

Just Another Day

by
Peter Smith

Film Festival 2004
Pay Phone Productions

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The room belongs to ERIC WELLS, a senior at West Shelby High School. He is your average unpopular student, liked by his circle of friends but generally unnoticed by the masses. He is also not regarded very highly by his teachers.

ERIC (V.O.)

I was never a very popular kid. I probably never will be either. But someday things get so bad you have to think: It can only get better. Sometimes that's true.

Close up on a large numbered tear off calendar on Eric's dresser and pan out to show more of the room. It reads Dec. 2. The calendar is one of those cliché prophetic fortune cookie message spewing calendars that one normally gets as a gift from an unliked relative.

Eric is asleep in his bed facing the ceiling. The alarm buzzes and wakes Eric up. He stares at the ceiling then looks at the clock with utter contempt for it. He bats at it and shuts it off. He gets out of bed, stands in front of his dresser looking in the mirror and tears off a page of his calendar. The date is December 3. Eric reads his new message of the day.

ERIC

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

He sighs deeply and looks up toward the ceiling.

ERIC

Just kill me now.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The teacher, a slightly balding man, is going on about something or other, who knows? None of the students seem very interested.

TEACHER

Now can anyone tell me how we use this formula to find the depth of--

Eric walks into the classroom obviously late.

TEACHER

Mr. Wells, how nice of you to join us. You're just in time to leave.

ERIC

What?

TEACHER

Well if I remember correctly, and I'm sure I do, this is the fourth time in a row that you've been late to my class.

Eric seems to be use to this and quite bored of it as well.

ERIC

...

TEACHER

And I'm guessing it's safe to assume that you failed to do page twenty three?

The other students begin to smile and laugh to themselves.

ERIC

Well I have a good reas--

TEACHER

I don't want to hear it! Now I'm going to tell you to report to the office, but I know you won't. But you see frankly, I couldn't care less where you go so leave... now.

Eric's classmates start laughing clearly at him as he leaves the class.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Eric is walking down an empty hallway. The lunch bell rings. Students start pouring out of classrooms and walking to their next class. Eric is apparently frustrated.

ERIC

(Mimicking science teacher)

I'm guessing it's safe to assume you failed to do page twenty three?

(In his own voice)

I'm guessing it's safe to assume that hair in can was a bad investment... bald ass.

Eric is continuing down the hall staring at the floor when he walks right into one of the LARGER SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS.

ERIC

Oh! Sorry about that.

FOOTBALL BEAST

(sarcastic)

Oh well thank you for being cordial enough to apologize to me. Now let me show you how grateful I am.

The oaf grabs Eric buy his shirt and tosses him toward the stairwell. Eric topples down the stairs while the bully and his friends laugh and walk away. Eric tries to catch his breath.

ERIC

(Snide and in pain)

I was headed this way anyway...

Eric groans, gets up and limps down the rest of the stairs.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

A large crowded cafeteria. There are many students eating their lunches and talking loudly. Eric is sitting with two of his FREINDS. Eric's best of these is a short kid with thick glasses who tries to be cool. The other a tall Dungeons and Dragons fanatic who doesn't really talk to much. Eric kind of stands out from them but they are still his closest friends. They notice a cut on his forehead from his trip down the stairs.

FRIEND 1

What the hell is that?

ERIC

Ahh I tripped on my friggin shoelace and landed on a rock.

FRIEND 2

That sucks.

ERIC

I'll be right back.

Eric gets up and gets into the lunch line. He brings his food to the check out. The LUNCH LADY rings him up.

LUNCH LADY

Ok.. Eric, you're all set. Oooh what happened to your head?

ERIC

Oh I was walking down the hall and
some- one swung open a metal door
and hit me in the face.

Eric starts walking back to his seat when he is spotted by
the kid who tossed him down the stairs.

FOOTBALL MAMMOTH

Hey! Buddy! Be careful walking back
to class, don't fall down any
stairs! The jock laughs and turns
to walk away.

ERIC

(Under his breath)
I hope you fall down some steps.
The bully stops and turns to Eric.

FOOTBALL CLOD

What did you say?

