EPISODE 6

by

James Wood

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ADAM is at the impressive organ keyboard. He begins to play.

A couple of the main keys let out duff or flat noises. Several keys don't work at all. Musical phrases fail to resolve - or end with a disappointing plonk.

ADAM frowns at the poor, unloved thing. He hears a shout from below. Behind him in the church...

NI GEL

Adam! Adam? Is that you?

ADAM comes to the balcony edge, looks down. NIGEL waves a letter/document up at him, excitedly.

NI GFI

Great news. The dates for my Ordination Training interviews.

NIGEL grinning. As far as he's concerned he's already in - he's a slam dunk as a vicar.

2

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1

NIGEL has joined ADAM. Talking eagerly about his application, while ADAM tries another tune on the broken keyboard.

ADAM

I wish this was a more musical church. I want something inspiring for the Dedication Festival at the end of the year. Something glorious. Transcendent. As we worship, so we live. Here we've got no choir, a broken organ, and a CD player from a car boot sale.

NI GEL

I imagine I'll have a large choir in my church. We must stay in touch when we're both vicars.

**ADAM** 

I didn't know you'd put yourself up for ordination training.

NI GEL

(of course noise)
Mn. Nearly a year ago. Your
predecessor was always very
encouraging.

Always saying things like "you really should go and get your own parish." He'd have written me a glowing reference. As I'm sure you will.

ADAM

Yes.

NIGEL I've got the Director of Ordinands interview first, which I'm rather

The Bishops' Panel will be very wary of anyone who's got certainty about being called to God. It's frowned on to chase preferment. It's right to be doubtful.

NI GEL

Quite right, good point. Be doubtful.

NIGEL makes a note of 'Be Doubtful' in a pad. ADAM irritated -

**ADAM** 

Don't write that down.

NI GEL

Don't you ever feel like some advancement Adam? Getting a nice cathedral job? Becoming a little Bishop? Or a big canon?

ADAM

I'm not really interested in any of that. I joined the Church to be a parish priest. In a place like this.

(bangs a broken organ key)
I think that's why I got ordained.

NI GEL

Oh I see how to do the humble, doubtful thing. You're very good at it.

ADAM

No that is what I think.

NI GEL

Superb. It's very convincing.

ADAM

It's the truth. I've got no interest in becoming a Dean or a Bishop.

NI GEL

Brilliant. You'll be Archbishop at this rate.

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3

ADAM enters through the front door as ALEX comes downstairs with a packed rucksack.

Nigel wants to get ordained, would you believe it. I'll have to fill out one of those endless reference forms for him.

ALEX dumps rucksack goes to get her coat.

**ALEX** 

(perfunctory) Do you? Oh dear.

ADAM's phone beeps with a message. He reaches for it...

ADAM

You're home very early. Where you going?

**ALEX** 

Shropshi re.

He doesn't listen because he's reading his phone, and looking at his watch and thinking about his evening.

**ADAM** 

(re text)

I've got that 'Facing the Future' seminar. Few drinks afterwards with Bishop Peter. Where are you going?

ALEX

I'm going away for the weekend.

**ADAM** 

Are you?

(ALEX face says yes)
Oh no, sorry I've done it again. I keep doing this don't I?

AI FX

What?

**ADAM** 

You tell me things and I don't take them in. I don't listen. I had no idea you were away this weekend.

ALEX

I didn't tell you this.

ADAM

Oh, it isn't something I didn't listen to?

**ALEX** 

I've only just decided to go.

Beat. ADAM senses things are wrong. Asks properly...

Where are you going?

**ALEX** 

I just told you.

**ADAM** 

Yes, you said Shsss.... Pfff...

**ALEX** 

Shropshire. With Lisa and Sue and Maria and Howard. They're doing a walking weekend. Climbing Rodney's Pillar. I said I'd join them.

She moves briskly, with a smile, to the front door. Opens it.

**ADAM** 

When are you back?

She stops in the doorway and looks at him seriously.

ALEX

I don't know Adam. I don't know.

**ADAM** 

Alex...? What's the matter?

ALEX

I just want to reassess life for a moment.

This doorstep moment suddenly becomes the biggest crisis of their quiet lives. ADAM's face is going - why?

ALEX

I haven't seen you one night this week. If you've got no time for me, how will you have time for a family?

For a moment he's got no answer to that.

ALEX

You said you'd give up smoking and drinking.

**ADAM** 

I have.

