

# Nine Perfect Strangers Episode Guide

Episodes 001–008

Last episode aired Wednesday September 22, 2021





© 2021 [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)



© 2021 [www.hulu.com](http://www.hulu.com)



© 2021

[www.thereviewgeek.com](http://www.thereviewgeek.com)

The summaries and recaps of all the *Nine Perfect Strangers* episodes were downloaded from <https://www.imdb.com> and <https://www.hulu.com> and <https://www.thereviewgeek.com> and processed through a perl program to transform them in a  $\LaTeX$  file, for pretty printing. So, do not blame me for errors in the text 😊!

This booklet was  $\LaTeX$ ed on September 23, 2021 by `footstep11` with `create_eps_guide v0.68`

# Contents

<b>Season 1</b>	<b>1</b>
1 Random Acts of Mayhem . . . . .	3
2 The Critical Path . . . . .	5
3 Earth Day . . . . .	7
4 Brave New World . . . . .	9
5 Sweet Surrender . . . . .	11
6 Motherlode . . . . .	13
7 Wheels on the Bus . . . . .	15
8 Ever After . . . . .	17
 <b>Actor Appearances</b>	 <b>19</b>



# **Season One**



## Random Acts of Mayhem

Season 1  
Episode Number: 1  
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday August 18, 2021  
Writer: David E. Kelley, John-Henry Butterworth  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Damien Garvey (Sam), Isabelle Cornish (Lulu), Alyla Browne (Tatiana), Angie Diaz (Sheila Stone), Peter Mackenzie (Marty (voice)), Thomas Webb (Ray), Hal Cumpston (Zach Marconi)  
Summary: Promised total transformation, nine very different people arrive at Tranquillum House, a secluded retreat run by the mysterious wellness guru Masha.



The episode begins with a series of different people heading to a retreat called Tranquillum, deep in the heart of Cabrillo, California. These guys and gals are spending 10 days there, trying to fix up their lives through some much-needed R&R.

There's a litany of different problems these people are dealing with, and in episode 1 we only really taste a fraction of that.

Francis is stressed about her book deal, Napoleon and Heather have relationship problems which are a little better disguised than the Gen Z couple of Jessica and Ben. Their big drama comes from needing to hand over their phones — which seems like the end of the world for Jessica.

There's also Tony, who winds up most of the folks onboard for the retreat, while Lars is a little more restrained and sceptical. In fact, he reads through his contract and has a lot of questions regarding blood taking and the lack of advertising for the resort.

It turns out Lars has his own secrets, smuggling a phone out in the woods which Zoe just so happens to see while out wandering alone. With so many characters to play with, the one who's sort of overshadowed here is Carmel, who's allegedly there for weight loss but we'll circle back to that one later on.

With the wellness program beginning, "warden" Masha arrives to meet everyone individually. First up is Francis, who's clearly carrying around a lot of demons. She sits on the bed and starts sobbing, but abruptly stops when Masha shows and gives her some words of encouragement. She watches everyone on a series of monitors too, acting incredibly creepy.

Given the no-phone rule, all of our players make their various final calls to reveal they're going off the grid. Just as they do, rumours are abound as to what Masha's purpose is and what they need to do.

Masha eventually brings them all together and promises to help all 9 of our strangers to leave Tranquillum as better people. However, none of them are particularly pleased with Masha taking things from their bags — including wine and chocolate. Masha, as we soon find out, is actually from Russia. She was apparently shot dead in a parking garage but was revived by Yao, one of the workers at Tranquillum.

Masha wants to bring the same cathartic release for everyone else, to allow them to die (metaphorically I hope!) and become better people. And how will Masha do that? Well, as she tells Heather, she intends to "f\*ck with them."



## The Critical Path

Season 1  
Episode Number: 2  
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday August 18, 2021  
Writer: David E. Kelley, John-Henry Butterworth  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Ben Falcone (Paul Drabble), Alyla Browne (Tatiana), Isabelle Cornish (Lulu), Angie Diaz (Sheila Stone), Matt Okine (Guest Star)  
Summary: As healing begins, the guests begin to doubt the retreat's unconventional methods. They came for massages and relaxation, not to face their own mortality.



