

Reed

Written by  
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2nd Draft

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INT. POTTERY STUDIO - NIGHT

10 printed pages sit neatly on a pottery table. Michel Conner (32, Freeflowing artist) waves people to their stools.

MICHEL CONNER

Reading! Probably not what you expected in a pottery class my creative bunch.

Kevin Pierce(34, Creative and unsure.) Waits for everyone, then sits. He looks up nervous, then down to the page gripped with sweaty fingers.

MICHEL CONNER

But there is an art in reading as well, and soon we will be making art, right after we read these guidelines.

Janet Reagan (26, geeky hipster lesbian) on her phone, all smiles. Chuck Marlowe (39, Pair shaped, 7 o'clock shadow), drinking his Starbucks, sporting his own apron.

Gail Verity (67 retired teacher), rolls clay impatiently. Elenora Atkinson (65 Retired nurse) eyes the potential clay molds. And Abby Harlan (30, butch Academic) all listen and receive pages.

MICHEL CONNER

Feel free to read what? Two? Bullet points and pass it on. I'll start.

Michel looks around and smiles at the group.

MICHEL CONNER

Temporary Open Studio Procedure:  
Students working outside of their scheduled class time MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.

A panic attack takes over, eyes read, mouths moving, the world distorts, Kevin feels a rush of fear.

JANET REAGAN

GENERAL INFORMATION:  
All students are encouraged to review the Studio Safety Recommenda...

Janet mumbles something, shit its his turn.

KEVIN PIERCE

All... clay (cough) and (forced Cough)

Gail clears her throat. Kevin continues his King's speech impersonation.

KEVIN THOUGHTS (O.S.)  
Any clay and glazes not... Its right  
there in front of me.

The words on the page float away from him, unintelligible.

Kevin coughs into an uncontrollable fit.

GAIL VERITY  
Lockers are issued on a first come  
first served basis to...

A head moves eerily behind Kevin's right ear and whispers.

MYSTERY HEAD  
You know you can't keep doing this  
Kev.

KEVIN  
I know, I'll get it the next time.

CONSCIENCE  
Will you? You're 34 years old, its  
set sail, bon voyage.

KEVIN  
I can read just fine thanks.

CONSCIENCE  
You just faked a coughing fit! That  
worked in the 7th grade but this  
time, you actually want to be here,  
don't you?

KEVIN  
You're a pretty shitty conscience you  
know that? Shouldn't you at least  
look like me?

The Conscience now looks like Kevin.

CONSCIENCE  
Not bad (flexing), What's the problem  
here K-K-K-Kevy?

Kevin stares hurt. Switches back to his other form.

KEVIN PIERCE  
No p-problem.

Conscience slaps Kevin without warning.

CONSCIENCE  
Are you thinking about them now?

KEVIN PIERCE  
What? Who?

SLAP.

CONSCIENCE  
Dear old dad who thought you were  
lazy, or maybe mom who wanted to send  
you to special needs school.

KEVIN PIERCE  
You don't know that.

SLAP!

CONSCIENCE  
What about that bookworm sister who  
teased that stammer into you?

KEVIN PIERCE  
S-S-S-STOP IT!

Kev looks around, he just say that out loud?

CONSCIENCE  
Where's the fun in that?

Kevin is going to say something, as Janet finishes her line  
and nudges him, a few look up.

KEVIN PIERCE  
Oh sorry, where are we?

Janet points to her paper.

JANET REAGAN  
Right here.

KEVIN PIERCE  
Thanks

The conscience has disappeared. Kevin skims.

INT. POTTERY STUDIO (DARKNESS)

A spot light hits Kevin, the group watch from the darkness.

KEVIN PIERCE  
Sponge to klepp clay

CONSCIENCE  
Not the words.

KEVIN PIERCE  
Keep clay dust build-ooop to a

CONSCIENCE  
Wrong again.

KEVIN PIERCE  
Minimum. Mop your area before leaving  
the studio.

His neck hair tingles feeling the beady eyes in the darkness.

Panic strikes him as a tiny roach sized man, his conscience,  
runs down Kevin's paper laughing.

Tiny conscience jumps down and lies over the next word with a  
big grin.

Kevin panics, clears his throat to buy time, wipes across the  
page and the conscience disappears.

KEVIN PIERCE  
Sponge to keep clay dust build-up to  
a minimum.

He scans ahead. Eyes judge him from the darkness.

TEXT: Mop your area before leaving the studio.

