

THE GOOD PLACE - PILOT EPISODE

The Good Place

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by

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THE GOOD PLACE

“Pilot”

Written by:

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COLD OPEN

INT. PLEASANT-LOOKING WAITING ROOM - MORNING

ELEANOR SHELLSTROP (Kristen Bell) opens her eyes. She sits in a nice-looking waiting room. She looks around, calmly.

From her POV: written on the wall, in HUGE GREEN LETTERS:

WELCOME! EVERYTHING IS FINE.

She smiles a little at that. MICHAEL (Ted Danson) emerges.

MICHAEL
Eleanor? Come on in.

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

She settles in across a desk. He checks a CLIPBOARD.

MICHAEL
Hi Eleanor, I'm Michael. How are you?

ELEANOR
I'm great. Thank you for asking.
(beat)
One question: Where am I, and who are you, and what's going on?

MICHAEL
Right. So: you, Eleanor Shellstrop, are dead. Your life on Earth has ended, and you are now in the next phase of your existence in the universe.

She stares at him, placidly.

ELEANOR
Cool.
(beat)
I have some questions.

MICHAEL
Thought you might.

ELEANOR
...How did I die? I don't remember.

MICHAEL
Yes, in cases of traumatic, embarrassing, or sudden death, we erase the memory, which can be upsetting. Are you sure you want to hear it?

(CONTINUED)

She nods. He checks his clipboard.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You were in a grocery store parking lot. You dropped a box of low-calorie fudge cookies, and when you bent over to pick it up, a long column of shopping carts that were being returned to the shopping cart collection area rolled out of control and ploughed into you.

ELEANOR

Oh boy.

MICHAEL

You were able to grab onto the front of the column of shopping carts, but it swept you out into the street, where you were struck and killed, by a mobile billboard truck advertising an erectile dysfunction pill called "Engorge-ulate."

Eleanor stares, incredulously, then GIGGLES.

ELEANOR

That's awful.

MICHAEL

It's not great. If it makes you feel better, there have been
(checks clipboard)
927,605 more-embarrassing deaths in history.

ELEANOR

That does make me feel better, thanks.

(beat)

Okay, so, like, who was right? About all this? I was a Presbyterian -- did we totally nail it?

MICHAEL

Eh...not really. The Hindus are a little bit right, the Muslims are a little bit right, the Jews, Christians, Buddhists -- basically, every religion guessed about 5% of it. Except for Doug Forcett.

ELEANOR

Who's Doug Forcett?

MICHAEL

He was this stoner kid who lived in Calgary in the 1970s.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

One night he got really high on mushrooms, and his friend Randy said, "What do you think happens after we die?" Doug launched into this long monologue, and he got it like 92% correct.

(chuckles)

I mean, we couldn't believe what we were hearing.

ELEANOR

Wow. Then what happened?

MICHAEL

He huffed some gasoline, fell asleep, and forgot the whole thing. That's him right there --

On the WALL: a POSTER of a 1970's STONER smiling. A plaque reads "DOUG FORCETT, TORONTO, CLOSEST GUESS, 10/14/72"

ELEANOR

Wow. So, I'm really dead. It's kind of just sinking i--

She BELCHES. LOUDLY.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Oh boy.

(belches again)

Oh God -- I can't st--

(again)

--op burping --

MICHAEL

Yes, this is called Post-Revelation Gas Expulsion. It happens to about 8% of people. Mostly burping, but sometimes --

Eleanor FARTS very loudly.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

There it is.

GRETA, dressed like Michael, enters. She's excited.

GRETA

Oooh, we got a burper?!

MICHAEL

Yes, no gawking please, Greta. Just give her the solution. Drink that, Eleanor.

Greta hands Eleanor a SMALL GLASS of BLUE LIQUID. Eleanor drinks it, and stops burping.

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR

Wow. That was humiliating. That's a big fear of mine, actually, to do that in front of other people...

MICHAEL

I'm very sorry. You'll never be afraid here again, I promise.

She looks happy about that.

ELEANOR

Does that mean I'm...where I think I am?

MICHAEL

Well, it's not the "heaven" and "hell" idea you were raised on. But generally speaking, in the afterlife, there's a good place, and there's a bad place. You're in the good place.

(smiles warmly)

You're okay, Eleanor. You're in the good place.

She smiles, relieved.

ELEANOR

Well. That's...good!

MICHAEL

Sure is. Now! You're going to have a million more questions. Or actually--
(checks clipboard)
You'll have 6,208 more questions.

