trembling)
God's design is, unfortunately,
perfect. Call it "just" or
"unfair;" what matters is how we
choose to carry on.

Victoria tries to pierce the screen with her anxious gaze.

VICTORIA
How do you know I didn't get to say
goodbye?

FATHER GABRIEL
(crying softly)
I was out of town when my brother
took his life... we weren't close,
but our mom always spoke highly of
you.

Victoria CHUCKLES through her tears.

VICTORIA
I'm sorry, Gabriel. I know he
"didn't quiet you by his love" but,
he carried you in his silence.

FATHER GABRIEL
Do you love him, Victoria?

VICTORIA
I'll love him forever.

FATHER GABRIEL
Your fiancé.

Victoria's lips tremble.

Her mouth opens.

CUT TO BLACK.

3

OVER BLACK

3

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FADE OUT.