

Open Admission

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INT. HOLT HOUSEHOLD - LOGAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

An alarm clock turns 7:00 am and begins to beep. A hand reaches out and slams the off button. LOGAN HOLT, an Asian-American, overly ambitious 18-year-old groans into his pillow. Sunlight pours into his neat and spacious bedroom. His body is swallowed in a fluffy white comforter.

LOGAN (V.O.)
Well. Today's the day.

INT. LOGAN'S BATHROOM - DAY

Logan looks at himself in the mirror and begins to brush his teeth. His black hair is messy so he combs it into place with product while his toothbrush hangs from his mouth.

LOGAN (V.O.)
My lovely summer of anticipation has passed. I finally get to start the first day of the rest of my life.

INT. LOGAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Logan walks back into his bedroom, still in his pajamas. He bends down to pick up jeans and reveals a photo hanging on the wall behind him. It is of himself and a few friends in caps and gowns. His smile takes up most of his face in the photo.

LOGAN (V.O.)
Yeah, high school was great and all, you know with the 4.0 and valedictorian speech and whatnot. But that was all in preparation for this.

Logan hops into a pair of jeans and walks over to the closet to pull out a red button down shirt. He begins to put it on and we see a shelf to the right of him with trophies and framed certifications.

LOGAN (V.O.)
Oh those? Yeah, that's nothing. Just perfect attendance and winning the speech and debate state competition and the academic decathlon. I also might have won a few science fairs in my day, and maybe even some boy scouts awards, but who keeps track of all that?

Logan grabs his already prepared backpack sitting on his chair by his desk and walks out of the room.

INT. HOLT HOUSEHOLD - STAIRS - DAY

Logan jogs down the carpeted staircase and runs his hand down the wooden railing. Photos of Logan graduating kindergarten and holding science fair trophies line the wall.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Logan walks into the spacious kitchen where his mom, CINDY, is stirring oatmeal in a pot on the stove. She turns around when she notices Logan.

CINDY

Morning! Today's the big day, huh?

Logan grabs his shoes that he left on the hardwood floor by the door and sits on a stool by the counter to put them on.

LOGAN (V.O.)

I know what you're thinking. How is this lady my mom? Well, despite her intense love for dumplings, she is definitely not Chinese. My parents adopted me from China when I was a baby. Adorable right?

CINDY

I'm making Hannah some oatmeal, do you want any?

LOGAN

No, I'm good.

CINDY

C'mon, you have to eat breakfast.

Logan shrugs and begins to scroll through his phone to check his schedule. Cindy rolls her eyes and throws a piece of toast in the toaster.

LOGAN (V.O.)

Growing up, I always had one goal.
Harvard medical school.

As Logan sits on the kitchen stool, he scrolls through Harvard's Instagram profile full of photos of smiling students.

Logan grabs his backpack to head out the door and grabs the toast on the way out.

CINDY

Uh- bye!

INT. LOGAN'S CAR - DAY

Logan settles into his clean Honda and puts the radio on. Fastening his seatbelt, he backs out of his gravel driveway. We see his beautiful three story cottage style home nestled in the trees in the background.

Logan drives on the freeway with toast hanging from his mouth.

INT. LOGAN'S CAR - LATER - DAY

Logan takes the off ramp and sits at a stoplight. He changes the radio station and "We Are The Champions" by Queen begins to play. Logan glares at the radio.

He passes a sign reads "MassBay Community College".

LOGAN (V.O.)

Oh, and I forgot to mention. This is my first day of MassBay community college.

Logan pulls into a parking spot as the radio sings "no time for losers".

LOGAN (V.O.)

The only school I got accepted to.

Logan sighs deeply and rests his head on the steering wheel.

EXT. MASSBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Logan walks up the stairs into the brick building.

INT. MASSBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DAY

Logan keeps his head down while he maneuvers through the hallways. He approaches a door with the number 112 above it. He walks in.

INT. ROOM 112 - DAY

The room is a small lecture hall with around 30 desks. Most of the seats are already taken. Logan climbs up the stairs to

the second to last row.

Logan slumps in his chair and stares at the talkative students around him.

A LARGE BURLY GUY sits in the desk next to Logan. He leans over.

BURLY GUY

Hey man, can I borrow a pencil?

LOGAN (V.O.)

Seriously? It's the first day of class and you didn't even bring a pencil?

LOGAN

Yeah, sure.

Logan grabs one of his several pencils organized in his backpack and hands it to him.

BURLY GUY

Thanks dude, I'll only borrow it for today.

LOGAN (V.O.)

