

Everyman

A morality play

By Sarah Frankel

CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of Appearance

5 F/6 M/4 GN:

MESSENGER/ANGEL GABRIEL- Gender Neutral. An overworked assistant.

GOD- Female. A mom who is a little out of touch.

DEATH- Gender Neutral. Takes his/her/their job very seriously.

EVERYMAN- Male. College aged. Your Average Kid.

FELLOWSHIP- Male. College aged. A loyal friend.

KINDRED- Male. College aged. A frat brother through-and-though.

COUSIN- Male. College aged. A frat brother through-and-though.

GOODS- Female. A social media star. Some may say she's kind of a bitch.

GOOD DEEDS- Female. College Aged. A person too good for this world.

KNOWLEDGE- Gender Neutral. That upperclassmen you've always admired.

CONFESSION- Gender Neutral. That upperclassmen you'd go to for advice.

DISCRETION- Male. He's not that discrete.

5 SENSES- Female. Thinks she is the smartest person in the room.

BEAUTY- Female. Madly in love with Strength.

STRENGTH- Male. Madly in love with Beauty

*Note: These characters may each be played by one actor, or the actors (with the exception of Everyman) may double up at the discretion of the director.

Everyman

A Morality Play

Messenger/Angel comes centers stage. She/He may sing the prologue.

Messenger/Angel Gabriel -Hi everyone, welcome, excited you came today
I will now begin the medieval prologue where I give the plot away...

If you all don't mind, I ask you pay attention
And listen to this lesson in "bad-choice" prevention
The "Summoning of Everyman" is the title
Shines a light on the fleeting nature of life and the weight of our choices
It is a tale we consider to be vital
This lesson has held up for hundreds of years
And becomes more relevant the closer crisis nears.
It is easy to ignore
The truth is that Every-man believes he is not the man of which we speak
But you are who this story is for
You think that your bad actions are just part of the game
But when Death comes for your soul to claim
Your valuables hold no meaning anymore
Tonight you will see how Fellowship and Kindred
Strength, Pleasure and Beauty
Fade into nothingness at the foot of death's door.
Tonight you will look through a window
See your own life in performance
After all, Everyman's fate, for each of us... is in store. *Exit*

God Zooms in from a "Heavenly" location.

God-

Hear yeee, hear yeee

It is I

The woman in the sky

Whose words you live by

And I-

Hello?

Hello? Is this thing on?

Hello?? Testing, testing 1,2,3

Gabriel. Gabriel! Come over here and assist

This whole "laptop" thing has got me betwixt

Putting her face extremely close to the camera I'm talking but can anyone hear me?

Uh, Gabriel, don't come near me.

Just cuz we are in heaven doesn't mean the 6 ft rule don't apply!

Angel Gabriel- *to himself* I wonder if there's an issue with our sky-fi

Ma'am, how would you like me to help if I can't see the Zoom?

God: Ah Gabe, remember the days when we used a scroll and plume?

And everything was handwritten, Man those were the days

Tongue and Cheek, like she is letting the audience in on something-

When the only source of entertainment were these kinds of plays

And now when this play is done there are things to keep in mind

Like the context in which it was written, the reason it rhymes

That fellowship is was the word for friendship back in 1510
 That kindred and cousin symbolized family back then
 Now modern audiences are smart, I'm sure they can figure it out
 I just wouldn't want there to be any doubt
 Anyway, this little microphone is red shouldn't it be green?
Seeing herself Oh my ME, my pores look MASSIVE on this screen

Death: Excuse me?

God: Oh! Oh people can hear me! How awkward.
 Reminder that God condemns those who mock her!!
 Gabriel be gone, go check on optimism generator
Gabriel gives her a sideways glance It's broken again?! Ugh I'll deal with that
 later

Beat.

Anyway, death it's good to see you my dear
 I have a message, time to lend your ear
 I'll start over... *clears Her throat*
 HEAR YE HEAR YE
 All those on Earth who once used to fear me
 Now don't even notice I am here at all!
 And each generation, further from Grace they fall
 And as I sit here in all my majesty
 I am deeply concerned for the human tapestry
 And so on the two-thousand and twentieth year

It's about time I make their impermanence clear
I've sent wildfires and questionable leaders
I've even installed several Earth-heaters
All in an effort to wake up the people!
And yet they are still in a state of upheaval
It is time for the summoning of Everyman
There is no other way to make him understand
I do this out of love and not out of spite
But death, you must go, you must go tonight
Go to Everyman and explain this situation
Be warned, you'll be met with resistance and trepidation
The summoning Everyman is never an easy task
But if was not imperative, you know I wouldn't ask
So will you go, *Death*, my mighty messenger?

Enter Death

Death- Almighty God, I am here at your will,
Your commandment to fulfil.

God- Go now to *Everyman*,
And explain the plan
A pilgrimage he must take,
Of which there is no escape;
Speak to him in the tongue of his time

Death- Shall I continue to Rhyme?

God- That'll be fine.

Death: And where might I be off to this time, may I ask?

God: Oh! The address, I'll send you a slack.

Go retrieve him and bring him back

I have to go now. "Gtg" as the kids say

This officially marks the start of the play.

Gabriel! Make us some popcorn and bring me a claw

No . NO! I do not want a straw...

God abruptly ends the zoom

Death- In that case my lord I am off to (reads the text) Easton in the Lehigh Valley

No hour to waste, no time to dally

Off to a time where my hands reach out to thousands

I crawl in through the throat and nose

Close down the world as hysteria grows

I'll visit Everyman without announcement

Watch him cling to the things he can't carry with him

Watch his head start to spin when reality hits him

Off I go now, transformations begun

Everyman can't hide, no point to run

To a moment in history where anxiety and fear is stirring

Aside. Are you all familiar with the time to which I'm referring?

Scene change

Lights up on Everyman's house. He has been stuck in quarantine for 3 months. He has been busy on TikTok, playing video games, online shopping etc. He is currently watching Tiger King. Death presents itself as a frontline worker.

