

The Good Place Spec Script

Chapter 40: "Everything Is Forked"

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Previously, on *The Good Place*: In an effort to prove that humans can become better, Michael built a new neighborhood in the Medium Place, AKA Mindy St. Clair's backyard. The neighborhood has four new human subjects, and the outcome of the experiment will determine whether Judge Gen changes the rules for how humans are judged for the afterlife. When the first test subject arrived, Michael had a crisis of confidence, forcing Eleanor to step in and act as the architect. When the second test subject was Chidi's ex-girlfriend Simone, he insisted that Michael wipe his memory of her (and thereby, Eleanor and the rest of the cast) to keep him from accidentally ruining the experiment. Eleanor and Chidi had a tearful goodbye, and Michael wiped his memory. He just woke up on the couch in the waiting room, where Eleanor introduced herself and invited him into "her" office.

COLD OPEN

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Eleanor sits at the desk, with Chidi across from her. She smiles at him with a hint of sadness in her eyes.

CHIDI
What's happening?

ELEANOR
Right. You, Chidi Anagonye, are dead.

Chidi's eyes bug out.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
It's okay! You were a good person, so for the afterlife, you're in the Good Place.

CHIDI
So, there is an afterlife? And if there's a Good Place, is there also a Bad Place? And who are you again?

ELEANOR
One: yes. Two: yes. And three: I'm Eleanor, the Architect of the neighborhood where you'll spend the rest of eternity.

She gives him another wistful look.

CHIDI
I'm sorry, do we know each other?

Eleanor opens her mouth but is interrupted by someone clearing their throat. Sitting in the corner, Michael waves at Chidi. Eleanor makes a face at Michael.

ELEANOR
Of course not! Unless you happen to be an immortal being, that is. Ha!

Chidi shakes his head and points at Michael.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
That's Michael, my new assistant. What's up, Mikey?

MICHAEL
Just thought we could go see the neighborhood.

ELEANOR

Oh, is that what you thought? Well, I don't know how they do it back in dog heaven, but here in the people place, the good people place, assistants let their bosses do their job. Okay?

Eleanor catches herself as Michael's taken aback. Chidi, incredibly uncomfortable, looks between them. Eleanor smiles.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Okay, let's go see the neighborhood!

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD - TOWN CENTER - A LITTLE LATER

Eleanor, Michael, and Chidi walk through the town center.

ELEANOR

...each neighborhood is handcrafted for its residents and comes equipped with its very own Janet.

Chidi gives her a quizzical look. They stop walking.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Janet?

Janet appears with a soft DING, Chidi YELLS in surprise.

JANET

Hi, there! How can I help you?

ELEANOR

Janet's the personal assistant for the neighborhood. She's a walking, talking database of all the knowledge in the universe. You can ask her anything.

CHIDI

(to Janet)

Would Immanuel Kant have liked me?

Janet smiles at him.

JANET

Yep!

Chidi closes his eyes and pumps his fist in celebration while Janet shakes her head at Eleanor and mouths, "I'm lying."

ELEANOR

Janet, could you take Chidi to get some fro-yo?

JANET

It would be my pleasure!

She puts her arm out for Chidi, who takes it as they leave. Eleanor marches back toward the office with Michael in tow.

MICHAEL

You forgot to--

ELEANOR

I'm doing my best, man.

MICHAEL

You kept giving him that sad puppy dog look! You almost blew our cover.

ELEANOR

But I didn't, so just chillax.

Tahani and Jason join them on their walk.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Tahani, how's the welcome party going?

TAHANI

Wonderful, the chartreuse curtains I landed on are truly inspired.

ELEANOR

Attagirl. Jason, we're all good with you being Jianyu? No talking, you got that?

JASON

Yep! I mean, yep! I mean... uh huh!

ELEANOR

Look, we just need to welcome the last two residents and get everyone to the welcome party. Oh, and get Chidi to teach an ethics class. How hard can that--

They reach the doorway to the waiting room.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Son of a bench!

Sitting on the couch with his eyes closed is Doug Shellstrop, with long hair and a thick beard.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

They picked my forking dad?!