But Eric is already walking away hoping to escape with his
life. The bully runs after him and trips him up then sends
him to the floor. He gives Eric a kick in the side and smears
Eric's pizza in his face. Almost everyone in the cafeteria is
laughing and cheering. Eric gets up and sullenly walks out.

INT. HALLWAY

Eric is walking down the hall frustrated but a little calmed
down since the pizza incident. He looks up from the floor and
sees SARAH RICHMOND, the girl he's liked since the fourth
grade. He calls to her.

ERIC

Sarah! Hey wait up.

Sarah turns to see who it is. When she sees Eric her face
drops a little.

ERIC

Hey what's up?

SARAH

(Annoyed)
What?

ERIC

Umm, yea I was thinking, do you ahh
want to do something sometime?
Sarah laughs.

SARAH

After that pizza thing? You've got to be kidding me. I would NEVER even consider it

Eric stands there speechless and bewildered.

SARAH

I'm done now... walk away.

Eric comes back to his senses and sulks away.

INT. BATHROOM

Eric walks into the bathroom red in the face. As he is walking to the sink he almost trips on a yellow "wet floor" sign. He stares into the mirror and tries to keep from crying. He wipes his face, turns and walks into a stall.

ERIC

What the hell did I do wrong? Why do I deserve this?

At that moment Eric turns and slips on some water on the floor. He hits his head on the toilet and passes out. Eric's watch clicks on the floor.

INSERT - ERIC'S WATCH

"12-03-03

2:08"

INT. BATHROOM

INSERT - ERIC'S WATCH

"12-03-03

2:13"

BACK TO SCENE

A few minutes have passed, Eric gets up and rubs his head.

ERIC

(In pain)

Wow, that sucked. Eric walks out of the bathroom.

INT. FRONT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Eric comes out of the bathroom and walks out the front door to go home.

INT. ERIC'S BEDROOM - DAY

Eric is asleep in his bed, the calendar on the dresser reads December 4. The clock alarms and Eric instantly jumps out of bed alert and ready to go. He moves to the bathroom and brushes his teeth. In the mirror Eric looks to be in a very positive mood. He spits into the sink and looks back at himself in the mirror.

ERIC

I feel... good today. Heh, this has got to be some sort of bad omen.

Eric leaves the bathroom and shuts off the light.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Eric pulls into the school lot and parks his car. Loud music can be heard from outside his car. As he emerges from the car he is approached by the bully that humiliated him the day before and one of his goons. Strangely he isn't rattled by this and stands tall to face them.

ERIC

Can I help you? You seem to be lost.

BULLY

You should worry about helping yourself right now. You ready for another public beating?

ERIC

Maybe another time spark plug, right now I gotta get my education. I'll take a rain check though.

Eric turns his back on them and starts walking toward the school.

Confused, the bullies advance on him from behind. One of them reaches an arm out to grab his shoulder. Instinctively Eric spins around lightning fast, seemingly led by his arm, and grabs his assailant's wrist. The look of shock on the bully's face is similar to the look on Eric's own face as he stares at his hand in utter disbelief.

Then as if his body weren't under his own control, Eric twists the bully's arm and sends his leg full force into his stomach sending him to the ground. Eric stares down at him in shock. He then looks up towards his disposed opponent's lackey and starts walking to him. Suddenly realizing his mistake, the shocked oaf runs off nearly tripping over his own feet. Eric looks down at the first bully with a look of confused accomplishment, then turns and continues toward the school.

ERIC
(with feigned sureness)
I told you, some other time.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

As he is walking through the hall, Eric is greeted by many other students. He is a bit confused but he acknowledges each of them and continues down the hall still smiling from his ordeal in the parking lot.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - CONTINUOUS

The teacher is lecturing to his seemingly uninterested students and then turns to Eric who has his head on his desk.

TEACHER
Mr. Wells.

Eric looks up annoyed.

ERIC
Yea?

TEACHER
Maybe you can tell us what Hamlet expresses in his soliliquy after seeing the soldiers marching to battle. Eric sighs.

ERIC
Hamlet observes that these soldiers are going to fight in a pointless battle where most of them will surely be killed over a piece of worthless land not even large enough to bury those that will die trying to claim it. He thinks of this and realizes that he has a father murdered, a mother corrupted and his family name tainted all by his Uncle Claudius, and all he has done is talk about killing his uncle and never take action.

