

Believe Me: An Unconventional Ghost Story

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Approximate read time: 10:00

SFX

MOVING VAN STOPS IN FRONT
OF HOUSE, CAR DOORS OPEN
AND CLOSE, GRAVEL
CRUNCHES BENEATH FEET

ANDREA:

Oh Rufus... The house is even more gorgeous now that it's ours!

RUFUS:

A two-story, six-bedroom, Victorian-style mansion! Oh, Andrea, how are we ever going to find a use for every space?

ANDREA:

Oh believe me, with these three, it'll end up to where we don't have *enough* space.

TAMMY:

Well maybe we'd have more space if THIS little brat's toys weren't always thrown on the ground. Ow! Quit pulling my hair, Junior!

RUFUS JR. (JUNIOR):

Haha! I got you hair, Tammy!

ANDREA:

Well, maybe if you'd help me with chores, the house will stay nice and clean!

CALEB:

(SNORT) Like THAT'LL happen.

RUFUS:

(LABORED) Come on, gang! This moving van's not gonna empty itself!

SFX

TRANSITION TO NIGHTTIME –
CRICKETS, OTHER NIGHTTIME
AMBIENCE

ANDREA:

(SIGH) Can't we just live out of boxes? I want to be able to take in the beauty of this house already.

RUFUS:

We will, love. Just as soon as everything we packed has its own place.

ANDREA:

I'm looking around and I still don't believe it. This is our room. In our house. Our mansion! This is our new life, honey.

RUFUS:

(YAWNING) And it starts tomorrow morning. I'm pooped. Let's get some shuteye.

SFX

NIGHT AMBIENCE – CRICKETS
AND SNORING, BLANKETS
RUSTLING

ANDREA:

(YAWN) Hey, shut your mouth. Your snoring keeps waking me.

RUFUS:

(GRUNT)

SFX

FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE

ANDREA:

(SIGH) See? You woke the kids.

RUFUS:

(GRUNT)

ANDREA: (SARCASTICALLY) I'll go put them back to bed, no need to trip over yourself, honey.

SFX BED CREAKING FROM ANDREA GETTING UP

SFX FOOTSTEPS – ANDREA WALKING DOWN HALL

ANDREA: Tammy? Caleb? I KNOW you guys aren't up past your bedtime!

SFX FOOTSTEPS – ANDREA WALKING DOWN HALL

SFX DOOR OPENING – TAMMY'S ROOM

ANDREA: Tammy?

TAMMY: (SNORING)

ANDREA: (SUSPICIOUSLY) ...Huh...

SFX FOOTSTEPS – ANDREA WALKING DOWN HALL

SFX DOOR OPENING – CALEB'S ROOM

ANDREA: Caleb?

CALEB: (SNORING)

ANDREA: (CONFUSEDLY) ...Wh-?
(QUICKENED, PANICKED BREATHING)

SFX HURRIED FOOTSTEPS – ANDREA

RUSHING DOWN HALL

<u>SFX</u>	<u>DOOR OPENING – JUNIOR’S ROOM</u>
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ANDREA:	(PANICKED) Junior???
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JUNIOR:	(SNORING)
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ANDREA:	(SIGH OF RELIEF) I must be losing my mind.
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<u>SFX</u>	<u>FOOTSTEPS – UNKNOWN, PANNING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT</u>
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ANDREA:	(GASP)
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<u>SFX</u>	<u>HURRIED FOOTSTEPS – ANDREA RUNNING BACK TO ROOM</u>
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ANDREA:	(WHISPERING) Rufus! Rufus, there’s someone in the house!
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RUFUS:	(GROAN)
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ANDREA:	(WHISPERING) Rufus, please wake up! I think someone broke in! Please, I’m scared!
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RUFUS:	(GROGGILY) It’s just the house, Andrea. A draft... (VOICE TRAILS OFF INTO SNORING)
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ANDREA:	(FRUSTRATED) Rufus, we have to call the police! Rufus!
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RUFUS:	(GROGGILY) In the morning... (SNORING)
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ANDREA:	(GROAN) Fine. I'll deal with it myself.
<u>SFX</u>	<u>SOUND OF BAT BEING PICKED UP</u>
<u>SFX</u>	<u>FOOTSTEPS – ANDREA SLOWLY MAKING WAY DOWN HALL TOWARDS STAIRS</u>
ANDREA:	(NERVOUSLY) He-Hello??
<u>SFX</u>	<u>FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE, THEN STOP – ANDREA REACHES TOP OF STAIRS</u>
ANDREA:	(TO HERSELF) Sure is dark down there... (CALLING OUT, PANICKED) If anyone's down there, y-you better get out of my house! I-I-I called the cops!
<u>SFX</u>	<u>FOOTSTEPS – STAIRS CREAKING AS ANDREA WALKS DOWN</u>
<u>SFX</u>	<u>GLASS CLINKING FROM LEFT SIDE</u>
ANDREA:	(GASP)
<u>SFX</u>	<u>CONTINUED FOOTSTEPS – ANDREA</u>
ANDREA:	(NERVOUSLY) P-Please get out. Uhh, I-I'm armed! I'll shoot you!
GHOST:	Boo!
ANDREA:	(SCREAM)