Death- Everyman, hello, it is me

Everyman- um hey, could you move a touch, I can't exactly see

Death- Jesus, do you not know who I am?

Are you so far gone to have forgotten your maker, Everyman?

Everyman- Look Im sorry Im not trying to be rude
I really just don't recognize you

Death- I am not a who, but a what you blinded fool
Sent straight from God above to enforce Her iron rule

Everyman: What, sent to me?
Also did you say just say "Her?" God is a She?!

Death: I don't know why you are always surprised by that, it seems so obvious to me
Anyway, yes, God believes you have forgotten Her here on Earth

Suzanne Westfall 7/12/2020 8:08 PM

Comment [1]: Ha!

Slowly losing your way since the day of your birth
She thinks it time you begin your heavenly-stay
And perhaps relearn the truth, at some point on your way

Everyman: But what does She want from me?

Death: That you shall soon see.

Everyman: You are making me nervous

Death: That's a natural part of my service. |

Suzanne Westfall 6/22/2020 3:20 PM

Comment [2]: another good laugh

You will now begin a long journey my friend
Your time in this world has come to an end
You will answer to the Lord and meet your reckoning
If you squint and look forward you can see Her beckoning
You will soon understand how you've spent your days in waste
How most of your priorities have been misplaced
Come now, we must going
Today you will be Judged by The All-Knowing.

Everyman: Please. Stop. I don't want to go. Who are you?

Death: I am Death. The Grim Reaper. The end.

Our introduction could not be avoided.

Everyperson who has tried finds himself disappointed.

I...

Everyman: What?! No. This can't be happening.
 I need to sit down. Stop this. I'm panicking
 I've lived less than a quarter of life!
 Always looked both ways, never ran with a knife
 I've been washing my hands every hour, everyday!
 Worn my mask, stayed inside, did everything right
 Please, God, I'm begging. Not now, not tonight.
 What can I give you? My parents have money.
 Are you seriously smiling? This just isn't funny.

Death: I only smile because nothing ever changes
 You all try to bait me with bribes and exchanges
 I cannot be swayed, Everyman. Never could, never will.
 Stop, stop pacing , try to sit still.

Everyman: I can't do this alone
 Please can we postpone? | |
 I need time to think, to find someone to come with me.

Death: Look, fine. I'll cut you a deal.
 You may try to find a companion, I yield
 But be forewarned this task is not...

Everyman: Thank you. Thank you!
 I'll be going right now. You'll see, my life won't let me down!

Suzanne Westfall 7/12/2020 8:11 PM

Comment [3]: Reminds me of a student asking for an extension....

Lights up on Lafayette-Dream.

Everyman stands on the corner of Catell. Everypersons pass by him. He sees Fellowship approaching.

Fellowship- Everyman! Hey.

Where have you been all day?

I slept through my 8 am and accidentally brought a water bottle filled with vodka to class

I failed my psych exam I was SURE I would pass

I'm on my way to Wawa I desperately need some voodoo chips

What are you up to? Ya want to come with?

OH and perfect timing, I forgot my FOB on our shelf.

It's like you were sent here by the Big Man himself.

Everyman looks up at the sky. Beat.

Everyman: Fellowship, stop talking. please. Let me speak.

I need your help man, I'm up shits creek.

I don't know if I'm dreaming or what's going on

But I was visited by death and now he's up and gone

Fellowship: Everyman, buddy, are you okay?

Maybe you are overtired, or you've had a long day...

Everyman: No. NO! I'm not even supposed to be here

We are all in lockdown so there should be no one to see here.

Fellowship: Lockdown? What? Dude just relax.

Listen, I'm your roommate and I'll help you get on track.

What can I do? What do you need?

Alright take a breath, follow my lead. *Takes a deep breath*

First try to explain your tormentor

Can I take you to Baileys? The counseling center?

Everyman: I have to go on a journey.

Fellowship: A "journey"? Who uses the word **journey**?

Everyman: Will you come with? Help me not to worry?

Fellowship: Uuuuhhhmm. Okay? Can we journey to the bar?

Everyman: Stop. This is serious. Where I have to go is far.

Fellowship: Alright fine. I'll go. Can you at least tell me where?

beat.

Everyman: Okay. Here's the thing.

My time on earth is over. And it's super unfair

But...

Fellowship: Wait. What? You mean you're going to die?

And you want me to perish too? Right by your side?

Suzanne Westfall 7/12/2020 8:13 PM

Comment [4]: Ha! Your tone throughout this is great!

I've never heard of such a brazen request
Grab my pillow and prepare for my eternal rest?!

Everyman: Well that's how I felt when death came to me!
I'm 20 years old. I'm young and I'm free.
Why should I have to die now?
How is that fair? How?

Fellowship: Everyman... you are my friend.
But did you honestly believe I would follow you to the end?
I love you but now is not my time
You can't just ask me to leave my family behind.
I'm sorry. I'm out. That's a trip I can't make, E.
I really wish I could, please don't mistake me.
But that is too big of a request
Even to those who know you best...

Everyman: Fine. Fine. Don't come.
I figured asking you was dumb
You've never been a true friend, I've others I can ask
Plus you're probably not even up for the task.
Forget I'm going. I'm on my way.
Wouldn't want to be around you one more day.
See you never, Fellowship, hope you have a nice life

Fellowship: I understand anything I say now will be in strife
But I really am sorry, E. I'll miss you a lot.

Everyman: Whatever, I know what friendship is, but clearly you forgot.

Fellowship: Everyman, I...

Everyman: Just give it a rest.

Fellowship: *embracing Everyman (but socially distant so like not a real embrace).*

Goodbye. I wish you the best.

Fellowship exits.

Everyman: Bye. See ya. Like I care.

I'll find a travel companion who isn't so scared

Who can I call upon that won't make a fuss?

Who will be down to do whatever and who I can trust?

