# THE NOTEABLES

## *SPRING 2020 SCRIPT*

*UNTITLED*

## CAST:

The Reaper: Narrator. The general manager of the afterlife. Simultaneously blithe and enigmatic, they instigate the events in the plot.

The Arbiter: Main character. An immortal tasked with judging the souls of the deceased. Designed to be completely impartial and emotionally cold, until the events of the story.

The Guest: Main character. A human who becomes an assistant to the Arbiter, and the subject of the final judgment. Compassionate and hopeful.

The Husband: A subject of the first judgment. Externally a promising entrepreneur happily married to the Wife, but plagued by discontent.

The Wife: A subject of the first judgment. Disillusioned with what was once a happy marriage, she does not hesitate to speak her mind.

The Celebrity: A subject of the second judgment. A socialite who left family behind to pursue a career. Genteel and conflict-averse, they try to look at the light side of life.

The Orphan: A subject of the second judgment. A student left to fend for themself after their parents left. Resentful and self-effacing. Confrontational towards the Celebrity.

The Vigilante: A subject of the third judgment. Obsessed with justice and unscrupulous about their methods. Charismatic and eloquent, takes on a mentor role towards the Victim.

The Victim: A subject of the third judgment. Generally mild-mannered, but emotionally unstable. Seeking revenge for their family’s murder.

## SYNOPSIS:

Chapter 1: (**Hello**) introduces the club. The newlywed Husband and Wife mysteriously find themselves in a bar, where the Arbiter challenges them to a game of life and death. Mistrust quickly develops between the two, and we find out that their marriage and general lifestyle leave much to be desired **(Master of the House**). The Arbiter suddenly reveals that, due to the Husband's jealousy, the couple had already died and were now in purgatory. The Husband begins to break down from guilt, and the Wife denounces their marriage (**Speechless**). The Arbiter restrains the couple and pronounces judgment. The Guest appears and criticizes the Arbiter's decision, noting that the Wife had portrayed herself as manipulative to let the husband pass on without regret (**Some Things Never Change**). The Reaper introduces the Guest as an assistant to the Arbiter as an 'experiment', and suggests to the audience an ulterior motive to pairing the Guest and Arbiter together (**Claire's Solo**).

Chapter 2: The next pair of the Celebrity and the Student arrive. The student, given her background, is wary of the other characters (**Safer**). Conflict arises between her and the Celebrity, whose reckless lifestyle is expounded (**Don't Lose Ur Head**). The two reveal their regrets that caused them to become estranged from their parents and children, respectively (**That I Would Be Good**). In a rare moment of compassion, the Arbiter permits the two to spend time together doing what they were never able to do with their families. (**La Vie Boheme**). The Reaper arrives, warning the Arbiter about becoming too familiar with humans (**The Room Where It Happens**).

Chapter 3: The Arbiter is intrigued by the Guest (**Singing in the Rain**), but is interrupted by the next judgment: the Vigilante and the Victim. The Victim expresses his desire to avenge his family (**She Cries**). The Vigilante convinces the Victim that seeking personal vengeance is admirable and offers her services (**Say My Name**). It is revealed that the Vigilante assaulted the Victim's family in order to obtain evidence, and the Arbiter presents the Victim with the option to exact personal revenge. The Vigilante and the Victim's conscience eggs him on (**All I Ask of You**). Despite the Guest's attempts to dissuade the Victim, he gives in to vengeance and the Arbiter executes judgment. The Guest becomes upset with the Arbiter (**Cell Block Tango**).

Chapter 4: The time arrives for the Guest's own judgment. The Arbiter's restores her memories of how she died, which overwhelms her (**For Forever**). The Arbiter offers her a second chance at life, which she declines, thus passing her test. Realizing his emotions, the Arbiter is comforted by the Guest, and they decide to enjoy their last moments together (**It's Time to Dance**). Confronting the Reaper, they find out that their meeting was arranged by the Reaper as an attempt to give arbiters a soul. The Arbiter and Guest say goodbye (**Corner of the Sky**). The Arbiter then addresses the graduating seniors as the Noteables join for a last song (**We Go Together**).

## THE SCRIPT:

### 1. Hello

Presidential Speech

Enter Arbiter, followed by Husband and Wife

Wife: Oh thank goodness, we found someone. Excuse me! Do you know where the exit is? We've been stuck in here forever.

Arbiter: [Husband] and [Wife], ages [#] and [#], married two weeks ago?

