

Perfectionist

By Nicholas Di Prima

*(Katie, a college student, enters her dorm furious! She got her grade back on a paper from her teacher, Mrs. Summers, and received a score of 90. Katie is a perfectionist and sees this grade as a failing score.)*

*(The camera angle should be the angle of a laptop computer camera. All of the action should be viewed from this perspective.)*

*(After katie is done ranting and flinging things in her room, she notices her laptop and sits down to write a strongly worded email to her teacher)*

**Katie:** Dear Mrs. Summers.... *(talking to herself)* no “dear”, she is a BITCH! Bitch comma... *(takes a deep breath)* no Katie, you cannot call her a bitch. *(resumes typing)* Mrs. Summers comma... I was having a wonderful day today. I spent time with my Delta Kappa Omicron Zeta Nu sisters, I went eno-ing at the park, and I got my favorite ice cream from Big Spoon -- vanilla. All was well UNTIL I received a Canvas notification saying I had made a... *(talks to herself)* fuck I can’t even say it *(resumes typing)*...a 90 *(mumbles the 90)* on my paper. I know this is a mistake, and I will give you time to correct the score. Best, Katie.

*(takes a deep breath)* and send! *(Katie gets into her bed as she talks to her roommates that are out of frame)* Goodnight sara-grace, kaitlyn jane and maddie-anne. *(Lights out)*

*(Scene cuts to Mrs. Summers at home. She is an English professor and a kind woman. It is Saturday morning. Mrs. Summers enters. She is doing her morning routine which could consist of brushing her teeth, making some tea, brushing her hair, etc. The camera angle should be the angle of a computer camera. All of the action should be viewed from the lens of a computer camera angle.)*

*(There is a notification ding. Mrs. Summers goes over to her computer to check her emails.)*

*(She reads Katie’s email. Mrs. Summers should half read the email/half mumble it. She should react to every part of the ridiculous email)*

**Mrs. Summers:** *(laughs in disbelief)* *(begins to type back an email)* Dear Katie, I apologize for not being clear on the grading. I think a 90 is a great grade and an acceptable one for the work you put in. I will not adjust the grade, but I am open to further discussing why I gave you the score you received on Monday. Have a great weekend. Best, Mrs. Summers.

*(scoffs)* *(as she grabs her purse and leaves the room)* Damn private school kids.

*(scene cut to katie in her room doing virtual rush for her sorority)*

**Katie:** And that is why I believe Delta Kappa Omicron Zeta Nu has changed my life! The strength these girls possess truly inspires me every day to be a better person-- *(Notification ding. It is an email from Mrs. Summers)*

**Katie:** *(slightly nervous)* Alright girls, well, we are going to play our Delta Kappa Omicron Zeta Nu recruitment video for the third time today. We will resume this chat shortly after. *(Katie clicks around on her computer to change tabs to her email)* *(Katie reads her email in disbelief)*

**Katie:** *(screams)* What the hell?? I guess I just wasn't clear the first time. *(Begins to type a new email)*

**Katie:** Mrs. Summers, I am afraid I was not clear the first time. I will not accept the 90 because it will reflect poorly on my GPA, and it will jeopardize my chances of getting into the extremely competitive SOA abroad course. I will accept a 95, but other than that, It will be unacceptable. I expect to see a change in my grade by tonight. Thanks. Katie.

*(shakes off her frustration and clicks back on to her rush call)*

**Katie:** Where was I girls? Oh that's right-- being our most God-like selves...

*(Cuts to Mrs. Summers out at lunch outside someplace. The frame of the camera is now from the angle of a phone camera.)*

*(Mrs. Summers gets a notification ding on her phone. She reads the email from Katie)*

**Mrs. Summers:** "I will accept a 95, but other than that, it will be unacceptable"??? The nerve on this girl!

*(Catches the waiter walking by. We shouldn't see the waiters face but his/her hands or body in the frame)*

**Mrs. Summers:** Hi, can I order a mimosa please? Thank you. *(Waiter exits. Mrs. Summers begins to talk to herself)* Well, forget giving up alcohol for lent.

*(Mrs. Summers begins to type an email)*

**Mrs. Summers:** Katie, I have always been a fair teacher when it comes to grading and when it comes to discussing grades. However, I do not appreciate the tone of your emails. We can discuss it further on Monday if you would like but your grade will remain the same. - Mrs Summers.

