

ADMISSION

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INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

A grand auditorium standing-room-only with men and woman in formal business attire. RAY (55) white Caucasian, wearing an expensive suite, approaches the podium microphone addressing his peers.

RAY

Harvard has a long running tradition in my family. My grand father Raymond Shilinger was a Harvard Admissions Advisor. In fact, he granted an interview to one student in particular when no one else would. The student had low test scores in high school and did not meet many of our stringent academic standards.. Now, I know what you are thinking. I asked my grandfather the same question. Was his parents very wealthy? At the time, the student's father was the Mayor of Boston. My grandfather smiled at me and said; Son, I see you are beginning to realize how the world works.

A few members of the audience CHUCKLE.

INT. RAY'S OFFICE - DAY

Ray sits dressed in a suite at a large oak desk. A massive window behind him displays a prestigious garden view.

He glances at a student transcript.

A Young White Girl, (19), 60 pounds overweight, sits across the desk slumped down in the large chair, nervously bouncing her legs.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

Ray's shakes his hands nervously holding the page over the podium.

RAY

My grandfather told me he intended on declining the student's application. However, upon meeting him, he too, was taken by his witty charm and character. He granted him admission and told him he believed he would go on to be a great leader some day. Today we

(MORE)

RAY (CONT'D)

know the student as John F. Kennedy. Though, I should note, grandfather was mocked by many of his colleagues for accepting him, particularly when John started an unofficial school entertainment magazine called The School Smoker. As you can imagine, the magazine was widely popular among the student body.

Not paying attention, audience members play games on their cell phones.

INT. PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE - DAY

The towering Ray stands and shakes the Young White Girl's hand graciously.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

Ray reads from a piece of paper.

RAY (CONT'D)

He constantly reminded me there are no free rides into Harvard. Just as there are no free rides during or after. Grandfather did not allow me to play sports or go out on dates while in high school. Sacrifice, he said is the ticket to getting into Harvard.

Two standing members of the audience mock and snicker discretely.

INT. PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE - DAY

Ray stares at the obese Young White Girl's fur coat while she walks away.

He notices small sales tag still attached on the bottom of the coat.

He places the application on his desk in a folder, tab reads: DECLINED.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

RAY (CONT'D)

I appreciate your great service and I thank you for keeping our traditions and mission in mind with each decision you make this quarter. It is these tough choices that we must make to ensure our good name and reputation will carry on for generations to come. I ask each one of you..

Ray looks up from the podium. He catches two men(40s) in the front row texting. They hide their phones embarrassed.

RAY (CONT'D)

I ask each one of you to follow your heart. Thank you.

TOM (50's), bald, chubby, African American, stands to Ray's left, staring awkwardly at the confused audience. He approaches Ray and shakes his hand.

TOM

(into the  
microphone)

Thank you Raymond.

A mild courtesy CLAP from a few members of the audience.

TOM (CONT'D)

We will be mailing out your interview packets in two weeks. Please make sure we have your contact information up to date...

INT. PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE - DAY

CLASSICAL MUSIC plays in the background.

Ray leans back in his chair looking at an application with a photo attached.

His hand moves over the page moving to the rhythm of the music.

MARC SOUNDER, (18) Latino, dark skin, sits across from him.

Marc appears to be much lighter skinned in the photo almost Caucasian white.

RAY  
Marc, I noticed something awkward  
about this photo of you.

MARC SOUNDER  
It's my senior picture.

Ray slides the picture across the desk to Marc.

RAY  
Do you see what I mean?

Marc shakes his head no.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Was this photo altered in anyway?

MARC SOUNDER  
No.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Do you think I would be sitting in  
this chair if I wasn't just a  
little detail oriented?

Marc lowers his head.

RAY (CONT'D)  
You think that having straight A's  
and white skin is what I care  
about?

MARC SOUNDER  
No.

RAY  
The reason I granted you an  
interview was because of this  
letter. It's some of the best  
writing I have ever seen from a  
freshman.

Ray holds up a ten page document.

