

ST. PETER'S DAY OFF

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St. Peter's Day Off

FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS - NIGHT

JIMMY REGAN (30), a handsome, young Brad Pitt-type, is the self-obsessed poster-boy for distracted driving. He wears a new colorful-print shirt covered with napkins to protect it, as he races his Tesla convertible wildly on a curvy road while eating a hamburger (heavy onions and catsup) and grabbing French fries in a bag between his legs with his other hand. He steers with his forearms as he texts in "hands-free mode."

His car stereo blasts Christmas music, and his backseat has six colorful liquor gift bags with bottles in them.

His smartphone in one of the cup holders BUZZES with a text message, "Merry Xmas Eve, dude. Where R U?"

Jimmy takes a big bite of his burger, grabs a bottled water from the other cup holder, and mumbles and laughs.

JIMMY

Text reply, "Out of the canyon, and through the woods, to grand-mothers house we go!"

He reads the reply text on his phone, "Out of a cannon, and chew the wood, to Grand Marnier house we go."

Jimmy laughs and spits out a small wad of burger.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Close enough. Send!

He takes his eyes off the road to check his phone: "Sent."

DRONE VIDEO of a car one mile away traveling in the opposite direction. A nerdish Latina nurse, ANA SANTOS (30), a younger Angelina Jolie-type, cruises along towards Jimmy in her Brand SUV while Christmas music blasts on her stereo. Ana wears a sleek black "clubbing" dress and checks her rearview mirror for her eye makeup behind thick eyeglasses.

She swerves to the shoulder of the road, but skids back into the lane.

Ana begins typing in a text, frequently taking her eyes off the road -- scary!

ANA

Midnight mass? Can't. Gotta work.

DRONE VIDEO back to Jimmy.

Jimmy swerves along eating and reading texts.

One of his napkins goes flying out of the convertible, and he looks back at it in the wind.

JIMMY

Darn.

He drops a French fry between his legs, and fishes for it, just missing an oncoming car.

He takes a bite of his burger causing catsup to squirt down on his new shirt and crotch where he lost his napkin.

He looks down in a panic at his catsup-stained clothes.

He glances up for a split second to see Ana's car coming straight toward him on a collision course.

Ana glances up at the same time.

JIMMY & ANA

Shit!

We HEAR a car CRASH in agonizing slow-motion detail followed by a Chorus of angelic singers on one note.

CHORUS

Ha.....

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

It's a typical church basement that is semi-dark on one side and brightly lit on the other side. There is a door on either side (one in the dark, and one in the light). There are two office desks in the room; the bright side has a modern glass desk, the dark side has an antique wooden desk.

Behind the glass desk on the right side of the room sits MAUI JACKSON (20s) a beautiful African American in a sleek white dress with a string of pearls around her neck. She smiles and looks at case files as she listens to gospel music. She has a stylish name plaque that reads, "Maui Jackson, 08-22-1831"

Behind the wooden desk on the left side of the room sits LUCAS PEREZ (20s), a free-spirited handsome and shirtless man in black leather pants and flip-flops.

He's a young man with a ripped body, playing the drums with two pencils as he rocks out to Latin jazz. His burnt-wood name plaque reads, "Lucas Perez, 02-02-1591"

Lucas and Maui snarl at each other often despite admiring each other's bodies.

Two folding chairs suddenly appear in the middle of the room. Though only two-feet apart, the chair on the right is clearly on the light side of the room, while the chair on the left is on the darker side of the room.

Maui snarls at Lucas.

LUCAS

Here come the newly-deads.

MAUI

They're almost-deads! Not newly-deads, which sounds too much like newly-weds, Lucas!

LUCAS

Jesus, Maui!

The room shakes with thunder and the lights flicker!

Lucas looks up, in mock fear, as Maui snickers.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Sorry. I meant, Get ready, Maui!

MAUI

I'm ready!

LUCAS

(laughs)

See the difference between us? I was born ready, willing, and able, whereas you were just born ready and able!

POOF! Jimmy and Ana otherwise looking perfectly healthy as Maui and Lucas continue arguing. Ana slumps into the light-side chair, and Jimmy slumps into the dark-side chair and is immediately uncomfortable with a sore butt and his catsup stains.

MAUI

I could be willing, but never with you.

POOF! One new file appears on Maui's desk, and one appears on Lucas's desk.

LUCAS

Don't know what you're missing.

Jimmy looks over at Ana and goes berserk. He gets up and starts choking Ana.

Lucas and Maui pay them little attention.

JIMMY

It's you! You crashed into me, you idiot! You killed me! And why is my butt sore?

ANA

'Cause you're one big...

Ana uses a self-defense move and flicks Jimmy's arms away, stands, and starts choking him.

Maui laughs toward Lucas.

MAUI

Pretty famous last words.

LUCAS

It'll look great on their tombstones!

Ana stops choking Jimmy, and stares at Lucas and Maui.

Jimmy turns to Lucas and Maui who glare back.

JIMMY

Certainly wasn't my fault!

ANA

Not mine!

JIMMY

Hey, you're not cops!

ANA

Or doctors!

JIMMY

Where the Hell are we?

The room shakes with thunder and the lights flicker!

Lucas and Maui point up.

ANA

Please. Where are we?

Maui stands.

MAUI

In the Green Room, of course. I'm Maui Jackson. That's Maui like the Hawaiian island. That's Lucas Perez. Merry Christmas Eve.

She points to the back of the room, where there is a beautifully decorated Christmas tree and a large green wall showing fuzzy old-time movies of the lives of Jimmy on one side and Ana on the other.

Jimmy and Ana turn and squint their eyes.

Lucas stands.

LUCAS

That's your life passing before your eyes!

Jimmy and Ana are furious at each other.

JIMMY

Is that fuzzy to you?

ANA

Yes, that's fuzzy to me, you idiot!

JIMMY

You mean...

ANA

(interrupting)  
We're dead?!

Maui comes to hug them.

LUCAS

Not dead.  
(beat)  
Almost dead.

MAUI

Studies show the human brain can keep functioning three to five minutes after your heart stops.  
(deadly serious)  
How will you spend it?! What will you think about? What will you resolve in those last three to five minutes? Or maybe, you'll fall in love.

Ana stomps around in a tirade pointing at Jimmy.

ANA

That's it! I'm getting out of here!  
If we're almost dead, because this  
idiot...

Jimmy interrupts and holds out his hand to shake.

JIMMY

Jimmy Regan, nice to...

Ana is not amused.

ANA

Back off, you killer!

Maui points to a large wall clock (timer with only a second hand, with a maximum time of 5 minutes. The biggest number is at the 3-minute mark. The clock reads at the 15-second mark.

MAUI

You're wasting valuable time for  
self-reflection. How do you want to  
spend your last three minutes of  
consciousness?

Now, Jimmy goes into a tirade, pointing at Ana.

JIMMY

You said three to five minutes! She  
killed me! I don't deserve to be  
here.

Lucas and Maui return to their desks and pick up one file each.

LUCAS

Let's quickly review your case,  
shall we?

ANA

Gotta be some kind of mistake!

Lucas reads from the file.

LUCAS

Ana Gabriella Maria Consuela  
Santos? Born May 8, 2000,  
Brentwood, California.

JIMMY  
(laughs)  
Born on the Day of the Immaculate  
Conception! Ha!

ANA  
What? I object.

JIMMY  
You a lawyer?

ANA  
No, a nurse.

Lucas shows a Mug Shot of Ana's shocked and fearful expression just before the car crash. Her eyes are wide open in terror.

LUCAS  
This you?

Ana puts her head down, as Maui speaks up.

MAUI  
James "Jimmy" Regan from Hollywood,  
California, born November 2, 2000.

ANA  
Day of the Dead! Ha!

MAUI  
High-priced carpenter?

JIMMY  
Finish work.

LUCAS  
You're finished alright.  
(beat)  
Interesting. Both of you had the  
same famous last words.

Jimmy and Ana collapse in their respective chairs sadly and mumble.

JIMMY & ANA  
Shit!

The room shakes with thunder and the lights flicker!

Ana and Jimmy look around, perplexed.

Jimmy directs his anger at Lucas and Maui.



JIMMY

Who are you to judge us?!

MAUI

Don't want to waste your limited time...

ANA

Spit it out, or I'll scratch your eyes out!

Maui speaks quickly.

MAUI

I'm a PA. Personal Assistant to St. Peter, Pearly Gates guy, no doubt you've heard of him. I'm Maui Jackson.

JIMMY

(angry)

Where is he? Bathroom?

Lucas stands to defend Maui.

LUCAS

You'd hear him if he was in the bathroom.

MAUI

Worked 2,000 years straight, 24 hours a day. Just stepped out.

LUCAS

Our bosses are always around, causing thunder, making the lights flicker, checking up on us.

Ana glares at Lucas.

ANA

Are you the Devil?

Lucas takes it as a compliment.

Maui rolls her eyes in disgust.

LUCAS

I wish! I'm Lucas Perez.  
(beat)  
Part-time PA like Maui.

Jimmy looks back at the fuzzy home movies playing on the back wall.

MAUI

We're just here between your almost-dead phase and your newly-dead phase.

Jimmy paces and turns his anger toward the fuzzy home videos.

JIMMY

I wanna get out of here! And why are my home videos so blurry. I'm pretty sure when your life passes before you at the end, it's not supposed to be this blurry!

ANA

I agree! What are we supposed to learn by that!

LUCAS

You both suffered terrible head injuries! Were you wearing seatbelts?

JIMMY & ANA

Yes!

MAUI

Low and tight across your laps?  
Tight shoulder straps?

Jimmy's and Ana's eyes open widely, as Lucas and Maui snicker.

Computer Screens shows up in front of Lucas and Maui.

MAUI (CONT'D)

Police report says distracted driving caused...

Ana stands and charges at Jimmy, who stands to defend himself.

Ana punches him in the gut.

ANA

I knew it!

Lucas cheers!

LUCAS

Woohoo! Both of them! What are the odds?!

Maui glares at Lucas.

MAUI

Two out of two, you demonic moron!

JIMMY

Was she drinking?

MAUI

We'll have to wait for the toxicology reports. They're checking your phone usage first.

Jimmy and Ana look away. Lucas cheers again.

LUCAS

Yeah, baby! Several broken liquor bottles found at the scene! You'd better sit down.

MAUI

You'll be here a while.

When they turn to sit in their chairs, they see both are set up slightly on the dark side of the room.

Jimmy is defensive.

JIMMY

Those were Christmas presents! Now, we're missing Christmas!

Lucas pouts. Ana pleads with Maui while staring at the time clock that has only moved to the 20-second mark.

ANA

Are you two rooting for us to die?  
And why the Hell is that clock moving so slow?

The room shakes with thunder and the lights flicker!

ANA (CONT'D)

Sorry.

MAUI

You both chose your reckless behavior.

Lucas laughs heartily as he pounds his fists together.

LUCAS

Wasn't reckless at all. That's why they're here. Get it wreck-less?

Ana glares at Lucas, as Jimmy stares at the clock.

JIMMY

How could the cops get there in  
twenty seconds?

ANA

And evaluate the accident?

MAUI

Time appears to move slower in the  
Green Room.

LUCAS

Like when you're driving down the  
highway and you gotta go pee real  
bad, and you see the sign that  
reads, "Next Services 39 miles?"  
That feels like an eternity!

MAUI

Or when you're on the toilet with a  
home pregnancy test and you gotta  
wait five minutes for the results?  
That feels like an eternity!

(beat)

So I'm told.

Jimmy yells at Maui and Lucas, as Ana stares sadly at the  
clock as it advances by one second.

JIMMY

But when your brain keeps working  
for only three to five minutes  
after your heart stops that could  
go by in an instant!

Ana's chin drops in remorse.

ANA

What are we supposed to do?

MAUI

I don't know! Boss was only  
expecting one of you.

Stares at her computer.

MAUI (CONT'D)

Was supposed to be a single-car  
accident hitting a tree on the side  
of the road.

