

Daily Grind: Episode 1 - "Daily Grind"

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EXT. "MORNING JOLT" COFFEE SHOP - EARLY MORNING

Aerial pan - Storefront windows of the cafe

Nikki and Kara are viewed through the window flipping down the last of the chairs from the tops of the tables.

Nikki walks up to the door and is about to unlock it, she calls over her shoulder.

NIKKI

Ready for another day?

KARA

I guess so.

Nikki opens the door. The camera follows Nikki as she goes behind the counter to the till. Kara is caught in the background setting up her bar.

Overhead bell rings as Jon Enters.

NIKKI

Good morning Jon, you're in early

JON

Yeah, early morning counseling session

NIKKI

Nice! What can I get for you?

JON

Well I've got a freebie on my punch card today, so I'm thinking of dodging my usual dark roast and having some espresso

NIKKI

I like the way you think

JON

I'll go with a good ole classic mocha

NIKKI

You got it! Breakfast?

JON

Nah I think that drink is about
the calories of a whole
breakfast!

Nikki laughs hard like it's the funniest joke she has ever
heard. Jon is a little startled but smiles politely.

NIKKI

So you'll take a muffin?

JON

No, thank you.

Nikki goes to hand the mug to Kara.

NIKKI

(under her breath) People and
calories.

Kara takes the mug from Nikki and starts making the drink.
Her expression is glazed over.

CLOSE ON Kara with surrounding blurred out.

Beat

A mumble comes from beside her as someone is speaking in the
distance. A second time the mumble is louder.

FAST CUT to wide shot of Jon standing beside the counter by
Kara.

KARA

Hmm..what was that?

PASTOR JON

I said, please don't go light on
the whip, it's my favorite part

KARA

Right, whip!

JON

Everything okay there Kara?

KARA

Yeah, of coarse, Great!

She smiles but it isn't convincing

JON

You know, it's not good to lie
about how you're feeling

KARA

I, uh, (beat). sorry. You're
right.

JON

On Sunday morning you looked like
you had the weight of the world
on your shoulders. I meant to ask
you if you were okay.

KARA

I'm okay, Sort of.

JON

You know you can tell me, I've
got a minute before my meeting.

Beat

KARA

I just don't get why I'm here?

JON

Like, here? on this planet?

KARA

No, no, not like that! Like, why
I am here at a coffee shop? I
have my degree, I did everything
I was supposed to do. Crossed my
T's and dotted my I's. I just
feel like I am better than this,
working here!

JON

I see

KARA

It just seems so unfair, like did
I do something wrong? Did I miss
some big sign and now I'm being
punished?

JON

Your not being punished.

KARA

Well it sure feels like it! I just don't see the value in making these drinks and taking orders, I feel like a robot!

JON

Kara, I think your underestimating the positive impact you have here.

KARA

I don't think they even notice me. Half the people are too busy complaining about their foam being too bubbly!

JON

Wait, Isn't foam bubbles?

KARA

Micro foam Jon, it has to be micro-foam!

JON

Micro? People might be crazy!

KARA

Inherently evil

JON

I see your becoming a philosopher.

KARA

Not by choice...

JON

There is always humor and heartfelt lessons in the mundane, sometimes you just have to open your eyes to see it. Your value is not based on what you do. How you treat people around you, that is where there's value.

KARA

Humour in the mundane?

JON

Some would argue even comedic.
Kara remember, it is in these
seasons when we feel most
frustrated that we often grow. If
we are willing of coarse.

KARA

That simple eh?

JON

It is, we just tend to complicate
things.

KARA

I'll try my best today.

JON

One day at a time, the best way
to go.

INT. MORNING JOLT COFFEE SHOP - DAY

CLOSE ON the clock, it is 08:25

Wide shot of counter, Nikki is at the till and Kara is still
at the bar.

Drew enters with the new guy, Dustin

DREW

Hello ladies, this is our new
hire, Dustin

Kara comes up to him first and puts out her hand

KARA

Hi Dustin, I'm Kara

They shake hands.

NIKKI

Hi Dustin, I'm Nikki, are you
singl...i mean, how old are you?

DUSTIN

I'm 23

NIKKI

That's too bad. Your loss.

Dustin is oblivious. Drew gives a disapproving look at Nikki.

DREW

Dustin is going to start on till
with you Nikki, if you don't mind
shadowing him, that would be
great.

