

THE FISHERMAN



When the Pope is murdered, the overwhelming choice to replace him tells his mentor in confession that he's a Russian spy placed in the Catholic Church as a mole 40 years ago by the former head of the KGB.

A one hour dramatic series for television, following the rise and fall of Russian super spy, RAMSEY GRADDICK, to the depths of betrayal, loss and despair, to a new found faith in God, to the pinnacles of power in the Vatican. All the while, battling his own demons, and facing the Kompromat and double dealing of the KGB and Russian spy agencies.

BLESS ME FATHER, plucked right from the headlines, would be comparable to popular series like THE AMERICANS, THE CROWN, and HOUSE OF CARDS.

OVERVIEW

All over the world today, from Warsaw to Caracas to Washington D.C., Russian intelligence agencies like the FBS (post Soviet version of the KGB) and the GRU (military intelligence) are working overtime to influence elections, policy decisions and governments. It's nothing new, it's been this way from the beginning. Russian spies are everywhere, and sometimes, they are in our own governments.

Mole: noun - a spy who over a long period of time becomes part of and works from within the ranks of an enemy governmental staff or intelligence agency to steal secret information.

Russia and the former Soviet Union have been attempting to infiltrate foreign governments, using financial favors, sex, Kompromat, and blackmail since the beginning, with some measure of success. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were American scientists who gave top secret information on nuclear weapon systems to the Soviets in the '40s and were eventually executed for their crimes. Aldrich Ames, a CIA agent for 35 years, became a KGB double agent and was convicted in 1994. There are many examples of this all over Europe and Asia as well.

They have also penetrated the highest levels of the Vatican and the Catholic Church.

For over a hundred years, the Vatican and Russian intelligence have been battling in secrecy for the soul of Christianity. In 1952, the KGB began a program to develop young men and women to infiltrate the Catholic Church. It entailed recruiting disaffected youth from across Europe, eventually expanding to the United States. The plan was simple. Find emotionally broken young people, stoke their anger and resentment, and encourage them to go into seminaries with intention of infiltrating the church and destroying it from within.

BLESS ME FATHER is about the complicated life of one of those recruits.

SYNOPSIS

Ramsey Graddick was born in 1950 at the height of the Cold War to a very unusual family. His mother, Greta, had been a top East German scientist working on weapon systems for the Soviet Union. His father, Colonel Harland Graddick, was a West Point graduate and Harvard PHD in nuclear physics.

Greta escaped to the United States after WWII and met Graddick while working together in the top secret nuclear program. They fell madly in love and seemed to be living the American dream. When Ramsey was born, it was clear from the beginning that he was a brilliant and gifted child, excelling in school both academically and in athletics, always president of everything. He excelled in history, religion, learned 5 languages.

The Graddicks were the perfect patriotic loving American family.

But in 1967 it all came tumbling down when his parents were arrested and charged with espionage, for selling nuclear secrets to the Soviets. It wasn't true. An old lover from Greta's past, IGOR TURGENOV, who she had rejected, was now working with the KGB and wanted revenge. He was part of a complex operation to destabilize the nuclear program in the United States, planned by young KGB rising star, ALEXEI YURICHENKO. He set up a spy operation and Igor was captured. He said he was working with the Graddicks and had the documents to prove it.

They were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. While out on appeal, they committed suicide, leaving Ramsey to deal with the consequences.

He became a dark and bitter young man, hating the U.S. government and angry at the world. Hitting the streets, drinking and womanizing, fighting anyone who would look at him the wrong way. Ramsey was becoming a young man his parents wouldn't have been proud of. At the depth of his despair and dark journey, he is approached by an old German friend of his mother, offering another way...revenge.

He is introduced, unknowingly, to the same KGB agent who destroyed his parents, who turns Graddick's anger into action, developing him into his secret weapon.

Ramsey Graddick fell off the radar for two years, training with Alexie and other young men in the craft of espionage. He was the best and the brightest, excelling at every dark skill his mentor put in front of him. He showed up next at a Saint Peter's Seminary in New Orleans, where he was again at the top of his class, specializing in Latin Studies and Vatican History.

He's offered a plum position in the New York City archdiocese, but turns it down, instead accepting an offer to be assistant priest at a small Cajun parish church in New Iberia, Louisiana. He writes his first book, FINDING GOD, about his short journey from anger to love of God and the power of service. It is read by the Archbishop of New Orleans and he's immediately hired to work with him as an assistant. Within two years, he's running the show. When the Pope visits New Orleans, he meets Graddick and is so impressed he's called to the Vatican to be part of his personal staff.

He hasn't had any contact with Alexei since he joined the seminary. The day he lands in Italy he is activated by the KGB. As he rises up the ranks, he becomes the KGB's man in the Vatican, sharing secrets and carrying out orders, always meeting Alexei in confession. At the same time, Graddick is gaining power and influence.

