

Title: Bored of Education

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

PRIYANKA, around 16 years of age, best friend of Natalya for 5 years, only thinks about herself

NATALYA, around 16 years of age, best friend of Priyanka for 5 years, afraid of confrontation

SCENE 1

Setting: Priyanka's room

PRIYANKA is digging her hand through a bag of Snapea Crisps. She is on the bed looking at her laptop. NATALYA is sitting at the base of the bed.

PRIYANKA

The thing is, on the SAT, you have to answer one thousand, six hundred questions. On the ACT, you only need to answer thirty-six.

NATALYA

(Digging through the bag of Snapea Crisps and scrolling through her phone:)

Uh huh yeah

PRIYANKA

So like, I don't even need to study

NATALYA

Yea

PRIYANKA

Pfft, thirty six questions, I've had exit cards that are longer than that

NATALYA

When are you taking it?

PRIYANKA

Six weeks

NATALYA

Cool

PRIYANKA

Plus, I feel like it's more exciting. The SAT, it's in the title: SAT. All you do is sit. The ACT however - it's inspiring. It's telling you to ACT. And I'd rather say that I don't sit, I act.

NATALYA

That's like, poetry. Look, Priyanka, maybe you should study.

PRIYANKA

Why?

NATALYA

Cause this test isn't easy. You remember the PSAT?

PRIYANKA

Yeah it was a piece of cake. It was like an hour long, tops.

NATALYA

Really? There's like, four sections.

PRIYANKA

What do you mean? There was only one when I took it.

NATALYA

Priyanka, there are four.

PRIYANKA

No no I swear we did an hour of reading some passages and then they said we were done with Section One and we could take a break and leave to go get water and stuff.

NATALYA

Yes. A BREAK. There are THREE MORE SECTIONS.

PRIYANKA

What?

NATALYA:

YOU LEFT?

PRIYANKA

Yeah, I mean... it's like the Map-R anyway, it doesn't count for a grade.

NATALYA

Priyanka I'm like 90% sure the school should have caught that. Didn't you get a letter? Or a counseling appointment -

PRIYANKA

Wait, so how long is the real test?

NATALYA

Four hours.

PRIYANKA

FOUR HOURS?

SCENE 2

Setting: Priyanka's room

PRIYANKA

I just took a practice test.

NATALYA

And?

PRIYANKA

I'm halfway there. I got an 800.

NATALYA

What?

PRIYANKA

I got half the questions right! Isn't that fantastic!

NATALYA

Oh my god yes! I'm so proud of you you're definitely gonna get into, like ... a college.

Wait, I thought you were taking the ACT.

PRIYANKA

I found out there was science on it and I'd rather eat both of my feet then do science.

(Thrusting Natalya her phone:)

Take a photo for my story. Do you think it's obnoxious to post test scores? Oh my god whatever I'll do it anyway.

Priyanka strikes poses with her massive blue SAT book. The poses should be ridiculous but believable. Natalya takes a photo and hands the phone back to Priyanka:

PRIYANKA:

(Typing out caption:)

Just got an 800, watch out College Board, #halfwaythere #ontheedgeofglory
#grindneverstops #stayonthatgrind #nodaysoff

PRIYANKA

So have you registered for the test yet?

NATALYA

I've-

PRIYANKA

Because when I registered for the test I messed up and tried to use the wrong website and I ended up spending 3 weeks messing around on a photo editing website until someone told me college isn't spelled with an a.

NATALYA

Collage... board

PRIYANKA

You should register for the same day as me! Remember that time we had math together and you gave me all the answers on every test? That was so much fun! Oh my god it will be like algebra two all over again!

NATALYA

I did take algebra two all over again. I was convicted of academic dishonesty.

Natalya ignores this and picks up her phone, which is dinging loudly and continuously.

PRIYANKA

Oh my god

She shows the phone to Natalya.

Beat.

NATALYA

Well they could have said it nicer

PRIYANKA

Oh my GOD. I'm such an idiot! I got the lowest possible score?!

