

CAREER DAY

Written by

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EXT. BODY BLISS SHOP - MIDDAY

The adult store with a modest sign reading BODY BLISS SHOP sits nestled between a taco shop and a small clothing boutique. Workers take their smoke break outside. Traffic passes by the strip mall.

INT. BODY BLISS SHOP - MIDDAY

TRISH, 25, a woman with colorful tattoos up her arms and neck, stands bored at the register of the adult store and checks her watch. It's almost lunch time, which means her regulars should be breezing in soon.

The shop is full of the latest models on display, each carefully dusted.

The bell above the door CHIMES.

MILTON, 45, smiles like a devilish cat, his bald head polished and gleaming.

MILTON

How are we today, Trish?

TRISH

I'm fine, Milton. What brings you in?

Milton spreads his hands out in front of him, standing with a cocky attitude in his tight fitting pants.

MILTON

Aw, come on. Just fine? You holding down the fort okay? Anyone giving you trouble?

TRISH

I'm looking at trouble right now.

Milton waves her off and grabs lube and an XL butt plug as he walks up to the counter.

INT. COUNTER - CONTINUOUS

Milton casually tosses his items onto the counter.

TRISH

Just these today?

MILTON

Yeah, just these. I'll be back soon though.

Milton winks at her. Trish rolls her eyes. The bell RINGS again as he leaves.

INT. BODY BLISS SHOP STORE FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Trish is straightening up the shelves when the bell RINGS again. A group of three, a sampling of the local group of PTA moms, MICHELLE, 39, ANNE, 38, and LAURA, 39, come through the door.

INT. BACK ROOM - AFTERNOON

Trish panics and runs to the back room of the store to hide, where she finds her boss, CADY, 30. Cady is short with a lot of attitude, and big round glasses that cover her whole face.

TRISH

Cady, thank god.

CADY

What? What's wrong?

Trish holds her head as if she can feel a headache coming on.

TRISH

Listen, I can't deal with the group that just came in. I can't. Can you please take care of them for me? Please?

Cady frowns worriedly.

CADY

Of course, no biggie.

INT. BODY BLISS SHOP STORE FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Cady comes back into the front of the store. The three moms are standing in a timid huddle in the middle of the store making sure not to look at anything for too long.

CADY

Ladies? Can I help you with anything?

The bravest of them, Michelle, speaks up.

MICHELLE
 We, well. We're looking for
 something sexy to wear, in the
 bedroom I mean.

Cady nods, unsurprised.

CADY
 Right over here.

Cady directs them to the leather and bondage section and
 enjoys the look on their faces.

MICHELLE
 Oh no, no. I meant lingerie.

Cady feigns polite ignorance.

CADY
 Oh of course.

The huddle moves over to the lingerie section-

INT. LINGERIE SECTION - CONTINUOUS

-where the three moms look at their options and whisper to
 each other. They make their selections. They move back over
 to the counter to pay.

INT. COUNTER - CONTINUOUS

The three friends are not as quiet as they make their
 purchases. Anne starts to talk about her husband.

ANNE
 Tod has just been so busy recently,
 and I mean it's no wonder. He just
 made partner!

Laura, nods emphatically.

LAURA
 It's just like with my John, he
 gets up at dawn, and I don't see
 him till nine, maybe ten o'clock at
 night!

MICHELLE
 I'd say it's worth it. I mean, they
 work long hours, but what do we
 really have to worry about? Picking
 up the kids? Packing lunches?

The three of them laugh.

CADY
That'll be \$121.11.

Michelle turns to Cady, as if noticing her for the first time.

MICHELLE
Is there any way we could get a discount? My husband is a state senator.

Cady looks at her plainly.

CADY
No.

The moms pay for their items and leave.

CADY (CONT'D)
All clear, Trish!

Trish emerges from the back room.

TRISH
Thank you, Cady.

CADY
It's no problem. I meant to ask,
How's Eili doing?

Trish smiles.

TRISH
Oh he's doing great! He's going to
be in the school's spelling bee,
and-

Trish checks her watch.

TRISH (CONT'D)
Shit! It's 2:50, I need to go pick
him up-

CADY
Go, go, you're good. I'll see you
tomorrow.

Trish waves on her way out.

EXT. CROSSROADS ELEMENTARY CARPOOL PICKUP LANE - AFTERNOON

Trish's 2005 Toyota Corolla sludges its way through the carpool pickup lane.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Trish scans the groups of kids for her son, EILI, 7. She pulls up to the pavement and rolls her windows down. Michelle approaches her passenger side window, leaning in.

MICHELLE

Oh, Trish! Just who I wanted to see!

Trish holds in a groan.

TRISH

Hi, Michelle. What's up?

MICHELLE

Well, I just wanted to make sure, but you AREN'T contributing to the fundraiser that we have planned next month? I just wanted to get a headcount.

Trish sighs.

TRISH

No, I'm not. Not this time, at least.

Michelle makes a pity face at her.

MICHELLE

Well its just that this is the third event you've missed contributing to, and we wanted to make sure you were invested in Eili's education.

