

THE LOSER'S CLUB

Written by

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Based on the Stage Play

"The Loser's Club"

By

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FADE IN:

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. - CLARKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - BAND HALL -
LATE AFTERNOON

The scene is blurry, but slowly comes into focus and we see TOPSANNAH PETA JOHNSON (17), A naturally beautiful Native American girl, quiet, and genuinely authentic. She is standing by the side of the high school band hall. She is alone and playing a flute. Her flute case and backpack are by her feet.

Suddenly TWO BIG TEENAGE BOYS WEARING COYOTE MASKS seemingly come out of nowhere and corner Topsannah. Topsannah lets out a small scream as she is obviously surprised.

TOPSANNAH

Oh. You guys scared me.

COYOTE #1

Now what's a pretty thing like you waitin' all alone out here?

Coyote #2 takes out his cell phone and starts filming.

TOPSANNAH

(obviously nervous)

I'm waiting for my Mom to pick me up. I just finished band practice. Are you filming me?

COYOTE #1

Sure are. We're making a video and you're gonna be our star.

COYOTE #2

Just like Hollywood...

COYOTE #1

I'll tell you what, why don't we go somewhere a lot less...uh...open.

COYOTE #2

Yeah. Somewhere a lot more private.

Topsannah tries to move away, but both "Coyotes" block her from going anywhere.

TOPSANNAH

I'm good, thanks

COYOTE #1

Oh, we know you are.

They both grab Topsannah's arms and start to take her behind the band hall.

As they turn to go behind the band hall, again, seemingly out of nowhere, stands a tall, well-built YOUNG MAN with a Zorro mask on. The "Coyotes" are obviously afraid of the masked man and let go of Topsannah.

MASKED MAN

Going somewhere?

The "Coyotes" howl as the Masked Man grabs Coyote #2's phone, throws it on the ground, and smashes it with his foot. Both Coyotes run away, howling as they go. The Masked Man faces Topsannah.

TOPSANNAH

Who are you?

MASKED MAN

Your hero, of course.

Topsannah starts to say something, but before she can, the Masked Man takes off his mask to reveal JOE TAYLOR(17), tall, well-built, as well as handsome, and the high school star quarterback. As he starts to kiss Topsannah...

An alarm clock goes off.(O.S.)

END DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. TOPSANNAH'S BEDROOM: EARLY MORNING

Topsannah slowly opens her eyes and smiles.

THE CAMERA ZOOMS THROUGH TOPSANNAH'S BEDROOM WINDOW, ACROSS HOUSES AND RESIDENTIAL STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS, ACROSS THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FOOTBALL FIELD TO AN OLD UNUSED WING OF CLARKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL. THE CAMERA CONTINUES TO ZOOM THROUGH A BROKEN WINDOW IN ONE OF THE ABANDONED CLASSROOMS.

FADE IN:

INT. OLD WING OF CLARKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL. UNUSED CLASSROOM - EARLY MORNING

An ordinary classroom like any other in America, except that it is no longer in use. All the windows but one are boarded up.

There is an old wooden platform and a teacher's desk with an old wooden chair behind.

There are two more wooden chairs randomly placed in the room. Old metal folding chairs are stacked against a wall.

There is also a lopsided chalkboard on one wheel, propped against the wall. The chalkboard is illuminated by the light of the rising sun that seeps through the unboarded window.

Written at the top of the chalkboard and centered are the printed words "THE LOSER'S CLUB" in an ominous font in white chalk.

CUE THEME MUSIC

EXT. CLARKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, TEXAS - MORNING

Students arrive for school and join up with their friends before heading for class.

The school Marquee announces: REPLASTIC CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS TODAY. RUIN ROOSEVELT. GO COYOTES in big bold letters. The Marquee is encased in glass. A SCHOOL CUSTODIAN sprays something over the hand-written word "REPLASTIC" and wipes over the word to reveal REPLACEMENT.

Students mingle in front of the school. Some are in groups and some are alone, talking on their cell phones, texting, studying.

