

SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

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Short Film Script

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

The anxiety of the senior class finally subdued. There's one student who may not realize his full potential.

SEAN, 18, is intelligent and lanky, sporting spiky hair and mostly keeps to himself waits for the principal to show up. The scene all too familiar to Sean.

SEAN

Is there a reason I'm in your office again?

MR. SAVAGE, 45, principal is slightly overweight and medium height is more of a friend than the principal.

MR. SAVAGE

Believe me Sean, I'm just as tired of these meetings as you are.

SEAN

Again, I ask you why am I here?

MR. SAVAGE

You know good and well why you're here young man. As smart as you are these grades don't reflect it.

The top of his class for three and a half years, Sean's hard work evaporates. The office a ghost town until Sean's mother arrives.

MS. YOUNG, 50, wears hair in ponytail, business casual clothes, is a receptionist at a real estate company, thinks everything is destiny.

MR. SAVAGE (CONT'D)

Welcome Ms. Young, I'm sorry we keep meeting this way.

MS. YOUNG

Sorry indeed. What did Sean do this time? Or better yet, what didn't he do?

Sean turns to his mother.

SEAN

That's just great mom, always thinking the worst about me.

MR. SAVAGE

Well, let's not get off on the wrong foot.

(MORE)

MR. SAVAGE (CONT'D)

Sean isn't a trouble maker by any means. I've never had a problem with him disrupting the classroom.

Ms. Young eyebrow raises like the temperature on a hot day. Leaning backward, legs crossed she shoots a glance at Sean before attention goes back to the principal.

MS. YOUNG

But?

MR. SAVAGE

I hate to be the bearer of bad news Ms. Young, however, the fact of the matter is Sean is on the verge of not graduating on time. There is the option of summer school but I don't want to see a kid as talented as Sean in summer school.

Ms. Young's blood boils like water on a stove, she looks at Sean in a way that the devil himself would run and hide. Her head rocks sideways.

MS. YOUNG

Unbelievable Sean! How could you fall behind like this? Don't you want to follow in my foot steps and become a successful receptionist?

His upper lip in a downward spiral, Sean leans back refusing to answer. A quick glance over at Mr. Savage as Sean bobs and weaves his head but no music playing.

MS. YOUNG (CONT'D)

Sean, I asked you a question and I want an answer not later but right now!

SEAN

Being a receptionist is your dream mom not mine! That life might be great for you but not for me. I don't want your life!

MR. SAVAGE

Wait a minute Sean. You shouldn't talk to your mom like that. She's only trying to help as am I.

SEAN

Look here Mr. Belding, just mind your business and stay out of this! This has zero to do with you!

MR. SAVAGE
My name is Mr. Savage.

Ms. Young, horrified, walks over to her son. Her finger shaking in his direction, her head cocked sideways like a dog.

MS. YOUNG
Sean, why are you being so rude?
What's gotten into you?

SEAN
Oh, so now you want to act like mom of the year. You think all is right in the world which is always, you can't be bothered. Why should I tell you anything?

MR. SAVAGE
Young man that is enough! I will not have you in my office talking to your mother like that. She brought you into this world.

SEAN
I don't recall asking to be brought into this world. Who are you to get on me any ways? You may have everybody fooled with wanting to be the hip principal but you're all about the money.

The tension in the room is so thick you can cut it with a knife. Tempers in the stratosphere, a pair of jaws, belonging to Ms. Young and Mr. Savage collectively on the floor.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Do I have your attention now?

Heads move up and down.

SEAN (CONT'D)
School isn't what everybody says it is. First off, why are we learning about dead presidents and things that happened hundreds of years ago?

MS. YOUNG
How dare you question your schooling? You need to apologize to Mr. Savage right now.

MR. SAVAGE

I appreciate that Ms. Young but
it's not necessary.

SEAN

I'm not apologizing for anything!
I'm not in the wrong. Why not teach
us about real life situations like
how to survive in the world? What
do we do when we lose a job because
it got transferred overseas or we
got replaced by somebody who will
do the job cheaper?

His hand pressed on his cheek, Mr. Savage sighs.

MR. SAVAGE

You have my attention now for sure.
Anything else you care to add?

SEAN

Why aren't there money management
classes? Things like how to balance
a check book and how to not over
spend on a credit card?

MS. YOUNG

I get where you're coming from son,
but money isn't everything.

SEAN

Well listen to you now mom. Didn't
you just have a big ole dream about
me following in your footsteps? You
say money isn't everything but I'd
like to see you live without it?
Quit your precious receptionist job
and see what happens.

MS. YOUNG

Don't you like having the things
you have?

SEAN

I never asked for any of it. Like I
said quit your job and see how long
we last. We'll be on the streets
eventually and then you can tell me
how money isn't everything.

MS. YOUNG

You really feel strongly about this
son. I never knew.

SEAN

I do very much. Go into McDonald's and explain quantum physics to them. Will they give you a cheeseburger for that? Heck no, it takes money.

MS. YOUNG

Ugh, I get it. If only your father were here.

SEAN

Don't bring dad into this! He feels the same way I do. Plus your precious little receptionist career is why he left in the first place!

Mr. Savage as fast as a jack rabbit, is in between Sean and his mother.

MR. SAVAGE

That's quite enough Sean. That's something that needs to be discussed at home behind private doors. We're getting off topic and out of hand.

MS. YOUNG

I agree. I apologize Mr. Savage for my role in this. I don't expect Sean to apologize though.

MR. SAVAGE

Again, no need to apologize. I just want a peaceful solution to the problem that we can all agree on. Sean, instead of lashing out why don't you come to the school board meeting and be proactive and present your issues to them.

SEAN

What good will that do?

MR. SAVAGE

To be honest, I'm not sure but it could be the first steps to getting the changes around here that you want. Sure, it might be too late for you but you can potentially help generations of future students if you take a stand the right way.

SEAN

I don't know it still seems
pointless. I'm just a 18 year old.

MR. SAVAGE

I'll back you up if you show up and
present your case in a respectful
manner.

SEAN

You'd do that for me?

MR. SAVAGE

Yes, I believe it's time for a
change as well. It would be good to
hear a students point of view.

SEAN

I guess I was wrong about you.
Sorry for calling you Mr. Belding.

MR. SAVAGE

It's okay Sean. I'll let you in on
a little secret. All these years
and I still love that show.

They all laugh.

MS. YOUNG

For only being 18, you sure taught
us both something today. Maybe you
should be a teacher Sean. Of course
that's entirely up to you, there
will be no more pressure from me.

MR. SAVAGE

Who would've thought that the
student would be teaching the
principal.