

## Art Class

written by

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### Characters

CHARLIE - 27, Male. Nervous teacher of the arts. Wears round glasses and "tropical dad shirts" to fit an aesthetic. Needs some sleep.

EDDIE - 18, Female. Pessimistic. Can't help but always be conscious of the issues of the world. Reads a lot. Takes a lot of Xanax. Wears mostly band t-shirts.

ROSA - 17, Female. Laughs and smiles at everything. Too nice. Wears sundresses. Impulsive and makes bad decisions. Got an edge to her.

KIT - 17, Male. Thinks he knows a lot. Arrogant, but not a complete jerk. Just a little bit of a jerk. Mostly just wears flannels.

SLEEPING STUDENT - 18, Male. As the name suggests.

### Setting

A continuation high school in the greater Los Angeles area.  
Present day.

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SCENE 1

*The classroom is dark, save for a spotlight on a whiteboard with a marker and eraser.*

*RIIIING! The class has started.*

*The sound of a door opening and closing. Charlie enters, with his briefcase.*

*He hurriedly makes his way to the whiteboard, mumbling to himself on the way. He's late. Really late.*

CHARLIE

(to himself)

Shit shit shit shit shit shit shit shit shit.....

*He sets down his things, turns forward, and wipes his forehead.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hi- uh, huh. Hello-hello everyone. I am your professor. Professor Braumble, but please please, call me Charlie. My uh sincerest apologies for being late. There was an accident on the 101 again and everybody just had to stop and stare at it. Even take pictures of it. Geez, I just don't get it ya know?. I was an accident too, but nobody ever wants to take pictures of me- right?

*There's a beat. That was too much information*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Right. Anyways. Welcome to Fine Art 1. I assume the majority of you are here to sneak in one more elective before graduation, yes?

KIT, EDDIE, ROSA

(grumbling)

Yes.

*The rest of the classroom can now be seen. There are four students, all looking bored out of their minds and ready to go back to sleep.*

*One of the students is actually asleep.*

CHARLIE

That's all right that's all right, if you're looking for an easy A, well, I'll be honest. You're probably at the right place. But that's not important.

*Charlie passes out a Syllabus.*

Now, for the main portion of our first couple weeks, we'll be diving into the history and meaning behind art, as well as ways in which art is useful to- uh to our society.

*Charlie looks around with a big grin. The students ignore him... except for Rosa, who smiles back at him with an even bigger grin.*

*Charlie turns with a flourish, and writes the word "ART" on the whiteboard. But he writes it too small, so it's very hard to read. He turns back around, confidently-*

EDDIE

What the hell does that even say?

*-and then he gets nervous again.*

*Charlie erases it, and tries again. He takes his time writing the letters very big, making sure the lines are perfectly straight.*

CHARLIE

Why d-d-don't we all go around and say our names. Don't mind what I'm doing over here, feel free to introduce yourselves. Seriously don't look at me. Don't look at me right now.

KIT

Hey. I'm Kit.

ROSA

Hi! Hello! My name's Rosa. Like the flower. With an a.

EDDIE

Sup. Eddie.

KIT

Eddie? Isn't that a guys' name?

EDDIE

It's a nickname.

ROSA

(to the Sleeping Student)

What's your name?

*The Sleeping Student lets out a massive snore.*

KIT

So... why are you guys here? Did you drop out of high school too?

EDDIE

I think kicked out would be the more appropriate term.

ROSA

Kicked out? What did you do?

EDDIE

Punched a couple kids that kept calling me names. In my defense, they had *the most* punchable faces.

ROSA

Oh wow!

KIT

What about you Rosa with an a?

ROSA

Oh, um... well, it's a little embarrassing. But I got so many complaints over my behavior in class that no more teachers at my school would instruct me.

EDDIE

What? Really? But you seem so... nice?

ROSA

Well duh sweetie, I am nice! But my mom tells me that sometimes my niceness is "too much" and that it's seen as "condescending." But she's just so sweet, and all my teachers are just so sweet, I'm sure they simply didn't understand my form of expression!

*She giggles, a little too sweet-ly.*

EDDIE

Right. How about you?

KIT

Went to a party. A video leaked of me getting shitfaced and stripping- slash- dancing to some Blink 182 song with my shirt off. Got humiliated. Dropped out. You know the drill.

EDDIE

Shit, I'm sorry man.

ROSA

Yeah, that's awful!

KIT

Eh- it's alright.

