

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

The Good Place

FroNo (Season 1 Episode 4.5)

Written by

Sara Wharff

Copyright (c)

Final Draft

Contact information

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

COLD OPEN

INT. SINKHOLE SITE - MORNING

ELEANOR peers over the edge of the slowly crumbling sinkhole while eating frozen yogurt. MICHAEL and TAHANI are walking together a few feet away. Tahani is holding a notepad and pen.

TAHANI

For brunch tomorrow, do you think  
the residents would prefer mini  
quiches or deviled eggs?

MICHAEL

Oh Tahani, this is The Good Place!  
Do Both!

(quickly)

However, GLENN loves the mini  
quiches, so go ahead and double up  
on those.

Tahani makes a note in her pad. Michael Sees Eleanor peering over the sinkhole's edge.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(to Tahani)

Oh! There she is!

Michel briskly approaches Eleanor from behind, with Tahani following closely behind him.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Eleanor!

Startled, Eleanor jumps back from the edge and nearly drops her yogurt. Micheal reaches out to steady her.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Whoa there! We really should put up  
a warning sign around here.

ELEANOR

Yeah man, I almost dropped my first  
breakfast.

(beat)

Hey! Exactly what would happen if,  
hypothetically, one were to fall  
into the --

(motions to  
sinkhole)

void?

MICHAEL

Well, given that The Good Place  
rests on top of The Bad Place's pig  
urine sector, you would plummet  
into a vessel of pig urine to live  
in for the rest of eternity.

TAHANI

(disgusted)

Oh my.

MICHAEL

But that's neither here nor there.  
Look, Eleanor, you're just the  
person I was looking for. We need  
to fix this sinkhole situation.

Michael pulls out a handkerchief and wipes sweat off his forehead.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

However, I need to prepare for a meeting with my boss today. So, as my assistant, can you do me a favor?

ELEANOR

Um... Yeah, sure.

MICHAEL

Great! I want you to listen in on the neighbors and find out if one of them caused this sinkhole.

ELEANOR

(confused)

You want me to spy on the neighborhood?

MICHAEL

Think of it as friendly investigating to promote the well-being of the community. I was thinking that you could get a job. I'm sure there's something around here that would appeal to you. Obviously, you had nothing to do with --

(MORE)

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(motions to  
sinkhole)

So, I can count on you to get to  
the bottom of this mayhem, right?

TAHANI

What a brilliant idea, Michael! If  
anyone can uncover the truth,  
surely a former lawyer can!

Beat.

ELEANOR

Right!

(while slowly and  
anxiously backing  
away)

You can count on me! Attorney  
Shellstrop on the case! I'm just  
going to first check on my...  
dog --

(stammers)

My CHIDI!

MICHAEL

(To Tahani)

That's such an Eleanor thing to do:  
name your dog after your soulmate.

Beat.

TAHANI

(confused)

Huh? I could have sworn Eleanor  
told me she was allergic to dogs...

SMASH TO TITLES:

**THE GOOD PLACE**

END OF COLD OPEN

**ACT 1**

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Chidi is sitting on the couch reading a book, preparing for his next ethics lesson. Eleanor rushes in the front door.

ELEANOR

Chidi! Michael wants me to get a  
job!

Chidi looks up from the book he is reading.

CHIDI

He what?

ELEANOR

Yeah! He wants me to spy on the  
neighbors to find out which of them  
caused the sinkhole!

CHIDI

(closes book and  
gets up from couch)

That's a great idea!

ELEANOR

News flash, buddy! I caused the  
sinkhole!

CHIDI

No... I mean yes, but today's  
lesson is about the Confucius  
virtue of Ren.

ELEANOR

No, we don't have time for a run. We need to figure out how to fix the sinkhole that, in about two days' time, will have destroyed 1/4th of the neighborhood!

CHIDI

Ren, is behavior that promotes a flourishing community through love, goodness, and selflessness. What better way to get hands-on experience than contributing to the neighborhood through honest work.

