

12 Days Before Christmas

by

Alice Carter

FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT DOWNTOWN HOUSTON - NIGHT

TAYLOR SMITH, a single, 20 something, black female with long dark brown hair.

SETUP SCENE: Taylor was tired of taking orders from both her parents and her waitressing job. Taylor leaving her apron on the counter when she picks up her check.

DAYS LATER

MOM (OTP)

What I don't understand is why
you went to school for
Business Administration but
you're doing everything but
that.

TAYLOR

Ugh, not this again.

Driving and rolling her eyes at the phone.

MOM

Yes, this again. Your dad and
I didn't pay for school for
you to be job hopping.

TAYLOR

Welp, mother, if you'd like me
to pay you guys back just say
that.

MOM

That's not what I'm saying
sweetie, we just...

Taylor cut her mom off.

TAYLOR

Welp, I'm here now and I have
to clock in, so I'll talk to
you later. Love you byeeeee.

She hung up before her mother could say anything else.

Show Taylor walking into a retail store to begin her 1st day. She was good at finding jobs but horrible at keeping them.

MOM

I love you more.

She said into a silent phone.

HOURS LATER

Taylor was driving home contemplating if she should tough it out just to get through the holiday season.

TAYLOR

I don't think I've worked that hard in all my life.

She said aloud to herself.

INT. DOWNTOWN HOUSTON OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

A cool sweater type of winter day in downtown Houston.

Getting off the elevator on the 5th floor there weren't many people in yet; Taylor could hear the faint sound of a phone ringing in the distance as she walked to her desk.

Since Ms. Gwenith retired and Taylor's hookup to get this job, all seemed right in the world. All Tay could think about was the steady paycheck, benefits, a well needed shopping spree and maybe a few new pieces for the condo. Yes, life was finally looking up.

Two months later, Taylor is standing in an office building break room waiting for her coffee to be made while staring blankly.

For the past several weeks Taylor had been busy with long training sessions, some planning and setup and some project managing; keeping her so busy she didn't have time to think about the holiday decorations (that weren't out yet).

The annual holiday bash (that wasn't being planned) she finally remembered hearing Ms. Gwenith used to plan the annual holiday bash. She would've had the office decorated by now also. Since she retired Taylor was responsible for all of that.

TAYLOR

Oh wow, I need to get on that.

She said quietly to herself. Just as her friends Leslie and Keller were walking towards her desk.

LESLIE, a 20 something Caucasian female with short black hair. Taylor's friend that she met through Keller.

LESLIE

Hey Tay, what's up?

KELLER, a 20 something gay Caucasian male with short brown spiked hair. Taylor's friend since college, who had pulled some strings to get her the job.

KELLER

Heeeeyyy.

TAYLOR

Hey guys, what's up?

KELLER

Girl, what's going on with the decorations?

Leslie standing beside him smirking and shaking her head.

TAYLOR

OMG, I was just thinking about that.

LESLIE

What are you thinking? You can't NOT decorate!

TAYLOR

No, I was just thinking am I responsible for it now that Ms. Gwenith's gone?

LESLIE/KELLER

Um, yeah!

TAYLOR

I was just thinking I'd better get on that.

KELLER

Well, call me if you need my help.

Looking down the hall and seeing Mr. Williams, he and Leslie's supervisor, approaching.

TAYLOR

Thanks, Kells I will.

LESLIE

Yeah Tay, call Keller if you need help.

They all laughed as Leslie smiled and turned to see Mr. Williams walking towards them.

A tall late 40's male, slim build, brown skinned with a baritone voice.

MR. WILLIAMS
Good morning all, are you
laughing at me?

TAYLOR
No, Mr. Williams, not at all.

She said smiling and blushing.

MR. WILLIAMS
Well you'd better not be.

He said in a light and playful tone. They all laughed as the 3 started to walk away.

MR. WILLIAMS (CON'T)
Keller, I need to speak with
you.

KELLER
Yes sir, right behind you.

The 3 began to walk away as Keller looked back at Tay to shake his head yes, smile and wink.

