

JUST SOME FRIENDLY ADVICE

By Caroline Fraissinet

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The mail arrives.

MERCEDES (16) picks up an envelope and opens it.

MERCEDES
(reading aloud)
To Whom It May Concern:

JOHN PATRICK (17) reads the letter in the exact same location that Mercedes read hers a moment ago.

JOHN PATRICK
You are invited to a college guidance
session at the Student Resource Group on
Saturday at 10:30 AM.

MONIQUE (17) reads the letter in the exact same location that John Patrick read his a moment ago.

MONIQUE
Please bring a copy of your report card
and CV.

CAROLINE (17) reads the letter in the exact same location Monique read hers a moment ago.

CAROLINE
The address is as follows.

Caroline mumbles an address. She puts on a coat and walks out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Mercedes, Monique, Caroline and John Patrick are sitting on a couch. They look around the room. Two doors open somewhere. They look up. MR. LOSER (47) and MS. SGOLDE (48) enter.

MR. LOSER

Hey guys! Thanks for stopping in!

Mr. Loser grins at the group and gives a thumbs up. Ms. Sgolde clears her throat impatiently.

MS. SGOLDE

Let's get this show on the road, shall we?

Mr. Loser lowers his thumb, grins sheepishly at Ms. Sgolde and nervously fumbles through his papers.

MR. LOSER

Right, right! Um...I'll start off with Monique?

MS. SGOLDE

And John Patrick, you can follow me this way.

MR. LOSER

All right, let's talk college!

Mr. Loser punches his fist in the air, then runs down the hall. Ms. Sgolde rolls her eyes and beckons for Monique and John Patrick. Monique and John Patrick look at each other and get up. They follow Ms. Sgolde and go to different rooms. A whistle blows.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. LOSER'S OFFICE - DAY

Monique enters and shuts the door behind her. She suddenly looks perplexed.

MONIQUE

What are you doing?

Mr. Loser is doing push-ups. He gets up and stretches.

MR. LOSER

Push-ups! They give you super posture. Have a seat!

Monique moves to an empty seat. Mr. Loser and Monique sit. Monique hands Mr. Loser her CV.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)

Thanks! Let's have a look here.

Mr. Loser puts on his glasses and reads.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)

Says here you played basketball! Great sport. You need real hustle to play basketball.

Mr. Loser mimics throwing a basketball and scoring a point.

MONIQUE

Yeah, I played in elementary school. I tried out in high school but didn't make it.

MR. LOSER

Bummer! How come?

MONIQUE

Well, I had an ice latte right before the tryout and--

MR. LOSER

Oh, you gotta be careful with caffeine! You can be high as the sky one minute and then BOOM! You're on a stretcher.

MONIQUE

Yeah, I'm more into performing arts now, anyway. I'm thinking about majoring in theatre.

MR. LOSER

Y'know, the rules of basketball can be applied to theatre, too. You need teamwork, work ethic, and real hustle to pull off a good performance.

MONIQUE

Uh...okay?

MR. LOSER

Go for it! Reach for your dreams! WOO!

A whistle BLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. SGOLDE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Sgolde reads John Patrick's CV.

MS. SGOLDE

Not bad. Where are you looking to apply?

JOHN PATRICK

Early decision to Columbia.

MS. SGOLDE

Hah! You'll never get into Columbia!

JOHN PATRICK

I have a 4.0 GPA and I do tons of activities!

MS. SGOLDE

Yeah, but you don't have a legacy at Columbia.

JOHN PATRICK

Both of my parents went to Columbia!

MS. SGOLDE

That doesn't mean anything unless they donated a building.

JOHN PATRICK

They funded the science center!

MS. SGOLDE

Well, maybe you'll get waitlisted. You could get lucky.

John Patrick's jaw drops. A whistle BLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. LOSER'S OFFICE - DAY

MR. LOSER

Neat! Those admissions people are gonna love that! So, do you play any sports?

CAROLINE

Yeah, I'm captain of my school's fencing team.

MR. LOSER

Fencing! Wow, tres chic!

Mr. Loser mimics fencing.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)

Are you French?

CAROLINE

Uh, a little bit, yeah.

MR. LOSER

Yeah, me, too! But I guess you could tell by my last name.

Caroline reads Mr. Loser's name tag.

CAROLINE

Oh! Loser?

MR. LOSER

No! It's not loser! It's (lozay)!

CAROLINE

Oh. Sorry. It's just, y'know, spelled like loser.

MR. LOSER

Would a loser have been named Top Athlete of the Season on his high school football team?

CAROLINE

You were? Really?

MR. LOSER

Well, no. I was fifth runner up. But that's not the point! I'm a winner! Not a loser!

A whistle BLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. SGOLDE'S OFFICE - DAY

MS. SGOLDE

So, I see you've taken an informational session with us before, Stacy.

MERCEDES

Mercedes. And yeah, I brought an updated report card for my file.

Mercedes hands her report card to Ms. Sgolde, who compares it to the file.

MS. SGOLDE

You took 4 years of French? It doesn't say that in your file!

MERCEDES

That's because you have the wrong file. My name is Mercedes!

MS. SGOLDE

Teenagers. Always changing their names.

Ms. Sgolde starts to cross out the name on the file.

MERCEDES

No!

A whistle BLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. LOSER'S OFFICE - DAY

JOHN PATRICK

I volunteer at 10 organizations and was named Student Humanitarian of the Year.

MR. LOSER

Have you ever considered playing team sports?

JOHN PATRICK

I don't like sports.

MR. LOSER

Impossible! You ever tried soccer?

JOHN PATRICK

Yup, I quit when I was eight.

MR. LOSER

Baseball?

JOHN PATRICK

Quit when I was ten.

MR. LOSER

How about lacrosse?

JOHN PATRICK

Look, sports just aren't my thing. But I got an 800 in Math on the SATs!

MR. LOSER

Y'know, I see you being a good diver. Let me demonstrate.

Mr. Loser gets a figurine and a cup of water.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)

Now, the key is to keep yourself as vertical as possible. Observe.

Mr. Loser drops the figurine into the cup of water. The cup of water tips over and spills onto the desk.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)

Well, it should have been more vertical than that. It's just one fluid movement.

Mr. Loser mimics diving with his hand.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)
C'mon, try it with me.

John Patrick mimics diving with his hand with Mr. Loser. A whistle BLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. SGOLDE'S OFFICE - DAY

MS. SGOLDE
Well, everything seems to be organized
and you have a decent average. I think
you'd do well as a cheese connoisseur.

CAROLINE
But I can't be a cheese connoisseur; I'm
vegan!

MS. SGOLDE
They can't discriminate against you based
on your religion.

CAROLINE
No, I mean I can't eat or use any animal
products.

MS. SGOLDE
Well, how about a beekeeper? There's big
money in the honey industry!

CAROLINE
No, I can't use--

MS. SGOLDE
There's always a market for handmade
leather shoes!

Caroline sighs. A whistle BLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. LOSER'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr. Loser OBSERVES something.

MR. LOSER
Let's see. Writer? Teacher?
Biophysicist? No, none of those things
fit you.

Mr. Loser STROKES his chin.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)

Well, you've got a vibrant personality.
You're energetic, yet patient. Good
height and build.

He SNAPS his fingers.

MR. LOSER (CONT'D)

A cocktail waitress! Am I right or am I
right?

Mercedes stares blankly at Mr. Loser. A whistle BLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. SGOLDE'S OFFICE - DAY

Monique is performing a dramatic monologue.

MONIQUE

I don't know who I am, but I'm not
someone else.

Monique steps back and bows.

MS. SGOLDE

You're planning to audition with that?
Honey, if you do that for real admissions
directors, they're just gonna laugh in
your face.

MONIQUE

But I came in first at the last Forensics
meet!

MS. SGOLDE

Well, it must have been a slow day.
You're not planning on actually pursuing
a career in this, are you?

MONIQUE

I'm considering it.

MS. SGOLDE

I wouldn't if I were you.

MONIQUE

But Mr. Loser said I had potential!

MS. SGOLDE

Oh, you can't listen to anything he says!
He's an idiot!

Ms. Sgolde BANGS on the wall.

MS. SGOLDE (CONT'D)

You're an idiot!

She looks away, then looks back at Monique.

MS. SGOLDE (CONT'D)

Did he say you were attractive enough to
be an actress??

A whistle BLOWS, longer this time.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

MR. LOSER

You made it!

MS. SGOLDE

Everything you do now will affect you for
the rest of your life. Don't screw up
and take every opportunity you can before
it's too late.

MR. LOSER

And don't forget to have fun!

Ms. Sgolde rolls her eyes. She and Mr. Loser leave. Monique,
Mercedes, Caroline and John Patrick slump on the couch.

CUT TO:

FINALE MONTAGE

1) John Patrick stands on the green, all Abercrombie fantastic with his
friends MUFFY, BUFFY and WINSTON MAPPLETHORPE IV.

OVERLAY TEXT

"John Patrick was the first person to be accepted into Columbia
University that year."

2) Monique seems to be performing a dramatic monologue, but upon closer
investigation, she is in an operating theatre, before a large group of
nursing students.

OVERLAY TEXT

"Monique didn't become an actress, but her audition piece got her into
Fairfield's nursing program."

3) Caroline is standing outside a small shop and waving at the camera.
The sign above the store reads "Alternative Options for Alternative
People."

OVERLAY TEXT

"Caroline started her own business. She sells vegan cheese substitutes and shoes made of 100% hemp."

4) A HOMEOWNER opens the door to find Mercedes standing on the front stoop, wearing a cocktail waitress uniform. She holds up a set of windshield wipers and grins.

OVERLAY TEXT

"Mercedes took Mr. Loser's advice, moved to Las Vegas and became a cocktail waitress. She sells auto supplies to supplement her income."

FADE OUT.

THE END