I'm probably never seeing that pencil again.

Logan notices two GIRLS talking loudly a couple rows under him. Another GIRL walks up and joins them. She leans into their conversation.

GIRL #1

Wait, this isn't Anthro?

GIRL #2

No, this is Bio 102. I think your room is upstairs.

GIRL #1

Shit!

The girl grabs her backpack and sprints out of the room, running past PROFESSOR LOPEZ as he enters the classroom.

LOGAN (V.O.)

It's a wonder these people graduated.

The Professor writes his name on the blackboard and the students begin to quiet down.

PROFESSOR LOPEZ

My name is Walter Lopez and this is Bio 102. I'm going to start by grouping you with your lab partner today because I'd like to finish today in lab so you can familiarize yourselves.

Logan begins to zone out the professor as he flips through the pages of his syllabus.

LOGAN (V.O.)

Cell theory, biosphere, genetics - didn't we learn all of this already?

PROFESSOR LOPEZ

Alright Brandy Stambaugh, you will be with Kyra Nix...

Logan notices his phone vibrate and takes it out of his pocket. It reads "Good luck, today!" from his mother. He mindlessly checks his email.

PROFESSOR LOPEZ (CONT.)

...and Logan Holt?

Logan raises his hand.

PROFESSOR LOPEZ

Great, Logan you will be with Lily Quintero.

LILY QUINTERO turns her head and makes eye contact with Logan who is sitting above her. She has a pink streak in her dark, thick hair. She gives a slight smile to Logan before turning back around.

INT. LAB ROOM - DAY

Lily and Logan sit at a desk with a microscope, which Lily is looking into. Professor Lopez hands them their paper assignment. Logan grabs it and writes his name on it.

LILY

You look familiar. Didn't we go to Wellesley Hills together?

LOGAN

Uh yeah, I think so.

LILY
Oh shit yeah! You were class
president!

LOGAN (V.O.)
Bingo.

LOGAN
Yeah I was.

LILY
Cool. Didn't you also give a speech at
graduation and everything? Weren't
you, uh...

LOGAN (V.O.)
I'll give her a minute. It's a big
word.

LILY
Valedictorian?

LOGAN
Yeah, back in the glory days.

Logan doesn't make eye contact with her as he starts to fill
out the assignment sheet.

LILY
Yeah! Why did you come to MassBay? I
thought you would've gone to Harvard
or something.

LOGAN (V.O.)
Your guess is as good as mine.
(then)
Well, that's probably not true.

LOGAN
Yeah, well, I wanted to stay at home
with family a little longer.

LILY
I totally get that. If I left, my
house would probably burn down! I love
my parents but they kind of need me.
Do you need help with that?

Lily leans over to read what Logan is writing on the sheet.

LOGAN

It's just labeling the parts of the microscope. It's elementary.

He scribbles Lily's name on it and gets out of his seat.

LOGAN

I'll turn it in. See you later.

Lily furrows her brows for a moment before gathering her things and getting out of her seat. Logan is already out the door.

EXT. MASSBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Logan walks to a bench by a tree on campus. He sits down and pulls out his phone. He clicks on JORDAN's name and tries to FaceTime him. The call fails.

Logan sighs and starts scrolling through Instagram. He sees photos of his friends in their dorms, at campus events and frat parties. He opens Harvard's profile and hovers his finger over the unfollow button.

LILY

Hey! Logan!

Logan looks up and across the grass he sees Lily and her two friends, NOAH and GABBY.

LOGAN (V.O.)

This really is just extended high school isn't it.

Logan waves as the three walk up to him.

NOAH

(laughing)

Hey, man! I would've never thought I'd be in the same college as Logan Holt!

Noah raises his hand to give Logan a high five. Logan reciprocates.

LILY

Yeah we were just talking about you.

Gabby smiles gently and pushes up her black framed glasses.

LILY (CONT.)

Hey, I'm sorry for that Harvard

comment. It's really none of my business why you're here.

LOGAN (V.O.)
Yeah, it isn't. I didn't ask you why you didn't get accepted into a real college.

LOGAN
Ah, it's fine, don't worry about it. It's really just a personal choice.

LILY
Yeah totally, I get it.
(then)
So listen, we're all having a get together tonight at Newtowne Grill. You're totally welcome to come. Us Wellesley survivors gotta stick together.

LOGAN
Oh, thanks. I don't really know what my plans are, so...

Lily grabs his phone from his hand.

LILY
That's okay, I'll put my number in your phone in case you change your mind. It's probably good to have it for bio anyways, you know?

