

Salvation

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INT. CHURCH - DUSK

An opening shot of Jesus on the crucifix. SIMON, a priest in his early thirties, kneels at a pew, praying on the rosary.

SIMON

In the name of Jesus Christ, our
Lord...

MAGGIE, a prostitute in her early twenties, enters and sits beside him. Simon does not look at her as they speak.

MAGGIE

Sorry to interrupt, *Father*. The
door was open.

SIMON

No one's here, anyhow.

MAGGIE

Right.

SIMON

I still haven't anything for you,
Maggie.

Maggie eyes the rosary beads and grabs them from his hands. Simon does not protest.

MAGGIE

Mind if I have these?

SIMON

No.

Maggie stares at Simon while playing with the rosary beads. She ultimately holds them out in front of him.

MAGGIE

Sort of blasphemous, I guess.

Simon looks at Maggie for the first time. His face is stone cold.

SIMON

Please leave me be.

Maggie walks around slowly and looks up at the church skylights.

MAGGIE

Where is she?

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

She's not here today.

Maggie looks down at him, spots his wallet and takes it out of his pocket. She sifts through it. Simon does not stop her, and doesn't look at her.

MAGGIE

You don't mind if I look around in here, do you?

SIMON

I don't.

MAGGIE

I'm sure you'd tell me if you had anything that belonged to me. Right?

SIMON

I've only my faith. That's about it.

MAGGIE

Really...

Maggie takes a wad of cash out his wallet.

MAGGIE

That's it, huh?

SIMON

Maggie...I've repented. I beg of you, please leave.

MAGGIE

You know I can't do that.

SIMON

I won't be burdened by the past!

MAGGIE

Well you will be judged. Now, maybe one of the Brothers has it? That one that's always around...what's his name...the slow one...

SIMON

John?

MAGGIE

Yeah, that's him, John. You guys were always together. That guy would definitely loan it to you.

SIMON

I doubt John will have anything for you either, Maggie. Please...let me think through all this and I promise, I will let you know when I can pay you for your...services.

MAGGIE

You priests sure make an awful lot of promises.

Maggie gets up to leave.

MAGGIE

You have a week.

EXT. CHURCH - DUSK

Maggie leaves the church. She lights a cigarette on the church steps. MARY, a 25 year-old nun, pushes open the doors and joins her outside.

MARY

I told you to never come back here.

Maggie continues to smoke. She doesn't turn back to look at Mary. Mary continues to yell at her near the door.

MAGGIE

I thought you church folk would be more welcoming.

MARY

What are you doing here?

MAGGIE

You know why I'm here.

MARY

Leave, now, before I call the authorities.

Maggie puts out her cigarette, stands up and turns towards Mary, who cowers back towards the door. Maggie gets up close to Mary's face. Though Mary's body inches away from Maggie, Mary's face never falters.

MAGGIE

I'm gonna get what's mine, or things will get ugly. Ya know?

(CONTINUED)

MARY

The only ugly thing here is you.
Now get out.

MAGGIE

You have my money?

MARY

I certainly do not!

MAGGIE

Nothin, huh? Nothing to save him
with? Nothing to give up for your
sins?

MARY

Stop it!

Maggie steps away from Mary as Mary begins to shout. A
silence lingers between them. Maggie pulls out another
cigarette and lights it.

MAGGIE

Somebody here owes me.

MARY

Owe you?

MAGGIE

That's right.

MARY

A place in hell, that's what we owe
you!

MAGGIE

Never realized how funny you
Catholics are. You crack me up.

MARY

Father Simon is a good man. A good
man! And you spoiled him.

MAGGIE

Just because he has to pay me for
my services doesn't mean it's any
different for you.

MARY

You don't know what you're talking
about.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

That's the thing about prostitutes.
Lots of little secrets get
whispered to us in the dark.

Mary sits there in silence, her eyes welling up with tears.
Maggie stares at her.

MAGGIE

The way I see it, I'll go to heaven
just fine. I never made a vow. I
never told a lie. I don't hide any
secrets.

Maggie gets up in Mary's face again.

MAGGIE

Whether he pays me or not, it was
still a sin. And whether you
discuss it or not, it was still a
sin for you too.

Simon opens the door and enters the steps. He puts his hand
on Mary's trembling shoulder as Maggie steps away from her.

MAGGIE

It's alright Simon. Talk to John.
Hopefully you won't let this woman
make the wrong decisions for you.
Play it smart. I'm sure you will.

Maggie turns and leaves Simon and Mary on the steps in
silence.

CUT TO BLACK.