Everyperson 1: Are you going to Tri Beta Phi tonight, Everygirl?

Everyperson 2: Are you kidding, wouldn't miss it for the world!

Look at all the hype it's been getting, it's all over my page!

Everyperson 1: I swear those guys would travel to hell, just to rage.

Beat.

Suzanne Westfall 7/12/2020 8:16 PM

Comment [5]: Or NOT. No embracing. Elbows" distanced high fives?

Everyman: Of course! How could I have been so dumb.
Kindred and Cousin will definitely come.
Bothering with Fellowship was such a waste of effort
Always knew I could count on my brothers in letters.

Blackout. Lights up on the Frat Party. Kindred and Cousin are playing pong.

Everyman: Kindred, Cousin. Thank God you guys are here.
Man it's good to see you, get me a damn beer.

Kindred: E-man you look tense
And kind of shitty, no offense

Cousin: I have to agree dude...
You're kinda dampening the mood

Everyperson 1: Everyboy!! Pass the Bong!!

Everyperson 2: Holy shit I love this song!!

Everyperson 3: Everygirl, talk to me, what did I do wrong?!

Everyperson 6: DUDE, Imagine if we couldn't party like this... we'd be majorly
bumming

Everyperson 7: We have absolutely no idea whats coming!!!

Everyperson 4: could you imagine if we threw public health to the wind to be more economical.

Everyperson 5: The volume in this bus is ASTRONIMICAL

Everyman: *yelling over the crowd*. gee. Thanks. Nice to see you guys too.

Listen can we go somewhere to talk that's a little more subdued

Cousin: Absolutely not man. I'm in the middle of a game.

In fact, take a celeb shot, put these guys to **shame**.

Everyman takes a celeb shot and misses by a long shot. Kindred and Cousin exchange concerned looks.

Kindred: Wow. Okay. Clearly something is up

Fine, lets go talk. Put down your cup.

Cousin: So what is going on?

We're listening just tell us, cmon.

Everyman: *deep breath*

Okay. Here is the situation

I think you guys might be figments of my imagination.

Beat.

Kindred: What the fuck?

Suzanne Westfall 7/29/2020 9:42 PM

Comment [6]: If you decide on a zoom production I can see E throwing the ball from his frame and the ball landing in the next...

Everyman: Because Just yesterday I was at home
Doing nothing, baking sourdough bread and watching youtubers make foam
But then this doctor appeared, called him/herself death
Said my time was up then up and left!
Said I had to go give an account of life to God-the-Father
I tried to negotiate but he/she said don't even bother.
So now I'm desperately seeking a companion
Someone to join on my journey through death's canyon
I know it's a lot to ask to leave behind what you know
But we could make it an adventure, figure it out as we go.
We were pledges together now we are brothers for eternity
So would you guys consider facing the inferno with me?

Long pause. Kindred and Cousin are in thought. Then...

Kindred: Are you on crack?

Cousin: Have you lost your damn mind?

Kindred: You're asking us to leave all this behind?!

Cousin: Not only that... you want US to face judgement?
All we do is Sin. There wouldn't even be a discussion!

Everyman: Who knows? Maybe she'll be lenient.
And c'mon we haven't been that deviant.
We haven't broken that many laws

And besides! The greek system doesn't have many flaws!

A silence. A long, harrowing, painfully uncomfortable silence. The players stare out at the audience. The audience stares back.

Kindred: Anywayyyyyy...

Sarcastically. A drawn-out drunken joke.

What do you want us to do?

Travel to the gates with you ?

Everyman listen, I have a story to tell

Its called the "A Lafayette Gentleman's guide to Death and Hell"

He clears his throat

So there we are, strolling up to the front entrance

Ready to ask St. Pete for our eternal sentence

But before we know it Lucifer is calling

And from bliss we all start falling

And then starts pulling us towards the fiery pits of Hell

And naturally we all start to yell

Now I'm screaming and cursing at the guards

falling into damnation with the last words "Roll Pards!" ?

And suddenly we open our eyes and look around

And with our feet planted firmly on the ground

We read the sign that says "Welcome to the Garden State"

And then we know it's truly too late

Cousin: *understanding the joke* I mean c'mon look where we've ended up

And the devil says "Brothers of Tri-Beta Phi" Listen Up!

You have reached your personal hell, known to some as ... the Jersey Shore
You kids have no idea what is in store
here you will be paying off student loans FOREVER
You, you boys who thought you were soo clever
You will be surrounded by girls who say "Lets just be friends"...
Your days will consist of CONSTANT 8 ams,
Not only that, but in hell there's only ONE radio station
Kindred- give em a sample of 108.7, the station of damnation...

Kindred: *Imitating the radio host...*

What's up party people you're listening to Sysiphus and the Rock"
"Hells hottest tunes where the rock LITERALLY never stops"
Next on the queue is everyone's Favorite entertainer...
For the next 25 years we've got "All about that Bass" by Megan Trainor

Cousin: I'm sure you're all curious about your room and board
For sleeping, each person is assigned a lovely spot on the floor
We have an array of wine, beer and liquor for you all to sip
EXCEPT IT JUST BECOMES PRUNE JUICE ONCE IT REACHES YOUR LIPS
In terms of food, we have arranged quite the menu for supper
For the rest of eternity you will eat ONLY the vegan choices at Upper!!!
Beat.

Everyman: OKAY! OKAY! STOP! ENOUGH.

I get it guys.

Hell would be tough.

But we could end up in a castle in the sky!

Won't you guys at least give it a try?

Kindred: No way man. I'm sorry but no.

In fact, maybe it's best if you go.

Maybe you are just tripping on something and you'll wake up fine.

Until then stop with this talk of the Divine.

Cousin: We're trying to have a good time

Everyman: You act as if I've committed a crime!

Cousin: No, you're just freaking us out, E

Seriously, just let us be.

We are in the middle of a SERIOUS tourney

We don't have time for your acid-trip "journey"

Everyman: Fine. Screw you. So much for brotherhood

If roles were reversed and you asked me, I would!

