

"THE FIRST DAY"

An ex-missionary discovers that purpose and the mission field are not always thousands of miles away.

15-DE15-W085

FADE IN:

INT. AGUILAR HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

REMY is awoken by a four-year-old's foot crashing into his face. He gets up, goes to his desk. Begins writing on his laptop. His wife LUCY hugs him from behind.

LUCY
Can't sleep?

REMY
Just wanted to try and get some
writing in before the day started.

The alarm sounds. Four-year-old TILLY, rolls out of the bed, heads to wake her sister.

Remy grabs a shirt and tie from closet, holds them up for Lucy's approval.

REMY
Well?

LUCY
Do lab assistants usually dress
that formal?

REMY
I want to make a good impression.

LUCY
Sweetheart, you already did. That's
why they hired you.

REMY
The job isn't officially mine yet.
Not even sure if I want it.

Lucy walks over and hugs Remy.

LUCY
Some day you'll make Amazon's best
sellers list and be chatting it up
on The View. Until then you need to
view this job as a blessing, not a
curse.

Remy smiles for the first time all morning.

REMY
How did you get so smart?

LUCY
I'm a teacher. It's a job
requirement.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

REMY sits at the table drinking coffee. DAISY (10) and Tilly
crunch on cereal.

LUCY (O.S.)
REM! Have you seen my lesson
plans?!

REMY
On the couch!

LUCY (O.S.)
What about my laptop?!

REMY
In the office!

LUCY (O.S.)
Keys?!

REMY
In your pocket!

Lucy enters the kitchen and kisses Remy on the cheek.

LUCY
You're a life saver. Daisy, I'm
dropping you off today. Daddy is
starting his new job.

DAISY
So Dad, what kind of lab are you
working at?

REMY
It's a blood lab, sweetie. They
help people live longer.

DAISY
I heard that most labs are cover
ups for government experiments.

REMY
What?! Who told you that?

DAISY
In The Walking Dead, lab
experiments started the Zombie
Apocalypse!

This immediately triggers Tilly who begins to cry.

TILLY

Whaaa! Mommy! Daddy gonna start the
zobby pocyclyps!

LUCY

Daisy! That's enough.

DAISY

But Mom! Dad needs to know what
he's gotten himself into.

Lucy motions for Tilly to zip it.

REMY

OK. I've got to go.

He kisses Tilly on the head.

TILLY

Daddy, please don't kill us all
today, OK?

Lucy stifles her laughter. Barely.

Remy heads towards the front door.

LUCY

Hey! You're my hero.

Remy puts on a fake smile and delivers a weak fist pump.

INT. SOLUTIONS LAB -DAY

Remy sits in the lobby. JILL, the moody secretary, enters.

JILL

Mr. Aguilar?

REMY

Yes! That's me.

Jill scans him with her eyes from head to toe.

JILL

You sure you're going to be able to
work in those clothes?

Remy looks down at his polished shoes.

REMY

Uhhh...

GREG NORTON, Operations Manager, is a walking exclamation mark. He enters the room very caffeinated.

GREG

Hey! Sorry I'm late! Had to make more coffee in the break room!

JILL

Greg, this is the new Temp; Remy Aguilar.

Greg violently shakes Remy's hand.

GREG

Remy! I've never seen anybody dress so nice for this position. Dress for the job you want, not the one you have. Am I right?

REMY

Well I just figured, first day and all.

GREG

Now the toilets in Shipping overflow quite a bit, you might want to wrap some plastic around those nice shoes.

REMY

Toilets? I wasn't aware that was lab assistant type work?

Greg and Jill give Remy an awkward stare. Greg snatches the file out of Jill's hands and reads it.

GREG

Jill, the new janitor starts tomorrow. This is Remy, the new lab assistant. Now that's not very P.C. of you.

Greg glares at her. Jill rolls her eyes, heads back to her desk.

GREG

Sorry about that Remy. Come on, follow me to my office.

