

Writing Prompt Challenge 152

written by

Josh Seaman

FADE IN:

EXT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - EVENING

MATTHEW, early 20s, exhausted from sitting in traffic, pulls up in front of a house. MATTHEW looks down at the map on his phone.

MATTHEW

Okay, this looks like the right place.

MATTHEW scrambles out of his car, straightens his tie and tucks in his shirt. He walks up to the front door and before he can ring the doorbell the door swings open.

MR. RANDAL

You're 25 minutes late

MR. RANDAL, late 40s, locks eyes with MATTHEW. Both look surprised to see each other.

MATTHEW

Sorry, I'm late Mr. Randal. There was a lot of traffic and I didn't have time to change so

MR. RANDAL

Would you excuse me for a moment, Matthew?

MR. RANDAL closes the door.

INT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

MR. RANDAL walks to the living room to talk to his wife, MRS. RANDAL, early 40s, she is preoccupied putting on her high heels.

MR. RANDAL

Kathleen, give me your phone, we've got to cancel the Sytr.

MRS. RANDAL

Henry, you are out of you mind if you think I'm going to let you cancel another one of our date nights.

2.

MR. RANDAL

No, sweetheart listen to me. The man we've hired as the baby sitter is the kid I interviewed today. We can't have him watch our kids. I'm sorry but, we're just going to have to cancel.

MRS. RANDAL

No, you listen to me, "sweetheart"! I slave day in and day out getting the boys to school, to soccer practice, and back home with barely enough time to make dinner. I never have anytime to treat myself and the one night I do you tell me that we can't because the babysitter is

some boy you know from work?

MR. RANDAL

That kid handed me a folded a  
resume with a 3 year gap in his  
work history, Kathleen! Not only is  
he the least likely candidate I  
would choose to fill the position  
at the office, but he is also the  
last person in the world I would  
choose to babysit our boys!

MRS. RANDAL gets up from the loveseat and stares sharply  
at MR. RANDAL.

MRS. RANDAL

If you want to cancel, go right  
ahead. You can stay here and watch  
the kids, but I'm going out. Who  
knows, maybe I'll ask the boy out  
front if he wants to be my date.  
His profile picture is kind of cute  
after all...

MRS. RANDAL exits.

EXT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - EVENING

MRS. RANDAL opens the door, walks into the driveway and  
gets into the passenger seat of the family car. MATTHEW  
looks back and MRS. RANDAL shoots him a wink. When MATTHEW  
turns back around he is staring face to face with MR.  
RANDAL.

MR. RANDAL

The kids are to be asleep and in  
bed before we get home.

MATTHEW

Yes sir.

3.

MR. RANDAL

There is macaroni in the cabinet  
and chicken strips in the freezer.  
Please remember to turn off the  
oven, and wash the dishes when you  
are done. Any questions?

MATTHEW

...how do you think I did during  
the interview?

MR. RANDAL sighs

MR. RANDAL  
Consider this your second  
interview. Do not make me regret  
this, Matthew.

MATTHEW  
You won't, sir! And thank you!

MR. RANDAL scoffs, gets into the car and drives away.  
MATTHEW enters the house.

INT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

MR. RANDAL's kids AIDEN (9) and MICAH (7), are sitting on  
a couch in the living room, their eyes are transfixed on  
a tablet.

MATTHEW  
Hey there, kids. Whatcha watchin'?

AIDEN and MICAH, their eyes still glued to the screen  
answer in unison.

AIDEN/MICAH  
Ryan's Reviews.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
It's a YouTube channel about a kid  
that opens toys.

MATTHEW  
So you guy's are watching other  
kids play with toys? That's kinda  
fun.

4.

AIDEN  
Yeah, but he doesn't really play  
with them. He unboxes the toys and  
shows you what you get inside.

MATTHEW  
...and you guys like that?

AIDEN and MICAH nod.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

So, I guess I'll just make dinner?  
You guys are cool just chillin' and  
watching YouTube then?

AIDEN and MICAH nod again. MATTHEW exits.

INT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - EVENING

MATTHEW puts chicken strips in the oven to cook.  
MATTHEW reaches for his phone to set a timer, but the  
battery is dead. MATTHEW calls to AIDEN and MICAH from  
the kitchen.

MATTHEW

Hey, do you guys have an iPhone  
charger around here?

AIDEN

Ew, no. This is an Android  
household.

MATTHEW

Okay... well do you think you guys  
could set a timer for me?

AIDEN

Sure, how long?

MATTHEW reaches into the trash to check the box for  
the cooking instructions.

MATTHEW

30 minutes please.

AIDEN

Mkay, you're good.

MATTHEW

Awesome, thank you.

5.

INT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

MATTHEW walks into the living room and collapses on  
the couch.

MATTHEW

What a day... Hey, I'm beat. Do you

think I could just close my eyes  
for a bit and you can wake me up  
when the alarm goes off?

AIDEN not really paying attention.

AIDEN  
Yeah, sure.

