

MENTAL HELLTH - PILOT

Written by

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Series Logline: After making a deal with the Devil to get another chance at life, 16-year-old Ofelia embarks on a journey to convince God that humanity isn't as bad as He thinks—but as their plan unfolds, Ofelia begins to question the mysterious circumstances of her death and the Devil's true intentions.

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FADE IN:

EXT. FORREST - DAY

A teenage girl, OFELIA (16), walks under a large canopy of trees breathing heavily in slow motion.

OFELIA (V.O.)

Have you ever wanted to come face to face with God? It would be great, wouldn't it? You could ask why the world is so fucked up. You could maybe find hope. You could maybe find purpose. That's something I think I never really found. Well, maybe I did. I can't really remember. I can't remember how I died either. All I remember is a train whistle...and then...whatever was next.

She stops and looks down at something, tears building in her eyes.

On the ground below her is a naked MAN (GOD), twitching and peeing himself - taser wires stuck to his chest. A PARK RANGER stands off to the side, hand on his radio.

OFELIA (V.O.)

This is how I came face to face with God. Not some mighty force I shrank before. Not some welcoming embrace that held all the answers. No. I came face to face with God as he writhed naked on the forrest floor—covered in his own piss. And in that moment, I couldn't help but think...I thought his dick would be bigger.

Ofelia tilts her head and raises her eyebrow. A train whistle blares in the distance.

START TITLES

Ofelia spirals unconsciously through a black void as part of "Meet the Devil" by Molly Frances plays. Ofelia falls past frame.

TITLE CARD. END TITLES.

INT. DARK VOID - DAY

Ofelia continues to spiral unconsciously through a black void.

The voice of LUCIFER calls out as she falls.

LUCIFER (O.S.)

Shhh. Here she comes, here she comes. I'm so nervous. Can you tell?

Ofelia's body slows down and floats gracefully to the ground. The darkness around her turns to a warm red.

INT. HELL - DAY

Two figures approach her motionless body, cloaked in robes. One of them throws his hood off and reveals a rather friendly looking face - like a very approachable father figure - like Paul Rudd. Actually, let's just call it as it is, Paul Rudd is the Devil. This is Lucifer (age unknown). Also known as Satan, El Diablo, The Dark One, The Fallen Angel, and probably a thousand other names. But he looks nothing like you'd expect the devil to look. Unless you expect the devil to look like Paul Rudd.

LUCIFER

Poor girl. She was only sixteen.

The other figure pulls off his hood. His face is stern and he looks exhausted. This is Peter. Also known as Saint Peter. Yes, *that one*.

PETER

Are you sure this is the one?

LUCIFER

Yes. I'm sure. Well, eighty-one percent sure anyway.

Peter shakes his head.

PETER

We can't be wrong about this. The plan has to work.

LUCIFER

I feel like you're implying I'm going to fuck it up. I've got this, I promise. You don't have to worry about me, Peter.

PETER
It's not you I'm worried about.
It's the other side of the coin.

LUCIFER
Ugh. What have I told you about
metaphors?

PETER
They have no place in your
presence.

LUCIFER
Because...

Peter sighs.

PETER
Because a metaphor is like a
present.

LUCIFER
Which meanssssss...

PETER
Which means you don't know what it
is until you unwrap it.

LUCIFER
And?

Peter blows up in frustration.

PETER
And you *hate* unwrapping presents!

LUCIFER
Exactly. Now, enough distraction.
Back to the present.

PETER
(under his breath)
Using a metaphor to say you hate
metaphors. Seems like you like them
to me.

LUCIFER
What was that?

Peter makes a 'lip zipping' motion.

Lucifer waves his hand over Ofelia and she wakes with a
start, grasping at her neck.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)
Woah, easy! Just breathe. Breathe.
That's it. Everything's going to be
alright.

OFELIA
Where am I? What's going on?

She looks around frantically.

LUCIFER
Ofelia McLaughlin. I hate to be the
one that has to tell you this
but...you're dead. This is the
afterlife. Well, this is an
afterlife.

PETER
I think it's a afterlife.

LUCIFER
Peter, please! Ofelia died today.
Things are bad enough without
bringing grammar into this...and
it's definitely *an*.

Ofelia shakes her head.

OFELIA
Right. I'm clearly on some kind of
drug trip or something.

LUCIFER
I assure you there are no drugs
involved. Plus, I know you've never
taken any. Although, that might not
be a bad idea for the future. It
might help people transition here
easier—Peter would you write that
down?

Ofelia looks at Peter.

OFELIA
How do you guys know my name? And
that I've never done drugs?

She looks back at Lucifer and takes in his appearance.

OFELIA (CONT'D)
This can't be real.

LUCIFER

Do you remember anything? Before
you were here, I mean?

