



LaMarca  
UNIVERSITY

A NEW BEGINNING

By Reuben Polanco

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*"Every year, many, many stupid people graduate from college. And if they can do it, so can you."*

— John Green



### ***Author's Note***

I wrote this play because I was given the opportunity to write a piece since I am in the graduating class of 2022. This made me create something from scratch right out of my brain. It took me a while to figure out what exactly I wanted to write about. But since I will be attending college in fall of 2022, I decided to write something related to college. Even though I have not experienced what being in college feels like, I've heard stories from friends that are currently enrolled and graduated from college, I imagined it in my head. Also looking at movies/shows gave me a thought about what college can be like. Which helped me more in this writing process. Throughout the writing process, I have realized that being a writer is not easy. Learning how to create dialogue, characters, themes, etc is a very difficult job and I give credit to all writers. After a short period of writing this piece, I could almost see anyone playing any role of any character in this play because of how real it felt writing about the characters and their dialogue which made me imagine everything going on in my head. Reading the text also felt like real people were having an actual conversation which makes this play feel very realistic. Writing this piece took me out of my comfort zone from things that I usually do. Trying something new is always worth giving a shit.

## A New Beginning

**Time:** 9:30 am

**Place:** On the Road

**At Rise:** Jermaine is driving in his 2019 Chevrolet with Harry on their college moving day at LaMarca University. Jermaine is 5 foot 10 with a lean muscular body. But not shredded with muscle. Dark brown eyes. Curly hair. Harry is 6 foot 1 with straight hair. Blue eyes. Muscular body as well as Jermaine's but not too muscular. Both have been up since 5 in the morning, anxious for this moment to come.

Harry

Dude I'm literally about to vomit.

Jermaine

(laughs)

Bro my heart racing but don't violate this baby.

(Jermaine and Harry have mouth dropping facial expressions seeing the main entrance of the college. Harry notices that the environment is very welcoming.

A sign that says "Welcome Class of 2030" alerts both of them with smiles on their faces. Jermaine is driving up the steep hill to the dorm located north of the college.)

(Harry and Jermaine arrive at LaMarca University. Harry looks at his surroundings and out to the college. Looking at the beautiful nature around him. Sun shining on the palm trees. Reminds Harry of his trip to Fort Lauderdale a few years ago.)

Harry

Yo Jermaine look at these palm trees.



## A New Beginning

Jermaine

Feeling like I'm in Florida. Let's get settled.

**Place:** Inside their dorm

**At Rise:** Harry and Jermaine are putting their room together.

Harry

Should I put up this Beatles Abbey Road cover on the wall or nah.

Jermaine

Yeah it'll make the room have a vibe. We gotta decorate this room with some music or movie portraits so the room won't look plain.

(Knocking on the door begins)

Harry

Yo Jermaine, get the door

Jermaine

You lazy or something

Harry

Just get it will you

(Jermaine opens the door and sees that it's Marie. But she has a head tilted while saying. Marie has Dark brown hair, 5 foot 2, Curly hair, Dark brown eyes.

Marie

(flirty as she looks directly into his eyes)  
Hey my name is.....

(Jermaine stares with disbelief.)

Jermaine

Hey

Marie

What're you doing here

Jermaine

I mean what does it look like

Marie

Take off those glasses for one second, can you

(Jermaine is wearing sunglasses, he doesn't take them off.  
Harry walks up to the door to see who Jermaine is  
murmuring with.)

Harry

Hi and you are? Wait weren't you in our old school? well  
isn't this great. Exes meeting each other again.

(Harry walking away laughing)

Jermaine

That was a corny one. So Marie

Marie

Yess

Jermaine

You wanna go get lunch or something. Maybe catch up

Marie

## A New Beginning

Umm yeah sure why not

Harry

Let me know when yall are done.

**Place:** Local bakery shop

**At rise:** Jermaine and Marie speak about what has happened since their break up.

Marie begins to sit down while Jermaine go gets the food. When Jermaine comes back, she stares at him in some sort of way. She feels awkwardness, he feels awkwardness as well. There is a really long pause for about 3 minutes. Suddenly, Jermaine and Marie shout out, "Let's just be friends!" Jermaine feels like he doesn't have that much pressure on his shoulders. Marie feels relieved.

Jermaine

(calls Harry)

Hey, meet me in front of the dorm. So we could go check the gym.

Harry

Alright I gotchu

Jermaine

We gotta check that gym out bro. I've seen pictures of it online and OMG

(The gym has a variety of machines that anyone can use to workout. Along with a section of combat that has a ring and punching bags)

Harry

(giggling)

If it's wack I'm turning back around. So what did you and Marie talk about

Jermaine

None ya

Harry

What's none ya

Jermaine

(laughing)

None ya business

Harry

Probably wasn't anything crazy anyways. Yo watch out

**Place:** On campus

**At Rise:** Jermaine and Harry are on their way to the gym.

A student, Sara, is riding a scooter uncontrollably and runs into Jermaine. Sara hits Jermaine with the scooter.

(Sara is 5 foot 9. Dark brown eyes. Dark brown hair along with straight hair. Her scooter is electric with Salmon pink colors lining around the scooter. Has her Instagram tag and Snapchat tag as stickers on her scooter)

Jermaine

Ahh damn. What's your deal

Sara

Get off your phone next time dummy



Jermaine

Who are you to tell me, "Get off your phone next time"

(Jermaine mimicking her)

Sara

Why you so pressed? Lower your tone and get out my way

(Harry laughs at Jermaine because Sara is talking crazy to Jermaine.)