She smiled back while sitting behind her desk. (phone ringing) Taylor answered it while rummaging through her desk. She found Ms. Gwenith's 'bash book' looking at the outside of it there really wasn't much to it. Flipping through the book she noticed a few business cards and some very illegible notes written throughout the pages.

TAYLOR
Thank you for calling, Mr.
Jaxx office Taylor speaking.

Thinking to herself, I'll need some time to go through and decipher this book. Unfortunately, time was not on her side since it was already December.

Her phone had been ringing all day but the call that was coming through now she noticed was from an internal number.

TAYLOR
This is Taylor.

VOICE ON THE PHONE

Hey, Tay we're going to get Italian for lunch today; you coming with?

TAYLOR

No, thanks guys, I'm gonna pass today. Next time.

VOICE ON THE PHONE

Okay, ciao bella.

Both phone lines hung up.

Since she declined an offer to eat lunch with her co-workers she decided to pull out the holiday decorations from the storage closet. Anything that was broken or worse, broken and taped back together was thrown away, that didn't leave much to work with; so, not wanting the office to look tacky she set aside handmade ornaments and anything that didn't look store bought.

That dwindled her décor down even more; with the office p-card (purchasing card) and the bash book she decided to go shopping for decorations and hopefully get more information for the holiday party.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY STREETS - SAME DAY

TAYLOR

Hi, Merry Christmas.

As she passed people on the street, headed to the downtown mall.

COUPLE ON THE STREET

Merry Christmas.

There were people shopping and talking with the faint sound of Christmas music playing over the stores speaker.

A teen-aged looking young lady with short white hair.

STORE CLERK

Happy holidays, did you find everything you were looking for?

TAYLOR
Hi, happy holidays, actually,
no, I couldn't find the
ornament hooks.

STORE CLERK
Is this what you're looking
for?

Reaching behind her counter she pulled out a box.

TAYLOR
Yes, it is, thank you so much.

Sounding overly excited, she finished checking out her items
and left the store.

TAYLOR
Thank you, enjoy your
holidays.

STORE CLERK
Thank you, you as well.

TIME CUT:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING

Passing the security desk but not seeing anyone there,
Taylor walked to the elevators and pressed the button when
it opened she stepped in and pressed the 5 button. Exiting
the elevator's she could hear the faint voices of people
talking and phones ringing.

From the moment she returned to her desk, as if on cue the
phone starting ringing. Approaching her desk with both arms
full of bags and new ideas for the book it was at that
moment she thought, 'why didn't I pick up some lunch while I
was out'. Well, with no time to think about it any farther
she put bags down and reached for the phone.

TAYLOR
Thank you for calling Mr. Jaxx
office, Taylor speaking.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

SOMETIME LATER

It wasn't unusual for Taylor to be seen around the office after hours. In fact, that was one of things that helped her to get promoted in the short time she'd been there, she was staying late, coming in early and always willing to help others. To her it was more than just a job it was really what she enjoyed doing so she did it well. The down side of that was not allowing herself time for a social life. She thought to herself, her life is in a good place and she didn't have a lack of romance she just didn't have time to allocate to dating.

There was this 1 guy but that was going nowhere fast. A couple of dinners and movies but nothing serious. Not to mention her moms, Keller's and Leslie's failed attempts at setting her up on blind dates (she began to reminisce about the guy that cat fished them with a picture of his son).

So, she decided to engulf herself in her work and that was good enough for Taylor.

Now that the work day was over she could concentrate on decorating the office. Walking down the hall and around the corner she went to see if Keller and Leslie were gone for the day. They were gone, which meant she would have to decorate alone.

HOURS LATER

Ironically enough her own condo wasn't decorated yet. No reindeer ears on her Jeep Wrangler either. Shaking her head and laughing to herself she finished decorating the office as she stood back to look over her work, she was pleased. Not to pat herself on the back but she's good at whatever she does, so she finished the decorating without any help and everyone is always pleased with her work.

Taylor gathered her things and started toward the elevator. Pressed the down arrow and got on when the door opened. She pressed the G to go down to ground level and got off the elevator when the doors opened Taylor stepped off into the lobby.

