

The Tutor
Revision 1
By
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Revision 1

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - DAY

A colonial white house in a nice suburban neighborhood. A green lawn, and gardens in the front, surrounded by trees in the back.

PEGGY (O.S.)

The check for this week is on the counter. Thanks, Cecilia. Danny should be down in a minute.

*
*

INT. DANNY'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

PEGGY, a 40-something mom, average looking brunette, in nurse's scrubs, wipes down the counter.

*
*

MS. CECILIA, a 30-something, very pretty woman, stands next to a table in a well-decorated, suburban kitchen filled with natural light.

PEGGY

I'm headed to work, just let yourself out when you guys are done.

*

Peggy grabs her car keys and exits.

*

Ms. Cecilia is staring at a homemade card made from computer paper and Crayola Crayons, with a Reeses Cups haphazardly taped to it.

Drawn on the cover of card are hearts and two stick figures with arrows pointing to "Ms. Cecilia" and "Danny" respectively. Ms. Cecilia's face drops.

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*
*

INT. DANNY'S ROOM

DANNY, a cute fourth grade brunette boy with a round face, but small stature, looks in the mirror to clip and adjust his fake bowtie to his over-sized white collared shirt.

He sprays cologne over his shirt onto his stomach, then into his mouth. He coughs and spits. He regains composure and winks and points with both hands towards his reflection.

INT. DANNY'S KITCHEN

The homemade card reads, "Dear Ms. Cecilia, thank you so much for being my math tutor. You help me so much. <33333 Your Most Favorite Student EVER, Danny"

Danny comes bounding down the stairs and slides on his socks into the kitchen.

DANNY
Hi, Ms. Cecilia!!!

MS. CECILIA
Hi Danny!

DANNY
And how are you doing today, Ms. Cecilia?

Danny sits at the table with Ms. Cecilia and scooches his chair close to hers. She readjusts and moves away. *
*

MS. CECILIA
I'm well Danny, how are you?

DANNY
I'm good too.

MS. CECILIA
I see you're in a tie today?

DANNY
Oh, this old thing? Did you get my card, Ms. Cecilia?

MS. CECILIA
I did, Danny, thank you. I thought it was very nice of you.

DANNY
Did you *smell* my card, Ms. Cecilia?

MS. CECILIA
No...I haven't smelled it, yet.

DANNY
Smell it!

Ms. Cecilia smells the card.

MS. CECILIA
Mmmm...smells like...cleaning product?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

I know you like things clean at your desk at school. So I figured it was your favorite smell. That's why I sprayed it with Lysol.

MS. CECILIA

Well, thank you again, Danny. For the smelly card *and* the candy. It was all very thoughtful. I appreciate the gesture.

DANNY

You're very welcome. I bet your other students don't write you notes and give you presents, *do they*, Ms. Cecilia?

Danny glances at her chest. *

MS. CECILIA

No, they don't, Danny. It's very nice of you. Shall we do some math now?

Ms. Cecilia buttons her neck on her collared shirt.

DANNY

I guess so.

MS. CECILIA

Ok, turn to page 35 in your book.

DANNY

I did ALL my homework this weekend just for you, Ms. Cecilia.

MS. CECILIA

That's wonderful, thank you. Now look at question number seven.

INT. MS. CECILIA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Danny sits in the front row of Ms. Cecilia's math class looking so attentive and lovestruck that he could be watching his favorite cartoon. 20 other students seem barely interested.

MS. CECILIA

So, what is the equation of a straight line?

Danny's hand shoots in the air.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

$y=mx+b!!!!$

MS. CECILIA

That's right, Danny. Very good. But please wait until I call on you next time to answer.

EMILY, a pretty baby-faced, doe-eyed towhead girl raises her hand.

MS. CECILIA

Emily?

EMILY

But I think it's okay that Danny called out because I don't think a lot of people knew the answer to that question, anyway.

STUDENT 1

Um, I did!

STUDENT 2

So did I!

STUDENT 3

Yeah, I was going to answer until Danny shouted it out!

STUDENT 4

Me too!

EMILY

Umm...I still think it's great that Danny said what was on his mind, though!