RAY (CONT'D)  
You wrote this letter without help  
from anyone I presume?

MARC SOUNDER  
Of course.

Ray slides the letter to him across the desk.

MARC SOUNDER (CONT'D)  
I wanted to go here all my life. I  
have worked hard, got straight A's.

RAY  
Straight A's from a public school.

MARC SOUNDER  
I took all advanced courses.

RAY  
Why do you want to go to Harvard?

RAY (CONT'D)  
I want to go into investment  
banking, I heard they make really  
good money.

RAY (CONT'D)  
You want to go to Harvard for the  
money?

MARC SOUNDER  
Yes.

RAY  
We are an institution that creates  
ethical leaders in society. Ethics  
are particularly essential to  
investment banking, more so now  
than ever.

Marc shrugs his shoulders.

RAY (CONT'D)  
I want to thank you for your  
application Marc. We will send you  
our decision by mail in 14  
business days. Do you have  
anything else you would like to  
add?

Marc trembles as Ray stands over him smiling.

Ray gives him a powerful handshake displaying his Harvard  
ring.

INT. PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE - DAY

Ray sits at his desk reading his paper and drinking coffee.

TOM rounds the corner into his office.

Ray stands at his desk in attention.

RAY  
Tom, how are you?

TOM  
Good Ray.

RAY  
To what do I owe..

TOM  
Please, sit.

The two men sit.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Ray, I looked over the numbers of  
your diversity acceptance report.

RAY  
If you look at my students you  
will find ten percent are students  
of diverse backgrounds.

TOM (CONT'D)  
I haven't ask my question yet.

An awkward moment of silence. Ray leans back in his chair.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Yes Ray, I have seen the  
applications. I also saw that you  
asked each one of them to attach a  
photo of themselves.

RAY  
Yes, it helps me remember their  
interviews.

TOM  
Legal department has advised us  
through email not to ask for  
photos.. I also noticed everyone  
of them looks.. Similar. The ones  
that you accepted. They may  
technically be of multicultural  
background but they all look..

Tom holds up a few photos all students appear good looking  
and have light/fair skin color.

RAY  
The same? I have been following  
our diversity standards and  
practices policy to a tee. I guess  
I don't see your issue.

TOM

I just wanted to bring this to your attention, that's all. Now, I hate to spread rumors but I must also bring this to your attention.. The rumor is that you have not admitted anyone who is overweight.

RAY

I can assure you that looks are not something I base my decisions on.

TOM

I saw you declined Marc Sounder.

RAY

Yes, I did.

TOM

You read the note I attached to his file?

RAY

I saw the note.

Ray pulls a sticky note off his desk.

TOM

Then you understand why I put a note on his file.

RAY

I've heard of his family yes, of course... Tom, the kid is not a leader, he is a follower at best. He belongs at a different school.

TOM

Ray, I placed a sticky note on his file because I think he would make a fine addition to our freshman class.

RAY

His interview was very poor.

TOM

Ray, we have been doing this too long and I'm giving you suggestions as a friend. We can bring him on for a probationary time period and see how he performs.

Ray holds up his newspaper and throws it in the trash.

RAY

What do you think I'm doing here?  
There is a good reason for  
everything I do. Read the paper,  
look at all the scandals going on.  
These are supposed to be people we  
trust. Our country needs good  
leaders Tom and it starts here.  
With us.. Once they get out there,  
there is no stopping them.

TOM (CONT'D)

Do you have any new information to  
add?

RAY

No.

TOM

Ok. I appreciate your cooperation  
on this.

Tom stands, shakes his hand powerfully and exits.

Ray picks up the file and looks at the obviously doctored  
picture of Marc Sounders.

Ray places it in the folder Labeled: DECLINED.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Outside Rays tall office door.

Ray carries a leather bag, turns out the lights and shuts  
the door to his office.

The door slowly creeps open.

Ray bumps the door with his foot. A metal name plate drops  
off the door. He tries to place it back up but fails and  
places it in his briefcase.

