

1st Place

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. COURTROOM - MORNING

Steve Arvid (17) sits silently in handcuffs next to the JUDGE (50s). Steve(brown unkempt hair) is dressed in ragged clothes and clearly has a low socioeconomic status.

JUDGE

(projecting)

Today we are here to witness
Steve Arvid's, initial appearance
on the charges of murder of
classmate Hector Salvador.
Mr.Arvid, how do you plead?

Hector stares blankly at at the judge.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT/INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS - MORNING

STEVE ARVID is walking on campus with a slight slouch and limp. Steve has his characteristic unkempt hair and ragged clothes with dark circles under his eyes. He spots Hector(surrounded by students) out of the corner of his eye and immediately shows disregard and slight anger. As Steve walks towards class he overhears a conversation between a middle aged man(MR.SALVADOR(40's or 50's)) and his teacher(PROFESSOR ICHIRIU(30's or 40's)) he puts his ear on the door in order to hear what is happening behind the closed doors.

MR.SALVADOR

(speaking calmly)

I'm sure you are aware of the
importance of these actions, you
must do as I say. As it is I've
heard teacher salary has been
rough as of late.

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

While I appreciate your generous
donations to the department.I
couldn't defend the morality of
doing this and cheat my students
like that.

MR.SALVADOR

Morality haha, what a word. You know it comes from Latin word moralis, meaning "proper behavior of a person in society". What is improper of providing a service for a slight raise?

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

But the service you ask would be hurting my students and helping your child at the-

MR.SALVADOR

Does 10% over the usual rate work for you?

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

I gue-

Steve continues to lean in and accidentally trips, turning the door handle and opening the door revealing the two figures behind the door.

STEVE ARVID

Oh my gosh i'm so sorry for interrupting I was just about to head to class.

MR.SALVADOR

Ah, the brilliant Mr.Arvid I have heard so much about you from Professor Ichiriu.

Mr.Salvador puts his hand out for a handshake

MR.SALVADOR (CONT'D)

Mr.Salvador, Hectors father

STEVE ARVID

Pleased to meet you sir i'm a huge fan of your publications in understanding the space time continuum.

MR.SALVADOR

Ah its simple science really i'm sure you will get there one day. As for now I am informed your board exam scores are coming out this week.

STEVE ARVID

Yes sir i'm praying for the best.

MR.SALVADOR

As am I but don't rely only on prayers make sure you do anything possible to get to where you want to be. Well I really must get going I have lots to catch up on at work. Professor, ill come by later to finish our conversation. Good luck Steve.

Mr.Salvador leaves the room

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

Is there anything you needed Steve?

STEVE ARVID

Not really sir I'll see you in class.

Steve exits the office and walks towards class. He immediately feels a slap on the back of his head from Hector.

STEVE ARVID (CONT'D)

Ah, what was that for?

HECTOR SALVADOR

You got the homework? I didn't get a chance to do it last night.

STEVE ARVID

Yeah its right here

HECTOR SALVADOR

Usual rate?

STEVE ARVID

Double, my dad hasn't been free as of late and as a result I have to get food for myself.

HECTOR SALVADOR

Fine, I can't really keep this up for much longer though your going to score top of the class this year and my dad is going to kill me.

STEVE ARVID

What do you mean you never study
and always score top of the class

HECTOR SALVADOR

We will see.

INT. STEVE'S HOME

MR.ARVID(40's or 50's)(similar appearance to his son Steve)
is eating his dinner alone at the table.

MR.ARVID

(Yelling)

Steve get down here!

STEVE ARVID

Yes father

MR.ARVID

Scores out?

STEVE ARVID

You ask me this every day what do
you expect?

MR.ARVID

Well I guess its the same answer
then. Hows that friend of yours,
Hector right?

STEVE ARVID

He's not my friend as it is
you're the one who told me to get
close to him and his family.

MR.ARVID

Yes because if we are to get out
of this dump we need people like
that to help us.

STEVE ARVID

(Scoffs)

Help us you have far to much hope
for people like that.

MR.ARVID

What do you mean?

STEVE ARVID

(Angrily)

I mean he pisses me off. He treats me like crap in front of his friends, expects me to do all his work for him, and then scores the best in the mocks without lifting a finger. There are times where I feel like sticking a knife right through that gut of his.

