

THE SAVING JAR

Written by

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INT. HANOVER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DUSK

The Hanover house, a typical modern house nestled in the suburbs of Washington state. Inside is neat and organized. Soft candle light illuminates the dinner table.

MARCI HANOVER, 33 years old, stands over the stove, whisk in hand. Hair bunned up, dressed in a pristine white cotton sweater. Soft MUSIC plays in the background as MARCI hums along smiling. *

JOSH HANOVER, 34 years old enters into the kitchen. Raincoat still on and brief case in hand. His short hair dusted with rain. *

MARCI

Oh, Josh, when did you get in? *

MARCI makes eye contact with JOSH before removing the pot from the stove. She continues preparing dinner. *

JOSH

Just a few minutes ago, its pouring out there.

JOSH places his brief case on the dinner table and begins removing his coat. *

JOSH (CONT'D)

It's a good thing I got in when I did. How did your appointment go today? Any more updates? *

MARCI

No. Just some more tests. Results will be in soon. The doctor said about a week. Dinner's ready so sit down. I'll bring it over. *

MARCI carries a pot of soup to the table and the couple sit to eat. *

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - DINNER TABLE - MOMENTS LATER

JOSH and MARCI finishing the last of their dinner. Soft MUSIC plays from the kitchen.

JOSH

(enthusiastic)

So, Marci, I want to show you something, well actually it's more of an idea I thought I would propose. *

MARCI glances up at JOSH, mouth still full of food. JOSH
Steps away from the table and walks out of the room.

*

MARCI
What did you buy this time?! I told
you we don't need anymore-

JOSH walks into the room with a large glass jar.

MARCI (CONT'D)
(confused)
A jar? What are you planning on
doing with that.

*

*

JOSH walks to the table setting down the jar.

JOSH
We're gonna put money in it!

*

MARCI
We?

JOSH
Yes we. Let me explain.

*

MARCI rolls her eyes, JOSH continues.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Can you remember the last time we
did something nice? Like take a
vacation?

MARCI
What does a giant jar have to do
with that? And if you're asking for
a vacation, well, you know how I
feel about money.

*

*

MARCI picks up her dinner plate, then walks to the kitchen.
Filled with enthusiasm, JOSH continues his push.

*

JOSH
We have exactly 10 months before
our 5th wedding anniversary and I
just think it would be a fun idea
to start a little savings jar.

MARCI flashes a side eye and starts washing dishes.

JOSH (CONT'D)
You don't even have to contribute
if you don't want to.

MARCI
(stubborn)
Good because I won't be.

*

JOSH
It'll be all me then, just a few
bucks here and there. Then by the
time our anniversary rolls around
we'll have enough saved to go
somewhere nice.

*

MARCI
Then you go ahead and do that, I
have medical bills to pay on top of
all the maintenance the house
needs. Plus, you know I don't
really need a vacation.

*
*
*
*
*

MARCI walks over to the table where JOSH is still sitting to
wipe the table down.

*
*

JOSH
Well if you ever feel like putting
aside a few dollars to drop into
the savings jar your always
welcome.

*
*
*
*

MARCI
I'll keep that in mind.

*
*

MARCI gives JOSH a kiss on the cheek, then returns to the
kitchen.

JOSH
Just think about it. Doesn't a
vacation to Hawaii sound nice!

*
*

JOSH starts to gather remaining dinner plates.

*

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sunlight beams through the living room windows. MARCI sits on
the couch enjoying coffee, newspaper in hand. JOSH enters the
room, jar in hand and sets it on the window sill.

JOSH
It's the perfect spot for it don't
you think!

*

MARCI
Sure...

MARCI rolls her eyes

JOSH takes a strip of white duck tape. He tapes it across the front of the jar and in sharpie writes the words "Saving Jar". *

JOSH
And now for my first contribution.

JOSH drops a crisp five dollar bill into the jar. *

JOSH (CONT'D)
Feel free to be the second contributor! I'll be in my office if you need me. *

JOSH leans over to give MARCI a kiss on the cheek before leaving the room. MARCI stares at the jar for a few seconds before going back to her newspaper.

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

MARCI is laying on the couch nose deep in a book. FOOTSTEPS from behind the couch. JOSH enters the room.

MARCI
Get off work early today? *

MARCI looks up to see JOSH dangling a twenty dollar bill above the jar before dropping it in.

MARCI (CONT'D)
You know we really could put that money towards fixing the broken faucet.

JOSH
I've told you a million times, I'll do it myself easy peasy, I just gotta find where I put that stupid wrench... *

JOSH leaves the room.

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

After a week, the bottom of the jar is almost covered with bills. MARCI stares at the jar, a book resting in her lap. JOSH enters the room abruptly ending MARCI'S gaze. JOSH walks to the jar to add his daily contribution. *

JOSH
There has to be at least \$100 in here by now!

MARCI picks up her book.

*

JOSH (CONT'D)
You know if you helped out we could
have double the savings!

*
*

MARCI
(hesitant)
Yeah. I think I'll pass.

*

JOSH
(sarcastic)
Alright. You do you.

*

The afternoon sun beams through the window onto the couple,
JOSH standing in front of the jar grinning, MARCI on the
couch with her book.

*
*

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARCI
Josh I'm leaving to pick up my
meds, do you need anything?

*
*
*

JOSH yells from the living room.

*

JOSH
No I'm all good.

*
*

JOSH drops a twenty dollar bill into the jar.

CUT TO:

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JOSH drops a ten dollar bill into the jar.