ELEANOR

(mumbles)

I thought dying would have killed off my need to work as well.

CHIDI

Look, I will go investigate the sinkhole if you promise me you will find a job... Please.

Beat. Eleanor and Chidi stare at each other. JASON walks in the front door.

JASON

Hey guys! I'm here for today's ethnics lesson!

CHIDI

(under breath)

Ethics.

ELEANOR

Jason, we're getting a job!

JASON

(excited)

Cool! Where are we going to work? I have always wanted to be an astronaut or a scuba-diver. How about a firefighter? Do you think they'll let us slide down those poles?

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - LATER

Chidi knock's on Michael's door.

CHIDI O.S.

Michael!? Are you in there? I wanted to come by and talk to you about the sinkhole.

He knocks again.

CHIDI O.S. (cont'd)

Michael!?

The door opens to reveal an empty office. Chidi tentatively steps inside. He looks uneasy about being in the office alone.

CHIDI

(softly to self)

Maybe Michael has notes lying  
around... No! Snooping is wrong.

(beat)

However, under Utilitarianism,  
wouldn't the possible result of  
helping the neighborhood ultimately  
outweigh the act as I would be  
contributing to the greater good?

(anxiously looks

side-to-side)

Uhhhhh...

Chidi relents and looks around the office. He opens drawers  
and looks under items. Eventually, he sits at Micheal's desk  
and starts rummaging around with the papers on top.

MICHAEL O.S.

Chidi?

Chidi looks up from the desk. We see Michael staring at  
Chidi, confused.

EXT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP - DAY

Eleanor and Jason are staring at a "Help Wanted" sign hung  
up on the frozen yogurt shop's door.

JASON

Noooooooooo!

ELEANOR

We have to! I promised Chidi. This  
is the only place hiring.

Eleanor grabs the sign and opens the door to walk in while Jason stares at the building with reluctance. Suddenly, Eleanor grabs Jason and pulls him inside with her.

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor and Jason walk into the moderately busy frozen yogurt shop. JANET appears behind them.

JANET

Hello!

Startled, they jump and turn around. Eleanor clutches her heart.

ELEANOR

Jeez! People really need to stop scaring me today! What am I? A blond chic to torment and laugh at?

(beat)

Do you work here?

JANET

Yes and no. Janets work both everywhere and nowhere. How can I help you?

ELEANOR

Jas.. Jianyu and I would like to apply for a job.

JANET

Ok! You'll need to talk to the manager. Just head on over to the office in the back.

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP MANAGER OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Eleanor and Jason walk into the office and see Janet, now wearing a purple pantsuit, sitting at a desk. They halt.

MANAGER JANET

You're here to apply for a job,  
correct?

ELEANOR

Right?...

MANAGER JANET

(stands up)

Just give me a moment. I need to  
fetch the interview questionnaire.

Instantly, Manager Janet disappears. Eleanor and Jason sit in the chairs facing the desk. Eleanor turns to Jason

ELEANOR

Remember, let me take the lead. I  
got this.

Off Eleanor's confident look --

FLASHBACK - INT. INTERVIEW OFFICE - 15 YEARS AGO

Eleanor is seated in a chair, relaxed, and texting on her phone, across from her potential, visibly irritated boss.

BOSS

Eleanor?

ELEANOR

(holds up a finger)

Just give me a second.

BOSS

El --

ELEANOR

almost there...

BOSS

Ca --

ELEANOR

(gasps)

No way!

BOSS

Thi --

ELEANOR

(while laughing)

Oh, that's funny!

BOSS

Ple --

ELEANOR

Annnnd done. What were you saying?

Eleanor puts her phone away in her back pocket.

BOSS

(looking bored)

On a scale from one to ten, how  
attentive of an individual are you?

ELEANOR

Oh, ten.

