

HOLY ULTIMATUM

Written By

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START OF ACT #1

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Several cars pass by.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

It is an apartment fit to have two people live and yet still spacious.

RICHARD (36, husky in figure with a tight hair cut) is getting ready to go to church. APRIL (30-35, long blonde hair) is sitting on a couch reading a magazine awhile listening to her iPod.

Richard puts his coat on and heads for the door.

RICHARD
Hey sweetie, you going to need
anything on my way back from
church?

He stares at April, waiting for an answer. She is focused on reading her magazine and listening to music.

Richard asks again, this time yelling a little.

RICHARD
APRIL!!! HELLO!! YOOHOO!!!

April pulls out her headphones and acknowledges him.

APRIL
Did you say something?

RICHARD
Yeah I did. I wanted to know if you
need anything when I come back from
church

APRIL
(sarcastically)
Yeah, you could get me some
chocolates, the new US Weekly, and
tampons. Actually, just get milk.
And You are you going to church on
a Tuesday?

RICHARD

I'm helping out Pastor Morgan get the church ready for Bible study for tomorrow night. You should come. The food is excellent.

APRIL

You know me and church. That part where I don't believe in God. That part that I've told you a thousand times. So... yeah, not going. And why doesn't it surprise me that you didn't listen the first thousand times I told you even after being together for one year?

RICHARD

Yeah, but it's been a good one year together. Anyway, I think you should come. I might do you some good. Who knows, maybe you might change your tune a bit about God.

APRIL

Didn't you try this with me and the Texas chili? I had to eat that crap because you convinced me you knew how to cook it. And because of that I gained ten pounds but lost fifteen in the bathroom. For real, Rich, what makes you think I am going to "change my tune" about my thoughts on God after the debacle that was your "world famous" Texas chili?

RICHARD

Umm... If I'm not mistaken didn't you, like, devour three bowls of that? And you sure weren't hesitant about giving my recipe to your mother. Who, by the way, you should thank for supplying us with a year's worth of toilet paper.

Richard goes to sit next to April on the couch. April scoots away.

APRIL

Well... That's different. This is God we're talking about here, not

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

chili. I will say at least God won't give you the runs.

RICHARD

You got that right.

APRIL

Oh and also God didn't make that chili, you did. Oh man, I can still feel the chili going through me.

RICHARD

You just had a breakthrough there. You said "God" like fifty times. So see - you can bring up God without giving me a disgusted look.

April then gives the disgusted look.

RICHARD

See... That one you're giving me right now. That one. We're missing the point here. Ever since I've started going my life kind of feels a lot better. And besides it could...

APRIL

What?? Do me good?? Are you implying my life is not up to your standards or any good at all because I don't have God? Man, ever since you started going you've been Mr. High and Mighty.

RICHARD

That's not what I'm implying. I'm just saying the church has done good things for me emotionally and... Well... You've been pretty emotional lately. With losing your job and all. I'm just looking out for you. I love you and I don't want to see you be miserable. And also thank you for calling my Mister. Shows you are very polite.

APRIL

So I can't be emotional for losing my job?? Really?? Sorry if some of us don't have the luxury of a comfortable bank account all thanks

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

to mommy dearest.

April gets closer to Richard looking for some comfort.

APRIL

Oh Rich, I know you care for me.
And that's what I love about you.
It's just that you've always had
the tendency to push things on
people.

RICHARD

What? You think I've pushed my
beliefs on you?

APRIL

No, it's just... You've spent more
time at church and with God than
you have with me. Here I am looking
for a job and being all stressed
and "emotional" and there you are
skipping to church like all is
right with the world.

RICHARD

Wait... I skip?

APRIL

That is not the point here. I
really didn't to do this but...
But...

RICHARD

But what? Just tell me. Let it out.

APRIL

Alright... Here it goes. Never
thought I would be saying this
but... You have to make a choice.
It's either me or God. You can't
have both.

Richard gives April a confused look. As if he is doing hard
math in his head.

RICHARD

Wait... Hold up here. Are you
seriously asking me to do that?
Because, to me, it sounds like you
are asking me to choose between
you, my girlfriend, and the
almighty. Like, if Lois Lane was

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

asked to choose between Superman
and Clark Kent.

APRIL

What??? No, No!! This is not like
that you idiot. I want you to choos
who has your time and, frankly,
your heart more. Me or God.

Richard changes his expression as if he is having a joke
pulled on him

RICHARD

Alright, quit pulling my chain
here. You don't expect me to choose
between the both of you like it's
some sort of life or death
ultimatum do you? Like an Ultimata
or an Ulti...something like that.

Richard laughs then looks at her like she's joking but
realizes she may not be.

RICHARD

No way are you being serious.
Honestly, please say you are
joking.

APRIL

NO... NO I'm not joking.

Richard gets up in disbelief. He pus his jacket on and walks
out the door without saying a word.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Richard is walking up to the church, which is located near
his downtown apartment.

