

The Library

"Pilot"

Written by

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Based on,

"Quiet, Please: Dispatches from a Public Librarian"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. QUAD AREA - LIBRARY - (DAY 1)

The day is calm and peaceful; birds chirp, a squirrel roams through the grass, and a snail slowly crawls it's way across a cement path.

JOSH (29, hipster) crushes the snail, but doesn't notice. He listens to his iPod, and bobs his head to a RAP SONG.

A sign on the building becomes focused and reads "Orange County Public Library."

Josh sighs.

He hits stop on his iPod.

JOSH (V.O.)

There was once a time when librarians truly loved working for a library.

He pulls a nice buttoned shirt from his backpack and proceeds to put it on.

JOSH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A time where the smell of old, grimy books meant knowledge and growth.

He pulls eye glasses from his backpack.

JOSH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now, times have changed and the library has become less of a place to read, and more of a babysitter for kids and computer users to browse internet porn.

Josh notices a little GIRL excited to show her MOM a book she checked out. The Mom smiles, places the books on top of the car and the Girl jumps inside the car.

Josh smiles.

JOSH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I still believe that the library can mean more than that. A place where the entire community can still come together to share in everything good the library has to offer.

Josh steps into the building through the automatic doors. Forgetting about the books, the Mom drives off -- the books fall to the ground. A car driving by runs over them.

INT. CIRCULATION AREA - LIBRARY - (DAY 1)

As Josh walks in-

INTERCOM
(static sounding)
Josh to Edna's office, immediately.

Josh looks around confused.

JOSH
(mumbling)
How does she know I'm here?

A MAN (30) on roller skates speeds by in front of Josh.

JOSH (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Hey! You can't roller skate in here, sir.

The Man slams on his breaks.

ROLLER SKATER
(agitated)
How come?

JOSH
Because this is a library.

The Roller Skater, not understanding, stares blankly at Josh.

JOSH (CONT'D)
People could get hurt.

Roller Skater scratches his head.

Josh gives up and throws up his hands.

JOSH (CONT'D)
(lying)
Because we have a policy.

ROLLER SKATER
(confused)
The library has a roller skating policy?

JOSH

The library has a non-roller skating policy. All libraries do.

ROLLER SKATER

Where should I skate?

JOSH

Outside. A roller rink. Maybe in your own living room.

ROLLER SKATER

I've got carpet floors.

Roller Skater continues to skate around.

CURT (22, security guard) walks up to Josh.

CURT

I'll take care of this.

JOSH

Just call the cops, Curt.

Curt ignores the suggestion and walks up to Roller Skater.

CURT

Sir, you can't roller skate in here. This is a library for people to read books.

ROLLER SKATER

Books are dead. Libraries are for skating now.

CURT

Books are not dead, sir. And you need to take your skating outside.

ROLLER SKATER

Who are you?

CURT

My name is Curt and I'm the security guard here.

ROLLER SKATER

What are YOU going to do about it?

Curt pulls out a manual and flips through it.

CURT

(reading)

It says to escort you outside.

ROLLER SKATER

Make me.

EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Roller Skater throws Curt outside. He bars the door with a book.

Curt looks inside to see the Roller Skater twirling on his skates.

INT. EDNA'S OFFICE - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

EDNA (50, manager) has a coffee stain on her blouse and hair that looks like it was fixed up in a frantic hurry. She sits in front of her computer looking hopelessly lost at the screen.

Josh stands patiently in the door frame.

Edna looks at him, smiles, then looks back at the computer.

JOSH
(annoyed)
You called?

EDNA
(confused)
Called?

Beat.

EDNA (CONT'D)
Oh, yes! Right. Yes I did.

Edna turns once more to the computer.

WE SEE THE COMPUTER SCREEN: a MS Word type program open and there's a birthday card template on the screen.

JOSH
Would it be better if I came back?

EDNA
(not paying attention)
Sure.

Josh rolls his eyes and leaves the office.

EDNA (CONT'D)
(calling)
Hey, Josh!

Josh stands at her doorway again looking very irritated.

JOSH

Yes?

EDNA

I'm trying to make a birthday card for my best friend.

JOSH

Why don't you just buy her one?

EDNA

This is more personal.

