

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE UP on Father Lester's face.

MICHAEL

You really don't know what it's like for us, do you? In your day, you had an army of guys going through this together... there's only a handful of us here.

No response from Father Lester. He's staring sadly at all the stuff in Michael's room.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(off the priest's sadness)
I saw my ex-girlfriend tonight.
(beat)
She's marrying another guy.

Father Lester's gaze softens.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Standing there, in the bar... I realized for the first time...
(pain etched on his face)
That the best years of my life are behind me.

FATHER LESTER

Everyone gets lonely, even people who marry.

MICHAEL

I know that.

FATHER LESTER

But the pain of ordination can be particularly brutal, like a part of you is dying.

MICHAEL

(nods)
I've never felt this alone in all my life.

Father Lester sighs, he understands Michael's anguish all too well.

FATHER LESTER

It's tough, what we've chosen.

*

MICHAEL

Too tough for me, I think.

EXT BAR SOUTH BOSTON NIGHT

Michael walks over to where Kristie is sitting and Sean makes his way over to Jimmy -- and drags him out the back door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hi... Kristie... it's great to see you.

Kristie looks up from her date, thunderstruck.

KRISTIE

Michael... my God, how are you?

MICHAEL

Great, thanks.

Kristie notices Michael's bloodshot eyes and sees the pack of cigarettes sticking out of his pocket.

KRISTIE

(hopeful)

So you left the seminary?

MICHAEL

Naw, I'm still inside.

HANDSOME GUY

You're studying to be a priest? No kidding! My uncle's a priest... in Fall River.

KRISTIE

(to Michael)

This is Alex.

Michael flashes him an icy glare...

ALEX

His name is Peter Redquest. You oughtta look him up. He's a great guy.

Michael ignores Alex, turns his attention back to Kristie.

MICHAEL

So what have you been up to?

Kristie looks down, a mixture of sadness and fury is painted on her face. Alex picks up on the emotional undercurrent and gets awkwardly protective.

ALEX
 (snakes his arm around
 Kristie)
 Kris and I are getting married this
 spring.

MICHAEL
 (masks the pain)
 Married?

ALEX
 Yeah, at my summer home on the
 Vineyard.
 (looks at Kristie)
 Ya know, my uncle's going to be in
 Italy and we still need a priest to
 say the wedding Mass. What about--

MICHAEL
 I'm not a priest yet... I--

From behind: TK puts his hand on Michael's shoulder.

TK
 Yo, Mikey, we gotta roll. Jimmy's
 repaving the parking lot with
 chicken wings n'beer.

Michael reluctantly starts backing away from Kristie and
 towards the exit.

MICHAEL
 (awkwardly to Kristie)
 See ya around.

INT. GORDY'S PUB - LATER THAT NIGHT

The bar is now empty and six or seven empty glasses are lined
 up in front of Michael and the woman. They are clearly very
 comfortable with each other.

MICHAEL
 (finishing off his beer)
 I should go.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
 One more drink.

MICHAEL
 (stumbles from his stool)
 I really need to get back...

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
To your empty bed?

She looks longingly at Michael. Her beauty is overwhelming.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN (CONT'D)
You ever wondered what it would be
like to sleep with someone you knew
you'd never see again? No strings
attached?

MICHAEL
(beat)
Not really.

She runs a playful finger along his jawbone, he's mesmerized.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
I don't believe you. Could you
imagine sleeping with me?

Michael looks around to see if anyone is watching.

MICHAEL
Yes, I think I could.

The young woman reaches for her jacket, wraps it around her
shoulders.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(he stands)
I need to use the rest room.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
Don't be long.

Michael walks past the bar, down the hallway, and opens the
door to the men's room.