INT. CHURCH

Richard walks in. He hangs his jacket on the rack. He walks
a few steps into the dining hall which is being converted to
accommodate a Bible study. PASTOR MORGAN (A fatherly type of
man, aged mid 50's to early 60's, with some hair loss) move

a couple of the charis then goes to get some Bibles. He sees Richard out of the corner of his eyes. He stops what he is doing and greets Richard.

PASTOR MORGAN

Hey, Richard. So glad you can make it. I thought I would be doing all of this myself. So how is your day going my boy?

RICHARD

My day is going pretty good, considering. Wait... How many people are we expecting for Wednesday night?

PASTOR MORGAN

We're hopefully expecting to have at least twenty people here Wednesday night. Some, I hear, are coming for the first time.

RICHARD

Awesome, I think I'll make my chili with...

PASTOR MORGAN

Oh no way!!! I like you, my dear boy, but please for the sake of the Lord do not make that chili.

RICHARD

Why not? People love my chili. April eats like three bowls of it anytime I fix it.

PASTOR MORGAN

Richard... You do know you are in a church. Are you really going to like and tell me April loves your chili. You remember last Sunday and you fixed Mr. Cambridge that cup of coffee and he ran off. Haven't seen that man run like that in ten years. And with a bad hip no less. And, sadly, he too remembers your chili. Poor guy and his stomach may never get over that. So no on fixing the chili

RICHARD

Well aren't you Pastor No-fun.

(SIGHS)
I guess no one will have chili
Wednesday night. And they can thank
you for that.

PASTOR MORGAN
(laughing a little)
Anyway help me with these Bibles I
have in my office.

INT. PASTOR MORGAN'S OFFICE

Pastor Morgan and Richard enter the office to get the
Bibles. Richard starts to space out. Pastor Morgan sees
this, gets concerned.

PASTOR MORGAN
Richard, you look like something is
troubling you.

RICHARD
No... things are great.

PASTOR MORGAN
Are you sure? Because you know I'm
always available.

RICHARD
Well..okay it's about me and April

PASTOR MORGAN
Why don't we have a set and talk
about it.

They sit down. Richard is reluctant at first but he starts
to get comfortable and starts to talk.

RICHARD
We had an argument. Well... I
wouldn't call it an argument per
se. Maybe a friendly disagreement.

PASTOR MORGAN
Is she giving you some greif about
being here at the church?

RICHARD
Yeah... Dude how did you know that?
Are you stalking me or something
funky like that?

PASTOR MORGAN
(laughing)
(MORE)

PASTOR MORGAN (CONT'D)

No, I am not Rich. It's just you and April have been really at odds these days about you coming here a lot.

RICHARD

But how did you know it was about that? It could be about something else you know. Seriously are you, like, camping out near my apartment window and watching me like me and April are some TV show? Because let's be real here, if we were we'd be cancelled by the second episode, third tops.

PASTOR MORGAN

Actually, Rich, I've overheard you talking to the others members of the church about it. And, I could be wrong here, but she has a disbelief in God, correct?

RICHARD

Yeah she does. I don't hold that against her. The thing is I've been trying to convince her to come here yet she won't budge.

PASTOR MORGAN

Richard, have you ever heard the old saying "You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make them drink the water"?

RICHARD

Yeah I've heard that in my day. Wait... Did you just call April a horse?

PASTOR MORGAN

No. What I am saying here is you just cannot force someone to do things they don't feel like doing. Same goes with believing in something or someone. It just comes to them.

RICHARD

I just feel like she needs it now more than ever. She's really starting to be very depressed and

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

super emotional. Then today, before I came here, she gave this ultimatum.

PASTOR MORGAN

What kind of ultimatum?

RICHARD

April looks me dead in my eyes and says to me "You have to make a choice. It's either me or God". I thought she was joking at first but...

PASTOR MORGAN

Wait, just stop a second. She did what?

RICHARD

Yeah, I kid you not. She said it's either her or God. And she gave it to me as seriously as a heart attack.

PASTOR MORGAN

What kind of woman have you been with for one year? I honestly have never heard of anyone given that sort of ultimatum. And believe me, Richard, I have been on this planet for many a decade.

RICHARD

So, you are telling me that it is an ultimatum?

PASTOR MORGAN

Well yeah it's an ultimatum. She is basically asking you to choose between her and God. She wants you to choose between the two.

RICHARD

But can't I have both?

PASTOR MORGAN

Well, yeah, you can have both. Jesus Christ you can be an idiot sometimes.

They both pause for second wondering if lightning will hit

them.

PASTOR MORGAN

Seriously, what kind of woman is living with you? She's a blonde isn't she?

RICHARD

Yep, she's blonde. Is that a bad thing?

PASTOR MORGAN

No it's not. I like blondes myself. Heck I married one. Anyway, you can have a relationship with both April and God. One will be physical, in this case April, and the other spiritual. God will be the spiritual part if you need to know.

