

THE NEW MRS. CAMPBELL & THE FORGETFUL FOUR

Written by

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FADE IN

INT. MILES LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A comfortable, slightly outdated room. EDDY, 17, amiable, overweight with special needs, sits on the sofa and talks directly to the camera in a matter of fact manner.

EDDY  
My name is Eddy, and I like things  
just the way they are.

SUPER: "1 hour earlier."

INT. EDDY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Eddy's asleep in bed, being shaken awake by his tired Mum, MRS. MILES, 50's, who wears a daggy looking dressing gown.

EDDY (V.O.)  
Every morning Mum wakes me and  
makes me the same breakfast.

INT. MILES DINING ROOM - MORNING

Eddy is given a plate containing three sausages and a huge helping of tomato sauce for breakfast.

Title cards show this scene is repeated every day of the week and that Eddy is always dressed exactly the same.

INT. MILES LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Eddy sits on the sofa and talks directly to the camera.

EDDY  
Mum says I like routine, stability,  
and structure...I don't know about  
that. I just like things staying  
the same...Mum also says I have  
poor coping skills when things  
change.

SUPER: "1 month ago."

INT. MILES KITCHEN - MORNING

An 80's kitchen. Mrs. Miles serves some sausages to Eddy.

MRS. MILES

We're out of tomato sauce, would you like some BBQ sauce instead?

Eddy throws a massive tantrum; this is shown in fast forward action, with Eddy throwing himself onto the table and flailing his arms and legs about.

EDDY (V.O.)

Sometimes I think Mum's just like to say a lot of things...I really like tomato sauce. I like it a lot.

MONTAGE: Eddy smothers sausages with tomato sauce, puts sauce on pizza, on crisps, into tomato soup, on roast meals that already have gravy, even on chocolate mud cake.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

A small supermarket. MR. MILES, 50's, long-suffering guy, approaches the cash register with a trolley full of tomato sauce bottles.

EDDY (V.O.)

Last time we ran out of tomato sauce. Dad went and got me some from the shop; he also got Mum some headache tablets.

Mr. Miles runs back into the aisle and grabs an armful of headache tablets. There's now none left on the shelf.

INT. MILES ENTRY - MORNING

A large glass bowl full of M&M's sits on a small table, near the front door. Eddy grabs one.

EDDY (V.O.)

Every day, before I go to school Mum, lets me have one lolly. Only one. Sometimes I choose yellow, sometimes green but never blue. Blue reminds me of the taste of blue cheese, yuck!

Eddy puts his hand in and picks one; it's blue, he tosses it on the ground and picks another. This time, it's yellow. Happy, he goes outside. His Dad walks in, sees the blue M&M on the ground, picks it up and eats it.

The phone rings and Mrs. Miles answers it.

MRS. MILES

Oh no! Yes, uh-huh! You sure?

Mrs. Miles hangs up the phone and looks worried.

MR. MILES

What's up?

MRS. MILES

It's Principal Strickman. He say's there's a problem with the new Mrs. Campbell.

MR. MILES

Oh!

Mr. Miles goes over to the cupboard and grabs a couple of boxes of headache tablets and gives them to Mrs. Miles.

MR. MILES (CONT'D)

Will this be enough?

EXT. MILES FRONT GARDEN - MORNING

Eddy walks in front of the house; it's a double story, he studies his M&M.

EDDY (V.O.)

The letter on my lolly would always tell me exactly how my day would be. Sometimes it would say M which would mean my day would be marvelous...

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

Eddy gets a strike at ten pin bowling and high fives from all his friends.

EXT. MILES FRONT GARDEN - MORNING

Eddy looks at his M&M.

EDDY (V.O.)

Sometimes it would be a W which would mean my day would be wonderful.

INT. SPECIAL BUS - MORNING

Eddy boards the special bus and gets high fives from all his friends. The bus takes off.

EDDY (V.O.)  
My best friends all go on the same bus. There's Stu...

