

THOMAS CLEMENT: WRITING SAMPLE - SHOWING CHOICES AND BRANCHES

THIS IS A SCRIPT EXTRACT FROM "STORY BEATS", A ROMANCE-BASED MEDICAL GAME.

EXT. STUDENT HOUSE MORNING

NARRATOR

SHRIEKS ECHO THROUGH THE HOUSE.

SKYLAR (OFF-SCREEN)

YOU ARE SO WRONG!

JESS (OFF-SCREEN)

HOW? I'M THE SMARTEST PERSON HERE!

INT. BEDROOM

MIA (THOUGHT)

UGH, WHAT ARE SKYLAR AND JESS ARGUING ABOUT?

NARRATOR

YOU LOOK AT YOUR CLOCK.

MIA (THOUGHT)

AT 6:15AM?

MIA (THOUGHT)

I DON'T HAVE TO BE UP FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS.

INT. LIVING ROOM

SKYLAR

SHUT THE HELL UP! YOU ARE COMPLETELY WRONG!

JESS

ME SHUT UP? I'LL NEVER TAKE YOUR ADVICE EVER AGAIN AFTER WHAT YOU SAID!

CHOICE 1: JOIN THE ARGUMENT?

001 = STAY SILENT.

002 = HEY, STOP THIS AT ONCE!

003 = PEOPLE, CALM DOWN!

(START 001)

MIA (THOUGHT)

I'M NOT GETTING INVOLVED. NOT THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING.

NARRATOR

BUT AS YOU TRY AND TURN AROUND TO GO BACK TO BED...

SKYLAR

MIA, IS THAT YOU? WE NEED YOUR HELP.

SKYLAR

JESS IS CONVINCED THAT STRAWBERRY IS THE BEST FLAVOUR ICE CREAM.

SKYLAR

EVEN THOUGHT IT'S DEFINITELY CHOCOLATE.

JESS

SHUT UP! CHOCOLATE IS HORRIBLE. ALL THOSE EXTRA CALORIES.

MIA (THOUGHT)

I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT WOKEN UP OVER A FIGHT ABOUT ICE CREAM.

NARRATOR

YOU LEAVE THE TWO GIRLS TO SHOUT THE HOUSE DOWN AND GET READY FOR THE DAY AHEAD.

(END 001)
(START 002)

SKYLAR

SORRY MIA, BUT THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO LET GO!

SKYLAR

JESS THINKS STRAWBERRY IS THE BEST FLAVOUR OF ICE CREAM—

JESS

BUT SKYLAR THINKS IT'S CHOCOLATE, EVEN THOUGHT IT'S OBVIOUSLY THE WORST.

MIA

OH MY GOD, BOTH OF YOU GROW UP! THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

INT. BEDROOM

NARRATOR

YOU SLAM THE DOOR SHUT AND JUMP BACK INTO BED.

(END 002)
(START 003)

JESS

SKYLAR THINKS CHOCOLATE IS THE BEST FLAVOUR ICE CREAM, WHICH IS JUST WRONG.

SKYLAR

NOT AS WRONG AS STRAWBERRY, WHICH LITTLE MISS SMARTIE THINKS IS RIGHT.

MIA

BUT KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN, PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO SLEEP.

NARRATOR

THE GIRLS DROP TO A WHISPER, BUT CONTINUE ARGUING.

MIA (THOUGHT)

AT LEAST IT'S QUIETER. I'M GOING BACK TO BED.

(END 003)

FADE TO BLACK

NARRATOR

YOU HOPE THAT WAS THE HARDEST PART OF THE DAY.

NARRATOR

TWO HOURS LATER...

INT. LIVING ROOM

MIA (THOUGHT)

OKAY, READY TO GO!

MIA (THOUGHT)

SHOULD I CALL FOR THE REST OF THE GANG TO WALK TO WORK TOGETHER?