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP MANAGER OFFICE - BACK TO SCENE -  
CONTINUOUS

ELEANOR

(to Jason)

I've been through hundreds of  
interviews.

Eleanor looks off into the distance.

ELEANOR (cont'd)

Although, now that I think about  
it, I have yet to receive any  
callbacks...

(beat. Eleanor sits  
up straighter)

Yeah, I got this.

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - LATER

Michael is sitting at his desk with Chidi seated across from  
him.

MICHAEL

Let me get this straight. You're  
telling me that when I previously  
left my office empty, only to  
return and find a resident riffling  
through my desk, you were, in  
actuality, straightening up some  
papers and keeping my chair warm  
while waiting for me...?

CHIDI

(quickly)

Yes! I know how busy you are, being  
the architect and everyth --

MICHAEL

Why are you here?

CHIDI

I wanted to ask you about the  
sinkhole.

MICHAEL

(in distress)

Oh, Chidi! I know! Isn't it awful!?  
My first neighborhood, and I can't  
even keep it running smoothly for a  
week! I'm a dreadful architect! In  
a couple of hours, my boss is  
expecting me to report on how the  
neighborhood is running. What am I  
supposed to tell him? Yes!  
Everything is going great! First,  
we had giant giraffes and flying  
shrimp terrorizing residents, and  
now a sinkhole is devouring the  
neighborhood!

Michael sniffles and blots his eyes with a handkerchief.  
Chidi gets up and walks around the desk toward him.

CHIDI

No! Don't say that.

(pats Michael's

back begrudgingly)

There, there, I'm sure this has all  
just been a blip in the system and  
will blow over before you know it.

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP MANAGER OFFICE - LATER

Manager Janet is sitting at her desk, holding the interview questionnaire, while Eleanor and Jason are seated across from her.

MANAGER JANET

Alright.

Manager Janet looks down at the questionnaire and then back up.

MANAGER JANET (cont'd)

Eleanor, what would you say to a  
customer's request for a yogurt  
recommendation?

Beat. Camera zooms in on Eleanor's face.

ELEANOR

(under breath)

Oh, fork.

MANAGER JANET

What?

ELEANOR

Fork! I would ask them if they  
would like a fork with their  
yogurt!

MANAGER JANET

(confused)

You would say to someone asking for  
a flavor recommendation: would you  
like a fork?

ELEANOR

Yes! Because any of the flavors are  
great as long as you use a utensil  
that really enables you to savor  
the yogurt.

MANAGER JANET

Oh...

(beat)

That makes sense! Jason?

Eleanor leans forward and cups her hand beside her mouth.

ELEANOR

(whispers to

Manager Janet)

Chidi and I are still helping  
Jianyu gain back his confidence to  
speak.

Eleanor sits back and then leans forward again.

ELEANOR (cont'd)

Also, as a monk, he values living  
in the present over considering  
hypotheticals.

Eleanor sits back.

MANAGER JANET

Oh, right!

Manager Janet looks back down at the questionnaire.

ELEANOR

(in a sing-song  
voice to self)

Nailed it!

**END OF ACT 1**

ACT 2

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP - LATER

Eleanor and Jason are standing at the frozen yogurt machine with Manager Janet.

MANAGER JANET

All you have to do is think about the kind of yogurt you want, pull the lever, and the machine will dispense the desired flavor.

Eleanor inspects the machine.

ELEANOR

What if --

(turns toward  
Manager Janet)

Manager Janet has already disappeared.

ELEANOR (cont'd)

Great...

(to Jason)

I'll take orders at the counter while you man the machine.

A bell chimes, indicating a new customer has arrived.

TAHANI

Eleanor! Jianyu! I was craving a nibble and thought I'd check in and see how my new friend and soulmate are doing on their first day!

(MORE)

TAHANI (cont'd)

Shopping really works up an  
appetite.

ELEANOR

(deadpan)

How dreadful...

TAHANI

You wouldn't believe the trouble  
I've gone through today to find a  
silk gown that says:

(gestures with hand)

elegant brunch!