RAY

God damn this place!

He picks up his name plate and carefully places it back on  
the door reads: Raymond Shilinger Assistant Director of  
Admissions.

He carries a briefcase and hobbles on a cane down the  
hallway.

An older woman TRISH closes the door to his office and locks  
it.

TRISH  
See ya Ray, have a good night.

RAY  
Night.

He trudges down the empty hallway and turns the corner.

He SMACKS heads with GARY, (late 20's), white, short with grass stained jeans and a t-shirt. Tattoos on his forearms.

Ray's papers spill on the ground as he falls scrambling.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Christ.

They hold their heads in pain.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Where is the fire!

GARY  
Sorry.

RAY  
You're a grounds keeper?

GARY  
No.

Ray stands with his cane and approaches Gary.

Ray glares down at his tattoo.

RAY  
Why you in here?

GARY  
I'm applying in the spring.

RAY  
We stop doing tours at four.

GARY  
I work during the day, everyday,  
mowing lawns.

RAY  
Well, then you wouldn't make it to  
class either, see it all works  
out.

GARY

You think I'm a nobody don't you.  
What's your name?

RAY

My name? Raymond Prim, assistant  
director of admissions what is  
your name?

Ray pulls out a scratch piece of paper and pen.

GARY

Gary Slayer.

Ray looks up from his note.

RAY

Your the governors kid, Governor  
Slayer?

GARY

Aren't you gonna write it down?  
It's Slayer with an "E,R."

RAY

Everyone here knows somebody  
famous. Hell, my great uncle was a  
famous astronaut.

GARY

Is this how you treat all your  
potential students?

RAY

Oh, no. I don't see any potential  
students here.

Ray stares him down.

Ray gathers his papers and walks down the hall.

GARY

Ray Prim, right?

RAY

You remembered. Want me to spell  
it for you?

GARY

Yeah, would you.

RAY

It's on a name plate at the front  
of the Admissions door. Help  
yourself.

Ray looks over his shoulder and watches Gary walk down the  
hallway talking to himself.

Gary thrusts the doors open with force.

RAY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

Ray furiously throws a file of papers against the wall.

The tornado of papers falls around him.

INT. RAY'S OFFICE -MORNING

Ray walks into his office looking over his clean desk.  
Something is wrong by the look of his face.

RAY

Trish!

Ray reopens the door.

RAY (CONT'D)

Trish! Where is my morning paper  
and coffee?

Trish (50s) sits at a desk surfing the internet for clothes.

TRISH

Sorry Ray, I forgot.

Ray tosses his coat on his office chair.

A sticky note attached to his computer screen READS:

"I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ASAP -Tom"

Looking through the cracked door he sees Trish surfing the  
internet.

RAY

Trish! Are you getting my paper  
and coffee?

Trish opens the door placing her long jacket on.

TRISH

I'm not feeling too well right now Ray. I think I'm coming down with a head cold. I think I better go home and lay down.

Ray leans back in his chair.

RAY

Ok, but before you go, would you please get my paper and my coffee?

TRISH

I'm sorry Ray.

She pulls her purse from her chair and exits.

Ray crumples the sticky note off the computer screen and throws it at the door.

INT. RAY'S OFFICE -NOON

Ray sits at his desk reading the paper and drinking coffee.

A KNOCK at the DOOR.

RAY

Yes, come in.

SILENCE

Ray stands and approaches the door, he opens it.

A young POTENTIAL STUDENT, white (19) stands at the door nervous.

RAY (CONT'D)

Yes come in please.

The student shakes his hand and follows him in the office.

Tom walks into his office interrupting.

TOM

Raymond.

RAY

Yes, Tom. Can it wait I'm starting an interview.

TOM

No, Ray. I'm afraid it can't wait.

RAY  
 (to the  
 student)  
 Would you mind waiting for a bit  
 in the lobby?

POTENTIAL STUDENT  
 Yes, of course sir.

The Potential Student shakes both of their hands as they stare each other down. The student picks up a sticky note on the ground.