TAYLOR

Good night.

She said to a female security guard barely looking up from whatever she was doing.

SECURITY GUARD

'night.

DISSOLVE TO:

FADE IN: TAYLOR'S MIDTOWN CONDO

Finally home for the day Tay got comfortable, poured herself a drink and once settled in she took out her own decorations and began decorating the condo. After she was finished she thought she'd have another look over Ms. Gwenith's bash book. She thought she'd add her ideas from earlier to the appropriate sections. "UGH, this book is lame," she said aloud to herself as she took a sip from her drink.

Nothing to catch the eye and nothing exciting about any of her ideas. Thinking back to previous years party's that Keller had plus one Taylor didn't recall seeing any of the décor from the storage closet around the office. Perplexed at the thought she knew she had to do something magical.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING

TAYLOR

Hi, good morning

Speaking to a male security guard.

SECURITY GUARD

Good morning

Taylor walked to the elevator and the doors were already open. She got on and pressed 5 then the doors closed. Exiting the elevator to the 5th floor there were a few people in the hall she said..."good morning everyone."

GROUP IN THE HALL

(saying their good
mornings)

Good morning

Walking into the office the next morning, looking at the holiday decorations with fresh eyes made her extra glad she stayed late yesterday evening to decorate.

KELLER

The décor looks great Tay.

He said as he passed her desk.

TAYLOR

Thanks, Kells. So many times she wanted to call it quits because planning isn't my strong suite.

She said to herself, but loud enough for Keller to hear.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
But, I know I can't quit this
job.

KELLER
Why would you quit?

He stopped in his tracks.

KELLER (CONT'D)
Um and more importantly, you
can't quit because I vouched
for you to get this job.

TAYLOR
I'm not gonna quit.

she said smacking her lips.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
And yes, I haven't forgotten
you vouched for me. How could
anyone forget you only mention
it every week.

The work day started like any other work day, busy...just
what she liked.

Unfortunately, Taylor realized time was ticking on the party
arrangements and she still needed to contact the caterer,
make sure they have servers and see if they would decorate
the auditorium.

Now on break, Taylor decided to make some calls.

TAYLOR (OTP)
So in the future so I'll know,
how far in advance do you
need?

CATERER (OTP)
Well this is my busiest season
so, about 2 months.

TAYLOR (OTP)
Oh okay, thank you for your
time.

Taylor thought to herself, I won't be calling her anymore.
She thought she would also need to find a DJ and a
photographer.

Wow, these are things she really needed to know and the bash book wasn't very informative making it less helpful. She decided to put the book back in the desk drawer where she found it and wing it.

Taylor pulled out her cell phone to call her mom (just then her desk phone started ringing) so she quickly sent her a text and put the cell back in her purse before answering the work line.

TAYLOR

Thank you for calling Mr. Jaxx
office, Taylor speaking.

Once the office phone stopped ringing, her computer was turning off and she was leaving for the day she read the reply response she had gotten from her mom. She thought to herself, I'm off now so I'll just call her once I get home and settled.

It really felt good to speak with her mom again, she hadn't spoken with her in about a month. Since mom had retired she's been traveling and going out of the country.

TAYLOR

Thanks again mommy.

A late 40's single black female with a short Halley Berry hair style.

MOM (O.S.)

You're welcome sweetie.

TAYLOR

I'll talk to you tomorrow,
love you mommy.

MOM

Okay, I love you too. Bye.

The conversation went so well she now had a caterer, her mom agreed to cater for the amount Tay had in the budget for food, mom had had a very successful catering business before she retired and started traveling.

Since her mom still uses her maiden name for her business no one would be the wiser and setup was a part of the catering contract. Since mom was decorating she told Tay to make sure to come and see her. Taylor agreed and pulled up her FB account and scrolled through her friends list to send a message to an old friend that she found out DJ's.

Tay and her friend small talked for a few minutes before Taylor got to her point. He wasn't as busy as she thought he'd be this time of the year, so he could dj her office annual party.