ELEANOR

How detailed is that clipboard?!

MICHAEL

Everything will be answered in due time, I promise. For now, just come this way.

They get up to go --

ELEANOR

Did I have a purse with me?

(then immediately)

Nope, I'm dead. Right. Okay, let's go!

SMASH TO TITLES:

THE GOOD PLACE

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. THE GOOD PLACE - ELEANOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

They stroll down a beautifully manicured path. There are a lot of flowers, and a lot of fountains. WENDY, dressed similarly to Michael (they look like a Four Seasons Hotel Staff), waves and smiles.

WENDY
Hi Michael!

MICHAEL
Morning Wendy! Happy birthday!
(to Lacie)
She would have been 3800 years old today.

ELEANOR
(looking at her)
God, her skin looks incredible.
(then)
So are you, like...are you "God?" I
thought you'd be taller.

MICHAEL
No, no. There are many levels above me,
before you get to Supreme Commander
Zortraxx, the Almighty Lizard God Who
Rules Us All.

She looks at him. He LAUGHS.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I'm just kidding, it's not a giant
lizard.

ELEANOR
Whew!

MICHAEL
Sorry, that's my little joke. But no,
I'm just a sort of...helper, I guess
you'd say. My job was to design this
Neighborhood. The Good Place is divided
up into distinct "Neighborhoods," each
one containing exactly 334 people.

ELEANOR
Why 334?

MICHAEL
(waving it off)
It's just -- it's the perfect number of
people, trust me, we're omniscient.

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR

Okee dokee.

MICHAEL

There are thousands of Neighborhoods,
each one a unique, flawless system,
created expressly for 334 perfectly-
matched human souls, blended together in
a blissful harmonic balance.

ELEANOR

Wow.

(looking around)

There's a lot of frozen yogurt places.

MICHAEL

Yeah, every neighborhood has those.
People love frozen yogurt. I don't know
what to tell you.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE - LATER

A smallish PUBLIC SQUARE, with a STAGE. PEOPLE mill around excitedly. Eleanor sits down on one of many CHAIRS as Michael walks on the STAGE and waves to them, humbly.

MICHAEL

Hello, everyone, and welcome to your
first day in the afterlife! You were
all, simply-put: good people, who lived
good lives. But how do we know that you
lived good lives? How are we sure?

A VIDEO SCREEN appears out of nowhere. Michael narrates from the stage.

ON SCREEN: TITLE CARD: "SO YOU'RE DEAD..."

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

During your time on Earth, every one of
your actions carried with it a positive
or negative value, depending on how much
good or bad that action put into the
universe.

ON SCREEN: We see GOOD PERSON (wearing all GREEN) walking on the street. She grabs a CHILD who is about to WALK INTO TRAFFIC.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Save a child from certain death? Great
job! That's plus-1200 points!

(CONTINUED)

ON SCREEN: BAD PERSON (wearing all RED) DUMPS a BARREL of SLUDGE into a river.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Poison a river with deadly chemicals? Uh oh -- that's negative 4610! But it's not only big things: every sandwich you ate, every time you bought a magazine...Every single thing you did created some amount of bad or good -- intentionally or accidentally -- and it counted.

ON SCREEN: Good Person is now in a COFFIN, looking peaceful.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
When your time on Earth ends, we calculate the total value of your life. The measuring system is too complex for you to understand, but trust me, it's perfectly accurate.

ON SCREEN: We pull back to see MANY PEOPLE in COFFINS. NUMBERS are calculated on screen, for each, plusses and minuses, rapidly. Good Person's number ends the highest:

+127423.8943658333333

And it BLINKS GREEN.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Only the people with the very highest scores -- the true cream of the crop -- get to come here...to the Good Place!
(quickly)
Everyone else goes to the Bad Place to be tortured for eternity.
(then)
So! You are here because you lived one of the very best lives that could be lived.

ON SCREEN: All the people disappear except Good Person, who floats into a WHITE ROOM; on the wall is written, in green: **THE GOOD PLACE.**

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Now you will reap the rewards of that good life. And you won't be alone! Your true soulmate is here too!

ON SCREEN: GOOD MAN walks into frame, and they smile and hold hands. People in the crowd murmur excitedly.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

That's right -- soulmates are real. One of the other people in your Neighborhood is your actual soulmate, and each pair of soulmates will spend eternity together!

ON SCREEN: Good Man and Good Woman are joined by MANY OTHER COUPLES -- some same-sex, some opposite-sex -- who all hold hands and smile to camera.