CALVIN ANDERSON(17), wears glasses that are secured with a paracord. He is a good looking teenager, but because of his stutter, his looks often go unnoticed. Calvin locks his bike to one of the bike stands and starts to walk toward the front doors of the school, oblivious to the fact that Joe, SKEETER CRAIG(18), six feet tall and all cowboy and JIM BOB THORNTON(17), built like a wrestler are right behind him. All three jocks are in their letterman jackets. Jim Bob, directly behind Calvin, "links" his foot around Calvin's and Calvin goes sprawling on the lawn of the school. Jim Bob goes to him and offers his hand to help him up.

JIM BOB

Sorry, man. Here, let me help you up?

Calvin reaches for Jim Bob's hand. Immediately Jim Bob withdraws his hand.

JIM BOB (CONT'D)

Ps-Ps-Ps-Psych!

The three jocks laugh and begin to walk away.

CYNTHIA HENDERSON(17), overweight and extremely bright, and LIZZY BISHOP(17), fearless and gay, rush over to Calvin and help him up.

TOPSANNAH

Are you okay?

CALVIN

I'm f-f-fine. Sh-Sh-Sh-Should've h-h-h-heard them c-c-c-c-coming. You'd th-th-th-think after all th-th-this time, I'd kn-kn-kn-know better.

LIZZY

What idiots.

CALVIN

N-N-N-No argument there. Hey g-g-g-good luck today.

LIZZY

Yeah, you and Kevin are going to do great!

CYNTHIA

Kevin will. Not so sure about me. Will you guys be there?

CALVIN

Of c-c-c-course.

LIZZY

Wouldn't miss it.

CALVIN

Off t-t-to the L-L-L-Library. See you g-g-g-guys at l-l-l-lunch.

Calvin looks over his shoulder to make sure he is not followed and goes through the front doors of the high school. Lizzy and Cynthia see Topsannah, who is sitting under a nearby tree on the front lawn of the school, reading the school's newspaper. They join her.

LIZZY

Anything interesting? Or just the same old BS?

Lizzy looks over Topsannah's shoulder.

TOPSANNAH

Don't forget I'm on the newspaper staff.

CYNTHIA

Which is the only reason I read it. At least your photos are always interesting.

LIZZY

Except this one. Geez, another photo of Tawny. Just what the world needs.

TOPSANNAH

Yeah, I took that last week.

CYNTHIA

What for?

TOPSANNAH

She was elected the FFA Sweetheart.

CYNTHIA

Of course she was.

LIZZY

The what?

TOPANNAH

You know. The Future Farmers elect a sweetheart every year.

LIZZY

What do Future Farmers need a sweetheart for? Just put a bow on one of those huge sows they raise. Same thing.

TOPANNAH

Lizzy!

LIZZY

What? It's all so stupid.

TOPSANNAH

I don't know...Don't you ever think about what it would be like to be...like...popular?

CYNTHIA

You mean like Tawny and her crew?

TOPSANNAH

No! I mean nice popular. Just like we are now, but...you... know...popular.

LIZZY

Define popular. I mean we're popular with each other.

CYNTHIA

Or do you mean popular like getting elected to stuff?

TOPSANNAH

Yeah. Like being...say, homecoming queen. I know it sounds stupid.

CYNTHIA

No more stupid than me trying out for cheerleader. And for the record, I think you'd make a beautiful homecoming queen.

LIZZY

Ditto.

CYNTHIA

I guess I've thought about it... ya know, what it would be like to be nominated for something.

LIZZY

Not me. I hate all that stuff. I think all that shit, king and queen nonsense, is pointless. I mean if people like you or Cynthia got nominated it'd be cool, but the same people always get nominated and the same people always win.

CYNTHIA

I don't know. I mean there's nothing inherently wrong with wanting to be recognized. And I don't think contest are necessarily a bad thing if they're not just based on popularity.

LIZZY

But that's just it. They are popularity contest, based on looks or who has what or who's dating who. It's all bullshit.

