

MR. SUNSHINE

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TEASER

EXT. SUNSHINE LEARNING CENTER - DAY

SHAWN (23, African American) a tall man, with glasses and nervous energy, stares up at the Sunshine Learning center.

It is in a dated strip mall, situated between Jimmy's Liquor on the left and Burrito Time on the right.

Shawn looks over at Jimmy's Liquor where a man is puking on the sidewalk. He is holding a burrito in one hand and a half-empty handle of vodka in the other.

Shawn walks toward entrance.

INT. SUNSHINE LEARNING CENTER - DAY

Shawn enters a small corridor with a sliding glass window to his left and a locked door in front of him.

A WOMAN (34), opens the locked door and stands in the doorway.

WOMAN

I QUIT! I CAN'T STAND ANOTHER
SECOND WITH THOSE CHILDREN.

She storms past Shawn, out door. DEBRA (39), slightly overweight and heavily overworked, follows.

DEBRA

Stacy, wait!

Debra sighs, then notices Shawn.

SHAWN

Hi.

DEBRA

(yelling inside)
Delivery man is here.

SHAWN

No, I... I'm here for the job
interview.

Debra sizes Shawn up.

DEBRA

Sorry. You just look so much like our delivery guy. You could be related.

SHAWN

Oh. Okay?

DEBRA

Shawn, right? From the community college?

SHAWN

Yes.

DEBRA

Great, your timing is perfect, come on it.

She turns back toward the locked door and enters a four digit code. They enter the daycare.

There are kids' paintings lining the blue and yellow walls. Most are of happy stick figure families. One is of a kid standing with a knife. Shawn stares at it wide-eyed.

DEBRA

(noticing)

That's Billy. He has a few psychopathic tendencies, but his therapists assure me he's mostly harmless.

SHAWN

Oh god.

DEBRA

No worries though. Psychopaths only make up one percent of the population, so if he's the worse we get, I can take it.

Shawn looks horrified. Debra motions Shawn to follow her down the hall.

DEBRA

Victoria?

VICTORIA (25) a blonde woman with make-up caked onto her face to make herself prettier than she actually is, pops her head out of a doorway.

DEBRA

Who's watching Stacy's kids now?

VICTORIA

Dani. She was the only person around.

DEBRA

Jesus. Okay. Our janitor.

DEBRA

(turning back to Shawn)
Anyway, I read your file. You passed the background check by the way, congrats - half the kids from the community college don't - you must be one of the good ones.

SHAWN

Thanks...

DEBRA

Also, I saw you are majoring in Child Development and Psychology. That's good. And you worked at a summer camp for three summers. Camp Timberwolf. Is that the one for *underprivileged* kids?

SHAWN

Um... no. It's a boy scout camp. I'm an eagle scout.

DEBRA

Great. Great. It's a bit unorthodox to hire a male teacher. We only have female. The parents usually feel more comfortable. But under the circumstances...

She stops in front of an open classroom and gestures inside.

INT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

It is a small, corner room with half walls, covered with colorful letters and numbers.

DANI (22) sits in the ground, her head in her hands. Eight four- and five-year-olds run around screaming.

DEBRA

Welcome to the Sunshine Learning Center.

END OF TEASER

ACT I

INT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Debra leads Shawn into the room.

SHAWN

Oh like start right now? I was actually supposed to go have lunch with my cousin Tara... She has late stage lymphoma... wanted to make amends...

DEBRA

It would really help us out. Besides it's just a trial anyway. I'm not sure we can actually hire you. You don't really fit the... *demographic* of our teacher.

SHAWN

Is that a race thing?

DEBRA

I don't see race.
(pauses)
Good luck. Bribes always help.

She and Dani leave.

SHAWN

All right kids.

No one responds. He notices a star chart on the wall with pictures of candy when they reach fifty.

SHAWN

(yells)
FIRST ONE TO SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP
GETS 10 STARS!

The kids all drop everyone and squat. BILLY (5) is first.

SHAWN

(to Billy)
Good job. What's your name?

BILLY

Billy.

SHAWN

(to himself, panicked)
Psychopathic tendencies.
(MORE)

SHAWN (CONT'D)

(to Billy)

Okay. Ten stars to you. Oh...
you've reached fifty. Um...

He looks through a cabinet and grabs a bucket of candy.

BILLY

I want the Swedish Fish. Those are
easiest to draw cats out with to ki-
play with.