STU, 17, enthusiastic lean teenage boy, who is a bit too clever for his own good, he wears a yellow bike helmet.

EDDY (V.O.)  
He has to wear that because he got his brain hurt in a car crash. His Mum says his brain still works but only part-time hours now. He's the smart one in our outfit, but my Mum says he has a potty mouth.

STU  
The same clothes again! Are you shitting me? Ya wanna watch out Ed, cause those clothes will soon smell worse than a Pelican Poop.

EDDY (V.O.)  
I'm not sure why Mum says he has a potty mouth? He never talks about pots or pottery. He usually just talks about poo.

STU  
You're almost as bad as a Turtle Turd.

EDDY (V.O.)  
Dad says he'd be good at working at a sewage farm.

AL, 16, almost puny, a dreamer, he always wears a wrestling T-shirt with his favorites such as The Rock or Hulk Hogan.

EDDY (V.O.)  
That's Al. He's the muscles.

Al tries to open a packet of crisps but he can't. He hands them to GLADYS, 17, caring, happy and always helpful, she wears glasses, ill-fitting clothes and is overweight. She opens them easily.

EDDY (V.O.)  
That's Gladys, she wears dresses and likes cooking.  
(MORE)

EDDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 That's cause she's a girl. Stu  
 says we're like the Fantastic Four,  
 but Mum reckons we're more like the  
 Forgetful Four.

EXT. MAY DAY SPECIAL SCHOOL - MORNING

The bus pulls up at May Days Special School. The kids get  
 off the bus. The school is old and decrepit.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 May Days Special School teaches us  
 life skills like cooking...

INT. COOKING CLASS - DAY

Eddy pulls a burnt cake out of the oven.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 Hygiene...

Eddy wipes his nose with the back of his hand.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 And about inappropriate touching.

Eddy adjusts his groin.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 I used to be bad at all those  
 things, but now I'm much better.

Eddy pulls a cake out of the oven that is perfect. Eddy uses  
 a tissue to blow his nose and then correctly disposes of it  
 into a bin. He then adjusts his groin.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 Some guy called Meatloaf says that  
 "two out of three ain't bad."

Eddy's watched by the stern looking PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN,  
 50's, a highly strung disciplinarian, who always looks as if  
 he's about to go off his nut at someone.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 But Principal Strickman says two  
 out of three still makes me a  
 potential sexual deviant.

EXT. MAY DAY SPECIAL SCHOOL - DAY

A run down building, rusted door handles, paint flakes and large cracks on walls and ceilings. It's had better days, but no-one alive can remember them.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 Mayday Special School is old. Older  
 than my Grandma.

INT. MILES LIVING ROOM - DAY

GRANDMA, 80's, she's stooped and walks slowly with the aid of a walking frame and being helped by Eddy.

INT. HALLWAY SPECIAL SCHOOL - DAY

Eddy walks slowly down the very poorly maintained hallway.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 And like Grandma, May Day Special  
 School smells a bit funny.

Eddy is in a corridor and sniffs around as if he can smell that someone has stepped on a dog turd.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is full of special needs students sitting at desks.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 Sometimes when it rains the  
 classroom leaks.

Water drips from the ceiling onto Gladys.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 Which is a bit like Grandma...  
 especially when she laughs too  
 much.

INT. MILES LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eddy puts a towel down on the sofa just before Grandma sits down to watch Australia's Funniest Home Videos. Grandma is soon in hysterics watching the show.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Students sit in class as a teacher writes on the blackboard.

EDDY (V.O.)  
 Sometimes parts of the school just  
 fall apart.

A plate size bit of plaster lands on Gladys and she's soaked by water.

INT. MAY DAYS CLASS - MORNING

Eddy sits in a chair and talks directly to the camera.

EDDY  
 Mrs. Campbell has always been my  
 teacher since I was five. Even  
 though she has changed a little  
 over time.

