

Picture Day

Written By

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Address
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INT. ELLIS HOUSE - MORNING

Hands open a drawer and pull out a pair of socks.

Hands open a closet and pull out a navy blue blazer, pale blue button down and khakis.

The hands tie a red tie. At this point the boy's face has not been seen.

There should be confusion... Is he getting ready for a dance? What is this super special occasion?

The hands check off a day on a calendar with a bright red marker.

The boy is standing in front of a mirror and finally his face is seen on camera. This is ELLIS and he smiles from ear to ear tightening his tie.

INT. ENGLISH WING HALLWAY - DAY

Ellis rounds the corner—he is dressed to the nines... No... Dressed to the *tens*. He wears a pale blue button down, a navy blazer and a red tie.

It should be noted that all the other students are dressed normally in everyday clothes.

He struts down the English Wing and as people pass him by they give him a thumbs up or some finger guns if they really feel like going for it.

MISC. STUDENTS

You got this, Ellis!/
It's your day man!/
Yeah man!/
Way to go, Ellis!/
You don't even need good luck!

Ellis stops right outside Cashman's room and snaps a selfie. Ellis then uploads the picture to instagram with the caption: #pictureday #pictureperfect .

INT. CASHMAN'S ROOM

Ellis saunters into Cashman's room and fistbumps to CASHMAN, whose fist is hanging off of his podium.

Cashman looks confused at first, but Ellis points straight to the board as he crosses one foot behind the other in a Michael Jackson-esque pose. On the board in big, red letters: "Picture Day".

The confusion immediately leaves Cashman's face as he gives

his signature Cashman nod.

Ellis takes his seat next to a girl wearing glasses, a chunky knit cardigan and pale blue jeans, this is ROSEMARY.

ELLIS
Are you ready for picture day,
Rosemary?

ROSEMARY
(unenthusiastically)
Uh huh, I'm ready.

ELLIS
Check out the pic I just uploaded
to instagram!

ROSEMARY
I didn't even know you had an
instagram, Ellis.

Rosemary scrolls through his Instagram and he has hundreds of pictures just like the first, all perfect pictures, exact replicas.

ELLIS
Yeah, it's really popular, I don't
like to tell people from school
about it.

Rosemary scrolls back to the top and sees that Ellis has two followers.

ROSEMARY
Who are these two followers?

ELLIS
Oh, umm, that's my mom and my
cousin.

ROSEMARY
Ok, well good luck with picture
day.

ELLIS
Thanks!

The bell rings and all of the students get up to leave the room.

INT. ST. MARTIN'S CLASSROOM

Ellis walks into math class and takes a seat.

As soon as he sits down he takes out a lint roller and begins to roll over his blazer with it.

As MR. ST. MARTIN walks in Ellis quickly puts the lint roller away.

MARCUS walks past Ellis and raises his hand to clap Ellis on the back, he gets halfway to Ellis when he realizes what day it is and immediately retracts his hand, shaking his head in absolute shame as he continues walking to his seat.

ST. MARTIN

Ok guys, let's take out the homework. Who wants to put the answers to number one on the board?

St. Martin walks over to Ellis

ST. MARTIN

Ellis, where's your homework?

MARCUS

St. Martin, it's Picture Day!

ELLIS

Sorry, I was busy prepping last night;so, I didn't get around to it.

ST. MARTIN

Of course, how could I forget, no worries, Ellis. And hey, good luck, man!

ELLIS

Thanks.

Ellis sits back in his chair and relaxes as the class continues.

INT. CASHMAN'S ROOM

Next Period. Ellis saunters into Cashman's class where Cashman already has his fist out ready for Ellis this time

After Ellis and Cashman fist bump, Marcus is right behind Ellis and tries to fist bump Cashman, but Cashman immediately retracts his fist.

CASHMAN

It's not your day Marcus, sorry.

MARCUS nods with understanding and shuffles to his seat.

CASHMAN

Ok everyone, take out your picture slips and we'll head down in a few minutes.

The guys in the class sit around looking nonchalant, Ellis makes his way over to where a few of the girls are getting ready for their pictures.

ELLIS

Does anyone have any powder? I feel like my T-zone is especially oily today.

A random girl hands him a compact with setting powder.

GIRL 1

You probably shouldn't put it on until right before so it doesn't cake.

ELLIS

You just saved my life! Bless you!

GIRL 2

You know you really don't need makeup Ellis, you look fine.

