

DAY CARE

by

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EXT. PARK - DAY

STUART GAINSLEY, 35, conservative, shovels soft food into the mouth of THEODORE "TEDDY" GAINSLEY, 2, bald and cranky, who is in a stroller. He spits it out.

STUART  
You have to eat your food, we should be going soon.

TEDDY  
Why?

STUART  
Don't you want to see all your friends?

Stuart stands. Takes the handles of the stroller. Begins to push it.

TEDDY  
I hear they're going to have a party today, that sounds fun, right?

Another BABY in a stroller passes. They reach out to each other, but miss.

TEDDY (CONT'D)  
(softly)  
I want out.

STUART  
What was that?

He struggles in his stroller.

TEDDY  
I want out!

STUART  
You know you can't do that.

TEDDY  
Why?

Stuart tries to find the words, unsure of how to answer. Tears stream down Teddy's face.

TEDDY (CONT'D)  
Why?

Teddy pounds his fists on the sides of the stroller, defiantly as Stuart continues to push.

TEDDY (CONT'D)  
 Why? Why? Why?

EXT. DAY CARE - LATER

Stuart rolls Teddy up a long walkway towards smiling DAY CARE WORKER #1, who is standing in front of a sign that reads "Day Care".

DAY CARE WORKER #1  
 Hey Teddy!

Teddy stays silent, his face red from crying. His bottom lip quivers.

STUART  
 We're having a bad day today...

DAY CARE WORKER #1  
 Aw, that's too bad. Well, we have a special Valentine's Day dance planned. Why don't we go inside?

Day Care Worker #1 takes over the stroller.

DAY CARE WORKER #1 (CONT'D)  
 We've got pudding, you like pudding, don't you?

STUART  
 Keep an extra eye on him today, will you?

She smiles sadly. Nods.

INT. DAY CARE - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Day Care Worker #1 parks Teddy beside FRITZ, 2, a stubby with a killer bald spot, who is also in a stroller.

FRITZ  
 (slight German accent)  
 I'm Fritz... I think. You new?

Teddy nods. PARLIAMENT, 4, a fiery blob of red hair perched on top of her head, picks a booger out of her nose.

PARLIAMENT  
 We all are, pal. I'm Parliament.

She hits him on the back, wiping the booger. He pulls away.

TEDDY  
What is this place?

WAYNE, 3, dressed in a cowboy hat and boots, lays lazily on the couch.

WAYNE  
They dump us off here when they go to work. We're nothing to them.

OLIVE, (3), Shirley Temple blonde, pulls out a tube of bright red lipstick. Applies it awkwardly to her lips, outside the lines before turning to Teddy.

OLIVE  
I'm Olive. What's your name?

TEDDY  
Teddy.

OLIVE  
You want to be my Valentine?

TEDDY  
I just want to go home.

DAY CARE WORKER #2 turns soft, mindless music on.

DAY CARE WORKER #2  
Okay everyone, grab a partner.  
We're about to begin.

OLIVE  
Want to dance?

Not waiting for a response, Olive grabs Teddy's stroller. Begins to dance spastically.

He cannot help but smile. Looks into her eyes. Uses his finger to fix her lipstick.

TEDDY  
You look like someone I know.

She puts her head on his shoulder, swaying to the music.

OLIVE  
I get that all the time.

WAYNE  
Cut in.

She continues to sway with Teddy.

WAYNE (CONT'D)  
Cut in, I said.

OLIVE  
No!

Wayne forcefully comes between them.

TEDDY  
She said "no". Don't you have a horse waiting for you somewhere?

WAYNE  
Matter of fact, I ride bulls, what you think about that?

TEDDY  
I think you look like a bull!

Olive giggles. Wayne shoves him, hitting Olive in the process. Teddy bites him, hard.

TEDDY (CONT'D)  
Don't touch her!

WAYNE  
Buddy, better yet, how about you and me dance?

Wayne, his fists up, dances like a spider on tranquilizers.

WAYNE (CONT'D)  
Come on, Imma hit you so hard your grandma will feel it!

DAY CARE WORKER #1  
What's going on here? Wayne, you got poopies?

She pulls open the back of Wayne's pants. Looks inside.

DAY CARE WORKER #1 (CONT'D)  
Oh, that's a big one. No wonder you're so grouchy. Let's get you cleaned up.

