

Triggers on the 3rd time you enter the library

Green text = MC thoughts.

First Meet:

Xander (Unknown): You come around often?

Is he like, the library clerk?

M: This has always been the best place to improve myself in my spare time.

Xander (Unknown): But how do you value improvement? Is it just surrounding yourself with books?

M: It's true I come here often, but this is in balance with other interests. Studying here is the base to support those interests.

Xander (Unknown): Impressive.

X: My name is Xander. And you're called? M: (Replies).

X: This can't be the only thing you do. What are your other interests?

M: The bar is actually a pretty cool place to take a breath.

X: I suppose we all get thirsty sometimes.

Something about his phrase makes my heart skip a beat. "The eye contact here was awkward."

M: Haha, I suppose so.

X: I suppose I'm passionate about living a passionate life.

X: Outside of here, I spend my time at work. The corporate suit and tie kind.

X: Very stern environment to say the least.

X: I guess I'm trying to say this library is like the bar for me. (Note: He feels this way because by studying he can apply his knowledge to change his society for the better)

X: Come by if you're feeling thirsty.

"Why must he make eye contact when saying such things???"

Next Day:

X: Hey, can I get you a drink?

He's holding a book as if it were a wine glass.

M: *Sigh* what is that?

X: *Persepolis*. An autobiography about a Polish girl during the Iraq-Iran war. It inspires me. She survived all the way to write this bestseller.

M: My school notes can't compare.

X: You don't read???

M: Hahaha, uhhhh.

X: Come on, this one's on me.

Xander leaves the table. He comes back a few minutes later with a medium-sized book in his hand.

X: Here you go!

The Kit Runner. It seems to be about a woman's struggle to care for animals during a turbulent time in Afghanistan.

M: What am I going to learn from this?

X: It's more intense than it looks. You could learn a thing from any book, just depends on what you're looking for. Use the bookmark I included sometime, it's useful.

We spend the rest of our time reading. Why do people act when all the odds are against them?

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At the end of the day...

X: M, did you improve yourself today?

M: I changed what I thought I was going to do, but actually, yea. I guess I did.

X: I've been thinking about that more often too. That maybe if I extract enough knowledge, we could transform the world.

X: Think about it. Every text in this library contains lessons from hundreds of years before it. Even aged-texts hold that much more in value and perspective. The great writers have all improved on the issues of the greats before them.

X: So, if I become a great reader. What does that make me? Someone with the power to enlighten others. I work toward the world where I don't have to live the way I do anymore. Not one more day.

X: There are lessons to be learned in every book, M. But what are you looking for?

I wonder what novel I could be found in...Could someone like me, or who I think I am, exist elsewhere?

Day 3:

Right before I'm about to enter the library, I see Xander. It looks like he's on an intense phone call.

1. Snoop. (+1)
 - a. I whip out my phone and pretend I'm texting behind one of library columns.
 - b. X: N-no, sir. That's not what I –
 - c. Xander's face strains as the call eats up more minutes.
 - d. X: I can't do that. I've said this.
 - e. X: ...Fine.
 - f. Better get in before he sees me.
 - g. Xander walks in only a minute after you. He sits down slumped over.
 - h. X: Hey.
 - i. M: Hey. You alright?
 - j. X: I was blamed for a mistake at work. They called me in to work overtime without pay. I'm sure you heard the call. It's not like I couldn't see you.
 - k. M: Haha, I'm sorry.
 - l. X: At least you care.
 - m. X: I often think about how much time I devote to that company. I'm hardly ever home to see anyone. Even less at college, where I should be. I come back with just enough to live.
 - n. M: Why then?
 - o. X: I need the money.
 - p. But he doesn't explain further.
 - q. M: I see.
 - r. We spend the rest of our time reading. He seems to have picked up some German book about "capitalization"?
2. Wait in the library.
 - a. Eh, it's really not my business. I find a seat in the library and pick up *The Kit Runner*. It's been pretty good.
 - b. A few more minutes pass and Xander walks in. He sits down looking quite depressed.
 - c. X: Hello.
 - d. M: Hey..

i. Pry. (+1)

1. M: You alright?
2. X: I was blamed for a mistake at work. They called me in to work overtime without pay.
3. M: I'm sorry.
4. X: At least you care.
5. X: I often think about how much time I devote to that company. I'm hardly ever home to see anyone. Even less at college, where I should be. I come back with just enough to live.
6. M: Why then?
7. X: I need the money.
8. But he doesn't explain further.
9. M: I see.
10. We spend the rest of our time reading. He seems to have picked up some German book about "capitalization"?

ii. Don't bother.

1. X: Looks like a nice read. I'll just read mine as well.
2. We spend the rest of our time reading, in silence. *X END*

Day 4:

Xander's back. He seems to be in a better mood. Though this time he's in a tie.

X: Don't mind the tie. I'm back from work.

He loosens it from his neck a bit.

M: Are they still working you overtime?

X: Yea, it's a neat shift for sure.

X: I basically do all the work no one else wants to do, while still being a representative of the company. It was the only place that would take me. I'm known for being different on campus.

M: Different?

X: As a man, I suppose. I can't help that I like bright colors, flowers, or cute things. When people see that of me, they usually think the worst of me. Sorry, but please don't tell anyone this.

M: Of course.