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE**INT. PLEASANT-LOOKING WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

The gang stands around Doug, who's still asleep on the couch. In front of them, a screen hangs in the air.

ON SCREEN: Calling...

MICHAEL

Before Judge Gen and Shawn pick up, remember we have to pretend everything's normal and I'm still--

ON SCREEN: Judge Gen, eating fajitas, and Shawn appear in split screen.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

The Architect of this neighborhood, gosh darn it! Hello, your Honor. Shawn.

Judge Gen chews and nods. Shawn gives him a steely glare.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Your Honor, Shawn's up to his old tricks again. This time he sent Doug Shellstrop, Eleanor's deadbeat dad, as our next resident. That's not fair.

JUDGE GEN

(chewing)

Shawn, is that true?

SHAWN

Uh doy.

ELEANOR

He'll know who I am! We'll have to wipe his memory back to before I was born.

SHAWN

Oh, Eleanor... your father's been dead for years, and in all that time, he's never mentioned you. Not even once.

Eleanor's stunned. Tahani rubs her back.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Besides, you left home at 14 and never saw him again, how would he recognize you, ya dink?

ELEANOR

Ouch, but fair.

MICHAEL

Well, what about his memories of the Bad Place?

SHAWN

I already wiped them! Your Honor, this is a waste of time.

Judge Gen finishes her final bite.

JUDGE GEN

Mmmmm... sure, this was yet another rude move by Shawn, but what did you expect, y'all? He's a demon. Uh doy!

Shawn makes horns with his fingers and flicks his tongue at them.

JUDGE GEN (CONT'D)

However, this was truly devious, so your father will be the final resident.

SHAWN

But we already have the last one lined up! This is--

JUDGE GEN

Don't start with me, boy!

Shawn's gobsmacked.

SHAWN

Yes--yes, ma'am.

Judge Gen shakes her head at Shawn as both calls end and the screen disappears.

JASON

Shawn's a demon?!

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Eleanor sits at the desk while Tahani, Jason, and Michael sit in front of her. Behind Eleanor, a timer counts down.

TAHANI

Eleanor, you can do this! You're amazing, and wonderful, and strong.

JASON

Yeah, you're so strong I won't even thumb wrestle you anymore! It hurts too much when I lose.

ELEANOR

Thanks, but I don't know if I can do this! I already want to yell at my dad so hard.

MICHAEL

Oh, you can yell. You just need a good reason, and I'm sure he'll give you plenty of those.

TAHANI

Just remember the bigger picture: we're trying to change the entire system of how humans are judged. If we can get your dad to become a better person, people will finally have a chance to get into the Good Place. And if we can't, well...

Beat of heavy silence.

JASON

If we can't, what?

MICHAEL

No one ever gets into the Good Place again.

JASON

Oh... that's bad.

ELEANOR

Yeah. And my dad's a miserable ash-hole who only cares about himself. He once forgot my birthday and changed my birth certificate so that he "wasn't wrong." He's the worst.

Janet appears with a soft DING.

JANET

Hey, Eleanor?
(reads the room)
What's going on?

ELEANOR

My dad's the next resident.

JANET

Oh... that's bad.

ELEANOR

Yeah! How'd it go with Chidi?

JANET

Well... great! For him. He met Simone and they kinda hit it off, so--

ELEANOR

Uh uh. Nope. They can meet, and help each other grow, and all that bull-shirt, but they cannot fall in love. I'm not strong enough to watch that happen right in front of me.

TAHANI

Don't say another word, we'll take care of it.

ELEANOR

Really?

JASON

We got you, dawg. I think. I don't know what we're talking about, but... we got you, dawg.

Tahani, Jason, and Janet and leave.

ELEANOR

Michael, can you--

MICHAEL

I'm not going anywhere. I won't let you face that dirtbag by yourself.

ELEANOR

Are you jealous that my dad's here?

MICHAEL

No! I just--I suppose I've become a little protective of you.

ELEANOR

Aw... thanks, dummy. Okay, I can do this. I can make my father a better person.

