

Delayed Results

written by

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FADE IN

INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

LIAM sits at his desk, facing the NASA SPEAKER with erupt attention. Liam fidgets with his space shirt, clearly very excited. There are four other students next to him facing the board with a NASA logo.

NASA SPEAKER

And that's all folks! You five just need to fill out the paperwork and email it to me before eleven pm or else you can't go to NASA. Only the top three can go!

The NASA Speaker points to the six stacks of paperwork on the table to the left of him. The five students follow his finger to the table.

NASA SPEAKER (CONT'D)

If you have any more questions, just email me. And will someone give the paperwork to Michael?

LIAM

I will!

EXT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

Liam exits the room and places down the two stacks paperwork in his hands on a bench outside. Liam grabs his phone from his pocket and presses the call button, quickly. It rings before MICHEAL picks it up.

LIAM

You won't believe what just happened! I just got the paperwork for the trip. I'll give it to you later.

MICHEAL (V.O.)

Really? That's great! Hey, are we still meeting up at my house at one?

LIAM

Ya. See you then!

Liam hangs up the phone and places it back into his pocket. Grabbing the two stacks of paperwork, he begins walking toward the entrance of school.

INT. MICHEAL'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Liam, Michael and their three friends: EMMA, MADDIE, and CHARLIE are in the room, playing Super Smash Bros and chatting. The room is a pale yellow with a bed in corner with a TV facing it with Nintendo Switch.

MICHEAL

Before Maddie crushes Emma again in Super Smash Bros, I just want to inform y'all that me and Liam got chosen to go to NASA headquarters.

EMMA

Hey-I'm not the worse at Smash Bros! That spot belongs to Charlie!

MADDIE

That's really ironic coming from you.

Liam scoffs as Emma glares at Maddie who ignores her. Nevertheless, the others pause the game and drop their controllers to gather around Liam.

EMMA

Sooooo, spill the tea...

LIAM

It's just five pages of paperwork that we just need to sign. Just the normal questions about math and science.

CHARLIE

Then you better get started then,
(Pauses)
Maybe we shouldn't be having this party. Paper is a pain to fill so-

MADDIE

You worry too much. Congrats Liam. Anyways, can we get back Super Smash Bros before I have to go?

Maddie gets up and grabs the controllers, tossing them to the other. She hits the play button on the controller without any warning.

EMMA

Hey! That's cheating!

MADDIE

Too bad, too sad. Get over it.

Maddie and Emma argue as Michael turns to break up the fighting. Charlie turns to Liam in concern.

CHARLIE

Are you sure about it? I mean its a ton. Should we cancel tomorrow?

LIAM

No, its fine. I am the number one candidate. Lets worry more about Maddie choosing Isabelle again and wining for the fifth time in a row.

INT. LIAM ROOM - ONE DAY LATER

Liam is in his room, finishing homework before the phone rings. The room is dark blue with science posters and medals on the wall. There is a bed in the corner and a neat desk with a printer on top of it. On top the desk, is the NASA paperwork, untouched. Liam finishes the last problem before picking up the phone.

LIAM

Hello?

(Pauses)

Sure. I will be there in like five minutes.

Liam jumps out of his chair and picks up his backpack on the foot of bed. He runs out of the room to the front door to put on his shoes. As he places on his shoes, LIAM'S MOM pokes her head out from the kitchen.

LIAM'S MOM

Where do you think you are going?

LIAM

I have to go...

(Pauses)

Finish my group project with Emma and Charlie. They are waiting for me at Emma's house.

LIAM'S MOM

Ok. But be back before twelve. Also have you finished your NASA paper work? It's due tomorrow.

LIAM

Yeah, yeah. You worry too much about it. It's done. I just need to scan it and send it to the guy.

Liam finishes the laces on his shoes while closing the front door behind him before his mom can reply. He jogs down the street to Emma's house.

INT. EMMA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The room is purple with animal print across the room. There is a bed in the center with a rug underneath it. Charlie, Emma, and Liam are talking before Liam looks at his phone.

LIAM

CRAP! It's already ten forty! I need to go! I need to finish paperwork!

CHARLIE

Have you started it yet? Isn't it due tomorrow? Do you need help?

LIAM

No, it's ok. I can finish it. I gotta go. See you all tomorrow. Bye.

Shoving his notebooks and homework into his backpack, Liam waves goodbye to the other two. He bolts down the stairs and out Emma's door.

INT. LIAM'S ROOM- CONTINUOUS

He slams the door with a BAM before turning to the paperwork on his desk. He throws his backpack on the ground before grabbing a pen, knocking his pencil case to the ground.

LIAM

(Whispers to himself)
Crap! Crap!

Liam flips through the five papers, scanning it as fast as he can while signing and filling it out. He scribbles down his information and brings it to his printer.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Come on! Please don't fail me now!

Liam turns on the printer and glances at the clock next to it.

The time reads ten fifty and he pushes the paper in the printer. The printer turns on slowly and the paper tray flashes empty. Liam groans and runs to get the paper. When he gets back, the clock reads eleven.

LIAM (CONT'D)
No... NO.... NO!!!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - NEXT DAY

Liam scuffles in the classroom with the crumpled paper work in his hand. He spots the speaker alone and walks over to him.

LIAM
Hello, sir? I couldn't turn in the paperwork yesterday, but I have it now. Is it ok that I turn it in now?

NASA SPEAKER
I am sorry, Liam, but the policy is only three people can go. Someone else is taking your place instead.

LIAM
Could I ask who?

The NASA speaker points to the person behind Liam and Liam turns around.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Michael!?

Michael walks over, looking guilty as the NASA speaker leaves to help someone else. Liam and Michael stare at each other.

MICHEAL
I am sorry Liam, but I have to go now.

Stunned, Liam watches as Michael and the others shuffle out the classroom, leaving him alone in the dark.

FADE OUT