He writes his most famous book, PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS. Its conciliatory approach to the problems between the Churches, causes the

British Government and Irish Republican Army to hold peace talks for the first time in 10 years. He receives a commendation from both the Queen and the Pope.

Graddick is at the top of his game. He becomes a Bishop and worldwide peace emissary for the Pope and the Catholic Church. He travels the world, from one hotspot to the other espousing the values and policy positions of the Vatican. He works with Presidents and Prime Ministers, and leaders from around the world. At the same time, he is a straight up, cold blooded spy for the KGB. James Bond in a bishop's robe.

By day a charismatic leader of the Catholic Church, by night a super spy, who will kill if he has to.

On one particular mission, he works with a beautiful Russian spy named Karina Pushkin and falls madly in love. She works for Alexei, assigned to manage the Vatican operation. They find every chance to be together in secret.

Graddick is having his cake and eating too. Pet projects that make the world a better place, the love of his life, and the greatest espionage operations in history, even outlasting the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union. He even secretly takes out an organized human trafficking organization run by rogue pedophile priests.

It's all working the way it was planned until Alexei finds out about their love affair. Turns out he's in love with Karina too.

He removes Karina from the Vatican mission and sends her to South America, as far away as he can. Graddick, confused, receives an anonymous package that changes his life. In it are official documents spelling out Soviet orders to take down Graddick's parents. It was all a lie and now he knows what really happened. One more grim discovery: his parents didn't commit suicide. They were murdered...by Alexei.

Graddick is crushed, his whole life was a lie. The man who saved him and protected him, the man who gave him a reason to live, was the same man who destroyed everything he ever loved.

He takes an indefinite leave of absence from his duties at the Vatican to hunt down Alexei.

Graddick spends the next year tracking Alexei all over the planet, living in the violent underworld of international espionage. He finally catches him hiding in New Orleans. Holding a gun to his enemy's head, he can't pull the trigger.

Ramsey Graddick is no longer a cold blooded KGB spy or an angry man seeking revenge for the murder of his parents. He's lost, doesn't know who he is anymore. Everything is a lie. He spins out and disappears.

Two years later, Graddick now living in a desert town in Arizona, he comes home to his trailer from a hard day's work. Pours himself a drink. He notices an envelope is stuck to his fridge. Someone's been there. He reaches for his gun, looks around the place. No one is there. He opens the envelope and finds a picture of him and Karina in better days. A note says, "Please don't give up. You are a great man. Love, K." He cries.

He cleans up and returns to the Vatican and asks to be sent to the worst place in the world.

They send him to small Catholic Church in Rwanda. He lands in the middle of a bloody civil war between the Hutus and the Tutsis. His church becomes a safe house for families fleeing destruction of their villages, and is in constant conflict with both sides of the ongoing war. Graddick finds his purpose amidst the worst bloodshed and carnage in modern history. For the first time, he finds God.

His church is burned to the ground, everyone murdered in the genocide that left over a million Tutsis dead. He escapes but is never the same.

Graddick returns to the Vatican a humble servant of God and is made a Cardinal by the Pope.

He is no longer the charismatic leader and prolific writer he once was and has no interest in the machinations of power that course through the halls of the Vatican and the rest of the world. Just a beaten man with only his new found faith to guide him. His charismatic persona and prolific writing skills are buried in the scars and memories of his African / Vietnam mission

So, when the Pope is found dead and the process begins to find his successor, Cardinal Graddick is not in the conversation nor is he even part of the conversation. And as the world awaits the election of the new Pope,

the politics and maneuvering brings vote after vote, but the College of Cardinals is unable to find consensus.

At the same time the Inspector General, MARIO LIGETTI, discovers that the Pope was murdered. The cause is radioactive poison, like the type Russian FSB agents have been using to kill dissidents around Europe.

After eight unsuccessful votes, the Cardinals come to a compromise and agree on the next Pope: Cardinal Ramsey Graddick.

When his Vatican mentor and close friend, CARDINAL FELLINI, comes to tell him the good news, Graddick refuses. When asked why, he agrees to tell him, but only in confession, where he tells his old friend, "I'm a Russian Spy."

The spine of BLESS ME FATHER will be this tale told in confession to his old friend. At the same time, in the present, the murder of the Pope will be investigated secretly by Inspector Ligetti. It will be a thrilling cat and mouse game between Alexei, Graddick and the Inspector as the truth is slowly revealed.

In the end, Graddick will have to reach back into his spy skill set to stop Alexei from destroying the Catholic Church and destabilizing the world order as we currently know it. He will discover that Alexei has Karina and will kill her if he doesn't cooperate. He has to choose between the church and woman he once loved.

