

LIVIN' ON A PRAYER

"Murphy's Law"

Written

&

Created

By

Paul Tremblay

Paulyboy Productions, LLC
274 Dubuque St.
Manchester, NH 03102

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING -- LOBBY -- MORNING

MADELINE is OUTSIDE the glass entrance looking in. As she looks inside, climbing down a staircase is ANDY carrying a file folder, and LARRY, a lawyer, late forties early fifties.

Andy's body language is obviously not good and Larry certainly has his sympathy.

They reach the bottom of the stairs.

ANDY

You know, this is one of those moments where I hoped that I was wrong.

LARRY

Unfortunately, Andy, your gut served you well this time.

ANDY

I just don't understand why didn't she tell me?

LARRY

You know your Mother, she didn't want to cause any riffs. Unfortunately...

Andy reacts... he knows how the sentence is going to end. Andy shakes his hand.

ANDY

I know Larry, thanks. I gotta go, I actually have a job interview today.

LARRY

I'll call you after the probate hearing.

ANDY

I'll be waiting.

LARRY

Good luck.

ANDY

Thanks, Larry.

Andy heads for the door. Madeline sees him coming and turns away so he doesn't see her.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING -- MORNING

Andy comes out of the building holding his file folder.

Madeline sees him and approaches him... Madeliine's mood is pretty low.

MADELINE

Andy..

ANDY

Go away...

MADELINE

I didn't know.

This stops Andy.

ANDY

You're full of shit.

MADELINE

No I'm not.

ANDY

Are you sure? Are you sure you want to contest this?

Madeline reacts...

ANDY (CONT'D)

You do realize that if I go to that hospital and investigate further and the truth comes out you will loose your job and your license. You will never be a nurse again. Are you sure want to do this?

Madeline reacts... Andy reads her reaction...

ANDY (CONT'D)

I didn't think so...

Andy starts to walk away as he checks his cell phone... Madeline tries to stop him.

MADELINE

Andy...

Andy refers to his file folder as he speaks.

ANDY

No. Because of your selfishness you cost me my mother, and my job, by putting me under an enormous amount of pressure, pressure that you didn't have the right to create in the first place.

Madeline reacts... almost cracking...

ANDY (CONT'D)

Mom is gone and berried. The will shows that the house is left to me. You will get your inheritance in the mail. There for I have no further business with you.

Madeline reacts...

MADELINE

What are you saying?

ANDY

What I'm saying is... now that you've demonstrated how far you are willing to go. That your obsession for control has no boundaries, that you will do anything regardless of how it effects others. I now see that I have to protect myself. And in order to do that you have to go.

Madeline reacts... going to argue...

ANDY (CONT'D)

Get away from me!! You're dangerous, unpredictable and I can't trust you.

MADELINE

I'm sorry, I will make it up to you.

ANDY

YOU TOOK MY MOTHER!! How could you possibly make that up to me?

MADELINE

I can try...

ANDY

You can do it just by leaving me alone.

Andy walks away... On Madeline's reaction.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE -- MORNING

Andy sits in front of the desk with PAT sitting opposite him.

A messy office, hint of an unorganized manager.

PAT
As you know we have a very strict
policy on drugs and alcohol.

ANDY
I don't do drugs.

PAT
Good. We also do a criminal
background check.

ANDY
I'm not a criminal.

Andy reacts to Pat's lack of reaction.

PAT
So you want to be an illustrator?

ANDY
That's my passion.

PAT
Interesting... And you went to
college for that?

ANDY
Two years.

Pat reacts...

PAT
So tell me what happened with Circle
7's.

ANDY
My mother was dyeing and I wanted to
be with her before she went and my
boss made me choose between the job
and my mom. I chose my mom.

Pat reacts...

PAT
You can only have seven sick days in
one ninety day period.

Andy reacts to that... not liking where this is going.

ANDY

I get sick once a year.

Pat reacts... an undertone of suspicion.

PAT

And Shanaford Foods?

ANDY

The store closed...

Pat reacts...

PAT

Well before I can consider to hire you I have to check your references.

