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Confirmed  237,711

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About

"**I Want to Believe**" is a [catchphrase](#) associated with images depicting paranormal objects or phenomena, especially the ones alleged to have extraterrestrial origins such as pictures of UFO or aliens.

Origin

The slogan was originally produced for a scene prop on the production set of *The X-Files*^[1], an American cult sci-fi TV series created by screenwriter Chris Carter. The series ran for nine seasons from September 1993 to May 2002. In the series, the slogan can be seen on a poster^[2] hanging in the office wall of FBI Special Agent Fox Mulder (played by David Duchovny).

With the international success of the *X-Files* series, both the slogan and the poster came to represent believers of UFO and extraterrestrial life. While the production team has not officially commented on the origins of the poster, a nonprofit research group known as Free Community of Interests for the Border and Spiritual Sciences and Ufological Studies (FIGU) Community^[3] have claimed that the picture is based on an actual UFO taken by photographer and self-claimed UFO contactee Billy Eduard Albert Meier.

The poster became a kind of a Holy Grail for *The X-Files* fan communities^[4], where investigative research of the original poster and its derivatives continued even after the finale episode of the last season in 2002. The image spread through various fan communities of *The X-Files* as well as hobby groups investigating photographic evidences of paranormal and extraterrestrial activities. In 2005, the parodies of the poster reached the art-sharing community YTMND on August 25th, 2005 with the launch of "Milton Files" by user RTF, set to the show's original theme song "The X-Files" composed by Mark Snow. Other [YTMND](#) sites followed soon afterwards:

- [Milton Files](#)
- [The Truth is Out There](#)
- [I Want to Believe](#)
- [Believe in Me](#)
- [Wanna Believe](#)

The first version of the poster, resembling a strange mix of a photograph and a painting, became the target of parodies. From that point, the catchphrase "I want to believe" became used for a variety of mythical subjects and issues that remain debatable, such as the existence of Santa Claus. By 2006, an image template from the poster was used as a cover for Worrywood's 1st Mini Album^[7] and in the summer of 2008, an [image macro](#) generator^[8] for "I Want to Believe" poster parodies was launched.

Notable Examples

Search Interest

Search queries for the phrase "I want to believe" peaked in July 2008, shortly after the release of the film adaptation *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*.

External References

- [\[1\] Wikipedia – The X-Files](#)
- [\[2\] Famous Pictures – I Want to Believe](#)
- [\[3\] FIGU – Free Community of Interests for the Border and Spiritual Sciences and Ufological Studies](#)
- [\[4\] X-Files – Holy Grail for fans](#)
- [\[5\] Amazon – X-Files Poster: I Want to Believe](#) in total throughout the seasons,
- [\[6\] X-Files Fan Club – I Want to Believe Posters](#) (defunct)
- [\[7\] Worrywood – Worrywood's 1st Mini Album](#) (defunct)
- [\[8\] Elite MRP – I Want to Believe Generator](#)

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Updated 20 days ago by [LiterallyAustin](#).

Added 15 years ago by [Tomberry](#).



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About

"I Want to Believe" is a [catchphrase](#) associated with images depicting paranormal objects or phenomena, especially the ones alleged to have extraterrestrial origins such as pictures of UFO or aliens.

Status

Confirmed

Type:

[Catchphrase](#)

Year

[1993](#)

Origin

File: [2009 11 14_Know Your Meme_I Want to Believe.pdf](#)

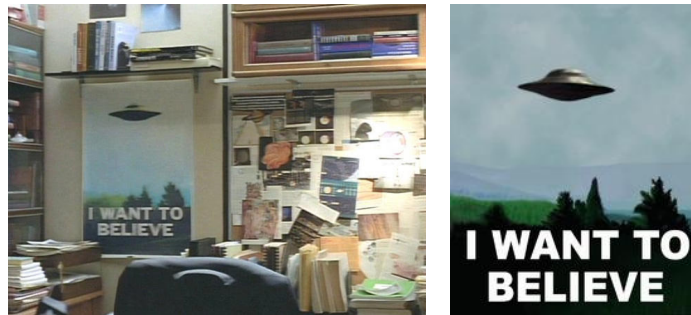
URL: <https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/i-want-to-believe>

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Tags

[image macro](#),
[poster](#), [i want to believe](#), [the x-files](#),
[ytmnd](#), [tv show](#),
[nostalgia](#), [space](#),
[90s](#), [sci-fi](#)



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^[2] [Famous Pictures – I Want to Believe](#)

^[3] [FIGU – Free Community of Interests for the Border and Spiritual Sciences and Ufological Studies](#)

^[4] [X-Files – Holy Grail for fans](#)

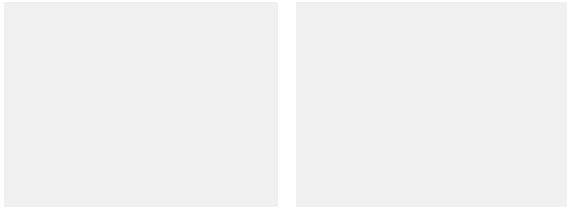
[5] [Amazon – X-Files Poster: I Want to Believe](#) in total throughout the seasons,

[6] [X-Files Fan Club – I Want to Believe Posters](#) (defunct)

[7] [Worrywood – Worrywood's 1st Mini Album](#) (defunct)

[8] [Elite MRP – I Want to Believe Generator](#)

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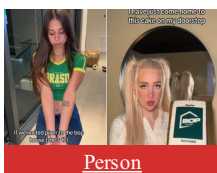


Top Entries This Month



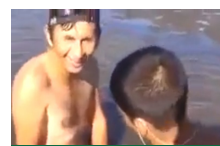
Meme

My Fata Thought This Was Fried Chicken**



Person

Bop House



Event

2 Guys 1 Fish

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Entry Editors (7)

[Tomberry](#)

Database Moderator & French Specialist & Pony Hater

[Chris Menning](#)

Digital Archaeologist & Archivist & Pundit & Early Adopter (#8)

[Chris](#)

4chanologist

[Brad](#)

Digital Archaeologist & Treasurer & Pundit & Gallery Housekeeper

[Don](#)

Administrator & Meme Daddy

[Molly Horan](#)

Tumblr Historian

[3kole5](#)

Sr. Entry Moderator

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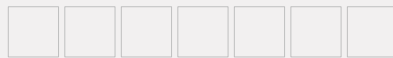
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