IN CROWD: Eleanor looks over at JIANYU, a handsome East Asian guy. She smiles at him, and he smiles back...

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

So welcome to eternal happiness. Welcome...to The Good Place. Sponsored by: Doritos X-Tra Bold Barbecue Potato Chips. Doritos -- Snack Strong!

The DORITOS LOGO appears on screen. Everyone looks confused.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(laughs)
Just kidding! There are no corporate sponsorships in the afterlife. That would be ridiculous.

The movie ends. People APPLAUD. Eleanor looks happy.

EXT. ELEANOR'S STREET - LATER

Michael and Eleanor walk down the sidewalk.

ELEANOR

So, who's in hell, that would shock me?

MICHAEL

Again, it's not "hell" in the ancient Christian sense --

ELEANOR

Right right right. Who's down there?

MICHAEL

Mozart, Picasso, basically every artist, ever.

ELEANOR

The Beatles?

MICHAEL

Both, so far, and the other two are definitely headed there.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Paul really hurt himself when he wrote
"Wonderful Christmas Time."

ELEANOR
Yeah, that song is garbage. Who else?

MICHAEL
Um...both of your grandmothers...

ELEANOR
Yeah, that checks out.

MICHAEL
...every U.S. President except Lincoln...
Ooh, you know who surprised me?
(pointing "down")
Einstein.

ELEANOR
Really.

MICHAEL
Yeah. All of his theories are wrong and
it's set physics back like 1000 years.
If Einstein had never been born, humans
would have jetpacks by now.

ELEANOR
I knew there had to be a reason we didn't
have jetpacks!
(then)
All those amazing people...down there.
Hard to believe.

MICHAEL
Again, it's an incredibly selective
system. Most people don't make it here.
But you: a veterinarian, human rights
activist, a loving daughter and
sister...you're special, Eleanor.
(off her smile)
By the way: welcome to your new home!

They are in front of a SMALL, NICE MODERN HOME.

ELEANOR
Wow. So...who built this?

MICHAEL
You built this. It came into existence
because of the essence of who you are.
You see, "paradise" doesn't mean everyone
has exactly the same things.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

It means that every individual gets his or her own perfect existence, and all of those existences fit together, like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

ELEANOR

That's beautiful. And I guess it's why my house, for example, is a cozy little cottage, while some other houses might be bigger. Like that one.

We WIDEN to see: the house next door is an ENORMOUS SCARFACE-STYLE MANSION, with BELLAGIO-TYPE FOUNTAINS in front.

MICHAEL

(happy)

Exactly! You get it. Let's head inside!

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

They walk in. It's small and minimally decorated, in a modern/Danish way, all clean lines and right angles.

MICHAEL

As you can see, the interior has been decorated just as you like it, in the Scandanavian minimalist style...

Her gestures to a wall featuring PAINTINGS of CLOWNS.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

-- and obviously you also love clowns!

ELEANOR

(happy)

I do love clowns!

MICHAEL

Right! If you loved sailing, these would be paintings of sailboats.

ELEANOR

Kind of makes me wish I had loved something besides clowns. Like naked Channing Tatum.

Michael laughs.

MICHAEL

Your soulmate has his own place -- if you want to move in together, obviously you can. Up to you.

He gestures to a cool-looking SCREEN.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

The video system. You can watch any event from history, from any angle. I recommend the JFK assassination. It's crazy. You can see all six of the shooters, including...Frank Sinatra!

ELEANOR

No! Ol' Blue Eyes?

MICHAEL

Yup. Surprised me too. You can also watch everything that happened in your own life...

He FLICKS IT ON, we see a MENU SCREEN titled **ELEANOR SHELLSTROP LIFE AND MEMORIES**. He goes to HAPPY MEMORIES, then MOST FULFILLING MEMORIES, selects...

ON SCREEN: From Eleanor's POV we see REFUGEES sleeping on tents. Hands come into frame -- Eleanor's, presumably, and give FOOD to a YOUNG BOY, who smiles.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Your Human Rights mission to the Ukraine. This got you tons of points, really put you over the top.

Eleanor smiles and nods, wiping a TEAR away from her eye as she watches the memory play out. Michael smiles.

A KNOCK on the door --

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(calling out)
Come on in, Chidi!

CHIDI walks in -- handsome, 30s, kind face.

CHIDI

Eleanor? I'm Chidi Ibekwe. And you are my soulmate.