... I mean I *probably* would

... ANYWAY YOU SHOULD

Nevermind that, now I know who to talk to

Someone all my money is lost to.

They are bound to help me out

I don't have any doubt

Bye guys.

Kindred: Bye Everyman

Cousin: Stay safe if you can.

Kindred: Man. That was weird. Maybe we should have gone with him.

Cousin: Yeah, I feel like we kinda ditched him.

Should we do that “Good Samaritan” thing, or that report, what's it called a “One Leopard” ?

Kindred: Eh. Seems like a lot of effort.

Blackout.

Lights up outside of Mojo Cafe. Everyman catches Goods on her way out. She is decked out in jewelry, high fashion brands and has a designer bag. She is vlogging.

Goods: Hey everyone welcome to my handle
Make sure that you like and subscribe to my channel
Today I'm doing a Sneaker haul
Because Everyman bought 4 pairs last fall
And I am his goods, his material items
I take the things that really matter, and I make sure I hide em
I bury the intangibles like love and passion
And help Everyman prioritize things like tech and fashion
Xbox, Nikes, AirPods, Supreme
To bolster Everyman's ego and diminish self-esteem
In this day and age I'm the It girl, queen bee

Lets be honest, Everyman would nothing without me
So anyway let's get back to the haul
The most recent pair he purchased at the Lehigh Valley mall
I...

Everyman: Goods! Goods! Thank God I found you
Are you vlogging in the middle of the street? Look around you!
Anyway look, I need a favor

Goods: Whatever you need babe, you know I'm your lifesaver

Everyman: I need you travel with me to my death
Accompany me at my Judgement, share my final breath
What? What?! What's with the smirk?

Goods: Everyman, buddy, that's just not how it works
Your insistence on my company is absolutely adorable
Mmmm. Did I take advantage? Man that makes me feel deplorable

Everyman: What are you talking about Goods?!

Goods: Oooo, baby, I thought you understood.

See here on earth I can be your best friend
Give you clout and status... but at the bitter end?
Your goods are meaningless, lumps of plastic and metal
Collecting dust in your house as your rotting body starts to settle

Yikes. Was that too harsh? You look a little pale.
 Oh my God should you sit down? You want some ginger ale?
 I'm really sorry, Everyman... I thought you understood
 Goods at the end... aren't really good.

Everyman: Then why are they so important right now, to me?!

Goods: They are only as important as you allow them to be.
 And Everyman you *are* kind of obsessed
 But you are no more obsessed than all of the rest
 You all think of **me** as some hot commodity
 It's always struck me as a universal oddity
 Let me explain in a way you will understand
 You see, I, Goods, have ALWAYS been in demand
 A couple years back, in 1630
 everyone went out and bought tulips in a hurry
 People literally killed to get their hands on that flower
 Just because it was a symbol of power
 people in Europe were so obsessed with botany
 That their desire for Tulips crashed the Dutch economy
 Then in the 1800's, they said "ya know what would be a hoot?"
 Lets put a fuck ton of value on a tropical fruit
 Rotting Pineapples became THE symbol of luxury
 They thought "Ah yes, this PINEAPPLE will save me from life's daily drudgery"
 Now I order the pineapple smoothie from RISC every week
 It's just my symbolic middle finger to those 19 century freaks
 Then came the wedding cake, the typewriter, the model-T

Erin Hopwood 8/1/2020 6:41 PM

Comment [7]: Goods needs a better identity. Is she a "person" or "things"? You jump from referring to "them" and then "me". She could be like a "girlfriend" if you want to keep it all first person. Aren't we all married to or invested in our things?

The washing machine, the picket fence, microwaves, TV
 Then there was the ipod, the iphone, the Juicy Sweatsuit
 ... alright fine. The sweatsuit was cute
 But my point is these things, these items mean NOTHING
 And everyone's current obsession with lip fillers and fidget spinners...
 ... not even worth discussing
 But then again, look at me! I'm the best. Your Goods are nice as hell
 It's just that in hell they may not serve you as well

Everyman: This is bullshit. I want things the way they were **OR** everything looks
 so grim

Goods: well.... Why don't you try talking to her/him? *Points to Good Deeds who is
 approaching from across the stage*

Everyman: What? You're joking. You mean Good Deeds?
Whispers I can't even remember the last time I cared for someone in need
 He/she will want nothing to do with me
 When I ditched the 3rd Street Alliance trip, he/she said she was through with me
 Its too late now I'm ashamed to admit it
 And I...
Goods starts waving over Good Deeds.

Everyman: *in an angry whisper* Hey! Goods! Quit it!

Goods: Hey, Good Deeds, hey, its Goods remember me?
 We did that collab around Christmas in '03?
 That time when Everyman donated his clothes to those in need...?

I was the Goods, and you the Good Deed?
Or how about that time when Everyman stepped on Fellowship's glasses!
I bought him a new pair while you took notes for him in your classes
I know we live on opposite ends of the psyche
But, honestly, could you really forget a person like me?

Good Deeds: Hey Goods, yeah of course I remember
Nice to see you again, it really is a pleasure
And. um, hey Everyman. Its great to see you too.
It's been quite a while huh. Time really flew.

Everyman: *awkwardly* Heya Good Deeds. It has been a while
And I uhh hope there are some things that we can reconcile

Goods: Well as much as I would love to stay and chat with you two
I am absolutely certain there are better things to do.
Bye Everyman, sweetie, good luck with everything
And deeds girl/babe, we should hang. Give me a ring!

Goods blows some kisses and exits

Everyman: Good Deeds, I'm sorry. I've been a disgrace

Good Deeds: Everyman, my friend, it's good to see your face
Good Deeds begins to hack and cough

Everyman: are you alright? you sound terrible

Good Deeds: I'm okay, the pain is bearable.

