

NICK
You plan on sticking it out to the end, don't you?

RICHARD
If I can keep up.

NICK
I think you got your Martin Luther's mixed up. The one who nailed petitions to church doors was the reformer. King's the one in jail.

Bill jabs James as Prof. Kate Allison carries her tray to the trash bins, taking no notice of the eyes that follow her.

FRED
How'd the only lady professor get here?

JAMES
Beckett brought her in. Think she was a missionary... in Africa.

BILL
Bet she didn't wear those tight pants in the jungle.

JAMES
School told her it wasn't proper apparel.

NICK
Obviously, she doesn't care.

As Kate whips out the door, Richard stands to leave.

RICHARD
See you bishops later.

Fred laughs to himself.

45 INT. PROF. ALLISON'S OFFICE -- DAY

Richard notices the blank walls with discolored squares from the previous tenant's pictures, under which sit unpacked boxes. Kate exhales a stream of smoke out the window.

KATE
Your petition. You want recruitment goals: thirty Negro students and two professors the first year.

45 **START**

1/6

**THE LEAST
AMONG YOU**

KATE

KATE

47.

RICHARD

Aren't we supposed to take the Gospel to all nations, including the ones in this country?

She sits. He fixes on her sweet but pained eyes.

KATE

The document was circulated among the staff. What else do you want?

RICHARD

Your class teaches that spiritual transformation is the best route to societal changes.

KATE

And.

RICHARD

The anti-slavery movement in this country was started by Christians. Who were also called radicals at the time.

KATE

Why'd you come to me?

RICHARD

I thought you could help get the faculty on my side.

KATE

Where'd you get that idea?

RICHARD

You risked your life in Africa all those years. There had to be a reason... a "why" to all that.

KATE

I don't remember the why.

RICHARD

What happened there?

KATE

If you think I'm going to curve your grade due to some noble societal goals, you're wrong.

RICHARD

I don't suck up.

THE LEAST AMONG YOU

2/6

THE LEAST AMONG
YOU

KATE

48.

KATE

Then study. I don't tutor.

RICHARD

There are over 19 million black people in America but only one in this seminary. Shouldn't there be 50?

3/6

KATE

There are other seminaries. If this one is so miserable -- transfer!

RICHARD

I can't!

Kate studies him, then flicks a piece of tobacco from her lip. And slides open a desk drawer.

KATE

I'm not jumping through hoops for some kid trying to find his way. Odds are you wash out this semester anyway. Now. It's my tea time. Tookay agathay.
(Greek for good luck.)

END

46

EXT. SEMINARY COURTYARD -- DAY

46

Richard spots Samuel spading the lawn, as students walk around him.

RICHARD

Hi there, Samuel. That kitchen work should be fine.

SAMUEL

Hey, Georgia Boy. Told you I knew people.

RICHARD

Yeah, I start tonight. See moms this weekend.

Samuel notices Richard's wary regard of the students around them. He pitches Richard a shovel.

SAMUEL

Help me find the break in this line.

Richard begins to dig, uncomfortable with his chore.

KATE

92 START

91

EXT. SEMINARY BUILDING ROOF -- LATE AFTERNOON/TWILIGHT

Richard walks across the tile deck. Kate breaks into a crooked smile. He spots three Agatha Christie novels lying open on the table next to her chair.

KATE

I thought I was safe up here.

RICHARD

Don't you have something to tell me?

She reaches for a bottle of wine.

KATE

Sorry. Would you like a drink?

RICHARD

You know what I'm talking about.

KATE

You made an "A" on your exam?

RICHARD

Don't play with me.

KATE

Who's playing?

RICHARD

Are you drunk?

She takes a drink, then shoves a chair toward him.

KATE

In case you haven't noticed, teaching a bunch of religious hard-ons is not my cup of tea. Cheers.

RICHARD

Beckett says Tremaine is pulling his millions because of me, my petition. Drop it or else.

KATE

I didn't set you up.

He sits.

RICHARD

My first day here Beckett was telling me how badly he wanted to integrate the school.

THE LEAST AMONG YOU

4/6

KATE

93.

KATE

What he needs has nothing to do with you.

Richard changes his mind and takes a drink.

RICHARD

I only got half the signatures required. If I'm getting busted, I'm going down for a good reason.

KATE

Sounds suicidal.

Richard gives her a look.

KATE (CONT'D)

Why not just lay down for him and get out?

RICHARD

I heard... I was praying and. It seemed like I got a message.

KATE

Whoops. And?

RICHARD

He didn't say quit.

KATE

The last time I heard God's voice, I was staring at three coffins.

RICHARD

I'm sorry.

KATE

For the coffins or the voice?

RICHARD

Three mystery novels at once?

KATE

Research for a book. What do you think about a female detective in the Congo looking for missing tourists?

RICHARD

She need an assistant?

Kate's emptiness freezes him. He stands to leave.

THE LEAST AMONG YOU

5/6

KATE

94.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Didn't mean to interrupt. Thanks.

He stops at the door.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
What did the voice say? ... Maybe I should go.

Kate looks up glassy-eyed.

KATE
I loved them, too.

She stifles a cry. He walks back to her, places a hand on her shoulder. A cry leaks out. The wind blows pages of her book to a photo of two children and her husband. Richard hesitates, then kneels, gently touching Kate's forearm. He closes his eyes.

RICHARD
Come to the throne of grace with your pain, with your emptiness and receive My hope. Come to the throne with boldness and expectation... Look now, I am about to do a new thing. Do you not perceive it?

She lifts her head and looks at him; his eyes still closed.

END

92

INT. SAMUEL'S APT -- NIGHT

92

Richard and Samuel sit at the table.

SAMUEL
Doesn't sound like a place you ought'a be. You sure about this?

RICHARD
It's like I'm being pulled there.

SAMUEL
I called your brother. He said it was a slaughterhouse.

RICHARD
I'll be smart about it.

SAMUEL
Funks with guns don't know smart.