The episode begins with Francis heading off to catch up with Zoe, who ran out of the session last episode. It turns out the family are dealing with a big loss in the form of their son Zack. He died 3 years back and it soon becomes clear that this is a black cloud hanging over the family. When Heather shows up, Francis does her best to try and help but the woman simply walks away.

Back in the heated therapy room, all the different residents turn on Masha. Given she only accepts 10% of applicants,

it's clear that these people have been chosen because they're damaged and are there for a reason.

It's here we learn a little more about Tony. He's divorced, a drug addict and also has two kids as well. His relationship is pretty estranged but Tony believes Masha is using this as a weapon against him. He's clearly not happy with his life and eventually gives in, allowing Tony his vodka and pills back.

As he settles back into a destructive state, Masha reminds him she just wants his secret and to make him feel better.

Given Jessica is such a fan of Francis' work, the two have a nice chat down by the pool. Francis reminds the girl not to use her novels as love advice, especially given how romanticized and fantastical some books can be. It's clear these two were chosen for a very specific reason, and it seems that their connection with Francis' books may be why.

Outside, Masha gets taking to Yao. Apparently Delilah gets jealous a lot as Masha kisses Yao's legs and tells him they're inexplicably bound together. There's clearly a lot more than meets the eye here but for now, it's being kept under wraps.

Anyway, today's big session involves our 9 strangers digging themselves a grave and lying within, reflecting on their life's choices. It's all laid out in a big semi-circle as Masha arrives and gets them to control their thoughts.

With chimes echoing through the air, she tells them all to step out their graves as new people. In doing so, Francis heads back to the spa for some acupuncture. There, the workers at Tranquillum take blood samples.

The one person whom this grave task seems to work for is Jessica. She heads off for a one to one with Masha afterwards, telling her she wants to transform her life. Jessica wants to transcend beyond her simplistic life and actually be someone. Masha sees through this façade though and claims that a lot of Jessica's drama stems from Ben. She thinks the love has gone but won't admit it to herself.

Tony and Francis end up having some hilarious interactions down at the pool. With Francis noisily snoring, Tony throws a grape straight into Francis mouth. Although she starts choking, Tony jumps in to help the girl out. The pair actually have really good chemistry on-screen, with Francis admitting she's still reeling from a past relationship with a guy called Paul.

When the conversation turns to Francis' latest book, she learns the critics have given it bad reviews. She's not happy and eventually walks away.

Off on the hike, all the gang get involved in their trust exercises. Heather however, turns away from the group and stands precariously on the edge of the cliff-face, looking out at the drop below. Napoleon holds her shoulders but Delilah warns him off, telling the guy to back up. It's clear Heather has a lot of demons and although she's talked out of jumping, it's still an alarming moment.

On the back of her despair, Francis shows up to see Masha. She's worried that as a novelist she's a one-trick pony but Masha turns that metaphor around, telling her she's a car that's run out of gas.

When Francis leaves, Masha turns back to her monitors. Interestingly, Tony decides to get back in his grave to find relief while Zoe and Napoleon hash it out in the woods. With everything bubbling up, and the group not fully detoxed yet, Masha makes the decision to "start the protocol."

# Earth Day

Season 1  
Episode Number: 3  
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Wednesday August 18, 2021  
Writer: Samantha Strauss  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Hal Cumpston (Zach Marconi), Isabelle Cornish (Lulu), Alyla Browne (Tatiana), Blake McFarlane (Young Zach)  
Summary: Forced to live "off of the land" on Earth Day, tension within the group erupts as treatment intensifies and hunger pains set in.



The episode begins with all our guys and gals waking up after an eventful few days. While Jessica and Ben end up lovemaking — Heather is not in the mood for the same from Napoleon. Speaking of which, Napoleon has a one on one session with Masha coming up and he's surprisingly upbeat about it.

Delilah is concerned about the project though, believing their candidates aren't ready. Masha brushes that aside though and sets to work getting ready for day 3. This includes a smoothie for breakfast.

While they sit at the table, Lars lives up to his branded nickname I've given him of "spoon", stirring up a whole pot of issues with the different residents. First up, he probes the marital issues between Ben and Jessica.