MS. CECILIA

Ok, Emily. Let's all raise our hands from now on, though, just to be fair.

Ms. Cecilia continues with her lesson. Danny turns, giving a dirty look to Emily who in turn gives him a wide smile and two thumbs up. Danny turns angrily back to the front.

INT. CHILI'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The restaurant is buzzing on a Friday night. Danny sits and eats in a wooden booth with his mom, and his dad ROBERT, a handsome, but tired-looking middle-aged man in a loosened collared shirt and tie.

ROBERT

So, Frank says to me "I filed that account a week ago," and then I took the account file out from my own desk. I gave him one more chance not to lie to me. And he lied. We had to let him go.

PEGGY

Well, it sounds like he was a liability, anyway.

ROBERT

Oh, he was. No if's, and's, or but's about it.

PEGGY

It's for the best.

ROBERT

It certainly is.

(re: Danny)

Hey, bud, why aren't you eating? Your food is getting cold.

Danny is fixated at something across the room. He sees Ms. Cecilia sitting alone at a table.

DANNY

I have to go to the bathroom.

Danny gets up and sprints to the bathroom.

INT. CHILI'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny stands in front of the sink to look in the mirror, but he is too short to be able to see anything besides his eyebrows and the top of his head.

He climbs up on the sink and stares at himself. He begins flexing his "muscles" in the mirror.

DANNY

Grrrrr!

(CONTINUED)

Next, unsatisfied with his hair, he turns on the faucet and sticks his head in the sink. Water drips all over his face and shirt.

A toilet flushes and a well dressed, handsome MAN with a southern accent comes out of the stall. He washes his hands in the sink next to Danny.

MAN

Big date tonight?

DANNY

Maybe.

The man chuckles and turns away to dry his hands. Danny returns to the mirror to look at his teeth. The man notices Danny again. *

MAN *

Ok, let me give you tip: girls will like you if you're nice to them. It's as simple as that. *

Danny says nothing. *

And also, they do like it if you play with their hair. *

DANNY *

Ok...thanks. *

MAN *

Sure thing, buddy! Good luck! *

The man exits.

Danny finishes spiking his hair up. Then checks his nose for boogers, and hops down from the sink. He exits the bathroom.

INT. CHILIS RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Danny lurks behind a plant near where Ms. Cecilia was sitting. But her table is empty, she is gone. Despondent, Danny sulks back to his parents' booth.

Standing at the booth, talking his parents is none other than...Ms. CECILIA! Danny picks up speed and runs back to his seat.

PEGGY

Danny, look who it is!

(CONTINUED)

DANNY
Hi, Ms. Cecilia!

MS. CECILIA
Danny, hello!

ROBERT
What a coincidence, us running into each other at a Chili's.

MS. CECILIA
Great minds think alike. Danny, I was just telling your parents how well you've been doing in tutoring and in class lately.

Danny is beaming. Nothing can bring him down. The love of his life just complimented him. Danny's mom touches his hair.

PEGGY
Danny, why is your hair wet?

The MAN from the bathroom approaches Ms. Cecilia.

MAN
I just pulled up the car out front, honey.

MS. CECILIA
Oh, this is my husband Will, everybody. Will, Danny is one of my students.

WILL
Well, hey there, nice to see you again. I ran into Danny in the bathroom earlier.

Danny is livid. He crosses his arms and refuses to even look at Will.

MS. CECILIA
So, any weekend plans, Danny?

Danny remains silent. His parents look at him quizzically. Peggy nudges him.

PEGGY
Danny, do you want to tell Ms. Cecilia how we're going to see The Avengers after we finish eating?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

No.

WILL

Aw, The Avengers!?! Which one's your favorite?

DANNY

I hate them all.

PEGGY

Danny!

MS. CECILIA

It's ok. It's been a long week. I think we're all pretty tired.

ROBERT

I second that!

MS. CECILIA

Well, it was nice seeing you all. Danny, I'll see you on Monday. Have a nice weekend.

WILL

Pleasure to meet y'all.

Ms. Cecilia and Will wave and walk away. Danny lets his face fall flat into his macaroni.