TOPSANNAH

Remember Beatrice from our freshman year?

LIZZY

Dude, I loved Beatrice. I was so bummed when she moved.

TOPSANNAH

I know. Anyway, she wasn't part of the popular crowd and she wasn't what most people would consider pretty.

LIZZY

Yeah. She had that huge birthmark on her face.

TOPSANNAH

But she was elected class favorite that year.

CYNTHIA

Because we all got behind her and voted for her.

LIZZY

I'll admit, that was one of the few times someone won something who really deserved it.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL. FRONT STEPS

Joe, Skeeter, and Jim Bob are joined by TAWNY HARRIS(17), very beautiful and completely self-absorbed, and ROSA GARCIA(17), pretty and petite. Both Tawny and Rosa are in their cheerleading uniforms.

TAWNY

Can't wait till these stupid cheerleading tryouts are over.

JOE

If you hate it so much, why do you do it?

TAWNY

Because I look so hot in a short skirt.

JIM BOB

True dat!

ROSA

I just hope we get a decent girl to replace Beth.

TAWNY

No fats or fags.

Tawny and Rosa high five.

JOE

Man, you guys are brutal!

TAWNY

Oh please. Who wants to look at a fat cheerleader?

JIM BOB

True dat.

TAWNY

(in a cloyingly manner)
 Much less a guy cheerleader. Unless of course, there's something you want to share with us, Joe.

JOE

Hey Skeeter, aren't we suppose to be nominating for homecoming queen soon?

TAWNY

Okay. Okay. I'm kidding. You're the best, most handsome football player in the state of Texas.

JOE

(imitating Jim Bob)
 True dat!

As they all laugh, POOH COLLINS, 17, a huge senior and tackle on the football team with a mop of curly black hair, starts to walk up the front steps.

JOE (CONT'D)

Hey, Pooh.

POOH

Hey, Joe.

Pooh starts to walk past Joe and his friends, but Skeeter stops him.

SKEETER

Come on, Pooh, take a load off. No pun intended.

POOH

Naw. I need to go to the library and study for Mr. Soden's test.

SKEETER

Dude, you'll ace it like you always do.

JIM BOB

Yeah, besides, you sit across from that chick, Cynthia. Just copy off her.

POOH

That'd be cheating.

JIM BOB

So. Everybody cheats.

TAWNY

Some people have principles, JB.

SKEETER

Yeah. I heard you had the principal several times.

Skeeter and Jim Bob laugh.

TAWNY

That is so disgusting.

ROSA

Ewww. He's so gross.

A GIRL(16), bordering on obese with shoulder length black hair, heads for the front doors of the school. She sees Joe and crew and lowers her head as she passes them. Both Pooh and Skeeter rush to open the two large front doors; Skeeter one door and Pooh the other one. The girl looks up and starts to smile and say something...

SKEETER

Didn't think you'd be able to make it through just one door.

The girl, horrified, puts her head down again and quickly walks inside the building.

Everyone is laughing, but Joe and Pooh.

POOH
Come on, Man!

SKEETER
What? I was just being polite.

Pooh just shakes his head.

JIM BOB
Oh I think Pooh's in love.

POOH
Why'd you have to do that?

SKEETER
I thought it was funny.

POOH
Hurting someone's feelings is not funny.

SKEETER
Geez, Pooh, She'll get over it.
Besides I'm sure it's not the first time.

TAWNY
I mean you have to be... big for football, right? But what's her excuse?

Pooh has obviously had enough and walks inside the building.

The bell rings and students start heading inside the building.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL BATHROOM

KEVIN MAYFIELD(17), small for his age, a gymnast and most likely has ADHD, comes out of a toilet cubicle grimacing and wiping his mouth.

He goes to one of the bathroom sinks. ANOTHER BOY is at a urinal.

KEVIN
(to himself as he looks
into the mirror)
Damn breakfast burritos.

Joe, Jim Bob, and Skeeter walk into the bathroom. Kevin spins around, looks at the three jocks, and simply sighs as if he knows exactly what is about to happen. The boy at the urinal immediately flushes and runs out the door.

