

WHATEVER IT TAKES

Written by

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INT. SCHOOL - GUIDANCE OFFICE - DAY

JAY DEAN, 17, cocky, sits in a chair, papers in hand.

MR. THOMAS, 40, greedy, cheap suit, sits across from him.

JAY

Mr. Thomas, I did everything you asked me to do. Are you going to write the recommendation letter?

Mr. Thomas gets up, walks toward the door and closes it. He then heads back to his desk and sits down.

MR. THOMAS

Jay, I told you one more meal.

JAY

Are you serious? You said this last time. I'm sick of you and your games.

MR. THOMAS

I know but c'mon, you know you need this letter. All of the good culinary schools require recommendation letters.

JAY

I know, which is why I thought I did enough for you.

MR. THOMAS

Be patient.

JAY

Cut the crap, I want my letter.

Jay rests his head in his hands and rubs his temple.

JAY (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll do it but this has to be the last time, seriously.

MR. THOMAS

Great. Three course meal this Sunday at four in the evening. I'll have your letter at the end of the meal, if it meets my expectations.

JAY

When have you not enjoyed my cooking?

MR. THOMAS

It's decent but this time I need it to be magnificent. My wife and I have to woo her boss so she can get a raise.

JAY

I guess I'm her servant too.

MR. THOMAS

Yea whatever, close the door on your way out.

Jay leaves walks out.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Jay opens the locker, takes off his book bag and swaps out his books.

NERDY, 17, big reading glasses, book bag on her back, holds books. Greets Jay with a hug.

NERDY

Hey honey, how was your day?

Jay kisses Nerdy on her forehead.

JAY

Hey sweetie. Mr.Thomas Still doesn't want to give me the letter.

NERDY

I thought you weren't going to worry about that anymore.

JAY

Worry about what, my future? How can I not worry about my future Nerdy?

NERDY

No I just meant that, I don't know.

Jay slams the locker door shut.

JAY

You meant what?

NERDY

See now you're upset. I didn't think you'd seriously want to go to school on the other side of the country.

JAY

Listen, I understand you're worried about our future but I have to do what's best for my future.

Jay walks out the front door.

INT. JAY'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

MS. DEAN, 43, collar shirt and black slacks. She walks inside the home with grocery bags in her hands.

JAY

Hey mom, how was work?

MS. DEAN

Hey sweetie, it was long. Did you get the letter?

Ms. Dean walks into the kitchen and sits the bags on the counter. She starts putting the groceries away while Jay joins her.

JAY

No, he wants me to cook a meal for his wife's boss. He promised this will be the last time and I can have the letter afterwards.

MS. DEAN

Oh honey, I know you must be frustrated but it'll work itself out in the end. I'm sure of it. I hate that I can't afford to send you to school.

JAY

It's not your fault. I know you're doing the best you can. Get this, Nerdy all of a sudden has a problem with me going to school across the country.

MS. DEAN

That girl has always been a lot to handle.

(MORE)

MS. DEAN (CONT'D)

She knows this is your dream. I
can't tell you what to do but you
should follow your heart.

Jay walks to his room and sat on his bed. His phone rings, he
answers it.

JAY

Hi Nerdy. I'm glad you called we
need to talk.

NERDY

Yes we do. I called to apologize
for forcing your hand and making
you feel like you have to choose
between me and your dream school.

JAY

Where is this coming from?

NERDY

I had to think about how we left
things earlier and I'm sure we'll
figure things out no matter where
you go.

JAY

I see.

NERDY

Didn't you say you ad to prepare
one more meal for Mr.Thomas?

JAY

Yes, Sunday at four.

NERDY

I'd like to help. You know dessert
is my favorite.

JAY

That'd be fine I guess.

NERDY

Great, see you then.

They hang up the phone.

EXT. MR. THOMAS HOUSE - SUNDAY

Jay pulls up to the house and parks his car. He gets out of
his car and sees Nerdy.

JAY

Hey babe, you're here early. Thank you again for helping out.

The two greet each other with hugs and kisses.

NERDY

Ah, I've missed you.

JAY (CONT'D)

The feeling is always mutual my love. Lets get started so we can get this over with.

Jay and Nerdy unloads the car and walks toward the front door to ring the doorbell. Mr. Thomas comes to open it.

MR.THOMAS

Hey you guys, come on in.

Jay and Nerdy take everything to the kitchen.

INT. MR. THOMAS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jay and Nerdy take everything out of the containers and boxes. Mr. Thomas bursts through the door.

MR.THOMAS

Okay, everyone is going to start arriving soon. Make sure everything is ready on time. I will take the food to the table. Please remember no cinnamon.

Mr. Thomas leaves the kitchen.

JAY

Okay, let's get started.

The two began preparing food swiftly yet precise. As Jay finished each course, Nerdy was right behind him watching how he gently plated every item, cleaning each little mess.

JAY (CONT'D)

You can start preparing the dessert in a few mins. Please don't add cinnamon, I think the boss is allergic.

NERDY

Okay, I'll be sure to omit it.

Mr.Thomas charges in the kitchen.

MR. THOMAS
Hey guys, we're ready for the
meals.

Mr. Thomas grabs the first course and exits. Nerdy secretly added cinnamon to the dessert.

INT. MR. THOMAS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Woman, 35, red dress.

Man, navy blue suit, chocking on food.

A man choked on his food. Everyone in the room rushed to help. One woman tried the Heimlich Maneuver. Eventually the man coughed up the food.

MR. THOMAS
Jay what have you done? I told you
no cinnamon.

JAY
I didn't do anything. Nerdy
prepared dessert.

Nerdy rushed inside the dining room.

NERDY
I'm sorry Jay, but I can't let you
go across the country. I purposely
sabotaged the dessert in hopes of
Mr. Thomas not giving you the
letter.

JAY
How could you? You threatened this
man's life and potentially harm my
future. Why?

NERDY
I love you.

Mr. Thomas walks to his desk and pulls out a letter.

MR. THOMAS
All of this over this stupid
letter. This is what you want.

Mr. Thomas locked eyes with Jay as he ripped the letter in pieces.

MR. THOMAS (CONT'D)
Well too bad you failed. Now both
of you please leave my home.

EXT. MR. THOMAS HOUSE - CURB - MORNING

JAY
You see what you did. All of this
was for nothing. You knew how much
this meant to be. Delete my number.

Jay heads to his car. Nerdy tries to stop him. She grabs his
arms yet Jay pulls away and get in his car. Nerdy knocks on
his window.

NERDY
Please hear me out.

Jay rolls down his window.

JAY
What do you have to say for
yourself?

NERDY
I did it for us, I couldn't stand
the thought of being apart.

JAY
You didn't think I would be upset?

NERDY
I was willing to take that chance.
You always forgive me when you get
upset.

JAY
Not this time. How could you?

Jay rolls up his window, turns the engine over and drive off.
His phone rings, he answers it.

JAY (CONT'D)
Hey mom.

MS. DEAN
Did you get it?

JAY

No I didn't. Nerdy sabotaged the dessert and added cinnamon after I specifically told her the man was allergic.

MS. DEAN

Wow, I'm sorry son. I know how much this meant to you.

JAY

Yea it meant a lot. I'll see you when I get home.

Jay hangs up the phone.