ANA

But God is all-knowing!

LUCAS

Gets the general story right.  
Misses some of the details.

JIMMY

Wait! One of us isn't supposed to  
be here?

ANA

He's the idiot! I should be going.

Ana tries to leave but can't escape her chair.

MAUI

I'm afraid that's impossible.

JIMMY

What are we supposed to do for  
three to five minutes?

MAUI

Reflect, repent, apologize, or say  
your last good-byes?  
(look away mumbling)  
Or fall in love.

Ana glares at Jimmy.

Lucas points to the back of the room where a small table  
appears with vanilla and chocolate cupcakes, cold water, and  
hot coffee (with fine China cups and saucers). The tablecloth  
stretches to the floor.

LUCAS

Or watch fuzzy home movies. We  
don't care. It's your life. What's  
left of it!

MAUI

We have angel food cupcakes that  
are to die for.  
(beat)  
Sorry!

LUCAS

I prefer the devil's food cupcakes.  
You are what you eat.

Ana and Jimmy turn with puzzled expressions to see the  
refreshment table in the corner.

Lucas looks at his computer screen with glee.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Gonna wanna see this. The police  
are notifying your parents.

Ana and Jimmy sink in their chairs, glancing back at the home  
movies with tears forming.

Maui comes to hug and console them.

MAUI

Don't let Lucas get to you. It's  
perfectly natural to worry about  
those you're leaving behind. Circle  
of life.

Lucas stares at his computer screen.

LUCAS

Pretty short circle if you ask me.  
More like the donut hole rather  
than the whole donut.

Maui races to her computer screen.

MAUI

Police just showing your folks your  
phone records, both texts cut  
short. What was so important?

Ana and Jimmy pause to reflect.

JIMMY

Texting my bros about a party.

ANA

My ex.

Jimmy perks up.

JIMMY

Your ex!

Ana is defensive as Maui looks at a photo of a short high  
school geek on her screen.

ANA

You would have loved him.  
Quarterback of the football team.

A hotel desk bell appears on Lucas's desk and he rings it,  
but Ana keeps talking.

ANA (CONT'D)

Handsome...

Lucas rings the bell.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Passionate and considerate.

Lucas rings the bell twice, the second time with a stern look at Ana.

Ana pauses sadly.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Maybe I exaggerated.

MAUI  
Lying just increases Lucas's chances.

ANA  
He broke it off because he didn't want to die from viruses I might bring home from the hospital.

MAUI  
Never found true love?

Ana and Jimmy shake their heads, 'no.'

LUCAS  
Too bad! That's like a "Get Outta Hell Free" card.

Thunder roars and the lights flicker.

The mood is sullen.

Jimmy stands and yells at Maui.

JIMMY  
What do you mean when you said we might increase Lucas's chances?

Jimmy and Ana stare back and forth at the doors behind Maui and Lucas.

JIMMY & ANA  
Damn!

The room shakes with thunder and the lights flicker!

Ana and Jimmy look around, perplexed.

Jimmy points at Lucas.

JIMMY

He's mean, disgusting, and rude.

Lucas starts to ring the bell but doesn't.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I've never been so angry!

Lucas rings the bell.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

This isn't fair!

Jimmy turns to Lucas as his hand moves agonizingly slowly and rings the bell.

MAUI

This is fair. What you sew, you  
will reap!

Jimmy glares at Maui while he points at Lucas.

JIMMY

This is our three to five minutes.  
Tell him to put that bell away or  
I'll shove it up his...

POOF. The bell disappears.

Ana looks over at the clock and races up to Maui.

ANA

What did you say, time to reflect?

MAUI

Reflect, repent, apologize, or say  
your last good-byes.

Ana spins and yells to Jimmy.

ANA

Hear that? They're giving us a  
second chance.

Jimmy sees that Lucas and Maui have looks of disbelief.

JIMMY

Are you sure you're a nurse? I  
think we already got the death  
sentence!



ANA  
I mean to reflect, repent,  
apologize, or say my last good-  
byes.

JIMMY  
(sarcastic)  
Reflect, huh?  
(beat)  
Okay! I promise never to text and  
drive again! Duh!

Ana slaps Jimmy hard on the arm.

ANA  
Guessing you did a lot of bad  
things!

Ana and Jimmy turn back to the fuzzy home movies (file  
footage) to see Jimmy punching another kid in the school  
yard.

JIMMY  
He deserved it.

Lucas coughs and makes a motion like he's ringing the bell.

LUCAS  
Ding.

Jimmy spins and glares at Lucas.

JIMMY  
Shut up, Lucas!

Maui snickers.

MAUI  
One car accident and someone has  
anger management issues!

Ana laughs.

ANA  
Maybe you should have crashed into  
a lawyer!

Lucas points to the door behind him and laughs.

LUCAS  
All the lawyers are in there!

Maui pretends to ring a desk bell, and we hear one ring.

Lucas, Ana, and Jimmy glance over to Maui who is chuckling.

Jimmy stares at the two doors, and starts nudging his chair to the light side of the room. The chair squeaks loudly.

Everyone stares at Jimmy like he's nuts.

MAUI

They do have a fondness for  
carpenters and nurses here. Heal  
the sick, feed the poor. Oh, and  
peaceful protestors.

Maui takes a knee like Colin Kaepernick, and raises a fist.

ANA

(to Jimmy)

Idiot.

Ana stands, picks up her chair, carries it to the light side of the room, and sits down calmly and questions Maui.

ANA (CONT'D)

Who are you to judge? Doesn't the  
bible say in Matthew 7:1 "Judge not  
lest ye be judged." I went to  
Catholic school.

LUCAS

(mumbles)

Here we go.

Maui stands like a lawyer in a crowded courtroom.

MAUI

First, I'm a Baptist, so you can  
disregard everything you've been  
taught about the "one true  
religion!"

ANA

I was just...

Maui points to Lucas and interrupts Ana.

MAUI

We look like this as the average of  
what you two almost-deads imagine  
us to look like!

JIMMY

I imagined half a Baptist?

Lucas steps over to Jimmy to slap him on the back.

LUCAS

An average of what you both imagine. Ana imagined an articulate Harvard Law School judge, and you imagined a hot babe you could have one last fling with!

Maui is shaking her finger like 'no-way' to Jimmy before turning back to Ana.

MAUI

I threw in the Baptist part just to mess with you.

ANA

What kind of average is Lucas?

Lucas laughs.

LUCAS

Jimmy had no image of me!

Everyone stares at Jimmy who looks perplexed.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Jimmy doesn't believe in the Devil or Hell.

MAUI

Or Heaven for that matter! Do ya, Jimmy?

Jimmy pauses, then chuckles to Ana.

JIMMY

That means Lucas appears as you see him! One last fling with a sexy Devil?

Ana stands, humiliated, and storms off to the back of the room by the cupcakes. She can't decide between the angel food or devil's food cupcakes as her hand goes back and forth.

MAUI

A lot of people have some very sexy thoughts in their last few minutes of consciousness.

LUCAS

(to Ana)

Who can blame them? It's when they were most happy! Am I right?

(to Jimmy)

But Jimmy here has bigger issues!

MAUI

Maybe Jimmy doesn't believe in...

The room shakes with thunder and the lights flicker!

Jimmy stands and yells.

JIMMY

I never said that!

MAUI

Boss ain't gonna like that one bit!

Lucas roars with laughter as he stares at the clock at the 45-second mark.

Maui points to Jimmy's blurry home movie on the back wall.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

In the back of classroom, LITTLE JIMMY REGAN (12) dressed in a Catholic school white shirt raises his hand. A big nun, SISTER (60s) finishes her lecture before calling on Jimmy.

SISTER (O.C.)

And that is why God is all-loving  
and all-merciful.

(beat)

Any questions?

Jimmy turns his head, perplexed, thinking hard. He raises his hand halfway. Nervous.

SISTER (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Anyone else have questions?

Jimmy raises his hand high and waves furiously.

The Sister reluctantly calls on Jimmy curtly.

SISTER (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Yes, Jimmy. Keep it short.

LITTLE JIMMY REGAN

Yes, Sister.

(pauses)

If God is truly all all-loving and  
all-merciful as you taught us, then  
there could be no Hell.

We HEAR students snickering, some are laughing. The nun yells!

SISTER (O.C.)

Silence!

But Jimmy is on a roll and speaks louder.

LITTLE JIMMY REGAN

And if there is no Hell, there's  
not that much reason to be good!

All the students are laughing.

We HEAR the nun's hard shoes as she stomps toward Jimmy who  
looks perplexed.

SISTER (O.C.)

You'll regret that on Judgement  
Day, Jimmy Regan!

Jimmy's eyes open widely.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

Everyone stares at Jimmy, whose eyes are wide open.

JIMMY

Just asking a simple question.

LUCAS

Deep do-do, as we say in the  
trades.

Maui and Lucas check their computers.

MAUI

Your path to becoming a non-  
believer began at an early age.  
Tooth Fairy age five.

Jimmy is defensive.

JIMMY

Saw my mom's hand reaching under my  
pillow.

LUCAS

Easter Bunny, age six.

JIMMY

Eggs from a bunny? Come on!

MAUI  
 Imaginary friends, ghosts,  
 monsters, witches, and dragons, by  
 age eight.

Jimmy looks away.

LUCAS  
 It's a slippery slope, isn't it,  
 Jimmy? We all know who you stopped  
 believing in next!

ANA  
 I object!

Maui stands and yells.

MAUI  
 Objection overruled, nurse!  
 (beat)  
 You're the one who wanted a judge.

ANA  
 Everyone gives up imaginary friends  
 at some point!

A gavel appears in Maui's hands and she smacks it on the  
 glass table, which cracks but doesn't shatter!

Ana's chair slowly and mysteriously slides to the darker side  
 of the room. She leans toward the light-side to no avail.

She looks terrified as Maui points at her.

MAUI  
 Innocent children dying of cancer.  
 Mass shootings. No real boyfriends.  
 You have been struggling with  
 similar questions for years,  
 haven't you Ana?

Jimmy leans over to Ana.

JIMMY  
 Don't answer that! Drink the fifth!

Ana glares at Jimmy, then at Maui.

ANA  
 None of your business.

Jimmy mumbles.

JIMMY

That nun was none of your business  
too, but here I am!

LUCAS

Two of you don't know what to  
believe anymore.  
(point to the clock)  
And your time is running out.

Jimmy and Ana look terrified at the clock, which shows one  
minute has passed.

Thunder roars and the lights flicker in the room.

MAUI

You should be scared. Very scared!

LUCAS

The Boss is here!

The lights go out. Pitch dark. Tense moments.

The lights go on to reveal the DEVIL (50s), a Dolly Parton-  
type in a black, leather western skirt, black cowboy hat, and  
carrying a whip. She has long, red, sharp fingernails. She  
stands at the door behind Lucas who is bowing toward her.  
Ana's and Jimmy's chairs are both on the dark side of the  
room. Ana's eyes are wide open in fright. Maui is hastily  
texting on a smartphone and glancing over her shoulder but  
avoiding eye contact.

Jimmy begins to shift his chair toward the light side of the  
room, when the Devil snaps her whip to stop Jimmy.

DEVIL

Where do y'all think you're going?

Jimmy stops.

JIMMY

Hedging my bets.

DEVIL

Little late for that don't y'all  
think?

Jimmy stares at the clock on the wall which reads a little  
past one-minute.

The Devil looks at Lucas and laughs.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

That's how they imagined y'all?

Lucas bows.

LUCAS

Yes, Master, and these leather pants are unforgiving.

The Devil smirks, and winks at Jimmy.

DEVIL

Like me! Unmerciful too, I imagine.

Jimmy gulps as the Devil glares at him.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

I was present that day in all y'all's classroom!

Jimmy gulps again. This time with greater fear.

Ana struggles to speak.

ANA

Are you...? Are you...?

DEVIL

In the flesh, as an average of what y'all imagined.