(quickly)

But that's not too ostentatious or  
simple as well.

Beat. Tahani looks around the shop, unimpressed.

How is uhhh... employment treating  
you?

ELEANOR

Oh, well, we were just getting  
started, actually.

TAHANI

You know! I once volunteered at a  
soup kitchen in Gaza for a whole  
year while my sister was on tour  
promoting her debut album. Did  
anyone care though!? No! It was

(MORE)

TAHANI (cont'd)

always KAMILAH this and Kamilah  
that --

ELEANOR

What can we get you Tahani?

TAHANI

Yes! hmm... A triple berry yogurt  
would be absolutely delightful!

Jason nods and turns to operate the yogurt machine.

TAHANI (cont'd)

(whispers to

Eleanor)

Surely, all of the wisdom Jianyu  
has gained as a monk includes that  
of the culinary arts as well.

Jason pulls the lever, but nothing happens. He hits the machine, shakes it, and pulls the lever again. The machine sputters and dispenses green yogurt. Jason presents Tahani with her yogurt.

TAHANI (cont'd)

(confused and

slightly concerned)

Oh well, isn't that fun...?

Tahani accepts the yogurt and takes a bite. She is repulsed but gives a thumbs up, indicating that she likes the yogurt.

TAHANI (cont'd)

Mmmm... I just remembered... I have  
some dry cleaning to pick up. I  
better be going.

(MORE)

TAHANI (cont'd)

(while quickly  
heading toward the  
exit)

But I'm glad everything seems to be  
going well. Ta-ta!

Through the window, we see Tahani toss her yogurt in the  
trash. Eleanor turns to Jason, confused.

ELEANOR

What happened!?

Jason stares at Eleanor, wide-eyed.

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP - LATER

Eleanor and Jason are inspecting the frozen yogurt machine.  
Chidi walks into the shop.

CHIDI

(unenthusiastically)

Hey guys.

ELEANOR

Have you figured out how to fix the  
sinkhole!?

CHIDI

No. I tried to talk to Michael  
about it but ended up reassuring  
him that he is not a failure of an  
architect for the past hour. How's  
it going in here?

ELEANOR

If puke-flavored yogurt indicates  
that it's going great, then great!

JASON

Maybe if you can't find a way to  
fix the sinkhole, maybe there's a  
way to slow it down?!

Eleanor turns toward Jason.

ELEANOR

You know Jason, I think you might  
be on to something!

(to Chidi)

If the sinkhole is eating up its  
surroundings and everything that is  
"good," we might just need to feed  
it something pure to sustain its  
hunger! Janet!

Janet instantly appears.

JANET

Yes!?

ELEANOR

What is the purest thing in The  
Good Place?

JANET

Well, that would be kids of course!

Alarmed, Eleanor and Chidi look at each other. Chidi pulls  
Eleanor off to the side.

CHIDI

(whisper yelling)

No! I am not killing a child by  
throwing them into a void!

ELEANOR

Come on man! You wouldn't be  
killing the kid! It's already dead!

CHIDI

I am not dooming an innocent child  
for eternity!

ELEANOR

For all we know, children may like  
pig urine.

CHIDI

Pig urine!?

ELEANOR

(to Janet)

Janet, you know, poor Chidi here  
never got the chance on Earth to  
complete his life-long dream of  
starting a family. He has been  
desperately wanting to spend more  
time with kids. Could you take him  
to see some?

CHIDI

That is really not --

Instantly, Chidi and Janet disappear.

EXT. GOAT FARM - MOMENTS LATER

Janet and Chidi appear on a goat farm. Chidi looks around, confused.

JANET

(realizing)

Oh... Did you want to see human  
kids?

CHIDI

No! This... This is good.

Chidi warily pets the goats.

CHIDI (cont'd)

Aren't you a nice goat? Yes, you  
are. Yes, you are.