ELEANOR

...Cool! Awesome.
(beat)
Well bring it in, here, man!

They HUG. And smile at each other.

MICHAEL

I'll let you two get acquainted...

He leaves. She gestures to the sofa and they sit.

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR

So. Where are you from, Chidi?

CHIDI

I was born in Senegal. But I lived all over -- Hong Kong, Buenos Aires... In the words of Anaïs Nin, "We travel to seek other places, other lives, other souls."

(beat)

How about you?

ELEANOR

Jersey.

CHIDI

Cool.

Beat.

ELEANOR

Your English is amazing.

CHIDI

Oh, I'm not speaking English. I'm speaking Senegalese -- I think this place just translates whatever you say into a language the other person can understand.

ELEANOR

That's a neat trick. Like, real-time Google Translate, am I right?

He takes her hands and stares into her eyes.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Oh. Okay.

CHIDI

I spent my life in pursuit of fundamental truths about the universe, and now that we're here, we can actually learn about them, together. It's overwhelming.

Eleanor thinks...

ELEANOR

Chidi. If you are my soulmate, that means that you would never hurt me, for any reason?

CHIDI

...Of course not!

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR

Promise me. Say, "I promise I will never betray you."

CHIDI

(hand over heart)

I swear, on all of the forces in the universe, that I will never say or do anything to cause you any harm.

ELEANOR

Good. Because --

(points to screen)

-- those aren't my memories. I was not a veterinarian, I've never been to the Ukraine. I hate clowns. I think there's been a mistake. I'm not supposed to be here.

He stares at her, wide-eyed.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor paces around. Chidi's mind races...

CHIDI

Are you sure this --
(gesturing around the house)
-- isn't for you?

ELEANOR

Yeah, man, I'm sure. I was not a veterinarian, who rescued orphans and collected clown paintings. They got my name right, but nothing else. Someone royally forked up.
(hears herself)
Someone forked up. Forked. Why can't I say "fork?"

CHIDI

If you're trying to curse, you can't, here. I guess this Neighborhood has a lot of people who don't like it, so it's prohibited.

ELEANOR

Ugh. That's forking bullshirts.

CHIDI

I don't understand -- how did Michael not find out when he showed you around?

ELEANOR

Because I lied my butt off! I realized what was happening and pretended to be whoever he thinks I am. I even managed to cry a little, at my fake memories. Pretty good, right?

BILL

Yes, congratulations, you're an excellent liar. So, who are you, if you're not
(gesturing to house)
this person? What did you do for a living?

ELEANOR

I was in...sales.

INT. CALL CENTER - ATLANTA - SIX YEARS AGO - FLASHBACK

Eleanor interviews for a job with WALLACE, 40s. She is looking at a BOTTLE OF MEDICINE.

WALLACE

It's called "Breathe-Well," and you just cold-call these seniors and try to hawk it.

(conspiratorial)

Between us, it's not FDA-approved, and it doesn't technically "work." So...try to...

ELEANOR

("yeah yeah yeah")

You need me to lie to the old people and scare them into buying faulty allergy medicine. I get it. Which one is my desk?

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - BACK TO SCENE - CONTINUOUS

CHIDI

You...defrauded the elderly. Sorry -- the sick and elderly.

ELEANOR

I was good at it too. Top salesperson five years in a row.

CHIDI

That's worse. You get why that's worse, right?

(rubs his forehead)

Can we take a walk, or something?

ELEANOR

Good idea. I gotta get out of this awful house. Everything is so wooden and hard - - it's like it was built for a marionette family.

They head out...

EXT. THE GOOD PLACE - OUTDOOR CAFÉ - AFTERNOON

They sit and eat frozen yogurt. All around, small groups of PEOPLE are smiling and introducing themselves.

ELEANOR

Even here, frozen yogurt is just like "okay."

(CONTINUED)

CHIDI
(light bulb)
Maybe it's a test. Maybe if you go to Michael and tell him the truth, you'll pass the test, and get to stay!

ELEANOR
You want me to rat on myself? Screw that, man. I can't risk going to--
(she points down)

CHIDI
We don't know anything about it. Maybe it's not that bad.

ELEANOR
...It's called "The Bad Place."

CHIDI
Well, sure, but maybe that's just compared to here. Let's ask Janet.
(calling off)
Hey Janet?

JANET immediately appears right behind Eleanor.

JANET
Hi there!

ELEANOR
(scared)
Gahhh what the fork? Where'd you come from?!

