

The Chauffeur

written by

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A frustrated soccer mom, who has too many of "those" days to count, begins to daydream about a different life until an accidental encounter helps her put things into perspective.

FADE IN:

INT. LUXURIOUS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A fire crackles in an ornate fireplace, nestled between two floor-to-ceiling bookcases.

LUANA SMITH, a 40+ soccer mom, is sitting, wrapped in a big fluffy blanket, on a very expensive and ornate couch reading a romance novel.

The HOUSE CHAUFFEUR, a tall, dark and handsome man, enters the room.

HOUSE CHAUFFEUR

Excuse me Ma'am. I have the kids in the car ready for school. Cook said your breakfast will be served shortly.

LUANA

Thank you.

Sighing deeply, she lays back her head and closes her eyes.

GIRL (O.S.)

Mom?

Luana covers her head with the blanket and sinks deeper.

GIRL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

MOM?!!

INT. DINING ROOM OF MIDDLE CLASS HOME - MORNING

Luana, fully dressed for the day, is sitting at the dining room table full of breakfast plates with partially eaten food. Her head is resting on her arms. She pops her head up quickly and shakes off the dream in her head.

LUANA

What?!!

LIBBY, a 12 year old fashionista, is standing next to the table with schoolbooks in her hands.

LIBBY

School? Remember?

LUANA

Of course I remember!

LIBBY
We're going to be late.

Luana looks at the clock. 7:50AM. She freaks out.

LUANA
LET'S GO!!!!

Insert title: The Chauffeur

INT. MINI VAN IN MOTION - MORNING

Luana is driving like a woman on a mission. GABE, a 14 year old autistic boy, is sitting in the front seat playing on his iPad. Libby and MAVERICK, an 8 year old boy with a hint of troublemaker, are bickering in the middle row.

LUANA
Knock it off you two!

Maverick finds a

SMALL BALL

On the floor of the car. He grabs it and throws it at Libby's head. She retaliates by punching him in the arm.

MAVERICK
Mom?! Libby hit me!

LUANA
Stop touching each other!! Argh!
You guys are going to make me have
an accident!

EXT. FRONT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MORNING

The mini van pulls up in the drop off lane. Another car cuts them off and stops in front of them, letting off their child.

INSIDE MINI VAN

Luana lays on the horn.

LUANA
You jerk! Wait your turn!! Where is
the drop off monitor?

LIBBY
Chill out Mom.

LUANA
 He's not following the rules! Mav
 get out of the car!

Maverick hops out of the car.

LUANA (CONT'D)
 Let's go let's go let's go!!

The mini van roars away with the door still closing.

INT. MINI VAN IN MOTION - MORNING

Gabe is still playing on his iPad, but occasionally we see him flapping his hands in excitement.

LIBBY
 We're going to be late Mom, and it
 is all your fault.

LUANA
 Then fire me. Oh that's right - you
 can't. I think I might quit though.
 What do you think? Want to do your
 own laundry? Walk to school?
 (beat)
 I didn't think so.

LIBBY
 (Re: Gabe's hand
 flapping))
 Gabe! Stop that!

LUANA
 Libby! You know your brother can't
 help it.

LIBBY
 But it is embarrassing when he does
 it, especially at school.

LUANA
 Why can't you be a little more
 compassionate when it comes to your
 brother?

LIBBY
 That's right, just because he's
 autistic it's all about him. Forget
 about me and how it affects me.

Luana pulls over and parks. She turns around.

LUANA

Libby..

By then it is too late, Libby has already shoved open the door and stormed off. Luana sighs.

EXT. FRONT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

Gabe and Luana get out of the car. Standing on the sidewalk Gabe begins flapping his hands.

GABE

Bye Mom.

Luana grabs his hands and gives them a kiss.

LUANA

Bye Gabe.

Luana notices her two friends standing nearby. KAT, 40, is a tall voluptuous woman in yoga clothes and WILLOW, is an early 30s granola type woman. They wave at Luana as she walks sullenly over to them.

KAT

One of THOSE days?

LUANA

I seem to be having a lot of those lately. And right now, I'm having one of those "I really need to soak in a long hot bubble bath while eating tons of Chunky Monkey" moments.

WILLOW

Oh I have those moments all the time! Well, without the bath part because that's wasting water. Oh and no ice cream..I'm vegan.

Luana raises her eyebrows then turns to Kat for empathy.

KAT

Don't look at me. I think like a man. Compartmentalizing does wonders for that.

LUANA

I guess I won't be getting your sympathetic ear today.

KAT

Tell me the problem. I'll help you fix it.

Luana rolls her eyes and turns back to Willow.

LUANA

I feel like a professional chauffeur. I'm tired of driving the kids back and forth to school, soccer practice..

KAT

(with a hint of competitiveness)
Baseball practice.

The showdown begins.

LUANA

Musical theater.

KAT

Piano lessons.

LUANA

Girl Scouts.

WILLOW

Hypnotherapy.

Kat and Luana stare at Willow as she gives them a "what?" look. They resume the competition.

KAT

Swim lessons.

LUANA

Social skills class. Occupational therapy. And Adaptive skills.

KAT

You win.

A black town car pulls up alongside them.

LUANA

Now, if I could have someone to drive my kids around, life would be so much easier.

A drop dead gorgeous DRIVER steps out of the car.

KAT

If I could have someone like that drive me around, life would be so much more interesting. Mmm hmmm...

WILLOW

That car is not fuel efficient which is one of the major causes of global warming. I'll stick with my Prius.

Kat gives Willow a "you're crazy" look as Luana begins to fade into a daydream...

The Driver opens the door for Luana.

DRIVER

Your chariot awaits. I have already picked up the groceries and the dry cleaning. Where would you like to go?

Luana's face lights up dreamily.

