

All or Nothing

Characters

- **Mack** (teacher) – 38 years old, has been teaching for just a few years, a heavy smoker
 - **Doris** – very sweet woman, 61 years old, visually impaired, always on a diet; goal: “just to find my way around the computer”
 - **Robin** – 25 years old, very keen, a bit of a know-it-all, has 2 school-age children; goal: “doctor”
 - **Spencer** – 19 years old, kicked out of high school; “no goal”
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Scene 1

Doris, Spencer and Robin are sitting in the classroom. Their teacher, Mack, comes rushing in.

Mack: Man, I thought I was late – where is everyone?

Robin: You are late, Mack, late again – what’s your excuse this time?

Mack: Oh, my car wouldn’t start – come on though, it’s quarter after, this room is supposed to have six people in it!

Robin: Well, we all know Jordan and them aren’t serious about this class, they just come for the hot lunch!

Doris: Oh, Robin...!

Scene 2

Spencer: Maybe they're not coming today because yesterday was so fucking stupid.

Mack: Okay, that was going to be my first question. How did the Goal Setting seminar go? I want to hear your honest opinion, because this program makes every group of students do that workshop, and it's usually a bit useless. But this year there's a new woman running it so I was hoping it would be better.

Doris: It was fine, Mack. It was a nice presentation.

Robin: It was... alright. It was a bit, like, the kind of thing you hear on infomercials. Like, change your life! Totally! Come on, you can do it!

Doris: She was trying to be motivational.

Robin: Yeah, that's what they're called – motivational speakers. Made it sound so easy.

Spencer: She was ugly.

Doris: It doesn't matter what she looked like, child.

Spencer: You couldn't see her, Doris!!! You're lucky you didn't have to look at her all day!

Robin: It's true she was a bit funny looking.

Mack: Okay, okay, forget how she looked. Did she just talk or did she get you to do something?

Scene 3

Robin: She asked us to decide – or write out on this chart thingy – to say what our goals were – “personal, educational, short term, long term” ... she asked us to describe where we saw ourselves in 10 years.

Spencer: That was the worst part.

Mack: How did you answer, Spencer?

Spencer: Whatever. Nowhere. Sitting here. I didn't finish the exercise.

Mack: Then maybe she wasn't asking the right kind of questions.

Spencer: God, it doesn't matter. Let it go, Mack.

Mack: How about you, Doris?

Doris: Well, I told her about the screen reader and how I want to get good at the computer, and my “personal goal” is to get down to 150 pounds.

Robin: You don't have to ask me, you know where I'll be in 10 years!

Spencer: Doctor Robin, saving us all with her doctoring.

Scene 4

Mack: Robin, you know I admire how you want to serve this community, but have you done what we talked about? Have you found out about that biology prerequisite?

Scene 5

Robin: I tried, Mack, I honestly did. I found that site of all correspondence, even science, I could get the real credit online. But when I clicked to go to the “apply now” area, this box opened that looked like it was another site. It asked me to click on where I was on a map, which I did, and then it told me I had to mail in 78 dollars.

Mack: Don’t give up. Let’s look at that together on break, okay?

Spencer: What about you, Mack, what are your goals? To keep teaching last chance, last hope class forever?

Mack: The name of this course is “Essential Skills for Transition”.

Spencer: Whatever. Okay, I guess your goal is just to keep being perfect.

Scene 6

Mack: Perfect has nothing to do with it. I was lucky to get an opportunity to go to school and end up teaching. I’ve never told you this, but Spencer, when I was your age I was living on the streets.

Robin: Why were you on the street?

Mack: Well, I got kicked out of my house, after getting kicked out of high school.

Robin: But obviously you got back into school somehow...

Mack: Yeah, it was baby steps though. I got into a transitional program, then I got into upgrading, then college. I had support from a few people who were really... patient.

Doris: They believed in you.

Mack: Yeah, and I believe in you guys. Like, Doris, how come in ten years you only want to be able to use a computer? Isn’t there anything else you want to be doing?

Scene 7

Doris: Oh now, no one wants an old woman.

Mack: What about your project of recording all your recipes into a book?

Doris: Yes, yes, I would like to do that. I would like my grandchildren and all them to know my secrets before I go - they sure do love my cooking.

Mack: Well, you might think about trying to print a run of them, like make 100 or something, to sell at the community centre or at gatherings... anyway you're 61 not 101!

Robin: You can be my assistant, Doris! My, like, medical receptionist. The Blind Receptionist, we'd be famous!

Scene 8

Mack: Okay, but Robin, before you get started staffing the clinic, you gotta start doing something in the real world, instead of just in your head. Before medical school, there's university, and before that, there's your biology prerequisite.

Robin: You sound like my ex. He said I'd never do anything, he said all I was good for was down there, making babies.

Doris: Oh, you made nice boys, Robin.

Mack: Is that really what it sounds like, what I'm saying?

Robin: ...no.

Scene 9

Mack: And Spencer, when you were a little boy, didn't you have any dreams? What would you do, if you could do anything?

Spencer: You sound like a fucking "Follow Your Dreams" poster.

Mack: No, there's lots of dreams that can never come true. There's lots of situations where you can't say the thing of "just keep reaching for the stars" and stuff... it's just - isn't there anything you would love to do?

Spencer: Be an NHL player.

Scene 10

Robin: I didn't know you played hockey!

Spencer: I don't.

Mack: Well, the NHL isn't necessarily realistic, but what would you get out of being an NHL player? Like, is it the teamwork element you like? The skill involved? Cause there's lots of other –

Spencer: No, just like – for the cash.

Robin: Ah yes.

Spencer: If I had that kind of money, I'd...

Doris: It's okay, child.

Scene 11

Spencer: You guys know. I'd get him out of there, I'd go back and get my little brother out of there. I'm going crazy every day thinking they're doing the same shit to him. He's just a little kid.

Scene 12

Mack: It must be hard to think about your own goals when you've got so much on your mind.

Spencer: Whatever.

Robin: Okay! I'm a doctor, Doris is skinny, Spencer plays for the Leafs.

Spencer: Hell no, I play for the Habs!

Mack: And I stop smoking! ... What??? You guys don't believe me?

Scene 13

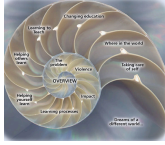
Doris: Well, I don't think you can just stop, Mack, and I don't think I can just be skinny either. We're both gonna take a long time. How about just this? If you smoke ONE less cigarette today, I'll have a salad at lunch. And then I'll eat normal food at supper. But salad at lunch.

Robin: And I'll go back to that stupid website.

Spencer: What am I gonna do?

Doris: Child, you're doing it. Just... sit. Just stay here. With us.

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