

The Attention Whore

by
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EXT. BIRTHDAY PARTY - DAY

Young CHILDREN gathered at a birthday party watching DAVID fail miserably at performing some magic. The kids aren't paying attention any more and David's getting upset.

DAVID
Who wants a balloon animal?

One kid turns his back completely and talks to a friend.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Hey, Kid, why don't you shut your trap while I'm performing?

The MOTHER comes over as kids begin crying.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What's wrong with these things?

MOTHER
They're six years old. This just isn't working out. I'm sorry. I'll still pay you, but you need to leave.

Now David starts to cry.

DAVID
I'm sorry. I found out today that I'm gonna die.
(a beat)
All the joy I get in the world is from entertaining people. Please don't take that away from me.

The mother puts her hand on his shoulder. He calms down immediately.

MOTHER
I'm sorry. I didn't realize. How long do you have?

DAVID
It's hard to say.

The mother is very concerned now.

MOTHER
What is it?

DAVID
I don't know yet.

MOTHER

What did the doctor say, exactly?

DAVID

He said everybody dies eventually.
What am I going to do?

The mother takes her hand off of him.

MOTHER

You mean you're not actually dying
of any disease or anything?

(a beat)

All right. We're done here. Take
your check.

She hands him a check and turns to leave.

He starts to throw a fit.

DAVID

Don't leave me here all alone.

(a beat)

Kids! Kids! Look at me! Check
out my rabbit.

He dumps a dead rabbit out of a hat.

The FATHER walks outside carrying a cake and SINGING "Happy
Birthday..."

No one is paying attention to the David so he runs to the Dad
and knocks the cake onto the ground.

Everyone stares at him.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Who wants to see a card trick?

MOTHER

You're really going to have to
leave now.

When he doesn't move...

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Seriously.

He starts to walk off.

DAVID

OK. Guess I'll just go kill myself
then.

MOTHER

Don't care.

He's walking really slowly so he can make one last attempt at getting attention.

DAVID

Bye, kids. Enjoy your lives. I'm off to hang myself because life sucks, and no one ever tells you that when you're young, but when you get older everything just goes to shit! It's been a good life, I guess.

The kids and mom and dad just stand there looking at each other for a moment.

FATHER

So, who's ready to open the presents?

The birthday boy raises his hand and runs over to the pile. He picks out a really big one.

The mom and dad look at each other.

The kid tears into and before he's even done, out pops David wearing only his underwear. He terrifies the kids and holds up a fan of cards.

DAVID

Pick a card, any card!