

Lady in Red/ Receptionist

Lady in White

Lady in Grey (Could be a drag queen)

Mr Smith

Gracie

Mother

Graham

What's next?

Scene 1

Relaxing meditation spa / jazz music in the background. A White waiting room. 3 stools, each with a beautiful woman sitting behind it. One lady wears a red, 1960s cut dress (Stage Left). The other lady wears a white ¾ sleeve, tight fitting, pearl embossed cardigan (Stage Right). Down Stage Centre is a lady with a grey poncho, with fur trim around the neck. There is someone seated in front of each stool, with their backs to the audience but not blocking the ladies.

All: *(Looking at the audience)* Your time has come. *(Walk to chair)* Welcome to Limbo...

(Immediately after the word limbo, each lady individually, with a quick pace and with character states her "client's" name)

Lady in Red: ...Mr. Smith

Lady in White: ... Gracie

Lady in Grey: ... Graham

Lady in Red: I'm afraid you've used your last chance Mr. Smith. The complaints we have received have far outweighed the positives. Don't get me wrong, your charity work did initially leave a good impression.

Lady in White: And so, I'm happy to say you finally made it through Gracie! After all these years and all these attempts...this is your 9th attempt isn't it Gracie? Well done! I can only assume you are feeling rather pleased with yourself. Your mother will certainly be smiling down on you right now, or at least, she'll be smiling, finally, wherever she currently is! And I hear that your dad has finally made the decision to move onto the next level *(looking pointedly to the man sitting in front of Lady in Grey)*, though I'm afraid he hasn't lived enough to gain the amount of points to take him through my door yet but you never know, there's always hope! He did really well on his first round! However, he missed out on vital points because he denied who he was to himself. Otherwise, he was a star and scored so many points. You know that your highlight moment that scored the highest points was when you saved that child from the burning building. And you're not even a fire fighter!

Lady in Grey: Hello Graham, welcome back. So, are you finally ready to make the decision to go back? You've spent forever loitering around and dilly dallying over whether you're ready for round 2! I'm really

proud of you for finally making a choice! What would you like this time around? Human, animal, fish or plant? Oh yes, vegans are cruel too, everything has a soul!

Lady in Red: *(Sighing and then assuming a teacher tone, with disappointment)* It's exactly this attitude that gets you into trouble each time Mr. Smith. You rush to express your anger and you crush your logic in the process. Do you think that you were right in each and every argument you've ever had? Or is it more likely that your anger frightened people off or at the very least left them feeling put off by your venom. *(Beat)* Now, back to what I was saying, your charity work did initially make a good impression until you exploited it and made more money than you ever gave. Now, let's face it, that's not quite the caliber we accept round here....

Lady in Grey: *(Enthusiastically)* Great! Animal! My personal favourite!! None of that human drama, just basic raw instinct *(makes a sex kitten cute roar sound)*. I think it's wise you avoid the human drama considering what you went through last time. Bit traumatic was it? There, there, it'll be far more simple now. Now, which continent would you prefer: Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, North America, South America or Antarctica?...No I can't guarantee which country. But you do know that the greater the risk, the more points you gain.

Lady in White: I mean there was a time you just couldn't find good people! Do you remember that? You don't? Well maybe I just spoke with the wrong kind of people. But I'm so glad that's over. People are generally becoming more aware with each generation. That means faster access to either destination which is fabulous!... or in fact disastrous, depending where you're headed. But it's always the way, isn't it? Everything comes as a blessing and a curse. Oh but I do ramble on with my philosophy. I apologise. It's just I get a bit lonely on my desk as most people nowadays actually choose to postpone entrance in order to go back for one more round. Bucket lists you see. They're bad for business.

Lady in Red: *(Roaring)* Would you like to hear MY roar too Mr. Smith?

All 3 Ladies go silent and for a moment look casually over towards Lady in Red. Then resume like nothing happened

Lady in Grey: *(In agreement with person in front of her)* That's the spirit Graham, no need to worry about living with the 2 different versions of yourself when you're an animal. You just get to live on the wild side, or YOLO as kids say nowadays. *Beat.* Except they're wrong, obviously. It should be YOLF *(Typing)* You Only Live Forever! So, that's an animal in Europe. Do you prefer a pack animal or one that lives solo? *(Pleased)* Wonderful. Pack animal it is. You strike me as a swan. Something quite regal about you. There's nothing like flocking together is there? You know, I believe it was Budda who once said 'Those who awaken never rest in one place. Like swans, they rise and leave the lake'. Well Graham, it's finally your turn to rise.

Lady in White: Course it never is one more round is it? They believe they only want one more round until the next opportunity to choose. And let's face it, it's not as if we haven't got time. Now, I have to ask for legal purposes, are you committed to forever live in peace and love? Good. Yes I know that's obvious but we have to ask. Now, bear with me while we finish up, will you want permanent or temporary residence? *Beat.* Oh, right yeah, it would help if I explain! So... permanent residence is when you stay forever and temporary is when you have the choice to pop out from time to time and try another round. Pardon? *(laughing)* On any dimension, not just this one.