

Black Hole High

The Alchemist

Teaser

In the basement of the school Marshall, Lucas, Corinne and Josie are waiting in the dark. They are a bit frightened. They keep looking at their watch and observing a door dimly light with a security code system besides it. Suddenly the door opens when they were not looking and in a panic they watch a shadow going up the stairs. When Corinne and Josie go upstairs to find out who it was, the person is gone. They go back downstairs to join Lucas and Marshall looking at the door and the security system. Marshall uses one of his gadgets to open the door. They enter the room. Inside they see lots of scientific experiments going on with Erlenmeyer flasks bubbling and also many other strange inventions. They see chalk boards filled with equations and numbers and old books they never knew existed. And then the door closes behind them in a big bang.

Act One

- When they turn around to see who closed the door, they see that it is The Janitor. He explains that they found his little lair in the basement, his secret.
- Lucas finds books about alchemy and asks The Janitor if he is trying to turn metals into gold or something.
- The Janitor looks very embarrassed and has to admit that he is working on a lot of different projects and one of them is to transform base metals into gold. It is one last long dream of science to achieve this as gold is the perfect metal to build anything. Gold has no oxides and is the only metal not affected by the oxygen in the atmosphere, so it does not rust. No other metal surpasses gold in malleability, it can be beaten or rolled in any direction without cracking or breaking. And it is the most ductile of all metals, it can be drawn into fine wire, the fineness of hair.
- So you want to be rich? asks Marshall. No, I want to revolutionize the world of electronic circuitry and the world of engineering by making gold available everywhere, affirms The Janitor. Just that.
- Josie points out that Alchemy is also seeking a life-prolonging elixir, a universal cure for disease, and symbolically it is seeking to transform someone into a better person. Perhaps The Janitor is also working on this?
- The Janitor explains that he is not a good person and was never grateful to Mr. Pearson to have helped him do what he always wanted to do, which is to pursue his theoretical ideas and create inventions. When he was young he was a child prodigy but also very isolated. Mr. Pearson noticed that immediately and offered him this little lair at the condition that The Janitor would help in the lab.
- The Janitor helped built the famous machine, something he his not proud of today and would not want anyone to know. He has been working down here for many years after the explosion. He thought the time was right to get out of his cavern.
- When Corinne asks who paid for all this, The Janitor has to admit that Mr. Pearson financed all his research for all those years. He points out that he never liked Mr. Pearson and he never properly thanked him for this unique chance to pursue his own research with no results to prove or give to anyone.

- At this point a big noise is heard behind another door at the back of the room. It is Vaughn. The Janitor then says that Vaughn knows about this and that he is probably in the tunnels that lead to the scientific lab. These tunnels are very dangerous so they should go and see if he is all right.
- When they go through the door in the tunnels, they find Vaughn in a well or a hole with no way to retrieve him. Vaughn also found a very heavy metal chest that will need to be brought up.

Act Two

- The science club calls Mr. Pearson and the Principal and they try to find a solution.
- The Janitor remembers designing years ago a system of pulleys along with a mounting block and tackle, used to improve leverage in lifting weights. He forgot where he put the plans so everybody looks through his things in order to find the plans of this system of pulleys.
- Josie finds the plans and they get to work to build the system of pulleys.
- They get Vaughn and the chest out of the hole and ask him to explain himself. What was he doing there?
- He likes to play in the tunnels since he is a kid and that's it, he admits. Nobody believes him and Mr. Pearson is obviously embarrassed as he asked Vaughn to spy on the science team and The Janitor.
- The Janitor remembers that metal chest, he lost it years ago and he still has the key somewhere in his lab. He finds the key and opens the chest. It is filled with souvenirs from his years in school and old books not available anywhere that his grand-father gave him a long time ago. He is crying of joy.

Tag

- The Janitor takes Mr. Pearson apart and for the first time thanks him profusely for everything he has done for him over the years. He wanted to tell him for a long time that he never really disliked him and that he was always proud to work for him in the old days even if he had a bad attitude.
- He promises also that he is very close to proving revolutionary ideas and that of course he would make those results available to him. This makes Mr. Pearson very happy.

The End

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