MONTAGE: of MRS. CAMPBELL'S through the years. They're short, tall, fat, skinny, black, white, brown, one of them is even a bearded man.

EDDY (CONT'D)  
 I don't ever want anyone else to  
 teach me but Mrs. Campbell.

EXT. PETROL STATION - MORNING

BARBARA DICKINSON, late 20's, attractive, intelligent, and caring fills her car with fuel. She pays and drives off slowly, the petrol cap is still on the roof.

LLOYD CAMPBELL, 30's, thoughtful, charming and kind, notices it and chases after her.

LLOYD  
 Miss, miss, stop, stop!

Barbara pulls up. Lloyd pants and points to the roof.

LLOYD (CONT'D)  
 Your petrol cap. You forgot it.

BARBARA  
 How stupid of me. I'm so nervous;  
 it's my first day at a new job. I  
 completely forgot about it.

Lloyd grabs the cap and fits it for her.

LLOYD

Those things happen. No harm done.  
I'm sure you'll be fine. Good luck  
with the new job.

BARBARA

Thanks so much for your help.

Barbara smiles, waves and drives off. Lloyd waves and  
watches her drive off.

INT. BARBARA'S CAR - MORNING

Barbara looks into her rear vision mirror at Lloyd waving.

BARBARA

Cute.

INT. PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Mr. and Mrs. Miles sit opposite Principal Strickman in a  
typical Principals office.

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

We've got a problem. Mrs. Campbell  
has taken some personal leave.

MRS. MILES

When will she be back?

Principal Strickman imitates someone taking a swig of booze,  
snorting a substance and injecting something into his arm.

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

It could be a while.

MR. MILES

So get a replacement. What's the  
problem?

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

The only qualified teacher who's  
applied for the position wants to  
use her own name. She doesn't want  
to be called Mrs. Campbell.

MR. MILES

Oh!

Mr. Miles gives his wife some headache tablets, and she gulps  
a couple down straight away.

MRS. MILES

But you know what he's like when  
he's not taught by a Mrs. Campbell.

MONTAGE: Shown in fast forward of Eddy in school throwing  
tantrums at various ages. Reminiscent of the scene at home.

MR. MILES

What if we pay her a cash bonus?  
Like we did with the last one.

START FLASHBACK

EXT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A tall man with a beard accepts money from the Miles.

END FLASHBACK

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

I'm afraid this one has principles.

MR. MILES

Oh!

MRS. MILES

But what will happen to Eddy?

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

We've tried our best to accommodate  
him, but we can't have Eddy  
disrupting the whole class. Six  
teachers have quit because of him.  
If he can't accept change, then  
we're going to have to expel him.

MRS. MILES

Expel him? But what would we do?

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

You could try homeschooling him  
yourself.

Mrs. Miles stares at the box of headache tablets in her hand  
and gives it back to her husband.

MRS. MILES

Not this one dear. I need the  
other one.

Mr. Miles grabs a wine bottle out of his bag and hands it to  
his wife. She opens it and takes a big swig.

MRS. MILES (CONT'D)

God help us!

She gives the bottle to Mr. Miles who also takes a big swig.

MR. MILES

I hope your new teacher knows what she's in for.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is seated. Principal Strickman walks in with the new teacher. It's Barbara.

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

Class, you've got a new teacher. I'd like to introduce you to--

EDDY

Mrs. Campbell.

Eddy's excited and shouts and claps. Principal Strickman shakes his head.

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

This is--

EDDY

Mrs. Campbell.

Eddy is almost dancing now.

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

Eddy, could you please sit down?

Eddy points at Barbara.

EDDY

Mrs. Campbell?

BARBARA

I am NOT Mrs. Campbell. I'm a Miss. I won't be a Mrs. Anything until I'm married.

Eddy looks dismayed.

PRINCIPAL STRICKMAN

I want you all to be on your best behavior, that includes you, Eddy.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO READ THE ENTIRE SCRIPT SIMPLY EMAIL ME AT:  
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