JOSH

That's a nice gesture.

EDNA

Plus, she only gave my son 5 dollars at his 8th birthday party last month. Her husband is a CEO of a huge Bridal Enterprise company. Making millions off people's happiness. So selfish. She can afford more than that. How much did you get at your 8th birthday party?

JOSH

I don't think I had a birthday party when I was 8.

EDNA

What about your parents? What'd they get you?

JOSH

A used book and a slinky. It's all they could ever afford.

EDNA

Well, if you were to get money, you would have gotten 20 dollars. 20 is the standard amount until your 18.

JOSH

How much do you give at 18?

EDNA

You don't. You give 'em a sweater.

Beat.

EDNA (CONT'D)

Anyway, I don't really know what to say in the card, so I was thinking of just finding a picture of a card and doing one of those copy-paste things. Do you know a site that would let me do that?

JOSH

Not off the top of my head.

EDNA

Ugh! Well you have to help me think of something. I'm no good at personal things.

SHANE (22, slacker, library page) stands at the door.

SHANE

(nervously)

Um, Edna? There's this guy at the reference desk and he wants to know who he can complain to about something. I think he's senile and drooling.

EDNA

(irritated)

I don't have time for complaints! Do you even know how busy I am right now?

SHANE

You must be working on something pretty important?

EDNA

As a matter of fact I am. I'm making a birthday card for my friend.

SHANE

Why don't you just send her one of those Song E-Cards?

EDNA

What is that?

SHANE

It's an email with a happy birthday message that plays a song when she opens it. My favorite is the "Funky Town" card. (SINGING) "Going to take you! (HIGH PITCHED) To Funky Town!"

Edna reclines in her chair and slightly nods her head to his singing.

Josh raises both eyebrows in confusion.

JOSH
Would you like me to take care the complainer?

EDNA
(brightly)
Yes!

Josh walks out.

EDNA (CONT'D)
Do you see that Shane? Josh is so proactive. You could learn a thing or two from him.

Beat.

EDNA (CONT'D)
Now, tell me more about this "Funky Town" card.

Shane smiles.

INT. HALLWAY - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Josh is outside of Edna's office.

SHANE (O.S.)
(singing)
Happy Birthday from Mr. Roboto!

EDNA (O.S.)
I love it!

Josh shakes his head.

INT. REFERENCE DESK - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

An ELDERLY MAN stands impatiently at the reference desk.

JOSH
How can I help you, sir?

ELDERLY MAN
(bitterly)
You can help me by finding the Los Angeles Times. It's missing.

JOSH

Perhaps someone is just reading it?

ELDERLY MAN

I've looked at every table. Nobody's reading it.

Josh reaches in his pocket and pulls out two quarters.

JOSH

I'm really sorry about that.

He hands the man the quarters.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Here's two quarters. Why don't you go outside the library to the newspaper rack. You can buy a brand new paper and keep it all to yourself.

ELDERLY MAN

(irritated)

Did I ask for your money? I have money! I've got social security! Something you'll never have! I can buy one of my own damn papers! It's the principal of the matter.

JOSH

Well, there's nothing I can do today except offer you a complementary version that you can keep.

ELDERLY MAN

But I don't want to read my own. I want to read the libraries. Are you stupid?

JOSH

There's no need to call me names.

ELDERLY MAN

Do you know how long newspapers have been around?

JOSH

A long time?

ELDERLY MAN

Longer than that! And this library is causing its extinction! This entire library is on a downward spiral, for that matter!

Beat.

ELDERLY MAN (CONT'D)

You should have better security for the papers. Some sort of box with a lock on it or something. That's how we secured things in the old days!

JOSH

In an ideal world, you are probably right. But the library simply does not have the time or budget for that kind of device.

Beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I understand your concern, but I'm afraid there's nothing else I can offer you at this time.

Elderly Man leaves frustrated.

TAYLOR (21, young, bright, cute librarian) approaches the desk as he's leaving.

TAYLOR

Let me guess? Newspapers?

Josh nods.

INT. STORYTELLING THEATRE - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

CARL (35, librarian) uses two plain gold toe socks to act out a story he is reading to a circle of KIDS.

CARL

Bobby's mother pointed her finger at Bobby and said, "Eat your vegetables or you'll turn into a rat!"

