



ABBOTT ELEMENTARY

"Special Interests"

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COLD OPEN

INT. AVA'S OFFICE/RECEPTIONIST AREA - MORNING

AVA walks over to the receptionist desk.

AVA

Dia, come here. I need you to take a look at this real quick. It's urgent.

DIA walks behind Ava into her office.

AVA (CONT'D)

Look at my sexy costume party invitations. You see how fine me and my man look?

She pans the computer to the Dia and the cameraman zooms in to show Ava, O'SHON, the teachers and MR. JOHNSON on a highly photoshopped flyer that's clearly been made with AI.

Dia looks at the flyer then grimaces at the camera.

AVA (CONT'D)

Oh, don't tell Barb she's on here. She'll flip and start lecturing me about Jesus and whatnot.

DIA

This is the urgent thing that you couldn't wait to show me? Shouldn't you actually be working?

AVA

Ugh, whatever. I'll get to it. There's not much work to be done right now anyway.

DIA

Well, you do need to send out this week's school newsletter, like now. It was supposed to go out at 7am this morning.

AVA

Ugh fine. Let me finish up these last few sentences and attach the schedules and I'll send it out.

AVA finishes typing and sends out the email. The email swoosh sound goes off. Dia walks back into AVA'S office and comes back in seconds later.

DIA

You do realize that you just sent out your costume flyers to everyone instead of the lunch schedule?

AVA looks back at her computer.

AVA

Oh sh*t. Looks like I attached the wrong flyer to the email. My bad, girl.

DIA

And you clearly didn't read the email before you sent it either because it says 'come in your sexiest attire' under the Spirit Week theme section.

AVA

Oh, that's probably because I used ChatGPT and AI to write it.

DIA

Okay, you definitely shouldn't be doing that and you definitely shouldn't be telling me either, Ava.

AVA

Relax. I'll just unsend the email. Okay?

DIA

You can't unsend an email. Gmail only gives you a few seconds to unsend and the window is well past that.

AVA

Well, damn. You doing all this talking. You could've told me that 30 seconds ago.

Dia rolls her eyes and begins to walk out of Ava's office.

AVA (CONT'D)

Girl, don't be mad that I didn't put you on the flyer or invite you.
(MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)

I had to put the most aesthetically pleasing people on here. That's why I didn't include Janine.

Dia leaves. Ava's eyes go back to the computer, then to the camera.

AVA (CONT'D)

Damn, I do look good in this flyer though.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

JANINE is going over the ocean science lesson in her classroom.

JANINE

And here we have an octopus. These little guys have three hearts and nine brains. And they produce hemoglobin, which means their blood is blue. While ours is what color?

She gestures at the class to answer.

ENTIRE CLASS

Red (in unison)

JANINE turns back to the board to continue teaching when her student ISAIAH interrupts her.

JANINE

And they're highly intelligent ---

ISAIAH

(matter of factly)

Ms. Teagues, actually you're wrong. Octopuses don't produce hemoglobin. You're thinking of hemocyanin, a copper-based protein. That's why their blood is blue. Unlike ours, which is red because it's so iron-heavy.

The entire class sighs in unison, clearly annoyed.

JANINE

Thank you for that fact Isaiah. You are right. I meant hemocyanin instead of hemoglobin.

(MORE)

JANINE (CONT'D)

And remember to raise your hand
next time like we talked about.

JANINE hands out worksheets for the class to work on.

JANINE (CONT'D)

I want you to work on these with
your desk mates.

ISAIAH

Ms. Teagues, did you look at these
before printing them? The word
'phytoplankton' is spelled wrong.
And your handwriting at the top is
messy.

JANINE

Okay, just get the worksheets done
please.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

The classroom interruptions with
Isaiah have been a problem. He
butts in all the time to either
correct me or point out something
that another student is doing. He's
like a little Sheldon, like a Young
Sheldon. I'll admit, it does bother
the other kids, but as a teacher
I've learned how to handle these
situations, so it doesn't bother me
as much.

CUT TO:

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

ISAIAH

The sentence structure on this
sheet doesn't make sense either. I
would think that a UPenn graduate
knows the difference between effect
and affect? Maybe I should go to
Harvard instead like Principal
Coleman did.

Janine gives the camera a pained, annoyed look.

JANINE

Well, Ava didn't actually attend
Harvard and...

(MORE)

JANINE (CONT'D)

well that's not the point. I made a
mistake, but I think you get the
gist of the instructions so just do
the work, Isaiah.

Janine sighs and puts her head in her desk.

CUT TO: TITLE

END COLD OPEN

ACT 1

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - NEXT MORNING

BARBARA, GREGORY, and MELISSA are already in the teacher's lounge when JACOB bursts through the door with excitement.

JACOB

Guess who's the best sixth grade teacher ever?