LOGAN (V.O.)
(sarcastically)
My mom will be glad to hear I'm making so many friends.

LILY
Oh, someone's calling.

Lily hands his phone back and Jordan's name is lighting up his screen.

LOGAN
Oh yeah, I gotta take this. See you guys later.

INT. MASSBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DAY

Logan walks along a hallway until he finds a chair outside a

classroom. He sits down and takes Jordan's call.

LOGAN
Hey, what's up?

JORDAN (O.S.)
Aye, sorry I missed your call, I was sleeping.

LOGAN
Oh right, totally forgot about the time difference.

JORDAN (O.S.)
Yeah, it's not too bad. We are on opposite sides of the country though.

LOGAN
How is it in California?

JORDAN (O.S.)
Dude, it's so great. Berkeley has the best parties.

LOGAN
Oh really?

JORDAN (O.S.)
Yeah, I definitely made the right choice. I'm also stoked that rush is over.

LOGAN
Right, how has Theta Delta Chi been? Are you a total frat bro now?

JORDAN (O.S.)
It's great, man. The events can get a little overwhelming sometimes, you know?

Logan stares ahead at a bulletin board across the hallway. One paper is pinned for an author Logan's never heard of who is coming to speak on campus in a week.

LOGAN
Yeah, totally. I'm living crazy here, too.

JORDAN (O.S.)
Dude, how's the first day been?

LOGAN

It's been fine. I'm partnered up with Lily Quintero for lab.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Who?

LOGAN

Just some girl from high school. She invited me to hang out with her and Noah Laine. And Gabby whatever her face.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Gabby Schultz?

LOGAN

Yeah I think so. With the glasses.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Well, Noah's a pretty chill guy. Me and Brandon went mountain biking with him once.

LOGAN

Oh, nice. But that's literally all I have to catch you up on.

JORDAN (O.S.)

You should totally come out and visit. We gotta plan a trip.

LOGAN

Yeah, for sure.

Logan hears a muffled man's voice in the background of the call.

LOGAN

What was that?

JORDAN (O.S.)

Shit man, I'm down!

LOGAN

What?

JORDAN (O.S.)

Oh sorry dude I was talking to Jake, my roommate. We're going to get breakfast burritos at the BEST place

in Berkeley.

LOGAN

Oh dope.

The bell rings on the hour.

LOGAN (CONT.)

Hey, I gotta go to my next class.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Okay cool, I'll talk to you later man!

Logan hangs up and grabs his backpack as students flood the hallway.

INT. ROOM 262 - DAY

Logan is doodling "Philosophy: Introduction to Metaphysics" in bold letters in his notebook. PROFESSOR CRENSHAW, paces back and forth with her long floral skirt in the front of the classroom. She writes down the word "fatalism" on the board.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Now fatalism is an interesting philosophical concept. Do we have free will? Do we have a destiny?

Logan lifts his head off his hand as he stares at the board.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Fatalists believe all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable. Does anyone know the difference between fatalism and determinism?

A STUDENT next to him raises his hand.

STUDENT

Isn't it that fatalism says we all have a destiny, but there are different paths we can take to that destiny, but determinism says our future is determined by earlier events?

LOGAN (V.O.)

Okay Aristotle, calm down.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Precisely. From the perspective of determinism, every event in nature is the result of prior or coexisting events. Every event is a confluence of influences.

Logan stares at the teacher for a moment before realizing everyone around him is taking notes. He begins to start writing the notes on the board.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Fatalism holds that the natural world causes events in human life but is not itself influenced by human will or behavior. No matter what you do, the same things will happen to you.

Now, what about natural law? Does natural law imply fatalism is true?

Logan raises his hand. Professor Crenshaw nods to him.

LOGAN

I guess you could point to Newton and the billiard ball universe concept.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

And share what that is to the class.

LOGAN

It's the idea that if one were to know the position and condition of every piece of matter and energy in the universe at any given moment, then ideally, it would be possible to predict everything that will ever happen after that moment. All events would be fully determined.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Right, but then who replaced Newtonian mechanics?

LOGAN

Einstein?

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Yes, the theory of relativity. How does that play in?

LOGAN

Well, I guess that the past and future are relative to the observer.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

So wouldn't that enhance the argument of fatalism?

LOGAN

No. Well...maybe.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Because it implies that all past and future events *already exist*. Otherwise, how could my future be your past? Which is something that can happen in relativity, correct?

LOGAN

Well, theoretically -

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

So, in this, "block universe," as it's called, all past, present, and future already exist, our lives are predetermined paths and fatalism wins.