(Marie was on a bench close to them and was sitting down and saw that Sara was talking to them.)

Marie

Umm excuse me why are you talking to him like that

Sara

He got in my way so I had to give him parental advice

Marie

Should've just kept it moving

Harry

A'ight, everybody chill. You or whatever your name is just skidaddle. In other words, move along.

Marie

Damn Harry I didn't know you had it like that

Sara

Hahaha. I hope y'all have a great day.

(Sara responds by leaving on her scooter unbothered.)



Marie

Where were you guys about to go?

Harry

We were about to go to check the gym out. Wanna come with?

Marie

I would but not with you though. I gotta go back to my room to see who my new roommate is

Jermaine

Bet hit me up on snap

Marie

Got it

**Place:** Gym

**At Rise:** Jermaine and Harry walk in the Gym.

Harry

Was this what you saw online? Cause damn. This place is sick

Jermaine

Yea. Every single detail

Harry

Holy smokes they have a boxing ring too. Yo Jermaine, you wanna hit 60 seconds real quick?

Jermaine

You don't want the smoke. But why not.

## A New Beginning

Timothy

Umm hey and you guys are

(Timothy is 6'0, he has an athletic figure, dark brown eyes, and short straight hair.)

(Jermaine with sweat on his face after hitting the punching bags)

Harry

What's up? I'm Harry and this is Jermaine

Jermaine

What up

Harry

You mind if we hit a lil spare for a few seconds

Timothy

Sure but ima need it in 5

Jermaine

Putting on these gloves is crazy. We are not using hand wraps?

Harry

Hell no. I'm really gonna knock your ass out

Jermaine

You cocky son of a gun

(Jermaine swings his left arm and Harry ducks and hits him with a Right hook)

Harry

That was nasty

(Harry blocks Jermaine's uppercut. Steps back and hits him with his left hand arm and ko's him with a right uppercut.)

Timothy

Holy shit. Where you learned those moves from Harry

Harry

In the garage

Timothy

(laughing)

Damn you ended his ass

(Harry helps up Jermaine)

(Lacy is on the treadmill watching Jermaine and Harry fight. She takes a break from the treadmill and comments to Timothy. Lacy is 5 foot 4. Hazel eyes, blonde straight hair, and has an athletic body.)

Lacy

You're not the only one who saw that. That was impressive  
I'll tell you that

Harry

You are

Lacy

The names Lacy

Timothy

So you not gonna ask me what my name is

## A New Beginning

Lacy  
(giggling)  
Desperate I see

Timothy  
Ha you wish

[After Harry and Jermaines mini exhibition fight, Harry heads into the bathroom where he then gasps for air after fighting with Jermaine]

Jermaine  
Hey you ok?

Harry  
Yeah it's no biggie

**Place:** Girls Dorm

**At Rise:** Marie and Sara get their room settled

(Marie is walking back to her room while Sara already entered her room. Sara is putting her clothes etc in her closet. Sara opens the door and looks at Marie's bed in disgust. Marie notices that Sara's bed has a towerful of clothes. Sara's head is stuffed in the closet, meanwhile Marie still doesn't know what Sara looks like.)

Marie  
Hello

Sara  
(Awkwardness)  
Oh hey

Marie

Weren't you the chick who was being rude to my friend

Sara

(Awkwardness)

Um. Hi and speaking about that, I think you got it all wrong.  
I'm assuming you're his girlfriend

Marie

Were. I don't think we greeted each other formally.  
I'm Marie

Sara

That's more like it. I'm Sara. Did you take a short route  
to get here because the arrival time is supposed to be in  
10 minutes

Marie

Were you coming from Rellham Park

Sara

Yeah but you probably came from another place

Marie

You're probably right. I know that scooter comes in handy.  
I wish I had bought one. Walking there will get me lost in a  
second. (Funny way)

Sara

(Laughing kind of way)

Honestly, that's why I bought it. I don't feel like walking 10  
minutes to class when I could get there in 2 minutes with  
this bad boy. By the way sorry for what happened  
back there



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Marie  
(giggling)

It's all good. It caught me by surprise.  
Do you know how far the freshman orientation  
is? Watch it be like 2 miles on this campus



Sara

It's near the soccer field which is a little far. I know you want  
a ride. (laughing) I'll give you a ride. Don't worry about it

Marie

Please don't go too fast. I'm somewhat clumsy

Sara  
(Funny)

Will do. I'll go an extra 5 miles

**Place:** Film Class

**At Rise:** Welcoming all the Freshman (Next day) 9:00 am  
class for freshmans.

Ms. Leonard

Welcome everyone. Come on, let's keep it rolling. We need  
all freshmans here. I think this is about it (Soft tone) Hey  
everyone. My name is Ms. Leonard and welcome to  
LaMarca University. This is a safe and friendly environment,  
where you'll meet new people and begin a new chapter in  
your lives. You'll meet people who would have the same  
interests as you and some who won't. Which is totally ok.  
But I would advise you to take risks and step out of your  
comfort zone. If you ever need any help of any kind, you  
have our amazing support from our staff and faculty  
members. With that being said, once again I am Ms.  
Leonard who will be teaching you about Film. There are

pens on my desk for anyone's needs. We are going to start a group project with 3 groups of 10 people. The genre of this film making project is Horror. We'll be testing each other's abilities in how we create a film of any kind. The film will only be a maximum of 5 minutes long. So don't go overboard, or else you won't get a grade. I will not be advising the people in the groups, you will determine who will be in your group. You have 3 minutes to create a group of your own, starting now

Harry

Ok you and you come with me

Lacy

Uh isn't that your best friend. We also have names you know. And who are you, the captain

Jermaine

(Joyful way)

Right who does this guy think he is

Harry

(giggling)

Why is that your main concern? Go grab people instead

Lacy

Yo Timothy come be with us

Timothy

This has to be one of the stupidest assignments to be advised. Reminds me of high school

Lacy

Yea I don't wanna be reminded of high school. Do you mind if I call you Tim for short. Feel like Timothy is too long to say

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Timothy

Why not? But don't use it

(Timothy goes up to Jermaine to tell him something.)

