

JUST THE TEN OF US

"He Of Little Faith"

written by

James Larry Sanders Jr.

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CAST

GRAHAM LUBBOCK.....BILL KIRCHENBAUER
ELIZABETH LUBBOCK.....DEBORAH HARMON
MARIE LUBBOCK.....HEATHER LANGENKAMP
CINDY LUBBOCK.....JAMIE LUNER
WENDY LUBBOCK.....BROOKE THEISS
CONNIE LUBBOCK.....JO ANN WILLETTE
J.R. LUBBOCK.....MATT SHAKMAN
SHERRY LUBBOCK.....HEIDI ZEIGLER

GUEST CAST

BRIAN SEEBECK.....DAVID NAUGHTON

COLD OPEN

INT. KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

ELIZABETH IS PREPARING DINNER. JUST THEN GRAHAM WALKS IN.

GRAHAM

What is that smell?

ELIZABETH

Smells good, doesn't it?

GRAHAM

No, it smells expensive. What is it?

ELIZABETH

Ribeye steaks!

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, the only time you make steak is when your brother Brian comes to town.

ELIZABETH

Very good deduction, honey. Brian is coming for dinner. You're a regular Columbo.

GRAHAM

Can't you serve him something a bit more reasonably priced? Have you thought about just stitching some Bac-Os together?

ELIZABETH

I would, but I'm afraid Harvey might choke on the gristle.

CINDY, CONNIE, MARIE, AND WENDY WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN AND TAKES A BIG WHIFF OF THE AROMA.

MARIE
(tempted)

What is that decadent aroma?!

ELIZABETH

Ribeyes.

CONNIE

Ribeyes? But you only make ribeyes
when...

THE GIRLS SHRIEK IN EXCITEMENT.

CINDY/CONNIE/MARIE/WENDY
(excited yelling)

Uncle Brian's coming!

J.R. AND SHERRY COME RUNNING IN EXCITEDLY THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

SHERRY

Uncle Brian's here?!

GRAHAM

Calm down, he's not here yet...When is
he coming, anyway?

ELIZABETH

He said his flight from Boston was
delayed, so he'll be here around
seven.

J.R.

Did he say if he was bringing
anything?!

ELIZABETH

No, and even though he always brings you something, I'd appreciate it if you kids didn't harp on him about it.

CINDY

Harp on him? What is that supposed to mean?

WENDY

She means the last time he was here you sat on his lap and asked him for a Nintendo.

CINDY

Hey, Marie sat on his lap, too!

MARIE

(defensive)

At least I didn't ask him for anything!

GRAHAM IGNORES THEIR ARGUMENT AND TURNS TO HIS WIFE.

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, how come he never brings me anything?

ELIZABETH

Graham! For goodness sake, he's your brother-in-law.

GRAHAM

Hey, I'm the one the always paying for his stinkin' steaks.

ELIZABETH

Well, you're always the one eating his
stinkin' steaks.

GRAHAM

I thought he had left the table!

ELIZABETH

He was gone for one minute to make a
phone call. I still can't believe you
inhaled that thing so fast.

GRAHAM

And if he's not careful, I'll do it
again.

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

THE FAMILY IS GATHERED NEAR THE DOOR. THE KIDS ARE WAITING WITH PARTICULAR ANTICIPATION. CONNIE NOTICES CINDY HOLDING UP A SIGN WITH THE WORDS "UNCLE BRIAN" WRITTEN ON IT.

CONNIE

Cindy?! What are you doing?!

CINDY

He's never been to Eureka before, so I want him to know that he's at the right house.

CONNIE

That's the stup...

CONNIE CONTEMPLATES FOR A SECOND

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Actually, that makes some sense.

CINDY
(excited)

It does?!

CONNIE

Not that much, but its got the germ of some practicality.

CINDY

Germ?! Eww!

CONNIE THROWS UP HER ARMS IN FRUSTRATION.

A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR. ELIZABETH MAKES HER WAY TO THE DOOR.

