

HANDBASKET
A Movie About Where We're All Going

by

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EXT. MCGREW ZOO

Jill's walking around the zoo with LeRoy and another uniformed zookeeper, pointing at empty exhibits and fields. She appears to be explaining plans to him about the zoo and its animals.

INT. JILL'S OFFICE

Jill's office. She's yelling at Hank and Henry, who stand there with blank looks (Hank's chewing his last bite of McMuffin). She points out the file system and hands them stacks of paperwork to sort through and file.

EXT. JILL AT THE PETTING ZOO

She's smiling proudly at the children and the animals. She looks down at a goat rubbing on her leg, gets grossed out, and kicks it away.

INT. BEVERLY'S CAR -- LATE MORNING

Beverly drives along a residential street, checking out all the children who look like they could all grow up to be criminals and vagrants. She stops at a STOP sign. A LITTLE BOY around six years old approaches her window.

BOY

Are you an unmarked police car?

BEVERLY

I'm not a car.

BOY

But you are a cop.

BEVERLY

Why do you say that?

BOY

You look like my mom.

She's perplexed.

BEVERLY

Is your mother a cop?

BOY

No.

He walks away. She drives on, and reaches the high school and parks.

INT. HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- AFTERNOON

Classes just let out for the day.

Beverly's looking around for the principal's office in this seedy high school with minimal, drab décor. She finds her destination, where a heavysset woman, YVONNE (40s), sits at a desk behind the counter.

BEVERLY

Excuse me, ma'am.

The woman stops what she's doing, throws off her glasses letting the chain around her neck catch them.

YVONNE

Oh, hon, I thought you were another kid comin' in here asking for an excused absence form. I swear I'm gonna lose it form workin' in this place.

BEVERLY

Rough job, eh?

YVONNE

You have no idea.

BEVERLY

I'm with the Atlantic City PD--

YVONNE

Oh! Well maybe you do have an idea then! In fact, you'll probably be seeing plenty of these exact same kids again in a few years. If you haven't already! Ha!

BEVERLY

Funny you should say that. I'm actually here to check some school records on a student who graduated about 10 years ago -- Stewart Wilcox?

YVONNE

Stew Wilcox? Yeah, it does not surprise me one pinch that you're checkin' up on him.

BEVERLY

How come?

YVONNE

Oh, he was always getting in trouble for something or other -- usually because he spent his time with so many useless losers who were always takin' advantage of him. I think

(MORE)

YVONNE (CONT'D)

that's what got him in trouble enough to cart him off to Cheney -- I think for something druggie. He sold some to an undercover cop or something.

BEVERLY

Cheney Juvenile Corrections Center?

YVONNE

Yep.

BEVERLY

Really. Can I check out his folder?

WOMAN

When did you say he graduated?

BEVERLY

1990.

WOMAN

Well, ever since they raised the number of students attending here, we don't have the capacity to store students' records beyond 10 years. So if he graduated in '90, then we probably disposed of all evidence of his time here just last year.

BEVERLY

Ten years is the cut off, and I just happen to need them in the 11th year? That's about right.

YVONNE

Lemme double check, just in case.

She moseys into the back room, then returns a few minutes later and leans on the other side of the counter from Beverly.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

The oldest student file we have is from 1991. Gee, I'm real sorry about that. Was there anything particular about him you were looking for?

BEVERLY

You said you remember him?

YVONNE

Vaguely, but I recollect him and his brother -- Rob, I think?