Timothy

Hey Jermaine, I don't think we met formally but I'm Timothy

Jermaine

Yeah it was weird. (Jermaine laughing) I'm Jermaine

Timothy

My uncle's name is Jermaine. I had to put it out there.  
(Timothy says joyfully.) Also that chick straight down to the  
left keeps looking at you as if she knows you

Jermaine

(in a funny way)

Of course it's gotta be her. Yeah thats my ex from  
high school

Timothy

Was it a coincidence that both of you ended up here or was  
it planned out if you mind me asking.

Jermaine

Honestly I don't even know. Because I should've known  
a while ago but my head was in another place. Fuck it  
that's life

Timothy

It happens. But do you guys still talk or go on about  
your days?

Jermaine

We saw each other yesterday and caught up. This is four years we're going to be here for. There's no way we're going to avoid each other for that long

Timothy

Honestly. That'll be a world record breaking achievement. (laughing) But at least you guys still talk to each other

Jermaine

Yup. You got anyone from high school who came here or only you

Timothy

Surprisingly, only me. I genuinely thought many were gonna come, but at least i'm with new people

Jermaine

That's the good part. That you'll be around people you never met and will become friends with them

Timothy

I heard that the friends you met in college will become your lifelong friends

Jermaine

I've actually heard that as well. What major are you here for

Timothy

I'm here for Journalism. How about you?

Jermaine

I'm majoring in Philosophy. I find it interesting

## A New Beginning

Timothy

It sounds very interesting. That was my second option but I  
just went with Journalism

Jermaine

It was good speaking with you Timothy. Haven't had one of  
these conversations in a while

Timothy

Likewise. Oh and will I see you on the lacrosse field

Jermaine

Of course

Timothy

See you there

**Place:** Soccer field

**At Rise:** Jermaine, Harry, and Timothy head to the soccer  
field where their lacrosse practice takes place at. Jermaine,  
Harry, and Timothy meet up to go to practice

Harry

So Timothy what position do you play

Jermaine

(joyfully)

I was just gonna say that

Timothy

I play goalie. If anyone scores a easy goal on me just know  
it was the defense fault for letting that go in

(All three start laughing)



Timothy

What positions do you guys play

Harry

I play defense on the right

Jermaine

And I play attacking in the middle

Timothy

So we're all scattered around the field then

Harry

When you first told us about Lacrosse I thought you were  
going to say Attacking because you look fast

Timothy

I wouldn't say I'm the Flash but I am quick for sure

Jermaine

My cousin used to go there and also played Lacrosse.  
And he told me that the coach was on everybody's ass. If  
someone doesn't catch the pass and finishes the play, he'll  
bench you the next day

Harry

We'll see if he acts the same

**Place:** Soccer field

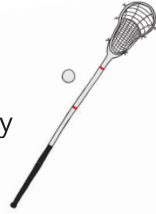
**At Rise:** Harry, Timothy, and Jermaine arrive at practice

(Harry, Jermaine, Timothy walks into practice late)

Timothy

## A New Beginning

Why does it look like they have already started? Doesn't it start at 4:00 sharp



Coach Jacobs

Look who's late. It had to be Freshmans. You have 3 minutes to get ready or your adding 5 laps in the beginning and end of practice

(Coach Jacobs is 6 foot 3. Bald head. Always wearing shades. Has a Bulk body)

Timothy

Harry your theory is proven

Harry

What do you mean

Timothy

He's acting the same way Jermaine told us about

Jermaine

(in a laughable way)

And I thought my cousin was exaggerating. This guy is the real deal

Harry

Alright no jokes let's just get ready. We can't be looked as bad examples

Jermaine

(laughing)

STFU Harry

Harry

Fool around and watch what happens

Jermaine  
(laughing)  
Yeah we'll see

(Coach Jacobs sets up a shooting drill)

Coach Jacobs  
Ok all my Goalies step to my left. All Midfielders and  
Attackers to my right. Defenders, work on your footwork

Jermaine  
Yeah go work on your footwork

Coach Jacobs  
(shouting)  
HEY you what's your name

Jermaine  
Umm.. Jermaine

Coach Jacobs  
Well Jermaine you want to be a instigator right

Jermaine  
Not exactly coach

Coach Jacobs  
It's Jacobs. Coach Jacobs and go take a lap and come back.  
This ain't fucking jokes boys. We were semi finalists last year  
for the first time in seven years. We want to bring home the  
Championship. Not be looked at as semi finalists. So let's  
act like we want to be a winning team

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So attackers, you will be catching the pass of your teammate and then shoot the ball while running three yards. You know what Defense get over here. You guys will be defending these guys while they try to catch their pass and then shoot the ball three yards away while they run towards the goal. You guys got it?

