

Acceptance Letter

by: Japheth Gordon

INT. STEVENS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

It's well furnished with touches of class all around. The heavy oak front door BURSTS open and in flies KEVIN STEVENS, 16 years old and full of energy. He throws off his backpack and searches frantically.

KEVIN
(yelling upstairs)
Mom, where's the mail!?!

KYLE STEVENS, Kevin's identical twin, comes tumbling through the open front door - so fast that he's tripping over himself.

KYLE
Where are they? Did we get 'em?

KEVIN
I dunno yet.
(calling out)
Mom where's the...

Kevin see's a stack of letters on the table.

Both boys DART over to the stack and flip through the papers wildly, until:

KYLE
(reads)
Mr. Kevin Stevens.

Kyle presents an envelope to Kevin. Kevin bows and hands an identical envelope to Kyle.

KEVIN
And Mr. Kyle Stevens.

KYLE
Thank you sir.

KEVIN
This is it!

KYLE
Ready?

KEVIN
Go!

The two boys tear through the envelopes like Christmas wrapping. They read the letters simultaneously:

KYLE
Dear Mr. Stevens. Thank you
for your - blah blah blah. We
are pleased to inform you...

KEVIN
Dear Mr. Stevens. Thank you
for - yada yada, skip that -
We regret to inform you...

KYLE
What?

KEVIN
Looks like I didn't get in.

KYLE
That's crazy. Let me see that.

Kyle takes the letter from Kevin's hand and reads to himself.

KEVIN
Listen, bro, I'm really happy for
you.

KYLE
(off the letter)
It says you're on the waiting list.
There's still a chance that you'll
get in.

KEVIN
(faking it)
That's good.

KYLE
I...I don't know what I'm supposed
to say.

KEVIN
It's all good. I'm proud of you.
This was your dream and you got it.

KYLE
This was our dream.

KEVIN
As long as one of the Stevens
brothers is a Wildcat, then we're
both winners.

KYLE
You gonna be okay?

KEVIN

Of course. We knew this might happen.

KYLE

Why would they accept one, and not both of us?

KEVIN

I don't know.

Beat. Kyle looks at the letter again. Then his brother.

KYLE

I'm not going.

KEVIN

Of course you are. And I'll end up going to State. We'll only be like an hour away.

KYLE

We're gonna spend the next four years at different schools? With new, different friends? Different classes, different dorms?

KEVIN

We're gonna have to. It's not like we can't live without each other.

Beat. Kevin is lost in thought for a second.

KYLE

You okay?

KEVIN

Yes. I said yes already. C'mon Kyle. This'll work out for us. We gotta grow up at some point, right?

KYLE

I guess you're right.

KEVIN

You have to be your own man. No more leaning on each other. Time for us to stand alone.

KYLE

"Alone" sounds so...lonely.

KEVIN

And now we can stop running home to check the mail everyday. Like two crazy dudes - all because some stupid letter.

KYLE

Yeah.

KEVIN

That was like all we talked about day and night, for months. Glad we can move on...finally.

Kevin calmly unpacks the books from his bag and sits at the table to study. Kyle watches him.

KYLE

You're so calm. You sure you okay?

KEVIN

(snaps)

Stop asking me that! Just stop.

(beat, then calmly)

Dude I'm cool. They don't want me. That's all.

KYLE

I'm sorry.

KEVIN

Why? Why are you sorry? We're supposed to strive for excellence, and you achieved it.

KYLE

It's not fair.

KEVIN

Well that's the way it is.

KYLE

I don't want to go to college without you.

KEVIN

I've got to study okay?

KYLE

Okay.

Kevin flips open his text book like everything's okay. We know it's not.

Kyle walks up over to his brother, bends down, and hugs him.