(to Ana)

Well, one of y'all anyway!

Jimmy leans to Ana.

JIMMY

Scary imagination you have there, Ana!

The Devil cracks her whip at Jimmy again.

DEVIL

You added the whip!  
(cups her breasts)  
And these, Pervert!

Ana glares at Jimmy.

ANA

And that's our average? What were you thinking?!

The Devil sees the catsup stain on Jimmy's pants.

DEVIL

(happy)  
Is that blood? Hot dog!



JIMMY  
Catsup. Hamburger.

Jimmy stands, furious with Ana, and ignoring the Devil.

JIMMY (CONT'D)  
You're over-imagining all this! My  
last three to five minutes...

MAUI  
Two to four minutes.

Ana and Jimmy glance at the clock in fright.

JIMMY  
With your overactive imagination!

Ana stands to yell back!

ANA  
You crashed into me, remember!

JIMMY  
We were both across the double  
yellow line.

Lucas checks his computer and cheers.

LUCAS  
Toxicology reports are back.

Maui checks her computer and looks sad.

MAUI  
Uh oh.

The Devil smiles as all eyes turn to Lucas.

LUCAS  
Jimmy Regan, blood-alcohol level of  
zero-point-one, well below the DUI  
limit, but...

JIMMY  
Not a big amount.

DEVIL  
And you weren't driving a big  
amount over the double-yellow line.  
Just enough to kill somebody.

ANA  
Me! He killed me.

The devil snaps her whip at Ana.

DEVIL

Not so fast, Ms. Ana Santos. Saint Anne. That's a laugh! What was in her blood, Lucas?

Lucas stares at his computer.

LUCAS

Slight traces of marijuana...

Ana is defensive.

ANA

I object. Residual effects from high school! Legal in the state of...

DEVIL

But texting while driving, Ms. Santos? So, old-school!

The Devil paces back and forth as she threatens Ana and Jimmy.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Now is the time to think about every lie you've ever told in your lives.

She snaps her whip.

Ana and Jimmy slump in their chairs.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Every time you mistreated anyone!

She snaps her whip, and smiles devilishly.

Ana's and Jimmy's chins drop to their chests.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Every time you cheated in any way!

Ana and Jimmy turn their eyes away.

She snaps her whip, and smiles devilishly.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Every time you turned your back on a beggar, the homeless, or the sick!

Ana and Jimmy look pale white, barely breathing, nearly dead.

She snaps her whip, and smiles devilishly, and points to the clock.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Let's face it! In less than two to  
four minutes, you're mine for  
eternity!

She snaps her whip.

The lights go out, and the Devil disappears.

When the lights come on, Ana and Jimmy are on the far-left side, the darkest side of the room.

Lucas is bowing and smiling toward the door behind him.

Maui stares at her smartphone with a look of fear.

MAUI

No answer.

(beat)

Could be playing Pickleball!

Thunder roars, and the lights flicker wildly. The room seems to shake.

Maui comes alive with excitement.

MAUI (CONT'D)

I think we have company!

LUCAS

(sarcastic)

Swell!

Lucas grudgingly returns to his desk and slumps over his computer, as a bright light and the high notes of a choir emanate from the door behind Maui.

CHORUS (V.O.)

Ha.....

Two men in white Pickleball outfits and each carrying a Pickleball racket, try to squeeze in the door at the same time. One is an ARAB, Tony Shalhoub-type (60s), whose shirt reads, "Sweet Pickleballs" One is a JEW, Rob Reiner-type (60s), whose shirt reads "Kosher Dill Pickleballs." Both jockey for position and attention the entire time they're visible.

They see Maui and chuckle.

ARAB

This is how they imagined you? What are you? Some kind of superhero?

JEW

Or diversity hire?

Maui laughs.

MAUI

I'm a Baptist and a Judge, but look at you! Two Saint Peters, an Arab and a Jew. That's hilarious.

Ana and Jimmy are perplexed and whisper to each other.

ANA

Two Saint Peters?

Maui turns to the Jew and Arab.

MAUI

And nice of them to come all this way. Imagine the traffic was awful with the pandemic, world hunger, war, mass shootings, and high cholesterol and all.

The Arab and the Jew glare at each other in a tense moment, then burst out laughing.

JEW

Guess they couldn't conceive of an average. Get it?

ARAB

Never the twain shall meet?

The Jew and the Arab continue laughing.

JIMMY

Why couldn't our imaginations average them! Wasn't Jesus an Arab-Jew who created Christianity?

The Jew and the Arab quit laughing and glare at Jimmy.

ARAB

You do know that the concept of Heaven was written about in Persia 300 years before the Hebrews even thought about it, and 500 years before the Christians came along.

The Jew is defensive toward the Arab.

JEW

Who invited you? And what  
difference does it make? We gotta  
keep the riffraff out of Heaven.

ARAB

Not just the riffraff  
(counts on his fingers)  
We're talking scalawags,  
rapscallions, scoundrels,  
miscreants, knaves, and worst of  
all, ne're-do-wells.

Jimmy whispers to Ana.

JIMMY

Ne're-do-wells?

The Jew counts off more on his fingers,

JEW

You know them as bad guys,  
villains, liars, thieves, killers,  
and felons.

ARAB

But worst of all are the ne're-do-  
wells!

Lucas looks away and mumbles.

LUCAS

We get the rejects.

Ana stands and raises her hand.

ANA

Are we allowed to ask questions?

JEW

Just one.

ARAB

That was it!

The Jew and Arab look serious for a moment, then burst out  
laughing.

JEW

Just kidding.

ARAB

Ask away.

MAUI

I'm sure the Saint Peters have a busy day scheduled.

JEW

Nonsense, Maui, we've got all the time in the world. An eternity.  
(glances at the clock)  
They're the ones who are short on time.

Ana's finger is shaking nervously as she points to the door the Jew and the Arab appeared in.

ANA

Is that the Gate to Heaven?

The Jew and the Arab glance seriously at the door, then burst out laughing.

ARAB

Just an average of what you two imagine.

ANA

'Cause I imagined shiny pearly gates, white puffy clouds, and one Saint Peter in an old fisherman's cloak.

The Jew points at Jimmy.

JEW

He must of the thought of a pretty awful image for the Gates of Heaven to get this kind of average.

Ana slaps Jimmy across the shoulder.

Jimmy looks sheepishly at the Jew and Arab.

JIMMY

I didn't have an image of the Gates of Heaven. Sorry.

The Arab moves toward Jimmy with open arms and speaks softly.

ARAB

It's okay, kid, as long as you believe.

LUCAS

I don't think he believes in...!

The Jew and Arab stop Lucas by placing their hands over his mouth. They are in shock.

JIMMY

I never said that!

The Arab and the Jew have a sidebar conversation, but everyone hears them.

JEW

I don't have a good feeling about them.

Lucas smiles, as Ana and Jimmy frown.

ARAB

I think we should give them a shot.

JEW

A shot? Truth serum like sodium pentothal? Flu shot? Penicillin?

ARAB

A test!

JEW

A test? Multiple choice or essay?

ARAB

No! A chance. A second chance! An opportunity!

Ana and Jimmy smile.

The Jew and Arab face Ana and Jimmy, holding up their Pickleball rackets.

JEW & ARAB

We need a day off.

ARAB

And if you fail...

JEW

You go to Hell. Simple as that!

ARAB

But Jimmy doesn't believe in Hell.

The Jew is shocked.

JEW  
That's terrible!

Ana and Jimmy's eyes open in fright.

ANA  
But we're only here for a few more  
minutes.

Jew speaks in slow-motion.

JEW  
Time slows here, remember?

ARAB  
Just boss around the PAs, work a  
few case files...  
(glances at the two doors)  
Might influence your chances of  
getting into Heaven!

Ana and Jimmy stare at each other.

They look down to see their chairs are currently on the dark  
side of the room.

They stare at the door the Devil came out of.

JIMMY & ANA  
We'll do it!

Jimmy and Ana look into each other's eyes and share a moment.

The Arab and Jew cheer wildly, waving their Pickleball  
rackets.

Jimmy and Ana are still looking into each other's eyes.

JIMMY  
Looks like we're in this together.

ANA  
No other choice, is there? Killed  
each other. Least we could do!

ARAB  
And these kids haven't had a coffee  
break since...

The Arab points to Maui's desk plaque.

ARAB (CONT'D)  
1831.



The Jew steps over to point at Lucas's desk plaque.

JEW

And 1591.

ARAB

So give them a freakin' coffee break!

JEW

Back in 24 hours.

The Jew and Arab look at the clock.

ARAB

About one minute by your clock.

JEW

Hate to meet and run.

Thunder roars and the lights go out.

The Jew and Arab voices sound far away.

JEW & ARAB (V.O.)

Bye-bye now.

The lights come on. Jimmy is sitting at Lucas's desk. Ana is sitting at Maui's desk.

Lucas and Maui are back at the refreshments table grabbing cupcakes and coffee (in cups and saucers).

Maui grabs an angel food cupcake and smiles at Ana and Jimmy.

MAUI

Better get started. Look at those case files and make your recommendation.

Ana is puzzled at her desk when she sees Ten Case Files in the "In Box," and Two Out Boxes marked "Prime Real Estate" and "Hold." There are two case files in the "Hold" box.

Jimmy's eyes are wide open as he looks down to see Ten Case Files in the "In Box," and Two Out Boxes marked "Fried" and "Extra Crispy."

Lucas waves a devil's food cupcake at Jimmy and laughs.

LUCAS

Boss prefers extra crispy.

Jimmy is paralyzed.

JIMMY  
I can't do this!

LUCAS  
Why not?

JIMMY  
I don't believe in it, remember?

Maui laughs.

MAUI  
Hitlers of the world gotta go  
somewhere, don't they?

Ana stands angrily.

ANA  
I agree, but I can't judge people.

Lucas races up to between the two desks. He's half in the light, and half in the dark, and he holds out his hands to the side, like Jesus on the cross. He sounds like an angel this time.

LUCAS  
You're making recommendations!  
That's all! We've handled millions  
of case files! They'd never let a  
PA make eternal decisions! Don't be  
wimpy!

Maui licks chocolate frosting from her fingers in the back of the room. She has a Devilish tone as she seductively approaches Jimmy.

MAUI  
Try the dark side of our business,  
won't you? The St. Peters said it  
might influence your chances of  
getting into Heaven!

Lucas strides seductively behind Ana and caresses her arms. Ana glances at Lucas's muscular arms, and instinctively moans in pleasure.

Jimmy looks over toward Ana stunned.

LUCAS  
Taking our jobs for a while  
relieves a lot of tension and  
stress, kind of like...

Lucas caresses Ana more, and she responds with cooing sounds.

Jimmy looks ahead to see Maui leaning down to him so her cleavage is in full view.

Maui speaks in a sexy voice.

MAUI

What can we ever do to thank you?

Ana and Jimmy shake their heads quickly as if to snap out of a daydream.

The room goes dark for an instant.

When the lights turn back on, Maui and Lucas are in the back of the room sipping cups of coffee and flirting with Ana and Jimmy from afar.

Ana makes eye contact with Jimmy. Both look embarrassed.

ANA

I... I guess I could glance at a couple of files.

Lucas winks at Ana.

JIMMY

I could give it a try.

Maui's lips form a quick kiss to Jimmy.

Ana and Jimmy bury their heads in their first case files.

Ana is in agonizing psychological pain after a short read.

ANA

I've got what looked like a no-brainer. Doctor who worked 16-hour days fighting the pandemic, his vacations were on Doctors Without Boarder trips to war-torn countries, and he donated most of his income to charities.

Jimmy looks over perplexed.

JIMMY

Prime real estate?

Ana turns sad.

ANA

Then he coveted his neighbor's wife and died of a heart attack after she said yes! Lousy way to go!

JIMMY

Lousy time to go! Couldn't they  
have given him seven more minutes?

Ana is furious.