MICHAEL

Good, because he's waking up riiiiight--

The timer behind Eleanor hits zero.

DOUG (O.C.)

Hello?

Michael gives Eleanor a look of encouragement. She takes a deep breath and--

DOUG (O.C.) (CONT'D)
I said, hello?!

INT. PLEASANT-LOOKING WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

On the couch, Doug looks around, confused. Eleanor pops her head out of the office door.

ELEANOR
Hi, Doug. I'm Eleanor. Come on in.

DOUG
About time.

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Doug settles into the seat in front of Eleanor's desk and starts picking his teeth. Eleanor regards him coolly.

DOUG
What's up, toots?

ELEANOR
What's up is ya dead, Doug.

DOUG
Whoa! Are you God?

ELEANOR
No, I'm--

DOUG
Whew, that's a relief! I was like,
there's no way God's a woman, right?

ELEANOR
No! As I was saying, Doug, you are dead
and because you lived a...a...

In the corner, Michael clears his throat.

DOUG
Who's the nerd?

ELEANOR
My assistant, Michael. Because you lived
a good life, you're in the Good Place.
Wow, that was hard.

DOUG
I got into Heaven?

ELEANOR
Not exactly, but... sure.

Doug pulls out a joint.

DOUG
This calls for a celebration! Anyone got
a light?

ELEANOR
Sorry, there's no smoking here.

DOUG
Yeesh lady, anyone ever tell you you're
a real buzzkill?

ELEANOR
My dad, actually. All the time. And my
name is Eleanor. Not "toots," not
"lady," Eleanor.

She searches his face for some recognition at her name.

DOUG
What the fork are you looking at? Wait,
fork? Why'd I say fork? I meant fork!

ELEANOR
Let's take a walk, huh?

DOUG
Do we have to?

ELEANOR
Yes, Doug.

He doesn't move.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
(yells)
Now!

Doug jumps out of his seat as Eleanor flashes a quick smile
at Michael.

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD - TOWN CENTER

Eleanor, Michael, and Doug walk through the neighborhood.

ELEANOR
...which brings us to: Janet?

Janet appears with a soft DING. Doug leers at her.

JANET
Hi Eleanor, how can I help you?

ELEANOR
 (to Doug)
 If you need anything, just ask Janet.

DOUG
 I want a beer.

With a soft DING, Janet hands Doug a beer. He chugs it.

ELEANOR
 I said, "ask."

DOUG
 Another!

With a soft DING, Janet hands him another beer. He chugs it.

ELEANOR
 Janet, can you please not give him
 something until he asks politely?

Doug smashes both empty beer glasses on the ground.

DOUG
 I want one of those paddles with a ball
 on a string!

With a soft DING, Janet hands him a paddle ball, and he starts fumbling around with it.

JANET
 (to Eleanor)
 I'm sorry, I have to provide the
 residents with whatever they request, no
 matter how rudely they may do so.

Eleanor frowns, then gets an idea.

ELEANOR
 What's that?!

She points toward the pond, and Doug looks where she's pointing. She slaps the paddle out of his hands and steps on it, breaking it in half. He looks at her incredulously, but she just smiles.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
 Oops.

INT. FRO-YO PLACE - SAME

Tahani and Jason walk up to Chidi, who's sitting at a table with Simone.

TAHANI

Hello! I'm Tahani, and this is Jianyu, a Buddhist monk who's taken a vow of silence.

CHIDI

Hi, I'm Chidi.

SIMONE

I'm Simone.

TAHANI

And how did you two meet?

SIMONE

Oh, Chidi was in front of me in line and couldn't decide what flavor he wanted, so I helped him narrow down his choices.

CHIDI

With Simone's help, it only took me 37 minutes to choose plain.

TAHANI

Wow, you must be a pretty indecisive fellow.

CHIDI

Hey, I'm... not sure, actually. Am I indecisive? I guess I could be...

Simone laughs as John, the other new resident, walks up to the table.

JOHN

Tahani, who is this hunk of a monk on your arm?