No one is paying attention to him, so he holds up a paper that his student wrote and slams it down in front of Melissa.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Guys look at this essay that my student wrote. He's been struggling with essays all year, but this one is incredible. Like Darth Vader, the student has become the master.

Melissa glances at the paper.

MELISSA

Looks like it's AI-generated. I've had issues with my students using that ChatGPT mess to write essays. Looks like it's gotten to your class, too.

Jacob grabs the paper in disbelief and scans it over.

JACOB

Son of a b*tch! He told me that he loved writing this paper. He even called himself the next Octavia Butler. What the hell?

MELISSA

Looks like you got played, kid.

JACOB

What do I do about this? Should I fail the kid?

BARBARA

No, no no. That'll just lead to problems with the parents.

MELISSA

Yeah. Nowadays, these parents think their kids can do no wrong.

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Just get him to admit that he didn't write the paper.

JACOB

I'm not good at intimidation, especially under pressure. I'll crack.

MELISSA

Don't worry about that. I can get him to admit it. I haven't done a good ole shakedown in a while, so this'll be fun.

Jacob nervously looks at the camera.

In the background, we hear Gregory trying to savor his last few sips of matcha.

BARBARA

Hun, I think you got it all.

GREGORY

There's still a tiny bit in the cup.

He continues making loud slurping noises from the empty cup when everyone turns to him.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

What? I paid \$7 for this drink. Imma get my money's worth.

Gregory opens the cabinet to grab his matcha tins and kit, but doesn't see them. He frantically looks behind mugs and coffee containers.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Who took my matcha tins?

No one answers.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Okay, somebody better confess right now or I'm gonna lose it.

BARBARA

Sweetheart, you probably drank them all.

GREGORY

No I didn't. I had two full ones literally right in here yesterday.
(MORE)

GREGORY (CONT'D)

And I put up a sticky note saying not to use them. Those things aren't cheap and I'm still on a teacher salary.

JACOB

Wait, what happened to ride share?

GREGORY

I'm still doing that, but it doesn't make much money.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Sooo... nobody has seen my stuff. They just grew legs, got up and walked out the cabinet themselves?

Everyone shrugs it off. MR. JOHNSON smirks, then walks out of the teachers lounge into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER

GREGORY

Ayyye, Mr. J. What was that?

MR. JOHNSON

What was what?

GREGORY

That smirk. Wait, did you take my matcha tins?

MR. JOHNSON

Boy, I don't know what you're talking about. Now if you'll excuse me, I have a school to mop and a classroom full of vomit to clean.

Mr. Johnson walks away. Gregory goes back into the teachers lounge. Janine walks in.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - SECONDS LATER

GREGORY

Hey, Janine. Did you take my matcha?

JANINE

What? No. Gregory, I have bigger problems than your matcha.

JANINE (CONT'D)

When you had Isaiah last year, did you have any disruption issues with him?

Gregory starts tearing apart the teacher's lounge, looking for his matcha tins. He's opening and closing cabinets, the fridge, looking under desks.

GREGORY

What do you mean? (distractingly)

JANINE

You know, like correcting lessons, being overly honest, kinda rude, things like that?

GREGORY

Oh, I mean yeah. But on the flip side, he was so smart that I started letting him grade other students papers. Smart kid.

JANINE

Barb, what about you?

BARBARA

Isaiah White? I remember him. Quiet and very well-behaved kid. I was just happy to have a kindergartner who wasn't rowdy or loud like the rest of my class.

JANINE

He's been so disruptive in my classroom lately. And yesterday, he moved to insulting my intelligence. You know, he even insinuated that Ava was smarter than me?

The entire teacher's lounge starts laughing.

JANINE (CONT'D)

This isn't funny. You guys aren't helping at all.

MELISSA

Sounds like your ego is bruised, kid.

JANINE

Ava? Smarter than me? Please! I'm the one who's a UPenn grad!

MS. INEZ

But, didn't Ava go to Harvard?
They're like the Eagles of the Ivy
League.

JANINE

No, she didn't! You know, Barb and
Gregory, you could've given me a
heads up about the kid.

BARBARA

Well Janine, I had no issues with
the child. Maybe it's, as the kids
say, a skill issue?

Desperate to find his tins, Gregory grabs Melissa's purse to
look in it. She yanks it away from him and gives him a stern
look.

GREGORY

Sorry. You know what, I don't need
the matcha today.

He starts ferociously pouring himself a cup of coffee. He
dumps half the sugar container in his cup.

JACOB

God, how many scoops are you
putting in?

GREGORY

Hey, don't judge me until you've
taught a class full of first
graders.

He chugs the first cup and turns to talk to Janine, while
already pouring himself second cup.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Janine, there was nothing to give a
heads up about. He's just a smart
kid who is socially awkward and
particular about things and... wait
a minute, that's me.

JANINE

Okay. Well, I think that Isaiah is
on the autism spectrum.

