

EXTRA CREDIT

Written by

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INT. DUNHAM HALL STUDIO - DAY

TANNER, a student, sits at his desk along with the other students of MC443. They listen as the PROFESSOR lectures.

PROFESSOR

Okay, reminders: we have a couple shoots going on this weekend, so make sure you have all your cast and crew together. Producers, if you're still looking for people, go ahead and ask now.

The class looks around at each other. ALLEN raises his hand.

ALLEN

I was actually looking for another actor for my shoot on Saturday if anyone is free.

Tanner perks his head up, interested.

TANNER

Is it a lot of dialogue or anything? I'm free this weekend and can do a smaller role if that's what you're looking for.

ALLEN

Yeah, that would be great. It's a horror short, so all you really have to do is say a couple lines before you get killed.

TANNER

Yeah I can definitely do that. It's easy enough and I'm totally cool committing to the bit and getting injured if I need to.

ALLEN

Yeah, I don't think that'll be totally necessary.

TANNER

I'm serious, I could get like horribly maimed and it'd be cool with me. Maybe I could get extra credit or something.

Tanner looks up at the professor.

TANNER (CONT'D)

What do you think?

The professor looks back at him, unsure of the question.

PROFESSOR

What?

TANNER

If I get harmed on set can I get extra credit?

PROFESSOR

No.

(beat)

But if you somehow managed to die on set I'd give you like 50 points of extra credit.

The class laughs.

TANNER

That sounds reasonable to me. I can just leave it to my estate.

PROFESSOR

Yeah sure, that sounds fine.

TANNER

It's a deal.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Allen sits at his desk finalizing the paperwork for his shoot as his phone rings. Tanner is calling. Allen picks up the phone.

ALLEN

Hey Tanner, what's up?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tanner sits on his couch while on the phone. His television plays in the background as he talks over it.

TANNER

Not much. I guess I just had some questions about the shoot on Saturday.

ALLEN

Yeah, go ahead. Whatcha got?

TANNER

Well, actually it's about that extra credit thing I talked about earlier today.

ALLEN

What about it?

TANNER

I need your help. I want to do it during your shoot.

ALLEN

Do what? What are you talking about?

TANNER

I want those extra credit points man. So I'm gonna use your shoot to die. To fake my death. And then I'll just show up to class the next day and say I'm one of my siblings.

ALLEN

That's the dumbest idea I have ever heard Tanner.

TANNER

Come on. Just do this for me. Help me lie about this. I need those points.

ALLEN

Tanner, if you think there is any way in hell I'm going to help you fake your own death...

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - AFTERNOON

A large framed picture of Tanner sits front and center inside the chapel of a funeral home. Somber music fills the room as family and classmates sit in black formalwear. Tanner, in disguise, makes his way to the podium at the front of the room.

TYLER (FORMALLY TANNER)  
(clears throat)  
You all may not know me, but I am  
Tanner's brother... Tyler. He  
didn't talk about me much, but we  
were...  
(deep breath)  
very close. We'd sometimes even get  
mistaken for one another.

Tanner continues talking as the reactions of his family and classmates are shown. Most with their heads pointed to the floor. Some have tissues. However, KATE looks up in disbelief. She sees through Tanner's disguise and leans toward CARRIE, sitting beside her.

KATE  
(whisper)  
Is it just me, or does he look a  
lot like Tanner?

CARRIE  
(whisper)  
I mean, they're brothers, so of  
course they look alike.

KATE  
Yeah, but like... that's clearly  
Tanner in a wig and glasses, right?

CARRIE  
Dude, Tanner is dead. Show some  
respect. Stop acting weird, just  
grieve with the rest of us.

Kate looks back to the front of the room as the eulogy continues.

TYLER  
Tanner was a great man. And if I'm  
being honest... he was my best  
friend, we were inseparable. I just  
miss him so much.

Tanner pauses for a moment. He takes a deep breath and looks toward the ceiling, really putting on a show.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Before his tragic death, Tanner and  
I would talk everyday. Sometimes  
about even the most mundane things.  
In fact, the day before he died, he  
mentioned an opportunity that was  
offered by one of his professors.

KATE  
(whisper)  
Oh my god.

TYLER  
His favorite professor, Cory Byers,  
offered 50 points of extra credit  
to his estate in the event of his  
death while filming a project for  
class. And I am very proud to  
announce that those points will not  
be going to waste. I am enrolling  
in this course to follow in my dead  
brother's footsteps, and hopefully  
(pause)  
make him proud.

The crowd applauds lightly. Everyone in the room believes him.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
Thank you. Thank you all so much. I  
can only hope to make Tanner proud  
as I go forth on this journey.

He looks up to the sky and points.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
I love you, brother!

