

A Fountain Drink Story - YTS4-78

INT. MOVIE THEATER LOBBY - CONCESSIONS - MORNING

ALEX (mid 30s) - black slacks, a white button up, a tie and a red vest.

ALEX

The first movie I ever saw in theaters was Jurassic Park, the summer of ninety-three. "Welcome to Jurassic Park," I'll never forget that. That movie changed me. The music, the spectacle, those dinosaurs. I left that theater, six years old, feeling magical, hopeful and elated. It's what made me want to work at a movie theater. I wanted to give that feeling to others. Which is why I take pride in my job. My father told me as a child, "mijo, if you love it, take pride in it." Concessions is a very important job. I'm not just upselling popcorn or hustling week old hotdogs, which by the way are totally safe, the hotdog juice has preservatives. But I'm a curator, offering an experience, the final friendly smile they see before a movie changes their lives.

(motioning to machine)

And part of the experience is this self-serve fountain drink machine. It dispenses Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Mr. Pibb, Cherry Coke, Lemonade, Barq's, Hi-C Hawaiian Fruit Punch and water. This is very important. Because this soda machine is waaaaaaay over here, away from concessions, a customer must order a drink from me, get their cup, then come over here to get their own drink. Now much like when watching Jurassic Park and its ensuing sequels, working concessions requires a level of suspension of disbelief.

If a customer gets a free water cup -- you have to trust that they will get water and not fill'er up with that delicious Hawaiian Fruit Punch

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

-- cause that is the system we have in place. Because in this country we are taught the system works. Never mind that we give free refills and changing the syrups for the sodas cost like two pennies and we charge five seventy-five for a medium drink so we literally make like a zillion percent profit. It's the principle, the system says, if I'm honest and work hard the system is suppose to reward me. My parents didn't come to this country to give me a better life so I could live within a system that rewards the "free-water-cup-Hawaiian-FruitPunch-cheaters," while I'm too afraid to get my own tasty fruit punch. There's no way the world is that cruel, right? Right?

Alex recomposes himself. Then cracks a smile and chuckles.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I just realized why I fell in love with Jurassic Park not because of the dinosaurs or "hold on to your butts," it's because of the primal instinct to survive. Despite all odds Tim, Lex, Elle, Grant and Malcolm make it out alive.

He removes his vest and clip-on tie.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It's that same instinct to survive that led my parents to this country. That movie gave me hope. But I don't need someone else's story for that. I have my own.