One KID interrupts --

KID 1

Time out! First off, everyone knows a kid can't turn into a rat because he won't eat his stupid carrots.

CARL

It's not literal.

KID 1
I mean, you probably ate all your
broccoli and you still turned into a
rat!

The kids laugh.

CARL
(flustered)
No I...didn't.

KID 1
Second, you're using socks as puppets.

CARL
They're not puppets, they're humans.

KID 1
They're gold toe socks!

CARL
Humans!

KID 1
My dad has those socks and his feet
smell like burnt pizza.

All the kids chuckle.

CARL
Your dad should use better soap. I use
Dove and a nice Brazilian lotion.

KID 1
You know what, YOU'RE STUPID!

CARL
That's not nice.

All the kids chant.

KIDS
Stupid, Stupid, Stupid!

Carl shakes his head and fears they are right. He gets up and
storms out upset.

INT. REFERENCE DESK - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

The Storytelling Theatre door busts open.

Taylor and Josh watch Carl leave the room.

Kids chant from inside.

KIDS
Stupid, Stupid, Stupid!

Carl runs from the door.

CARL
(calling back)
I am not stupid!

Edna stares at the scene.

As Carl runs past her and towards the back of the library, Edna turns and looks at Taylor.

EDNA
Taylor, can I see you in my office?

Roller Skater continues to skate around.

JOSH
(mumbles)
Ugh! Not again.
(calls out)
You can't skate in here, sir!

Curt walks by Josh towards Roller Skater.

CURT
I'll handle this Josh.

Curt cracks his knuckles as he approaches Roller Skater.

CURT (CONT'D)
For the last time, sir, you can't skate
in here. Can you please take it
outside?

Roller Skater stops.

ROLLER SKATER
What time is it?

Curt looks at his watch.

CURT
1:25.

ROLLER SKATER
Crap! It's time for my power shake.

Roller Skater skates off and leaves the building.

Curt walks over to Josh.

CURT

You see? I told you I'd take care of it.

Curt smiles proudly.

INT. EDNA'S OFFICE - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Edna stands and faces the wall. She stares at a motivational poster when Taylor enters the office.

TAYLOR

You wanted to see me?

Edna, back turned, stares at the poster: A picture of a fist and the words, "THERE IS NO I IN TEAM, BUT THERE IS A ME."

EDNA

Do you know why I'm a manager, Taylor?

TAYLOR

Because you like helping people.

EDNA

Power.

Beat.

EDNA (CONT'D)

When I was a girl, my mom was like a servant to my father. He worked and she served. And you know what happened?

TAYLOR

What?

EDNA

She found out he was cheating on her with Marcia.

TAYLOR

Who's Marcia?

EDNA

She was a waitress or a house cleaner or a hooker or something. That's not the point! The point is, that when my mom left him, she didn't know where to turn because she had no power. She had always been a good servant, but servants don't survive in the real world do they?

Taylor doesn't say anything.

Edna turns around.

EDNA (CONT'D)
Do they?!

TAYLOR
No?

EDNA
Smart girl.

Edna takes a seat at her desk and motions for Taylor to sit in front of her.

EDNA (CONT'D)
I want you to take over Story time. Carl doesn't have what it takes anymore.

TAYLOR
I can't do that. I'm terrified of crowds.

EDNA
Nonsense. They're just children. What can they do?

TAYLOR
They could spit at my face. They could poop on my shoe. They could pull my hair. They could poop on my shoe while pulling my hair.

EDNA
They could also punch you in the neck. But, that's besides the point! Carl isn't suited for the job anymore.

TAYLOR
Maybe we should ask Carl?

EDNA
Taylor, this is your big moment to shine in the library. Storytellers are the heroes of the library. Did you know that?

Taylor shrugs.

EDNA (CONT'D)
Don't you want to be a hero?

TAYLOR
It's just that I don't know the first thing about storytelling.

Edna pulls a piece of paper from her printer and writes on it.

Taylor watches her curiously.

When she finishes writing, Edna holds it up in front of Taylor.

EDNA

Read it.

Taylor looks uncomfortable.

TAYLOR

(awkwardly)

The cat jumped over the moon and was hit
by a space shuttle.