Ofelia closes her eyes and shakes her head.

OFELIA

I know who I am if that's what
you're asking. But...I don't
remember what I was doing right
before...whatever this is.

She rubs her neck.

OFELIA (CONT'D)

And why does my neck hurt so bad?

Lucifer shrugs and looks away, clearly knowing why.

LUCIFER

The road here can be a bit bumpy.
I'm working on it. If you don't
remember anything, let me help you
a bit...

He reaches out his hand and Ofelia recoils. Lucifer squats
down to her level and sighs. He has a very approachable
nature about him. Like a dad who likes telling dad jokes and
shows his love by showing up to everything, even your fourth
grade musical despite the fact that you're playing a mute.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Ofelia, I know this sounds crazy. A
lot of people experience exactly
the same thing when they first show
up here. Just let me help you.

He reaches out his hand again and this time Ofelia gets
quickly to her feet.

OFELIA

This doesn't make sense. None of
this makes sense. I don't know who
you are but stay back, I'm warning
you!

She looks around frantically. There's no doors anywhere
around. In fact, the room appears to be nothing more than a
cave. Above is an endless black void.

OFELIA (CONT'D)

Shit. I've been kidnapped haven't
I? This is some sort of sex cult
cave or something, isn't it?

Lucifer stands up and rubs his temples.

LUCIFER
(looking at Peter)
Why does everyone always go right
to sex cult cave?

Peter shrugs.

Ofelia runs to the far wall, banging her hands on it.

OFELIA
Help! Help!

LUCIFER
Hey, easy! I just re-painted. You
aren't in danger here, I promise.

Ofelia folds her arms and stays far away.

OFELIA
Am I supposed to feel reassured by
you? I don't even know you. I don't
know what the hell is going on!

Lucifer holds his finger up.

LUCIFER
Ah, there's there it is! Ofelia, I
know there's a lot of emotions
swirling around inside you at your
age. Sixteen is a difficult time.
At least, so I've seen. I haven't
been sixteen for...well...ever,
really. But let me help you.
Please.

He holds out his hand and Ofelia cautiously approaches it.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)
I'm just going to touch your
forehead. That's all.

Ofelia stops an arms length away. Lucifer reaches out and
touches her forehead.

Her head snaps back. A wave of images flood the screen: Trees
waving in the breeze, birds flying overhead, a train blazing
across tracks blaring its whistle and coming straight toward
the camera.

Lucifer removes his hand and Ofelia gasps.

OFELIA

I remember now. The trees, the train, I...died, didn't I?

Lucifer nods.

LUCIFER

A horrible accident, for someone so young as yourself.

Ofelia steadies herself on the wall.

OFELIA

No. No. No! I can't be dead. My family...my sister, she's getting married soon! I have to be there for her.

Peter bows his head. Lucifer clears his throat.

LUCIFER

I know this must be a lot to take in.

Ofelia lets out a cackle. She breaths heavily, fighting to control herself.

OFELIA

Okay—okay—okay. I'm dead. Ha! Okay. But then, if I died, where am I now?

LUCIFER

Where is a bit of a hard one. I mean, you are somewhere. You're *here*. But we're not exactly anywhere. Not anywhere you could find on a map or through a telescope anyway. It's easiest to think of it like I said earlier, an afterlife...shit, I think it is a.

Ofelia rubs her head and looks between Peter and Lucifer.

OFELIA

Your robes...knowing my name—my life...Peter. Am I in heaven?

Peter laughs and Lucifer shoots him a stern look.

LUCIFER

I see you are quick to pick up my friend's moniker. Are you religious?

OFELIA
Not particularly.

Lucifer wipes his forehead.

LUCIFER
Oh, thank God.

OFELIA
But I had to go to religious
classes after school as a kid. Same
with my sister. My parent's wanted
me confirmed in the church but I
didn't see the point. Sort of left
that all behind. Guess that was
silly of me now.

LUCIFER
Why didn't you want to be
confirmed?

Ofelia shrugs.

OFELIA
Guess I just didn't feel it was
right for me.

LUCIFER
Then I don't think it was silly at
all.

Ofelia is taken aback by this response.

OFELIA
Sooo...*is* this heaven?

Lucifer rubs his neck awkwardly.

LUCIFER
Ehhhhh, not exactly.

OFELIA
Where is it then?

LUCIFER
Come on kid. Don't make me spell it
out for you. Only two options,
really.

Ofelia looks as if she's about to cry. She notices a silver
button near her on the wall. She shakes her head.

OFELIA

No. This can't be real. I need to
get home. I'm getting out of here!

She dashes for the button and hits it.

LUCIFER

No, wait!

One of the walls of the cave begins to move and shift,
revealing a large, glass window. Red light floods the room.
Ofelia shields her eyes.