MATTHEW  
Aw sick! You guys are pretty cool  
kids, you know that?

AIDEN  
We get that a lot.

MATTHEW rolls over and makes himself comfortable. His  
eye lids slowly close.

FADE TO BLACK.

SLAM TO:

INT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MATTHEW is jolted awake by the piercing sound of the fire  
alarm. There is smoke billowing out of the kitchen.  
MATTHEW shrieks and sprints to the kitchen.

INT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

MATTHEW throws open the oven and grabs the tray of chicken  
strips without gloves, burning his hands. MATTHEW tosses  
the pan into the sink and sprays the pan with water to  
cool it off. MATTHEW opens all of the windows in the  
kitchen and rushes to the living room.

INT. RANDAL RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MATTHEW opens all of the remaining windows in the house  
until the fire alarm finally subsides.

6.

MATTHEW  
What the fuck, dude! You were  
supposed to wake me up when the  
chicken was done!

Sorry. MATTHEW

AIDEN

Sorry?! Man, your dad is going to kill me if he finds out I nearly burnt down his house- Ah! My freakin hands, dude...

AIDEN calmly grabs a bottle of Febreze from off of the coffee table and hands it to MATTHEW.

AIDEN

Who says he has to find out?

MATTHEW looks at AIDEN, perplexed.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

He'll only find out if I we say something right?

MATTHEW nods.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

So how about we agree this never happened?

MATTHEW

For real? You'd do that for me? I knew you guys were cool kids

\$50 MATTHEW

AIDEN

I'm sorry, what?

AIDEN

\$50. That's what they're paying you to babysit us right?

MATTHEW

Well yeah, but I mean I get more like \$40. The app takes a percentage and

AIDEN

Listen, you're not seeing the big picture here.

(MORE)

7.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

You pay me \$50 and we'll be asleep  
and in bed before Mom and Dad get  
home. Tonight you're working as a  
babysitter, but tomorrow you could  
be working as a sales person for my  
Dad.

MATTHEW

You know about that?

AIDEN

I'm 9 not deaf. My Dad was telling  
my Mom all about it before you  
walked in. So do we have a deal or  
what?

Headlights splash across the window, as a car rolls down  
the street. It's MR. AND MRS. RANDAL, they're back from  
their date.

MATTHEW

Okay fine! But when they ask how  
the babysitter was, I need you to  
act like I was Mary fucking  
Poppins, okay?!

AIDEN

Who the fuck is that?

MATTHEW

She's just a really good  
babysitter, okay?! Here's \$50, now  
go!

MATTHEW gives AIDEN \$50.

MICAH

What about me?

MATTHEW

You know, I though you two were  
really cool kids...

MATTHEW gives MICAH \$50. AIDEN and MICAH run up stairs.  
MATTHEW grabs a book and pretends to read on the couch.  
MR. AND MRS. RANDAL enter.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Oh hi! I can't believe it's been 3  
hours already.



MR. RANDAL  
Why are all of the windows open?

8.

MATTHEW  
Oh well, you know. I thought maybe the kids needed a bit of fresh air, what with all of the exercises the kids were doing and stuff.

MRS. RANDAL  
Exercising?

MATTHEW  
Oh yeah, sure! I feel that it is important for kids to get exercise in whenever they can, you know? Kids, these days are always playing on their iPads and Xboxes. They hardly spend anytime just playing and being kids, you know?

MRS. RANDAL  
Oh, they must be exhausted! I'm going to go check on the kids.  
Goodnight!

MRS. RANDAL pecks MR. RANDAL on the cheek and goes upstairs.

MR. RANDAL  
Well, you didn't burn the house down. And the kids are in bed?

Yes sir. MR. RANDAL  
MATTHEW  
Please, you can call me Henry.

MATTHEW  
Oh okay, thanks Henry.

MR. RANDAL  
No thank you, Matthew.

MR. RANDAL sticks out his hand. MATTHEW goes to shake MR. RANDAL's hand but he forgets about his burns and flinches.

MR. RANDAL (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

MATTHEW

Nothing sir- I mean, Henry you just have a really strong handshake is all.

9.

MR. RANDAL

Yeah, having a good strong handshake is crucial to doing business internationally. You'll have to learn to start shaking hands like a man when you come into the office tomorrow.

MATTHEW is shocked.

MATTHEW

You mean it? I got the job?!

MR. RANDAL

Well, you have a job for now. As is with all jobs, there is a probational period of 90 days

MATTHEW

Thank you so much, you won't regret this, I promise!

MR. RANDAL

I'd better not, Matthew. I'm putting my reputation on the line, for you. And if anyone hears how you go this job it will be the end for both of us, you got it?

MATTHEW

I understand, Henry. You're reputation is safe with me.

MR. RANDAL

Alright, have a good night, Matthew. I'll see you tomorrow at 8am. Don't be late!

MATTHEW

You got it, I'll be up bright and early! See you tomorrow!

FADE TO BLACK.