EDNA

Wonderful! You can read! I knew you
could!

TAYLOR

I just don't think I'd be good.

EDNA

How about if I make Shane sit in there
and assist you?

TAYLOR

Do I have a choice?

Curt knocks on the open door.

CURT

Sorry to disturb, Edna. But there is a
man who keeps coming in and out of the
library roller skating.

EDNA

What do you want me to do? You're the
security guard.

CURT

I can't get him to listen to me.

EDNA

You'll never be a cop, Curt, if you
can't get people to listen to you. You
know, your brother--

Edna pulls out a picture of Carl's brother (Muscular, Navy Seal
uniform) from her desk and stares at it with admiration.

EDNA (CONT'D)

-- could get people to listen to him.
And if they didn't listen to him, he'd
grab them by the balls. Sometimes, in
this lousy economy, you gotta be a ball
grabber, Curt.

CURT

Maybe if I had a written policy from you
making skating in the library illegal.

Edna sighs and writes on a piece of paper. She hands it to
Taylor.

EDNA

Read it.

TAYLOR

(reading)
No rollerskating in the library.

Taylor hands Curt the paper.

CURT

Thank you, Edna.

Curt leaves.

Edna looks at Taylor.

EDNA

Power.

Edna nods her head.

INT. BOOKSTACKS - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Josh sits crossed legged on the ground and secretly reads the
book "Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk."

BRENDA (40, a large, overweight woman) walks down the stacks.
Josh is startled and quickly pushes the book into an open space
on the shelf.

BRENDA

Librarians aren't supposed to read while
on duty.

JOSH

(nervously)
I wasn't reading.

Brenda rolls her eyes.

BRENDA

There's a patron complaining about a man.

She pauses embarrassed.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

About a man fondling himself.

JOSH

Maybe he just has a scratch?

BRENDA

On his penis! Anyway, my job is to report not to investigate.

INT. COMPUTER LAB - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Josh notices a SPANISH HOMELESS MAN using one hand to type on the computer and the other to masturbate.

Josh walks over to the man and taps him on the shoulder.

JOSH

Sir, you can't do that here.

Homeless Man gestures "one second" with the off-hand--

SPANISH HOMELESS MAN

I'm almost done.

Josh looks around the room where patrons watch.

Spanish Man types into the messenger, wiggles a little and sighs.

SPANISH HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)

All done.

Spanish Man stands and leaves; dragging a bag of cans behind him.

INT. CIRCULATION AREA - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Roller Skater twirls around in circles.

Curt walks up to him.

CURT

Sir?

ROLLER SKATER

You again.

CURT

I've got a written policy by the library manager that says you can't roller skate in the library.

Roller Skater stops twirling.

ROLLER SKATER

Let me see that.

Curt hands him the piece of paper.

Roller Skater rips it.

Curt picks up the papers off the ground.

Josh approaches.

JOSH

Why do you even like skating in here in the first place?

ROLLER SKATER

Because books are strong and balanced.

JOSH

Books do have a dense wealth of knowledge.

ROLLER SKATER

Knowledge? I'm talking about using books for ramps.

Roller Skater charges towards a wooden ramp propped up by a stack of books. He hits the ramp, leaps up, clicks his blade together in mid-air and sticks it.

He twirls on.

INT. CIRCULATION DESK - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Josh walks behind the circulation desk where Brenda is standing bored at the counter.

JOSH

Don't you ever miss the days when libraries were quiet and people just read?

BRENDA

You're telling me.

A PHONE RINGS LOUDLY (Justin Timberlake song). Brenda turns her back towards Josh and pulls out her phone.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
(loudly into the phone)
What is it?

Beat.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
I don't know. Does pizza sound good?

Beat.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
We can get that new Angelina movie where
she shows off her boobs for half the
movie.

Beat.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Not Ice Cubes! Boobs!

Josh shakes his head.

JOSH
(muttering to himself)
Man how I miss those days.

Curt, dejected, walks over.

JOSH (CONT'D)
What's wrong, Curt?

CURT
It's this roller skater.

Josh notices the Roller Skater whizzing around.

CURT (CONT'D)
He won't listen to me. How am I going
to become a real cop if I can't get
people to see me as an authority figure?