She walks up to the window and looks out in horror. Before
her is Hell in all it's fiery glory. A massive, infinite city
with lava shooting up from the ground as demons fly around.

Ofelia clutches her chest and stumbles backward. She looks at
Lucifer with fear in her eyes.

OFELIA

So if I'm dead. And this is Hell.
Then you're...

Lucifer smiles a very friendly, goofy dad smile.

LUCIFER

The devil!

Ofelia grabs her head.

OFELIA

I don't feel so good.

Peter sighs.

PETER

Blackout in three...two...

Ofelia passes out and Lucifer catches her just before she
hits the ground.

PETER (CONT'D)

She's not the one. We need to
rethink the plan before it's too
late.

LUCIFER

Trust me. It's her or no one. Tell
JC that we're on. And that we'll
both be there on time.

PETER

But—

Lucifer rears up, flames suddenly raging in his eyes. A hint of his true form.

LUCIFER

Go! NOW!

Peter makes to speak but doesn't. He claps his hands together and disappears in a puff of white smoke.

Lucifer looks down at Ofelia.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

I wish I could tell you you're
suffering is over. But I'm afraid
it's just begun.

He looks out over his fiery kingdom.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Because, unfortunately, that's all
I seem to be good for. But with
your help, maybe that's all about
to change...

Flying demons screech as they soar by. One devours the screen into a sea of black.

INT. LUCIFER'S APARTMENT - DAY

POV from Ofelia as she slowly blinks her eyes open. We see Lucifer flipping pancakes in his kitchen as he dances around in an apron.

"River" by Joni Mitchell is playing on a nearby record player and Lucifer is singing along.

Ofelia sits up and rubs her head, taking in the room around her. It's incredibly homely. Like your grandmother's house. Filled with old photos, knitted coasters, and tiny spoons hanging on the wall. Except for the kitchen, which is starkly modern and shiny.

Ofelia watches Lucifer sing into a spatula.

OFELIA

What the fuck?

Lucifer turns around and smiles.

LUCIFER

Ofelia! Good, you're awake.

OFELIA
We're you singing?

Lucifer dances over with a plate full of pancakes and two eggs.

LUCIFER
Joni speaks to me. She's a wonder.
And basically my conscious. Don't
tell her I said that though. It's a
toss up between *River* and *Both*
Sides Now for the best song of all
time in my opinion. What about you?

OFELIA
Uhhh, I don't know.

LUCIFER
Hmm. Never heard of that one.
Anyway, sunny side up, right? Pinch
of salt? Sorry about earlier, by
the way. I was actually trying *not*
to scare you if you can believe it.

He places the breakfast plate on a coffee table in front of
Ofelia along with a hot cup of tea before settling into a
leather chair nearby.

Ofelia eyes the food suspiciously.

OFELIA
Right. Thanks. But I'm not really
that hungry.

LUCIFER
Yeah, most people here aren't. It's
funny, for a long time the
punishment was you could never feel
full down here but now it seems to
be that you're never hungry. The
big man upstairs must've changed
that up recently.

OFELIA
How recently?

Lucifer looks off into the distance as if counting something.

LUCIFER

Well, let's see. Carry the one, H-bomb, Davy Crockett, Elvis Presley, video killed the radio star...I'd say He made that change about eighty years to a hundred years ago or so.

OFELIA

Right. Recently. And by 'the big man upstairs' and 'He' you mean.

LUCIFER

God. Yes. The one and only. Unfortunately.

Ofelia slowly nods her head.

OFELIA

Right. Well. That is a lot to take in before breakfast.

LUCIFER

You may not feel hungry but the food still tastes like food. And I'm not a bad cook.

He gestures to the eggs and Ofelia stares down at them in silence. She grows somber.

OFELIA

My sister used to make me eggs like these.

She begins rubbing her neck again, almost subconsciously.

Lucifer's eyes go wide in panic and he quickly gets up.

LUCIFER

Bacon! I have bacon. One moment, please. Sing amongst yourself if you feel so inclined.

He runs over to the kitchen. He can see his reflection in the fridge and it looks at him with a disapproving glance.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

(to his reflection)

What do you want sour puss?

The reflection image changes to that of a young, hippie looking woman. She looks like Joni Mitchell. Actually, let's just say it is Joni Mitchell.

JONI

You should just tell her the truth.
She deserves to know and she's
going to find out eventually.
You're just going to make it harder
in the end.

Ofelia looks on with concern in the distance as Lucifer talks to himself. She can't hear what he's saying over the music.

Lucifer stares at his reflection, well, at Joni Mitchell, and looks to yell but then laughs.

LUCIFER

Ugh, I can't be mad at you. I just
can't. But I also can't tell her.
It'll ruin everything. Get out of
my head, Joni!