ELIZABETH

Okay everyone, this is the first time
in a while he's seen us, so let's at
least make it seem like we've matured
since then.

ELIZABETH OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL BRIAN.

BRIAN

Lizzie!

THE LUBBOCK GIRLS RUN, SHOOTING RIGHT PAST ELIZABETH, AND HUG
BRIAN SIMULTANEOUSLY, CINDY THROWING THE SIGN IN THE AIR IN
THE PROCESS.

CINDY/CONNIE/MARIE/SHERRY/
WENDY

Brian!

BRIAN LOOKS CONFUSED.

BRIAN

What happened? Did I die or something?

MARIE

No, it's just been so long since we've
seen you and we missed you so...you
smell good.

ELIZABETH PEELS HER DAUGHTERS OFF OF HER BROTHER.

ELIZABETH

Okay, enough! Give him some space to
breathe.

BRIAN

I think I know why you're all so happy
to see me, so let's get on with the
bearing of gifts.

THE KIDS GATHER ROUND. BRIAN REACHES INTO HIS DUFFEL BAG AND PULLS OUT HIS FIRST GIFT, ONE OF THOSE BALL POPPER PUSHER TOYS.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

First I have this little thing for
the...

CINDY
(excited)

Aaah! Just what I've always wanted!

CINDY RUNS UP AND TAKES THE TOY OUT OF BRIAN'S HANDS. THE OTHERS LOOK TAKEN ABACK.

BRIAN

I guess little Melissa can have
Cindy's perfume. Okay, I got something
for Sherry next.

BRIAN PULLS OUT A THICK TOME OUT HIS BAG AND HANDS IT TO SHERRY.

SHERRY

Wow! "Barbarians at the Gate: The Fall
of R-J-R Nabisco"! Now I can finally
find out why my Oreos have been
tasting so funny lately. Thanks Uncle
Brian!

BRIAN

What can I say? I know what girls
like. As for the boys...

J.R.

Okay, now we're getting to the good
stuff!

BRIAN

For you, J.R....

BRIAN PULLS OUT A JUG FILLED WITH A RED SUBSTANCE.

J.R.

No way!

J.R. TAKES THE JUG.

J.R. (CONT'D)

Wes's Synthetic Blood Blend! I can't wait to start pouring this in the girls' dresser drawers!

ELIZABETH

J.R.!

J.R. RUNS UPSTAIRS. ELIZABETH TRIES TO STOP HIM, BUT ISN'T QUICK ENOUGH. BRIAN PULLS OUT TWO MORE BOOKS.

BRIAN

Alright, I got a couple of books here. One is a bible I bought in Rome, the other is a steamy romance paperback.

CONNIE

Let me guess, the bible's for Marie?

BRIAN

No, they're both for Marie.

BRIAN HANDS THE BIBLE AND THE PULP NOVEL TO MARIE. SHE HOLDS THEM UP, ONE IN EACH HAND.

MARIE

A leather-bound Didache Bible...Oh my god. Vanessa's Bangkok Nights by J.D. Lovelace!

MARIE'S EYES GO BACK-AND-FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO BOOKS.

MARIE (CONT'D)
(increasingly panicked)

Oh my god. My faith and my animal
appetites are at a crossroads!

MARIE STARTS HYPERVENTILATING.

SHERRY

Oh my god, she's gonna blow!

GRAHAM TAKES THE PAPERBACK OUT OF MARIE'S HANDS.

GRAHAM

Give me that!

MARIE TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND IMMEDIATELY CALMS DOWN.

MARIE

Thank you, Dad.

ELIZABETH

I think we can wait on the other
gifts, the steaks are getting cold.

THE REST OF THE FAMILY HEAD FOR THE TABLE, WHILE BRIAN AND
GRAHAM REMAIN NEAR THE DOOR.

BRIAN

How do you even afford steak with all
of these kids, anyway?

GRAHAM

I'm assuming...magic.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM TABLE - NIGHT

THE FAMILY IS GATHERED AT THE TABLE EATING DINNER.