Players

(screaming out loud)

Yes coach Jacobs

Coach Jacobs

(screaming)

You have 15 seconds to attempt a shot. Ready 1.2.3 go

(Jermaine finishes up his lap and waits for the round to be the shooter)

(Players passing the ball around, juking the defenders, and a sophomore makes the shot on Timothy)

Coach Jacobs

What kind of goalkeeping is that Timothy

Timothy

I'll do better

Coach Jacobs

I hope so. Goalkeepers switch. And Jermaine you'll be the one shooting this round

Jermaine

Got it coach

(Attackers/Midfield passing the ball around. Jermaine here.  
Shouts his teammate. Jermaine catches the ball, leaps for  
and shoots the ball into the net)

Coach Jacobs

Woah what a shot. I would like to see more of that Jermaine

(Jermaine smiling because of what the coach told him.  
Harry pissed because of his spacing mistake that lead  
Jermaine to score)

Jermaine

Don't let it get to you just keep on trying

Coach Jacobs

Hey Harry, I'm gonna sit you out for a minute and put  
Freddy on your spot to try him out

Harry

Great now i'm sitting the bench in practice

Jermaine

It's only for this next play bro. Just chill

(Play ends off with Jermaine scoring again)

Coach Jacobs

Wonderful Jermaine. Continuity your form and the  
opposing teams are gonna have a massive problem in  
their defense

Jermaine

I got you coach

## A New Beginning

Coach Jacobs

Ok Harry get back here. I want to see a defensive stop.  
And, Freddy, just continue your work in the midfield. That  
was enough for me to watch

(Jermaine giggles)

(Play begins and Jermaine is running to find space. Harry  
keeps his stick on Jermaine so he wouldn't catch the ball)

Teammate

Jermaine your being guarded, get open

Jermaine

Damn it dude I can't

Coach Jacobs

Play over. Harry was on your ass Jermaine. Good work  
Harry. Who's next on the attacking side

Teammate

Me

Jermaine

Good shit

Harry

Thanks bro

(Couple of rounds happens and Coach ends practice)

Coach Jacobs

Everybody get over here. Good practice today boys. I've  
seen a lot of improvement on the players from last season

who performed really well today. This session was only based on how the Defense and Attackers worked as a team in their own group. Looking who needs more help and what we can work on as a person and as a team. With that being said, having no chemistry we won't perform at our best. Chemistry is very important in any sport. So let's work and get to know each other and our abilities. Tomorrow we will have an early session at 6:25 am. I better not see sleepyheads jogging around the field. I want energy. So get rest and I'll see you tomorrow morning. Cormorants on 1.2.3

(Full team shouts "Cormorants")

Timothy

Yo I'll catch you guys tomorrow. I'm gonna go jog around and take some rest

Jermaine

Alright, I'll see you tomorrow. Remember what the coach said. Be here at 6:25

Timothy

Yeah Yeah I know. Alright catch y'all later

Harry

Peace

(Timothy takes a different route to his dorm so Jermaine and Harry don't suspect him. Timothy meets up with a student that will buy one of his so-called Supreme shirts. They meet up.)

Timothy



## A New Beginning

That'll be \$500.

Student  
(shocked)  
What?!



Timothy

This shirt is a one of a kind. They made 5000 in the world and you could be one of those 5000, especially if I'm giving it to you for a low price. In reality it goes for 1000-2000.

Student  
Just give me the shirt.

(The student gives Timothy the \$500.)

Timothy  
Thanks, it was good doing business with you.

(When the student walks away, Timothy smiles big.)

**Time:** 10:30 pm

**Place:** In Front of Lacy's dorm

**At Rise:** Lacy is sitting on a bench located outside of her dorm

(Lacy is outside of her dorm at night time so she would speak to her parents about something serious without anyone being nosy. She sits on the bench with her Starbucks drink from an hour earlier. Lacy tries to think of why her parents would call her very late and what problem it could be. Lacy's parents begin to call her on facetime.)

Lacy

Hello

Lacy's mom

Hey honey how's the college life so far

Lacy

Hey mom it's all good I love it here

Lacy's mom

I'm glad to hear that, my love. Listen me and your father want to speak to you about something very serious

Lacy

Where's dad

Lacy's mom

He's in the bathroom, he wasn't feeling well but he'll be right out

(1 minute later Lacy's dad joins the facetime call with his wife (Lacy's mom))

Lacy's dad

Hey sweetie how are you

Lacy

Hey dad, I'm a little tired but I'm fine. And why are you guys calling me at 11:15 at night. (giggling) You guys would be knocked out by now

Lacy's mom

Well hon (short for honey) we are going through a little financial problem at the moment. We are trying to resolve this as quickly as possible and I'm going nuts

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Lacy

Wait what's going on

Lacy's mom

We came in contact with one of our contractors and at the moment I am losing 2 houses in Miami.

Lacy

So what does this mean?

Lacy's mom

It means me and your father don't know if you finish the year at LaMarca.

Lacy

This was my dream school. Why all of the sudden is this happening?

Lacy's mom

Baby we don't know. But if there is any way you can make \$4,000 in 2 weeks, then LaMarca will continue to be your home.

Lacy

Mom, really? Are you seriously making jokes right now? But remember you said it not me.

Lacy's mom

You're too much. I'll speak with you tomorrow.

(Lacy's mom hangs up.)

(After the phone call between Lacy and her parents, she spent a half hour sitting on the bench in disbelief. Thinking

about what's going to happen next. Whether she's going to move back with her parents and go to a community college or find another way to stay here at campus. Lacy was thinking everything through and she couldn't figure out why her parents sent her to this college if anything in that nature could happen at any moment. She was devastated and continued to sit in the chilly weather for a few minutes.)

