

Dr. Balkus, Mr. Hyde

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

We see MR. BALKUS fist-bumping students as they walk into his classroom.

The kids walk in one by one and Mr. Balkus greets them with a smile.

MR BALKUS

Hey! Hi! Yo! How's it going?

The bell rings and Mr. Balkus walks into the classroom with all the kids in their seats.

We see Mr. Balkus finish a coffee. He then aggressively tosses an empty coffee cup into the trash.

The frame is zoomed in on Mr. Balkus's face, who has an expression of pure anger. The camera slowly zooms out on Mr. Balkus' face, red as a tomato.

MR BALKUS

Phones in the holder. Clear your desks. Pencils out. That's right... pop quiz!

The gasping noises and crying can be heard from the class, like injured dogs.

We see one kid faint as she walks to the phone holder.

Students gather around NATHAN JENSON's desk in a corner of the room, as far away from Mr. Balkus as they can get. The students review their notes in the group as they panic before the pop quiz. Nathan Jenson leads the study session.

MR BALKUS (CONT'D)

What is this, a tutoring session? Get back to your seats. And I said everything away, Jenson! Just for that, double the homework tonight!

More sobbing can be heard from all corners of the room. Students tremble at their desks and have a look of horror on their faces.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The class gathers outside their history class after the pop quiz with defeated looks on their faces.

NATHAN JENSON

There's no way I got above a 50%.
How were we supposed to know
anything on that quiz? I swear
that man switches between moods
every day.

The students nod in agreement.

BOOK NERD STUDENT

You guys ever heard of that book,
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?

CLASS

Yeah, yeah.

NATHAN JENSON

With that crazy dude with two
personalities. One minute he's
human and the next... a monster.

BOOK NERD STUDENT

I swear we're living that every
day in his class. It's like our
teacher is Dr. Balkus, Mr. Hyde.

NATHAN JENSON

Something's gotta be done about
that class. I don't think one of
us has a passing grade, besides
that quiet kid in the corner who
dedicates his whole life to
history.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - FLASHBACK

We see a flashback to history class last week of the quiet kid in the corner as he hugs and kisses a history textbook like its a beloved stuffed animal.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUED

NATHAN JENSON (CONT'D)

We need to come up with a plan of action to figure out what triggers Mr. Balkus' mood swings. Then maybe our grades will improve and we won't fail the class.

The students hear pounding footsteps coming from the history class, and Mr. Balkus comes storming out.

MR BALKUS

The bell rang! I don't want to see any of you morons until tomorrow!

The students scurry away in fear, away from Balkus' classroom. The group continues to talk as the students walk down the hall.

NATHAN JENSON

The plan is simple. We need to figure out what makes Balkus happy. Our grades are depending on it.

BENNY, a member of the forensics club, steps forward among the crowd.

BENNY

What do you propose?

NATHAN JENSON

Benny, aren't you part of the forensics club? You should study the situation and devise a plan.

BENNY

I'll see what I can put together next class.

NATHAN JENSON

Okay, it's settled then. See everyone tomorrow. Benny, tell us your findings after class.

The students go their separate ways in the hallway.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

The students await their fate for today's class as they sit anxiously at their desks. The bell rings and Balkus enters the room with a smile on his face.

MR BALKUS

Phones in the holder. Clear your desks. Pencils out. That's right...JEOPARDY.

SLOW MOTION

The class cheers and jumps in excitement as others hit their knees and pray in joy.

END SLOW MOTION

INT. HISTORY CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is still thrilled playing Jeopardy as Balkus slurps down the final sip of his iced coffee.

NATHAN JENSON

Renaissance for 500, please!

MR BALKUS

Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?

NATHAN JENSON

UMMMM... Who is Leonardo? Wait no. Donatello.

Balkus' face becomes red with anger all of a sudden.

MR BALKUS

NOOOOO! WRONG! Now you're just naming all the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. It was Michelangelo, you moron! Get out of my class!

Nathan slumps out of the class past Benny, whose face lights up.

