

Cleaning for the Saints
Episode One: "Where's Luis?"

written by

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Three people sit around at a table discussing paperwork. SAL (40's, tall, beefy) gesticulates wildly with his hands.

SAL
I'm thinking we could match up the seven deadly sins with seven of the ten commandments! Won't that be fun?

JULIA (30's, wiry, spectacle-wearing) nods enthusiastically.

ABBY (20's, short, conservatively dressed) is not convinced.

ABBY
Fun for you or for the kids in Sunday school?

SAL
For the kids, of course.

ABBY
Why don't we go with something a little less threatening?

JULIE
What could be less threatening than learning about unspeakable sin?

SAL
Yeah, exactly! They'll see what NOT to do. It's not that bad.

EDDIE (20's, lean, wearing mismatched clothes, starving-artist type) enters the office, looking around.

SAL (CONT'D)
Now, there's sloth, gluttony, wrath. What else?

EDDIE
Greed?

Abby notices Eddie for the first time.

ABBY
Lust.

SAL
Wel-Yes, exactly!

Sal turns his head to see Eddie come in.

SAL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Oh, food donations are going to be
at the building in the back, buddy.

EDDIE
Yeah, I'm not here for food. I'm
Eddie. I'm looking for the head
janitor, Luis.

JULIE
He's usually around. Probably by
the main office.

SAL
Abby! Why don't you guide our
esteemed young Eddie to the main
office?

Eddie shuffles back slowly.

EDDIE
Oh, nah. Don't worry about it. I've
got it.

SAL
It's really no problem. Right,
Abby?

Sal looks to Abby.

ABBY
Ummm...

Abby doesn't know whether to get up or stay seated.

EDDIE
No, no, no, it's all good.

Eddie's face is lit up by a smile trying to keep itself from
turning into a smirk. His eyes linger on Julie.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
I think I know my way around.

Without the use of his eyes, Eddie bumps his leg on a CABINET
behind him, stumbling for a moment. He pushes the cabinet
back before scampering out.

2 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

2

MICHAEL (17, acne-ridden) sits on a toilet smiling as he
jerks on something beneath his belly button.

MICHAEL

Oh, yeah!

3 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF BATHROOM- DAY

3

Shaking his head with a sigh, Eddie turns into the hall, looking to both sides for the right way. He sees a door and walks toward it.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

MICHAEL

Oh yeah. That's it, Sister.
Virginia. You know how to do it.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Eddie grabs the handle of the door. He tries turning it.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The handle on the inside of the door rattles. Michael panics.

MICHAEL

(blubbering)
Occ-occ-It's occupied.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Eddie is dumbfounded and raises an eyebrow. He shrugs his shoulders and leaves. He has a head janitor to find.

4 INT. MAIN OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

4

Marylin (40's, buff, girl boss), the business manager of the church, kneels at a pew in her personal office, facing a crucified Jesus that has more in common with an Auschwitz survivor than the muscular woman at his feet.

She ends her prayer just in time to see Eddie enter her office.

EDDIE

Hi, I'm Eddie. I'm supposed to
start the assistant janitor gig
today.

MARYLIN

Hi! Yes. Eddie! I'm Marylin, we spoke on the phone. What can I help you with?

EDDIE

I'm looking for Luis.

MARYLIN

Well, he's usually around.

EDDIE

Yes, that seems to be the consensus.

Just then, Michael comes running into the office and lands at the front desk.

MARYLIN

Oh, Michael!

Michael whips his head over, eyes wide.

MARYLIN (CONT'D)

(to Eddie)

Michael will help you find Luis.

Michael enters Marylin's office.

MARYLIN (CONT'D)

This is Eddie, the new assistant janitor.

Michael, uncomfortably shifting around, nods.

MARYLIN (CONT'D)

(to Eddie)

This is Michael. The office's assistant secretary. And my beautiful, handsome son!

She side hugs him, tussles his hair and grabs his face so it makes a fish face, before smooching his cheek. Michael tries to get away but is no match for his mother's biceps.

Michael extends his hand.

Eddie looks at it for a second.

Oblivious, Eddie takes Michael's waiting hand. They shake hands.

END OF COLD OPEN.

Michael and Eddie walk through the courtyard and flower garden of the church, past statues of angels and saints. A bench is perfectly ensconced in the middle of it all.

MICHAEL

Ahhhh.

Michael plops down onto the bench. Eddie stops in his tracks.

EDDIE

What are you doing? We gotta find Luis.

MICHAEL

In my experience, it's wiser to let Luis come to you.

EDDIE

What the-I don't have time to screw around. I just want to find Luis so I can do the work I have to do and be out of here.

Michael closes his eyes.

MICHAEL

He'll pass by us eventually.

Eddie looks around.

EDDIE

How long does it usually take?

MICHAEL

I don't know. Could be hours. But at last we'll find him. If we go looking, it might just turn into a wild goose chase.

EDDIE

Do you regularly waste hours of your day waiting for things to fall into your lap?

MICHAEL

Only if they're cute enough.

Eddie rolls his eyes. He keeps walking and beckons Michael to follow.

EDDIE

Come on. We gotta tell Luis you want a lap dance from him.

