

An Origin Story - The Birth of Mansplaining by David Duffner

**God** (offstage) You know you can't do that.

**Eve** Believe me God, I remember what You said and I don't want You to think for a moment that I'm ungrateful because I'm not. The fact that I can eat whatever I want whenever I want and not gain an ounce is a miracle in itself. And the absence of guilt makes everything better.

**God** That was pretty much my idea, Eve.

**Eve** And thanks for explaining guilt to me the last time I was here. For Someone who has never experienced and never will experience guilt, You made it understandable. ...But somehow Life seems unsatisfying in some ways.

**God** How so?

**Eve** Well, consider the fact that I was made from Adam's rib, and also that I was made because Adam felt incomplete. Doesn't that make me something of an afterthought?

**God** Eve, remember that Adam himself was made from the dust of the Earth. He hasn't come to me with any requests for an upgrade....Oftentimes I have to explain things, things I don't feel Myself, in human terms. Just as you were created because Adam was lonely, you could say that Adam was created because I was lonely, which, of course, is ridiculous. But some day some old man will write all this down, and people will have to accept it under the pain of death and eternal suffering.

**Eve** What's "write all this down"?

**God** In the Garden of Eden you don't have to know "write all this down".

**Eve** What's "death and the pain of eternal suffering"

**God** In the Garden of Eden you don't have to know "death and the pain of eternal suffering"

**Eve** It doesn't sound like I would like it. don't think I'd like it. Are the answers in the Tree of Knowledge?

**God** You don't need to know that, either.

**Eve** Oh God... please don't think I'm complaining. I don't want to leave the wrong impression. It's just that, now that we've seen how things have worked out, maybe You'd consider an adjustment or improvement. I mean You saw that it was good - why not make it better?

**God sighs** Eve, remember I know what you're thinking, but it's better for you if you say it out loud to me.

**Eve** Well, the lovemaking, Your Greatness, it's good as far as it goes, and Adam seems perfectly content. Which I guess was Your intention, but frankly, the boy needs another bite from the Tree of Knowledge.

**God** You know you can't do that, and neither can Adam.

**Eve (sighs .... then in frustration)** Well, then, see this nice flat, uninterrupted space on my abdomen? Can I tattoo a compass rose there, because the boy definitely needs to find his way farther north ?!

(Pause)

**God** I'll allow it.

Long Pause

**God** Would you like a pet instead?

**Eve** What's a pet?

**God** An animal, small, with fur, No biting. I'm sure it will be okay with Adam.

**Eve** God, I don't think Adam knows what a pet is either. And You're telling me that the man is in charge of okaying small furry non-biting things?

**God** Yes.

**Eve** I know exactly what Adam will say - if it's okay with You, it's ok with him. You know, if You were going to put him in charge, You might have put a bit more intellectual curiosity in him. I mean he's either chasing something or eating because he's just chased something. And then he's resting because he's eaten something. Oh, there is a new thing. He takes this stick and whacks a round stone until it goes down a gopher hole. He calls it goof or guff or something like that. And then he finds another round stone and does it again. When he finishes I have to listen to his recreating every shot he's taken that day. I am so glad you made me a patient person.

**God** When I finished creating him, I saw that it was good. And remember, I know what you're thinking. If Adam invented goof, did you invent sarcasm?

**Eve** (Snorts) Point taken.. You know, You've given us dominion over the earth and the animals, and this pet thing sounds like a good idea, but every time I have a question or idea, I have to come to You for more information. I mean You made a Tree of Knowledge. Why did you bother if no one's going to use it?

**God** It was good to make a Tree of Knowledge. Eve, you don't know everything...What was that?

**Eve** I didn't say anything

**God** I thought you said something. I'm pretty sure you said something....Your knowledge is sufficient for living in the Garden.

**Eve** Oh, I'm glad You reminded me. Did You have to make everything so green? I realize Adam was an add-on, which made me an add-on to an add-on. But if I came last and all this was already here, , You know You could have made me a redhead. Then I would look good in green. You know I love to adorn myself, but I'm getting tired of a plant looking back at me in my reflection. I think Adam is getting bored with it as well. And by the way, every time I stand still vines wind around my leg or around my back and cover up my best bits. Whose idea was that?

**God** Your best bits?

**Eve** That's Adam's work. He's on this naming thing kick. Yesterday, you know that rumbling before the daily downpour? He's calling it the "grumbling of the angels".

**God** So you would like to clothe yourself in a variety of colors.

**Eve** What's "clothe"? Never mind, I know, I know.... Well, You won't let me make decisions, You won't let me follow my curiosity, and being a handmaiden in a place that's so-called perfect isn't very demanding or time-consuming.....I've decided I would like a pet.

**God** Good. It would help you pass the time. I'll take a wolf or a tiger and evolve something smaller. It won't take long.

**Eve** Uh, could I have something in the reptile line instead?