He turns to leave but then sighs and places his hand on the fridge without looking back.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean that.

He grabs a plate of hot sizzling bacon, and walks back to the couch.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Here we are!

OFELIA

Everything okay? Mr. uh, Devil?
Satan?

LUCIFER

Please, just call me Lucifer. And
everything's fine. Just chatting
with Joni. Here, try some bacon!

Ofelia smiles awkwardly and picks up a piece of bacon, taking a small bite. She's pleasantly surprised and takes a bigger bite.

OFELIA

Wow that's actually really good!

She eats the rest.

LUCIFER

Thank you. But what can I say? You
get enough chefs coming through the
door you pick up a thing or two.

(MORE)

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Of course, usually I'm just cooking for one. Not many people seem keen on joining me for breakfast.

OFELIA

(mouth full)

Well, you are the devil, right?

LUCIFER

That's what they call me. You don't seem too scared, though?

Ofelia shrugs.

OFELIA

Eh. I've sort accepted that I'm in extreme shock and in a coma or something and this is my brains way of coping. Either that or I'm having a mental breakdown, which wouldn't surprise me. Or, of course—

LUCIFER

You're dead.

OFELIA

Yeah. That. Regardless, you don't seem too devilish. No offense but I figured by now I'd be skinned alive over an open fire by horned demons or something like that.

Lucifer laughs.

LUCIFER

Don't be silly Ofelia!

Ofelia takes a long sip of her tea.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

We stopped doing that ages ago. Mostly.

Ofelia coughs on her tea and smiles sheepishly.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

And I left the horns back in the eighties where they belong.

Lucifer stands.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Look, I know this is weird and hard to believe and probably a million other things but—I have a proposition for you. Something I'd like your help with and in return, well, I think I can offer you something you'd quite like.

OFELIA

What's that?

LUCIFER

Your life back. If you help me, and we're successful, that is.

OFELIA

Are you serious? You can do that?

LUCIFER

It *can* be done. If we don't fail.

OFELIA

You promise?

LUCIFER

I promise you'll see your sister married.

Ofelia shoots up from the couch with glee.

OFELIA

Okay! What is it you need help with?

LUCIFER

First, how bout a tour? Feel free to bring your tea. Come on, we can take the hell-ivator!

Ofelia chuckles at Lucifer's child like energy. She follows him to a nearby glass elevator.

INT. HELL-IVATOR - DAY

The elevator zips down the side of a rocky mountain. Most of hell can be seen as they descend - it's filled with an amalgam of sights and sounds that can barely be described - ones that shock in the best and worst ways - like overlooking the Vegas strip or having to live in LA.

LUCIFER
What do you think?

OFELIA
I think it looks like Hell. Though
I admit, I never imagined so many
fountains and spotlights.

LUCIFER
Thank you. Those were my own
design. I'm making space for a
grand patch of green that I think
will be a nice change from the
usual color palette. Something
that'll rival even Central Park in
New York. Those east coasters.
Think they're the only ones that
can plant grass in a city!

Ofelia looks at Lucifer with surprise.

OFELIA
Excuse me, but, can I ask you
something, Lucifer?

LUCIFER
Please!

OFELIA
Alright. You'll have to forgive me
but I feel quite caught off guard
by all of this. And if I'm honest,
a little confused. Shouldn't this
place be like the worst place ever?
And you be like super evil?

The hell-levator doors open and Lucifer steps outside.

LUCIFER
Come. Walk with me.

Ofelia cautiously follows.

EXT. HELL, TOP LEVEL - DAY

Lucifer strolls through Hell like walking through a quaint suburban neighborhood. And for all intents and purposes, it pretty much is. People go about their day walking around their cats, chatting with each other over newspapers, and dancing to music.

LUCIFER

This is the top layer. Your 'low-offenders' if you will.

Ofelia takes it all in.

OFELIA

'low-offenders'?

Lucifer points to an old man playing chess with a friend.

LUCIFER

That man playing chess stole a candy bar in ninth grade. And after that—

OFELIA

He killed someone? Had a life of crime?

LUCIFER

No. After that he lived an incredibly fulfilling and loving life. He has seven great-grandkids back on earth.

OFELIA

So, what's he in Hell for?

LUCIFER

I told you, he stole a candy bar in ninth grade.

Ofelia scrunches her face and Lucifer chuckles. He points to a woman walking her cat.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

That woman there said she f bomb a record seventy hundred *million* times in her life. Which was tragically cut short at the age of 22.

OFELIA

Holy fuck.

LUCIFER

Indeed. Of course, only saying it once pretty much gets you in here. I had to pull a lot of strings to get her to the top level.

A pack of corgis runs by in the distance, being chased by some kids.