JANET
I'm Janet -- the informational assistant here in The Good Place. You can call me at any time, and ask me anything about any subject.

CHIDI
It's incredible. You can ask her about the creation of the universe, or history--

ELEANOR
(instantly)
There was a guy who lived in Avondale, Arizona around 2002 named Kevin Paltonic, he was on the lacrosse team. Is he gay?

JANET
No.

ELEANOR

(shocked)

Really?! Wow. Guess he just didn't wanna have sex with me. That's disappointing.

CHIDI

That's what you ask?! You can get a true answer to any one of life's mysteries!

ELEANOR

(eye roll)

Fine. How many, whatever, stars are there in the universe?

JANET

There are 471 octillion, 991 septillion --

ELEANOR

(waving it away)

Okay, whatever, I don't really care.

CHIDI

Janet, I have a question. What's The Bad Place like?

JANET

Oooh...sorry, that's the one topic they don't want me to tell you about. I am only allowed to play you a two-second live audio clip of what is happening there, right now:

We hear a CACOPHONY of HORRIFYING SCREAMS and MOANS and YELLS and AWFULNESS. Eleanor and Chidi react.

JANET (CONT'D)

(brightly)

Anything else?

CHIDI

That's all. Thanks.

Janet exits. Chidi and Eleanor look at each other.

ELEANOR

Well, that sounds like it sucks pretty badly.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

They walk past a row of large, beautiful mansions.

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR

Does everyone have an awesome house
except me?!

(sigh)

Okay, I say we just lie low, and hope
they don't notice me.

CHIDI

I don't think I can help you.

(off her look)

I don't like being dishonest, and I can't
advise you to be dishonest either.

ELEANOR

Come on -- you don't have to be such a
boy scout.

CHIDI

I was a boy scout, actually. Highly
decorated. Until I resigned on principle
because of their stance on homosexuals.

ELEANOR

Oh buh-rudder, you're a real do-gooder,
aren't you?

CHIDI

Yes! Everyone here is, except you!

ELEANOR

I'm just asking you to fudge a little.
You must have told a few white lies in
your life, right? What was your job?

CHIDI

I was a professor of Ethics and Moral
Philosophy.

ELEANOR

Son of a birch.

They arrive at Eleanor's house. Chidi grabs his stomach.

CHIDI

I'm getting a stomach ache. I'm in a
perfect utopia, and I have a stomach
ache. This is awful. I think I have to
tell Michael about this.

MICHAEL (O.S.)

Tell Michael about what?

Michael walks up, with TEHANI and JIANYU, holding hands.

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR
(covering)
Hey! Michael! What have you been up to?

MICHAEL
Oh, you know, just settling everyone into
eternal paradise.

ELEANOR
Sure, sure.

MICHAEL
This is Tehani, and Jianyu, they are
soulmates, and your next door neighbors!

ELEANOR
Hi! I'm Eleanor Shellstrop, and this is
my soulmate, Chidi -
(forgets)
-- imgrkbwke.

They all shake hands. When Tehani speaks, she has an upper-
class British accent.

TEHANI
Hello, Chidi. What a fantastic name.
It's like poetry!
(to Eleanor)
And can I just say that I love your
house? It is so tiny and cute.

ELEANOR
(forced smile)
Thaaaaaanks so much!

MICHAEL
Eleanor and Jianyu are having a little
"welcome party" tonight -- for the entire
neighborhood!

ELEANOR
Oh yeah? Is that because your house is
so big you can fit everyone?!

TEHANI
Exactly! Yes! And also because I simply
adore entertaining. I just adore it, I
truly do!

She laughs, as if tickled by how much she adores it. Michael
laughs as well. Then Eleanor laughs a little too hard.

ELEANOR
You adore it!

(CONTINUED)

TEHANI

I do! Truly! Jianyu here was a Buddhist monk, so entertaining on a grand scale is new to him, but don't worry because I adore it. We'll see you both there!

(as she goes)

Toodles!

They walk off...

ELEANOR

Oof. No one who says "toodles" should get to go to heaven.

CHIDI

It's not "heaven." It's The Good Place, and it's for good people, and good people don't lie. I'm gonna tell Michael. It's the right thing to do.

He starts to walk after Michael. She grabs his arm--

ELEANOR

(quietly)

Just...hang on, before you go ratting me out to the feds, remember: you promised you would never do anything to hurt me. And unlike me, you're a good person, so you have to keep your promises! Ha! Gotcha!

