

MOMENT OF CRISIS

By

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INT. OFFICE ROOM - DAY

A man in a nicely tailored suit MR. PLUMMER is standing in his office looking outside through his window, talking to someone on phone.

MR. PLUMMER

(angrily)

We wouldn't have lost the contract if Laura Inc. didn't know the details of our tender.

(beat)

That's right. I am going to file a lawsuit against you.

Mr. Plummer slams the phone down in anger, turns around his desk and sits on chair. Someone knocks on the door.

MR. PLUMMER

Yes.

A lady dressed elegantly opens the door.

THE LADY

Mr. Plummer, Ryan Davis is here for the interview.

MR. PLUMMER

(has forgotten about the interview and he is just realizing it)

Oh yes...Send him in.

He looks at the wall clock in his room that shows 9:00 am.

INT. OFFICE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The wall clock in the room shows 9:15 am. Mr. Plummer and Ryan are sitting across the table, both leaning forward towards each other.

RYAN

That's why, I am extremely interested in being your accountant.

MR. PLUMMER

Tell me about your strengths Ryan.

RYAN

Well, I have strong problem solving skills, I am a good communicator, and I am very honest.

(CONTINUED)

Mr. Plummer leans back, takes in a moment.

MR. PLUMMER  
Can you tell me about an occasion  
where you displayed that you are  
honest?

A phone rings.

MR. PLUMMER  
Sorry, give me few seconds.

Mr. Plummer picks up the phone.

MR. PLUMMER  
Hello.  
(beat)  
Yeah you heard about it...

Ryan leans back and reminisces.

NICK (V.O.)  
So, how was your Christmas?

CUT TO:

INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

RYAN  
It was ok, working most of the  
time.

NICK  
Well at least you get a good staff  
discount.

RYAN  
umm..yeah well...

Nick looks around casually, then turns to Ryan and...

NICK  
I was thinking if you can  
(beat)  
buy a...buy me a laptop at a staff  
discount.

Ryan is about to react.

NICK  
Now before you say no, hear me out.  
(emotionally)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NICK (cont'd)  
My father's 50th birthday is coming. You understand, *50th* birthday. I wanna give him a *really really* good gift. Now a decent laptop will at *least* cost \$800. You know I can't afford that. So I need your help this time.

Ryan leans back, looks around, looks at Nick and...

RYAN  
(equally emotionally as he leans forward)  
Nick I understand. I *really* do. But you know I will *not* cheat my company.

NICK  
It's just this one time!

Ryan exhales and looks away.

NICK  
(seeing Ryan's reaction)  
That's ok.

Ryan looks at Nick. Nick smiles apologetically.

NICK  
Don't worry about it.  
(beat)  
Oh by the way, what happened to your interview the other day?

RYAN  
(still in the sadness of denying his friend)  
Yeah I ah...  
(realizes that its all good now and smiles)  
Oh I am joining as soon as we graduate.

NICK  
(with a big smile)  
Wow man congratulations! Collins and Partners.  
(nods)  
Wow that's great.

RYAN  
(smiles)

Thanks.

A teacher in his 50s enters the room and everyone stops talking and takes their places.

EXT. SAME CLASS ROOM - LATER

Ryan comes out of class room and looks behind and sees that Nick is talking to someone. Nick points Ryan to wait for a second. Ryan nods. Nick finishes his conversation and joins Ryan. As they are walking...

RYAN  
What do you think about this course?

NICK  
It's alright.

RYAN  
Yeah, it's ok.

NICK  
I am really worried about French this semester.

RYAN  
Why are you taking a language? Take something else.

NICK  
I can't! Nothing else fits in my schedule.

RYAN  
(chuckles)  
Don't worry I will help you out.

NICK  
(exited)  
Thanks man. I *knew* I can count on you.

RYAN  
Yeah no problem.

Ryan spots that a girl JEN is talking to a male student.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN  
Alright, I'll see you in Econ.

Nick leaves. Ryan walks towards Jen as the student talking to her leaves. As Ryan approaches her...

RYAN  
(with a smile, as he points  
towards the guy leaving)  
I hope you are not leaving me.

JEN  
(with a smile)  
I'm thinking about it.

Ryan and Jen laugh. Ryan is now standing in front of her. Jen looks over Ryan's shoulder as his teacher comes out of classroom and goes away in the opposite direction. Seeing her, Ryan also looks back and as he turns towards her...

JEN  
So, what do you think?

RYAN  
Was he nice to you as you were  
growing up?

Jen is surprised.

JEN  
(smiles)  
Yeah.

Ryan shows an exaggerated expression of deep thinking. Jen frowns.

RYAN  
no no no he is good.

Jen relaxes as they both laugh.

RYAN  
(smiling)  
Alright lets go.

Ryan and Jen leaves.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. SAME CLASS ROOM

There is a hand drawn clock on the blackboard. The class is writing intently and quietly. Ryan is upset as he gets up and hands the paper to the teacher and so does other students in the class. He walks out of the class with Nick. Nick has a smile on his face.

EXT. SAME CLASS ROOM

As Ryan and Nick are walking...

NICK  
How did you do?

RYAN  
The questions were too tricky for a quiz.

NICK  
There were similarities with the questions he did in the lectures.

RYAN  
(with a sarcastic smirk)  
Lectures? Yeah they were great.

NICK  
Did you read the detailed lecture notes he posted online?

RYAN  
I prefer the textbook.

NICK  
Did you do the last year's quiz?

RYAN  
Yeah, but he didn't post any solutions.

(beat)  
How did you do?

NICK  
I did good.

Ryan and Nick walks away.

INT. A MODEST HOUSE - LATER

Ryan enters the house. He hears the ARGUMENTS coming from his parents' bedroom regarding buying a new car. His father comes out of the room by SLAMMING the door. Hearing the slam Ryan turns back towards the door, quickly opens it, and pretends to close it as if he is just entering.

FATHER  
(seeing Ryan)  
How was your day?

RYAN  
It was good.

FATHER  
Sorry about that.

RYAN  
About what?

FATHER  
Nothing. Your mom and I were -

RYAN  
Actually, I have rented this DVD  
today.

Ryan pulls his bag from his shoulders, takes a DVD out and hands it to his father.

FATHER  
(looking at the DVD of Empire  
Strikes Back)  
Nice.

RYAN  
We can watch it tonight after  
dinner.

FATHER  
Yeah sure! That will be great.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.



INT. SAME CLASS ROOM

There is a hand drawn clock on the blackboard. The class is writing intently and quietly. Ryan is upset as he gets up and hands the paper to the teacher and so do other students in the class. He walks out of the classroom with Nick.

EXT. SAME CLASS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Ryan and Nick are walking...

NICK  
(carefully)  
How was your quiz?

RYAN  
(sadly)  
Not good.

NICK  
(seeing that Ryan is upset)  
Actually, there were some unexpected questions.

RYAN  
How did you do?

NICK  
(pauses)  
Not as good as last time.

RYAN  
Ya but, its not like you are gonna fail.

NICK  
Well, as long as you didn't leave anything blank.

RYAN  
I did what I could.

NICK  
We still have a midterm and a quiz before the final exam.

RYAN  
I don't think things are going to be any different.

INT. LIBRARY

Ryan is intently studying at a table. Jen comes there. Ryan gives her a quick glance and then continues studying.

JEN  
Hey, would you like to go out tonight?

RYAN  
I have to do these questions.

JEN  
(casually)  
Just do it later.

RYAN  
(upset)  
I have already lost 10% by failing those two quizzes. I have to make sure that I score in the midterm.

JEN  
Relax. I am sure you will do good.

RYAN  
Relax? This is a core course. If I fail I won't graduate this year.

JEN  
I was just--

RYAN  
Also I don't wanna lose Collins and Partners.

Jen nods.

JEN  
You can ask Dad for extra help.

Ryan looks away.

JEN  
What happened?

RYAN  
(while looking away)  
His one-on-one sessions were no different than his lectures.

(CONTINUED)

JEN  
(firmly)  
Well then, maybe it's just you.

Ryan looks at Jen. They share a moment while looking at each other. Then Ryan says while looking at her.

RYAN  
I am busy.

Ryan looks down at his books and settles to a studying position. Jen sits there for a moment looking at him hoping that he will look up but he does not. So she stands up and leaves.

