

# Almost Eden: A Fable

By Matthew P. Burkholder

*Place: the Garden of Eden*

*Time: The Beginning*

Adam

Aw, c'mon, just give me a chance!

Eve

No.

Adam

You won't even listen to my idea?

Eve

I did listen to your idea.

Adam

And you still don't think it's one of the best ideas I've ever had.

Eve

Oh no, I think it's one of the best ideas you've ever had, but that's not saying much for your other ideas.

Adam

You're just upset because you didn't think of it first.

Eve

Trust me, I'm not.

Adam

All right, all right miss smartypants, let's hear your idea. What do you think we should do?

Eve

My idea?

Adam

Yeah, your idea. If you're so smart, I'd like to hear what you have planned.

Eve

I don't know.

(Beat)

Adam

You don't know?

Eve

No.

Adam

Great. At least I'm trying! I'm suggesting things!

Eve

Oh my God, you call those suggestions?

Adam

Well, this is ridiculous.

Eve

Do you think I like this any more than you do?

Adam

Can we at least try my idea?

Eve

I'm telling you, for the last time, no.

Adam

All right. Let's just live alone forever and die a slow death.

Eve

Hey, I didn't say that's what I wanted...

Adam

No, but we may as well. If you don't have any ideas, then we'll just live alone, just the two of us and eventually we'll die. Oh! And you know, one of us will die before the other, and that will leave one of us all alone. All alone. Big world. One person. Is that what you want? Cause I'll tell you right now, I don't want to be alone. I think that idea sucks!

Eve

Well, I think your idea sucks too.

Adam

I'm telling you, we need to have sex and populate the planet.

Eve

You're just horny!

Adam

Oh! That's very nice.

Eve

Not nice, but true.

Adam

Please! I've got needs here!

Eve

Tell you what, why don't you go take care of them while I think about what we should do.

Adam

Can I ask you something?

Eve

Why not.

Adam

Are you always going to be such a bitch? Cause if you are, I'll go someplace else right now.

Eve  
I thought you didn't want to be alone.

Adam  
I don't, but it's preferable to putting up with your nagging all the time. Nag, nag, nag, nag, nag.

Eve  
Then by all means, leave! Go on. I don't need you. Leave.

Adam  
I will.

Eve  
Good.

Adam  
I'm leaving.

Eve  
Fine. You're not doing me any good.

Adam  
Believe me, you won't be missed!

Eve  
Neither will you!

Adam exits.

Eve  
Good riddance. Now maybe I can actually think. Why God had to create him too, I'll never know. And the nerve, companion to him. Companion! Ha! Thinks he's God's gift to women.

She sits and picks up a leaf and begins to chew on it.

Eve

Hmmm. Not bad. Kind of bland, but good.

She looks around.

I wonder what else we've got around here.

She finds an apple tree and plucks one off of it and takes a bite, as she does so there is a sound of an animal in the bushes.

A-adam? Adam is that you? I knew you wouldn't stay away long, can't live without your companion huh? Adam?  
Hello!

A dog barks and Eve lets out a yelp.

Help! Help! Adam!

Adam comes running from the direction of the dog bark.

Adam

Eve!

Eve

Oh! Oh, Adam! It was awful!

Adam

There was this, this beast, that's all I can call it, a beast. This hairy beast with a black black nose and teeth, these long teeth, huge, must have been as long as my fingers, huge teeth, and a tongue, it was long and dripping with, well, it must have been venom, poison just ready to pounce on my defenseless body and kill me but I fought it off. I fought it off, thinking of you. Did you hear the noise it made?

Eve

I heard it. I heard it. It was awful.

Adam  
It's call was horrible!

Eve  
Never leave me Adam!

Adam  
I won't. I'll never leave you.

They hug. The hug becomes a more amorous embrace and finally Adam moves to kiss Eve.

Eve  
Get off me!

Adam  
What?

Eve  
Get off!

Adam  
But I thought...

Eve  
Well, you thought wrong buddy. I can't believe you! Here I am, scared, vulnerable, and you, you come on to me. I'm no fool Mr. No sirree. You're not going to come running into this glade and get your "needs" taken care of. I'm nobody's fool, least of all yours. I can see it now, first it's one, then another, then another, then another, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop. Well, I've got a little say in this matter. This is my body. I've got some say over what goes in it and I've got a little say over what comes out of it. Once you've had sex once you'll want it again, at all hours. One dip in my wishing well and it'll be all you can think of. You'll come in all sweaty and disgusting from hunting feeling all butched up and full of testosterone and expect me to just fall on my back and spread my legs and I'm telling you right now, I

won't play that game. This girl is not going to be your bitch.  
You got that?

Adam

Say what?

Eve

I know what you've got in mind. You want to knock me up  
and keep me knocked up. Barefoot, pregnant and in the  
kitchen. Let me tell you right now, I can get all the sexual  
satisfaction I need from a cucumber.