Chidi realizes she is right, and clutches his stomach...

CHIDI

It's getting worse. The stomach ache is getting worse. I feel like my soul is being strangled.

Eleanor pats him on the back.

ELEANOR

All right, buddy. Walk it off.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. TEHANI AND JIANYU'S MANSION - NEIGHBORHOOD MIXER - NIGHT

We walk in BEHIND Eleanor and Chidi, now dressed for a cocktail party. Groups of people chat amiably. Eleanor gestures to her

ELEANOR

Sweet dress, right? Got Janet to fetch it for me. Instant, on-demand, everything free! This place is the best! Now let's go lie to some saints!

He looks pained.

CHIDI

Help me out. Tell me something good about yourself, that I can hang on to. What happened... the day before you died?

Off Eleanor's look...

FLASHBACK - INT. ELEANOR'S CAR - MORNING - TWO DAYS AGO

She is pulling out of a TIGHT PARKING SPACE. She hears a SCRAPE of metal on metal, winces.

EXT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

She sees that she has SCRAPED the car next to her. She thinks. Then grabs a pen and writes a NOTE, leaving it on the windshield.

EXT. CAR - LATER

The OWNER of the car comes back, sees the scrape and the note. He reads it --

ANGLE ON NOTE:

It reads: **"YOU PARKED TOO CLOSE TO THE LINE. THIS IS ON YOU."**

The guy looks around like "what the hell?"

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - BACK TO SCENE - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor is still thinking...

ELEANOR

...Don't remember anything specific. Look, maybe I wasn't a saint or anything, but I never killed anyone. I wasn't a bully.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

I never found a wallet outside an IHOP and thought about returning it but then saw that the owner lived in another state and just took the cash and dropped the wallet back on the ground.

CHIDI

...That's very specific, and it makes me think you definitely did do that.

ELEANOR

All I'm saying is, these people might be "good," but are they really that much better than me?

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - LATER - MONTAGE

They talk with PAMELA and BONG-CHA (Korean).

BONG-CHA

-- That's when I knew I had to spend my life fighting for women's rights in North Korea. I knew I'd be jailed for it, but that seemed a small price to pay.

PAMELA

What did you do for a living, Eleanor?

ELEANOR

Oh -- long story. I'm headed to the bar --
- would you like anything?

She scuttles off.

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - LATER - MONTAGE CONT'D

Eleanor talks to RACHEL --

RACHEL

-- so we said, "If the U.N. won't remove those landmines, we will." And we personally dug up more than a thousand unexploded mines from the area surrounding the orphanage.

(to Eleanor)

Eleanor, what did you d--

ELEANOR

(too loudly)

I'm heading to the bar!

She DOWNS her wine and rushes off.

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - LATER

They talk with SACHVEER, a SIKH --

SACHVEER

-- and he said "You'll die without both your kidneys," and I said, "But you will live, and that means climate change can be reversed." It was a simple decision, really.

ELEANOR

Wowwwwww that is so amazing!
(calling off)
Hey Janet?

Janet APPEARS behind her.

JANET

Hi there! How can I help?

ELEANOR

I've had eight glasses of wine and I feel nothing. Can you not get drunk here? It's suddenly very important that I get drunk.

JANET

Our default setting is that alcohol has no effect. If you want it to affect you, just think to yourself that you'd like --

ELEANOR

Got it. On it. Thanks.

She grabs TWO GLASSES OF WINE from a passing tray, closes her eyes like she's making a birthday wish, and DOWNS THEM both.

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - LATER

Michael CLINKS his glass and everyone quiets down. Eleanor is now pretty drunk.

MICHAEL

I won't take up too much time, here. As Shakespeare once said, "Brevity is the soul of wit." Although he's --
(points down)
-- so maybe we should ignore that advice.

CHIDI

Really? Shakespeare?!

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

There's been a lot of bad high school productions of "Midsummer." Caused a lot of agony. Anyway: you all know that I'm the architect of this Neighborhood. What you don't know is: this is the very first Neighborhood I've ever designed! I've been an apprentice for a while now -- about 300 years -- and my bosses finally gave me my first solo project.

He gestures around him. Everyone APPLAUDS.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

For that reason, it's very special to me, and I want it to be perfect. You deserve a perfect world. Because you are all -- every one of you -- good people! So if you have any problems at all -- which you won't! --

Everyone LAUGHS.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

-- come see me, personally. My door is always open. Back to the party!

Everyone CLAPS.

TEHANI

Bravo, Michael! Bravo!