NIKKI

Of coarse, I am the best teacher
after all. No offense Kara

DREW

Of coarse you are. Okay, awesome!
Thanks! I'm peacing out to the
back.

Drew exits while giving the peace sign. Kara goes back to the
bar.

KARA

why does Drew still do that peace
sign when he leaves the floor?

NIKKI

Because he is a nerd and missed
his real calling to be a surfer
in Maui but was born in Canada so
he couldn't.

KARA

That explains the hair.

NIKKI

Right?

Nikki laughs and it fills the whole cafe. She turns to Dustin

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Okay, so the regulars always
arrive right at 8:30. It will be
good for you to meet them. You'll
see. It's like clock work. 8:30
and boom! There's Frank!

DUSTIN

Frank? You know their names?

NIKKI

Of course! Don't worry, you'll
get there. That's why I'm here.

CUT TO - Clock turns 8:30 a.m.

Frank enters, followed by another customer, then George and
another customer, then Krystal and her three year old daughter
and baby, followed Pam and Ron.

Dustin is flustered by the number of people. Frank is at the
till.

FRANK

Small Black Bold. No room for
cream

DUSTIN

You must be fred, no
felt, um..flunter? no, oh yeah!
Old fart! Uh, Ah! not ,oh no.

Nikki puts Frank's drink on the counter in front of him. She
has overheard the interaction and quickly jumps in.

NIKKI

Frank, it's Frank. Sorry! (She
mouths behind Dustin's back to
Frank) New Hire!

FRANK

I don't like him already!

Frank walks away cranky which is pretty usual for him.

NIKKI

Oh! There's George in the line! I
just need to run back and grab a
warmed mug before he gets to the
till! Can you do the customer
before, I'll be like two seconds.

Nikki hustles to the back room.

CUSTOMER 1

I'll just get this sandwich and a
bottle of sparkling water

DUSTIN

Oh cool, they have sandwiches

CUSTOMER 1

Uh, Yeah. Wow. new guy?

DUSTIN

Yeah...That's 7\$

Customer hands him the card, he swipes and the customer leaves.

George comes up to the counter

George doesn't say anything he just stares at Dustin

DUSTIN

'morning sir, what can i get for
you

George continues to stare and not say anything. Dustin stares back without a word.

Beat

Nikki rounds the corner with the hot mug

NIKKI

Morning George. I've got your
green tea right here.

Dustin and George are still staring at each other, unmoving.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

George?

Nikki puts the tea on the counter and then George breaks his silence and becomes a jolly man.

GEORGE

Thanks Nikki, always a doll!
Looks like this fella has a long
way to go...

NIKKI

Always a learning curve.

INTO VIEW Drew is behind the counter. He has witnessed the interaction.

DREW

Hey Dustin, dude, can you come
here . Nikki do you mind taking
over?

NIKKI

You have no idea how happy I
would be to do that!

Dustin walks over to Drew

DUSTIN

That bad eh?

DREW

Nah Man, like that was a great
first go! but, I think we'll ease
into this a little more for ya.
It's kind of rush hour here.

DUSTIN

I noticed...

DREW

Yeah, the regulars are great once
you know em, not so great when
you don't. Particularly the old
farts. *wink*

DUSTIN

You heard that?

DREW

Remember, the managers always
watching Dustin. Always watching.

DUSTIN

I'll keep that in mind.

DREW

So, when I interviewed you, you
said you did graphic design?

DUSTIN

Yup, I did. Or I do.

DREW

Are you good at like drawing and
stuff

DUSTIN

Yes

DREW

AWESOME man! All our chalk signs
need to be updated. It will take
awhile. You in?

DUSTIN

Sweet.

DREW

Follow me, I'll get you set up.

FADE OUT.

INT. MORNING JOLT - MOMENTS LATER

Crystal is scrambling with a baby carrier, her purse, and her three year old Kate. Crystal is frazzled as she approaches the counter.

NIKKI

Good Morning!

CRYSTAL

Good Morning. I'll just take the biggest coffee with the most caffeine.

NIKKI

Rough night?

CRYSTAL

Terrible! Alex was up all night...Kate no!

Kate tries running off, Crystal reaches to catch her.

George yells from his spot.

GEORGE

Whoa, she's a fast one! (laughs)

CRYSTAL

Could this morning get any worse..

Nikki takes sympathy for the poor woman and starts to chime in.

NIKKI

Her name is Kate?

CRYSTAL

Yes

NIKKI

Hey Kate, come here, I have a special cup for you!

