

Tied to the Vicarage

By

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INT. KITCHEN (VICARAGE) - NEXT DAY

Julia wipes down a large kitchen table. Karen enters with dishes in hand.

JULIA
Here, let me.

Julia places them on the cooker.

James - casually dressed - enters the kitchen. He places shopping bags down and leaves without acknowledging JULIA.

JULIA
Still angry then?

KAREN
You know what he's like.

JULIA
I didn't mean to hurt anyone.

KAREN
He'll will come round. Give him time.

Karen lifts a broken spice rack on the worktop counter.

JULIA
Sorry. That broke the other day.
I've ordered another. Should be here by end of week.

Karen nods.

JULIA
So where are the girls? Do you need me to do a school run?

KAREN
Mum and dad have got them.

JULIA
What?

KAREN
Collected them last night.

JULIA
(shocked)
Mum and dad!

KAREN
Don't worry. Didn't say anything.
Wasn't sure how I'd explain it.

James enters kitchen. He carries plates and cutlery.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES
That's the lot!

He places them down.

JULIA
(sheepishly)
I'll get out of your way.

KAREN
Thanks Julia.

JULIA
I'm having lunch with Maddy...
but if you need anything.

JAMES
(terse)
Unlikely!

KAREN
(annoyed)
James!

As Julia leaves, James sees the broken spice rack. He picks it up.

KAREN
S'okay. She's ordered another.

James shakes head.

INT. HALLWAY (VICARAGE) - DAY

James walks down the hallway to the front door.

SOUND OF DOORBELL BEING RUNG IMPATIENTLY.

EXT. VICARAGE ENTRANCE - DAY

A red car is poorly parked. Driver's side door is open.

SIMON TALBOT (30) waits impatiently on the step. He is unshaven, slightly disheveled and bleary eyed. Simon anxiously looks round, fearful of something or someone.

James opens the door. He eyes him suspiciously.

JAMES
Yes?

SIMON
I was hoping to talk with the vicar?

JAMES

Come in.

James opens the door. Simon walks into:

INT. HALLWAY (VICARAGE) - DAY

As James closes the door, Karen joins them in the hallway.

JAMES

I'm James. This is my wife Karen.

SIMON

Simon...Simon Talbot.

JAMES

So Simon, what can we do for you?

SIMON

Actually, I'd rather talk to the vicar if you don't mind?

JAMES

That's me.

SIMON

What?

JAMES

I'm vicar of St Maxims.

Simon falls to his knees dramatically and grasps James's legs. He looks up at him with manic eyes.

SIMON

(elated)

Oh thank God! Please make it stop.

James and Karen exchange a look. She mimes phoning for help and backs away slowly. S

SIMON

If it was just phone calls, I'd probably get used to it.

JAMES

(Placates)

Hmm.

SIMON

But she keeps following me round. I feel like I'm being stalked.

Karen stops.

KAREN

Sorry. Who are we talking about?

Simon looks up.

SIMON

Sandra. Sandra Coxwood.

Karen and James visibly wilt at the mention of her name.

KAREN

Sorry, when did you last see her?

SIMON

Just now. Driving up the hill.
She started to give chase.

JAMES

I didn't know she had a car.

KAREN

She doesn't.

SIMON

On her bike. Man can she move!
Her legs like pistons going up
that hill.

KAREN

Simon. This is important: Did she
see you come in here?

SIMON

No. I was way ahead of her

JAMES/KAREN

(Relieved, unison)
Thank goodness!

JAMES

You're quite sure?

SIMON

Yes. (Suspicious) Why?

JAMES

No reason. Just rather
she didn't know we were back
here.

SIMON

Hang on. I came for help. My
vicar said you'd intervene. Get
her to seek professional help.

JAMES

(laughs)

If only it was that easy. Karen meets her weekly. I've supported her through more court cases than I care to remember

SIMON

Court cases?

JAMES

You're not the first person she's done this to.

SIMON

What?

KAREN

Sandra regularly receives restraining orders.

JAMES

Take my advice: get one placed on her as soon as you can. It's the only way she'll leave you alone.

KAREN

So, how did you meet?

SIMON

Online dating.

JAMES

They're the worse. Always said sites like that should come with categories of 'unbalanced' and 'stalker.' If they -

SOUND OF DOORBELL. They look towards the door.

SANDRA (O.S.)

(shouts)

Simon! It's me. Sandra. (comic beat) I know you're in there.