INT. MS. CECILIA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Danny sits in the back row of Ms. Cecilia's class by the window. He gazes out the window, depressed, with his head resting on his arms. He is zoned out and couldn't care less about what Ms. Cecilia is saying.

MS. CECILIA

Danny?...Danny...Danny, are you listening?

DANNY

No.

MS. CECILIA

Danny, please see me after class. I said your partner for the final project is Emily.

Danny turns to look at Emily who is grinning wildly, giggles, and waves. Danny rolls his eyes and continues to stare out the window.

(CONTINUED)

A STUDENT pokes him on the back and hands him a note. Danny looks puzzled.

STUDENT

It's not from me.

The note is written on folded notebook paper with Danny's name written on the outside in pink ink. On the inside, it reads "WHO DO U LIKE?"

Danny looks around for who could have passed him the note. Everybody seems to be attentively listening to Ms. Cecilia. He writes back, "SUM 1 WHO WILL NEVER LUV ME."

Danny folds the paper and passes it back to the student. Within moments, a crumpled up sheet of paper hits him in the head. The note reads "IS SHE IN THIS CLASS?" Danny writes, "YES."

He crumples up the sheet of paper and throws it over his shoulder in no general direction. He's sick of the notes. Danny's face apathetically falls his arms. *

The bell rings and class is over. All the students collect their belongings and scurry out of the room, besides Danny who only packs his bag.

Danny doesn't see Emily secretly pick up the crumpled piece of paper and read it. Her eyes light up. She looks at Danny and skips out of the room. Danny begrudgingly makes his way to Ms. Cecilia's desk.

EMILY

Bye Danny!

DANNY

Yeah, bye.
(re: Ms. Cecilia)
What? *

MS. CECILIA

Danny, I just want to make sure everything is ok.

DANNY

I don't know.

MS. CECILIA

You're usually one of the friendliest and most active students in the class, and this week, you've been rude and have barely participated. *

(CONTINUED)

Danny is silent.

MS. CECILIA (CON'T)

Ok, so, if you choose to not participate, then I hope you do well on the final project. I'm sure I'll see you over my house working on it. That will be all, Danny. Thank you.

*
*

Ms. Cecilia starts grading a test. Danny perks up.

EXT. MS. CECILIA'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emily approaches Ms. Cecilia's door with her backpack and lunch box in her hand. She is about to enter the classroom until she sees Danny through the window on the door. She stops and listens.

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INT. MS. CECILIA'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANNY

You're inviting me over to *your* house do the project? Ms. Cecilia! I knew you'd come around!

*

Ms. Cecilia is taken aback.

MS. CECILIA

Well, it's a group project, and your partner is Emily, remember?

DANNY

But I'm the only one invited, right? Not Emily, right?

EXT. MS. CECILIA'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emily is taken aback. Her face crumples as she listens.

*

MS. CECILIA (O.S.)

Emily is my daughter. I suspect you will want to work on your project outside of class and my house is a place you can do so, if that's what you two decide.

*

DANNY (O.S.)

You have a daughter!?

*

INT. MS. CECILIA'S CALSSROOM - CONTINUOUS

MS. CECILIA

Yes, Danny.

DANNY

No way.

MS. CECILIA

Way. I think you two will make great partners.

DANNY

Ms. Cecilia, I don't think I can be Emily's partner.

MS. CECILIA

And why is that, Danny?

DANNY

Because.

MS. CECILIA

Because why?

DANNY

Because I can't tell you why!

MS. CECILIA

Danny, I've already told everyone their partners it would be difficult if I switched them now.

DANNY

Ms. Cecilia! You'll never understand!

MS. CECILIA

Well, unless there is a solid reason for switching partners, I can't do it. I'm sorry, Danny.

DANNY

I can't be Emily's partner because I don't love *Emily*! I love *you*!

Danny bolts for the door. Danny is pulling and pulling on the door. Ms. Cecilia is speechless and can only say...

MS. CECILIA

Push!

EXT. MS. CECILIA'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny runs past Emily who sits on the ground outside of the classroom waiting for her mom to bring them home. She overheard their entire conversation - she is crying. Ms. Cecilia comes out to the hallway. *

EMILY

You stole the boy I love, momma!

Emily sobs even harder and runs away from her mom.

