**Severance**

Season 1, Episode 1: Good News about Hell

1. **Make notes on Lacey’s repertoire of elements as you watch the episode.**

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| **Element** | **Conventions** |
| **Setting** *(mise en scene/locations)* | The office is really plain and boring, with white and gray colors, bright lights, and old computers, which makes it feel cold and strict. Outside, it’s warmer with natural light, but still kind of sad, showing how the main character feels. Everyone wears the same clothes at work, which makes them look like they have no personality. The props, like the surgery tools, show how serious the procedure is, and the photos show the character’s emotions. The actors’ faces and how they stand show they’re uncomfortable and trapped. The way things are framed makes it look like the company is in control. |
| **Characters** *(representations, stereotypes, behavior, body language, specific actors/stars)* ***Consider Propps character types.*** | Woman, middle aged, red hair. We later find out her name is ‘Helly R’  Mark: also middle aged, male, unsightly, personal issues, conflict with self, lonely, very odd, dead wife, mid life crisis, no direction, alcoholic?  So far, there is no “hero” although the boss ‘Harmony’ is definitely the villain.  Mark is the main character and he kind of plays into the lost co-worker/mid life crisis stereotype. His body language is reserved, he is very quiet. He shows very little emotion, very robotic.  Harmony is shown as the villain. She has grey hair and is also middle aged. She comes off as cold and condescending, and makes very ominous quotes about her mother. She has a very sharp gaze and is very authoritative. |
| **Narrative events** *(how is the narrative ordered and structured? Is it elliptical?)* | Woman (Helly) is trapped in an office room, we learn about the ‘severance procedure’ which is a surgery that splits you into two ‘people’. It separates your work life and home life and blocks any memory of either outside of each locations (does that make sense?) eg: when at home you remember nothing that happened at work and vise versa.  Non linear narrative, flash forwards and backs.  We gradually find out more and more about the main character’s life, he is a very troubled man with a dead wife and social issues. Later on we find out about Marks best friend from work “Peter” or ‘Petey’ is fired without reason. This gets clarified when Peter tracks down mark in his home life and talks to him about work, claiming to have bypassed the severance procedure. Mark is of course confused as he has no memory from work while at home. Peter explains that he is being hunted down because he knows too much, he wants to entrust this knowledge to mark as a safeguard if he dies. |
| **Iconography** *(well known or recognizable people/objects/buildings/mise en scene/props/costume, setting, symbolic codes)* | Suits, represent cooperate setting, refined, well dressed, formal, etc. |
| **Style** (*technical and audio codes e.g. camera use, editing, sound, lighting, color)* | High key lighting, no shadows, unnatural. |

1. **Make notes on the following Macro elements as you watch.**

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| **Story Arcs** within the episode: *make note of which are resolved by the end of the episode, and which will continue into the season.* |  |
| **Todorov’s Narrative Theory:** *In what ways does his theory apply (or not apply) to this episode.* | **Does not apply because narrative is non linear.** |
| **Binary Oppositions:** *list and explain the oppositions present in the episode. How is this adding to narrative conflict?* |  |
| **Themes:** *What themes can you identify in the episode and how are these being portrayed so far?* | Cooperate control, mental insanity, |