

1-01 NOT GOOD NEWS

0001

Terrible Immunity

0002

Part 1, Episode 1

0003

Not Good News

0004

"When you take a bus in a dream, it will never,
never take you where you want to go."

-Tales from the Happy Farm by Fr. Ronaldo

0101 EVERYONE BEAUTIFUL

Lily stands *in the road*, bewildered.

Under clothes that do not belong to her, scratches cover her skin. Her weakness makes her shaky. She feels filthy, wounded and the sickness that comes from needing to heal.

What has happened to me? Whose clothes am I wearing? Who did this to me?

A car wanting to drive down the road stops behind her, the woman driving refrains from honking.

0102

Shame overwhelms Lily. She fears people seeing her. She goes in search of a restroom. She needs to get a good look at herself. Questions torment her.

Was I drugged? Was I tortured? Was I held prisoner? How did I get away? Are the attackers still nearby?

Without realizing it, the fear of her head falling off her body makes her walk very upright, like an acrobat or ballet dancer, like she is balancing something on top of her head.

0103

The most attractive two people Lily has ever seen (she can't tell if they are female or male) are so tightly wrapped together in a sheet that it is difficult for them to walk but they do walk and carry on a conversation as if nothing is abnormal.

WOMAN

"My roommate called in to say that she couldn't make it to work today because she is in a coma and asked if I could cover her shift."

MAN

"Is that what you're doing?"

Lily falls off the sidewalk trying to distance herself from them.

0104

She turns and sees the most attractive person, masculine, she has ever seen before in her entire life. He must be more beautiful than the couple she just saw. With springs on his shoes he bounds passed, **right in front of her**, unaware of the effect of the springs. About to pass a woman, he bounds right into her. Both he and the woman fall down.

0105

MAN

"Hi, I'm wondering, is Park Street this way?"

She looks at him wonderingly as he is on top of her.

As Lily looks back and forth from the woman to the man, they each strike her as the most beautiful person she has ever seen before. She feels her head swelling.

She isn't sure what sex either of them are. It isn't that one is a man and the other a woman but that one is more masculine and the other more feminine.

They remain lying in the street, talking to each other.

MAN

"I just moved here. Have you live here long?"

WOMAN

"I haven't come here yet but I probably will."

They glance over at Lily who hurries away.

0106

Every single person Lily looks at is the most beautiful person she has ever seen in her entire life. How can it be? When she looks at someone, they are the most beautiful person, but then the next one, it's the same thing. She almost swoons every time she looks at someone.

0107 CHASED BY MUSICIANS

Musicians play on a corner a song that does and does not sound like a song. It certainly does not sound anything like any song she has ever heard before. It has rhythm, the melody is catchy, it has a chorus but it somehow defies what she knows as music. She walks past them. They begin to follow her, still playing.

0108

She **looks back**, sees them and presses forward, avoiding the most public streets. They follow, playing loudly. Lily speeds up but they walk faster too. Their effort to catch up to Lily effects their ability to play in sync and in tune.

She notices that there are statues on every street, all similarly made.

0109

She can't outrun the musicians. The musicians play louder than before but the melody is all broken to pieces.

0201 EMERGENCY ROOM

She runs into an office building. **Store sign, "We Take Your Side."**

0202

But inside is not a lobby. A nurse stands behind a desk. **People sit in chairs along the wall. Medics wheel a gurney through. One person holds her head. Another holds his side.**

NURSE (TO LILY)

"Please sign in."

LILY

"What is this?"

NURSE

"Emergency reception. What is your medical emergency?"

0203

Lily backs up and stumbles outside to a street she hasn't seen before. She has in fact, come out of an emergency room.

At least I got away from the musicians. Why is everyone so young and beautiful? Everyone I have seen today looks ten times more beautiful than anyone I saw before, even compared to people on TV and in the magazines. And I'm just guessing if someone is male or female.

0204

She tries the next store... Store sign, "Bells and Whistles."

0205

...and the next. Store sign, "Hurry Me Up."

