



Last Minute Fool

By 11th Grade Justin Stetler

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Characters:

Jake: A nerdy 17-year-old kid that easily gets distracted

Procrastination: An annoying and sarcastic character that likes to distract Jake. Has an aesthetic of a rebellious teen from an 80s movie

Ms Anderson: A strict but also caring teacher



Scene 1

(Setting: A classroom, Monday morning)

JAKE

(Sitting at a desk, patiently waiting for Ms Anderson to walk in)
Ugh, this day has been awful so far. I bombed my Algebra and Physics quiz, and I forgot to do the history homework. My teachers are so disappointed in me, but there's still hope.

MS ANDERSON

(Enters)
Hello everybody!

JAKE

Never mind.

MS ANDERSON

Hope you all had an amazing weekend. I sure did! You know why?

JAKE

Oh god, I'm not ready.

MS ANDERSON

Because! I just finished grading all of your previous essays! You all did wonderful, except for some people.

(Anderson looks at Jake, and there is now a spotlight on Jake.)

JAKE

Wow, way to call me out in front of everyone, Ms Anderson.

MS ANDERSON

(She puts Jake's essay on his desk.)
Here you go Jake. Maybe next time you'll learn not to use Wikipedia.

JAKE

But, Wikipedia is actually a credible source!



MS ANDERSON

Yeah, when pigs fly.

JAKE

BUT, all of the articles on Wikipedia are all backed by other credible sources. Did you ever scroll to the bottom of a Wikipedia article? There is a long list of sources used for that specific article.

MS ANDERSON

Doesn't hide the fact that literally anyone can edit a Wikipedia article.

JAKE

That's not accurate whatsoever. Even if someone were to put something incorrect, it would be taken down immediately-

MS ANDERSON

I don't wanna hear it. Anyways, I just posted a new assignment on Boogle Classroom.

(Ms Anderson and Jake both look at the audience. There's a spotlight on both of them.)

JAKE AND MS ANDERSON

Copyright infringement sucks.

JAKE

(Jake goes on his phone and sees the assignment.)

Ugh, are you serious?! Another essay?!

MS ANDERSON

This shouldn't come as a shock to you all since we just finished reading Hamlet. I want you all to pick one character from the play and fully analyze them. Think about their actions, their thoughts, and the complexity of these characters. Think about why Shakespeare included these characteristics and how they're significant to the play. You have a week from today to submit your essays. Also, your annotations for Hamlet are due Wednesday.

JAKE

Ugh, this day just got 10 times worse!

MS ANDERSON

You all can save your whining for later.



JAKE

Can't you just make it due in two weeks?

MS ANDERSON

One week is long enough.

JAKE

But I have so many plans!

MS ANDERSON

Well, it looks like you'll be staying home this week, hmm?



Scene 2

(Setting: Jake's bedroom, Monday evening)

JAKE

(Jake is sitting at his desk on his laptop trying to write his essay)
I don't know how to start this essay. This play was so boring! I barely even payed attention to this play. I completely forget how Ophelia died or what happened during the big sword fighting scene. I guess I'll just write about Hamlet.

PROCRASTINATION

(As soon as Jake starts typing on his computer, Procrastination barges in Jake's room.)
Heyo! It's ya homeboy Procrastination back at it again on another assignment! What ya working on this week, chum!

JAKE

An essay for Hamlet.

PROCRASTINATION

Wow, that's so intriguing!

JAKE

What do you want?

PROCRASTINATION

Oh, nothing much. Just came in for my weekly check up on you, sport!

JAKE

Can you leave? I'm busy.

PROCRASTINATION

Why no! We have a lot planned for this week. Besides, you can just use SparkNotes or something! You've done that before, and it's done you justice!

JAKE

First of all, we do NOT have a week planned. Second of all, I'm not using SparkNotes again. Remember that test I had for *Of Mice and Men*? Completely bombed it from using SparkNotes. I'm not playing your little games again. I'm working on my essay this whole week!



PROCRASTINATION

Oh no you're not! We're gonna be doing everything BUT your essay, silly!

JAKE

Please leave me alone. You know how that ended last time, right?

MS ANDERSON

(Ms Anderson appears. The stage is red, and there is haunting music playing in the background. This is clearly exaggerated. This wasn't her actual reaction.)

This essay is awful! Absolutely awful! You are a disgrace, Jake! How can you call yourself an honors student? Get out of my face you punk!

(Ms Anderson spits on Jake and leaves.)

PROCRASTINATION

Who knows, maybe that won't happen and she'll be forgiving as to why you didn't complete your essay.

JAKE

You're joking, right?