CONNIE

So, what is it like being a travel agent?!

BRIAN

Well, it's nice going to places I could never afford to go to otherwise. Other than that, it's kind of boring.

WENDY

What's the hardest part about the job?

BRIAN

Honestly, just keeping track of which airlines are still in business.

BRIAN GETS A SUDDEN SINCE OF PANIC.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Wait! Can somebody tell me quick if USAir is still in business!

SHERRY

They're fine, Uncle Brian. They were up a quarter in today's trading.

BRIAN

(relieved)

Oh, thank goodness. I booked a high school band trip with them before I left. You never know these days.

CINDY

So what airline did you fly?

BRIAN

Good question, Cindy. How about I let you in on a little industry secret?

THE FAMILY LEANS IN TO LISTEN TO BRIAN'S INSIDER KNOWLEDGE.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

...I actually drove.

ELIZABETH

Well, arriving safely after a long drive from the East Coast calls for some gratitude. Let us pray...Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Hail Mary, full of grace.

ELIZABETH BLESSES HERSELF.

MARIE

Isn't God great, Uncle Brian?! Think of all the things he does for us. He protects us, provides for us, guides us with his infallible word!

BRIAN

Yeah. God is great. It's nice to have an almighty being, stronger than ourselves, always making sure we're taken care of, always looking out for us. God is great...if only God was real.

THE FAMILY IMMEDIATELY STOPS EATING. GRAHAM DROPS HIS FORK, ELIZABETH GULPS, CINDY'S JAW DROPS, AND THE REST JUST LOOK AT HIM WITH INCREDULITY. SEVERAL SECONDS PASS AS THE FAMILY PROCESSES WHAT HE JUST SAID, THEN MARIE BREAKS THE SILENCE.

MARIE

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!!!!

MARIE COVERS HER EARS AS SHE SCREAMS.

ELIZABETH

(shocked to her core)

Brian! Did you just say...what I think you said?

BRIAN

I just said what I believe.

ELIZABETH

(indignant)

Oh, well, pardon me. I must have misheard you. All I could hear is how you didn't actually believe in anything at all!

BRIAN

What?! I believe in lots of things;
family bonds, the American Dream,
Crystal Light. I just don't believe in
God.

ELIZABETH

Stop saying that!!!!

CONNIE

You really don't believe in God?

CINDY

You can just...do that?

WENDY

Yeah, can you? Because I would really
like to be able to sleep in on Sundays.

MARIE RISES FROM HER SEAT AND POINTS TO BRIAN IN INDIGNATION.

MARIE

(hysterical)

Blaspheme!!!!

BRIAN

I really don't get what the big deal
is. You really still take this God
stuff that seriously, Lizzie?

ELIZABETH

Don't you Lizzie me! In the kitchen,
now!

BRIAN

But I...

GRAHAM

Listen to her Brian, go to the
kitchen.

BRIAN LOOKS AT GRAHAM CONFUSEDLY.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

I've been married to your sister for
twenty some-odd years, trust me on
this one.

BRIAN GETS UP AND GOES TO THE KITCHEN.

ELIZABETH

Now, I know we just found out
something...horrific about one of our
next-of-kin. But let me say for the
record that there is a God, he is a
vengeful God, and he is watching us
very carefully whether you want him to
or not. And I will not tolerate any
contradiction of that fact in this
house...so there! Now all of you go to
your room.

SHERRY

But Mom, I haven't finished eating.

ELIZABETH

To your room, missy, now!

THE KIDS GETS UP AND GO UPSTAIRS.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

What are we going to do about this?

GRAHAM

Do about what?

ELIZABETH

Graham T. Lubbock! Have you gone
blind, deaf, and dumb?! My brother is
a...I can't even say it. And he just
spread that...unmentionable idea to
our children!

GRAHAM STARTS TO LEAVE THE TABLE.

GRAHAM
(apprehensive)

Yeah, that's a real jam you got there.