She goes to his coat, pulls out a pack of 10 fags.

**ALEX** 

What's this then?

A car pulls up at the end of the drive - and honks.

**ALEX** 

That's Howard. I'd better go.

**ADAM** 

Al ex. . .

**ALEX** 

I think you think God will just provide us with a child if we're lucky. If we deserve it. I'm afraid that's not good enough for me. Do you want a child with me?

ADAM

Yes. Of course I do.

ALEX

Really? Why don't you think about it? While I think about whether I really want one with you.

And she walks away - in some distress - up the drive towards Howard's car. Leaving ADAM alone in his home for the weekend.

4

ADAM is making two G&Ts. Across the room JOAN is dancing with some earphones in, smoking. We can't hear the music but her flowing moves are an unself-conscious delight.

ADAM finishes making their drinks. He smiles at her...

**ADAM** 

What are you listening to?

Eventually she notices him holding the drinks. She effortlessly picks one off him as she passes him in a sweeping dance move.

**ADAM** 

What you listening to?

**JOAN** 

What?

He indicates... earphone. She takes one ear out.

**ADAM** 

What are you listening to?

JOAN

This and that. Different things. All the music from my life. Do you like Dizzy Gillespie? I knew one of his trombonists. Extraordinary man. Very talented.

He took me to his room at The Savoy. We drank champagne and talked all night about jazz and the war. And then he ravished me on the sofa.

(guilty pleasure memory, maybe a laugh) Wonderful. Come and dance with me Alan.

ADAM gets happily sucked into her dancing. It's a rather wonderful sight watching them dance together.

**JOAN** 

Do you want a copy? I can burn you a copy. It's got all the music I listen to when I want to escape.

ADAM

Okay. Thank you Joan.

They keep dancing.

5

ADAM alone in low lighting with his laptop contemplating NIGEL's reference form. JOAN's CD playing on the CD player.

He's feeling defeated by the form. Due to inactivity the PC goes to a screen saver picture of smiling ALEX. It stares at his lovely wife. It sparks him into calling her.

Reaches for his phone. About to dial. Hesitates. Should he bother her or not? He can't resist. Dials... gets machine.

ADAM (INTO PHONE)
Hi darling it's me. I hope you're m?YbTcan't resistontempla

(little beat) And Howard.

The doorbell goes.

ADAM (INTO PHONE) Oh that'll be my pizza. I'd better go. I hope you're having a nice time. (beat) I miss you.

Hangs up.

6 6

> It's a PIZZA MAN in 'PIZZA U LIKE' branded Scooter waterproofs and helmet. He holds up a pizza box triumphantly.

> > **COLIN** You an Animal Feast and cheese?

> > > ADAM

Yes. Thanks. It's 8.99 isn't it? Let me see if I've got change. (rummages pockets)

**COLIN** Don't worry about that Vicarage.

ADAM Looks up on 'Vicarage'. COLIN pops his visor up. Da-DAH!

**ADAM** Colin? Have you got a job?

**COLIN** Yeah, it's great. Started yesterday. I get £5.93

Don't like it?

COLIN

If you want uplifting you should play AC/DC's 'Let's Get It Up.' That's uplifting.

ADAM

Yes it sounds uplifting. Did you bring my salad?

COLIN

You wanted that?

For some reason best known to himself COLIN suddenly responds to a burst of radio chatter.

**COLIN** 

Roger, roger, roger. En route.

But he doesn't budge from his seat. Takes the final meaty pizza flap.

**COLIN** 

I'm sorry you're eating pizza alone, and that Alex has left you? (pizza into gob)

**ADAM** 

What? She hasn't left me.

**COLIN** 

I know what that feels like. Bloody women. Yeah?

**ADAM** 

No, she's just in Shropshire. On a walking holiday.

He gets a sympathetic, even pitying, look for that brave lie.

ADAM

She is Colin. She's climbing Rodney's Pillar.

**COLIN** 

Is she? Who's she with?

**ADAM** 

With her friends; Lisa, Sue, Marie and Howard.

**COLIN** 

Howard. Howard? Who's this Howard? When he's not licking out four women in a tent?

Shut up.

**COLIN** 

I'm trying to help. Forget climbing Rodney's Pillar. She'll be mounting Howard's cock. Right now probably. Don't you see what this is mate? It's a cry for attention. That's what women do all day.

ADAM goes to the CD player and turns the music off.

**ADAM** 

That's not the case.