TRISH

You know what Michelle-

EILI

Mom!

Eili rushes past Michelle, almost knocking her over. He climbs into the car and gives Trish a big hug. Trish waves at Michelle goodbye over Eili's shoulder.

TRISH
I'll see you later!

EILI
You'll never guess what we did in social studies today! And at lunch, Austin said that he got an ant farm for his birthday, and I was going to ask you-

TRISH
No way, mm-mm.

EILI
That's okay! But guess what! There's going to be a Career Day at school on Friday, and I signed you up! Isn't that great?

TRISH
This Friday? A Career Day? Why'd you sign me up for that, sweetie?

EILI
You told me that your job makes people happier, Mom. That's awesome!

Trish rubs her temples as she drives them home.

INT. NGUYEN APARTMENT - EVENING

Trish unlocks the door as she and Eili enter the apartment. It's small, but full of character and warm colors.

TRISH
Go get started on homework, hun.
I'll make dinner.

Eili runs to his bedroom. Trish goes into the kitchen and calls Cady.

TRISH (CONT'D)
Cady? Hey.

CADY (V.O.)
What's going on?

TRISH
I need help. Eili signed me up for Career Day at his school.

A long period of laughter over the other end of the phone.

Trish rolls her eyes.

TRISH (CONT'D)
I'm serious, come on. Help me.

CADY (V.O.)
Okay, here's what you do.

INT. CROSSROADS ELEMENTARY HALLWAY - MORNING

Trish holds Eili's hand as they walk down the hallway to his classroom. He's practically dragging her, but she tries to look confident as she fiddles with her cardigan.

Kids and teachers rush past them to make it to class, but someone bumps into Trish. He stops and apologizes, putting his hand on her shoulder. Trish looks up and sees Milton.

Milton recognizes her too, his eyes widening.

Eili is delighted.

EILI
Mom! This is my Principal,
Principal Milton.

Principal Milton shakes Trish's hand with a crazy look in his eye.

MILTON
Are you here to volunteer? Surely
you're not here for... Career Day?

Trish shakes his hand, not breaking eye contact.

TRISH
I am.

A single bead of sweat goes down his bald head. Trish is dragged into the classroom by Eili. Principal Milton follows them.

MILTON
(whispering)
Is there a seller-client
confidentiality agreement?

Trish nods her head "yes", shocked.

TRISH
(whispering)
Usually yes, but I've never been in
this situation before.

INT. CROSSROADS ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Trish stands with the other PARENTS. It is her turn to present. She stands in front of the CLASS.

TRISH

Well uh...

Eili beams at her from his seat.

TRISH (CONT'D)

At my job, I am a Relationship Coach.

The ADULTS in the room tilt their heads.

TRISH (CONT'D)

I help couples buy gifts for each other, that help make the other person happy.

A KID, 7, raises his hand.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Yes?

KID

What kind of gifts?

Trish looks at Principal Milton. He shakes his head slowly, more sweat running down his bald head.

TRISH

It's the kind of gifts that will have your dads running back to the shop to get more, to keep your moms happy.

The WOMEN in the room perk up at this, looking to their HUSBANDS knowingly. Principal Milton breathes a sigh of relief.

The crowd lightly applauds for Trish as she returns to Eili's side.

EILI

I'm proud of you, Mom.

Trish beams at him.

INT. BODY BLISS SHOP STORE FLOOR - MORNING

Trish is stocking the shelves when she hears the CHIME of the door. Michelle, Laura, and Anne approach her.

LAURA

Trish?

Trish turns to them.

ANNE

We just wanted to say, we pieced together that you work here, and well...

Anne looks to Michelle for support.

MICHELLE

We wanted to say sorry for giving you a hard time. We don't know what its like to be a single mom, and you obviously work hard to provide for Eili.

LAURA

And he's such a great kid.

TRISH

Thank you for the apology, and I accept it.

ANNE

(hushed)

Is there any way...

Trish leans in to hear her better.

TRISH

Hmm?

ANNE

Is there any way you could help me pick some things out? My husband's away a lot, is the problem. When he's home, I really want to surprise him.

LAURA

Me too.

MICHELLE

Same here.

Trish smiles warmly at them.

TRISH

Of course. Let's go look at some lingerie.

ANNE

Oh no, I meant the leather section.

LAURA

Yeah, and I was shopping for a collar.

Trish stops in her tracks and turns to them.

TRISH

Oh, you ladies are more advanced than I thought you were. How about this.

Trish considers them and rubs her hands together.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Why don't we all start over?

The bell above the door CHIMES.

The women all turn their heads toward the sound.

Milton strides in, not noticing Anne, Laura, and Michelle.

MILTON

Trish! Just the girl I was lookin' for. I was thinking today, I would look at the new blow up dolls you just got in-

He stops in his tracks as he notices Anne, Laura, and Michelle staring at him in shock.

MICHELLE

Principal Milton?!

MILTON

(stuttering)

I, I uh.

He looks to Trish for help. Trish shrugs.

TRISH

Were you thinking small, medium, or large?

FADE TO BLACK.