

MID-DEATH CRISIS

Beat Sheet by Paul Chang

ACT ONE

- Night, Brooklyn. MO tries to read a book in her car with the windows down, but keeps getting distracted by the two drunk 20-somethings yelling from a nearby rooftop
- A scream, then a man's body thuds onto the pavement near Mo's car. She doesn't react, instead trying to finish the page.
- The GUY pops up from the pavement, surprisingly unscathed. He looks down to see his mangled body and starts freaking out. Mo ushers him into her car
- In the car on the way to the portal/noodle shop, the guy has an existential crisis, questioning whether he lived life to the fullest. He recognizes Mo from 24 hours before, and Mo explains that she touched him, causing his death -- it's nothing personal. As they arrive at their destination, he vomits. Mo asks the guy for a high star rating but he gives her one star
- CORY, a millennial reaper shows up with a soul on the back of his bird scooter. They're like best friends, and his soul gives him 5 stars
- Mo gets a call from Mother time. Can you come up to my office?
- Mo gets out of her car and walks up to a shabby office space above the noodle shop.
 - Mother Time chastises Mo for getting yet another low star rating. Mo complains about this new system, it's bullshit -- Mother Time agrees, but it comes from up top. *We have performance metrics now.* Mo's asks *what do the ratings even mean?* Mother Time doesn't have an answer -- *Who knows? We just need to keep them high.*
 - Mother Time passive aggressively threatens Mo with purgatory, casually mentioning that she just sent BOB, another reaper there.
 - Mo shivers at the thought of staying alive forever -- that's what happens when you get sent to purgatory. Reapers are eventually allowed to "die" when they reach 2500 years old. Mo's death day is coming up next year -- and she can't wait to finally relax and let go. For reapers, being sent to purgatory and being forced to stay alive forever -- that would be eternal torment.
- Mo says hi to her nice neighbor, STEVE.
- In her apartment, mo watches reruns of 90s sitcoms. GERALD, Mo's scrappy friend, shows up and asks her to pick up one of his souls, a woman named HARRIET, tomorrow. They bitch about Cory for a bit and then Mo begrudgingly agrees.

ACT TWO

- Mo goes to Zest! the next day in search of Harriet
- While there, she watches from the back as TINA gives a rousing speech, about finding purpose in life and "plotting your point on the WHY axis." (This is a one day seminar)

- Tina leads the group in a visualization exercise, taking them back to a happy childhood memory -- during this exercise, Mo has a vision of herself as a happy child, with a mother and father. She clearly has no conscious memory of these events or people, and is deeply shaken
- Mo -- shaken by what she experienced -- goes to the bathroom where she runs into Harriet in the bathroom. Harriet is clearly depressed, and has been crying.
- Tina challenges the attendees to get out of their comfort zone in the next 24 hours and reminds them that the deadline to sign up for full 10-week program is tomorrow night
- The seminar ends and the attendees agree to meet up for bowling that night. Mo agrees to go to bowling with the seminar gang.

ACT THREE

- Mo goes night bowling with the seminar attendees
 - Mo has a fun time and shares a nice moment with FRED -- a spark of chemistry
- Mo freaks out that she's having a fun time and seems to be connecting with people, and goes up to the roof where she sees Harriet, standing at the edge, ready to jump
- Mo talks to Tina, echoing her own internal state. *Why not take a chance on the program? If it doesn't speak to you, well, you can always kill yourself then.* Harriet agrees and hugs Mo (no skin contact).
- In her apartment, Mo signs up for the 10-week seminar as--
- Gerald bursts into her apartment and asks whether Mo picked up Harriet and took her to the portal/noodle shop like she was supposed to. Mo lies: I went there like you told me, but Harriet wasn't there.
- Gerald freaks out. He can't be blamed for the cosmic scales going out of whack. *This can't happen, I can't have another mark on my record.*
- Mo follows Gerald into the hallway as Gerald knocks on a door -- Mo's nice neighbor, Steve opens. Mo watches in horror as Gerald forces his way into the apartment and brutally murders Steve -- killing him "off the books" -- and wrestles his soul into submission.
- Gerald, in a paranoid frenzy, guesses that Cory is trying to screw with him to send him to purgatory. And he says he's going to track down Cory to pay him back.
- We end on Mo, horrified at the chain reaction she's created.