

ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. LAWRENCE'S LA OFFICE - DAY

LAWRENCE TESLEY (30s) is up to his neck in paper work.

Lawrence's cell phone is sitting on his desk. The phone is silent, but it lights up and Lawrence sees the text from MOM.

INSERT: Cellphone: Mom, "911"

Lawrence does nothing.

The office phone rings in the distance.

Beat.

Over Lawrence's intercom we hear his secretary, SAM interrupt.

SAM (O.S.)

Mr. Tesley, your mother's on line one. She says it's urgent.

LAWRENCE

Sam, I'm in the middle of a case.

SAM

Sir, it's your mother.

LAWRENCE

No, Sam.

SAM

She says it's an emergency.

LAWRENCE

We talked about this.

SAM

She said it's an emergency, sir.

Lawrence picks up the phone.

EXT. MOM'S LONG BEACH APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

ELANORE TESLEY, Lawrence's mother, a retiree in an over 55+ complex is standing next to two suitcases. Next to her are two neighbors sitting in folding chairs with all their belongings, PHYLLIS and ETHEL.

MOM
(to phone)
Lawrence, I'm homeless.

ACT I

INT. LAWRENCE'S LA OFFICE - DAY

On the phone with mom.

LAWRENCE
You're not homeless.

MOM
Honey, I am. They just demolished
the building. It was horrible.

LAWRENCE
Are you serious?

MOM
I'm just so sad. To get thrown out
of your home. Do you know what
that's like?

LAWRENCE
No, mom. I don't.

MOM
It makes me feel so insignificant.

LAWRENCE
I'm sorry mom. I know how much you
liked it there.

MOM
Where am I going to live?

LAWRENCE
You can stay with me.

MOM
Great. I'll see you tonight.

LAWRENCE
Do you need anything else mom? I
gotta get back to work.

MOM
Don't tell your father.

EXT. LAWRENCE'S LA HOUSE - NIGHT

A nice house with a pool.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence and Mom sit at the table and go over the eviction.

LAWRENCE

They have to give you 30 days
notice.

MOM

They didn't, they just knocked and
said get out.

LAWRENCE

They forced you out?

Beat.

MOM

Yes.

LAWRENCE

Then you might have a good case.
What are the girls doing? Your
friends, where are they going to
live?

MOM

Phyllis is going to move in with
her sister in Florida. Ethel says
she's getting one of those motor
homes.

LAWRENCE

You always wanted to do that. Why
don't you go with her? And, visit
Phyllis in Florida.

MOM

I can't drive that thing, and
Ethel, that blind-bat, she would
kill us before we got out of the
state. It'll be like I'm not even
here.

LAWRENCE

Then what's in my driveway?

MOM

I've never been one to travel light.

LAWRENCE

No, you have not.

MOM

Oh, I've missed you. When was the last time we had a sleep over?

LAWRENCE

Last time I lived with you. So, 3 years ago.

MOM

Seems like you were still my little boy then.

LAWRENCE

I was 32.

MOM

And now you have this beautiful home, and look at your poor mummy.

LAWRENCE

Come on. You'll be able to get your own place again mom.

MOM

Why? So they can just kick me out of it again? I can't afford to buy. I'd need a loan get in the door.

LAWRENCE

Well, what happened to the \$40,000 they gave you a severance pay?

MOM

Creditors siphoned that.

LAWRENCE

I didn't know you were in debt.

MOM

What the hell were you going to do? I didn't mean it like that.

LAWRENCE

I know, mom.

MOM

What good is it if we're both in debt?

LAWRENCE

What if I lose my job again? This could all be gone. And, then what?

MOM

We'd figure it out together. And by we, I mean, you. Lawrence, you're an attorney, you'll always be in demand in the land of frivolity.

LAWRENCE

That was not a compliment.

MOM

It's weaved in there.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Lawrence is seated at the table eating.

Mom is cooking at the stove in her robe.

ANGELA RIVERS, (30s) - wearing scrubs and a jacket enters the house unannounced. She carries breakfast for two.

Angela sees the back of a woman cooking in a robe, and Lawrence, her boyfriend - eating at the table.

Lawrence takes a bite of his muffin just as he sees Angela. Lawrence inhales, and starts coughing on the muffin.

