

Really? This is it?

Written by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NEW ARRIVAL (any pronouns), new entry into hell

SATAN (any pronouns), rules hell

DELILAH (any pronouns), assistant to Satan

ARE (any pronouns), works at the front desk

Synopsis

A difficult new arrival in Hell gives us a glimpse of how Satan operates Hell in an office setting

PRODUCTION NOTES

Pronouns for all characters are flexible.

SCENE 1

The NEW ARRIVAL is in a hospital bed dead. There is a recording that keeps repeating "time of death 13:38" SATAN, DELILAH, and ARE enter and start moving the hospital bed in a circle six times. The new arrival opens their eyes and Delilah grabs them by the hand and leads them offstage. Are takes the hospital bed offstage. Satan is left by themselves and looks out in the distance. ARE enters rolling in a reception desk. Delilah enters carrying a clipboard filled with documents. Delilah flips through it and then slams it on Are's desk. Satan walks over to the desk and peeks at the clipboard.

DELILAH

To Satan

This one's disappointing.

SATAN

Delilah, we've been through this. Most people who end up in hell are disappointing.

DELILAH

No it's not that, it's just-the one fun part of our job is constructing people's worst possible nightmares. You know? Their Hell! (beat) It just sucks when people's worst nightmares are so blah. It makes you wonder how people who live such mediocre lives even warrant a sentence to Hell. If only I worked here when the whole fire and brimstone hell was still popular

SATAN

Sorry we can't be as smited- I mean as exciting as you. It takes a lot of talent to be a biblical prostitute. Which reminds me (pulls out letters) Samson returned your letter

DELILAH

Really?

SATAN

Can this please be the last one? I don't know why you think anyone upstairs gives a shit about any of us. I like to limit my encounters with them as much as I can.

DELILAH

That's bullshit! You just like to limit your encounters with work.

SATAN

Speaking of work. You and Are have to set up while I grab the new arrival.

DELILAH

You're leaving me alone with Are! That's fucking cruel! They're such a-

ARE enters acting like Delilah doesn't exist.

Hey, Are!

No response from ARE

Look, can we just move on? We gotta stick together you know cause it's Hell down here.

ARE

"We gotta stick together" Fuck off! Like I'd ever believe that, you biblical whore!

DELILAH

You know there is a part of me that doesn't feel sorry for you. I don't know why you thought Ted fucking Bundy would be loyal.

ARE

He was charming, a true gentleman-

DELILAH

Yeah he was also a true serial killer.

ARE

Well excuse me but believe it or not it's hard to find love in Hell.

SATAN

Are, while I am proud that you finally came to the stunning epiphany about Hell's limited dating pool. We have a shitty person's Hell to construct.

ARE

What's their personal Hell? Anything good?

SATAN

The DMV

DELILAH

Again? People hate the DMV that much?

SATAN

Okay I get that this scenario isn't exactly Dante's Inferno, but can you promise me to just stick to the script? When I bring them back everything better be set up.

Satan exits. Delilah makes several failed attempts to roll their eyes

ARE

What's wrong with you? Is some priest trying to perform an exorcism again?

DELILAH

No (pause)not this time. While we were waiting for the new arrival to croak I noticed that every time they were rude to the nurse, the nurse wouldn't say anything to them. She would just roll her eyes and pretend like nothing happened? That's how I feel every time we have to do the DMV scenario

attempts to roll eyes again

I wish I could do it cause it would be so much easier to deal with Satan's mood swings without getting yelled at.

ARE

I don't let them bother me. What are they gonna do? Send me to Hell?

DELILAH

That's fair.

ARE

I'll grab the chairs and you set them up?

DELILAH

You could say please

ARE

I could also skin you alive and use your skin to make human fruit roll ups. Which would you prefer?

Are exits. Delilah attempts to roll their eyes again and fails. They flip through their clipboard

DELILAH

Alright new arrival, what's your story? Ahh look, they are literally the poster child for greed and all they have to do is go to the DMV. Let see right before they had their heart attack they-

Flips through clipboard

Damn! They pushed someone into a puddle because they didn't want to get their suit wet! What a little prick!

Are enters rolling in a row of chairs that resemble chairs you'd find in a DMV waiting area. Dialogue starts while they set up

DELILAH

Are? Do you think it's strange that people's 'Hells' are so benign now? Like are the nuns in Catholic schools gonna start saying "Hey kids if you're a terrible person you'll have the minor inconvenience of going to the DMV for all of eternity"

ARE

Does it matter? It doesn't affect me. Why should I care if someone's Hell is boring or not?

Delilah sets up the second row of seats and has a seat in one of the chairs. She goes behind their desk and pulls out the number tape you'd find at a DMV and puts it on the desk. Satan enters dragging the new arrival with as little effort as possible. The new arrival takes a moment to take in their surroundings

SATAN

Welcome to-

Pulls out a recorder and presses. Messiah BWV 56 starts to play(Hallelujah Chorus)

Shit! Wrong track!

Satan has trouble changing the track and begins hitting the tape recorder

Come on bitch work! I can't stand this fucking song!

Satan tries hitting it again.

Ahhhhhhh

They give up, throw it on the ground and stomp on it til it stops.

Ummm...soooooo as I was saying welcome to Hell. You don't need scary music? You're smart(pause) well, smartish. If you were really smart you wouldn't be here

NEW ARRIVAL

Oh my God!

SATAN

He's not gonna help you nor does he want to. That's why you're my problem.

New Arrival takes a moment to look around

NEW ARRIVAL

Wait, I thought Hell would like-just be a big fire pit?

DELILAH

You and I both!

SATAN

Delilah! Not now!

Delilah attempts to roll their eyes again but fails

NEW ARRIVAL

I don't get- how this is hell?