Everyman: Listen I know you want nothing to do with me
But I need your help, please don't be through with me

Good Deeds: I'm not through with you I just have missed you
Have I done something to offend? Judged or dissed you?

Everyman: I have to go face Judgment and I am so scared
Not to mention completely unprepared
With you by my side I can relax, let loose
And I know...

Good Deeds: *clearly sick and struggling.* Everyman, stop. It's no use.
Look at me, I'm sick. It's hard to stand and talk
I could never make that journey, I can barely walk
Your Sins rest heavy on my back like a rock
I'm weak, no longer a part of you
I can't do the things you ask me to
I'm sorry *starts coughing again*

Everyman: God. How did I find myself here?
No one can help me, and I'm about to disappear.
My chest hurts too. What is happening?!
Good Deeds, please, this whole thing is maddening.

Good Deeds: I know two people who can help you
Who know what to do with the cards God dealt you
You don't know them well, but they know you
I'll text them and tell them to come, they'll know what to do

Everyman: Thank you, I don't deserve this kindness

Good Deeds: No... but you are not fully to blame for your blindness
You live in a bubble, a mirrored box that surrounds you
Makes you numb to the world around you
You are not a you but a what
A generation of humans in a deep collective rut

Everyman: *under his breath* mmmmkay. I don't know what that's about
But I just need some help, I know I can figure it out
I'm not a bad person, I swear it

Good Deeds: Well here comes my friend, they have guidance and will share it
Knowledge! Thank you for coming.

Knowledge: You know that if you call me I'll always come running
Hey Everyman, damn, you look like you've seen a ghost
Have you looked in the mirror lately?
Amused at his own joke. HA, what a roast.

Good Deeds: Knowledge can we focus here.

We don't have endless time to kill
And I'm afraid to say my condition is worsening still...

Everyman: *Ignoring Deeds* Wait, Knowledge, so you know that I'm not real?
You know that death and I signed a deal
You know that this is my last night here on the ground?

Knowledge: Hey, hey slow down.
I am knowledge, it's my job to know
I also know where we have to go
It's time for you to confess your sins
Once you've done that, the process begins

Everyman: What process?

Knowledge: Nevermind that now, we're off
Good Deeds take a deep breath, there we are
C'mon we can do it, its not that far

Blackout. Lights up outside of Skillman library.

Knowledge: Okay Everyman, it's time to meet confession
And with him will be beauty, strength and discretion
All of these virtues are willing to travel with you

Everyman: Holy shit. That's a dream come true!!
I won't be alone. I won't be afraid.

I'll have friends by my side. A whole fucking parade!

Knowledge: No, Everyman. You're not understanding.

Everyman: Sshh, he's coming. I don't need more reprimanding.

Good Deeds and Knowledge exchange concerned looks

Confession: Everyman. Hello. My name is confession. |

Everyman: Confession!! Hi! I want you to know that I have learned my lesson!

I am, uh, really sorry for all the stuff I've done

Should I say five "Hail Marys" and we can move on?

Also are you in charge of this whole afterlife thing?

I wanted to talk about an arrangement we can swing? |

I'm starting to wonder if this has all been some sort of dream

A quarter-life wake up call. A sort of universal scheme

If you let me wake up and start anew

There are a ton of things I would be willing to do!

I could, uh, well I could... lets see

Well I'll never steal from lower again

I won't pass exams by paying off a friend

I'll show up to the next trip to 3rd Street Alliance

I'll intentionally miss a pong shot when we are up big

If I start to get hammered then I swear i'll pull trig

And I'll

Suzanne Westfall 7/31/2020 7:27 PM

Comment [8]: Could Confession be Student Conduct? Or a dean? Someone students "confess" to? Then the Hail Marys might be community service, social prob, something?

Suzanne Westfall 8/2/2020 6:55 PM

Comment [9]: Can you think of a secular system that might work here?

Confession: STOP. Stop. Everyman.

First of all, that's progress but you are missing the mark

we're trying light a fire and you've just made a spark

But anyway, It's no use.

I wish what you are saying was the truth

That this was just a dream. a nightmare. pretend.

But unfortunately kid this IS the end. I...

Knowledge: Let's talk about this later. The others are here.

Beauty, Strength, 5 senses and discretion are coming in haste

Knowledge, Confession, Good Deeds all let out a large groan

Everyman: What? What's wrong?

Good Deeds: they are... an acquired taste.

Each one of the virtues enter one at a time. These characters are all larger-than-life.

Knowledge: That is discretion. But he's not that discreet.

Discretion: Hey guys. WHOAHHH Good Deeds are you good girl/kid you look fucking BEAT!

Oh shit. Sorry. *Picks up his phone.* Brad? Is that you?

Nah man I can't. I've got some nerds and a dying kid I've got to attend to.

Everyman, Good Deeds, Knowledge and Confession stare at Discretion

Discretion: No offense.

Discretion walks into the corner to finish his phone call.

Knowledge: Next up is Five Senses, who is far less prudent

His/Her mom's gotta bumper sticker that says "My Kids a Straight-A student"

5 Senses: Should be read without pauses. Almost like it's all one sentence.

Hi I'm Five Senses, and I HEARD you need some assistance

Death said to meet your maker but was met with some resistance

I SEE that you might be coming to terms with reality

But I promise not to pass judgement and to treat you with neutrality

In reflection. "Neutrality" the word that won me first place in the 5th grade decathlon

Shortly thereafter I took home silver in the triathlon

It was in the 7th grade when I realized my passion lay not in athletics

Those pathetic athletics didn't provide the right aesthetic

I preferred the polish of theatrical endeavours

And could sing a high "C" without any training whatsoever

Moreover I aspired to a career in medical innovation

And found life on the stage to be a release of frustration

Eventually though my life demanded syncopation

So I'm on a hiatus from the demands of performance

Although I'm still an avid advocate for behavioral nonconformance

Why should a doctor keep their musical theater prowess concealed?

Snaps out of it. Oh, wow. Have I gotten far afield?

Back to you.

