

UNLUCKY: Series 1

"UNLUCKY KINDNESS"

Episode 101

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FADE IN:

"Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves."

Proverbs 11:17

INT. BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (1)

Several people scattered around the room. Bits of chatter amongst them. MARY WELLS (69), Caucasian, female, stands at the podium with a huge SMILE. She talks briefly...

JERRY HALLS, 40, Caucasian, male, clean, wearing a nice SUIT and TIE, sits, eyes beamed towards the front.

JERRY (V.O.)

Hey there. I'm Jerry. Jerry Halls. That's my mama. She's happy now that I'm a millionaire. She wasn't always that way. Very mean most of the time.

She always believed I was her good luck charm. So she gave me the nickname *Lucky*. But I'm not. I'm the unluckiest person on God's green earth. Mama always said one day I would bring her good fortune. As long as I played the lottery. And that's exactly what I did. You're probably asking, how can I call myself unlucky then?

You see, there was a moment in my life where I stopped believing in luck. Things just weren't working out like they were supposed to. Then something special happened.

That's when everything changed...

TITLE CARD:

"UNLUCKY"

INT. WORK BUILDING - DAY (2)

SUPER: 92 Days Ago

Dirty floor, semi-dirty walls with old paint. Jerry mops the floor in the distance.

An OLD MOP soaks the SOAP WATER at the bottom of the YELLOW MOB BUCKET. The MOP is lifted out.

Jerry, wearing JANITOR CLOTHING, lifts up the MOP and squeezes it out on the MOP WRINGER. Brown water gushes out.

He continues to mop the floor all over. A beat.

JERRY (V.O.)

After playing the lottery every day since I was a young boy, I realized I may *NEVER* win. But something crazy happened and my whole life changed. I finally discovered who I was and what I wanted to do with my life. But this is where it started.

This is my regular nine to five job. I've been doing this for the last twenty years. We couldn't afford for me to go to college. I didn't need to since I was believed to be so *LUCKY*.

For most of my life, we've been kind of broke. Mama lived most of her life broke. My daddy don't exist. Shoot, he probably broke too. Wherever he is. My mama should have named me *Broke*. That would have made more sense.

Anyway, I didn't always have a lot of money. I mean, I just never saw myself beyond what I'm doing. But Mama taught me how important it is for us to win the lottery. And since then, that's been my goal, my dream. To become a lottery-winning millionaire, for mama.

So, it's time to wrap up work and go home to try my chances... again.

He finishes up and exits the building.

INT. JERRY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY (3)

Jerry walks in through the front door in his JANITOR UNIFORM. He closes the door behind. Eyes the living room area where he sees his mother, Mary, lying on the couch in an old ROBE underneath a BLANKET. Face frowning and her EYES beamed at him. Jerry walks by...

JERRY

Hey, mama.

Jerry holds his head down and walks into his room.

INT. JERRY HOME - BEDROOM - DAY (4)

Jerry enters and turns on his GAME SYSTEM. He sits down on the edge of his bed and finishes his thoughts...

JERRY (V.O.)

It was the same ol' typical day. I did my normal routine. After work, I'd come home and my mama would sit on the couch and stare at me. Eyes of disappointment. It's like I could read the disgust in her mind before she says anything. It's all in those devilish eyes she has.

But yeah, I still live at home with my mama. She doesn't have anybody else. Just me. So, I would come home, relax for a little, change my clothes and make my way to the store to buy my, hopefully, winning lottery ticket.

But... just to relax and get away from all the work and pressures of winning, I'll put in at least an hour of gaming before heading to the store. But that's not before I get a mouthful from mama...

Mary annoyingly yells from the living room. Jerry pauses the game with a deep breath and yells back from his room.

MARY

You going to buy another ticket, Lucky!?

JERRY

Yes, ma'am.

MARY

Are you going to win this time?

JERRY

I hope so. But I don't control who wins
mama.

MARY

Don't get smart with me. It's not my fault
you never won. --You ain't nothing but a
loser.

JERRY

I'm trying mama, jeeze.

MARY

That's the problem. You're really NOT
trying. Playing the lottery for twenty
years. It's a shame really.

Jerry quickly walks out of the room and approaches Mary.

INT. JERRY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY (5)

Jerry approaches. Mouth wide open. Mary looks up at him
from the couch. Her face disgruntled.

JERRY

I AM trying. This is the best I could do.

MARY

This is the best you could do? Are you
serious?!

You hate your job and you waste your time
playing those stupid video games.

JERRY

But I'm a hard-working man.

