

The Thirty Years Prom [Working Title]

By Matt Bader

Medium: Play/Film Hybrid

Characters: Kat and Al are two students at Imperial High School, a contemporary American highschool that represents the Holy Roman Empire. They and all of the characters in the play represent the real historical figures of The Thirty Years War, one of the deadliest conflicts in European history; and they tell the incredible true story of how the war changed Europe forever, but as if the whole thing was about highschoolers trying to go to prom. Right now, they're each sitting in the waiting room outside the Emperor's (principal's) office. Kat has heard a lot of rumor and gossip about a fight breaking out during school (a fight that Al just came from). The fight apparently involved her mom, one of the teachers, throwing a student out of a window. She's anxious to find out what's going on. Al is anxious to find out if Kat likes him.

Setting: Waiting Room outside of Emperor Matthias's office.

Time: Historically, June of 1618, but in the world of the play, Fall of 2014.

(The waiting room of Emperor Matthias's office. We see a handful of students sitting in a line waiting to be spoken to by the Emperor. Most of the boys have visible injuries.)

*(**Katharina Maria Bohemia** is sitting towards the head of the line outside the office and is waiting to be called on; having an inaudible conversation with the **Duke of Savoy** who's sitting next to her. We see, at the end of the line, **Albrecht von Wallenstein**, with a prominent black eye.)*

(He watches her.)

*(**Savoy** gets up and walks into the office.)*

*(**AI** looks at the empty chair.)*

*(He gets up and moves to sit next to **Kat**)*

AI: I didn't expect to find you here to keep me company.

Kat: AI, what happened to your face?

AI: What? It's not that bad, is it?

Kat: Your whole eye is black and blue.

AI: Which one?... That was a joke.

Kat: *(playfully about to poke to his injured eye)* This one right here!

AI: Stop it, stop it, you win! I surrender.

Kat: Good. AI, it looks so sore. How did it happen?

AI: Ah, you know Michal Moravia...

Kat: You did not!

AI: Oh, yes I did.

Kat: But he's like, twice your size.

AI: Really? I didn't notice.

*(we then hear **AI's** voice in his head)*

Al: (V.O.) No, that's stupid. How could you not notice that? *(bell ding)*

(cut back to the moment after Kat's previous line)

Al: That hasn't stopped me before.

(He then realizes...)

(voice over) You've never fought him before. *(bell ding)*

Al: That's true, but I didn't care. *(ding)*

Al: It's not about the size, it's about how you use it. *(ding)*

Kat: But he's like, twice your size.

Al: *(suggestively)* I'll show you what's twice his size...

(voice over) Why did I think that would be a good idea? Let's just stick with the first one.
(ding)

Al: Really? I didn't notice.

Kat: How could you not notice that?

Al: *(voice over)* No, she wouldn't say that. *(ding)*

Kat: But surely you must have been a little scared, Al.

Al: Of course I was scared, but he was threatening my friends. And I would gladly give my life if it meant saving the people I care about.

Kat: Al, that's the bravest thing I've ever heard someone say.

Al: (V.O.) There's no way she would really say that. No way. Even if she did, where does this even go from here? You know what, fuck it. *(ding)*

Al: And I would gladly give my life if it meant saving the people I care about.

Kat: Oh Al!

Al: Oh Kate!

(They make out aggressively in the waiting room. Some of the boys waiting in the line exclaim)

Boy 1: Oh my God, it's so scandalous.

Boy 2: I'm so uncomfortable right now, but I'm not gonna do anything about it.

(there is a whole procession of characters, some of whom we've seen before, others of whom we haven't met yet, entering the waiting room.)

Ferdinand: wow guys, Albrecht von Wallenstein is making out with Kat.

Tilly: He must be really cool and have lots of friends.

Bucuooy: We should invite him to hang out with us. I bet Coach is gonna make him captain of the team soon and commander of the army.

(another procession)

Gerry: Wow, Fred, look! Al finally did it. He asked Kat out and now they can get married!

Fred: But how are they gonna get married if they practice different religions?

(bursting through another door)

Pope Paul: Hey guys, I'm Pope Paul V.

Martin Luther: And I'm the ghost of Martin Luther.

Pope Paul: And we've just sorted out all of our political and religious differences.

Martin Luther: That means we're back together again as one Christian faith, and you won't go to hell for marrying each other anymore!.

Gerry: Wow, that's amazing.

(out of nowhere, there's a priest.)

Priest: I now pronounce you husband and wife... You may kiss the bride *(they haven't stopped making out.)*

Fred: This is incredible, Gerry. Al and Kat just united Christianity through the power of their love. Someone should reward them!

God: *(appearing out of nowhere)* Albrecht von Wallenstein you have demonstrated immeasurable courage in bringing together my children. As the Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish, and Muslim God, I divinely grant you, your beautiful wife, and your future son who absolutely does not mind watching you make out right now,-

(Lo and behold, there's an 8 year old kid who kind of resembles Kat and Al standing at the front of the crowd waving to the audience)

-tons of land, tons of money, and the title of Holy Roman Emperor-

Al: *(voice over)* Eh, why not.

God: -The title of World Leader!

(immediately cuts back to reality of Al sitting in his chair. He never got up to go talk to her. Al, at this moment, comments on his own daydream)

Al: That's more like it.

(some neighboring students glance at him. Al glances at each of them.)

(Al looks at the empty chair again... he gets up. Walks toward Kat. She looks at him. He glances at her... and walks right past the chair to head towards the men's restroom. As he is about to enter the restroom, Coach Maximillian sees him and sprints across the hall.)

Coach: Where the hell are you going, von Wallenstein?!

Al: to the bathroom, to the bathroom! I'm going to the bathroom! Is that not within my rights?

Coach: iS tHaT nOt wiTHiN mY rIgHtS?. Not today, Wally, not today. You mess with the bull, you get the horns, it's as simple as that, brotha.

Al: Coach Max, please. I haven't done anything wrong, why would I try to run away in a situation like this? I was just going to the bathroom.

Coach: Oh, really, Al? You swear before God the only reason your little bum left your little seat was to go take a leak?

Al: I- well, that's not exactly why- I really wasn't trying to run-

Coach: You lying little piece of pigshit. Get over here! *(He drags Al back into the Office waiting room.)* You sit right down in this fucking chair and you don't move a muscle until you are dismissed by the Emperor. *(noticing Kat)* Sweetie, what are you doing here?

Kat: Dad, I'm not in trouble. At least, I think I'm not. I don't know why I was called here.

Coach: You weren't in class with your mother?

Kat: No, Dad. I was in Mrs. Moravia's class.

Coach: So you had nothing to do with any of that mess?

Kat: No, Dad, I swear! I don't even know what happened. What is going on?

Coach: It's alright, Katharina. Look, I'm sorry I yelled at you. Daddy's a little stressed right now and he's got a lot of work left to do so he can't explain everything right now, but we can talk about this after school. Ok? I promise, it all seems crazy now, but everything's gonna be fine. *(to AI)* What are you looking at?

AI: Nothing, sir.

Kat: Hey AI.

AI: Hey Kat.

Coach: Sweetie, don't talk to him. Actually, don't even sit next to him. There's a seat right there. *(she changes seats)* As for you, von Wallenstein, I hope you like havin a numb bum cause you have earned the distinct privilege of watching tonight's game with your ass stapled to the bench. You better think long and hard about the choices you've made, son.

AI: Yes, coach. I will, coach.