

DEATH

I'm sure you're wondering why you're all here. Every one of your deals is set to expire today. While I usually only alter contracts if someone offers something particularly enticing in exchange for life, I had an idea for yours. Picture me sitting just over here.

(They go and sit in their chair)

And thinking to myself: "I could just reap their souls here and now, but where would be the fun in that?". So I decided to set up a little game.

CARRIE

I don't want more years. I made my deal for what I consider to be very good reasons, and I wouldn't have a clue what to do with more life, even if I wanted it. But with that being said... I can't just let anyone take the opportunity. After all, one of them could be like him. And I obviously can't let someone like that just live. I'll remain detached. See who's really worthy of more years, and make sure that they're the one who gets it. And everyone who isn't, meets the same fate as him. *{She backs up to rejoin the group}* I made my deal for my own reasons. But don't worry I have no intention of trying to escape from it.

THEODORE

I suppose they're right. My father turned sixty and his mind started to deteriorate. He became... angry. I lived in fear. Whenever I came home I was met with yelling and cursing and sometimes beating. I was always anxious in my own home. Then my mother started to get old. She simply became a viper; Mean and sharp, and never did anything. She was a financial drag on the whole family. And I didn't want to become that either. Which lucky me I haven't. Here I am, Eighty years old. I've lived a pleasant life, but I can't just give up. I'm too important. I need to be the one to get this, because if I don't then... well then I don't know what I'll do. I just can't imagine anyone else being worthy. *{He rejoins the group}* Now, I will admit that I can be a bit sharp, but isn't everyone at some point?

ANIKA

What a loathsome thing. Whoever decided that they were worthy to be put in charge of soul reaping has terrible judgement... Oh... I'm doing it again aren't I? I'm turning into my sister. I hated my sister. She was so... just... mean. Everything she said had bite to it. Every compliment backhanded, every word of praise came through gritted teeth and was followed by some tiny thing I did wrong. And such a manipulative liar. Now here I am doing the exact same thing, Criticizing everyone for the tiniest mistakes. I did choose to save the life of my son in exchange for my soul, but there were probably other people in the hospital I could have helped... but shouldn't I be concerned for myself and my family first? Survival of the fittest and all that? Yeah... yeah I'm the most important. I need to take care of my son. Even if... well... nevermind. *{She rejoins the group}* I'm not interested in your psychoanalysis. You said you'd sit back and observe.

EVELYN

I... Adam and I were going through a rough patch... I just... I just got nervous. I couldn't bear the thought of being a divorce. I can't imagine what my parents would have said, or my friends. Or what I would have said to myself... So... when death offered us a deal and Adam seemed hesitant... Maybe I did get a little pushy. But it worked out in the end. We're very happy together and you know what. I don't think there's anything wrong with being a bit demanding when it comes to making the world a better place. And doesn't the world get just a bit brighter when there's just a bit more happiness in it? *{She rejoins the group}* It doesn't mean anything. Adam and I signed our deal completely of our own volition. Right?

ADAM

Yeah... I... I do kind of think that Evelyn forced me to sign the deal. But I don't hold it against her. I want her to be happy and she is... but... I also want me to be happy too... So when Lana offered... Well how is a man supposed to turn that down? I only meant for it to be the one time, but... Well... I've just been stressed. Look I love my wife I really do, but she's just... not exciting anymore. I never told her, because... she's got quite a temper. I mean. I uh- I didn't wanna hurt her. I'd never do anything that I thought would do that, and I knew that she'd be happy with the marriage no matter what. So honestly, I don't think there's anything wrong with it. I was just making sure that I was happy, and there's nothing evil about that. *{He rejoins the group}* I have no idea what you're talking about. I love my wife and we're perfectly happy together.

Pierre

I wish that I wasn't like this. Death is right. I know I don't help as much as I could. But it's not that simple. Well... actually it is. See this is what I mean. I just forget and make stupid mistakes. I want to be better than this. (He takes a deep breath) I lost a few hundred thousand dollars. It was a scam artist, and I didn't realize it. I felt so pathetic, so helpless. And I promised myself I wouldn't make a mistake like that, ever again. So I looked into people's motives. Tried to read the intention. And... I guess I got too skeptical. But at the same time... Well life kicked me while I was down for twenty years. I deserve to be able to enjoy myself for a while. Then again. (He looks back at the others) It seems they've all suffered, and maybe I'm not more entitled to life than anyone else. But I think there is a place for skepticism. I'll see what I can figure out. (He rejoins the group.) I still help people plenty. Don't I?