

The Guard

Written By

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EXT. PARKWOOD POOL - DAY

PARKWOOD POOL is a large, man-made sand-bottom lake. We see a host of people enjoying their days as they swim and sunbathe. It's a beautiful summer day, but it's offset by a crotchety old woman on the far side pool sternly making her way towards the foreground. This is BARBARA GIBBONS.

ALEX (O.S.)

Oh, shit.

A walkie-talkie beeps, and the dialogue turns static-y. ALEX, a young man with a bright face, is standing in front of an outdoor office and holding a radio to his mouth.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Mrs. G is here, guys. Sit up in the stands and look profesh.

Mrs. Gibbons closes in on the office.

Alex puts the radio down and smiles at her.

ALEX

Good morning, Mrs. Gibbons! How're-

MRS. GIBBONS

Where's Nicholas?

ALEX

Oh, um, he might be back by the garage...? I'm not sure to be honest.

Alex's voice is obviously unconfident, which seems to upset Mrs. Gibbons even more. Alex is clearly trying to remedy the situation to no avail.

MRS. GIBBONS

Well do you think you could find him for me?! What are you even doing just standing around here?

ALEX

I just got down from my hour sit and I-

Alex spots NICK, a handsome middle-aged surfer type down the patio walkway. Alex waves him over frantically.

NICK

Morning, Mrs. Gibbons. What's going on?

Mrs. Gibbons is obviously having nothing of Nick's cheerful attitude.

MRS. GIBBONS
I'm very unhappy, Nicholas. I feel
like everything is a mess right
now.

A group of tween boys sprints across the patio loudly, disregarding the other patrons at the pool.

KID #1
I tagged you! Hey, I tagged you!

KID #2
Suck my dick, fartface!

Mrs. Gibbons shoots a glaring look at Alex, who's only half checked into the conversation. He catches her dagger-eyes and repositions back into lifeguard-mode.

ALEX
Hey boys! WALK on the patio! A-and
watch your language!

Mrs. Gibbons slowly turns back to Nick without so much as a nod of approval.

NICK
Why do you feel like everything's a
mess?

MRS. GIBBONS
It's all just coming apart at the
seams!

She throws her hands in the air, exasperated.

NICK
I don't... Today's been extremely
smooth, Mrs. Gibbons. I don't know
what you're concerned-

MRS. GIBBONS
Is Steve here?

She peers into the office the three of them are standing in front of, unsatisfied.

MRS. GIBBONS (CONT'D)
Why isn't Steve here?!

ALEX
He left for the day.

MRS. GIBBONS
Then I need the two of you to fix
all this.

NICK
Fix what? Everything is-

By the time Nick asks, she's already gone, stomping off back
across the pool.

A beat, and then a last loud, shrill yell.

MRS. GIBBONS
And why are none of the guards
sitting straight up in the stands?!

CUT TO:

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Nick is talking directly to the camera, interview-style

NICK
She's actually insane. I've never
heard her speak in anything but
vague, over-arching statements that
don't actually contribute anything.

A beat. He sighs.

NICK
Also, I hate her.

CUT TO:

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex is sitting at the Manager's desk, filling out a piece
of paper. A small child is standing at the other end,
staring down at the form.

Nick is standing in the doorway of the office, looking on to
the exchange.

NICK
Did you have to tell her that Steve
left already?

ALEX
I'm sorry! I panicked.

NICK

You're a Shift Leader, Alex, you should know what sets her off by now.

ALEX

I know, I know. I'm sorry, okay?

Alex finishes with the form and hands it to the kid. As he goes to reach into a drawer from the desk, CHRISTIE - a naive teenager with too much swagger for her age - swoops into the office out of nowhere and opens it for him, pulling out a rubber bracelet and handing it to the child. Alex sighs heavily.

CHRISTIE

What're we talkin' about?

ALEX

Nothing you have to worry about.

NICK

Christie, get out of the office.

CHRISTIE

Aw, c'mon! That's no fun!

ALEX

Exactly.

Alex waves the child in the office away with his new Deep Water Band.

