

Chapter Monday - Post Format

Synopsis:

Daniel drops out of college and has an emotional discussion with his parents. He walks to his room and locks himself in. He checks his phone, attempting to calm down. Upon scrolling through his contacts, he comes across a familiar name. He decides to call this person. Little did he know, that call would change his life forever.

I logged on to check my grades after taking my final tests. I was already expecting the worse, and the results didn't surprise me. It was at this moment I came to the realization that it was all for naught. That all of this, meant nothing. I realized that the source of my depression and rage-filled demeanor were the tests and assignments that constantly reminded me just how stupid I was. So I did the only logical thing I could think of; I quit. I figured accepting failure was better than going insane from continuing to fail. I wished my parents understood that, as I approached them to explain my decision.

Jonathan

What?!

Daniel

I'm done. It's not worth it.

Jonathan

And you think dropping out of college is worth it? I mean, you only have a few more classes to go! Lisa?

Lisa

Dan, your father and I care a lot about you and want you to be successful. School is--

Daniel

--Just because I don't want to go to college doesn't mean I won't be successful!

Jonathan

Maybe not, but it sure as hell determines who gets hired first when applying for a position. Most companies don't even consider non-college applicants.

Lisa

Daniel, I know some of the classes seem pointless but you're almost done anyways, you might as well just stick it out.

Daniel

I'm not even sure what I want to do with my life, Mom. So I'm to go to college, study one thing and then what happens if I decide I want to do something else? It's all a waste of time.

Jonathan

The point is no matter what, you're prepared.

Daniel

Prepared?! How can I "prepare" for something that I may or may not do?

Jonathan

It's not about what you study, it's about--

Daniel

--It's about a damn piece of fucking paper!

Lisa

Daniel!

Jonathan

You know what Lisa, let him. Apparently Dan is all grown up and knows all about the challenges of life.

Daniel

That's not...

Jonathan

No-no, if you can't see the value in your education then you must know something we don't.

Lisa

Jonathan, don't...

Jonathan

No Lisa, I will. It's just a few more classes and he's decided to throw in the towel.

Daniel

**chuckles* Why do I even bother? You guys never listen.*

I began to walk back towards my room.

Jonathan

Daniel! Daniel! Don't you walk away from me!

I couldn't be bothered to do anything other than ignore him. I locked myself in my room and sat on my bed. I grabbed my phone, hoping to find something that would distract me long enough to make me forget about the whole argument. It didn't help that I could still hear my parents from down the hall.

Lisa

This isn't helping, John.

Jonathan

I just, I don't want him to make the same mistakes I did.

Lisa

He's young Jonathan. He's still trying to figure out who he is.

Jonathan

When I was his age, I wish I could've gone to college!

That comment alone reminded me of how my father lacked perspective. He always made it about him; what he had to go through and the opportunities he had. My thoughts were interrupted as a name came up when I was scrolling through my phone: Joel Mustard. My childhood best friend. The only person in my life who I felt 'understood' me. I can't explain why, but for some reason I felt the sudden urge to call him.

Joel

Hello?

I was frozen. His voice was just as I remembered. Hearing him for the first time in years filled my eyes with tears.

Joel

Hello-hello?

Shit! I had to say something.

Daniel

Hel...hello?!

Joel

Um...hi?

Real smooth Daniel...

Daniel

Um...Joel?

Joel

Yes? Who is this?

My eyes became glassy and as I closed them, I felt tears running down my cheek. It was like I was brought back in time. Everything was okay again.

Daniel

It's um...it's Daniel.

There was a brief moment of silence which felt like minutes.

Joel

Daniel? Oh my God is that really you?

Daniel

**chuckles* Ya, ya it is.*

Joel

I...I've been trying to reach you forever.

Daniel

Ya, um, I got a new phone a few years ago and uh, got a new number so...

Joel

Well you could've told me you know...

Daniel

I know....

Joel

So, uh...why call now?

Daniel

I just...wanted to talk to you.

Joel

Really? Is everything okay?

Daniel

Um, oh ya...it's...No, no, not really.

Joel

What's wrong?

Again, I paused. Joel was both educated and responsible. To be honest, I felt embarrassed telling him that I dropped out. But I'd choose embarrassment over lying any day of the week.

Daniel

Um, I dropped out of college today.

Joel

What? Why?

Daniel

I just...couldn't do it anymore. I wasn't doing well and um, just didn't know what I wanted to do. That's all.

Joel

Well what did your parents say?

Daniel

They...didn't...take it so well.

Joel

No?

Daniel

No.

Joel

Ugh...I'm really sorry Dan...

Daniel

*Ya...*sniffs*...ya it's fine.*

Joel

Well, how's your family otherwise?

Daniel

They...They're good. What about your Mom?

Joel

She's great. Works a lot now.

Daniel

Ha! Ya she was always super busy. And you...how...how are you?

Joel

*I'm good. Just...lots of school-work. *hehe**

Daniel

Ya, ya I bet.

Here comes another pause. My introverted-self was terrible at communicating.

Joel

I miss you Dan...so does my Mom.

Daniel

Ya..I miss you too...Joel.

Joel

Hey, uh, I got an idea. Why don't you come over this weekend?

Daniel

This weekend?

Joel

Ya, you can take the train down and then the bus to my place? I know it's a long trip but, um, we can hang out and catch up.

Daniel

Oh uh...I don't know.

Joel

Oh c'mon. My room's changed quite a lot. And I'll make sure to finish all my homework so we can play video-games.

Daniel

**sigh* I mean. I guess, I can do that.*

Joel

Really? Ya!

My mind begin to question what the hell I was doing. I haven't seen Joel in years and all the sudden I was going to come over and pretend like it's the good old-days? But then again, maybe this is exactly what I needed.

Joel

Well um, I guess I'll text you later. Think about what you want to do ok?

Daniel

Yep, that sounds good.

Joel

Alright. Well, bye Dan.

Daniel

Bye Joel.

And so it was settled. I hung up the phone. Everything was different now; my sadness was replaced with excitement. But little did I know, that this coming weekend would change my life forever.

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