

## Lucifer's Wish Disguised by Her White Collar

by Stuart Finegan

I welcome you today, friends and family to the Lord's house. Despite the rain outside we gather here to remember and celebrate a pillar of our community. I ask you to kneel and bow your heads in remembrance.

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It was after tea when the knock came to the door. Upstairs a gut wrenching feeling momentary reduced Siobhan to a shaking wreck. Soft words welcomed their visitor into the house. In no time the gentle whistle of the kettle echoed around the two-storey terraced house on Raddon Rd. Within the small sitting room, as the peat fire raged, they listened intensely to his every word. Upstairs a frightened figure sat alone on her bed.

Intimidation.

A pressure to do what he asked while no one knew.

Siobhan waited for the knock on the door.

It always came with the approval of the house.

If only they knew.

Naked floorboards, hard soled shoes, soft hands. Routine allowed the mind to enter a lonely dark place. The kettle downstairs whistled a new tune.

Naïve, ignorant, deep down she knew.

They knew. She knew, he didn't care.

On the wall above the fire hung a figurine whose every word father believed, for it was written in the book.

\*

I'll leave you

O yea and go where?

Up the road somewhere  
It's very rare you're out of harm's way Siobhan

The road I'll choose, and I can you know, you're not welcome

You're not listening to me

Mother you've known from day one, yet you both ignored his sins

Siobhan you're my daughter, our daughter

Am I really?

Let me try and explain your feelings? he won't forgive you if you run away

Take your hands off me...I can't, I won't put up with this anymore, can't you see what's going on in our home?

Don't disappoint me Siobhan, the Lord's word offers you something many people don't have. We walk in his shoes.

You disgust me, you both do. I always believed your story as to why Mathew left. That was until I found this. Go on read it.

Siobhan

Read it, his words, so vivid, you left him to...

Your brother was...

I hate you, I'm ashamed to say that but I do mother

You're confused, angry Siobhan, sit down please

I don't recognise me anymore in the room you've confined me to. Behind sin locked doors my mind shuts down to Lucifers passion.

Your father will be home soon, we can talk this over

I leave you, to go the road we all must go. The road I would choose, if only I could, is the other.

Tea, I'll put the kettle on

Walking down the stairs into the warm loving front room, I'm invisible to you. Life, isn't it wonderful mother?

Your brother, can I tell you something Siobhan?

Dancing innocently along Spencer Warf, dreaming of the day when you held my hand with love. Am innocent naive child mother,

This is your home, your father has worked hard for us, please don't bring shame on the house Siobhan.

Above the spitting flames and warmth of the peat flames, my fear ignored as Lucifers biting wind rolled in of Spencer's key.

Your father's just pulled in, we can talk this over now, I'll fetch the tea. Everything's going to be ok Siobhan, trust me.

\*

Siobhan couldn't take her eyes of the glowing orange flame at the centre of the fire, while all around her hurtful loving words fell on deaf ears. She didn't hear the knock at the door. As Lucifer entered the room, smiling, the atmosphere suddenly changed.

I'll put the kettle on, tea everyone?

Siobhan nice to see you again, don't stand up I won't be here for long.

As her parents looked on nervously, her mother noted I'll leave you, to go the road we all must go. The road I would choose, if only I could, is the other.