All of the teachers turn towards Janine, looking shocked.

EVERYONE

Whoa! Yikes!

JACOB

Janine, that's a huge jump to make.

MELISSA

Yeah, you can't just diagnose a kid with autism. Believe me, I made that mistake once and paid for it. The parents were passive aggressive towards me the rest of the school year.

JANINE

Well, I mean all of the signs are there... Socially awkward, particular, overly honest, talking formal and taking things literally.

MELISSA

You mean, like Gregory?

GREGORY

What, no. I'm not like that at all.

JACOB

Well, you do drink matcha everyday. And wear muted colors everyday. And you're very particular about, well everything.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I went over to his apartment once and thought he was gonna flip after I didn't use a coaster. And...

Gregory gives Jacob a glare. Jacob looks awkwardly at the camera and shuts up.

JANINE

Look, I'm just struggling trying to figure out how to handle this situation. Should I call his parents?

EVERYONE

No! (in unison)

MELISSA

That's a recipe for disaster.

JANINE

So, then what should I do?

BARBARA

Janine, why don't you go to Ava for help? After all, she is smarter than you.

The entire teachers lounge breaks out in a laugh, while Janine sighs and looks annoyed. Gregory is already chugging his third cup of coffee. Janine looks at Gregory.

JANINE

Please stop. You're gonna give yourself heart palpitations and I don't wanna drive you to the hospital today.

INT. AVA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Ava is on her phone talking selfies when Janine walks in.

JANINE

Hey Ava, I need to talk to you about one of my students real quick His name is Isaiah White.

Ava turns her phone to Janine.

AVA

Janine, tell me which selfie looks better? I found out O'Shon has a hella old contact pic of me and I want him to update it to something sexier.

She swipes back and forth between two photos.

JANINE

They look exactly the same. Wait, are these those AI photos that everyone keeps posting on Facebook?

AVA

Yep. I upload my selfies to ChatGPT and have them 'yassify' my hair and makeup. Genius right?

JANINE

You know that's horrible for the environment? And they build those data centers in predominantly black areas, you know, like Philly?

AVA

Ugh, Okay Greta. You're no fun. The more you hang around Jacob the more you start to sound like him. What do you want?

JANINE

Yes, so my student Isaiah is struggling. He has issues with his social skills, constant interruptions, undermines me. I think he's on the autism spectrum, specifically with something called Aspergers.

AVA

Janine, I know what asparagus is.

JANINE

Not what I said, but okay.

AVA

What'd you say his name was, again?

JANINE

Isaiah White.

AVA

Oh, the one with the fine ass daddy?

JANINE

Uhhhh...

AVA

You've seen him right? He's like the light skin version of Damson Idris.

JANINE

Ava! Focus!

AVA

Look, we don't have the resources to deal with that, so you're just gonna have to adjust your teaching style.

JANINE

Okay, well what about a meeting with the parents?

AVA

Oh, hell no. I've seen them. That's not gonna help. Besides, you know how I feel about talking to parents.

JANINE

But Ava, that's like 85 percent of your job.

The nap time sound goes off on Ava's Apple watch. She glances at it, then back at Janine.

AVA

Exactly. Now, get the hell out of my office. It's my scheduled nap time.

JANINE

It's 9 am.

AVA

I know. But I just finished eating a chopped cheese. You know I get the itis after a big meal. Now, shoo!

Janine turns to leave while Ava puts on her sleep mask.

JANINE

So, you're just not gonna even try to help? You're just gonna spend all day napping and taking selfies?

AVA

Look Supergirl, if you wanna talk to the parents so bad, go right ahead and be my guest. Just don't bite off more than you can chew.

JANINE

Fine! I guess I'll have to do my job and yours, then.

Janine storms out of Ava's office.

AVA TALKING HEAD

AVA

I'm not gonna say anything more. She's stubborn, so I'll let her figure things out for herself. Besides, Janine could use some humbling.

(MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)

It'll be fun to watch her crash and burn. As long as I have a front row ticket and a bucket of popcorn in my hand to view it.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Janine's class is silently working on their quizzes when Isaiah walks up to her desk.

ISAIAH

Miss Teagues, I finished my science quiz early. What should I do now?

JANINE

Hmmm, why don't you occupy yourself at your desk while we wait for the rest of the class to finish, okay?

ISAIAH

Okay.

Janine returns to grading papers when she hears faint sounds of coins and cartoon characters. Isaiah is playing his Nintendo Switch at full volume. The entire class is clearly distracted and annoyed by the sounds.

JANINE

Isaiah, I know you already finished your quiz but I need you to be mindful of the other students still taking it.

ISAIAH

Sorry, this is just my favorite game.

JANINE

Okay, just try to quiet down please.

ISAIAH

Okay.

Seconds later ---

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Score!

The class sighs again.

