

IF I BELIEVE YOU

Written by

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LOGLINE: When an atheist law student calls out to God for help, she has to grapple with the divine presence before her in order to save her relationship with an ex-best friend.

FADE IN :

INT. APARTMENT, BEDROOM, NIGHT

A NIGHTSTAND holds a cheap LAMP, a half-empty GLASS of water, and an unlabeled BOTTLE of pink pills with the letter "A" written in Sharpie on the lid.

Next to the nightstand, laying on top of the comforter, EVE (24) scrolls endlessly on her cracked, chewed-up phone. A calendar notification appears as the clock turns to midnight: "RUTH'S BIRTHDAY."

Eve sits up quickly. She opens the phone app and taps Ruth's name. As she moves to stand up, she hits the lamp with her elbow, dropping her phone and knocking over the pill bottle and the glass of water.

Eve balks at her now soaked phone, the screen fizzling out. She laughs in disbelief. That was the last straw.

INT. APARTMENT, KITCHEN, CONTINUOUS

Eve's laugh turns into a wail as she grabs a BAG OF RICE and a large BOWL. She haphazardly pours, spilling rice all over the countertop. She drops her phone in the bowl and looks up to the ceiling.

EVE

Please, universe, God, someone...

(beat)

God, I guess. God? I, uh, I know
I've never... I just want... I need
to fix this. I miss her.

Eve looks down at her phone in rice, holding back tears.

INT. APARTMENT, BEDROOM, MOMENTS LATER

Eve picks up two soggy "A" pills from the wet nightstand. She swallows them without water.

She flops face-first on the bed, smothering herself between two pillows.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT, BEDROOM, MOMENTS LATER

Yellow light emanates from the foot of the bed. Eve squints an eye open between the pillows.

The light fades, and GOD (33, female) appears. She's dressed in an all-white sweatsuit that gives off a glow of its own.

GOD
You called?

Eve is frozen. She looks around the room, then back at God.

EVE
(pointing to herself)
Me?

GOD
Yes, Eve. You.

Eve looks around more frantically, finally fixing her eyes on the soggy "A" pills and having a moment of realization. She gets up and sprints out of the room.

INT. APARTMENT, BATHROOM, MOMENTS LATER

Eve drops to her knees in front of the toilet and begins heaving. God appears, leaning against the doorway.

God watches Eve push herself to vomit, spitting up pink water. Eve flushes the toilet and leans back on the wall.

GOD
Do you feel any better?

Eve shakes her head in disbelief.

EVE
Are you...?

GOD
God? Yes. Hi.

EVE
(laughs)
Ha! I knew you were a woman.

GOD
(smiling)
You called me?

EVE
I... no, I didn't.

GOD
Yes, you did.

EVE
Are you here to... send me to Hell?

GOD
(considering)
Nah, not today.

Eve can't tell if that was sarcasm. She slides up the wall and returns to standing, unsteady on her feet.

EVE
Oh... okay. Cool.
(beat)
Well, this isn't happening, so I'm
just gonna...

INT. APARTMENT, BEDROOM, CONTINUOUS

Eve mopes her way back to bed. She curls up in the covers and grabs the TV REMOTE. God glides into the room and sits down on the bed next to Eve. Eve ignores her, flipping through the channels.

One after another, Eve skips through news channels covering violent shootings, car crashes, thefts, and tropical storms.

EVE
Did you really create this? Us?

GOD
I did.

God sighs, not willing to explain any further.

GOD (CONT'D)
So, what do you need to fix?

EVE
Oh, I-- I messed something up.
Something good. With Ruth.

GOD
(excited)
Named after RBG? I love that woman.

EVE
No, her parents were Christian, so
Ruth from the Bible.
(pause)
Have you ever read it?

GOD
Read what?

EVE
The Bible.

GOD
Oh, hah... no, I haven't.

EVE
Really? You say some pretty crazy
shit in there.

GOD
Well, all my exes thought I was
crazy.