Suddenly James bundles Simon and Karen into:

INT. SITTING ROOM (VICARAGE) - DAY

James follows behind and gently closes door.

JAMES

(whispers)

Maybe if we're really quiet, she'll go away.

Comic Beat - Karen and Simon look at James in disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

Okay. Maybe that is a bit optimistic.

SANDRA(O.S)

I only want to talk.

Simon slides down onto floor. He grasps knees and rocks in foetal position.

KAREN

Listen Simon. You're safe here.

As Karen places a hand on Simon's shoulder, he grabs it.

SIMON

(desperate)

Please. You've got to help. I sleeping in my car. I'm tired and I need a bath.

JAMES

It's okay. Stay with us. Least we can do under the circumstances.

KAREN

James. You sort Simon. I'll see to Sandra.

James and Karen exchange a worried look.

I/E. VICARAGE ENTRANCE - DAY

Karen stands between Sandra and entry into the house .

SANDRA

But he must be inside. That's his car!

KAREN

You're not coming in.

SANDRA

But I only want to talk.

KAREN

Not going to happen. Go home. I'll call you tomorrow.

Sandra stamps her foot and turns away. She walks off in the direction of the lane. As she walks past Simon's car, she slams the door shut.

Karen closes the front door. Sandra turns and with door closed, she steps into some bushes and out of view.

INT. LANDING (VICARAGE) - DAY

James leads Simon along the landing. He points to a door.

JAMES
That's the bathroom! (Pause) And
bedrooms are...

James continues to another door and opens it. The room is
blacked out. He turns the light on and looks inside into:

INT. BEDROOM (JULIA'S BOUDOIR) - DAY

A room filled with fetish clothing and equipment.

INT. LANDING (VICARAGE)- DAY

As instantly, Jame's switches off the light and pulls the
door closed behind him. He bumps into Simon who stands
close behind him.

JAMES
(laughs nervously)
We won't use that one.

James walks to next bedroom, opens door, the steps inside.

INT. SMALL BEDROOM (VICARAGE) - DAY

Simon follows him into the tidy bedroom.

JAMES
This is more like it!

James hands him a towel.

JAMES
Now, we got something on
downstairs but you're quite safe
up here.

SIMON
(tearfully)
Thank you.

INT. KITCHEN (VICARAGE) - DAY

Karen places tin foil over lasagne dishes. James enters
kitchen - now in clerical shirt and collar.

A small cardboard box (containing handcuffs, harness, ball
gag, dog lead and collar) sits on the kitchen table.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES
What's this?

James pulls it over to examine the contents.

KAREN
Found them while tidying the
sitting room.

James pulls handcuffs from the box and frowns.

JAMES
Unbelievable!

KAREN
Hasn't changed. Was always
leaving her stuff lying around.

Karen takes the handcuffs from James and drops them back in the box. James pulls out another item. She slaps his hand and he drops it back in box.

KAREN
You need to get milk and bread.

James sees mobile phone on the table and picks it up.

KAREN
It's Julias. Some guy phoned to
say they're delivering the rack
today.

JAMES
Great.

KAREN
Aren't you doing a communion?

JAMES
Just going.

KAREN
Karen passes box of adult toys to James.

KAREN
Here. Take this. We don't want
them on show when guests arrive.

JAMES
Righto.

James kisses Karen on cheek and exits kitchen.

INT. HALLWAY (VICARAGE) - DAY

James strides quickly down the hallway. A feather duster and wig protude precariously from the box. He stops.

JAMES
(to self)
Bible.

He looks around then steps into:

INT. FRONT ROOM (VICARAGE) - DAY

A spacious room that comprises coffee table and armchairs.

James places the box into the seat of an armchair (facing away from the to door) and searches a bookshelf.

He finds a Bible, picks it from shelf, and exits the room.

FRONT DOOR CLOSING (O.S)

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

As Karen chops celery...

JULIA'S MOBILE PHONE RINGS

She picks up the phone...

KAREN
(into phone)
Hello? (pause) No. I'm Karen. Her
sister. Sorry. Who is this?
(Pause) Well John Smith, I'm not
sure how that will help. Let me
see: I'm about five foot seven.
Blue eyes. Somewhere between
'athletic' and 'a few extra
pounds. Right now, I'm wearing a
blouse and an old pair of jeans.
(Pause) No, it's not what I
normally wear. I'm preparing
food. What? (Pause) No I will not
wear washing-up gloves and...
(shocked) Really!

Karen ends call and phone as if alive and squirming.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Maddy and Julia in mid -conversation as they eat lunch.