While messaging him she texted a photographer she had met at another event. He agreed also and stated a stationary background would be extra. She wanted to stick with the monies allocated for photography so she said no to the background. Now with the event plans underway she felt a huge load lifted from her shoulders.

Just then her cellphone rang. She thought it was her mom calling back but it wasn't. Tay glanced at the phone screen, it was a local number but not one that she recognized, reluctantly she clicked the earbud in her ear.

TAYLOR

This is Taylor.

On the other end was a familiar female voice from the office.

VOICE ON THE PHONE

Hi Taylor, why haven't you contacted the caterer with this year's menu? She needs the budget and the setup plans!

TAYLOR

I've decided to use another caterer this year. Besides, she said...

She started to explain to her caller. While thinking to herself, who is this person on her phone asking about her plans and how did they even get her cell number. The caller went on with several more back-to-back questions and Taylor wanted to rebut the caller's inquisition but decided not to bother.

However, to end the phone conversation Taylor simply stated, "well, thank you for your input, I may take that under consideration". Then she disconnected the call, that was odd and cause for another drink.

Before she could refill her glass, her phone rang again. Saying to herself, "if it's the same number (looking up towards the ceiling) forgive me but, I'm not answering." It was a different unsaved number, with a perplexed look on her face again reluctantly she answered.

TAYLOR
This is Taylor.

It was a different coworker with the same issue. Taylor started to wonder why is it anyone's business about how she plans the bash. She cut her off by saying, "okay, who is this?"

VOICE ON THE PHONE
Oh, this is Mrs. Jessie

TAYLOR
Oh, okay, and how did you get my cell number?

MRS. JESSIE (O.S.)
From the employee personal directory.

TAYLOR
Oh okay.

She thought, the employee personal information form that everyone completed during orientation, she made a mental note to look at that when she got back to work. Taylor ended this call like she did the last one. "Well, thank you for your input, I may take that under consideration. Have a good evening." Then she hung up.

Turning her phone to silent she finished pouring her drink, sat down on the sofa and opened her laptop. Looking at the company's website she pulled up the holiday photos from the previous year's bashes. There was nothing spectacular about the setup so why was she getting so much flack about the arrangements.

Making a mental promise to herself to not stress over any part of the planning process she picked up her cell phone to call her mom. She noticed she had missed 3 calls, had about 7 text messages and some voice mail messages. Deciding not to read the texts or listen to the messages she made her call to her mom.

Glancing at the time, she thought it was too late but didn't want to hang up since it was already ringing.

SPLIT SCREEN SHOT:

MOM
Hello.

TAYLOR
Hi mommy, wha'chu'doin?

MOM

I was on your jobs website.

Slightly laughing

TAYLOR

Really, so was I, aww
twinning.

MOM

I figured I'd look to see what
the previous year's looked
like.

TAYLOR

I know, oh ma you won't
believe it.

MOM

What's that?

TAYLOR

I've been getting calls and
messages from coworkers about
the plans.

MOM

What you mean by that?

TAYLOR

Well, I've answered 2 calls, I
let the rest go to voicemail.
But, I'm getting flack about
not using the previous caterer
and stuff.

MOM

Wait?! What?!

TAYLOR

Yess, mommy.

MOM

No, they can't want that setup
again.

TAYLOR

Well...

She cut her off.

MOM

Tell you what, tell them to
call me if there's a problem.

TAYLOR

Ma, no!

MOM

What, I'm serious.

TAYLOR

I know but, honestly, I can handle it.

MOM

Yes, and I'll be nice about it.

TAYLOR

Nice?

MOM

Yes, nice, not nice nasty. Professional nice.

TAYLOR

Mmhmm, well hopefully it won't come to that.

MOM

Okay, if you need me to I got chu'.

They both laughed.

TAYLOR

I know and if it comes to that I'll let you know.

MOM

Good cause I already have the color scheme and material in mind.

TAYLOR

Ayyeee, thanks mommy.

MOM

No problem sweetie.

TAYLOR

Well, I'm gonna get some sleep, good night mommy.

MOM

Night night sweetie.

TAYLOR/MOM

Love you.

They both laughed and the phones disconnected.