Shawn frightfully tosses the candy to Billy.

SHAWN

Okay. Quiet, step one. Step two...

CAROL (4) raises her hand. He points to her.

CAROL

My name's Carol.

SHAWN

Carol. That's kind of an old lady's
name.

CAROL

I was named after my mom. She died
giving birth to me.

SHAWN

Yikes. My bad.

LIONEL (4), a scrawny red-head with too large of glasses,
raises his hand.

SHAWN

And you are?

LIONEL

Lionel Grant Williams the third.

SHAWN

Okay, Lionel.

LIONEL

Grant Williams the Third.

SHAWN

I'm just going to call you Lionel.

LIONEL

I have to pee.

SHAWN
Oh. Um... are you potty trained?

LIONEL
Yeah, I'm four and half.

SHAWN
Got it. Okay, does anyone else have
to use the bathroom?

Three more hands shoot up into the air.

EXT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn leads his kids down the hall. Debra walks by.

DEBRA
Where are you going?

SHAWN
My kids need the bathroom.

DEBRA
You're not allowed to take them.

SHAWN
What? Why?

DEBRA
Men aren't allowed. It's daycare
policy. You know, because of
pedophiles.

SHAWN
I won't go in with them. Also, more
importantly, not a pedophile.

Debra shrugs.

SHAWN
Then how are they supposed to go? I
can't send them alone.

CAROL
What's a pedophile?

LIONEL
I really have to pee now.

SHAWN
Okay, hold your horses.

LIONEL
I don't think I can.

SHAWN
I thought you were potty trained.

LIONEL
It doesn't mean I have complete control of my bladder yet. I'm four and a half.

DEBRA
I guess Victoria will just have to be in charge of bathroom breaks. When her kids go, yours go. Victoria?

Victoria pops her head over the half-wall.

VICTORIA
Debra, I really appreciate that you trust me with this extra responsibility.

SHAWN
This is insane. I have to rely on her *everytime* my kids have to pee?

Debra nods sadly, then walks away.

SHAWN
Yikes.
(turns to Victoria)
Okay. Um... barbie? Can you take my kids?

VICTORIA
Barbie?! Hmm... no. They can go when my kids need to go. Also, my name is Victoria.

SHAWN
(to Lionel)
Sorry kiddo. I can't be labeled as a pedophile on my first day.

Lionel groans.

CAROL
Again, what's a pedophile?

VICTORIA
Kind of dug yourself into a hole with that one.

SHAWN

It's... a bad person. Someone that hurts someone else.

BILLY

Cool.

SHAWN

Nope. Not cool. Let's shut down this conversation. Back to the classroom.

VICTORIA

Oh and if one of them wets their pants, you have to fill out a report.

SHAWN

Come on *Victoria*. Help me out!

VICTORIA

Once I'm done with arts and craft time. My kids are making the eight wonders of the world using macaroni noodles. The gluing has to be very precise.

SHAWN

There are only seven wonders of the world.

VICTORIA

I think the world wonder committee just really missed the mark on not counting Hagia Sofia.

SHAWN

(rolls eyes)

But what am I supposed to do with him then?

VICTORIA

Find a bottle.

Shawn throws his head backwards in anguish, as Victoria disappears from sight.

INT. VICTORIA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

The kids are all sleeping. Victoria sits, writing on a clipboard.

Shawn appears. He notices a book on her shelf.

SHAWN

Woah. The Tyrants of Xyotto. This isn't supposed to come out until next year. Can I borrow this?

She grabs it out of her hand.

VICTORIA

SHHH. And no. My boyfriend entrusted me with that. He has connections. I can't just go around giving it to someone so...
pedestrian.

SHAWN

(faking insult)
Too far. I never walk anywhere.

VICTORIA

What did you come in here for anyway? And why aren't you with your kids?

SHAWN

I'm on my break, first on all. And I thought, since you have to be the bathroom guardian, we could work out a simple schedule, to help my kids. Schedules give kids structure. Something I learned as a child psych major.

VICTORIA

That's *actually* not a bad idea.

SHAWN

I feel like that is a compliment, but it came off so condescendingly, I can't really be sure.

VICTORIA

Let's just plan it out. Now, do any of your students have IBS?

INT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn is watching the children play.

THREE LITTLE GIRLS (4) skip around the room on stick horses.

Billy sits in the corner, sharpening pencils in a very menacing way.