CHOICE 2: CALL FOR THE REST OF THE HOUSE?

004: NO, THEY DESERVE TO BE LATE!

005: YES, WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

(START 004)

MIA (THOUGHT)

ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE WAKING ME UP EARLY ARGUING ABOUT ICE CREAM...

NARRATOR

YOU HEAD OUT THER DOOR, SLAMMING IT SHUT.

(END 004)

(START 005)

MIA (THOUGHT)

ESPECIALLY AGAINST OUR BOSS, HAZEL, WE NEED TO STICK UP FOR EACH OTHER.

MIA

COME ON GUYS, WE NEED TO GO NOW IF WE ARE GOING TO BE ON TIME!

LOGAN

READY!

JESS

READY!

ARTIE

READY!

SKYLAR

GIMME FIVE MORE MINUTES, I'M CHANGING MY HAIR!

JESS

UGH, SHE'LL MAKE US LATE!

CHOICE 2.2: LEAVE WITHOUT SKYLAR?

006: COME ON, LET'S LEAVE HER HERE!

007: SKYLAR, YOU'RE FINE, LET'S GO!

(START 006)

ARTIE

ARE YOU SURE? SHOULDN'T WE STAY TOGETHER?

JESS

LET'S GO. IF SHE'S GOING TO BE LATE THEN IT'S HER OWN FAULT.

(END 006)

(START 007)

SKYLAR

NO, MY HAIR'S ALL CRINKLED!

MIA

BABE, YOU LOOK GORGEOUS. YOU'RE WHOLE LOOK IS MAKING ME HOT UNDER THE COLLAR.

MIA

NOW LET'S GO!

SKYLAR

OKAY...I GUESS IT LOOKS FINE. THANKS!

(END 007)

(END 005)

INT. HOSPITAL BREAK ROOM

HAZEL

RECRUITS!

NARRATOR

YOUR HOUSEMATES SNAP TO ATTENTION.

BRANCH: IF 004

HAZEL

I'M DISAPPOINTED, ONLY ONE OF YOU WAS ON TIME TODAY.

NARRATOR

HAZEL LOOKS AT YOU WITH PRIDE.

ARTIE

IT'S NOT OUR FAULT WE WERE LATE! MIA, WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL FOR US?

HAZEL

IT'S NOT MIA'S JOB TO MAKE YOU TURN UP ON TIME.

BRANCH: IF 006

NARRATOR

THE DOOR FLIES OPEN.

HAZEL

WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

SKYLAR

GUYS, WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME?

ARTIE

IT WAS MIA. SHE DECIDED TO GO WITHOUT YOU.

HAZEL

SHE SOUNDS SMART. SHE MAKES THE TOUGH DECISIONS.

ALL BRANCHES END

HAZEL

WE HAVE A NEW CASE FOR CLASS TODAY. FOLLOW ME!

FADE TO BLACK

INT. HOSPITAL BREAK ROOM

NARRATOR

FINALLY, THE DAY ENDS.

NARRATOR

BUT ONE QUESTION STILL NEEDS TO BE ANSWERED...

SKYLAR

OKAY MIA, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

MIA

THIS BETTER NOT BE ABOUT ICE CREAM AGAIN...

SKYLAR

WE'RE STUCK. ARTIE AND I THINK CHOCOLATE IS THE BEST.

JESS

BUT LOGAN AND I KNOW STRAWBERRY IS THE KING.

LOGAN

SO WE'RE TWO FOR TWO. YOU DECIDE.

MIA

YA KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A VANILLA GIRL.

NARRATOR

THE FOUR STUDENTS ALL GASP.

LOGAN

IS THAT EVEN ALLOWED?

JESS

I'M NEVER TRUSTING YOU AGAIN!

SKYLAR

SAME. I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE SAID THAT.

ARTIE

I GUESS WE'RE BUYING NEAPOLITAN ICE CREAM TONIGHT?

END OF EXCERPT