One more thing...Graddick has a son.

CHARACTERS

RAMSEY GRADDICK - Born to brilliant and accomplished parents, he has the DNA to do great things. When his parents are convicted of espionage for selling secrets to the Russians, they commit suicide, leaving him broken and lost. Recruited into the KGB and groomed to become the greatest spy in Russian history. Rising through ranks of the Catholic Church, he becomes the charismatic leader he was meant to be, except it's all a lie. James Bond in a priest's robe, he will do anything to get revenge on the U.S. government for what happened to his parents. He finds out that the KGB murdered his parents and turns on them. When he has the chance to get his revenge he discovers he's no longer that cold blooded killer. He can't do it and gives himself to God. Now humble, his faith will be tested by Alexei as the former KGB agent tries once again to destroy everything he cares about.

ALEXEI YURICHENKO - Life long KGB agent, leader and psychopath. Smart and cunning, even more lethal. Will stop at nothing to get his way. Loves Graddick like a son, but not as much as he loves himself. A towering figure in the intelligence world, a legend.

KARINA PUSHKIN - Beautiful KGB agent, super smart and well trained. The daughter of a prostitute in Kiev, she was found living on the street by Alexei. He cleaned her up, trained her and became her lover. She owes him her life. When she meets Graddick, it's love at first sight.

CARDINAL VITO FELLINI - Kind and intelligent mentor to Graddick. Loves him like a father. Catholic to the bone, loves the church with all his heart.

CARDINAL BELA MONTINI - Totally political, not a faithful bone in his body. It's all about power and manipulation for him. He's dirty, always scheming for personal gain. Also the self appointed heir apparent to the Papacy.

MARIO LIGETTI - Ispettore General of the Vatican, he's the head detective of the police. Efficient and smart, he is tasked with investigating the death of the Pope. He always gets his man.

HARLAND GRADDICK - Brilliant scientist, handsome in a nerdy sort of way. Loves his country and his family. Patriotic American.

GRETA GRADDICK - Striking looks, brilliant mind, loves her family.

Season One

The Pope is murdered. While his death is investigated by a shrewd Vatican detective, and the political players jockey for power before the election of a new Pope, Ramsey Graddick emerges after many failed votes as the favorite. He goes into Confession with his mentor and tells him the truth about who he really is, from the death of parents to the meteoric rise of one of the greatest Russian spies in history. Placed in a small seminary then ascending to international prominence and world power. Of course, he is all in on his mission and using his position to create havoc on the world stage.

Every episode a nail biter, where he will face certain death if he fails. That said, he is known around the world as man of peace and good intention. He secretly spends time with the love of his life, the beautiful Karina who also trained as a KGB spy. He thinks the KGB doesn't know, but she is just another piece of Kompromat they can use if they need to reel him in later.

The season ends with a soul crushing betrayal, when he receives a mysterious package that reveals evidence that his parents were murdered by the KGB.

Season Two

He spends the next few years of his life, still living the lie, but now trying to track down his handler, Alexei, who he believes murdered his parents and stole his life. Finally, finding out that his soul mate Karina was all part of the plan. He tracks down Alexei and in an epic battle, has him in his sights, a gun to the old KGB leader's head. But he can't shoot him. He's changed. He's not that man anymore.

He finds his faith. He dedicates his life to peace, literally becoming the man he was pretending to be. He asks the Vatican to send to a mission in the worst place in the world. He ends up in Rwanda during the horrific ethnic cleansing that destroyed that brought the world to its knees. His mission becomes a safe house for women and families caught in the middle of the struggle.

Of course, Alexei and the Russians are up to their usual interference, which Graddick will have to confront. But for the first time in his life he's making a difference for the right reasons. Unfortunately, it is all destroyed in front of his eyes, the pain and suffering too much to bear. He returns to the Vatican

humbled and broken, spending many years in near silence and seclusion. This brings us back to the present, where he's elected the Pope.

Season Three

Now the Pope, he tries to reform the Vatican and root out the spies and corruption that he spent most of his life to create. At the same time his old KGB mentor, Alexei, is still out there trying to blackmail him into finishing the job of destroying the Catholic Church.

The final conclusion will bring him face to face with Alexei, who will take one last shot at using him to destroy the world as we know it. He has Graddick's old lover, Karina, ready to kill her if he won't do his bidding. All he wants is for him to tell the world who he really is. The ultimate victory for the old Soviet Union. And there's one more thing. Graddick has a son.

***Bless Me Father* is a thriller from start to finish, with one man's faith and world domination hanging in the balance. It's about love and duty and what truth really means. Every man has a choice to be the best version of himself. Faith is about taking the leap. Ramsey Graddick is the kind of man the world needs right now.**

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