

A Little Geeky Competition

By

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FADE IN:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is silent except for the noise of pens on paper. OLIVER, 17, stands out among the group, breezing through the test faster than anyone around him. He smirks as he drops his pencil to his desk.

He confidently adjusts his glasses before picking up his test and getting up from his seat.

students glance up from their desks in envy as Oliver walks up to the 55 year old MR. HARLEN'S DESK.

MR. HARLEN
Finished early as usual Oliver?

OLIVER
(hands test to Mr. Harlen)
The essay could have been a little more challenging, and number seven was a bit of a giveaway.

MR. HARLEN
I'll keep that in mind for the next one.

Before Oliver can turn around, SALLY, 17, quickly rushes up to hand her test to Mr. Harlen.

MR. HARLEN
Sally, I see you've finished early as well.

Sally glances over to Oliver.

SALLY
I personally found the entire test to be overly simple.

MR. HARLEN
Uh, okay, I'll remember that.

OLIVER
(to sally)
I'm surprised you finished so early.

SALLY
I finished a long time ago, I just like to make sure my work is perfect before I hand it in.

OLIVER

I find it pointless to double check, since I always get it right the first time.

SALLY

Judging by your score on last weeks science exam, I think you could use the extra time.

OLIVER

I got a ninety.

SALLY

two points short of perfect.

Several classmates shush the two.

MR. HARLEN

Could you two please take your seats.

Oliver and Sally give each other a challenging glance before walking back to their seats.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Oliver heads towards his locker, where he meets up with REYNOLD, 17. The two begin to switch their books.

REYNOLD

So how'd the big test go?

OLIVER

Aced it.

REYNOLD

As expected.

OLIVER

(irritated)

You know a ninety is an excellent grade.

REYNOLD

Let me guess, Sally.

OLIVER

It's just, she takes every chance she gets to annoy me. Just because she bumped up to number three in our grade, she thinks she has the

(MORE)

OLIVER (cont'd)
right to insult my intelligence on
a daily basis.

REYNOLD
Don't let it get to you, remember
who's number one.

OLIVER
I know Reynold...she just always
finds a way to get on my nerves.

REYNOLD
Hey as long as you stay number one
she has nothing to use against you.

OLIVER
Yeah, you're right, it's not like
she stands a chance against my test
scores.

REYNOLD
Exactly, you know what you need?
You need to turn off that big brain
of yours and take some time to
relax, have some fun.

OLIVER
I can't, I have a math test on
Friday and I can't expect to get
the Burdes scholarship by having
fun.

Oliver begins to walk off.

REYNOLD
It wouldn't kill you to act like a
teenager once in a while.

OLIVER
Why take the risk?

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Harlen stands in front of the class, ready to hand out
out yesterdays test.

Oliver looks over to Sally, who stares back.

MR. HARLEN
Before I pass these out I want to
congratulate Sally on scoring the
highest on the exam.

Sally smiles victoriously, Oliver is stunned.

Mr. Harlen passes Sally her test back with a score of one hundred.

OLIVER
Then what did I--

MR. HARLEN
You scored only two points below her.

Mr. Harlen hands Oliver his test.

MR. HARLEN
You got some points off for misspelling, probably should have double checked.

Oliver stares at his test in disbelief.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Oliver notices a group of students surrounding a sheet of paper taped to the wall. He makes his way into the group and to the front.

His eyes scan the paper down to Sally's name printed directly below his own.

OLIVER
Number two!?

SALLY(O.S)
You sound disappointed.

Oliver turns around to find Sally standing behind him, her arms crossed, wearing a prominent smirk.

OLIVER
More like surprised.

SALLY
Looks like you'll have to step it up if you want to stay number one.

OLIVER
I wouldn't get too excited about moving up.

Sally brings her face closer to Oliver's.

SALLY
There's a big algebra test next
week, and if you don't ace it, then
I'll be at the top.

OLIVER
That won't be an issue.

SALLY
Sure about that?

OLIVER
Positive.

The school bell rings.

SALLY
(smiles)
Better get to studying.