Mom says without taking her eye off the stove.

MOM

Chew your food baby.

Angela lip syncs "baby" and assumes this is an affair.

ANGELA

How long has this been going on?

Lawrence can't talk. Mom says without taking her eye off the stove.

MOM

Turn off that obnoxious video.

ANGELA

Where'd you find her?

Mom turns around.

MOM
Excuse me?

Lawrence still coughing, can't speak yet.

MOM (CONT'D)
Honey, tell her who I am.

ANGELA
Oh hell no. Y'all white folks into
some fucked up fetishes.

LAWRENCE
(mumbling)
Angela.

ANGELA
That's all you got to say?

Angela heads for the door.

LAWRENCE
Wait. Wait.

Lawrence forces down a sip of water, and follows Angela.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Angela reverses her car down the driveway. Lawrence
approaches the passenger side.

LAWRENCE
Wait! Ang! That really is my
mother. She got evicted.

ANGELA
That is your mother?

LAWRENCE
Yes.

ANGELA
Larry?

LAWRENCE
Yes.

ANGELA
Send your girl a text message!

Angela drives away.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Lawrence, and Mom continue with breakfast.

LAWRENCE

No, I didn't tell you about her
because then you'd get like this.

MOM

Like this?

LAWRENCE

I can't talk about it now. I'll see
you tonight. Try not to burn down
the place.

MOM

It's like I'm not even here. Have a
great day my son, my son.

Lawrence picks up his briefcase and heads out.

ACT II

EXT. COFFEE SHOP SIDEWALK - DAY

LAWRENCE catches ANGELA leaving her break coffee shop with a
CO-WORKER, in scrubs.

ANGELA

(to coworker)
I'll see you inside.

Co-Worker walks off.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

I'm still mad at you. Why didn't
you just tell me?

LAWRENCE

My mother took away my phone.

ANGELA

You made me look really stupid in
there.

LAWRENCE

It's fine. Everything's fine. She's
not upset.

ANGELA

I'm upset. That was humiliating.

LAWRENCE

We're good. She's seen and done much worse.

ANGELA

No, we're not. You're the guy who forgot to text his girlfriend who he practically lives with, that when she comes home, there's going to be another woman in the kitchen cooking breakfast!

LAWRENCE

I see how you came to that conclusion.

ANGELA

This is why it's so hard to stay mad at you.

LAWRENCE

How can I make this right?

ANGELA

You can't.

LAWRENCE

Can I make it better?

ANGELA

A do over.

Angela's beeper goes off.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Let's talk about this later.

LAWRENCE

Our special spot, tonight!

ANGELA

Got to go. See you tonight at 7. You better look good.

She gently touches him goodbye with one finger and Angela walks back to the hospital.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - MOM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mom looks bored so she hops up and makes her way into the kitchen

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mom opens the fridge, judges the contents, smirks, sucks her teeth, and clicks her tongue. She closes the door, turns on the oven, and walks out of the kitchen.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mom walks in with a load of laundry giving herself probable cause to enter.

Mom opens the top drawer. Puts away her sons underwear, and just like a great parent, checks for any contraband. No luck.

Mom opens the next drawer, shirts. Searches, and finds a bar of soap.

MOM

I taught you that.

Mom turns and goes for the night stand. Instead of opening the drawer from the hanging handle Mom lifts a pen off the night stand and cautiously, like a burglar, uses the pen to open the drawer, so as not to leave finger prints.

But first, she pauses for a prayer not knowing what she might find.

Mom finds a canister of weed.

MOM (CONT'D)

Pool party!

EXT. POOL - MOMENTS LATER

Tight shot on Mom in the pool. On a float, ice-tea in one hand, phone in the other up to her ear.

INT. LAWRENCE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence is busy at his desk.

His cell phone is on silent, but we hear it vibrating on the desk. Lawrence looks, and sees it's Mom. He ignores it.

EXT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - POOL - CONTINUOUS

Mom, dials another number and puts the phone back to her ear.

SAM (O.S.)
Greene, Newinski, and Cohen? If
this is an emergency call 9-1-1.

MOM
Hi Sam.

INT. LAWRENCE'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

Sam talks to Mom.