ASHLEY (STUDENT)

Dude, can you be quiet? I'm trying to concentrate.

JANINE

You know what. Isaiah why don't you help me grade some papers. Doesn't that sound fun?

ISAIAH

I guess that could be amusing.

He walks to the front of the classroom and pulls up a chair beside Janine's desk.

JANINE

Okay, here's the answer sheet. Can you highlight the ones that are wrong on each quiz?

ISAIAH

Okay, Miss Teagues.

JANINE

And you can leave the pile of graded papers right here when you're done.

Isaiah looks at the paper and then to Janine, looking like he wants to say something. He starts marking the papers.

ISAIAH

Wrong!

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Double wrong! How did they miss this question? It was so obvious.

JANINE

Okay, why don't we keep the commentary in our head instead? The students are still trying to take the quiz.

ISAIAH

But they got almost all of the answers wrong. If this many students are failing, maybe I should be the teacher.

Janine gives the camera an annoyed look.

JANINE

(frustrated)

Isaiah, just finish grading them.

They start marking the papers again when Isaiah holds one up from the desk.

ISAIAH

Yikes. Joshua, looks like you failed. You only got four answers right on this quiz.

Joshua walks up to the front of the room towards Isaiah.

JOSHUA (STUDENT)

What? Let me see that. You probably graded it wrong.

Janine looks appalled and upset and grabs the papers from Isaiah and Joshua.

JANINE

Josh, go back to your quiz. Isaiah, why don't you finish grading the papers in the hallway?

JOSHUA

But, did I fail?

JANINE

No, I'll take a look at it later. Just go back to your seat.

Flustered and upset, Josh walks back to his seat.

ISAIAH

Did I do something wrong? I was just trying to let him know so that he does better on the next one.

JANINE

No, it's fine. Here's the rest of the papers. When you're done, just come back in the classroom, okay?

Confused, Isaiah takes the papers and walks to the hallway. Janine looks at the camera and sighs before heading back to her desk.

INT - JACOB'S CLASSROOM - DAY

The lunch bell rings when Melissa walks in Jacob's classroom. Students start shuffling out of class.

MELISSA

Alright, Hill. You ready for a good old shakedown? Take notes from the master.

JACOB

Uh, yeah. Hey, Trey. Could you hold back a second?

The other kids start smirking and talking.

ANOTHER STUDENT

Ooooh, you're in trouble.

TREY nervously walks up to Jacob's desk. Jacob waits until the classroom has cleared of the other students and stands in front of his desk, trying to look intimidating.

JACOB

Now, I'm gonna ask you this one time and one time only. Did you write this essay?

TREY

Yeah, I wrote it. Are you accusing me of cheating Mr. C? Seems very anti-black of you.

Jacob nervously looks at the camera.

JACOB

Okay, you know that I'm not anti-black, considering I work here. And I spent a summer volunteering in Haiti. And Black Panther is my favorite movie. If I could vote Obama for a third term, I would've.

Jacob profusely starts sweating and stammering his words.

JACOB (CONT'D)

And...

Melissa interrupts after seeing how terrible Jacob is handling the situation.

MELISSA

Kid, we weren't born yesterday. Just admit to us that you didn't write it, so we can all go enjoy our lunch break.

TREY

But, I did write it.

MELISSA

So, since you wrote it and clearly read the book that was assigned for this paper, what did you think of Orwell's work, then?

TREY

Uhhh, I thought it was a fun read.

JACOB

You thought a book about dictatorship and rebellion was a fun read?

Trey nervously looks at Melissa and Jacob, unable to fully look them in the eye.

TREY

Uhhh, yes.

MELISSA

Hmmmm, okay. And tell me a little bit about Napoleon? How does his use of propaganda relate to current world politics.

TREY

Ummmm, well. It relates because...

He gives a defeated sigh.

TREY (CONT'D)

Okay, I used ChatGPT to write it.

MELISSA

Ha, I knew it! I knew it! No one your age uses the phrase "paradigm shift." That's how we knew. You are so screwed kid.

JACOB

What? Why would you use AI to write your assignment? Especially after I gave a speech weeks ago, specifically talking about the dangers of AI? And we read half of the book in class. C'mon, Trey.

TREY

Look, I didn't have time to finish the rest of the book because of church ball and I was doing homework and studying for your class.

He points at Melissa to insinuate that he means her class. Jacob sighs with disappointment.

JACOB

Well, I should fail you, but I won't. Here's what we're gonna do. If you can finish the rest of the book and redo the paper without AI, then I'll consider giving you a C. Now, go to lunch.

TREY

Thanks Mr. C. I'll have it back to you as soon as possible.

JACOB

By Friday please. And don't forget to cite your sources and write in MLA format.

Trey walks out of the classroom.

MELISSA

Wait, that's it? You're not gonna punish him or anything? No time in the detention slammer? Just a slap on the wrist?

