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*unaired seasons of the West Wing*

*SEASON 2*

**“thirsty”** — Rumors start to spread that bottled water contains dangerous chemicals: arsenic, mercury, methamphetamines. Water lobbyists are demanding a statement from the White House. Anti-water lobbyists are demanding a statement from the White House. When asked privately, CJ says that she hasn’t drank water in nearly forty years, just in case. She carries a flask labeled BATTERY ACID.

**“telephone”** — A woman keeps calling, demanding to speak to the president. She says it’s a national emergency. She says there’s a bomb. She’s been doing this all week. Toby pretends to be the president on the line. He pretends to be very concerned. The woman whispers, “Thank you” before she hangs up. A bomb goes off at noon on a tour bus, seemingly unrelated.

**“what happens to the heart”** — One morning, Josh wakes up and realizes that he can no longer feel his heartbeat. His pulse: dead air. Nothing else seems to be wrong, so he goes to work anyway.

**“dante”** — During rehearsals for Bartlet’s State of the Union address, there’s a power outage in the White House. One of the interns disappears during the power outage and does not return. Donna assumes that the intern either quit, or was the terrorist behind the power outage. She regrets saying this out loud — terrorists have more paperwork.

**“cancellation”** — A fundraiser that Josh was relying on going successfully is canceled at the last minute due to a potential security risk. He doesn’t feel disappointed. He doesn’t feel anything.

**“family”** — Donna’s mother visits from Pennsylvania. She says she doesn’t recognize her little girl anymore. She says it’s too late to come home. Donna shrugs this off, when Josh asks her

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about it later. “That’s just how family is,” she says. It’s clear she’s been crying. Josh wishes he remembered how to cry.

“**leap of faith**” — The girl on the rooftop says she remembers everything now. She says nothing, after.

“**e.r.**” — Donna drives to pick Josh up from the emergency room. He tried to cut into his own chest with a steak knife. He said he was looking for something important.

“Did you find it, at least,” she asks on the drive home. Josh leans his head against the window and doesn't reply.

“**e. t.**” — CJ makes a joke at her press conference about the president being abducted by aliens. When Jed Bartlet hears about it, he smiles, and makes sure that the fleshy suckers on his wrists are covered by sleeves.

“**day off**” — Josh gets violently ill on the memorial day weekend. When he returns to work, the grayish flaking patches of his skin do not fade away. Toby tells him he smells like death, “not to put too fine a point on it.”

*SEASON 3*

“**riot**” — Violence is anticipated at the site of President Bartlet’s Peace in the Middle East speech. The cops sulk around the edges of what turns out to be an entirely peaceful crowd. Then, down the block, a little boy throws a rock at a store window, and the riot police race each other to see who can tackle him first.

“**belladonna**” — CJ offers Donna a drink from her hip flask. Donna reconsiders after seeing a spilled drop from it burn straight through the carpeting.

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**“date night”** — Not having a working heart is impacting Josh’s chances of getting laid. It’s a problem.

**“stargazer”** — A meteor shower is predicted but never comes to pass. If President Bartlet knows why, he’s not telling.

**“hiatus”** — Donna takes advantage of her sick days to drive twenty miles out of town and scream into the wind. She tries to do this once a month. It’s cheaper than therapy.

**“team work”** — “Do you ever think your feelings are getting in the way of your job?” Donna asks over her fifth cup of coffee. Josh thinks about carving out *her* heart. Seeing if it would fit into the empty space within his chest. “Josh? You’ve got a weird look on your face...are you okay?”

**“on fire”** – A New Jersey state senator bursts into flame on a Tuesday afternoon. In preparation to cover it, CJ spends all night researching spontaneous human combustion. The visiting reporters are more interested in discussing the recent tax hike than speculating about unconfirmed sources of ignition.

**“area fifty-one”** – President Bartlet gets surprisingly heated when asked a question about dangerous aliens. The reporter has to clarify that she was referring to immigrants.

**“fail safe”** – Donna’s heart turns out to be a poor substitute.

**“unconfirmed”** – CJ deals with confusion over increased reports of UFO sightings over Texas. Who would want to visit Texas? President Bartlet’s wife loses an arm in a boating accident, but it grows back by the time the police arrive. Nobody notices that the new arm is an inch or two shorter than the old one.

**“scavenger hunt, part 1”** — “Josh? Have you seen Donna anywhere?”

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**“scavenger hunt, part 2”** — Josh’s heart is still beating, he’s sure of it — not in his chest, but somewhere in the walls of the West Wing. He grabs a fire axe and begins to search.

*SEASON 4*

**"casting call"** – Charlie starts his first day at his new job as the president's aide.

**"wallpaper"** – A reporter keeps asking questions about the renovation happening in the West Wing. CJ says "It's a strategical revamping done by a team of experts and approved by the Chief of Staff" because it's better than admitting it's just Josh running around with an axe smashing holes in the walls and screaming.

**"nightmare"** – Despite being quite comfortable sleeping on the couch in his office for quite some time, Toby suddenly begins having nightmares of a baby crying.

