

The Pest

By

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1 EXT. FRAMWELLGATE CHURCH, GARDEN - DAY

It is mid morning and the sun shines through the large trees in the parish garden, it is quiet. A squirrel sits in a tree happily playing with an acorn.

Suddenly, the sound of men and chainsaws breaks the silence. A near by tree falls and hits the floor with a huge clatter.

The squirrel looks on in horror as more trees begin to floor.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. FRAMWELLGATE CHURCH - DAY

The bells of the picturesque Framwellgate church chime, the doors open and the people of the village come trundling out.

A grey haired, stocky priest in his early 60's stands at the door smiling broadly and says his goodbyes to the elderly church goers on their way out.

LADY

Happy Easter Father, see you next time.

PRIEST

Take care Mrs Peacock.

An elderly lady with nasty orange dyed hair and plastered with makeup walks up to the priests side. It's the nosey MAVIS CRUTTON.

MAVIS

Fine Easter service Father Richmond, you've excelled yourself once again.

FATHER RICHMOND'S large grin cracks slightly and he twitches at the familiar yet annoying sound of MAVIS'S voice.

MAVIS

Is everything set for Mr McDonald's cremation this Tuesday Father?

FATHER RICHMOND pushes MAVIS to the door.

FATHER RICHMOND

Goodbye Miss Crutton.

FATHER RICHMOND slams the door, his smile turns to a frown and he loosens his collar slightly.

(CONTINUED)

He trumps off to his living quarters.

CUT TO.

3 EXT. FRAMWELLGATE CHURCH GARDENS

FATHER RICHMOND walks out into the garden, workers clean up the left over trees that lie on the floor. It is now desolate.

FATHER RICHMOND  
Finished?

WORKER  
Just about Father

FATHER RICHMOND  
About time!

Meanwhile, as the two men speak the squirrel hides under a leaf and looks around for a new home. Suddenly, it notices in the distance that a door to the church is open. It makes a dash for it.

FATHER RICHMOND  
Now hurry it up and get it cleared  
up... before anyone notices!

FATHER RICHMOND stomps off back into the church. The worker scratches his head before getting back his job.

CUT TO

4 INT. CHURCH LIVING ROOM

The living room is small and is joined with the kitchen. Catholic pictures and models are placed all around. There is only one, extremely old sofa in the whole room and is placed in front of a small television.

FATHER RICHMOND switches the kettle on. A sound distracts him. He looks around and shrugs, there's nothing there.

He then enters the bathroom without shutting the door behind him.

CUT TO

5 INT. BATHROOM

FATHER RICHMOND runs a shower, whilst he gets changed the squirrel sneaks into the room.

The priest steps into the shower. Steam comes out of the shower as FATHER RICHMOND begins to sing, meanwhile the squirrel climbs onto the shampoo rack and stares at the priest with its tiny eyes.

Suddenly, FATHER RICHMOND turns to grab some shampoo and notices the squirrel. He stares at it for a moment.

FATHER RICHMOND  
How dare you!

FATHER RICHMOND lunges to grab the squirrel but slips, falling out of the shower and onto the floor. The squirrel runs off.

CUT TO

6 EXT. CHURCH - NEXT DAY

The doors of the church open and the congregation spill out. FATHER RICHMOND exchanges goodbyes with a few people. MAVIS is the last to walk through the door, she turns to the priest. He is sporting a black eye.

MAVIS stares at the shiner and just as she opens her mouth FATHER RICHMOND angrily slams the door.

CUT TO

7 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

FATHER RICHMOND lies in his small bed reading a book, suddenly he is disturbed by a squeak. He looks around and goes back to his book.

A knocking sound is heard and the priest is again disturbed from his book. He sits up and looks around, just then he notices the squirrel sitting at the bottom of his bed, it nibbles at some food.

FATHER RICHMOND, in frustration, throws his book at the squirrel.

FATHER RICHMOND  
Away with you!

The squirrel dashes out of the door.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - NEXT MORNING

FATHER RICHMOND, in his dressing gown, stretches and scratches himself. He sits down and places his feet in his tartan slippers.

A squelch noise is heard and the priest freezes, he takes off his right slipper and looks into it. His mouth drops in shock.