ANDY

Okay.

PAT

So do you still know anyone from Shanaford Foods?

ANDY

All of my personal references are from Shanafords.

PAT

A manager?

ANDY

No.

Pat reacts...

PAT

I need to talk to a supervisor.

ANDY

Why?

PAT

Well how do I know these people are telling the truth?

Andy reacts...

ANDY

You must believe in something otherwise I wouldn't be here.

Pat reacts...

PAT

I need to confirm your references.

Andy reacts... suspicious.

ANDY

Okay?

PAT

So do you have a manager or supervisor
that I can call?

Andy thinks...

ANDY

I think so. I'd have to do some
research to see if I can find some
of these people.

PAT

Okay...

Reactions.

EXT. GAS STATION -- MORNING

Andy walks out of the office and heads for his van. As he
checks his cell phone he climbs in.

INT. VAN -- PARKED -- MORNING

Andy opens a file folder. In the folder is a list of
businesses. Some crossed off. Some starred.

Andy pulls out a pen and underlines one.

ANDY

Well I got an interview anyway...

Andy's phone rings. He looks to see who it is and answers
it.

ANDY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hello.

INT. ROOM -- MORNING

NICHOLE is on the other end.

NICHOLE

(into phone)

Hay, Andy, guess what?

INT. VAN -- PARKED -- MORNING

ANDY

(into phone)

What?

INTERCUT AS NEEDED.

NICHOLE
(into phone)
I got my camera.

Nichole holds up her new camera with the packaging near by.

ANDY
(into phone)
Really, how much did that cost you?

NICHOLE
(into phone)
Fifteen hundred.

Andy reacts...

ANDY
(into phone)
Wow! I am so glad that all my
ambitions involve is paper, and some
colored pencils.

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE
(into phone)
What're you doing?

ANDY
(into phone)
I just got out of a job interview.

NICHOLE
(into phone)
How'd it go?

ANDY
(into phone)
I don't know. I think he called me
a liar, but I'm not sure.

NICHOLE
(into phone)
Why?

ANDY
(into phone)
He wants me to find some one from
Shanafords.

NICHOLE
(into phone)
You can give them my number.

ANDY
(into phone)
They want a supervisor.

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE

(into phone)

Don't take it personally. It's just that a lot of people lie on applications.

ANDY

(into phone)

Yeah, I know.

NICHOLE

(into phone)

You gonna be busy today?

ANDY

(into phone)

I'm unemployed, why would I be busy?

Nichole reacts... doesn't like the tone.

NICHOLE

(into phone)

Andy, in less than a month you've lost your mom, your job, found out your sister is a psycho, and all you've done is fill out job application, after job application.

Andy reacts to his job log.

ANDY

(into phone)

Thirty.

NICHOLE

(into phone)

Cut yourself some slack, will yeah?

Andy reacts...

ANDY

(into phone)

I have to go home and go over some numbers with Seth. We can hook up first thing in the morning, okay?

NICHOLE

(into phone)

Okay. Just don't beat yourself up, it'll all work out, okay?

ANDY

(into phone)

Okay.

NICHOLE
 (into phone)
 See you in the morning.

ANDY
 (into phone)
 Bye.

Andy hangs up.

END INTERCUT.

He reacts before starting the van.

EXT. HOUSE -- AFTERNOON

Establishing the house... As the van pulls into the driveway next to Seth's coupe.

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- AFTERNOON

Andy ENTERS carrying a file folder.

ANDY
 Hay Seth...

Andy looks around... placing the file folder onto the table.

Andy looks into the living room.

INT. HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- MORNING

The furniture has been moved, dusted and the room has been vacuumed. Andy reacts...

ANDY
 Seth!!

Andy makes his way back to the...

KITCHEN

SETH (O.S.)
 (from up stairs)
 I'm getting ready for work.

ANDY
 What did you do to my living room?

INT. HOUSE -- BATHROOM -- AFTERNOON

SETH is in the bathroom drying his hair.

SETH
 Cleaned it up. The rug hasn't been cleaned in years...

KITCHEN

Andy reacts...satisfied.