GRAHAM STARTS TO WALK TO THE FRONT DOOR.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

It would be a shame if some dumb coach
got in the way.

ELIZABETH

Where do you think you're going?!

GRAHAM

I'm going to the Topsy Timberjack.

ELIZABETH

Graham, since when do you go to bars?!

GRAHAM
(sheepish)

Since...about five minutes ago.

GRAHAM QUICKLY LEAVES OUT THE FRONT DOOR, PREVENTING
ELIZABETH FROM RETORTING. SHE SITS ALONE AT THE DINNER TABLE
COMPLETELY FLUSTERED.

FADE TO:

INT. LUBBOCK GIRLS' ROOM - NIGHT

CINDY, CONNIE, AND WENDY ARE SITTING ON THEIR RESPECTIVE BEDS; MARIE IS IN HER PRAYING CORNER NEXT TO HER BED, RECITING LATIN PRAYERS.

MARIE

Requiem aeternam dona ei
Et lux perpetua luceat ei

CINDY

Marie must really be upset. She's doing her impression of the midget from Twin Peaks.

CONNIE

She's speaking Latin, Cindy.

WENDY GETS UP AND APPROACHES MARIE.

WENDY

Come on, Marie. You're acting ridiculous. So what if he doesn't believe in God?

MARIE

Aaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!!!!

WENDY RECOILS FROM MARIE'S EAR-SHATTERING CRY. MARIE GETS UP AND CONFRONTS WENDY VERY CLOSELY.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Wendy! Do you have any idea what God does to those who refuse to acknowledge his kingdom?!
Evisceration! Laceration! Immolation!
For all eternity!

CONNIE

Marie, please! You're making God sound like John Gotti.

MARIE

Oh, excuse me Miss "I have questions about my faith"! Uncle Brian is standing on the precipice of eternal damnation, and all you seem to care about is whether or not I'm scaring Cindy!

WENDY

Marie, didn't we always hear how God is love? Now, what kind of loving god would do the things you're describing?

MARIE

It is not our place to question God's contradictions! We're just supposed to accept them.

CONNIE

Accept that this loving God would throw us into a river of fire without a second thought? Not even Dad would do that.

MARIE

Yes! That's the truth and that's that! Now I'm going to go back to praying for all of your souls.

MARIE RETURNS TO HER CORNER.

CINDY

Wendy? Would God really throw you into
a river of fire?

WENDY

I guess.

CINDY

So all this time, if you've been bad,
God just sends you to Cleveland?

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. TIPSY TIMBERJACK - NIGHT

GRAHAM IS SITTING ALONE AT THE BAR. AS THE BARTENDER WALKS BY, BRIAN JOINS GRAHAM.

GRAHAM

Hey, I want the tallest beer you got.

And a whiskey chaser.

BRIAN

I'll just have a Dr. Pepper.

THE BARTENDER WALKS OFF.

GRAHAM

What are you doing here, Brian?

BRIAN

I just needed some space, and the only other place open was that gentlemen's club across town.

GRAHAM

Well, you're a single guy, why don't you just go there?

BRIAN

Nah, I hate the smell of fish.

A COUPLE OF SECONDS OF AWKWARD SILENCE ENSUE, THEN GRAHAM JUST ASKS BRIAN WHAT'S ON HIS MIND.

GRAHAM

So...you're an atheist, huh?

BRIAN

Yeah.

GRAHAM

How's that working out for you?

BRIAN

Not bad. My Sundays are completely free. I don't have to worry about mixing milk and meat. I can't complain.

GRAHAM

Have you ever thought about...you know, what happens after it's all said and done.

BRIAN

Not really. I figured everything would just...end.

GRAHAM

That sounds terrifying.

BRIAN

And being thrown into a river of fire isn't terrifying?

GRAHAM

(confused)

What does Cleveland have to do with any of this?

BRIAN

Huh?

GRAHAM

Never mind...You know Elizabeth's really upset.

BRIAN

Well, I don't know what I can do about that.