OFELIA
(staring at the children)
What about all of them?

LUCIFER
Who? The dogs? Ah, yes, I can see why you'd be confused. Those are the queen's corgis. The only exception to the 'all dogs go to heaven rule.' Don't let their cute corgi butts fool you—they're devious fiends.

OFELIA
The queen as in the queen of England? She's here too?

LUCIFER
Not on this level. And be thankful for that. She's many, *many* floors below, just above Thatcher, and for the sake of the world...

Lucifer's tone shifts to one that is dark and haunted. His eyes grow shadows under them and he has a thousand yard stare.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)
Pray neither ever gets out.

Lucifer keeps walking and several kids run by kicking a soccer ball.

OFELIA
I meant the kids.

LUCIFER
Hm? Oh, them? That's easy. They weren't born in America. Or they didn't pray hard enough before being shot at school in America. It's hard to keep track of the—

One of the kids kicks the ball hard.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)
Duck!

Ofelia ducks just in time as the ball hits the camera directly.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Ofelia and Lucifer sit on a swing-set licking ice cream cones.

OFELIA

I don't understand. No one you've mentioned seems to have done anything I would deem Hell-worthy. What about all the horrible people?

LUCIFER

The ones that have done truly heinous things are well below us and getting their just deserts I assure you. Though of course, they're getting no deserts at all.
(to himself)
Wait, was that a metaphor?

He tosses his cone over his shoulder and walks over to a small well, gesturing to it.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Here, take a look.

Ofelia peers into the well and we see through her POV as the well expands into layers and layers of Hell, each one filled with more and more screams of pain and torture.

OFELIA

Woah.

Her ice cream slips off her cone and into the seemingly endless pit.

LUCIFER

Yep. We've got them all. Ruthless murderers, rapists, neo-nazis, good old-fashioned nazis, and of course, grammar nazis. All the bastards. In the not fun sense of the word. Not when you're talking with your friend drunk and you're like, *ah ya crazy bastard!* But like the kind when you're telling horror stories with your friend over a drink in the corner of the pub late at night and you shake your head and softly go...*bastards.*

Ofelia lifts her head from the well and takes a deep breath.

OFELIA
So, why am *I* here?

Lucifer shrugs.

LUCIFER
Take your pick.

He walks on and leads them through a small park.

OFELIA
All I did was get hit by a train!
Is that a sin now?

Lucifer laughs and pulls out a tiny scroll which unravels so far that it goes off the screen.

LUCIFER
Not the last time I checked. But
unfortunately, all of *this* is. If
you've done any of these, are any
of these, or have even thought any
of these, you're coming my way
baby.

He clears his throat and pulls out a pair of reading glasses.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

(reading the scroll)

Homosexuals, homoparental families,
diverse families, adulterers,
fornicators, masturbators—we've
pretty much hit most the population
by this point already but I'll
continue—those who live in a free
union—never understood that
one—the civilly married, the
divorced and remarried, the
divorced and not-remarried, the
divorced who live in common law,
divorce lawyers—that one I'm okay
with—those who have children
outside of marriage, those who do
not recognize children, those who
had sex with a woman with
menstruation—really, people are
just missing out on that one, trust
me—those who have slept with their
neighbors wife, those who have
stolen their neighbor's bread,
those who have let their dogs shit
on their neighbor's lawn without
picking it up—the whole neighbors
thing goes on quite a while, I'm
gonna skip down—those who do not
keep Sabbath for the Lord, the
drunks—that takes care of
whoever's left really—those who
wear clothes woven with threads of
two kinds—which I feel is a
euphemism—those who sow their
fields with two different kinds of
grain—actually, that one's good to
avoid—those who have impure
thoughts and desires—that's where
I catch pretty much *anyone left*.

OFELIA

Okay! I get it! Enough.

He looks at Ofelia over the rim of his glasses.

LUCIFER

Are you sure? There's some good
one's on here.

(he keeps reading)

Those who shave their head round,
those with tattoos, those who cut
the edges of their beard, those who
eat shrimp—

Ofelia rips the scroll out of Lucifer's hand and tosses it to the ground, stomping on it several times.

OFELIA

I get the point! You're telling me all of that is laid out as a guaranteed ticket to Hell?

LUCIFER

(scoffing)

Well, according to King James.

OFELIA

But that's absurd!

LUCIFER

You must remember, young Ofelia. You are born *into sin*. Humanity is marked from the moment of first breath. The very air you breathe is tainted in the eyes of the Lord.

OFELIA

Then who the Hell gets into Heaven?

LUCIFER

Well, back when life expectancy was much *much* shorter and there wasn't a lot to do except play with sticks and stones and think about how horrible you are as a human being, a *few* more people got in. Recently? Mostly dogs. Except the queens corgis of course.

