

THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"Episode 2:"

by

David

It's a beautiful sunny day as Sanford and Nikki are walking to their classes. They're in a casual conversation.

SANFORD: ... and so my professor said they wont let me in the hospital cafeteria anymore...

I just don't understand it, they said, as an intern, I eat free!

NIKKI: Yeah but that doesn't mean 24 hours a day!

SANFORD: I only did that on the days I worked! On every other day I only had had breakfast, lunch, dinner... and maybe brunch - but that was only if I had an 8am class!

A suspicious looking man comes into focus just ahead of them.

NIKKI: Hey! Look... that's one of the guys who's been posting for those essay writing services!

SANFORD: Yeah... that's right. And look, this one's still wet.

NIKKI: Is it really? Hey, see if it will come off. That stuff really bugs me. It's such a blatant disregard for everything education stands for...

Though a little apprehensive, Sanford peels off the poster.

On the other side of campus Allison and Jared are also walking to class. Allison notices a similar poster to the posters Nikki and Sanford have just started taking down.

JARED: Hey check it out, the price went down! I've been looking for a reason to give this a try.

ALLISON: What? What is that... you pay them to do your work for you?

JARED: Well... I wouldn't put it that way. What, you've never seen these posters before?

ALLISON: I guess I've seen them around...You aren't actually thinking of doing this are you?

JARED: Well is it any different than finding an essay on the internet?

ALLISON: I don't copy those essays - they're just for... reference. And you were the one that suggested them to me!

JARED: Yes, but I was young and naïve then. I'm much wiser now.

ALLISON: That was yesterday!

JARED: True! But yesterday I wasn't aware of all the resources professors have to check for 'borrowed' materials.

ALLISON: What do you mean?

JARED: Turnitin.com is a service prof's can use to check if a

student's work is entirely their own.

ALLISON: But Jared I wasn't going to use those sites to plagiarize! We already learned *that* lesson...

Meanwhile Sanford and Nikki have continued to peel off the posters.

SANFORD: ... yeah you know, I really don't like the idea of a nurse or a teacher who cheated their way through school.

NIKKI: All programs... I mean, how reliable could an engineering grad really be if they cheated their way through half a degree?

SANFORD: Not to mention that it totally devalues the degree... all bachelor degrees I mean.

NIKKI: Yeah, don't people want to feel a sense of pride for their accomplishments?

Back with Jared and Allison.

JARED: What, you think 'borrowing' a few ideas here and there isn't the same thing as buying an essay?

ALLISON: You're paying someone to do your work for you! I'm doing my work!

JARED: But Allison, the consequences are all the same! It doesn't matter if you cheat a little or cheat a lot.

ALLISON: Since when have you been so concerned about MY academic integrity?

Jared blushes a little bit.

JARED: No reason... I, I just don't see the difference between what I'm doing and what you're doing. And I wouldn't want to see you get into any trouble.

ALLISON: Well, I wouldn't want to see you get into any trouble either.

Jared and Allison share an awkward pause. Then Jared scrounges up the nerve to say something.

JARED: ... Well maybe we can put the money I would have spent on this essay towards something we can both enjoy?

Now Allison finds herself blushing a little.

ALLISON: What... whaat do you mean?

Jared and Allison's eyes meet. But, so ensconced in their conversation, they suddenly they bump into the postering man! Just as surprised, he drops his brush and bucket.

Sanford and Nikki are slowly approaching Jared, Allison and the postering man; though they aren't aware of this yet.

Sanford and Nikki haven't realized that the postering man had stopped moving and have maintained their pace.

Allison breaks eye contact with Jared when they bump into the postering man.

ALLISON: Oh we're so sorry! We totally weren't not paying attention!

Realizing his previous suggestion made Allison a little embarrassed, Jared apologizes also.

JARED: Uh yeah, I'm sorry too...

Jared bends down to try and help the postering man, but they both hit their heads. And just as the postering man finishes gathering his stuff Sanford and Nikki stumble upon them also.

NIKKI: OH! Hi Allison... Jared...

Nikki quickly shoves the posters she was holding into Jared's stomach. Sanford has a look of fear & surprise.

SANFORD: Uhhh...

Jared stands back up.

ALLISON: Oh, hey guys! What are you doing here?

The posting man looks at the posters in Sanford's hands.

The postering man looks back at Jared and Allison. Then back at Nikki and Sanford.

POSTERING MAN: What are you doing with my posters?

JARED: Yeah, what are you doing with those posters?

SANFORD: Uhh this isn't what it looks like...

Afraid to explain the truth about what they've been doing to the postering man, but without any other explanation for Jared Sanford panics.

SANFORD: I wasn't... These aren't...

Jared and Allison look at Sanford and Nikki in disappointment.

ALLISON: (to the postering man) You should be ashamed of yourself! Recruiting poor students to do you dirty work!

The postering man looks back and forth at all of them. And then suddenly yells.

POSTERING MAN: You can't catch me!

And with that he whips a vial at the ground and disappears into a flash of smoke!

The group is left standing there in amazement.

NIKKI: Well, that was weird!

JARED: Yeah, he left his bucket and brush...

The four of them start to walk away together.

SANFORD: Jared, we weren't postering with the guy... we were taking them down.

I was just a *little* afraid of what he might do if I told you that with him standing there!

Believing Sanford, Allison smiles at Jared.

ALLISON: Sure Sanford, sure!