NATALYA

Hey, at least it's... a score

PRIYANKA

I can't believe I spent NINE WHOLE HOURS taking that practice test

NATALYA

Wait what

PRIYANKA

And I checked every single grammar question with my calculator

NATALYA

You checked... grammar... with you calculator

PRIYANKA

Why else would they have the comma and parentheses buttons? Anyway, that's not relevant - I failed. I'm a failure.

NATALYA

No you're not. It's just one test.

PRIYANKA

Aw thanks Natalya does that mean you agree to take the test for me?

NATALYA

I really don't think that's a terribly good idea

PRIYANKA

I always knew you were a terrible friend

NATALYA

What?

PRIYANKA

Fine since nobody will help me I guess I'll just have to find a way to improve this score myself.

NATALYA

Why don't you try studying?

PRIYANKA

PLEASE! Who STUDIES? Anyways, I'm not taking anyone's help on this, much less yours. If you really cared about me you'd take the test for me.

NATALYA

I don't know what you want me to -

PRIYANKA

I know what I have to do. I'll have to turn to the only thing that has supported me through the thick and thin.

NATALYA

God?

PRIYANKA

I was going to say my bra but God works too

NATALYA

How would your bra help you on the SAT?

PRIYANKA

Write all the test answers inside it, and if a test proctor asks you why you're staring at your chest you can yell at them for harassment.

Natalya is speechless.

SCENE 3

Priyanka's room.

There is a shrine. It contains an SAT study book, scented candles, framed photos of Kesha, Lego figures and Christmas lights.

PRIYANKA

Do you know any prayers?

NATALYA

Well, I know the Lord's Prayer

PRIYANKA

We're not praying to the Lord, we're praying to GOD idiot. Okay. I have a plan. Grab my scented candle and my mom's key bowl.

Natalya gets them for her.

PRIYANKA

Okay so this

She puts key bowl on her head.

PRIYANKA

(Pronounces "yam" as in the root vegetable:)

is gonna be my yam-ika

NATALYA

That's not what it's called

PRIYANKA

Sweet potato-ika? Whatever. I went to like, 3 bar mitzvahs in middle school so I think I'm the real expert.

NATALYA

I'm... Jewish

PRIYANKA

Yeah but you only went to ONE bat mitzvah. Your own.

Natalya is visibly upset and confused by this but Priyanka continues as if nothing has happened

PRIYANKA

Now all we need is the prayer cloth thingy.

She grabs a pair of sweatpants with airbrushed bat mitzvah writing on it, rips a leg off, and puts it around her shoulders.

PRIYANKA

That should work.

Natalya picks up the sweatpants. They say "Natalya Jacobsen Bat Mitzvah 2014." She frowns. Meanwhile, Priyanka takes her SAT book and puts it on the floor, and begins to sing:

PRIYANKA

(Severely mispronounced:)

Baroo hatcha? adeney-

NATALYA

No, no, no, let's just, not go there...

Priyanka takes the key bowl off her head and holds it back as if she is about to throw it at Natalya. She then brings it down and gives a playful punch at Natalya's arm.

NATALYA

Why don't you try just kneeling down and praying. Using your own words.

PRIYANKA

Okay. Whatever. Fine.

Priyanka kneels

PRIYANKA

Dear God. Please give me the strength to succeed on this test. I need your help to work it, to make it better. I need your help to do it, makes us, harder, better, faster, stronger, after all, what doesn't kill us makes us stronger. Stand a little taller. And through this whole ordeal, I can see your halo, shining bright like a diamond -

NATALYA

What?

PRIYANKA

FINE! Okay, okay I'll come up with something myself. So. Big G. G to the O to the singular D. Please give me a good grade on my SAT. I want to go to college. I don't really know why but it looks cool and I wanna be able to stay out late without my parents getting angry at me. Also my parents won't extend my phone data if I don't get more than a 1000. If you give me a good grade I won't ever eat shellfish or whatever, I won't eat meat even. You know what, if you give me a good grade I won't eat anything even, and I'll become a virgin, even a nun, and I'll -

NATALYA

Wowow wait what hold up

PRIYANKA

What's wrong?

NATALYA

No, dude, no that's not what... say if he gives you a good grade you will work your hardest to be the best person you can be.

