

= I Am God =

" I Am God " is the eighteenth episode of the second season of the American mystery television series Veronica Mars , and the fortieth episode overall . Written by Diane Ruggiero and Cathy Belben and directed by Martha Mitchell , the episode premiered on UPN on April 11 , 2006 .

The series depicts the adventures of Veronica Mars (Kristen Bell) as she deals with life as a high school student while moonlighting as a private detective . In this episode , Veronica experiences persistent and vivid nightmares of the students who died in the bus crash , and she attempts to piece together the clues she 's gotten from these dreams . Meanwhile , Logan (Jason Dohring) and Wallace (Percy Daggs III) are forced to work together on a science experiment .

During the filming of " I Am God " , several press members , primarily bloggers , were allowed to visit the show 's set , an event that was the first of its kind for Veronica Mars . Bloggers had been an important source of the show 's fandom and press coverage , and the event was set up by UPN executives as a public relations project . The episode also features a guest appearance by Kayla Ewell and the first appearance by James Jordan . The episode received 1 @. @ 76 million viewers in its original US airing , and it received mixed reviews from television critics , with reviewers divided on the use of dream sequences as well as the episode 's emotional impact overall .

= = Synopsis = =

Veronica has a dream of the students who died in the bus crash , which takes place in " Normal Is the Watchword " , before she visits the guidance counselor , Rebecca (Paula Marshall) , who talks to her about her problems , and Veronica tells her about her nightmares . Veronica lists the bus crash victims and asks Rebecca about a janitor named Lucky (James Jordan) , whom Meg used to talk about a lot . Veronica describes some more dreams and tells Rebecca that she met with a student named Rhonda , who handed her a phone with a voice recording of Dick on the bus . Veronica recounts a dream encounter with her father , in which she discovered a piece of paper with the words ? I am God ? and pictures of nine coffins . Veronica talks to Logan about Lucky , the janitor , and Logan says that Veronica met Lucky before .

Veronica talks to Dick about his relationship with Betina . Veronica talks to one of Betina ? s friends , who says that Dick mistreated her , and Betina ? s goal was for Dick to get her pregnant so she could get him in trouble . Veronica asks Keith about whether or not he has resumed a relationship with Rebecca , and Veronica gets into Stanford University . Veronica is pushed into second place at the Kane scholarship after Angie . Rebecca denies having a relationship with Keith , while Angie also gets into Stanford . Wallace points out Rhonda ? s sister to Veronica , but she doesn ? t give Veronica any information . Veronica asks Keith to dig into the financial records of the bus crash victims . Veronica learns that none of the families had very much money , except for Rhonda ? s family , who got a \$ 2 million bailout from Woody (Steve Guttenberg) .

Keith meets with Principal Clemmons and finds Veronica in the closet . Veronica talks to Mr. Wu about one of his students , Peter , who had feelings for Mr. Wu . However , Mr. Wu is not gay . That night , Veronica has a dream about Peter , who ? asks ? her why he would even want to go to a baseball stadium . Veronica talks to Beaver , who was pushed into a wall by Cervando , a PCHer who died in the bus crash . Keith solves a case for Principal Clemmons about students who get diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder from the same doctor for better grades . Angie wins the experiment competition , and we learn that Angie was one of the students who was diagnosed with GAD for money . Principal Clemmons revokes exceptions for GAD students . Veronica has a dream about Cervando , who says that the perpetrator was probably in the vicinity of the bus crash . Veronica learns that the ? I am God ? image is actually an album cover . Keith tells Veronica that the perpetrator was probably targeting Dick and Beaver . Veronica has another , more frightening dream .

In science class , Logan gets paired with Wallace and Dick gets paired with Angie Dahl (Kayla Ewell) . Logan and Wallace perform their experiment half @- @ heartedly , and afterwards , they decide to continue working with each other . In the end , they receive a passing grade .