MOBILE PHONE RINGS.

MADDY
 (into phone)
 Hello Karen. Yes. I'm talking to
 her!

Maddy hands the phone to Julia.

JULIA
 (into phone)
 Sorry. What? John Smith? Did he
 say what he wanted? (Pause)
 Washing up gloves?

Maddy suppresses a laugh.

JULIA
 I doubt it's his real name.
 Switch it off. I'll collect when
 I back. (pause) Okay, fine. (ends
 call)

Julia passes phone back to Maddy.

MADDY
 What happened?

JULIA
 Think Karen had a cash call.

MADDY
 What did he want?

Julia gives Maddy a long knowing look.

MADDY
 No I meant like...maybe I know
 him.

JULIA
 Please Maddy. You're not helping.
 Now I'm wondering what else I
 left undone.

MADDY
 You told all your clients.

JULIA
 Feels like I forgotten something.

(CONTINUED)

MADDY
It'll be fine.

EXT. VICARAGE GROUNDS - DAY

James on bicycle. He sees Ned in a field and stops. Closer, Ned uses binoculars to look up into the sky. A camera is draped round his neck.

JAMES
Ned!

Ned is startled. He sees James and walks over.

JAMES
Missed you this morning?

NED
Planned to go...ended up here.

JAMES
Anything?

NED
(shakes head)
They hide behind the clouds...
But they're near. I can sense
them.

JAMES
Actually Ned. I wanted to speak
to you about the photos. The ones
in the paper last week.

NED
Did you like it? It was a good
shot.

James shuffles, uncomfortable

JAMES
It's just I have a slight
problem.

NED
Problem?

JAMES
The markings...well, they're very
familiar.

Ned looks concerned.

JAMES (CONTD)
Not that dissimilar from the
engraved letters of our missing
church collection plate.

(CONTINUED)

Beat,

NED
(crestfallen)

Oh.

Ned lowers head.

JAMES
What were you thinking?
Fabricating a story about a UFO?

Ned looks up, angry.

NED
Not made up. I saw it down by
Binkey's meadow. Only I didn't
have a camera. So I thought I'd
make my own photo. I mean, if
it's in the papers, people have
to believe it, right?

JAMES
But it's a lie.

NED
No! I saw it! And this photo's
proof til I get a picture of the
real one.

JAMES
Let's talk tomorrow...

James starts to cycle away. He looks back at NED.

JAMES (CONTD)
...and I want that collection
plate back in church by Sunday.
Do you understand?

Ned nods and turns away.

EXT. VICARAGE - DAY

A van is parked in the driveway beside the family car.
With eyes fixed on the van, James dismounts the bicycle as
he wheels it over to:

ENTRANCE

As he approaches the door, it bursts open. Karen exits
with a face of grim determination. Behind her, we hear

SOUND OF HAMMERING (O.C.)

(CONTINUED)

KAREN
(flustered)
Sorry. Can't stop. Forgot drink.

JAMES
Want me to go?

KAREN
(shakes head)
Look after Phil. He's fixing the
toilet.

Karen gets into the car. Engine roars as she wheel-spins down the drive. James enters and closes the front door.

LATER

EDWARD COLE, 30, looks similar to SIMON stands on the doorstep. Behind him, his car is parked in drive.

JAMES
Yes?

EDWARD
I'm looking for Julia. Is she
here?

JAMES
(incensed, angry)
No! And I need to inform you that
she no longer plies her nefarious
practice from this place!

EDWARD
Sorry?

JAMES
People like you need to...

Edward extends his hand to James.

EDWARD
(interrupting)
You must be James? (pause) Eddie
...Edward Cole.

JAMES
Funny. We have an M.P by that
name?

EDWARD
The very same.

James is speechless. He studies Edward then tentatively shakes his hands.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES
Sorry - do come in.

INT. SITTING ROOM - DAY

James and Edward sit in armchairs.

EDWARD
..that's when Jules asked if it
comes in magnolia?

The men laugh.

DOORBELL (O.C.)

JAMES
Excuse me.

EXT. VICARAGE - DAY

Van in driveway. Delivery man REG (mid 40s) stands on
doorstep with clipboard.

EXT. VICARAGE ENTRANCE - DAY

James opens the door and sees REG.

REG
Morning Guv. Got a delivery
for (reads clipboard)...Miss
Pollard?

JAMES
(suspicious)
That's my sister-in law

REG
Says it's a rack.

JAMES
(suddenly relieved)
Oh yes. She said you'd be
delivering.

