

The Dimensional Tutor

Written by

[REDACTED]

Copyright (c) 2023

Draft 4

[REDACTED]

EXT. TUTORING OFFICE, GARDEN - DAY

A man stands in the garden of a renovated house, EDWARD. On the door there's a sign that reads "DR STRUTTI'S PROFESSIONAL TUTORING. 99.8% PASS RATE. THE BEST IN THE MULTIVERSE". Edward is handsome but ditsy. He stares at the door with doubt. His girlfriend SUSAN is nerdy and sharp. She has her arms folded by the gate.

SUSAN  
I'm not doing it for you.

Edward oscillates back and forth.

SUSAN (cont'd)  
I'm freezing here, just press the doorbell!

Edward doesn't need to. The door creeps open to reveal an attractive Italian doctor, STRUTTI.

STRUTTI  
Edward?

SUSAN  
That's him.

STRUTTI  
Follow.

The shadow of the doctor falls into the hallway. Edward and Susan follow suit.

INT. TUTORING OFFICE, HALLWAY

The doctor guides the pair through the maze of rooms. They pass by another woman, RECEPTIONIST. After she's left their earshot Edward turns to his girlfriend.

EDWARD  
Can't we just go home? Order some pizza and stick on a film?

STRUTTI  
No refunds.

EDWARD  
Really?

SUSAN  
Forget about that. When you're ninety eight and on your death bed you think that you'll be happy with yourself?

EDWARD

If I'm dying probably not. Lets just go-

Edward tries to leave by pulling Susan away, but she holds her ground.

SUSAN

No! I'm not having it anymore! You always go with what's comfortable.

EDWARD

You're saying that like it's a bad thing.

SUSAN

Come on... You have to! For me? Even you couldn't mess this place up.

EDWARD

This feels just like the time you asked me to wear glasses and that bow tie.

SUSAN

If only you'd wear them in public maybe we wouldn't need to be here.

Strutti halts and turns.

STRUTTI

Sobody Nexcept students past this point.

Susan hugs Edward.

SUSAN

I expect this man to be gone and a new one to leave that room in a few hours.

(falsely comforting)

Good Luck.

Susan proceeds to the waiting room. The doctor pulls a key from her pocket and the pair enter the learning room. A sign on the door reads "LEARNING AND TRANSPORT HIVE".

INT. TUTORING OFFICE, LEARNING HIVE

The room is comfortable but suspiciously large and empty. Inside there's a flipboard, an office desk, a cloth covered table, and a couch. A space in the centre is free of obstacles. The doctor boots a computer laid on the desk.

She plugs a device into the USB port, scans her thumb, and holds out her hand.

STRUTTI  
I need thumbprint.

EDWARD  
Come again?

STRUTTI  
I need prints to find suitable match.  
Thumbprint.

EDWARD  
I'd rather not.

Strutti refuses to proceed and compels him. Edward emotionally breaks and scans him thumb.

STRUTTI  
What was it you applied for? Science?  
Literacy?

EDWARD  
Well it didn't really matter to her,  
so I went with smartyness...  
(confused beat)  
...just general smartyness.

STRUTTI  
OK, you're the first. Do you prefer  
brown or blue eyes?

EDWARD  
Green.

Strutti types rapidly.

EDWARD (cont'd)  
You cost a hundred and six pounds an  
hour.

STRUTTI  
The point?

EDWARD  
I don't know what your doing but if  
my girlfriend doesn't like how it  
ends, it's going to be a funny yelp  
review from her.

STRUTTI  
She doesn't have to like it. You just  
have to succeed.

The device dings like a microwave.

STRUTTI (cont'd)  
OK. Looks like I have found a match.  
Wait one moment while I go get him.

Strutti hits enter on her keyboard and then stares into space.

(beat)

EDWARD  
Um... You OK Doctor? Can you smell  
burnt toast?

The doctor snaps her fingers, indicates that Edward should hush, and then points to the other side of the room where the empty space is. Wind materialises in the room as papers fly everywhere, Strutti straps a pair of safety goggles on.

