

My Job

By

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ACT IScene 1

Lights up on Janet sitting in her car talking on her cell phone--leaving a voicemail. Note: There should be no attempt to mime a steering wheel or a car. The audience will understand.

JANET

Carrie Nelson Baker! Answer your phone! If I have to call you one more time and listen to your silly voicemail, you are grounded!!

Officer Connor enters, takes a deep breath, stretches his neck, rolls his shoulders and exhales hard. He begins his walk up to the car. Once he arrives, he waits for her to finish her conversation politely. Note: There is no need for a police uniform. The audience will understand.

JANET

Say goodbye to the internet, that's for sure! Your father is--oh yeah, I'm was pulled over because of you by the way. I swear, if this stupid cop gives me a ticket it's--it's coming out of your allowance!

She hangs up the phone and addresses the officer pleasantly.

CONNOR

Good Ev--

JANET

Good evening officer! To what do I owe this pleasure?

CONNOR

Good evening ma'am. Can I see your license and registration please?

JANET

Certainly Officer. Here you go. Just promise not to look at the birthday. I wouldn't want you to treat me any differently--age is just a number you know.

CONNOR

...I have t--

(CONTINUED)

JANET

Promise?

CONNOR

...Sure. I have to run these through the system. I'll be
ri--

JANET

Sure thing officer. I'll just freshen up, take your time.

He exits and her smile fades. She
immediately grabs the phone and
dials. Another voicemail.

JANET

Okay! Internet, gone! Phone, gone! Car, gone! And who knows
what punishment is going to come down once your father gets
home from Washington. This is your final warning. I will not
be calling again.

Officer Connor arrives and hands
her the license and registration.

CONNOR

Here you go Mrs. Baker. Do you--

JANET

Oh, so you do know who I am! Wonderful. I wanted to avoid
the awkward situation of introducing myself formally if you
didn't know. Lucky me!

CONNOR

Your name was on the license, otherwise I wouldn't have
known. Are you...

JANET

Yes, Mrs. Janet Baker, wife of Governor Baker. "The First
Lady of the State". Running for re-election this year. Of
course you know that, I'm sure.

CONNOR

Well, nice to meet you Mrs. Baker.

JANET

Janet, please.

CONNOR

Yes, Janet. Very nice to meet you. I'm Officer Connor. Now
do you know why--

JANET

Nice to meet you Officer Connor. I just wanted to take the
time to thank you for your service and protection of the
citizens of this fine state.

(CONTINUED)

CONNOR

Just doing my job, ma'am.

JANET

I'm not trying to campaign, but I want to make sure this little situation doesn't cause us to lose your vote.

CONNOR

Certainly.

JANET

So we have your vote then?

CONNOR

I'm not a liberty to discuss.

JANET

Oh, of course. Well, thank you for your vote officer.

CONNOR

I don't vote, ma'am. Now do you-

JANET

Don't vote? You are a government employee! Votes directly impact your livelihood!

CONNOR

I vote on propositions, ma'am. Since I do not know any of the candidates personally, I find it difficult to support them without any evidence of their character.

JANET

Well, it is a pleasure getting to know you Officer Connor. We hope to see more of you soon. Not like this of course. We appreciate your vote.

CONNOR

Now do you know why I pulled you over?

JANET

I'm don't suppose it was because you thought I was Diane Lane? Kidding, of course! I don't have the slightest clue.

CONNOR

You appeared to be driving erratically due to being on your cell phone while operating a vehicle.

JANET

Oh my. I'm so sorry.

CONNOR

Yes ma'am. The Distracted Drivers Law prohibits cell phone usage while--

JANET

Oh, I'm familiar with that law. My husband signed it into law you know. Terribly sorry about that. Thank you for your service and protection.

CONNOR

You're welcome, ma'am.

He begins to write a ticket.

JANET

A written warning? Is that really necessary?

CONNOR

It's a citation, ma'am.

JANET

A citation! For using a cell phone!

CONNOR

Affirmative, ma'am.

JANET

This is ridiculous! I have never received a citation in my life.

CONNOR

Just doing my job, ma'am.

JANET

It was my husband I was speaking to, you know. The Governor!

CONNOR

That is none of my business, ma'am.

JANET

Well, I hope you enjoy your last day on the force, Officer Connor!