Well, Yao has just the ticket to cut out all this tension. There's a potato sack race coming up! Lars does his best to rile up the group further, bringing out Carmel's pent-up rage following a particularly crude suggestion.

Speaking of which, Tony clearly has rage and grief build-up himself and his drug addiction is certainly not doing him any favours. Flashes to the past reveal troubling revelations, including a football match where he's taken off on a stretcher.

As we come to find out later on, Tony is actually a pretty famous player but no longer going under his alias of "Smiley". It's a pretty ironic nickname in truth, given what we know about him now.

After the sack race finishes, Napoleon shows up to see Masha during his one on one. Here, we learn Zack took his own life and that has obviously affected Heather very badly. Napoleon meanwhile, is very standoffish, deciding to look at the facts and not allowing himself to feel the pain. Although he remains scientific and detached from the situation, his body language shows something very different.

Masha encourages Napoleon to close his eyes, where he ends up seeing his son. Napoleon lies about it though, and eventually skips away from the session. It's clear he needs to face his grief but it doesn't seem like the right time to do that.

In order to help "feel" the land, Delilah encourages the girls (who have been kept separate to the guys this session) to get into the river naked. Only Heather does this though, while the others are way too self-conscious to get involved. On the shore though, tensions flare between Carmel and Jessica, especially when the former lashes out at Jess for her Insta profile.

Things do eventually simmer down while in the hot spring (there's definitely some poetic irony there) as the girls discuss their sex life. It's very awkward for Zoe, especially when Heather admits it's been 3 years since she and Napoleon made love. It's not the same anymore and obviously after Zack, it's difficult for her to feel that same level of intimacy with her husband.

The guys meanwhile, are off with Yao and trying to forage for food. The attention turns from Tony across to Ben, as Lars probes him over he makes his money. Apparently he won 22 million dollars in the lottery but in doing so, his whole life was upended and completely changed. Lars though? Well, he just continues to lash out and belittle the others.

Well, that is until the guys all rally together and manage to hunt and kill an animal. Given they were supposed to be living off the land, they've certainly done what they set out to do but for Masha, there's more going on here behind her strained smile when she finds out.

Although she congratulates them, she hurries back into her room and begins breathing heavily. Yao shows up to see her though, telling the woman he's sorry for her loss.

Day turns to night and all our strangers start dancing by the fire. Things have definitely changed, and Lars can sense this too. He hits out at Delilah, given more things have been taken from his room, but that's soon brushed aside in favour of the big goat banquet.

Napoleon stands up to say a few words and eventually opens up, admitting that it's his fault that Zack passed. If he hadn't snoozed his alarm and gone in to see Zack when he should have done, Heather wouldn't have gone through this trauma.

It's a cathartic release, one that eventually sees Napoleon face his grief head-on — which is exactly what Heather wanted. During the moments of silence that follow, Heather turns to Masha and asks if they've all been medicated. The wry smile back confirms just that.

# Brave New World

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday August 25, 2021  
Writer: David E. Kelley, John-Henry Butterworth  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Ben Falcone (Paul Drabble), Hal Cumpston (Zach Marconi), Alyla Browne (Tatiana), Isabelle Cornish (Lulu), Blake McFarlane (Young Zach), Jake Ryan (Buster)  
Summary: As the guests learn more about Tranquillum's unique protocols, everyone must decide if they will continue under Masha's care. Meanwhile, Masha is receiving mysterious threats of her own.



The episode begins with a flashback to the past. Specifically involving Masha as she heads into the parking lot. She's being followed by a gunman who shoots her. This single gunshot blasts us back to the present as Heather asks whether they're all being medicated.

Masha admits that she's micro-dosing them all with magic mushrooms. Even Tony too. His oxy has been switched out a while back for mushrooms. Francis is understandably not happy and walks away, while Masha turns and nonchalantly tells the others that they're all keeping secrets.

Lars, as it turns out, is an investigative journalist but Masha is well aware who he is. She's actually happy that he's there and encourages him to continue on with his research. It certainly takes Lars aback but Masha continues to flirt the line of insanity.

This whole ordeal obviously isn't helped by the fact Masha is receiving threats, and as she contemplates in private with Yao whether it could be one of the guests.