ANDY

Get down here, I need to talk to you.

BATHROOM

Seth finishes up by putting his shirt on.

SETH

How did the interview go?

KITCHEN

Andy opens the file folder and proceeds to take out a note pad and pencil from a drawer.

ANDY

Could be better.

Seth comes down the stairs and goes straight for the closet.

SETH

What's up?

ANDY

We gotta go over the numbers.

SETH

Again? Dude we keep going over and over the numbers.

Seth puts on his jacket.

ANDY

I have new information to add.

SETH

You got something from your Mom's will?

ANDY

Yeah.

SETH

Well, not right now. I have to go to work. Don't want to be late on my first day.

ANDY

When you getting out?

SETH

I don't know.

CHARLES
(into phone)
She's back in the hospital.

SETH
(into phone)
Yeah?

CHARLES
(into phone)
Judge said fifteen months this time.

Seth reacts...

SETH
(into phone)
So I have fifteen months of living
to do.

CHARLES
(into phone)
And we have fifteen months to figure
out what to do with her.

SETH
(into phone)
That's your problem, it's my body
she keeps beating up. She gets locked
up in some hospital I have to figure
what to do.

CHARLES
(into phone)
I know. You should go and see her.

SETH
(into phone)
No way. I tried all that the last
two times. It does nothing. I'm
living with Andy now.

CHARLES
(into phone)
How long do you think he's going to
put up with you?

SETH
(into phone)
As long as he doesn't have a job and
he needs me. And the economy isn't
exactly helping him.

Charles reacts...

CHARLES
(into phone)
Well just don't overstay your welcome.

SETH
 (into phone)
 I wont. Look I have to go I'm almost
 at work.

Seth hangs up.

END INTERCUT.

INT. PICK UP TRUCK -- PARKED -- AFTERNOON

Charles reacts as he hangs ups.

EXT. MALL -- AFTERNOON

Seth's coupe pulls into the mall parking lot.

INT. MALL -- AFTERNOON

Light business. Not many passers-by.

In the center of the mall is a cell phone booth with only
 one employee. JOE. Early twenties...

Seth ENTERS.

 SETH
 Hi. I'm Seth... I start today.

Joe looks at him.

 JOE
 The new guy, Becky said you were
 coming in. Come around, she'll be
 here in a few minutes.

Seth circles the counter. He reacts to the smell of a PASSER-
 BY.

 SETH
 Smell that?

 JOE
 What?

 SETH
 Someone's been smoking weed.

Joe reacts..

 JOE
 You smoke weed?

 SETH
 I did, one time I got fired because
 they caught me smoking in the walk-
 in cooler.

SETH
I have a new best friend.

Seth gets into a tangent.

SETH (CONT'D)
His name is Joe. He is so cool.

ANDY
Your boss?

SETH
No, that's Rebecca, she's actually really hot, but anyway.

Andy reacts...

SETH (CONT'D)
Joe let me know about all these benefits that we have at the mall.

ANDY
You have health insurance?

SETH
No. Better. A cell phone.

Seth removes a new cell phone, still in the box, from his bag. Andy reacts...

SETH (CONT'D)
I told him about your old phone and he let me take this one.

ANDY
Are you sure?

SETH
Yeah. I can also do in house purchases in the mall. So here's a new comic book.

Seth hands Andy a new comic book.

SETH (CONT'D)
I chose this one because in the back there's a contest for people to send in their comic strips for consideration to publish.

Andy looks at it.

ANDY
Cool.

SETH
Is this your resume`?

ANDY

Yeah. I just figured that since I was a teenager till now. I have fifteen years of experience in retail.

Seth reacts... uninterested.

SETH

That's nice.

ANDY

That's damn good.

SETH

Has it helped?

ANDY

Not really, I just got off the phone with the fifth employer who has lost my application and resume`. They expect me to keep my act together but they can't even do it.

Seth goes to open the cell phone box.

SETH

Well that's too bad, let's program your new phone.

Andy refers to the dry erase board.

ANDY

I think we should go over the numbers.

SETH

Go ahead, I'm going to set up your phone.