COLIN stands up - pizza over, time to go - gathers his stuff.

**COLIN** 

I'd better get on. These people ordered an hour ago.

He picks up another pizza box. Then as parting wisdom...

**COLIN** 

It's up to you to win her back.

ADAM looks at COLIN - really?

COLI N

Yeah. By twatting Howard.

Doorbell again. It irritates ADAM.

**ADAM** 

Who's that now?

8

ADAM opens the door. COLIN with him. It's ADOHA - with a pot.

ADOHA

I heard Alex is away. I know you're a terrible cook darling.

She shows her pot proudly. Lifts the lid for a whiff...

COLIN

He won't want that he's just had my pizza.

**ADAM** 

No you've just had my pizza.

COLIN ignores that and responds to a burst of radio calls instead...

8

COLIN

Yeah, yeah, roger, roger. En route.

He heads off up the path to his scooter.

9

9

ADOHA comes from the kitchen with a huge steaming plate of hot stew for ADAM. It already feels like she's moved in. ADAM's back on his laptop with Nigel's application form.

ADOHA

Here you are darling. My special Egushi stew and fufu.

It's a chicken, seafood, tomato, spinach stew with mashed yam balls on the side. It does look nice.

She offers him a fork. Watches him expectantly. He starts eating. Makes some yummy noises. Gives her an appreciative look. There's a huge mound of it.

**ADAM** 

Thanks. Yes, it's very nice.

ADOHA

You eat my fufu. I'll tidy up the mess Alex has left in the kitchen. Then I'll do your bedroom.

ADAM

No, that's fine Adoha thanks.

**ADOHA** 

I'm so sorry she's left you.

**ADAM** 

What? She hasn't left me.

**ADOHA** 

It was always going to happen. She



ADOHA

Two more coffees need milk please Bob.

Is there the merest hint of a flinch around the ARCHDEACON's eye on being called Bob?

ARCHDFACON

These coffees are lovely Adoha. How do you do it?

**ADOHA** 

It's just instant.

ADOHA exits, as ELLIE joins for a coffee.

ADAM

Are you going to General Synod next week Robert?

ARCHDEACON

Oh no, that's nothing but a distraction. A Dostoevskian assembly of drunks, dreamers and frauds. I never go.

**ADAM** 

You went last time didn't you?

**ARCHDEACON** 

Did I? Oh yes. In body not in spirit.

ELLIE's worked out what's going on here... she's in the know.

**ELLIE** 

Archdeacon - are you aware there's a vacancy for the Bishop of Stevenage at the moment?

**ARCHDEACON** 

Oh no. No. Is there?

ADAM gives ELLIE an 'is there?' look. She confirms it with a nod. Meanwhile...

NI GEL

You'd be an exceptional Bishop, Archdeacon.

**ARCHDEACON** 

I wouldn't Nigel. That's kind of

I hunger to communicate the Gospel to the widest possible audience of course, but I fear my soul is unprepared for such a role, even if God was considering me for such a position, which I'm sure He's not.

NI GEL

(Leaning to ADAM)
I see what you mean about the humble thing. He's even better than you.

**ELLIE** 

If God isn't considering you for it, the Appointments Board might be.

ARCHDEACON
I'm sure not. I doubt it. Tart anyone?

The ARCHDEACON offers up a tray of cakes.

12

Emptier church now. NIGEL has started collecting hymn books.

ELLIE and ADAM stand together at the edge and watch the ARCHDEACON across the nave be obsequious with some CONGREGANTS.

ADAM He won't become Bishop. He's been

Yeah she's good thanks. Yeah. Good.

**ELLIE** 

We said we might meet up this weekend, but her phone's off.

ADAM makes an owwwh noise and tuts.

ADAM

Yeah it's terrible reception where she's gone. Far away. For the weekend. We like to have weekends apart every now and then.

ELLIE hears the lie in that - she looks square at ADAM with a mixture of genuine (and touching) concern.

**ELLIE** 

I hope she's okay.

She gives him a parting touch or look - then goes to get on with her day.

The ARCHDEACON arrives... NIGEL there too.

**ARCHDEACON** 

Nigel I'm delighted to hear you've put yourself forward for ordination training.

NI GEL

Yes, what do you think my chances are? Pretty solid?

**ADAM** 

How do you think Nigel could help his application Robert?

