I LOVE MY JOB

SCENE ONE

(We see BETH and DIANE in a library. They are at the front desk preparing for the day to begin. We see the women working away at clearing off their workstations. BETH is nervous.)

BETH: *(To audience)* On a normal day, I come into the law library around 6 *am* to prepare for the rush of crazy clients that walk through those doors. I usually work with Diane.
DIANE: Beth, I cannot handle today. I had way too much to drink last night and I woke up this morning on the wrong side of the floor.
BETH: *(To DIANE)* I specifically told you not to come in hung-over today. *(To audience)* She's difficult to handle sometimes, but she grows on you. Like cancer.
DIANE: Why are you so nervous? Calm down…
BETH: Do you really not realize what today is?
DIANE: Sunday?
BETH: Wednesday! You can be so dimwitted sometimes.
DIANE: I don't know what that means; but I do not like the way you said it.
BETH: The inspector, Diane. We're being inspected today. How could you forget?
DIANE: Oh, crap, that's right!
BETH: I just… do you remember the last time an inspector came?
DIANE: Yeah, and I never got a thank you for my help that day.
BETH: You were force-feeding him peanut brittle!
DIANE: Well I went through all the trouble of bringing it and it was rude he kept saying no!
BETH: He was allergic and went into anaphylactic shock- You know what? Never mind. That's in the past now. Just make sure you're on your game today. We cannot afford another bad review.
DIANE: You worry so much over nothing. This is routine.
BETH: *(To audience)* Unfortunately, routine doesn't really exist in this building. *(To DIANE)* Go unlock the doors. It's about time to open.
DIANE: I got it. Just take a deep breath.
BETH: *(To audience; she is working away at scanning in last night's returns)* I'm jealous of how she can be so nonchalant about these things. I started this job because I was in love with the idea of being around this wealth of information. To be able to live in the history of these law books. But the more I work at this place, the more I realize I've lost my passion for literature. To make matters worse, I've got to try to impress a corporate head while acting like I love my job. I should have brought Jack into work with me. A good whiskey and coke is never a bad thing. Unless it's your first time at a frat party… but that's another story. Someone else's story.

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(DIANE hurries over to open the doors. People start to make their way in. Someone immediately asks for her help. We see NANCY- a stern looking lady dressed in business attire, clipboard in hand- approach the information desk)

NANCY: Excuse me.
BETH: Hi, hello, yes! My name is Beth, how may I help you today?
NANCY: I'm Nancy Baumgartner here for the yearly inspection on the services of this building.
BETH: Of course!
NANCY: Are you the person in charge at the moment?
BETH: Yes ma'am, I'm the branch manager.
NANCY: I see. And who is working with you today?
BETH: It's just me and my co-worker Diane.
NANCY: Very well. I'll be in and out all day. Please go about your daily routine.

(NANCY turns and starts to inspect the nooks and crannies of the place. The phone rings. BETH picks up)

BETH: King's County Law Library…

(HOMELESS MAN enters.)

HM: *(Talking to himself)* …and then Jesus told me he could walk on water. I was there! With my own eyes!
BETH: *(Covering phone receiver)* Diane!
(DIANE finishes helping a customer and rushes over to BETH)
DIANE: What?
BETH: *(Into phone)* I'm sorry, can you hold please? *(To DIANE)* The Inspector is here.
DIANE: Where is he?
BETH: *She*…

(Pointing to NANCY who is in the Reference area, making sure the books are in order)

BETH: …is about ten feet away from that homeless man.
DIANE: Oh God, not him again.
BETH: I need you to keep an eye on him.
DIANE: You weren't here yesterday. You won't believe what he did to the water fountain.
BETH: Just handle it, please.
DIANE: Okay. Just don't get thirsty until the custodian comes in.

(DIANE walks around the front desk and approaches the HM. BETH turn her attention back to phone)

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