Lionel and GREG (4) play princesses in the corner. Lionel runs over to Shawn.

GREG

You can't go to there. Mr. Shawn's in the lava pit.

LIONEL

Mr. Shawn. I have to pee again.

SHAWN

Jesus, I need to stop giving you water.

LIONEL

Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

SHAWN

Of course he is. Victoria?

VICTORIA

(appearing over the wall)
No.

SHAWN

You don't even know what I was going to ask.

VICTORIA

I am in the middle of an important lesson on Moby Dick. The schedule says 4:35, it's only 4:20 now.

SHAWN

Come on, round up. Also, Moby Dick?

VICTORIA

They'll have to hold it. Have you been giving them more than eight ounces of water every three hours? That's what we agreed on!

SHAWN

I wasn't gonna let the kid go thirsty. I'm not a monster.

VICTORIA

It's not the Sahara!

LIONEL

(starts crying)
MR. Shawn?!

Shawn turns. Still in the princess dress, Lionel is standing in a puddle of pee on the tile floor.

SHAWN

Dang it. You and your weak bladder.

LIONEL

I'm sorry I can't control it!

Lionel cries harder. Shawn rushes to him.

SHAWN

SHHH! It's fine. Let's just get you out of the dress.

Shawn picks him up out of the puddle and sets him aside. Then, he starts trying to take the dress off. Lionel's eyes widen and he points behind him.

Shawn turns. In slow motion he sees Carol, with her horse stick running - straight towards the puddle.

Shawn sticks his arm out.

SHAWN

(in slow motion)

Nooooo.

Carol hits the puddle, slides, then flips and lands on her back, directly in the pee puddle. She immediately starts wailing. Lionel resumes his crying.

Shawn stands, staring at the scene, horrified.

BILLY

(shouting, repeatedly)

Pedophile, pedophile!

Lionel's mother, KATHY (33) appears in the doorway.

KATHY

What on Earth...?

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. DAYCARE HALLWAY - DAY

It's early in the morning. Shawn walks into the daycare and sees Debra in her office.

SHAWN

Debra!

DEBRA

Oh, Shawn. I've been meaning to talk to you. Kathy Williams was very distraught about what happened the other day.

SHAWN

Distraught? That seems a bit of an overkill. After all, it was her kid that couldn't keep it in his pants.

Debra raises her eyebrows.

SHAWN

(quickly)

I meant his pee! Nothing else!

DEBRA

It seems this might have been a mistake hiring you.

SHAWN

No! I mean, look, I am majoring in child psych.

DEBRA

Psychology is such a fussy subject.

SHAWN

Actually, it's the study of how-

DEBRA

It was rhetorical. Your actions have been rather... unfortunate. Though, surprisingly, some of the parents have said their children have good things to say about you. I think it's the exotic factor. Like that time I took a trip to Cancun.

SHAWN

Gonna ignore that for a moment.
Look, I need this job. It's just,
the bathroom rule. It's...
problematic.

DEBRA

Ah, yes. It is a tad inconvenient.

SHAWN

A tad inconvenient? Three of my
kids had to hold their pee for an
hour and a half. Those are UTIs
just waiting to happen. You're the
owner, just change the rule.

DEBRA

Unfortunately that title still
belongs to Mother. She's a little
old fashion. Started the daycare
back in the eighties. You know how
it was then.

SHAWN

Let's get her on board then.

DEBRA

She thinks any man that wants to
work with children is either a
predator or has something wrong
biological that makes them act
womanly.

SHAWN

Why'd you even hire me then?

DEBRA

It is a trial run, don't forget.
And because you were qualified. And
we are a progressive school that
sees past gender and race.

SHAWN

I didn't think you saw race.

DEBRA

That's why we're progressive.

Shawn rolls his eyes.

SHAWN

There has to be another way. What
if I got a petition going?

(MORE)

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Surely she'd be forced to change the rule then.

DEBRA

Now that's interesting. But Mother is very strict, so I'm not sure it would work.

SHAWN

Even if I could get every student, parent and teacher to sign in?

DEBRA

I suppose Mother wouldn't really have a choice then. I'll bring it to her attention.

SHAWN

Great. I'll get them all.

DEBRA

We'll see.

INT. MELISSA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn walks into Melissa's classroom. MELISSA (38, Latina), with dyed pink hair and facial piercings, stands giving a jumping kid, TOMMY (3), a brownie.

