

# BELIEVE

A Short Play by Jean Blasiar

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BELIEVE

LIST OF CHARACTERS:

Milly Evans: Twenties, troubled

Dr. Preston: Psychiatrist, male, fifties

Setting: Dr. Prescott's office

Pleasant, upscale. A designer's couch, mahogany desk, two chairs with bold expensive fabric facing the sofa, table in front of the sofa; plants, drapes, large windows.

The office of an extremely successful professional.

*BELIEVE*

*IN THE BLACKOUT...*

*A MAN'S LAUGH.*

*LIGHTS UP*

*DR. PRESTON is sitting behind his desk.*

DR. PRESTON

*(on the phone)*

You know me too well, Dunk.

*(listens)*

Can't wait till tomorrow. I picked up some new lures.

Got my tackle box in the car.

*(listens)*

You want me to pick up the beer?

*(listens)*

Get enough this time for a week. Just in case that buddy of yours decides to pop in on us again.

*KNOCK ON THE DOOR*

*Dr. Preston checks his watch.*

DR. PRESTON

*(on the phone)*

Have to go. Pick you up at five. Don't forget to set your alarm.

*Dr. Preston hangs up.*

*He goes to the office door and opens it.*

*MILLY EVANS stands at the door.*

MILLY

Dr. Preston?

DR. PRESTON

Yes, come in, Miss Evans. Have a seat.

BELIEVE

*Dr. Preston moves from behind his desk to shake hands with Milly, then motions for her to sit in one of the chairs.*

*Dr. Preston sits in the sofa facing Milly's chair.*

DR. PRESTON

Did someone refer you to me, Miss Evans?

MILLY

My brother. He knew of you from Columbia.

DR. PRESTON

Did you go to Columbia as well?

MILLY

No.

*(squirms, crosses her legs)*

I don't know how to begin.

DR. PRESTON

Take your time. Would you like a cup of tea?

MILLY

No, thank you. Maybe some water.

*Dr. Preston fills a glass from the carafe on his desk and hands it to the woman.*

MILLY

Thank you.

*She drinks.*

DR. PRESTON

Now how can I help you?

MILLY

I don't know exactly.

*BELIEVE*

DR. PRESTON

Let me re-phrase that. Why did you seek a psychiatrist?

MILLY

To sort out some things, I guess.

DR. PRESTON

Good. Very good. I like to hear that. We all need sorting out occasionally. Tell me about yourself.

MILLY

I'm single. I was engaged once, but... it didn't work out.

DR. PRESTON

Do you want to talk about that?

MILLY

Not really. He didn't believe me.

DR. PRESTON

About...?

MILLY

About what I saw.

*Dr. Preston is slightly exasperated trying to draw Miss Evans out.*

DR. PRESTON

What did you see?

MILLY

I saw his accident before it happened. I was supposed to go skiing with him. I tried to talk him out of going.

DR. PRESTON

You saw his accident before it happened. Are you talking about a vision?

MILLY

I guess so.

*BELIEVE*

DR. PRESTON

Have you had other visions?

MILLY

Yes.

DR. PRESTON

Tell me about them.

MILLY

Once, when I was little, I saw one of our neighbor's children drown. I didn't tell anyone about it beforehand because my mother told me not to talk about my "nightmares", as she called them.

DR. PRESTON

How old were you when this happened?

MILLY

Seven.

DR. PRESTON

Old enough. You could have warned someone about the danger.

MILLY

My mother said if I talked about it, it might happen and if people knew I saw things before they happened, they'd put me in a home where I'd never be allowed to leave, so I didn't say anything.

DR. PRESTON

What about your father?

MILLY

He died of a heart attack when I was ten.

DR. PRESTON

And did you see that happen before it did?

*Milly looks down at her hands, nods.*