After the events of the evening, all the guests contemplate whether to hang around and continue treatment or not. Francis isn't happy with the lack of consent regarding the psychedelics but she's deciding to stay. Given Tony's transformation From asshole to less-of-an-asshole, she's convinced that this is actually working.

Masha's one on one with Carmel though brings up more revelations about our quiet guest. Behind the girl's shy façade is a much darker core.

She's a bit of a livewire and her earlier utterance about wanting to punch Jessica in the face is a little alarming. Some of this seems to stem from her marriage, with physical abuse defining a lot of her moments in the past. In fact, Carmel has a pretty nasty scar on her chest from where her lover bit her. An "act of love" as Carmel calls it.

Knowing this is just an excuse, Masha has Carmel write down all the nasty things her partner has said about her.

Meanwhile, we see a few little bits of history about Lars. He's going through a breakup with Ray and his devout Christian upbringing means he's handling a lot of pressure. He talks to Zoe about this too, who is also in denial regarding her depression with Zack's death.

The day's task revolves around anger, and after Francis makes her feelings felt, Carmel is encouraged to let hers out too. With a dummy set up, Masha reads out all of those horrible things Carmel's partner said about her. Carmel completely unlashes her anger, smashing the dummy repeatedly.

The others watching this though are pretty scared, including Napoleon and Tony. When Tony skips out, Francis follows and tries to get through to him but he's clearly erratic and suffering quite badly.

It turns out Tony had a fight at a bar in the past and this resulted in the man being taken to hospital with a bleed to the brain. This same guy then died 6 days later. This is the big drama surrounding Tony and his metaphorical black cloud hanging over his life. He's got nowhere else to go and this dummy beat-down is precisely why he's acting this way.

As day turns to night, Delilah confronts Masha but she waves away her protests. However, things take a turn for the worst when Masha heads into her apartment later that evening. A smashed plate on the ground and a note up on the wall reading "It's good to die" hint that someone at the resort has it in for her.



## Sweet Surrender

Season 1

Episode Number: 5

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Wednesday September 01, 2021  
Writer: David E. Kelley  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Ben Falcone (Paul Drabble), Hal Cumpston (Zach Marconi), Peter Callan (Mr. Connelly), Astrid Wells Cooper (Mrs. Connelly), Elisabeth Huggins (Tony's Daughter), Alex Stamell (Tony's Daughter), Isabelle Cornish (Lulu)  
Summary: Zoe's birthday celebration reopens old wounds, even as the group begins to grow closer.



The episode begins with flashes in the past. Masha lost one of her residents at Tranquillum. Shots of CPR, flatlining heart monitors and blinding images confirm as much.

While Masha suffers with ghosts of her past, so too does Zoe, who dreams of Zack being before her. It turns out she and Zack were close and she misses her brother dearly. Zoe admits she feels incredibly lonely and now that her son has gone, there's a big hole in her life.

In the morning, Napoleon rocks up in the room given it's Zoe's party and starts dancing about in his underwear. There's

a lot more laughter with this family but whether it's actually all just a façade or not, remains to be seen.

Anyway, the gang join together and discuss dreams. Specifically, Napoleon discusses how he dreamt of being one of the Beatles. Carmel however, is triggered by a song being hummed, leading her to plunge a fork straight into the table.

Speaking of dreams, Lars' confirms that he dreamt of giving birth while all the other residents are there to see it happen. He can still see the dream vividly while Tony happens to be the Father, crying uncontrollably.

Francis has a visitor. It's Paul and he's there to say sorry. Now, all of this is one big dream sequence after she collapses in her oatmeal and passes out. However, it confirms what her big drama actually is. It seems like Paul is a scam artist and a reflection of her own insecurities regarding writing.

Of course, the one person here who shares the most with Francis is Tony. He sits with her and encourages the girl to keep writing. During this tender moment, Francis suddenly needs to vomit and hurries off.

Meanwhile, Masha invites Delilah out into the open where she apologizes to the latter for what happened with Connolly, the one who died in the past.

Delilah is being dosed up it seems, and Masha encourages her to stay with her while they build "something great." And just like that, Delilah suddenly leans forward and kisses Masha. Well, that was unexpected!

It doesn't take long for a weird montage to pick up though as Delilah and Yao share some intimate moments together. While they do, Masha receives another threatening message.