GHOST: (SARCASTICALLY) Nice bat.
(MOCKINGLY) I have a gun! I'll shoot you! *Please*. (PAUSE) Wait a minute... You screamed... (GASP) (SHOCKED) Can you see me??

ANDREA: (PANICKED) Get out of my house!

SFX SWING OF BAT

ANDREA: (CONFUSEDLY) Wh-?

GHOST: Yeah, your weapons ain't gonna work on me, honey. But seriously, WOW! You can see me!

ANDREA: (SHAKILY) Who *are* you? *What* are you?

GHOST: Well... Uh.. I'm y-your conscience! That's right. (SPOOKILY) Go to sleeeeeep. You are veeeeeerry sleepy... (JOKINGLY) I'm screwin' with ya, lady! I'm dead. I'm a ghost.

ANDREA: (FAINTING NOISES)

SFX THUD

SFX MORNING AMBIENCE – BIRDS CHIRPING AND THE LIKE

RUFUS: Well good morning, my little sleepwalker!

ANDREA: (YAWN) Wait, what am I doing on the couch??

RUFUS: Beats me. I found you here when I came down to make myself some coffee. I'm telling you, you probably walked down here in your sleep.

ANDREA: Don't be ridiculous, that doesn't make any sense.. Wait.. I remember! There was a woman! I-In the kitchen! Yeah!

RUFUS: What?

ANDREA: I came downstairs because I thought I heard a burglar! And when I came into the kitchen, the fridge was open and this lady jumped out of nowhere and scared me! I tried to hit her with the bat, but it went right through her...

RUFUS: The bat? The bat's upstairs next to the bed. Right where we put it last night.

ANDREA: That doesn't—

RUFUS: (INTERRUPTING) Make any sense? Do you even hear what YOU'RE saying?

ANDREA: Rufus, she said she was dead. She's a ghost.

RUFUS: Alright, I think I've heard enough. There are no such things as ghosts.

ANDREA: But—

RUFUS: (INTERRUPTING) Enough, Andrea! I'm going out to run errands. You've got a lot of work to do, so stop with these delusions. (SIGH) I'll be back.

GHOST: Ouch.

ANDREA: (GASP) You! I knew I wasn't seeing things!

GHOST: That made that whole argument even more painful to watch, jeez.

ANDREA: I have so many questions! Did you die here? Wh-What was it like to die? Is there an afterlife?

GHOST: Oh, I've got lots of stuff I can tell you. But let's focus on more pressing matters. If there's one thing I dislike in this world, living or dead, it's a stubborn skeptic. Your honey says he doesn't believe? I'll make him believe.

ANDREA: What do you mean?

GHOST: Well, for starters, I've been stuck in this house since I died 10 years ago.

ANDREA: Only 10 years, really?

GHOST: Uhh, yeah? What, you thought all ghosts were from the Victorian era? Listen, ever since then, I've tried desperately to be seen by someone, anyone. But no matter how hard I tried, they didn't see a thing. At least not until now. I still don't know why it is you can see me. Maybe I unlocked some ghost achievement like "Dead Long Enough To Be Seen", I dunno! But the way that guy talked to you back there is just not okay. We're going to make sure he eats his words. You with me?

ANDREA: I.... still don't get what you're trying to accomplish.