PROCRASTINATION

Absolutely not! You think I'm lying?! I speak nothing but the truth! Have I ever done anything wrong?

JAKE

Yes. All of the time.

PROCRASTINATION

Incorrect! I'm never wrong! Everything I've done has helped you succeed in your life. For instance, remember that packet you had to do for physics?

JAKE

Yeah, you mean the one I didn't finish?

PROCRASTINATION

Yes, of course! And remember how I gave you that brilliant idea to binge watch Bill Nye the Science Guy? Remember how much that helped you with not doing the packet?!



JAKE

Yes. That clearly distracted me from my packet and left me with a 0 since I didn't even do the packet that night. Besides no one even watches Bill Nye for education. Everyone watches it to relive their childhood. Anyways, I have stuff to do. Can you go?

PROCRASTINATION

Nonsense! Like I said, we have a whole week planned for us. Now let's start it off with some Netfl-

(Jake corrects Procrastination for copyright infringement.)

Betflix.

JAKE

Absolutely not! I have things to do.

PROCRASTINATION

Which series do you wanna start first? *Stranger Things* or *Santa Clarita Diet*?

JAKE

How about my Hamlet essay?!

PROCRASTINATION

(The Wrong Answer buzzer from Family Feud is played.)

Nope! Survey says that is not the correct answer. Pick a series!

JAKE

Okay fine. *Santa Clarita Diet*. But just one episode.

PROCRASTINATION

No. That's not enough. What if the show is actually really good and you end up liking it? Make it 2. Or 3. Or 4. Hell, make it all 2 seasons!

JAKE

No! Just one and that's it. Pass me the remote.

PROCRASTINATION

You got it buckaroo! Say, pass me a nice cold and refreshing Boca Bola, will ya?

(Ad music plays in the background)

Baste the beeling.



Scene 3

(Setting: Classroom, Wednesday morning)

MS ANDERSON

Good morning class. Please take out your copy of Hamlet so I can check annotations.

(Goes next to Jake.)

So, how are you making out on that essay, Jake?

JAKE

(Clearly lying.)

Good! Really good! Already have 3 paragraphs written! I worked really hard on it last night.

MS ANDERSON

That's great! Do you want me to pull up your document and review it? I can give you some feedback!

JAKE

NO!

(Jake realized that he is yelling and is now pulling himself back.)

I mean, I don't think that would be necessary. I think my judgement is pretty good. Thanks though!

MS ANDERSON

Are you sure? I think it would be very helpful.

JAKE

No, you don't have to go out of your way to do that. That won't be necessary.

MS ANDERSON

I'm just gonna do it anyway. This would only benefit you.

JAKE

(Jake lunges out of his seat)

No! Please, no!

(Jake takes a few steps back into his seat and clears his throat.)

I mean, go right ahead.



MS ANDERSON

(Anderson sees that there is barely any work on Jake's essay)
Are you serious? You only have four words typed! You could've just said that you didn't start your essay. You didn't have to lie like that. Now I feel like I can't trust you. The only words you have on this document are "The play Hamlet was-" You are so much better than this, Jake!

JAKE

Well, what I meant to say was that I wrote 3 paragraphs, then erased everything because it was awful.

MS ANDERSON

Oh, okay! Then let's check your revision history. You probably had some great ideas.

JAKE

Uhhh, I think it's best for you not to.

MS ANDERSON

And why is that?

JAKE

Because I was lying about that, too.

MS ANDERSON

Are you kidding me? What were you doing that was more important than this essay?

JAKE

Uhhh, I went to the doctors?

MS ANDERSON

Mhm, for what?

JAKE

Well, uhhhh... for uhhhh...

MS ANDERSON

Spit it out, Jake! What is it?

JAKE

I went for a... checkup! Yeah, I went to the doctors for a checkup.



MS ANDERSON

I see... maybe you should start on your essay tonight.

JAKE

Okay, I will! I won't let you down! I promise!

MS ANDERSON

I've got my eyes on you Jake.

JAKE

(A spotlight is on Jake, and he frighteningly gulps very loudly.)



Scene 4

(Setting: Jakes bedroom, Wednesday evening)

JAKE

(Sitting with his laptop)

Okay, I really have to start this freaking essay. I don't want what happened today to happen again.

PROCRASTINATION

(Barges in)

Ayo! How are you doing on this fine day!

JAKE

What do you want from me this time, Procrastination?!

PROCRASTINATION

You know, I feel like "Procrastination" is too long, don't ya agree? I like "P.C." It's more original and sophisticated. Came up with it right on the spot.