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP - LATER

Eleanor and Jason are back to inspecting the frozen yogurt machine. Eleanor pulls the machine's lever and dispenses red yogurt.

ELEANOR

Shirt. That was supposed to be  
coconut yogurt.

JASON

Coconuts are not red?

ELEANOR

We must be the problem! Probably  
only those who actually belong in  
The Good Place get the flavor they  
imagine.

JASON

Maybe Janet can help? Jan --

ELEANOR

Wait! She could report back to  
Michael! Nobody can know that we  
can't work the machine properly!

A bell chimes indicating a new customer has walked in.

CUSTOMER 1

Hi! Can I get a lemon frozen  
yogurt?

Eleanor walks out from behind the counter.

ELEANOR

You don't want frozen yogurt.

(while directing  
the customer back  
toward the  
entrance)

In this weather!? What you really  
want is a latte from the new coffee  
shop that just opened up around the  
block.

The customer halts.

CUSTOMER 1

You know what!? You're right! A  
latte does sound good. On Earth, I  
could never have coffee due to my  
IBS. I would always end up

(MORE)

CUSTOMER 1 (cont'd)

exploding on the toilet, but this  
is The Good Place! I bet I can have  
it now!

The customer leaves.

ELEANOR

(to self)

Well, I could have gone without  
having that image seared into my  
brain for the rest of eternity.

INT. SINKHOLE SITE - LATER

Chidi is pacing back and forth by the sinkhole.

CHIDI

(mumbles to self)

Something pure... Something pure...

Chidi halts. Through the window, he sees a kid bike by with  
flowers in their front basket. After thinking for a moment,  
Chidi throws flowers into the sinkhole. The sinkhole  
continues to crumble. Chidi frowns.

CHIDI (cont'd)

Well that was a bust. oh no!...

Chidi clutches his stomach in distress.

CHIDI (cont'd)

I killed the flowers! Flowers are  
in their purest form when alive.  
Thus, I diminished their purity by  
picking and subsequently killing  
them.

Chidi continues to pace back and forth

Ok, it can't be something that can  
change states. What is pure but has  
never lived?

Chidi halts and his face lights up. Beat. He throws a jar of  
raw honey into the sinkhole. The sinkhole continues to  
crumble.

CHIDI (cont'd)

Wait! Honey comes from bees. I  
stole the honey from the bees,  
removing it from the purest state.

(groans)

We see Chidi holding a book by Plato.

CHIDI (cont'd)

Plato. Believed that unity is  
formed through the 5 virtues:  
wisdom, temperance, courage,  
justice, and piety. Why didn't I  
think of this sooner?

Chidi goes to toss the book in but halts.

CHIDI (cont'd)

Wasn't Plato a slave owner?

(while clutching  
stomach)

Oh no!...

**END OF ACT 2**

ACT 3

INT. FROZEN YOGURT SHOP - AFTERNOON

The frozen yogurt shop is now empty. Eleanor is directing a customer out of the shop.

ELEANOR

Sorry, no frozen yogurt today. The machine needs cleaning...

The customer is now standing just outside, looking through the door Eleanor is holding open.

CUSTOMER 2

It looks perfectly fine to me.

We see Jason with his head under the frozen yogurt machine, simultaneously pulling the lever and dispensing yogurt into his mouth.

ELEANOR

B-Bye now!

Eleanor slams the door and turns to Jason. Jason comes up from under the machine.

JASON

This is so dope! If I think about pineapple yogurt, out comes jalapeno popper flavored yogurt!

ELEANOR

Wait really!?

Eleanor shakes her head, centering herself.

ELEANOR (cont'd)

(while walking back  
toward the counter)

Never mind that. Jason, next time,  
can you at least wait until the  
customer has left?

JASON

Oh, sorry.

A bell chimes and Michael walks in looking gloomy.

MICHAEL

Elean -- Jianyu? I didn't know you  
work here. Well, how could you have  
told me? You've been sworn to  
silence for most of our time  
together!