PRIYANKA

Why would I say that?

NATALYA

Just trust me on this okay?

PRIYANKA

Fine. Okay. God, if you give me a good grade on my SAT I'll be a good person or whatever.

Beat.

NATALYA

Do you feel any different?

PRIYANKA

Not really

SCENE 4

Setting: Priyanka's room

PRIYANKA

So I don't think that worked. But I have a new plan.

NATALYA

Really?

PRIYANKA

Yeah. So I was watching BuzzFeed yesterday and I found this video called "Seven Weirdest Things On the Deep Web."

NATALYA

Oh no

PRIYANKA

Oh YES. And I mean if you can buy drugs and prostitutes on the Internet you probably can buy the answers to the SAT.

NATALYA

But you'll get a virus on your computer

PRIYANKA

That's why I used yours

NATALYA

WHAT?

PRIYANKA

So look here! Okay so, here it is - "New College Board SAT Answer Key 2017." Aw crap. We can only pay for it in bitcoin.

NATALYA

You're using MY computer?

PRIYANKA

Oh if we get it now they'll throw in a fake birth certificate and driver's license! So. Do you have any bitcoin? I have some coins but they're all whole.

NATALYA

AHHHH! WHAT'S THAT?!

Priyanka throws the computer on the ground.

The computer starts beeping

REALLY LOUDLY.

Projection behind them shows the computer screen. Any methods other than projection can be used, so long as the audience can see what is on the computer. The screen has a

massive pop-up blaring “YOUR
COMPUTER HAS BEEN
INFECTED. COMPLY WITH OUR
DEMANDS AND WE WILL LET
YOU GO FREE.

NATALYA

I TOLD YOU I TOLD YOU I TOLD YOU! AHHHH!

PRIYANKA

Oooo cool. It’s like James Bond.

Projection: “What is your name.”

NATALYA

Don’t tell him. Don’t. Oh no oh no.

PRIYANKA

Wait a second

(She types and speaks at the same time:)

Do you want the MY name or the name of this person’s computer? This is super unclear.

She submits the message.

Projection: “YOUR NAME”

PRIYANKA

Oh no problem. My name is priyankaaaa xoxo

She submits the message.

Projection: “YOUR FULL NAME”

PRIYANKA

I’m Priyanka the Conquera the Beast from Sri Lanka making men go Bonka and sweet
like Willy the Wonka

She submits the message.

Projection: “YOUR SOCIAL
SECURITY NUMBER”

PRIYANKA

Oooo when I wanna be secure socially I always give people my Whatsapp number. That way even if I don't have cell service they can text me over Wifi.

She types in her phone number

Projection: "WHAT IS YOUR HOME ADDRESS"

PRIYANKA

Oh so does that mean my personal email address not my school email address?

She types:

priyakatheconkeraaa665@gmail.com

Projection: "WHAT?"

PRIYANKA

(She types as she speaks:)

Listen dude I'm just out here trying to succeed in this economy and you're asking me all these RANDO questions so will you back off my friend's computer and go back to pirating old episodes of Star Trek or whatever hackers do when they're not busy being annoying? Thanks.

She submits the message.

Projection: "You know I really understand. I only got into ransomware because I couldn't find steady employment with my theater degree and nowadays it's so hard to succeed as a young professional"

PRIYANKA

(She types as she speaks:)

So will you back off and leave us alone.

She submits the message.

Projection: “Yeah. Keep fighting the good fight my friend. Our generation needs to work twice as hard to -“
Priyanka shuts down the pop up.

NATALYA

JESUS CHRIST PRIYANKA

PRIYANKA

That was fun!

NATALYA

NO! It was NOT!

She grabs the computer.

NATALYA

That guy was trying to steal your identity!

PRIYANKA

Uhhh, please. If he was trying to steal my identity why wasn't he asking me about what music I listen to or what stores I shop at?

NATALYA

(Out of breath and beyond done:)

... what?

PRIYANKA

Well. This is it. There's only one thing left to do.

Natalya is breathing heavily, looking overwhelmed, and shakes her head
“Please no.”

