

DESCRIPTION:

Pastor Sam is a gay methodist minister. On a usual day, he's funny, friendly and full of life, but today the church hierarchy has refused to install a church security system - and the pastor fears this recklessly negligent decision may cost him his life.

80 INT - PARK CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH/PASTOR STUDY - CONTINUOUS 80

The HOLD button blinks on a desk phone console.

PASTOR SAM, the baby-faced minister from the Main Street cafe, grips the phone console.

An email is open on his computer:

81 GAY 81

82 PASTORS 82

83 DIE! 83

Pastor Sam counts backward from ten.

When he releases the HOLD button, his voice is distinctively calmer.

PASTOR SAM

I'm not safe. I'm here alone all day. This church needs a proper security system.

Noah quietly turns the doorknob and peers inside.

The office is meticulously organized.

Framed photos of the pastor and his husband and religious imagery line the walls.

In a silver frame on the Pastor's desk is a designer dog with a designer haircut and a rainbow bow tie/collar.

PASTOR SAM (CONT'D)

My husband is afraid for our lives!

Noah slips into the room.

Pastor Sam whips around and reaches into his desk for a can of bear spray.

He wields it like a pistol.

Noah throws his hands in the air.

Pastor Sam recognizes Noah and slumps onto the floor behind his desk.

Noah squats down to look under the desk at him.

NOAH  
Are you scared?

PASTOR SAM  
Why are you here?!

NOAH  
I'm a good helper.

PASTOR SAM  
You can't walk into someone's office!

NOAH  
I got a bad behavior report.

Pastor Sam straightens himself up.

PASTOR SAM  
If you want to talk , your mom can help you make an appointment.

Noah digs the report out of his pocket.

NOAH  
My mom's mad at me.

He slides the report toward Pastor Sam.

PASTOR SAM  
You have to make an appointment.

NOAH  
But... I got a bad behavior report.

Pastor Sam takes a deep breath.

PASTOR SAM  
I'll give you two minutes. Sit down.

Noah sits in an oversized chair.

Pastor Sam dutifully opens the behavior report. What he reads resonates.

PASTOR SAM (CONT'D)  
Someone monitors your behavior  
every hour of the day?

Noah nods.

PASTOR SAM (CONT'D)  
What does it mean: "keep hands to  
self" with an X?

NOAH  
I like to hug.

PASTOR SAM  
You're not allowed to hug?

Noah shakes his head.

NOAH  
Or wrestle.

PASTOR SAM  
I've seen kids hugging at the  
junior high school.

NOAH  
I'm always in trouble.

PASTOR SAM  
Who made up these rules?

NOAH  
Teachers... principals.

PASTOR SAM  
(ironically)  
Sounds like some people I know.

NOAH  
I want to make friends and ride a  
bike to school like other kids.

PASTOR SAM  
That's fair.

NOAH  
My mom won't let me.

PASTOR SAM  
Does she want to protect you?

NOAH  
I'm a grown boy!

PASTOR SAM  
If I tell you something man-to-man.  
Can you handle it?

NOAH  
I can do anything I want.

PASTOR SAM  
Being a grown up is hard.

NOAH  
I hate being a kid.

PASTOR SAM  
Grownups have to try to understand,  
even when nothing makes sense.

NOAH  
No one's ever mean to you.

PASTOR SAM  
Plenty of people are mean to me.

NOAH  
That's not true

PASTOR SAM  
Lots of people think it's their  
business who I hug.

NOAH  
But you hug me.

PASTOR SAM  
People just want to be themselves  
without being wrong.

NOAH  
I'm always wrong!

PASTOR SAM  
That's why we turn to God.

Noah claps his hands in prayer.

NOAH  
God. Make people nice.

PASTOR SAM  
 (impatient)  
 Ok. Noah. Your grandpa's  
 downstairs...

NOAH  
 Also, God. I hope you're having a  
 good day. I hope you have a good  
 dinner and your friends are nice.

PASTOR SAM  
 Wonderful. Amen.

NOAH  
 I talk to God whenever I want.

Pastor Sam glances at the clock.

PASTOR SAM  
 Your grandpa's in choir downstairs.  
 Why don't you keep him company?

NOAH  
 God says, Hey Noah. Dude. I love  
 you so much. I love everybody so  
 much. Do you want a hamburger?

Pastor Sam leads Noah toward the door.

PASTOR SAM  
 You talk to God about hamburgers?

NOAH  
 Yeah, because I love hamburgers and  
 coke - even though it's not good  
 for me. I say, God, I think you're  
 so cool. Thank you for my lunch box  
 and my backpack and for loving  
 everyone.

Pastor Sam opens his door to let Noah out.

PASTOR SAM  
 God tells you he loves everyone?

NOAH  
 He does.

PASTOR SAM  
 Ask God to tell everyone else that.

NOAH  
 Like my mom?

PASTOR SAM  
Like the people who go around  
quoting Jude all the time.

NOAH  
My friend, Jude?

PASTOR SAM  
The apostle... Grownup stuff.

NOAH  
I'm grownup.

PASTOR SAM  
Noah, I'm different.

NOAH  
Me too.

PASTOR SAM  
And that makes people mad  
sometimes.

Noah folds his hands in prayer and squeezes his eyes shut.

NOAH  
Dear God. Make people be nice.

Noah sneaks one eye open to see -

Pastor Sam looking down at him.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
God doesn't want people to be mad.

PASTOR SAM  
Well... sometimes they are.

Noah blocks the door.

Noah puts it in his pocket.

NOAH  
I just talk to God. Like Hi, God.  
How are you? You do it.

Pastor Sam considers objecting but decides on the path of  
least resistance.

PASTOR SAM  
OK. God. Hi. Are you happy with the  
state of humanity?

Pastor Sam stares down at Noah.

Noah's eyes are sealed shut in prayer.

NOAH

What did God say?

PASTOR SAM

He said you should go find your  
grandfather because I have a lot of  
work to do.

NOAH

You have to listen with your heart.

PASTOR SAM

Noah. Go find your grandfather.