INT. GREG'S OFFICE -DAY

A large bookshelf is filled with every "For Dummies" book.

GREG

So, Remy. Tell me about yourself.

REMY

OK, I was born in Utah. The past eight years my wife and I have been doing missionary aid work in Africa. I helped with medical doing blood draws and she ran the school at the orphanage.

GREG

Wow! Africa huh? Hey, are the lions really as big as they seem on TV?

REMY

I really didn't see that many lions. My real passion is actually writing, I'm working on a...

GREG

So you were raised in Utah, and you did missionary work for eight years.

(beat)

I'm not a spiritual man but that Joseph Smith guy always seemed like a good dude to me.

REMY

Joseph Smith? Oh, no I'm not that kind of missionary. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

GREG

But you're from Utah.

REMY

Yes, but..

GREG

And you're a Missionary.

REMY

Right, but we were part of a Christian relief group.

Greg is confused and stares at Remy.

GREG

Well it's all the same to me. Head over to the supply room and grab yourself a lab coat.

INT. SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

Remy runs into the Shift Leads, TRUDY and LANCE. The J.Lo and Kanye of the company.

LANCE

You the new fish?

REMY

Ya, I guess so.

Lance and Trudy smirk at each other as they exit.

Remy grabs the nearest lab coat, slips it on, and dashes out of the room.

IN THE HALLWAY

Remy looks down at his lab coat. It's two sizes too small.

INT. MAIN LAB FLOOR - DAY

Greg addresses the crew of about fifteen.

GREG

Now, we still need to find that missing sample labeled "Cecil" from yesterday. The patient is high risk and might not have much time. Again, the name is Cecil, just like that lion that got shot in Africa.

The crew lets out an uncomfortable groan.

GREG

OK, bad example, but you get the idea.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Trudy and Lance walk with Remy to the giant specimen freezer.

TRUDY

So Remy, you married?

REMY
Yes, nine years in June.

LANCE
Then stay away from Lisa in
accounting. She loves married men.

REMY
Oh, OK.

TRUDY
Don't lend Jerry from Shipping any
money.

LANCE
And don't ever go to the Inventory
alone.

They arrive at the walk-in specimen freezer.

TRUDY
OK, just pull out all of the red
racks, and button up, it gets a
little cold.

INT. SPECIMEN FREEZER - DAY

Dozens of racks engulf Remy. He frantically searches for the
red racks, shaking with the cold. He tries to button his
small lab coat. He stumbles back and knocks over some tubes.

He starts picking them up. One has caught his eye.

INT. MAIN LAB FLOOR - DAY

Remy enters, still shivering.

TRUDY
Remy! We forgot to tell you that we
moved the red racks last night.

Remy holds up the tube.

REMY
I found the Cecil tube.

Greg walks over.

GREG
Not bad for your first day! Trudy,
go take this to the C.L.S. right
away. Remy, We need some more
gloves from Inventory.

Everybody stops what they're doing and stares at Remy.

LANCE

Boss, you want me to go with him?

GREG

Nah, he's a big boy. You can handle it, right Remy?

REMY

Sure Greg. I got it.

INT. INVENTORY CONTROL - DAY

Remy walks down a long corridor. An ominous chain structure surrounds a mountain of inventory.

REMY

Hello?

Through a rack, a pair of eyes watch Remy grabbing a box of gloves.

The eyes belong to human sandpaper, LIONAL. He jumps out from behind the rack. Remy flinches, startled.

LIONAL

What do you think you're doing!

REMY

Greg sent me here to get some gloves. I figured we were free to grab supplies?

LIONAL

(sarcastic)

Free to grab supplies he says! Do you know why this place is called Inventory Control? Because I control everything in here! Nothing is released unless I approve it. Understand?!

REMY

Yes. Yes sir I do. I just need some gloves.

LIONAL

Where's your req?

REMY

My what?

LIONAL
The requisition form! Proper
documentation?!