SHAWN

That kid is way too excited for that.

MELISSA

It has pot in it. I'd be that excited too.

(off Shawn's look)

I'm just joshing ya. Maybe. So, you're Stacy's replacement?

SHAWN

(extending a hand)

Shawn.

MELISSA

Melissa.

SHAWN

Look, I am trying to sign this petition to take my kids to the bathroom. Can you sign it?

MELISSA

A petition. Why?

SHAWN

Debra says her mother won't change the rules unless I have everyone's signatures.

MELISSA

Debra's mother? Her mother has been dead for ten years.

SHAWN

Then why... Oh. It's me, isn't it?

MELISSA

Yep. All you. The racist bitch.

SHAWN

So I have no chance?

Melissa looks out to Victoria, who is bringing her kids in from outside.

MELISSA

Get all those signatures and she'll have no real reason to fire you. You need an inside man.

Shawn follows her gaze.

SHAWN

Victoria hates me.

MELISSA

She's like a god to these parents. Get her on your side and you'll be set.

SHAWN

I don't know if I want to do that.

MELISSA

How much does this job mean to you?

INT. VICTORIA'S CLASSROOM DAY

Shawn pops his head into Victoria's classroom. He's eating a burrito.

VICTORIA

(wrinkling her nose)
What is that?

SHAWN

A double bacon cheeseburger burrito, from Burrito Time. Wanna bite?

VICTORIA

I'm pretty sure one of those will kill you.

SHAWN

Then I'm a living miracle. This is my second one today.

VICTORIA

What do you want?

SHAWN

I was wondering if you had any science lesson plans on zoo animals.

VICTORIA

You're supposed to make your own lesson plans.

SHAWN

It's my third day. I know by your third day you had probably overhauled the entire curriculum, because you're amazing, but cut me a break, I'm still adjusting.

VICTORIA

Fine, but this is the one and only time.

She hands him the file and he looks it over.

SHAWN

Wow, this is so amazing. You should try and sell these to other teachers.

VICTORIA

(beaming)

Finally someone who appreciates my work.

SHAWN

Absolutely. Pure genius.

(pause)

(MORE)

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Now listen, I am trying to get this petition going so I can take my kids to the bathroom. Would you be willing to sign it?

Victoria smile fades.

VICTORIA

You're just sucking up.

SHAWN

No, this really is great, elephants and zoos, yay... okay yes, but I'd stop relying on you during your Latin lessons or whatever.

VICTORIA

Fine. Give me the petition.

He hands it over. She goes to grab a pen.

SHAWN

Could you help get other signatures too? For a friend?

VICTORIA

I'd consider it.

SHAWN

So you do have a heart under that cold hard exterior.

She stops before she writes her name.

VICTORIA

Oh second though, nevermind.

SHAWN

It was a joke. I'm a funny person. You're hurting the children as much as me. If not more. Stunting their biological development.

VICTORIA

They'll live.

SHAWN

Fine! I'll get the necessary signatures without you. Have fun being on the wrong side of history, Barbie.

He leaves.

VICTORIA
 (yelling after him)
 I hope that burrito gives you
 massive diarrhea.

INT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn stand with Kathy, Lionel and Debra. He is holding out a sheet of paper.

KATHY
 He wet his pants again?! I've had
 him potty trained for a year and a
 half now.

DEBRA
 Shawn. It seems like you've been
 rather irresponsible.

SHAWN
 It's the bathroom rule. He'd stop
 wetting his pants if I could just
 take him to the bathroom.

KATHY
 It just seems kind of weird that
 you're petitioning to take my son
 to the bathroom.

SHAWN
 All the other teachers take their
 kids to the bathroom.

KATHY
 Yes, but they're all woman and-

SHAWN
 What?

KATHY
 (catching herself)
 Nurturing?

SHAWN
 Have you met Victoria?

KATHY
 Sorry, I just can't sign this.

She rushes Lionel away. He looks at the petition. There are only three signatures on it.

DEBRA

You've only got two days left.

SHAWN

You think you could help me out and get the signatures.

DEBRA

Oh no, that'd be highly unethical.

SHAWN

How?

DEBRA

Ethics!

She rushes away. Shawn rolls his eyes and throws the clipboard on the table, defeated.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Shawn leads his kids out to the playground. They all immediately run off in every direction.

Victoria and her students come out as well. She immediately spots Lionel and Carol trying to make a train to go down the slide together.