He fights as she leads him away. The babies laugh. Too hard. A pang of sadness fills Teddy.

OLIVE  
Come on, I want you to show you something.

PARLIAMENT

I want to go!

FRITZ

I think they want to be alone.

GROUP OF BABIES

Ooh! Ted... Teddy and O... live  
sitting in a tree... k-i-s-s-i-n-g.

OLIVE

Grow up!

Olive pushes Teddy's stroller. Faster. Faster. Into...

INT. DAY CARE - SECRET ROOM - DAY

They burst through the door. She wheels him around in circles. They laugh in childlike innocence.

Olive stares at Teddy. Her eyes water. The moment is intense.

TEDDY

You're pretty.

DAY CARE WORKER #1 (O.S.)

Teddy? Olive?

OLIVE

We have to hide!

Olive pushes him under a staircase. They turn to see a picture of an OLD COUPLE hanging from the wall. They stare, frozen.

The painting comes to life. The old couple embrace each other. Kiss tenderly as Teddy and Olive stare.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I think I love you.

Olive collapses.

TEDDY

Olive!

He maneuvers his way out of the stroller. Onto the ground by her side. Leans down.

Their lips are centimeters from each other.

TEDDY (CONT'D)  
 Wake up. It's not nap time, wake  
 up!

Day Care Worker #2 comes through the door. Looks down at  
 Olive, who is unconscious.

DAY CARE WORKER #2  
 We've got one on the ground. Call  
 nine one one!

TEDDY  
 You're alright. Everything's okay.

INT. DAY CARE - MAIN ROOM - LATER

Teddy looks out the window, his face reflecting the flashing  
 red from the ambulance outside. His lip quivers.

He turns to see the other babies, who now seem like deranged  
 caricatures of themselves, dancing. Endless, vacant dancing.

TEDDY  
 How are you dancing at a time like  
 this?

They do not respond or even act as if they heard him. He  
 grabs the wheels to his stroller. Moves into...

INT. DAY CARE - SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Teddy comes through the door. Goes underneath the staircase.  
 Stares at the painting of a single old man.

TEDDY  
 There's only one.  
 (out loud)  
 Where did the other one go?

Day Care Worker #2 enters.

DAY CARE WORKER #2 (O.S.)  
 Oh, what are you doing back in  
 here, you poor thing.

TEDDY  
 There was two, now there's only  
 one!

Day Care Worker #1 comes in.

DAY CARE WORKER #2  
(re: the painting)  
He's freaking out. Take that out  
of here!

Day Care Worker #1 grabs the painting. Leaves the room with it.

Teddy goes ballistic in his stroller. Day Care Worker #2 restrains him. Pushes the stroller out into the main room.

INT. DAY CARE - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Teddy screams as he is pushed through.

TEDDY  
There's only one! There's only  
one!

Stuart walks through the door, but Teddy is oblivious.

DAY CARE WORKER #2  
Look Teddy, it's your son.

STUART  
Dad?

Teddy stops. Looks up at Stuart. His eyes grow.

Day Care Worker #1 touches Stuart's shoulder.

DAY CARE WORKER #1  
I'm so sorry.

INT. DAY CARE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Day Care Worker #1 parks Teddy by Fritz, who is also in a stroller.

FRITZ  
(slight German accent)  
I'm Fritz... I think. You new?

Teddy nods. Parliament joins them.

PARLIAMENT  
We all are, pal. I'm Parliament.

Stuart and Day Care Worker #2 speak at the front entrance.



STUART  
(to Care taker #2)  
The funeral is next week.

Teddy struggles to hear what they are saying.

CARE TAKER #2  
(broken)  
...really loved her. Fifty years  
is a long time.

She comforts Stuart.

CARE TAKER #2 (CONT'D)  
The mind may forget, but the heart  
never does.

She leads Stuart out the door, leaving the babies who we now  
see are now ELDERLY PEOPLE.

Fritz, an old German, smokes a pipe.

Parliament, an old butch trucker, picks her nose.

Wayne, an old cowboy, tips his hat in silent memorial.

EXT. DAY CARE - CONTINUOUS

Push out, past Day Care Worker #1, who moves away from the  
sign from before as she closes the door.

SIGN: "Adults with Alzheimer's Day Care".

Down to the sidewalk, where the painting is dumped on the  
curb. It is a mirror.

THE END