Nikki holds out a small paper espresso cup that lures Kate to come back to the counter. Kate takes the cup, and starts playing with it.

CRYSTAL

Oh, Thank you. That's great.

NIKKI

So here is your extra large light roast coffee - it has the most caffeine - comes to \$2.50

CRYSTAL

Oh awesome! I just...my wallet, where did I put my wallet.

Crystal starts rummaging through her purse.

The baby carrier is on the floor. Pam and Ron are directly behind, Pam keeps peaking into the carrier playing peek-a-boo with the baby, Crystal doesn't notice.

She starts pulling out stuff from her purse and setting it the counter: A bottle, a soother, a blanket, a lip stick, fast food coupons, a crown...

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

I was sure I packed it, this is so weird!

Pam leans over

PAM

Hi Hun, why don't I get the coffee for you

CRYSTAL

Thanks, that's so sweet, but I know I packed my wallet. Now I'm just worried I lost it.

PAM

Well, try re-tracing your steps

CRYSTAL

I put it in my purse when I left the house.

PAM

What did you do when you got here?

CRYSTAL

Oh... I put it in my coat pocket because I was worried I wouldn't find it while scrambling with the kids...

PAM

I used to do the same thing! That's why I asked...

Crystal rummages through her coat pocket

CRYSTAL

Here it is!

PAM

What a relief!

Crystal Pays Nikki she turns to Pam.

CRYSTAL

Thank you so much. What's your name.

PAM

I am Pam and this is my husband Ron.

CRYSTAL

I'm Crystal. Thanks so much!

Crystal now looks at the carrier, her bag, and Kate and realizes she doesn't have enough hands to bring everything and the coffee to a table.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

I really should have been an octopus

Kara comes up beside Nikki.

KARA

Why don't you find a seat, and I'll bring your coffee over for you.

CRYSTAL

Really? That would be amazing!

KARA

What do you take in your coffee?

CRYSTAL

Two cream, and a honey

KARA

Great, find a seat, get settled
and I'll bring over the coffee.

CRYSTAL

Bless you.

KARA

Happy to help

Crystal and her kids make their way to a table

Pam walks up to the counter to order for her and Ron

PAM

Goodmorning Nikki

NIKKI

Goodmorning, you and Ron having
the usual.

RON

Yes, I 'll get my small dark
roast

PAM

I'll have my earl Grey tea with a
saucer on the top of my mug.

RON

We'll also take a bacon breakfast
crescent to share. 1 sandwich but
two plates

NIKKI

You got it!

RON

Whats the damage?

NIKKI

\$7.39

RON

That's a little steep.

Ron gives a disapproving look to Nikki.

NIKKI

Uh..

Beat

RON

I'm kidding...

Nikki lets off one of her exaggerated laughs that fills the store.

NIKKI

Ron, you had me scared for a second

Ron smiles.

Pam starts laughing with Nikki.

PAM

We love your laugh. It's contagious!

NIKKI

My grandma would say that to me all the time

PAM

Well, it's true...

Kara sets the sandwich and two drinks on the counter

PAM (CONT'D)

Whoa, that was fast Kara!

KARA

I had a hunch about your order

PAM

I think that's a new record

KARA

I try...

PAM

I notice

The two smile at each other. Pam and Ron go to their table which is right beside where Crystal has settled in, George is across from them in a comfy chair, and Frank is beside George in another comfy chair. Frank has his newspaper in hand.

Nikki and Kara watch them walk to their seat

NIKKI

They might be my favorite couple

KARA

They are really sweet. I'd better grab the coffee for that mom now, she is looking settled in. I'll do a buss while I'm at it.

NIKKI

Okay

Nikki sees a cop car pull up and gets excited

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Kara, Kara...a cop car!

KARA

So? We see a lot of cops

NIKKI

I know...*sigh* I just love a man in uniform

KARA

Oh bother

Nikki is now dreamily staring at the door

KARA (CONT'D)

Okay i'm going now..

NIKKI

Mmhmm

KARA

Are you going to be okay?

NIKKI

Better than okay

KARA

Don't faint

NIKKI

That will be hard, I'm known to swoon...

KARA

Keep it together.

Kara starts fanning Nikki with the towel she has grabbed from the counter to take with her while bussing

NIKKI

You better go, I got this

KARA

I'm sure you do.

Henri and Seth enter the store. Henri is 6'1'' and chiseled, Seth is 6 '3' and stocky.

