

BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR

written by

Marnie Mitchell-Lister

A recently divorced bus driver with a severe case of
O.C.D. develops an unhealthy fixation on his work.

FADE IN:

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - LAKE LAND, FLORIDA - DAWN

A "LAKE LAND HIGH SCHOOL" bus, number G23, idles.

The door squeaks open. A man's hairy legs and slippers feet descend the steps.

BERNIE CRANE (35), bed head and sleepy eyes, in white boxers, white t-shirt and terry cloth robe, walks from the bus to the front door of his home, only a few yards away.

He looks back at the yellow bus idling in his driveway.

BERNIE

You're positively glowing this morning Gloria.

With a content smile, he enters his home.

INT. BERNIE'S BEDROOM

Freshly showered, towel around his waist, Bernie opens a drawer and pulls out a brand new package of white socks.

He grabs a pair then places the package back in the drawer, on top of several other new packs. He repeats this ritual with new white boxers, then again with a new white t-shirt.

Bernie removes all the stickers from the garments then places them in a waste basket, full of discarded socks, boxers and t-shirts that still look brand new.

A wedding photo sits atop the dresser. Bernie glares at it as he combs his hair. In the photo, a happy Bernie stands next to his beautiful bride. He scowls at it.

As Bernie gets dressed he gazes out the window. He has a clear view of the bus. His scowl turns to a smile.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Smiling Bernie drives, oblivious to the noisy STUDENTS behind him. He pulls in front of the school, the kids file out.

Several ROWDY STUDENTS punch the seats as they head for the door. Bernie cringes with each punch.

EXT. LAKELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS YARD - AFTERNOON

A small picnic area, occupied by DRIVERS on their lunch break, sits next to a fleet of "off duty" buses.

At one of the tables, Bernie's "beautiful bride" from the photo, SHARON (35), still beautiful but in a plain, bus driver way, sits with male driver, MIKE (60's).

MIKE

You gonna tell him or should I?

They look toward bus number G23, parked next to the vacuum station. Inside, Bernie happily sings (MOS), as he cleans.

SHARON

I'll tell him. I mean, it's good news. . .right?

Mike shrugs. Sharon musters courage and heads over.

INT. BERNIE'S BUS

Music plays over the speakers as Bernie vacuums.

BERNIE

They said I can take you home again tonight. I've volunteered to work all the night and weekend games. I just hate not being with you.

Sharon stands on the top step and clears her throat. Bernie spins around, not happily surprised to see her.

SHARON

Sorry, didn't mean to scare you.

BERNIE

What do you want?

SHARON

I have some good news.

Bernie tenses up. She pretends not to notice.

BERNIE

What? You getting married?

SHARON

No. You're up for bus driver of the year, Bernie. See? Good news. Congratulations.

BERNIE

Aren't you going to congratulate Gloria? I couldn't have done this without her.

Unable to hide her concern she walks away. Bernie waits for her to step off the bus.

BERNIE

Don't mind her. She's just jealous. I'm so proud of you. How about a bubble bath?

He reaches into a bucket and pulls out a soapy sponge.

EXT. BERNIE'S BUS

Mike meets up with Sharon as she gets off the bus. They walk into the bus yard together.

MIKE

Did you tell him? Everything?

SHARON

Well. . .not everything.

MIKE

You can't hide this from him, he's gonna find out who he's up against. Then what's gonna happen? He lost you to Jake, what if he loses this to him too? It'll be a shit storm.

SHARON

He'll be fine. Bernie has. . . well, he's moved on.

She looks back at Bernie who joyfully scrubs the seats.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SCENIC LAKEFRONT - NIGHT

Bernie's bus is parked, candlelight flickers inside.

INT. BERNIE'S BUS

Romantic music plays. Wearing only a white t-shirt and boxers, Bernie lay on a blanket in the middle of the aisle.

BERNIE

I love being inside you. When I'm
with you I feel calm. You bring
out the best in me.

He blows out the candle, closes his eyes and smiles.

EXT. LAKELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS YARD - AFTERNOON

On the way to her bus, BIG SALLY (40), watches Bernie vigorously wax the already shiny exterior of his bus.

BIG SALLY

Congratulations Bernie! Hope you
stomp that asshole Jake!

He slowly turns, with a deranged look on his face that chills Sally. She quickly walks away.

INT. BERNIE'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

One candle lights the room. Dressed in all black, Bernie stares into the mirror as he rubs black paint on his face.

BERNIE

You talkin to me? Hey! Jake! You
talking to me? There's no one else
here. You must be talking to me.

EXT. LAKELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS YARD - NIGHT

Bernie scales the fence and runs directly to bus "D45". He presses something under the door that makes it open.

INT. BUS #D45

He reaches into his black back pack, pulls out a knife and slices every seat.

Next, he pulls out a brick and smashes every window.

Finally, he steps back and admires his work. Satisfied, he walks to the exit but stops when he sees a photo taped next to the driver's seat. It's Sharon with another man.

He pulls it off and turns it over. "I love you Jake", is written on the back. He rips it into shreds then leaves.

Seconds later the brick crashes through the windshield.

BERNIE (O.S.)
Compliments of Bernie Crane!! Bus
driver of the year!!

INT. BERNIE'S BUS - NIGHT

On a blanket in the aisle lays Bernie. Still in black, make-up now smudged.

BERNIE
You've got it all wrong. I didn't
do it for her, I did it for you. I
love you. I want you to be happy.

He caresses the leg of the seat next to him, leans in for a kiss but is interrupted by flashing police lights outside.

INT. VISITOR'S ROOM - FLORIDA STATE PRISON - DAY

A glass partition separates a depressed Bernie and Sharon.

SHARON
I brought you something Bernie.

She motions toward the window. He looks out, his eyes light up.

SHARON
They were gonna retire her.

EXT. FLORIDA STATE PRISON

Parked out front is bus number G23, now with the words "PROPERTY OF FLORIDA STATE PRISON", painted on the side.

FADE OUT