

Believer: A Paranormal Mystery

"Rose"

Written by

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Transcript Draft

INT. LARA'S INBOX

Ring, ring.

LARA

You have reached Lara Campbell's
Psychic Investigations. Please leave
a message.

Rose sounds nervous -- and a little relieved to get
voicemail.

ROSE

Hi, Lara, it's Rose. Listen, I'm sure
you're pretty far out of Charity
right now. Or at least, I hope you
are.

The sound of a CAR HORN fades in...

INT./EXT. SHERIFF'S SUV - NIGHT

The horn rings out into the night. Sodapop cries and whines
in the back seat.

Lara moans, slowly comes to.

ROSE (V.O.)

*Now that you're away and safe...I
guess there are a few things I'd like
to say.*

Lara gasps, wakes up.

LARA

What...where...oh my god. Sheriff --
Sheriff Tate? Sir?

Sheriff Tate groans softly.

SHERIFF

What's that noise...?

LARA

You're on the horn.

SHERIFF

Huh?

He sits back. Horn sound stops.

LARA
Whoa, hey, careful.

SHERIFF
'M fine...

SodaPop **cries** in the back seat again.

LARA
(to SodaPop)
Oh, hey, buddy, it's okay.

ROSE (V.O.)
*But I don't want you to come back,
okay? No matter what I say, don't
come back here.*

SHERIFF
We hit the tree.

LARA
Yeah. Not the best airbags in here,
huh?

SHERIFF
The window's broken out.

LARA
Yeah. Listen, is your radio working?
Maybe you should call someone.

SHERIFF
Yeah...yeah...

LARA
Okay, let me check on Sodapop.
(shifts in her seat)
Hey, buddy, let me look you over...

SodaPop cries and whines. Sheriff grabs a walkie-talkie.

SHERIFF
(into walkie)
Dispatch, this is Tate. Doris, are
you there? We had an accident on
Route 10.

He releases the button. No response.

LARA
He seems fine. This is a great car
harness. Let me just get you
unbuckled, buddy...

She unclips his harness.

SHERIFF
Doris, you there? Anybody listening?
Hey! Is this thing working?

The radio cuts in and out.

SHERIFF
What happened to the headlights?

He clicks them on and off.

LARA
Maybe they blew out when you hit the
tree?

SHERIFF
The engine's totally dead. This isn't
right.

LARA
(to Sodapop)
Come here, buddy, let's look you over
without the harness -- hey! No!

SodaPop yelps and **scrambles out the window.**

LARA
SodaPop! No!

Lara opens the car door.

SHERIFF
Lara, don't! You could have a -- ooh,
I definitely have a concussion.

LARA
Keep working on the radio, I'll be
right back.

She leaps out of the car and races into the **brush.**

LARA
Sodapop? Sodapop!!

Sheriff presses the walkie button again.

SHERIFF
Dispatch? We need an ambulance.
And...animal control, I guess.

He **smacks** the walkie-talkie and tries again.

SHERIFF
Hello? Damn it.

LARA
(from afar)
Sodapop!!

Sheriff Tate **sighs**.

INT. LARA'S INBOX

Rose's message continues.

ROSE
I'm sorry about what I said before.
Well, I'm not sorry I said it; I
needed to say it. It's just...maybe
it doesn't matter.

I don't know what's going to happen
tonight, Lara. It'll be tonight, not
tomorrow. I haven't told them yet. I
tried earlier, but it's...
complicated.

INT. BOONE HOUSE - EARLIER THAT DAY

Rose walks through the front door, Mayor Terri just behind.

Terri turns and hugs Rose.

TERRI
Rose, honey, come here.

ROSE
(muffled by hug)
Hi, Mom.

Terri pulls out of the hug, relief replaced by urgency.

TERRI
Sweetie, what are you doing here?
This isn't what we talked about.

ROSE
I know.

TERRI
You didn't make it to your Auntie
Maria's house?

ROSE
I didn't need to.

TERRI
But...

ROSE
Mom -- has it really been two weeks?

TERRI
Yes, honey. I thought you were just waiting, avoiding contact.

ROSE
So then tomorrow's the new moon.

TERRI
You were supposed to stay away until after it was over. Do you remember?

ROSE
I remember...I remember...
(she starts, shifts)
I've gotta talk to Dad.

She pushes past Terri toward the back holiday.

