

MUSTANG MARTHA

Written by

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Inspired by the true events that divided the city of
Baytown, TX in 1994



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INT. BAYTOWN MOTORS - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The doorbell DINGS and Bobby Roundtree marches up to the counter and SLAPS his clipboard down, startling Martha who sits behind the reception desk.

MARTHA

Mr. Roundtree, what brings you over?

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

Well, Martha, my office has been inundated with calls all week about that Mustang you got out there.

MARTHA

Really? Why?

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

It's in violation of the Junk Car Ordinance.

MARTHA

I don't understand.

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

My new Junk Car Ordinance to get rid of rotting cars left --

MARTHA

I know about the Ordinance. That car is completely rust free, all the gas and oil drained out of it. It doesn't even have a motor in it!

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

(shaking his head)

Well, you see it fits the definition of a junk car, Martha. It's a car that doesn't run. So I'm sorry but you're going to have to tow it off your property and get it out of sight.

MARTHA

It's a landmark that makes this place more visible. It's part of the sign! Can't we just amend our sign permit?

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

Now that a complaint's been filed? No.

MARTHA

Who called in the complaint?

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

Debbie didn't say, and it wasn't just one call, Martha. The phones were lighting up like a Christmas tree. Had to come see for myself!

MARTHA

I don't understand, there are all kinds of restored vehicles used as signs - Baytown Seafood uses a boat! How come that's not a violation?

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

Well, no one has called in to complain about Baytown Seafood, so I am unaware if they have a junk vehicle in front of their property. Would you like to make a formal complaint?

Martha GROWLS in frustration.

MARTHA

What I would like is to understand why someone called in a complaint!

DON

People call in all the time. Good citizens wanting to help make this town more beautiful now that we have this Junk Car Ordinance. (chuckling) You got a disgruntled customer, Martha? Employee? Competitor?

Martha looks at him, eyebrow raised.

MARTHA

All of the above?

BOBBY ROUNDTREE

You've got 10 days to issue an appeal before the City will start fining you.

MARTHA

I don't have money to take this to trial OR to pay any fines, and I don't have TIME to deal with this!

Unaffected, Bobby hands over the violation form from his clipboard. She takes it automatically, stunned.

BOBBY ROUNDTREE
Does everything look in order?

Martha looks down, starts reading through the form.

MARTHA
Uh, purple? The color's raspberry!

BOBBY ROUNDTREE
Well, just make a note of that
right there.

He TAPS the form on the clipboard efficiently, then turns to leave with a DING.

Martha watches speechless.