0206

Each time she walks right into the same emergency room. The same androgynous nurse acts like she never saw Lily before. Each time, Lily feels trapped and runs outside.

0207 LIBRARY

Everyone Lily sees either looks about twenty years old or younger. So many people wear cumbersome objects that Lily can make no sense of.

Outside of a library a woman wears a cruel looking back-brace that forces her to bend over. Weights hang off her front. Wooden blocks on the soles of her shoes make her teeter back and forth. At least she has a cane even though Lily has never seen someone that young use a cane.

Desperate to get off the street, Lily takes the woman's hand.

LILY

"Are you going in the library?"

WOMAN

"Yes."

LILY

"I am too, can I hold your hand while we both go in?"

The woman refuses at first. Lily pleads. The woman complies but not pleasantly. She obviously takes a disliking to Lily.

0208

They step into the library.

LILY

"It's still a library! Is it still a library for you?"

A loud crack right by Lily's ear makes her jump. Plaster shards, pieces of wood and metal, fall off Lily and break into more pieces on the floor. Lily is about to thank the woman but the woman has already disappeared behind some book shelves.

0301 IN BATHROOM

She picks a piece of the plaster up and holds it out to two people staring at her from behind the checkout desk.

LILY

"What is this?"

They say nothing. Like so many others Lily has seen today, these two have brilliant coloring on their faces and Lily can tell it isn't makeup. The coloring is under their skin, not on top of it.

0302

Lily does her best to pick up the broken pieces and put them in a garbage can while the librarians mutely watch.

LILY

"Where is the restroom?"

0303

They point.

0304

Lily walks to the back. The hands on the wall clocks jump all over the place.

0305

Lily panics when she sees her reflection in the bathroom mirror.

Where have I been? How many days has it been between that day on the bus and now?

Whatever happened to her in that time, has changed her face. When she frowns, her brow and the sides of her mouth take on a sinister, gargoylian expression.

Lily washes at the sink, scrubbing off the layers of filth.

She touches her neck and begins to cry. Her hands shake as she wipes it off with damp paper towels. Examining her neck closely, in the mirror, she finds a subtle but distinct line running all the way around it. She places her hands around it as if to hold two separate pieces together.

0306

She scrutinizes her hands. Her fingernails have grown out but they are broken, bleeding, really a mess. She chews back their lengths and cleans them up as best she can. They bleed afresh.

Her left arm feels sore to the bone and does not want to move.

She holds her left hand up to the mirror and compares the length of her fingers to each other. She moves them experimentally like she is operating a remote-control hand.

My body is weaker than before, less solid. My head is heavier to hold up. My index fingers are longer than these. These are not my hands! These are not my arms! Whose body is this? I want my body back! Did someone steal my body?

Lily cries again.

0307

She touches her face.

I still have my head. At least I have that!

Lily pulls one of the flowers out of her hair. It feels strange in the palm of her hand. It is no longer made of what it was made of. She removes the other flowers and drops them in the waste can. She picks the sticks and leaves out of her hair. Lily tries to flatten her hair but it won't go down.

My hair is possessed, what is making it stand up like this?

0308

She washes her feet. The cuts sting and so much dirt washes off of them that Lily becomes afraid she's going to get in trouble for making such a mess. The soles have grown a thick skin.

0309

A woman opens the door lugging a cast iron purse that must weigh a lot. The woman looks Lily up and down and leaves before she enters.

0310

The mess seems to have grown on its own. Lily wipes up muddy water from the floor and wipes down the sink. She tries to go to the bathroom but can't.

0401 WANDERING

Lily walks away from the library. A woman wearing a fat suit, **twice as large as the woman herself**, crosses Lily's path. A hand painted sign, attached to the suit reads, "Ignore me."

Why would she wear that sign, or such a cumbersome suit for that matter?

I have no idea where I'm going. I need food, a place to stay. These aren't my clothes, I don't know who put me in them. I want to find different clothes. I'm still dirty and smelly. I don't want anyone to smell me. I never knew it could be possible that I could stink this badly!

All other smells puzzle her. She does not recognize any of them. Even the plants smell unfamiliar.