ANDY

Just wait on that.

SETH

Why?

ANDY

Because... just focus, will you?

Seth continues to open the box. Andy goes to the dry erase board.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Mom's life insurance came in. Fifteen thousand dollars.

Seth reacts...

SETH

Sweet.

ANDY

No, not sweet. The funeral was seven thousand dollars. That leaves eight thousand. Four for me and four for Madeline.

SETH

How is Madeline by the way?

ANDY

I don't care.

Andy pauses due to the interruption.

ANDY (CONT'D)

This is how much money we have right now. Plus my share of the insurance. How much...

SETH

I heard about my mom, today.

Andy reacts...

ANDY

...and how much I project you're going to bring in from your new job.

SETH

She's going away for fifteen months this time.

Andy reacts and looks back at the dry erase board.

ANDY

And that gives us exactly four months before we're completely broke.

SETH

I don't want to go back to her when she gets out.

A silent conversation is being done here.

ANDY

Plus maybe another two months or so before utilities get shut off.

SETH

I don't even want to see her again.

ANDY

But we'll starve before that happens. Why are you talking about that?

SETH

Because I want you to know that I'm going to try to make this work. Because I don't want to be near my mom again. Because... I don't want to be her.

Andy sits down...

ANDY

Than bring the cell phone back.

Seth reacts...

SETH

Why?

ANDY

Because it doesn't make any sense that they would give you a cell phone.

SETH

Why not?

ANDY

They don't even give you health benefits. Why would they give you a cell phone?

SETH

Because it's the one benefit they do have.

Andy reacts...

ANDY

It doesn't sound right, not for your first day.

SETH

Why do you think that...?

ANDY

It sound like this Joe character is playing with your head.

Seth reacts.... not happy.

SETH

Why would he do that?

ANDY

Because he can. You're very easy to mess with, Seth, I've done it.

SETH

He doesn't know that.

ANDY

Everyone knows that. Your family has sheltered you for so long that you're naive now. Someone who is naive can be spotted a mile away. People love to take advantage of that. Maybe he's afraid you'll take his job from him.

Seth reacts...

SETH

Me? Yeah right.

ANDY

He doesn't know that yet. Just take the phone back.

Seth looks at him.

SETH

Fine.

On Andy's reaction as he checks his cell phone.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE -- MORNING

Establishing the next day.

INT. HOUSE -- ANDY'S ROOM -- MORNING

Andy is sound asleep and is awakened when the SOUND of a vacuum cleaner starts. He climbs out of bed.

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- MORNING

Seth is vacuuming the kitchen rug. Andy stumbles his way down the stairs.

ANDY

What are you doing?

Seth turns off the vacuum.

SETH

Vacuuming.

ANDY

You vacuumed yesterday.

SETH

Yeah?

ANDY

And the day before that. And the day before that.

SETH

You've never been in my mom's apartment have you?

Andy reacts... no.

SETH (CONT'D)

It was a mess. She never cleaned anything. We had roaches, ants, mold. I don't want to live like that.

Andy thinks...

ANDY

I can appreciate that....

Seth nods...

ANDY (CONT'D)

I've always wanted a house wife.

Seth reacts... goes for his coat.

SETH
And with that... you can put the
vacuum away.

As Seth puts on his coat...

SETH (CONT'D)
I have to go to work. You know, my
job, the thing I do for money.

As Seth goes out the door Andy picks up a dish towel and
chucks it at him.

Andy starts to rap the cord for the vacuum. He notices the
cell phone box sitting on the table. He reacts...

Andy's cell phone RINGS. Andy over reacts. Sees who it is
and that let's the air out of his balloon. He answers the
phone.

ANDY
(into phone)
Hi Nichole. Yes today at noon.
Okay.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MALL -- DAY

Establishing the mall.

INT. MALL -- DAY

Joe finishes a sale with a CUSTOMER. He gives him change
from his register. The customer thanks him and walks away.

Seth ENTERS the scene with a dolly full of little boxes. He
goes behind the counter. As he speaks he pops the drawer
open on his own register and checks the cash.