Jacob nervously looks at the camera, then to Melissa.

JACOB

Look, your teaching style is tougher, but mine is different. You gotta level with these kids and meet them where they're at sometimes.

MELISSA

Unbelievable, Hill. You're getting softer and softer every year. But, the kids like you so I guess you're doing something right.

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB

As Barbara told me earlier, I'd rather not fail him and deal with an angry parent. Besides, this is a learning lesson and I'm allowing him to learn from his huge mistake. That's what makes me such a good teacher.

MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA

Back in my day, we didn't have ChatGPT and AI to do the work for us. Hell, we didn't even have Quizlet or Chegg. You did a good ole' cheat session by glancing at someone's paper or stealing the answer sheet from the teacher's desk while they went to the bathroom. These kids are so uncreative these days.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ava and Barbara are walking opposite of each other in the hallway when MS. INEZ walks by.

MS. INEZ

Hi Mrs. Howard! I'm assuming you're invited to Ava's party next Saturday night? You looked stunning on the flyer, by the way.

BARBARA

Sweetheart I don't know what you're talking about. Wait, what flyer?

Ava tries to interject into their conversation, but Ms. Inez cuts her off.

AVA

Oh, she means ---

MS. INEZ

Ava's costume party flyer with some of the teachers. Mr. Johnson was on there, too. She photoshopped a picture of him with some Hennessy in his hand.

AVA

That wasn't photoshopped. Mr. Johnson really gets down like that. Listen, Barb it's no big deal. I included O'Shon and some of the teachers on my flyer and added some personal touches to you know, zhush it up a bit. Then, I accidentally sent it out to the entire staff. No biggie.

BARBARA

Sweet baby Jesus, you did what?
Ava, let me see this photo.

Ava pulls out her phone to show an AI photo of Barbara chugging a bottle of wine in a crop top and jeans.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Where did you get this from?

AVA

It's just an AI photo, Barb.

BARBARA

Now why would you put me on this thing and portray me in such a hedonistic manner?

AVA

Look, if it makes you feel any better, I've gotten zero compliments all day. Not one "Damn Ava, you look fine as hell." I feel like I'm living in the matrix or something.

BARBARA

Ava, take it down!

AVA

It doesn't work like that. The email was already sent out. Look, it'll blow over in a couple of days. As long as the kids don't see it, you'll be fine.

Barbara turns away and walks in the other direction. Mr. Johnson walks past her.

MR. JOHNSON

Looking fly on that flyer, Mrs. Howard.

Barbara turns back to look at Ava, conveying an shameful look. Ava looks at the camera and rolls her eyes.

BARBARA

Thanks, Mr. J. Fortunately the photo isn't real, all thanks to Ava's doing.

INT. JANITOR'S CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

MR. JOHNSON

What the hell? I know I left it
right here.

Gregory walks by whistling while Mr. Johnson is panicking and
looking for his broom.

MR. JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Gregory, have you seen my broom?

GREGORY

Huh? I don't know what you're
talking about.

MR. JOHNSON

I left it in here. Damn kids, one
of them must've taken it again.
I've lost more brooms than Elphaba,
and they took my favorite one.

GREGORY

Well, if my matcha tins turn up,
maybe I'd be able to find your
broom.

MR. JOHNSON

So, you took it! I knew it. Games
over, give it back now.

GREGORY

Oh, so now you don't like it when
someone takes something that
doesn't belong to them. Go figure.

MR. JOHNSON

Look man, I only took it because
you're getting addicted to that
leafy green powder. It's changing
you. I saw you chugging a green
smoothie earlier and pretending it
was matcha.

GREGORY

Well, you're one to talk. You're
addicted to that crusty old broom
and mop of yours.

Mr. Johnson sighs in shock.

MR. JOHNSON

You take that back! She's not old
and crusty, she's reliable.

(MORE)

MR. JOHNSON (CONT'D)

And unlike you, I actually need my broom to do my job.

GREGORY

She? And well, I need my matcha to do my job. Do you know what it's like dealing with first graders all day long.

MR. JOHNSON

Considering I'm the one cleaning up vomit and sticky stuff all day, yeah I do.

GREGORY

Look, the point is, you've got your addictions and I have mine. So, let's just call it a truce and get back to doing our jobs.

MR. JOHNSON

Or... we could see how long we can both go before we crack. If you can go the rest of the week without that reefah, I'll give you the tins back and throw in a \$20.

Dia walks by, intently looking at Mr. Johnson and Gregory with shame.

GREGORY

(to Dia) He's not actually talking about weed.

DIA

Mhmmm.

GREGORY

Fine, done deal. And if you can manage to make it without your broom, I'll do the same.

MR. JOHNSON

Looks like I'll be making an extra \$20 then.