ANA

You missed the point, moron! That's  
one of the Ten Commandments!

JIMMY

He never did it!

ANA

But he thought about it, and so did  
she! Can't reward him with Prime  
Real Estate now!

Ana tosses the file in the Hold box.

Jimmy is perplexed, looks away and mumbles.

JIMMY

I could be in serious trouble.

Lucas sneers at Maui.

LUCAS

Not that easy to stay pure as the  
driven snow, is it, Maui?!

Maui attacks Lucas with punches and slaps.

MAUI

It was a hundred and ninety years  
ago!

Lucas laughs, easily fending off Maui's attacks.

LUCAS

Not up to me, killer!

Jimmy jumps between Maui and Lucas.

JIMMY

Break it up!  
(to Maui)  
What did he mean, killer?

Maui holds back tears, as she points to the "Hold" box on  
Ana's desk.

Ana sees the three files, and lifts out Maui's file.

ANA  
The Hold box?

Lucas, Maui, and Jimmy surround Ana as she opens the file, to an antique glass-plate photograph of Maui's naked backside.

ANA (CONT'D)  
Wow! You?

Maui nods 'yes.'

JIMMY  
How did your file get in the Hold box?

Maui paces as she retells the story.

MAUI  
New York City, 1831, 22 years old, and a preacher's daughter with this body. Daddy said I sent more boys to Hell for coveting than he could count.

JIMMY  
I could imagine.

Ana glares at Jimmy.

ANA  
Better not or you'll suffer the same fate.

MAUI  
I was crossing West 82nd into Seneca Village, a black neighborhood in what's now Central Park. I was in my Sunday dress and bonnet, when a rich white man called me by my nickname.

LUCAS  
Totally your fault!

MAUI  
Shut up, Lucas.  
(beat)  
Man chased me into the street and started groping me and fondling me.

Maui rubs her body with her hands in a sensual way that drives Jimmy wild with desire.

LUCAS  
Tell 'em your nickname.

MAUI  
Shut up, Lucas.  
(beat)  
I was struggling to break free when  
a team of four horses and a fire  
carriage and screaming men raced  
toward us.

ANA  
You didn't hear them approaching?

MAUI  
I was fighting for my honor!

LUCAS  
You mean, your chastity! Tell 'em  
your nickname.

MAUI  
Shut up, Lucas.  
(beat)  
I finally broke free. The man fell  
back and he was trampled to death  
by the horses and fire carriage.  
Judge blamed me for strutting  
around like a highfalutin Jezebel.  
Can you imagine the headlines?

JIMMY  
Miscarriage of justice?

Lucas laughs.

LUCAS  
Man takes one for the team?

Jimmy laughs and snaps his fingers like he gets it.

JIMMY  
Man killed by the Virgin Maui?

Lucas laughs and gives Jimmy two thumbs up.

MAUI  
I led a pure, honest life as a  
Sunday school teacher.

Ana holds up the glass plate photograph of Maui with a look  
of disbelief.

Maui winks at Jimmy.

MAUI (CONT'D)

And side jobs as a model to pay the bills.

Jimmy drools at the glass plate photograph.

MAUI (CONT'D)

So there I sit in the Hold box until the Big Boss reviews my case.

Lucas laughs.

LUCAS

And he's probably out playing Pickleball too!

Maui flirts with Jimmy, while Ana glares at him.

MAUI

Unless one of you puts my file in the Prime Real Estate box.

ANA

We have that power?

Lucas flirts with Ana.

LUCAS

Some may call it responsibility or duty.

(suddenly angry)

After 500 years, I pray some of us get the justice we deserve!

Thunder roars and the lights flicker.

Maui attacks Lucas again, punching and slapping him.

MAUI

They hate it when their Pickleball games are interrupted for selfish prayers.

(whiny voice)

Dear God, spare me from cancer!  
Make my Dodgers win the World Series. Grant me that Prime Real Estate deal you promised me?

Ana jumps between Maui and Lucas to break up the fight, and she turns to Maui in a serious tone.

ANA

They promised you Prime Real Estate  
if you worked for them here for a  
while?

Lucas laughs.

LUCAS

For a while! Try 500 years!

Jimmy gets in Lucas's face.

JIMMY

They can keep you here forever?

Lucas trudges over and collapses in the chair on the dark  
side of the room, while the others look on sadly.

LUCAS

Beats one of the two alternatives.

Lucas stares at the door to Hell.

Ana, Jimmy, and Maui slowly track Lucas's eyes to the door.  
Ana speaks slowly and sadly.

ANA

We had no idea.

Lucas stands and walks to the middle of the room, and puts  
his arms out like Jesus, and looks up to Heaven.

LUCAS

Five centuries ago, I was a young  
Dominican novitiate, Father Lucas  
Francisco Fernando Waldo Perez.

JIMMY

Waldo?

Ana elbows Jimmy for interrupting.

LUCAS

Mi Mama had a sense of humor. Said  
all priests looked alike. Could  
never find me in the monastery.

MAUI

Go on! Tell them what you did.

Lucas glares at Maui.



LUCAS

I was assigned to work for the Castilian friar, Dominican Tomás de Torquemada, the first and the most feared Grand Inquisitor in all of Spain.

Ana and Jimmy gasp. Maui is filing her fingernails in boredom.

MAUI

Heard it!

Lucas snarls at Maui.

LUCAS

They haven't.

Maui points to the clock, which reads one-minute and twenty seconds have passed.

MAUI

Make it quick. Don't have all day!

Ana and Jimmy glance at the clock, worried.

LUCAS

Father Tomás was the cruelest person who ever lived! He tortured every non-Catholic he could find. Hot pokers in the eyes, metal spikes in the feet...

(beat)

He would have played accordion music if he had it.

Ana and Jimmy's eyes open widely in fright.

ANA

Accordion music? What could be worse?

JIMMY

The cowbell is pretty annoying.

Lucas ignores them and keeps talking.

LUCAS

Father Tomás dragged us around the country torturing, killing, or deporting pagans, Moors, Jews, homosexuals, and even actors.

JIMMY

Actors?

LUCAS

Only those who flubbed their lines.

JIMMY & ANA

(relieved)

Oh!

MAUI

Tell them what you did!

Lucas sadly lowers his arms.

LUCAS

It's what I didn't do.

(beat)

I didn't speak up! I didn't try to stop him.

Jimmy paces.

JIMMY

You can be put in the Hold box for not doing something?

Ana also paces.

ANA

Not reporting a crime! Not helping the sick!

JIMMY

Not stopping lying political advertisements on TV!

LUCAS

I did nothing to stop one of the vilest men in history.

MAUI

Devil was glad to get him!

Jimmy points a finger in the air like a great orator.

JIMMY

I believe it was Dante who said, "The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who in a period of moral crisis maintain their neutrality."

Lucas looks sadder.

Ana strides angrily to Jimmy and pushes him.

ANA

He never said that or wrote that!  
He's been misquoted by dozens of  
religious scholars, Theodore  
Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy.

Lucas smiles slightly.

LUCAS

Really?

ANA

He said something like, "Those  
sorry souls live without disgrace  
or praise. They commingle with the  
coward angels, those who were not  
rebels nor faithful to their God."

Lucas looks away.

ANA (CONT'D)

It was clear that Dante was  
profoundly disappointed in people  
who remained silent or neutral when  
it counted.

(beat)

Ambivalent.

(beat)

Cowardly.

LUCAS

Okay! I get it!

MAUI

Not in Heaven or in Hell?

LUCAS

The Green Room? Forever?

Ana comforts Lucas.

ANA

Maybe just until you do a  
courageous act to prove your  
loyalty and devotion to the Big  
Boss in a time of crisis!

Lucas pauses and looks up to the Heavens.

JIMMY

What about Maui?

Lucas and Jimmy stare sadly at Maui.

Ana gets in Maui's face, confronting her.

ANA

I think there's something she's not  
telling us!

Maui counters with an evil stare.

MAUI

If you two don't work through more  
of those case files, there will be  
Hell to pay.

Thunder roars and the lights flicker.

The lights go out.

When the lights come on, Ana and Jimmy are looking at case  
files with Lucas and Maui looking over their shoulders.

They all HEAR a coffee cup and saucer hit the floor and  
shatter.

The all look up to see an old, HOMELESS MAN (70; a Native  
Alaskan-type with his back to them) cramming a devil's food  
cupcake in his mouth. He wears a dirty, ragged hoodie  
sweatshirt, un-matching sweatpants, un-matching tennis shoes,  
and an LA Angels baseball cap.

JIMMY & ANA

No!

The man stops eating in fear, as Jimmy and Ana race to him.

Jimmy yanks the devil's food cupcake out his hand while Ana  
replaces it with an angel food cupcake. They talk loudly.

JIMMY

You should try the angel food  
cupcakes.

ANA

Who are you? How did you get here?

The Homeless Man turns and stares at Ana and Jimmy, before  
focusing on Lucas and Maui who are looking at their own  
bodies and hands, and surprised their looks haven't changed.

HOMELESS MAN

Not deaf, just hungry. Are these  
cupcakes free?

MAUI  
Everything's free. Take what you  
want.

Lucas and Maui join them in the back of the room with  
perplexed looks.

Lucas turns to Maui.

LUCAS  
We didn't change at all.

MAUI  
He had no pre-conceived notions  
about what we might look like, so  
we still look like how Ana and  
Jimmy see us.

The Homeless Man looks at Maui like she's crazy.

Jimmy puts an arm around the Homeless Man.

JIMMY  
What's the last thing you remember?

HOMELESS MAN  
You putting your arm around me?

ANA  
Before that?

The Homeless Man points to Maui.

HOMELESS MAN  
She was talking.  
(beat)  
But I wasn't listening.

LUCAS  
What's your name? You look  
homeless?

The Homeless Man glares at Lucas's dress code.

HOMELESS MAN  
You look like a deranged stripper!

Lucas glares at Jimmy and Ana as the Homeless Man examines  
Maui, Ana, and Jimmy.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)  
Uh huh! Don't trust any of you!

He grabs the devil's food cupcake back from Jimmy's hand.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)  
Should never waste food.

POOF! A case file appears on Maui's/Ana's desk, and Maui and Ana race to see who gets their first.

They read the file together.

MAUI  
No I.D. yet.

Ana turns sad.

ANA  
Poor thing. Location says a highway underpass in L.A.

Maui fights back tears.

MAUI  
Often seen in the company of a female veteran in a desert combat uniform.

The Homeless Man lights up.

HOMELESS MAN  
Shanice!

JIMMY  
Shanice?

HOMELESS MAN  
Got out of the Army but couldn't find a job or a home, so I took her in. Hope she's okay.

LUCAS  
You worry about her?

HOMELESS MAN  
We look out for each other, but she needed more looking out for.

ANA  
How come?

The Homeless Man laughs.

HOMELESS MAN  
Said whatever she was thinking. Really funny. No filter. Cops hated her!

MAUI

Why?

HOMELESS MAN

Cop would ask why she didn't take me to a shelter. Shanice would say, "Why don't we all go to your house?"

The Homeless Man laughs. Everyone else smiles weakly.

Jimmy sneaks away to whisper to Ana.

JIMMY

How did he, you know?

Ana whispers.

ANA

Those gathered around him reported he was laughing to fight off hypothermia in the freezing rain, and his best friend Shanice had wandered off somewhere.

Jimmy looks back sadly at the Homeless Man, who is shivering.

HOMELESS MAN

I'm cold.

POOF! A Hudson Bay Indian blanket appears on Maui's desk.

Maui races to the Homeless Man with the blanket to wrap around him.

MAUI

Let's warm you right up!

She hugs the little Homeless Man.

ANA

You're safe here.

POOF! A cot with a pillow and a sleeping bag appears on the lighted side of the room against the wall.

LUCAS

Make yourself comfortable, old-timer. Need anything and we'll all do the best we can to help.

HOMELESS MAN

Cardboard box?

They all look around puzzled, because a box doesn't suddenly appear.