Both doors open, the wind blows and they walk in slow motion.

In continued slow motion Seth waves to the customers, he smiles and winks.

Nikki's face lights up, she quickly grabs a spoon and checks her reflection.

FADE OUT.

INT. MORNING JOLT - MOMENTS LATER

Henri and Seth arrive at the counter

NIKKI

Good Morning Officers

SETH

Morning Nikki.

NIKKI

So who is this you got with you?

SETH

This is my new partner. Handsome ain't he?

NIKKI

Seth, how rude! To put him on the spot like that! But now that you say so...

She leans on the counter, one hand under her chin, a big smile on her face. She puts out her other hand to shake Henri's hand, she reads the constables badge.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I'm Nikki, what an honor, to met you... (whispers his name and bats her eye lashes) Henry.

Henri looks down at his name tag, expressionless.

HENRI

It's actually pronounced ah-n-R-EE

NIKKI

Han-rrr-IE. What is that, Italian?

HENRI

No, French

NIKKI

French?

HENRI

Yes, like, the language. Many countries speak it.

NIKKI

French, Italian...all handsome to me.

SETH

Wow Nikki, I think you've made our new man blush.

HENRI

I doubt it

NIKKI

So, Hanry what do you drink? Espresso? Large Dark Roast?

HENRI

I'll take a soy-chai-latte with a dallop of whip and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

NIKKI

What size, extra large?

HENRI
No, extra small please.

NIKKI
Extra?

HENRI
Small.

SETH
Look at the guy Nik, he counts calories!

NIKKI
What is up with people and counting calories today.

SETH
Well no need to worry about me, I am a hungry man! I'll take the Bacon Sandwich, with one of them old fashion donuts, but with the icing. I'm an old fashioned kind of guy *Winks* and I'll get an extra large triple triple. I need my energy to save the world from all those bad guys. *he flexes*

NIKKI
I feel so much safer (sarcastic)

Nikki and Drew work to get the order together for the two officers. Henri looks around the cafe to get a sense of his surroundings then he spots her, Kara.

Kara is wiping down the counter that has the cream and sugar. She turns and makes eye contact with Henri.

Everything freezes for a moment. Kara is now being seen through the eyes of Henri, and she is glowing.

Henri is brought back to reality when Seth's radio goes off.

RADIO OPERATOR
Calling Unit Three

SETH
Unit 3, Responding

RADIO OPPPERATOR

We have a call, intersection of
Main Street and Queen. Reports of
a minor accident.

SETH

We are on our way now

Drew and Nikki hand them the bags and drinks

DREW

Stay safe fellas

SETH

Thanks man! See ya tomorrow

The two officers leave the cafe in a hurry. Just before they
leave from the front door Henri looks back at the cream
counter

HENRI

Who was the girl at the cream
counter

Seth looks back,

SETH

Oh, you mean kara?

HENRI

Is that her name?

SETH

Yeah, sweetest girl in the world.
Actress I think

HENRI

She looks like an angel.

They leave and run to their cruiser.

SETH

(laughs)

Uh oh, Henri's been Touched by an
Angel.

HENRI

Where do you come up with that
stuff?

They both sit in the cruiser

SETH

Only one of the best shows from the 90's. My grandma and I would watch it as she fed me candies. Where do you think I get my figure? Besides, the ladies love it.

HENRI

Right...

FADE OUT as the cruisers lights and siren go off.

INT. MORNING JOLT

Nikki is starrng out the window as the cruiser leaves the parking lot. Kara comes up and scares Nikki by jumping up behind her and grabbing Nikki's shoulders

KARA

Boo!

NIKKI

Ahhh

They both laugh

KARA

So, new officer?

NIKKI

Isn't he a dream?

KARA

Looks like a regular guy to me

NIKKI

Oh Kara, open your eyes! He's gorgeous!

KARA

I guess he's alright.

NIKKI

His name is french or something...

KARA

Oh.

NIKKI

Yeah, Hanry.

KARA

oh, do you mean like ah-n-ree

NIKKI

Yeah, that's what I said, Hanry.
Hunky Hanry

KARA

Get a grip.

A customer comes up to the counter and hands Kara an empty creamer.

KARA (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry! I'll grab a fresh one
for you right away.

NIKKI

Didn't you just do a buss?

KARA

Yeah, I guess I missed the cream.

Nikki looks at her quizzically

PAN TO Crystal who is trying to rock the baby carrier because
the baby is crying.