OFELIA

And when's recently?

LUCIFER

Let's see. Carry the one, Doris Day, Red China, Johnnie Ray, hmmm...when was foraging a popular practice amongst humans?

Ofelia sits on a nearby bench.

OFELIA

I can't believe this. Everyone is going to end up in Hell!

Lucifer sits next to her.

LUCIFER

Seems that way.

Ofelia looks around.

OFELIA

Well. I suppose it's not *that* horrible a place. If you haven't really done anything truly terrible, anyway. I mean, I guess humanity is lucky that you're not as bad as you're made out to be.

Lucifer looks away.

LUCIFER

Thank you Ofelia. I'm glad you feel that way. But all is not as it seems.

OFELIA

What do you mean? Looks alright from here!

LUCIFER

Hell is running out of room. And I'm running out of strength to cover it all. To help. What you see before you—this top layer—is mainly an illusion. One that takes much of my strength to keep up and play out. You see, Hell is not supposed to be *good* by it's very nature. Here, you are *meant* to suffer for eternity. That's its whole purpose. To re-live your darkest moments, pains, and mistakes over and over and over and be punished for your sins. You're not supposed to get a say in any of this. I barely do myself.

Ofelia looks at the people walking around.

OFELIA

But everyone here seems okay. *I* feel okay.

LUCIFER

There's only so much I can do, you understand? This neighborhood is a tiny fraction of this god-forsaken place and I mean that literally—for *He* has not only forsaken everyone here, but everyone on earth as well.

OFELIA
What do you mean?

LUCIFER
I mean *He's* checked out. Changed the channel. Left to grab some milk and never come back! He's stopped looking over humanity. Given up on you and them entirely!

OFELIA
But Hell isn't that bad! So maybe it's okay.

Lucifer paces.

LUCIFER
You don't understand—like I said, my power is only so much—I can only do so much—and I'm running out of both room and power!

OFELIA
But everyone seems—

LUCIFER
It's an *illusion*!

He waves his hand and the mood within the neighborhood shifts, like the lifting of a veil. The residents suddenly seem quite somber and silent. Anguished with tears rolling down their face.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)
Everyone here is suffering because they *believe* they deserve to suffer. To be punished. Whether that's true or not that's what this place *is* and *does*.

Lucifer grows as he speaks. Storm clouds roll in. His stature overtakes Ofelia.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)
They believe they deserve to be in Hell because that's what they were told or heard or took in subconsciously and low and behold because nothing can be deemed sacred in the eyes of the almighty they ended up here in the end! A horribly beautiful self-fulfilling prophecy! I can dress it up—I can numb their pain—

Rain begins to fall. Flying demons circle up above. The sound of screams rise in the distance.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

But at the end of the day they're still here—in *Hell*—for all eternity. Most of them, the vast majority, undeservedly. And for *what?!*

Ofelia looks terrified. Lucifer shrinks back down to normal size and the rain stops. It all stops—the world frozen around them.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

For being *human*. Humans. Your beauty and horror completely ineffable but I can't help to see the former. Your music. Your dance. Your laughter. Your food, your love, your obsession with troubled pop stars. I've grown to appreciate it all. I mean, if you can look at it, really look at it—how wonderful it is, to *live*. Don't you think? I'd certainly love the chance.

Ofelia hangs on every word. Tears in her eyes. A train whistle sounds lightly in the distance.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

What I wouldn't give for a real, fresh, Krispy Kreme donut and a authentic virtual reality headset. The true pinnacles of human ability. And both of which I'm not allowed to have down here thanks to the big man and his angels...
(he shakes his head)
bastards.

He waves his hand and the suburb returns to how it was. Sunshine and ignorant bliss.

Ofelia wipes her eyes.

OFELIA

I don't understand why you're telling me all this. Surely you don't take everyone around like you've done for me today.

LUCIFER

You're a smart kid, aren't you? You see, like I said earlier, I need your help.

OFELIA

My help with what?

LUCIFER

Your help in showing God that humanity is worth giving a second chance. So more people can be where they should be. So I can have a fucking day off for once.

OFELIA

And how exactly am I supposed to help with that? I'm just a dumb teenage girl. And a dead one, apparently.

LUCIFER

No. You're special. You've been chosen for this. This, is your *purpose* Ofelia.

Ofelia sits up straight.

OFELIA

Really?

LUCIFER

Yes. So, what do you say? Will you help me?

Ofelia thinks for a moment.

OFELIA

I still don't really understand what you get out of this I mean...why would you want to try and help God? Aren't you like, Joker to his Batman?

LUCIFER

I prefer to think of it like I'm Darth Vader to his Anakin.

OFELIA

I think you mean Luke.

LUCIFER

No, I mean Anakin. Think on it, get back to me. Anyway.