TAHANI

This is Jianyu. He's taken a vow of silence.

Jason bows slightly to John, who GIGGLES with pleasure.

JOHN

The strong, silent type. Johnny likey.

TAHANI

Horrifying. And this is Chidi and Simone. Chidi and Simone, this is John.

JOHN

Oh my god, are you two totally into each other? Because there are some serious vibes coming off this table right now!

As John shakes hands with Chidi and Simone, Eleanor and Michael walk up to the table.

ELEANOR

Hi, everyone! Oh, Chidi and Simone have already met and are still hanging out together. How wonderful.

JOHN

I'm here, too!

ELEANOR

Hi, John.

JOHN

Okay, attitude.

SIMONE

Chidi, you've got a bit of fro-yo on your nose. Here, I've got it.

She wipes the fro-yo off his nose with her finger and eats it. They smile at each other.

ELEANOR

Well, would you look at that! That was adorable! I mean, so. Cute.

Chidi, Simone, and John give her a weird look. Doug walks up to group, clumsily playing with a new paddle ball.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Everyone, this is Doug. Doug, everyone.

DOUG

Where's that hot robot? Ol' what's her name... Stacked Siri!

ELEANOR

It's Janet.

DOUG

Janet, beer me!

Janet appears with a DING and hands Doug a beer, but before he can drink it, Eleanor snatches it out of his hand and chugs the full pint.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. OFFICE - LATER**

Eleanor sits at the desk with her head in her hands while Michael, Janet, Jason, and Tahani sit facing her.

ELEANOR

So, let's see... my dad still sucks major deck. Not that there's anything wrong with that, just--you get what I'm saying. Oh, and Chidi and Simone can't stop making goo-goo eyes at each other!

JANET

Eleanor, I know this is hard, but--

ELEANOR

Being the Architect blows! And why does every expression about things being bad reference blue jorbs? I wish I had time to unpack that, but it's time to invite my dad to the welcome party. Is everyone else confirmed for tonight?

Tahani nods.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Alright, you guys do whatever's necessary to keep Chidi and Simone from falling in love, and someone please ask Chidi about teaching an ethics class. I'll handle my dad on my own.

MICHAEL

You sure?

ELEANOR

Oh yeah, it's time he understood exactly who's pretending to be in charge around here.

INT. DOUG'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Doug sits on a couch in his messy living room, noodling on an acoustic guitar. Eleanor opens the front door and knocks as she marches in.

ELEANOR

Doug! How's it--ugh, it's disgusting in here, we'll get this cleaned up for you.

DOUG

What do you mean? I just got settled in.

ELEANOR
You already ate three pizzas?

She gestures to the empty pizza boxes next to him on the couch.

DOUG
Yeah. What is this, an inquisition?

ELEANOR
(getting heated)
I'm just trying to--you know what, I'm just here to invite you the welcome party at Tahani's house tonight.

DOUG
Hmmm... no, I'm busy.

ELEANOR
The whole neighborhood's going to be there, it'll be a great way for you to meet all the other residents.

DOUG
I said, I'm busy.

ELEANOR
Doing what?

DOUG
What does it look like?

ELEANOR
Nothing. It looks like nothing, Doug.

DOUG
Have a little respect. Back in the day, I was the backup guitar player for an all-Doobie Brothers cover band called the--

ELEANOR
Doobie Brother Lovers, I know! But if we're being honest, you were the roadie.

DOUG
You have the same shrill tone as my unholy bench of an ex-wife.

ELEANOR
(shrill)
Oh, is that so?!

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD - POND BENCHES - SAME

Chidi and Simone sit on a bench, flirting. Ten feet away, Michael, Janet, Jason, and Tahani crouch behind a bush and speak in hushed tones.

JANET

Okay, how do we do this?

TAHANI

I could say I need help with the welcome party.

MICHAEL

Do you?

TAHANI

Of course not, everything's been done for hours! How dare you, Michael?

JASON

I could say I need help meditating.

JANET

No, babe. You can't talk, remember?

JASON

But I'm talking right now! Unless... I'm not talking right now?

