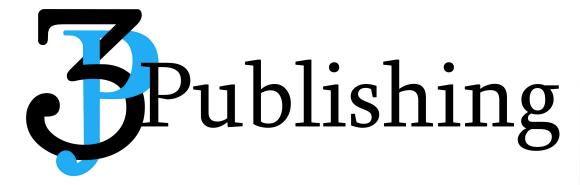
I LOVE MY JOB

by

Tony Santos



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AUTHOR'S NOTE

I wrote this script to remain in a somewhat believable and realistic light. The idea of seeing this by going to your local courthouse or law library – the fact that it could happen- is what should make this appealing. Obviously, some of the storylines go in an unbelievable direction but that shouldn't take away from the fact that I wanted to remain grounded in as much reality as possible.

The surrounding should remain busy; active. There is too much going on in this building for BETH to have complete control of what she wishes she could. Stage should have tables with people working away at their books, files, forms, etc. The information desk is where most of the action takes place, though we will occasionally be thrown into book aisles and restrooms.

CHARACTERS

BETH: 23. She is professional at work though very casual in her interactions with Diane. Has a dry sense of humor and a somewhat bubbly personality.

KYLE: 31. He's very shy, absent minded, and kind of socially awkward. The library is his last hope to help him fight for custody of his son.

DIANE: 21. She's a sweet girl but has a tendency to speak before she thinks.

SPARKLES: 42. SPARKLES is aggressive with no real filter. She says what comes to mind often creating awkward situations unbeknownst to her.

NANCY: The very stern and direct workplace inspector. She has little room for sense of humor.

HOMELESS MAN (HM): Age unknown. His mind is long gone.

ESPERANZA: Young illegal immigrant with very little grasp of the English language, but very sweet.

KENNY: The son of Kyle. 8 years old. He's a sweet and well mannered child.

SETTING

The King's County Law Library is a packed building with a lot of foot traffic. You will never see the outside of this building. The feel should be that BETH works at this dump-hole of a job. There is a lot of space but we happen to be at the heart of it.

Stage should have tables with people working away at their books, files, forms, etc. The information desk is where most of the action takes place.

I LOVE MY JOB

SCENE ONE

(We see BETH and DIANE in a library. They are at the front desk preparing for the day to begin. We see the women working away at clearing off their workstations.

BETH is nervous.)

BETH: (*To audience*) On a normal day, I come into the law library around 6 *am* to prepare for the rush of crazy clients that walk through those doors. I usually work with Diane.

DIANE: Beth, I cannot handle today. I had way too much to drink last night and I woke up this morning on the wrong side of the floor.

BETH: (*To DIANE*) I specifically told you not to come in hung-over today. (*To audience*) She's difficult to handle sometimes, but she grows on you. Like cancer.

DIANE: Why are you so nervous? Calm down...

BETH: Do you really not realize what today is?

DIANE: Sunday?

BETH: Wednesday! You can be so dimwitted sometimes. DIANE: I don't know what that means; but I do not like the way you said it.

BETH: The inspector, Diane. We're being inspected today. How could you forget?

DIANE: Oh, crap, that's right!

BETH: I just... do you remember the last time an inspector came?

DIANE: Yeah, and I never got a thank you for my help that day.

BETH: You were force-feeding him peanut brittle!

DIANE: Well I went through all the trouble of bringing it and it was rude he kept saying no!

BETH: He was allergic and went into anaphylactic shock- You know what? Never mind. That's in the past now. Just make sure you're on your game today. We cannot afford another bad review.

DIANE: You worry so much over nothing. This is routine.

BETH: *(To audience)* Unfortunately, routine doesn't really exist in this building. *(To DIANE)* Go unlock the doors. It's about time to open.

DIANE: I got it. Just take a deep breath.

BETH: (To audience; she is working away at scanning in last night's returns) I'm jealous of how she can be so nonchalant about these things. I started this job because I was in love with the idea of being around this wealth of information. To be able to live in the history of these law books. But the more I work at this place, the more I realize I've lost my passion for literature. To make matters worse, I've got to try to impress a corporate head while acting like I love my job. I should have brought Jack into work with me. A good whiskey and coke is never a bad thing. Unless it's your first time at a frat party... but that's another story. Someone else's story.

