

Leila's Choice  
By Eric Eidson

LEILA, an aspiring teacher, consults her best friend, CAMRY, about preparing for her interview tomorrow.

The call begins.

Camry  
Where are you right now?

Leila  
I'm in the bathroom. I need your help.

Camry  
I don't know if I can help you there.

Leila  
Gross. I need your help picking out eye shadow for tomorrow.

Camry  
Okay. What's happening tomorrow?

Leila  
I have my interview.

Camry  
With the school?

Leila  
Yeah.

Camry  
Why didn't you tell me you got an interview?

Leila  
They were able to fit me in last minute. I just found out.

Camry  
Congratulations! That's amazing. What grade?

Leila  
Second grade.

Camry  
Leila, that's perfect!

Leila  
I know! That's why I need your help. Everything has to be perfect.

Camry  
Okay, what are your options?

Leila  
Eye shadow number one. (On her left eye) It says I'm a young, hip, professional, teacher who doesn't tolerate any sass.

Camry  
Is this eye shadow or your dating profile?

Leila  
Eye shadow number two. (On her right eye) I'm a sweet, comforting, and approachable teacher who gives the best hugs.

Camry  
I see your dilemma.

Leila  
Right?

Camry  
Both are important.

Leila  
I know. What should I do?

Camry  
There's only one thing you can do. You have to wear both. Exactly like you are now.

Leila  
One on each eye?

Camry  
Exactly. Just change personas for each question they ask. So like, if they ask you, "How do you incorporate differentiation into your classroom?"

Leila

That's a very professional question, so I'll be like (Turning her head to eye shadow one) I think every type of learner deserves to have their preferred learning style incorporated into every lesson. That's why all my curriculum includes auditory, visual, and kinesthetic instructions and activities.

Camry  
Holy shit.

Leila  
That was good, right?

Camry  
I got chills.

Leila  
This is some good eye shadow.

Camry  
Okay next question, "How do you create a safe and comfortable learning environment for students?"

Leila  
(Turns her head to eye shadow two)  
I want my classroom to be a second home for students. I want them to each feel like they have their own space to learn, make mistakes, and grow comfortably. That's why I write each of my students a personalized letter every month, I have daily check-ins with every student, and let each student get a chance to choose the book of the week.

Camry  
Damn. Hashtag Mother Goose.

Leila  
See what I'm saying? The eye shadow changes everything.

Camry  
Okay, is there a happy middle?

Leila  
Like something in the middle of both of these colors?

Camry

Yeah. You know, some kind of compromise? A little of this. A little of that. That way you have both! A professional badass Mother Goose!

Leila

Professional badass Mother Goose?! I'm going to get that printed on my business card.

Camry

I get half your profits.

Leila

Deal. So... what about this shade? (holds up new eye shadow color)

Camry

Yes! That's it. That's your professional badass Mother Goose!

Leila

You think so?

Camry

Definitely. If they don't hire you from eye shadow alone... I'll be shocked.

Leila

Okay done. That's what I'll go with.

Camry

And what are you going to wear?

Leila

I don't know, I'll figure it out in the morning.

Camry

What?!

Leila

What?

Camry

We just spent however long picking out eye shadow and you haven't even picked out your outfit?

Leila

Everyone knows your supposed to build your outfit around your eye shadow.

Camry

That might be the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard.

Leila

It's an interview. We'll be sitting at a table. They're going to be looking at my eyes... not my outfit. The eyes are the windows to the soul. Look into my windows, Camry.

Camry

You're a weirdo.

Leila

Why thank you.

Camry

Do you have everything else ready?

Leila

Resume, check. Lesson plans, check. Route pre-loaded into Google Maps, check. On-the-go-breakfast-bar, check. Eye shadow, check.

Camry

And your outfit...

Leila

Tomorrow morning.

Camry

Right. Right. And your hair?

Leila

I was thinking of wearing it like this.

Camry

Like that?

Leila

Yeah, what do you think?

Camry

I think you don't have to worry about your outfit, your eye shadow, or anything else if you wear your hair like that.

Leila

I'm kidding! Relax. I was going to straighten it.

Camry

Okay good. You do some wacky things with your hair sometimes.

Leila

Oooh! What if I do a different eye shadow on each side and a different hair style on each side!?  
(Turns head and switches personalities) Hello, thanks for interviewing me today. (Turns) This is  
a fine institution for learning. (Turns head) Such a lovely school. (Turns head) I'm sure your  
standardized assessment scores are superior...

Camry

Are you trying to get the job or get a restraining order?

Leila

Either would lead to a good story.

Camry

You certainly have plenty of stories.

Leila

You think I'll be okay?

Camry

Girl, you gonna crush it.

Leila

What if I get nervous and throw up all over them?

Camry

Is that a thing you do?

Leila

No, but I'm saying what if it happens?

Camry

If that happens... please take a picture.

Leila

What if I trip in the hall and as I'm falling, the only thing I can grab is the fire alarm, and I set off  
the fire alarm for the whole building, and the sprinklers go off, and the fire department shows up,  
and I...

Camry  
Leila, Leila, Leila!

Leila  
Yeah?

Camry  
You're going to be amazing.

Leila  
You think so?

Camry  
I know so.

Leila  
Can I call you after the interview?

Camry  
You better!

Leila  
Okay. I'm going to.

Camry  
Okay.

Leila  
I'm interviewing tomorrow.

Camry  
I know.

Leila  
I'm going to be a teacher.

Camry  
I know.

Leila  
I'm an adult.

Camry  
If you say so.

Leila  
Thanks for your help.

Camry  
I'm always here.

Leila  
The eye shadow is going to land me the job.

Camry  
You are going to land the job. But... the eye shadow certainly helps.

Leila  
I'm going to call you right after tomorrow.

Camry  
Okay, I can't wait.

Leila  
Thank you!

Camry  
You're welcome.

Leila  
Okay, byeeeeeee.

Camry  
Byeeeeeeee!

The call ends.

End of Scene.