JAKE

That already means something.

PROCRASTINATION

Whaaaaa? What is this so-called "P.C.?"

JAKE

It stands for "politically correct", something you're not.

PROCRASTINATION

That is so not true! I'll have you know I-

JAKE

Oh my god, can you please just leave me alone? You're genius idea of watching a full season of *Santa Clarita Diet* got me in trouble today! I can't afford to lose points for lateness on this essay!

PROCRASTINATION

Who ever said that the essay is gonna be late? We're just gonna put it off til the night before it's due and have some fun this week! Whatcha wanna do? Maybe play some video games or maybe go out and-



JAKE

No! Literally any time I put off any assignment, I end up not finishing it and have to submit it late!

PROCRASTINATION

Well, this time you're not gonna turn it in late!

JAKE

Ugh, you say that every time! I'm sick of hearing it!

PROCRASTINATION

That negative attitude isn't gonna get you anywhere. All that's gonna do is make you focus on your stupid essay!

JAKE

THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO!

PROCRASTINATION

You doing something productive doesn't sit well with me! You will do nothing, AND YOU ARE GONNA LIKE IT!

JAKE

PLEASE, I SWEAR IF YOU DON'T LEAVE I'M GONNA KILL YOU-

PROCRASTINATION

Okay! Geez, I'll leave you alone.

JAKE

THANKS!

(Procrastination leaves.)

Now, where were we...

(Jake begins typing on his laptop, and Procrastination walks back in Jake's room)

What now?!

PROCRASTINATION

(Procrastination is really sad in this moment.)

I just saw a poster for a lost puppy outside.

(Procrastination shows Jake the poster.)



JAKE

(Jake's tone immediately changes.)

Oh my god! That's awful! I wonder what that poor puppy is going through right now! He doesn't deserve that! And it's so cold outside! He's probably shivering and-

(Jake plops on his bed and cries on a pillow.)

PROCRASTINATION

Yes! That's right, Jake! Cry! Cry like there's no tomorrow.

JAKE

I really hope that puppy is found. He's too small for this evil world. He shouldn't be out there on his own. What if he gets hurt?

PROCRASTINATION

Or worse... what if he dies?

JAKE

(Jake is now sobbing in his pillow very loudly.)

He doesn't deserve this! I wonder what the owners of this poor little puppy is going through right now! They're probably just as devastated as I am right now!

PROCRASTINATION

You're so right. Do you know what I think is a good idea for you right now?

JAKE

What is it?

PROCRASTINATION

I think you should finish watching *Santa Clarita Diet* to cheer you up. Working on this essay is just gonna stress you out even more.

JAKE

You're right. You are so right! But this is the only day I can do this. After today, I am going to finish this essay.

PROCRASTINATION

Okay, whatever you say.



Scene 5

(Setting: Classroom, Friday morning)

MS ANDERSON

(Jake walks in, and Ms Anderson is sitting at her desk.)
Hey Jake! So, any improvement on that essay?

JAKE

I mean, I guess.

MS ANDERSON

That doesn't sound promising.

JAKE

Oops.

MS ANDERSON

Jake, I assigned this essay to you on Monday! It's currently Friday, and you still have nothing done?

JAKE

I added more onto my essay.

MS ANDERSON

Okay then. Let's see.

(Ms Anderson pulls up Jake's essay.)
Well, now you have one full sentence instead of 4 words.

JAKE

I wasn't lying when I said I added more on.

MS ANDERSON

Jake, I'm getting really worried about you. You can't keep on doing this. Your professors in college next year are going to flunk you if you keep this act up. You submitted 2 recent assignments in late. Don't make this your third. I'm telling you, professors aren't fond of procrastinators.



JAKE

I hear you. It's just so hard for me to focus on anything. I always find myself getting distracted from the dumbest things.

MS ANDERSON

Then just put away anything that will distract you. Put it out of your sight while you're working on the essay.

JAKE

That's not a bad idea. I'm gonna try that over the weekend.

MS ANDERSON

I only want what's best for you. I'm not picking on you just for fun. I only want what's best for you.

JAKE

I know. Don't worry, you will receive a beautifully written essay Monday morning. I promise. I won't let you down.

(Jake exits)

MS ANDERSON

I really hope Jake makes the right choice this time around. I'd hate to see him get yet another bad grade on an assignment that could've easily been knocked out in a day. I just feel like what I'm doing isn't enough. I'm trying so hard to push him to succeed. I'm not doing this to be a "bitch." I know what Jake is capable of. He's a great student! He's just been procrastinating so much lately.

PROCRASTINATION

(Procrastination enters.)