Once again relief set in when her call to her mom was over. She should have known that when she and mom hung up the first time, mom had gone onto the website also to see what the previous year's setup and décor looked like.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING

The next day wasn't as busy for Taylor so she thought about stepping into the auditorium to see what mom had going on. Just as she noticed a group of coworkers (led by who she figured was Mrs. Jessie) from another section walking towards her desk.

TAYLOR

Good morning everyone.

UNCERTAIN MRS. JESSIE

Good morning, have you
listened to the voice mail
messages left for you on
yesterday evening?

TAYLOR

No ma'am, been too busy making
party plans.

Not wanting to seem rude she stepped from behind her desk and decided to go with the seemingly logical response. Already knowing the answer, she asked her a question.

TAYLOR (CON'T)

What were they in reference
to?

By this time the group decided to chime in all at once. Hands were in the air, heads were swaying and voices were being raised until a door opened behind Taylor and Mr. Jaxx (Taylor's supervisor) stepped out of his office.

MR. JAXX

Wo, wooo is everything okay
out here?

Silencing the group and looking at Taylor.

MR. JAXX (CON'T)
Are you okay, what's going on?

UNCERTAIN MRS. JESSIE
Mr. Jaxx, good morning,
 (he smiled and nodded
 toward the group)
we're just speaking with Ms.
Smith about the holiday party
arrangements.

MR. JAXX
Well, I'm certain Ms. Smith
has it under control,
 (he added before anyone
 could speak)
because if she needed any
assistance she knows she could
just ask for it.

TAYLOR
Thank you, Mr. Jaxx,
 (she said looking at the
 group of faces)
and yes, I have everything
under control. I'm doing
things differently this year
and I promise all will be
fine.

MR. JAXX
Well, there you have it. So, I
trust that that will suffice
for everyone.
 (he said while looking at
 who she thought was Mrs.
 Jessie.)

The group began to disseminate and Taylor walked back around her desk, sat down and turned her computer on. She wanted to stay in charge of the situation so she didn't want to look up until everyone was gone.

MR. JAXX
Taylor, you know I meant what
I said about your needing
assistance you can just ask.

TAYLOR
I know,
 (she said smiling.)
thank you.

They smiled at each other as he turned and walked down the hall.

Now with only 12 days before Christmas she would've said anything to resume piece to that group. Luckily for her, her Christmas miracle came when her mom came back to the country; so, she did have everything under control.

Once the peace had resumed Tay noticed she missed a text from her mother. She read it, replied, grabbed her purse, the bash book from the desk and went to the deli on the corner from the office, for lunch.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DOWNTOWN DELI - DAY

After placing her order and sitting down in her regular booth Taylor took the bash book from her purse and began skimming through the pages again. Looking for something, anything, to catch her eye...nothing.

Actually she couldn't see why everyone was tripping about the previous year's setup. So, she added all her new contact information to the book, ate half of her food (as usual) and bagging up the rest for dinner later.

She gathered her things to leave when she noticed a familiar head of white hair sitting at a corner table. Taylor couldn't see the face from the way she was holding a magazine up way too high. Like she was trying to hide from prying eyes like Taylor's.

Not wanting to show how nosey she was Taylor slowly walked a little closer (thinking thank goodness for high heeled shoes) did another quick look over the magazine and yes, it was her. It was her predecessor Ms. Gwenith and it looked like she was hiding but since Taylor was never one to run from a challenge she decided to approach her table.

TAYLOR

Hi, Ms. Gwenith.

Putting her magazine down and making a no teeth smile. A senior aged female looked up from her magazine.

MS. GWENITH

Hello Ms. Smith.

TAYLOR

Please, call me Taylor.

MS. GWENITH
Taylor. How are you dear?

TAYLOR
I'm great and yourself?

MS. GWENITH
I'm fine thank you for asking.

TAYLOR
May I sit?

Pointing at a empty chair at her table.

MS. GWENITH
Sure

Once she did she got straight to the point. She pulled out the bash book.

TAYLOR
How did you do it? I have my
own plans down pact,
everything falling into place
but my coworkers don't seem
pleased and they're
questioning all my plans and I
even ordered a vegan menu...