ALEX (CONT'D)

All the rules to the deep end are on that paper. Don't lose it and have fun!

Christie circles around to the front of the desk and leans over it. She tries to be cute, but she's underage and no one looks at her that way.

CHRISTIE

Did we do something wrong?

NICK

You are right now, by being in here. This office is for managers only.

ALEX

Mrs. Gibbons is just being her angry self, okay? Now get out.

CHRISTIE
Well why is she angry?

A beat. Alex sighs.

ALEX
I literally do not know Christie.
That's the point.

Christie shrugs her shoulders, making it apparent that she has no real concern but just wants to be a part of the situation. She hands around despite knowing that she's not supposed to.

NICK
Christie, I'm serious get-

Nick stops himself with a loud laugh.

NICK (CONT'D)
Mrs. Gibbons just sent all the
managers an e-mail, but it's all
just nonsense.

Alex checks his phone and chuckles to himself.

ALEX
God, the shift leaders got it too.

JESS, a tall, dark, and pretty senior guard walks into the office, clearly irritated. She's got the face of someone who doesn't take any bullshit. She's looking down at her phone as well.

JESS
Did you two get this stupid e-mail
from Barb?

She looks up at Nick and Alex only to be greeted by Christie. She groans.

JESS (CONT'D)
Oh, my God, Christie get out of the
office.

CHRISTIE
You and Alex are in here!

JESS
Jesus Christ we've been over this.
We're shift leaders, we're allowed.
You're literally not even doing
anything.

Christie pouts but doesn't budge. Jess glares at her harder and she finally stomps out, moping.

NICK
She'll listen to you but not me?

JESS
I'm way more intimidating than a manager. I'm an older, prettier girl.

Nick rolls his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Christie is sitting alone, talking to the camera, interview style. She giggles.

CHRISTIE
They're just hard on me because they know I can take it.

She smiles, clearly pleased with herself.

CHRISTIE
I think they're preparing me to be shift leader next year!

CUT TO:

INT. BREAK ROOM

A large group of guards are hanging out: playing cards, on their phones, reading, etc. The office phone can be heard faintly in the background.

ALEX (O.S.)
Phone!

The phone rings several more times but no one moves.

ALEX (O.S.)
Guys! PHONE!

CUT TO:

INT. MANAGERS OFFICE - DAY

Alex rushes into the office and answers the phone frantically.

ALEX
Parkwood Pool Manager's Office,
this is Alex spea-

Alex pulls the phone away from his ear and a man's voice can be heard yelling loudly through it.

STEVE, a pugnacious and quick-to-anger man, is on the other end.

STEVE (O.S.)
WHAT the Hell are you all doing
that you can't answer the phone?

ALEX
Sorry, Steve, I don't think anyone
else heard it and I was sitting.

STEVE
So WHY the Hell are you answering
the damn phone?

ALEX
Um, no one else heard it...

STEVE
You want to tell me what this
e-mail from Barb is all about? I'm
gone for FORTY-FIVE minutes and
everything goes to shit?

ALEX
I wish I could, Steve... She just
stormed down here and started
yelling about nothing.

Steve shows up in the Manager's Office holding his cell phone to his ear. He continues talking without hanging up.

STEVE
So what did she send this e-mail
for?!

Alex jumps, scared from Steve's sudden appearance behind him. He turns around.

ALEX
I really have no idea! She's just
being typical Barb. Y'know, angry
about not having anything to be
angry about.

STEVE
Are you... So nothing actually
happened?

Alex looks at Steve apologetically.

STEVE (CONT'D)
That woman is going to put me in a
grave one of these days.

Alex laughs, and Steve stares at him with a long pause.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Make sure to call me if something
ACTUALLY goes wrong.

Immediately after he leaves, Nick returns.

NICK
Did I just hear Steve screaming? I
thought he left.

ALEX
You heard that from the garage?

NICK
You could hear that man WHISPER
from across the pool. So he was
here?

ALEX
Came back because of Barb's e-mail.

Christie rushes back into the Manager's Office.

CHRISTIE
OMG. I just read Barb's e-mail...
Was there actually a live lobster
on the premises?