ELEANOR

(nervous laugh)

Yeah, Jianyu is so graciously  
helping me out on my mission. No  
better eaves-dropper than someone  
who has done nothing but listen for  
years!

(nervous laugh)

MICHAEL

Oh, Eleanor! It's been an  
absolutely dreadful day! The  
meeting with my boss went as well  
as the ending of *How I Met Your*

(MORE)

MICHAEL (cont'd)

*Mother.* Great show, however, they really screwed Barney over. Fortunately, my boss doesn't seem to be any more suspicious of my architectural abilities than he was last week. Please tell me you have gathered some incriminating evidence.

ELEANOR

Um... Well... The shop has not been too busy today...

MICHAEL

(perks up)

Oh! Frozen yogurt! That would cheer me up! I have been meaning to try what you humans call Nutella. Could I get a Nutella frozen yogurt?

ELEANOR

(quickly)

Oh... There is much better food to try than Nutella, like pizza or nachos. Have you tried nachos yet? They're basically chips smothered in --

MICHAEL

(sternly)

Eleanor. I want frozen yogurt.

ELEANOR

But --

MICHAEL

Is there a reason why I shouldn't have frozen yogurt? I hope everything has been running smoothly.

ELEANOR

(high-pitched)

Of course it has!

Eleanor turns to Jason.

ELEANOR (cont'd)

Jianyu?

Jason nods and dispenses frozen yogurt into a cup. Eleanor and Jason are relieved when the color appears brown. Jason hands Michael the yogurt.

MICHAEL

Thank you.

Michael takes a bite and looks alarmed.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

I know what's going on here.

Beat. Eleanor and Jason look nervous.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(while smiling)

It's Opposite Day, isn't it?

Eleanor and Jason exhale with relief.

ELEANOR

(with  
overconfidence)

Yes!

MICHAEL

Well, I admire your effort; this  
strategy doesn't seem great for  
business. You can't listen in on  
the neighborhood without any  
customers.

Michael looks around the empty shop.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(concerned)

How many people would you say  
you've served today?

INT. SINKHOLE SITE - LATER

Chidi is sitting by the sinkhole with his head down,  
defeated.

ELEANOR O.S.

Hey, Buddy.

Eleanor has just walked up and is now standing by Chidi,  
holding frozen yogurt.

CHIDI

(while standing up)

Eleanor!

ELEANOR

Did you try the kids yet?

CHIDI

No, we went over this. I have not.

I thought your shift ended at  
eight?

Eleanor takes a bite of her yogurt.

ELEANOR

I convinced Micheal to let me  
investigate the neighbors my own  
way. Now I can actually help you --

Eleanor gestures to the sinkhole with the hand holding the yogurt and accidentally flings it into the void. The sinkhole stops crumbling. Eleanor and Chidi look at each other, confused.

ELEANOR (cont'd)

(while staring off  
into the distance)

Huh? Maybe I was the one who needed  
to throw something pure in all  
along since I caused the sinkhole  
to form in the first place. Frozen  
yogurt. Wouldn't you know?

CHIDI

Of course! The purity of the frozen  
yogurt didn't stop the sinkhole's  
growth. It was selflessness. The  
yogurt symbolized your benevolence

(MORE)

CHIDI (cont'd)

toward the community today,  
Eleanor.

ELEANOR

(deadpan to Chidi)

By turning customers away and  
serving yogurt no one liked?

CHIDI

But your intent was to promote  
harmony in the neighborhood,  
embodying the principle of Ren and  
counteracting your previous  
destructive actions.

Eleanor walks toward the sinkhole's edge, kicks a rock into  
the void, and turns to face Chidi, concerned.

ELEANOR

That is great and all! Really. I'm  
glad the sinkhole isn't going to  
get any bigger. But now there is  
just the teeny, tiny problem of an  
open void in the neighborhood!

Off Chidi's face --

**END OF SHOW**