

THE SPOILT CHILD

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INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Veronica , a caterer, is busy in her kitchen. She has at two pots boiling. Steam is puffing from the lids. She lifts the cover of one pot and takes a taste.

There is a platter of sandwiches on the counter nearby. She wraps the platter in a sheet of wide commercial-grade plastic wrap.

Her seven year old son DAVID walks past the kitchen with a computer tablet in his hands and headphones over his ears. He goes into the adjoining living room and takes a seat.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

David connects his tablet to a large flat-screen TV and starts playing a video game.

Veronica joins him and tries to enjoy a moment with her son. She removes the head phones from his ears.

VERONICA

(playfully)

How come you never teach me how to play any of your games? Are you afraid I'll be better than you?

David snickers at his mom's ridiculous suggestion. He hands her the tablet and attempts to show her how to play the game. The picture on the TV screen gets fuzzy and the screen goes black. David goes over to the TV and gives it a good whack. The screen remains black. He appears a bit agitated as he hits the TV again.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Don't do that David. Hitting it won't fix the problem. Wouldn't it be better if we just had someone look at it and have it repaired?

David chooses to delicately defy his mother and lightly shakes the TV instead. It immediately lights. He smiles triumphantly at his mother.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

So I guess you'll just beat it every time it stops working, right? That's not very smart.

A waft of smoke from the kitchen alerts her to get back to work. She gets up quickly.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I'm coming back right now.

She hustles towards the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Mom opens a cupboard door and quickly evaluates the contents. She takes her hand and moves some items around to get a better look. Something is missing.

She keeps the cupboard door open and walks a few steps across to open another. She looks in, shoves some things around and then walks purposefully over to the refrigerator and rips a sheet of paper from a small magnetic note-pad stuck to the refrigerator door. She also takes the pen attached to the note-pad.

She leans on the kitchen counter and begins to write. She pauses, looks quickly into one of the cupboards again then continues to make her list.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

David is engrossed in his game and is quite animated.

VERONICA

David.

He doesn't answer. She walks over and removes his headphones.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I need you to go to the shop for me.

David seems a little perturbed.

DAVID

You mean right now, mom?

VERONICA

(sarcastically)

And when do you think would be a better time young man? Of course I mean right now. Here. Just give this to Mr. Charles at the shop.

She extends her arm and hands him the note and a fifty dollar bill but just as he attempts to take them from her she takes them back and folds both the money and the note together then hands the neatly folded packet back to him.

David places it in his pocket and with his headphones around his neck prepares to leave the house.

EXT. IN FRONT THE HOUSE - DAY

David is fiddling with the tablet and trying to put the headphones back on his head. Mom watches from the front door and calls out to him.

VERONICA

David come back here.

She walks over to meet him and begins to remove the headphones from his head and signals him to hand over the tablet. David is annoyed.

DAVID

Mom!

She is holding the electronics in her hand.

VERONICA

You're not going to pay attention and you'll wind up being hit by a car or something. They'll be right here when you get back home, okay.

David is not happy but yields to his mother's wishes. He looks down and mumbles.

DAVID

Mom! I'm just listening to music.

VERONICA

Listen to me young man. You just go straight to the shop and get back here quickly. Miss Jacobs is going to be here soon to collect her things so just don't get up to any mischief okay. Hurry up.

She walks back to the house as David starts his journey.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

David walks towards one of his friends' home and sees him giving a puppy a bath in the front yard. He walks up to the gate and calls out to JOEY.

DAVID

Alex is that yours?

David's face is filled with excitement as he watches his friend interacting with the puppy.

JOEY

My dad got him for me. When I'm done I'm going to teach him some tricks.

DAVID

When I get back from the shop, I'll ask mommy if I can come play with you. See you later.

David waves at his friend then continues his journey.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

David is walking past an open field with lots of bush and large trees. He sees a toy plane trapped in the bush.

EXT. IN THE BUSHES - DAY

David is trying to retrieve the plane and in doing so accidentally loses his money. The money begins to roll away with the wind. David is captivated by the plane and is unaware of his loss.

INT. MR. CHARLES' SHOP - DAY

Mr. Charles stands behind the counter and folds a paper bag then hands it over to an old lady on the other side of the counter. David arrives at the shop and reaches into his pocket but can not locate the money. He runs from the shop dropping the toy plane along the way.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

David is running in a panic. He looks all around as he retraces his path.

EXT. IN THE BUSHES - DAY

David returns to the spot where he found the plane and looks everywhere but the money is nowhere to be found.

He hears a sound in the bushes and looks up to see a large man staring down at him. The man looks friendly.

MAN

What are you looking for?

DAVID

I can't find my money and have to go to the shop.

MAN

Maybe the wind blew it away. You should look further down the trail.

The man points into the wooded area and walks in that direction. David follows.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mom has parted the kitchen curtains and is looking out to the street. She closes the curtains and goes to the front door.

EXT. IN FRONT THE HOUSE - DAY

Mom walks into the street in front of her house and looks up one way then the other then back again expecting to see her son in the distance. She turns and heads back to the front door, frustrated.

EXT. IN THE BUSHES - DAY

Without warning the man pounces on David claspng his large hand over his mouth and violently shoves him to the ground.

The man begins to unbuckle his pants.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

David is walking along the road and approaches Joey's house. He is moving slowly and almost without purpose. He is looking down as he passes Joey's house but does not notice his friend in the yard playing 'fetch' with his dog. The boy sees David and tries to talk to him.

JOEY

Are you okay? What happened? Are coming back later?

David does not respond. The boy watches confused and concerned as David walks away from him.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Veronica is on the phone apologizing to a client.

VERONICA

I'm sorry... yes I know it's late... no I
don't expect you to pay the full price...

She hears the front door open and abruptly ends the
conversation.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I'll see you at five-thirty.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

David enters the room but does not close the door behind
him. Veronica approaches her son and shouts at him.

VERONICA

Where were you all this time? Did you go
to the shop? Where is the money?

David does not answer and tries to walk past her which
only infuriates her. She takes him by his collar and
escorts him to his bedroom.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

You're going to learn to listen to me
okay.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Veronica removes his already unbuckled belt and begins to
beat her son repeatedly on his buttocks.

FADE OUT.