



Stroke of Genius

Feature - Screenplay

Drama, Family, Faith-based

Log Line

After being mentally and physically disabled for 20 years, a 25-year-old man is completely healed and enabled with a genius IQ.

His doctors believe it's the result of a scientific study but is it, or is it divine intervention?

FADE IN

EXT. LAKE SIDE PARK - DAY

Layered clouds sort through a Sacramento, California sky. Sunlight pours over the face of TY JACKSON, 25, an African American. Ty has the mentality of a seven-year-old. His speech is slow with a slur, and he walks with a crooked limp. His mouth is twisted to the right of his face. It looks as if he tried to wink, and his facial muscles froze.

Ty looks up and yells toward the sky with his arms lifted and spread apart.

TY

I love you, I love you
I love you. I love you my great,
holy, father... I love you --

Ty's love-fest with God is interrupted by a shout from his mother, CLAIRE JACKSON, 56.

CLAIRE

TY, Honey, come and eat.

Ty glances at his mother, then looks back up toward the sky.

TY

I have to go now, my mamma called
me.

Ty joins the picnic where his mother sits on the ground with her back against a tree. On the other side of the same tree sits AUDREY COOPER, 24, biracial. Audrey watches, with joy, THREE of her STUDENTS, 20's, all with disabilities, chase a butterfly.

With childlike enthusiasm, Ty flops down by his mother and looks over the food. He spots a bowl of potato salad and gets excited.

TY (CONT'D)

Potato salad! I love potato salad.

Claire reaches for a paper plate for Ty. Ty intersects with his hand and dips it into the bowl of potato salad. He grabs a handful and stuffs it into his mouth. He uses his other hand to grab more and offers it to his mother; most of it falls into Claire's lap.

CLAIRE

Ty, Baby, you're making a mess.

With potato salad clinging to his hands, Ty tries to help his mom wipe it off but makes an even bigger mess.

TY

Sorry.

Claire looks around for something to clean up with.

CLAIRE

It's okay Baby. I just need some napkins or something.

The three students watch Ty ruin his mother's dress. Audrey intervenes.

AUDREY

Wow, what a mess. I guess that means...

Audrey grabs a handful of potato salad.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Food fight!

Ty, along with the other students, gets excited. Everyone gathers around the food. They each grab whatever they can and throw it at one another. Claire remains seated, using paper plates to shield herself from edible ammunition.

INT. KAMEL INSTITUTE FOR THE DISABLED - FRONT LOBBY - DAY

The hands of a man sorts through a stack of mail. They lead us to DOCTOR JACK HILLSEN, 63, the institute's director.

He stands by the reception desk as if he's the king of the mental health profession, a title he would sell his soul to possess.

Doctor Hillsen looks up from his mail to witness a parade of food-covered students prance by. His head follows the spectacle and the trail of food droppings it leaves until Ty grabs his attention.

TY

Doctor Hillsen, we had a picnic. I love potato salad!

Doctor Hillsen gives Ty a subtle smile.

DOCTOR HILLSEN

You wear it well, Ty.

Hillsen spots Audrey at the end of the line. He doesn't take his disapproving eyes off of her. She approaches him.

DOCTOR HILLSSEN (CONT'D)
Ms. Cooper.

AUDREY
We had a food fight.

DOCTOR HILLSSEN
A food fight?

AUDREY
Yes, and they loved every minute of it.

Audrey's now face to face with Hillsen. He endeavors to say something but he can't find the words. Instead, he forces a slight smile and takes a deep breath.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
We need to get cleaned up.

HILLSSEN
By all means.

Hillsen watches Audrey and her crew walk away. MR. CHARLES, 45, the head custodian, walks by Audrey and her students on his way to the reception area. He follows the trail of small food droppings to Doctor Hillsen.

DOCTOR HILLSSEN
Mr. Charles, perfect timing....
Look at this mess. Please, take care of it.

Doctor Hillsen and Mr. Charles leave in different directions.

MR. CHARLES
I'm on it.