JOE

Just thought we'd check up on a fellow classmate and make sure you're alright!

JIM BOB

Seeing how's the cheerleading tryouts are today.

Jim Bob takes his cell phone out of his pocket and starts filming.

KEVIN

Really, guys? Again? The bells about to ring.

SKEETER

I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing than dunking your faggoty ass head in a toilet.

KEVIN

Wow, Skeeter, I didn't know you liked me so much.

Skeeter grabs Kevin by the collar.

SKEETER

You being a smart ass, you little prick?

JOE

Now look what you've done. You've gone and made Skeeter mad.

SKEETER

Yeah, I think you've earned yourself a super duper dunkin.' You gettin' this JB?

JIM BOB

Oh yeah.

Joe joins Skeeter in grabbing Kevin by the arm and they both grab Kevin's legs. Kevin's attempts to resist are futile and they carry him over to a toilet cubicle.

KEVIN

Come on guys... Give me a...

They lower Kevin face first into the toilet while he struggles in vain to break free.

They keep his face down under water for a couple of seconds and Jim Bob flushes the toilet. After it stops flushing, Skeeter and Joe lift Kevin's head out of the toilet.

JOE

Okay. That's enough.

SKEETER

Hell, naw. We're just getting started.

JOE

I said that's enough.

Skeeter reluctantly helps Joe place Kevin on his feet.

Kevin gasps for air and slides down the wall of the stall, eventually sitting down. Skeeter and Jim Bob exit the stall and stand by the stall door.

SKEETER

You get that? Let me see.

Both Skeeter and Jim Bob replay what Jim Bob filmed and they both laugh raucously.

SKEETER (CONT'D)

Oh Dude, that's hilarious. Look at his face!

Both boys continue to laugh as Joe goes and gets some paper towels and hands them to Kevin. Kevin knocks his hand away. Joe drops them on the ground.

SKEETER (CONT'D)

(to Kevin)

Lucky Joe stopped us. Not sure I would've let you up.

JOE

Give it a rest, Skeeter. Let's go.

JIM BOB

Check instagram, faggot. You're about to be famous...again!

Laughing, Joe, Skeeter, and Jim Bob exit the bathroom. Kevin sits on the floor of the stall. He picks up the paper towels and wipes his face with them.

KEVIN

Shit.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY.

Joe, Jim Bob, and Skeeter walk down the hall as if they own it. LUTHER WASHINGTON(17), good-looking, but has cerebral palsy and walks with a cane, stands by his locker.

As the three football players pass by Luther, Skeeter accidentally bumps into Luther, knocking him against the lockers. He drops his cane in the process.

SKEETER

Damn retard! Watch where you're going.

Joe, Skeeter, and Jim Bob continue strutting down the hall.

LUTHER

(Shouting after them)

Hey...You watch where you're going...and I'm not a retard.

JOE, SKEETER, and JIM BOB stop and turn around.

SKEETER

Be right back.

JOE

Skeeter...

SKEETER

(without turning around)

Don't worry... I got this.

LUTHER just stands there, wide-eyed as SKEETER approaches.

SKEETER (CONT'D)

(mimicking Luther as if he has cerebral palsy)

Wha'd you say, retard?

Before Luther can respond, TRENTON OLGLETREE(17), walks up behind Luther, picks up Luther's cane, and hands it to him. Trenton is a sight to behold! He has a mohawk, but dyed pink and he is covered with tattoos and piercings. He is tall and well-built and wears black Levi's, with a black t-shirt, black leather jacket, and black combat boots. His nails are also painted black and he is obviously wearing black eyeliner.

TRENTON

I believe he said, and I quote, You watch where you are going. End of quote.

SKEETER

Uh, I'm not talking to you, bro.
I'm talking to the retard here.

TRENTON

One, I'm not your "bro." Two,
Luther is not a retard and three,
you need to walk away. Now.

SKEETER

Or what? You gonna hit me with your
purse?

