

## Doubt by John Patrick Shanley

*Set in 1942, Flynn is a middle-aged priest*

### Beat One

*(Flynn walks in with controlled fury)*

Flynn: May I come in?

Aloysius: We would require a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

Flynn:

Aloysius: We were having a chat.

Flynn:

Aloysius: A 3<sup>rd</sup> party is truly required, Father.

Flynn:

### Beat Two

*(Flynn comes in and slams the door shut. They face each other)*

Flynn:

Aloysius: You can stop it at any time.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Confess and resign.

Flynn:

Aloysius: What are you doing in this school?

Flynn:

Aloysius: Or even more to the point, what are you doing in the priesthood?

Flynn:

Aloysius: From what?

Flynn:

Aloysius: You can't distract me Father Flynn.

This isn't about my behaviour, it's about yours.

Flynn:

Aloysius: That's right. I have suspicions.

### Beat Three

Flynn:

Aloysius: You gave that boy wine to drink.  
And you let him take the blame.

Flynn:

Aloysius: All McGinn knows is the boy drank wine.  
He doesn't know how he came to drink it.

Flynn:

Aloysius: No.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I'm not satisfied.

Flynn:

Aloysius: No, he'd protect you.  
That's what he's been doing.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Because you have seduced him.

Flynn:

Aloysius: That's right.

### Beat Four

Flynn:

Aloysius: That's true.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Certainly.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I know people.

Flynn:

Aloysius: It won't have to be.

Flynn:

Aloysius: You will tell me what you've done.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Yes.

Flynn:

Aloysius: So you talked to Sister James?  
Well, of course you talked to Sister James.

Beat Five

Flynn:

Aloysius: Yes.

Flynn:

Aloysius: It might.

Flynn:

Aloysius: What does it matter?

Flynn:

Aloysius: On the first day of the school year, I saw you touch William London's wrist.  
And I saw him pull away.

Flynn:

Aloysius: That was all.

Flynn:

*(Flynn writes in his book)*

Beat Six

Aloysius: What are you writing now?

Flynn:

Aloysius: This morning, before I spoke with Mrs Muller, I took the precaution of calling the last parish to which you were assigned.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Who?

Flynn:

Aloysius: I did not speak to the pastor.  
I spoke to one of the nuns.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I spoke to a nun.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Why?  
Do you have an understanding, you and he?  
Father Flynn, you have a history.

Beat Seven

Flynn:

Aloysius: This is your 3<sup>rd</sup> parish in five years.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I'm not calling the pastor.

Flynn:

Aloysius: You will go after another child and another, until you are stopped.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I won't say.

Flynn:

Aloysius: You have.

Flynn:

Aloysius: But I have my certainty, and armed with that, I will go to your last parish and the one before that if necessary.

I will find a parent, Father Flynn!

Trust me, I will.

A parent who probably doesn't know that you are still working with *children*!

And once I do that, you will be exposed.

You may even be attacked, metaphorically or otherwise.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I will step outside the Church if that's what needs to be done, though the door should shut behind me!

I will do what needs to be done Father, if it means I'm damned to Hell!

You should understand that, or you will mistake me.

Now, did you give Donald Muller wine to drink?

Beat Eight

Flynn:

Aloysius: I have.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Yes.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I confessed it!

Did you give Donald Muller wine to drink?

Flynn:

Aloysius: We are not the same!

A dog that bites is a dog that bites!

I do not justify what I do wrong and go on.

I admit it, desist, and take my medicine.

Did you give Donald Muller wine to drink?

Flynn:

Aloysius: Mental reservation.

Flynn:

Aloysius: You lie.

Very well then.

If you won't leave my office, I will.

And once I go, I will not stop.

*(She goes to the door. Suddenly, a new tone comes into his voice)*

Beat Nine

Flynn:

Aloysius: You will request a transfer from this parish.  
You will take a leave of absence until it is granted.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Don't.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I don't want you.

Flynn:

Aloysius: You can preserve your reputation.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Your work in the community should be discontinued.

Flynn:

Aloysius: That's not true.  
It's Donald Muller who has nothing, and you took full advantage of that.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Because you smile at him and sympathize with him, and talk to him as if you were the same?

Flynn:

Aloysius: You are a cheat. The warm feeling you experienced when that boy looked at you with trust was not the sensation of virtue. It can be got a drunkard from his tot of rum. You're a disgrace to the collar. The only reason you haven't been thrown out of the Church is the decline in vocations.

Flynn:

Aloysius: You will lose.

Flynn:

Aloysius: I know.

Flynn:

Aloysius: Nowhere you can get at. Stay here. Compose yourself. Use the phone if you like. Good day Father. I have no sympathy for you. I know you're invulnerable to true regret. *(Starts to go. Pause)* And cut your nails.  
*(She goes, closing the door behind her. After a moment, he goes to the phone and dials.)*

Flynn:

*(Lights fade)*