

EPILOGUE

BEFORE JULY 2021

Ted Harmon was born in Kluchester, Costaguana in 2003. His mother left his father, Alfred Harmon, when he was a little boy. His father worked abroad and never had time for Ted. Ted always blamed his dad for his mother leaving. His relationship with his father was quite bad from a very early age. He went to middle school in Kluchester where he met Trent Perry and made friends with him. Once middle school was done, Ted and Trent both enrolled in St. Benedictine's where they drifted apart.

Ted Harmon lived in Room 43 with Ali Abdul.

Ted Harmon was very lonely and had no friends. He soon started to feel more and more alienated from his peers in the high school. He started developing a grudge on everyone and blamed the entire world for all his problems. He thought that it was unfair he couldn't control anything that happened in his life. And he tried to compensate for this by trying to control other people's lives.

He liked it when he could affect other people's lives. It gave him a sense of balance and purpose. By the end of his sophomore year, he set out to expose the various secrets of the staff and students in the high school.

He started with Mrs.Cress. And then slowly started targeting others. He enjoyed the sense of fear that he was able to spread throughout the school due to his notice smear campaign. He thought very highly of himself; as the vigilante hero who brought to light the liars in his high school. He started getting hidden cameras from outside when the school let the students out during the last weekend of every month and planted them in various places within the campus.

Around the same time, Trent Perry, Dhruv Rajput and Albert Ciccone starts to brew pruno in a small shed in the school's basement. They saw that the school was a good market for selling their product and went on to do the same. The pruno that they brewed turned out to be quite popular with the students. Ali Abdul becomes a customer of the brew gang along with a lot of others.

Although Ted was very aware of Trent and his brewery, Ted never outed him because he still had some respect for him from back in middle school. This went on for about two years till both were in their senior year.

Meanwhile, Priti Desai, a biochemist joins the school as a senior year biology teacher. After a while she develops feelings for one of her students, Levi Adams and starts having a relationship with him. She starts seeing him at night outside the boy's hostel.

Around June 2021, a few students showing exceptional prowess in biology or chemistry is taken on a field trip of sorts to a nearby facility called the National Biodefense Centre (NBC). It deals with combating bioterrorism and bioweapons and does research on potential bioweapons. Ted Harmon was also a part of this field trip. This trip was chaperoned by Priti Desai. Ted Harmon notices Miguel Seville, the janitor at the NBC accepting a bribe from a delivery team for allowing them to sneak away a few lab supplies into the black market.

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Trent finds Ted pasting notices containing the secrets at night on 01/07/2021. Trent confronts him, gets angry and pushes him to the floor. Ted and Trent have a fallout with Ted threatening to expose the brew gang if it ever were to get out that he was behind the notices. Trent goes and reports all this to Dhruv and Albert. Ted was deeply hurt by Trent's words, especially since Trent used to be a friend and Ted felt like he had protected his secret for so long. He felt betrayed and swore to take revenge somehow.

On 03/07 Ali Abdul receives his hall ticket for the online exam, for a foreign university placement, scheduled for the next day. It was to be conducted in the school library cubicles. Ali was planning on sneaking in a smartphone he brought from home the previous week to cheat in the exam. Ted finds both the smartphone and the hall ticket when Ali was not in the room and sneaks in a hidden camera into the cubicle Ali was supposed to give the exam the next day. Ted catches Ali cheating the next day.

In the same week Ted finds Levi and Priti in a compromising position through a hidden cam setup outside the boys hostel. He decides to out both

Priti and Ali the coming week. On 08/07, Ali accidentally sees a few older notices with Ted and realises Ted was behind the campaign. But Ted threatens to tell everyone Ali had cheated in his exam (which he was planning on doing anyway) if it ever got out that Ted was behind the notices. After this incident Ted changed a lot. He felt like he was losing control again. Now two or possibly more people knew for a fact that it was Ted who was behind the notices. Soon the secret was going to start to spread, and he wouldn't be able to carry on with his 'crusade' for very long. His reign of terror was soon coming to an end, and he sensed it. This combined with the fact that his old friend, Trent, had 'betrayed' him made him mentally weak and spent. He was done with everything. The school, the teachers, the students and even his life. He started losing his appetite and started engaging in self harming behaviour (red stained tissue, scar from autopsy, testimonial from students). But he didn't want to simply kill himself and get it over with just like that. He wanted to make everyone around him, all the liars, including the school that enabled all of it, pay. He wanted to go out with a bang. But at the same time, he didn't want to perform a school shooting of some sort. That wasn't his style.

He comes up with another plan. He gets a copy of the delivery locations of the brew gang from Ali without him knowing. He steals a full bottle before anyone else has a chance to collect it from one of the delivery locations in the map. On 24/07 he steps outside of the campus (since it was the last full weekend of July) and then he approaches Miguel Seville and convinces him to steal a vial of live *Clostridium botulinum* from the storage facility lab. He then prints out the notices exposing Priti and Ali that same day. He spends the night at home. On Saturday, Miguel Seville steals the vial from the NBC. On Sunday he collects the vial from Miguel and goes back into the school. He breaks the vial, inoculates the full bottle with the bacterium, and seals the bottle with wax and a cork and lets it sit for a few hours. Later in the afternoon, he drinks from the bottle, locks his door and lies in his bed. The symptoms of botulinum poison start within a few hours and Ted dies the next morning due to respiratory failure. If it weren't for the investigators, Trent and his friends would've had to go to jail for involuntary manslaughter which was probably what Ted wanted in the end. Ted was however successful in taking down the lives of multiple people along with himself and in wrecking the reputation of the school.

After Ted's death, Trent and his friends were taken into custody by the Excise commission for the illegal manufacture and sale of alcohol to minors. They were expelled from the school and their records were blackmarked forever. Priti Desai ruined her career and her marriage. She was fired from her job. She was taken into custody for fraternising with a minor and her name was dragged into all kinds of news debates and articles. She would never find a decent job ever again. Ali never got to fulfil his dream of studying in LMU and he was suspended from school. In fact, all the universities that he had applied to, rejected him as his records were blacklisted for cheating. St. Benedictine's International lost its reputation and appeal as a premier school. The media dissected the school's history and found that the school's system itself was flawed. After a few years of record low enrolment rates, the school would shut down.

So, in a way, Ted was right. This *was* way better than a school shooting.