Trenton walks in front of Luther and stands nose to nose with Skeeter.

TRENTON

You really don't want to find out.

By this time, everyone in the hallway has stopped what they were doing and watches the confrontation. Jim Bob starts to go to the aid of his friend, but Joe stops him.

SKEETER

Uh, you've messed with the wrong
dude, faggot...

Skeeter swings at Trenton, but Trenton anticipates it and hits Skeeter first. Skeeter staggers back several paces, wiping blood from his mouth. He looks up and growls and charges at Trenton. Trenton sidesteps as Skeeter swings. Trenton grabs Skeeter's arm and bends it behind his back and throws him to the ground. Students "ooh" and "ahh" as Skeeter yells in pain, clutching his arm. Several teachers run out of their classrooms, including MR. SAM BLAKE, (60's), an English teacher, and MS. MURPHY, (late 50's), a theatre arts teacher. She is colorfully dressed and wearing large red glasses. They have to break through the crowd of students to get to Skeeter.

MRS. MURPHY

Let us through please. Coming
through.

Mr. Blake bends down and looks at Skeeter's arm.

MR. BLAKE

Good night. Mrs. Murphy, will you
take Skeeter to the nurse's office?

MRS. MURPHY

Of course.

Both Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Blake help Skeeter to his feet.
 PRINCIPAL BRIDGES (60's), the no-nonsense high school principal appears.

PRINCIPAL BRIDGES
 What's going on here?

SKEETER
 (whining and obviously in pain, he points to Trenton)
 That freak broke my arm.

MR. BLAKE
 (quietly to Principal Bridges)
 Looks like he might need to go to the hospital.

Mr. Blake looks at Trenton and shakes his head.

PRINCIPAL BRIDGES
 Mr. Ogletree, You're coming with me. Everyone else get to class. Show's over.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM. AFTER SCHOOL

The gym is full of GIRLS and SEVERAL BOYS who are trying out for cheerleader. A handful of students who are supporting their friends are sitting in the bleachers, including Lizzy, Topsannah, and Calvin. Tawny and Rosa, the only seniors on the cheerleading squad, are sitting in the first row of the bleachers. They are joined by Jim Bob and TREY MORRISON(17). Trey is tall and skinny and wearing a cowboy hat. He is definitely a future farmer. COACH BLACKLOCK, 50's, a former cheerleader and current cheerleading sponsor, and Mrs. Murphy are sitting at a table directly in front of the bleachers. Mr. Blake and Principal Bridges are standing on either side of the door to the gym. As several students enter the gym...

MR. BLAKE
 Mind if I ask if you suspended Trenton? I mean he was defending Luther.

PRINCIPAL BRIDGES
 That may be true, but you know we have zero tolerance for any kind of violence, Sam.

MR. BLAKE
 I know, but...

PRINCIPAL BRIDGES

And because he did break Mr. Craig's arm, the police were called. We thankfully convinced Mr. & Mrs. Craig not to press charges...

MR. BLAKE

That's a relief.

PRINCIPAL BRIDGES

...But he will be put on probation nonetheless, not to mention being in detention until he graduates.

MR. BLAKE

Better than suspension.

COACH BLACKLOCK

Alright. We're ready for our next group of candidates...If you'll take your seat again, Mr. Blake.

Mr. Blake sits at the table.

PRINCIPAL BRIDGES

(to Coach Blacklock)

Continued good luck with the tryouts, Coach.

Principal Bridges exits the gym.

COACH BLACKLOCK

(to Mr. Blake)

Wha'd he say?

MR. BLAKE

No charges or suspension.

COACH BLACKLOCK

Thank the good Lord.

MR. BLAKE

I know.

COACH BLACKLOCK

(addressing the crowd)

Okay. Our next cheerleader candidate is Candace Morrison.

CANDACE MORRISON(16), a very petite and pretty African-American steps forward and faces the judges.

COACH BLACKLOCK (CONT'D)
Whenever you're ready, Candace.