GRAHAM

Neither do I.

GRAHAM LOOKS AROUND

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Where is that stinkin' bartender with my stinkin' beer?!

BRIAN

Do you believe in God, Graham?

GRAHAM

Of course I do! He created the whole stinkin' universe!

BRIAN

You don't seem to be as upset about my beliefs as Lizzie, though.

GRAHAM

Well, I don't take the whole fire and brimstone thing as seriously as she does. Heck, I just like how the threat of eternal damnation keeps my daughters in check when I'm not around...well, most of them, anyway.

BRIAN

So, for the sake of argument, let's say there is a God, and let's say I die tomorrow. Do you believe God would throw me into eternal despair just because I didn't believe in him when I was alive?

GRAHAM

How the hell should I know?

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

BRIAN IS SLEEPING SPRAWLED OUT ON THE COUCH, STILL IN HIS CLOTHES FROM LAST NIGHT. HE'S HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

BRIAN
(sleep talking)

No...no...stay away from me, Vanna!

MARIE SNEAKS DOWNSTAIRS ON THE TIPS OF HER TOES, CARRYING A LARGE BUCKET. SHE SLOWLY APPROACHES THE COUCH, WINDS UP, AND DOUSES BRIAN (AND THE COUCH) WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE BUCKET. BRIAN WAKES UP IMMEDIATELY.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

What is this?!

MARIE

It's holy water! I had it saved for just such an emergency!

BRIAN

Emergency?!

MARIE KNEELS ON THE COUCH NEXT TO BRIAN AND HYSTERICALLY GRABS HIM BY THE LAPELS.

MARIE

You have clearly been possessed by a demonic force; and since Father Hargis won't accept my calls, I must remove the devil from your person myself!

BRIAN

The what?!

MARIE STARTS SHAKING BRIAN.

MARIE

Repeat after me! O glorious Archangel St. Michael, Prince of the heavenly host, defend us in battle!

BRIAN YELPS AND RELEASES HIMSELF FROM MARIE'S GRIP. SHE DOESN'T GIVE UP AND CHASES HIM DOWN. HE RUNS UPSTAIRS AS FAST AS HE CAN. MARIE GETS UP AND PULLS A BOX OF MATCHES FROM HER PAJAMAS.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Lord. I still have three more elements left to try.

MARIE LIGHTS A MATCH, LOOKING PLEASINGLY AT IT'S FLAME.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

BRIAN IS FRANTICALLY LOOKING FOR A ROOM TO TAKE REFUGE IN.

BRIAN

There's got to be somewhere to hide.

BRIAN OPENS A RANDOM DOOR.

CINDY (O.S.)
(startled)

Somebody's in here!

BRIAN

Oops, sorry.

BRIAN CLOSSES THE DOOR, AND IMMEDIATELY OPENS ANOTHER DOOR.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSERY - MORNING

SHERRY IS SITTING DOWN AND READING A BOOK OUT LOUD TO HARVEY AND MELISSA.

SHERRY

"That was when Henry Kravis launched his opening salvo, a twenty-five billion dollar leveraged buyout of the massive cookie slash cigarette firm."

SHERRY WAITS IN VAIN FOR HER YOUNGER SIBLINGS TO RESPOND, THEY JUST SLEEP IN BLISSFUL IGNORANCE. BRIAN THEN BRISKLY WALKS IN AND CLOSSES THE DOOR.

BRIAN

Do think Marie will find me in here?

SHERRY

Shhhh! I'm reading to the little ones.

BRIAN

You're reading them a book about corporate raiders?

SHERRY

Hey, the sooner they learn how the world really works, the better.

MARIE (O.S.)

You can't hide forever. I'll beat the devil out of you, yet.

BRIAN
(panicked)

Sherry! You gotta help me, your sister
thinks I'm possessed or something.

SHERRY

I know, I assumed that's why you've
been dripping all over the carpet.
Wait here, I'll distract her.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

SHERRY MEETS MARIE, WHO'S HOLDING CANDLES IN BOTH HANDS, AT
THE DOOR.