**"reprise"** – Charlie starts his first day at his new job as the president's aide.

**"operation romero"** – On the day before a big election, the team learns that the opponent's side is reviving the dead with dark magicks and weird science so they can keep the conservative vote. Toby scolds the team for not being prepared for dirty politics.

**"anatomy part 1"** – Josh's heart, when he finds it, starts to rapidly decay as soon as he takes it out of the walls, shriveling like a raisin. He only feels better when he puts it back in the open space behind the painting of George Washington and leaves it there.

**"to serve man"** – They're no longer serving pizza in the staff cafeteria. Also, secretaries in the West Wing are disappearing. CJ suspects the two incidents are related somehow.

**"loop"** – Charlie starts his first day at his new job as the president's aide.

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**"sleep tight"** – Josh asks President Bartlet about the skeleton he found bricked up in the walls while he was searching for his heart. Bartlet promises he will look into it. "I'm glad you're feeling better, Josh," he says. "Thank you, Mr. President. It appears I was worrying too much over nothing. My heart will be fine, as long as I never leave the West Wing." "Of course! And why would you?" They laugh and laugh and laugh.

**"glitch"** – Charlie starts h– he starts his – he starts –

## *SEASON 5*

**"it takes two"** – Toby learns that he'd eaten his identical twin, Twoby<sup>1</sup>, in the womb. He had really just been calling to wish his mother a good Shabbos.

**"the telltale remix"** — "Hey, Josh, you got rats in here or something?"

"What?"

"That noise," Toby says. "The scratching coming from under the floor. You don't hear that?"

"No," Josh says. He does not look at Toby. He does not look at the soft garden dirt that may or may not be lining his fingernails. He certainly does not look down.

**"pizza fridays"** – CJ convinces the cafeteria to reinstate Pizza Fridays before it's too late.

**"i've got you under my skin"** – The president's wife goes shopping for a new human skin, as hers is getting rather worn-out. The ghost of Twoby continues to haunt Toby.

**"break"** – Charlie breathes a sigh of relief.

**"parasite"** – The ghost of Twoby has begun taking over Toby's body and walking it around while Toby sleeps. Twoby, being the vengeful ghost of an infant, doesn't have a lot of practice

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<sup>1</sup> pronunciation: two as in the number, bee as in the insect.

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with this kind of thing, and Toby wakes up on the couch feeling like he's fallen down multiple flights of stairs.

**"employee of the month"** – “Is there something wrong with Toby?” Charlie asks, concerned.

CJ gives him a blank look. “And who are you, exactly?”

“I’m Charlie, the president’s aide. I’ve worked here for three months?”

“Hey, CJ,” Josh calls across the room. “Who’s the new guy?”

**“crawl”** — Multiple residents of the West Wing have noticed Toby scuttling around on the ceilings, his body hunched and twisted, his eyes closed as if in a trance. CJ drew the shortest straw, and is trying to think of a polite way to bring it up with him.

**“thriller”** — The news breaks within the West Wing that Donna has been found not only "alive" and "well", but working for the competition. Josh hides his surprise (and the dirt — is it only dirt? — beneath his fingernails).

**"the exorcist"** – Toby hires an exorcist from the Vatican to rid him of Twoby, but when he admits he's Jewish, the exorcist says that this is out of his clerical purview, and Toby should really contact a rabbi. As there isn't a rabbi in the whole of Washington DC that Toby hasn't pissed off somehow, the whole thing is a wash.

## *SEASON 6*

**“environmental changes”** — Josh is sent to rehire the recently resurrected Donna and find out what she knows. In unrelated news, emergency gardeners are called to fill a large hole in the White House lawn.

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**“conspiracy”** — Donna returns to the West Wing. The blue phone designated for "strange callers" has been ringing off the hook lately. CJ isn't sure whether it's correlation or causation, or something else. Something *growing* underneath White House soil.

**“everybody talks”** — “What the *hell* is going on with Donna?”

**“hole”** — The gradually expanding hole in the lawn has eaten the gardeners, several city blocks, a priest, and a K-9 unit.

**“til death do us part”** — Toby's wife wants a divorce. Devastated, Toby and Twoby form a temporary truce to woo her back.

**“earthworm monastery”** — The scientist hired to study the hole determines its cause as an “act of G-d”. CJ tells him to do better; she can't sell the public on G-d.

**“deathwork”** — Charlie finds Donna crouched in the gardens outside the president's office, frantically shoveling dirt into her mouth until her fingers and her lips are both stained black. When she sees him, she shrieks like an animal in pain. Several windows have to be replaced.

**“argument”** — “No, *you* listen,” Donna says. Josh can't stop staring at her mouth: earth-black, soil-damp. Maggots squirm in the spaces between her molars. “I thought you were going to fix me. I let you cut me open and carve my heart out because I thought it would cure the emptiness inside. But it didn't. It just made me worse. *And then you buried me.* I know the secrets under the earth now, Josh. I know your secrets too. They're under my fingernails and in between my teeth.”

