Luxury

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I wake up and look at the clock. 9:29. Crap! I’m going to be late to Knutsen’s class again! I hurriedly toss off my blankets and rush to get my socks and shoes on. My mouth is filled with the vulgar taste of food particles starting to decay between my canines, but I haven’t the time to brush. I’m more concerned with making it to class early enough to at least answer a few questions of the quiz. Grabbing my keys, phone, wallet, I stop to turn off the damned alarm before I snatch my vanilla yogurt from the fridge and rush from the room, racing myself to L204. All the while I mutter horrible and possibly untrue things that my therapist says I shouldn’t say: “Damn it Ben! What the hell is wrong with you? Why can’t you do anything right?”

Slinking into class with a prayer that I don’t disrupt my classmates, I take a seat next to the stickbug John Greenwood. “Hey man, can I get a piece of paper please?” Checking my pockets, I add, “Do you have a pen I can borrow?” I’m sure John is not surprised by this, and bless his soul he gives me one. Knutsen asks us to write the answer to some old quiz question, don’t ask me what, something about some book I probably didn’t finish because I work myself to death twenty-five hours a week in the cafeteria. Fortunately, when the quiz is over, she gives us a free-write; I love those things, so my mood picks up.

Class over, I go to chapel and sit next to Sir Geoff, who is both regally dignified and an assured nerd, and the bitingly sarcastic Angry Tim. We talk about my visit with our jovial Mexican buddy Jeremiah Drelleshak and his internship over at the ELCA Queen Anne Lutheran up in Seattle. “What’s up with their theology? Are they just lazy or something?” Tim asks, referring to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. (Tim and Geoff are LCMS – Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod.) “I think they’re just concerned with looking good,”