

FALLING INTO THE DEEP END OF AN NCAA BASKETBALL OFFICE POOL

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*BACKSTORY: This weekend, the men's NCAA Basketball Tourney begins. It is quite common for people with deskjobs to get coerced into joining a betting pool to help boost office morale.*

CHARACTERS

MR. DYLAN - Formally dressed. Condescending.

JUSTIN - Frumpy nerdy office worker

KATIE - Enthusiastic intern.

(Background image is of an office with file cabinets and cubicles)

JUSTIN sits at his desk. KATIE surprises him, he is bothered.

KATIE

Jussssstin!

Agitated

JUSTIN

Hi, Katie.

Excited, tapping Justin on his shoulders.

KATIE

Mr. Dylan asked me to ask YOU why you haven't filled out your NCAA Basketball bracket.

Sighs.

JUSTIN

Honestly, I don't care for basketball. Besides, it's tax season and I have to do the numbers for a lot of our clients.

KATIE

Oh come on, you went to Arizona. I went to Arizona. WHERE'S YOUR WILDCAT PRIDE?!

JUSTIN

I graduated ten years ago. Your pride will diminish too some day.

KATIE

NUH UH! Fill one out! Take a break for five minutes and have some fun! being an accountant doesn't ALWAYS have to be boring.

JUSTIN

Now that's enough! I'm trying to work. You're an intern, and unlike you, I have to earn my paycheck, and no, I don't give a rat's darn about college sports.

Enter the boss DYLAN. Holding a cup of coffee.

MR. DYLAN

Morning, Jason.

JUSTIN

It's Justin, Sir.

Pauses.

MR. DYLAN

Whatever. I presume Katie spoke with you about your, ahem...issue, Jefferson.

JUSTIN

It's Justin, sir. And yes, I already told Katie that I won't be participating in your basketball pool this year.

MR. DYLAN

I'm growing concerned about your insubordination.

Arms crossed.

Are you depressed again?

KATIE

Last Friday, I brought chocolate chip cookies to the office to lighten the mood and get excited about the weekend. Justin refused.

MR. DYLAN

You turned down having cookies with the interns? The hell is wrong with you? Don't you know that we here at Pricewaterhousecoopers are a team?!

JUSTIN

I'm so swamped with--

Cuts off Justin.

MR. DYLAN

And now you hate sports?

JUSTIN

I just didn't want to have a cookie. I'm trying to lose weight.

MR. DYLAN

Don't change the subject. When I hired you I knew you loved to run numbers. You're a brilliant statistician. But I also thought that you were a sports fan. After all, you were wearing a Dallas Cowboys necklace at the interview!

JUSTIN

Sir, that was a star of David. I'm Jewish.

Moment of awkward silence.

KATIE

Oh come on, just fill one out. You might

win the office pool! And if you get all of the picks correct, Warren Buffett even says he'll give the lucky winner \$1 Billion!

JUSTIN

I really don't have the time to pick teams to win, I don't have \$20 to ante in. I don't care if it's the University of Arizona, Alaska or Jack-off State University. I never win the pool. It's a waste of my time. And basketball sucks.

Katie and Mr. Dylan gasp. Mr. Dylan signals Katie to come to the side of the stage with him.

MR. DYLAN

Katie, I know you're just an intern, but, please...work on this basketball pool with Justin. He's a bit backed up.

Whispers.

And kind of a loser.

KATIE

Mmmmmhmmmm.

Katie and Mr. Dylan walk back to Justin.

In a baby talk, coddling voice.

Okay, let me help you. Game 1: Ohio State versus Dayton.

JUSTIN

Please, I'm having a very rough--

KATIE

More enthusiastically.

OHIO STATE VERSUS DAYTON! Come on, love a little.

MR. DYLAN

Justin---

Surprised.

JUSTIN

(Gasp)  
Okay, okay okay....Dayton over Ohio State.

KATIE

You don't know much about basketball, do you?

JUSTIN

Nope.

LIGHTS DIM. CAPTION:

TWO WEEKS LATER

"One Shining Moment" plays in background.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbK535vSpaE>

IMAGE OF A LA TIMES FRONT PAGE "HUGE LOSER GUESSES EACH NCAA GAME, WINS  
BUFFET'S \$1 BILLION" WITH PICTURE OF JUSTIN HOLDING LOTS OF CASH.

BLACKOUT