Priyanka turns to Natalya, grins, and nods her head “Oh yes.”

SCENE 5

Setting: College Board Headquarters.

The characters are in the College Board Headquarters building.

Priyanka and Natalya are wearing all black clothing and ski masks and carry backpacks.

PRIYANKA

So. You remember the plan.

NATALYA

(Muffled through the ski mask:)

mmhmfffmmsmm

(Natalya removes her ski mask:)

Yes, of course I do

PRIYANKA

Let's go over it again. Step one: We meet at the top floor, after closing hours, and stay behind undetected

NATALYA

Priyanka, we've already completed that step

PRIYANKA

Step two: We find the copies of the test.

NATALYA

I follow

PRIYANKA

Step three: we steal them.

NATALYA

Yep.

PRIYANKA

Easy-peasy pumpkin squeezy. Okay, so, let's get on with it. That's probably the room.

She points in the direction of a door
with the words "Tests Located
Within: DO NOT ENTER, TOP
SECRET."

They continue standing still.

PRIYANKA

What are you waiting for?

NATALYA

I was waiting for you

PRIYANKA

You look in that door there and I'll stay here on lookout

NATALYA

Priyanka, please

PRIYANKA

What are you worried about? You should be thanking me. I mean if a guard comes back
here he'll catch me first so really, I'm the one taking one for the team -

NATALYA

Either we go together or we don't go

PRIYANKA

Okay, fine. On the count of three.

NATALYA & PRIYANKA

(In unison:)

One.

Two.

Three.

They remain completely still.

PRIYANKA

Come on Natalya, you have to do this for me. Please. Please. Please please please.

Natalya shakes her head.

PRIYANKA

I'll give you back your computer. And your hairbrush. And the \$60 I stole from you last week.

Natalya, incredulous, shakes her head.

PRIYANKA

This is the last time I'm going to ask you. Natalya. Go into that room.

Natalya stays silent, simply looking at Priyanka.

PRIYANKA

I always knew you were a coward. A pathetic, quivering coward, who can't help her friend in her hour of need. A chicken. A sissy. A candy-ass. A milks -

Natalya takes her backpack and hits Priyanka over the head.

Priyanka is taken aback for a second and then, wham! She pushes Natalya. They fight for a bit. Their fighting should be funny. Then finally, Priyanka pushes Natalya through the door, and they fall into the room they were talking about. Priyanka and Natalya look up. They look around the room, and see that it contains -

PRIYANKA

Vials

Natalya

(Reading from a vial:)

David Coleman, taken on November 17th, 2017

Priyanka grabs the vial, unscrews its lid, nearly throws up, and closes it up again.

Natalya and Priyanka look at each other.

PRIYANKA

Urine tests.

NATALYA

It must be to make sure none of their employees are on drugs. See this one here? “Traces of marijuana and diethylamide found”... That sure explains some SAT questions

PRIYANKA

How would you know? It’s not like you’ve taken the test.

NATALYA

I have

PRIYANKA

You have?

Priyanka sets the vial down.

PRIYANKA

Why didn’t you tell me? You already took it?! No wonder you’ve been no help in my efforts! You don’t care about me doing well because you’ve already taken it and you’re only looking out for yourself. I can’t believe after all this work I put into doing well on this test and you’ve already taken it! How could you not tell me -

NATALYA

YOU NEVER ASKED! You never ask me about anything. I was going to tell you but you never let me speak, ever. Remember my Bat Mitzvah? YOU insisted on doing my

Torah reading, and you don't even speak Hebrew! You always insist on ordering for me at Starbucks! I don't even know what the "Secret Menu" is, and neither do the baristas, so why do you ALWAYS INSIST I GET IT?! You've been telling me what to do for seven years now and I'm sick of it! I'm so sick and tired of you bossing me around and thinking you can get away with it because you're my only friend! Well you know what? I'd rather be alone than stay friends with you! And I don't even need you! Remember that hacker guy who hacked my computer? Well I've been talking to him and he actually has a great personality and we're going to Skype later so you can SUCK ON THAT! I DON'T NEED YOU!

