Once upon a time in a school not so very disparate from yours, a young man named Charlie Excess led a very dull one-sided life. All day he attended horribly hard high school and all evening his proboscis was buried in his books.

And Charlie was a straight A student who did naught but attend class, study, and sleep. He never attended parties, did not participate in any sports, and doesn’t know any girls except Suzie Meritorious and he isn’t even sure what she looks like since her nose is always buried in a textbook such as The Joys of Boring English.
while charlies parents were pleased with his
grades they still found a plethora of picky things
to nag and torture their only son with. wow even
though charlie earned all A’s his parents
pondered why he didn’t get all A+’s being good
wasn’t good enough

further bones of contention between charlie and
his carping parents was charlies room and
charlies bedtime. Charlie made his bed daily put
his squalid clothing in the hamper and throws
all trash in the appropriate place but his parents
still nagged a lot
and his mom the neat freak fretted because the bedspread wasn’t tucked appropriately around the pillow she didn’t except any excuses. his desk was never neat enough too please his mom horror of horrors their were school books piled primly on top.

charlies dad the disciplinarian and martinet in the family complained if charlies light was on 1 minute after ten o’clock, even when Charlie had to study for a major test. charlies parents nagged him about bedtime laundry comestibles his clothes and his room in short they are never satisfied.
and charlie abhorred it. i’m a good kid he said to himself I don’t do bad things like other kids do he muttered. why do they always pick on me he groused to himself as he walked to the library to study.

charlie as usual spent the evening setting in a very uncomfortable gray study carrel at the library. it was saturday night september 15th 1991 in zelienople pennsylvania and no one inhabited the library except a few librarians that charlie knew by name and suzie meritorious who is ensconced in a book as usual
#9

charlie was depressed his parents carped constantly and his teachers especially mrs longpapers his English teacher encumbered him with a redoubtable amount of work and he had no friends and he never had any fun. charlie just new that his teachers in order to pique the students got together to diabolically plan big assignments that are due on the same day.

#10

ive grown 10 inches in the passed year and my mirror tells me that im beginning to look good despite the glasses. where are the girls he ruminated. hi suzie he said to the apex of suzies head
#11
ugh charles go away i'm studying mumbled suzie masticating the end of her pencil and lying the book *equally boring math* flat on the table. I’ve had ENOUGH yelled charlie shocking all the saturday night patrons of the *athenaeum*. Shut up stupid whispered suzie your a crazy swine

#12
but deciding on a course of action though is *arduous*. cogitating for an hour charlies foot went to sleep in the process but he finally came up with a solution
basketball! that's the ticket im tall and i used to be good when i was in middle school and i like it he told himself. hush you dullard hissed suzie your perturbing me. so for the next month charlie practiced every afternoon without surcease for 3 hours

he staunchly practiced his jump shots and he practiced his lay up shots and he has risen his basket average. he purchased protection goggles to cover the thick vexatious spectacles that he hated but which made him see good
#15
Charlie entirely abandoned his studies. He gullied his parents by reading books at night about basketball heroes and strategies.

#16
Finally Charlie tried out for the school's basketball team scared but strangely sanguine and makes the cut. Ecstatic Charlie's devotion to the sport is renewed
#17

practicing daily until the sun set Charlie got so adroit at basketball that he could make the basket from a distance of 30 feet. he became the ablest forward horribly hard high school had ever had for 3 reasons his lay up shots his jump shots and his uncanny ability to adroitly purloin the ball from the other team.

#18

girls flocked to his side like mosquitoes to a bare arm and they asked him for dates. andbasking in all the attention every saturday night charlie went out with a different girl.
the rest of his time however charlie blithely spent practicing at the hoop. Near the closure of 1 game charlie was 30 feet from the basket and everyone in the crowd were on their feet

a giraffe like player from the other team traipsed up too establish a screen. after he assayed the situation the ball was knocked out of the wraith like arms of his opponent by charlie who was able to reach in
#21

he grabbed the bouncing spheroid ran down the court and dashed in for a lay up shot. whoopee this gambit won the game for the horribly hard high school harum-scarums.

#22

overnight charlie the hero becomes the most popular stripling in the entire teenager filled school. finally in the middle of a particularly truculent game charlie realizes that his life still palled
#23

i live and eat and breathe basketball and i'm not having any fun he deduced and applause and accolades aren’t enough.” hey stop mumbling and play ball charlie blustered the coach as charlie missed a shot like a complete novice

#24

lost in his dolor lugubrious heavyhearted charlie didn’t hear. what about girls he whimpered to himself. a plethora of girls hang on me because i'm the star of the team but a dearth of them would be their if I was no longer a hero
#25
hey watch the ball charlie shouted the coach when charlie lost in his musings missed another shot. okay my parents carp at me all the time too he reiterated and me and my sister don’t get along either.