GHOST: Look, long story short: I'm gonna scare the crap outta your husband by doing corny ghost stuff. Now, what's his name again?

ANDREA: Oh.. Okay... His name is Rufus.

GHOST: (PFFT) Okay. (MENACINGLY) Rufus.

(LATER)

<u>SFX</u>	<u>FRONT DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING</u>
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RUFUS: Andrea, I'm back! (PAUSE) Andrea? (PAUSE) (TO HIMSELF) Huh, where is everyone? It's awful quiet...

<u>SFX</u>	<u>STAIRS CREAKING</u>
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RUFUS:	Andrea? Is that you?
<u>SFX</u>	<u>STAIRS CREAKING – RUFUS WALKING UP STAIRS</u>
GHOST:	(SPOOKILY) Ruuuuuuuffffuuuuuuuuussssssssss...
RUFUS:	Knock it off, Andrea. I was going to apologize, but I guess I won't. I'll be downstairs if you need me.
GHOST:	(MENACING LAUGHTER)
RUFUS:	(SIGH) Just ignore her.
<u>SFX</u>	<u>COUCH SAGGING, TV TURNING ON, TV ON IN THE BACKGROUND</u>
RUFUS:	(GROAN) Andrea?? (PAUSE) Andrea, where's the dang remote at? I can't find it any—
ANDREA:	(INTERRUPTING) Right in front of you, hon.
RUFUS:	What the--? Uh, very funny. How are you making it float in midair? Did you learn magic tricks while I was gone?
ANDREA:	(NONCHALANTLY) I dunno, it must be the ghost.
RUFUS:	(ANNOYED) Fine, don't tell me. Give me the stupid remote. I said give it! Come on, quit being a child!

SFX

REMOTE CRASHING ONTO
FLOOR

RUFUS:

(SURPRISED) What the hell, Andrea?!? Why would you throw the remote across the room???

ANDREA:

Except I didn't do it. If I'm not touching something, wouldn't it make sense that I'm NOT moving it? Just like there's no way I moved THAT.

RUFUS:

(SHRIEK) What in the world?!? Uhh.. How did you--?

ANDREA:

How did I stack the couches on top of each other?? Are you KIDDING me?

RUFUS:

What the heck is going on, Andrea?

ANDREA:

I can't believe you could be so BLIND! We. Have. A. Ghost! She's doing these things RIGHT in front of you!

RUFUS:

I'm not going to listen to your childish ghost stories, Andrea!

ANDREA:

Oh, you don't have to listen to ME. Listen to her.

RUFUS:

(PAUSE) Who??

ANDREA:

Well, the ghost, of course! She's standing RIGHT next to you! Can't you see her?

GHOST:

Well, hey there, handsome!

RUFUS:	(YELL AT SAME TIME GHOST SAYS HEY)
ANDREA:	You seem tense, honey! You should go lie down. Get some rest.
RUFUS:	Wh-wh-wh-wh-where'd she go?!?
ANDREA:	Where'd WHO go, honey? That spooky old ghost?
RUFUS:	There's no such thing! I've got to be hallucinating.. I'm.. I'm gonna lay down.
<u>SFX</u>	<u>STEPS CREAKING – RUFUS CLIMBING STAIRS</u>
ANDREA:	How is this not working?
GHOST:	This guy is more stubborn than I thought. If none of that worked, what I'm about to do will warrant a change of pants.
<u>SFX</u>	<u>BED SAGGING – RUFUS LYING DOWN</u>
RUFUS:	(PANICKED) What is going on here?!? J-J-Just go to sleep. Close your eyes and it'll all go away. It's not real. It's not real. It's not real. It's not real.
GHOST:	(MENACINGLY) Oh, Rufus. I can assure you. (LOWER VOICE PITCH) I am very real.
RUFUS:	(CONTINUOUS SCREAMING)

SFX

HURRIED FOOSTEPS, RUFUS
FALLING DOWN STAIRS

ANDREA:

(SCREAMING) RUFUS!!!

GHOST:

(CACKLING) See, I told you it
would work!

ANDREA:

(CRYING) You were just supposed to
make him believe!

GHOST:

(CACKLING) Oh, believe ME. He
does now. (MENACINGLY) He's all
mine. Just as I planned.

END