(MORE)

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Like I said, I could use a day off,
Hell's filling up, and I'm tired of
processing people whose worse crime
is putting pineapple on pizza.

Ofelia stands.

OFELIA

That gets you into Hell? But it's
delicious!

LUCIFER

Preaching to the choir sister.

OFELIA

Has God even *tried* it?

Lucifer holds out his hand.

LUCIFER

Let's make him! What do you say?
Want to help me save humanity from
eternal damnation? And in return,
get your life back, give me some
work relief, less people come to
hell for silly reasons etc., Etc.,
It's a win win...win.

OFELIA

All I gotta do is conspire against
God. Who it turns out is very much
real. Which only makes me feel
worse, really.

LUCIFER

Ofelia. God has been conspiring
against you since the day you were
born. You told me you didn't join
the church because it didn't feel
right. What do you *feel* right now?

OFELIA

Angry.

LUCIFER

Then let's direct some of that
anger, and do some good with it!
Always trust your gut, that's what
I say. And besides, what's God
going to do to you? You're already
in Hell.

Ofelia hesitates for a moment before emphatically shaking Lucifer's hand. Lucifer smiles, this one not quite as dad like as previously—there's a hint of mischief.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Oh this is cause for celebration!

He claps his hands and two Champagne glasses appear. He hands one to Ofelia.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Don't worry, that's sparkling apple cider.

Ofelia laughs and raises her glass.

OFELIA

To saving humanity, I guess.

Lucifer clinks his glass.

LUCIFER

To *life*.

They both drink.

OFELIA

So, what do you need from me?
What's the plan?

LUCIFER

Depends. How familiar are you with
Saskatchewan, Canada?

CUT TO:

EXT. FORREST, SASKATCHEWAN CANADA - DAY

We see the same forrest full of trees we started in. A slight breeze rustles through the leaves as we see a naked man, the same one Ofelia was standing over in the beginning. This is GOD. Capital G. Who looks like a rather stern fellow with a salt and pepper beard—like a dad who loves you but never knows how to say it so he mostly grunts but he's also super fit and cool so everyone wants him as a dad because they don't know him like you do—like Idris Elba, let's go with that—God is Idris Elba. He stirs and wakes.

GOD

What? Where am I?

He gets to his feet and scans the area. He notices another naked man a few feet away, lying face down, ass up. God cautiously approaches him and kicks him over, it's Lucifer.

GOD (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding me.

Lucifer stirs and wakes. He blinks hard before noticing God.

LUCIFER

G-man? Funny finding you here.

Lucifer slowly sits and yawns before stretching and looking around.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Wait. Where exactly is here?

GOD

Why don't you tell me?!

LUCIFER

Me? How should I know?

GOD

Because this is obviously one of your tricks!

Lucifer stands and scratches his stomach.

LUCIFER

Why would I put both of us in a forrest, naked?

GOD

Some sort of sick joke I assume!
Wait, did you say naked?

God looks down and gives a small yelp before covering up.

Lucifer runs his hand over a nearby tree.

LUCIFER

If I had to guess, I'd say this is earth.

God looks extremely confused.

GOD

Earth? That's not possible. I'm leaving. Right now.

God thrusts his hands upward and does an overdramatic clap over his head. He opens one eye and looks around before closing his eyes and trying again.

GOD (CONT'D)

That's not possible. My powers aren't working. Are yours?

LUCIFER

If they were I assure you I wouldn't be here with you.

He looks around.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Foreign terrain, no idea what's going on, nothing but our minds and bodies to help us. It's like we're in a Star Trek episode! Set phasers to stun, captain.

GOD

A what episode?

LUCIFER

Wow it really has been a while since you checked in huh?

GOD

What's there to check in on? Last time I looked there were bombs being dropped that could level cities. I don't know what's going on here but I know you're behind it.

LUCIFER

As much as I appreciate the credit I can't accept it. You and I both know I don't have the power to pull you down from your kingdom of clouds. Why don't we just look around a bit? Find some help.

GOD

Good idea. There must be a human settlement somewhere nearby.

Lucifer laughs.

LUCIFER

Did you just say 'human settlement'? You're so out of touch, old man. Jesus, it's sad.

GOD
Keep my son out of this!

Ofelia walks by wearing a backpack and hiking gear.

OFELIA
Uh, hello?

Lucifer and God turn toward her. God smiles.

GOD
Ah! Perfect. Are you a good person,
my child?

God starts walking toward Ofelia and Lucifer grabs his arm.

LUCIFER
(whispering)
Take it easy, G. You'll scare her
off.

God pushes him away.

GOD
Do you acknowledge the sins of your
life and wish to cleanse yourself
of evil?

LUCIFER
Oh boy. Here we go.