**ARCHDEACON** 

Perhaps working with teenagers? You could visit the local authority youth drop-in centre? Hang outoek2r

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{ARCHDEACON} \\ \text{It's with me. I'm standing in.} \end{array}$ 

ADAM
Did you hear that Nigel? Your DDO
interview is with Robert.

NIGEL
Oh oh oh great - my interview's with you is it?

ADAM

NI GEL

I'm going to help out at the homeless centre this afternoon. Maybe clean some clothes for them? Then I thought I might pop in to the youth drop in. Offer them some solace about the job market.

**ADAM** 

Don't over-egg it Nigel.

ADAM pauses outside a trendy bed shop.

**ADAM** 

Look who it is.

Inside, the ARCHDEACON is browsing the beds, in a plain coloured YSL suit. He sits on one bed - bounces on it. Lies out horizontal - crosses feet - pretends he's reading.

NIGEL and ADAM are amused. They wave to him through the large window, but he's taking the bed testing so seriously he doesn't notice them.

NI GEL

Let's go and tell him all the pastoral things I'm doing today.

**ADAM** 

Must we?

**ARCHDEACON** 

Yes I don't like it.

They both turn... to find them selves suddenly confronted by two drab clerical men with plastic carrier bags.

**ADAM** 

Hello Archdeacon.

**ARCHDEACON** 

Hello. What are you doing here?

ADAM

We were just passing. Spotted you.

NI GEL

Hello.

**ARCHDEACON** 

Hello.

NI GEL

I'm just going to the Homeless Centre, to wash the needy.

**ARCHDEACON** 

0h.

NIGEL nods eagerly to show he means it. ADAM and NIGEL look at RICHARD. The awkwardness is  $\operatorname{\mathsf{gl}}$  obal.

ARCHDEACON

(with massive reluctance) This is my friend Richard.

**ADAM** 

Hello.

THIS MAN THIS GOD: RICHARD

Hello.

NI GEL

Hello. I'm Nigel.

RI CHARD

Hello Nigel.

**ARCHDEACON** 

This is Adam Smallbone, one of my priests in the Diocese.

ADAM

Hello.

**ARCHDEACON** 

Although if you're about to start shopping in here I think it's time we reviewed your stipend!

A terrible joke that sounded like 'get me out of here'.

ADAM

Are you going to buy that bed then?

Looking between them - intended as friendly small talk but as soon he's said it he regrets it.

**RI CHARD** 

No. Nice to meet you both. (turns to ARCHDEACON and ends things with authority)

Now we must get going, or we'll be late for Bloomin' Hestonthal. You know how angry he gets if we mess up his timings. Talk to your friends Bobby, I'll see you in the car.

RICHARD gives ADAM and NIGEL a professional parting smile -

**ARCHDEACON** 

In such a hypothetical situation, if the Crown Nominations Committee were to happen to ask me if there were any relationships in my life that might "embarrass the church", I would very honestly be able to say no.

He gives ADAM and heavy look to clarify the truth of that.

**ADAM** 

Oh good.

**ARCHDEACON** 

My private life is private.

**ADAM** 

That's how they should be. Alex is always saying that.

**ARCHDEACON** 

Lovely, perceptive Alex. My concern is that if certain elements within the church happened to hear about certain aspects of my private life they might be open to misinterpretation. For instance, just to choose one example, you met my friend Richard?

ADAM

He seems very nice. Amazing hair.

**ARCHDEACON** 

I'd hate for that "friendship" to be misinterpreted by anyone.

ADAM

Are you worried people might think you're gay and then you couldn't be a Bi shop?

The HORROR of saying the words 'gay' and 'Bishop' out loud.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Church Law clearly says that being gay is no bar to the Bishopric.

The ARCHDEACON gives ADAM a steady look. They both know there's a huge gap between what the Church law says and the reality. ADAM decides to wind up the ARCHDEACON.

ADAM (CONT'D)

So long as it's a celibate relationship.

Which ADAM finds amusing. The ARCHDEACON scrutinizes ADAM. Makes a decision. Frankness - honesty - is what's required.

**ARCHDEACON** 

Church Law can say what it likes - we both know the Church isn't ready for an openly gay Bishop yet.

**ADAM** 

No.

**ARCHDEACON** 

One day it will be. But it isn't.

ADAM

Would you like me to keep quiet about your friendship with Richard so it can't be misinterpreted?

**ARCHDEACON** 

Thank you.

**ADAM** 

There's nothing I'd like more than to see you become Bishop of Swanage.