Everything looks American in some ways but alien in others, not just some things or most things, but **everything**. Music playing through a window sounds counterfeit to her.

I want to say that I must be in a foreign country but it's so much more than that. I know I don't have a home to go home to, but I do, I do want to go home.

0402

As much as she tries, she can't avoid everyone. Their clothes look weird. Most of the pockets aren't square. People have patches sewn to their clothes that say things like, "Mexican," "Black," "White," "Lesbian," "Father," etc. Even though for the first time in her life Lily can't tell who's what race. Everyone looks like they don't belong to any race.

Everyone has name patches. Lily looks to see if she has a patch that reads, "Asian," or "Lily Hong."

I must be the only person without any patches.

0403

She sees more statues, all the same height and identical faces, each with different breast plates. She stops and looks at a statue. It looks like it's made of different color stones and its eyes are hollow. It's covered in dust.

Someone went to a lot of trouble to put these statues here but they're placed randomly. They must depict daily life. I wonder how far back those eye holes go.

0404

On the next street a group of five statues all kneel, faces turned upward.

Looks like they are holding up the sky.

Across the street a statue lies face down.

0405

Strangers leer at Lily, mostly the masculine people. It makes her feel desired but insulted and afraid at the same time.

People look at Lily with dismay and discomfort. She keeps moving but meekly. She shouldn't be on these streets. She does not belong here, she knows it and everyone else knows it.

0406 PARK

She walks through a park and finds a place to sit. She watches a kite making endless loops in the sky.

A woman doesn't noticed Lily and sits nearby. The woman looks around, sees Lily and disconcertedly gets up to find a different place to sit.

0407

Lily realizes everyone entering or leaving the park waits in line and pays to walk through a doorway, *near the sidewalk*, even if they have to walk clear around the park to reach the doorway. The park has no fence.

Should I have entered that way? I hope I don't get in trouble.

She tries to see if anyone will just walk into the park but absolutely no one does. One child is about to, but his mother pulls him away.

0408

A man with a megaphone harnessed to his mouth walks around trying to talk normally to people but his voice is so loud, he drives everyone away.

MAN

"How nice it would be to meet someone who appreciates quality of life. No one takes the time anymore to talk to each other! Everyone is in such a hurry these days."

A woman whose chest is enclosed in a cage hears him and avoids him.

0409

Lily sits. The hands on a tower clock point every-which-way, randomly.

All the clocks are broken. Why even have clocks?

0501 BOYS BOTHER HER

Five young men walk up to her, grinning mischievously, like they share a private joke. They gather close around her.

YOUTH 1

"What school do you go to? Or do you even go to school?"

YOUTH 2

"We have some alcohol, want some?"

LILY

"I really shouldn't be here."

YOUTH 1

"Well come with us."

LILY

"I can't."

0502

She hurries away. Behind her they start laughing.

0503 FORTUNE COOKIES

The city is much quieter than just an hour ago. The streets seem empty. Hardly anyone is outside. She takes the bill she was handed, out of her pocket and enters a store. **Store sign, "Flavor Snacks Nice."**

0504

Holding a bag of fortune cookies, she walks out of the store.

0505

In a space between buildings she sits eating the whole bag, reading one fortune right after another. "You will meet someone special." "Plan for many pleasures ahead." "Something you lost will soon turn up." "You deserve a vacation." "You were born under a lucky star." "You will be part of a special ceremony." "True love is just around the corner."

She flattens each fortune out on the pavement until a breeze moves them, after which, she collects them in her hand.

The cookies taste sweet, but strange, like edible perfume, and they melt away in her mouth faster than cotton candy.

0506 JESUS FREAKS

Sandaled feet walk up and stand in front of her. She looks up. A group of robed people look down at her.

ROBED PERSON 1

"We have great news!"

LILY

"What?"

ROBED PERSON 2

"Better start dressing like us or you will die a horrible death!"

ROBED PERSON 3

"We dress like Jesus and so should you!"

LILY

"You know who Jesus is?"