JOSH
It's not you, Curt. The man is crazy.
Just call the cops.

CURT
NO! I don't want to do that! I'll be
the laughing stock at the L.S.G.C. this
year.

JOSH
L.S.G.C.?

CURT
The Library Security Guard Convention.

Brenda interrupts.

BRENDA
Challenge him to a race.

CURT
Challenge him?

BRENDA
If you want to gain respect, you gotta
beat him at his own game.

JOSH
I don't think that's a good idea.

CURT
It's a brilliant idea!

JOSH
(mumbles)
What do I know.

INT. STORYTELLING THEATRE - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

Taylor reads a book to a circle of KIDS. A FEMALE TEACHER
lingers.

Shane acts out the story with sock puppets. One of the puppets
has fake blonde hair pasted on it and the other has a cardboard
crown on its head.

TAYLOR
(a poor reader)
And the-the prince looked... at the
princess and said-

Shane has both of the puppets looking at each other.

The kids watch alert and attentive.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
I will always love you no matter what
happens. To prove my love, I will seal
it with a kiss.

Shane makes the two sock puppets kiss.

The Kids cover their faces and squirm on the floor.

KIDS
EWWWWW!

TAYLOR

And the prince and princess lived
happily ever after. The end.

All the Kids applaud.

Taylor smiles.

Shane takes a bow.

Shane walks off, but trips on a stack of books on the ground.
He loses his balance in the process and falls.

The kids laugh.

The Teacher extends her hand to help up Shane.

TEACHER

I don't believe I've ever seen a helper
so animated before. Bravo!

Shane stands.

As the Kids applaud, Shane takes a second bow.

EXT. QUAD AREA - LIBRARY (DAY 1)

The Roller Skater sits on a bench. He drinks a power shake and
eats a banana.

Curt nervously jolts up to the Roller Skater.

CURT

Mr. Roller Skater man?!

ROLLER SKATER

Yeah?

CURT

I challenge you to a race!

Roller Skater smiles.

He flings his banana over his shoulder and into the street.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. ENTRANCE DOORS - LIBRARY (MORNING/DAY 2)

Josh stands at the door and turns off his iPod.

ROLLER SKATING SOUNDS are heard behind him.

He turns around. Curt is wearing old, pink roller skates from the 80's that look like they were bought in a thrift store. He's practicing. He falls.

Josh shakes his head and walks through the library's doors.

INT. CIRCULATION AREA - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

As Josh walks in-

INTERCOM

(static)

Josh to Edna's office, immediately.

Josh looks around confused.

JOSH

(mumbling)

How does she know?

As Josh starts to walk to the managers office, Taylor comes up to him.

TAYLOR

Newspaper man is back. Can you deal with him?

JOSH

I just got called into Edna's office.

TAYLOR

(sweetly)

I gotta work on my homework for my cataloging class. Please?

Josh rolls his eyes and proceeds to the reference desk.

INT. REFERENCE DESK - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Elderly Man waits unhappily at the desk.

JOSH

How can I help you, sir?

ELDERLY MAN

I'll tell you how you can help me. You can call the police!

JOSH

(unfazed)

What seems to be the trouble?

ELDERLY MAN

I found the man responsible for stealing the papers! I saw him put it right in his bag!

A MIDDLE-AGE MAN, who is sitting ten feet away, stands and quickly comes to the desk.

MIDDLE-AGE MAN

That old man is a liar!

ELDERLY MAN

(shouts)

Thief! Scallywag! Nixon lover!

WE SEE the newspaper--

JOSH

The paper is on the table. It doesn't look like he took anything.

ELDERLY MAN

Check his bag! The classifieds are in there.

MIDDLE-AGE MAN

Only because you kept trying to take them from me before I had a chance to read it.

ELDERLY MAN

See! He admits it!

MIDDLE-AGE MAN

Look, this old man comes in here everyday hogging the paper. He won't share with anyone until he's finished reading every section!

ELDERLY MAN

I have every right!

MIDDLE-AGE MAN

So do I.

The Middle-Age Man sits down at the table with his back turned.

INTERCOM

(static)

Josh? Where are you? Come quickly.

Josh shakes his head.