ELLIS

Ok, fine I won't wear it and then you'll be to blame for ruining the Most Important Day of the Year!

GIRL 2

Ok chill, wear makeup I actually don't care.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Cashman's period 2 English Class files into the auditorium where picture day has been set up. Ellis clutches the makeup compact in his hand.

In the pit of the auditorium a monitor is set up and after a student takes their picture it flashes on the monitor screen.

MR. O'MALLEY stands at the entrance to the auditorium, arms crossed, looking stern.

Student Council kids are at the front of the auditorium collecting picture day slips from students.

On the monitor screen a girl's picture flashes and it is really bad, she is heard wailing across the auditorium.

The girl runs out of the auditorium, holding her face in her hands.

ELLIS
(shaking his head)
Better luck next year!

The students continue their march towards the front of the auditorium.

INT. AUDITORIUM ON STAGE

Ellis is sitting in a stool surrounded by lights and a picture day set.

Ellis hands his slip to the photographer. The photographer is dressed in a pale blue button down that is too big and is wearing sunglasses on the back of his head. He is wearing a name tag reading "DALE"

DALE
Hey, weren't you that kid that took
the perfect picture last year?

ELLIS
Why yes, I am!

DALE
Everyone back at HQ was really
impressed, they're still talking
about it. Ok, well here we go!

As Dale readies the camera, Ellis takes out the makeup compact and begins to apply the powder to his T-zone. As he applies, some of the powder gets near his nose and Ellis scrunches up his face.

As he's about to sneeze Dale snaps the picture, with Ellis' face all scrunched up.

INT. AUDITORIUM

The bad picture of Ellis flashes on the monitor and the entire auditorium goes dead silent for about three seconds.

After what feels like an eternity the whole auditorium bursts into laughter.

Ellis runs down the steps of the stage, bright red.

ELLIS
 (frazzled)
 What? No... This must be a mistake.
 It's ok I'll just go retake it
 right?

Ellis turns to Dale.

ELLIS
 Ok, I'm ready to ready to retake my
 picture now.

Dale shakes his head sympathetically.

DALE
 I'm sorry, kid, it doesn't work
 like that.

Students around Ellis whisper about him wanting to retake his picture and how strange it is, or how bad his picture was.

Ellis shakes his head, spinning in circles, his world has just come crashing down around him.

Ellis runs out of the auditorium mirroring the girl who ran out earlier.

DALE
 Better luck next year!

INT. ENGLISH WING HALLWAY

Ellis runs down the English wing towards the stairs to the history wing.

INT. MR. GIBLIN'S CLASSROOM

Ellis bursts into GIBLIN'S classroom where Giblin silently drums on his desk.

Rosemary has her head down taking notes, she snaps up as Ellis comes in.

ROSEMARY
 (mouthing silently)
 What's wrong?

Ellis stops in his tracks and his eyes widen as he realizes that he had no plan or idea what he was going to do once he got to Giblin's room.

GIBLIN

Ellis, what the hell are you doing
in my class, man?

ELLIS

Umm... Uhhh... Admi-- Rosemary is
um, needed by, uhh, administration.

GIBLIN

Ok, man, go ahead.

Rosemary immediately stands up and rushes out of the
classroom before Giblin can change his mind.

She pushes Ellis out the door, and quickly follows behind
him.

INT. HISTORY WING HALLWAY

Ellis and Rosemary are in heated discussion and Ellis is
getting very worked up.

ELLIS

And then I ran out of the
auditorium and found you and, well,
here we are...

ROSEMARY

Ok, ok, breathe... Calm down...
Just breathe... It's all going to
be alright.

ELLIS

NO! Don't you understand? It's not
going to be ok! Picture Day is the
most important day of the year for
me and now it's all ruined.

ROSEMARY

Ellis, it's just a picture. You've
taken, like, a million perfect
pictures. One subpar picture isn't
the end of the world.

ELLIS

Yes it is! I don't know what I'm
gonna do... Wait... I've got it! I
have to take a new picture!

ROSEMARY

What?

ELLIS

Yes! That's perfect! I just have to figure out a way to take another picture.

ROSEMARY

I've literally never heard of anyone *retaking* a school picture. Like... ever.

ELLIS

Rosemary, you're a genius! I have to go to Imbusch and convince him to let me retake my picture!

ROSEMARY

Nope. That's definitely *not* what I said.

ELLIS

Then, I'll take the perfect picture and everything really will be alright-- just like you said!

ROSEMARY

Yeah, but I meant that everything would be fine if you just let this whole picture thing go.