The class is silent. Logan furrows his brow for a moment.

LOGAN

What about quantum theory?

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Einstein resisted quantum theory.

LOGAN

But he helped discover it, and quantum theory suggests the uncertainty principle and the principle of superposition.

Professor Crenshaw narrows her eyes at Logan and a small smile escapes from the side of her mouth. The class eagerly stares at Professor Crenshaw.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

The uncertainty principle states that events are all random and unpredictable at the sub-atomic level, this doesn't necessarily make events less determined, just less

predictable. Statistical determination is still a kind of determination.

LOGAN

But the superposition principle states that different possibilities exist at once, on top of each other. Each possible outcome of an event happens in a different world. Which would mean that yes, the universe is deterministic, but since every one of our possible futures happens, it is not fatalistic.

Another STUDENT raises their hand. Professor Crenshaw breaks eye contact with Logan to gesture to her.

STUDENT

So what does that mean then? If multiple versions of us exist? What if one version of me wins the lottery but I don't? How can I make myself the one who wins?

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

You will become both the one who wins and the one who doesn't.

The student looks unsatisfied.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Your actions now may determine which one you become, but those actions were not inevitable. Another version of you enjoys a different fate.

STUDENT

...So is that fatalism?

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Philosophers haven't agreed upon that.

Professor Crenshaw looks at Logan.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

I'll let you decide.

The bell rings.

INT. ROOM 262 - LATER - DAY

The last student has exited the classroom while Logan approaches Professor Crenshaw packing up her laptop at her desk.

LOGAN

I'm Logan by the way.

Professor Crenshaw stands up from her briefcase and sticks her hand out.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Nice to meet you, Logan. I always love a good philosophical discussion. I'm impressed with your knowledge.

LOGAN

I noticed you have your PhD. I hope you don't mind me asking, but why are you here?

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

I'm sorry?

LOGAN

I mean, why aren't you teaching at a university?

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Well, I have a passion for community colleges. I grew up in an immigrant family, neither of my parents had gone to college. I kind of see it as a place for second chances.

LOGAN

Okay, fair enough.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

Are you interested in pursuing philosophy?

LOGAN

No, I wanted to go to med school but...it didn't work out. But hey, if all I wanted to do was teach philosophy I wouldn't mind going to a community college that much.

Professor Crenshaw crosses her arms and jerks her head back

slightly in surprise.

PROFESSOR CRENSHAW

I see. Well, you never know. I think you can learn a lot here. It might surprise you.

She grabs her case and her coat and walks past him to exit the classroom.

INT. LOGAN'S CAR - DAY

Logan is driving home in silence when his phone rings. He touches his bluetooth screen in his car to pick up the call.

LOGAN

Hey mom, what's up?

CINDY (O.S.)

Hey, you're out of class right?

LOGAN

Yeah, I'm driving home now.

CINDY (O.S.)

Great, would you mind going grocery shopping? I'll text you a list.

LOGAN

Mom, I-

CINDY (O.S.)

Oh and then after it would be very helpful if you could pick up your sister from school, she's out in an hour.

Logan grips his steering wheel tightly.

CINDY (O.S.)

Hello?

LOGAN

I don't know, mom, I don't really want to run errands right now.

CINDY (O.S.)

Do you have some other plans?

LOGAN

No, but -

Logan's phone lights up on his seat beside him. Lily sent him a text.

LILY (TEXT)

Hey, we'll be at Newtowne Grill at 5 tonight if you're able to make it.

LOGAN

Actually mom, I already told some friends I'd get dinner with them.

CINDY (O.S.)

Dinner? Well you could probably still go grocery shopping.

LOGAN

No, it's at five and it's in downtown Boston so I'd need to leave in an hour.

CINDY (O.S.)

And you can't just run by the grocery store in that time?

LOGAN

C'mon mom, you know it won't be a quick grocery store run. You have a LIST.

CINDY (O.S.)

(laughing)

Okay, alright. Oh I almost forgot! How was your first day?

LOGAN

I...It wasn't that bad.

CINDY (O.S.)

(scoffing)

Not that bad?

LOGAN

Only two years. I can probably do it.

CINDY (O.S.)

Alright I gotta go but I'll see you tonight.

LOGAN

Okay, bye.

Logan stops at a stoplight and looks over at his phone. It lights up again with Lily's message. He grabs it and hesitates for a moment before responding.

LOGAN (TEXT)

Cool, I'll see you there.

He puts his phone down and turns on the radio. The corners of his mouth turn up slightly. The light turns green.

FADE OUT.