**ARCHDEACON** 

Stevenage.

**ADAM** 

Or Stevenage.

**ARCHDEACON** 

I should head back. Is there anywhere I can drop you? I'll take you anywhere you like.

20 20

ADAM and NIGEL. NIGEL is in a complete tizz. For the first time we see his arrogance replaced by panic.

The kettle clicks to the boil. ADAM nods at it re tea...

**ADAM** 

Ni gel?

NI GEL

My DDO interview is at 5 o'clock. I know the Archdeacon is not going to recommend me. I just know it.

**ADAM** 

Ni gel?

NI GEL

I've been skateboarding with drug addicts all morning to try and impress him. He's going to fail me.

**ADAM** 

Being called to God is not something you pass or fail.

NI GEL

Yes it is! It is. You fail to become a priest. What am I going to do then? What am I going to do?

**ADAM** 

Ni gel.

(meaning 'calm down')
Weren't you making me a cup of tea?

NIGEL bows like a sycophant and zips to the boiled kettle.

NI GEL

Oh yes. Let me do that right now.

He makes tea, makes tea. Looks at his watch again...

NI GEL

What do you think the Archdeacon will ask me?

ADAM

He'll certainly want to talk about your personal relationships.

NI GEL

I'm ready for that one. Question 14 on the form. "Who might sustain you in your future ministry?" I just put 'my dear Mum and girl friend Cherry'. Two people's enough isn't it?

ADAM

Your girl friend Cherry?

NI GEL

Yes.

**ADAM** 

You've got a girlfriend called Cherry?

NI GEL

NIGEL I'm sure I have. But I do like to keep my private life private.

ADAM
Tell me about Cherry.

Silence from NIGEL.

ADAM What's she like?

NIGEL attempts a picture of a desirable woman.

What's she like? She is gorgeous is what she's like. A real honey. A real honey babe. Lovely legs. But a great personality too. Laughs at all my jokes. Poor mad thing. She's Gluten intolerant. But you can get special pasta for that now. Blonde hair. 5 foot 6 and a half inches. Big breasts. I'm a very lucky man.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{ADAM (V. 0.)} \\ \text{Oh well, better get this done.} \end{array}$ 

He holds up and studies a medical tub he's expected to fill. WIDE: reveal a box of tissues and porn magazine.

24 24

ARCHDEACON and NI GEL.

#### ARCHDEACON

Here's a pastoral situation for you to consider - in 50 words or less - as a priest how would you care for a pregnant single mother-to-be?

NI GEL

I'd encourage her that it doesn't matter that she's ended up in that sad situation. God prefers families of course. But there's no blame attached. No blame. I'd recommend plenty of exercise. I read that yoga is good for stretching the cervix.

(hears himself too late)
I wouldn't say cervix if I was ordained, of course.

**ARCHDEACON** 

What would you say?

NI GEL

I'd say... "down there". And also I'd insist on no alcohol, and definitely no soft cheeses.

The ARCHDEACON's decision is made. If it wasn't already. Which it was.

**ARCHDEACON** 

It's lovely to spend some time with you Nigel. While I can sense you have a strong sense of Call I think it may lie in other directions than the priesthood. So unfortunately I can't recommend to the Bishop that you go to the BAP at this stage.

In the face of defeat NIGEL suddenly becomes bold.

NI GEL

Talking of lovers - how's Richard?

A thundering, lethal silence. The ARCHDEACON assesses NIGEL. NIGEL pulls him a cocky 'come on then' face. What's this worth to you? It's an impressive piece of brinkmanship.

The ARCHDEACON places NIGEL's form down carefully.

### **ARCHDEACON**

That said I'm always wary of being the one to make the final decision on whether a person's been called by God. In many ways it's something that the Bishops' Advisory Panel are more qualified at than myself. So I think you should go to the BAP and see how you fare. I'll get the Bishop to sponsor you.

NI GEL

(smug, triumphant and ironic)

Oh that's wonderful news Archdeacon. Thank you so much.

**ARCHDEACON** 

I'm sure Cherry will be delighted for you.

They smile at each other with contempt and understanding.

25 25

ADAM at the living room table doing paperwork.

ADOHA steps into frame, holding shirts on hangers.

**ADOHA** 

Here are your shirts for the week darling.

**ADAM** 

(very casual)

Thanks. . .

It's great having ADOHA as a PA. ADAM loves it. There's a sense of casual routine about this set-up already. He doesn't break a beat from his writing...