Gregory looks at the camera annoyed and rolls his eyes. He and Mr. Johnson walk away.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Janine and Isaiah are in the hallway, walking towards the school counselor's office.

ISAIAH

Miss Teagues, where are we going?

JANINE

Oh, we're just gonna have you chat with someone real quick.

ISAIAH

Am I in trouble?

JANINE

No, no no. It's just, sometimes it's easy to get distracted in class and... Never mind. We're just gonna take a field trip to Ms. Alomar's office. Doesn't that sound fun?

ISAIAH

Not really.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Janine knocks on the door to MS. ALOMAR'S office. There's no answer, so she furiously starts knocking.

JANINE

Hi!

MS. ALOMAR

Can I help you? I'm with someone right now.

Janine peeks into the room to see Gregory.

JANINE

Uhhh Gregory, what are you doing here?

GREGORY

I'm going crazy without my matcha, so I booked a session with the counselor to talk about it.

JANINE

Uhhhh okay. Wait, who's watching your class?

GREGORY

Mr. Johnson.

They both look at the camera with a nervous look.

CUT TO:

INT. GREGORY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Johnson aims the pointer to the board.

MR. JOHNSON

Kids, this is why I believe that we never landed on the moon.

All of the kids look around at each other, confused.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

GREGORY

Yeah, I should probably get back.

JANINE

Good idea.

MS. ALOMAR

Well, it looks like our time is up anyway. Feel free to make another appointment if you need it.

Gregory leaves. Ms. Alomar is closing her door when Janine launches herself in front of the door.

JANINE

Hi Ms. Alomar. This is Isaiah. He's here to see you.

MS. ALOMAR

I don't have an appointment for him. Did his parents book one?

JANINE

Well, no. But...

MS. ALOMAR

He needs an appointment to see me.

JANINE

Well, I know. But I figured that maybe you could chat with him for a few minutes. You know, out of the kindness of your own heart.

MS. ALOMAR

Kindness doesn't pay my rent. Look,
I can get him in on the 24th.

JANINE

Of this month? That's like three
weeks away.

MS. ALOMAR

No, not of this month. In two
months. I'm fully booked.

JANINE

But no one's here right now.

MS. ALOMAR

Exactly. And since it's 1pm and I
haven't taken my lunch break, I
need to eat. Goodbye!

Ms. Alomar shuts the door.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT 3

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - AFTER SCHOOL

The bell rings and after the classroom clears out, Isaiah's parents walk in.

Janine smiles at his parents, but they give her a frown as they walk in.

JANINE

Hi Mr. and Mrs. White! Thank you so much for coming in today. I know it's not easy to clear your schedule on such short notice.

MRS. WHITE

Let's just cut to the chase so I can get back to work please.

JANINE

Okay. You guys can sit here. So, I wanted to talk to you both about some behavior issues I've noticed recently with Isaiah.

MRS. WHITE

Well, this is the first I'm hearing of him having any problem. Mrs. Howard and Mr. Eddie didn't have any. I don't understand what's preventing you from doing your job. He's eight.

MR. WHITE

What issues are we talking about?

JANINE

Well, for starters, I want to say that Isaiah is a very bright student.

MR. WHITE

So then, what's the problem?

JANINE

Yesterday, he started playing video games while the rest of the class was still taking their quizzes. It's disruptive.

MRS. WHITE

Well, how did he do on the quiz?

JANINE

He passed. He got a 100 actually. But I more so wanted to talk about the disruptive behavior.

MRS. WHITE

What behaviors, exactly?

JANINE

He tends to interrupt a lot while I'm teaching. Sometimes it's to point out a mistake in my lesson, other times he's pointed out things other students are doing.

MRS. WHITE

And? Is he correct?

JANINE

Well yes, but that's not exactly the point. I've also noticed that he's had struggles connecting with the other students... socially.

MR. WHITE

Miss Teagues, are you insinuating that our soon is weird?

JANINE

No, not at all! I just want to make sure that Isaiah has a successful school year and that we're utilizing all of the resources that we can.

MR. WHITE

Resources?

JANINE

Yes, here is some information on IEP plans for students. I think that Isaiah could benefit from...

MR. WHITE

What kind of teacher are you? Don't answer that, we've heard enough. We're leaving.

JANINE

But...

Mrs. White looks hesitant, but follows her husband's lead. They storm out of the classroom.

INT. JACOB'S CLASSROOM - NEXT MORNING

TREY

Hey Mr. C. Here's my new and improved paper. Written without AI this time.

JACOB

Alright then, let's take a look, shall we?

Jacob vigorously glances over the paper.

JACOB (CONT'D)

See, this is so much better than that AI slop that you turned in before.

TREY

Yeah, you know, I actually enjoyed writing the paper. George Orwell is a phenomenal writer. The themes of rebellion and propaganda reminded me of The Hunger Games. I love those movies.