MR.ARVID

I think you need some sleep haha lets wait for the score to come out and things will happen as they should. You studied right-

Steve nods

MR.ARVID (CONT'D)

Then you will get me what I want. Things will happen as they should

STEVE ARVID

Yeah right all you do is work and look at where it got us.

Steve storms up to his room and lays in his bed with an expression of rage.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

There is a large crowd around a billboard where exam scores are displayed as Steve approaches to find his name. He sees that he came second behind Hector and he immediately rages towards Hector who is surrounded by several friends.

STEVE ARVID

How the hell did you do it?

HECTOR SALVADOR

Why do you care feeling butt hurt?

STEVE ARVID

There is no way you don't even do your own homework.

HECTOR SALVADOR

(shoving Steve)

Who do you think you're talking to huh. We haven't spoken all year. My dad is the greatest scientist in the world you didn't think I too would follow in his footsteps? By the way who is your dad where does he work huh? That's what I thought.

Steve on the ground looks up towards Hector with rage in his eyes. He is surrounded by several students laughing and ridiculing him. He tilts his head and see's Mr.Salvador handing Professor Ichiriu a stack of cash in the background.

MR.SALVADOR

I believe this is enough for the task at hand.

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

(Sigh)

I guess but don't expect me to do this ever again.

MR.SALVADOR

Of course not, from now on you and I have not relations is that understood?

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

I guess so

MR.SALVADOR

What's the long face for? After all isn't this the morality you wanted?

Mr.Salvador smirks at Steve who is on the ground and exits the school.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Steve sits on a bench with his head down and tears stroking down his cheek. Professor Ichiriu approaches him.

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

I think we need to talk.

INT. PROFESSOR ICHIRIU'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

Im sorry Steve

STEVE ARVID

How could you let this happen to me? I thought you actually respected academia enough to become a teacher.

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

I did but Mr.Salvador posed an offer I couldn't refuse I hope you understand.

STEVE ARVID

No I don't you changed the score so that Hector is first after knowing how hard I worked.

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

I wish I could do something to help.

STEVE ARVID

He has to pay for what he did.

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

Steve revenge isn't the way as it is what difference does it make to come second.

STEVE ARVID

Its not a matter of coming first or second anymore its the fact that I earned that first place but he got it and he has to pay for that.

PROFESSOR ICHIRIU

Steve wait.

Professor Ichiriu hands Steve one of the checks that Mr.Salvador gave to Professor Ichiriu. Steve storms out of the office and sprints home with tears in his eyes. Steve sprints into his room where he cries into his pillow.

INT. STEVE'S HOME - NIGHT

Mr.Arvid sits at the dinner table after a long day of work but there is no food.

MR.ARVID

(Yelling)

Steve! Where are you?

Steve races downstairs with tears in his eyes

MR.ARVID (CONT'D)

I presume scores came out today?

STEVE ARVID

Yeah

MR.ARVID

I thought you studied what happened you couldn't even come first. I sacrifice my entire life to pay for that stupid school of yours and all I ask is for food on the table and your first place ranking.

STEVE ARVID

But dad-

MR.ARVID

Enough I've had enough leave this house and only come back once you have what I ask for.

STEVE ARVID

But dad-

MR.ARVID

You aren't my son now get out.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS - NIGHT

Steve lies down at the public high school bench where he spots Hector out of the corner of his eye saying goodbye to his friends. Steve sprints at Hector.

STEVE ARVID

I know what you did I know your dad paid Professor Ichiriu to change your grade.

HECTOR SALVADOR

Oh yeah prove it.

Steve holds up the check that Professor Ichiriu gave him.

HECTOR SALVADOR (CONT'D)

Look man im sorry let me pay you
or something just please give me
the check.

STEVE ARVID

You want the check? Come and take
it?

A fight breaks out between the two eventually Steve bests
Hector and continuously punches him.

END FLASHBACK

The judge stares at Steve.

JUDGE

Mr. Arvid, How do you plead?

Steve stares blankly at the judge and sighs with a slight
smirk on his face.

FADE OUT.

THE END