



BEHIND THE SCENE

by Yusuf Usman

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BEHIND THE SCENE

A PLAY

BY

YUSUF USMAN

CHARACTERS

THOMAS: 21 year old, Student of History University of Oxford, also called De Poet.

JACOB: 21 year old, Student of Mathematics and Philosophy University College Oxford, also called OPTIMUS.

BUSH: 21 year old, Student of Mathematics and Philosophy University College Oxford.

GEORGE: 20 year old, Student of Chemistry University of Oxford, also called X Box.

PROSPECT: 20 year old, Student of Chemistry University of Oxford.

MOHAMMED: 21 year old, friend of THOMAS, Student of History University of Oxford

BEHIND THE SCENE

ACT I/SCENE ONE

Light shine at Willford Park Garden, Bodicote Cherwell OX 15 4FX, like a day break

Inside the apartment of four lively Oxford students, enjoying the mid-semester break, with lot of game and music

GEORGE Yeah, come on, this what I do best. This is my game, this league is mine Optimus.

JACOB X box really! Do you really think I do not understand your games? You can only use Juventus in this PES 2018, but don't worry see what Ajax would play in second half.

GOERGE This is not my game you know it. Because I'm really interested in *Call of Duty*. To be honest game is really brainy to me than Chemistry classes this semester. I really have a lot to study Jacob, more especially our chemistry practical manual.

JACOB You are funny, last class I didn't attend was a big fucked up for me. This is your best potential GEORGE. You have more games to win because you are a gamer, you are X box, lift up yourself, chemistry shall be well, study hard on Mathematics this semester and focus on your practical, let look at the league table.

Entering Bush and Thomas with their finished portrait drawing

THOMAS X box look here, how do you feel this blonde hair, smile face with pearl ear ring?

GEORGE Good, I got so many matches to win, just free me, it seems JACOB is getting better these days.

BUSH Never; not JACOB, I win all my last four matches we played, De Poet is even better than him.

JACOB But I'm getting X box game these days , just imagine George is playing 4-0 with me in 38 minute of the game, even our last two matches we drew.

THOMAS Guys, since when have you been playing PES now?

GOERGE We started around 9AM this morning, I think.

THOMAS Now this is 3pm , it really takes me seven hours to finish a portrait drawing equivalent to time you've spent , what can we called this?

They all echo to Thomas rhetorical question space and time contiguity

CURTAIN

ACT I/SCENE TWO

Inside FAREWELL apartment

Thomas sits alone and very sad enters George putting on his headset

THOMAS George, how are you doing?

GEORGE ***Looking very confused*** what happened De Poet, you look very bored and unhappy you break up with a friend?

THOMAS ***Hissing*** X box, London Poetry Contest have shortlisted today and I'm not among the shortlist.

GEORGE Damn, I am so sorry man; I want you to know one thing.

Pause

Every event, attempts, circumstances is revolving and happening around time, everything is going to be all right, it's just a matter of time.

THOMAS I feel disappointed for believing in myself too much, what do you buy for lunch?

GEORGE Don't worry everything will work out for good, just sheer up.

Knocking

Yes, please come in.

Entering Bush and Jacob, greeting George and Thomas

BUSH How far guys, how are you doing?

GEORGE Well, I'm great, my classes today just went the same; little interesting.

BUSH De poet, what wrong guy, you look like a break up friend.

GEORGE THOMAS, get little bit disappointed.

JACOB Really, it seems one of the poetry contest he attempted is shortlisting today.

THOMAS Oh yes, London poetry contest have burst, I'm not among the shortlist.

JACOB Shake it off; you have more prizes to win ahead.

THOMAS You know this poetry contest, I strongly believe that it would compensate my effort; well, I will burn the worries off like a brief candle. This is a worst of time and a best of time.

They all shouted you are right man

BUSH De poet, forget it and what are we eating for lunch.

CURTAIN

ACT I/SCENE THREE

Light shine inside Farewell apartment.

BUSH and JACOB are studying through their online tutorial and GEORGE is playing an online video game CALL OF DUTY

Entering without knocking THOMAS

THOMAS Fuck you guys, not this time, why would you all be busy by this time, complex Numbers (*Referring to BUSH and JACOB*) what are you studying.

BUSH What happened you have something to show us or you've got a very special package from your mum?

Unlocking his phone and show a whatsapp image to BUSH

THOMAS Just take a precious look at this picture, look at my girl, so pretty and nice.

BUSH Wow, she is good, most beautiful, I really love her smile, nice dimple, and well she is OK.

THOMAS ***smile*** Thanks

BUSH Well, what's her name and where do you know her?

THOMAS Fine, don't bother she is just my new friend.

JACOB pause the video, look at the image THOMAS was showing BUSH and he looks at their chats but it is empty

JACOB Fuck you De Poet, BUSH you can't believe that this number THOMAS have shown me about couple of weeks ago, but then she didn't upload her picture on the whatsapp profile picture.

Checking the chat page but it's empty

Last time you showed me this number the page is empty, even still now, it is still empty.