MAUI

Huh? That's weird.

The Homeless Man, with the blanket around him, shuffles over to the cot and pulls off the pillow and the sleeping bag.

He shuffles back to the refreshments table, and shoves the pillow and sleeping bag under the tablecloth (that reaches to the floor). He looks back to everyone and smiles.

HOMELESS MAN

This will do. I think I'll take a nap. Thanks for the food and shelter.

As he crawls under the table, he grabs another devil's food cupcake and disappears.

Maui, Lucas, Ana and Jimmy smile, and return to work.

ANA

Can't imagine a tougher life for a grandfather.

JIMMY

Great-grandfather, I bet.

LUCAS

How could he stay so positive?

MAUI

My grandparents were slaves, but they stayed positive because they had faith.

Jimmy pauses to think.

ANA

Wonder how many minutes he has.

JIMMY

I hope he has warm thoughts!

MAUI

I'd say he deserves Prime Real Estate.

Lucas giggles.



LUCAS

Sure went for the devil's food, but  
I like him!

Everyone nods yes in agreement.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Ana? Jimmy? I'm not complaining,  
mind you. But think you can change  
your image of me in your minds?

POOF! Lucas is dressed in stylish Hollywood clothes with nice shoes.

He looks at himself and approves.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Thanks. Didn't want the Homeless  
Man to be afraid of me after his  
nap.

Ana, Maui, and Jimmy smile at Lucas.

Maui winks at Lucas.

MAUI

Lookin' fine, Lucas. And I'm  
talkin' 'bout your insides!

Everyone smiles again.

Jimmy reads through a case file.

JIMMY

Still stuck on the doctor. I  
shouldn't have to choose between  
fried and extra crispy for a man  
who devoted his life to others,  
probably saved thousands of lives.

MAUI

The coveting guy? Burn in...

Ana confronts Maui.

ANA

That's because you were coveted,  
but his was consensual.

Lucas laughs.

LUCAS

His wife probably didn't think so!

JIMMY

If a guy is mostly good, we should  
cut him a break.

Jimmy looks over at Maui and Ana.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Have we got anything in the  
suburbs?

Ana is curious too.

ANA

Tract home? Nice trailer park?

JIMMY

He'd probably take a tiny home in  
the right location!

MAUI & LUCAS

No!

MAUI

If he goes into the Hold box,  
you're just kicking the can down  
the road.

LUCAS

Bosses like recommendations.

MAUI

Bet the Devil wants him in Hell!

Jimmy marches the file over to Ana's desk.

JIMMY

One little coveting mistake! If  
this guy can't get into Heaven,  
Heaven must be the loneliest place  
in the world!

Jimmy slams the case file into the Prime Real Estate box.

Thunder roars and the lights flicker.

The lights go out.

ANA (V.O.)

What is it now?

The lights go on and the Devil appears by her door.

She cracks her whip at Ana and Jimmy.

Lucas sees that the tip of the Homeless Man's blanket is sticking out from under the table, and he starts shuffling toward the back of the room.

The angry Devil stomps up to Ana and Jimmy, as Maui backs away.

DEVIL

I hope these two long-time losers,  
Maui and Lucas, aren't letting  
y'all man their desks!

Ana and Jimmy have difficulty speaking.

JIMMY

I... we...

ANA

We... I...

The Devil glares at Maui.

MAUI

They were helping out. We're a  
little short-staffed.

Lucas pushes the blanket under the refreshments table with his foot.

The Devil cracks her whip at Lucas.

DEVIL

Talk about short-staffed! I've seen  
y'all in the shower!

Lucas's hands cover his crotch as he shuffles back to take his desk.

The Devil sees the Doctor's case file in the Prime Real Estate box and stomps around in a tirade.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

That philandering physician was  
mine! You had no right to move him.

Lucas puts his head down.

Maui speaks nervously.

MAUI

We just thought, nobody's  
perfect...

The Devil cracks her whip at Maui.

DEVIL  
 Silence, Killer, or I'll have you  
 trampled by teams of burning horses  
 for eternity the minute you lose  
 your job!

Ana and Jimmy step back.

The Devil confronts Ana and Jimmy.

DEVIL (CONT'D)  
 Don't think for a minute that doing  
 one tiny good deed is going to save  
 y'all from vehicular manslaughter!

JIMMY  
 What?

ANA  
 Vehicular manslaughter?

The Devil laughs maniacally and parades around the room.

DEVIL  
 Police report was finalized.  
 Y'all's families will be suing each  
 other for years, dragging out  
 y'all's self-inflicted stupidity  
 for decades.

Ana and Jimmy look sad.

DEVIL (CONT'D)  
 Nobody wins.  
 (beat)  
 But me!

The Devil points to the clock that reads two minutes have  
 passed.

DEVIL (CONT'D)  
 Lot of y'all don't make it the full  
 three minutes.

Ana and Jimmy look horrified at the clock.

The Devil laughs maniacally and marches back to her door.

She turns before she exits.

DEVIL (CONT'D)  
 Maybe I'll have y'all crash into  
 each other forever as a sign that  
 some people never learn!

LUCAS  
(mumbles)  
That's mean.

The Devil hits Lucas with the handle of the whip.

DEVIL  
And you, you pathetic loser, will  
be on the side of the road unable  
to wave or scream to warn them.  
(to all of them)  
Y'all are just weak and pathetic  
losers forever!

Thunder roars and the lights flicker before the room goes dark.

JIMMY (V.O.)  
She is really unpleasant.

LUCAS (V.O.)  
But great casting, huh?

DEVIL (V.O.)  
I heard that!

When the lights come on, the Devil is gone.

The mood is sullen.

Ana and Jimmy trudge to the two chairs in the dark side of the room and collapse into them.

Maui returns to her seat and sulks, as Lucas does in his chair.

ANA  
One minute left.

JIMMY  
If we're lucky.

LUCAS  
Our fate isn't much better.

MAUI  
When the St. Peters see how few  
case files we've completed, we'll  
probably be terminated!  
(beat)  
In more ways than one.

Lucas looks up, terrified.

LUCAS

That means...

JIMMY

No more coffee breaks?

Lucas glances back at the door to Hell before looking sadly at Ana and Jimmy.

LUCAS

Helplessly watching you die over  
and over.

ANA

I regret not making time to  
reflect, repent, apologize, and say  
our last good-byes.

Jimmy never looks up.

JIMMY

Regrets are like eating celery.

ANA

How so?

JIMMY

It takes more energy to eat celery,  
than you get from celery!

Lucas snickers at the comment.

Ana glares at Jimmy.

ANA

You don't regret anything?  
Distracted driving? Vehicular  
manslaughter?

Jimmy glances at Maui.

JIMMY

I regret "falling in like," and not  
taking the time to fall in love.

Maui smiles at Jimmy.

MAUI

That's actually quite profound!

Ana stands and glares at Maui.

ANA

Disturbing if you ask me.  
Demonstrates a personal history of  
selfishness, shallow behavior, and  
total lack of commitment.

Jimmy snickers.

JIMMY

That's what you told your ex? Maybe  
he wasn't after ten years to life  
with a nurse stick in the mud.

LUCAS

This is getting good!

Maui glares at Lucas.

MAUI

What do you know, Lucas? You were a  
priest!

LUCAS

What does the Virgin Maui know?  
Except for the nude modeling part,  
you might as well been made of  
porcelain!

Maui and Lucas go at it again with slapping and punching.

Ana's anger intensifies.

ANA

I saw the police report on Maui's  
computer. Burger and fries, bottles  
of booze, and continual texting.

JIMMY

Hands-free, audio-command  
messaging!

ANA

Only 'cause you needed three hands  
to eat and drink!

Jimmy gets up to break up the fight, and Maui runs to hug  
him.

MAUI

Lucas has never understood me!

Jimmy can't see that Maui is eyeing Ana with wry smile.

Ana hops up and races to comfort Lucas with a hug.

Jimmy can see Lucas's sincere smile, and sigh of relief.

LUCAS  
I've waited centuries for a hug  
like this.

ANA  
Centuries?

LUCAS  
I was a priest. Don't hug. Looks  
bad.

Lucas panics and pushes Ana an arm's-length away, as Ana glares at Maui.

ANA  
You mean, all this time, you and  
Maui never...

Jimmy eyes Maui.

JIMMY  
Lucas is a monument to self-denial!

MAUI  
We see case files. Very few people  
who are almost-deads. You got three-  
to five-minutes max!

ANA  
But time slows...

Ana and Jimmy look at the clock to see they have 45 seconds left to reach three minutes.

LUCAS  
Guess we should tell you, we've  
never seen anyone make it beyond  
three minutes.

Maui races back to slap and punch Lucas.

MAUI  
How could you tell them that? Burst  
a hole in their balloon, why don't  
you!

Lucas paces in a tirade.

LUCAS  
Maui, you remember Krakatoa! August  
1883, the eruption that killed more  
than 36,000 people!



MAUI

We were busy that day! Entire  
villages of almost-deads and they  
suffocated slowly from the ash.

LUCAS

Then, KABOOM! It blew, and everyone  
in the Green Room except us  
disappeared.

MAUI

All the case files and everything!

LUCAS

Worse after Hiroshima and Nagasaki,  
1945!

MAUI

That radiation stuff fried their  
brains almost instantly.

LUCAS

Never seen so many case files in  
one day, before or since.

MAUI

Big Boss doesn't take kindly to  
war!

LUCAS

Thou shalt not kill!

Ana stops Lucas with a dire look.

ANA

No exceptions? Self-defense?  
Justifiable homicide?  
(sad)  
Car accidents?

Maui and Lucas shake their heads no.

Ana fights back tears and Jimmy pouts.

ANA (CONT'D)

Thou shalt not kill. No conditional  
clauses? Under any circumstances?

MAUI

None mentioned in writing.

JIMMY

But it was an accident! They don't  
call them on-purposes!

ANA

What about fate? What were the odds Jimmy's car would cross the double-yellow line at the same time and place that mine did?

MAUI

Ever consider that both of you could have caused separate accidents and there would have been more of you here?

LUCAS

Maybe an entire family or two?

Ana and Jimmy turn sad and look away.

JIMMY

There goes my insanity defense!

Maui points to the clock.

MAUI

You're wasting time. Remember, few almost-deads have lasted the full three minutes.

Jimmy pleads with Maui and Lucas.

JIMMY

But it's possible, right?

ANA

(sad)

But not probable. That's what you're saying.

JIMMY

We kept hearing three-to-five minutes when we first got here.

Maui rolls her eyes in disgust.

MAUI

Nothing we can do. However, you were both young and healthy.

Lucas eyes Ana.

LUCAS

Very physically fit!

(laughs)

'Cept for those head injuries.

Ana and Jimmy feel their heads.

MAUI

Many brains stop when the heart  
does. You're lucky to have lasted  
this long.

Ana pleads with Maui.

ANA

Can't you put our files in the  
Prime Real Estate box in case  
something... you know... happens to  
us?

LUCAS

You're in charge, so we can't do  
it.

MAUI

And neither of you can do it 'cause  
of the conflict of interest clause.

JIMMY

The what?

Maui points to the back wall, where the fuzzy home movies are  
interrupted by a video Public Service Announcement from the  
two St. Peters.

ARAB

Remember Maui and Lucas, maintain  
social distancing and wear a...

JEW

Not that PSA!

ARAB

Oh, yeah. No personal assistant may  
work a case file involving a friend  
or relative.

JEW

Or fellow personal assistant.

ARAB

Or anyone who has ever been a  
personal assistant.

JEW

Nor can they join our pickleball  
league.

Ana and Jimmy are stunned as the back wall returns to fuzzy home movies.

JIMMY & ANA  
We're screwed.

JIMMY  
Worse off than the homeless guy!

They all look back to the refreshment table covered by a long tablecloth.

Maui and Lucas panic and race to the back of the room, followed by Ana and Jimmy.

MAUI  
Oh no!

LUCAS  
Better be there!

