

DAY CARE

by

Brandi Self

Los Angeles, CA 90036
Writerbself@yahoo.com

EXT. DAY CARE - DAY

THEODORE "TEDDY" GAINSLEY, 2, chubby and cranky sits scowling at STUART GAINSLEY, 35, who is trying to get him situated in his stroller.

STUART

Why the long face? Everyone's inside, don't you want to see all your friends?

TEDDY

No!

STUART

(pushes stroller)

I hear they're going to have a party today. You can dance, eat pudding. I'm actually a little jealous.

TEDDY

I hate it.

STUART

It'll be fun.

TEDDY

Let me out.

STUART

Let's not start off on the wrong foot.

TEDDY

(struggles with stroller)

I want out! Shit!

STUART

No, it's dangerous.

TEDDY

Why?

(pounds fists)

Why? Why? Why?

STUART

Because you could fall and hurt yourself.

They move up the walkway to DAY CARE WORKER #1 who is standing in front of a sign that reads, "Day Care".

DAY CARE WORKER #1
Hey, Teddy!

Teddy folds his arms over his chest. His bottom lip quivers.

STUART
Sorry, we're having a bad day.

DAY CARE WORKER #1
Aw, I don't like to hear that.
Especially not when we're having
our special Valentine's dance.
(takes over stroller)
We've got pudding, you like
pudding, don't you?

TEDDY
(still pouting)
Yeah.

DAY CARE WORKER #1
(to Stuart)
She's already set up in the play
room, I let her mess around with my
makeup. Special occasion. They'll
be fine.

He watches with apprehension as her and Teddy move inside.

INT. DAY CARE - PLAY ROOM

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 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. 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.

OLIVE

Dance with me, silly!

Olive grabs Teddy's stroller. Begins to dance with him.

His frown slowly turns into a smile. He 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. "Cut in", I said.

OLIVE

Get lost!

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, almost hitting Olive in the process. Teddy bites him, hard.

 TEDDY (CONT'D)
Leave us alone!

 WAYNE
Buddy, now we're going to dance.

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

 WAYNE (CONT'D)
Imma hit you so hard your grandma
will feel it.

 DAY CARE WORKER #1
What's going on here? Wayne, do you
got poopies?
 (looks in his diaper)
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 before
trickling off into quiet sadness.

 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! 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 the...

STORAGE ROOM

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

 OLIVE
Sometimes you just need to get
away.

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

TEDDY

You're pretty. Probably the prettiest girl I've ever seen.

OLIVE

Oh, Teddy--

DAY CARE WORKER #1 (O.S.)

Olive? Teddy?

OLIVE

Hide!

Olive pushes him under a staircase.

DAY CARE WORKER #1 (O.S.)

Enough with the Hide and Seek.

They turn to see a picture of an OLD COUPLE hanging from the wall. They stare.

OLIVE

(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 centimeters from each other.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Olive? 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. It's just pretend. It's just pretend.

INT. DAY CARE - PLAY 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 could you be dancing at a time
like this?

They don't respond. He rolls himself into the...

STORAGE ROOM

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

TEDDY

There's only one? Where did the
other one go?

Day Care Worker #1 and Day Care Worker #2 enter.

DAY CARE WORKER #1

What are you doing back in here,
you poor thing.

TEDDY

Where did the other one go?

DAY CARE WORKER #2

(re: the painting)

Oh god, will you take that thing
out of here, he's freaking out.

TEDDY

What happened to her?

Day Care Worker #1 grabs the painting as Day Care Worker #2 pushes the stroller out into the...

PLAY ROOM

Teddy screams as he is pushed through.

TEDDY

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

DAY CARE WORKER #3
 (quiet discussion)
 ...Just collapsed. I'm so sorry.

DAY CARE WORKER #2
 Teddy, look its your son.

Teddy stops. The color drains from his face as he looks up at Stuart who is standing next to Day Care Worker #1.

STUART
 Dad? Are you okay?

INT. DAY CARE - PLAY 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
 The funeral's next week.

DAY CARE WORKER #2
 I'm so sorry. Olive was such a lovely woman.

STUART
 A great mom, too. I just hope he's going to be alright. Fifty years together, every day, that's a long time. He adored her. I don't want him to lose that.

DAY CARE WORKER #2
 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 in a wheelchair, smokes a pipe.

Parliament, an old butch trucker, picks her nose.

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

And Teddy, chubby and frail sits in his wheelchair, longing for something he can't remember.

EXT. DAY CARE - CONTINUOUS

Push out, past Day Care Worker #1, who goes inside, exposing the full sign she was partially blocking before.

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