BUSH Maybe he is waiting for her to change her profile picture, so that he could see her face before chatting her, poor guy.

Laugh

GEORGE pause his game and take a look at the image on THOMAS phone

GOERGE Wait guys, it seems I know this girl, yeah I know her.

BUSH Really what's her name?

GEORGE PROSPECT, we called her PROSPECT, she is my classmate, and she is also a chemistry student.

THOMAS It's a lie, where on earth would you know her?

GEORGE De Poet wait a minute let me show you her phone number on my phone.

JACOB Good job, De Poet showed me her number couple of weeks ago, yet he haven't chatted her up.

GEORGE He is found of collecting ladies number without chatting or calling them. I didn't know his problem.

BUSH De Poet; I am going to call her and I will meet her tomorrow, you can bet it.

THOMAS Impossible, she won't pick up your calls and I'm not going to give you her number.

GEORGE Well, have it and call her, don't mind De Poet his just a fucking pet

BUSH dialing PROSPECT number and she picked it, they both engaged in a phone conversation and BUSH puts it on loud speaker

BUSH Hi, good afternoon hope I'm speaking with PROSPECT

PROSPECT (V.O) Yes, you are with me.

BUSH Well, my name is BUSH, am a student of Mathematics and Philosophy University College Oxford.

PROSPECT (V.O) Good to hear, that's nice.

BUSH I manage to get to your number from my friend GEORGE.

PROSPECT (V.O) Really, you mean X Box

BUSH Yes! X Box how is studies and practical, would you please pardon me, I get your number purposely to know you and be friend. If you didn't mind I would like to see you tomorrow.

PROSPECT (V.O) No hard feelings, I do have my lunch at Vaults and Garden by 3PM prompt, if you can manage to there, I will be expecting you. Bye and have a nice day.

BUSH Ok no problem, bye.

BUSH ends the call

GEORGE Nice work, that's my guy.

JACOB Great job, you see De Poet that's how to start the game, we all know the game you want to play.

THOMAS Fuck you all, BUSH I would play my real role, I'm going to introduce myself to her and you will be my hand friend, please.

BUSH Do you really want to date her?

THOMAS Yes, of course.

BUSH Then, you would let her know that you called her yesterday and I would be right beside you.

THOMAS Thanks, I'm going to prepare myself for tomorrow.

CURTAIN

ACT II/SCENE TWO

Light shine inside Farewell apartment

It was at dusk when BUSH and THOMAS came back from VAULT and GARDEN restaurant, GEORGE is reading his chemistry practical manual and JACOB is studying on his online tutorial

Entering BUSH and THOMAS

BUSH *Greeting* Hi guys, how are you doing?

JACOB I'm good and why do you come so late?

GEORGE Fine, De Poet what wrong you look bored.

THOMAS Well there is nothing much it was lecture, and I am so tired.

GEORGE Really, how about your girl? Do you meet her today?

BUSH *Hissing* we've been in Vault and Garden, since 1PM this afternoon, but she didn't show up and I also tried to call her she didn't pick the call.

JACOB *Laughing* too funny but I'm little bit confused why won't she pick it?

THOMAS We called her, no answer, I really hate disappointment, it really sucks big time.

BUSH Well to me, she is not to be blame like boyfriend like girlfriend, boring housemate, uncommitted girlfriend.

JACOB In fact this is very strange, she just failed you for first contact, it just too early.

GEORGE Optimus; don't conclude like this, I know PROSPECT she can't disappoint you like that trust me. I know probably she was busy with something; it's just too early to start a relationship with negativity.

THOMAS X Box, don't just annoy me, we called her countless time she didn't pick it, and we waited for a very long time she didn't show up what else again.

GEORGE Do you really know PROSPECT more than I do? She is a person that plan on time not on any resources or opportunity. She is time prompt and conscious, she never disappoints.

BUSH Then what happened today, what impression does it create?

GEORGE Don't you get it; I know for sure, she would have sent you a text message, if at most she would not come.

JACOB BUSH, De Poet let resolve this disagreement, BUSH open your phone and check for any new message.

GEORGE Yeah check your phone; I know truly she would have sent you messages latest by 6AM this morning.

BUSH ***Checking his phone*** wow! She is awesome, X Box you are fucking right, she had sent me message, 7AM today.

Reading

Hi dear, how are you doing? I am sorry I would not be around for lunch, I have many assignments today, and I wish we could meet some other day .Thanks for your last call and have a nice day, Yours love.

THOMAS Fuck you, I didn't understand why you takes everything for negligence, you can't even check your phone and plan yourself before going out.

GEORGE And to be honest PROSPECT have a soft heart, she is gentle and calm, just like De Poet. THOMAS you are going to like her, just try to see her.

JACOB X Box I can bet it. THOMAS can't do this date all alone.

BUSH De Poet, are you interested in her or I should go for her.

THOMAS Don't worry, I will date her, I really love her smile, she is much pretty.

BUSH Ok, if you need tutorial, I would be glad to lecture you.

THOMAS Don't worry, it's my job I can handle it

CURTAIN