Anyway, the day's event goes ahead with a cliff dive. Napoleon wastes absolutely no time jumping straight in the water down below but Heather is far more reserved about this. Well, the second time he laps with her while holding hands. This shot of adrenaline is just what the pair need, finally making new memories together.

While this is going on, Lars heads out to his secret spot, phoning his contact and letting his contact know that he's being dosed.

Benjamin and Jessica head off together as well, where the latter admits she really hates all the money he has. As they talk about their old life together, the pair reflect on their best moments and how much they miss it.

Well, while the pair make love in the hot spring, Carmel ends up seeing them together and becomes erratic. As she hurries off, it's clear that this reminds her of her past with her boyfriend.

On the way off, she runs into Lars. It turns out Carmel has had to pent-up all of her anger and despair, putting on a brave face for her kids. Given her abusive partner, Lars encourages Carmel to embrace disassociation.

The easiest way of doing that is to find someone who sees her for who she is. As they hug it out, they realize that the drugs have certainly had an affect on them both.

That night, the gang all join together to celebrate Zoe's birthday. The celebrations involve Napoleon singing. While he does, Zoe notices Zack standing by the pool. As she stares off in his direction, Masha notices and perks up. She hurries over to her and whispers in Zoe's ear, telling the girl that she's the key to what's happening. But how? What does this mean?



# Motherlode

Season 1  
Episode Number: 6  
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Wednesday September 08, 2021  
Writer: Jessica Sharzer, Jonathan Levine  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Ben Falcone (Paul Drabble), Hal Cumpston (Zach Marconi), Alyla Browne (Tatiana), Isabelle Cornish (Lulu), Jack LaTorre (Young Lars), Hendrix Ingham (Bully), Jackson Breen (Bully)  
Summary: As the protocol escalates, relationships are strengthened, even as the effects of the treatment become more unsettling. Masha reveals her unique treatment goals for the Marconi family.



The episode begins with Francis continuing to be haunted by ghosts from the past. Specifically that of Paul, as he appears as a teeny tiny man running across the apartment. Through his biting rants, Paul reveals that she actually gave him \$128,000.

Speaking of the past, Lars too suffers from ghosts of his past. Remember when he mentioned the Christian upbringing? Well, all the kids gather around him, bullying the kid and chanting that he's a faggot.

When Lars suddenly awakens, Masha happens to be there. She hands over a notebook and tells him to record every-

thing that happens this coming day.

In the morning, the gang all join together and discuss the nature of dreams. Well, it seems like Masha is controlling their visions and dreams, which seem to be a manifestation of their own insecurities and issues.

With treatment seemingly working, the gang all agree to follow through and take more drugs in the morning. With the "buddy system" in place, Carmel is not so sure how this will react with her current medication.

Masha however, has news of her own. Given the death threats she's been dealing with, the big revelation that Masha was having an affair with Carmel's husband is a huge shock to the girl. It also gives Carmel incentive to exact revenge as well.

It turns out Carmel has arrived at Tranquillum to "study" Masha and take inspiration to become a better person — and partner. Masha is desperate for Carmel to get all the hatred out of her heart and admits that her husband meant nothing to her.

With this secret out in the open, all our gang take their drugs and prepare for the next stage. Delilah is worried, concerned about pushing the protocol too soon. It also seems like Masha is

giving in to temptation — eating cake that previous evening — and brushing aside the fact there's a big lawsuit hanging over Tranquillum.

The drugs kick in and this leads to Tony and Francis kissing outside. It's been brewing for a while but to see it finally play out is pretty satisfying.

Anyway, it's eventually broken up by Tony admitting that he's thought about ending everything and committing suicide in the past. From that spot to this hopeful bliss is quite a big journey and one that Francis listens intently to.

Carmel opens up to Lars and admits why she's really at Tranquillum. The odd ones out here are Ben and Jessica, who really don't have a lot of substance — or anything to do. Jessica's trauma for the episode comes from losing her nose in a vision.

Meanwhile, Napoleon, Heather and Zoe all enjoy getting high. Zoe wanders off on her own, where she notices someone walking through the trees. Heather and Napoleon follow, where the trio end up seeing Zack.

