

"THE EDUCATION DECISION"

By

Robert Sacchi

42854 Lindsey Height Place
Ashburn, VA 20148
Rsacchi001@aol.com

FADE IN:

INT. DORM - DAY

It's the near future. LIAM BUCHANAN, 22, slim build, casually dressed, is with his mother EMMA, 45, appears younger than her age, wearing a dress in the college's colors.

LIAM

Why did you invite Artie?

EMMA

He's your father.

LIAM

I would have preferred Benjamin.

EMMA

He's not your father.

LIAM

No, but he's more fun.

EMMA

I haven't seen him since the divorce.

LIAM

The other kids would do all kinds of fun things with their divorced dads.

Liam looks at a wall that shows Artie's position on a projected map.

EMMA

He'll be here soon.

LIAM

On weekend visitations he'd make sure I did my homework first. Then he'd give me all kinds of unsolicited advice.

EMMA

You're graduating with a diploma and without student debt, thanks to your father.

LIAM

He's good at paying bills and monetary gifts.

EMMA

Sending cards and letters, which you never answered. I know.

LIAM

Alright, but he's no fun. That's why you divorced him.

EMMA

He's your father. He cares about you.

LIAM

He'll be here in five minutes. Within 15 minutes he'll say something negative.

INT. DORM - DAY

ARTIE, 50, below average height, slightly overweight, muscular build, enters.

ARTIE

Hello son. Emma.

LIAM

Artie.

EMMA

Glad you could make it.

ARTIE

For my son's graduation, of course I'm going to make it.

EMMA

That's my Artie.

ARTIE

Where do we have to go, and when do we have to get there.

EMMA

That's my Artie.

LIAM

Talk to the wall.

ARTIE

What?

EMMA

Schedule for graduates and guests.

Wall shows projection of a map, times, and countdown clocks.

ARTIE

How about that.

Artie studies the wall's contents.

LIAM

I had some good times here. Made lots of friends. I'm going to miss this place.

ARTIE

You have a job lined up?

LIAM

I figure I'd take the summer off then look for a job in September.

ARTIE

Liam, the last time I took the summer off, I was 15. You're an adult. Summer vacation is for kids.

Liam turns to Emma.

INT. DORM - DAY

Emma helps Liam put on his regalia. Artie takes a candid picture.

Liam puts on his cap.

LIAM

Watch this.

Liam taps the mortarboard and an avatar appears above it.

Artie looks bewildered.

ARTIE

What is that?

LIAM

My avatar, so you can see me in the crowd.

ARTIE

You mean all the other graduates are going to have some stupid thing floating over them?

LIAM

Yes.

Artie gives a gesture of disbelief which Liam ignores.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

A large auditorium, futuristic décor.

Emma and Artie sit in their seats.

ARTIE

There aren't any programs?

EMMA

In front of you Artie.

Emma taps the seat in front of her. Then taps the seat in front of Artie. A menu screen turns on for both seats.

Emma makes quick taps on her screen.

Artie makes slow, uncertain taps.

Artie's screen shows information on Liam Buchanan.

Artie's expression changes from matter of fact to shock.

The sound system plays *Pomp and Circumstance* to a futuristic beat.

Artie expresses disbelief.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Liam is chatting and with his friends.

They pose and Emma snaps a picture.

Artie, visibly displeased, stands a bit away from Emma.

INT. DORM - DAY

Liam and his parents enter. The door closes.

ARTIE

Liam, what were you thinking?

LIAM

What do you mean?

ARTIE

A quarter of a million dollars. Four years of your life.

LIAM

For a college degree at a high-ranking university.

ARTIE

For a degree in Astrology?

LIAM

I've got a talent for it. I graduated magna cum laude.

ARTIE

I could have graduated summa cum laude in basket weaving.

LIAM

There is no such degree.

EMMA

Artie, I understand your disappointment, but you know.

LIAM

No, I don't know.

EMMA

Many jobs still ask for a degree. Magna cum laude looks great on a resume.

LIAM

Right up until the interview.

EMMA

It's Liam's day. Let's try to be happy. You've got the rest of your life to moan about it.

INT. SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The room is clean and has a table and chairs of simple design. There is a framed poster of an astrological chart on a wall.

Liam dressed in a suit, is sitting with CHARLOTTE, 30, wearing a modest dress and pendant with her astrological sign, and DANIEL, 27, dressed in a business suit. He has a lapel pin of his astrological sign.

DANIEL

You know about IAS?

LIAM

The International Astrological Standards, certainly.

DANIEL

We here at Astro Charting America are a startup that uses IAS to assist businesses in their decision making.

CHARLOTTE

The idea is to bring Astrology into the mainstream of modern decision making.

DANIEL

Our vision is to apply readings to hiring, expansion, basing, and many other facets of business.

CHARLOTTE

This knowledge from the past is the way of the future. You're fortunate to be with our emergent business in this emergent field.

LIAM

I'm happy to be here. Thank you for this opportunity.

INT. LARGER CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The room is clean and has a table and chairs of simple design. There are two framed awards certificates from the International Astrological Standards Association.

Liam and Charlotte, both in business suits, are with a CLIENT, a man in his mid-40s. All are seated.

LIAM

The stars and moon phase indicates the optimal opening date is August 19.

CLIENT

I see.

CHARLOTTE

We have downloaded the details explaining our reading. It also shows the advantages of certain times.

CLIENT

Thank you for your services.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

It has been 10 years since Liam's graduation.

There is a large chart, showing an exponential rise, projected behind them.

Liam is at the podium. Daniel and Charlotte are at the dais.

LIAM

As you can see from the chart behind me, we have had a very good decade.

Charlotte leads a round of APPLAUSE.

LIAM (CONT'D)

This marks the rise in the needs for astrological services. In the United States, and over 40 other countries, no construction project would begin without being IAS Certified.

Charlotte leads a round of APPLAUSE.

LIAM (CONT'D)

IASC is wanted for almost every major, and most minor, corporate decisions.

Charlotte leads a round of APPLAUSE.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

The office has sturdy but dated furniture. A 2020 vintage robot vacuum cleaner is running.

Artie, 10 years older, has on a Bluetooth like earpiece.

ARTIE

Yes, I'll have a crew there on Monday.

Artie is unhappy.

ARTIE (CONT'D)

You mean I got to wait two weeks because
of the position of the moon?

Artie annoyed.

ARTIE (CONT'D)

Stars, moon, whatever.

EXT. A SKYSCRAPER - DAY

A construction team is working on the ground floor façade.
Self-driven equipment performs tasks in other parts of the
building.

Artie, wearing a hard hat, is supervising the project.

A self-driving car pulls up and Liam steps out.

LIAM

Artie!

The self-driving car drives off.

Artie gestures.

ARTIE

Hard hat!

Liam gets a hard hat from a dispenser and puts the hard hat
on.

LIAM

I heard your company started work today so
I decided to drop by.

ARTIE

Good to see you son.

LIAM

My company handled the building's IAS
certification.

ARTIE

They told me the stars said people had to do the façade.

LIAM

The stars worked out for you.

ARTIE

It's delaying the inevitable. Robots have all but taken over these construction jobs.

LIAM

Keeping up with the times is important.

ARTIE

It's delaying the inevitable. Robots have all but taken over these construction jobs.

LIAM

I never thought I'd hear you say that.

ARTIE

You know your great-great grandfather had a shoe repair shop.

LIAM

Repair shoes?

ARTIE

Yes. Your great grandfather was a TV repairman.

LIAM

Repairer.

ARTIE

TV repairman was what they called the occupation in the mid-20th century. It seemed a good occupation at the time.

LIAM

Never heard of these occupations.

ARTIE

They seemed good occupations at the time.
Within 20 years they had to find other
jobs.

INT. A BALL ROOM - NIGHT

There are elaborate decorations proclaiming a new company.

The guests give Liam a round of APPLAUSE. Liam nods at a
person in a pod. Up tempo DANCE MUSIC turns on.

Many guests make their way to the dance floor, or to Liam.
Liam mingles with the crowd.

Liam and Artie are sitting at a table. The other table
guests aren't present.

ARTIE

Yes, I sold the business. It was doing
well. It just wasn't the same with the
robots. I didn't feel right dealing with
computer technicians.

EMMA

This is quite a celebration Liam has here.

ARTIE

I hope he knows what he's doing quitting a
good paying job to start his own business.

EMMA

He has done well and he is older than you
were when you started your business.

Liam comes to the table.

LIAM

Glad you came Artie.

ARTIE

Glad you're doing so well. Hope your
business exceeds your expectations.

EMMA

Congratulations Liam.

Liam gives his sleeve a couple of taps. The music changes
to LOW TEMPO.

LIAM

Care to dance.

EMMA

Always.

TRACKING

Liam takes Emma to the dance floor.

They dance.

EMMA

Did Artie ever tell you Astrology was the
right choice?

LIAM

You are asking about Artie? I'm just
happy he stopped questioning my decisions.

EMMA

I suppose he's just content lamenting how
modern times weren't like the old days.

FADE OUT:

THE END