ROBED PERSON 1

"Of course we do, he is the wisest man who ever lived. He taught us that we should tolerate and love everyone, not just family, friends and associates. For a human to decide what is right for another is pure foolishness. Accepting differences is the first step toward understanding others. He is one of the few people who understood the true meaning of Love. That's why we dress like him and you should too!"

LIYY

"I could use some sandals."

ROBED PERSON 2

"Dress like him! Otherwise, you are in the wrong! You are persecuting us by dressing the way you do! We are persecuted for dressing like Jesus. We fled to this country so we could dress like Jesus. We are trying to pass laws making it illegal to dress in any other way! College professors persecute us by not dressing like Jesus! Why is everyone trying to spoil our fun?! But we get the last laugh! Everyone who does not dress like Jesus is going to suffer, flesh tearing, blood boiling, skull cracking torment! They will hate it and feel so sorry they didn't do exactly as we do! If you aren't scared you should be! This is good news! Come back here shameful one!"

0507

Lily gets to her feet and leaves them.

0601 NIGHT ARRIVES

She stops in midflight. A dark shape, so dark it can't be a cloud, moves into the city, consuming the buildings.

0602

Lily turns and runs in the opposite direction. The occasional person, still on the street, gapes at her.

0603

A black appendage reaches past her, reaching into a window.

0604

The black shape passes over her like a bubble. Inside, it looks like night.

Lily slows to a stop. She can still breathe. Nothing seems different other than now everything is dark and street lights come on. As if on que she feels sleepy.

0701 NIGHT MONSTERS

Walking the empty streets, Lily is at a loss. Where should she go? She takes one hesitant step after another.

A loud pounding breaks the silence and shakes the ground, followed by more pounding and what sounds like a car being crushed.

0702

On the other side of a building, a giant-something stands up. **This thing must be much larger than a dinosaur.** It sways back and forth and starts to climb over the roof.

0703 UNDER THE TRAILOR

Lily runs. She climbs over a stone wall into an abandoned yard and steps through the over growth. A trailer lies overturned, covered with vines.

0704

She crawls underneath it. The ground shakes and from time to time crashing sounds, crushing sounds and smashing sounds tear through the night.

0705

An hour later she still hears them.

It can't just be one, there must be more.

I'm so tired but what if a snake crawls under here? I heard they like a warm body. What if a bug crawls in my ear tonight?

I was on the bus. I was on my way to the city to find my childhood home. The bus was hot. I still had my body. And then? And then?

Her fear turns to sadness, a debilitating sadness. Her heart aches and she is helpless to do anything about it. As if by instinct she grabs a root sticking out of the ground. Even when one of those giant-somethings stomps its way down the street

right outside the abandoned yard, she does not stir or shake anymore.

0706

Lily sleeps, floating around, bumping into the trailer. Her face is contorted like it was before she regained her human mind. Sometime in the night the loud noises stop.

0707

A couple argue right by the trailer. Lily awakes and falls to the ground. She refuses to open her eyes but light leaks in.

MAN

"You ruined my life!"

WOMAN

"Me and everybody else!"

MAN

"No, just you. You are the only one!"

WOMAN

"What about the hit and run that crushed your foot last year? You spent weeks trying to find his car!"

MAN

"That was more like a hobby, you know I always wanted to be a criminal investigator."

WOMAN

"What about your twin brother committing suicide?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

WOMAN

"What about when your therapist put out a no contact order against you?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

WOMAN

"What about your children calling a family meeting to ask you to forget you ever had them?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

Lily waits for them to finish or go away. Someone tries to start a lawn mower that just won't start. After a few minutes of that...

0708

...Lily crawls out from under the trailer. The break of dawn has not yet woken the city up. Morning birds party in the branches.

Man has wires and tubes coming out of orifices. Some tubes drip liquid.

Now her clothes are dirty on the outside as well as the inside. Lily tries to brush herself off.

Maybe I should stay under the trailer and hide all day, I don't want to walk around like this, not again!

0710

She touches her hair. The flowers are back! She finds them all in her hair. They've all grown back!