Things take a turn for the worst though when Zack mentions to Heather about the medication he was on. Specifically how part of these drugs seemed to initiate suicidal tendencies. If that wasn't enough, Heather even underlined this part too. When this crippling revelation comes to light, Heather begins screaming and is brought in to be treated.

When Masha finds out they all saw Zack, she contemplates just what this means in the grand scheme of things. For now, she checks up on Napoleon, who admits he's struggling to forgive Heather after the big revelation earlier in the episode.

As they talk, Masha agrees to help bring their son back. Delilah overhears this and worries about what it could mean. Speaking to Yao, it seems like this incident is what led to the tragedy befalling Connolly, although quite what this protocol is remains a mystery. One thing's for sure though, Delilah wants to leave and get out while they still can.

As we flash over to Masha one more time, we see that she had a daughter in the past and she was struck by a car.

## Wheels on the Bus

Season 1  
Episode Number: 7  
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Wednesday September 15, 2021  
Writer: David E. Kelley  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Alyla Browne (Tatiana), Les Hill (Kendall), Dakota Beaumont (Swimmer)  
Summary: Pressure on Masha intensifies, as she juggles the competing needs of her guests, discord amongst her staff and her absolute commitment to healing the Marconi family.



The episode begins with Masha reflecting back on the painful memories from her past. With her daughter riding a bike, she's struck down by a speeding car, sending Masha into a deep spiral of grief. Carmel snaps Masha back to reality though with a stiff punch across the face.

With blood staining her face, Yao jumps in and manages to strap Carmel down. As they rush her out of the area, Frances begins to freak out. Tony senses this and suggests they just get away from the place together. As he begins spouting

out prose from her book, Tony suddenly changes to sport long hair and white robes. Yes, all of this is a big vision as the treatment starts to spiral out of control.

Following their run-in with Zack earlier in the season, both Heather and Napoleon entertain the idea of being with him — even if the whole thing is a hallucinatory lie. Napoleon is still torn over the big reveal with Heather though, which — if you may remember — included her lying about the pill bottle and the side effects therein.

Lars trails off from the group and takes Masha aside. It turns out the guest who died was a guy called Aaron Connolly. He died on the premises too, explaining the visions of Masha and Delilah giving CPR to the kid. Masha though chalks it up to a heart attack and nonchalantly brushes aside Lars's concerns.

However, it turns out Lars is actually on the island to get to the bottom of this and investigate Connolly's death. His mother is the one who hired him to get involved in this project.

As things start to become unraveled, Masha pushes the Marconi family to "increase the odds" with their encounter with Zack. She promises that they'll see beyond their wildest dreams, pushing them to up their dosage. This whole plan that she has in mind was successful for only one guest previously. Any guesses who that may be? Yep, it's Aaron.

Of course, Lars jumps all over this and confronts Masha about why she's doing this. He knows about her history and believes Masha is crossing a line with the Marconi family to try and use them to somehow see her own daughter again. Essentially the guys and gals in this project are just guinea pigs for Masha.

Delilah has had enough and refuses to see another disaster on the resort. Her attempts to try and get through to Yao fail, and she eventually packs her things and leaves alone. Or at least tries to anyway. The gates are locked and the place is on lockdown. Well, it doesn't stop her from driving through a fence and leaving anyway, much to Masha's horror.

With less manpower, Frances wanders off on her own, sitting on the cliff edge and looking out at the water. When Masha catches wind of this, she postpones her plans with the Marconi's to make sure she's okay.

Interestingly, it's this conversation that allows us to learn more about Masha and what drives her. Since the death of her daughter Tatianna she's been struggling to feel happy and leading an unfulfilling life.

With nothing going to plan, Masha doses the Marconi family and tasks Yao with bringing them to the forest, given that's where they've been seeing Zack the most.

Meanwhile, Masha visits Carmel who's having second thoughts and wants to leave the facility. Masha tries to convince her otherwise, but as Carmel turns and looks at her, she sports two different coloured eyes. More visions of Masha's past hint that the gunman who shot her in the parking lot had the exact same condition.

