

DOIN THE LIMBO

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INT. LIMBO - DAY

TALIE sits at a desk center stage facing stage right. A neatly stacked pile of paper is on one corner of her desk, a succulent on the other. She writes on a piece of paper as a quiet chime comes from the other room. NORMAN walks in, confused.

NORMAN

Hello?

TALIE

(Looking down)

Name and occupation?

NORMAN

Excuse me?

TALIE

(looking up)

Name. And occupation?

NORMAN

Um... Norman McHale?

She writes on the paper. Norman sits down.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

Banker.

TALIE

Norman McHale...Banker

(To Normal)

Ok. You volunteered on holidays,  
you have a wife...two kids //  
however.

NORMAN

What the hell is going on.

TALIE

You died.

She looks closer at the file

TALIE

Pancaked by dump truck driver.

Normans face drops. He begins sobbing into his hands. Talie remains uninvolved.

TALIE

Yikes...put a tack on your teachers  
chair when you were 16?

She scribbles on the paper.

NORMAN

My family... what will they do?

TALIE

(sighs)

Your wife will pretend to be sad for a while but she will actually be a little relieved.

NORMAN

(Looking up)

What?

TALIE

She feels guilty about that, of course, but... you both knew your marriage probably wasn't going to survive past Norman jr.'s 12th birthday.

Norman sinks into his chair.

TALIE

Your kids will be fine, a little traumatized but its nothing life ruining.

NORMAN

Wait. so do I go to hell?

TALIE

No...not at all. You're fine. You'll stay in limbo for 5 years and you'll go to heaven.

NORMAN

Okay...I can do that.

Norman stands up and walks off, still processing his death. As he leaves, another chime sounds. Kylie walks in and immediately sits down.

TALIE

Name and occupation?

Kylie says nothing.

TALIE (LOUDER)

Name...and occupation.

Kylie stays still while Talie leans forward to yank a hair off her head. She puts the hair on her desk and brings out a microscope to look at the hair.

TALIE

Kylie Folly...  
unemployed...oh...Jesus!...Oh my  
god!

(She looks at Kylie then  
back down to hair)

That's disgusting.

She puts the hair and microscope  
under her desk.

TALIE

Damned...Damned so quickly.

Kylie stands up to walk off. Another chime plays as JAMIE walks in.

JAMIE

Hello?

TALIE

Name and occupation?

Jamie reaches out his hand to shake.

JAMIE

Jamie Anthony. Teacher. You?

Talie shakes his hand, surprised.

TALIE

Talie. Auditor.

JAMIE

Auditor?

TALIE

Yeah... I audit people who die.

JAMIE

Oh... What do you mean?

Talie puts down her pen.

TALIE

When someone dies they see someone  
like me. An auditor. We look at  
their life and

(MORE)

TALIE (CONT'D)

decide whether they're Godly,  
Redeemable, or Damned.

Jamie is visibly confused.

TALIE

If someone is godly, they go  
straight to heaven. Damned go  
straight to hell. Redeemable  
people have to spend a bit of time  
in purgatory before they go to  
heaven. Auditors decide who goes  
where for how long.

JAMIE

So...what do people of different  
religions do?

TALIE

We don't really look at religion.  
None of them were right so we  
decided it's just kind of...  
irrelevant. If they used religion  
as an excuse to be either good or  
evil then only the actions matter.

JAMIE

So none of the are right?

TALIE

No.

JAMIE

There's no actual god?

TALIE

Nope.

JAMIE

The afterlife is just a beurocratic  
system of evaluating good, evil and  
everything in  
between?

TALIE

Yes.

Jamie sits with this for a second.

JAMIE

So how do you know who people are.  
Some people have jobs to research  
who you were and what you did.

(MORE)

JAMIE (CONT'D)

After me, people make sure I didn't make any mistakes with you. I'm just... a cog in the machine.

Jamie chuckles, Talie smiles.

JAMIE

So what do you think about me?

TALIE

I think I'd need to review you better.

She looks at the paper

TALIE

You were a gardener?

JAMIE

When I wasn't teaching. I made a // community garden

TALIE

Community garden at your apartment building. I see that... It helped a lot of people.

Jamie smiles to the floor, before looking up with a worried look.

JAMIE

I was on my way to see my family. What happened. I don't remember seeing them.

Talie's smile fades into an empathetic one. She flips through the papers to read it quietly before looking up at him.

TALIE

You were on your way back when your train derailed. You would've been fine but a loose door was about to hit a girl close to you. You stepped in front and it got you instead. You were already dead when help arrived.

Jamie looks to the floor

TALIE

Jamie, I'm so sorry.

JAMIE

Was she alright?

TALIE

Yeah.

They sit in silence for a second.

JAMIE

What happens to my family?

Talie stands up and walks around the desk to comfort Jamie.

TALIE

They're emotionally distraught but they'll be ok. They're going to miss you.

JAMIE

How are my students?

TALIE

They'll be ok. They're confused but...in time they'll understand.

JAMIE

Thank you.

TALIE

You don't have to thank me. This is my job.

JAMIE

Even a gear in the machine needs thanks.

They both chuckle. Talie walks back over to her side of the desk

TALIE

Moment of truth?

Jamie Nods.

TALIE

6 months in purgatory. Then you're out of here.

Jamie thinks about what made it 6 months.

JAMIE

I shoplifted once when I was 17.

TALIE

You shoplifted once when you were 17.

They chuckle together. Jamie stands up to walk out and Talie stands up. She raises a hand for a handshake but Jamie Hugs her. She hugs back and they step away.

JAMIE

See you in six months?

TALIE

(Smiling)

Yeah.

He starts walking away.

TALIE

You can always stay longer... if  
you wanted to hang out or  
something.

JAMIE

Alright. I'd like that.

He walks out. Talie stands watching the door

BLACKOUT.