JACOB

Well, Suzanne Collins' work is inspired by Orwell. She hints at it in 'Sunrise on the Reaping.' Maybe you should try giving that one a read, too.

TREY

Maybe I will. And thanks for giving me another chance, Mr. C. I won't be using AI again. There's actually something rewarding about doing the work on your own.

JACOB

Well, good. And I'm glad you enjoyed it. I'll fully look over it later, but it looks like this is a solid C plus paper.

Jacob's student walks back to his desk. Jacob smiles and looks at the camera.

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB (CONT'D)

Teaching gets harder and harder every year, especially with all these new tools. But I'm glad that I could inspire Trey to do his own work. And who knows, maybe he'll become a great writer like Orwell or Collins or even Ryan Coogler. Have you guys seen Sinners?

INT. AVA'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Janine walks in Ava's office.

JANINE

Hey, why did you call me in? I'm in the middle of a lesson.

AVA

Good job Mr. Monk (sarcastically). Thanks to you, I've got parents coming at me and now I gotta deal with it. They interrupted me in the middle of me on TikTok live. And I had over 25,000 viewers.

JANINE

Huh?

AVA

Why the hell are Isaiah's parents calling me, telling me you called their child weird and socially inept?

JANINE

Well that's not what I said at all, actually. I spoke to his parents because you wouldn't do anything to help.

AVA

Janine, I told you specifically not to intervene and now you've made things worse. Now, my ass is on the line and instead of making content, I have to do my job.

JANINE

Uhhhh...

AVA

You better find a way to fix this.
Now, get out of my office.

Janine turns to walk out of Ava's office, with a sour look on her face. Tariq and Krystal start walking in.

TARIQ

Man, I just cannot escape my
childless ex. Janine, what are you
doing here?

JANINE

Tariq, for the last time, I work
here.

AVA

She got called into the principal's
office cause she's in trouble.

TARIQ

Damn, Nine. What'd you do this
time?

JANINE

I don't have time for this. I have
to get back to my class.

Janine leaves Ava's office.

AVA

What do you two want? I'm busy.

KRYSTAL

Did you forget about the PTA
meeting?

AVA

That's tonight? This day just keeps
getting worse and worse.

TARIQ

Yeah, and you have to talk about
fundraising for this year's
AvaFest. By the way, if you wanna
book me for any events that day,
you'll have to contact my agent.

AVA

Fine. Anything else?

KRYSTAL

Oh, yeah. I saw your costume party flyer. Barbara looks good as hell. Imma need those outfit deets asap.

AVA

Barbara's outfits? You've gotta be kidding me.

TARIQ

Don't do Mrs. Howard like that. She be dressing down!

Ava rolls her eyes.

AVA

Look, I've got work to do and a school to run, so imma need y'all to bounce.

Tariq and Krystal leave Ava's office.

AVA TALKING HEAD

AVA (CONT'D)

Are people blind? How are they not seeing how good O'Shon and I look? Especially together! But Barbara does look good, I'll give her that. Do y'all think she'd be upset if I put her on my sexy Santa costume party flyer in December? Maybe I'll work some more Photoshop magic in there?

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

Janine walks back into her classroom after leaving Ava's office.

JANINE

Thank you for watching my class while I stepped out Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON

It's no problem. Without my broom, I've been bored anyway. And this place looks a mess.

JANINE

How long are you and Gregory gonna keep this bet up?

MR. JOHNSON

Until somebody caves. And let me tell you, I'm going crazy.

Mr. Johnson walks out of the classroom. Janine notices some of the kids huddled in the corner by Isaiah's desk.

JANINE

What are you guys doing? I know today's math lesson can't be that interesting.

ASHLEY

Isaiah's teaching us how to Sonic the Hedgehog.

The students are happy and chattering around Isaiah as he vigorously presses buttons on his Nintendo Switch console.

ISAIAH

And here's how you defeat Dr. Eggman.

A lightbulb goes off in Janine's head.

JANINE

Hmmmm, guys why don't we incorporate Sonic into our lesson and after I'm done, Isaiah can finish showing you how to play?

ISAIAH

Awesome, and after school, I can show you guys how to play this really old game called 'Poptropica.'

JANINE

(offendedly) Old? That was popular when I was a kid.

The class scatters back to their seats. Janine proceeds to draw a wonky caricature of Sonic on the board.

JANINE (CONT'D)

So, Sonic already has three gold rings, and he runs through 22 gold rings, how many does he have now?

Isaiah and several classmates raise their hands. Janine points to Isaiah.

ISAIAH

25 rings! Gotta go fast!

JANINE

Good job! And if he has 50 rings
and runs through 33, how many does
he have.

Another student raises his hand and answers 83. Janine smiles
and winks at Isaiah before turning back to the board.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - LUNCH

The teachers and crew are gathered in the teacher's lounge.
Gregory is chugging an energy drink, with two empty cans next
to him.