Maui slowly lifts up the tablecloth.

The Homeless man is gone.

Lucas storms to the Devil's door.

LUCAS (CONT'D)  
She took him!

MAUI  
Can't be sure!

LUCAS  
When the lights went out, and she disappeared.

JIMMY  
I don't think so!

ANA  
I do. Lost souls. Vulnerable. No legal defense team.

MAUI  
Lost souls do have a way of disappearing.

LUCAS  
Yes, they do.

Jimmy paces angrily.

JIMMY

I don't believe it. Don't believe in the Devil. Don't believe in Hell, and sure don't believe that poor and homeless people end up...

(beat)

Ya know, there!

MAUI

If the Boss finds out you lost someone to the Devil...

Maui raises a finger, inspired.

MAUI (CONT'D)

His file! Let's check his file!

They look through every file on the two desks.

ANA

Not here!

LUCAS

Not here! I told you! She's got him for sure! Probably took his file too. You are in a world of hurt if the Saint Peter's find out.

JIMMY

Will they get angry-angry, or just angry?

ANA

Are you stupid-stupid, or just stupid?

Maui steps in before the fight escalates.

Maui pats Jimmy and Ana on the shoulders.

MAUI

No file, no evidence.

JIMMY

Evidence?

LUCAS

That he existed! Even if for a few minutes!

Everyone looks sad, until Jimmy perks up.

JIMMY

Evidence! Sand!

Jimmy races to his seat on the dark side of the room and unties his tennis shoes.

He slips off his shoes and pours out sand.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You see! I existed! I walked on the beach at sunset.

Ana is curiously jealous.

ANA

With someone?

JIMMY

No. Alone. But all I kept thinking about was a girl.

MAUI

What girl?

JIMMY

I don't know.

Jimmy looks back at the fuzzy home movies.

Ana walks up behind Jimmy and looks at the fuzzy beach scene.

EXT. BEACH - SUNSET

Jimmy walks alone on the beach looking for someone.

JIMMY

I was just walking on the beach.  
Killing time.

(beat)

Killing time? I'll never use that lame expression again.

ANA (V.O.)

I know, right?

(excited)

Hey, I know that beach!

(mumbles)

Not far from my house.

(beat)

The words my house never sounded so good.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I know, right.

Jimmy keeps walking until he sees a girl (Ana, wearing a cute top and shorts) sitting on the beach, fighting back tears, and staring at her phone.

JIMMY (V.O.)  
I saw a girl further down the beach.

LUCAS (V.O.)  
Dude, did you go up to her and try to make out?

MAUI (V.O.)  
Call out to her at least?

JIMMY (V.O.)  
Saw she was sad.

LUCAS (V.O.)  
That's it?

MAUI (V.O.)  
Didn't try to comfort her?

ANA (V.O.)  
Wouldn't have done any good. It was me.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jimmy and Ana stare at a blank green wall as the fuzzy home movies stop. Lucas and Maui are behind them.

JIMMY  
Huge mistake.

MAUI  
Missed opportunity.

LUCAS  
Might have saved both your lives.

Ana spins, angry at Lucas.

ANA  
You don't know that!

JIMMY

He's right. If I would have talked to you that night, maybe, just maybe, you wouldn't have been driving to see your ex tonight, and I could have hit a tree in a single car accident.

ANA

Maybe you would've been driving to see me instead of going to some silly party.

MAUI

Like on a date?

LUCAS

Then he wouldn't be eating a hamburger in the car, probably with onions and extra catsup.

Lucas points to Jimmy's catsup stain and attempts to fist-bump him, but he's busy thinking.

Jimmy paces sadly and stops at his chair on the dark side of the room. He collapses in it.

JIMMY

Relationships never panned out for me. Ana is right. I have a long personal history of selfishness, shallow behavior, and total lack of commitment.

Ana, Maui, and Lucas surround Jimmy.

LUCAS

Tons of girlfriends? In little tiny swimsuits?

Jimmy glances at Lucas then looks away.

JIMMY

I worked construction. Finish work on new houses in the valley, and big remodeling projects.

MAUI

Surrounded by macho men all day.

JIMMY

Exactly! We worked long days and they went home to their wives and kids.



LUCAS  
You went to bars and nightclubs?

JIMMY  
I went home to a nice apartment,  
watched old movies, and went to  
sleep.

ANA  
I like old movies.

MAUI  
No place to meet people.

JIMMY  
Thought about going to college.

LUCAS  
To become a chauffeur?

JIMMY  
To study philosophy. Why do we  
believe the things we do? Why are  
we here?  
(looks around)  
Not here, here. Here! Know what I  
mean?

ANA  
Yes.

Lucas and Maui are shaking their heads, 'no.'

JIMMY  
Anyway, my friends were going to  
hook me up at the party I was  
heading to.

MAUI  
But you sabotaged the night with  
onions and catsup!

Jimmy glances at Ana.

JIMMY  
Maybe. Sometimes before a date, I'd  
eat three bowls of chili.

Ana, Maui, and Lucas take a step back.

Thunder roars and the lights flicker before the room goes  
dark.

A bright light shines and the high notes of a choir emanate from the door on the bright side of the room.

CHORUS (V.O.)

Ha.....

The Jew and the Arab trudge in carrying their Pickleball rackets. They are sweaty and in a sour mood.

JEW

No backhand. You got no backhand.

ARAB

You couldn't charge the net with a gold credit card!

JEW

Those elderly women were tough!

ARAB

Arms with wingspans like a seven-forty-seven.

They trudge to the refreshments table to the water container and don't make eye contact with Maui, Lucas, Ana and Jimmy.

MAUI

How was the game?

They turn to Maui and the group.

JEW & ARAB

Don't ask!

The Jew and Arab fill glasses of water.

ARAB

How were the new kids?

The Jew and Arab sip water and stare at Maui.

JEW

Work a lot of case files for you?

MAUI

Well...

ANA

Just getting the hang of it.

Lucas pretends to hang himself, which Jimmy sees.

JIMMY

Lots of distractions.

ARAB  
Like your driving?

Jimmy ignores the questions and playfully slaps the St. Peters on the shoulders.

JIMMY  
Did you win or lose?

The Jew and Arab are stunned.

Maui steps behind the Saint Peters to give Jimmy the cut-throat sign, but it's too late.

The Saint Peters approach Jimmy like lions on the prowl.

They stare curiously at Jimmy and Ana as Maui and Lucas step back.

ARAB  
Winning isn't everything!

JEW  
Not like we've had the time to practice.

LUCAS  
You've been stuck manning the Gates of Heaven. Or is it sainting the gates...

The Arab turns to the Jew.

ARAB  
We think they had private lessons.

The Jew nods in agreement.

JEW  
One of those old ladies had a Devil of a serve. Speaking of which, has she dropped by?

ARAB  
Princess of Darkness?

JEW  
Cruella de Vil?

ARAB  
Who gave her the whip?

Ana points to Jimmy.

JEW

And the...

The Jew cups his breasts.

Ana points to Jimmy again.

ARAB

Figures!

JEW

Any almost-deads show up while we  
were gone?

Jimmy and Ana hesitate before answering nervously.

JIMMY

Maybe one Eskimo dude.

Anna steps in to soften the news.

ANA

Poor, homeless Alaska Native.

Jimmy sneaks away and peeks under the refreshment table.

The St. Peter's stare at Jimmy.

ARAB

Who was he?

JEW

Can we see his case file?

Maui and Lucas race to their desks and thumb through the case  
files in near panic.

MAUI

Can't seem to find...

LUCAS

Not in this stack.

The St. Peters glare at Ana and Jimmy.

ARAB

We left you in charge!

Jimmy and Ana look away.

JIMMY

Almost eight billion people on  
Earth. Bound to misplace one...

Ana hits her forehead with her palm and mumbles.

ANA

Idiot!

The St. Peters approach Jimmy in a threatening manner. The Jew holds up one finger.

JEW

We've never lost one.

ARAB

Ever!

The St. Peters turn to the clock, which shows two and half minutes have passed.

Jimmy and Ana stare at the clock in fear.

JEW

I'd say you got thirty seconds!

ARAB

If that.

JEW

Could go any second!

ARAB

We suggest you find the lost soul.

Ana, Jimmy, Maui and Lucas all are wide-eyed in fear as they watch the St. Peters whisper to each other as they exit.

JEW

Time for a re-match with those cool-as-a-cucumber pickleballers?

ARAB

The Dinking Divas?

JEW

Better than our team name.

ARAB

The Pickled Peters?

They exit.

Ana and Jimmy return to their seats in the dark side of the room. They couldn't be gloomier.

JIMMY

How are we supposed to find the  
Native Alaskan if we can't leave  
the room?

ANA

And when were we supposed to have  
time to reflect, repent, apologize,  
and say our last good-byes?

They slump in their chairs even more and make eye contact.  
They share a sad moment.

Jimmy reaches his hands across to caress Ana's hands.

JIMMY

I'm so sorry for getting you into  
this mess. Can you ever forgive me?

ANA

Think I was equally at fault. Can  
you forgive me.

They both hold back tears.

Maui and Lucas go ballistic and pace around their desks.

MAUI

It's not our job to find your lost  
souls.

Lucas frantically stares back and forth at the two doors.

LUCAS

I'm in enough trouble as it is. I  
don't even know whose butt to kiss!

Thunder roars and the lights flicker before the room goes  
dark.

MAUI

Oh no! Not now!

LUCAS

She's... back...!

They hear a whip crack as the lights come on. The Devil has  
full attention in the room as Ana, Jimmy, Lucas, and Maui  
stand in the center of the room.

The Devil looks past the four youngsters to the back of the  
room.

DEVIL  
There y'all are!

The youngsters turn to see SHANICE KEELER (50s) an African-American female veteran in a ragged Desert Combat Uniform. She holds an orange-plastic prescription pill bottle in her hands, which she drops on the floor as her mouth drops open at the sight of the Devil.

SHANICE  
Where? Where am I?

The Devil pushes the crowd away as she stomps down to meet Shanice.

The youngsters whisper to each other.

ANA  
Must be Shanice.

JIMMY  
The Homeless Eskimo's friend?

ANA  
(angry)  
Native Alaskan!

MAUI  
She wasn't expected!

Lucas gets on his knees and bows to the Devil.

LUCAS  
By us!

DEVIL  
So nice of y'all to join us.

Shanice's eyes are wide open in panic.

SHANICE  
Wandered off from camp. Looking for  
my best friend!

The Devil puts an arm around Shanice and points to her door.

DEVIL  
We'll go find him together, if  
that'll make y'all happy!

Shanice looks around and eyes Maui first.

SHANICE  
Are you my daughter?

Maui shakes her head 'no' and looks away.

Shanice looks at Lucas bowing to the Devil.

SHANICE (CONT'D)  
That boy looks more lost than I do.

Shanice stares at Ana and Jimmy for a long moment.

SHANICE (CONT'D)  
Seen you two before.

The Devil pulls at Shanice's coat.

DEVIL  
Gotta get going, or we'll never  
find y'all's friend.

Shanice breaks free.

SHANICE  
On the beach!

Jimmy and Ana look confused, but smile weakly.

JIMMY  
The beach?

Shanice walks up to Jimmy and looks him in the eyes.

SHANICE  
I was working the garbage cans.

JIMMY  
I don't remem...

Jimmy stops, smiles, and nods 'yes.'

SHANICE  
You stopped to give me a hundred-  
dollar bill.

Ana smiles lovingly at Jimmy, and they share a moment.

ANA  
A random act of kindness.

The Devil pulls at Shanice's coat more forcefully, but Shanice breaks free again.

JIMMY  
Should have been more, but I was  
rushing to meet...



Shanice holds out a hand to Ana.

SHANICE  
This girl right here!

The Devil is angry, and pushes Shanice with the whip handle.

DEVIL  
Okay, get going! That's an order!

Shanice breaks free again, and turns angry.