ELLIS

Exactly! I can not let this whole picture thing go!

ROSEMARY

I give up.

ELLIS

Thank you so much, Rosemary. I owe you big time!

Ellis runs off down the History Wing and Rosemary is left looking mildly annoyed and a little confused.

INT. IMBUSCH' OFFICE

IMBUSCH is leaning back in his chair. Ellis is sitting in a chair opposite Imbusch' desk.

Imbusch leans forward and folds his hands on his desk.

IMBUSCH

I'm sorry but I can't let you retake the picture Ellis, if I let

(MORE)

IMBUSCH (CONT'D)

you then I have to let everybody
retake their picture. even you
asking is unprecedented.

ELLIS

So retaking a quiz is fine, but
retaking a picture is out of the
question? WHERE IS YOUR ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY!?

IMBUSCH

I'm sorry Ellis/

ELLIS

(stands up)

Mr. Imbusch, you don't understand!
I *have* to retake it! I have to
retake it and get it perfect!

IMBUSCH

(shaking his head)

No exceptions.

ELLIS

I can't have a bad picture! My
whole thing is that I take perfect
pictures! Who am I without a
perfect picture!?

IMBUSCH

Ellis, you need to calm down.

ELLIS

No, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN! I can't
take this anymore, I'm out!

Ellis storms out of Imbusch' office, he attempts to flip his
chair on the way out, but he's not strong enough so it
doesn't move.

In the corner of the room there's a plastic kid's chair.
Ellis picks it up, brings it to the center of the room and
flips it.

Ellis storms out of the office for real this time.

INT. MAIN LOBBY

Ellis walks through the main lobby and mutters under his
breath. He is visibly enraged.

INT. ENGLISH WING HALLWAY

Ellis marches up to the auditorium entrance, determined. O'Malley is at the entrance with his arms crossed, looking stern.

ELLIS
I demand to be let in and retake my
picture!

O'MALLEY
Yeah right, kid, take a hike.

ELLIS
Fine.

INT. SCIENCE LOBBY ENTRANCE TO AUDITORIUM

Ellis tries to open the door to the auditorium in cartoon fashion.

He tries to push off the door with his feet and pull the handle with his hands.

He looks like he's on Looney Tunes.

INT. CHORUS ENTRANCE TO PIT OF AUDITORIUM

Ellis has a fake mustache on his face and he's carrying a pizza box. He knocks on the door and a stucco member opens it, takes the pizza, and slams the door in his face.

INT. CHORUS ENTRANCE TO WING OF AUDITORIUM

Ellis tries to pick the lock of the door with a bobby pin but is unsuccessful. He then pulls out a giant axe and is winding up to chop the door open and O'Malley appears and grabs the axe out of his hand.

Ellis swings but there is no axe in his hand. He turns around and sees O'Malley's towering figure.

Ellis looks sheepish and quickly runs off.

INT. SCIENCE LOBBY

Ellis collapses on the bench in the science lobby as the school bell rings.

Students pass and whisper about Ellis while shooting pointed glances in his direction. Some outright mock him.

STUDENT 1
Nice Picture Ellis!

STUDENT 2

Yeah, heard you bombed.

STUDENT 3

Ahh... Ahhh AHHCHOOO

All three students walk off and laugh to themselves.

One girl takes pity on Ellis as she walks over to where he's seated on the bench. Her name is TESS.

TESS

Hey there Debbie Downer, why so glum?

ELLIS

Oh, nothing. Everything's fine... Except for the fact that my LIFE IS OVER!

TESS

Why is your life over?

ELLIS

I just took the worst school picture ever taken. And I need to figure out a way to retake it, but I can't.

TESS

Oh, you're Ellis, I've heard of you.

Ellis looks somewhat appreciative through a pained smile.

TESS

Ok, first of all, it's kinda strange that you want to retake your picture. You know that right?

ELLIS

(indignantly)

No it isn't!

TESS

Whatever, you know who you need right?

Ellis shakes his head.

TESS
You need...

(whispered)
The Fixer.

ELLIS
What?

TESS
If you want to solve your problem,
you need...
(whispered)
The Fixer.

ELLIS
I mean, the name lacks originality
though, doesn't it? It hits the
nail *right* on the head. Like, BOOM,
what does he do? Fixes things,
let's call him The Fixer.

Tess begins to slowly walk backwards while waving her hands
around in an attempt to 'fade away'.

TESS
(whispering)
The Fixer

ELLIS
That's a stupid name!