POTENTIAL STUDENT (CONT'D)  
 Somebody dropped this.

The student walks it to Ray but Tom interjects.

TOM  
 I'll take it.

The student hands over the note, Tom unfolds it.

TOM (CONT'D)  
 I see you found my note. Please  
 sit.

Both men sit.

TOM (CONT'D)  
 Ray, I spoke with President Jordan  
 this morning and he has told me to  
 give you your two week notice.

RAY  
 So you guys are siding with the  
 Governor?

TOM  
 Governor? This has nothing to do  
 with the Governor.

RAY  
 You mean to tell me Governor  
 Slayer did not call the school  
 this morning?

TOM  
 No, Ray, not to my knowledge. It's  
 a lot of reasons, reasons you  
 fought me on time and time again.  
 You got to pick and choose your  
 battles. This Marc Sounder  
 incident was the straw that broke  
 the camels back. I tried sticking  
 (MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)  
up for you, hell your father was  
my friend over ten years.

RAY  
Don't talk about my father.

TOM  
For what it's worth Ray, I did get  
him to keep you on even though you  
are not tenure. If you stay on for  
twenty six more months you get  
full retirement with your pension.

RAY  
Stay on. Where?

TOM  
There is a Supervisor One position  
opening in the new wing of the  
library this fall.

RAY  
The basement of the library Tom.  
Because I didn't kiss the  
Governors tattooed little brat's  
ass long enough.. No sir, I am  
fighting this. I am a major asset  
to this school.

EXT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

LOUD BREEZY WIND

Leaves fall from the trees in front of the Harvard  
University Library.

INSERT: 4 Months Later

INT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - DAY

A small crowd of photographers, news stations and Harvard  
students huddle in front of a ribbon cutting ceremony. MAYOR  
SLAYER, white, (45) well dressed for the occasion cuts the  
ribbon over an interior doorway with scissors.

A few library employees clap mildly.

The crowd of people walk past the ribbon down the stairs  
into a large University basement full of new computers and  
books.

Gary Slayer, dressed in a suit and tie walks along side his  
father followed by local photographers. They walk around  
admiring the new edition to the library.

INT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - EVENING

A hand flipping pages through a book.

A scanner BEEPS.

Inside the QUIET University Library, Ray stands behind the checkout counter wearing a name tag.

A group of ten students wear head phones and wait in his slow line to check out books.

Ray scans a book, searches around on the mouse.

RAY  
(too loud)  
Where is the refresh button!

STUDENT EMPLOYEE  
(OS)  
Shhh! I'm right here.

A female Student Employee wearing headphones leans over him and points on the screen.

Ray clicks the mouse.

RAY  
Thanks.

Ray looks up from the computer seeing: Marc Sounder at the front of the line holding a stack of books.

The two look at each other, as if strangers.

Marc slides his books across the counter to Ray.

Ray awkwardly scans the books BEEP.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Due back March 18th.

Ray slides the books across the table.

Marc Sounder holds a small stack of fliers and slides one across the table.

Ray lifts up the flier:

VOTE MARC SOUNDER STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Ray folds the paper in half.

He watches Marc hand a flier to a group of students in line and enthusiastically shake their hands.

Ray scans books and looks out of the corner of his eye.

He watches Governor Slayer waiting for an interview with a local news anchor across the room. Gary stands next to his father and looks up noticing Ray.

Gary taunts Ray with a satisfied grin and a wink. He pokes his fathers shoulder and motions to Ray. The Governor takes notice and looks up at Ray.

Ray looks away pretending not to notice. He scans a young girls book.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Thank you. Next, please.

Ray lays Marc's flier across the counter removing the wrinkles.

He pulls out tape from the drawer.

He hangs the large flier up on the wall behind him. The same photo of Marc Sounders only with dark natural skin.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Can I help the next person?

A student places books on the counter.

Ray begins scanning, BEEP.

RAY (CONT'D)  
Did you remember to vote today?

STUDENT  
No. It's pretty much a waste of time.

FADE OUT: