

Department of Motor Vehicles

DMV

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

FRESNO OFFICE

**A ten minute play
by Garrett Buss**

The Department of Motor Vehicles

written by

Garrett Buss

Lights come up on a fluorescent-ly lit lobby of a DMV. The wall is littered with framed "employee of the month" pictures of a guy that looks just like Rick Moranis. This place would be cramped and claustrophobic, if anyone aside from Martin was here. MARTIN, a thin, scared man in his 30's sits at the main desk alone. He looks just like Rick Moranis. He is nervously typing away at his computer. In the background we can faintly hear the sound of fire and explosions.

MARTIN

Its sounding pretty bad out there. I wonder if I should... Nah, I wouldn't want to... I wonder if the Weather Channel's website is still up? Oh, here we go - "Today's forecast is a 100% chance of fire, dear lord, flee while you still can, may God have mercy on our souls... The End." Wow. That's the first time I've seen a weather forecast say "The End." I guess things really are coming to a close.

He slumps down in his chair

Oh geez, why am I like this? It's the end of the world and I came here. Mother was right, I do need to grow a pair.

The door chime goes off and in walks MRS. ABERNATHY, a kindly, sweet looking, decrepit-ly, bone curdling-ly old woman. She slowly scoots into the lobby up to the front desk.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(confused)

Uh, hello ma'am! How can I help you today?

MRS. ABERNATHY

Why good afternoon young sir, I would like one license renewal please!

MARTIN

Absolutely, let's see... renewals. Here we go, if you could start filling out this paperwork, it's really just basic information.

Martin hands Mrs. A a form

To be honest I didn't expect any people to come in today, seems like a drivers license wouldn't be the most important thing right now hyuck hyuck

Martin laughs awkwardly, Mrs. A just stares blankly at him

Anyways, once you've finished that form I'm going to need some kind of ID so we can get the test out of the way

MRS. ABERNATHY

Test?

MARTIN

Yes ma'am, just a basic drivers test. It's a written one, We aren't going to be driving around outside, especially not now! Hyuck hyuck

Martin laughs again, no reaction from Mrs. A

MRS. ABERNATHY

Here you go you whipper snapper!

She hands the paper back to Martin

MARTIN

These all look great, so could I see that ID?

MRS. ABERNATHY

I don't know, CAN you?

Martin sighs and looks at the "Employee of the month" wall

MARTIN

May I see your ID?

MRS. ABERNATHY

That's more I like it, this should work

MARTIN

Ma'am this is a Denny's gift card.

MRS. ABERNATHY

Silly me, here you are

He takes the I.D. to the back of the room to scan it

MARTIN

(from afar)

This is just another Denny's gift card.

MRS. ABERNATHY

Well fool me twice! This should be it.

Martin studies this card carefully, searching for the words Denny's anywhere

MARTIN

Great, thank you very much. Now here's the test.

MRS. ABERNATHY

Thank you deary. Um, something is wrong with this pen, I think it's out of ink.

MARTIN

That's because you aren't writing on paper, you're just writing on a third Denny's gift card.

MRS. ABERNATHY

Oh, silly me! My prescription must be out of wack I suppose

MARTIN

Why do you have so many gift cards for Denny's? I mean one is already a lot, but three?

MRS. ABERNATHY

Well that is none of your business! Do I ask you about how many gift cards you have?

MARTIN

I wasn't trying to be rude, I jus-

MRS. ABERNATHY

Hasn't anybody told you to respect your elders? I just want my license renewed in peace, without having an interrogation straight out of CBS Miami!

MARTIN

I think it's CSI Miami

MRS. ABERNATHY

Agree to disagree.

MARTIN

Mam, this license has been expired for forty eight years

MRS. ABERNATHY

And? I procrastinated a little bit, I'm human!

MARTIN

I'm just saying, I've never even seen a license this old, It says "In M*A*S*H we trust" on the bottom

MRS. ABERNATHY

Do you have a chair I can sit in? I swear all this standing is taking a toll on me

MARTIN

Oh of course, sorry, I forgot to put any chairs out, considering everything, I didn't think they'd be necessary.

MRS. ABERNATHY

That's very unprofessional young man, all this standing is really hurting my thighs, and those are the windows to the soul, you know!

MARTIN

I thought it was the ey-

MRS. ABERNATHY

I have a problem with this test.

MARTIN

And that is?

MRS. ABERNATHY

The words! They're far too small to read. This is preposterous!

MARTIN

Sorry ma'am, I can read the questions off if you'd like?

MRS. ABERNATHY

I don't want that at all, I just want to be able to see the darn thing! I mean really, how do they expect anyone to be able to read this??

MARTIN

Well this isn't that big of a deal, not like it's the end of the world or anything hyuck hyuck

MRS. ABERNATHY

Son are you laughing at me?

MARTIN

What? No. I was just making a joke about the whole apocalypse thing.

MRS. ABERNATHY

What ARE you going on about?

Pause

MARTIN

Are you kidding?

Mrs. A looks confused.