TESS
(still whispering)
The Fixer

Tess turns the corner to the English Wing, still walking
backwards and can no longer be seen.

ELLIS
Wait! I don't even know where to
find The Fixer!

Tess peaks around the corner so just the top part of her
body can be seen.

TESS
(still whispering)
Just google it...

Tess re-disappears into the English Wing.

Ellis shrugs, pulls out his phone and types 'The Fixer' into

google.

A website entitled "WHS The Fixer" pops up and Ellis clicks on it, and then uses the website to book an appointment with The Fixer.

APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED flashes on the phone screen.

INT. BUS

Ellis sits on a moving bus with his backpack in his lap.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING

Ellis walks into an office waiting room. There is a secretary behind a desk and she hands him a clipboard with a paper to fill out, and a pen to go with it.

She points off camera.

SECRETARY

Take a seat.

ELLIS

Uh... Ok... Thanks.

Ellis sits down next to a kid who is fully dressed in regular everyday clothes except for two floaties on each of his arms and a snorkel on his face. He is struggling to fill out his clipboard.

ELLIS

What do you need fixed?

The kid holds his nose and wags his finger making the universal symbol for 'underwater', but he does not say a word.

Ellis nods his head, very confused and starting to get a little worried.

The Secretary gets a phone call and is silent for a few seconds.

SECRETARY

Yes, of course.

She hangs up the phone and turns to Ellis.

SECRETARY

The Fixer will see you, go right in.

ELLIS

Thank you.

Ellis stands up, clipboard in hand, and walks towards the Fixer's office.

INT. FIXER'S OFFICE

Ellis opens the door and it creaks eerily. A shadowy figure is seen, barely in the light. This is THE FIXER.

THE FIXER

Come in.

Ellis walks in hesitantly and takes a seat opposite The Fixer.

THE FIXER

What do you require, my child?

ELLIS

Ummm... I need to retake my school picture.

THE FIXER

That's... Weird...

ELLIS

IT'S NOT THAT WIERD!

THE FIXER

Ok, well, I don't mind weird, so, I'll help you.

ELLIS

Thank you! Wait... how?

INT. SCIENCE LOBBY

The Fixer is pinning up red string and newspaper clippings on a wall in the Science Lobby.

INT. ENGLISH WING OUTSIDE CASHMAN'S ROOM

Cashman walks out of his room and turns his coffee cup upside down-- bone dry.

Cashman looks incredibly distressed and begins to walk towards the English workroom.

THE FIXER (V.O.)

Everyday at 12:41 Cashman runs out of coffee and goes to the English workroom to refill.

INT. ENGLISH WING OUTSIDE MS. MAC'S ROOM

THE FIXER (V.O.)

At 12:45, Marcus is going to trip
Cashman on his way back to class
and Cashman will call for help.

Happening during the voice over. The Fixer slips Marcus a one dollar bill right before Marcus trips Cashman, who is on his way back from the English workroom with a full cup of coffee.

Cashman goes flying and so does his coffee. He opens his mouth and yells for help while dramatically clutching his coffee cup as if he's just been shot.

INT. ENGLISH WING HALLWAY

THE FIXER (V.O.)

At which point O'Malley will be standing outside the auditorium, keeping watch, and he will hear Cashman calling for help and rush to his aid. O'Malley can't help himself where coffee is concerned.

Seen during the voice over. O'Malley is standing outside the auditorium with his arms crossed.

Suddenly he cups his hand to his ear and turns to where Cashman has fallen, and immediately rushes to his aid.

O'Malley removes a walkie talkie from his waist and speaks into it.

O'MALLEY

Cashman down, we have a coffee mishap. I repeat: Cashman is down due to a coffee mishap.

O'Malley runs to where Cashman has fallen. Cashman is clutching his chest and coffee has spilled everywhere.

O'Malley leans over Cashman as if he is a wounded soldier saying his last words.

O'MALLEY

Cashman, buddy, can you hear me?
Snap out of this, you're gonna be ok. Cpm e back to me!

THE FIXER (V.O.)

Then you sneak into the auditorium
(MORE)

THE FIXER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

and find your picture slip in the pile of used slips and retake your picture. But, remember, you'll only have about 8 minutes before O'Malley returns to his post.

During the voice over, Ellis sneaks into the auditorium.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Ellis quickly walks to the front of the auditorium where there is a pile of already taken picture slips.

Ellis quickly searches through the slips until he finds his own. Then he attempts to cut the line of students waiting to take their picture.