VICTORIA

Lionel, one at a time on the slides please.

Victoria glares at Shawn.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

They're your kids.

SHAWN

I didn't know that was a rule. Another dumb one I suppose.

VICTORIA

Rules are in place to protect these kids and make their experiences safe and educational.

SHAWN

And what about fun?

VICTORIA

This is a learning environment.

SHAWN

They're four!

VICTORIA

It's never too young to start prepping them.

SHAWN

This isn't a prep school!

VICTORIA

I'll call you when my students go to Harvard and yours go to...

(watches a student pick his nose)

A trade school.

SHAWN

And where'd you do, Miss perfect? Cause I'm guessing if you went to Harvard you wouldn't be working here.

VICTORIA

(determined)

No, but they will be prepared because of my shortfalls in life.

SHAWN

Have you ever been to therapy? I'd recommend it.

Victoria scoffs.

VICTORIA

It's 2:24. Where are your kids?

SHAWN

Oh yeah, let me round them up.

VICTORIA

If I were you, I'd be more on top of things.

SHAWN

If I were you, I would get that stick up my ass surgically removed.

Victoria huffs and goes over by the door.

Lionel passes on a tricycle.

LIONEL

You're not very good at talking to women.

SHAWN

And you're not very good at holding your bladder. Speaking of.

Shawn blows a whistle.

SHAWN

Everyone from Mr. Shawn's class come line up. Time to pee! Or poop if that's more your thing.

VICTORIA

(from afar)

Classy.

Lionel pedals away.

SHAWN

Lionel! Come back, you need to pee. I can't fill out another report on you!

INT. VICTORIA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn pops his head over the wall.

SHAWN

Victoria?

He notices she is sitting on a chair in the corner, texting and crying.

SHAWN

Um... hello?

VICTORIA

(looking up)

I'm busy.

SHAWN

You're texting. It's 10:47. Bathroom time. Are you crying?

VICTORIA

Victor broke up with me.

SHAWN

You're dating a guy named Victor? That's super weird.

She breaks into a fresh set of tears.

SHAWN
Sorry, not the point.

VICTORIA
(hiccups)
He wants his copy of The Tyrants of Xyotto back.

SHAWN
So give it back?

VICTORIA
I haven't finished it yet.
(hiccups)
I can't deal with this pressure.

SHAWN
Are you drunk?

VICTORIA
No. I mean, I had three shots this morning for breakfast, but only to calm my nerves.

SHAWN
So... you are. Great.

VICTORIA
Now, I feel sick.

SHAWN
Okay, okay. You know what. Debra should be on her break right now. I'll just take them to the bathroom then. And yours too. So you can... deal with this. Maybe eat some bread.

She sobs harder. He tries to quiet her.

VICTORIA
You're so amazing.

SHAWN
Drunk Victoria is way better than Sober Victoria.

VICTORIA
(sobbing)
I know.

EXT. BATHROOMS - DAY

Shawn stands outside of the bathrooms. There are several kids lined up against the wall.

Shawn checks his watch.

SHAWN

(peeking into the
bathroom)

Greg? We gotta hurry. You don't
want Mr. Shawn to get in trouble.
You okay, buddy?

GREG (O.S.)

There's no toilet paper.

Shawn looks around nervously, sees the paper towels and grabs a bunch. Then he steps into the bathroom.

When he steps back out, Debra is standing there.

DEBRA

What are you doing Shawn?

END OF ACT II

ACT III

EXT. BATHROOMS - DAY

Shawn stares at Debra.

SHAWN

I can explain.

DEBRA

Yes?

SHAWN

I was hoping by saying "I can explain" that would be enough. It's the thought that counts and all that? No. Okay. You see, Victoria is not feeling well and no one else was around so, I didn't really have much of a choice.

DEBRA

I see. And what's with Victoria? If she's sick, she shouldn't be at work. Coming to work sick counts as a write-up.

SHAWN

Sick is a general term. She's not like "sick sick," just more of... sick.

Over Debra's shoulder he sees Victoria, puking into a trashcan.

DEBRA

Maybe I should go talk to her.

SHAWN

No! She's kind of embarrassed.

DEBRA

Shawn, what is going on?
Embarrassed about what?

SHAWN

She's been puking a lot today
because...

(whispers)

She might be pregnant.

DEBRA

Oh.