(About 5 minutes later she sees a black figure lingering on campus. She then sees the figure turn their head and finds out it was Timothy all along. She thinks to herself why is he outside in a Dark gray outfit. Looking like a delinquent. She speed walks towards him to see what's going on)

Lacy  
Hey Tim

Timothy  
(in his head)  
What the fuck does she want

Lacy  
I know you hear me why are you still walking

Timothy  
(in a sarcastic way)  
Heyyy

Lacy  
Don't get smart with me. What's in the bag

Timothy  
First off why were you tearing and second back up

## A New Beginning

Lacy

(giggling)

Don't worry about it and no because you look like you just  
robbed the bookstore

Timothy

Like you said "Don't worry about it" (imitating Lacy)

Lacy

I know no one does laundry during this time, so what're  
you up to

Timothy

(laughing)

Isn't it your bedtime because chicks nowadays are on  
another level

(Lacy begins to say something to distract Timothy so she  
can check what's in the bag)

Lacy

(to distract him)

Have I ever told you you have nice eyes

(While he responds mid sentence, she strips it away and  
runs as fast as she can)

Timothy

Uhh nah but you got nic...

(This is where Lacy takes his bag. She runs towards the  
dining hall to place the bag on the table and check out  
what he has)

Timothy  
(shouts)

Yo what the fuck dude. You don't want me to chase you.

(He begins to run after Lacy)

Lacy  
(running and laughing)  
Sorry Tim. Next time don't get carried away

(Lacy is near the dining hall. She turns around to check if she lost him. In which she does but she turns round again and Timothy pops up from the tree he was hiding at)

Lacy  
What in the world, You were just behind me

Timothy  
(giggling)  
Don't attempt a race with a lacrosse player. But I'll tell you what, you are fast. Caught me by surprise.

Lacy  
I'm not going to fall for that

Timothy  
Fall for what

Lacy  
You're trying to distract me like I did to you. Ok but serious what're you doing outside with this suspicious bag

Timothy  
We just met a couple days ago how would I tell you

## A New Beginning

my business

Lacy

I'll rip the bag

Timothy

Oooo. Sorry tough guy



(Lacy rips the bag and sees the supreme stickers along with the plain colored t-shirts)

Lacy

Last time I checked the supreme logos are usually on the shirt. (laughing) Whats going on here

Timothy

What's your deal

Lacy

What do you mean

Timothy

Snooping around people's business you weirdo

Lacy

It's my fault you look like a delinquent looking like that. So what're you planning on doing with these shirts

Timothy

What do you want? Money or something

Lacy

I am going through a little crisis right now related to that nature. But why would i want your money

Timothy

Tell me your situation and I'll think about it. I think it's fair since you got into my business

Lacy

You're right. I'll pay for my mistakes. Any who, before I saw you lingering around here, I was on the phone with my parents and something happened back at home. So they told me it would be difficult to continue to pay for the cost of this college. Sorry if i was coming out bad on you, I am not well at the moment

Timothy

Sorry to hear that. Was that why your eyes were watery

Lacy

Yup

Timothy

I'll tell you what. I would want to help you out because i know you want to stay here

Lacy

Wait what are you saying

Timothy

Don't worry. What I was planning to do with these shirts is basically scamming people so I can have some money on the side if anything happens. And please don't tell anyone that

Lacy

I respect the hustle. So what i'm hearing is that you would help me cover the cost by me helping you out with your business



## A New Beginning

Timothy

Basically but I wasn't going to let you sell them with me because I don't want you getting in trouble because of me

Lacy

Anyone that's helping me for something this serious, I would gladly help them out. So thank you so much. If there's any other thing you need help with you can count on me honestly

Timothy

(laughing)

Thank you and yeah i wanna help you out even if you caught me lacking. That don't matter

(Lacy begins laughing too)

Lacy

But on a serious note you do have good eyes

Timothy

I was gonna say the same thing before you took away my bag. (Timothy laughs) But your eyes are beautiful as well

Lacy

I appreciate it. Where were you heading

Timothy

I was heading to my dorm because I have practice very early so I gotta get some rest

Lacy

Who do you dorm with

Timothy

I live by myself. I wanted so much peace for my first year here. If you want i could walk you to your dorm because you went half way across campus running with the bag (laughing)

(Lacy blushes. Timothy sees that she is but doesnt want to tell her)

Lacy

(in a funny way)

Look at you. What a gentleman. And yes I would love that. Wait but you live on the other side of campus. I wouldn't want you making a round trip around campus

Timothy

(giggles)

I really don't mind. Trust me

Lacy

Okie dokie. Thank you

(Timothy begins to smile. He walks her to the dorm. He doesn't know if giving her a hug is too soon. But she decides to give him one after he says bye to her)

Timothy

Bye Lacy

Lacy

Thanks Tim. go get your sleep

(Timothy laughs while walking away. She stares back at him in awe.)

## A New Beginning

**Place:** Soccer field

**At Rise:** Players arrive to practice

(Everyone arrives at practice and Coach Jacobs has everyone sitting down waiting for more players to come to make a big announcement)

Coach Jacobs

(laughable way)

Good to see all of you in this fine early morning A little bit chilly I'll tell you do that

A Player

Why aren't we starting practice yet? Seems like everyone is here

The Whole Team

YEAH

Coach Jacobs

Settle down girls. Me and the staff received a message last night from the Board stating that all players on every college team in the state need to take a drug test. And don't ask me why because last time I checked I am not a part of the Board. So please just take it. After practice we'll all be heading to the health center to get tested. And If you don't get tested. And I repeat, If you do not get tested, you will not be eligible to play in the games. So if you wanna bitch out of the playoffs, then this sport wasn't for you. If I see anyone who fails this shit, I'll be very disappointed

Harry

(to himself)

Damn it

(Harry fails to counter the attackers from scoring on every play. All he thinks about is the drug test.