CONNOR

I don't think it works that way ma'am. Here you go. Drive safe--

She starts crying. Connor waits a moment before pulling out a tissue, offering her the ticket in one hand and the tissue in the other. She takes the ticket and blows her nose in it. She looks at the used ticket in her hand then cries harder. Connor takes out more tissues and offers them.

(CONTINUED)

JANET

I'm sorry. I'm sorry, it's just, my daughter ran away tonight and I--It's just, it's not my--I mean... You know?

CONNOR

Yes ma'am, I understand. I'm sure she'll turn--

JANET

You can help me. You can help me find her, can't you?

CONNOR

If she hasn't been missing for 24--

She picks up the phone and dials.

JANET

You can talk to her, she'll listen to you. She has to, you're a cop. I mean, you gave me a ticket! She'll probably think you're cool. Went to voicemail. Carrie, I have a police officer here now! Say hello Officer Connor!

He goes to speak into the phone and she pulls in back.

JANET

He's saying you better come back this instant or he'll take you to jail and then you'll never get to come home! There's no Instagram in jail! Here, you tell her.

CONNOR

I can't do that. Your mother--

JANET

We are going to find you and once we do--OH! You will regret this for a LONG time!

She hangs up the phone.

JANET

Okay, here's here number. Triangulate her phone.

CONNOR

I'm sorry ma'am, that's not how this works--

JANET

What do you mean? They do it on TV all the time! Go ahead, I'll wait.

CONNOR

Without a warrant I... I can't do that, ma'am.

JANET

What CAN you do?! Some public servant you are.

CONNOR

I can help you. If you'll accept my help, that is.

JANET

... Okay, yeah, sure.

CONNOR

Let's close eyes for a moment, okay?

JANET

Really?

She stares at him for a moment then closes her eyes.

CONNOR

Take a deep breath. Think about what happened between you and your daughter. How do we feel about that?

JANET

Angry. Disrespected. Disappointed.

CONNOR

Okay. That's true. Those are valid feelings. She felt some things too. Maybe those same things. Then she left. Now what is it we want?

JANET

I want her to listen to me. Respect me! Someone, for once.

CONNOR

Okay, anything else?

JANET

I want her to come home. I just want to know she's safe.

CONNOR

There you go. How do you want her to feel?

JANET

I want her to feel safe. To trust me... Love me.

CONNOR

How might we do that?

She takes a deep breath in and exhales with a little laugh.

(CONTINUED)

JANET

Not by threatening her, that's for sure! I want her to come home so I threaten her with not being able to ever come home? A lot of sense that makes.

CONNOR

Well, when we're angry--

JANET

I was just pushing her further away by trying to control her. God! I can't believe this. I'm just like...

CONNOR

Call her again.

She picks up the phone and dials.

JANET

Carrie. Baby, I just want to know you're safe. I know that I... and I was--I'm sorry. I'm sorry that--Carrie, I love you and I miss you. You'll always be my baby, but I guess I need to understand that... Understand. You don't have to call me back. Just text me, like a K or something, to know you're safe. I'm not making any promises but there might be some Thin Mint ice cream at home, just saying. Alright, I'll talk to you soon. Love you. Bye.

She hangs up the phone and stares at it for a moment.

JANET

Thank you.

CONNOR

Just doing my job ma'am.

A small moment. Not like a Kodak moment or anything, just an acknowledgement. The audience will understand.

CONNOR

I just had a thought, are you friends with your daughter?

JANET

I mean, I thought I was, you know, like that "cool mom" but now I don't know.

CONNOR

I mean on your phone. You might be able to find her using the "Find my Friends" thing. If you're friends.

JANET.

Yeah, yeah. Let me try that.

She does. After a moment of trying she gives a laugh.

JANET

She's at Ashley's house. I can't believe it, not even a block from home. Oh boy... At least she's safe, right?

CONNOR

Affirmative. Well, drive safe, Mrs. Baker.

JANET

Thank you again, Officer Connor.

CONNOR

My pleasure.

He starts to exits. Janet hold up the crumpled, used ticket.

JANET

Do I still need this?

CONNOR

Affirmative, ma'am. See you around. Not in court I hope.

He exits. She picks up the phone and looks at it for a moment then sets it down. She looks around to make sure the officer is gone. A notification noise is heard from the phone. She looks at the phone, smiles, then begins texting.

The sound of a car starting. The sound of texting.

Blackout.

End of Play.