SETH
Rebecca is freaking out.

JOE
What now?

SETH
I guess there's a shortage in the
inventory.

Joe reacts...

JOE
She always freaks out about that.
She'll find it, she always does.

Seth nods. He opens one of the boxes and reveals cell phone accessories. He proceeds to place these items on a turn rack.

Joe reacts to a girl o.c.

JOE (CONT'D)
Hay, check that out.

Seth looks...

SETH
Nice....

JOE
You want to tap that or what?

Seth laughs.

SETH
I would tap that tonight if I could.

JOE
Yeah?

Joe takes out a twenty.

JOE (CONT'D)
Twenty bucks...

Seth reacts...

SETH
Right now?

JOE
Yeah.

Seth thinks.

SETH
I don't know, man, I'm working.

JOE
Be a pussy, I don't care.

Seth reacts...

SETH
Okay.

Seth goes O.C. Joe watches him walk away and reacts as he gets further. At the last second Joe pockets his twenty and opens Seth's register and removes a second twenty.

Seth walks back and shows Joe his hand.

SETH (CONT'D)

I got her number.

JOE

Fair is fair.

Joe hands him the twenty. Seth reacts... happy. He returns to stocking.

Joe reacts to him...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- AFTERNOON

Nichole is sitting on the front stoop with a camera bag. Andy's van pulls up and parks in front of the building. Nichole climbs in.

INT. VAN -- PARKED -- DAY

NICHOLE

What's up.

ANDY

What's up.

NICHOLE

Where are we going?

ANDY

Well, the best place I can think of for taking pictures would be the park.

NICHOLE

Sounds good.

Andy reacts as he puts the van into drive.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- AFTERNOON

The van drive off.

INT. VAN -- MOVING -- AFTERNOON

Andy driving.

NICHOLE

So any luck finding a job yet?

ANDY

Kinda. I did my resume`... and I didn't realize this until I did that. I've been in retail for almost fifteen years.

Nichole reacts... Andy checks his cell phone...

NICHOLE
That's along time.

ANDY
It's cool for the job hunt. But
it's kinda embarrassing too.

NICHOLE
Why?

ANDY
I want to be an illustrator. Not a
store clerk.

NICHOLE
Yeah. You'll get there.

ANDY
I know. I just have to keep my chin
up. It just sucks, thirty
applications, thirty. And about
twelve of them got lost.

NICHOLE
You lost them?

ANDY
No they lost them. So I go there
and they interrogate me like I'm a
criminal or something. But they
can't even keep they're act together.

Nichole reacts.

NICHOLE
You'll find a job. It's only been a
few weeks.

ANDY
I know. I'm just still steaming
over Circle 7's.

Nichole reacts to the name.

NICHOLE
By the way. You're not putting Rom
down as a reference are you?

ANDY
No, you.

NICHOLE
Good.

ANDY
Why?

NICHOLE

Rom has been talking crap about you. Making you as the example for everyone else. Don't do this or you'll end up like Andy. Don't do that or...

Andy reacts... mad as hell.

ANDY

Even with all of this stuff going on, I don't regret leaving there.

NICHOLE

You shouldn't. He's a jerk. I'm only staying with him until I get my name established.

ANDY

Unless he pushes you out the door first.

NICHOLE

That wont happen. I'm a girl. He treats me differently.

ANDY

I know.

Nichole removes the camera from her bag.

NICHOLE

Look at this.

Andy eyes the camera.

ANDY

That's pretty nice.

NICHOLE

Oh, yeah, I'm on my way. The next thing I have to get is the enlarger and then the chemicals and I'm in business.

ANDY

Sweet.

Nichole also pulls out a roll of film from the camera bag.

NICHOLE

I also bought this roll of five hundred D film. I can't wait to see how they're going to come out.

ANDY

Hay, maybe if we're lucky we'll see a baby get rescued from a burning building.

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE

Yeah, wait no. It's funny how tragedy
can be someone else's successes.

Andy reacts.

EXT. PARK -- PARKING LOT -- AFTERNOON

The van pulls into the lot and parks. Andy and Nichole
dismount. They start to walk. Andy checks his phone again.