INT. DUNHAM HALL STUDIO - THE NEXT DAY

TYLER (formerly TANNER) enters the studio upbeat and excited. He sits in the same desk as he had as Tanner. His classmates make their way to their desks, all quiet, mourning Tanner's death.

PROFESSOR  
Okay, I hope your shoots went well  
over the weekend. Other than...

There is a beat. The class is sad.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)  
Anyway! We have a new student  
joining class. Introduce yourself,  
Tyler.

Tyler hesitantly walks to the front of the room. The class looks at him with pity. Allen has his head down, avoiding the situation. Kate stares right through Tyler and looks around, disappointed at the class.

TYLER

So, uh, my name is Tyler. I am Tanner's younger brother. I originally didn't really plan on going to school. But, after Tanner's death, I really wanted to make him proud and take advantage of the opportunity he made for me.

Tyler looks over to the professor, standing to his left.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I'm still getting those points from his death, right?

PROFESSOR

Of course. They're all yours.

TYLER

Cool. Anyway, I'm sure this is a little weird for you all. If anyone has any questions or just wants to talk about Tanner, I'm here. We were very close.

Tyler pauses and looks across the class. He starts to walk back to his desk before Kate raises her hand.

KATE

I have a question, actually.

TYLER

Oh... okay. I was kind of just saying that so I could sit back down. But go ahead.

KATE

(addressing the whole class)  
Does anyone in this room actually believe this? Look at him! It's clearly Tanner in a wig. Tell me I'm not crazy.

The class sits silently, looking back and forth between Kate and Tyler.

TYLER

What are you talking about? My name is Tyler. You were at my brother's funeral. He's gone. I miss him s-

KATE

What about your desk Tyler? How did you sit in the same seat Tanner sat in?

TYLER

Oh, well, it was the only open one when I got here.

The camera whips to reveal the desk Tyler was sitting in surrounded by five empty desks. The camera whips back to Tyler.

KATE

What about your backpack? It has Tanner's name on his for Christ's sake.

The camera whips to Tyler's desk again, zooming in on an embroidered patch attached to the bag, reading "Property of Tanner Garrison."

TYLER

I told you guys I wasn't planning on going to school. I didn't have a backpack so I'm using Tanner's.

Kate rolls her eyes and puts her head in her hands.

KATE

Forget it! Whatever.

Tyler looks around the room at the rest of the class.

TYLER (O.S.)

I just miss him so much. He was such a great man. Don't you guys miss him...

Everyone has figured out who Tyler really is. They sit silent and stare.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Um. Okay. Uh, I'll give it back to you then.

Tyler waves his hand back at the professor as he walks to his desk.

EXT. DUNHAM HALL - AFTERNOON

Tyler and Allen talk side by side outside of Dunham as they exit the building.



TYLER  
Do you think they bought it?

ALLEN  
No way in hell.

TYLER  
You sure? I thought I was pretty convincing.

The walk stops. Allen turns to Tyler, and looks him in the eyes.

ALLEN  
Dude, the jig is up. No one in there believes you. You can hang up the wig and glasses now.

Tyler looks back at Allen, thinking to himself.

CUT TO:

SUPER:

FOUR WEEKS LATER

INT. DUNHAM HALL STUDIO - DAY

Tanner is climbing on a ladder in the studio, still in his Tyler disguise. He is helping set up for a shoot. He addresses Allen and the rest of the crew as he climbs.

TYLER  
Hey, thanks again for letting me work on this shoot with you guys. I know I'm the new guy in class, so I really appreciate it.

The whole crew looks at each other, unimpressed and bored with the Tyler persona. They've been waiting for him to drop it for weeks.

ALLEN  
Yeah... Tyler. It's really no problem. Also, we're ready to shoot so you can come down whenever you're ready and we'll get started.

TYLER  
Nice! On my way down now!

Tyler makes his way down the ladder, walking backwards. Suddenly, he misplaces his foot and falls from the ladder.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Tanner's body lays still in an open casket. A portrait of Tanner, this time in his Tyler disguise, sits at the front of the chapel of a funeral home.

His classmates and family are gathered again, this time for his real death. Allen speaks at the podium at the front of the room.

ALLEN

Well, I can't believe we're doing this again. But here we are. Tanner was a good person to always meant well. And he would be so happy to see all of you here. So thank you all.

The crowd shuffles outside of the room. Allen moves from the podium and stands over Tanner's casket. He looks down as Tanner opens his eyes suddenly and looks up at Allen.

TANNER

Are they gone?

ALLEN

Yes, everyone is gone.

Tanner sits up inside the coffin and cracks his neck.

TANNER

Finally, I thought it would never end.

ALLEN

Well, it was *your* funeral  
(beat)  
So, what's next?

There is a pause. Tanner looks around, reflecting. He didn't think he would get this far. He looks at Allen.

TANNER

I honestly don't know.

CUT TO BLACK.

