

The Shake of a Hand.

by
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EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO AREA - DAY

THOMAS, early 20s, wearing a business suit, walks towards an empty patio table and sits down. He pulls an iPhone out of his pocket and dials a number.

THOMAS

Hey, can you meet me at the restaurant near my place. 15 minutes? Ok, see ya soon.

Thomas hangs up the phone and sighs.

THOMAS (V.O.)

I learned a long time ago that to be great in the world of business, you must be ruthless. I also learned that you must be willing to accept the help of others. My brother never took that lesson to heart.

ROBERT, late 30s, dressed in a t-shirt and ripped jeans, approaches the table. Thomas pulls out a folder from his briefcase and slides it across the table.

ROBERT

What's this?

THOMAS

My way of saying thank you.

ROBERT

For what?

THOMAS

Just open it.

Robert opens the folder. He reads through it.

ROBERT

What the hell is this?

THOMAS

I just want to help you!

Robert shakes his head and throws the folder at Thomas.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Why won't you let me help you?

ROBERT

Do you know me at all? I don't want or need anything from you.

Robert storms off. Thomas gets up and follows him.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE - DAY

Thomas runs up to Robert. He jerks him by his shoulder.
Robert turns around violently.

THOMAS

You are the most stubborn person I have
ever met. I've never made it to my
position without help from other people.
Who do you think you are? Mom?

ROBERT

She never needed any help!

THOMAS

She didn't have a damn choice! Nobody was
there to help her, but I'm here to help
you!

ROBERT

Nobody was there to help her? I was
always there!

Thomas slaps the folder against Robert's chest. Robert
pushes Thomas to the ground.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Don't ever put your hands on me again!

THOMAS

This is how you treat your own brother
for simply trying to help? Mom would be
ashamed of you.

Robert takes a few steps towards Thomas while he is still
on the ground. He gets down on one knee and grabs him by
the back of his head.

ROBERT (WHISPERS)

If you ever say that shit to me again,
you will regret it.

THOMAS

Fine, go figure it out yourself then, but
I'm not going to watch you live like mom
did; hand to mouth.

ROBERT

You think you're better because you make
a little more money than I do?

THOMAS

I make a lot more actually.

ROBERT

You just proved my point. Kiss my ass.

Robert lights a cigarette and walks away.

THOMAS

I didn't mean it like that!

EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO AREA - EVENING

Robert enters the patio area. He sees Thomas eating lunch alone at a table.

THOMAS (V.O.)

My brother was not always the greatest person to talk to as he got older. He was stubborn as hell. He always had to prove he was better than me, and only in his mind he was. He had nothing to show for it though.

Robert gingerly makes his way over to the table and sits across from Thomas. Thomas gives Robert a scowl.

THOMAS

What do you want?

ROBERT

Look, I just want to say...to say...

THOMAS

To say what?

ROBERT

I just want to say I'm...sorry. I just don't have it in me to accept money from you.

THOMAS

It's not a handout, it's a business proposal. You just had your head so far up your own ass that you refused to read it thoroughly.

ROBERT

Can I see the folder again?

Thomas hands Robert the folder. Robert reads over the documents and shakes his head in disgust. He throws the papers on the table.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

This is a handout because I'm not doing this on my own. No matter how you spin it, that's what it is.

THOMAS

I can't handle watching you live in poverty anymore. I'm doing this because I love you, and I want what's best for you.

ROBERT

Stop spinning this to be some nice thing you're doing. You're so full of it.

THOMAS

Ya know what? I bet mom is looking down on you, and she's thinking you're a stubborn prick.

Thomas pushes the table towards Robert as he stands up. Robert flips over the table, and Thomas' lunch spills all over him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I forgive you for being a prick to me my whole life! No matter how hard you try to push me away, I will never give up on you.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE - NEXT DAY

Thomas enters. He sees Robert leaning up against the bridge drawing from a cigarette.

THOMAS (V.O.)

This is how it's always been since our mom passed away. Robert couldn't bring himself to get close to me, but I vowed to never give up.

Thomas approaches Robert on the bridge.

THOMAS

Look, I know what you're thinking, but I legit want to see you succeed. I have never once looked at you as a failure.

ROBERT

You always had all of the luck, Thomas. The luck should've been on my side.

(MORE)

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I was the one who basically helped mom raise you! I helped take care of her too!

THOMAS

What does that tell you? You said you always helped mom, which means Mom accepted help from you, so why can't you accept help from me?

ROBERT

You're right, I never thought of it like that, but you never knew how hard mom had it.

THOMAS

So why would you want to live mom's hell? By not accepting an offer from me? Foolish Pride? Pride doesn't pay the bills.

ROBERT

Honestly, I hated you after you graduated from college. I hated the fact that you were getting ahead in life.

Thomas begins to cry.

THOMAS

I never wanted my success to make you feel that way. Why could you not just be proud of me?

ROBERT

I hated feeling that way, but life is so hard sometimes. It wasn't fair to me.

Robert pulls Thomas close and gives him a hug. Thomas cries against his brother's shoulder. Robert pushes Thomas away.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Alright, stop crying. It's making me feel weird.

THOMAS

I just wish you would have read the entire proposal before flipping out on me.

Thomas hands Robert the folder.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You never read the last page, so read it.

Robert flips through the stack of papers to the last page.

ROBERT (READING)

This is for all your hard work growing up. You were the brother I always looked up to, but you acted like a father I wish I had. You earned this a long time ago.

Robert drops the papers to the ground. He begins to cry. Thomas extends his hand to Robert.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

If you boss me around, I will bail on this. So I guess I work for you now?

THOMAS

No, you work along side me. Chief Operating Officer is your title. I promise, we will be a great team.

ROBERT

Mom would be very proud of what you have become.

Robert shakes Thomas's hand.