EDWARD (cont'd)  
(worried)  
Doctor? What the hell is going-

Light interrupts Edward as he's blinded from all sides. As the light fades Edward unsquints his eyes. He sees another man similar to himself, DRAWDE, who has appeared from nothing. He's sharp and nerdy, like Susan.

EDWARD (cont'd)  
What the hell... how-

Edward turns to see that Strutti is gone. The door bangs shut.

DRAWDE  
Ah... Wasn't exactly a love boat  
ride.

Edward panics and makes for the door.

EDWARD  
HELLO! I think you've left me behind  
mistake! Also, who the hell is that?

A speaker from the ceiling buzzes to life.

STRUTTI  
(O.S.)  
Students that leave the tutoring room  
are not eligible for refund. Full  
concentration required.

DRAWDE  
(to the ceiling)  
Hey Doc! No promises.

STRUTTI  
(O.S.)  
Please look to the table to your  
right.

The table is covered by a large cloth.

STRUTTI (cont'd)  
(O.S.)  
You will find two items. One will aid  
you, and the other will bring  
suffering.

Drawde lifts the cloth. He finds two books and studies their  
covers without touching them.

EDWARD  
Hi, I think I've lost the plot  
slightly. If you could give me a  
recap or-

Drawde's face lights up. He lifts one of the books.

DRAWDE  
(to the ceiling)  
Easy. That textbook is co-authored by  
Bertrand Russell. You don't respect  
the Nobel prize in literature.

STRUTTI  
(O.S.)  
Well Done. But your hardest challen-

DRAWDE  
(to the ceiling)  
Yeah yeah I got it.

STRUTTI  
(O.S.)  
You have three hours. You teach. I  
test.

Drawde acknowledges Edward for the first time since  
arriving.

DRAWDE  
Hi. I'm Drawde, I'm going to be your  
tutor for today. Want to take a seat?

EDWARD  
Uh, still needing that recap...

DRAWDE  
Yeah, I work better standing too.

Drawde makes his way to the flipboard, Edward stays where he stands.

DRAWDE (cont'd)  
Ugh... can't we just skip this part?

Edward remains fixed.

DRAWDE (cont'd)  
\*sigh\* It's never an if in science,  
it's when. That devil in the tannoy  
is the woman who is smart enough to  
crack travel to parallel universes,  
(to the ceiling)  
but is stupid enough to waste it on  
this tutoring business!

STRUTTI  
(O.S.)  
It is no waste!

DRAWDE  
Yes it is!

EDWARD  
So-

DRAWDE  
I'm you but smart, I know you best, I  
know how you learn. You need skills  
and I need to get paid. Shall we  
crack on?

While keeping eye contact locked, Edward grabs a notepad and pen and shuffles to the flipboard.

EDWARD  
Hold up, If you're me why don't you  
look exactly like me?

DRAWDE  
Did I say I had to?

INT. TUTORING OFFICE, MONITORING STATION

Strutti stirs a large mug of milky tea. She watches the learning process on her computer monitor from a shady room. She speaks into a voice recorder.

STRUTTI  
(into recorder)  
Subjects are engaging after having  
past their first test. Let's see how  
long they last...

A twisted smile forms on the doctor's face.

INT. TUTORING OFFICE, LEARNING HIVE

DRAWDE  
Right, the first step to thinking  
smart is to look smart. So I brought  
you this bow tie.

Drawde presents Edward with a bowtie cased in a fancy box.

EDWARD  
I'm not wearing that, I don't have a  
shirt.

DRAWDE  
But brought you this tie.

EDWARD  
That's good for you.

DRAWDE  
Wear the tie!

EDWARD  
No!

JUMP CUT TO:

Edward wearing a t-shirt and bow tie combo.

DRAWDE  
First lesson to being smart. I make  
the rules. Now, We may begin.

MONTAGE

--Edward reading The textbook Drawde handled earlier,  
There's a copy of "The Great Gatsby" to his side.

--Flipboard with "Classical Art" and Drawde lecturing.



--Drawde paints a still life of a fruit bowl. When checking in on Edward's painting we see a childish drawing of a race car signed with "Mastapeece".

