

## **TREATMENT OF ARNOLD IS A MODEL STUDENT**

In the middle of 2014, the army has seized the power of the government and the people and summoned political activists for 'attitude adjustment'. Many activists and academics escaped from Thailand to seek for asylum.

Arnold is a grade 12 student who came back from exchange program in Europe. Arnold is a clever student who won academic competition from Thailand and abroad. When he came back to Thailand, the school awards him the 'Model Student' award.

The school he's studying is the famous school and is well-known for its academic quality. Parents want to send their children to this school. In the latest semester, the school is nominated for Best School Award from the Ministry of Education. The headmaster encourages all the students and teachers to work hard so the school can be even more famous.

There are many teachers in the school including Ms. Wanee, a 50-year-old teacher who is strict and conservative. She even always wait at in front of the school and checking if any student is violating the school's dress code. Whenever she sees any students with hair longer than school's haircut rule, she will use her scissor to cut their hair.

Ms. Poupee who teaches English is homeroom teacher of Arnold's class. She is an open-minded person who understand her students and tries to be listen to their opinion.

There are other strange teachers such as the head of Science department who is superstitious and the Mathematics teacher who teaches the student to remember the formula more than understanding.

In Arnold's class, Poupee (28), an English teacher, is teaching the class about the present continuous tense and the "-ing" verb. The teacher sees Wit (18) dozing off, so she asks him to give an example of an "-ing" verb. Wit cannot answer her, but Arnold, sitting next to him, whispers to Wit: "Say JK Rowling". Wit answer JL Rowling and the whole class laughs at him. Teacher Poupee sighs and admonishes Arnold for mocking his friend. (Arnold is the class president, and Poupee is their homeroom teacher)

Seem like Arnold is a popular kids. Everyone love to do what

Arnold ask.Sometimes even bullying unpopular kids.After school, Arnold and his friends they always spend time together by going to game center ,watching films or doing fun stuff.

We can see that Arnold lives alone in a condominium. He has to take care of everything like cleaning his room, cooking and laundry on his own. At night, he tries to contact someone through Skype but there's no answer.

Though Arnold is a clever student who got good grades, but Arnold likes to tease people in his school and he hates to follow the school's rule.

One day, he fought with Ms. Wanee because he sleeps in her class and he doesn't wear his school uniform properly. Arnold argues with Ms. Wanee until she becomes very angry and ). ask Arnold to leave Thailand If He doesn't love this country and then looks down on the race of Arnold's father (Arnold's father is a Filipino. Arnold is very angry so he walks out of the class.Later That night Arnold sit in front of his computer the whole night doing something.

On the next day,Teacher Wanee rebukes Arnold harshly for his insolent behaviour by putting her photoshopped picture online (Arnold photoshops Wanee's photo with a monster from thai literature.He puts the caption "Backwards nationalist") Arnold tries to explain that he simply expressed his opinion in his social media,and if the teacher doesn't like it.She can stay out of his social media.Ms.Wanee is enraged that Arnold keeps talking back at her."I'm your teacher,you have no right to criticize me!" then Ms. Wanee wants to punish Arnold, but the headmaster ask her to forgive him as Arnold has done many things to the school.

Ms. Poupee tells Arnold not to be arrogant and not to think that he has privilege, but Arnold insists that he argues with Ms. Wanee because she looks down on the race of his father.

The homeroom teacher tells all the student to speak in front of the class about their future. Many students have no goal in choosing faculties or universities. Max is forced by his family to study engineering because it's a steady job. Arnold wants to apply for the King's scholarship to study architecture abroad, but deep inside, Arnold is not sure if he wants to be an architect, but he doesn't believe in Thai education system and wants to study and

live abroad.

Many teachers who are almost retired can feel the generation gap between them and the students. They feel tired to preach the students everyday. Some teachers like Ms. Wanee use privilege as a teacher in breaking small rules. Ms. Wanee sometimes cut the queue in front of the elevator.

At the academic competition, Arnold gets to meet the head of Academic Evaluation Committee of the Ministry of Education who is quite close of the headmaster. Both of them go out to talk about the school's budget. Arnold goes to smoke in the toilet and meets Bee. The man introduces himself as Bee. His job is to scout academically bright students to help cheat his clients in the exam. Bee convinces Arnold to work for him. Arnold doesn't seem interested but gives Bee his phone number anyway. Bee leaves him a name card and tells Arnold to call him.