Eleanor turns to Chidi.

ELEANOR

Ugh, Tehani -- what a condescending birch. Why does she still have a British accent? No one else has an accent -- she is choosing to have that accent!

(bad British)

"Hell-oooo everyone! I'm utterly perfect and I look like a cartoon princess!"

CHIDI

Okay, maybe it's time to head home.

She SLURPS DOWN the rest of her drink as he ushers her away.

ELEANOR

(yelling to no one)
Waiter! Mas tequila, por favor!

CHIDI

Who are you even talking to?

(CONTINUED)

ELEANOR
Unclear!

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

He gets her into bed.

ELEANOR
That Tehani is such a butthead.
(happily)
Hey! At least I can still say
"butthead." She's a butthead. Her butt
is a head, and her head is a--
(she belches for a long time)
--butt. Sorry I burped. That's
embarrassing.

She lies down. He starts to leave.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Chidi, Chidi -- wait. I'm sorry.
(off his look)
I'm sorry for dragging you into this.
It's not fair that your first day in
paradise is babysitting a drunk moron.

CHIDI
It's okay.

ELEANOR
It's not, though.
(sigh)
Do you think anyone cared that I died?
Maybe some people did, I dunno. I'm an
only child. My parents are both
dead...they were good people, so they're
prolly in one of the other "Good Person"
Neighborhoods, like having sex with each
other.
(gags)
Bleccch. Gross. Keep it in your pants,
afterlife mom!

She suddenly is DRINKING more wine.

CHIDI
How did you get more wine?!

He takes it away from her.

ELEANOR
I bet way more people cared that you
died. Because you're nice.
(slurring)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
You're nice person, Chidi Imbockuton. Is
that your name? Chidi Tribeckulate?

CHIDI
I'll see you tomorrow, Eleanor. Sleep
well--
(realizes)
-- you're already asleep. Okay.

She's snoring. He leaves.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

She slowly wakes up...expects to be hungover...then HOPS out
of bed, gleeful...

ELEANOR
Thirty glasses of wine and no hangover?!
This place is the best.

She walks over to her window and throws the curtains open.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Paradise!
(sees something)
Uh oh.

She looks outside -- the WHOLE WORLD has gone HAYWIRE.

EXT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Eleanor stumbles outside to see: houses cut in HALF. TREES
are UPSIDE-DOWN or TWISTED INTO PRETZELS. In the sky, jagged
SLASHES of RED LIGHTNING criss-cross in every direction.

PEOPLE mill around, confused. Everyone's CLOTHES are now
BLUE and YELLOW STRIPES. Tehani walks past Eleanor, dazed...
because her HEAD is where her BUTT should be.

TEHANI
(to no one)
Stay cool...stay cool Tehani...

Michael and the other GOOD PLACE EMPLOYEES stumble around,
trying to restore order.

MICHAEL
(calling out)
Remain calm! Everyone just remain calm!

A TRANSLUCENT OCTOPUS floats up to him, hovering, and BLINKS
a few times. Michael stares at it.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Okay go ahead and panic, everyone! Panic
and flee to safety!

He RUNS OFF. Chidi runs over to Eleanor.

ELEANOR
Chidi, what is happening?! Why is
everyone all blue and yellow?!

CHIDI
...You're not. You're the only one who's
not.

She looks down -- her clothes are the same as they were last
night. Chidi slowly realizes...

CHIDI (CONT'D)
This is happening because of you.

ELEANOR
Ahhhhh fork me!

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Eleanor paces around. Chidi sits in disbelief.

ELEANOR

Okay: we don't know that this is because of me. I'm not perfect, but these people aren't either. A lot of them brag about how "amazing" they were... Tehani is totally condescending... that one guy had a gross ear!

CHIDI

No one said they were perfect. But they spent their lives thinking about other people, helping other people, doing good.

ELEANOR

Ah, but here's the point: if I'm not the only one with flaws, how can we be sure all this is my fault?

CHIDI

You called Tehani a butthead and now she has a head on her butt.

ELEANOR

...Fair. That's a fair point.

CHIDI

This perfect utopia has been corrupted by one rotten apple. And after your boorish "performance" last night, it's pretty clear you're that apple.

ELEANOR

Hey, I was fine at that party! Name one thing I did that was rude, or boorish, or unethical.

Off Chidi's incredulous look --

FLASHBACK - INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - PREVIOUS EVENING

Chidi and Eleanor stand with two MEN, NEIL and WACLAV.