I certainly can SMELL your fear and trepidation

Smelling the air Not to mention body odor... and a touch of desperation?

Nevertheless its TOUCHING you seek my guidance

And I imagine you'll be impressed by my advice contrivance

And hey, Everyman, you truly never know

After a TASTE of the afterlife, you may not want to go

Beat.

Everyman: oh my god.

Knowledge: Yep.

Anyway... This Beauty and Strength, they're kind of an Item.

Strength: Who's talking about my girlfriend?! I will fucking FIGHT him.

Pounds his chest

Beauty: Babyyy. don't worry! I only have eyes for you

YOU'RE the one that I adore

Strength: I love you.

Beauty: I love you more

Strength: I love you most

Everyman: *To Good Deeds* This is Gross.

Beauty: Strength, I would follow you to the ends of the earth

Strength: Beauty, I would follow you to the fiery depths of Hell

Everyman: Hey, uh sorry to interrupt this love fest, but would you follow me as well?

Strength: *completely ignoring Everyman.* You are so beautiful

Beauty: You are so strong

Knowledge: Alright. We're all gorgeous. Can we please move along?

So Everyman this is the Everyone.

All of the the things that make you who you are

Everyman: *rubbing his head* This whole night has been so bizarre

Well, uh, thank you all for coming I guess

When do we start to make this quest?

Strength: Hey! Discretion! Stop looking at my girlfriends chest!

Discretion: Um sorry Strength but your girlfriend is BLESSED

Beauty: Hey, asshat, the apology is owed to me

Keep staring and your face will meet my knee

Confession: Guys, why don't we all just settle down

Strength: No. I've stuck inside his head TOO long with these clowns

Everyman: But if you are IN my head then how can I see you?

Discretion: Damn... information takes a loonggg time to reach you.

5 Senses: We are manifestations of your internal conversation

A narration of mentation as you grapple with damnation

Like a 3-dimensional, conventional shoe-box diorama

Meant to simulate and demonstrate for the purpose of this drama

Everyman: Right. Okay. Sooo... should we go on the Quest?

Knowledge: Yes. In fact, now would be best

But Everyman, first, this you should know

Before we all pick up and we go

We need to explain what is really happening

This part is serious. This part is saddening.

Pause.

Confession: Right now you feel fine, you don't feel any pain

But back on earth your human body remains

Every step we now take towards the grave
Is another day that your human body starts to cave
The reality is that you are sick and you are dying

Good Deeds: Your sister is numb, your parents are crying
Here in this spiritual dream-scene we try to keep things light
But back at home you and your family are putting up a fight
We will not be callous to the reality of two thousand- twenty
It's given each one of us virtues a real run for our money

Knowledge: We try to remain relentless in all this hysteria
But let's face it life on earth right now is a disaster area
And you, Everyman, you have forgotten us
Those of us who you really could trust
And now as we begin our journey you will see
Those of us who stay and those of us who flee.

Prologue/Angel: So Everyman, along with his virtues began to walk
Further from reality, into a fog
Along the way Everyman had tons of time to think
And wish life's scroll was scribed in pencil, rather than in ink
He reflected upon the virtues there to guide him
And was shocked by the ones who remained beside him

The first to go was discretion

Discretion: *picking up his phone* Brad? Hey. Ya I'm dipping this shits a lost cause.

Discretion Exits

Prologue/Angel: Which caused Everyman back on earth to start speaking without pause

Then shortly thereafter beauty started to fade...

Beauty: Can I mention we have not passed one stand for lemonade?!
My legs hurt. I'm tired. I think I have a cramp.

Confession. Don't give up beauty. You can do it champ.

Beauty: Okay but we are so far over my daily 10,000 steps
I have pit stains on my shirt and my hair is unkempt
How much further? Are we there yet? Hello?

Knowledge: I'm sorry beauty, we have a long way to go

Beauty: Everyman, I am so sorry but I have to stop
Like I am literally about to drop
Strength, baby, I'll meet you at home
God I need a good cleanser and a bath and comb

Beauty Exits

Prologue/Angel Gabriel: Beauty's departure made Everyman on Earth lose his pride

He couldn't look in the mirror, wouldn't go outside

The worst part of all was that Strength was close behind

Without his Beauty, he really lost his mind.

Strength: I can not live without her, I can't make it to the end

Plus my texts won't go through, my snapchats won't send

You guys don't understand me and B are soulmates

Everyman, I won't be with you when this whole thing culminates

I'm sorry I've got to go home. My lover is waiting!

I can't even express the stress this is creating!

I'm out. Good luck. I must go and seek her.

Prologue: And with every step Strength took, Everyman got weaker

His muscles faded, eyes became red

It wasn't long before he couldn't leave his bed.

But after what felt like an eternity they reached their destination

And Everyman felt just one moment of elation.

Everyman: Thank God we are finally here

No more walking! God I could cheer!!

I, uh, guess I'm prepared for what comes next.

Should we cross through the gates? Should we make our next steps?

Guys? Cmon! You've crossed mountains and rivers blue with me

Now all you have to do is step through with me.

GUYS! C'mon. Let's go.

Everyman steps forward but no one else moves.

Everyman: No.

No. You have to pass through

Knowledge, Confession, you know what to do!

5 Wits... please... if you're not with me

Fuck

Why is everything blurry? a result of 5 senses not being with him. He is weak and disoriented.

Please guys cmon you have got to hurry

5 Senses: I'm sorry, Everyman, it's not up to me

Good Deeds: Just try to breathe

Everyman: I heard that HUNDREDS of times on Earth

And you know what? Their pleading didn't work!!!

I'm dead. I'm literally at the Gates of Hell.

Well wishes didn't make me well

And you all promised to stand by my side

And now you sit there and watch me die?!

Fuck. FUCK.

I would do it all differently

I would pay some attention, have some sympathy

I would have treated Fellowship like the friend that he is!

Fellowship? Fellowship! ... There he is!