TERRI
Honey -- wait --

ROSE
I can't!

TERRI
Rose -- Rosie!

Rose walks determinedly toward the back. Terri follows.

INT. LARA'S INBOX

ROSE (V.O.)
There's emptiness at the edge of everything, Lara. The desert by the sea. I wish you could see how beautiful it is. But I know you never will.

INT. BOONE HOUSE - EARLIER

Sound of Mitchell Boone's machines. Beep. Beep. Beep.

Rose hurries in, Terri close on her heels.

TERRI

Rose -- wait --

Mitchell gasps awake.

MITCHELL

Rose!

ROSE

Reverend Boone.

MITCHELL

Oh, Rose -- you're back!

ROSE (V.O.)

There's something out there, Lara. It wants me. No...I want it.

TERRI

Shh, Mitchell, try to stay calm.

MITCHELL

Rose!

ROSE (V.O.)

Wait...not this part yet.

Sound stops. **Whoosh.**

INT. LARA'S INBOX

We're back. Light music fades in over this part.

ROSE

Lara, do you remember my dream? I always used to tell you about my dreams, in the mornings, in our kitchen. Do you remember? You would nod over your coffee, half-listening. I tried to tell you that the dreams were important. But you couldn't hear me very well. Remember?

Well, that night -- the night I left home -- I had the dream again. I was packing my bag. I picked up my bible. Mom said I had to take it. And then I heard...singing.

There's a song the stars sing, when they're perfectly in harmony. When the time is just right. The stars gather, huge and sparkling like firelight, and they sing.

I went outside, and there it was again. A vast, silver desert. The softest sand beneath my feet, fine and smooth like silk. And above me, the stars. Huge. Close.

In the distance, you could hear the ocean. Not our ocean. Older, and bigger.

And somewhere in the middle of it all, darker than the darkness...it called to me again.

The odd, high-pitched monster cry. Music crescendos, then stops.

ROSE

I wish you could hear it, Lara. I wish you could hear the stars sing.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Cult members happily sing around a guitar.

CULT MEMBERS

All will be nothing, and we will be all
A-men.

They clap and murmur happily.

ROSE

Thank you. That was beautiful.

CAMILLE

Will the Reverend and the Conductor be joining us for this meeting?

ROSE

No. You don't need to worry about them.

CAMILLE

Oh. Okay.

ROSE
(to the group)
So. I guess I've been in the woods
for a while. Haven't we all?

Nervous laughter.

ROSE
Well, in the woods, I had a vision. A
beautiful vision.

Child, a child, speaks up.

CHILD
What did you see, Sister Rose?

ROSE
I saw something beautiful. I saw
God's fingers, underneath the dirt.
Reaching, climbing, touching
everything around them. They climbed
up and up and up, and where they
touched the surface -- flowers. But
not like flowers you know, Child.
Pale, moonlight stems reaching
straight upward toward the darkened
sky. Thick buds, bursting with seeds.
Millions of tiny seeds, so small you
can hardly see them. The Hands of
God, here in our world.

The cultists gasp and whisper.

ROSE
When the time is right, those flowers
will open. And the seeds will need to
spread as far as they can go.

CHILD
Will we take it?

ROSE
Yes. You will. We all will. We'll
breathe in the love of God, and carry
it through the world.

CAMILLE
(realizing)
That's how Oblivion will finally come
to us. To the world.

ROSE

We will take it into our bodies. And breathe it out into the world.

Cult members celebrate: 'Wow!' 'Hallelujah!' Etc.

CAMILLE

What will happen then?

ROSE

Then...all will be nothing.

CULT MEMBERS

And we are all.

ROSE

Amen.

The cult members break off into conversation.

Rose and Camille step aside.

CAMILLE

It's so great to hear from you, Rose. We're so glad you're back.

ROSE

Thank you.
(beat)
Camille.

CAMILLE

Oh -- yes?

ROSE

Are you ready for what's next? Can I count on you for help?

CAMILLE

Of - of course! You can count on me for anything.

ROSE

Are you sure?

CAMILLE

Yes, of course. I'll do whatever it takes.

ROSE

Even without the Reverend?

CAMILLE
Why? What happened?

ROSE
Nothing.

CAMILLE
Well, I'm -- I'm here for you.
Whatever it takes to make the world
right again.

ROSE
Good. Thank you.