(MORE)

ERIC (cont'd)

This is pretty much when he ultimately decides to take action and avenge his father's death by taking the life of his uncle. Everyone in the room stares, stunned.

ERIC

What?

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Eric is eating lunch with his friends, who are still loyal even after the pizza "incident".

D AND D FRIEND

It looks like you did a good job getting that grease off. Not one pimple.

Eric nods without reply.

GLASSES CLAD FRIEND

(excitedly)

We should go and jump that kid.

ERIC

(Quietly to himself)

Heh, already taken care of.

Just then someone behind Eric throws a tater tot at the back of his head. A couple people that saw it start to laugh. Eric stands up and turns around. Everyone gets quiet.

GLASSES

Eric! No! Sit down! Remember the pizza? Do you want potatoes in your hair?!

ERIC

Who threw it?

One of the kids stands up.

ERIC

Was it you?

The kid laughs.

POTATO SHOT PUTT BOY

What if it was? It's not like you'd do anything.

GLASSES

Well, he's got a point. Hey let's
sit somewhere else!

Eric ignores his friend and walks over to the kid's table and picks up his lunch plate. Eric shoves it in his face with enough force to knock him to the floor.

ERIC

You go run and tell on me and
you'll find yourself choking on one
of those tater tots.

Everyone around Eric stands speechless and then begin to laugh and applaud him. Eric walks back to his table, sits down and looks at his watch.

INSET - ERIC'S WATCH

"12-03-03

2:25"

BACK TO SCENE

Eric looks at the clock on the wall and it reads 11:45. Eric begins to feel a little strange.

ERIC

What the...

Eric turns to his friends.

ERIC

Isn't today the fourth?

FRIEND 1

(Amazed)

Yea, fourth, that was awesome! No
offense but I didn't think you
would've done anything.

ERIC

Yea... me neither. Hey I'll see you
later. I have to go... type
something in the library, later.

Eric walks out of the cafeteria.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

While walking down the empty hall Eric looks back at his watch.

INSERT - ERIC'S WATCH

"12-04-03

11:52"

BACK TO SCENE

ERIC

Must've been seeing things. Huh.

Just as Eric begins to feel better Sarah calls him from behind.

SARAH

Hey! Eric!

Eric turns around and his eyes light up when he sees her.

ERIC

Sarah, what's up?

SARAH

I wanted to apologize about yesterday. I didn't need to act like that. Anyway I was thinking, maybe we could do something later on, like Friday?

Eric immediately gets a smile on his face. He begins to say yea but stops himself. His face becomes a more serious, almost professional expression.

ERIC

You know what? I don't think I want to. Thanks anyway.

With that Eric turns around and walks away smiling.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eric walks into the bathroom feeling extremely accomplished for what he just did. He walks over to the sink and washes his face. As he dries his hands his watch alarm goes off.

ERIC

What is wrong with this watch?

Eric walks out of the bathroom fiddling with his watch. Sticking out from underneath one of the stall walls is an arm wearing a watch identical to Eric's. Lying on the floor inside the stall wearing yesterdays clothes is Eric unconscious next to the toilet.

The school bell is heard. Eric wakes up with a start. Confused he sits up using the toilet as support and looks around. He rubs the back of his head and remembers where he is. He then looks at his watch.

INSERT - ERIC'S WATCH

"12-03-03

2:30"

BACK TO SCENE

Eric stands up and straightens his clothes.

ERIC

I was dreaming... figures. I have
to get outta here.

Eric leaves the stall and walks out of the bathroom with his head hung.

EXT. FRONT STEPS - CONTINUOUS

Eric comes out the front door of the school. A STUDENT waiting for someone walks up to him.

STUDENT

(sarcastic)

Hey I didn't get to have lunch
today. How was the pizza? He laughs
and stares at Eric.

ERIC

(to himself)

Somethings have to change.

(aloud)

Hah, funny.

Eric punches the kid in the stomach, shoves him to the ground. Then with a huge satisfied smile on his face Eric walks down the stairs laughing to himself and goes home.

FADE OUT