*

MARCI
Dinner's ready!

*
*

JOSH
I'll be there in a second!

*
*
*

CUT TO:

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARCI

Josh can you come help me with the
car. Its not starting. Im going to
be late to my appointment.

JOSH drops fifty dollars into the jar.

JOSH

Yep, coming!

CUT TO:

HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

JOSH stands over the jar holding a one hundred dollar bill.
Nine months have passed.

JOSH

And now for my final contribution.

MARCI

I cant believe you actually managed
to fill that jar.

JOSH

I honestly can't believe it either.
Now all we need is some good news
from Dr. Clep!

MARCI

Yeah I sure hope so. All these
appointments better not have been
for nothing.

JOSH

Im sure he'll have something good
to tell us. Now why don't you help
me count all this money I saved for
us!

MARCI and JOSH sit on the living room floor pulling money
from the jar.

The money is stacked neatly after the couple finish counting.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Exactly 6,156 dollars!

MARCI

Do you think thats enough to take
us somewhere tropical?! You did
mention Hawaii.

*
*

JOSH

I guess well have to check it out!

INT. HOSPITAL - ONCOLOGY WING OFFICE - MORNING

The oncology office waiting room is modern and clean. A
receptionist types away on her computer. JOSH and MARCI are
seated, waiting patiently.

*
*

DR. CLEP walks into the waiting room, scanning the area for
JOSH and MARCI.

*
*

DR. CLEP

Josh, Marci! Why don't you two come
and follow me.

JOSH and MARCI look at each other, smile, then stand. They
follow DR. Clep down the hall to his office.

*

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. CLEP'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

*

JOSH and MARCI take their seats in front of DR. CLEP'S desk

*

DR. CLEP

So... Mr. and Mrs. Hanover,
Unfortunately I don't have great
news. The medication that we
initially thought was working turns
out to not be working as well as we
thought. The cancer seems to be
progressing.

*
*
*

JOSH and MARCIS expressions become concerned.

*

DR. CLEP (CONT'D)

There is some good news though. If
you start treatment right away we
should be able to catch it.

*

MARCI

And how much is that going to cost?

DR. CLEP

Well your insurance should cover
basic treatment. Anything above
that will cost you.

JOSH

Then we can pay!

MARCI pulls on JOSH'S shirt.

*

MARCI

(quietly)

Josh!

JOSH

I've doing a bit of saving, plus,
Marci deserves only the best.

*

MARCI

But...you Saved all that money
and...what about the vacation?

*

*

DR. CLEP

Why don't you give me a call back
when you decide to make your
decision. The sooner the better of
course.

MARCI and JOSH stand.

MARCI

Of course, thank you doctor.

*

DR. CLEP

Have a good-day Mr. And Mrs
Hanover.

*

*

MARCI and JOSH exit.

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

*

JOSH sits on the couch, phone in hand.

*

JOSH

Yes, we would like to go with the
care plus plan.

*

CUT TO:

AN EMPTY GLASS JAR ON THE WINDOWSILL

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

*

MARCI sits at the kitchen table. Her hands crossed over her
chest, tears streaming from her eyes. She is clearly upset.

*

*

FOOTSTEPS, JOSH enters the room.

JOSH

Hey, so I just got off the phone
with Dr. Clep... Marci whats
wrong?!

MARCI

(stuffy)

Oh well, its just that... you were
finally going to get to take a
vacation, but now... because of
me...

JOSH

No, no, no Marci, trust me I would
rather see you getting the best
treatment possible over taking a
vacation any day.

JOSH takes a seat next to MARCI.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Plus I never said it *had* to be a
vacation.

MARCI

Yeah I guess you're right.

MARCI smiles and JOSH learns in for a hug.

JOSH

Now what's for dinner I'm hungry.

CUT TO:

INT. TREATMENT CENTER - RECEPTION - DAY

A pristine modern lobby brightly lit. Many patients sit in
the waiting area. Some read magazines, some chat. Soft LOBBY
MUSIC plays.

MARCI stands in front of the receptionist's desk.

MARCI

Hello, Marci Hanover for 3:00

RECEPTIONIST

Yep, I see you right here. Last
appointment too!

MARCI smiles then walks down the hallway.

EXT. HANOVER HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DUSK

*

MARCI, Exhausted, walks up to the front door. An inflatable palm tree on the porch leads to a puzzled expression.

The door opens.

MARCIS FAMILY

Surprise!

MARCI

(surprised)

Whoa, whats all this for?

JOSH

You said you wanted to go somewhere tropical right? Well we figured to celebrate your last day of treatment we would bring Hawaii to you!

*

*

*

*

MARCI

(emotional)

What!? No way, you didn't have to do all this.

*

JOSH

Come inside, we got a coconut cake!

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

*

The Hanover family members take over a Hawaiian themed living room to celebrate with MARCI.

*

CUT TO:

INT. HANOVER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

MARCI and JOSH cleaning the living room. MARCI makes eye contact with the empty jar.

MARCI

Hey, do you think \$20 is too much?

*

JOSH

To much for what?

MARCI drops a twenty dollar bill into the jar.

MARCI

For my first contribution to the savings jar.

*

JOSH

You actually want to make a
contribution?!

*
*

MARCI

(playful)

You know I'd still like to go to
Hawaii, like the real Hawaii

*
*

JOSH

Then no, I don't think \$20 is too
much.

*

The couple laugh and continue cleaning.

FADE TO BLACK.

*