CHARLIE

(turning back around and  
clearing his throat)

Aha-ahem.

*Revealing what he's been writing on the whiteboard.*

Art!

ROSA  
 (like a mother who's child  
 just handed her a drawing  
 that's terrible)

Woooooow!

*Charlie tilts his head to her. 'Thank you.'*

CHARLIE  
 Would anyone care to share with us what this word makes them  
 think of?

KIT  
 Sorry, could you write it a little bigger? I still can't see  
 it.

*Rosa laughs. A little too hard.*

CHARLIE  
 Alright, alright, come on. Anyone?

*Rosa raises her hand.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 Yes go ahead. And your name is?

ROSA  
 Rosa! Like the flower, with an a! Oh oh oh, and art is the  
 expression or application of human creative skill and  
 imagination.

CHARLIE  
 Thank you, Rose-a. Interesting. Now, is that what art means  
 to you, Rosa? Or did you just google the definition on your  
 phone.

ROSA  
 Um. The first one. Toootally the first one.

CHARLIE  
 Riight. Okay, well, let me phrase the question better. When  
 you think of the word "art," what's the first thing that  
 comes to mind. Ready, set, go.

KIT  
 (overlapping)  
 Painting.

ROSA  
 (overlapping)  
 Colors!

SLEEPING STUDENT  
(overlapping)

\*Big ol Snore\*

EDDIE  
(overlapping)

Pretentious fucks.

*All stare at Eddie.*  
What?

ROSA  
That's not a very nice thing to say about art people!

*Ohhhh snap.*

EDDIE  
...I don't... I don't care?

*The class is waiting for an explanation.*

EDDIE (CONT'D)  
Ugh. Okay. I just think if you really wanna share your "creative skills," with the world, you should do it in a way that helps people. And most of the time, art points out a problem without showing how to actually solve it. Like, since when has someone stared at a hundred year old painting of some naked lady and been like "Oh shit! Now I know how to save the country's economy!"  
It just doesn't really seem right to me.

CHARLIE  
That's a very interesting point, and what was your name?

EDDIE  
Eddie.

CHARLIE  
Is... is that short for? Edward? Ed- Edwardia?

EDDIE  
Edna.

EVERYONE, COLLECTIVELY  
Ooohhhh!

CHARLIE  
Very good, thank you Eddie. Does anyone have, maybe, a different thought process on what art is?

*Kit raises his hand.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Yes! And what was your name, sir?

KIT

Kit. And I think the whole point of art is that it's what we make of it. Like, say I'm having a really hard day, and just need some way to get it all out. I can paint, or something, to make myself feel better. Yeah, my painting of some flowers isn't gonna change the world in some grand way, but it can still make me feel better about my own sad life.

ROSA

I agree! I love drawing! And coloring! And the pretty colors make me feel warm and happy on the inside. It helps me forget about my dad who left me and my mom who tells me I'm ugly!

*The Sleeping Student snores.*

CHARLIE

Well, it's very good to see we have some variety in opinions in this classroom.

Eddie, thank you for your input. This is exactly the kind of discussion we should be having. And that many people have been having for a long time. What makes art impactful? What makes it more than just something pretty to look at. How can it change the world?

*Kit raises his hand.*

Kit!

KIT

Well, throughout history a-

CHARLIE

OOH WAIT WAIT! I brought visuals. :)

*Charlie whips out some paintings. He sets one up on the white board. It's a very detailed portrait of a hamburger.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

*(clears throat)*

Can anybody tell me what this is?

KIT

A picture of your wife.

*Eddie and Rosa laugh, like, a lot.*

*Charlie, well. Charlie does not laugh. That's not his wife.*

CHARLIE

No, Kit. Actually my wife lives in Cuba with her boyfriend Ryan.

But that's neither here nor there.

This is a hamburger, yes?

EDDIE, ROSA, AND KIT

Yes.

CHARLIE

Great. Now, everybody in this room has a different experience of hamburgers depending on their personal life experiences. To some people, hamburgers might represent hunger. Or barbecues. Or watching sponge bob as a kid. Or getting a call from your wife telling you she's leaving you for her secretary, and crying and watching sponge bob. You get the idea.

What will this painting say about our generation through history? Will it one day be treasured as much as the Mona Lisa is now? It's impossible to say.

*Charlie stares at the painting for a second. It's beautiful. It's a nice moment.*

*The Sleeping Student lets out the loudest snore so far.*

*Nice moment ruined.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Next Picture!! Ooh!! Aahh!!

*Charlie takes down the picture of a hamburger and replaces it with a very detailed portrait of Celine Dion.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now, I know you are all from a different generation than I... but this is a famous singer names C-

LITERALLY EVERYONE

Celine Dion.

CHARLIE

Oh? You? Know? Celine? Dion?

LITERALLY EVERYONE AGAIN

Yeah.

ROSA

She's like my favorite coach on The Voice!

*Wait... what?*

*Rosa starts singing Genie in a Bottle.*

EDDIE

Wait. What? That's Christina Aguilera, Rosa.



ROSA

Oh. Shoot. I uh. I knew that.

EDDIE

On behalf of my generation, I am so sorry.

CHARLIE

So am I.

Well as I was saying, this is a beautiful portrait of an angel sent from heaven that we must, as a society, protect at all costs.

Painted by yours truly.

KIT

Wow you painted that?

CHARLIE

(blushing)

Well yeah! You know. It was just a fun casual thing. No big deal.

*Charlie waits for the class to react.*

*They don't.*

*He clears his throat.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I saaiiiid, IIII painted this!

KIT

Oh! Oh it- it's really good!

ROSA

Oooohh you're like, the new Picasso!

EDDIE

Looks sick, dude.

SLEEPING STUDENT

\*Big ol Snore\*

CHARLIE

Oh, thank you thank you, really, it was nothing. I truly appreciate it. Thank you. I love my fans. So what do you guys think a portrait of Celine Dion will remind others of? What memories or feelings come to mind?

KIT

EVERY NIGHT IN MY DREAMS  
I SEE YOU, I FEEL YOU  
THAT IS HOW I KNOW YOU GO ON

CHARLIE

Okay okay, very funny Kit. Seriously I'm-

KIT, EDDIE, AND ROSA

FAR ACROSS THE DISTANCE  
AND SPACES BETWEEN US

YOU HAVE COME TO SHOW YOU GO ON  
 NEAR, FAR, WHEREVER YOU ARE  
 I BELIEVE THAT THE HEART DOES GO ON  
 ONCE MORE YOU OPEN THE DOOR  
 AND YOU'RE HERE IN MY HEART  
 AND MY HEART WILL GO ON AND ON

CHARLIE

PLEASE PLEASE STOP!! ENOUGH ENOUGH!! I WILL CRY!!

*The students laugh and settle down. Charlie looks distraught. This isn't going according to plan.*

*He takes down the portrait of Celine Dion, gives it a little smooch, and then puts it back with the others.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

So, do the four of you notice something about the previous two paintings?

*We don't know. They're just weird pictures.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Even picture like these, simple portraits, and pieces from our society, can stir conversation. It can create dialogue. Do you see where I'm going with this?

*A collective grumble, meaning "yes."*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

That right there is the significance of art! Throughout history, art has never had just one purpose. It's flexible, it's malleable. Art can be meant as something pretty to look at. Art can point out a problem in the world without giving a solution. Or, it can be the solution. Art is meant to make connections. It is meant to bring people together in discussion over the human experience. Do you think art did that today?

*Rosa tries to say something-*

Think about this. Ponder it, and we will discuss it tomorrow. For today's homework, you will all be researching pieces of art which may not, in your opinion, be "good," but might still have significance to the world. And you'll create dialogue between your classmates with an in-class discussion. Sound good?

*A collective grumble, meaning "yes."*

*The Sleeping Student snores.*

*There's the ring of the bell.*

## CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Great! I will see you all back here tomorrow morning. Get the heck out of here!

*The students rush out of the classroom, chatting on the way.*

*Charlie waves to them as they leave, but they don't wave back. Sad Charlie.*

*He sees that the Sleeping Student is still there.*

*Charlie taps the Sleeping Student's shoulder.*

*Sleeping Student wakes up.*

## CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You're free to go now.

*Sleeping (now, Awake) Student nods.*

*Charlie retires to his desk, where he pulls out a massive textbook, and berries his face in it.*

*With a big ol' yawn, Sleeping Student gathers their things.*

*He sees the word "Art" written on the white board.*

*Awake Student gets an idea.*

*Giggling, he hobbles over to the white board.*

*He makes sure Charlie isn't looking.*

*He writes an "F" in front of the letter "A" in Art.*

*Fart. ;)*

*He giggles, what a great class.*

*Then, he exits.*

*Blackout.*