JACOB

Still trying to curb your matcha
appetite?

GREGORY

Yeah. These things aren't nearly as
good but at least they keep me
awake.

MELISSA

Kid, have you tried just drinking
water? You're gonna crash at some
point if you keep downing coffee
and energy drinks.

Meanwhile, Mr. Johnson is dashing around the teachers lounge
with his cloth and cleaner, trying to wipe up every mess he
sees.

MR. JOHNSON

Hey, I told y'all not to get any
crumbs on my floor since somebody
stole me broom.

He glances at Gregory.

GREGORY

Well, somebody wouldn't have to
worry about their precious broom if
they didn't take my matcha.

BARBARA

How long are you two going to keep
this up? All for bragging rights
and a measly \$20 bill?

The two glance at each other.

GREGORY

Alright, I cave. I can't take this anymore. The floors are sticky, my classroom hasn't been swept in days and you're clearly in distress.

MR. JOHNSON

Me too. I can't stand to see you chugging energy drinks like a frat boy with beer.

Mr. Johnson opens the cabinets to reveal Gregory's tins.

GREGORY

Wait, they were behind the mugs the entire time?

MR. JOHNSON

Yeah, I moved them back right after you were looking for them.

Gregory walks over to the vending machine to grab the broom that's wedged in between it and the wall.

GREGORY

Here Mr. J.

Mr. Johnson looks at his broom in awe.

MR. JOHNSON

Thanks. Oh, by the way, you owe me \$20.

MR. JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Good to have you back, buddy (he says to the broom).

Gregory looks at the camera and rolls his eyes. Mr. Johnson leaves the teacher's lounge.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - AFTER SCHOOL

The classroom clears out, with Isaiah still at his desk.

ISAIAH

Miss Teagues, can I wait here until my parents pick me up?

JANINE

Sure thing.

Ava walks into her class.

AVA

Good, you're still here. You have some visitors.

Isaiah's parents walk in. He runs up to them to give them a hug before going back to his Nintendo Switch.

MR. WHITE

Miss Teagues, I think we got off on the wrong foot yesterday.

MRS. WHITE

Yes, we'd like to apologize for how we reacted.

JANINE

Of course. Please, sit.

MR. WHITE

Isaiah is a special kid. He reminds me of what I was like at that age.

JANINE

Yes, he is.

MRS. WHITE

You mentioned something about an IEP plan yesterday that could help with his social skills. We wanna learn more about it, if you have time to chat now.

JANINE

Yes, of course!

Ava is still standing by the door, eavesdropping.

AVA

We have a school counselor. We can get him an appointment this week to discuss the details.

JANINE

Yes, she's great. She works for the district but she comes to Abbott three times a week to work with students.

MR. WHITE

Good, let's get something scheduled, then.

They stand up and grab Isaiah to walk out the door. Mr. White and Isaiah walk out in the hallway, as Mrs. White stays behind.

MRS. WHITE

Thank you for understanding. To be frank, Frederick himself struggled with this. When we were first married, I didn't think much of it.

MRS. WHITE (CONT'D)

But, years later we found out that he's on the spectrum. I think he just doesn't want to think that he's passed on his traits to Isaiah.

JANINE

It's okay. I care about all of my students, and it's my job to make sure Isaiah is utilizing all of the resources available.

JANINE (CONT'D)

And there's nothing wrong with being on the spectrum, either. He just needs extra attention. He's a great kid.

MRS. WHITE

Yeah, he is. Thanks, Miss Teagues. And thank you, Principal Coleman.

She walks out, leaving Ava and Janine in the classroom.

AVA

Well, looks like that turned out well after all. Look, I know I said not to get involved, but good job on having the foresight to do it anyway.

JANINE

Awww, Ava did you just give me a compliment?

She pulls Ava in and hugs her tight.

AVA

Girl, get off of me! Don't make me regret it.

Ava walks out.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - AFTER SCHOOL

AVA

Ms. Alomar, I was hoping to catch you before you leave.

MS. ALOMAR

I was just heading out the door. I have to get to my improv class now.

AVA

Well, I need to to schedule an appointment with Isaiah White and his parents this week.

MS. ALOMAR

I can't. I'm fully booked.

AVA

Well, make room. Skip that improv class of yours if you have to.

MS. ALOMAR

They can make an appointment and wait like everyone else.

AVA

Look, if you don't get them in this week, you're fired.

MS. ALOMAR

But I don't work for you. I work for the district.

AVA

Yeah and I can make a quick call to my friends at the district and tell them that that you're incapable of doing your job. You know my man can connect me straight to your boss.

MS. ALOMAR

Fine, I think I can squeeze them in Friday after school.

AVA

Pleasure doing business with you.

The counselor rolls her eyes and Ava smirks into the camera before walking away.

END OF SHOW