(yells)

Can you guys hear me? Hello?!

MICHAEL

Jason, be quiet! You're--

CHIDI (O.C.)

What's up, guys?

Michael, Jason, Janet, and Tahani look up to see Chidi and Simone standing on the other side of the bush. The crouching foursome sheepishly stand up.

SIMONE

What are you doing back there?

MICHAEL

Oh, nothing! Just...

He sees that Chidi and Simone are holding hands. They notice him noticing them, and smile coyly. Michael's face drops.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Gotta go, they'll fill you in!

He runs off at full tilt. Janet and Tahani smile at Chidi and Simone. A light bulb goes off in Jason's head.

JASON

I--

Tahani elbows him sharply in the side. He doubles over in pain but turns the motion into a deep bow toward Chidi and Simone, who confusedly bow in return.

INT. DOUG'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Eleanor paces back and forth in front of a seated Doug with his guitar in her hands.

ELEANOR

And let me tell you another thing,
buster! You're not getting this guitar
back until you learn about a little
thing called R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

There's a frantic knock at the front door. Eleanor jabs a finger in Doug's face.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Find out what it means to me!

INT./EXT. DOUG'S FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor rips the door open to reveal a flustered Michael on the stoop.

MICHAEL

Red alert! Chidi and Simone are holding
hands.

ELEANOR

No!

MICHAEL

Yes! And then they caught us spying on
them. It's a mess. A total mess,
Eleanor!

DOUG (O.C.)

Hey, are we done here or what? I want my
guitar!

Eleanor throws a nasty glare in Doug's direction before looking back at Michael.

ELEANOR

Give me thirty seconds.

She stalks back into the living room, leaving Michael at the open door.

DOUG (O.C.)
Whoa, what are you doing with--

There's a loud CRUNCH offscreen.

INT. DOUG'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor holds the neck of Doug's smashed guitar in her hands.

ELEANOR
Let me be very clear, Doug. You will attend tonight's party. You will dress nicely. You will bring a dish to share. And until then, you will stay right here, because you are grounded, old man!

She marches toward the door, leaving the stunned Doug behind.

DOUG
But--you can't do that! You can't make me do... anything! Heaven sucks!

ELEANOR
It's not called Heaven, you idiot!

She SLAMS the front door on her way out.

EXT. DOUG'S FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

A wild-eyed Eleanor glares at the slightly frightened Michael.

ELEANOR
Let's do this.

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD - OUTSIDE CAFE - MOMENTS LATER

Eleanor and Michael hide behind a potted tree outside the cafe patio and spy on Chidi and Simone, who sit at a table, holding hands and staring deeply into each other's eyes.

ELEANOR
How should I do it?

MICHAEL
What if you just told them residents aren't allowed to date each other?

ELEANOR
That's... genius! Ya genius, Mikey!

She gives Michael a quick kiss on the cheek and strides toward Chidi and Simone. Michael blushes. Eleanor arrives at Chidi and Simone's table.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Hey, guys! How's it going?

They look up at her blissfully.

CHIDI

Hey, Eleanor! Things couldn't be better.

SIMONE

Yeah, the Good Place is amazing!

CHIDI

And we have something to tell you.
Simone and I are--

ELEANOR

Hold up there, Chidi! I actually have something to tell you, and I hate to pull rank, but since I'm the Architect, I'm going to go first.

CHIDI

Oh! Okay...

ELEANOR

I forgot to tell you both one very important rule about the neighborhood, which is that sadly, residents aren't allowed to--

With a DING, a slightly frantic Janet appears.

JANET

Eleanor?

ELEANOR

Kinda in the middle of something, Janet.

JANET

Sorry. Hi, Chidi! Hi, Simone!

They wave at her.

ELEANOR

As I was saying--

JANET

I'm sorry, but it's urgent. Your--Doug is--there's a situation that requires your attention.

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD - TOWN CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Eleanor, Janet, Michael, Tahani, and Jason stand on the lawn and look up at the raised stage area, where Doug drunkenly stumbles back and forth with a hand-painted sign that says "Eleanor" with a big, red X through her name.