SATAN

Ugh that's it. You know what just go check in the desk with Are.

Satan takes their shoes off and lays down on one of the rows of seats. The New Arrival goes over to Are's desk

ARE

Welcome to the DMV.

NEW ARRIVAL

The DMV! NO!!I'D RATHER THE FIRE PIT ACTUALLY ANYTHING BUT-

SATAN

(sits up) Ok! We get it, you're unhappy with being in hell, you're not the first to come to this realization. You kinda brought that on yourself, believe it or not nobody feels bad for you! Look, you already screamed the whole way down, surely some of the novelty of your situation has worn off by now. Yes?

The New Arrival nods

Good! Glad we understand each other.

Satan lays back down

ARE

(to New Arrival) Pick a number-

The New Arrival grabs a number from the tape thinking it'll a small number but as they keep pulling the number it turns out the be the length of the stage

NEW ARRIVAL

Really?

ARE

I just work here.

The New Arrival walks back to Are's desk

NEW ARRIVAL

Hey, you seem more put together than (points to Satan)that. Surely you feel a little bad for me?

ARE

Nope. No soul.

NEW ARRIVAL

Okay you seem a little bitchy, but I wouldn't say you have no soul.

ARE

No. What I'm saying is I have no soul. I seem a little bitchy cause I'm a demon . Never had a soul never will, so I don't have the ability to empathize with shitty human beings. Have a seat.

The New Arrival goes over to the seats and sits next to Delilah.

Delilah gives them a death glare

NEW ARRIVAL

Did I do something to you?

DELILAH

Now that you mention it. Yes! I read your file. And even though I haven't been working here that long, you are one of the most lackluster people I've ever encountered! You were a terrible person, despite having everything handed to you in life. It's the DMV fucking V! A task decent people find to be just a minor inconvenience. A task that gives you the ability to drive! Do you know how petty it is that you hate a task that allows you to drive? Would you rather have to travel across the desert by fucking donkey for forty days? Cause that's what I had to do to get anywhere!!

NEW ARRIVAL

The DMV is a nightmare! Also, I wasn't an ordinary person. I was a CEO of a successful company. I shouldn't have to wait in line with (searching for the word) regular people at the DMV.

DELILAH

Regular? You mean poor, right? Yeah you worked so hard. Waiting for your father to die so you could inherit a company he did all the work to make successful. All the while you sailed through college because your father bought a bui because you were too busy banging a cheerleader when you were supposed to be taking your SATs. Damn you're right. You had it rough. Try being a prostitute in the fucking biblical era, a time where prostitutes weren't exactly popular.

NEW ARRIVAL

Hmmm? Sorry? What were you saying?

DELILAH

Never mind. You just proved my point.

ARE

Now assisting number 1- number 1.

NEW ARRIVAL

looks at his long numbered paper

Number 1? Really, I'm the only one waiting.

ARE

Wow-nothing gets past you.

NEW ARRIVAL

I want to speak to your supervisor!

ARE

Well, that's Satan so-

NEW ARRIVAL

I can't believe the disrespect. Calling your boss Satan-

ARE

Look behind you and you can tell me if I have a good reason for calling my supervisor Satan?

The New Arrival turns around and looks at Satan lying down

NEW ARRIVAL

Oh shit! I forgot-

ARE

Yeah looks like your father made a good call buying that building.

The New Arrival goes over to Satan. Delilah sees this and runs over to Are

DELILAH

What do they think they're doing?!

ARE

Talking to my supervisor.

NEW ARRIVAL

Hey Satan!

SATAN

I'm gonna pretend not to hear you and give you a chance to go back to your seat, mostly cause I don't feel like getting up.

NEW ARRIVAL

I have a complaint!

SATAN

You're in hell. If you have a complaint, I'm doing my job. Now go away.

NEW ARRIVAL

Unbelievable! I would think a supervisor would be more present in their workplace.

SATAN

I've been working here since the beginning of time. Sorry if I seem a little over it.

NEW ARRIVAL

That's it! I refuse to be ignored any longer!

New Arrival tries to get Satan to get up. Satan just stares at the New Arrival

SATAN

Are, hand me my pitchfork.

ARE

Satan, are sure this is worth-

SATAN

NOW!

Satan goes to Are's desk. Are takes out a baseball bat resembling a pitchfork from behind her desk and sweeps dust off of it and slowly hands it to Satan. Are also hands Satan a headband with devil horns on it and Satan puts it on their head

NEW ARRIVAL

What's that for?

Satan runs toward them with the pitchfork

Ahhh!!!

Satan proceeds to chase the New Arrival trying to swing the pitchfork at them. After Satan and the New Arrival do a few laps the New Arrival goes to hide behind the desk. Delilah and Are move out of the way. Satan goes to swing at the New Arrival but then there is a thunderclap. Satan Delilah and Are look up. Satan hands the pitchfork back to Are

SATAN

God-dammit!

(Thunderclap)

(looking up) Shit! Sorry! (to Are) Are, can you take them to purgatory or show him where they keep the dead pets? I need a minute-

ARE

Let's go

Are and the New Arrival exit

Delilah, I think I understand what you mean. People are disappointing. Here (snaps fingers) Try it now.

DELILAH

Try what now?

SATAN

Rolling your eyes. You've been trying to do it all day.

DELILAH

How did you? (Delilah rolls their eyes successfully) Hey I did it! Wait, why did you do that for me? I'm not exactly employee of the month.

SATAN

Look, you're in hell. Your hell. I can at least make it a little more bearable. I'm gonna go check on Are and the new arrival. Take it easy.

Satan exits

DELILAH

My Hell?

They turn to the audience and realize that this is it. They're in their own personal hell. And no amount of eye rolling can fix that.

My Hell.

THE END

