

GOOD FOR JACK

Written by

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On behalf of Stephen and Beau

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INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

We watch BEN walking from table to table collecting booklets of homework, whilst straightening and tidying the classroom back to being presentable.

There is a knock at the door.

We watch STEPHEN walk in.

BEN looks up.

BEN  
Ah, Mr Peterson.

There is a noticeable hesitation in BEN's demeanour - an awkwardness at knowing what is about to come. He was expecting *Mrs* Peterson.

STEPHEN stands by the door.

STEPHEN  
Jack said you wanted a word.

BEN places the booklets down, giving STEPHEN his full attention.

BEN  
Why don't we sit down.

BEN offers him one of the kids chairs - STEPHEN noticeably confused by the offer.

STEPHEN  
Has Jack done something wrong?  
Because I don't have all day. His mum normally does the run but she's in bed with flu, and I've got a tonne of work on, so... Let's hurry this up, yeah?

BEN  
Sure. Okay. Umm, well. Your son...  
Has been, how can I say it?

STEPHEN  
Try using some words.

STEPHEN folds his arms - frustrated.

BEN  
...I'm concerned.

STEPHEN  
What do you mean?

BEN  
I'm concerned that he's finding it difficult to access the level of learning regularly demonstrated by his classmates.

STEPHEN  
*Difficult to access...?* What are you talking about?

BEN  
I'm talking about his maths, reading, writing. He's struggling with most areas of learning-

STEPHEN  
This have never been a problem before.

BEN  
(frustrated)  
...He seems very distracted at the moment.

STEPHEN  
Alright, but isn't that your job to help him?

BEN  
Yes, but-

STEPHEN  
Because if he is struggling, I'd say *you're* the problem, not him. You're his teacher, right?

BEN  
(resigned)  
Yes. And I am trying to help.

STEPHEN  
Well start doing your job!... Are we done?

STEPHEN goes to leave.

BEN is taken aback by STEPHEN's sudden outburst.

BEN  
Mr Peterson. I've tried to help your son.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Often at the detriment of the rest of the class. But I'm seeing little improvement. I am going to recommend to the head that Jack starts seeing a specialist tutor-

STEPHEN stops and turns.

STEPHEN

(hurt)

Are you pulling my son out of class?

BEN

No. The tutor would only be used a couple times a week. It'll be a smaller, more focused time to help him catch up.

STEPHEN thinks for a moment.

BEN (CONT'D)

I think it'll be best for your son.

STEPHEN gently nods.

STEPHEN

...Okay.

BEN

(surprised)

Okay?

STEPHEN

Yeah, look. I didn't mean to get angry, I'm just stressed what with everything going on at the moment. We know he's not doing well, so I appreciate you mentioning it. I'll have a word with his mum and see what we can do at home to help him as well... Thank you.

STEPHEN turns and walks out of the classroom.

BEN is noticeably surprised by the switch in tone, but is glad that he bought the conversation up.