Jermaine

Yo Harry why are you playing like shit

Harry

I slept so bad. (Harry laughs) and my neck is killing me dude

Jermaine

Then tell coach to take you out of the drill

Harry

He wouldn't play me in the games at all because then he'll think that i wouldn't take a hit or something in a real game.

So I'll rather play like this then not do anything

Jermaine

Your crazy dude. (Jermaine laughs) If I were you, my neck comes first

Harry

Let's just finish this practice

(Practice comes to a end and Harry figures something out)

Coach Jacobs

Ok Ballerinas come form a circle. As you may know by now, the playoffs are starting soon and we need everyone here to be hungry for anyone we encounter. So it doesn't matter if we play the 1st seed in the state, we will take them down. Lets keep our mind on this and on your education. Alright. I want all of you to scream yes.

## A New Beginning

(The team screams out "YES")

Coach Jacobs

Next practice will be on Tuesday, so with the time being training with your boys and hitting the gym. With that being said , everyone on 3, 1.2.3



(The team screams out "CORMORANTS")

(Harry texts Sara to meet him at the health center. They then meet up)

**Add place:** Dining Hall

**At rise:** Harry meets up with Sara to tell her something important

Sara

Hey Harry

Harry

Yo whats up

Sara

Why did you text me on a Saturday morning at 7:45 am.  
Are you crazy or what

Harry

I need you to do me the favor of the century but it stays between us. I don't wanna hear a rumor or anything from anyone on this campus. Do you comprehend

Sara

Yes but really, favor of the century. If this is a joke, I swear dude

Harry

Nah I'm being for real. Coach wants us to take a drug test but due to past visits to any health place, my urine isn't as clear. And if I go in there and take it, then the doctors will suspect me. So I need you to go in there and take a cup and you know what comes next

Sara

Your piss is not clear or healthy or whatever you want to call that unless you were doing something you aren't supposed to do as a athlete

Harry

And what can that be

Sara

Doing drugs you dumbass

Harry

I might've consume something not long ago, but trust me it was a one time thing

Sara

Bro what are you saying? We aren't kids anymore and most importantly if you know you're gonna play a sport taking drugs is the last thing to do. And you think that you telling me that makes me more convinced to help you out with something this big

Harry

If you spread the word then the whole world would know.

So just please help me out here. If anything crazy happens like me getting caught I wont rat you out. I'll take the blame. Deal?

## A New Beginning

Sara

(Starts giggling)

Ok then if it's like that then deal.

Harry

(Begins to laugh a little bit)

Why you laughing i'm being serious

Sara

You're laughing too. So are you gonna tell me the plan  
or what

Harry

Alright. Dont fuck this up

Sara

Yes what a way to hype me up

Harry

(Laughs)

You got this. Let me know what happens

(She begins to walk in the health center and steals a cup  
off from the front desk. Then casually walks into the ladies  
room. After peeing in the cup she places the cup in her  
book bag and meets Harry outside so he can take it and  
put it in his bag)

**Add place:** Soccer field

**At rise:** Playoff game begins

Announcer

Let's hear it for the Generals

(booooo from the home "Cormorants" fans)

Announcer

Wow what a crowd for the Generals am I right

(Annnndddd let's hear it for the LaMarca Cormorants)

Home Fans

Wooooooo lets go Cormorants

Coach Jacobs

Ok ladies, today's the day we make history once again.  
I want to see everyone on their game. Don't disappoint  
our fans, let's give them what they want. Us passing on to  
the next round will make us have an easy team to face the  
following game, due to the seed both teams are in. So lets  
make this one hell of a game

Timothy

I'm nervous you guys

Jermaine

Just breathe and jog around it'll help

Harry

Just stick to your own pace and if any of these clowns are  
mad of the way your playing just ignore them

Timothy

Appreciate the support. I know ya gonna go crazy in the  
defense and attack. Just do ya thing

Harry

Watch out for number 8. He's the top scorer in the



## A New Beginning

conference so let's tell the other guys so they can double team him

Jermaine

Yeah, but we should also stick to coaches tactics as well cause we can easily mess up

Timothy

He's right. You guys can easily fuck up. So just stick with the plan

(Game begins. Cormorants dominate the generals defense but cannot score. 5 minutes into the game and Harry feels pain in his stomach. But fights through it and continues to stay quiet. Generals takes possession of game in the last 10 minutes of the first period but no goals happen for both teams)

Coach Jacobs

Continue to fight boys. Those last minutes were harsh but remember to counter attack because they were lacking it. Hey uh Harry you stopping quite much out there, you fine

Teammates

Yeah Harry, are you fine or what

Harry

Yeah I'm chillin, and yes coach I can still play on

Coach Jacobs

Few more breaks and your out

Marie

Why was Harry stopping so much in the game

(Sara knows but pretends she doesn't know what going on)

(Harry takes a drug pill from a advil bottle)

Lacy

Honestly, it looks like he was taking a break every 2 seconds. Like if you weren't ready to play just tell the coach that

Marie

Whatcha thinking there Sara

Sara

Oh no nothing just a little chilly

Lacy

Yeah the weather in the night is critical over here

Marie

Might have to bring out the blankets girl

(Sara looks away from Marie and Lacy, expressing sad facial expressions but hopes Harry can continue to play)

