

God Answers Children's Letters

A Monologue
by
Emmett Loverde

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Cast of Characters

God

Place

God's office, heaven.

Time

The present.

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SCENE: God's office in heaven. The present.

AT RISE: GOD has a stack of letters from children on his desk. As the scene progresses, He glances at each letter in turn and dictates a reply.

GOD. (*Pressing intercom:*) Gabe, I need you to take a letter. The addresses should be on file. (*Clears throat.*) Dear Max. I am flattered by your interest, but I'm afraid I haven't any stock you can buy because I am not incorporated. And yes, I do know everything, but please understand that giving you and your friends "hot tips" would violate SEC regulations. My best, God.

New letter. Dear Nellie. No, the platypus was not a joke. I had definite reasons for making him look that way, though I can't recall them at this moment. And yes, I did mean to make the Emu grey, though I don't find him as ugly as you do. Anyway, I didn't give him that silly name; your scientists did. Fondly, God.

Next letter. Dear Ethan. When I made it, the sky was blue. Talk to your congressperson about what's happened since. Sincerely, God.

New letter. Dear Jill. Thank you for the kind letter and the photo. I'm fresh out of eight-by-ten glossies, so I'm afraid I can't send you a picture of me right now. The one at the Sistine Chapel's pretty dandy, though I don't think it shows my playful side. Yours truly, God.

Next. Dear Mike. Thanks for the lunch invitation, but I am not currently looking for that sort of professional representation. But keep in touch and if you ever make it up this way let's go grab a latte. Peace, God.

Next. Dear Callie. I'm sorry he cries so much, but please trust me that your little brother will be good for something eventually. I don't think your mom would like it if you sold him to the circus as "a mutant hairless hamster". Lovingly, God.

Onward. Dear Karen. Yes, I did see your report card. No, I won't speak to the principal. Yes, Disneyland will still be there when you're through being grounded. Your friend, God.

Next. Dear Raquel. I agree that Jesus looks pretty good in that painting, but I'm afraid I can't set the two of you up. Sorry, and thanks for asking. Affectionately, God.

New one. Dear Timmy. I was planning to help your scientists cure the flu virus, but my people tell me I don't need to because Bill Gates has already done so. Look for it in the next release of Microsoft Office. Hopefully, God.

Better put this next one on the fancy letterhead. Dear Penelope. Yes, I did make the people who made the Puppy Chow that poisoned little Sparky. But you're not going to get a dime out of me, so please call off your lawyers. Regards, God.

Next one. Dear Tina. Yes, I did see how well you presented the rings. And yes, you sang beautifully. And congratulations for catching the bouquet. I'm afraid, though, that these contributions do not entitle you to a share of your big sister's wedding gifts. Love, God.

New one. Dear Harry. I am familiar with the advertisement you saw in the comic book. I don't think the device will have quite that effect, no matter what the company claims. Also, please tell your sister that those exercises may help her a little but not as much as she hopes. Each of you please be patient. You'll turn out fine. Take care, Big G.

Next one. Dear Sheila. Enclosed is your Bible with my autograph like you requested. I hear that if you save up five of my signatures you can trade them in for one of Brad Pitt's. Just kidding. Cheerfully, God.

Oh, better put this on the scary red paper. Dear Ted. I'm afraid that three-of-a-kind does beat two pair. Now please give your little brother back his baseball cards. And his CDs. And the PlayStation. And put back the ladder to the treehouse. Sternly, God.

Another letterhead one. Dear Rev. Lloyd. Yes, I do think it's a wonderful church. We were all very impressed with your fundraising efforts after the earthquake. And we adore the new building. I'm afraid we don't have an "advanced placement" program, however, so you'll just have to wait till Judgement Day like everyone else. Love, God.

(Sighs.) That's enough for today.

(The curtain falls.)

End of Play

About the Author

Mr. Loverde is a native of Chicago and received a degree in Theater, Film, and Television from UCLA. He has written extensively for stage, screen, television, and radio.

In 1996, Mr. Loverde's stage comedy *RSVP Regrets Only* was published by Oregon's Grimpemire Press. Also in 1996, he directed a production of his comedy *Mergers and Acquisitions* in Santa Monica, California. The following year, *Mergers and Acquisitions* was produced at the Coronet Theater in Los Angeles with a cast that included Scott Wolf of TV's "Party of Five" and Taylor Nichols of the films *Metropolitan*, *Barcelona*, *Boiler Room*, and TV's "The Mind of the Married Man".

In July, 1997, Mr. Loverde directed and appeared in a production of his comedy *The Maginot Line* in Santa Monica. The following November, Mr. Loverde directed a shortened version of his feature-length screenplay *Snacking* in Los Angeles. The short was featured in February 2000 at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival and was invited to be shown again in April 2000 when the Festival came to Los Angeles. His short comedy *Cranky Call* is also currently making the film festival rounds. Both *Snacking* and *Cranky Call* can be viewed online via Mr. Loverde's Web site (emmettloverde.com).

In 1998, Mr. Loverde's comedy *Good Business Sense* was part of the Ritz Theater Company of New Jersey's annual festival of one acts. Later that year, Mr. Loverde himself directed two productions of *Mergers and Acquisitions*, one in Santa Monica and the other at the Hudson Backstage Theatre in Hollywood. *The Maginot Line* was produced at the Bitter Truth Theatre in North Hollywood, California in Summer, 1998.

A Timely Maneuver, *Good Business Sense*, and *The Maginot Line* are published by Playscripts Inc. (www.playscripts.com) and have had over forty productions worldwide. Mr. Loverde's radio adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' *The Moon Maid*, for which he received a commission from The Hollywood Theatre of the Ear, was broadcast twice on National Public Radio and is available on Audible.com. It starred Richard Kind of TV's "Spin City" and the late, great Avery Schreiber.

Current projects include the film festival appearances of Mr. Loverde's feature film writing and directing debut *Santa's Letters*, a screenplay adaptation of *Mergers and Acquisitions* called *Sweet Nothings*, the completion of a children's picture book "Clawdette the

Cat'', and the debut of two full-length stage comedies, *Beauty, Brains, and Personality* and *Till You Get To Baraboo*.

Mr. Loverde's Web address is www.emmettloverde.com.