#26
the coach vociferated from the side hey charlie keep your wits on the game or your out. i'm lonely and disconsolate even in the limelight breathing basketball all the time is know fun concluded charlie.
#27

hey set on the sidelines cretin bellowed the coach disgusted by charlies performance. charlie ceased to practice basketball at home he became a total hedonist a pleasure animal grooving on lifes amenities

#28

finding a comely girl who he could love and getting to the next party occupy his every thought. rationalizing that his parents were on to him for everything anyway it was a moot point to study at all charlie thought.
Charlie began to imbibe a lot of beer at parties and he commenced smoking cigarettes to look cool. Climbing through his bedroom window, Charlie covertly snuck out almost every night to go to parties, drink and smoke.

His diminutive younger sister, Melinda, smelled the smoke and alcohol on him and blackmailed him for her silence. Charlie has become the original party animal and he no longer even makes a pretense of studying.
he partied with a plethora of girls but he couldn’t remember the appellations of any of these who he had feted with. needless to say charlies basketball prowess dissipated.

all the other players’ games were affected too they had come to depend on stalwart charlies moves. while charlie showed up for games he did not disport himself good he couldn’t throw the ball further than his little sister melinda
#33
he was too dissipated from all the partying to show up at all the practices and he plays bad when he did go. When his grades plummeted below a 2.0 the mandatory grade point average necessary to participate in sports the coach ousted him from the team.

#34
charlies parents blood pressure hit the proverbial roof when report cards came out. There son had become belligerent to adults slothful around the house and neglectful of his homework
#35

mr and mrs excess became livid choleric and raging creatures. With much disappointment and acrimony they grounded their iniquitous son within an inch of his young life

#36

charlies father even slept in his room in order to keep him from clandestinely sneaking out at night. Charlie found out that his sinewy athletic and partying friends from his hedonistic days had all been of the fair-weather type.
The group of partying dudes who Charlie had associated with forsook their new friend. Charlie's former basketball team feigned ignorance of their former mate's name.

Even Charlie's vexatious little sister Melinda has nothing to do with her big brother for a few days. Hapless ostracized Charlie was miserable, lonely and woebegone.
he realized that the alcohol had dulled his mind and that he couldn’t remember much from the party's except that the conversation had been repetitive and vapid. the cigarette smoke he had inhaled rendered him breathless when he tries to run

what am i going to do he lamented to his sister. he had sunk so low that he even solicited his little sisters advice. go get help and bring up your grades melinda suggested propitiously trying to be sympathetic
where melinda charlie asked i feel **alienated** and **estranged** from everyone and i have disappointed our parents and they really are nice caring people and i wont go to college if i can’t improve my grades. melinda **interjected** talk to mom when mom follows you to school to **ensure** that you get their that will be a start

the next day as his mother and him stood outside mrs longpapersss english class charlie asked his **sage progenitor** for suggestions. Mom what can i do he **queried** i'm so confused and I hate studying all the time and playing basketball constantly is no fun, and being a total **hedonist** just isn’t for me.
all i ever wanted was to find a close friend my age and to occasionally play basketball having a girlfriend would help to he concluded lugubriously. why don’t you go see the guidance counselor mrs excess suggested sagaciously. she would be an objective third party sort of like an independent mediator

she added tactfully that maybe it would be a good idea for her husband and she to go see a counselor too. both her and charlie felt much better after this conversation. charlie goes to ascertain whether the guidance counselor can help him and she was an astute gray haired lady that had seen her share of teenagers problems
moderation charlie she advised temperance is the clue to your happiness you try to hard to live up to your last name she added jocularly. Would you proffer that advice to my parents to charlie entreated in a voice like that of a small child

i'd be delighted articulated the kind understanding counselor smiling at charlie with a friendly grin. charlies and his parents life changed charlie tempered his studying with short daily bouts of basketball his parents stopped clamoring for all A+'s and settled for A’s and B’s
and when charlies grades waxed to a 3.5 average on the next report card he rejoined the basketball team. one saturday night charlie perambulated to the library. there was suzie proboscis buried as usual in a tome.

charlie preempted her book and took her chin gently in his hand he removed her spectacles and looked her in the eye. you've not been my friend because we've never talked but you have been my library companion for years. please be my friend he supplicated.
suzie looked at him through big green orbs filled with tears. You are the only boy who i like she whispered i could use a friend. Charlie told suzie about learning to live a life of moderation suzie quivered with joy since she to had been lonely and unhappy

suzie and charlie inaugurated study groups with other students and they commenced dating each other and charlie gives suzie his class ring they had study dates where they studied between kisses. charlie and suzie give paper parties where a group of kids got together and wrote their papers for school commiserating over the hard work
P.S.
life was palatable tempered and even fun when charlie realized how nice and helpful his parents were and he frequently went to them for there sage advice

P.P.S.
in her cheerful office the guidance counselor smiled and beckoned in the next student