

DAY CARE

Written by

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INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ELLIE (25) lays on her living room couch, listening to an empowering MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH. In a room full of plants.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER (V.O.)

You know the human spirit is  
powerful? Don't give up. Start on  
something and don't stop.

She turns her head to face a deflating birthday balloon that bobs in the air conditioning. It reads: "Shoot for the Stars."

SAVANAH (23), her plucky roommate and closest friend, walks into the apartment.

Ellie quickly sinks into the couch and squeezes her eyes shut. Savannah looms over Ellie. Ellie opens her eyes.

SAVANAH

How you doin hon?

Ellie blinks upwards towards the ceiling as Savannah sits on the coffee table.

ELLIE

I'm thriving.

SAVANAH

And the job applications?

Ellie sits up.

ELLIE

What? Is this an intervention?

Savannah shakes her hand side to side: kind'a sorta.

SAVANAH

I know your dream is to be a  
horticulturalist but  
(raises arms)  
there are so many other options.

Ellie listens doubtfully. There is a KNOCK at the door. Ellie goes to open it. Savannah follows.

EXT./INT. APARTMENT ENTRY - CONTINUOUS

In the entryway stands BEAUTIFUL FACE (25) - a young Adonis who is genuinely soooooo nice (7 "o's" is an understatement). He is delighted to have someone answer the door. He rushes to grab a prepared script from his pocket.

Ellie is apathetic. Without blinking, he immediately reads from his wrinkled paper.

BEAUTIFUL FACE  
Hello, my name is...

Ellie YAWNS over his name.

BEAUTIFUL FACE (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

Ellie does not answer. Savannah pushes her way to the door frame. She smiles at Beautiful Face.

SAVANAH  
This is Ellie. I'm Savannah.

BEAUTIFUL FACE  
Ellie and Savannah, you look like a young woman in need of a job. Right now, Sunny Sunshine Smiling Sun Daycare Center is hiring. And you...  
(points to them)  
... could come work with me.  
(points to himself)

Beautiful face extends a business card. Savannah takes it.

SAVANAH  
She would love to.

Savannah SLAMS the door.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Triumphantly, Savannah bears the Sunny Sunshine Smiling Sun Daycare business card.

ELLIE  
I'm not doing that. We can't trust that... that... Beautiful Faced man.

SAVANAH  
Oh come on. Do it for me.

Ellie picks up a pitcher to water a plant, shaking her head.

SAVANAH (CONT'D)

Do it for friendship.

(Ellie shakes head)

Do it for womanhood.

(Ellie shakes head)

Do it for financial compensation.

ELLIE

(whisper to self)

I do like things.

Savanah SLAMS the business card down by the plotted plant  
Ellie waters, victoriously.

INT. CAR - DAY

Ellie sits in her car silently watching the digital clock  
tick to 7:55am. She takes a big BREATH and grabs her fanny  
pack to leave.

INT. SUNNY SUNSHINE SMILING SUN DAYCARE - CONTINUOUS

Beautiful Face checks in YOUNG KIDS at the front desk. Ellie  
makes her way to the front of the line.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

Good morning.

Ellie readjusts her fanny pack across her chest. She leans  
against the counter as if to tell a secret.

ELLIE

My name is Ellie Price. I talked  
with Samantha about starting work  
here today.

Beautiful Face's eyes widen in recognition.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

I remember you! The pitch worked!

Ellie nods. Beautiful Face sparkles. She squints.

ELLIE

Are you sparkling?

BEAUTIFUL FACE

Yes. Well--

(wipes face)

It's glitter.

Beautiful Face exhales and smiles. They stare at each other. He considers what do next with a quick flick of his eyes.

BEAUTIFUL FACE (CONT'D)

I can give you a tour.

ELLIE

That would be great.

INT. SUNNY SUNSHINE SMILING SUN DAYCARE - DAY

Ellie and Beautiful Face stop their tour around the Daycare. Beautiful Face turns to Ellie.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

And that's basically how you avoid misconduct, negligence allegations, and general liability. But I need to know...

Beautiful Face hovers his hands over Ellie's shoulders. He stares directly into her eyes with a fierce intensity.

BEAUTIFUL FACE (CONT'D)

First, I am not touching you because...

Ellie stands motionless with her hands at her sides like a soldier. She oozes discomfort.

ELLIE

Fear of misconduct.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

Yes. Good job.

ELLIE

Thank you.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

Why did Ellie Price choose to work here?

ELLIE

Almost entirely financial reasons.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

Oh, yeah.

(drops arms)

We actually get that more than you'd think.

ELLIE

I'd be surprised if you got much else.

Beautiful Face tries to remember what else he has to say.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

Also, you'll probably be sick non-stop for the first few months.

A kid named CHARLIE (4) sneezes to the side of Ellie. He wipes his nose and takes her hand. Charlie hits her with a large picture book. Other KIDS swarm her. Beautiful Face hovers a hand over her shoulder tenderly.

BEAUTIFUL FACE (CONT'D)

They already love you.

Beautiful Face goes off to stop a KID from eating a toy block.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ellie SNEEZES as she enters the apartment. Savannah watches her throw herself on the couch with a MOAN.

ELLIE

Kids are exhausting.

(sits up)

And brutal! One thought I was a teenager and another called me grandma.

(holds face, monster voice)

What am I?

SAVANAH

You're an employed woman.

Ellie tunes Savannah out as she stares again at the bobbing balloon: "Shoot for the Stars!"