Wife: Yes, but how did you know that? And how did we get here?

Arbiter: You will remember in time. Now, you two will be playing a game. Upon completion, I will escort you to the exit. The stakes will be your lives.

Husband: I'm sorry, what? This has to be a joke. (pause, more desperate now) Look, I can tell you're a decent guy. I have money, if that's what you want.

Arbiter: I have no need for such things. Do you accept my proposition?

Husband: I don't suppose we have much of a choice, do we? (whispering to Wife) If we tie, we might just be able to survive this lunatic. You'll have to trust me.

Wife: Of course I trust you. We'll get through this together, won't we dear?

Husband: Oh yes, of course.

Exit

### 2. Master of the House

Enter Husband, Wife, Arbiter

Wife: How could you? We were supposed to work together!

Husband: That's rich coming from you. I just remembered I overheard your friends talking about you before the wedding. You only married me for the money, right? Don't talk to me about loyalty!

Wife: What? How dare you! Anything else you would like to 'remember'?

Husband: Yeah, I remember how we got here. We were driving on our honeymoon… You were texting somebody, but you wouldn't tell me who… I tried to grab your phone, and I let go of the wheel… and… we crashed. (to Arbiter) Don't tell me-

Arbiter: Correct. You both died in a car crash. When a person dies, their soul must be either reincarnated or cast into the void. This place exists to make that decision. We apologize for the deception.

Husband: (hysterical) So you're saying I killed us? That's impossible! You're god or something, take us back home! (to Wife) And you, drop the innocent act. We're dead! We all know what you did!

Wife: What I did? Okay, fine! Of course I married you for the money! I mean, why else would I? Who could ever love you? What does it matter anyway, we're both dead!

Husband: Why, you- (tries to grab her)

Arbiter: Enough. The trial is over. As promised I will show you both out.

Exit

### 3. Speechless

Enter Arbiter, followed by Reaper, Guest

Reaper: Well, what did you think?

Guest: That was horrible. Why did you reincarnate the man but not the woman?

Arbiter: The man expressed remorse for his mistakes, but the woman chose to lash out at and manipulate her husband. She admitted as much herself.

Guest: But it wasn't like that at all. She was obviously lying.

Arbiter: Why would she lie? She's already dead, there's no motive.

Guest: Because she didn't want to see her husband suffer for causing her death. She made herself look like the bad person to save her husband. She loved him.

Arbiter: She would willingly go to hell for something like love?

Guest: Of course. If things had gone differently, they could have been happy.

Exit

## 4. Some Things Never Change

Enter Arbiter, Reaper, Guest

Reaper: Well, didn't this get heavy? There's nothing we can do about it though, so let's move on. (grabs Arbiter) Don't fail again.

Arbiter: Yes ma'am.

Reaper: Anyway, this is [Guest]. She'll be your assistant for a little while.

Arbiter: She is a human? So this means that eventually-

Reaper: You'll be judging her, yes. Remember the first law of arbiters:

Arbiter: The arbiter's job is to judge humanity.

Reaper: Her memories are already wiped, and you can release them when you feel like it. Perhaps you'll learn more about her this way. Or perhaps you'll learn more about yourself.

Exit Arbiter, Guest

Reaper: (to Audience) Well this should be fun. But if anyone asks, I didn't do it.

Exit

## 5. My Strongest Suit

Enter Reaper

Reaper: Humans gave me a lot of names over the centuries: Charon, Yama, La Muerte, the Grim Reaper. It's really too funny. I'm just doing my job for all the big shots up there. Speaking of job…

Enter Orphan

Reaper: Hey! What are you doing out on a night like this? It's 20 below!

Orphan: I'm sorry ma'am, but I need this job. My father's terribly ill. (collapses)

Reaper: (muttering) Well, you won't need the job for much longer. Come with me.

Orphan: I can't. I need the money for medicine. I haven't eaten or slept in a week, but I'm so tired.

Reaper: There, there. Lean on me and close your eyes, it'll all be over soon. (on phone) Yes, hello [Guest]? Tell our friend that we're sending someone his way.

Exit

## 6. Safer

Enter Arbiter, Celebrity, Orphan

Celebrity: Is this some sort of horror/reality show? I don't remember speaking to my agent about this. It does sound like a riot though. Are there hidden cameras here?

Orphan: Shut up, you're annoying.