MARIE

Have you seen Brian, Sherry?

SHERRY

Oh, I saw him climbing down out the
window.

MARIE

Well, what are we waiting for?! Let's
stop him!

SHERRY HOLDS MARIE BACK.

SHERRY

Why don't we wait for him outside? I
hear prayers work better at ground
level.

MARIE

But isn't that further away from
Heaven?

SHERRY

God works in mysterious ways.

SHERRY LEADS MARIE AWAY AND DOWNSTAIRS. BRIAN THEN SNEAKS OUT, AND HEADS UP TO THE ATTIC.

CUT TO:

INT. LUBBOCK GIRLS' ROOM

BRIAN WALKS UP INTO THE GIRLS' ROOM, WHERE CONNIE IS RUMMAGING THROUGH HER CLOSET. SHE NOTICES BRIAN.

CONNIE

Uncle Brian?! What are you doing up here? And why are you soaking wet?

BRIAN

Marie, and Marie. She tried to perform an exorcism on me.

CONNIE

Oh no, not again.

BRIAN

She's done this before?!

CONNIE

Yep; when our cat, Snowball, died.

BRIAN

Was she trying to save its soul postmortem or something?

CONNIE

No, that's what killed Snowball.

BRIAN

What is going on in this family?

CONNIE

If it makes you feel any better, she did try to exorcise herself out of guilt afterwards.

BRIAN

Why doesn't that surprise me?

THE TWO PAUSE BRIEFLY.

CONNIE

Brian, when did you stop believing in God?

BRIAN

Well, I had questions about my faith since...well, since I was your age.

CONNIE

That's funny. I have those same kind of questions, too.

BRIAN

You do?

CONNIE

Yeah, but I don't know anything for sure. How are you so sure in what you believe?

BRIAN

It's kind of hard to explain. It's just like when you realize there is no Santa Claus. It's one of those things that just...kind of happens.

CONNIE

But is God really the same thing as Santa Claus? I mean, I remember when I realized the man in the red suit who came to our house on Christmas was just our dad. I don't ever remember Dad coming down the chimney in a God suit.

BRIAN

Wait, your dad actually went down the chimney?!

CONNIE

Well, he tried. Let's just say he made no friends at the fire department that night.

BRIAN

Well, as much as I'd like to hear the details of that story, I better get going. I think I might have a chance to escape.

CONNIE

I'll come with you. Who knows, you might need a bodyguard.

CONNIE AND BRIAN GO DOWN THE STEPS.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

CONNIE AND BRIAN DESCEND THE STAIRCASE, ONLY TO FIND THE LIVING ROOM DIMLY LIT, AND FULL OF LIT CANDLES.

BRIAN

What is going on here?!

CONNIE

Is Marie trying to exorcise you, or
seduce you?

MARIE BARGES THROUGH THE KITCHEN DOOR, SLOWLY WALKING TOWARDS
BRIAN WHILE PROMINENTLY HOLDING UP A CRUCIFIX.

MARIE

You will submit to the Lord, Uncle
Brian.

CONNIE

Marie, leave him alone!

MARIE

I cannot. I am compelled by a higher
power to remove the demon that lies
beneath him.

CONNIE STANDS DRAMATICALLY IN FRONT OF BRIAN, THEN COMES TO A
REALIZATION.

CONNIE

Hey, wait a minute. The front door's
right there. Just leave, Brian!

BRIAN SMACKS HIS HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

BRIAN

Why didn't I think of that!

BRIAN GOES OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

MARIE

No!!!!!!

MARIE RUNS OUT THE FRONT DOOR, PUSHING CONNIE ASIDE IN THE PROCESS.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - MORNING

MARIE RUNS HYSTERICALLY OUT OF THE HOUSE, INTO THE FRONT YARD, AND PAST THE BARN.

MARIE

Come back Brian! I can still save your
soul! Brian!