ADOHA gives him a brochure.

ADOHA

Here's the brochure on that organ restoration workshop you mentioned.

ADAM

Thank you. And can you look into train times for me?

ADOHA

Here you are darling.
(puts down a print-out)
And here's your spaghetti
bol ognese.

She puts down a yummy steaming piled bowlful of spag bol.

**ADAM** 

Lovel y. Looks I ovel y. Thanks.

Said casually while he continues to read some important clergy docs. He keeps reading while she tucks a white napkin into his neck collar - like she's his care worker/mother.

**ADOHA** 

Here we are darling, don't make a mess on your shirt. Do you want cheese on top?

But ADAM has stopped listening. He's staring at ALEX - who is standing in the doorway, looking at him. She's come home.

ADOHA becomes aware of ALEX. There's an awkward tension.

**ADOHA** 

Hello Alex.

ALEX

Hello Adoha - it's really lovely to see you in my home. With my husband. Oh no hang on a minute -(she has a new thought) - it's actually really annoying.

26 26

Glasses of wine. Warmth. Air of reconciliation. ADOHA gone.

**ADAM** 

Did you have a lovely time?

**ALEX** 

Yes. It was nice to be away. (beat)
I've brought you some fudge.

She produces a box of tourist fudge. He will genuinely enjoy that.

ADAM

Thanks. I haven't got anything for you. But I did do one thing I think you'll like.

Shows her a report from the desk.

He smiles. Relief and love.

ADAM
No we don't need one.
(beat)

We've got fudge.

He starts to open the fudge.

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FEW WEEKS LATER. The ARCHDEACON sits before the CROWN NOMINATION COMMITTEE, who are sitting in a horseshoe arrangement of armchairs and sofas.

The ARCHDEACON sits before them, with a lectern next to him.

# **ARCHDEACON**

I don't want to be a Bishop at all, but if God is calling me to it, it would be obnoxious of me to resist. I suppose on the plus side - I do love Stevenage and its people.

THE BOARD all nod sagely. Happily. This job is in the bag. And everyone, including the ARCHDEACON, knows it.

COMMITTEE MEMBER(O.S.) One final question.

COLIN

Take your ears out!

ADAM takes his earphone out to hear:

**COLIN** 

...so I chuck three Hawaiians at his windscreen. He calls the shop and the wank stain sides with him not me. That job was my last chance. That was how I was going to sort my life out. And now it's over!

He snaps open another beer. Real anger and distress.

**ADAM** 

We can find you another job.

**COLIN** 

I don't want another job. Why's Nigel up on the roof?

ADAM follows COLIN's gaze - looks up - yes - NIGEL is sitting up on the high church roof. Oh no. COLIN shouts up drunkenly.

**COLIN** 

What you doing you twat?!

29 29

ADAM comes carefully across the roof to where a morose NIGEL is sitting, at the back of the church, looking out over London. ADAM knows exactly why NIGEL is up here.

He sits by him.

NI GFI

Leave me al one.

ADAM stays. He knows NIGEL hasn't been accepted for training.

ADAM

What happened on The Bishops Advisory Panel?

NI GEL

How can they say I wouldn't be a good priest? How can they say that? They don't know. How can they say they know what God wants? How dare they pretend that? I hate them. I want to kill them all.

This is the bleakest we've ever seen a NIGEL by a long way. He's right on the edge of collapse and real despair.

You won't feel this now - but I bet - in time - you'll be relieved you haven't been accepted for ordination, because God wants you to do other things.

# NI GEL

I want to be a priest. That's all I want. And now I never will be. But that's who I am - those bastards are telling me I'm not who I am. Well it is who I am, But they're telling me it's not... but I am.

**ADAM** 

ADAM
I said you had a detailed knowledge and love of scripture and theological studies.

NIGEL So boring in other words. What's the best thing you said about me?

Thank you.

ALEX

I'm not arranging them for you. That's a step too far.

ADAM smiles. She goes to open them with some scissors.

ADAM's about to hit play on the CD when he spots the ARCHDEACON sitting in a pew on the margins. Sombre manner.

ADAM

Hello Archdeacon. Didn't see you there.

**ARCHDEACON** 

I just came in to think.

ADAM surprised by that. ADAM senses he needs ministry.

ADAM

Is something bothering you?

**ARCHDEACON** 

Not really. I saw the Crown Nominations Committee today. I told them that I'm in an active gay relationship with a man I love more