MARY

You barely make over minimum wage. How are you going to buy me a new house you promised me? I'm getting old boy!

JERRY

I will get you the house you want. It just takes time. I have to increase my probability to win the lottery and--

MARY

--how are you going to do that?

JERRY

I don't know yet. The lottery is a tuff cookie to crack.

MARY

Didn't you just say you were doing your best?

JERRY

I did, mama.

MARY

How many more years do you need to figure it out. You're in the hole twenty years and look at where you are now. I'll be dead before you figure anything out.

JERRY

I'm just going to keep the faith and keep doing what I'm doing.

MARY

That's insane boy.

JERRY

I'm not insane mama. I only believe what you told me.

MARY

You blame me for your insanity? --A grown man who lives with his mama blaming me for not being successful. What a shame.

JERRY

You told me I would win the lottery one day. You said I was your *Lucky* charm.

MARY

Well, I guess I was wrong. You're my *Lazy Charm*.

Jerry moves in close to Mary.

JERRY

Why do you have to be so mean to me, mama?

MARY

Because I'm an old woman and you're letting your life pass you by. At the rate you're going, I'll be dead and gone before you realize your true potential.

Jerry's eye widen.

JERRY

You think I have potential?

MARY

Of course I do, baby. But potential is dead if you don't use it.

JERRY

What's my potential?

MARY

That's up to you to figure out. Didn't I just tell you I'm old and about to die!

Mary swing her hand at Jerry's face for a slap. He dodges.

JERRY

Whoa mama. Calm down.

MARY

I'm just sick of you. I don't have all the answers boy. I'm old. You better figure it out!

JERRY

Okay, mama! Jeeze.

MARY

I spent all these year on you as a single mother and you can't even figure your life out as a grown man! You make me sick. Grow up boy. Do something to make our lives better!

Why me Lord! Why me Lord! Please help him! Help him!

Jerry stands up. Eyes widen at Mary. She cries out loud.

JERRY

I'm going to win the lottery one day and I'm going to give you everything you want and deserve. Then you'll be happy.

I'm going to shower first and go pick up our winning ticket at the store.

Mary continues to cry out. Jerry painfully stares for a moment; then he walks into the bathroom with towel over his shoulder. Shuts the door.

INT. LOCAL GROCERY STORE - DAY (6)

Bright, large, airy room. Rows of products and snacks fill the store.

Jerry, stands in line at the counter. Head down for a beat. A STACK OF LOTTERY PAPERS in his hand. He moves up.

A woman, NANCY WELLS (34), Caucasian, pretty, casually dressed, walks up behind followed by two kids, JAKE (10), male, and AMANDA WELLS (14), female, who holds a pack of CANDY in the air away from her brother. Jake reaches for them. They cause a ruckus...

JAKE

Give it back! Mom said I could have them!

AMANDA

No. Get off of me! You're supposed to only have one.

JAKE

Give it back, "manda the panda."

AMANDA

Well, I like pandas. "Jake the snake."

JAKE

Don't make me get my sling shot.

AMANDA

Try it. --When you go to sleep tonight, I'll play baseball with your head.

JAKE

Whatever, just give it back!

Nancy turns around.

NANCY

Hey, you two! Cut it out.

Jake and Amanda settle down. Nancy turns back around in line. Amanda stares at Jake with evil eyes.

AMANDA

Dare.

Amanda holds up the CANDY. Jake stares.

JAKE

...And I could have all of the candy?

Amanda nods evilly.

JAKE (CONT'D)

What?

AMANDA

Kick him.

JAKE

Okay, but you better pay up.

Jerry looks aaround. He SMILES. Suddenly... Jake kicks the back of his leg.

JERRY

Ouch!

Nancy grabs Jake arm. Amanda quietly laughs.

NANCY

Jake, what are you doing?

I'm so, so sorry about that sir! Please forgive my child --that won't ever listen.

JERRY

It's okay ma'am. I see you got your hands full.

Nancy addresses Jake.

NANCY

Apologize to the nice man. Now!

JAKE

I'm sorry sir.

JERRY

That's quite alright. No worries.

Jake smirks.

NANCY

Thank you. You're such a kind man. I really don't mean to bother you.

JERRY

Not a problem ma'am. Do not worry about it. I was the same way when I was a young boy.

NANCY

Single mother, too?

JERRY

Yes, that's right.

NANCY

Well, us mothers do whatever we can to take care of our children. Just some children are worse than others.

She laughs hysterically. Jerry laughs a little.

JERRY

Kids are just kids. Just please be proud of them no matter what they do in life.

Jerry moves up, he's next in line.

NANCY

I really need my kids to be successful. Just to make life a little easier for them. Us. You know?

JERRY

(slightly sarcastic)

Oh, I know. That's exactly what I'm doing here now. Trying to be successful.

NANCY

Right. -We'll, my name is Nancy.

Nancy sticks her hand out. Jerry shakes her hand.

JERRY

Nice to meet you, Nancy. I'm Jerry.

NANCY

Well, it's very nice to meet you Jerry.

Nancy's kids start to increase the ruckus. The boy begins to complain.

JAKE

Mommy, I have to go to the bathroom.
Pleeeeeeeeeeease.

NANCY

You're going to have to hold it. I don't
want to lose my spot in line.

JAKE

I was already holding it, mama!

Nancy looks at Jerry. The boy tries to throw his body on the ground. Nancy struggles to hold him.

Jerry has a little distance between the clerk. No other customer in front of him.

CLERK

Next!

NANCY

Excuse me Jerry, would you mind if I go
next? I don't know how long I can deal
with this.

Jerry looks at the clerk.

CLERK

Com'on sir. I don't have all day.

Jerry looks back at Nancy for a beat.

JERRY

Go ahead, Nancy.

NANCY

Oh my God, Jerry. You are such a kind man. Thank you so much. I owe you.

JERRY

Not a problem.

Nancy walks past Jerry and approaches the clerk and buys a lottery ticket.

NANCY

Can I get two quick picks of the local lottery?

CLERK

Okay, that will be two dollars.

Nancy checks her pockets. Empty. She looks back to Jerry.

NANCY

I'm so sorry, Jerry. I left my purse in the car. Could I please borrow a couple of dollars from you?

Jerry holds his head down for a second. Then reaches into his pocket and hands Nancy TWO DOLLARS.

NANCY

Thank you so much. You are just the greatest man in the whole world.

JERRY

Well, thank you for the compliment. I'm sure you would do the same for me.

Nancy gives the clerk the TWO DOLLARS. The clerk gives back a receipt.

CLERK

Thank you and good luck.

NANCY

Thank you very much. Have a nice day.

Nancy gathers her kids and walks away.

NANCY

Thank you so much Jerry. See you soon.

JERRY

Take care, Nancy.

Jerry watches as her kids jump on her and pull her in every direction. He shakes his head.

CLERK

Next!

How can I help you sir?

Jerry approaches. He gives the clerk a STACK OF LOTTERY PAPERS.

JERRY

I'm here to win the jackpot.

CLERK

You only need one ticket to win.

JERRY

True. I'm pretty much guaranteed to win at this point.

Jerry laughs awkwardly. The clerk raises an eyebrow.

CLERK

There's no such thing as a guaranteed win.

Feeling lucky, huh?

JERRY

I think I finally do.

CLERK

That will be forty-two dollars.

Jerry gives the clerk the money. The clerk provides a receipt.

CLERK

Thank you and have a nice evening. Good luck.

JERRY

Thank you.

Jerry briefly looks down at his receipt and walks out of the store.

INT. JERRY'S HOME - EVENING (7)

Dark area. A small lamp and just one light emits from the television. Some light enters through the window. Mary lies asleep on the couch.

Jerry walks in through the door. All smiles...

JERRY

Hey, mama. I got my lottery tickets. I'm feeling good about my chances this time. You can start calling me Lucky again.

Mama?

Jerry looks over to the living room area, he sees his mother on the couch. He approaches. Kisses her on the head.

JERRY

Good night, mamma. I'll give you the good news in the morning.

Jerry goes into the kitchen, prepares a quick microwaveable meal. Eats. Goes into his room for the night.

INT. JERRY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY (8)

Bright sunlight enters the living room. Mary eyes stare at the television from the couch. Jerry enters from his room. Mary lifts her head up, straightens her neck. Stares at Jerry.

JERRY

Good morning, mama.

MARY

Did we win, Lucky?

JERRY

I was just about to check the numbers from last night.

Jerry walks into the kitchen. Prepares a drink. He sits at the table with his STACK OF LOTTERY PAPERS.

A beat. Suddenly... Mary quickly sits up.

MARY

Lucky!

JERRY

Don't worry mama, I'll let you know after I check the numbers.

MARY

We didn't win. Again!

JERRY

Why do you say that?

MARY

The winner is right here on the news.

He slowly gets up and walks by his mama, eyes never taken off the television screen.

JERRY

Is that... Nancy?

MARY

That's right. How did you know?

JERRY

Because... that's my money.

FADE OUT

THE END

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