# Ever After

Season 1  
Episode Number: 8  
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Wednesday September 22, 2021  
Writer: David E. Kelley  
Director: Jonathan Levine  
Show Stars: Nicole Kidman (Masha Dmitrichenko), Melissa McCarthy (Francis Welty), Michael Shannon (Napoleon Marconi), Asher Keddie (Heather Marconi), Grace Van Patten (Zoe Marconi), Luke Evans (Lars Lee), Samara Weaving (Jessica Chandler), Melvin Gregg (Ben Chandler), Tiffany Boone (Delilah), Manny Jacinto (Yao), Zoe Terakes (Glory), Regina Hall (Carmel Schneider), Bobby Cannavale (Tony Hogburn)  
Guest Stars: Hal Cumpston (Zach Marconi), Tom Webb (Ray), Alyla Browne (Tatiana), Liz Esguerra (Detective Jones), Les Chantry (Detective Smith), Lauren Keane (Waitress), Blake McFarlane (Young Zach), Alex Stamell (Tony's Daughter), Elisabeth Huggins (Tony's Daughter), Lila-Rose Frenken (Carmel's Daughter), Saskeya Tomlinson (Carmel's Daughter)  
Summary: It's time for everyone to cross the threshold and face their demons, including Masha. But will they make it to the other side?



The episode begins with Masha shocked over Carmel's transformation. Sporting a glossy eye, Carmel admits that she's responsible for the text messages and threats.

Carmel came to the facility to try and help her but Masha has failed to do so — at least so far anyway. Masha forgives her for what she's done, while the girl struggles to forgive herself. As a promise, Masha asks her to allow 9-14 hours, in which time she promises to try and cure her.

Well, this comes in the form of locking her away in a sensory depravity tank. There's warm water half-full and with the tank both light and soundproof, anyone with claustrophobia is sure to absolutely love this. And Carmel is one of those people.

Anyway, she begins to panic and struggles to stay calm. This whole experiment seems to be a way of allowing her to connect to the past, which Carmel actually begins to do, seeing flashes of the past.

Masha continues to flirt the line of insanity though, and when she reaches the Marconi family outside she unravels. Lars has told them all about Masha's daughter and what she plans to do, including how she's using them as "test pilots" for her own journey. As Napoleon and Heather question Masha, she admits that she's consumed by grief and loss.

With Masha stuck just as much as the Marconi family, she decides they should all meditate and go on this journey together. Lars films the whole affair while the gang hold hands.

Blood oozes out of Napoleon's nose as the family gather together and begin chuckling incredulously. Zach shows up before them, seeing all three question him over why he commit suicide. Zach admits there's no rational reason why this happened. According to him, it's just "something that happened" and there's no explanation.

Napoleon continues to hear his alarm clock ringing, which he interprets as a "game over" of sorts. Despite being named an exemplary teacher, he's consumed by guilt and grief, believing he's failed Zach as a parent. Zach though interprets that sound as Napoleon needing to stop mourning his suicide.

As Zoe and Heather approach too, the gang hug it out and believe they've come to an understanding together. Zach tells them they need to separate the day from him, and try to move past the grief threatening to swallow them whole.

Meanwhile, Frances approaches Tony while he's in the pool and apologizes for her actions. She admits that she tends to babble when she's nervous and that is most certainly the case regarding their time in the sauna.

Tony forgives her and decides they should leave the facility together, head off to a Four Seasons and go for dinner. As they pack up and get ready to leave, they quiz one of the workers about Carmel and her treatment.

Believing her to be okay, the duo head down to the garage. Only, all the cars have gone. Jessica and Ben are there too (remember them? Yeah they've just disappeared these past few weeks) and they too are shocked to find the place stripped bare.

Heading back inside, they run into Lars. He reveals what Masha and the Marconi family are up to, divulging their whole plan. With most of the big players out in the woods, the rest of the patients confront Masha about locking up Carmel. Unfortunately, all the other characters are guided toward Carmel's room and locked in themselves. If that wasn't enough, the room begins to heat up and some of them can smell fire. It seems like the facility is about to go up in flames.

Inside this stuffy room, Lars opens up and admits he was in love once. He gave up that opportunity though and since then, has been ruining his opportunity. This helps to open up the floodgates for the others to reveal their own problems and insecurities too, including how they're going to try and change it.

