

PRETEEN MALE DRAMA

HEY, KID

BILLY leans in to JOEY. They're both in detention.

BILLY

Hey, Johnnie.

JOEY

Joey...my name's Joey.

BILLY

Whatever. What're you doin' here...in detention?

JOEY

I cheated on my algebra test.

BILLY

You're crazy. You're like the smartest kid in the class. You didn't need to cheat.

JOEY

I know. I wanted to.

BILLY

That doesn't make any sense.

JOEY

Not to you. To you...I'm invisible.

BILLY

You don't look so invisible to me. I mean, you're sittin' right next to me.

JOEY

And you know my name?

BILLY

Ah...Jerry. Right?

JOEY

See...to you I might as well be anonymous.

BILLY

I don't know what that means..."anonymous."

JOEY

It just means I could just be anybody...or nobody. I'm tired of bein' nobody.

BILLY

So you cheated on the algebra test...on purpose? (after a moment)

It ain't gonna work. This little plan of yours. By this time next week you'll just be...ah...what was that word you used?

JOEY

Anonymous.

BILLY

Yeah. Next Wednesday you're gonna be anonymous again. I'm a pro at this. This is like my tenth week in a row in detention. I'm goin' for the school record – twenty five weeks in a row. I'm gonna take down Ricki Swisher. He's a legend.

JOEY

Can I help? I mean, I could be Robin to your Batman.

BILLY

This ain't comic book stuff. The trick is, you gotta do somethin' serious enough to get detention, but not so serious ya get suspended. The problem is...I'm runnin' out of ideas.

JOEY

I'm pretty good with ideas. What've you done so far?

BILLY

I set all the frogs loose in the biology lab.

JOEY

That was a good one.

BILLY

Thanks. But it wasn't my best work. And I think it had been done before.

JOEY

You need something really big.

BILLY

You got any ideas?

JOEY

I'll come up with something. But I'm gonna want something in return. You gotta promise me everyone will know I helped you. At least promise me you'll remember me. You see me in the hallway, you say: "Hey." Maybe one day a week you have lunch with me...or at least you let me sit at the same table with you and the other bad boys.

BILLY

I'd be okay with that. (PAUSE) So...what've you got for me?

JOEY

(after a moment)

The big fish tank in the lobby, right next to the office. You put food coloring in it.

BILLY

It won't kill the fish? I mean, we don't wanna kill the fish. That would get me suspended.

JOEY

The fish will be fine. (PAUSE) What do you think? ...we're a team?

BILLY

We'll see. Just keep the ideas comin, Jeffy.

JOEY

Joey...my name's Joey.

BILLY

Whatever you say.

END SCENE

PRETEEN MALE DRAMA

IN THE CLOSET

JAKE

Did you hear that? Sounds like something's in the closet. It's gotta be the boogeyman.

MIKE

My dad says there's no such thing as the boogeyman.

JAKE

You believe in Santa Claus...right?

MIKE

Sure. And he looks just like my Uncle Jeb...if he had a long whitebeard.

JAKE

So if there's a Santa Claus, there has to be a boogeyman.

MIKE

Why?

JAKE

Well, when we're nice...Santa brings us presents.

MIKE

So?

JAKE

So...when we do something naughty, something bad has to happen. That's what the boogeyman is for.

MIKE

What do you think the boogeyman looks like?

JAKE

Mr. Watson...the school principle...with long sharp teeth.

Both boys jump as they hear a noise.

JAKE, cont. (re:the noise)

There it is again.

MIKE

There's definitely something in the closet.

Jake moves carefully toward the closet door.

JAKE

We know you're in there.

MIKE

How could he get in the closet?

JAKE

How does Santa Claus get down the chimney?

MIKE (Mike moves closer to the closet door.)

Look, Mr. Watson, I'm sorry I ran in the hallway yesterday. I won't do it again.

JAKE

You think he believes you?

MIKE

I hope so.

END SCENE