

PRANKS

Written by

Amanda Zimmermann

(616) 402-2272
Amazimmermann@gmail.com

INT. - CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Welcome to Pasco County
Convalescent Home.

The room is set up to be a rec room, cheap nondescript furniture, people play well-worn board games on tables, shelves holding art supplies and books. It's well lit, with natural light from the windows. Enter MICHAEL late 20s, walks with a cane and favors his right leg.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
I've been here...two months
recovering from a car accident that
resulted in surgery on my crushed
leg.

MICHAEL surveys the room and heads towards an older woman near the windows.

HELEN
Hey, Skip. Did you get it?

MICHAEL (V.O.)
This is Helen. She acts like a
senile old woman for the nurses,
but she's one of the most brilliant
people I've ever known. My name is
Michael, but she refuses to call me
anything but Skip.

MICHAEL pulls a bag of red Gobstopper candies out of his pocket. HELEN (60-70, grey hair, wearing a plastic tiara) takes them and stuffs it into the back of a stuffed bear she carries.

HELEN
Perfect! The mission can begin.

MICHAEL
What is it this time, Helen?

HELEN
Top secret. I'll tell you as we go
so you have plausible deniability.
Now, first things first...

HELEN shuffles over to AGNES and LOUIE playing Scrabble.

HELEN (CONT'D)
You spelled 'bother' wrong, Louie.

LOUIE
I most certainly did not!

HELEN
You did. That's a P.

AGNES
It's supposed to be a P. The word
is *pother*.

HELEN
Ridiculous! That's not a real word.

LOUIE
I assure you, woman, it's a word!

HELEN
What does it mean then?

Neither person answers her, she chuckles and shuffles away triumphant, waving a stolen pen in MICHAEL's direction.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
For a seventy-something year old,
she loves her pranks.

MICHAEL catches up to her and they leave the room.

HALLWAY

MICHAEL
What was that all about? You could
have just asked the nurse for a
pen.

HELEN
Where's the adventure in that?

One of the house dogs, MISSY, comes trotting down the hallway wearing a bejeweled dog collar. HELEN pets the dog.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Missy, you can help to! Come along,
there's work to be done and
mischief to be made!

TV ROOM

The room is full of couches and chairs but empty save WILLIE (60, grumpy, disheveled) who never gives up the remote for anyone.

HELEN

Would you be a dear and get me an icicle?

MICHAEL opens one of the windows and breaks an icicle off the roof outside. HELEN zips it under the cover of a couch cushion.

MICHAEL

What's that-

HELEN

(Shushes SKIP)

Willie? Would you do me a favor?

WILLIE

(Grunts)

HELEN

At four there's a show that I think everyone would love to watch.

HELEN pulls the bag of candy out of the bear and waves it front of WILLIE's face.

WILLIE

At four?

HELEN

Yes, four on the dot. Channel 25.

WILLIE

What's the program?

HELEN

You wouldn't want to ruin the surprise, now would you? Much appreciated, Ace!

HELEN links arms with MICHAEL and leads him back into the hallway.

HALLWAY

HELEN (CONT'D)

Here's what's going to happen-

MICHAEL

How did you know the Gobstoppers
would work?

HELEN

That man has the worlds biggest
sweet tooth. Anything would have
worked, but he prefers hard, red
candies.

HELEN pulls MICHAEL into a room as one of the nurses pass in
the hall.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Anyways, at 4:00 I'm going to
gather everyone in the TV room.
When you get the signal I need you
to slip out the back-door and go to
the garden shed.

MICHAEL

How will I know the signal?

HELEN

Don't worry, you'll know. Now, make
sure it's the back-door. I'm going
to prop it open after I put the
code in and turn the alarm off. In
the shed it a turkey-

MICHAEL

A turkey?!

HELEN

Yes, it's - blindfolded, I suppose.

MICHAEL

Helen, where did you get a live
turkey?

HELEN

Surely you don't want to know how I
acquired a turkey, Skip.

MICHAEL

Actually, I'd-

HELEN

Bring it inside through the back
door and wait for me there.

MICHAEL

How am I supposed to get the turkey inside?

HELEN

You'll figure it out. Do what you want till then, but be ready! Come on, Missy.

HELEN wanders off. Montage of scenes of MICHAEL walking around the HOME.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I'm supposed to be building up muscle strength again but I'm still too weak to go home. Not that there's anything waiting for me at home, just an empty apartment.

TV ROOM

MICHAEL enters TV ROOM and sits in a chair in the back, near the HALLWAY to the back-door. The room is filling up with residents. HOWARD, one of the older residents, is seated on the cushion HELEN put the icicle in.

HELEN (V.O.)

Howard's rear is so swaddled up in that diaper her can't even feel when he spills something.

HOWARD

Nurse! Nurse!

One of the nurses fusses over him and motions another nurse over. They lever him off the couch and on e nurse walks him down the hall to his room. His pants are conspicuously wet.

LOUIE

That's disgusting! He's a grown man!

The second nurse shushes LOUIE and leaves the room with the couch cushion. The TV flicks to a new channel after she leaves and a crocodile launches itself up to grab the neck of a gazelle. The residents quickly cause an uproar.

MICHAEL slips out of the room into the HALLWAY. A whole platoon of nurses rush past him into the TV ROOM

INT. - GARDEN SHED - DAY

Someone struggles with the door and a quiet gobbling can be heard O.S. MICHAEL opens the door. Inside is a turkey with a burlap sack over its head and the spangled dog collar and leash around its neck.

MICHAEL shuffles in quietly but the bird is completely calm. He picks up the leash and pulled gently, the bird follows obediently.

MICHAEL

Where did she get a *trained* turkey?

MICHAEL leads the turkey back across the yard.

INT. - HALLWAY

MICHAEL and the turkey wait by the back-door. HELEN comes running down the hall, all three house dogs close on her heels.

HELEN

Take off the bag and move!

MICHAEL pulls off the burlap bag and shoves the turkey gently forward with his cane. The dogs go nuts and take off down an adjacent hall after the turkey.

HELEN grabs MICHAEL and drags toward a door. The plaque on the door reads ADMINISTRATION. As they approach the DIRECTOR runs out the door in a panic.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Turkey! Turkey!

DIRECTOR

Stay here! I'll take care of it!

OFFICE

HELEN pulls MICHAEL into the office as the DIRECTOR leaves. It's a small office full of filing cabinets and a large desk with a computer on it.

HELEN

Quick now! Look up Jimmy Buffet's address for me!

MICHAEL

Seriously, Helen? All this for an address?

HELEN riffles through desk drawers.

HELEN

And an envelope and stamp. Have you seen any stamps?

MICHAEL opens the desk drawer in front of him and hands her a stamp. She stares at him and he shrugs.

MICHAEL

I help with the computer stuff, it keeps me thinking. Here's his P.O. Box. It's for fan mail.

HELEN

That will do.

She scribbles the address on the envelope and sticks on the stamp. From her bear she pulls out a neatly folded piece of paper and tucks it into the envelope before mixing it into the outgoing mail pile.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Mission accomplished! Let's get out of here!

HALLWAY

Barks and gobbles can be heard in the depths of the house. The path of destruction is obvious as they walk through the house, the dining and rec rooms are a mess - food is everywhere and the buffet table has been knocked over.

MICHAEL

Was all of this really necessary?

They stand in the middle of the mess. HELEN looks beyond pleased with herself.

HELEN

Is anything really necessary, Skip? Of course not, but if you're not going to have fun then what's the point in doing anything?