SHANICE  
I don't take orders from you! I  
don't believe in you either!  
(points to Jimmy)  
Like that rich boy over there. I  
don't think he believes in...

JIMMY  
(interrupts)  
I never said...

SHANICE  
(interrupting)  
It's Christmas! Time for joy and  
celebration for everyone!

The Devil laughs and cracks her whip and points at the pill bottle.

DEVIL  
Joy and celebration? That why you  
took all those pills! Who wouldn't  
after the way you were treated?  
(yells)  
Nobody cares about you!

Lucas finds courage and steps between the Devil and Shanice.

LUCAS  
Jimmy cared about her! Gave her a  
hundred bucks!

The Devil glares at Lucas who begins to cower.

DEVIL  
Had about enough of you after 500  
years, Padre!

She takes one finger and pushes Lucas, who goes flying across the room into the refreshments table and things goes flying!

Lucas is covered with cupcake frosting.

Maui runs to help Lucas, and pulls him up.

Lucas licks frosting off his fingers.

MAUI

That was the bravest thing I've  
ever seen.

Jimmy and Ana look back at Maui and Lucas to see them kissing passionately and fondling each other's bodies.

JIMMY

After 190 years together? Finally  
gonna earn that 'Get outta Hell  
free card.'

ANA

That's the passion that's missing  
in my life!

Shanice screams and Maui breaks off a kiss.

They all turn toward the door to Hell.

The Devil drags Shanice by her hair, as Shanice screams.

DEVIL

Save it for the extra crispy ovens,  
y'all are a pill-popping low-life.  
They're gonna say it was suicide  
anyway.

Jimmy races to the back of the room, rooting through the cupcakes on the floor until he finds the pill bottle that Shanice dropped.

Jimmy reads the bottle.

JIMMY

Prescription for thirty pills.  
(to Ana)  
Ana, what would it tell you if most  
of the pills were still in here?

Jimmy frantically counts the pills.

ANA

That Shanice didn't commit suicide.

Jimmy finishes counting out loud.

JIMMY

Twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty!

SHANICE

Anti-depression pills. My best friend, the Alaskan, is bipolar.

ANA

There's irony for you!

DEVIL

I don't care if it was pills or exposure! Death brought her to me!

Ana thumbs through Shanice's case file.

ANA

Three tours in the Middle East before she snapped at her Commanding Officer and broke down about collateral damage.

The Devil laughs maniacally.

DEVIL

Killed innocent people. Too bad.

Jimmy confronts the Devil.

JIMMY

She was protecting our country!

The Devil lets go of Shanice and grabs Jimmy by the shirt with two hands.

DEVIL

You don't get it, do you! You killed somebody too. I'm coming for you next!

Ana runs to Jimmy to pull him away from the Devil, as Lucas pulls Shanice away from the fight.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

(to Ana)

And I'm coming for you, after I take him. Manslaughter! I love that compound word! Kinda like firebombing, gunrunning, warfare, and blackmail. They drum up business.

Shanice grabs her chest and collapses to the floor.

Lucas points and screams at the Devil.

LUCAS

She's dead! You killed her!

The Devil lets go of Jimmy and turns slowly to Shanice's lifeless body.

The Devil laughs maniacally.

DEVIL

Y'all mine now!

Thunder roars and the lights go out.

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - NIGHT

Jimmy is unconscious in bed and hooked up to every monitor possible, including electrodes around his bandaged scalp leading to an EEG monitor. He has an I.V. dripping a and blood transfusion. A clock on the wall reads, "12:04."

Ana, dressed in hospital scrubs and a n95 face mask, races into the room to see the heart monitor is flat.

She quickly checks Jimmy's pulse with one hand as she grabs her phone with the other.

ANA

Code blue, ICU room 237. Heart stopped, initiating CPR. Bring the crash cart.

Ana starts chest compressions, while looking at the monitors.

She glances at the whiteboard containing the patient's name "James Regan -- Jimmy" and nurses "Ana Santos, Maui Jackson, and Lucas Perez."

She speaks quickly to Jimmy, but in a compassionate way.

ANA (CONT'D)

I gotta talk fast. This room is gonna get very crowded fast.

(beat)

When they brought you in, E-R docs thought you were a goner. When we got you, I fought to be assigned to your room, 'cause I saw you on the beach earlier.

(looks away)

I was so lonely. Been in love, but never been loved back, and something about you.

(looks back to Jimmy)

(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)

You were conscious, but eyes were unfocused! Common for concussed patients. My best buddies Maui and Lucas hooked you up.

(laughs)

Not with me, silly! With the IV and monitors right before you conked out! Although Lucas thinks he left a bedpan under you. You'd know it if he did.

She looks at Jimmy's peaceful face.

ANA (CONT'D)

I saw you give a homeless guy some money, and it restored my faith in humanity after my scumbag boyfriend dumped me.

(whispers)

What kinda trouble are you in now, Jimmy? How long ago did your heart stop?

She continues with the chest compressions, while looking at the EEG.

ANA (CONT'D)

Mind is still ticking! Come back to me, Jimmy Regan!

Ana hears footsteps racing down the hall to the room.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

Shanice remains lifeless on the floor.

The Devil gloats in front of the door to Hell.

DEVIL

Time to pay the piper, bite the bullet, and face the music.

(beat)

We've got some of the worst musicians in the world down there including the Gas Breakers.

(sings)

And the road to Hell is paved with your own ass-faults."

Lucas, Jimmy, and Maui glare at the Devil, as Ana races in to check Shanice's pulse.

ANA  
No pulse. Initiate CPR!

DEVIL  
Ha! She's gone from almost-dead to  
newly-dead. Nothing you can do now!

Jimmy races in and kneels by Shanice's head.

JIMMY  
I'll take breathing.

Ana expertly prepares to begin chest compressions as Maui and Lucas look puzzled.

MAUI  
What the...

The Devil tries to pull Ana and Jimmy away from Shanice.

DEVIL  
Forget it. Only works forty percent  
of the time. Not like the movies  
where it works 100% of the time.

Lucas and Maui pull the Devil back.

MAUI  
Let 'em try, whatever it is.

LUCAS  
Looks like medieval torture during  
the Inquisition. Hot pokers in the  
arms. Spiked clamps on the skull.  
Cold metal pans on your butt.

Everyone looks at Lucas curiously.

Thunder roars and the lights flicker before the room goes dark.

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - NIGHT

We see Jimmy with I.V.s in his arms, bandages and electrodes on his skill, and his torso raised a little higher than it should be from the bedpan.

Ana continues chest compressions while singing *Staying Alive* by the Bee Gees.

ANA  
Uh uh uh uh Stayin' alive, Stayin'  
alive...

The Devil enters the room followed by the Homeless Man. Both wearing scrubs and n95 masks. The Devil stands at the foot of the bed calmly giving orders to the Homeless Man.

DEVIL  
Airway. We need a bagger.

The Homeless Man grabs an air pump, stands at the head of the bed and places the mask part on Jimmy.

HOMELESS MAN  
Least I can do.

DEVIL  
(to Ana)  
Alarm never sounded on the heart monitor. Must have been those electric surges we've been getting. How long ago did his heart stop?

Ana keeps up the chest compressions.

ANA  
EEG still shows active brain activity. Three to five minutes is my guess.

The Devil smiles at Ana.

DEVIL  
What the heck is going through his mind?

The Devil looks at Jimmy.

DEVIL (CONT'D)  
Y'all would make a cute couple.

Another Nurse (Lucas, dressed in scrubs) races in the door pushing the "crash cart" (code blue cart). The Devil glares at Lucas.

DEVIL (CONT'D)  
Y'all a bit late!  
(beat)  
CPR line.

LUCAS  
Right away.

Lucas lines up behind Ana, as Maui races in wearing scrubs.

DEVIL  
(to Maui)  
CPR line.

As the Devil looks back out the door, Lucas reaches under Jimmy's butt and pulls out a bedpan.

As the Devil looks back at Lucas, he puts the bedpan behind his back.

DEVIL (CONT'D)  
What the heck was that?

Lucas shows her the bedpan.

LUCAS  
Thought the patient might need...

DEVIL  
(interrupting)  
Let's get him breathing first!

MAUI  
Poor thing! On the day he fell in love.

ANA  
What?

MAUI  
Mumbled something about you before he lost consciousness.

ANA  
He did?

MAUI  
Saint Ann, he called you. Boy was head over heels...

DEVIL  
(interrupts)  
Stay focused! Where the Hell are those doctors?

ANA  
You got this, Jimmy Regan!

The lights flicker. Lucas takes over for Ana doing compressions.



LUCAS

Spending quite a bit of time with this one. Didn't he wrap his car around a tree?

ANA

Yes. Babbling when they brought him in. Mostly incoherent.

Maui studies Lucas's poor chest compressions.

MAUI

Lucas, let a professional take over.

DEVIL

I agree.

Maui takes over for Lucas, who gets back in line behind Ana.

MAUI

You're gonna make it, Jimmy.

The Jew and Arab race into the room wearing scrubs and the same tennis shoes they wore with their pickleball outfits.

DEVIL

'Bout time. Ana started chest compressions at twelve-o-four. Thinks his heart quit three to five minutes earlier.

JEW

That's not good. Why didn't the alarm go off?

DEVIL

Rare Christmas thunderstorm. Power surges all night.

ARAB

CPR odds drop to less than ten percent.

(looks at the EEG monitor)  
EEG?

Ana takes over for Maui doing chest compressions.

ANA

Active EEG the whole time, but weakening fast.

ARAB

Huh? A fighter! Or a dreamer! Good either way. Let's give him a jolt!

The Arab holds up defibrillator paddles, and stands next to Jimmy's chest.

JEW

Always with the paddles. You'd think you'd be a better Pickleball player!

ARAB

If you had a backhand, we'd still be on the court!

JEW

Lucky for this guy you never charged the net.

Everyone rolls their eyes in disgust.

DEVIL

Okay, gentlemen. Stay focused. If he survives, it will be a miracle.

LUCAS

(to the Devil)

Thought you didn't believe in miracles.

DEVIL

(snaps back)

I never said that!

Ana looks worried.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

Ana and Jimmy continue to perform CPR on Shanice as Maui and Lucas look on worried.

The Devil sharpens her long, sharp fingernails with a carpenter's file as she looks at Ana's slightly exposed cleavage.

DEVIL

Wonder why TV shows have a lot of CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation scenes?

Lucas is defensive.

LUCAS

To save lives, silly.

The Devil points a finger at Lucas, and he goes tumbling backwards, and ends up in pain.

Maui rolls her eyes in disgust.

Ana tires of doing the compressions, and stops to take Shanice's pulse.

Jimmy, sitting on the floor holds Shanice's lifeless body. Ana, Maui, and Lucas surround Shanice.

The Devil starts to do a happy dance.

Ana drops her chin to her chest, and a darkness spreads across the room.

DEVIL

This ain't TV, y'all! Looks like I get to pick up another lost soul!

Jimmy stands and confronts the Devil.

JIMMY

Don't think so!

The Devil points one finger toward Jimmy's chest and steps to him with a maniacal laugh.

LUCAS

Careful! It's loaded!

JIMMY

I'm not afraid of you!

MAUI

(mumbles)

Watch out, Jimmy.

Jimmy paces and reasons with himself.

JIMMY

You see, in my mind, you don't exist.

Ana races to talk sense into Jimmy.

ANA

You know the story. Fallen angel with tons of power goes to the dark side...

Jimmy interrupts Ana calmly and addresses at Ana, Maui, and Lucas.

JIMMY

It's like that old joke in grammar school. Bunch of kids talking about how strong God must be, and one kid asks, "Could God create a rock so heavy that he can't lift it up?"

LUCAS

Huh?

The Devil is angry and yells.

DEVIL

Don't listen to him! He's in here for manslaughter!

Jimmy turns to Lucas.

JIMMY

Why would an all-knowing and all-powerful being create such a powerful enemy for eternity?

Ana turns to Jimmy worried, while Lucas remains confused.

