

LITTLE BERNIE

Written by

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"LITTLE BERNIE"

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

BERNADETTE, an eight year-old girl, sat at a table in a posh frock, putting the finishing touches to an enormous home-made Valentine's Day card. Her MA steps into the room.

MA

Bernie, look at the state of you!
You've glitter all over your
communion dress!

MUM spots the card.

MA (CONT'D)

Who's that for?

BERNADETTE

Nobody.

MUM snatches up the card, reads the message inside out loud.

MA

"To Father Paul, I think you're the
loveliest priest in the whole
world, all my love from Bernie.
Kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss."

BERNADETTE snatches the card back, her face crimson.

MA (CONT'D)

You know priests aren't allowed
girlfriends?

BERNADETTE

Who says so?

MA

Himself upstairs.

BERNADETTE

Da?

MA

God, ye eejit!

BERNADETTE

Well that's mean of him. Everybody
else is allowed girlfriends. Even
Ms. Finch at school's got one.

MUM laughs. She's not going to win this one.

MUM

Just hurry up now. I want to get a
good seat at church.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

A hymn coming to a close. BERNADETTE stood with her MA and DA, clutching her card, mouth gaping open, staring at FATHER PAUL singing away in the pulpit.

The hymn finishes, the congregation sit. BERNADETTE still standing, captivated by the sight of FATHER PAUL. MA pulls her daughter sharply down to her seat.

MA

Behave yourself, Bernie!

FATHER steps down to the front of the congregation.

FATHER PAUL

Today is a very special day for a number of young ladies in our midst. Their first communion.

Can I ask those lucky young ladies to join me now at the front?

BERNADETTE zips out of her seat but she's pipped to pole position by another girl, MARY.

FATHER PAUL (CONT'D)

We are keen this morning! Now what's this, Mary?

MARY is waving a home made card excitedly at FATHER PAUL who takes it, opens it, reads aloud.

FATHER PAUL (CONT'D)

"To Father Paul. Happy Valentine's Day from Mary. Kiss kiss kiss."

BERNADETTE'S top lip curls, teeth gnashing together.

FATHER PAUL (CONT'D)

What a lovely gesture!

FATHER PAUL bends down, plants a kiss on top of MARY'S head. BERNADETTE rips up her own card, tosses it on the floor, stamps on it as FATHER PAUL administers the wafer to MARY.

FATHER PAUL (CONT'D)

The body of Christ.

FATHER PAUL moves on to purple faced BERNADETTE, offers the wafer. BERNADETTE opens her mouth wide, teeth bared.

FATHER PAUL (CONT'D)

The body of Christ.

BERNADETTE crunches down hard on FATHER PAUL'S fingers.

END