Michael catches up.

MICHAEL

All right, well, today's a pretty regular day, so Luis is probably getting ready to polish the floor of the church after the sermon.

EDDIE

Couldn't he be taking a break?

MICHAEL

That would be his third break of the day.

Eddie stops in his tracks.

EDDIE

It's 10 AM.

MICHAEL

Well, he's an old man. Old men take breaks, and Jesus died to save the rest of us. It's the way of the universe. Don't question it.

EDDIE

So, Jesus is supposed to die for the sake of a couple million plebeians... and old men just don't do their jobs. That's your idea of the natural order of things?

MICHAEL

I didn't make up the rules. Speaking of rules, we always pay our respects to the Virgin Mary here.

EDDIE

Yeah, I know.

MICHAEL

You know?

EDDIE

Yeah, I'm not really new here. My family used to come a while ago.

They stop to address the Virgin Mary statue with a sign of the cross.

MICHAEL

(beaming)

Ahh, so now you're back to do your part in Jesus' name after abandoning him in cold blood.

EDDIE

Yeah, sure. Listen, how long do I have to stay here today, anyway? I was just told to show up, work and get a check.

Michael keeps walking towards the

6

CHURCH ENTRANCE.

6

MICHAEL

So you're the plebeian.

EDDIE

What?

MICHAEL

A plebeian's a member of the low social class, right? Since you're in dire need of money that mean-

EDDIE

I'm not a pleb, ok? I'm going to school. That's what the money's for.

MICHAEL

An educated pleb is still a pleb.

EDDIE

Listen, dingleberry! You don't know the first thing about me.

MICHAEL

I know your salary. Or should we go ask your new boss, the janitor? Eddie grabs Michael by the front of his shirt.

EDDIE

That's HEAD janitor, bozo.

Michael gasps at something behind Eddie.

7

EXT. CHURCH ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

7

Behind Eddie, the congregation of a concluding sermon spills out of the church. SISTER VIRGINIA (30's, placid, angelic) exits with some other nuns.

Michael is in awed stupor. He fidgets, shifting from side to side. Eddie turns around to see what Michael's looking at.

MICHAEL

It's S-Sister Virginia...Uhhh, you know what? I actually forgot-

Michael walks backward, releasing himself from Eddie's grip. He turns to run the other way.

EDDIE

Where are you going?

MICHAEL

Bathroom!

Eddie cocks his head. He looks at Sister Virginia. He looks back at Michael running away. Back at Sister Virginia.

EDDIE

Bathroom?

Suddenly, Eddie's eyes widen. He looks down at the hand he shook Michael's hand with.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Oh, god!

Frantically, Eddie lopes into the

THE CHURCH.

Eddie finds a small fountain of water and plunges his hand into it, scrubbing it as hard as he can.

He gets some stern and horrified looks from the old ladies still reciting their post-sermon prayers. They motion with their eyes in the direction of the crucified Jesus that is 20 feet tall this time, at the front of the church.

Trying to smile, he slowly removes his hand from what he now remembers is a pool of holy water.

He remembers and squat-bows clumsily while motioning a cross in front of him, looking like he's taking the holiest dump in history.

He continues into the church and scans the rest of the space- just another OLD LADY sprucing up some flowers at the far end.

Eddie makes his way over.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me. My name's Eddie. I'm the new assistant janitor. Do you know where Luis might be?

OLD LADY

I wish! I've been looking for him the whole morning to take these trash bags out. Say, you look familiar. Do you-

EDDIE

Oh, ummm. Yeah, you know what, I probably do look familiar. A lot of people think I look like Justin Bieber.

OLD LADY

Who did what in a beaver?!

EDDIE

Nothing. Never mind.

OLD LADY

Well, I was just about to ask Father Patrick where Luis is. You can go instead. I'm Cherise, by the way.

Eddie turns and heads towards the sacristy.

EDDIE

Thank you! Nice meeting you, Cherise.

8

INT. CHURCH - SACRISTY - DAY

8

Eddie walks in and sees FATHER PATRICK (60's, small, skinny but lively eyed) staring out of one of the windows. Eddie slowly approaches.

EDDIE

Father Patrick?

Father Patrick doesn't respond. He is deep in focus, mumbling something to the glass.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
Are you all right?

Eddie lays his hand on Father Patrick's shoulder. Suddenly, Father Patrick whips around to face him.

FATHER PATRICK
(in a powerful,
foreboding) (voice)
You have returned! But not as
yourself!

FATHER PATRICK (CONT'D)
Lest you forsake your secrets, you
will never find your place here.

Father Patrick starts choking, trying to cough something out, but nothing comes. He almost falls backward.

EDDIE
Whoa, whoa, whoa! Hold on. Are you
ok?

Father Patrick shakes his head and blinks his eyes.

FATHER PATRICK
Whoa! That was wild! What happened?

EDDIE
I don't know. You just almost
passed out.

FATHER PATRICK
Ah, well, that's not ideal. What
was I doing? Ah yes, my friend.

Eddie looks around, spooked.

EDDIE
Which friend, exactly?

Father Patrick now faces a window again, holding a piece of paper to the sill.