CUT TO

9 EXT. CHURCH YARD

A white, unwashed van pulls up outside the church, it reads 'Kritter Killerz.' DAVE, a chubby man in blue overalls and a grey cap gets out. He looks up at the church, takes his cap off and scratches his balding head.

CUT TO

10 INT. CHURCH

DAVE follows FATHER RICHMOND who is storming up the aisle of the church.

DAVE

It's a lovely building you have here.

FATHER RICHMOND stops and looks at him.

FATHER RICHMOND

I'm not paying you to gawk at the place, I'm paying you to clean it up.

DAVE straightens his back up and nods in apology.

FATHER RICHMOND

I'll be in the study, come and get me when you've finished.

FATHER RICHMOND walks off.

DAVE gets onto his knees and looks under a bench. As he does this, the squirrel sits on the top of the bench and peers down at him.

(CONTINUED)

As DAVE struggles to get back to his feet, the squirrel jumps on his right shoulder.

DAVE takes his cap off and wipes his brow. He looks left, so does the squirrel. Just as DAVE is about to look to his right, the squirrel switches onto his left shoulder.

DAVE looks to his right and scratches his head.

CUT TO

11 INT. LIVING ROOM

FATHER RICHMOND sits in his chair reading a newspaper. There is a knock at the door, it opens and DAVE enters the room.

DAVE  
Sorry father, I found nothing.

FATHER RICHMOND grumbles and throws his paper to the floor.

CUT TO

12 INT. CHURCH

Mass is taking place, the small church hall is full of people. It is summer and hot, most of the congregation sit in shorts and t-shirts, some use hymn books as fans.

MAVIS sits in the front row smiling. FATHER RICHMOND stands at the front of the church and conducts mass.

FATHER RICHMOND  
Hail Mary full of grace...

As the priest is saying mass, he hears a squeak and a shuffle noise behind him, he is distracted but continues to go on.

Suddenly he hears the noises again, stops and looks around. He hesitantly carries on, MAVIS looks confused.

CUT TO

13 INT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

FATHER RICHMOND and MAVIS CRUTTON walk up and down the aisles looking for any sign of the squirrel.

(CONTINUED)

FATHER RICHMOND

If you see anything, let me know.

The priest gets down on his knees and looks under a bench.

MAVIS

Father...

FATHER RICHMOND jumps up quickly and knocks his head off the underside of the bench. He gets to his feet.

MAVIS

Sorry, it was just my shadow.

The priest grumbles and rubs his head.

CUT TO

14 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

FATHER RICHMOND lies in bed sleeping, suddenly a sound wakes him. He lifts his head slightly but then attempts to get back to sleep.

Just then he hears the noise again, quickly sits up and he turns his bedside lamp on. He looks around and attempts to catch his breath.

There is no sign of the squirrel.

CUT TO

15 INT. CHURCH

FATHER RICHMOND is once again giving mass, this time he lets out a large yawn and stretches.

He opens the bible and is about to read but the familiar squeak and scratching noises distract him.

He stops and looks around.

FATHER RICHMOND

Did anyone hear that?

The churchgoers look on without answering, he carries on. Almost straight away he is distracted again. He throws the bible down and jumps behind his altar to investigate.

MAVIS, sitting in the front row again, gasps.

CUT TO

16 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

FATHER RICHMOND stretches and switches the kettle on. He opens the bread bin and takes out a couple of slices of bread. Large holes are missing from them.

He throws the bread on the counter in frustration but knocks the kettle on over in the process.

He screams as the boiling water spills onto his hands.

CUT TO

17 EXT. CHURCH YARD

A large striped tent covers the whole of the church, it looks like a circus.

FATHER RICHMOND stands beside DAVE'S van, his hand wrapped in bandages. MAVIS CRUTTON stands beside him, she looks at the priest and then at the church.

Just then DAVE comes out the church wearing a quarantine suit. He walks up to the priest and shakes his head.

FATHER RICHMOND screams.

CUT TO

18 INT. CHURCH - DAY

It's Christmas, seasonal decorations hang around the church, the congregation all shiver due to the cold temperature. Coughs are heard every few seconds.