WILLOW (O.S.)

Luana?!

LUANA

(irritated)
What?!

WILLOW

Never mind. You ARE having one of those days! Well you don't have to take it out on me.

Willow sulks away.

KAT

Don't mind her. Bleeding heart, you know. What you do need to worry about is that.

Kat points to MR. PETERSON, the school's assistant principal, who is walking towards them calling to Luana.

LUANA

Great.

MR. PETERSON

Hello Mrs. Smith. I need to talk to you about an incident with Gabriel that happened yesterday in class. Do you mind coming to my office?

LUANA

(defeated)

Sure.

They walk together towards the school.

INT. MINI VAN IN FRONT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING LATER

Luana is sitting in the driver's seat with her head on the steering wheel.

LUANA

Can this day get any worse?

She looks up, sorrow written all over her face, and begins to drive away from the school.

ON FLOOR

Mav's ball rolls under her feet.

LUANA (CONT'D)

Darn it! I'm going to kill those kids!

She angrily reaches down to grab the ball and as she does the car swerves a little to the right. The car hits something with a loud BANG and continues to drag it along the ground until Luana pulls over.

LUANA (CONT'D)

Great!! Now what?

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Luana gets out and walks around to the other side of the car. She sees a

MANGLED BIKE

with the tire still spinning, partially under her car.

LUANA

NO! Oh my gosh no!

She turns to look around and sees a WOMAN slumped over on the ground a few yards down the street. She runs over to GIOVANNA, a slight woman in her 30s dressed simply. Luana, tears in her eyes, kneels down beside Giovanna.

LUANA (CONT'D)

I am so sorry!! Are you ok? Do I need to call an ambulance?

GIOVANNA

No, no! I'm ok.

LUANA

Are you sure?

GIOVANNA

Really I'm ok. It just scared me to death. I had to sit down.

LUANA

But..

She looks back at the mangled bike.

GIOVANNA

I wasn't on the bike. Flat tire.

LUANA

Oh, I'm so glad you are ok. Can I help you up?

Luana helps her up off the ground.

LUANA (CONT'D)

Let me take you home.

GIOVANNA

No don't worry.

LUANA

Please let me take you home. I'd like to do one thing right today.

GIOVANNA

Alright. I am still a little shaky.

INT. MINI VAN IN MOTION - MOMENTS LATER

Luana and Giovanna are silently riding along. Luana looks at the mile gauge.

LUANA

We've gone 3 miles already. How much further is your house?

GIOVANNA

About another 2 miles.

LUANA

Do you usually ride that far on your bike?

GIOVANNA

Yes. Twice a day, 5 days a week.

LUANA

Really? I wish I was that dedicated in my exercise routine.

GIOVANNA

Oh I don't do it for exercise - well, I guess it is exercise. I ride with my kids to school and then I go back and get them after school.

LUANA

What? You ride your bikes 5 miles to school? I'm not sure I could do that. I can barely get my kids out of the house in time to drive them there.

GIOVANNA

Well, we don't really have a choice - only one car and my husband needs it for work. No buses going out his way. We make it work though. The kids love it when we ride our bikes and if it rains we take the bus.

LUANA

Isn't there a school closer to where you live?

GIOVANNA

Yes, but I want my kids to go to a good school. You know what it is like as a mom - we want the best for our kids and we're willing to sacrifice for it.

LUANA

Yah. But mom to mom - do you ever get tired of sacrificing?

GIOVANNA

Of course. But then I remind myself that I have truly been given a gift to be able to be - mom.

Luana looks ahead deep in thought.

GIOVANNA (CONT'D)

My home is just right up there.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - MOMENTS LATER

The mini van pulls up in front.

INSIDE THE MINI VAN

POV LUANA

The poorly kept apartment complex.

GIOVANNA

Thank you for bringing me home.

LUANA

Again I am so sorry. I'm really glad you are ok. As for your bike -

Luana points to the back of the car.

LUANA (CONT'D)

I will get it fixed and back to you as soon as possible.

GIOVANNA

Thank you. And don't worry. I'm fine, a little shook up but fine. And..you saved me from having to walk my bike home.

You know, I have found that sometimes things happen for a reason. And I'm hoping I have found a new friend.

LUANA

Absolutely.

Luana and Giovanna hug each other. Giovanna opens the door and turns to Luana.

GIOVANNA
God bless you.

She reaches out and grabs Luana's hand, giving it a squeeze, then exits the van.

LUANA
(smiling)
He already has.

INT. FRONT OF TARGET STORE - AFTERNOON

Luana, with joy radiating from her face, walks out pushing a brand new bike and a bag. She stops, looks in the bag and laughs.

EXT. FRONT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

The mini van is parked in front of the middle school. Maverick is already seated in the car. Libby and Gabe walk up to see Luana standing on the side of the car with the door open. She is wearing a chauffeur type hat.

LUANA
Welcome aboard the Smith Family Shuttle!

LIBBY
Who are you and what have you done with my mother?

LUANA
THAT mother has decided to quit.

GABE
Alright!

Gabe begins to flap excitedly and Libby shakes her head but smiles. Luana grabs them both in a big bear hug to the protests of the kids.

INT. MINI VAN - MOMENTS LATER

Luana, Gabe and Libby pile in the car.

LIBBY
(whispering to Maverick)
What's up with mom?

MAVERICK
Not sure.

LIBBY
(hesitantly)
Uh, Mom? I forgot to tell you that
I need to bring snacks to the Girl
Scout meeting today.

Maverick gives Libby a "what are you doing look". She shrugs her shoulders. They all hold their breath, waiting to see what she'll do next. Luana has a slight moment of frustration, but then slides her hand over the brim of her hat and points forward.

LUANA
(with a newfound joy and
peace)
Let's go!

FADE OUT

The End