REMY
Greg didn't give me one, OK?

LIONAL
Well let's just send Greg an email
to see if your stories line up.

LIONAL sits at nearby desk, starts typing away.

REMY
Um, my name is Remy by the way.

LIONAL keeps typing and points to a sign over his desk that
reads "ONLY SMALL MINDS ENGAGE IN SMALL TALK."

LIONAL
OK, your story checks out. Take two
boxes and don't let me catch you
back here again without a req. Got
it?!

REMY
Got it.

Remy walks outside the gate.

LIONAL
The name is Lional, as in lion of
the jungle. Tread lightly.

Lional slams the gate shut and disappears.

EXT. LUNCH BENCH - DAY

Remy eats alone outside. Talks on the phone.

REMY
I don't think it's going to work
out. We'll talk when I get home.
Love you.

INT. SOLUTIONS LAB - GREG'S OFFICE - DAY

REMY
Excuse me, Greg? I just wanted to
tell you that...

Jill runs into the office.

JILL

Greg! MR. Garrington is here for his blood draw and Becky went home with food poisoning. She was the only Phlebotomist on site!

GREG

OK, stay calm. Wait. Remy, you did aid work. Are you still licensed to draw blood?

REMY

Ya. I've kept my license renewed.

GREG

Well you're up! Can you do this?

REMY

Sure, of course. But after I'm finished can we talk?

GREG

Anything you need. Jill take Remy to Mr. Garrington.

INT. PHLEBOTOMIST OFFICE - DAY

Remy enters. MR GARRINGTON (82) is waiting.

REMY

Mr. Garrington?

MR. GARRINGTON

Yes. Where's Becky?

REMY

She went home ill. My name is Remy. I'll be taking care of you today, if that's OK?

MR. GARRINGTON

Oh Sure. You shouldn't have trouble finding a vein in these old arms.

Remy rubs Mr. Garrington's arm with alcohol.

MR. GARRINGTON

How is your day going my friend?

REMY

Uh. It's actually my first day, but I guess all first days are pretty terrible.

MR. GARRINGTON

Oh, I don't know about that. The first day I saw my wife was a pretty great day.

REMY

Ya, I can see that.

MR. GARRINGTON

So was the first day I held my daughter. Not all first days are so bad.

Remy inserts the needle.

REMY

Well, when you put it that way. I guess being here today makes me feel like I'm wasting my dreams. Pretty selfish, huh?

MR. GARRINGTON

Nothing selfish about going after your dreams. The key is finding life in the journey. During the war I saw a lot of ugliness. You know what brought me hope no matter where I was?

REMY

What?

MR. GARRINGTON

A Sunset. It was beautiful anywhere. Like it was God's gift, reminding me that no matter my lot in life, there was always something amazing to see.

Remy removes needle and inserts another.

MR. GARRINGTON

You're helping an old man live one more day. That's another day I get to kiss my granddaughter. I don't think you're wasting your life at all.

Remy's eyes begin to water.

REMY

Uh, it looks like we're all done. It's been a pleasure Mr. Garrington.

They shake hands.

MR. GARRINGTON
Call me Cecil. Hope to see you
again, Remy.

Mr. Garrington leaves. Remy mouths the name "Cecil". He looks at Mr. Garrington's file. It reads: "MUST FIND MISSING TUBE." His eyes flood with emotion.

INT. GREG'S OFFICE - DAY

REMY
Greg?

GREG
Remy! So what did you want to talk
about?

REMY
You think we can order some bigger
lab coats?

Remy holds out his arms, indicates his short sleeves.

INT. REMY'S CAR - DAY

REMY sits in his car gazing at the sunset. He holds cell phone to his ear.

REMY
Go to the window. Look at the sky.

INT. AGUILAR HOME - DAY

Lucy gazes out front window. The sky is ablaze with color.

INT. REMY'S CAR - DAY

REMY
I think I'm going to be OK here.
See you at home.

FADE OUT.

THE END