There will be examination. Arnold is reading textbook with Max. He sees a group of student goes to special class with teacher in his school. After the examination, that group of student who are not that clever get good grades.

Teachers in school are having a meeting in the school. The content of meeting is to find ways to please the Academic Evaluation Committee who will come to school for evaluation. Each teacher is proposing ideas like organizing an academic week during the visit, or doing a field trip and invite the Committee to go together, so the teachers can also use taxpayer's money for special getaway holiday.

Ms. Poupee proposes an idea to reduce the amount of homework and do more discussion between teachers and students, but no one support her idea.

During the visit of the committee, the school is clean and everything is unusually in order. Even the food in the school's canteen is better than usual. The headmaster takes the Committee to see the school's buildings

All the students are forced to join Ms. Wanee course of Thai social etiquette and moral. Arnold talks to Max during the class that if bowing and kowtowing can elevate moral standard of Thai people, Ms. Wanee might not look down on his father's race.

Thai high-school students have to join territorial defense class with the military. Here we see the students, in military uniform,

marching in the field of a camp. The students are being trained by soldiers.

Arnold is being punished because he forgets to bring his military beret. He has to sit-up in the middle of the sun until he almost faints. Then the army teacher force him to cut the hair. Arnold try to talk back because the week before He just cut his hair by the army's teacher order. But The army doesn't care and listen to Arnold. He punish him more and send him to the army barber shop. At this scene we can hear the sound of batterians shave many many students's head. (Play with sound design scene)

On Saturday, Arnold and Max go to shopping mall. Arnold has a strange idea of watching a film without buying ticket. Max refuse to do it but finally Arnold can force him to join. After that they both go to drink. When they get drunk, they talk about their uncertain future. Arnold is not sure if he wants to be an architect, but he wants to leave Thailand as he thinks there is no future for him here.

Arnold comes back to his condominium to find that a dozen policemen and soldiers are waiting for him. One of the soldiers approaches him and asks him where his parents are. Arnold's parents, we learn, are political fugitives who have fled. When Arnold says he doesn't know where they are hiding, the soldier barks at him and forces him to open the door. The officers enter and ransack the place. The soldier leaves a parting world: Arnold's parents, he says are facing a serious criminal charges and soon every belonging will be seized by the state. Arnold should tell his parents to surrender to the police .

Finally they take Arnold to the military court for interrogation. The officers seize many property of Arnold's family.

Arnold has money problem, so finally he decides to go to meet Bee at his office. Bee explains that his organization looks for bright students to sit in a military cadet exam so they can help the "clients" pass the test. Bee has a connection and he can seat the "scorer" – like Arnold – next to his client, who will read signals from him. The scorers will be paid handsomely for sitting in the exam, and if they can help clients pass the test they will get extra bonuses.

Arnold is interested, but he's concerned that this is cheating and illegal. Bee laughs at the boy's naiveté and tells him that everyone in this country gets where they are because they have cheated. Even Arnold's school asks for kickbacks and tea money

from parents, and only parents who have tight connection with the management can get their kids into the school.

Arnold wants money, but he thinks it's cheating and it's too risky. Bee tries to convince Arnold and says that in Arnold's school there are already lots of corruption. Parents who want their children to be in the school have to bribe the headmaster. If he can't accept cheating, why he can still study in this kind of school.

Finally Arnold decides to Join Bee. Bee gives Arnold the idea of what kind of question will be in the examination. There Arnold meet his clients, who are students from various school.

Bee is training the scorers and clients the signals that they will use. The "clients" will wear a star badge as identification. Bee stresses that hand signals are the best way to cheat because they leave no evidence.

Arnold successfully helps 7 of Bee's clients to enroll the military school. Bee praise Arnold for his ability, and ask Arnold to work for him for other examination such as the government official recruitment examination.

Arnold gets a lot of money from Bee. He now hardly following the society's rule. Arnold skip the class more often

During New Year, He ask Max to smoke weed with him but during ther are getting high. They get caught by the police. Bee comes to help Arnold by bribing the police. Bee tells Arnold that to bribe the police is the effective way as Arnold will not have criminal record. Or else Arnold and Max will spend Holiday in jail.

The new semester is coming. The parents who want their children to be in the school come to the headmaster and bring some 'gifts' to him ands ask the headmaster if he can help their children. The parents offer many things to the headmaster. Even the Education Evaluation Committee talks to the headmaster that he wants his son to be in this school.