NICHOLE

What do you think? Foley Photography.

ANDY

You're last name, at least now you
don't have to go for naming rights.

NICHOLE

Exactly.

EXT. MALL -- AFTERNOON

Seth and Joe leave the mall.

SETH

Hay, you wanna hit the bar.
(showing Joe's twenty)
You're buying.

JOE

Sure, call me later.

SETH

All right. I'll call you around
seven.

JOE

Sounds good.

Seth heads for his car.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK -- AFTERNOON

Nichole frames a shot and SNAPS a picture.

Andy is nearby. He looks at his phone again.

NICHOLE

Why do you keep looking at your phone?

ANDY

Waiting for a phone call.

NICHOLE
A job?

ANDY
No.

NICHOLE
The sub shop guy?

Andy reacts.... embarrassed.

ANDY
You got me.

NICHOLE
He'll call.

ANDY
It's been a week. I don't get it, I
thought he would call by now.

NICHOLE
He's probably nervous.

Nichole aims her camera again. SNAP.

NICHOLE (CONT'D)
I gotta good one. A nice close up
of a duck. It looks like I was right
next to it.

Nichole is having a blast.

ANDY
You're pretty good at this.

NICHOLE
I love it. I can't wait until I do
this for money...

ANDY
Yeah...

They walk...

NICHOLE
Did you tell Seth that you're gay
yet?

ANDY
No.

NICHOLE
Why not, he lives with you, he should
at least know.

ANDY

I don't think it's going to be permanent.

NICHOLE

He's still your friend.

ANDY

Right now that's by necessity.

Nichole reacts to that...

NICHOLE

He likes you.

ANDY

I know. But he's so annoying. It gets old after a while. He wants everything for free. He doesn't want to work for anything...

NICHOLE

He's got a job now, doesn't he?

ANDY

Yeah, but...

Nichole reacts...

ANDY (CONT'D)

He came home with a new cell phone yesterday. He tried to give it to me.

NICHOLE

So.

ANDY

He said it was complimentary. I have a hard time buying that.

NICHOLE

You think he stole it?

ANDY

No, I think his co-worker is playing with his head. Setting him up to get fired.

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE

And he's not smart enough to catch it.

ANDY

He has to learn things the hard way, all the time.

NICHOLE
Well at least he learns.

ANDY
He's got too much of his dysfunctional family in him. He picked up a lot of bad habits from them.

Nichole sees something and reacts...

EXT. PARK -- PARKING LOT -- AFTERNOON

Nichole and Andy approaches the van. Under the van is a huge puddle of antifreeze.

ANDY
Great, that's the last thing I needed.

NICHOLE
Oh Andy...

Andy unlocks the van and pops the hood. He looks inside.

NICHOLE (CONT'D)
Is it the radiator or something?

ANDY
Nope.... It's the water pump.

Nichole and Andy reacts...

NICHOLE
What are we going to do?

ANDY
Relax... I'll call the tow truck.

NICHOLE
But how are you going to afford to fix it?

ANDY
It's the water pump, it's just a twenty dollar part.

NICHOLE
Thank God.

Andy reacts and moves to the passenger seat.

INT. VAN -- PARKED -- AFTERNOON

Andy looks into the glove compartment. He glances over at his folder of business names.

ANDY
Great.

EXT. PARK -- PARKING LOT -- AFTERNOON

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE

What?

ANDY

This is going to slow down the job
hunt for a few days.

Andy gets out of the van with a card.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Not enough to hurt me but just enough
to slow me down.

Nichole reacts....

Andy takes out his cell phone.

ANDY (CONT'D)

This sucks, this really sucks...
watch now someone is going to call
me for a job interview or something
and....

NICHOLE

Just call the tow truck.

Andy reacts... He goes to flip open the phone, and just as
he does it rings. Andy looks at the number... frowns and
answers it.

ANDY

(into phone)

Hello?

(beat)

Yes?

(beat)

Sean... I thought you were never
going to call.

Nichole reacts.

ANDY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

No, this is not a bad time at all.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

THE END.