Sally walks off, leaving Oliver to his growing frustration.

INT. SCHOOL - LIBRARY

Oliver enters and drops a book and binder onto a table
before taking a seat.

He sighs as he opens his algebra book and flips through the
pages. He glances up at the sound of a moving chair to find
Sally taking a seat at the table across from his own.

She plants her supplies onto the table and smirks over at
Oliver. Annoyed, he ignores her glance and stares back down
into his book. He begins to rapidly flip through it's pages,
accidentally ripping one of them, he grumbles.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Oliver stops walking when he notices Sally staring at the
list on the wall. She continues staring deeply for another
moment before finally walking off.

Oliver notices SARAH, 17, and KAREN, 17, beside him watching
as well, he listens as they gossip.

SARAH
You know Karen, I heard from some
girls in history class that she
comes from a really poor family.

KAREN

Seriously Sarah? How sad.

SARAH

Apparently she promised her mom that she would make it to number one in the class. She wants to get some scholarship so she can be the first in her family to go to college.

KAREN

Wow, I hope she makes it.

The girls walk away, Oliver alone with his thoughts.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: testing day

Oliver passes by Sally, who has a cell phone to her ear. Oliver eavesdrops.

SALLY

(into phone)

You don't have to throw me a party,
I didn't even get the results yet.

Sally smiles.

SALLY

Okay mom, just don't go overboard,
you know we can't afford to spend
too much...I love you, bye.

Sally hangs up and continues walking.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Oliver enters and takes a seat in the noisy classroom. He looks over to Sally who has her eyes glued to her algebra book, taking last minute notes before the test.

Oliver gets up and walks over to Sally's desk, Sally stares up in confusion.

OLIVER

I just came over here to wish you
good luck on the test.

Sally is surprised.

SALLY

As do I.

OLIVER

May the best student win.

Sally smirks.

SALLY

She will.

MR. DENOLDS, 42, enters the room.

MR. DENOLDS

Okay class quiet down, testing will
begin in just a minute.

Oliver reclaims his seat as Mr. Denolds begins passing out
the tests.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Oliver stares down at his math test, marked an eighty five.
Reynold approaches behind him.

REYNOLD

So how was it?

Oliver shields his test.

OLIVER

It went well.

REYNOLD

Just well?

OLIVER

Yeah, you know, the usual.

Reynold grins as he puts a hand on Oliver's shoulder.

REYNOLD

Told you there was nothing to worry
about, Sally doesn't stand a chance
against a genius.

Oliver offers a fake smile in return. His expression quickly
changes when he spots Sally heading his way.

REYNOLD

Better leave you two alone.

Reynold quickly walks off as Sally approaches.

SALLY
(angry)
What did you do?

OLIVER
What are you talking about?

Sally grows closer, Oliver backs up into the lockers.

SALLY
I've known you for almost four
years and you never get below a
ninety.

OLIVER
I guess I just slipped up.

Sally snatches Oliver's test out of his hand and looks through it.

SALLY
Why do most of the questions have
the right answer scratched out!?

OLIVER
I...second guessed myself.

SALLY
You said you never look over your
answers twice, now tell me why you
blew this test on purpose!

(beat)

OLIVER
I heard about the promise you made
to your mom, and about your
financial situation. I just figured
you needed it more than I did.

SALLY
I don't need anyone's pity,
especially not yours.

(beat)

SALLY
But that's the stupidest, sweetest
thing any guys ever done for me.

OLIVER
Really?

SALLY
(face moves closer to
Oliver's)
I would love to smack you right
now.

Oliver winces in preparation.

SALLY
But I'd rather--

Sally kisses Oliver. She pulls away, Oliver is dumbfounded.

OLIVER
Did you just?

SALLY
Yeah.

OLIVER
And we just?

SALLY
I think so.

OLIVER
Okay then.

SALLY
Okay.

OLIVER
So, I'll see you next period...

Sally nods.

Both awkwardly walk in the exact same direction, before
finally changing sides and walking away.

FADE OUT.