JOSH

(to the Old Man)

He didn't leave the library, so he didn't steal. Can you just wait your turn?

ELDERLY MAN

This library has no respect for it's elders.

Elderly Man leaves.

Josh walks to Edna's office.

INT. EDNA'S OFFICE - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Edna sits at her desk.

WE SEE THE COMPUTER: EBAY website on the screen.

Josh stands in the doorway several seconds before she acknowledges him.

EDNA

(concerned)

I called several times over the intercom. Did you hear the calls?

JOSH

I'm really sorry. I was helping a patron.

EDNA

You really do need to come immediately when I call and say the word IMMEDIATELY. We've been through this before. If I simply say your name, CARL-

JOSH

It's Josh.

EDNA

- then it means come at your convenience. But when I say IMMEDIATELY...it is urgent.

JOSH

Sorry. What was it that you needed?

EDNA

I can't remember. It probably wasn't important, but if I think of it I'll call you.

Josh nods and takes one step towards the office door.

EDNA (CONT'D)

(calling)

Josh. Can you come in my office?

JOSH

Yes.

He turns back around.

EDNA

I knew I would remember. Have ever used eBay?

JOSH

A couple times.

EDNA

Is it safe? Someone told me that one of the websites that sold stuff was owned by terrorists.

JOSH

I've never had a problem.

EDNA

That's what I thought. Do you think three hundred is a good price for a Marc Jacobs purse?

JOSH

I really don't know.

EDNA

Don't you have an opinion?

JOSH

I don't really follow purse prices.

EDNA

You're a librarian! Research it and report back to me!

JOSH

What about the books I'm supposed to be ordering right now?

EDNA

Ugh! I'll just ask Taylor.

INT. REFERENCE DESK - LIBRARY (DAY TWO)

Josh, Shane and Taylor stand behind the counter.

TAYLOR

The kids really liked the reading.

SHANE

I don't mean to be rude, but I think the kids loved my performance more than the stupid book.

TAYLOR

Next time we do a reading, can you not interject words that aren't in the story.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

INT. STORYTELLING THEATRE - LIBRARY (PAST)

Taylor reads while Shane acts it out.

TAYLOR

The princess was very depressed.

A little FRECKLE FACE KID raises his hand.

FRECKLE FACE KID

What does depressed mean?

TAYLOR

Umm...like melancholy.

The Kids stare blankly and confused at Taylor.

SHANE

(mutters to Taylor)

They don't understand that.

TAYLOR

(struggling)

She was, umm, upset.

The Kids scratch their heads puzzled.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

She...was...umm.

Shane steps in.

SHANE

How do you guys feel when a bully gives you a wedgie?

KIDS

(in unison)

Bad!

SHANE

That's how the princess felt.

FRECKLE FACE KID

The princess got a wedgie?

TAYLOR

No-

SHANE

(interrupts)

Yes! The princess got a wedgie.

The kids all nod in agreement.

FRECKLE FACE KID

I hate wedgies.

Taylor rolls her eyes.

CUT BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. REFERENCE DESK - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Shane bites into a baby carrot.

SHANE

Well, maybe if you knew how to read, I wouldn't have to say anything.

Carl walks by.

TAYLOR

Hey, Carl.

CARL

I don't want to talk to you right now.

TAYLOR

What did I do?

CARL

You know what you did! You scallywag!

JOSH

In one day, I've heard that word used more times than my entire life.

CARL

(to Taylor)

Oh, and I hate how you read!

Carl jets out.

SHANE

I second that.

TAYLOR

What did I do?

JOSH

Carl loved to read to those kids, Taylor. It's one of the only joys he gets from working here. I know you didn't mean to, but you took that joy away from him.

TAYLOR

I didn't know that. I don't even want to read to the stupid kids! Edna's making me! And he's right! I do read terribly!

SHANE

That you do. That you...do.

Shane bites into another baby carrot.

INT. REFERENCE DESK - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Carl sits at the reference. He reads a book to a circle of Bratz Girlz figurines and animal crackers set up on the desk.

CARL

(to the figurines)

Now, kids, if Mother Goose says to brush your teeth to keep the evil cavity Witch away...what should we do?