CUT TO:

INT. BARN

BRIAN PEEKS OUTSIDE THROUGH THE BARN DOOR.

BRIAN

Good, she's running into town. Maybe
she'll tire herself out.

BRIAN TURNS AROUND TO FIND ELIZABETH RIGHT BEHIND HIM.

ELIZABETH

Aaaah!

BRIAN

Aaaah!

ELIZABETH

(dispassionate)

Brian. Fancy seeing you here.

BRIAN

Your daughter is out of her mind!

ELIZABETH

Which one?

BRIAN

Marie! She doused me with a bucket of holy water, and try to perform an exorcism on me.

ELIZABETH
(unsympathetic)

Well, at least her heart was in the right place.

BRIAN

What are you doing in here?

ELIZABETH

Cleaning the barn.

BRIAN

All by yourself?

ELIZABETH DOESN'T RESPOND.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Lizzie?

ELIZABETH CONTINUES TO IGNORE HER BROTHER.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Lizzie, are you okay?

ELIZABETH
(snippy)

Are you okay?!

BRIAN

Sis? What's wrong?

ELIZABETH

Are you kidding me right now?! You tell my whole family you don't believe in God, do it so...flippantly, and you just go around acting like nothing happened?! Do you have any idea what you've done to me?!

BRIAN
(confused)

What I've done to you?

ELIZABETH

I feel like I've lost you, Brian!

BRIAN

Lizzie, don't be ridiculous.

ELIZABETH

No, you're the one being ridiculous! You've spit in the face of our creator! You've condemned yourself by your own words! And...

ELIZABETH HOLDS BACK TEARS.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I just can't tolerate the idea of my baby brother burning in eternal agony.

BRIAN
(taken aback)

How are you so sure I will?

ELIZABETH

How are you so sure you won't?!

BRIAN

I told you once! God isn't real! You remember what happened to Mom, right?!

ELIZABETH

What does that have to do with anything?!

BRIAN

Sis, she was getting ready for a new chapter of her life, she was so excited. Then one day she just got sick, then she got sicker, and the next thing we knew she was gone!

ELIZABETH

Brian, it was just her time to go.

BRIAN

Damn it, Lizzie, she was forty-nine! What kind of loving God lets someone die that young!

ELIZABETH

He didn't let her die, Brian.

BRIAN

Then who did?!

ELIZABETH

Nobody did. It's just one of those things that happens.

BRIAN

So God is responsible for all of the good in the world, but when something bad happens it's just "Oh well, that's life"?!

ELIZABETH

Brian, I know how much Mom's passing still hurts. But it doesn't mean that there isn't a God! And hearing that you don't believe in him hurts me, and it terrifies me. What if you died tomorrow, Brian? If you died without ever knowing God, I don't know if I could live with myself.

BRIAN

Lizzie, I would be fine. No everlasting torment, I'd just be gone. And even if there was a God, doesn't he love me, wouldn't he forgive me? Sis, I don't want you to go through life fearing for my soul. That's no way to live. Can't we just agree to disagree?

ELIZABETH

I guess I'm going to have to try. But
promise me something, if God ever
opens up and talks to you, please give
him a chance.

BRIAN
(disbelieving)

Oh come on, who ever actually talks to
God?!

BRIAN TURNS AWAY.

ELIZABETH

I did, Brian.

BRIAN

Oh yeah, what did he sound like?

ELIZABETH
(emphatically)

Like Phil Rizzuto!

BRIAN TURNS BACK TOWARD ELIZABETH.

BRIAN
(disbelieving)

And what did he tell you?! To go to
The Money Store?! Please Lizzie, since
when do you make up tall tales like
that?

ELIZABETH LOOKS AT BRIAN.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You're serious, aren't you?

ELIZABETH NODS.

ELIZABETH

Trust me, Brian. If God ever does talk
to you, you'll know it's him.

BRIAN

I guess I can keep my ears open.

AFTER A BRIEF PAUSE, BRIAN AND ELIZABETH WARMLY EMBRACE.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II