

ELENA

I need some time with God.

ALAN

God doesn't need you... I do.

ELENA

God gives me joy, Daddy.

ALAN

God can do a lot of things, but he can't give you joy. You have to find that within yourself.

ELENA

Like you, Mr. No God? Because you're so joyous? What exactly did God do to you?

ALAN

It's not God, it's the church. The pomp, the fancy robes, the gold crosses. The Vatican looks like Liberace's apartment in Vegas... priests wearing French cut shirts with 24 karat cuff links and the Pope in red Prada shoes. Fucking designer shoes! When did Jesus wear anything but a pair of dusty sandals?

ELENA

But Daddy...

ALAN

No, no, no, the Catholic Church is a hypocrisy. They use the Bible like a club to keep people down...

(pounding his fist  
on the table)

Women, gays, Jews. Lie after lie is fed  
to eager young minds until they're  
manipulated to believe anything a  
priest says...

(pointing at her)

Father Fullner looked me straight in  
the eye and told me...

ELENA

(interrupting)

I know, I know...

ALAN

(pointing at Elena)

At my confirmation, he told me  
everything was possible with Christ -  
that Christ would give me anything I  
ever wanted! Well I wanted a pony, and  
I ran all the way home from church that  
day. And you know what happened when I  
looked under the porch? No fucking  
pony!

ELENA

(shaking her head)

You abandoned God because you didn't  
get a pony? What about a lifetime of  
faith in our Lord and Savior?

ALAN

Don't tell me about faith. What the  
fuck was I going to do with a pony on  
the South Side of Chicago?

I was just a little boy - a good boy -  
and I believed in God that deeply. That  
was faith.

ELENA

Faith isn't about materialistic things,  
Daddy. It's about giving.

ALAN

I went back and asked that priest why I  
didn't get the pony. He told me I  
should have wished my father had a job.  
Don't you see?

(pounding on the  
table again)

Celibacy is a mental illness!