

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID SOMETHING FOR THE FIRST TIME?

EPISODE TITLE:

"CARE"

Written by

Nidal Q. Harvey

CONNECTIVE PRODUCTIONS
521 W 149th street
2N
New York City, NY 10031

347-885-5722
nidal@connectiveprod.com

FADE IN.

INT. UPPER WEST SIDE APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DAY

The apartment is tidy. The furniture and style is old looking.

ROBERTA HIGGINS(75), a sweet looking lady, soft face, with a spark of wisdom and playfulness in her eye, sits on a large chair. She is nicely dressed and very neat.

Next to her is JOSH (27), a tall and energetic man with a genuine smile. He sorts out some pills in a weekly pillbox.

ROBERTA

And she was so clumsy, oh my God!

JOSH

She's not that bad, Miss Higgins.
She's starting. You have to make a few mistakes to learn, right?

ROBERTA

Listen, at 75, your life is always just a mistake away from ending, so I'd rather not take that chance, Honey!

They both laugh.

JOSH

Come on, She was not that bad!

ROBERTA

No, she wasn't. But I need motivation to fully recover from my hip surgery, and she wasn't giving me any. I just missed you. Please tell the agency not to replace you with her anymore, and try not to go away too much, please. You know when you get used to a certain type of care and quality, you don't wanna settle for anything less, and at my age...

JOSH

I appreciate the compliment Miss Higgins, but you gotta stop talking about your age like that, you're still young.

ROBERTA
Yea... Say that to my crumpled
face!

Josh smiles and turns round to face her.

JOSH
It's about what's in there, Miss
Higgins.

He points to her forehead.

ROBERTA
My wrinkles?

She has a playful smile.

JOSH
I'm pointing at what's behind that
wrinkly forehead, Miss. Your mind
is one of the fastest I know.

ROBERTA
Well, thank you, Josh.

She gets a bit melancholic.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
I just don't have that much of a
track to sprint on anymore.

Josh steps out to the kitchen.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
Where were you anyway?

JOSH (O.S.)
I was upstate, with my
girlfriend... well... Ex, really.

Josh comes back with a glass of water and a few pills on a small plate.

ROBERTA
Not the expected romantic getaway I
suppose...

JOSH
Not - At - All.

Roberta grabs the pills and puts them in her mouth. She grabs the glass of water and drinks.

Josh grabs Miss Higgins' coat.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Come on, let's go.

Josh helps her get up. She moves ok, but slowly.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Josh and Roberta walk in the park. They walk slowly and Josh supports Roberta as they walk.

JOSH
And after I said that, it made everything worse.

ROBERTA
I see. Well that might have been a bit out of proportion indeed.

JOSH
Women are just so complicated.

ROBERTA
You know, Joshy, we got a lot on our plate. We spend half our life struggling to keep up to men's expectations, and the other half working hard to not care about men's expectations.

JOSH
Some things I just don't realize, I guess. I just don't know how to deal with the drama.

ROBERTA
Drama is something young people create to feel alive. At my age you don't need that anymore. When arthritis takes over, it makes you feel alive constantly.

They laugh.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
But you'll be alright. You're a bright mind and you are an open soul. That's what I like about you.

JOSH
What do you mean?

ROBERTA

You look at things the way they are. You're a poet. That's a great quality.

JOSH

Thank you, Miss Higgins.

They walk to a bench and sit. Josh carefully supports Roberta to sit down.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK BENCH - DAY

They sit close to each other as Josh still has his supporting hand under her arm.

In front of them kids play hide and seek.

JOSH

I used to love playing that game with my brothers.

ROBERTA

Really?

Josh looks far away, diving into his memory, and talks.

JOSH

We would hide in some corners in the woods right by our neighborhood. When I think about it now I could easily have gotten lost in those woods and...

Roberta gets closer to Josh and kisses him on the lips, interrupting his speech.

Josh is startled. He jumps away, taken aback, and looks at her, eyes wide open.

JOSH (CONT'D)

No, no, Miss, that's not...

ROBERTA

I've been dying to do that for a while.

Roberta has a wide smile on her face. She looks like a girl who kissed her boyfriend.

JOSH

No, Miss... That's not... I mean,
I'm flattered, but I can't work
like that.

ROBERTA

Oh Josh, don't worry, I completely
understand.

Roberta looks at the kids on the playground.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)

I used to play that game as well. I
would always win.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Josh and Roberta stand in the elevator. Josh avoids eye contact. Roberta looks at him, and she catches his gaze in the mirror's reflexion.

JOSH

Look, Miss, I don't want for things
to get awkward, and I...

ROBERTA

You know, Josh, freedom is when you
don't have expectations anymore.
You just take things as they come,
and as they are. I've been free for
quite a while now, but it took me
far too long to allow myself to be
free. If you wait too long you
can't embrace it as well, you don't
have enough strength. That's the
one thing I'd like you to get, as
you're young.

Elevator's doors open. Roberta steps out and Josh follows, with a reflexive look on his face.

INT. THRESHOLD - DAY

Roberta opens her apartment and steps in. Josh stays at the door. He looks a bit uncomfortable.

JOSH

Miss Higgins, I think I should go.
You got everything, right?

Roberta turns round and walks closer to him. She addresses him tenderly and smiles.

ROBERTA

Oh, Josh, take that look off your face. What did we say about drama?

Josh smiles.

JOSH

You're right. I just... You took me by surprise... and... you know, you're a beautiful woman, but I'm employed and, I wanna stay professional, and...

ROBERTA

Save your breath, Honey. I just took it because it was there to be taken, there's nothing more to it. Are you hurt?

JOSH

No.

ROBERTA

Do you feel abused?

JOSH

No.

ROBERTA

I'm glad to hear. We set ourselves with so many unnecessary boundaries. Embracing freedom is really what it's about, and freedom today, for me, was you. There's nothing more to it. No expectations at all, that's the only way. Sadly it's also the last thing we learn.

She has a beautiful and blooming smile.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)

Thank you, Josh. You know how to close the door.

Roberta walks away to her room.

Josh stands by the door. He looks confused. He slowly steps out of the apartment.

In the corridor he slowly closes the door. He looks pensive. He stops before the door is fully closed.

His face looks serious, and his expression opens and relaxes. He smiles a little.

He opens the door and steps in.

The door closes.

FADE OUT.