Don't act like you're Miss Perfect.

MS ANDERSON

What do you mean?

PROCRASTINATION

Cut the crap! There's been many times where you've procrastinated on submitting grades.



MS ANDERSON

You have a point there. I'm not trying to say I've never procrastinated in my life. It gets to the best of us.

PROCRASTINATION

I always find a way to interfere somehow. I'm always watching.

MS ANDERSON

I'm really hoping he doesn't let you take advantage of him again.

PROCRASTINATION

Just you wait!



Scene 6

(Setting: Jake's bedroom, Sunday evening)

PROCRASTINATION

(Barges in while Jake is sitting with his laptop.)

Hey hey hey, buddy ol pal! What ya doing on this fine Sunday evening?

JAKE

My essay, and nothing but my essay.

PROCRASTINATION

Oh, I thought you weren't gonna wait til last minute to finish this essay.

JAKE

If you didn't exist, maybe I would've turned in the essay the day it was assigned.

PROCRASTINATION

Well isn't that a darn shame! I say we put away this laptop and start a new series on Betflix!

JAKE

Nope, I unplugged my tv.

PROCRASTINATION

Why? That would make it difficult to watch TV.

JAKE

Exactly.

PROCRASTINATION

Oh no! I see what you're doing! You're being productive! I think I'm gonna throw up.

JAKE

Good. Throw up and get out of my life, will ya?

PROCRASTINATION

How about you go on your phone and check on Snapchat to see how everyone is doing?



JAKE

Nope, I turned my phone off.

PROCRASTINATION

What about sleep? I mean, it is 11 o'clock at night. That's pretty late for you.

JAKE

Welp, looks like I'm gonna be up late tonight.

PROCRASTINATION

Then how about you take a break? You've been working on this for a while, kiddo.

JAKE

I'm done with your crap! Why can't you give me a break for once?! You do nothing but make my life a living hell!

PROCRASTINATION

Hey, that's no way to talk to your boss!

JAKE

Boss?! Your not my boss! I'm gonna finish this essay whether you like it or not!

PROCRASTINATION

Ugh, since when did you become so boring.

JAKE

Since I started caring about my grades.

PROCRASTINATION

What happened to the Jake that I used to know? The one who would spend hours on writing one response question. The one who would go on your phone nonstop when writing an essay? The one who would beat a video game in one day.

JAKE

There's this thing called self-control. I don't think you've heard of it before. It's working wonders for me, and I'm not letting you ruin this for me.

PROCRASTINATION

Please do something else besides your essay! Please, Jake! I didn't come here to be bored to death.



JAKE

I never invited you here. You took it upon yourself to come here.

PROCRASTINATION

I've failed. I can't believe it. I don't know what I did to deserve this.

JAKE

You've distracted me far too many times, and I'm sick of it!

PROCRASTINATION

I wouldn't say I distract you. I would say that I help you stay entertained while you're writing an essay.

JAKE

That's a whole load of bull you're talking right there.

PROCRASTINATION

Jake, please, I really think you should-

JAKE

I THINK YOU SHOULD LEAVE!

PROCRASTINATION

Ugh, whatever. Go be boring and work on your dumb essay.



Scene 7

(Setting: Classroom, Monday morning)

JAKE

(Barges in the classroom.)

I'm sorry I'm late. I woke up at 8:15, and I rushed over here as soon as I got dressed. I stayed up all night writing this essay.

MS ANDERSON

I'll see how I feel after I read your completed essay, I hope.

JAKE

Go, check for yourself. It's all complete!

MS ANDERSON

(Anderson looks on her computer and sees Jake's completed essay.)

You're not kidding!

JAKE

See! I told you!

MS ANDERSON

Did you take my advice?

JAKE

Yes I did!

MS ANDERSON

See how much progress is made when you push away all of the distractions. I knew you had it in you!

(Ms Anderson skims through his essay)

This has got to be one of the best essays you've ever submitted before!

JAKE

Really?! Thank you so much! I worked so hard on this essay, you don't even know.

MS ANDERSON

Hard work pays off.



PROCRASTINATION

(Peaks through the door.)
Disgusting. Absolutely disgusting.

JAKE

(To Procrastination)
Yeah, that's right! How do you feel now?

PROCRASTINATION

I'm not done with you Jake. I will always be a part of your life.

JAKE

Well, I learned a little something called self-control, so that means you won't be taking control of me for long.

PROCRASTINATION

Just you wait, Jake! You won't see it coming! I will be back!

JAKE

Nah. Actually, you can leave. The door is right there.
(Jake points to the door.)

END OF PLAY