**“rebuttal”** — “Donna, I...”

**“counter-rebuttal”** — “Shut up.” Her cold breath in his mouth. She stinks of a secret rot. At some point between the horror and the kiss, Josh faints.

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**“in stitches”** — Josh wakes up with his mouth sewn shut and all his furniture moved three inches to the left.

**”behind the scenes (dvd commentary)”** — The Old Ones are quiet, as they watch: from void-black skies and parallel dimensions, from dread R’lyeh and mountains of madness, as untold millions of pupil-less eyes flutter and focus. Toby asks Josh and the new guy, Charlie, to help him get rid of a ‘package’, heavy and wrapped in black plastic. It is not a body. It is a shattered mirror. (Toby, having reached his limit, doesn’t want any more doubles showing up to work.)

Josh keeps a shard of mirrored glass as compensation for his efforts. He uses it to cut the stitching from his lips. Charlie gets locked out in the process, and without any identification on him, the guards refuse to let him back into the West Wing.

Donna swallows handfuls of sunflower seeds and drinks water with extra minerals. She hopes that something beautiful will grow inside of her, in the soft wet dirt where there had once been organs and meat. (Nothing does.)

*SEASON 7*

**”wires crossed”** — President Bartlet receives three conflicting sets of instructions regarding foreign policy. The first is written entirely in binary code. The second is hidden within an unsolvable puzzle that smells like burnt hair and needs to be handled with oven mitts. The third is composed entirely of creative interpretations of the tea leaves at the bottom of the president's



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cup. Paranoid and indecisive, President Bartlet decides to toss all three in the fireplace and pretend he never received them.

**“three’s company”** — Toby’s wife confesses that she prefers Twoby over her husband. The ghost of Toby’s parasitic twin reminds her of the baby she was never able to have. "Also," she says, "Twoby laughs at my jokes. You never have." She offers not to pursue divorce proceedings if Toby lets Twoby take control at home. Toby reluctantly agrees.

**“heartbreak”** — Josh gets a higher-paying job offer in New York. He packs his bags to go for the interview, but when he goes to remove his heart from its hiding place in the walls, it’s missing. He accuses Donna of taking it, and she laughs until she chokes, dirt and worms tumbling from her lips.

**“arts and lovecrafts”** – A team of scientists sent to study ice caves in the Arctic have turned up safe and sound after six months missing. In their time stranded, the scientists appear to have started a cult – they have carved their eyes out with sharpened plastic spoons and now only speak in guttural moans and Seinfeld references.

**“guidance”** — The most recent polls show that voters don’t find President Bartlett “open” or “family friendly”. His eldritch masters, when confronted, explain that opinion polls are a lot harder to fix than election results, and could he chill out a little, maybe?

**"mudslide"** – Donna's body...*changes* when it rains.

**"anatomy part 2"** – It is revealed that President Bartlet *does* have Josh's heart, dried and pressed like a dead flower. It's kept in an empty can of cat food in his desk drawer. Donna knows this, of course. There is very little that Donna doesn't know, these days.

**"silver lining"** – Since we last checked in with it, the hole on the White House lawn has eaten Congress, the House of Representatives, and at least one Supreme Court Judge.

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**"breaking news"** – CJ finds out that White House reporter Danny Concannon has evidence proving without a shadow of a doubt that President Bartlet won his election with the help of the Old Ones.

**"liberty and justice for all"** — "If you want to kill the story," says White House reporter Danny Concannon. "You're going to have to kill me first." CJ sighs. "You win," she says. She offers him her flask.

## *SEASON 8*

**"evacuation"** — As the West Wing begins sinking into the hole, a total evacuation is ordered. Toby refuses to leave. He wonders if his wife will miss him at all when the hole swallows him, or only the ghost of his parasitic twin. CJ has to carry him out.

**"radio wave"** — Everywhere in the United States, at 12:12 in the morning of each time zone, every radio in the country begins to blare the same Bob Dylan song. Those living in spaces without radios find themselves humming it. CJ finds a Post-It note on her desk that says *gnidaerps anemonehp*, followed by a reversed question mark. She doesn't recognize the handwriting.

**"public image"** — The Republicans are blaming the Democrats for the hole. The Democrats apologize (they're trying to hold themselves more Accountable). CJ reports all of this from the hurricane tents they've set up by the edge, but it's difficult — they have to keep moving every time the hole expands.

**"eat your heart out"** — Josh's heart is rubbery in Donna's teeth. It tastes sour, too, like old wine and fermenting yogurt. Donna pulls and snaps it in her fingers like she used to do with chewing gum, and washes it down with an herbal tea.

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**“b is for begging”** — “You need to stop this,” President Bartlet says. “Americans are concerned about the hole,” he says. “Can’t you do something?” He stares into the expanse of the vast dark, but there is no answer forthcoming. “We are abandoned,” Bartlet whispers. Above him, the stars wink out, one by one by one.

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*PRODUCTION NOTE: season appears to have suffered from an early cancellation.*