

Amen.

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By Danielle Koenig

CHARACTERS:

HARRISON - 34 - makes you laugh the hardest at the Super Bowl party, Quinn's younger brother

QUINN - 37 - when you see him in shorts for the first time, you're confused, Harrison's older brother

**AMEN.**

*Lights up on a white-walled hospital room.  
HARRISON lies in a hospital bed, wrapped in tubes. QUINN sits at the foot of his bed with a bible out. He whispers beneath his breath and rocks as he prays.*

HARRISON

Please stop.

*Quinn continues his prayer.*

HARRISON

Quinn, dude. Please stop.

*Quinn continues his prayer. Harrison taps him with his foot. Quinn looks up.*

HARRISON

Hi. I don't want you to do that anymore.

QUINN

Can I at least finish?

HARRISON

How much longer? I'm bored.

QUINN

Like, I don't know. Like, fifteen seconds.

*Beat.*

HARRISON

Okay.

*Quinn continues his prayer as Harrison counts, like, maybe 5 seconds.*

HARRISON

Time is up now.

(beat, no response)

HEY! TIME IS UP NOW!

QUINN

Jesus fucking Christ, Harrison. Don't yell at me.

HARRISON

Oh, shit. You're a sinner.

QUINN

Don't say that.

HARRISON

Saying the Lord's Name in vain is a sin.

QUINN

Yeah, but it was a slip up. I'm trying my best.

HARRISON

Your best is not good enough for The Lord God Who Created The Universe.

QUINN

Why are you making me feel like an idiot for caring for you?

HARRISON

Because you are an idiot.

QUINN

I hate you so much.

HARRISON

Isn't hating your brother a sin?

QUINN

I don't know, Harrison! You're such a dick.

HARRISON

Yes.

QUINN

Who knows if this is gonna help, but why the fuck are you not letting me try?

HARRISON

'Cause I'll be fine.

QUINN

We're all fine until we're not.

HARRISON

Like - Yes? I guess that's technically true, but I don't think God just starts to show up for Atheists one day.

QUINN

Isn't that God's whole thing? He doesn't care if you were bad just as long as you reform yourself.

HARRISON

I don't know, man. I think we're lost causes.

QUINN

You're such a bummer.

HARRISON

Does the Bible allow calling a dead man "a bummer"?

*Pause. Quinn starts to cry.*

HARRISON

Oh, fuck. No. Quinn, stop.

QUINN

I'm gonna miss you so much.

HARRISON

Stop it.

QUINN

What am I gonna do without you?

HARRISON

Don't-

QUINN

Let me have this. I'm allowed to be sad. Once you're gone I'm gonna be the only Baxter left. And then what? Thanksgiving alone with my dick in my hand.

HARRISON

Lucy and the kids will still wanna have Thanksgiving with you.

QUINN

Lucy and the kids aren't you.

HARRISON

Yeah, but they're also not your dick in your hand.

*Beat.*

QUINN

You get that this is hard for me, right? 'Cause it sorta feels like you don't care about the way that this is/ affecting me.

HARRISON

I get that this is hard for you, Quinn. But you're not the one dying.

QUINN

I know- I didn't mean to-

HARRISON

I'm sorry if the way I'm dealing with it isn't aligning with your wants and needs, but I wanna be laughing if I'm gonna go. So I'm gonna be laughing, and smiling, and fucking living until I'm not.

*Pause.*

HARRISON

I bet you feel like an asshole now.

QUINN

Yeah, I do!

HARRISON

You should! You were being an asshole!

QUINN

I know...

HARRISON

I like keeping you on your toes. No one else does that for you.

QUINN

Yeah...

HARRISON

Don't get emo again.

Okay.

QUINN

*Beat.*

I have an idea.

HARRISON

Yeah?

QUINN

Let's do a prayer.

HARRISON

No. No, I don't wanna make you do that.

QUINN

I wanna do it.

HARRISON

No, you don't.

QUINN

I do! I wanna lead a prayer! Shut up and bow your head, bitch!

HARRISON

*Quinn hesitantly does so.*

Dear God. We've never met before, but my brother Quinn is a new fan of yours so I figured we should talk to you together before you staple wings on me. Just wanted to give you a big 'ol thanks for him. He's got the worst smelling feet and the largest ego of any man I've ever met, but, God, he's kind and smart and the greatest gift you could've ever given me. So thank you. And see you soon, I guess.

HARRISON

(beat)

Amen.

*Lights out.*