DOUG
(chanting)
Hell no, we won't go! To the welcome
party!

Eleanor crosses her arms. A few residents stop to watch Doug.

ELEANOR
I can't believe he snuck out.

MICHAEL
Snuck out?

ELEANOR
I grounded him!

They all give her a weird look.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Oh, he deserved it! And is he drunk?

JANET
Yeah, he demanded a bottle of whiskey on
his way out the door.

Neighborhood residents start to gather at the scene. John walks up, reads the sign, looks at Eleanor, and makes an awkward face at her before stifling a giggle.

DOUG
(shouting)
Brothers and sisters! We must rise up
against the tyranny that is Eleanor! We
must...we...mu--

Doug PUKES all over the grass. He wobbles for a moment and then passes out face-first in the vomit. Eleanor's eye twitches violently.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD - TOWN CENTER - CONTINUOUS**

Eleanor, Michael, Janet, Tahani, and Jason stand on the lawn. Doug, now on his hands and knees, GROANS. Eleanor's eye still twitches.

TAHANI

Eleanor, I know you're angry right now.

JASON

Unless your eye always does that. Or maybe it only does that when you're happy? But why would this make you happy? You're weird, dawg.

MICHAEL

What Jason's failing so miserably to say is that we love you.

JANET

That's right, and we support you, however you want to handle this.

Eleanor shakes her head back and forth, her jaw set.

TAHANI

But please don't kill your dad.

Eleanor takes a deep breath in and lets out a long exhale.

ELEANOR

(calling out)

Hey, Doug!

Doug looks up at her blearily. Her face softens.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Need a hand?

INT. DOUG'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eleanor sits on a chair while Doug sits on the couch, wrapped in a blanket and sipping coffee.

DOUG

So what, you're gonna yell at me again?

Eleanor gives Doug a long look.

ELEANOR

No, Doug. No more yelling. Just you and me, having a conversation.

DOUG

What if I don't want to talk to you?

ELEANOR

That's fair. And you don't have to talk right now, I'll go first. I feel like we got off on the wrong foot, and at least some of that has been my fault.

DOUG

Some?

Eleanor starts to snap at him, but stops herself.

ELEANOR

Fair enough. I'm sorry for smashing your guitar.

DOUG

Yeah, that was totally forked!

ELEANOR

You're right, it was. And I'm sorry for grounding you. Even though it's totally in my powers to do so, I shouldn't have done that.

DOUG

Okay. What else are you sorry for?

ELEANOR

Wow, okay. I'm sorry for calling you an idiot. You're not an idiot.

DOUG

Then what am I?

ELEANOR

You're... Why don't you want to come to the party tonight?

DOUG

Because I want to get high and play my guitar!

ELEANOR

That's it?

DOUG

Yeah! No. I don't know. Whatever!

ELEANOR

Can I be honest with you? I'm pretty new to the whole Architect thing.

(MORE)

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Sure, I'm an immortal being, but this is my first neighborhood. I'm going to make a lot of mistakes. But I want you to know that I'm trying, and I care about you, even if I haven't shown you that today.

Doug doesn't know what to say, so he just sips his coffee and burns his tongue.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

If you don't want to come to the party, don't come. It's going to be a lot of fun, and I'd love for you to be there. Either way, I wanted to give you this.

She pulls out a new acoustic guitar from behind the couch and hands it to Doug as she stands up.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Sorry for getting so mad today. I guess I just--you remind me of someone I used to know, someone who really hurt me. But that was a long time ago, and I don't want to be mad at that person anymore. And you shouldn't have to deal with that anger from me. That's my thing, and it's something I'm working on.

Doug avoids Eleanor's eyes. She nods and walks toward the door.

DOUG

Hey, so--

Eleanor whips around, excited.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Is it cool if I invite people over tonight, or...

Eleanor sports a resigned smile.

ELEANOR

Do whatever you want, Doug.

DOUG

Is this a trick? Because I will! Do whatever I want, that is.

Eleanor gives him a wave on her way out the door, leaving Doug alone.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Can't tell me what to do.