ELLIE

What's the point? I don't want to be a daycare worker.

Ellie's head spins. She closes her eyes and INHALES deeply.

INT. SUNNY SUNSHINE SMILING SUN DAYCARE - DAY

Ellie and Beautiful Face sit together sanitizing toys. Ellie stares off in the distance. Lost in thought, she drops a toy.

She picks it up and sneaks a look at Beautiful Face. He gently smiles with his focus on another toy.

ELLIE

So what led you to Sunny Sunshine  
Happy Sun Daycare?

BEAUTIFUL FACE

Well, my mom owned the place.

He gestures to a portrait of his mother, ANGELA (50s) who stands with her hands on her hips.

BEAUTIFUL FACE (CONT'D)

It was her dying wish for me to  
keep it up.

ELLIE

(laughs)

Man, that would be terrible.

Beautiful Face looks at Ellie sadly.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, oh, oh my  
(tries to recover)  
That is so... sad.

Beautiful Face snuffles with a wave to "stop."

BEAUTIFUL FACE

I just miss her, you know?

Angela walks into the room and stops by the portrait with her hands on her hips. Ellie looks back and forth.

ANGELA

James, where did you put the new  
client applications?

JAMES

(to Angela)

The side table in the office.

Angela nods and leaves.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(to Ellie, dramatic)

I can still hear her now.

Ellie throws a block at his head. James dodges it.

ELLIE

Alright Mama's boy, how can you imagine doing this for your whole life? Day after day. Forever.

JAMES

(shrug)

I feel like I'm contributing. Anyway, sometimes it matters less what you do and more that you're doing something.

Ellie considers this, pouring some water from her bottle on a nearby plant.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Also, I want to open a Sunny Sunshine Smiling Sun Daycare Two one day.

He looks dreamily into the distance. Angela YELLS:

ANGELA (O.S.)

I seriously can't find them.

James leaves to help Angela find the applications.

INT. SUNNY SUNSHINE SMILING SUN DAYCARE - DAY

Ellie colors a flower. The KIDS color pictures of animals doing human jobs: a firefighter Dalmatian, a ballerina hippo, a monkey with a stethoscope. She bends down next to SUZZY (5).

Suzzy rolls a bunch of broken crayons around the table.

ELLIE

Suzzy would you like to color a picture?

SUZZY

I don't know what to do.

ELLIE

I know. These crayons are terrible. They still work though.

Ellie picks up a pile of coloring sheets.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

You could color a firefighter.



SUZZY

No.

ELLIE

Ooo. Alright. How about a ballerina?

SUZZY

I don't want to be a ballerina.

ELLIE

You don't have to be a ballerina. Here's a doctor.

Angelina shakes her head.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Artist, veterinarian, lawyer, uhhh  
(squints at a picture)  
I think this is a podcaster?

SUZZY

No.

ELLIE

I'm with you. That market is sat-ur-ate-ed.

SUZZY

I don't want to be any of those.

Ellie rears her head back.

ELLIE

Wouldn't you rather color a picture than sit here with crayons?

Suzzy pouts at the pug wrestler picture before reluctantly grabbing a crayon to color it. Ellie nods her head in approval.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ellie sits on the floor of her living room with her laptop placed on the coffee table. She busily types.

SAVANAH

What are you working on?

Savanah squints at her in the dark, dressed in PJs. Ellie breaks her concentration to address Savanah.

ELLIE  
I'm applying for jobs.

Savanah looks delighted and shocked.

SAVANAH  
*Really?*

Ellie nods her head with a hint of pride.

SAVANAH (CONT'D)  
I hope Beautiful Face, or James,  
takes it okay.

INT. SUNNY SUNSHINE SMILING SUN DAYCARE - DAY

Ellie sits in a tiny chair as she dreamily watches KIDS play around James as he holds two babies COOING. KIDS tap his head and squish his cheeks.

SAMANTHA (30s) - a regular worker at the Day Care with a friendly disposition - comes up to Ellie.

SAMANTHA  
It has been a pleasure to have you  
work with us Ellie. You came at a  
time when we really needed you.

Ellie hugs Samantha.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)  
Good luck at your new job.

James's attention breaks from the dotting cherubs.

JAMES  
New job?

EXT. SUNNY SUNSHINE SMILING SUN DAYCARE - DAY

Outside of the Day Care, James and Ellie wave goodbye to the final cars in the parking lot. Ellie turns to face James who has a single tear glistening down his glittery cheek.

ELLIE  
You're always sparkling aren't you?

James reaches into his pocket and pulls out a marbled mega-crayon. Ellie is surprised.

JAMES

I melted down all the broken  
crayons to make you mega crayon.

Ellie takes it.

ELLIE

I'll cherish it forever.

JAMES

I can't believe you're leaving.

Ellie hugs him.

ELLIE

It's time.

JAMES

What if I never see you again?

ELLIE

You will.

BEAUTIFUL FACE

How do you know?

Ellie considers this for a moment.

ELLIE

Phones.

(beat)

They work so good. Also... I'll be  
next door.

Ellie points to the building directly next to Sunny Sunshine  
Smiling Sun Daycare. James looks behind himself.

JAMES

Ah, oh, oh, wow.

The building reads: "Green Garden Growers Group."

JAMES (CONT'D)

Green Garden Growers Group.

(considers)

That... that fits really well.

Ellie takes a small piece of paper from her pocket with her  
number. She gives it to James. He laughs. They bump shoulders  
as they walk back into the parking lot.

**THE END.**