= = Production = =

" I Am God " was written by Diane Ruggiero and Cathy Belben and directed by Martha Mitchell , marking Ruggiero 's eleventh writing credit for the series , Belben 's third and final writing credit (after " Blast from the Past " and " Ahoy , Mateys ! ") and Mitchell 's first and only directing credit for the show . Despite being credited , Duncan (Teddy Dunn) , Weevil (Francis Capra) , and Jackie (Tessa Thompson) do not appear in the episode . During the filming of " I Am God " , UPN and Warner Bros. set up a " Veronica Mars Press Day " , on which several members of the press visited the show 's set and wrote about their visit . Bloggers had been important to press coverage of Veronica Mars ; because of this , Joanna Massey , UPN 's senior vice president for media relations , decided to set up this event as a public relations project . On organizing the event , Massey elaborated :

Once we sent out the invitations , there was instantly a lot of (Internet) chatter about why we invited certain people . Then there was chatter leading up to the trip , and there was chatter when everyone got back . And they instantly posted all of their photos , which I love . And then they will blog again when the episode runs . With the traditional media , when do you get that kind of coverage ?

Series creator Rob Thomas also appreciated bloggers ' contributions to Veronica Mars , stating " Sometimes I think bloggers are our journalists . [?] I feel like the bloggers made the show . In a way , a day like (the press day) is preaching to the choir , but I don 't know that we 'd exist without them . ? This was the first time that non @-@ cast or crew members visited the set . After reaching Kearny Mesa , San Diego , where the show primarily films , the bloggers toured the set and talked with cast and crew members . One press member expressed that Ryan Hansen , Thomas , and Kristen Bell were especially kind and receptive to the visitors .

On his role in the episode , Jason Dohring , who plays Logan , elaborated , " I think what 's funny is that he always gets what 's coming to him . Like a terrible thing happens to him , but he 's like that to other people . So it 's like in real life ? what goes around comes around . " The episode features a guest @-@ starring appearance by Kayla Ewell , who would eventually become most known for her role on The Vampire Diaries . The episode also features a guest appearance by James Jordan , as Lucky , the janitor . In season 3 , Jordan would become the first actor to have two different roles on Veronica Mars when he was cast as Tim Foyle , a teaching assistant .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original broadcast , " I Am God " was watched by 1 @.@ 76 million viewers , ranking 111th of 116 in the weekly rankings . This marked a sharp decrease in 1 @.@ 09 million viewers from the previous episode , " Plan B " , which received 2 @.@ 85 million viewers .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received mixed reviews . Rowan Kaiser , writing for The A.V. Club was very positive towards the episode , writing " ' I Am God ' is probably the strangest episode since ' Nobody Puts Baby in a Corner ' , but unlike that one 's somewhat random focus , ' I Am God ' is intently pointed at one thing : the bus crash . " While hoping that it had come earlier in the season , the reviewer wrote that " its intense style and emotional stakes put it on the shortlist of best Veronica Mars episodes . " Price Peterson of TV.com praised the dream sequences for their beauty , but criticized them for their complexity . " Man , I just could not get enough of the dream @-@ flashbacks in which Veronica talked to the dead students . So beautiful and well @-@ done . On the other hand , my poor brain is starting to have a hard time keeping all the facts straight . "

Others were more negative towards the episode . Television Without Pity gave the episode a " B " , criticizing Paula Marshall 's reappearance , declaring her a " show killer . " BuzzFeed ranked the episode as the second @-@ worst episode of Veronica Mars , writing that the dream sequences " [looked] like Bonnie Tyler videos and bad erotic movies from the ' 80s . " Reviewer Alan Sepinwall gave a mixed review , praising Logan and Wallace 's interactions and Kristen Bell 's performance , but criticizing the fact that the episode came so late in the season . " Had this been the season 's fourth or fifth episode , it would have been fine . As the fifth @-@ to @-@ last episode , it felt like exactly what it was : a belated correction for a season @-@ long problem . " He also felt that " Keith 's subplot was missing a scene or two . "