He hits a terrible sounding chord on the guitar.

INT. TAHANI'S HOUSE - LATER

The residents of the neighborhood, dressed up for the party, chat and mingle with each other. Around a beautiful chocolate fountain stand Michael, Janet, Tahani, Jason, and Eleanor, all dressed to the nines.

TAHANI

So, what happened with your dad?

JASON

Yeah, did you kill him?

ELEANOR

No, I didn't kill him. I just apologized and told him he didn't have to come tonight.

JANET

Really? Why?

ELEANOR

When I was a kid, there was nothing I wanted more than my parents' attention. Positive, negative, I didn't care. I just wanted them to notice me. I guess I thought if I really put my foot down, my dad would have to pay attention this time. And that through sheer willpower, I could make him become a better person. But he's right: I can't make him do anything. Whatever I say, he'll just do the opposite. I know, because he's exactly like me. I have to just show him that I care and give him the space to make his own decisions.

MICHAEL

(tearing up)

Eleanor, that was beautiful.

JASON

(ugly crying)

Straight up poetry, dawg.

ELEANOR

Please shut up, Jason. And we'll see if it even works, he's not here yet.

JANET

And what about Chidi and Simone?

Across the party, Chidi and Simone eat finger foods and laugh together.

ELEANOR

(sighs)

If I tell them they can't be together, they'll just end up doing it anyway and feeling guilty about it. No, we'll let nature take its course.

TAHANI

Eleanor, you are displaying a level of emotional maturity about all of this that is truly impressive. But if you ever want to get totally shirt-faced and just vent, you say the word.

She puts her hand on Eleanor's shoulder. Eleanor puts her hand over Tahani's.

ELEANOR

Thank you. Is John here?

Across the party, John waves at Tahani.

JOHN

Tahani, you beautiful skyscraper, hi!
Your bangs are so crazy, girl!

Tahani grits her teeth and waves at John.

TAHANI

That man will be the death of me.

Eleanor rubs her back reassuringly.

ELEANOR

Well, three out of four residents will have to do. The show must go on.

Eleanor steps into the middle of the foyer and taps her champagne flute a fork.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Hello, everyone! Thank you for joining us. It means the world to me that so many of you came tonight. Let's give it up for Tahani for hosting this incredible party!

Everyone applauds Tahani, who pretends not to love the attention.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

And how about my assistant Michael,
who's been keeping me going all day!

Everyone applauds Michael, who also pretends not to love the attention. He catches Eleanor's eye and puts his hand over his heart.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

And of course, we couldn't do this
without the person literally keeping all
of this going, Janet!

Janet waves at the clapping crowd and openly basks in their appreciation.

JANET

Not a person, but thank you!

ELEANOR

I couldn't be more excited to have you
all in the neighborhood. I can already
tell I have lot to learn from you, and I
know we have a terrific eternity ahead
of us. But for tonight, let's kick back,
relax, and enjoy ourselves. To the Good
Place!

EVERYONE

To the Good Place!

INT. TAHANI'S HOUSE - LATER

Now a few hours into the party, everyone's a bit tipsy and feeling loose. The music's bumping and Eleanor dances with Michael.

ELEANOR

Thanks, Mikey.

MICHAEL

For what? I told you to yell at your dad
and tell Chidi and Simone they can't be
together... that's horrible advice, I'm
a total dummy.

ELEANOR

Shaddup, dummy! Oh, I should stop
calling you that. But for real! You
care, and that's what counts. Sure,
you're rough around the edges, but
you're a demon! Cut yourself some slack.

MICHAEL

Thanks, Eleanor. You, too.

They hug.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Not about the demon part, about the
cutting your--

ELEANOR
I gotcha, buddy.

She pats him on the back and they release from the hug.

MICHAEL
No sign of your dad yet, huh?

ELEANOR
Nope. What can you do? Tomorrow's
another--hold the forking phone, did
anyone ask Chidi to teach an ethics
class?

MICHAEL
Ooh... no.

ELEANOR
Fork me in the ash!