INT. ANOTHER HOUSE - NIGHT

There is a T.V. noise in the background. Jen comes out of her room. She looks into the living room and finds out that her Dad is watching T.V. She sneaks into her Dad's room. Goes to his desk. Flips around papers as she is trying to find something. She finds what she needs. She takes a blank paper, picks up a pen and starts to write something down. After a while, her father enters the room. She gets tensed and turns the paper on which she is writing and starts to scribble. As her Dad approaches her...

JEN  
Do you have a black pen?

Her dad picks one pen out of a pen stack and hands it to Jen.

DAD  
Try this.

He then picks up his glasses and walks out. Jen relaxes.

EXT. ANOTHER CLASS ROOM - DAY

Ryan comes out of the classroom and sees Jen waiting for him there holding some papers.

RYAN  
Sorry about last night.

Jen holds his elbow and takes him aside. Ryan finds it funny as he starts to laugh a bit.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN  
(smiling)

What?

JEN

Here.

Jen hands him some papers. As Ryan is looking at them...

RYAN  
(smiling)  
What's this?

JEN

Midterm questions.

Ryan's smile goes away as he looks up. Seeing his reaction Jen says...

JEN

I know you are going through a rough time.

RYAN

(shakes his head up and down)  
Yes I am certainly going through now.

JEN

(surprised)

Don't you wanna join Collins and Partners?

RYAN

Thank you for your confidence in me.

Jen takes in a moment.

JEN

You know this wasn't exactly a cakewalk, nor was last night.

RYAN

(pointing to the papers)

So this is what your opinion is on me?

Jen looks away as she folds her arms. Ryan takes a moment to think. Then he holds her by her arms. Jen continues to look away.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

Look, don't worry I have been making really good progress. I am sure I will be prepared by the time midterm comes. So now...

(smiles as he tries to look her into her eyes)

If you will excuse me I have to get to my next class.

Jen chuckles and looks at him.

JEN

(smiling and rolling her eyes)

That's all you can think of.

As Ryan hands the papers to Jen...

RYAN

Here, you keep this. I will see you later.

JEN

(smiles)

Bye.

RYAN

Bye.

Ryan starts to walk away. Jen stands there seeing him leave. Ryan turns around the corner and goes away. Jen glances at the papers, squeezes them, looks up, slightly nods with a little smile, turns and leaves.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. SAME CLASS ROOM

There is a hand drawn clock on the blackboard. The class is writing intently and quietly. Ryan is upset as he gets up and hands the stapled papers to the teacher. The teacher puts those papers on a stack of papers that reads MIDTERM. Other students also start to return the papers. Ryan storms out of the classroom.

EXT. SAME CLASS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Nick comes out of classroom and as he is walking in the same direction as Ryan.

NICK  
(shouts)

Ryan!

Ryan does not respond and walks away.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - LATER

A pressure cooker WHISTLES. A lady turns off the stove. Ryan comes home. The lady is his mother. She is putting dinner on the dining table. It seems that her makeup has washed away in tears. His father is sitting on the couch watching T.V. with an upset face, who does not look at Ryan when he gets home. Seeing that, Ryan goes to his mother.

MOTHER  
How was your exam?

RYAN  
I tried my best.

His mother puts food on the dining table.

MOTHER  
(looks at his father)  
I have heard *that* before.

She goes in the kitchen. Ryan spots some open papers with a envelope below them. He steps up, picks them up and it reads TERMINATION DUE TO POSITION ELIMINATION on the heading. His mother brings some plates, Ryan steps back, and she puts them on the table. She starts to prepare the dining table while glancing at his father...

MOTHER  
You'll always be a failure if you remain content with "I tried my best".

In the background there is a noise of Foosball and its increasing.

MOTHER  
No one will want to stick around with a failure.

CUT TO:

INT.UNIVERSITY ROOM FOR FREE FOOSBALL

The ball is hit back and forth as Ryan and Jen are playing Foosball.

RYAN

I am sorry I was a bit hyper when you gave me those quiz questions the other day.

JEN

I shouldn't even have done it.

RYAN

You were only trying to help me.

JEN

I didn't realize that you would rather fail.

RYAN

Not everyone has guts to take such a risk.

JEN

I can be quite stupid at times.

The ball is hit back and forth. The ball enters the slot couple of times as they keep scoring.

RYAN

For the next quiz, I was thinking... only if it is not a big deal for you...

JEN

What?

RYAN

(reluctantly)

I kind of want to look at the questions for the next quiz.