I Love My Job

(DIANE hurries over to open the doors. People start to make their way in. Someone immediately asks for her help. We see NANCY- a stern looking lady dressed in business attire, clipboard in hand- approach the information desk)

NANCY: Excuse me.

BETH: Hi, hello, yes! My name is Beth, how may I help you today?

NANCY: I'm Nancy Baumgartner here for the yearly inspection on the services of

this building.

BETH: Of course!

NANCY: Are you the person in charge at the moment?

BETH: Yes ma'am, I'm the branch manager.

NANCY: I see. And who is working with you today?

BETH: It's just me and my co-worker Diane.

NANCY: Very well. I'll be in and out all day. Please go about your daily routine.

(NANCY turns and starts to inspect the nooks and crannies of the place. The phone rings. BETH picks up)

BETH: King's County Law Library...

(HOMELESS MAN enters.)

HM: (Talking to himself) ... and then Jesus told me he could walk on water. I was there! With my own eyes!

BETH: (Covering phone receiver) Diane!

(DIANE finishes helping a customer and rushes over to BETH)

DIANE: What?

BETH: (Into phone) I'm sorry, can you hold please? (To DIANE) The Inspector is here.

DIANE: Where is he?

BETH: She...

(Pointing to NANCY who is in the Reference area, making sure the books are in order)

BETH: ...is about ten feet away from that homeless man.

DIANE: Oh God, not him again.

BETH: I need you to keep an eye on him.

DIANE: You weren't here yesterday. You won't believe what he did to the water fountain.

BETH: Just handle it, please.

DIANE: Okay. Just don't get thirsty until the custodian comes in.

(DIANE walks around the front desk and approaches the HM. BETH turn her attention back to phone)

BETH: Yes, I'm sure we carry that book.

(We hear the HM speaking loudly to passerby)

HM: If you don't believe me, ask him yourself! I mean he hangs out everywhere.

DIANE: Excuse me, I'm gonna need you to keep it down a bit.

BETH: (Watching HOMELESS MAN through this phone conversation) Well, I can make sure we have it at the front desk for you by the time you get here. (Beat) Yes, it'll be on hold. Have a nice day.

(BETH hangs up the phone. DIANE returns to the information desk.)

DIANE: Okay, seriously, why do keep letting that stench come into our library?

BETH: Diane, that's rude. It just feels wrong not to let them in when it's so hot out there.

DIANE: You should have heard what he said. It was hilarious. "Jesus *hangs* out everywhere". He's a genius and he doesn't know it. I already tweeted it. Six favorites, four retweets! How do you think the inspector lady is going to take him being here?

BETH: There's no harm being done. I doubt she'll even notice.

DIANE: I don't know, she seems...

(DIANE AND BETH see Nancy on the other side of the library – staring at a crack in the wall. Almost measuring it)

DIANE: ...thorough.

BETH: Well, she hasn't noticed him yet. Just make sure nothing goes wrong.

(Enter KYLE. DIANE checks a book out for a customer. KYLE approaches BETH)

KYLE: Hi... (examining her name tag) Beth, do you have a second?

BETH: Yes, of course, how can I help you...?

KYLE: Kyle!

BETH: Well, hello Kyle, how may I help you?

KYLE: I want to take my wife to court.

BETH: Well, that's straight to the point. Divorce?

KYLE: Yeah. It's gotten nasty. She won't let me see our son. (*Pulls picture of he and his son out of his wallet*) He's just over seven here. Anyway, I know that I'm supposed to fill out some kind of petition but I don't know where to start.

BETH: Luckily for you, I do. (She turns away from him to dig through forms) You know, that sounds awfully messy, what you're going through.

KYLE: Yeah, I just wish there was an easier way of doing this.

BETH: It's never easy. Trust me. I've seen plenty of these come through.

(Realizing she was being insensitive) But I'm sure yours will be great. Not great! But... I'm sorry.

I Love My Job

KYLE: (Laughing) It's no problem. I'm okay with this. It's my son I'm worried about.

BETH: Well, he sounds like he's very lucky to have a father to look after him like that. It's a shame that divorce should ever have to happen, but it could be worse. Back in the 1500's King Henry the VIII would marry women and when he was done with them he would have them beheaded. I guess the Church didn't expect the words "...til death do us part" to have such heavy weight. (Finds form, hands it to him)

KYLE: So what ended up happening to this Henry guy?

