

# DOUBT

FLYNN

What's that bird complaining about?

What kind of bird is that? That a  
starling? A grackle?

SISTER JAMES

A crow.

FLYNN

Course it is. Are you praying? I didn't  
mean to interrupt.

SISTER JAMES

I'm not praying. No.

FLYNN

You seem subdued.

SISTER JAMES

Oh, I can't sleep.

FLYNN

Why not?

SISTER JAMES

Bad dreams.

FLYNN

Yeah, I can't sleep on occasion.

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SISTER JAMES

Why? Do you see that big hand pointing  
a finger at you?

FLYNN

Yes. Sometimes.

SISTER JAMES

Was your sermon directed at anyone in  
particular?

FLYNN

What do you think?

SISTER JAMES

I received a letter from my brother in  
Maryland. He's very sick.

FLYNN

Then maybe you should go and see him.

SISTER JAMES

I can't leave my class. Is it true?

FLYNN

What?

SISTER JAMES

You know what I'm asking.

FLYNN

No.

SISTER JAMES

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I saw you put an undershirt in Donald  
Miller's locker.

FLYNN

He left it in the sacristy.

SISTER JAMES

Why didn't you hand it to him?

FLYNN

I'm trying to spare him further  
embarrassment. It's me that cares about  
that child, not her. Has she ever  
reached out a hand? That black boy  
needs help or he's not gonna make it. If  
she has her way, he'll be left to his own  
undoing. Why do you think he drank  
the wine? He's in trouble. And she sees  
me talk in a human way to these kids  
and she immediately assumes that there  
must be something wrong with it. Well,  
I'm not gonna let her keep this parish in  
the Dark Ages, and I'm not gonna let  
her destroy my spirit of compassion.

SISTER JAMES

I'm sure that's not her intent.

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FLYNN

That I care about this congregation.

SISTER JAMES

I know you do.

FLYNN

Like you care about your class. You love  
them, don't you?

SISTER JAMES

Yes.

FLYNN

And that's natural. How else would you  
relate to children? Now, I can look at  
your face and know your philosophy.

It's kindness.

SISTER JAMES

I don't know. I mean, of course.

FLYNN

There are people who go after your  
humanity, Sister, that tell you that the  
light in your heart is a weakness. Don't

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believe it. It's an old tactic of cruel  
people to kill kindness in the name of  
virtue. There's nothing wrong with love.

SISTER JAMES  
Love?

FLYNN  
Have you forgotten the message of our  
Savior? It's love of people.

SISTER JAMES  
I just feel as if everything is upside  
down.

FLYNN  
There are just times in life when we feel  
lost. It happens.

SISTER JAMES  
And it's a bond. Flowers.

FLYNN  
Yeah. To remind me of spring.

SISTER JAMES  
I should be going.

FLYNN

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I'm sorry your brother's ill.

SISTER JAMES

Thank you, Father. I don't believe it.

FLYNN

You don't?

SISTER JAMES

No.

FLYNN

Thank you, Sister. Thank you very  
much.