Jen is surprised and her grip on the handle loosens. Ryan stokes the Foosball handle, the ball enters the slot, and Ryan looks up to find that Jen is surprised.

RYAN

It's just that I want to make sure that I have prepared as well as I could.

Jen nods reluctantly. Then she glances at her watch.

(CONTINUED)

JEN  
Alright I have a class.

Jen picks up her backpack.

RYAN  
Aren't we catching a movie?

JEN  
I forgot, she is going to start a new topic today. It's important.

RYAN  
Well ok. I guess I will call you tonight. We will go for dinner. How about that?

JEN  
I'll see you later.

Jen leaves. Ryan watches her leave.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Ryan is studying with his laptop and books opened up and papers on his table. He checks his email, and sees that Jen has sent him the scan of the quiz questions. He calls her through his cell phone, she doesn't pick up. The phone goes into answering service.

RYAN  
Hey Jen, thanks for the questions. I hope that your father has not suspected you. Alright, I will talk to you later. Bye.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. SAME CLASS ROOM - DAY

Ryan and Nick come out of the class. Ryan has a smile on his face. As they are walking...

RYAN  
Oh man...How was your quiz?

NICK  
It was...  
(smiles as he sees Ryan happy)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



NICK (cont'd)  
It was good.

RYAN  
Ya ya ya...It was, it was great.

NICK  
I am glad that you figured it out.

RYAN  
(nods)  
Oh yeah. I have.  
(beat)  
Got it figured.

NICK  
Now as long as you do good in the  
final you should be good.

RYAN  
Yep.  
(gestures of hitting baseball  
with a bat)  
I am gonna hit a home run.

Ryan and Nick laughs.

RYAN  
Oh I gotta call someone.  
(picks out a cell phone)  
I will see you in class.

Nick leaves. Ryan makes a call. The phone goes in answering  
machine.

RYAN  
Hey Jen. The quiz went awesome. We  
gotta meet. Call me as soon as you  
receive this message.

Ryan puts the phone in his pocket and walks away happily.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. SOME OTHER CLASS - DAY

Ryan is leaning on the wall. He sees Jen coming out of a her  
class. He walks towards her. Seeing him, she turns away and  
starts to walk hurriedly. Ryan stops as he is surprised.  
Then he catches up to her and while walking with her...

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

I have been trying to contact you.  
I called you so many times.

JEN

(Unapologetically)  
Well I have been busy.

RYAN

My quiz went really good, by the  
way.

JEN

If you don't mind, I have an  
appointment to keep.

RYAN

What happened? Did your father find  
out?

JEN

Don't you think you would have find  
out by now if he did?

Jen then hurriedly walks away. Ryan stops as he is surprised  
by her behavior.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. SOMEWHERE NEAR THE UNIVERSITY - DAY

Ryan is going home as he spots Jen with the same male  
student as previously. She is laughing at what he is saying.  
Ryan becomes furious. He hurriedly walks up to her. She does  
not look at him.

RYAN

(to Jen)

What's wrong?

JEN

(looking at the other student)

I am in the middle of a  
conversation.

RYAN

You have to tell me what's wrong.

(CONTINUED)

THE OTHER GUY  
(politely)  
I think you should leave.

RYAN  
(firmly)  
You go away. She is my girlfriend.

JEN  
(to the other guy)  
I will talk to you later.

The other guy leaves. Jen turns and starts to walk away.  
Ryan follows her.

JEN  
I did what I could for you.

RYAN  
Is that why you have been ignoring  
me?

Jen does not answer. Ryan holds her arm and makes her stop.

RYAN  
You don't understand, I would be  
foolish not to make use of the  
opportunity I have.

Jen takes her hand away from his hand.

JEN  
(sarcastically)  
Yes, you are very smart.

RYAN  
You are the one who offered it to  
me in first place.

JEN  
And you rejected it, what happened  
then?

RYAN  
I see.  
(beat)  
You know that I will be needing you  
for the final exam questions. And  
so that's why--

Jen rolls her eyes and starts to walk away. Ryan follows  
her.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

You showed me a way out of my problem and now you are putting me in even worse condition.

JEN

Do you think I stole without being under pressure?

RYAN

But there is nothing wrong in it. I already tried my best, and I will continue to study hard. This is more like a backup plan.