*(waiter hands her the mimosa)*

**Mrs. Summers:** Thank you! Can you already order me another one?

*(Scene cuts to katie. She is at Taco Mama waiting for her sorority sisters. The camera frame should be that of her phone. Mirroring the angle of Mrs. Summers's last scene)*

**Katie:** *(Sending a voice message to a friend)* Siri, text Maddie-Anne “Yes girl, I would love to join you at Seaside for spring break! We should get matching swimmys. This year we WILL make it on the Delta Kappa Omicron Zeta Nu instagram. Ttyl!”

*(Katie gets a notification ding. It is an email from Mrs. Summers.)*

**Katie:** I AM GOING TO KILL THIS WOMAN *(notices she said that out in public)*

**Katie:** *(begins to type back)* Mrs. Summers, what is your phone number. I would like to discuss this matter with you right now. Katie.

*(waiter comes by with her food)*

**Katie:** *(to the waiter)* Thank you so much, have a blessed day!

*(Scene cuts to Mrs. Summers at home. She is sitting in a chair or on a couch reading a book. If you have a cat, that would be great for this moment. Optional - Mrs. Summers could still be drinking from lunch -- ex: glass of wine in hand)*

*(Mrs. Summers gets a notification ding from her smart watch. It is from Katie.)*

**Mrs. Summers:** *(groans)* This girl is really pushing my buttons today. *(goes over to her computer to read the email)* She wants to call me? HA! Fuck it *(downs the wine)*, lets do this.

*(Mrs. Summers begins to type an email to Katie)*

**Mrs. Summers:** Sure. 266-544-2743. Mrs. Summers

*(Pours another glass of wine before the scene cuts to Katie) (Katie is back in her dorm. She is mid virtual bible study on her computer)*

**Katie:** *(talking to a random person in the bible study)* My sister deals with the same issue. It is really challenging to love them. I just say “love the sinner, not the sin” and that ALWAYS makes me feel better.

*(gets a notification on her computer from Mrs. Summers)*

**Katie:** *(to the bible study group)* Well, I better log off. I have a lot of praying to do and I have to get ready for chapter. Have a blessed week, girls.

*(Katie logs off from bible study and switches her tab over to her email)*

**Katie:** *(sees Mrs. Summers’s phone number)* Huh, she finally listened to me about something. *(begins to dial Mrs. Summers)*

*(For the phone call it can be split screen or the camera can switch back and forth)*

**Mrs. Summers:** Hello? I assume this is katie.

**Katie:** Hello, yes this is Katie. Thank you for getting back to me so quickly.

**Mrs. Summers:** Of course.

**Katie:** Well, I am just going to cut to the chase. I am a great student. I am the president of Delta Kappa Omicron Zeta Nu. I volunteer in third world countries. And it feels like a slap in the face, that my work did not receive the grade it deserved.

**Mrs. Summers:** Katie, that is great for you. Extracurricular activities are great. But, maybe if you were not so consumed outside of the classroom, you would have received a better grade. Which is insane for me to say because most students would be thrilled to make a 90 in a college course!

**Katie:** But I am NOT like other students!! I am featured on almost all of the college instagram pages for my achievements, I volunteer with homeless shelters, dammit, I am presidential scholar!

**Mrs. Summers:** Please do not curse when talking to me. Katie, that is all great for you, but I am not here to stroke your ego. What are you wanting me to do?

**Katie:** Change. My. Grade.

**Mrs. Summers:** Change your grade? You want me to change your grade?

**Katie:** Yes.

**Mrs Summers:** Katie, you are incredibly disrespectful to me and the rest of your classmates. It would not be fair for me to alter your grade and no one else's.

**Katie:** *(losing it)* UGH YOU ARE SUCH A BITCH!

**Mrs. Summers:** A BITCH? How dare you talk to me like that, you little shit! You know nothing of respect! You just drink starbucks all day long, soak up the sun in your eno, and fake a prayer to seem like everyone else on this damn campus.

**Katie:** STARBS IS MY EVERYTHING! *(beat)* Look...this conversation is getting out of hand and is not what I wanted. Listen, just change the grade and I will forget that all of this happened.

**Mrs. Summers:** *(Laughs)* Okay, Katie. Since you have made it abundantly clear that you are in charge of this situation, I will change your grade. But, do not expect this in the future. This is the only time I will do this for you.

**Katie:** Thank you so much, Mrs. Summers. You are literally a queen! I hope you have a blessed day and rest of your weekend. So happy we could squash this. Confrontation is good...even with your professors.

**Mrs. Summers:** *(scoffs and mockingly)* Okay, you too, sweet girl. Have a blessed weekend.

*(They hang up and it is just Katie. She gets a ding that her grade has been changed.)*

**Katie:** *(starts excited and then realizes that her grade changed from a 90 to a 50)* A 50? THAT FUCKING BITCH!

**The end**