REG
Sign here. We'll set it up.

As James signs the clipboard.

JAMES
No need. I'll sort it.

REG

(sucks through teeth)
Sorry gov. Company rules. We have
to do it - in case someone gets
hurt.

JAMES

On a rack?

REG

You'd be surprised.

JAMES

Listen. I'm very busy and...

REG

Not a problem. Tell us where you
want it. We'll do the rest

James points down the far ends of the hallway.

JAMES

Okay. Down there. In the kitchen.
You'll see space as you enter.

REG

Great!

James walks down hallway. He enters sitting room and
closes door behind him.

INT. VICARAGE FRONT - DAY

Reg walks to van and opens backdoor. Another man gets out
of passenger side to help.

INT. SITTING ROOM - DAY

James and Edward sit in armchairs. They are in
mid-discussion.

EDWARD

...that's when I knew Jules was
the one. Anyway, mustn't keep you
any longer.

The men stand and shake hands.

JAMES

Pleasure meeting you Edward.

EDWARD

And you.

They exit room into:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

PHIL - mid 40s plumber - kneels on floor as he packs tools into bag.

As they walk to front door, Edward turns to James

EDWARD

James. I'd like to get permission from Jule's father. Have you got their address by any chance?

JAMES

I think it's upstairs. (points into front room) Take a seat.

As James goes upstairs, Edward enters into:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

James picks up his jacket from the back of chair and searches its pockets.

JAMES

It's here somewhere. Take a seat. I'll only be a moment.

James exits.

Edward moves cardboard box from armchair onto coffee table. He sits in chair and relaxes back. He looks around the room, then leans forward to see inside the box.

Edward frowns.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

James walks down hallway as Picks up his tool bag.

PHIL

Found the problem. Need a new bracket. I'll send someone back with one.

JAMES

Thanks Phil.

James walks into study. Phil heads towards (open) front door.

PHIL

(Calls back)

Oh yeah. The men said they assembled your rack and it's good to go.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES(O.S.)

Thanks.

EXT. VICARAGE ENTRANCE - DAY

Phil exits but the door does not close properly. As Phil walks towards his van, Sandra emerges from behind wall and enters into the building.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Sandra creeps down the hallway. She peeps through a gap in the door and sees:

INT. FRONT ROOM - DAY

Edward fashions the (open) handcuffs on his wrists.

Sandra creeps up behind him and - in one movement - reaches over and secures the locks on both wrists.

She swings over and straddles his lap, and places a hand across his mouth. Edward is terrified.

SANDRA

(desperate)

Okay Simon! Don't say a word. You need to know that I...hang on who are you?

Sandra takes her hand from his mouth. Paralysed with fear, Edward is unable to speak.

SANDRA

(angrily)

Look. Tell me where he is and it'll go much easier if you do.

SOUND OF JAMES COMING DOWNSTAIRS. Sandra places hand over Edward's mouth.

JAMES(O.S)

Be right with you. Think I left it in the study.

Sandra takes her hand away from Edward's mouth.

SANDRA

Strong, silent type eh? We'll see about that.

With one hand against his mouth she gives his nipple a wrench with the other.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD
(muffled scream)
Aagh.

SANDRA
(Vexed whisper)
Tell me. Before I really hurt
you.

JAMES (O.S)
Got it!

SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING.

Sandra's steely eyes lock with Edward who trembles with
fright.

A PHONE BEGINS TO RING

JAMES(O.S)
Just get that.

SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS MOVING AWAY

INT. FRONT ROOM - DAY

Sandra pushes a thumb into Edward's face.

SANDRA
No way is this over!
(Schwarzenegger style) I'll be
back!

Sandra exits the room.

SOUND OF FRONT DOOR CLOSING. Beat...then suddenly...

Edward explodes from the chair but struggles as locked in
handcuffs. Gibberish, he runs round the room in a panic.

Finally, he runs into:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Edward looks along hallway. He runs to the front door,
opens it and sees:

EXT. VICARAGE FRONT - DAY

Karen - shopping bags in hand - argues with Sandra.

Karen points towards the vicarage. Sandra angrily stamps
her foot and places her hands on her hips.

As Sandra storms off, Karen shakes her head and walks towards the vicarage with shopping.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

As Karen approaches, Edward panics. He closes the front door and looks around for somewhere to hide. He flaps his (handcuffed) hands as he thinks.

Flustered, Edward runs upstairs.

James exits study. He walks down the hallway and turns into: