

TIME CRUNCH

Written by

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A teenager, nervous about starting college, dreams that he's in a musical.

INT. JAMES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

JAMES (18M) lies in a bed with green sheets in an empty bedroom with only moving boxes and a few duffel bags. The only light is coming from his window. He murmurs to himself.

JAMES

We leave at 9 AM. It's a seven hour drive, so we'll get there around 4 PM. But, if we hit traffic we'll get there around 5 PM, or will we get there at 6 PM? Wait, what if we stop for food?

James checks his phone. It reads "1:00 AM."

JAMES (CONT'D)

Oh my god. Why is it so late? Why do I stay up so late? What's wrong with me? What if my roommate goes to sleep early? He's gonna hate me. Everyone's gonna hate me.

James closes his eyes and shuffles in bed. He checks his phone, it now reads "2:30 AM."

JAMES (CONT'D)

Great.

James lies awake in bed. He plays some music through his earbuds. He falls asleep.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

James lies in a bed with blue sheets alone in a dorm room. The sun shines through the window. There's another bed, made with crisp sheets and fluffed pillows. His ALARM goes off. He opens his eyes and checks his phone, it reads "10:00 AM."

JAMES

Shoot. I'm late.

He sits up and looks around confused.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What the-

He hears a WHIRRING coming from the bathroom, the door slightly cracked open. He gets out of bed and stumbles as he lands on the floor. He opens the bathroom door. LANDON (18M) is brushing his teeth and doing a little dance.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Who the fu-?

LANDON

(singing)

Hello James! It's a lovely day.
Let's have some fun and kill it.
Yay!

Landon goes back to brushing his teeth and his little dance. James stares at him and slowly closes the door.

James stands confused, then walks over to a mirror. He rubs his eyes, then slaps himself and takes a breath. He checks his phone, it reads "10:05 AM."

JAMES

Right.

As he puts down his phone, Landon, now in school clothes, swings the bathroom door open and sings.

LANDON

(singing)

Hello James! It's me, Landon. It's time for class, so move that ass. Don't want to be late, like all my dates. So, put on your shoes and say 'woo-hoo.' It's time for class.

Landon dances out the front door. SLAM.

JAMES

Okay. What the actual fuck? I don't know anyone named Landon. Why does he keep singing?

A flyer slides under the front door. James picks it up. It reads, "Happy first month Freshies! Free donuts in the lobby! Come hangout with your RA!" James looks at a calendar on the wall with X's leading up to "September 23rd."

JAMES (CONT'D)

Holy crap.

James opens a few drawers and finds some clothes. He goes into the bathroom, closes the door, and immediately steps out wearing the clothes he just had in his hands.

JAMES (CONT'D)

That was fast.

He grabs his backpack and phone and heads out the door.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

James opens the door to a full classroom. His CLASSMATES stare at him. The PROFESSOR locks eyes with him.

PROFESSOR

Hello James. How nice of you to come to class today. Please sit down.

James, disoriented, sits down in the only open seat: the center of the front row, right in front of the Professor.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Okay class, please take out your textbooks and flip to chapter 10.

As students pull out the textbooks and place them on their desks, a musical beat starts. James is the last to pull out his textbook. As he struggles to flip to the page, a spotlight hits him.

Two of his classmates behind him, SALLY and TEDDY, start to sing.

SALLY

(singing)

Isn't that embarrassing? To open a book is not a difficult thing.

TEDDY

(singing)

He was also late to class. Isn't that kind of trash.

PROFESSOR

(singing)

My coffee this morning tasted bad.
And now I stuck with this rude lad.
How can I cope? Is there any hope?
I guess that's the question for
this day's class.

The Professor taps his pencil to the beat a few times. All of the books SLAM shut. The beat continues. James flips to chapter 10.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

(singing)

Well, that's it for today. Do you readings and say "hooray." Make sure you turn in everything on time because that would be very sublime.

JAMES

Great.

James packs up his textbooks and exits the classroom.

INT. DIFFERENT CLASSROOM - DAY

James enters a different classroom, it's almost empty besides two people. OTHER PROFESSOR and MEGAN pause their conversation to make eye contact with James.

OTHER PROFESSOR

(singing)

Hello James, why are you so late?
Just sit on down while I stand and
frown.

Other Professor finishes his talk with Megan. James sits down. Megan stops at the door before exiting.

MEGAN

(singing)

Who's that guy? So disrespectful
and shy. He sits in a weird pose
and has an even weirder nose.

James looks down at how he's sitting, then back at Megan. They lock eyes. She exits.

OTHER PROFESSOR

(singing)

You can fill out this extensive
quiz, maybe then I'll forgive being
late, you bad kid.

Other Professor hands James a big packet. James takes a pencil out of his backpack. The classroom goes dark and a spotlight hits him. He taps his pencil on his desk, listens to the clock ticking, and stares at his blank test.

JAMES

Can I use the bathroom?

OTHER PROFESSOR

(singing)

Wait wait-

James grabs his backpack and runs out the door. Other Professor stares, confused.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

James enters his dorm room, throws his backpack on the ground, and sinks his face into his bed and groans. Landon pops up from his desk and walks over to James.

LANDON
(singing)
Hello James, are you good?

James groans.

LANDON (CONT'D)
(singing)
Hah. Ok.

Landon starts to walk back to his desk. James lifts his face.

JAMES
(singing)
What the heck is going on? Now I'm talking, but in song. Everything I feared is true. I'm late and dumb and also rude. My teachers hate me and my classmates stare. I wish I was home and I miss my mom. I now have ten papers and my nose and pose are all wrong. I'm freaking out, I start to panic. Get me out, get me out, get me out.

A beat. James breaths heavily. Landon walks over to James.

LANDON
(singing)
Hey. You don't seem okay. I'm kind of worried about you. It doesn't seem like you can just hit the hay.

JAMES
(singing)
I know. I just feel kind of slow.

LANDON
(singing)
Don't worry man. It's all part of the big plan. We'll make it some day. Jump up and say "yay!"

JAMES
(singing)
I guess it's just hard when I'm not feeling that way.

LANDON
 (singing)
 Just look at me. Take my hand.
 We'll take our time. Fuck the man.

James take Landon's hand. They sing to each other.

JAMES
 (singing)
 Okay. I can do it. I'll take my
 time. No more rushing or fussing.
 I'll be just fine.

LANDON
 (singing)
 You're never alone. Just wait and
 see. We'll take on the world. You
 and me. Yippee!

JAMES
 (singing)
 Thank you Landon. You make me see.
 I'll be fine on my own. There's
 nothing to worry about. Just be
 free.

The music plays as James and Landon hug. They nod at each other. James picks up his backpack and walks out the door into a ball of light.

INT. JAMES' BEDROOM - DAY

James' alarm goes off, he opens his eyes. He looks around to see his green sheets, moving boxes, and duffel bags. He checks his phone. It reads, "7:30 AM."

JAMES
 Perfect.

He gets out of bed and gets ready.

INT. JAMES' BEDROOM - LATER

James' bedroom is now empty, except for his made bed and backpack. James checks his phone. It reads "9:00 AM." His MOM KNOCKS on the door.

MOM (O.S)
 Hey honey, ready to go?

JAMES
 Yup!

James grabs his backpack and heads out the door.

THE END