Celebrity: Oh dear, touchy one, isn't she? They all are at that age. You learn to give that up quickly when you get to where I am.

Orphan: I'm sure you gave up a lot to be where you are. So sad.

Celebrity: (nervous) Haha, well, aren't you impudent!

Arbiter: So do you accept the terms of the game? Very good. Follow me then.

Exit

## 7. Don't Lose Your Head

Enter Celebrity, Orphan

Orphan: How do you stand it?

Celebrity: Pardon?

Orphan: I'll cut to the chase. My mother left when I was six. 'Found new opportunities' she said. She let dad keep custody, but she took everything else. For the past twelve years we've had to starve and bleed to make ends meet, all because people like you love your fame and money.

Celebrity: Now just one minute young lady! I worked hard to be like this! I gave up my life, my dignity, and my love - for what? The media hates me. All my relationships have been failures. I can't look my children in the eye. You think I wouldn't give it all up to be with my family again? But I can't let them see me like this. Do you understand?

Orphan: I-I'm sorry. I didn't realize.

Celebrity: Shall we keep playing?

Orphan: Yeah.

Exit

## 8. That I Would Be Good

Enter Arbiter, Guest, Celebrity, Orphan

Orphan: Well, good game. Just to be clear, I still don't like you socialites, but I guess you're not all bad.

Celebrity: Ha, likewise. I wish you were my daughter. Although, now that we're dead, I remember there's one thing I always wanted to do with my children. (whisper)

Orphan: Yes! I always wanted to be an actress! (to Arbiter) I know you've got the whole judgement day thing going on, but is it okay if we put on a little show first?

Guest: C'mon, let them have some fun! Screw the rules!

Arbiter: Understood. Please take all the time you need. I look forward to your performance.

Exit Celebrity, Orphan

Guest: So, is she her daughter or not?

Arbiter: Does it really matter?

Guest: I guess not. Thank you.

Exit

## 9. La Vie Boheme

Enter Arbiter, Guest, Reaper

Guest: Well that was lovely. I hope we get more like that. You're so serious! Can't you applaud, or smile or something?

Reaper: [Guest], mind stepping out a bit? I need to talk with our friend here.

Exit Guest

Reaper: The higher ups have been talking. They think you're getting too familiar with this human. She's not one of us. You know the rules-

Arbiter: One, the arbiter's job is to judge humanity.

Reaper: And two, the arbiter must never feel emotion. Emotion clouds your judgment; makes you unable to read people fairly. Or at least, so they say. But I'm sure that's not a problem for you. Anyway, I'll be sending over the next pair soon. Later!

Exit Reaper, Enter Guest

Guest: What was that all about?

Arbiter: I'm terribly sorry, but I can't tell you right now. Please get the rooms ready for our next guests. Here's the info.

Guest: Alright, keep your secrets. Who're we dealing with? Wait, murderers?

Exit

## 10. Room Where It Happens

**--INTERMISSION--**

## 11. Singing in the Rain

Enter Arbiter, Guest

Arbiter: I don't really get it. Why would you sing in the rain? Isn't it unpleasant?

Guest: I mean, it's because you're happy and-- you know what, forget it. It looks like they've made up their minds.

Exit Arbiter, Guest. Enter Vigilante, Victim

Vigilante: A game where we put our lives on the line. Ha! I like this guy.

Victim: Aren't you scared?

Vigilante: Nah, this isn't my first rodeo. It is funny though, they don't seem like your average psychopaths. I hope you're ready for the game of your life kid.

Victim: I won't lose.

Vigilante: So you do have guts after all! Why, got any unfinished business?

Victim: A sister. I promised I would take care of her after our parents died. I would do anything for her.

Vigilante: Anything, huh? You said your name was [Victim]? That would make your sister [name]. Interesting. Well, let's get started, shall we?

Exit

## 12. She Cries

Enter Vigilante, Victim

Vigilante: What's the matter kid? You look like you've seen a ghost?

Victim: I remember now. I came home one night, and everything was quiet. Then I saw the window open, and then the blood on the floor, and then my sister.

Vigilante: And how did that make you feel?

Victim: What?

Vigilante: Let's say we caught the guy who did it. What do you want to do to him? Oh, don't tell me you've already...

Victim: I found where he lived, and I- I killed him. Please don't tell anyone!

Vigilante: Haha! Don't worry, we're not so different. My first was the guy who killed my wife. But I didn't stop there. I've killed dozens of filth like him.