Ms. Gwenith laughed (although Taylor couldn't see what was so funny she did a soft chuckle) which lead her predecessor to ask...

MS. GWENITH
A what menu?

TAYLOR
A vegan menu. What should I
do?

MS. GWENITH
Stop listening to what they
want.

She answered in a light monotone voice. Taylor looked surprised at her response. Ms. Gwenith smiled and went on to say...

MS. GWENITH (CON'T)
It took me a few tries before
I learned to go with my gut
and do what I wanted. But,
once it's all said and done,
you plan it, they will come,
they eat and they will enjoy.
They may not admit it but they
will.

Her expression got serious as she continued

MS. GWENITH
If someone has something bad
to say about it, as long as
it's never to your face dear,
keep making the plans that you
want.

They both laughed (Taylor's laugh was more genuine this time), Ms. Gwenith took a sip from her cup and continued with a point to the bash book and said...

MS. GWENITH (CON'T)
That thing, I just threw that
together because there were
some in the office that felt
the need to see plans in
writing. So, you just jot down
some stuff and pass this to
them.

TAYLOR
Really? Thank you so much.

Taylor stood to leave when she mustered up the nerve to say...

TAYLOR (CON'T)
Can I ask you a sort of
personal question?

MS. GWENITH
Sure dear.

She said looking skeptical.

TAYLOR
Do you like me? I mean I've
always felt that you didn't
like me.

Ms. Gwenith laughed but again Taylor didn't see the humor in it.

MS. GWENITH

Taylor dear, I like you just fine. I don't know enough about you that would make me feel otherwise.

She gave Taylor a wink and picked up her magazine again. Fighting back a smile Taylor gathered her things and asked...

TAYLOR

Are you coming to the holiday bash?

MS. GWENITH

I haven't decided yet.

She said behind her magazine.

TAYLOR

Oh, well, I hope you decide to. Well, enjoy the rest of your day.

MS. GWENITH

Thank you dear, you too.

So, with that Taylor smiled, gathered her things, thanked her predecessor again, turned and walked out of the deli with a smile on her face.

Feeling better about her party prep plans Taylor texted her mom, the DJ and the photographer to see if everything was still 'a-go', also for them to email her their contracts to e-sign and print so she could turn them in if they still wanted to get paid.

The rest of the work day went smoothly. Once she clocked out she met her mom in auditorium. By the time she got there, mom (and her team) were finishing their decorating. The room looked nothing short of spectacular. Taylor greeted her mom by name, shook her hand and told her the room was beautiful. Her mom said, "speaking of beautiful", there was someone she'd love for Tay to meet. Taylor rolled her eyes as her mom waved over a young-man but Taylor was hesitant to turn around. He stepped closer toward the women which allowed Taylor to get a glance of him.

MOM

Taylor, Trevor. Trevor, Taylor. Tay, Trevor is my project manager for this project.

He was a tall, brown skinned, 20 something year old young-man. They were both smiling as they shook hands.

TREVOR

Hello, nice to finally meet you.

TAYLOR

Hi, ummm thank you.

Taylor was sure that wasn't the right response and she felt like her smile was way too big. So, she diverted her attention back toward her mother. They kept the small talk to a minimum, confirmed she had gotten the contract back and agreed they'd speak by phone later. Before Taylor left the room, she took another glance at Trevor, smiled, thanked everyone for doing such a great job then she (making sure Trevor was still watching) walked out in a slow sultry pace.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TAYLOR'S CONDO - LATER THAT NIGHT

Thinking over all she'd accomplished so far, she didn't want to get ahead of herself but, she had to admit, she was pleased with everything. Saying a silent prayer in her head she thanked God then called her mother.

Phone ringing (split screen).

MOM

Hello.

TAYLOR

Hi mommy.

MOM

Hi sweetie.

TAYLOR

Wha'cha'doin?

MOM

Finalizing plans for my next trip.

TAYLOR

Aww, where are you going? I wanna go.

MOM

Taking another cruise, to Europe this time.

