

M & M Day Preview

SCENE ONE

Scene opens with SUE and JANA watching their girls play jump rope. The girls sing a little jingle while they jump. As the women start to talk, the girls get much quieter.

JANA I can't look at a jump rope without thinking of your brothers.

SUE Why?

JANA Don't you remember the time they tied me up when I spent the night at your house? I walked in the door and they came storming at me wearing cowboy hats and swinging jump ropes in the air. I hardly knew what hit me!

SUE That's right. How could I forget? It's hard to believe they've grown up to be responsible adults.

SUE's cell phone rings.

SUE Hello. Hey, Mom. What are you doing? I'm sitting here with Jana, watching the girls play. Mmm hmm, yeah, I looked at that date. That would work fine for us. What about Grandma and Lily? Great. Madison can't wait. She's been bugging me all week about it. "When is M & M day? When is M & M day?" Yeah, me too. It should be fun! See you then.

JANA M & M day? What's that about?

SUE Mammograms and memories.

JANA What? Did you say mammograms?

SUE Yes, my mom, my grandma, my sister and I schedule our mammograms together. We bring the girls along, go for a nice lunch and spend the day playing around. We do a little shopping, catch a movie, stuff like that. (She holds out her hand as if holding a serving tray.) Mammograms and memories.

JANA You're making a party of mammograms?

SUE I guess so. It's Mom's way of being sure we do it. She figures if we make it fun, it won't be hard convincing us to get it done.

JANA My doctor says I should be getting a baseline mammogram soon.

SUE It's not a bad idea. I don't get one every year, but with Mom's history my doctor says I should have one every few years. I'm off the hook this time. That's the beauty of M & M day for me right now. I get to go along and play even if I don't take a trip to the Squish Monster.

JANA Oh, THAT'S a lovely picture! Thanks a lot! You're really inspiring me to do it!

SUE Oh, it isn't horrible. It's not fun, but it doesn't last forever.

JANA You take your girls along? What are you doing, trying to scare the living day lights out of them?

SUE Our girls LOVE it. They don't go in and witness the whole procedure. They sit in the waiting room and look forward to a great day. They know it's important and they associate it with fun. We're hoping it gives them a positive spin on the whole mammogram thing so they aren't afraid of it.

JANA Mammograms and memories, huh? That's pretty good.

SUE Yep, it's a great time, Squish Monster and all.

JANA How is your mom, Sue?

SUE She's great. Thankfully they caught the cancer early on when it was easily treated. I suspect that's why she's so diligent about M & M day every year.

JANA My mom's never had one. I keep telling her she needs to quit putting it off.

SUE Why doesn't she do it?

JANA She's kind of funny about it. She comes up with all these lame excuses why she doesn't need one: cancer doesn't run in her family, she's never smoked, she's not chesty enough to get a tumor. . .

SUE What?

JANA She thinks only really busty women, the Dolly Partons of the world, get breast cancer.

SUE You ought to tell her even men get breast cancer.

JANA She'd probably think it was only Sumo wrestlers with man boobs!

SUE You're kidding!