1. It's alright. I care. (+1) – Choice affecting later story
 - a. He makes eye contact and acknowledges the support.
2. Say nothing more. – Choice affecting later story

X: Have you finished the novel?

I've finished the whole text in a matter of days.

M: She gave up. I couldn't believe it. The war was over the week after!

X: And the animals were abandoned as though she never existed. You never really know where your final destination ends up, I suppose. Still, she made an attempt to change the world around her.

X: The next is *Joan of Arc*. I'm sure you've heard of her, but maybe never read about her.

M: That's true. I say with a smile.

What is this, my second book now? I might be more open to new things than I thought.

I feel like he's saying something with this. But I guess someone who knows her story would know more. I can't remember that last time I was so involved with someone's life. I wonder what keeps me going.

Day 5:

I see Xander again. There are bags under his eyes. His tie seems tighter than normal.

M: Hey, you alright?

It takes him a second to realize someone was speaking to him.

X: Oh, yea, yea, I'm fine. Please, sit down.

M: Long night?

X: I suppose so.

I was expecting him to say, "I'm a bit hungover."

Xander pulls out that German-English text again. You notice it says "Das Capitalism". Why is there a whole book on capital letters?

X: I don't feel too well right now. But we could still read together.

M: Sure.

I've finally had to use that bookmark. The text is huge. Xander is thoughtful this way.

How could a simple woman in 15th century France come to lead an army? The tale is as compelling as it is inspiring.

I look up and Xander looks different. He's rather out of focus today. He looks at his text for just a few seconds before staring off into the distance. I haven't heard of anything else outside of work. Maybe he's just dealing with his drowsiness.

Day 6-9:

I've come to the library a few times now, but I never see Xander now. I'm starting to dislike his job as much as he does.

Day 10:

I spot Xander passing by the library. A small conversation ensues.

M: Hey man, where have you been?

X: On the rocks.

M: What's going on? Isn't this your favorite place? You haven't been back in days now.

X: You don't understand.

M: I want to understand. Tell me.

X: No, you don't. No one does. My feelings matter to nobody. Why bother?

What is he talking about?

Xander jets off!!!

M: What the shi-!

Day 11-:

The next few days I've scoped the library. Somehow he's spotted me each time he passes by. I guess I'll have to catch him somehow instead.

BUTTON MASH GAME TO SIMULATE RUNNING TO CATCH XANDER EACH LIBRARY TRY

(Upon success)

Day 11-:

With all my might I grab Xander's shoulder. He shakes up from the surprise and almost immediately resigns. I'm totally out of breath.

M: Why???

X: You don't know anything about me. I've lived a lie to you.

M: Just say whatever's on your mind. Now is the time.

X: I never let people get too close to me. When they get to know who I am, they stay away. I'm different.

X: I can't tell anyone I like Neko Catsune in the shower. That I grow roses in my apartment. I like to sing with a chef's hat while making pancakes on the weekend. I've told people before. Only to get the vilest rumors in return.

X: And it's not just what I like, it's who I like. I'm just a bisexual in the closet. Could you tell? I never wanted you to.

X: I wanted to conform as much as I could to feel better about myself. Stiff button-down shirts, strict ties, anything. At least that could earn me friends, and I wouldn't be alone anymore. That's how I got that job too, not being myself.

X: When I came out to my family, I was abandoned. My mother, father, and sister, no one was left to be there for me. I had to leave the house on my own.

X: The library became my new home. I could immerse myself in a world where small people like me become greats of society. I could be alone and avoid lying to others.

X: There you go. Gay, a liar, in pain, and alone.

M: Xander...

1. Embrace him.

- a. My heart beat like the day I first met him. I put my arm behind his back and the time for words was over. We kiss.
- b. I was living a lie too. Being too involved in someone else's life was never my character. But Xander was different. Something expressed as our embrace deepens.
- c. I had come just to improve myself. But after a while I started coming for him. I break the kiss and put my hands on both his shoulders.
- d. M: I finished *Joan of Arc*, Xander. And I get what you were trying to say now, even if you don't. You've helped me realize I can be who I am now. We both can.
- e. M: I don't care about what other people are going to say. They don't matter. We deserve to be loved unconditionally for who we are. Everyone deserves this. We have to fight to make that world possible. Together.
- f. X: Together.
- g. Hand in hand, a new life begins.
- h. ..
- i. M: By the way, if you wanted to be alone, why did you approach me first?
- j. X: You were sitting in my favorite spot.

2. I'll always be here to support you.

- a. M: You're more than what you say you are. You're funny, educated, and an activist. But most of all you've helped me discover more about myself.
- b. M: I finished *Joan of Arc*. And I get what you were trying to say now, even if you don't.
- c. M: Who cares what other people think, Xander? There will always be someone who will love you for who you are. You don't have to beat yourself up for someone who wouldn't care for you unconditionally. I've realized this too while being with you.
- d. M: I can't believe how much value I placed on strangers. And I can't believe how close-minded I was to new experiences.
- e. M: Let's do it, Xander. We can be ourselves all the way. I'll be here any time and any day.
- f. X: You're right. You're so right.
- g. And through tears and break down, a new life begins.
- h. ..
- i. M: By the way, if you wanted to be alone, why did you approach me first?
- j. X: You were sitting in my favorite spot.