She throws a vial of urine at Priyanka. It crashes on the ground. Priyanka takes a vial and throws it at her. There is a vial fight (if possible) and then one vial goes in the wrong direction and hits the alarm system and "Ahhhhh!" A loud voice comes over the loudspeaker: "May I have your attention, please? May I have your attention, please? An intruder has been detected in the building. Please proceed to the stairways and exit the building." It repeats throughout the following dialogue, which, as a result, is yelled by the characters.

NATALYA

OH NO!

PRIYANKA

HERE, TAKE THIS LADDER AND ESCAPE!

Priyanka takes out a massive fire
escape ladder from her backpack.

NATALYA

WHY DO YOU HAVE A LADDER?

PRIYANKA

I WAS PLANNING ON LEAVING YOU IF THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND

NATALYA

OH MY GOD

PRIYANKA

LET ME DO THIS ONE THING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU. YOU ESCAPE, I'LL
TAKE THE BLAME.

NATALYA

WOULD YOU DO THAT FOR ME?

PRIYANKA

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.

Natalya takes the ladder. They look
at each other for a moment, and then
hug.

NATALYA

OH MY GOD YOU SMELL LIKE PEE

PRIYANKA

RUN!

SCENE 6

Setting: Nowhere in particular
Natalya and Priyanka stand in two
illuminated spots on opposite sides

of the stage. Each of them are holding a phone.

NATALYA

Hi!

PRIYANKA

Hey!

NATALYA

Good to know your phone number hasn't changed in 5 months

PRIYANKA

Well it's my Whatsapp number so, it stays the same

NATALYA

Ha ha yeah

PRIYANKA

Yeah

Beat.

NATALYA

So. What have you been up to?

PRIYANKA

Well, I didn't end up taking the SAT

NATALYA

No way!

PRIYANKA

Yeah, after my arrest I got on Doctor Phil in an episode about the harmful effects of standardized testing... and then I said something on the show that became a meme for a bit... and now I've got a book deal so I don't really need a degree. I figured college isn't for everyone.

NATALYA

Good for you!

Beat.

PRIYANKA

More importantly, how are YOU doing. What have you been up to? I want to hear all about it.

NATALYA

Well, I got into Ithaca and I think I'm gonna go there. I'm looking at a major in computer science. Jacob's been getting me interested in programming and stuff.

PRIYANKA

Jacob?

NATALYA

The... hacker guy

PRIYANKA

Good for you! That's awesome. I'm so glad to hear it.

Beat.

PRIYANKA

Natalya, I just wanted to apologize. For everything. For your Bat Mitzvah, for stealing, for making you break the law, for lying to you about your hermit crab -

NATALYA

You lied to me about my hermit crab?

PRIYANKA

He didn't run away. In 7th grade, when I took care of him, I tried to attach a papier mache chariot to him and I accidentally killed him. I thought I already told you about that one but I suppose now is as good a time as any.

NATALYA

Yeah

PRIYANKA

So, I'm sorry. For everything. I know there's no way I can make it up to you, but I'm trying to be a better person. And you might not be able to accept my apology, but I hope you'll at least accept my thanks.

NATALYA

Thanks?

PRIYANKA

Thanks for making me realize my behavior. I was completely unaware of how terrible I was being, and it was time I realized it. So, thank you.

NATALYA

You're welcome.

They both smile.

PRIYANKA

Now do you know if there's any way for me to get this book written without having to, you know, write it myself?

FIN

SETTINGS:

PRIYANKA'S ROOM

COLLEGE BOARD HEADQUARTERS

NOTES ON THE PLAY:

This play is ridiculous. The characters, situations, and actions are ridiculous. Embrace the ridiculousness of it all. Make sure every joke lands. The punctuation in the script is written to mimic the characters' speech patterns, which is why it might vary from correct grammar. Some of the jokes in this play might be considered offensive. The jokes should not be delivered in a manner that pokes fun at marginalized groups or serious issues, but rather in a way that pokes fun at the idiocy and ignorance of the character who is saying them. Lastly, this play is written specifically for teenage audiences, and should be performed with that age group in mind.