Adam

Whoa! A cucumber? What's a cucumber?

Eve

It's a vegetable.

Adam

Uh huh. You know what? You aren't making any sense and  
... and I find it oddly attractive. Look, I'm just feeling the  
need for a little companionship. Let's not forget what you're  
here for.

Eve

Here we go.

Adam

God said...

Eve

God said. You know what, God can kiss my lily white...

Adam

Eve!

Eve

Oh, oh my. What's come over me? What am I saying?

Adam

You got me! Eve, I think you need to take a little nap or something.

Eve

Yeah, yeah, I'm feeling a little light headed. I'll just go over here and lie down for a bit.

Eve lays down. Adam stands and looks at her for a moment looking confused and unsure of what to do. He turns and sees the apple on the ground. He goes over to it, picks it up and sees the bite taken out of it. He drops it in terror and looks over at Eve who seems unable to get comfortable. He edges towards Eve.

Adam

Um... um Eve? Darling?

Eve

What?

Adam

Dear?

Eve

What do you want?

Adam

Poopsie, you didn't, and please forgive me for asking this, but, you didn't ...

Eve

Out with it.

Adam goes to the apple and picks it up and brings it back to Eve.

Adam

You didn't take a bite out of this, did you?

Eve

Yeah, why?

Adam

OK, sweetie, you're not feeling well, maybe you didn't understand the question, let me rephrase it. Did you take a bite out of this?

Eve

No, I understood you. Yes I did. It was good, you should try it.

Adam

Eve! Bite your tongue!

Eve

No, really, it's very good. Better than that leaf I was eating.

Adam

Eve, weren't you paying attention! God said we weren't supposed to eat these. He was very clear! He was very very specific about it as a matter of fact!

Eve

When did he say that?

Adam

You weren't listening to him.

Eve

I heard most of what he said.

Adam

Most? Most? You heard "most" of what he said? Eve, it's God! When he says something, you're supposed to listen. You're supposed to pay a little attention, and I'm telling you right now, he said, and I quote, "you may partake of anything in the Garden, but not," I repeat, "not the forbidden fruit." This, this here, this is the forbidden fruit! In my hand!

Eve  
Oh. Whoops.

Adam  
Whoops?

Eve  
Do you think he'll be mad?

Adam  
Do I think he'll be... Eve, he only gave us one thing not to do. One thing. He gave us free reign here except for one thing. Why couldn't you listen to him?

Eve  
Well, the cutest little worm thing was playing with me. You should have seen it. It had this little tongue and these little gold eyes, and bright colors and...

Adam  
We're doomed.

Eve  
It was only one bite!

Adam  
Did you swallow?

Eve  
Yes.

Adam  
Why me? First you won't do what God made you for, companionship, then you go and disobey his only rule. You know, part of me wonders if you weren't made to be difficult. All I can say is, if we ever have children, I hope they're boys, at least boys behave. You know what? I wish God had made me another man for companionship!

Eve

I'm sorry! Look, I know, let's bury it, maybe he didn't notice.

Adam

Oh sure. Eve, he's God. He noticed. And you thought I came up with lousy ideas.

Eve

Well, he hasn't done anything to me. It's not like I've been smote or anything.

Adam

Where are you coming up with these words?

Eve

What words?

Adam

Smote? Cucumber? Testosterone?

Eve

Adam, please, you've got to cover for me.

Adam

Oh no I don't!

Eve

Please!

Adam

And what do I get out of the deal?

Eve pauses for a moment.

Eve

Companionship?

Adam

You're evil, you know that?

Eve

But you've got to cover for me first.

Adam

What? Nuh uh, no deal.

Eve

Yes. I know you, you'll get your companionship and then when God comes asking about the fruit you'll take his side. You men are always doing that "bonding" thing. Sure, you may say what we agreed on when I'm around, but then when the two of you are alone you'll start bragging about how you got your companionship with me and you'll tell him I ate the fruit. I know you. Don't think I don't!

Adam

And what about you, you'll get what you want out of me, I'll lie to God and then you'll keep holding back the companionship cause something else will come up that you want from me. You're no better.

Eve

So I guess that leaves us back where we started.

Adam

I guess.

They walk away from each other and there is absolute silence for a moment.

Eve

Unless...

Adam

Unless what?

Eve

Tell you what, there's a way that we can both get what we want.

Adam

I'm listening.

Eve

I don't trust you and you don't trust me, but if you took a bite too, now, hear me out, if you took a bite too then you'd have just as much to lose if he found out about the fruit. If I knew you had to lie, then I'd be willing to give you my companionship.

Adam

You want me to put my immortal soul on the line for some sex?

Eve

Look, that's the offer. Take it or leave it.

Adam ponders the deal, looking alternatively at the apple and Eve.

Adam

Deal.

Adam finds a spot on the apple and bites into it.

Lights out.

The rest is history.