Benny has an interested look in his eyes as he writes down a thought in his notebook.

Balkus hands back yesterday's pop quizzes and we see mixed reactions around the class.

Benny receives his and gets a 100%, but there is a coffee stain next to the score.

BENNY

Very, very interesting. Just as I suspected.

The bell then rings for split lunch.

MR BALKUS

Get your feeding bags out. 20 minutes for lunch and not a second more.

The students rush out to the courtyard for lunch and find Nathan sitting defeated at a picnic table.

BENNY

Hey, Nathan. I know your sad, but I might be on to something to solve our little Dr. Balkus, Mr. Hyde scenario.

Nathan's face lights up with hope.

NATHAN JENSON

Good work, Benny. What have you found?

BENNY

Well, I have a hypothesis, but I need to collect everyone's last quiz to confirm my findings.

NATHAN JENSON

OK. OK. We can work with that. Hey, everyone! Give Benny your quizzes! Now!

The students outside at lunch hand Benny their quizzes that were just handed back at the end of class.

The students then continue to eat lunch as Benny shuffles the papers around.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Benny lurks in his science classroom one night after school hours to run an experiment. MRS. REICHHELD walks into her classroom to pack up.

MRS. REICHHELD

Benny! What the heck are you doing here this late? You scared me.

BENNY

Leave me alone, woman. This is important. Even life-changing.

Mrs. Reichheld walks away with her bag, shaking her head in confusion.

Benny continues his experiment, with test tubes and beakers fizzing around on the counter.

We see a bunch of his classmates' tests lined up on the counter. He examines what looks like coffee stains on the tests with higher grades.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Aha! Just what I hypothesized. I truly am a genius.

Benny continues his studies to lock down the exact formula. He sees two sugar and one milk molecule under the microscope.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Aha! 2 sugars and 1 milk. Iced. The perfect formula to make Balkus happy. I've got the let Nathan know!

BENNY (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Hey! Jenson! You'll never believe what I discovered...

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

The students enter class with their hands full of iced coffee, containing precisely 2 sugars and one milk.

The bell rings and Balkus enters looking angry. Before he is able to get a word out, Benny stands up.

BENNY

Hey, Mr. Balkus! I got you a little gift today.

Benny hands Balkus the first cup of coffee and a satisfied look comes across his face.

MR BALKUS

(sipping the coffee)

Well, you know, I was going to have a pop quiz today, but lets just do some map coloring instead. And Benny, how did you know my Dunkin' order? What a coincidence!

HISTORY CLASS

(cheering)

Yeah! Let's go!

INT. HISTORY CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

The class is happy coloring while Balkus is sipping away on his iced coffee.

Suddenly we hear the sound of Balkus slurping down the final drops of the coffee. Then he pounds his desk and stands up angrily.

MR BALKUS

You know what? I've been too easy today. Phones in the holder everything away. Pop...

A different kid sprints up to Balkus with a coffee before he can finish his sentence.

A smile comes across Balkus' face and he is no longer angry.

MR BALKUS (CONT'D)

Just kidding, guys. Continue your coloring.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

The kids are laughing and having fun while Balkus is still sipping on a coffee.

The frame now just shows Balkus with 2 empty coffee cups on his desk. Just as Balkus starts to get up to scream at the students, Nathan runs up to Balkus with a fresh cup of coffee in his hand. As he's running, he trips and falls on the ground, dropping the cup and spilling coffee all over the ground. Nathan rolls over with an agonizing scream, clearly injured. Students crowd around Nathan to see if he's okay.

NATHAN JENSON

(in pain)

Oh shoot guys. I think I broke something.

Balkus immediately rises from his desk in shock and steps over Nathan on the floor to see his spilled coffee.

MR BALKUS

Oh my god. My coffee!

NATHAN JENSON

(whimpering)

Really? What about me?

The camera zooms in on Balkus' face as he increasingly becomes angrier.

MR BALKUS

Detention for all you morons for the rest of the semester. And I'm not going to ask again, phones in the holder!

FADE OUT.