Fellowship appears

Fellowship it's me! It's Everyman
 Please try to listen. Try to listen if you can.
 Fellowship. I'm sorry I acted like a jerk
 I thought I would have a do-over but that's just not how it works
 If I knew it was the real end I would have never expected you to come
 Not really, not when all was said and done
 You're just a kid. Your life has barely begun
 And I'm sorry you have to live with the guilt I have inflicted
 If you can hear me please know that I had it all twisted
 Can you hear me, Fellowship?
 Can you hear me at all?

Fellowship flips his mask, changing from Fellowship to Everyman.

Fellowship and Everyman: Can you hear me Fellowship, can you hear me at all?
 I can feel myself slipping, I think I'm about to fall

Fellowship as Everyman:

Kindred! Cousin!
 My brothers in letters
 We have made the stupidest decisions together
 It's time to wake up guys, It's time to get with it
 Tomorrow Death could be paying YOU a visit
 And would you really be able to die with conscience clean?

I know that you guys know that I mean
 And for our sisters in letters my question is the same
 We all need to reevaluate the rules of game
 If I could touch down on earth one last time
 I would own up the mistakes that I know are mine
 But I can't do that, somethings are set in stone
 And now I'm left in guilt, in guilt and all alone

Fellowship, Kindred and Cousin *flipping their masks to become Everyman* : And
 now I'm left in guilt, in guilt and all alone

Kindred *now Everyman*: And Goods! You swindled me and you knew you could
 You're sneaky and you're no damn good
 You twisted my perception of the meaning of "valuable"
 Took advantage when I was young and naive and malleable

Cousin *now Everyman*: Well now I'm saying that I'm better off without you
 I wish people on earth would start to doubt you

Flipping her mask Goods: I wish people on earth would start to doubt you!
 You're meaningless! And I cared so much
 All I want now is a human touch
 But no one can hear my screams at all!
 No one is going to answer my call
 For someone who was deaf and blind on earth I guess its kind of funny

Ironic, that hindsight is 2020

Suzanne Westfall 8/2/2020 7:10 PM

Comment [10]: !!!!! Brilliant!! What a great line!

Discretion, 5 senses, Beauty and Strength *flipping their masks and becoming Everyman* : Ironic, that hindsight is 2020

As Everyman:

Discretion: And now that it's over I feel sort of calm

5 senses: Sure my heart's beating fast

5 senses: And there's sweat on my palms

Strength: But I feel a weight lifted off of my shoulders

Beauty: Knowing beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder

Knowing my external appearance means nothing at the end
Thinking of all the beauty standards that caused me to bend
And twist and starve and count and spend
Comparing to that model, that actress, that friend

Strength: When they begin their journey to the gate
Their beauty and strength will leave them, make no mistake
They'll abandon you, without question or delay

5 Senses and Discretion: And can you believe who will stay?

5 senses, Discretion, Knowledge and Confession *flipping his/her mask*: Can you believe who will stay?

Knowledge *as Everyman*: Knowledge stayed with me
My memories, my mistakes, what I had learned
The things I had worked for, the things I had earned
My knowledge, which I didn't even know I had
Stayed with me even when things got bad

Confession *as Everyman*: And when I stood at the other side of the gate, alone
Wanting just one friend of my own
I looked at all of the virtues, who stared back with blank expression
And began my long and painful confession
And as I poured my heart and soul out for each of them to see
One of them caught my eye and I could not believe....

All the players who have flipped their masks to become the collective "Everyman" may freeze or turn around. The action resumes.

Everyman: *crying, breaking down* And I'm sorry I wish I could make it right!!!

Good Deeds *the only virtue left*: Everyman, Everyman. Hey. It's all right.

Everyman: Good Deeds? You're still here?

Good Deeds: That's right.

Everyman: But...

Good Deeds: Your conscience is clean

You've done Everything right

Take a breath, Everyman, you've made it through the night

The sun will soon rise here in the afterlife

And we will be a part of it, it'll all be all right

Everyman: So... I'm okay?

I'm not going to disappear

And I can stay here?

And...

Wait

Did you say we?

Good Deeds: We are together again, my friend

I wish it didn't have to take travelling to the end

But I'm healthy now, light as a feather

And I'm ready to take this next step, together

Everyman: I don't believe it

I ignored you, treated you like a stranger

And you still put yourself in danger

Left everything behind and were loyal and true

I don't deserve a... friend... like you.

Good Deeds: Sure you do.

Good Deeds stands up and extends her hand to Everyman who grips it. There is a moment here. A moment. She steps over the line and the sun starts to rise.

Everyman: I'm scared.

Good Deeds: You're prepared.

Death appears in the distance.

Death: Hey kid. Welcome back. |

Each of the virtues (now Everyone) start filing in one at a time and greeting death. Blackout.

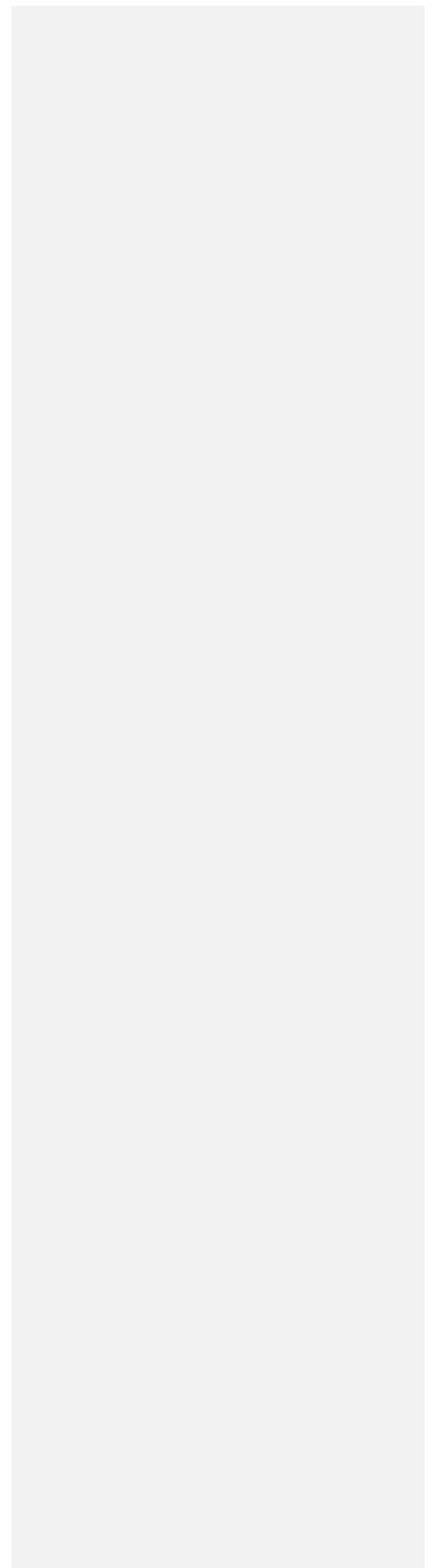
End.