--Edward reading a copy of "The Da Vinci Code".

--Flipboard with "Fine Dining".

--Edward trying to make finger sandwiches and drink fine wine. Drawde is always having to cut the sandwiches smaller. When Drawde isn't looking Edward pours some granulated sugar in his own wine.

--Edward Reading a copy of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar".

--Flipboard with "Regular exercise".

--Edward doing useless exercises: thumb wars, and a head pull-up (tying a rope around your head and to lift heavy books). Drawde disapproves.

--Edward Reading a copy of "Heat" magazine.

--Flipboard with "Meditation".

--Drawde and Edward meditating peacefully. Edward falls asleep.

END MONTAGE

Drawde slumped defeated on the couch.

DRAWDE (cont'd)

I've been to 256 dimensions, and you're the version of me that I despise the most. You might make it as a politician.

EDWARD

Thank you!

DRAWDE

No thank you! Why the hell did you do this to me? Why did you feel the need to come here?

EDWARD

Because I wanted to be smart.

DRAWDE

No, everyone ends up thinking you're a prick, why are you really here?

EDWARD  
But that is why.

DRAWDE  
Give me an answer!

EDWARD  
Because I didn't want to lose my  
girlfriend!

Drawde backs off. He pulls a cigarette from his pocket and sticks it in his mouth.

DRAWDE  
Incoming advice kid-

EDWARD  
Aren't we the same age?

Drawde realises he doesn't have a light and puts the cigarette away.

DRAWDE  
Never. Change. For anyone. Ever.  
You'll end up unhappy with someone  
who doesn't love you, trapped in a  
terrible contract, and paying rent by  
travelling dimensions to tutor  
buffoons and never getting to play  
the claw machine at an arcade.

Drawde breaks down in tears, Edward comforts him.

EDWARD  
Hey, hey, it's not that bad...

DRAWDE  
(crying)  
I know they're rigged, can't I just  
waste a pound on some crap? am I not  
allowed to do what I want? What I  
find comfortable?

Dward continues to cry as Edward hits a realisation.

EDWARD  
That's just it though... we're the  
same.

Dward's crying peters out. He turns around.

EDWARD (cont'd)  
It doesn't matter how smart you get,  
your going to be miserable because  
I'm miserable when I try to be smart.

(beat)

DRAWDE  
How much do you like her?

EDWARD  
I'm sorry?

DRAWDE  
Are you happier with her? Or more  
miserable being me?

(pointient beat)

Edward's emotion surprises him.

EDWARD  
Wow.  
(beat)  
I suppose sometimes you've just got  
to say what the hell and do the mad  
thing, am I right?

Drawde agrees with a smile, and then a lightbulb hits him.  
The once broken Drawde rises and heads to Dr Strutti's  
computer. He begins to type.

INT. TUTORING OFFICE, MONITORING STATION

Dr Strutti drinks from her tea, then she adds some salt. The  
receptionist comes and gives her a clipboard of results  
distracting her from the moment that Dwardie messes with her  
computer.

STRUTTI  
The brain activity results are in?  
Excellent.

Strutti looks at the clipboard and smiles in glee.

STRUTTI (cont'd)  
Ha! I miss docking pay.  
(to receptionist)  
See you after the fun.

The doctor leaves the room.

INT. TUTORING OFFICE, LEARNING HIVE

Dr Strutti enters. The pair sit diligently on the couch. She  
savours the moment.

STRUTTI

Final test begin: Edward, what is the prime factorisation of fourteen?

Edward remains in silence.

STRUTTI (cont'd)

Who wrote "The Grapes of Wrath"?

Nothing comes from Edward's mouth.

STRUTTI (cont'd)

Who is the incumbent prime minister?

EDWARD

What's an incumbent?

STRUTTI

Pity. I expected more Drawde... I'm docking 10% of your pay and sending you to a transdimensional inservice centre. length of stay: indefinite.

(sad beat)

Edward's words ring through Drawde. For the first time in his career, he stands up for himself.

DRAWDE

You're a terrible teacher, you realise that?

STRUTTI

You were the one who failed.