Victim: But isn't that illegal?

Vigilante: Why? We all know they're guilty. People like us have to make sure they get their due. You've got potential: once we get out of here, why not help me rid the world of scumbags like him. Like an apprentice! What do you say?

Victim: I don't know. Let's just get this game over with.

Exit

## 13. Say My Name

Enter Vigilante, Victim, Arbiter

Victim: You… you were there the night my sister died. You were watching him the whole time! Why didn't you do anything?

Vigilante: Why are you getting so worked up? I thought you cared about justice. I had to make sure he was guilty. Every crime needs a victim.

Victim: I'll kill you!

Arbiter: Stop. Both of you are already dead. Judgment is reserved for me.

Vigilante: I see… a game to judge the souls of the dead! I knew I liked you!

Arbiter: You can't kill the dead. But you can make him suffer. (hands Victim knife)

Enter Guest

Guest: Stop! You don't have to do this! He's still waiting for you to make a decision. You can still save yourself! (to Arbiter) This is going too far!

Arbiter: This is my job. What do you want to do?

Victim: I don't know. I don't know.

Vigilante: Don't pretend that you can save yourself. You couldn't save anyone. You and I know that nobody's good. Everybody has a line that they shouldn't cross, and you've already crossed it. So do it. Kill me again.

Exit Vigilante

Guest: Please. If you get reincarnated, you might be able to see your sister again. But if you follow him…

Exit Arbiter, Guest

Exit

## 14. All I Ask of You

Enter Arbiter, Guest

Guest: Why? You could have stopped it. He could have lived.

Arbiter: I have rules. One, the arbiter's job is to judge humanity. Two, the arbiter must never feel emotion. Three, the arbiter must expose humans' inner self-

Guest: Who cares about your justice! You're no better than them. You force people to make horrible decisions, then you watch them destroy themselves, and you call yourself fair. You've never felt a moment of grief in your life!

Arbiter: I don't understand

Guest: Of course you don't! People aren't reasonable. They don't act on a moral code. They get affected by the littlest things. You're not human, how dare you try to judge humans. You're the real murderer.

Exit Guest

Arbiter: What have I done?

Exit

## 15. Cell Block Tango

Enter Arbiter, Guest

Guest: I guess it's time for my trial, isn't it? How's it going to go?

Arbiter: No games this time. I'll be your partner.

Guest: Wait, what is this place?

Arbiter: March 28, your last performance. There was your family watching you perform. All your friends were cheering for you. You told them it was the happiest day of your life. They never got to hear the truth. You knew it was the end. So here's your choice. Press this button, and I'll bring you back here. It'll be like you never left. You can make things right, do the things you always wanted to do. You will forget you ever died, and you will live a long and happy life. But before you make that decision, there's one thing you need to do.

Guest: What's that?

Arbiter: You need to remember what happened.

Exit

## 16. For Forever

Enter Arbiter, Guest

Guest: No, I know how this works. A life for a life, right? Who's going to die if I come back to life?

Arbiter: As I said, I will be your partner for the trial. It is a trifling cost. You didn't realize it, but you mean a lot to all these people. There are more than two lives at stake here. Do you accept?

Guest: I-I can't. (hands back device) You press it.

Arbiter: What?

Guest: Take it before I change my mind! I've already lived my life. But you, you never had a chance to live. Stop taking responsibility for other people and think about your own feelings! Take it! (pause) There. Have I passed the test?

Arbiter: ...yes. But...what is this feeling in my chest? It hurts! I'm sorry for deceiving you, for forcing you to make a decision, for giving you regrets. Forgive me!

Guest: There's nothing to forgive. Come on, let's end it on a good note.

Exit

## 17. It's Time to Dance

Enter Arbiter, Guest

Guest: Well, I guess this is it. Don't forget me now!

Arbiter: How could I possibly forget you?

Guest: Maybe I'll see you the next time I come here, eh? I expect to see a much nicer version of you. Can you try smiling? Well, it could be worse. Bye then.

Arbiter: Goodbye, [Guest].

Exit Arbiter, Guest

Enter Reaper

Reaper: I could say I planned it, but you never really know how things will turn out when humans are involved. Which of us really has the right to judge humans? But it's a job that must be done.

Enter Group, Alumni

## 18. Corner of the Sky

Enter Arbiter

*secret script*

Exit

## 19. We Go Together