Coach Jacobs

Alright breaks over boys let's wake up and get some shots in

Timothy

(to Harry and Jermaine)  
Continue the shit boys

(Second period starts and the Generals are thrashing the Cormorants with their attacking displays)



Announcer

And what a goal by Aaron Donald #8 for the  
Generals making it 1-0 Generals

Harry

What did I tell yall. Mark #8 the only one putting in pain  
for them

Teammate

That was your guy Harry, don't put it on us. Just keep your  
head up

Coach Jacobs

Ohhhh COME ON HARRY. Mark him

(Harry couldn't keep up with Aaron because of his health.  
Once the Referee blows the whistle to continue the match  
after the goal, Harry collapses down on the turf)

Jermaine

Yo ref stop the play

Sara

(screams)

Harry

(The crowd silents their chants for Cormorants after  
Harry's injury)

(Sara eyes tears and Marie and Lacy comfort her)

Lacy

(in a calming voice)

He'll be ok

(Marie in shock)

Coach Jacobs

Damn it

(Health crew picks up Harry and takes him in the ambulance to take him to a local hospital due to the impact his head had against the turf and his health that no one knows yet. The game continues to go on and someone subs in for Harry)

(Cormorants can't even attempt getting a shot on The Generals because they caught up with the Cormorants tactics. Aaron Donald scores another 2 goals ending the second quarter)

Coach Jacobs

Everyone come in the huddle. I know it's been hard for you guys and I know Harry's injury also brought our spirits down but let's keep on pushing and have Harry in our prayers. Our defense is lacking communication and I know there's a lot of pressure at the moment but let's give it all we got.

Cormorants on 3 , 1.2.3

The Whole Team

(yells)

Cormorants!

Marie

We need a comeback, it can not end like this

Lacy

Facts

## A New Beginning

(The 3rd quarter starts and the Cormorants and Jermaine shoot the ball accurately but fail to score. Timothy then makes a mistake in his area and the Generals take full advantage of it and make it 4-0 in Cormorant's home. Moments later a General's player hits Jermaine with stick to the groin and has to back out of the game)

(Timothy looks devastated after his mistake but doesn't let it affect his performance. Coach Jacobs requests a substitution for Timothy but Timothy refuses)

Timothy

Im staying in, were in shambles already what's the point

A Staff from Cormorants

What's he thinking

Substitute Goalie

Take him out coach

Teammate

(laughing)

This is college ball, not high school. He's not gonna pick him up like if that's his son

(Timothy decides to sub out so it won't affect his relationship with Coach Jacobs the following years)

(Jermaine's injury happens which gets him subbed out for the rest of the game.)

Jermaine

Ahh damn it dude. What in the hell

Teammate  
There goes the season

Timothy  
What a game this has been

Coach Jacobs  
Next time I tell you to get out the first time you do it. You  
hear me

Timothy  
Got it coach

(Timothy walks over to Jermaine laying on the ground  
in pain)

Timothy  
Yo Jermaine you good bro

Jermaine  
(laughing)  
Does it look like I am you dumbass

Timothy  
You'll be alright

Jermaine  
(laughing)  
I hate you

(The game ends 4-0 with Timothy conceding 4 goals. And  
the Cormorants not scoring anything)

Announcer

## A New Beginning

Well there you have it, The Cormorants are defeated 4-0 by the Generals which makes it an upset for the Generals. Cormorants lead their conference undefeated and end up losing by a low seed. Tough crowd for the home fans. They would never forget how intense this game was for the Cormorants

**Place:** Outside Harry's hospital room

**At rise:** Lacy, Jermaine, Timothy, Marie and Sara all meet up outside waiting to hear if Harry was doing well

Lacy

Hey excuse me, um we want to know if the injury was serious or mild

Health Provider

We have received test results that they took on the patient, and it seems like they were consuming a specific type of drug that led them to collapse on the ground. But thankfully they can recover quickly. Also their head is bruised due to the impact but other than that they'll be fine in the next upcoming weeks.

Sara

Weeks

Health Provider

Yes because the recovery wouldn't take a few days

Timothy

(laughing)

Unless he's built different than a few days wouldn't hurt him

Lacy

(giggling)  
Stopp

(The 5 walk down to Harry's room and try to stay calm after the incident. Harry is awake)

Harry  
What the fuck? Whyyy?

Sara  
This my fault dude

Harry  
What do you mean?

Sara  
Harry didn't take the drug test because he knew he was gonna fail it so then he asked me to do it for him so he could play tonight. But now i feel like i'm the one to blame because i could have easily refuse and let him sit out

Marie  
You're not the one to blame. If he made that choice then consequences can sometimes pop up through it. And also your not the only one who kept a secret

Harry  
She's right. I was being a dick and an idiot. I didn't have to put you to my problems, Sara.

Jermaine  
We've been friends for several years and I would've never imagined this occurring and I don't want anything related to this situation happening again. I don't want you hurting



## A New Beginning



yourself.

Harry

I know, bro. I will try my hardest to  
get back up to my feet.

(Timothy's arm is around Lacy's neck)

Harry

What's up with those two?