ELLIS

Excuse me, scuse me, I have to get throught, thank you, sorry, excuse me.

Before Ellis can get to the stage he walks right into a big kid, named JOEY. Joey turns around, straight faced, it is obvious that Ellis is not getting by this kid.

ELLIS

Excuse me, I have to retake my picture.

JOEY

You have to wait your turn.

Joey walks over and takes his picture. His picture flashes on the monitor and he is completely straight faced, with no emotion.

Joey sees the picture and makes a fist. He is happy with the picture.

JOEY

Yes!

Ellis zips past Joey onto the stage,

INT. AUDITORIUM ON STAGE

Ellis takes a seat in the chair to get his picture taken. He shoves his slip into the photographer's hand without even looking at him.

ELLIS

Alright, Dale let's get this over
(MORE)

ELLIS (CONT'D)

with, time's a tickin.

Ellis finally looks at the photographer and realizes it's not Dale. It's an older man with glasses and he moves very slowly. His name is RUSSELL.

RUSSELL

Sorry, young man, Dale is on his lunch break. You're stuck with me. He he he.

ELLIS

Ok, you'll do I guess. But we have to hurry up.

RUSSELL

You kids, always in a rush, you need to slow down, really live.

Ellis checks his watch and then glances at the door, he knows he's running out of time.

ELLIS

Ok, yeah, slow down, got it, can you take my picture now?

Russell slowly shuffles to his camera and seems to take years. Finally he is behind the camera ready to take the picture.

Ellis once again glances towards the door, very nervous.

RUSSELL

Oh no, Dale left his coffee and it's in the shot.

There is a coffee cup behind Ellis.

Ellis is jumping out of his skin with nerves, frustration, and anxiety.

ELLIS

Will you just take the ding-dang picture!

Ellis stands up quickly and whacks the coffee cup behind him spilling it all over himself, just as Russel snaps the picture.

The picture of Ellis flashes on the monitor, Ellis' face is scrunched up with anger and the coffee is mid air and all over Ellis.

INT. MRS. TOBY'S OFFICE

Ellis is sitting in MRS TOBY's office with coffee stains all over his clothes. Mrs. Toby looks angry.

MRS. TOBY
Ellis, what were you thinking?

ELLIS
I needed to retake my picture.

MRS. TOBY
Why would you want to do that?

ELLIS
BECAUSE I SNEEZED!

MRS. TOBY
Ellis, you can't let a picture define you. You're more than that. I hope you've learned your lesson.

ELLIS
I have.

MRS. TOBY
Good.

ELLIS
Does this mean I'm not going to be punished?

MRS. TOBY
Oh no, you have an hour everyday for the rest of October. Now, get out of my office.

Ellis stands up and walks out of Mrs. Toby's office.

INT. SCIENCE LOBBY

Ellis walks into the Science Lobby where the Fixer is sitting on a bench waiting for him.

ELLIS
Mrs. Toby gave me a months detention.

THE FIXER
I'm sorry, that stinks... Well, guess it's time for me to go.

The Fixer stands up to leave.

ELLIS

Wait! You didn't fix my problem! I never retook my picture.

THE FIXER

No, but I did upload your picture messups to your instagram.

ELLIS

You did what!?

Ellis checks his instagram and it is blowing up, he has thousands of followers and likes.

THE FIXER

People love goofy photos, Ellis. You're welcome.

The Fixer walks away. Ellis is completely dumbfounded.

ELLIS

Why did we waste all day planning that ridiculous scheme?!

THE FIXER

(still walking away)

I charge by the hour.

Ellis sits down on the bench, drained, confused, defeated.

Rosemary comes around the corner and sits next to Ellis.

ROSEMARY

Where have you been all day? You missed a test in French, Pierce is so mad.

ELLIS

Honestly, I don't even know where I've been. But, it was weird that I wanted to retake my picture wasn't it.

ROSEMARY

Yes, yes it was.

ELLIS

Why did you talk me into trying then?

Rosemary whacks Ellis on the arm.

ROSEMARY

Shut up.

They both smile.

ELLIS

Come on, let's get outta here, I
have to start planning my senior
pictures now.

Ellis and Rosemary walk out of the Science wing, laughing and joking as Ellis recounts his day to her. The image fades away.

INT. PICTURES

A montage of Ellis' senior pictures comes on screen and they are all extremely goofy, showing that Ellis has turned a new leaf and no longer takes pictures too seriously.