

Cheaters Among Us

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INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

During a History 150 test, STUDENT 1 glances over to see another student looking at a 3rd student's test paper.

STUDENT 1 elbows his/her neighbor and points to the cheater.

STUDENT 1
(mouthing silently)
Look.

The neighbor notices and acknowledges seeing the cheater. Students resume taking the test, while, in the background, the cheater continues looking over occasionally.

DISSOLVE TO:

Students throughout the room begin to stand up, turn in their tests and leave the room.

PROFESSOR
Thank you. See everyone on
Thursday.
(trailing off)
Don't forget about the discussion
for next class. We'll be
considering the reasons for the
fall of Athenian Greece in the
midst of the Persian War...

Over the shoulder shot of STUDENT 1 about to turn in his/her test. STUDENT 1's head slowly turns to see the cheater leaving the classroom. **Options Appear** as PROFESSOR'S words gradually become muffled.

Confront the Student

STUDENT 1 follows the cheater out of the classroom.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

STUDENT 1 chases after the cheater

STUDENT 1
Hey!

Cheater stops walking

CHEATER
 (confused)
 Huh?

STUDENT 1
 Hey, in 150, I was sitting behind
 you during the test. I saw you
 looking at that guy's/gal's paper.

CHEATER
 What are you talking about?

STUDENT 1
 (insistent)
 In class, just a few minutes ago.
 You were looking at somebody else's
 paper.

CHEATER
 Uh, *no*, I wasn't.

STUDENT 1
 I'm sure I'm not the only one that
 saw, it was *kinda* obvious.

CHEATER
 (overconfident)
 Okay, well you can't prove it.

STUDENT 1
 Either *you* tell the PROFESSOR or *I*
 will.

CHEATER
 (angered, yet not too
 concerned)
 Okay, fine,
 (huffs)
 I did it, but only 'cause I got
 called into work last night and had
 to stay really late. It's not like
 I do it all the time; ...I'm sure
 you've done it too...
 (trailing off)

CHEATER walks away.

Options appear.

FADE OUT.

Don't tell

STUDENT 1 walks in the other direction. As STUDENT 1 passes the History 150 room, the professor is just turning out the lights and locking the door. PROFESSOR puts the keys in his/her pocket and crosses paths with STUDENT 1.

PROFESSOR
What did you think of the test?

STUDENT 1
(torn)
Umm...

STUDENT 1 cannot find the words.

PROFESSOR
(friendly)
Surely it wasn't *that* hard.
Assuming you studied.

STUDENT 1
Oh, I was, I was ready. I think I did alright.

PROFESSOR
Good. I would think a week's notice would give everyone enough time to get ready.

PROFESSOR begins walking down the hall.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
I'll try to get these graded by next class, so we'll know then.
Have a nice day.

STUDENT 1
(disappointed)
You too.

FADE TO BLACK.

Jump to the "Do Nothing" option.

Inform the Professor

INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

STUDENT 1 walks up to the open door of the History 150 PROFESSOR'S office. STUDENT 1 knocks on the open door.

STUDENT 1
Hi, Professor _____. Do you
have a minute?

PROFESSOR looks up from his/her desk.

PROFESSOR
Of course, come in. Take a seat.

PROFESSOR reaches across to clear some papers, folders, etc. off of a nearby chair.

STUDENT 1
Oh, no it will only take a second.

PROFESSOR
(mumbling)
Well.

PROFESSOR continues to pick up the papers and sets them on his/her cluttered desk.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
What can I do for you?

STUDENT 1
(nervously)
My name's _____. I'm in... your
History 150 class at 11 a.m.

PROFESSOR
(laughing politely)
Can I assume this is... about the
test?

STUDENT 1
(hesitantly)
Uh, yeah: Has anyone come to talk
to you about the test yet?

PROFESSOR
Yet? Why do you say yet?

STUDENT 1

Well, when we were taking it this morning, I saw the guy/girl in front of me looking at someone else's paper and...

Oh.

PROFESSOR

STUDENT 1

(rushed and nervously blurted)

Well I talked to him/her after class and told them that if they didn't come and talk to you, I would.

STUDENT 1 (CONT'D)

(realizing he/she may have spoken too soon)

I don't want to seem like a ...

PROFESSOR

No, no it's, it's okay. Yeah, no one's said anything to me so far.

STUDENT 1

(confident, but NOT smug)

I know the person next to me saw it too.

PROFESSOR

Do you know the students that were involved?

STUDENT 1

(flustered)

Well, it was just the one... the person in front - the one they were cheating off of - I don't think they knew.

PROFESSOR

Okay, so he/she was doing it by him/herself. Can you give me a name?

STUDENT 1

(embarrassed)

Uh... I don't really know his/her name.

STUDENT 1 scratches the side of their head.

STUDENT 1 (CONT'D)

I'm kinda bad with those.

PROFESSOR
Okay. How about the seating chart?
Can you...

PROFESSOR shuffles through papers in a folder to grab the seating chart.

Just point to where you're at.

Student points to the chart.

STUDENT 1
(thinking and rotating the
map in their mind)
I'm here, so he/she would be
here...oh, and this is who he/she
was copying off of...

FADE OUT.

INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

Cheater knocks on the professor's open door.

CHEATER
(nervously)
You wanted to see me, professor?

PROFESSOR
(stern)
Yep, have a seat.

Cheater enters the office.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
Will you shut the door, please?

Cheater reaches back and shuts the door. Cheater turns back to the professor knowing why he/she has been called in.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
Okay, I've investigated this and
you're getting a zero on the test
over Mesopotamia and the
Phoenecians. I think you know why.

CHEATER
But I...

PROFESSOR
If you do it again, the university
requires...

FADE TO BLACK.

Do Nothing

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

PROFESSOR paces around the room.

PROFESSOR

So the Greeks didn't see it coming at all. The Persians basically just waltzed across southern Europe and eventually brought down the entire Greek civilization, city-state, by cit...

PROFESSOR glances at his/her watch.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I'm gonna wrap this up quick...

PROFESSOR hands a stack of papers to a T.A. to pass back. STUDENT 1's test is returned with an 81%. STUDENT 1 looks the test over and glances ahead, anticipating the return of the cheater's test.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

(muffled)

And as a result the Greeks came under Persian rule and the Hellenistic period, which is... widely regarded as the cultural high point of the ancient world, came to a quick and sudden end.

Professor heads to the front of the room as T.A. hands back the last of the tests to CHEATER. Chalkboard shows map of Greece.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Now; on to the test. Overall, pretty good... The distribution on this one was pretty typical. You guys scored between 63% all the way up to 94. So that means the 94s set the curve.

CHEATER high fives his neighbor.

FADE TO BLACK.