

Hunter Bishop

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Education in Film

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A Walk in the Park

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL BUILDING - DAY

HUNTER stands outside with his friends KYMANI and XAVIER. He is wearing a Medium-sized Nike t-shirt and shorts, his hair brushed to the side. XAVIER wears a Jordan hoodie and khakis, his hair in braids. KYMANI wears a collared Tommy Hilfiger shirt and jeans, his hair in waves. The three are outside after eating lunch.

XAVIER

I'm telling you guys, Ms. Klein is too damn fine, man. I couldn't see much over Zoom, but now that I'm getting...

XAVIER makes a curving motion with his hands.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

...The whole picture, I don't think I could fall asleep in her class again if I wanted to!

KYMANI

Man, shut up, it wouldn't matter if she wore a short skirt and stilettos, your ass would still be passed out in the back of the room with drool all over your desk.

XAVIER

Yeah, I'd be drooling, alright.

HUNTER shoves XAVIER lightly.

HUNTER

You're sick, man.

The three of them laugh.

XAVIER

Honest to God, I might have to shoot my shot once I graduate. I can't be playing with these young girls, I need a woman!

KYMANI

What you need is a membership to a gym and a library. Your arms are built like noodles and your grades are below sea level.

XAVIER

Damn, calm down, Steve Harvey. This isn't a roast session.

HUNTER

I mean, he's not lying.

XAVIER

I see. Hunter loses some weight and becomes unroastable. Don't worry, man, I'll think of something eventually.

KYMANI

Why don't you put some respect on my man's name? This dude lost like half his body weight.

HUNTER laughs.

HUNTER

I didn't lose half my body weight, man. I lost 80 pounds.

XAVIER

80 pounds? Did you really lose that much?

HUNTER

Yeah, but that's not close to half.

KYMANI

That's not exactly featherweight either, man. You should be proud of yourself.

HUNTER

What makes you think I'm not proud of myself?

KYMANI

I don't know. I just think I'd be showing off a little more if I lost that much weight.

HUNTER

Yeah, well, when you do, you can.

KYMANI

I might start going to the gym soon. Can't be that hard.

HUNTER

Right, not that hard.

FLASHBACK.

INT. INSIDE OF SCHOOL BUILDING - DAY, TWO YEARS AGO

HUNTER is sitting at his desk with ABBY and SARAH.

ABBY

I have no idea how Mrs. Calderara expects us to have this done by the end of class. It's like she's making us write a movie or something.

SARAH

Seriously.

BEN and BRYANT, HUNTER's friends, walk over to him. BEN hands HUNTER a piece of paper.

BEN

Check this out, man.

HUNTER examines the paper.

HUNTER

What the fuck is this?

BRYANT

You, with your big belly and thick thighs. Ben drew you, I drew the food in your stomach.

HUNTER is speechless. He shows the picture to ABBY and SARAH.

SARAH

Wow, that's really fucked up, guys.

BEN

It's just a joke, relax.

ABBY

But it's not funny.

BRYANT

I thought it was pretty funny.

SARAH

Well, do you see Hunter laughing?

BEN and BRYANT look at HUNTER. He is still speechless.

BEN

Listen, man, it was just to make you laugh. It's not that big of a deal.

BRYANT

Yeah, sorry, dude.

HUNTER continues to look down.

HUNTER

It's whatever.

The lunch bell rings.

BEN

Oh, shit. C'mon Bryant, we have to beat Hunter before he eats it all.

BRYANT has an uncomfortable look on his face, but follows BEN out. HUNTER, ABBY, and SARAH stand up.

ABBY

You're not going to sit with them, are you?

HUNTER

Why wouldn't I?

SARAH

Because they just bullied the shit out of you! You can't stand for that, dude.

HUNTER

I usually sit when I eat lunch.

SARAH rolls her eyes.

HUNTER

Besides, they do shit like that all the time. It's really ok.

SARAH

Look, you can sit with them and hear them slander you if you want, or you can sit with us, and we'll actually be nice.

ABBY

I second that.

HUNTER

Alright, I'll sit with you guys.

HUNTER crumbles the piece of paper into a ball and throws it away before exiting the room with his two friends.

CAMERA CUT.

INT. INSIDE OF HUNTER'S HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

HUNTER is standing by his treadmill with a bottle of water. He puts his earbuds in and takes one last sip of water.

HUNTER

Alright, here we go.

HUNTER starts the treadmill. He runs on four miles an hour for five minutes before he stops to catch his breath, sweat ringing around his shirt.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

Holy shit! Am I really that fat?

DAD walks in.

DAD

Hey son, I'm home.

DAD sees Hunter over the treadmill.

DAD (CONT'D)

Oh, hey, what are you doing?

HUNTER

Just running. I already finished my homework and I have nothing else to do.

DAD

Alright.

DAD walks up to HUNTER, tears forming in his eyes.

DAD (CONT'D)

I love you no matter what. You know that, right?

HUNTER rolls his eyes, having heard this a thousand times, and although the words are kind hearted, they are an obstacle that would not stop him this time.

HUNTER

Can you go upstairs? I'm busy.

DAD storms upstairs. HUNTER gets back on the treadmill, running at the same speed for five minutes and wheezing afterward. Jump cuts show HUNTER slowly losing weight over the next two years and growing into a faster runner with more stamina, and he begins going to the gym for weight training as well. There are moments when the exercise is too much and he breathes heavy from the pain, and one time when all of his emotions suffocate him along with the pain and he weeps, but this is a one time thing, and he no longer feels pain exercising.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL BUILDING - DAY

KYMANI

I mean, I might be out of breath for a little while, but other than that, it seems like a walk in the park.

HUNTER

It's actually a run on the treadmill.

KYMANI and XAVIER laugh at how lame the joke is.

KYMANI

Xavier, you wanna do it with me?

XAVIER

Can't, I have asthma. I almost pass out doing you know what.

HUNTER

Yeah, I bet the girl would pass out too if she was real.

KYMANI laughs.

XAVIER

Ha ha, fuck you. Y'all wanna go back inside?

KYMANI

Might as well, nothing else to do.

HUNTER

We can go to the park when school's out.

XAVIER

I'm down, I'll bring my ball.

HUNTER, KYMANI, and XAVIER walk inside. End of scene.

Artist's Statement

I chose to make a scene (or I guess multiple scenes) of what led me to get into fitness. If I could write a full film on this topic, or perhaps a novel, the context of the pieces I've chose to include may make more sense. I would include how exercise led me to concentrate more in my classes, and how I started making honor roll and enrolled in AP classes. In tenth grade, I did not intend on going to college, for I had no thought of what I may pursue. Three years later, I am writing this from one of a few universities I was accepted by, and I am proud of how my life has changed.

The message I have attempted to convey with this screenplay is the physical and emotional toll that something as substantial as losing weight can hold. Outsiders may view this as an easy task, but it is actually one that requires full dedication, as it is laboring on the body and mind. For this exact reason, it is rare that someone loses more than a couple pounds on their fitness journey before giving up. It does not happen fast, but it is very rewarding, both mentally and physically, and all it takes is time.