Carl quickly puts down the book and grabs an elephant animal cracker and a Bratz Girlz doll --

CARL (CONT'D)

(kid voice)

Brush our teeth! You're so smart, Mr. Carl.

Carl gushes.

CARL (CONT'D)
 (his voice)
 Thank you wonderful children. Now, who
 wants an apple?!

He grabs the figurines and wiggles them--

CARL (CONT'D)
 (kid voice)
 YAY!!!

Josh sits down in the chair next to him.

INTERCOM
 (static)
 Taylor to Edna's office, immediately.

Josh rolls his eyes and looks at Carl.

JOSH
 You ever tell yourself this isn't what
 you signed up for?

CARL
 (bitterly)
 Almost everyday.

JOSH
 Sometimes I get the feeling that people
 don't even read anymore. Even the
 librarians.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

INT. BREAKROOM - LIBRARY (PAST)

Edna stares as Josh sits and reads a book.

EDNA
 (puzzled)
 What is that?

JOSH
 It's a book by Thomas Pynchon.

EDNA
 Oh, I know him. He's dating Julia
 Roberts, right?

JOSH
 I don't think so.

EDNA
 (confidently)
 I'm quite sure of it. That guy's a
 country singer. I absolutely love Julia
 Roberts! Movies stars aren't what they
 used to be.

Josh hides behind his book.

EDNA (CONT'D)
 Did you ever see Hook?

JOSH
 No.

EDNA
 Most beautiful movie ever made. It was
 like poetry on the screen.

JOSH
 Do you like poetry?

EDNA
 Very much so!

JOSH
 Do you like Robert Frost?

EDNA
 Who?

JOSH
 He's a poet.

EDNA
 (laughing)
 I don't like to read poetry! I like to
 watch it.

CUT BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. REFERENCE DESK - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

As they were.

JOSH
 People don't want books anymore. They
 just want to give us problems. Taylor
 even said a kid tried to poop in her
 shoe!
 (pause)
 I miss the way libraries used to be.

CARL

At least I had my story time to look forward to. Now, I don't even have that.

JOSH

You know, that's not Taylor's fault. You shouldn't be so hard on her.

Carl lowers his head and sighs. He bites into a monkey animal cracker.

INT. BREAKROOM - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Carl slumps in a chair and lets yogurt drip from his spoon onto the table.

Taylor walks in and sits next to Carl.

TAYLOR

I see you're a fan of yogurt.

CARL

(depressed)

I get two and one half of my daily fruit intake in this cup.

TAYLOR

I didn't know all that fruit was in that little cup.

CARL

There's a lot of things you don't know.

Beat.

TAYLOR

Look, Carl. I'm sorry that I took over story time. If I knew how much it meant to you, I never would've let Edna assign me to it.

CARL

I know. It's just that, for thirteen years, I've been reading to the children. It's the reason why I come to work. It reminds me of what the library used to be. I guess I just miss that.

Taylor smiles and touches Carl's arm.

Edna walks in.

EDNA

Taylor! What are you doing in here?
Your class just walked in for story
time!

Carl slumps lower in his chair.

Taylor stands next to Edna.

TAYLOR

Edna, I was thinking.

EDNA

Thinking is never good.

TAYLOR

How about incorporating Carl into the
reading? He's great with kids and,
frankly, I don't read too good.

EDNA

Well! It's "I don't read too well."
OK. Fine.

Edna stares at her clipboard.

EDNA (CONT'D)

Carl, you help out with story time today
with Taylor and Shane.

Taylor smiles.

Carl smiles.

He shoves a spoonful of yogurt into his mouth.

EXT. STREET - FRONT OF LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Curt and Roller Skater stand behind an imaginary line marked off
by two orange cones.

Brenda stands off in the distance.

ROLLER SKATER

You're going down, security man!

CURT

We'll see about that.

Curt looks down at his pink roller skates.

CURT (CONT'D)

My mom used to win roller derbies in
these skates.

ROLLER SKATER

When? In the 1950's.

CURT

(proudly)

In the 1980's!

BRENDA

(yelling out)

The first one to make it past me wins
the race! Are you guys ready?

ROLLER SKATER

Let's get this over with already!

Curt gives a thumbs up.

BRENDA

OK. On your mark! Get set!