CAMILLE
Thank you for coming back.

Rose acknowledges this, happy.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Lara runs, though it's more of a stagger. She pauses against
a tree. She retches.

LARA
Oh god. Oh god. I'm so dizzy.

A few ragged breaths.

LARA
(calls)
Sodapop! Sodaaaa! Come here. Please.

Suddenly, **heavy footsteps** in the brush. Lara stiffens. The
steps pause. Then resume.

LARA
(weakly)
Sodapop?

A **low, guttural growl**, like the curious sound of a very
large creature.

LARA
Not Sodapop.

She steps back. Stumbles.

LARA
Whoa. Okay.

She crouches in the brush.

LARA
Oh god...what is that smell?

She retches again, suppresses the need to vomit.

ROSE (V.O.)
*There are things in those woods,
Lara. Things I know you can't believe
in, even if you could see them.*

A HUGE FIGURE moves slowly through the woods. It's massive and hairy, like a bear, but not a bear.

That's right, friends: meet the SASQUATCH.

LARA
Oh my god.

ROSE (V.O.)
That's why you shouldn't be here.

LARA
Don't look at me, don't look,
don't...

Sasquatch makes a **curious noise**.

LARA
Oh, god.

Heavy steps move toward Lara. It **breathes out** a heavy whuffling sound.

Lara vomits.

LARA
Sorry. I didn't mean...

Sasquatch sniffs her. Thoroughly.

LARA
Yeah, I think I have a...do you know
what a concussion is?

SASQUATCH
Hrmph?

LARA
Yeah. My head. I'm guessing it's...
worse than I thought.

SASQUATCH

Hrmmph.

LARA

Yeah. You...you're not a bear, are you?

SASQUATCH

(no)

Hmphhh.

LARA

Sasquatch. That's what they call you, isn't it? That's what you are.

SASQUATCH

(yes)

Mmm-mmph.

LARA

Cool. Cool, yeah. This is...yup.

Lara sighs, leans against the tree.

LARA

God. I'm so...so tired...

SASQUATCH

Hrmphlph?

It moves toward her.

LARA

Ahhh!

She backs away quickly.

LARA

Sorry. I, uh, maybe no touching?

SASQUATCH

(shrug)

Mph.

It turns and begins to walk away.

LARA

Wait, should I -- yeah, okay, I'll follow you. Why not?

She takes a second to steady herself, then staggers after it.

LARA
Remind me to find a hospital soon.

SASQUATCH
Hrmphf.

INT. LARA'S INBOX

Back to Rose's voicemail message.

ROSE
At the center of our galaxy, there's a black hole. Did you know that? An all-consuming void that pulls all matter in and gives no light in return. That's what holds our galaxy together.

If you could hear it -- the music of the stars -- I think you'd understand. I used to think that if I caught you at the right time, you'd be able to hear it. Maybe that's why I called you. If I called you.

But, you know, I looked you up. Online. And I see you're still going. With our old business? You're selling people this thing that you think is a lie. You -- you know it is. How can someone like you possibly help me?

I've learned things, Lara. Real things. True things. You only know lies. And the fact that you know they're lies doesn't make them more true.

It can't reach you if you lie, Lara.
(sighs)

I'm sorry. It's not your fault, not really. You've never seen the world taken apart and put back together again, and I didn't know how to explain it to you. I think I yelled at you too much. I think I hurt you so you wouldn't hurt me. Which didn't work. But you know.

You should know that I really liked that haircut you got. When was it... after the Fourth of July.

I didn't tell you.

It's hard to keep my thoughts in order.

I don't have time anymore. Not like I'm out of time. Like, I just don't have it.

We move closer and closer to the hole at the center of everything.

Maybe I didn't know what to do with love. Maybe love isn't real anymore.

Maybe love isn't...what was I saying?

Oh yeah. I was talking about lies. And liars.

INT. BOONE HOUSE - AS BEFORE

Sound of Mitchell Boone's machines. Beep. Beep. Beep.

Rose hurries in, Terri close on her heels.

TERRI

Rose -- wait --

Mitchell gasps awake.

MITCHELL

Rose!

ROSE

Reverend Boone.

MITCHELL

Oh, Rose -- you're back!

TERRI

Shh, Mitchell, try to stay calm.

MITCHELL

I prayed for this day. We all prayed for this day.