RICHARD

Oh... well I see now. I can have the physical with April and the spritual with God.

PASTOR MORGAN

Yes you can. I will however say this. You need to settle this with two people: April and God.

RICHARD

What do you mean by that?

PASTOR MORGAN

Well, Richard, now that you know that you can have it, frankly, both ways you need to let the Lord know you are with him in a spiritual way. Then let April know, which could be tricky, that you are hers for the emotional and physical.

RICHARD

That I can do.

PASTOR MORGAN

Wonderful. But I want you to know that, in terms of trying to bring her closer to God, that's between those two. Both need to slowly build a relationship. Like the way you and April built yours.

RICHARD

That's a good point. I only want
what's best for her.

PASTOR MORGAN

I know you do. I can see it by the
way you talk about her. Here's what
I want you to do... Go home.

RICHARD

But the set up for Bible study
isn't done yet

PASTOR MORGAN

I know it's not finished yet. But
go home and, this time, take a
longer route. Think about what you
are going to say to her then tell
her what I just told you.

RICHARD

Are you sure?

PASTOR MORGAN

I am positive. Go... I'll be fine
finishing up here.

RICHARD

Well okay, if you insist. Thanks
for the talk.

PASTOR MORGAN

(smiles)

Anytime.

Richard heads out of the office and begins to walk through
the dining hall into the hallway and to the exit.

EXT. CHURCH -EVENING

Richard exits the church and starts the walk home.

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

Richard enters the apartment. He hangs up his jacket. He
notices April sitting on the couch and reading the Bible.

RICHARD

Hey sweetie. What are you reading?

APRIL

What does it look like?

RICHARD

Um... The Bible. Look... We need to talk.

APRIL

Is it what I said earlier? Because if so this better be good to my ears.

RICHARD

It is. I had a talk with Pastor Morgan and he said some things that made some sense. And on the way home I thought about your "ultimatum" and what he said as well. But, listen, what you did with this was just... So uncool.

APRIL

Well, I had to do something about it. All I want is for us to be, you know, us again. Before the church and chili and that sort of stuff.

RICHARD

Okay. But... I feel that if you love someone, you really should not give them choices and ultimatums. And I'm guilty of doing the same. But what you had to make me choose in essence can ruin a relationship and you may not know it. Making me choose between two things I love makes my heart, and my head, hurt. If this feels all "special episode of Facts Of Life" don't hesitate to let me know.

APRIL

Yeah it is... Get to the point.

RICHARD

Okay. I feel like I really can't choose between you and God. I feel I can have both. I can have the physical relationship with you. And for the spiritual stuff, that will be with God.

APRIL

Really? I didn't think of it like that. Well, if you feel like that,

(MORE)

APRIL (CONT'D)

then sure I guess you can have both.

RICHARD

You mean that? Seriously?

APRIL

Yeah, I mean, I've been thinking about that myself.

RICHARD

So we're all good in the hood then? I mean this won't be brought... wait. Did you say you've been thinking about this too?

APRIL

Didn't want to think about it but what you said earlier about maybe having religion and whatnot being helpful with my life. Could be good for me I guess.

RICHARD

Cool beans. So you are going to go Sunday right?

APRIL

No I'm not. And don't be pushing me to go. I said I was thinking about it.

Richard heads to the kitchen, talking to himself out loud.

RICHARD (O.S.)

I guess old Pastor Morgan was right.

April overhears this. Curious she gets up and goes to the kitchen.

INT. - KITCHEN

APRIL

Pastor Morgan was right about what?

RICHARD

Oh you know... Leading a horse to water and not making them drink it.

APRIL

Are you calling me a horse?

RICHARD
Nope. Pastor Morgan is.

April gives Richard the disgusted look from earlier

APRIL
And why would he call me a horse?

RICHARD
I don't know honestly. Wait... You know I don't think he did call you a horse.

Richard and April leave the kitchen and head to the bedroom

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

APRIL
Anyway, I get it now. I get it. Speaking of getting did you get the milk on the way home?

RICHARD
Uh... You know what, no I did not get the milk. I believe there were more pressing issues to attend to than getting milk.

APRIL
Well now that we settled the big issues, I think you need to go get the milk.

RICHARD
Listen, let's forget the milk and get to bed?

APRIL
We going on the bed for sleep or for pleasure??

Richard takes a second and thinks it over like it's a Jeopardy question - theme and all.

RICHARD
All of the above!!! I've learned my lesson today with you and your little ultimatums.

APRIL
That wasn't an ultimatum. That was simple question even a monkey could answer... oh forget it.

The bedroom door closes. But the sound of Richard and April talking can still be heard.

APRIL (O.S.)

You think God watches us... You know... Do stuff?

RICHARD

Yes... Yes, I think he does. And frankly there are times he not watch us at all.

FADE OUT.

END OF FILM