CRYSTAL

Shh...it's okay

Kate tries to run off again

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Kate! No, stay here!

Kate runs to where pastor Jon's table is.

JON

Hello little one, do you like to
colour

Kate stops in her tracks

KATE

Crayons?

JON

Yes! Even pink crayons!

Jon hands her a coloring page and 5 crayons wrapped in an elastic. Crystal has caught up.

CRYSTAL

Oh wow! What do you say kate?

KATE

Thank you

CRYSTAL

Thanks so much! Do you just keep crayons with you all the time?

JON

Well I'm a pastor, so I always have a kit. Sometimes I meet with families, and the kids need something to do.

CRYSTAL

Makes sense. I really appreciate it. Been a rough morning

JON

Sorry to hear it, hopefully your day gets better. Here, I also have a sucker. For if you need a little treat later.

CRYSTAL

Thanks!

The baby is crying in the background.

CRYSTAL

Oh, better go. Come kate, let's colour at our table.

KATE

Okay

Crystal gets kate set up at the table then goes to pick up baby Alex from his carrier. Pam comes over to Crystal.

PAM

Would you like me to hold the baby for you?

CRYSTAL

Uh..

PAM

I really would be happy to. All my kids are grown up now.

CRYSTAL

You have kids?

PAM

Yes, three. My last just went to university

CRYSTAL

Sure, but the baby is a little fussy.

PAM

I've got it.

Crystal hands the baby to Pam who sits at the table with Crystal. The baby calms immediately. Ron is chatting in the background with George and Frank

PAM (CONT'D)

I really miss these moments

CRYSTAL

I sometimes feel completely overwhelmed. I just don't seem to have enough hands.

PAM

I remember feeling the same way. Trying to to do it all, but never having enough time or energy to get everything done.

CRYSTAL

Exactly! And today, I just needed to get out of the house, which is a mess I might add. Then it ended up being more work going out than staying in.

PAM

You felt like you should have just stayed home.

CRYSTAL

It's so embarrassing. I feel awkward when adults talk to me, like I can't even form a coherent sentence. I go to order coffee and I'm worried I'll say

She says is like she is talking to a baby, the end of the sentence high pitched and ending in a question.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

"Mommy want a coffee? Mommy want a coffee, Cream and Honey?"

Crystal takes a sip of her coffee

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Oh, this is such a treat. My coffee is still hot.

PAM

I would have days where I would make my coffee. The kids would need a million things in the morning, then my coffee would get cold. I'd microwave it like 5 times, by the time I actually drank it, it would taste terrible.

CRYSTAL

Your quoting my life.

PAM

Life of a mom! The hardest job in the world, and most easy to get discouraged.

CRYSTAL

I thought it would be a lot different than it is. I mean, I love my kids, don't get me wrong. It's just a lot harder than I imagined.

PAM

I know that's how you
feel right now but as your kids
get older, it does get easier.
The work you're doing now will
make all the difference in their
future. I look back at those days
and wish I'd just cherished them
more. Now that they have all left
the nest, I feel somewhat lost.

CRYSTAL

I don't think you should feel
lost. You have wisdom I needed to
hear today and I couldn't have
asked for better help.

PAM

Well I'm happy to help. This is a
treat for me. Brings back so many
wonderful memories

CRYSTAL

Well, Thank you! You have no idea
how much I needed this
encouragement today.

Pam Smiles.

INTO VIEW Kara is at the Cream Stand and has overheard their
conversation.

PAN CLOSE ON: Kara she is moved by the interaction.

BEAT

Fade Out

INT. MORNING JOLT - MID MORNING

Crystal has Kate, The baby and her stuff all packed up. She
is about ready to leave.

RON

Well, it was nice to meet you
Crystal

CRYSTAL

Thanks Ron, you too. And Pam,
thanks so much for your help.

PAM

My pleasure

CRYSTAL

So...same time tomorrow?

PAM

Definitely! Same time tomorrow!

Fade Out

Fade In to Kara at home in front of her computer, her feet are up and she is sipping her take home coffee from work. She begins typing.

KARA (V.O)

Well, that was a crazy day. Perhaps I have been focusing too much on my own problems and not enough on the people around me. As I watched Pam and the new mom talking today, it amazed me that two strangers could need each other so much, and that they met at the right time. I think Jon is right, it's about the people more than the job. Today, I am deciding to change my attitude and committing to writing at least one thing I am grateful for in my day. Who knows...maybe things will get a little bit better.