DRAWDE

You don't get it do you? You think this Kid is an idiot, and he is-

EDWARD

Hey! Just because I'm not Russell Crowe!

DRAWDE

-but he's not built for this and you forcing him isn't going to help.

STRUTTI

I improve the world through my students.

DRAWDE

Are you hearing yourself? Look, I'm going to give you a chance, fire me with severance. We can leave this all behind us and nothing bad happens.

The Doctor decides quickly, she presses enter. The machine whirs again.

EDWARD

I'm sorry.

DRAWDE

Not now, that's for when people feel bad.

Doctor Strutti places her goggles on and leans back.

DRAWDE (cont'd)

Good thing you're putting those on, you're gonna need 'em.

EDWARD

Are you OK with this?

The draft starts to fill the office.

DRAWDE

Of course I'm not OK with it. I was never OK with it from the moment I got onto this deal and started working under her boot. But you know what, I've been to hundreds of universes and almost all of her versions are the same, it's just sad. I mean, how predictable do you need to be?

Dr Strutti begins to pay attention.

DRAWDE (cont'd)

Good for me though, because I got to learn the way she operates, the way she thinks, the way her inventions work. I know her better than you to be honest.

For the first time, Strutti seems worried.

DRAWDE (cont'd)

And I'll tell you one thing, you should have never have let me near your computer and you should have never used your thumbprint to log in.

The doctor calls out but it's too late. Edward is blinded with light. When the light dims Edward finds a new woman in her place.

EDWARD  
What happened?

DRAWDE  
I swapped her.

EDWARD  
Swapped her... with who?!

The new woman sitting in Strutti's place is absorbed by her phone, has her feet up the desk, and is chewing gum. Drawde snaps his fingers several times. Nothing.

DRAWDE  
With a version of her that's so  
apathetic that we can leave and never  
come back.

Edward is paralysed, while Drawde wears a large smile.

DRAWDE (cont'd)  
I always wanted to that universe.  
This is close enough.

Drawde leaves the tutoring hive, Edward struggles to follow.

INT. TUTORING OFFICE, HALLWAY

Drawde powers down the hall.

EDWARD  
What the hell happened? Is she gone?

DRAWDE  
Relax! She'll find her way back here  
in a few days.

EDWARD  
A few days!

DRAWDE  
It's like you said Ed. I Did the mad  
thing and get myself sacked, What did  
I have to lose but a bad job?

EDWARD  
But that's-Ho--

Edward's brain fails to compute. But before he can unwind, Susan hears them.

SUSAN  
Hello? Doctor?

EDWARD  
Crap! I can't see Susan now!

Edward curses under his breath, panics, and quickly manages to hide in a small cupboard. Drawde does nothing but watch. Susan turns the corner.

SUSAN  
Hey! Sorry I'm late.

SUSAN (cont'd)  
Wait a second...

Susan eyes up the new person properly. She chooses to misinterpret.

SUSAN (cont'd)  
Did you change clothes?

DRAWDE  
Every morning.

SUSAN  
Wow... I'm sorry, it's just that bow tie, those shoes, that sleeveless pullover, oh...

Susan whispers something into Drawde's ear.

DRAWDE  
Won't your boyfriend be mad?

SUSAN  
Oh, he'll be furious.

Susan grasps on to Drawde's tie as she pulls him out of the building. Edward peaks out from his cupboard and sighs in relief. From nowhere, the receptionist appears.

RECEPTIONIST  
They go rouge sometimes, part of the job, but she always comes back.

EDWARD  
Are you talking about the tutor and the doc, or my girlfriend?

CREDITS.

POST CREDITS SCENE

INT. PARALLEL WORKSHOP, COUNTER

Dr Strutti is in the other universe full of apathetic souls.  
she tries to haggle with the clerk in a large workshop.

STRUTTI

Forty quid! The shop across the road  
is selling carbon fibre solenoids for  
twenty five.

CLERK

No they're not.

STRUTTI

Don't you want my business?

CLERK

Couldn't care less.

Dr Strutti cries in infuriation at her perfect hell.

END.