Ooooooohh. Well ma'am you see-

MRS. ABERNATHY

One moment, before you finish that sentence, I'm going to drink some water

Mrs. A pulls a glass of water out of her purse and starts sipping away

MARTIN

Basically, this huge asteroid was flying around in space, and it was headed for our planet - just like that movie Deep impact

Mrs. A is still drinking

MARTIN (CONT'D)

So NASA gets the bright idea to send a crew of oil drillers to blow up the asteroid before it hits earth - just like that movie Armageddon

Mrs. A is still just really chugging away at her glass

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Well, blowing it up just made one big fireball turn into a thousand slightly smaller fireballs, so now the planet is as good as destroyed - just like that movie Domsday

Mrs. A has not stopped drinking from her glass

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Right now, It's the end of the world.

Mrs. A looks shocked, and does a huge spit-take. All of the water she's been drinking so far shoots out, and sprays Martin head to toe

MRS. ABERNATHY

WHAT!??

MARTIN

I thought it was pretty common knowledge!

MRS. ABERNATHY

How do I... How do I know you aren't pulling my leg?

MARTIN

Pulling your leg?

MRS. ABERNATHY

Yes, why should I believe you?

MARTIN

Believe me? Look outside! See all the looters and car fires in the streets?

MRS. ABERNATHY

I've been in bad parts of town before sonny.

MARTIN

Bad parts of town? Everyone is panicking, it's every man for himself out there.

MRS. ABERNATHY

I don't know about all that-

Martin types on the computer quickly

MARTIN

Here, the front page of the New York times website just says "Well it's been fun." This is it. The end of everything. How've you not heard about this?

MRS. ABERNATHY

I haven't been able to watch the news since the cruise.

MARTIN

The cruise?

MRS. ABERNATHY

The cruise. A while ago I won a ticket for a cruise trip to Guadalajara, I went by myself and it was fantastic. I was able to see new places, I was taken care of, It was the best choice I'd ever made. But when my cruise ended, they forgot to wake me up, and when I started walking around the deck the next day, I realized that they had started another trip and just forgotten about me. I was going to tell the captain about the mix up, but then I thought "who would say no to another free cruise?" so I stayed. That mix up happened another ninety seven times, so after twenty five years of life on the sea, I finally got off the ship, that was two days ago. And boy am I sea sick.

MARTIN

How old are you?

MRS. ABERNATHY

Technically I'm in my sixties, but as we all know, twenty five years on a cruise is an eternity in normal years, so of course it has aged me to the point that I'm-

MARTIN

Decrepti-ly, bone curdling-ly old?

MRS. ABERNATHY

Exactly.

MARTIN

Makes sense.

MRS. ABERNATHY

That's why I need my license renewed so badly, I'm finally off that ship, now I can live my life on the mainland again!

MARTIN

I see, well now that it's the end of the world, I guess it was kind of bad timing on your part.

MRS. ABERNATHY

About that, if it is the end of the world, why are you here?

MARTIN

Well uh, you see

Martin glances at the wall of frames again

It sounds stupid if I say it out loud

MRS. ABERNATHY

Oh come now, it can't be worse than my intricate and believable origin story, can it?

MARTIN

I'm here because it's the last day I have to work to get my fiftieth "employee of the month" award.

MRS. ABERNATHY

I stand corrected.

MARTIN

I have never been absent to this job since I started working here, and if I'm going to die because of some space rock, at least I can have that picture on the wall.

MRS. ABERNATHY

But don't you have any friends, any family?

MARTIN

Work is all I have honestly. And all my family lives in Delaware, and I would rather blow my brains out here than go to that ugly hell-scape

MRS. ABERNATHY

Oh, it's established, Delaware is a hive of scum and villainy.

MARTIN

Aint' that the truth.

They high five

MRS. ABERNATHY

But, our mutual hatred for Delaware aside, this apocalypse situation is pretty grim.

MARTIN

At least it can't get any worse than this

A louder explosion is heard, red lights boom from stage right

MRS. ABERNATHY

Oh dear, what WAS that??

MARTIN

Jesus. A meteor destroyed the left wing of the building.

MRS. ABERNATHY

I think it crushed the entrance.

MARTIN

That's not ideal.

MRS. ABERNATHY

So this is how it ends? Some space rock is going to kill me? If I'm being honest, I thought it'd be polio.

MARTIN

Dying in the DMV, I wish I could say I didn't see this coming.

MRS. ABERNATHY

I wish I'd known about the end of the world sooner.

MARTIN

Would you see your family, or your kids one last time?

MRS. ABERNATHY

No, I'd probably try ecstasy.

MARTIN

Understandable. Man, I wish I hadn't come in today, I wish I had a backbone, or at least something to live for besides this place.

MRS. ABERNATHY

Actually, I don't think coming to work today makes you weak at all, I think it's commendable.

MARTIN

How?

MRS. ABERNATHY

Well, you knew it was your last day on earth and you still came here to help people, that's brave!

MARTIN

Hyuck, help people. People don't need the DMV, especially not now.

The fire is burning brighter

MRS. ABERNATHY

But still, it's helping me, and that's not nothing.

MARTIN

Thank you. It stinks that you left your cruise just to die here.

MRS. ABERNATHY

I think it's for the best. If you die on international waters, you don't go to heaven you know! Says that in the bible.

Another explosion, the fire is really bright

MARTIN

You learn something new every day.

MRS. ABERNATHY

What should we do now?

Pause

MARTIN

Hmm. Do you still want to renew your drivers license?

MRS. ABERNATHY

I would. And we can hang up your employee of the month plaque.

MARTIN

Sounds great to me. Just sign this last form

MRS. ABERNATHY

Here you are

MARTIN

That's just another Denny's gift card.

THE END.