BETH: Syphilis. At least, that's the rumor.

KYLE: Well, with that many wives... (*Laughing*) Anyway, thanks for your help. Is there somewhere I can fill this out?

BETH: Luckily for you, I have an answer for that as well. (BETH points to a table near the entrance) The table right behind you.

(KYLE smiles and sits at the table and begins his paperwork. DIANE turns from her book scanner to BETH)

DIANE: Watch him!

BETH: Who?

DIANE: The stench.

(In the middle of the Library, we see that HM has made himself a book fort and is now perched on top of the pile)

HM: We gathered around him and some hooker touched his foot. Gonorrhea I told him. She gave his foot gonorrhea.

BETH: (*To DIANE*) He's not doing anything different than he does every other week.

HM: This time I told Jesus that he had gone too far. Leopards should remain incurable.

DIANE: No, no, just wait, I think it's almost time for his pants dance.

BETH: Every single week.

DIANE: Last time he took em off in front of some woman while screaming: "Look what Peter did to me!"

(BETH and DIANE watch HM for a moment)

DIANE: ...So I went on a date last night.

BETH: You always go on a date.

DIANE: Yeah, well, this time was different.

BETH: How did that go? DIANE: It was MAGICAL.

BETH: What did you guys do?

DIANE: He came over to my place and well... he left this morning.

BETH: Diane, you didn't even leave your apartment.

Tony Santos

DIANE: Yeah. But it was the most magical date I've ever been on.

BETH: What's with you and magic today?

DIANE: Sometimes magic just happens wherever it needs to happen.

BETH: Did you watch another Harry Potter marathon?

DIANE: He told me I looked like Hermione.

BETH: You are twenty years old!

DIANE: Oh so I'm too old to dream?!

(SPARKLES enters)

SPARKLES: Uhm, excuse me, Miss Librarian Lady Person. I spoke with some lady who got real cray-cray with me yesterday.

BETH: Ma'am...

SPARKLES: I asked her how I go about suing the U. S. Govor'ment...

BETH: Ma'am...

SPARKLES: I mean, I told her my whole story and e'rything, and she gon' tell me that I aint able to do this. Hol' up though, then I hear on the tv that I can sue for my rights... I saw it at 2am on the criminal justice channel.

BETH: I'm sorry...

SPARKLES: And we know the tv don't lie.

BETH: Excuse me, ma'am, what's your name again?

SPARKLES: Sparkles! BETH: Right, Sparkles.

SPARKLES: That's right! Cause all I do is Sparkle, baby!

(NANCY has already been attracted to this situation, but is watching from her last position across the Library)

BETH: Look, Sparkles, that lady who got real "cray-cray" yesterday was me. And as I told you ... yesterday, when a law is in place, you can't really sue a government if you break that law.

SPARKLES: So, what? Just cause I provide what other women can't, I gotta be seen as the monster?

BETH: Ma'am, I'm not presum-

SPARKLES: I provide services. (Getting loud and big with her gestures) Okay! I provide SERVICES! I'm just like you. You provide services. I provide services.

What makes us different?

(NANCY has now started to make her way to the front desk)

DIANE: (*Intervening*) For one, she directs people where they need to go when they have a problem-...

SPARKLES: And I direct people for where they should put their-

BETH: OK, ma'am...

NANCY: What seems to be the issue here?

BETH: Oh, Mrs. Baumgartner.

NANCY: Ms.

END OF FREE PREVIEW

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tony Santos competed minimally in high school forensics, but found that his true love is writing. Over the last several months he has been working with 3P Publishing on putting together some fresh and different perspectives for the stage. He is currently working on a variety of writings, all ranging from dramatic to humorous, single to duo. Tony is excited to be a part of the 3P Publishing world and is just as enthused to make a splash in the forensics circuit.

I LOVE MY JOB

by Tony Santos

GENRE: Comedy

CAST: 5 Female, 3 Male

SUMMARY:

BETH, lead customer service rep at the King's County Law Library, deals with the extraordinary on a daily basis. However, on this particular day, she is being watched by a corporate eye and must ensure that everything runs smoothly at her workplace. With the help of her coworker DIANE, they both try to avoid the unavoidable as they try to appease all parties, including a corporate inspector, a prostitute, a homeless man, and much more.

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