TAYLOR
Europe!? Oh lawd, alone ma!?
You...

MOM
Not alone. They'll be other
people on the ship.

Laughing lightly.

TAYLOR
You know what I mean mom.

Changing the subject her mother said,

MOM
So, what did you think about
Trevor?

TAYLOR
Oh, he was cute, and I know
what you're doing.

MOM
What me? What are you talking
about?

TAYLOR
You're changing the subject
but okay. Where did you meet
him?

MOM
On the college campus.

TAYLOR
MOM!?

MOM
What? He's a graduate with a
degree in Business Management.

TAYLOR
Ma, what were you doing on a
college campus?

MOM
Having lunch with a professor.
They have a nice cafe on
campus.

TAYLOR
Really?

Sounding skeptical.

MOM

Yes, for the staff, and why
are you sounding so skeptical?

TAYLOR

Mmhmm, and who is this
professor I've never heard
about?

MOM

Well mom
(they both laughed)
it doesn't matter cause he was
a just food dude. But, you
know who's...

TAYLOR

Oh wow, a food dude?

MOM

Yes, no romantic interest in
him it was just about the
food. But, Trevor's not food
dude material.

TAYLOR

Okay, so you met him on
campus?

MOM

Yes, and you...

TAYLOR

What am I supposed to do with
Trevor?

MOM

Well, what y'all decide to do
is not my business.

Smacking her lips and rolling her eyes to her self.

TAYLOR

MA!?

MOM

Well, anyway, I miss you. We
need to catch up.

TAYLOR

Right.

MOM

What are you doing on
Saturday? Let's have lunch.

TAYLOR

Okay, that's fine. Can we go
to the sidewalk cafe on Main?

MOM

Sure, wherever you want. We
can meet there around 11:30,
when their lunch menu starts.

TAYLOR

Okay, bye mommy, love you.

MOM

Bye sweetie, love you more.

By the time their conversation was over she had texted
Taylor, Trevor's number and told her she needed to give him
a call.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE DOWNTOWN HOUSTON - DAY

Surprising enough mom couldn't meet for lunch but Trevor was
there. They were both surprised to see each other. He stood
as they hugged, exchanged pleasantries then he reached over
and pulled out her chair. After she sat down he sat down.
She was already impressed. Trying not to seem overly excited
she said, "thank you."

TREVOR

You're welcome. You wanna look
over the menu first?

TAYLOR

Sure, why not?

TAYLOR/TREVOR

So...

They both laughed

TREVOR

Go ahead.

Smiling at each other

TAYLOR

So, Trevor, how's your day so far?

TREVOR

Better now.

He said and she blushed, glad she decided to dress cute and wear makeup.

TAYLOR

Aww, flattery will get you somewhere.

They laughed again

TAYLOR (CON'T)

But seriously, how's your day so far?

TREVOR

I am serious...

He went on to explain his plans to workout at the gym but had a flat tire, walked to the park instead while waiting for AAA to bring a spare...

JUMP CUT TO:

SAME SCENE SOME HOURS LATER

So much time had passed and they were getting strange looks from the staff. It wasn't until she glanced at her phone she realized they had been there talking for hours. They laughed about it, gathered their things and started to walk; with no particular place in mind. They headed towards a park bench where they sat and kept talking. Time had gotten away from them again when her phone rang. It was her mom.

TAYLOR

It's mom.
(she answered)
Mom, I'll call you right back.

MOM

Call me back and tell me how lunch went.

TAYLOR

Okay, right back.

They got up from the park bench and started walking toward the restaurant parking lot. After he walked her to her car she watched him walk to and get into his own car. Then they both drove away.

She was still on the phone with her mom when she drove into her garage and her other line beeped. Smiling, Taylor told her mom it was Trevor. She assured her mom she had made it home safely, she loved her and would talk to her later.