It's Yao who eventually opens the doors and lets them out though, admitting that they simulate the smell of fire to provide a visceral near-death experience. This close to death it allows people to open up and break down barriers. None of them are particularly happy about this though and after cursing him out, they walk away.

Masha's flashes soon manifest into snowflakes falling in the bright sunshine. There's no clouds though so this is definitely a vision. Zoe can see it too and she guides Masha to try and let go of the pain. As the snow subsides, she sees her daughter Lapochka standing, silently waiting for her. The two embrace, just like they did that fateful night of her death.

Having called the police, Delilah shows up with several police cars ready to arrest her. As the other patients gather together, they watch as Masha is taken away for questioning. However, she's managed to find peace with herself in the process and smiles at each of them warmly.

With the Tranquillum situation behind them, the gang all head back to their daily lives. But things have changed. Yao is off doing charity work with Delilah after apologizing to her back at the facility. Lars finally embraces family life with Tom and their baby.

As the camera pans across though, his article is the front-cover of *The New Yorker*, labelled "Psychedelics to the rescue." This seems to confirm that Masha is not being put away for an extended period of time.

Elsewhere, Frances and Tony go for dinner together. While Frances feels inspired to write, Tony decides to facetime his daughter.

Carmel finally forgives herself too and decides to project that knowledge back across to other victims of abuse too. So what of Ben and Jessica? Well, they've decided to take over Tranquillum in Masha's stead.

The Marconi family have now managed to patch up their differences too, driving back home but now able to finally move past the situation with Zach and what it's done to their family. And Masha? Well, she's free and still seeing visions of her daughter in her life. Everyone is now ready to move on with their lives, safe in the knowledge that they've managed to exorcise their demons.



# Actor Appearances

## B

Dakota Beaumont .....	1
0107 (Swimmer)	
Jackson Breen .....	1
0106 (Bully)	
Ayla Browne .....	7
0101 (Tatiana); 0102 (Tatiana); 0103 (Tatiana); 0104 (Tatiana); 0106 (Tatiana); 0107 (Tatiana); 0108 (Tatiana)	

## C

Peter Callan .....	1
0105 (Mr. Connelly)	
Les Chantery .....	1
0108 (Detective Smith)	
Astrid Wells Cooper .....	1
0105 (Mrs. Connelly)	
Isabelle Cornish .....	6
0101 (Lulu); 0102 (Lulu); 0103 (Lulu); 0104 (Lulu); 0105 (Lulu); 0106 (Lulu)	
Hal Cumpston .....	6
0101 (Zach Marconi); 0103 (Zach Marconi); 0104 (Zach Marconi); 0105 (Zach Marconi); 0106 (Zach Marconi); 0108 (Zach Marconi)	

## D

Angie Diaz .....	2
0101 (Sheila Stone); 0102 (Sheila Stone)	

## E

Liz Esguerra .....	1
0108 (Detective Jones)	

## F

Ben Falcone .....	4
0102 (Paul Drabble); 0104 (Paul Drabble); 0105 (Paul Drabble); 0106 (Paul Drabble)	
Lila-Rose Frenken .....	1
0108 (Carmel's Daughter)	

## G

Damien Garvey .....	1
0101 (Sam)	

## H

Les Hill .....	1
0107 (Kendall)	
Elisabeth Huggins .....	2

0105 (Tony's Daughter); 0108 (Tony's Daughter)

## I

Hendrix Ingham .....	1
0106 (Bully)	

## K

Lauren Keane .....	1
0108 (Waitress)	

## L

Jack LaTorre .....	1
0106 (Young Lars)	

## M

Peter Mackenzie .....	1
0101 (Marty (voice))	
Blake McFarlane .....	3
0103 (Young Zach); 0104 (Young Zach); 0108 (Young Zach)	

## O

Matt Okine .....	1
0102 (Guest Star)	

## R

Jake Ryan .....	1
0104 (Buster)	

## S

Alex Stamell .....	2
0105 (Tony's Daughter); 0108 (Tony's Daughter)	

## T

Saskeya Tomlinson .....	1
0108 (Carmel's Daughter)	

## W

Thomas Webb .....	1
0101 (Ray)	
Tom Webb .....	1
0108 (Ray)	