

## Everyone Makes Mistakes

by Rachael Himself

*Phil and Sarah are on a date.*

Phil:  
So...

Sarah:  
So...

Phil:  
So this is great, to finally meet you. I mean, Shannon told me a lot about you.

Sarah:  
What did she say?

Phil:  
She said you're smart, and funny...and she said you were cute, but she should have said you're HOT.

Sarah:  
Oh, that's sweet, no don't worry.  
Really, don't worry about it.

Phil:  
I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I, I didn't mean...I didn't mean to....

*Beat*

Sarah:  
So...well, Shannon said that you had traveled a lot. Where have you been?

Phil:  
*(excitedly, thank God she asked this question)* Well, I've been to Austria, Germany, Switzerland...France, Spain...Italy...

Phil:  
Really, I've traveled a lot in Europe.

Sarah:  
Italy? Did you get to Rome?

Phil:  
Yeah, yeah, I got to Rome. Spent...five days there? I could have spent five months. And we went to Pompeii –

Sarah:  
Did you go to St. Peters? Did you actually see the Pope?

Phil:

*(smiles, somewhat condescendingly)* Seeing the Pope wasn't high up on my priority list...but of course I visited St. Peters, and the Sistine Chapel really was amazing. Did you know –

SARAH  
You didn't want to see the Pope? Why not? I mean, it's the Pope. Even if you're not Catholic. Wait, what religion are you?

PHIL  
A recovering Catholic. I'm...an atheist.

SARAH  
A what?!

PHIL  
An atheist. *(SARAH just stares)* You know, someone who –

SARAH  
I know what an atheist is. I've just...never MET one before. *(stares)*

PHIL  
Well, here I am. Two bucks you can feed me from a paper cone, and five bucks you can pet me.

*SARAH is staring in disgust, thinking the worst of his comment*

PHIL  
I didn't mean – that is, I mean –  
petting zoos, I was going for the petting zoo joke.

SARAH  
Oh. Right. No, I get it.

PHIL:  
So...

SARAH:  
What is there to "recover" from? I never have gotten that. I mean, I grew up in the Catholic church...and what is it, too much incense? Too much of God's love? Jesus dying on the cross too graphic for you?

PHIL:  
Um, no. I guess it would have more to do with the GUILT layered upon a base of self-hatred...and a strong disagreement with...some fundamental issues, like birth control and divorce and – well, things that, I'm just surprised that, more women don't have an issue with. I mean, haven't you ever felt it's a little...*(chooses his word carefully)* biased that only men can be priests?

SARAH  
That's just the way it is. Why is it that only women can give birth to babies?

PHIL

What?! I don't even – that's not even – I – wow. How can I answer that...

SARAH

And as for divorce – it IS a bad idea. Especially if there are kids involved. That's a no-brainer. And birth control – maybe if more people waited to have sex, there wouldn't be so many unwanted children –

PHIL

Or if the Catholics would just shut up and let condoms be distributed – I'm sorry. That was rude. I'm sorry.

SARAH

No, it's ok. It's clear that this "date" is not going to go anywhere. So we might as well get our bills and go home.

PHIL

Ok. Fine. You're right.

*They wait. Look for waiter. Who is nowhere in sight.*

SARAH

What else do you have against the Catholic church?

PHIL

Well, I left my list in my other jacket, but off the top of my head...oh, I don't know, the Inquisition?

SARAH

Everyone makes mistakes, Phil.

PHIL

*(completely flabbergasted)* Mista – mistakes. Mistakes?!? Typing "on" instead of "no" is a mistake. This DATE was a mistake. But thousands of people being murdered because of their beliefs – that is not a mistake. That is...an abomination, if you want to use Biblical terms. That was an abomination against humanity. And THAT is what my biggest problem with Catholicism is – with most religions – they're unbending. They don't conform to what humanity needs them to be. People have progressed – but most organized religion hasn't.

SARAH *(standing, perhaps yelling)*

Humanity doesn't need the church to conform. That's the problem. There is something sacred to the ritual of the church service, you can almost feel the knowledge that's been passed down for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years. And some of that knowledge was gained from horrible crimes, yes, but also from kind, great people...like Mother Theresa.

PHIL

So a few good deeds can balance out murder and torture?

SARAH

Aaaaghhhh! You are such a...uh...ATHEIST!

PHIL

Oooh, did they teach you smart comebacks in Sunday school?

SARAH

You are just jealous of me! Because I have faith and you don't!

PHIL

*Phil is quiet, thoughtful. He may even be taking what she has said to heart. But then he begins laughing. Sarah is confused at first, but then, his laughter is so contagious, that she joins him, but still doesn't know why.*

*"You are such an atheist?!?"*

SARAH

*Hey...I...(totally at a loss, sits back down)*

PHIL

Have you ever heard the saying, opposites attract?

SARAH

*(breathless) Yeah.*

PHIL

I like how passionate you are. Do you want to come to my place for dessert?

SARAH

*(leans in) Yeah.*

PHIL

I may try to break a few commandments...

SARAH

Yeah?

*PHIL sweeps her into a kiss*

*Is that ok with you?*

SARAH

Yeah.

*The End*