SAM
How are we today, Elenore?

EXT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - POOL - DAY 2 - CONTINUOUS

No answer. MOM dials another number and puts the phone back to her ear. We intercut this phone scene between pool and office.

MOM
Did he tell you what happened to me
yesterday?

SAM (O.S.)
Devastating.

MOM
Tell me about it.

SAM (O.S.)
It's like a horror movie. Well, we
do have good news. Please thank
Ethel for the cream! I love it!

MOM
The eczema? Ethel's right here!

Mom hands the phone, and we reveal Ethel and Phyllis swimming in the pool.

SAM (O.S.)
Ethell, you're a goddess! I can't
wait to see you girls for Bingo
tomorrow night! Cash games get me
giddy.

ETHELL
Bingo. ! It's a rush isn't it? Yea,
we only got a few games left before
I hit the road -

Mom grabs the phone back.

MOM
Ok, let Sam go back to work.

SAM (O.S.)
You're fine.

MOM
You're sweet to say that, Sam. How about Lawrence? Is he busy?

SAM (O.S.)
Never too busy for you.

MOM
What would we do without you, Sam?

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence sitting at his desk, hears Sam over the intercom.

SAM (O.S.)
Your mother is on line one.

LAWRENCE
I'll call her back, Sam.

SAM (O.S.)
Line one, sir. Your *mother*.

Lawrence picks up the phone.

LAWRENCE
What Mom?

MOM (O.S.)
What time should I have dinner ready?

LAWRENCE
I'm going out to dinner with Angela.

MOM (O.S.)
Go out? Invite her over, the girls are here. Oh, yea. Is it ok if the girls come over?

LAWRENCE
Sure, mom.

MOM (O.S.)
Thanks, honey. Enjoy your fancy
dinner. I'll see you tonight.

Mom hangs up the phone.

MOM (CONT'D)
Yo Phil, push me to the side,
please. I gotta stir the sauce.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Lawrence and Angela are seated next to a small campfire,
eating pizza.

LAWRENCE
Angela, you have nothing to worry
about.

ANGELA
Yes, I do. You don't get a second
chance at a first impression.

Beat.

LAWRENCE
Then come over tonight. It's still
the first day so technically still
first impression-able.

ANGELA
No, I'm not coming over tonight.
What kind of girl do you want her
to think I am? Wait, what if I
showed up in the parka this
morning?

Lawrence leans in closer.

LAWRENCE
I'd push her right out the back
door into the pool.

Angela paws him lovingly to the face.

ANGELA
You love me.

They kiss.

LAWRENCE
OK, come back tomorrow. I'll make
breakfast.

Angela mimics typing a text message.

ANGELA
How hard was that?

EXT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Lawrence pulls in the garage past Ethel's car.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Music is blasting from the living room as Lawrence enters from the garage door.

He puts a leftover pizza slice in the fridge, and double takes at all the food Mom cooked.

He closes the door & follows the music.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence finds Mom, Phyllis and Ethel in the middle of a Zumba dance.

Phyllis notices Lawrence and quickly cuts the music.

PHYLLIS
Hi Lawrence, was it too loud? Is your girlfriend here? We were hoping to meet her.

ETHEL
She is probably scared to ever come back after seeing your wrinkled ass in a robe.

MOM
Wrinkled? You got more sun spots than a Dalmatian.

PHYLLIS
We better stop before Lawrence throws us out of here like every other joint in town.

LAWRENCE
I'm sorry to hear that you've all been evicted. It's truly terrible.

ETHEL
Crooks. Putting a bunch of old
ladies out on the street.

Phyllis puts her arm around Lawrence, and they turn around,
and off they go together into the kitchen.

EXT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

We pick up Lawrence walking with Phyllis.

LAWRENCE
I forgot how much you like to
bicker.

PHYLLIS
Why do you think I turn the music
on?

Lawrence opens the fridge and removes the pizza and puts it
on the counter.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)
Oh, my favorite! I'm taking a bite.
Tell Ethel I'm in the car.

LAWRENCE
Goodnight Phyllis.

Phyllis pulls off a piece of the pizza and exits into the
garage.

Lawrence cellphone dings.

