

MR. IVERSON
By Tyler Christiansen
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CAST
Blake - 20's
Alex- 16

(LIGHTS UP. A high school student,
Alex, sits alone in the guidance
counselor's office. Blake enters,
wiping off his shoes.)

BLAKE
I'm sorry I'm late. Some kid blew chunks in the hallway and
he totally got it on my shoes.

ALEX
I'm sorry?

BLAKE
It's okay, they're from Ross, they'll return anything.

ALEX
No I mean, who are you?

BLAKE
Oh, I'm sorry! I'm Blake Iverson, your new guidance
counselor. But just call me Blake, okay? Mr. Iverson makes me
feel like I'm like thirty.

ALEX
What happened to Mrs. Waters?

BLAKE
Ooh, I'm really not supposed to say...but she totally died.

ALEX
What!?

BLAKE
Yeah, it's like this whole big thing. They're doing an
assembly about it later.

(Blake takes a seat across from Alex.
He spots a framed photo of Mrs. Waters
and her family on the desk. He
awkwardly places it face down.)

ALEX
That's awful!

BLAKE

I know. I'm probably gonna have to stay late, and Survivor's on tonight and I cannot miss it again, and ugh! I swear, I cannot catch a break. (a beat.) Anyways, what's wrong with you?

ALEX

Um, I guess I just wanted someone to talk to. I've been feeling really stressed out lately-

BLAKE

Yeah, I get that way around Taurus season too.

ALEX

What? No, it's about graduation. The whole idea of college is really starting to freak me out.

BLAKE

That's normal, college is really important. You learn so much about yourself drunkenly slutting it up on a bunk bed.

ALEX

I-I mean, I wouldn't be going there to do that.

BLAKE

Oh, then save your money.

ALEX

No, what I mean, is that I don't even know if I'll get in. Right now my top pick is Harvard and-

BLAKE

Boston!? The hell you gonna do there? Get harassed by a stray Wahlberg brother!? No, you should go somewhere nice, like Tampa.

ALEX

That's the thing, it's not even my choice. My parents are the ones pushing Harvard. I just don't want to let them down.

BLAKE

Oh yeah, disappointing your family can be really scary.

ALEX

Has that ever happened to you?

BLAKE

No. But I watch a ton of Intervention on A&E, so I kinda get the gist. God, I love that show.

(Alex shifts, uneasily, in his chair.)

ALEX

They have an opinion on everything I do! The way I dress, my hair, who I date, and when I start to think about the future, my chest gets all tight, and I get shaky-

(Alex starts to hyperventilate.)

ALEX

I'm sorry, I can't breathe, I think I might get sick.

BLAKE

Ah! Not on the shoes! No, I'm totally kidding! Here-

(He grabs a stress relief toy from his desk and hands it to Alex.)

BLAKE

Just take some deep breaths. Isn't it adorbs? I got it at Marshalls, they really get you at the checkout line, huh? Feel better?

(Alex nods.)

BLAKE

Good. There's no reason to give yourself a panic attack over this. Just start setting some boundaries with your parents, it'll work out. Your mental health comes before anything, remember that.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah I guess you're right. Thank you.

BLAKE

Oh, don't thank me, I totally stole that from Drew Barrymore's book. She is so strong. Here.

(Blake hands him the book.)

BLAKE

This has gotten me through some hard times, hopefully it does the same for you. Besides, I can always get another one. They have like a giant bin of these things at Big Lots for some reason.

ALEX

Thank you. This means a lot.

BLAKE

Great, 'cuz now you owe me one.

ALEX

What?

BLAKE

Yeah, that assembly/memorial's in like ten and I really can't afford to have my mellow harshed any further today, so why don't we just sit in here for the next few hours and kill some time. Oh my god! You can give me all the dirt, like is that kid with the crutches totally faking it or what, because I have my reservations.

BLACKOUT.