ROSE

That's nice. But you didn't think it would really work, did you?

MITCHELL

What?

TERRI

Rose, honey, you just got home, maybe you should rest.

ROSE

It's never going to speak to you, Dad. It doesn't speak to liars.

MITCHELL

Rose, I...

TERRI

Rose!

ROSE

I learned things, Dad. In the desert by the sea. I know things now.

Mitchell's heart rate speeds up.

TERRI

Sweetie...

ROSE

You used me, Dad. You made me think you were in charge, that you knew what it wanted, and then you told me what to do.

TERRI

Please, your father...

ROSE

And you went right along with it, didn't you, Mom? Even though you knew it wasn't true.

TERRI

I have been trying to keep this family safe.

ROSE

Not at first. At first it was just a great new way to get some power, wasn't it? Oh, it was weird, don't get me wrong. You thought your husband had gone off the deep end, and he was taking your daughter with him. But you could see the opportunity, too.

MITCHELL

The face of God...in the church...

ROSE

Oh, you saw something. But it wasn't God, was it, Reverend Boone?

TERRI

Rose, what are you talking about?

ROSE

I'm talking about your lies!

TERRI

Rose --

MITCHELL

I never --

ROSE

Do you remember the night I came home? When I left Lara. I told you about my dream.

MITCHELL

The darkness...by the sea...

ROSE

And then suddenly, you said you'd seen it too. You said you heard the stars sing.

MITCHELL

How a Rose...blooming...

TERRI

Shh, Mitchell, stay calm.

ROSE

You changed the sermons, and you pushed and you pushed until only the truest believers stayed behind.

MITCHELL

Uh...huh...

ROSE

And me.

MITCHELL

Rose...

ROSE
I thought finally, I'd come home.
Like, really home. Where people
understood me. I'd been lost for so
long, and finally someone believed
me. Somebody else knew what I knew.

MITCHELL
Yes.

ROSE
No.

TERRI
Honey, please...

ROSE
He's a liar, Mother! He's been lying
this whole time.

MITCHELL
No...no...

ROSE
Your congregation was failing. Your
numbers were dwindling. And you were
sick.

TERRI
What? No, he got sick after...

ROSE
No. You didn't, did you, Dad? It was
happening even then. You felt out of
breath. Out of place. Out of time.

MITCHELL
Please...

ROSE
So you pretended to save me so that I
would save you.

MITCHELL
Rose...try to understand...

ROSE
Oh, I understand. Don't worry about
that. A new church, smaller but more
devoted. They gave up everything for
you. All the money you needed for
these treatments, this equipment.

TERRI

Rose, honey, that's not fair. Your father needed that money, and the followers were glad to help.

ROSE

Sure. For Oblivion.

TERRI

For your father.

ROSE

Forget it. It doesn't matter anymore. None of it does.

MITCHELL

Rose...anything I've done...has been for the good...

ROSE

Locking me in the basement? That was good for me?

TERRI

I thought you went in there yourself.

ROSE

What about the medicine you gave me? For the visions? The ones that made me tear apart my room?

TERRI

What medicine?

MITCHELL

You were already seeing...I just wanted...to help...

ROSE

I want you to know that everything I've seen? Everything I'm bringing into the world? That was me. Not you. I never needed you. You pushed me. Confused me. Used me. But that's okay. Because it'll all be over soon.

MITCHELL

Please, Rose...the new moon...the end...

ROSE

Shh, it's okay. You don't need to worry about that anymore.

MITCHELL

What...

He gasps. Chokes. Alarms blare from the machines.

TERRI

Mitchell? Mitchell!

Rose hums quietly to herself.

Mitchell coughs wildly.

TERRI

What are you doing? What did you do?

ROSE

Nothing, Mama. Nothing at all.

Mitchell tries to speak, struggles. And then...

He goes silent.

The machine lets out a prolonged BEEEEEEEP.

TERRI

Mitchell! Get me the phone!

ROSE (V.O.)

Anyway, I guess there's really only one thing I wanted to say to you. One thing I want you to hear.

Terri grabs a phone.

TERRI

Hello? We have an emergency!

ROSE (V.O.)

Don't come back here, Lara.

The alarm fades out slowly.

INT. LARA'S INBOX

ROSE

There's nothing here for you.

BEEP.

COMPUTER VOICE

End of message.