ANA

Sounds like you don't believe in...

JIMMY

I never said that!

Ana slaps Jimmy across the face.

The Devil does another happy dance.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What was that for?

ANA

I don't know. Tonight was our first date.

JIMMY

You don't kill a girl you love on a first date...

The Devil listens with interest as Ana turns her back to Jimmy and interrupts him.

ANA

I spent the last minutes of my life  
with you, practically all night,  
and I still don't know what you  
believe!

Jimmy turns Ana around and is face-to-face, kissing close.

JIMMY

I believe nearly all people will do  
what's right, because it's the  
right thing to do.

Ana responds softly.

ANA

I do... too.

The Devil is angry again, and Maui and Lucas look worried.

JIMMY

I don't need the threat of eternal  
damnation to make the right  
choices.

DEVIL

Don't listen to him! He's lying!

ANA

And?

JIMMY

And I believe in love, and that  
life is short, and we should never  
pass up the opportunity to fall in  
love like I did on that beach!

MAUI

That goes without saying!

LUCAS

No, it didn't, he just said...

Maui slaps Lucas's arm.

JIMMY

That was the biggest mistake of my  
life, because if I was lucky enough  
to date you, I would have been  
smart enough not to drive  
distracted.

ANA

Maybe. Maybe not.

The Devil gets face-to-face with Ana.

DEVIL  
He can't be trusted. He killed  
y'all!

ANA  
Jimmy's right. They call them  
accidents, not on-purposes.

They look at the clock.

JIMMY  
After four minutes. We don't have  
much time.

Ana moves in for a kiss.

ANA  
Then don't waste any. Kiss me.

Jimmy hesitates.

LUCAS  
Kiss her, you fool.

MAUI  
Now!

DEVIL  
But he killed y'all!

Jimmy kisses her softly and for a long time.

JIMMY  
No more phone use in the car. No  
more eating while driving. I'm  
going to think of your safety and  
the safety of others.

A bright light shines and the high notes of a choir emanate  
from the door on the bright side of the room.

CHORUS (V.O.)  
Ha.....

The Devil paces in anger!

DEVIL  
They always ruin everything!

Maui and Lucas cheer.

MAUI & LUCAS

They're on their way!

DEVIL

(mimicking them)

They're on their way! They're on their way!

(glares at Jimmy and Ana)

I'll be back for the three of you.

JIMMY

No! You won't! You have to leave.  
Good will always conquer evil!  
There is no place for you in this world or the next! I'm not afraid of you.

The Devil moves into face-to-face with Jimmy and points to Shanice.

DEVIL

Someday y'all will need CPR, and some very human doctor or nurse will stand over y'all and admit you only got a ten- to twenty-percent chance of getting out of the hospital!

(points to Shanice)

Like her!

Jimmy is stunned and scared.

He turns to Ana.

JIMMY

Is that true?

Ana nods her head, "yes."

Thunder roars, the lights flicker, and the room goes dark.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - NIGHT

The lights flicker.

Maui is doing the chest compressions as the doctors and Devil watch the monitors and Jimmy.

DEVIL

Darn power surge again. We're losing him!

JEW & ARAB  
Don't give up!

Ana jumps in front of Maui to take over the chest compressions.

Ana glances at the Devil.

She whispers to Jimmy holding back tears.

ANA  
You heard 'em, Jimmy. Don't give up!

BACK TO:

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jimmy sits and holds Shanice in his arms.

Ana sits behind Jimmy, sadly staring at him.

Maui and Lucas kneel behind Ana, but stare sadly at Jimmy, who is fading in and out of consciousness.

LUCAS  
What's the matter, Jimmy?

JIMMY  
Tired, I guess.

Ana and Maui look back at the clock showing only fifteen seconds left until the five-minute end.

Thunder roars and the lights flicker before the room goes dark.

A bright light shines and the high notes of a choir emanate from the door on the bright side of the room.

CHORUS (V.O.)  
Ha.....

The Jew and the Arab stroll in smiling and laughing and carrying their Pickleball rackets. They are sweaty and in a great mood patting each other on the back.

ARAB  
Had to go back and fetch out paddles. We finally won a game!

JEW  
Taking the day off really paid off!



They stop and look around.

The refreshments table is upended and cupcakes are everywhere.

The folding chairs are knocked over.

They see Shanice is dead, and Jimmy is fading fast.

Ana, Maui, and Lucas look at the St. Peters sadly.

JEW (CONT'D)

O-M-G!

ARAB

What happened here?

ANA

Long story. No time to explain, we gotta save Jimmy.

MAUI

Shanice is, was, a homeless army vet with acts of war and collateral damage on her record.

LUCAS

Ana and Jimmy performed...

Lucas pumps his palms five times and blows out two puffs of air.

JIMMY

(weakly)

C-P-R.

ANA

But we couldn't save her! Jimmy wanted to put her case file in the Prime Real Estate box, but the Devil was...

The St. Peters interrupt.

JEW

Forget about the Devil!

ARAB

Big Boss came to congratulate us after the greatest Pickleball game in the universe, and we showed him Jimmy's home movie when he was a kid.

JEW  
Big Boss really cracked up.

ARAB  
You were right, Jimmy. All-merciful, all-loving! Who knew?

JEW  
Jimmy did at twelve years old.

Thunder, lights flicker and the door to Hell vanishes.  
Jimmy looks over weakly to the blank wall and smiles.

JIMMY  
All we had to do is believe?

The Jew and the Arab wink at each other and laugh.

JEW  
And mostly do the right thing.

ARAB  
And, if you're lucky, fall in love.

JEW  
And give us a well-deserved day off.

The Jew and Arab show Pickleball serves and swings.

ARAB  
Needed the practice.

JEW  
He sure did.

ARAB  
No backhand.

JEW  
Never charged the net.

Ana and Jimmy look back to see the case file boxes for "Fried" and "Extra Crispy" are gone.

LUCAS  
The "Fried" and "Extra Crispy" boxes are gone!

JEW  
Maybe they were never here.

They turn to the other desk to see the "Hold" box is replaced with "Less-Than-Prime Real Estate."

MAUI

Where are the Hold box, my file,  
and Lucas's file?

JEW

Top of the Prime Real Estate box.

ARAB

We couldn't have done without you  
for centuries!

JEW

You did your jobs very well. Never  
assigned anyone to... you know.

Maui turns to Lucas and gives him a big kiss.

Ana and Jimmy see this and turn to each other but Jimmy is weaker by the second.

JEW (CONT'D)

True love. Would have kept you out  
of you-know-where anyway!

Jimmy hugs Ana as they watch the clock ticking to the five-minute mark, and weakly asks a few last questions.

JIMMY

Where are we gonna end up?

JEW

Depends.

ARAB

On these last few seconds. Your  
case files are presently in the  
"Less-Than-Prime Real Estate."

JIMMY

What do you mean by "Less-Than-  
Prime Real Estate?" Even with a  
manslaughter charge?

JEW

Fabulous Five-Star accommodations  
like everyone else, with a few  
minor inconveniences to remind you  
to fly right.

The Jew and Arab start laughing.

ARAB

When you slurp hot soup, we like to send a minor earthquake so it spills in your lap.

JEW

If your sleeping soundly and having a fun, sexy dream, we send a thunderstorm to wake you up.

ARAB

TVs only get one channel.

JEW

All reruns.

ARAB

Earbuds only play accordion music.

JEW

Local library only has one book.

ARAB

Ours, of course.

JIMMY

Can we join your Pickleball League?

ARAB

We're okay with it.

JEW

But, the HOA says 'no' every year.

ARAB

They can be real sticklers.

JEW

No to pink flamingos too.

LUCAS

Pink flamingos can't join the pickle ball league?

Everyone stares at Lucas.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Asking for a friend.

Jimmy turns to the St. Peters unconvinced.

JIMMY

I'd like to believe you, but this all sounds too far-fetched for me.

A bright light shines and the high notes of a choir emanate from the door on the bright side of the room.

CHORUS (V.O.)

Ha.....

Everyone turns to the door to Heaven, as the St. Peters bow.

The Homeless Man slowly enters the room and turns straight to Shanice and holds out his arms.

Shanice stands like a young woman and smiles at the Homeless Man.

SHANICE

Knew you wouldn't forsake me.

(beat)

I'm up fifteen points in Cribbage.

The Homeless Man laughs and addresses the youngsters.

HOMELESS MAN

Proud of you all tonight, but I need to get Shanice, Maui, and Lucas settled in their Prime Real Estate tonight before the Christmas potluck. Big day for us, as you know!

The Homeless Man and Shanice exit hand in hand, smiling.

Maui and Lucas hug Jimmy and Ana before they exit.

Jimmy and Ana stare at the St. Peters as the clock on the wall shows their time is up.

JIMMY

What happens to us?

JEW

We all choose our own destiny.

ARAB

Got two choices Jimmy and Ana.

JEW

One: you can stay here and take over for Maui and Lucas.

ARAB

Greet the almost-deads.

JEW

Review their case files.

ARAB

Suggest prime or less-than-Prime  
Real Estate.

JEW

Over time, a few centuries, maybe  
less, you can earn your way into  
Prime Real Estate like Maui and  
Lucas.

ANA

What's choice two?

JEW

Follow us right now into Prime Real  
Estate.

Ana jumps for joy, but Jimmy isn't as excited.

Ana, angry, grabs Jimmy with both hands by the collar.

ANA

Jimmy, what's wrong with you? Easy  
choice, right!

Jimmy looks away, barely able to stand. He's fading faster.

JEW

Not sure he believes us.

ARAB

What's not to believe, Jimmy?

Jimmy looks the St. Peters in the eye. His voice is weaker  
still.

JIMMY

I believe God is love.  
(looks at Ana)  
And I've always believed in love!

The St. Peter's pat Jimmy's arms, and smile.

JEW

We know.

ARAB

We always knew.

Ana hugs him again with a tear in her eye.

ANA

So did I.

JIMMY

Third choice.

(beat)

One more minute alive with Ana. I'd trade it all for one more minute with her. Don't you see? I'm in love.

Ana hugs Jimmy and kisses his cheek.

JEW

Not part of the deal.

ANA

Jimmy, be reasonable!

ARAB

Can't do it, Jimmy. Nobody gets to go back at this stage.

JIMMY

(extremely weak)

One more minute! I love her.

Jimmy collapses to the floor, dead.

ANA

I'm with you, Jimmy. I'm always with you.

The clock on the wall strikes five minutes.

Thunder roars, the lights flicker then and go dark.

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - NIGHT

The monitors are all flat-lining.

Ana and Maui and Lucas behind her are exhausted, but somehow, Ana continues the chest compressions.

The mood is sad.

The Jew and the Arab are shaking their heads 'no.'

Silence.

Ana looks around as everyone "quits."

Tears in Ana's eyes.

ANA  
I'm with you, Jimmy. I'm always  
with you.

She bends down to kiss Jimmy on his cheek and backs up to stare at him lovingly.

Everyone gathers around Jimmy.

Silence.

A lone monitor, the EEG (brain wave monitor) beeps.

Everyone turns.

The EEG shows more of a regular pattern.

The heart monitor beeps, and starts up.

DEVIL  
It's a Christmas miracle.

The Homeless Man winks at the two doctors and he quietly disappears without others noticing.

JEW  
I don't believe it.

ARAB  
(laughs)  
Maybe that was the problem!

Everyone laughs and rejoices.

Ana kisses Jimmy's cheek, and his eyes open, a little at first, then a lot.

ANA  
Merry Christmas, Jimmy Regan.

Jimmy looks around the room at each person, before seeing Ana.

Jimmy smiles, and they share a moment.

JIMMY  
(weakly)  
Merry Christmas.

Jimmy looks around for the Homeless Man, but he's gone.

The crowd continues to cheer.



A bright light shines and the high notes of a choir emanate from the ceiling.

CHORUS (V.O.)

Ha.....

FADE OUT.

THE END