SHAWN

But it's a secret and she's embarrassed because of... society? Since she's unmarried and the patriarchy.

DEBRA

(softens)

It is rough for a woman out there.

SHAWN

Yeah, so rough.

(sarcastically)

Especially for white women in the suburbs.

DEBRA

I love that you're an ally. So great! Okay, next time just call the office and I'll take the kids to the potty. Not that it will matter much, if you can't get those signatures, but if Mother had come in, we'd all be in trouble.

SHAWN

Right. *Mother*.

DEBRA

Do you have something to say?

SHAWN

Nope.

DEBRA

Okay. Get back to your children.

SHAWN

Absolutely, will do. Thanks for understanding. And... this stays just between us, right?

Debra nods and walks away.

INT. DAYCARE HALLWAY - DAY

Shawn walks toward the exit. He runs into DELIVERY MAN (29), who looks nothing like Shawn.

Shawn stares him up and down. Debra walks by.

DEBRA

Like brothers, you two.

They both stare at her.

INT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn enters, carrying a plastic bag of stuff. Debra stands up.

DEBRA
Have a good break?

SHAWN
Yes, great. Productive.

DEBRA
It was quick.

SHAWN
Yeah... I just can't stand not to work?

DEBRA
I'll keep that in mind. Mark you down for shorter breaks. If you'll be here much longer.

She leaves. He rolls his eyes and pops his head over the wall.

SHAWN
You owe me one, Victoria. I'm going to have like five minute breaks from now on.

She looks up. She does not look good.

VICTORIA
Did you get the stuff?

He hands her the bag.

SHAWN
Everything to help sober you up. Gatorade, five hour energy, and the Beef Jerky Nightmare Burrito from burrito time. Protein to help soak up the alcohol.

VICTORIA
(drunkenly)
You know, normally, I wouldn't eat that. I would die. But I might die anyway today, so I guess I'll risk it.

SHAWN

Good. Eat quick, you only have half an hour before Debra comes to relieve you for your break. You have to be sober enough to fool her.

VICTORIA

You seem to have a lot of experience sobering up quickly...

SHAWN

A skill I learned at Boy Scout camp. Now eat.

Later.

Shawn sees Debra heading down the hall. He looks over the wall.

All her kids are down for naps. She's asleep in a chair. He grabs a Lego and throws it at her.

She wakes up.

VICTORIA

What the...

SHAWN

(whispers)
She's coming.

Victoria stands up quickly, trying to make herself presentable.

Shawn ducks back down, but peeks out into the hallway.

Victoria emerges after a moment and looks at Shawn. She gives him a thumbs up.

He smiles.

INT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn is reading to the children. Victoria appears in the doorway with her kids lined up behind her. She is wearing sunglasses and looks hungover.

VICTORIA

(monotone)
Come on kids. Bathroom time.

Shawn lines the kids up.

SHAWN

I didn't even have to bug you about it this time. You're right on schedule.

VICTORIA

Please don't shout.

SHAWN

I wasn't...

(quieter)

I guess you're back to your old self. That's good... I guess.

She rolls her eyes and starts leading the kids away. Then stops.

VICTORIA

Give me the petition.

SHAWN

What?

VICTORIA

Give me the petition. I'm tired of this nonsense. I'll get the signatures.

SHAWN

Really?

VICTORIA

Do I seem like I'm in a joking mood?

SHAWN

Right. Let me just...

He starts searching around.

VICTORIA

This offer expires in 10 seconds.

SHAWN

It was right here before I went on my break...

He stops.

SHAWN

Debra.

VICTORIA

What?

SHAWN

She took it. To stop me.

VICTORIA

Don't be dramatic, you probably just misplaced it.

SHAWN

No. Believe it or not, I'm not irresponsible. I need this job.

VICTORIA

Okay okay. Enough with the shouting.

SHAWN

Again, I wasn't shouting.

VICTORIA

I'll help. Just don't be so dramatic. There isn't some big conspiracy.

SHAWN

You say that now.

She rolls her eyes and walks away.

INT. SHAWN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Shawn is setting up for the day. Debra comes in.

DEBRA

Kathy informed me that there was another incident yesterday. Unless you got the signatures, I think I'm going to have to fire you.

SHAWN

You don't seem all that disappointed.

DEBRA

Did you get them?

SHAWN

I...

Victoria appears.

VICTORIA

He did. I was the last holdout. But Shawn convinced me that he was worth it.