Jen stops, turns towards him and...

JEN

You think there is nothing wrong in it?

RYAN

If it is wrong, tell me why would fate have it that my girlfriend will be the daughter of the teacher, whose class I have trouble in?

Jen looks away.

RYAN

(pleadingly)

Final exam is worth 65%.

Jen looks at him in disgust, and then walks away.

RYAN

(coldly)

Alright then go. I don't need you.

Ryan doesn't follow her.

EXT. SAME CLASS ROOM - DAY

Ryan comes out of classroom. Nick comes from behind and catches up to Ryan. As they are walking...

NICK

Hey Ryan, what you up to?

(CONTINUED)

RYAN  
Nothing, I'm just going to the library.

NICK  
I was thinking if you can help me out with French today?

RYAN  
I have to prepare for this course.

NICK  
How about tomorrow then?

RYAN  
I really need to study hard for the final.

NICK  
(surprised)  
You did so well in the quiz. I thought you had a good grasp on the material.

RYAN  
I was lucky last time.  
(beat)  
And my luck is not with me anymore.

NICK  
If not tomorrow well then when?

RYAN  
I *told you* I don't have time.

NICK  
You said you will help me out! I was relying on you. Now if you don't help I will fail the course.

Ryan stops, turns towards him and...

RYAN  
Well then now you will see how it feels to suck at something.

Ryan walks away. Nick is taken aback by Ryan's behavior, so he does not follow.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Ryan is sitting on a table with books open and writing something on a paper. A hand with some papers comes in front of his face. He looks at the papers, then looks up to find that it is Jen.

JEN

Here it is.

Ryan smiles and takes them from her hand.

JEN

I could have emailed them to you,  
but I wanted to see your face when  
you take them.

Ryan's smile fades away.

RYAN

(firmly)

You don't understand what I--

Jen turns and walks away.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - LATER

Ryan gets home. He sees his father sitting at a table, filling in some papers.

RYAN

(casually)

Hey, what are you doing?

FATHER

Nothing just filling in tax papers.

Ryan thinks for a moment and...

RYAN

You know my teacher once showed me  
a way around taxing.

FATHER

(while looking at the papers)

Meaning how to cheat the  
government?

RYAN

A way to save a lot of money, I can  
show it you.

(CONTINUED)

FATHER  
(while looking at the papers)  
No Ryan that's ok.

RYAN  
It's a completely secure method.

FATHER  
(while looking at the papers)  
I don't care if it is.

RYAN  
(slightly upset)  
I am surprised...Who in this world  
wouldn't want to make some extra  
money?

Ryan waits for a moment for the reply, but his father does not reply and continues to work.

RYAN  
(Restless)  
Mom is always complaining. This  
will give you a chance to--

FATHER  
(while looking at the  
papers and annoyed)  
It's between me and her.

RYAN  
(calmly)  
Aren't you tired of having  
financial issues all the time?  
What's wrong in taking the  
opportunity you have?

His father doesn't reply and continues to work. So Ryan turns around furiously and starts to go to his room.

FATHER (V.O.)  
Ryan.

Ryan stops and turns around. His father stops working, takes off his glasses and looks at him.

FATHER  
Look...I know you are trying to  
help me, I appreciate it. You have  
been witnessing arguments between  
me and your mom, I know that's  
upsetting. But I also know that I  
wanna be able to face myself in the  
mirror.

(CONTINUED)

Ryan is stunned.

CUT TO:

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ryan takes out question papers given to him by Jen from his bag. He goes up to the garbage bin in his room. He brings the papers almost to the eye level, then slowly lowers them down, then again raises them back, thinks for a moment. He then turns and starts to walk away, when he sees his face in the mirror in this room. He looks at his face in the mirror for a moment. Then his eyes drop as he turns around and drops the papers into the garbage bin.

MR. PLUMMER (V.O.)

So Ryan.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE ROOM - DAY

Mr. Plummer takes his hand up from the phone placed on the receiver. Ryan turns his eyes towards Mr. Plummer.

MR. PLUMMER (O. S.)

Do we have an occasion where you displayed honesty?

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING

Jen is waiting in a car in the parking lot. Seeing Ryan she gets out. Ryan has a smile on his face as he walks towards her. She too smiles, runs towards him and hugs him.

FADE OUT.