

Sell Out!
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Characters

Harper Female, 25.
Liam Male, 23.
Jane Female, 39.
Sophia Female, 33.

Setting

The cheaply furnished conference room of the company these friends started together.

Time

The present.

*Lights rise on Jane, still, seated cross-legged breathing deeply.
Liam and Harper enter mid-conversation, not noticing her.*

Liam

... and then they kept their coins in the nut-sac.

Harper

I know.

Liam

You know?

Harper

I'm the one who told you about necropants.

Liam

What?

No, I read about it on Mental Floss.

Harper

Because I told you about it.

Liam

No...

Yes, yeah, that's right.

Harper

Imagine thinking that wearing a dead guy's skin for pants will make you rich.

Liam

Iceland, that place is messed up, am I right?

Seeing Jane

Ah!

Harper

Jeez, Jane, lurk much?

Jane breaks her pose.

Jane

Okay, fine.

Couldn't focus with you two talking out of your asses anyway.

Liam

It's all true.
I looked it up!

Jane

I know you read it, I just don't think you understood it.
Necropants weren't a movement of wizards wearing human flesh.
It was one guy, one crazy guy, the by-product of a society so broken that when the senior with no family lost his mind, dug up his last friend's corpse to peel his lower torso, so that he could wear the skin while he begged, there was no one to do anything about it.

Liam

Come on, that's funny.

Harper

I think "too soon" was 300 years ago.

Jane

Talk to me again in 2027 America.

Liam

Can I have your leg skin when you die, Jane?

Jane

Yet another reason to get cremated.

Harper

Better for the earth, Liam won't skin your corpse.

Liam

You sure know a lot about necropants, Jane.
Are you a witch maybe?

Jane

Maybe.
Or maybe I also looked it up after the conversation where it came up in the first place.
You know, because I was there, too.

Liam

No you weren't.
Wait, okay, maybe.
Yes, you were.

Sophia enters, holding a file folder.

Sophia

Hi, everyone, thanks for all being early.

Jane, Harper

Hi, Sophia.

Liam

Hi, boss.

They stare at her expectantly.

Sophia

Okay... I told you I was applying to the Gates Foundation.

Liam

We got it??

Harper

Amazing!

The three celebrate as Sophia calmly watches.

Jane

We didn't get it.

They look to Sophia, who shakes her head.

Liam

What the heck, Sophia?

Sophia

You all jumped to that without me.

But... there's also a little, I don't know, kind of good new.
Bill Gates called me, you know, personally.

Jane

What, really?

Sophia

Not figuratively, not metaphorically... yes, really!

Harper

The REAL Bill Gates?

Yes, the real one. Sophia

On your actual phone? Liam

These are weird questions, you guys. Sophia
Yes, the man himself called me... with an offer.
He wants to buy our company and all related technologies.

That was never on the table. Harper
We dreamed this together, we are going to change the world with or without Mr. Gates.

Our dream! Liam

The deal comes out to forty-four million dollars. Sophia

Okay, yeah, I'm in. Liam

... how much? Harper

We'll each walk away with a little over... Drum roll please! Sophia
Liam obliges.
Just over seven million.

A piece?? Harper

You are a god, Sophia. Liam

It was a team effort. Sophia

What was he like? Liam

Sophia

I honestly was wondering if I dreamt it, but then a messenger delivered this contract.

Jane

When was this?

Sophia

Sunday.

Jane

Three days ago?

Harper

That's a long time to wait.

Sophia

Last week.

Ten days.

I wanted to investigate everything before I got anyone's hopes up.

Harper

You didn't even know if we'd be interested.

After a pause, they all laugh at the idea that they don't want a lot of money.

Sophia

Okay, yeah.

I had the contract reviewed, then I had that review double-checked.

Now it's easy.

Liam, you dreamed for us, inspired us.

Harper, your precision and your passion are our heart.

Jane, your moral compass guided us every step of the way.

My friends, it is time to get paid.

Liam

Whoo!

Sophia

We need everyone's signatures.

Jane

Why don't we all take a copy home, come back and sign in the morning?

Sophia

It needs to be tonight.