EVE
(laughing)
You mean your disciples?

GOD
(smiling)
Is that what they call themselves?
That's cute.
(beat)
Have you read the Bible?

EVE
I have. I grew up religious, but
then I moved to LA. So atheist.

GOD
Yeah, that happens.

The TV casts a blue glow over the room, the announcer's voice
droning on in the background. Eve takes a moment to consider
the person/deity slumped next to her in her bed.

EVE
Can I ask you something?

GOD
Sure.

EVE
You made my body right? And you
have a plan for my life, or
whatever?

GOD
Yes. To both questions.

EVE
So, why'd you let me become an
atheist?

God turns away from the TV and looks at Eve. Her face is serious for a moment, until she laughs.

GOD
That, I cannot answer. Good
question though.
(beat)
My turn.

Eve looks at her, confused as to what God could possibly ask her that she doesn't already know.

GOD (CONT'D)
What happened with Ruth?

EVE
That's... private.

GOD
Really.

EVE
...yes.

GOD
Even from me?

Eve doesn't explain further. God doesn't press her. A moment passes. God shifts in the bed, folding into a cross-legged position. Her face glows.

GOD (CONT'D)
How about I offer you a miracle?

Eve freezes. She considers.

EVE
What's the miracle?

GOD
If I tell you, it won't be a
miracle. Now spill.

Eve again takes a moment to consider. She turns toward God, mimicking her cross-legged position on the bed.

EVE
Okay, what the hell.

GOD
Excuse you.

EVE
Oh! Uh, sorry.

GOD
You're forgiven. This time.

Eve shifts cautiously, never taking her eyes off of God.

EVE
Ruth is my best friend. Was. She's
not dead--

GOD
I know.

EVE
--right. Well she applied to this
law firm, and I applied too because
I wanted to work with her. But I
got the job, and she didn't. But
she...

(pause)
She really wanted that job. More
than I ever did. And now all I do
is work and I don't see her
anymore. And it's her birthday. And
I-- I miss her. And it's my fault--

Eve can't stop the words from flowing. God places a hand on her shoulder. Eve pauses, as if overcome by a powerful, peaceful force, and takes a breath.

GOD
So call her.

EVE
I broke my phone, soaked it in
water--

GOD
I know.

EVE
(suddenly annoyed)
Then why did you tell me to call
her, asshole?

A beat. The insult hangs heavy in the air. Eve's eyes are wide, surprised that that came out of her mouth. God's steely gaze meets Eve's.

GOD
Last warning.

EVE
(stammering)
I-- I'm-- I'm so sorry-- I--

GOD
(laughing)
Just kidding. I didn't actually
know your phone was broken. That
sucks.

Eve, frozen with fear, now forces a wary smile. She allows herself to relax slightly.

EVE
Yeah, it sucks.

A beat. Eve turns back to the TV, switching it off.

EVE (CONT'D)
So... I told you about Ruth. What's
the miracle?

The room is darker. Eve turns, but God is gone. The right side of her bed looks untouched. She reaches out and touches the comforter where God once sat.

EVE (CONT'D)
(to herself)
That wasn't real. Not real.

Eve climbs out of bed with a new sense of relief.

EVE (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Ha! She wasn't real! I knew it!
(beat)
Oh, God... so who was I talking to?

GOD (O.S.)
Me.

Eve startles at God's voice, the sound seemingly coming from every angle at once.

INT. APARTMENT, KITCHEN, CONTINUOUS

Eve cautiously approaches the kitchen counter, looking at each of the walls as if expecting another voice to shake through the apartment.

Eve pulls her phone out of the bowl of rice; it appears brand new. The once cracked and dirty screen is now spotless.

Eve looks at the phone in disbelief. She opens the phone app and taps Ruth's name. She tentatively raises it up to her ear. The phone RINGS for a beat until--

RUTH (O.S.)
Hello? Eve?

EVE
(to herself)
Oh, thank God.

GOD (O.S.)
You're welcome.

FADE OUT.