Brenda, holding a front desk bell, hits it.

BING.

Curt and Roller Skater charge on towards Brenda. Roller Skater
gains a sizeable lead as Curt can barely keep his balance.

He turns back and laughs at Curt struggling.

When he turns back around, he sees his banana peel right in
front of him. He slips on it and falls.

Curt makes up some ground, but not much.

Roller Skater gets up and skates more determined.

He's about to cross Brenda at the finish line.

All of a sudden, an old Cadillac Sedan backs back into him!
Roller Skater falls to the ground.

Elderly Man, inside the driver seat of the Sedan, pokes his head
out the window.

ELDERLY MAN

(yelling)

Darn roller skaters! This is a library-
not a roller rink!

Curt slowly passes him and goes on to win.

Brenda grabs Curt's arm.

BRENDA

And the winner is...Curt!

Brenda holds up Curt's arm.

Curt smiles, loses his balance and falls to the ground.

INT. STORYTELLING THEATRE - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

All the kids gather around and listen to Carl read the story.

CARL

The monkey danced and danced to please
the unicorn.

Shane dances wildly.

Taylor stares at him with a giant cardboard spiral glued to her
forehead. She isn't pleased.

The kids laugh.

CARL (CONT'D)

And the unicorn smiled with joy.

Taylor frowns.

SHANE

(whispers)
Smile, Taylor!

TAYLOR

I have a giant cardboard unicorn horn
glued to my forehead. I am not smiling!

CARL

And the unicorn- SMILED.

SHANE

(angry and under his breath)
You are not going to blow my
performance. You smile right now!

The Kids begin to chant.

KIDS

Smile! Smile! Smile!

Taylor looks at the kids.

She smiles.

KIDS (CONT'D)

Yay!

Shane, the monkey, dances more enthusiastically and crazily.

INT. COMPUTER LAB - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Josh shelves books near the computers occupied by TEENAGERS.

All of a sudden, the computers begin to malfunction and turn off.

TEENAGER ONE

No! My MySpace profile changes weren't saved!

The Teenager hits the computer.

The other teenagers begin hitting and kicking the computers.

Josh runs over.

JOSH

Stop hitting the computers! Let me see what's going on.

Josh fiddles with some cords below.

JOSH (CONT'D)

It looks like the computers shorted out.

TEENAGER ONE

English, buddy! English!

JOSH

No computers!

All the teenagers groan.

TEENAGER ONE

This library sucks. Let's get out of here.

The teenagers walk off and leave the library.

Josh watches and lowers his head.

An 11 year old GIRL taps Josh on the arm.

JOSH

The computers aren't working today!

GIRL

I don't want to use the computer.

Josh turns towards the Girl.

JOSH
What do you want?

GIRL
A book. I wanted to know if you had
anything good to read.

Josh looks at the smiling Girl.

JOSH (V.O.)
You see, there is still hope for society
after all.

He smiles.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Have you ever read, "The Little Prince"?

GIRL
No.

Josh escorts.

JOSH
Well, you're in for a treat.

The two of them walk off.

JOSH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Sure, libraries are different from what
they used to be. But so is everything
in life. I guess the most important
thing that we can do is-

INT. STORYTELLING THEATRE - LIBRARY (DAY 2)

Carl reads. Kids laugh as they watch Shane and Taylor act out
the story.

JOSH (V.O.)
To adapt to the future without
forgetting the past.

CARL
(reading)
And the monkey and the unicorn sealed it
with a kiss.

Shane raises both his eyebrows.

Taylor waves her finger.

TAYLOR
Oh! No way! No way!

Shane makes a puppy dog face.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Fine.

Taylor kisses him on the cheek.

KIDS

YAY! EEEWWWW!

Shane dances around happy. The kids join in.

Carl and Taylor smile.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. REFERENCE AREA - LIBRARY (DAY 3/MORNING)

Middle-Age Man sits and reads the California section of the newspaper.

All of a sudden, Elderly Man snatches it out of his hand.

MIDDLE-AGE MAN

Hey!

Elderly Man stuffs it into an old wooden chest that he's obviously brought from home.

He sets the chest on the newspaper rack.

He slams the lid and snaps the lock.

ELDERLY MAN

Safe and sound.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW