

While You Weren't Looking

by
Jeremy Mackie

While You Weren't Looking LLC
55 S. Atlantic St.
Seattle, WA 98134
WGA West Reg # 1328486

A burgundy late-model Caddy arrives in front of a family home plastered with bright yellow 'Kid's Caution' signs (Slow Down!!!, Kids Live Here!!!, etc.)

MOM, a skinny New Age hippie wearing gobs of weather protective clothing, opens the door and grabs the hand of DAYLEN, her 5-year-old blonde son. GRANDMA, a kind, silver-haired lady, comes around the car.

MOM

Thanks for watching Daylen, Mom. I'll take him to a new sitter tomorrow, the last one had a dog next door that looked filthy, I couldn't stand to leave him there.

GRANDMA

Hmm, yes. Dear, are you sure Daylen is alright? (aside) He didn't say hardly a word, he seems, well, depressed.

MOM

Oh, he's just fine, he's just well-behaved, we're lucky.

Daylen looks up with a face full of melancholy.

GRANDMA

But he doesn't say anything, just nods and eats.

MOM

He's just taking a break from talking.

GRANDMA

Ok dear, Mother knows best. I'm off, (hugging Daylen) Daylen, don't be so glum, just try doing what makes you happy.

As the car drives off, Mom smiles and waves, then quickly gets down to frantically wiping Daylen down with anti-septic cloth, spinning him around like a play doll and paying special attention to his face.

Music cue. Title letters sneak in behind Mom while she's taping thick foam padding on a kid's bike with training wheels on the front and the back.

When she's done, she stands up to admire, then looks quickly back behind her, and the letters disappear. She picks up the bike and walks off frame.

3 EXT. BMX BIKE TRACK, DAY 3

Daylen sits on his bike on top of a massive dirt jump. Mom comes in and pulls him off the bike just as he goes to ride down. The bike tumbles down the hill.

4 INT DAYLEN'S GARAGE, DAY 4

Daylen rides his dual-training-wheeled bike in foam padded half garage space, slowly spinning a circle in the cramped space.

5 EXT. BEACH, DAY 5

A shovel flings dirt out of a deep hole. Mom reaches in and pulls Daylen out.

6 EXT DAYLEN'S FRONT YARD, SANDBOX, DAY 6

Mom plops Daylen in a tiny sandbox with a very tiny shovel. After he flings one shovel full of dirt, Mom's hands come in and put safety glasses on him.

7 INT. FUNLAND PLASTIC BALLS POOL, DAY 7

Daylen jumps in a pool of brightly colored plastic balls. Mom's hands immediately come in and pull him out.

8 INT. KITCHEN, DAY 8

Daylen lands in front of a huge sink-full of dirty dishes.

9 EXT. BEACH, DAY 9

Daylen runs down to the beach with an oversized surfboard in tow, running smack into Mom.

10 EXT DAYLEN'S FRONT YARD, DAY 10

Fuming mad with determination, Mom carries Daylen roughly into the house.

MOM

If you want to be Tiny Knieval, there's going to be a few changes around here.

She enters the house, and returns carrying Daylen dressed in a protective suit and a helmet.

11 EXT. DAYLEN'S HOUSE, DAY 11

Outside of the open backseat of a sedan, Mom places a large helmet on Daylen and stands back to admire her work.

Besides the helmet, Daylen wears an emergency inflatable life jacket, elbow and wrist guards, a large device that reads 'Child Tracker' on his wrist, swim goggles, and an orange marking flag that protrudes out of his back.

As she admires, we drift out to see the words 'Hero Mom' floating above her in twisted balloon work. Suspenseful music starts.

HERO MOM SEQUENCE

12 INT. CAR, DAY 12

Daylen unbuckles his car seat and reaches over for the door handle. The door opens and he falls out into the fast-moving highway.

13 EXT. STREET, DAY 13

Daylen rolls out of the speeding car and careens down the road.

14 EXT. HILL BLUFF WITH GUARDRAIL, DAY 14

Daylen rolls over a bluff and into the air in a large arc.

15 EXT. RIVER, DAY 15

Daylen falls into the river. As he hits, the emergency life jacket inflates and a marking flag flips up. He starts floating down the river.

- 16 EXT. HILL BLUFF WITH GUARDRAIL, DAY 16
Mom gets out of the car and looks over the bluff, spotting Daylen and rushing back in her car.
- 17 EXT. RIVERBANK, DAY 17
Daylen is picked up out of the water by a group of Juggalos in heavy makeup with a hoopdee blaring music in the background. They smile and hand him a bag of sugary candy. Daylen gives them a high-five.
- 18 EXT. TATTOO AND PIERCING PARLOR, DAY 18
Daylen is escorted on the shoulders of the Juggalos into a grimy-looking tattoo parlor.
- 19 INT. TATTOO PARLOR 19
As a tattoo needle starts to come down to his arm, the child tracker on his wrist starts beeping loudly.
Mom bursts through the door with an tracking device and rushes to Daylen, giving him and the Juggalos a stern look.
End HERO MOM SEQUENCE
- 20 INT. CAR - DAY 20
Mom finishes day-dreaming while driving in front seat of the car, and looks over at Daylen in the rear-view mirror.
Daylen has removed all of the protective gear into a pile on the seat next to him. She looks chagrined and then reaches over and locks the door.
Suddenly, her watch beeps 5:00, and she looks over and spots a post-it note on her dashboard that reads 'Don't Forget - Simon's Luau, 6pm'
- 21 EXT. STREET - DAY 21
The car guns forward suddenly, picking up speed down a green-lined residential road.

22 INT. CAR - DAY

22

The engine races as Mom speeds the car through traffic with gritted determination. Soothing New Age self-help talk blares loudly in the background.

MOM

You OK back there honey? Don't follow my example now, I'm stepping outside my desired self, I don't like it, but we just won't make it in time.

The lack of response from Daylen isn't surprising.

MOM (CONT'D)

(aside)

If you agree and love me anyway, just say nothing.

Suddenly, the car stops short. Pulling out right in front of her, an ELDERLY WOMAN with coke-bottle glasses slowly pilots her large old car through a rolling left turn. Very slowly.

MOM (CONT'D)

I've got no time for this Grandma. Don't make me get out and push you!

Stopped in the intersection, the car turns on a signal and backs up, now deciding to turn right. Mom guffaws in disbelief, and speeds around the car.

Daylen, a little excited by it all, tries to see what the commotion is about as they drive away, but can't see anything through the child-safe windows.

23 EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

23

With Daylen in tow, Mom weaves her way through pokey shoppers and into the store, walking like she drives.

24 INT. SUPERMARKET ENTRANCE - DAY

24

Glass doors slide open, and a cart goes by with a KID riding the back while DAD pushes. Daylen stops, wide-eyed, staring at the shopping cart.

A grin spreads across his face. Mom tugs him along.

25 INT. SUPERMARKET ENTRANCE - DAY

25

Nothing will get past it. Daylen's straight-locked legs refuse to be placed in the cart seat. He's sorry, but that's just the way it's going to be. Mom is just as astounded as Daylen about the seat not being an option.

MOM

Why don't you want to ride?

Daylen looks down at his shoes.

MOM (CONT'D)

Daylen, let's go, we've got to find something for this luau your Dad's dragged us into.

Mom pushes the cart away. Daylen runs wobble step to catch up and grabs a hold of the cart as it swings around the aisle, pushing it along proudly.

26 INT. SUPERMARKET DRY GOODS AISLE - DAY

26

Mom squints her way along the aisle looking for anything Hawaiian. Daylen pushes against the cart, trying to make it go, but it's no use, she's keeping a firm grip.

Crossing the aisle, Daylen spots ILOKKA, a friend of Mom's. She looks like an out-of-work hairstylist; unkempt, boisterous, foreign.

Reaching down, Daylen finds a big voice.

DAYLEN

HELLO!

Mom looks down with surprise at Daylen talking, then up and recognizes Ilokka.

MOM

Oh, hey Ilokka! I guess Daylen wants us to talk. How are you?

ILOKKA

Oh, ok, just keeping the smiling face on. But enough about me, how about you?

MOM

I'd be better if I knew where this stuff was, I need macadamia nut oil, taro leaves and oh yes, some pineapple juice.

IILONKA

You're making (bottom lip trembling)
Hawaiian food?

MOM

Yes, my husband bragged to his new best
friend about my cooking, and now I do
luaus. (noticing her broach) Is that the
Easter Bunny?

IILONKA

(beginning to cry)

Why did you have to say luau? You have no
idea what can happen there, please don't
go.

Ilonka collapses into Mom's arms.

IILONKA (CONT'D)

Oh Lord, they never saw it coming. And
then the foam, it was everywhere!
(babbles on in a foreign tongue)

Ilonka breaks down into Mom's arms, complete with wailing
and waterworks.

Daylen sees his chance with Mom's hands off the cart.
Starting with tiny forceful footsteps, he pushes mightily
against the cart.

Rows of canned goods start to gain speed across the
screen. Chrome plating starts to rumble, wobbly wheels
spin faster and faster. Daylen's feet can hardly keep up.
He pulls himself up and he's...

RIDING!!!

In the background behind Ilonka and Mom, a cart slowly
disappears around a corner with Daylen barely hanging on.

27

INT. SUPERMARKET CANNED GOODS AISLE - DAY

27

The cart slowly rollicks down the aisle. Daylen giggles
with glee, leaning to the left or the right and using the
opposite foot for balance, he's got control of the cart!

He pushes off a few times and then turns another corner,
slowly careening like a over-aged driver, bumping shelves
and leaving glass jars and cracker boxes wobbling.

28 INT. SUPERMARKET PRODUCE SECTION- DAY 28

Still learning how to ride the cart, Daylen glides behind headphoned shoppers, young couples flirting, professors squinting, all oblivious to his joyride.

He squeaks past two crossing carts, both of which happen to be looking the other way when he slides by. He rolls a lazy figure 8 around two displays and speeds down empty aisles.

Slowly rolling, he turns a corner and lightly bumps into a store clerk, who gives him a look. Stunned, he dutifully moves over to the shelf, grabs something and puts it in the cart. The clerk gives him a look, and then gives up and goes back to pricing. Daylen slowly pushes the cart off.

29 INT. SUPERMARKET DRY GOODS AISLE - DAY (CONT.) 29

Ilonka leads Mom onto her knees for a crying prayer in the middle of the aisle.

30 INT. SUPERMARKET CANNED GOODS AISLE - DAY 30

Daylen rocks the cart back and forth across the aisle. Suddenly, he puts on the brakes. An OLD MAN in coke-bottle glasses slowly turns his shopping cart in front of him. Very slowly.

Daylen steps down off his cart. He walks over and starts to push on the old man's cart, trying to get it moving. The old man looks down and smiles, but doesn't go any faster. Daylen pushes harder.

Finally, the old man's clear and ambling down the aisle. Daylen gets on his cart and heads down the aisle with a big push.

31 INT. SUPERMARKET FROZEN FOODS AISLE - DAY 31

With his blonde curls flowing in the wind, he couldn't be a happier little boy right now...

What was that?

The cart stops. He spots JACKSON, a six-year-old boy with a black leather jacket and slicked back hair, *and sunglasses* riding his own *black* shopping cart down an aisle. Jackson pulls up on his cart.

It's a standoff. Jackson's icy cool glare makes Daylen squirm. Jackson raises his glasses and gives Daylen a 'what's up?' nod, then gets down and starts to inspect Daylen's cart.

A little frightened, Daylen walks around the carts ahead of Jackson, unsure of what is going to happen. Finally, Jackson stops and takes off his glasses.

JACKSON

Ever get it up on two wheels?

Daylen shakes his head 'no'.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Ever been in a drag race?

Again, Daylen shakes his head slowly 'no'.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Well, do you want to?

Daylen freezes for a moment. Jackson laughs and starts to head off. Then Daylen slowly sticks out his tongue. Jackson smiles, and motions towards the back of the store and heads off as Daylen follows.

32

INT. SUPERMARKET DRY GOODS AISLE - DAY (CONT.)

32

Still kneeling, Mom holds Ilonka in the aisle, fending off strange glances from other customers.

ILONKA

You couldn't do anything, it just kept happening, poof!, aieeee!, poof!, arrrgh!

MOM

Calm down now, it's OK, tell me, how did your chicken get sprayed with fire retardant?

ILONKA

Well, something happened at this "luau" and in a matter of minutes, almost everyone's leis caught on fire. Instantly. Total flaming chaos. Imagine, cute beautiful flowers one minute then, POOF, your face is on fire.

33 EXT. LUAU - DAY 33

Firefighters spray down a colorful luau. Guests scream, food flies off the table, girls in grass skirts flee, and charred rings of plastic hang around guests necks.

34 INT. SUPERMARKET DRY GOODS AISLE - DAY (CONT.) 34

MOM

Oh my God, that's horrific.

ILONKA

Nobody knows what caused it, just fake flowers made out of cheap chemicals. My nephew can't stand the sight of flowers now. Probably why he can't find girlfriend.

The waterworks have dried up as quickly as they started, and now it's a gossip session. Mom suddenly thinks of Daylen and looks around quickly, the cart's gone, and her boy...

MOM

Oh, you know, I'm so sorry, but I've got to be off, you know, for that...thing. Let's have tea soon and talk all about it.

ILONKA

Sure thing dear, you keep yourself together, OK?

MOM

Ummm, I will?

The moment of confusion gets lost in her need to find Daylen, and she disappears around the corner.

35 INT. SUPERMARKET BACK ROOM - DAY 35

The two carts line up in the stockroom. A grandstand of giant tomato cans watch while we hear rustle in the 'crowd'. The store intercom blares "Meat Department, customer on line 3" with a huge stadium announcer reverb.

Like hot rods at the start line, the two carts nudge slowly forward. Daylen and Jackson lean forward into their carts with smiles of gritty determination.

They take off down the grungy stockroom hallway, jockeying each other for position and speed.

They speed behind a teenage STOCKING CLERK in the next aisle. He rushes out just in time to see Daylen and Jackson burst through the swinging doors. With a scowl, the Stocking Clerk takes off after them.

36 INT. SUPERMARKET FROZEN FOODS AISLE - DAY 36

The two carts jet through the swinging doors and race down the aisle, knocking groceries off the shelves and forcing shoppers to climb into freezers to avoid them.

Jackson pulls ahead around one corner, but Daylen is in swift pursuit, speeding down the aisle. They slow down as they come across a clerk, then speed up again.

As he passes one aisle, he sees Mom searching for him with the grocery list in hand. He has a quick moment of thought, and then sees something coming up ahead. He reaches out and grabs a container of pineapple juice and speeds away from Mom.

37 INT. SUPERMARKET HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AISLE - DAY 37

Mom walks nervously down an aisle. (INTERCUT WITH)

38 INT. SUPERMARKET CHIPS AND SNACKS AISLE - DAY 38

The Stocking Clerk speed walks down an aisle.

39 INT. SUPERMARKET OVERHEAD - DAY (INTERCUT WITH 37, 38) 39

Like Indy cars in fast motion, the boys weave through traffic, change leads, slide off the track, and run along straightaways.

40 INT. SUPERMARKET END DISPLAY - DAY 40

Pulling up next to Jackson, they both share a smile while catching their breath. Daylen thinks a second, then

DAYLEN

Tag!

Daylen takes off down the aisle, with Jackson in surprised pursuit.