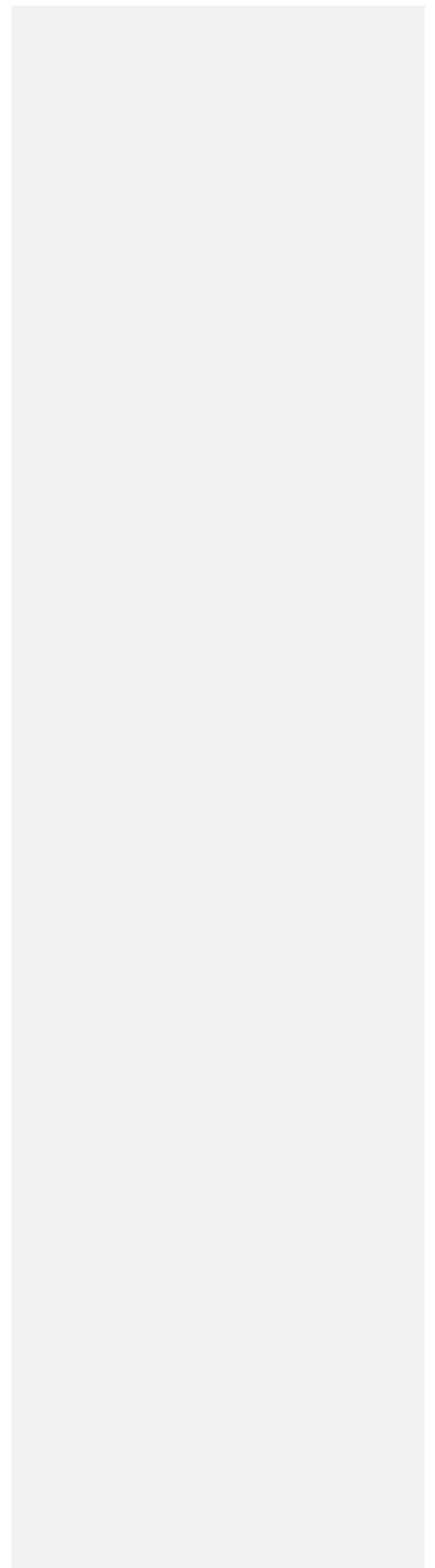
Suzanne Westfall 8/2/2020 7:19 PM

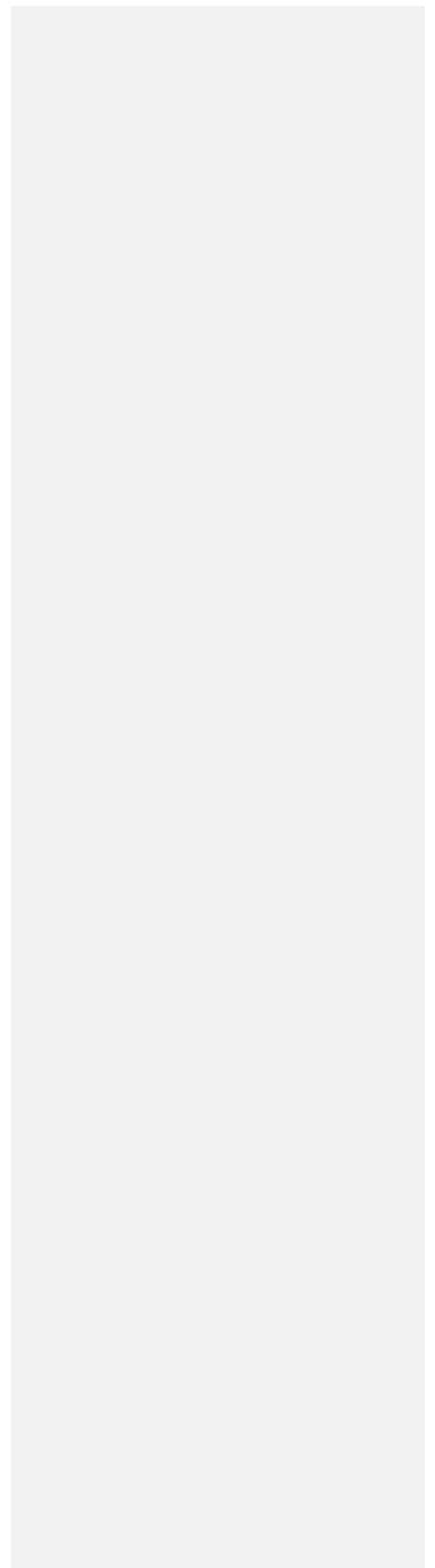
Comment [11]: And again! Great ending!!!

Wow Sarah. I kept reading parts of this out loud to my husband, and he agrees that it's an incredible script. You should be soooooo proud. I'm going to use this in my FYS -- you'll talk to my students, right?

Well done!!!!







Iskc