INSERT: Text from Angela, "Can't wait for breakfast!"

Mom and Ethel enter the kitchen.

ETHEL
Phil, already in the car?

MOM
The car or the john.

LAWRENCE
Car.

ETHEL
Good night angel.

Ethel kisses Lawrence on the cheek.

ETHEL (CONT'D)
(kisses Mom on the cheek)
Get some sleep, or do something
about those bags under your eyes.
How do you think you'll ever find a
husband?

Ethel exits to the garage too. Mom follows, opens the door
and yells out.

MOM
Ethel, don't hit the mailbox! Tell
Phil to text me when she gets home.

Mom closes the door.

MOM (CONT'D)
You brought food. We cooked.

LAWRENCE
I saw.

MOM
How was dinner?

LAWRENCE
She is really concerned that you're
not going to like her now that,
this morning happened.

MOM
Oh, please. I was so happy that a
woman her age was jealous of me,
even if it was for one second.

LAWRENCE
It's a big deal to her, and to me.
I invited her over for breakfast
for a do over.

MOM
Terrific.

LAWRENCE
Breakfast tomorrow morning at
seven. Just the three of us.

ACT III

INT. MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

The clock reads 4:47 a.m.

ARTHUR TESLEY - (70) Lawrence's father is sound asleep.

Suddenly we hear banging on the front door.

Dad jolts awake and stumbles to the door.

NEIGHBOR

Get out man! The whole place is up
in smoke!

Neighbor runs off to save his own life.

Dad's reaction, registering the reality. We see the fire, and
flames reflecting off his face.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Lawrence is at the stove cooking breakfast.

The table is set.

Angele knocks first this time, and enters the kitchen.

ANGELA

Good morning.

LAWRENCE

In here.

ANGELA

He can cook too folks! My man does
it all.

Lawrence turns his back to the stove.

LAWRENCE

Hey baby.

ANGELA

Where's your mom?

LAWRENCE

She better be getting ready.

ANGELA

You're burning.

Lawrence turns back and tries to save the eggs.

Angela pours a glass of juice and sits down. She looks at the
newspaper that's on the table.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Did you wake your mother up?

KARL
No. But I told her you're coming
over.

ANGELA
Probably just wants to look her
best.

Lawrence plates the eggs and puts the platter on the table.

LAWRENCE
Start eating.

ANGELA
So, what's up for this weekend-

Suddenly we hear the door bell ring.

Lawrence looks at Angela neither expecting someone.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Who's that at seven in the morning?

LAWRENCE
Girl scout cookies?

Lawrence heads for the front door.

ANGELA
Stoner.

LAWRENCE
Yea, like you've never polished off
a sleeve of thin mints.

INT. FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence opens the door to reveal Dad in burnt clothes and charcoal on his face. His hair is full of ash.

DAD
My house burned down.

ANGELA (O.S.)
Lawrence, who is it?

MOM (O.S.)
Good morning.

Lawrence hears mom's voice, and looks at dad.

Mom joins Lawrence at the front door and sees Dad, her ex-husband - for the first time in 25 years.

MOM (CONT'D)

Oh, no!

Mom returns back into her room and slams the door.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Angela treats the burn on Dad's arm and Lawrence stands at the sink.

DAD

What's your mother doing here?

LAWRENCE

They evicted everyone at her apartment building.

DAD

So, is she staying here?

ANGELA

I'll let you two talk.

Angela picks up a plate of food and exits the kitchen.

INT. MOM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Angela delivers breakfast in bed to Mom.

ANGELA

You-hoo. Good morning. May I come in?

MOM

Yes, you sweet thing.

ANGELA

I didn't want the food to go to waste, or miss the opportunity to introduce myself and apologize for yesterday.

MOM

Apologize? It's my fault for not introducing myself. But, if you really want to make me feel better you'll go out there and barbecue that ex-husband of mine.

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

Well-done, like his hockey puck burgers. So, all the bacteria's dead.

ANGELA

OK. That's extremely specific.

MOM

How could this happen to me? Some luck. Just when it was going so well with my son and I. God, why couldn't you finish the job?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Back to Dad and Lawrence at the kitchen table.

LAWRENCE

When will your insurance kick in?