MS. CECILIA

Honey! No I didn't! Come back! I'm your ride!

But Emily is already gone. Ms. Cecilia is left alone in the deserted hallway looking crushed and exhausted.

INT. DANNY'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY

Peggy is unloading groceries while Danny sits at the kitchen table eating his snack.

PEGGY

So, Dan, I got a call from your teacher Ms. Cecilia today.

Danny is horrified and frozen.

DANNY

What did she say?

PEGGY

Well, she said that she has too much on her plate right now to continue tutoring you outside of school.

DANNY

So, she quit?

PEGGY

Yeah...It's kind of sad don't you think? You were doing so well with her.

DANNY

I guess.

(CONTINUED)

PEGGY

But she said that she's very sorry for the short notice, and she gave some names of some new tutors.

DANNY

I don't want any new tutor.

PEGGY

Danny, hon, we've been over this, not having a tutor is not an option.

DANNY

I just want Ms. Cecilia.

PEGGY

Well, you can't have her because she's busy with other things in her life right now.

Danny sighs and looks longingly out the window as he drinks his juice box.

DANNY

Ain't it the truth.

INT. MS. CECILIA'S CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Danny sits alone in the back of Ms. Cecilia's classroom looking bored. Ms. Cecilia walks in with a stack of papers and puts them on her desk.

MS. CECILIA

Danny! You're early today.

DANNY

Mhm.

MS. CECILIA

We didn't exactly leave things in a good way yesterday, did we?

Ms. Cecilia sits in a desk next to Danny. Danny won't look at Ms. Cecilia.

DANNY

My mom told me you can't tutor me anymore.

(CONTINUED)

MS. CECILIA

That's right.

DANNY

Was it because of what I said
yesterday, Ms. Cecilia?

Danny's big brown eyes start to well up with tears. *

MS. CECILIA

Oh, no, Danny. Not at all. I'm
going to night school for my
Master's degree. I didn't want to
stay your tutor if I couldn't give
you my 100% effort, when there is a
tutor out there who can.

Danny sniffles and tries to catch his breath.

DANNY

Ok, Ms. Cecilia.

MS. CECILIA

And Danny, about our conversation
yesterday...we can only be friends
because I am your teacher. I'm
sorry, Danny. But the thing is, I
love being your friend. You are
kind and caring and a star student.
But I think there is someone out
there who might like you a whole
lot and you just don't know it. And
I think you might have a lot in
common with her.

DANNY

Really?

MS. CECILIA

Really.

The bell rings and students flood in and take their seats.
Ms. Cecilia ruffles Danny's hair and goes up to the front of
class. Emily takes her seat in the middle of the room.

MS. CECILIA

Everyone, today we're going to
launch right into group projects.
So, everyone break off into your
partners and begin following the
instructions on the worksheet.

(CONTINUED)

Students move around the room. Will quietly enters through the classroom's side door Ms. Cecilia greets him. He hands her a lunch box.

*
*
*

MS. CECILIA (CON'T)
Thanks, Will. Emily would have starved without it.

*
*

Danny moves to the seat next to Emily. They seem scared to look at each other. Desks screech loudly as students move them around to accomodate their partners.

Danny and Emily don't move, and they keep their desks separated and facing forward, looking at each other out of the corners of their eyes, while every other student in the room is moving. Loudness surrounds them.

A student bumps into Emily's desk and her folder falls off, spewing papers all over the floor. Both Emily and Danny reach for the papers at the same. Danny picks up a drawing of The Avengers.

DANNY
Did you draw this?

EMILY
Yup.

DANNY
It's really good!

EMILY
Thanks.

DANNY
Wait, you like The Avengers?

EMILY
Mhm.

DANNY
I've never met a girl who's like The Avengers before.

EMILY
Oh.

DANNY
Who's your favorite one?

EMILY
The Hulk.

Danny finally looks at her. They lock eyes and Danny beams.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Mine too!

Beat.

DANNY (CON'T)

I like your hair Emily.

EMILY

Oh, thanks.

Danny reaches to pick up her braid. His hand springs back as if he just touched lava. Emily giggles.

Fade out as a smirking Will notices Danny and Emily.

THE END

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