

Intersectionality Exercise

Storied Lives Episode 2: Quota



Excerpt from 1:16 to 2:38

“He cut himself — it’s not a big deal.” I ask, “have you called an ambulance?” The manager stops me from unravelling the shirt, tacky with coagulated blood. “No...no, no.” He sighs, tips his glasses forward, and pinches the bridge of his nose, “Look. Sometimes, people, they get lazy at work. Tell him he has to —” he megaphone-cups his hands around his mouth and aims at my husband, “— stay focused!” My husband understands English mostly but doesn’t speak it very well so the manager’s always calling me to translate. I ask, when did this happen? “Does it matter? We’re short-staffed today and your husband already took a whole sick day this month. He had to finish the shift.” My husband whispers up at me, “I tried to tell the man, I need stitches.” He motions sewing up his palm. The manager snorts, “I can’t understand you two! Look, he did the safety training, right? He should know how to stay safe on the job.” In English, I manage, “Please. Get him an ambulance.” The manager shrugs, “I’m not authorized to do that after a shift has ended.” I glare. The manager rolls his eyes, pulls out his phone, and mumbles, “I’ll call you an Uber.”

Reflection Questions:

1. List three intersectional experiences that might be impacting this family’s experience with poverty:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. How might the manager's behavior reflect systemic issues?

3. What do you think makes this story impactful for advocacy or powerful for an elected official to hear?