Daylen picks up a taro root, then Jackson catches up with him and tags him back. Jackson picks up a can of Pork & Beans, then Daylen slides by and tags him back.

Trying to speed but not be seen or caught, Daylen cruises through an aisle, sees a shopping clerk, turns, sees Mom, turns, sees a Hawaiian display, turns and picks up a container of macadamia nut oil.

Jackson appears from just off-frame and tags him. Daylen tags him back. They repeat a few times until they both laugh and then head off in a rush.

41 INT. SUPERMARKET CHIPS AND SNACKS AISLE - DAY 41

The Stocking Clerk rides proudly down an aisle on his own shopping cart, going way too fast.

STOCKING CLERK

Stop! You're under arrest! Haaaa.

42 INT. SUPERMARKET BULK FOODS AISLE - DAY 42

Behind Jackson and Daylen, the Stocking Clerk starts to catch up, quickly gaining speed. Both boys exchange nervous glances Jackson points Daylen to left, and turns right at the next aisle.

The Stocking Clerk speeds past them, out of control. A pair of eyes in coke-bottle glasses scream open, belonging to an Old Man staring down the barrel of the cart.

In pristine slow-motion, the Stocking Clerk narrowly misses the stunned Old Man, careens over a cash register display and onto a conveyer belt. It's obvious he had the time of his life, until the store manager appears.

43 INT. SUPERMARKET MEAT DEPARTMENT - DAY 43

A cart eases to a perfect stop in front of the meat section with a long, aching close bump into Mom's leg. Daylen smiles excitedly at his Mom from beside the cart.

DAYLEN

Can we get a grocery cart at home Mom?
We can use it to go between the pantry
and the kitchen, and move all sorts of
things around, we'll have to take out the
carpet, but it'd be great!

MOM

What? Where have you been? Don't you ever take off on me like that again, I had no idea what happened to you, you could have been kidnapped or tortured.

DAYLEN

(ignoring her)

And can I tell you a story? So I was pushing the cart when this grandpa just came right out in front of me, and I had to stop 'Errech' and then he just putted out right in front of me. He was sooooo slow!

Mom realizes her son is talking like she always wished he would.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

And then I met a friend who was shopping too, and we saw where all the groceries sleep and played some games, we have to come back!

MOM

Well, ok ok then, settle down. Now listen, you must never ever leave without telling me where you are going, ok? Makes Mom feel sick inside.

DAYLEN

Really? Sick? Like you're going to throw up?

MOM

Yes, like I'm going to throw up.

Mom makes a puking face, and Daylen makes one, and they exchange puking faces back and forth.

MOM (CONT'D)

Promise?

DAYLEN

(hesitantly) Promise to let me ride on the back of the shopping cart?

MOM

Ummmm, well, ok, but I have to steer, and you have to hang on tight. But yes, you can ride. Now, we have to hurry and get something Hawaiian...

She stops and looks in the cart.

MOM (CONT'D)

Did you do this?

DAYLEN

Mmmhmm, I can do lots of stuff, it's fun.
Next time I can ride and get the
groceries, I'm good at it.

Mom pushed the cart off, dumbfounded and happy.

44 INT. SUPERMARKET CASH REGISTERS - DAY

44

Daylen and his Mom pull into an line opposite the commotion, right behind Jackson and JACKSON'S MOM, a brunette with dark-rimmed glasses. Jackson has lost the shades and leather jacket and now looks like an innocent little boy.

Jackson gives a sly nod to Daylen, still too cool for school. Daylen makes a funny face at him. They both smile, but the Moms don't notice.

45 EXT. CAR SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY

45

Mom tries to put Daylen in the car seat in the back, but he shakes his head.

DAYLEN

Please Mom, can I ride up front?

She sighs and opens the passenger door. Daylen hops in, and she buckles him in and closes the door. As she comes around the car, he looks over at the steering wheel and giggles, locking the doors and reaching out for it.

CUT TO: BLACK