DAD

I lived in the trailer so I didn't have to pay insurance.

LAWRENCE

But, you've got nothing.

DAD

That is the downside.

Angela returns to the kitchen.

ANGELA

So, she's definitely not coming out.

Angela puts her glass in the sink and looks up to see Lawrence's reflection in the window. He doesn't look well.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Larry, you alright?

LAWRENCE

Not really.

ANGELA

Babe, eat something. I'll drive you to work.

Lawrence starts to slowly eat.

LAWRENCE

How am I going to go to work? I can't leave these two here? I'm not coming home to a murder scene.

DAD

Hey, I wouldn't kill her...here.

Angela tidy's up around the kitchen to avoid the uncomfortable conversation.

DAD (CONT'D)

So, how long you two been living together?

ANGELA

No, no. No living with boyfriends until engagement.

DAD

If you didn't live here then how would you know where everything goes in the cabinets?

ANGELA

Do you think your wi- your ex-wif -
Do you think Larry's mom knows?

DAD

She's clueless. I assure you.

LAWRENCE

We have to figure out this living situation. We can't live here. I can't live here.

ANGELA

Come stay with me for a little while.

LAWRENCE

And just leave the two of them here? They'll destroy the place.

DAD

Hey, I let you destroy my house when you were a kid. And you definitely destroyed your mother's...But, below was good because of the C-section.

Lawrence is totally grossed out, and pushes his plate away.

LAWRENCE

What is happening? Am I'm dreaming,
am I hallucinating? Babe, do I

Lawrence faints.

INT. MOM'S ROOM - LATER

Mom has changed to her pool attire like she's going to a magazine shoot.

Just before she opens the door to do her thing, Mom has another idea and changes costumes.

MOM

You're not ready for this old man.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY 3 - MOMENT LATER

Lawrence is sitting with a bag of frozen veggies on his head.

DAD

You ok, buddy? Glad that wasn't a heart attack. You know it runs in the family.

LAWRENCE

Yea, me too. Where's Ang?

DAD

She went to work. And, she called your boss. Told him you had a family emergency. Quite a woman.

LAWRENCE

Yea, don't blow it for me.

DAD

Son, I really need your help. I got nowhere to go until I can get the gold I buried behind the house.

LAWRENCE

Gold? Let's go right now.

DAD

That's the thing. That place is crawling with fire fighters, and reporters, and if we get spotted they'll bull doze that hill to find my treasure.

LAWRENCE
My father the pirate.

DAD
Your inheritance is in those hills.

LAWRENCE
Inheritance? It looks like you're going to need it.

DAD
What do you mean? You're living large.

LAWRENCE
I just paid off my school loans. And mom is going to need a loan if I'm ever gonna get her out of here.

DAD
I'm not sharing the gold with her.

LAWRENCE
She could have told somebody about it. So I think you should respect that business partnership.

DAD
That all died with the divorce.

Mom enters the kitchen looking like a zombie. She has made herself up to look like a leper with flesh rotting from the mouth, and blood coming out of the eyes and ears. Haggard, filthy, contagious.

DAD (CONT'D)
You look better than you did at our wedding.

Mom drops the character and engages in verbal warfare.

MOM
Thanks to you that was the worst day of my life.

LAWRENCE
Please stop! I can't relive my childhood right now! That's it. If this is the new arrangement. This is the deal. Starting tomorrow, new rules. Today, you both remain in your separate quarters.

MOM

Like the last two years before he left?

DAD

I was writing.

LAWRENCE

No. Not today. Dad, you stay in my room. Mom, you stay in your room.

MOM

What about my swim?

DAD

Why does she get her own room?

MOM

Excuse me?

DAD

Fairs fair. Let's flip?

MOM

Forget it.

LAWRENCE

You're over here, you're over there. Period. Mom, you get the pool and the kitchen from 11-1. Dad you get the pool and the kitchen from 2-4. Dinner will be served to both of you in your room when I return from work at 7. I love you. Goodbye.

MOM

I love you too.

DAD

I love you too.

THE END

KICKER

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

The clock reads 12 p.m.

Mom is in the kitchen with Phyllis and Ethel in an assembly line emptying all the food from the fridge.

Mom then goes to the utensil drawer and takes them too.