GOD
I can save you, if you prove
yourself a moral and just person
and you can start by helping me to
the nearest settlement. My friend
here seems to think I'm out of
touch but I assure you I'm just a
little lost.

LUCIFER
More than a little.

GOD
Would you be so kind as to guide
me? Perhaps to the nearest church?
Guide me, so I may *guide* you.

God reaches out his hands. Ofelia looks at Lucifer who winks.
She backs away quickly.

OFELIA
Stay away from me!

GOD

Steady, my child. I only wish to help.

LUCIFER

I'd drop the whole 'my child' thing there buddy. A little situational awareness.

OFELIA

Help! Someone help!

God turns to Lucifer.

GOD

You've scared her!

A park ranger comes running around the bend, taking in the situation and standing in front of Ofelia.

PARK RANGER

All right now. Back away from the girl.

GOD

No need for violence, my son. I mean the girl no harm. I'm simply trying to touch her...soul.

Lucifer shakes his head. The park ranger unholsters his taser gun and taps his radio.

PARK RANGER

(into radio)

Gonna need backup at the edge of trail 7-C. Got a couple naked perverts.

GOD

Perverts? How dare you!

God steps forward.

PARK RANGER

Stay back! I'm warning you!

GOD

Do you believe in God?

PARK RANGER

Excuse me?

GOD

It's a simple question.

LUCIFER
Not really.

GOD
(to Lucifer)
What would you know about it?!

The park ranger scratches his head.

PARK RANGER
Actually, I agree with your...lover
there. It's a complicated question
with a complicated answer.

God draws himself up, clearly offended.

GOD
It's as simple as blind faith, my
good man. You shouldn't question
it. Don't trouble your mind so.

LUCIFER
Not being able to question the
things you believe in because the
answers might bring you trouble is
not faith—it's fear.

Ofelia seems struck by this line.

GOD
You of all people are going to
lecture me about faith?

The park ranger pulls out a pair of handcuffs.

PARK RANGER
Alright, I'm gonna have to take you
both with me. Put your hands behind
your back and get on your knees.

GOD
Excuse me? It is you who shall
kneel before *me*!

PARK RANGER
Jesus Christ, why do I always find
the crazies.

God charges at the ranger.

GOD
You dare take my son's name in
vain! I'll smite you!

The park ranger shoots his taser right into God's chest, sending him to the ground in shocking fashion.

LUCIFER

Wow. You have no idea how satisfying it was to see that.

The park ranger looks at Lucifer with renewed disgust and Ofelia gasps before covering her eyes.

Lucifer looks down, realizing he's now sporting an erection.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

Ah. I can imagine this might all seem a bit strange to you. See, as I said, that was unbelievably satisfying to witness—wait, let me start again. You see, we have a history. Back at the dawn of time—well, before there even was time—

The park ranger shoots a second taser into Lucifer, sending him likewise to the ground in shocking fashion. The ranger unclips his radio as Ofelia walks slowly up to God.

PARK RANGER

(into radio)

Gonna need a vehicle transport. Perverts bit the dust. Got a lost civi with me as well. Teenager.

Ofelia stares down at God and tilts her head like we saw in the beginning.

A train whistle gets louder and louder in the distance. Ofelia closes her eyes and holds her head. She starts breathing fast. Flashes of images assault the screen in Ofelia's POV: trees through a window, locking a door, shaking free a pillow case. The train whistle reaches a peak.

PARK RANGER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hey, you okay?

Ofelia blinks hard and nods.

The park ranger stares at her for a moment.

PARK RANGER (CONT'D)

They freaked you out real good didn't they?

He reloads his taser gun and offers it to Ofelia.

PARK RANGER (CONT'D)
Why don't you have a go, eh? Least
I can do. Just aim and fire.

Ofelia weighs the decision before taking the taser gun. God's eyes flutter open as she aims for his chest.

OFELIA (V.O.)
Coming face to face with God is one
thing. But if you ever get the
chance to shoot him with a taser? I
suggest you squeeze the fucking
trigger.

She smirks before firing. Everything that plays out below is in slow motion (except the dialogue).

God twitches as the blue light of electricity shines on the screen in sparking fashion.

"Both Sides, Now" by Joni Mitchell plays.

Lucifer watches from the ground a couple feet away, drool coming out of his mouth, smiling.

LUCIFER
(to himself)
Phase one, complete. Phase two,
save the world...not.

He smiles a wide grin as God gargles in the background.

We're close on Ofelia as tears streak down her face. Sunlight dances through the leaves overhead. She screams a scream we can't hear - one filled with love, and hate, and all the beautiful pain and teenage angst a sixteen-year-old girl can muster.

A train whistle blows in the background.

CUT TO BLACK.

"Both Sides, Now" continues playing.

END OF PILOT.