Lacy

(smiling hiding her angriness)  
Wait who

Marie

You and Timothy. Looking like a couple whose afraid to  
share it out to their crew

Lacy

We aren't a thing

Timothy

(laughing)  
Yet

Lacy

(laughing)  
Stop it

Jermaine

(smiling)

Clearly showing it. Were not kids anymore, juust state  
what happened

Lacy

Well my parents recently told me that it's hard for them to continue paying for college. So then I saw Timothy all alone and, you know what, you can say the rest

Timothy  
(smirking)

Basically I was in the wrong because I decided to scam people off from fake Supreme shirts for some extra money on the side. But only for emergency type things. I sold one to someone on campus but they was probably dumb enough to know if it was real

(Whole group looking serious besides Timothy)

Jermaine

Bro wtf are you on. Are you a newborn child or what

Marie

I'm surprised you haven't got caught for foolishness like that

Timothy

All right, don't throw me under the bus now. Lacy needed some extra cash which motivated me to help her during this difficult time she's going through. You girls didn't even know so thank me for at least helping her put

Marie

I'm actually happy you continued to help her, but making money off fooling people isn't the way to do it. Atleast find another way to help her. But I wouldn't recommend this way. It can easily get you out of this school if that's what you want

## A New Beginning

Sara

But can we at least admire his braveness to share that out  
cause I know many would be scared to share that out. Even  
to their friends

Jermaine

Yea I honestly admired that bro

Lacy

And I was actually thankful that he did that because he  
didn't have to put himself more at risk to help me out

Marie

Mhmm. But maybe it was something else as well  
(All laugh)

Jermaine

Who knows

Timothy

Although we were kicked out of the competition, good  
stuff Jermaine. How you are feeling though. I know that hit  
caused some damage

Jermaine

You think this funny

(All but Jermaine laughs)

Sara

(laughing with the others)

Go get an ice pack or something. You let the pain go away  
raw. Hell nah. I'll put 3 bags of ice if it was like that

Jermaine

But I better start heading over to the dorm cause even though our season comes to and end, coach wants us to continue training

(Jermaine, Tim start Marie, Sara, Lacy, and say bye to Harry)

Timothy

You girls go head out too. Don't stay out here for too long. It's brick as hell. But see y'all tomorrow

Marie

(referring to Timothy and Jermaine)

Bye guys

Sara

Same over here

(Harry smiles)

Harry

(to the group)

Thanks guys.

### **Three Months Later...**

Many things have changed for some of the guys and they try to make the best of it

We see Harry jogging around the campus to improve his breathing

Text: Harry went to rehab and recovered. He attends every lacrosse practice.

## A New Beginning

We see Jermaine in the pool, swimming around the pool.

Text: Jermaine continues to be Jermaine.

We see Timothy working at a bakery in the town of the college. He is happy.

Text: Timothy stops his "business." He gets an internship at the Supreme Headquarters. He is still wondering if he wants to get back to his old ways because he makes minimum wage and he feels that he can make way more than that.

We see Sara on her scooter, bumping into a new transfer student.

Text: Sara manages to have a high GPA

We see Lacy is at the gym -

Text: it's Lacy's last session at the gym at LaMarca University. She's going to a school closer to him

We see Marie tanning on the grass, since the weather is now hot.

Text: Marie continues to think about Jermaine.



### ***Acknowledgements***

SAY,

Ever since I stepped foot in the SAY family, they brought me in with such love and care and I really admire that. SAY has helped me shape the person I am today and I am really thankful for that. SAY is honestly my second family.

## ***Praise for the Author***

It's not often you find a story that has as much heart as it does laughs, but Reuben Polanco's *A New Beginning* delivers both. Reuben is an incredibly skilled writer whose ability to tell a story through dialogue is profound. He's truly brought all of himself to this process and it really shows in his beautiful story. Reuben is an incredible leader at SAY with a calm confidence that really comes through in all that he does. His story is a tale of friendship, love and new beginnings.

*- Alison Williams, SAY Writing Mentor*

*A New Beginning* is a joyous, honest celebration of transition and change. In it we meet 5 characters who are navigating the verdant new beginnings of college life. Reuben Polanco's writing is propelled by the sharp eye of a keen observer - this author has a gift for seeing beyond; for understanding the inner workings that lie just beneath facades, out of reach to most. Reuben draws from his own incredible character and his deep empathy to paint a picture of the peaks and valleys that go along with starting college. From the dorm to the dining hall to the lacrosse field, Reuben writes with an effortless knack for dialogue and poignantly captures the nostalgia and ebullience of coming of age.

*- Kate Detrick, Director of Confident Voices*



## A New Beginning

I have known Reuben Polanco since he was a small boy, and in that time, one thing has always been true of him - his heart is kind and open. Now a young man of much experience and a writer of considerable talent, he has managed to infuse that openness into a play of considerable depth and nuance. *A New Beginning* is at times laugh out loud funny, at others heart-breaking to read. Running through it always though is a thread of truth - born out especially in Reuben's incredibly naturalistic dialogue - that communicates the experience of what it means to be a college student on the cusp of adulthood and life-shaking transition.

Reuben is intelligent, kind, loving and a great friend. Though all the characters he has written do not share these characteristics with him, it is clear that they were created by someone thoughtful and warm. Any interaction with Reuben is characterized by this warmth, and you will often find yourself smiling just for being in his presence. In reading *A New Beginning*, we are transported to a vivid and colorful set of college experiences, and as Reuben prepares to take this step himself, there is no doubt in my mind that he will be incredibly successful in his own adventures in this next chapter of his life.

- Aidan Sank, Artistic Director of Confident Voices



***About the Author***

Hey, my name is Reuben Polanco. Born and raised in New York, New York. I will be attending my first year of college in the Fall of 2022. This was my first solo writing piece and I am very happy with what I have created, along with the support SAY was giving me to form this wonderful piece.