MICHAEL
Well, here's your chance.

He nods behind Eleanor, who turns around to see a tipsy Chidi
standing in front of her as Michael bows out of the scene.

CHIDI
Hey, Eleanor! Great speech. Very
gracious.

ELEANOR
Thank you, Chidi.

They smile at each other.

CHIDI/ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Hey, so--

CHIDI (CONT'D)
Sorry, Architect first.

ELEANOR
No, please. That was a joke. Actually,
it wasn't. But it should have been. Wow,
I can't shut up right now! What's on
your mind, my dude?

She grimaces at the words coming out of her mouth.

CHIDI

Okay, I know this might sound weird, but what do you think about me teaching an ethics class here in the neighborhood?

ELEANOR

Chidi, that would be amazing! But why would you ever want to do that?

CHIDI

I saw what that guy Doug did this afternoon... seems like it could be helpful.

Eleanor smiles. Simone walks up and slips her hand into Chidi's.

SIMONE

What's up, guys? Who wants to dance?

ELEANOR

You two have fun, I'm good!

CHIDI

You sure?

ELEANOR

Absolutely, get out there!

Eleanor smiles as she watches Chidi and Simone join the already dancing Tahani, Janet, Jason, Michael, and John. After a moment, Eleanor's smile fades ever so slightly.

Through a nearby doorway, Doug walks in wearing cargo shorts and a tuxedo t-shirt. He's holding a pan of mangled brownies. He and Eleanor make eye contact, and he walks over.

DOUG

Hey.

ELEANOR

Hey.

DOUG

Sup?

ELEANOR

Wassup is ya dead, Doug.

They both smile.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming.

DOUG

Thanks for inviting me. Tahani's place is nice. I mean, it's no Casa de Shellstrop, but it'll do.

They're both quiet for a moment.

DOUG (CONT'D)

These are for... everyone.

He thrusts the pan of brownies at her.

ELEANOR

Thank you. Hey, I meant what I said earlier. And I know you might not be ready to talk, but I have a bit more to say... you really hurt my feelings today.

DOUG

What? That's stupid.

ELEANOR

Case in point, man! Your attitude has been a total bummer. Also, you were super rude to Janet, and you called me shrill, and then you tried to start a rebellion against me... all of which makes me think you might enjoy Chidi's ethics class.

DOUG

Hard pass.

ELEANOR

Come on, it'll be fun.

DOUG

Is it required?

Eleanor grits her teeth.

ELEANOR

No, Doug.

DOUG

Good. I'll consider thinking about possibly checking out the class.

ELEANOR

Thank you. And whenever you're ready, I wouldn't mind an apology or five.

Doug laughs.

DOUG
 You know, you remind me of someone I
 used to know, too. A real stubborn kid I
 once called my daughter...

Hope flickers in Eleanor's eyes.

DOUG (CONT'D)
 Elaine.

ELEANOR
 Excuse me?

DOUG
 Elaine.

ELEANOR
 Her name is Eleanor.

DOUG
 Who?

ELEANOR
 Your daughter!

DOUG
 How do you know?

ELEANOR
 We have a file on every resident.

DOUG
 Well, there must be an error in the
 file, because my daughter's name is--

ELEANOR
 Elaine. And I remind you of her. Of
 Elaine... I'm honored. Wanna dance?

She grabs his hand and leads him out to the dance floor,
 where they join the other dancers.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
 You guys remember Doug? He was the
 backup guitar player for the Doobie
 Brother Lovers!

The group waves hello to Doug, who smiles and waves back. The
 music turns up. Everyone downs their drinks and dances the
 night away.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CHIDI'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

A hungover Chidi stands in front of a chalkboard that reads "Moral Philosophy and Ethics Are Fun." Chidi adjusts his too-large sunglasses with a grimace.

CHIDI

So, in conclusion, to the introduction, of this course in Moral Philosophy and Ethics, specifically regarding the theory that they are indeed fun... does anyone have a question?

The classroom chairs are completely empty, as is the rest of the room. Chidi takes off his glasses and whimpers gently.

END OF SHOW