ELEANOR

-- so I was like, "That's the thing about me: I am super chill, it's one of my best qualities."

(beat)

Sorry, what was your question?

(CONTINUED)

NEIL
I honestly don't remember.

WACLAV
And I think he asked it to me.

FREEZE-FRAME: TEXT ON SCREEN: **NARCISSISTIC**

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - ELSEWHERE - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Chidi and Eleanor talk to HORATIO and PHUONG.

PHUONG
It turns out the universe is essentially
utilitarian! Kant must be rolling over
in his grave.

They all LAUGH. We see that Phuong's EAR is oddly-shaped,
and has HAIRS coming out of it.

ELEANOR
(whispered to Chidi)
So much gross ear hair!

FREEZE-FRAME: TEXT ON SCREEN: **SUPERFICIAL**

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - FLASHBACK CONTD

Eleanor stealthily cuts a line for the bathroom.

FREEZE-FRAME: TEXT ON SCREEN: **SELFISH**

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - FLASHBACK CONTD

Eleanor looks around, then OPENS THE MEDICINE CABINET --

FREEZE-FRAME: TEXT ON SCREEN: **INCONSIDERATE**

-- only to find there is no medicine, obviously.

ELEANOR
Lame.

INT. TEHANI/JIANYU'S HOUSE - ELSEWHERE - FLASHBACK CONTD

Eleanor sees Michael across the room. She whispers to Neil.

ELEANOR
Michael is kind of full of himself, huh?
Like, "we get it, you're the architect of
this place and you're amazing."

FREEZE-FRAME: TEXT ON SCREEN: **TALKED CRAP ABOUT MICHAEL**

(CONTINUED)

NEIL

Well, I mean...he's literally a deity.

He walks away. She turns to Chidi.

ELEANOR

Neil's kind of a stick-in-the-mud, huh?

FREEZE-FRAME: TEXT ON SCREEN: **TALKED CRAP ABOUT NEIL**

CHIDI

Eleanor. For goodness sake.

He walks off. She rolls her eyes.

ELEANOR

(to herself)

Every single person here is a dweeb.

FREEZE-FRAME: TEXT ON SCREEN: **TALKED CRAP ABOUT EVERY SINGLE PERSON THERE**

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - BACK TO SCENE - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor and Chidi.

ELEANOR

Whatever, it was a boring party, gimme a break.

CHIDI

This place is like a barometer of your behavior, and the chaos is proof: you don't belong here.

Eleanor is hurt, but she sees the truth in that.

ELEANOR

Well, then, this system sucks. One person in a million gets paradise and everyone else is tortured forever?! Maybe I wasn't freakin' Gandhi, but I did okay, you know? I don't belong

(points down)

down there. I was a medium person, and I belong in a medium place, between perfect utopia and miserable hell. Like Cincinnati. All the people who aren't great, but aren't terrible, should spend eternity in Cincinnati.

(CONTINUED)

CHIDI

Apparently it doesn't work like that.
I'm sorry, there's nothing anyone can do.
I think you should just confess.

Eleanor sighs...then gets an idea...

ELEANOR

Unless...there is something someone can
do. Unless you can teach me.

CHIDI

...Teach you what?

ELEANOR

How to be good! That was your job,
right? Teaching ethics? Look -- they
didn't know I was a problem when I first
arrived. Things only went crazy after I
was an ash-hole to everyone at the party.

(then)

You know I'm trying to say "ash-hole,"
and not "ash-hole," right?

CHIDI

I got that, yes.

ELEANOR

Give me a chance. Teach me how to be
good. Either it works, and I earn my
place here, or it doesn't, and they catch
me anyway. You spent your life figuring
out what makes someone good or bad --

(gestures to herself)

now you have a perfect test case!

CHIDI

You want me to "experiment" on you? Like
a guinea pig?

ELEANOR

Yes! Let's turn this guinea pig into a
guinea...swan! Or whatever!

He thinks...there's a KNOCK on the door.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

(scared)

Hello?

MICHAEL (O.S.)

Emergency Neighborhood meeting, you guys!

(CONTINUED)

The Good Place
Writer's 1st Draft
CONTINUED: (2)

"PILOT"

[0101x]

32.
xx/xx/15

ELEANOR

We'll be right there, Michael!

(to Chidi)

If I walk out of here, in these clothes,
I'm toast. My soul is in your hands,
soulmate. What's it gonna be?

Off his face --

TO BE CONTINUED

END OF SHOW