The conscience pops out behind a 'leaving the studio' text on  
the page and jumbles it up. Leaving it to read.

TEXT: Mop your area before gvleani eht udstio.

Kevin clears his throat again. Sweating.

KEVIN PIERCE  
Mop your area before (pause)  
leaving(cough) the (drawn out pause)  
studio.

Sweating, he scans ahead for more trouble, fumbling and  
saying gazes instead of glazes.

TEXT: Avoid ingesting clay or glazes. Eating inside the  
studio is highly discouraged. Meals should be taken on the  
kiln patio or outside the studio.

KEVIN PIERCE  
 Avoid ingesting clay or gazes um er  
 glazes.

His pace quickens to finish before the conscience makes any more trouble.

KEVIN PIERCE  
 (quickly)  
 Eating inside the studio is highly discouraged. Meals should...

Without warning the conscience pops up and runs over the remainder of the sentence, changing all the words he touches to gibberish.

TEXT: be taken on the kiln patio or outside the studio.

To

TEXT: eb kenat no eth nlik oitpa ro sidtoue het udisto.

Kevin strikes and squishes the little conscience with his pencil. Knocking the words closer to their original order.

TEXT: be takne on the kinl patoi or outdise eht stuiod.

He leans on the pencil and concentrates.

KEVIN PIERCE  
 be taken on the kiln patio or outside  
 the studio.

He smiles with pride.

Gail laugh's. Everyone joins in. Kevin's face drops. The Conscience stands behind them smiling.

JANET REAGAN  
 Moron, who at 34 can't read outloud?

MICHEL CONNER  
 I'll never be able to teach this guy,  
 what a loser.

CHUCK MARLOWE  
 Are you illiterate?

GAIL VERITY  
 What an idiot. Hurry up, I want to  
 start this class eventually.

ELENORA ATKINSON

Oh my god, my 5th graders could read better than this.

ABBY HARLAN

This is just sad.

The intensity builds, Kevin reaches his breaking point.

Suddenly it's quiet.

INT. POTTERY STUDIO

One person reading the page, the rest respectfully listening and following along. The darkness is gone.

CONSCIENCE (O.S.)

(Ominous/Sarcastic  
tone)

Hope you don't have to do that again.

Kevin does a quick count, 3 people, six bullet points then a big paragraph.

CONSCIENCE (O.S.)

(Ominous/Sarcastic  
tone)

Wouldn't want that big paragraph to be yours, that would be awful.

Kevin deflates, aware that his time to read is coming up.

CONSCIENCE (O.S.)

(Ominous/Sarcastic  
tone)

Just give up, why do you want this class so bad anyway? Just take a deep breath and walk away.

KEVIN

You almost had me convinced, I need this class to relax and breathe.

On a shelf, mini conscience is speaking through a bull horn.

CONSCIENCE

(Ominous/Sarcastic  
tone)

Wait, what? That's not what I meant. Here... Let me *help* you.

Kevin sticks his chest out.

Conscience waves down at Kevin's page. The letters on the page scatter into a word jumble.

Kevin takes in a deep breath and closes his eyes. Breathing out, the words go back to normal.

Mini conscience jumps down on the table in front of Kevin.

CONSCIENCE

Dyslexia! Bibliophobia! Glossophobia!  
Ever heard of THEM? You can't just  
BREATHE and make them disappear.

KEVIN

I am responsible for this moment.

Kevin breathes in deeply.

The vacuum of breath threatens to pull mini conscience along the table, he grabs a coffee mug handle.

CONSCIENCE

WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN!?

Kevin continues to breathe in, its like a vortex from his nose. His face is that of a monk, calm, serene, all knowing.

The gail lifts mini conscience's feet off the ground.

CONSCIENCE

(yelling against the wind)  
YOU CANT READ YOU DUMMY!

Mini conscience fingers give way, he fly's through the air into Kevin's nose. Only legs are seen stuck out a nostril.

CONSCIENCE

(Muffled)  
I'LL BE BACK!

With a snort, the legs are sucked up too.

JANET REAGAN

...priority in the first glaze firing  
of the next session.

The room feels warm, calm, relaxed. He reads without issue.

KEVIN PIERCE

If you are unsure of how to use a  
piece of equipment or how to do a  
particular process, always ask an  
instructor or the ceramics resident.



It is strongly recommended that open studio members have taken a minimum of four classes in the Arts Center's Ceramics Studio and consistently demonstrate excellent studio practices and etiquette.

MICHEL CONNER

Great, that's it, lets get started.

THE END