Arnold still wants to study abroad. He passed the paper examination of the King's Scholarship and will have to pass the interview examination. He comes to ask Ms. Poupee to write a recommendation letter for him. Ms. Poupee tells Arnold to behave nice but Arnold still skip his classes and fights with Ms. Wanee.

Teacher Wanee lets the students read aloud in her Thai Language class. Her phone rings and the teacher asks the students

to stop reading so she can talk. When she hangs up, she asks for a moment and steps out. She orders the students to read silently, and Arnold, as head of the class, should write down the names of those who do not read and talk in class. When the teacher leaves the class, everyone of course starts talking loudly. Arnold asks his classmates to guess what the teacher is doing instead of teaching. The students make fun of Teacher Wane, saying she's betting on the underground lottery, or she's doing a direct-sale business. A few minutes later the teacher returns and gets furious at Arnold, because instead of controlling the class he's the one who talks and talks. Teacher Wane shouts at him, "how can you be head of class?" To which Arnold replies: "Because my friend chose me." Teacher Wane argues that being elected doesn't mean he can break the rules, and he should perform his duty. Arnold argues that the teacher isn't performing her duty either, because she keeps talking on the phone instead of teaching. If she only wants the students to read the book, they can do it at home. Teacher Wane is now furious. She changes her line of attack by asking Arnold to recite from memory a poem in the textbook. Arnold says he can't, and he sees no point in memorizing a poem that has no use whatsoever in his life. The teacher, angry at Arnold's behavior, shows who's the boss by saying that this poem will be one of the main questions in the upcoming exam. The students are not happy with his – some of them become upset with Arnold and others are angry at the teacher

Ms. Poupee encourage the students to find what they want to be in the future. Some of the students tells her they still have no idea. Ms. Poupee says that in fact when she was a student, she didn't know what she want to be but she learnt later that she loves to teach, and nowadays she's happy. At the end, Ms. Poupee says she hopes everyone will be able to enter the faculty they want, but if they can't they shouldn't be sad, as the future doesn't depend on the result of entrance examination.

Arnold and Max are studying for the exam. Arnold is trying to memorize a poem, but he's not making progress cuz he is half thai and spend his childhood abroad. He complains how useless all this rote-learning is. Max jokes that it's not useless, because it is in the stupid exam of a stupid system. So just do it and forget it later. Arnold notices that many students pay the teacher for a special class.

Before the Thai language exam, Arnold still can't remember the poem. He goes to toilet. He sees Wit, his classmate, hiding a piece of paper in his pants. He decides to also do that.

Arnold is taking the Thai language exam. At the part where he has to write down the poem from memory, he pulls up his pants, and there he has the text written on the top part of his leg. But as he is looking at the smuggled text, he is caught by the teacher.

The headmaster and Ms. Wanee tell Arnold about the punishment he'll receive, and the school will not nominate Arnold for the King's Scholarship.

Ms. Poupee is in the room but she doesn't say anything until the other two teachers have left, then she asks Arnold why he values the test score so much that he risked cheating. Arnold admits that he's not proud of what he did, but he asks the teacher why cheating is not acceptable when the school admits so many student through a system that is equivalent to fraud, corruption and favoritism. Why is that acceptable? Why does the school take "bribes" and call it "donation"? Ms. Poupee doesn't have an answer for that, but she tells Arnold that what he has said has nothing to do with what his action today. If someone cheats and pushes Arnold into the second place, would he be able to accept that?

The teacher tells him to sit there to reflect on his behavior. When the teacher's left, Arnold sits alone quietly amidst the trophies

and plaques. He's sad as he will miss a chance to win the scholarship.

New semester, all the ex-students come back to school on teacher's day. Max and Arnold's other friends wear university uniform. Max is looking for Arnold, even though he knows that Arnold will not come. He feels sad when Arnold is not around. At the office of the Education Evaluation Committee, the headmaster comes to receive the Best School Award. He thanks the committee and gives a speech that he will work hard to keep the quality of the school

Cut to the military school at the break of dawn, the young soldiers rushing out to line up.

They have to get naked and have communal shower together. They have to practice marching. All soldiers have to shout the following: "Nation, Honor, Discipline, Courage, Unity, Determination, Honesty." The soldiers stomp their feet and shout the words, on and on and on into eternity.

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