Liam

I want to be the John Hancock and have my signature first!

Grabs the file.

Aw, no fair, you already signed it.

Sophia

Leadership comes with privilege.

Jane

Hancock wasn't famous for signing first, just for making it so prominent.

Liam

Jane, I know you think I don't understand when you're putting me down—

Sophia

Liam.

Liam signs and goes off to pout.

Liam

Okay.

Harper

Everybody, please, can we talk about this?

Sophia

Of course we can.

Harper

I want you all to think about what this means.

Liam

It means we're rich.

Harper

Everything comes with a cost.

Liam

Oh no, I will have wasted three years of my life for only seven million dollars, what will I tell my parents, my ancestors would be so ashamed!

Harper

Rich gazillionaire geezer offers buckets of cash for plucky youngster's idea for saving the world.
That plot sound familiar?

Sophia

It's not a plot, it's our lives.

Liam

I think Bill Gates' track record is pretty good.

Harper

We don't have to do this.
We're doing just fine.

Sophia

I'm trying to understand, Harper.

Harper

Jane, you're our moral compass, help me explain it to them!

Jane

You're out of your mind if you think our company is going to do more good with our tech than
Bill Freaking Gates.
We need to get this done, because this company is about five seconds from imploding.

Sophia

Come on now, Jane.
It's not that there's anything wrong with us.
It's that this is too great a deal to pass up.

Jane

This coming from the boss who is sleeping with one fourth of her company, a guy who's slept
with half the company.
We're only four people.
And let's talk about the him in this scenario, the so-called dreamer.

Liam

I am a dreamer.

Jane

Anyone else think maybe our "idea guy" is a one-hit wonder?
Did you get that one, Liam?
I don't want to be accused of trying to sneak one by you.
I'm saying you had one good idea.

Liam

I know what a one-hit wonder is.

Jane

Because you is one.

Liam

I'm an imaginative dreamer, so, so, so... fuck you.

Harper

It's selling out.

Jane

If we don't sell out, what do we get?

The warm feeling of moral superiority can't even get on the scale with seven million dollars.

If we don't sell out, other groups copy us, catch up with us.

This is our moment.

You've seen too many movies where people turn down money over principle.

Don't confuse fear of success with morality.

Of course we should take the money.

Jane crosses and signs.

All three turn on Harper.

Harper

At least let me think about it.

Sophia

We have to do this right now.

Jane

Why?

Sophia

Bill Gates called me a second time, okay?

Harper

What?

Sophia

This morning.

He was not happy with me.

Told me I was being selfish and that he was withdrawing the deal.

I convinced him to give me until tonight and we'd sign everything as he originally sent it to us.

Harper

The fact that he's this interested means we're in no hurry.

Sophia

I'm scared he's going to reverse engineer everything, and we will get nothing.

We are swimming with sharks, Harper.

Once they're that rich, nothing is equal.

They're more powerful.

So much more powerful.

We're lucky he's even making an offer.

We can turn it down, sure, but if you think they'll let us win on our own terms, you're dreaming.

Gut check time.

Are you strong enough to get over yourself and claim your prize?

Harper

Not one of you thinks this is—

Liam

If you hold the rest of us back from this, you are the worst person in the world.

Jane

Just sign it.

She signs and they erupt with excitement.

After a moment, everyone but Sophia freezes in exaggerated celebration.

She gathers the contract and takes a few items from the frozen people as she speaks to the audience.

They are clearly still conscious of what's happening but are unable to move anything but their trapped eyes.

Sophia

They're getting an education instead of money.

For example, they learned not to trust someone telling them, "There's no time to think."

It all worked out from them afterwards.

Jane moved back in with her mom, where they became closer... well, at least physically.

Harper learned that she had no self-respect... she and Liam dated for the next four months.

And Liam... well, puppies don't so much learn as get trained, and that's somebody else's job.

He'll be fine till his looks fade.

I didn't say it worked out WELL, but there are always next steps to be taken, and they took them, and if they expected something more from life, that's on them.

It's not like it gets necropants-bad for any of them... yet.

Who knows, this is going to be a wild century.

Blackout. End of play.