Taylor and Trevor stayed on the phone talking and laughing until her eyes were beginning to close. She insisted she had to get to sleep, since they had made plans see each other the next day after church, they hesitantly hung up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

This was it, today was the day and she wanted everything to be perfect. The food tables were set, the aromas went throughout the building, the servers were serving and the DJ was jamming a classic Temptations Christmas song. She would see the occasional flash from the photographer's camera in the distance. As Taylor walked the room she looked for the group that had approached her desk. They were mingling, dancing and eating but, most importantly they were all enjoying themselves just like Ms. Gwenith said they would. Another walk around the room and she noticed Ms. Gwenith was in the middle of a group of people. Taylor walked over and put her hand on her shoulder and said...

TAYLOR

You made it?

They greeted each other with a hug.

MS. GWENITH

I did and everything looks
beautiful.

Taylor smiled.

TAYLOR

Thank you, and thank you so
much for coming. Well, I have
to do more mingling
(she did a once over at
the group)
enjoy.

Then walked away toward the food tables to get a little something for the growl in her stomach. Trevor, as if right on cue, handed her a small platter.

TREVOR

I was told to bring this to you.

They both smiled as she took the small platter and napkin from his hand.

TAYLOR

Thank you so much.

TREVOR

No problem. You look beautiful by the way.

TAYLOR

Thank you, you look handsome tonight.

TREVOR

Thank you, it's a nice party.

TAYLOR

Thank you and you guys helped a lot.

She took a few bites, rushed to chew and handed it back to him.

TREVOR

You did all the arrangements by yourself?

TAYLOR

I did.

Once she finished chewing she wiped her lips with the napkin then smiled (secretly asking him to check her teeth) and he gave her a thumbs up. She smiled then turned to walk the room again.

It was amazing how well she and Trevor vibed when they met for lunch and again the following day for an early dinner. They talked for hours, about everything and it only felt like minutes. She walked around with a 'Kool Aid' smile both for how well the party was going and for how she felt when she thought about Trevor.

KELLER

Girl, you've done a great job.
Vegan food is life.

He said as he and Leslie walked up to Taylor and they did a group hug.

TAYLOR
Thank you guys, you think so?
I had been so busy we couldn't
hang out or have lunch.

KELLER
Oh, lawd, yes...

Looking past her at Trevor.

LESLIE
And who is that piece of man
candy?

KELLER
That has you cheesing so hard?

LESLIE
Mmhmm, who is that?

TAYLOR
Oh, that's just Trevor.

LESLIE/KELLER
Just Trevor!?

They all laughed as she moved closer to them to whisper.

TAYLOR
He's amazing. We've spent
hours talking and...

LESLIE
And what? How did y'all meet?
Y'all slept together yet?

LESLIE/KELLER
Was it good?

TAYLOR
First, I need y'all to stop
twinning.

KELLER
Well, was it good?

TAYLOR
We, wha,
(frowning, shaking her
head no and whispering)
we haven't slept together yet.

Both Keller and Leslie smirked.

KELLER
Mmhmm, and he's got you
smiling like that?

LESLIE
Well, how did you meet him?

TAYLOR
Through the caterer.

LESLIE
He's
(gasping for air)
part of the wait staff?

KELLER
Wow, that sounds chauvinist.

TAYLOR
Doesn't it though?

LESLIE
Well, that's not how I meant
it.

TAYLOR/KELLER
Mmhmm.

TAYLOR
And no, he's not with the wait
staff, he's the project
manager.

KELLER
Oh, so when he finishes
managing this project are you
gonna manage his project?

TAYLOR
Kell's!?!?

LESLIE
Yazzz girl!

While Leslie and Keller high-fived each other.

TAYLOR
I'm done talking to you 2.

Shaking her head no, she turned and walked away.

Hours later, while circling the room again she noticed some of the older crowd had already begun to leave and some of the servers (including Trevor) were already clearing some tables. Passing by him briefly she noticed his cologne smelled so good. She hadn't noticed earlier but, 'OMG', she said to herself.

Glad it was over Taylor was looking forward to having the next couple of days off. She and Trevor had talked about getting together during Christmas. They would have lunch with her mom before she headed on her next trip, since dad had died that's how mom chose to spend most of her time, traveling like they said they would always do together. Trevor didn't have family close to spend Christmas with so they were looking forward to spending it together.

THE END