FATHER RICHMOND is conducting mass, he is about to give communion. MAVIS CRUTTON is by the alter helping him.

The familiar noise distracts FATHER RICHMOND, he looks around nervously.

MAVIS

What is the matter Father?

FATHER RICHMOND

Surely you heard something?

MAVIS shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)



FATHER RICHMOND  
It's that squirrel!

MAVIS looks around. Again a noise distracts him.

The priest becomes angry.

FATHER RICHMOND  
(Shouting) There! You heard  
that?

He turns around, the whole church is starring at him. One man gets up and leaves.

FATHER RICHMOND adjusts his collar and gets back to the mass.

FATHER RICHMOND  
Let's get straight on to communion.

Everyone gets to their feet.

The priest empties the communion bag onto the alter, he closes his eyes and holds up the communion bread.

Suddenly MAVIS gasps, the priest opens his eyes. There is a large hole in the middle of the bread.

FATHER RICHMOND gasps, he checks the rest of the bread, there are only crumbs. He then checks the wine, pouring the cup...only a few drops are left.

The priest throws the cup down and screams.

Meanwhile the squirrel watches one from an archway above, it chomps down on a piece of holy bread.

CUT TO

19 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

FATHER RICHMOND lies in bed, he is holding a torch and is on edge listening out for the sound of the squirrel.

Suddenly he hears a noise and jumps up onto his bed. He switches the torch on and looks around and under his bed.

CUT TO

20 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

FATHER RICHMOND opens up his wardrobe, pulls out a jumper and puts it on.

He walks up to an old mirror and gasps at the sight. There are lots of tiny holes in the jumper.

He screams.

FATHER RICHMOND  
That's it!

CUT TO

21 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mouse traps cover the floor, FATHER RICHMOND finishes setting one up and jumps into bed. He sighs with relief and switches off his lamp.

One of the traps snaps, the priest switches his lamps on and sits up. He looks around and is met by the squirrel which sits on his pillow.

FATHER RICHMOND dives for the squirrel but it moves. He falls out of the bed and onto the traps, screaming as each one snaps onto him.

CUT TO

22 INT. CHURCH - DAY

A beaten up FATHER RICHMOND slowly and in pain, walks up to his alter to conduct mass. Everyone rises, MAVIS looks on in horror at the beaten up priest.

He coughs to clear his throat and is suddenly distracted by a noise behind him. Scared, he turns around.

FATHER RICHMOND  
What was that?

He turns to an alter boy.

FATER RICHMOND  
Did you hear that?

The young alter boy shakes his head.

The priest turns to the congregation. A young chubby boy eats an Easter egg and stares at the priest.

(CONTINUED)

FATHER RICHMOND

Not one of you can say that you  
haven't seen it! IT'S EVERYWHERE!

As this is taking place the squirrel sneaks up to the foot  
of the priest and then climbs up inside his trouser leg.

The priest stops still in shock, he then begins to twitch.  
He stumbles over to MAVIS in the front row.

FATHER RICHMOND

It's in my trousers!

MAVIS, horrified, looks at the priest.

MAVIS

Sorry Father?

FATHER RICHMOND thrusts his crotch at MAVIS.

FATHER RICHMOND

My trousers, get it out of there!

MAVIS begins to run away, the priest shouts after her.

FATHER RICHMOND

I can't take it anymore!

The squirrel runs further up his trousers.

FATHER RICHMOND begins to run up and down the church  
screaming.

He falls to the ground and begins to roll around.

CUT TO

23

EXT. CHURCH CAR PARK - DAY

Two men in white coats put FATHER RICHMOND into a straight  
jacket and throw him into the back of a paddy wagon.

MAVIS observes as the men slam the doors and get into the  
front seats.

She watches as it begins to drive off. She lets out a sigh  
and shakes her head.

CUT TO

24 INT. INSTITUTION CELL - EVENING

FATHER RICHMOND sits in a room with white padded walls. He stares forward showing no emotion at all.

Suddenly, the squirrel climbs out of the top of the straight jacket. The priest stares at it for a moment, he looks away and then back at the squirrel.

He then begins to scream uncontrollably.

THE END