Shawn and Victoria share a look.

SHAWN.

Yep. Tough Victoria. You know her.

He grabs the form from Victoria and holds it out to Debra.

DEBRA

But you lost this.

SHAWN

I... how'd you know I lost it?

DEBRA

I overheard you telling Victoria you lost it.

SHAWN

Come on Debra. I know you took it. Your mother is dead. Melissa told me.

DEBRA

Why would I lie?

SHAWN

Because you're racist. But jokes on you because I got the petition and if you fire me now, I'll sue on the grounds of discrimination.

DEBRA

I'm not lying.

MOTHER (O.S.)

She's not.

MOTHER (88), a frail, stern old woman appears in the doorway.

DEBRA

Mother!

Shawn and Victoria gasp.

MOTHER

I took your petition.

SHAWN

You're not dead?

MOTHER

I most certainly am not.

SHAWN

So let me guess, I can only get
bathroom privileges over your dead
body?

No one says anything.

SHAWN

Too soon?

MOTHER

I don't know if I want you around
the children.

SHAWN

I do have the petition...

Mother takes it and looks it over.

VICTORIA

He's good, I swear.

DEBRA

We have had mostly positive
feedback. Maybe times really are
changing.

SHAWN

I am a child psych major.

VICTORIA

No one cares. Sheesh.

SHAWN

Look, ma'am.

MOTHER

It's Mother.

SHAWN

That's like your legal name? Okay.
Anyway, I am meant to do this job.
I need this job. But more than
that, I want it. Working with kids
is my passion. The only thing that
stands in my way of becoming a
great child educator is the
bathroom. And maybe Victoria, she
seems vicious.

VICTORIA
I *just* helped you out.

SHAWN
Sorry. Give me a chance. A real,
fair chance. Same as all the other
teachers. Then, if you still think
I'm unfit, fire me and I won't
object.

Mother walks around Shawn, sizing him up. They all wait.
Finally...

MOTHER
I like you.

SHAWN
Really?

MOTHER
You're no nonsense. Relentless. I
like that in a man.

She eyes him seductively and winks.

SHAWN
(voice cracking)
I have a girlfriend.

MOTHER
You can stay.

Shawn smiles.

INT. VICTORIA'S CLASSROOM - NIGHT

All the kids are gone. Victoria is vacuuming the floor. Shawn
sticks his head in the classroom.

SHAWN
Hey. Here's this lesson plan back.
It's a really good lesson plan by
the way. My kids love the elephants
section. Especially Billy. Though
he seemed more interested in the
legality of hunting them... but
that's probably normal, right?

Victoria stops vacuuming.

VICTORIA

I caught him staring at me on the playground the other day. That kid is unsettling.

SHAWN

I know. It's creepy. Anyway, thanks again. Also, how'd you get all those signatures?

VICTORIA

(shrugs)

The parents respond well to me.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY - FLASHBACK

Victoria stands with a scared looking DAD.

VICTORIA

If you don't sign this, I'll make sure your daughter hangs out with Ryan, who gets the flu at least four times a year. Do you want your daughter to catch the flu?

He shakes his vigorously and takes the petition.

INT. VICTORIA'S CLASSROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

VICTORIA

You really covered for me this week and I appreciate it.

SHAWN

You'd do the same.

VICTORIA

I don't know that I would though. I am pretty selfish.

SHAWN

You? No! Not at all.

VICTORIA

Don't get too comfortable with me doing you favors though. That's not how I roll.

SHAWN

I wouldn't dream of it, Barbie.

Victoria rolls her eyes.

VICTORIA
All right, Burrito time.

SHAWN
(smiling)
Weak nickname game.
(turns to go)
Bye, *Victoria*.

He starts to leave, then stops.

SHAWN
Also, Debra thinks your pregnant.
Goodnight!

He runs out before she can object.

END OF ACT III.

TAG.

EXT. BATHROOMS - DAY

Shawn leads his kids to the bathroom.

SHAWN
Alright kids, let's do this!

CUT TO:

Shawn stands in the boys bathroom. It is covered in toilet paper and poop. Greg and Lionel stand in front of him, also covered in poop.

SHAWN
What happened here?

GREG
Poop war.

Victoria pops her head in and sees the wreckage.

VICTORIA
Poop war?

Shawn nods.

VICTORIA
Just remember, you wanted this.

END OF EPISODE.