Candace pauses for a brief moment and then begins her routine. Her cheer is perfect and her acrobatics are superb. The gym erupts in applause as Candace walks back to the waiting area with the other cheerleading hopefuls. The judges exchange enthusiastic looks and write on the score cards.

COACH BLACKLOCK (CONT'D)
Okay. Kevin Mayfield. You're up.

Kevin begins to walk to the center of the gym. As he passes Tawny, Rosa, Jim Bob, and Trey, Jim Bob and Trey pretend to cough to cover...

JIM BOB/TREY
Faggot.

Kevin doesn't even look at them, but with his hands behind his back, flips them off. Without missing a beat, he continues to the center of the stage.

COACH BLACKLOCK
When you're ready.

Kevin also pauses before he begins. His cheer is also flawless and his gymnastics expertise is in full force as he does several backflips before ending his routine. Again, the crowd cheers and applauds loudly.

MRS. MURPHY
Wow! This is not going to be easy.

MR. BLAKE
I agree. We've seen some
incredible routines.

MRS. MURPHY
And such a diverse group. I love
that. Who's next, Coach?

COACH BLACKLOCK
(looking at her clipboard)
That would be...Cynthia. Cynthia
Henderson. You're next.

Cynthia looks a little nervous, but also excited.

KEVIN
You got this, Cyn.

Cynthia just nods her head in agreement and walks to the center of the gym.

Cynthia makes the mistake of looking in the direction where Tawny, Rosa, Jim Bob, and Trey are sitting. They all have their hands on their nose, and make sounds like a pig.

TAWNY/ROSA/JIM BOB/TREY
Oink! Oink! Oink!

They and several other students start laughing.

COACH BLACKLOCK
Quiet or I'll clear the gym. Okay,
Cynthia, the floor's yours.

Cynthia turns away from Tawny and Rosa. She lowers her head for a brief moment and then lifts it as she begins her cheer. Although she is overweight, she is surprisingly agile and although not as good as Kevin or Candace, she holds her own.

Cynthia looks at her friends who are standing and applauding wildly and smiles.

JIM BOB
Wow! She was pretty good.

TAWNY
Shut up, JB.

INT. UNUSED CLASSROOM, CLARKSVILLE HIGH - AFTERNOON

Cynthia, Trenton, Topsannah, Kevin, and Lizzy, are talking in their make-shift "hangout," the unused classroom we've seen before. Kevin and Cynthia are sitting on the two wooden chairs side by side. Trenton is pacing and Luther and Calvin are at the chalkboard.

There is a knock on the classroom door. It is very specific and obviously a secret knock. Kevin jumps up and goes to open the door. Pooh enters.

KEVIN
Hey Pooh, how'd you get out of practice?

POOH
It was cut short today. Coaches had a meeting. How'd cheerleading tryouts go?

KEVIN
Cynthia was awesome.

CALVIN
S-S-S-Seriously.

CYNTHIA

Thanks. I was okay. I certainly wasn't going to let Tawny and her neanderthal minions ruin my tryout.

TOPSANNAH

You are definitely a better woman than I am. I would have choked right then and there.

CYNTHIA

And give them the satisfaction of seeing me fail? No way. Besides I know I don't have a chance of making the squad, but I wanted to prove that you don't have to have the body of a model to be a cheerleader or at least tryout.

KEVIN

You're my new superhero...or I guess it would be super-heroine.

CYNTHIA

Just remember that when you make the squad and...

(in a British accent))

... are elevated to the ranks of high school royalty.

KEVIN

Yeah, right. I mainly tried out just to piss Tawny off.

CYNTHIA

Between the two of us, it must have been a disappointing day for the Queen of "Biatchness!"

POOH

When do you start Detention, Trenton?

TRENTON

Monday.

POOH

At least you didn't get suspended.

TOPSANNAH

Or go to jail.

KEVIN

So Trenton, what are we meeting for?

TRENTON

Luther, are you and Calvin about done.

LUTHER

Yeah. Pretty much.

TRENTON

Since we all decided to document any and all cases of bullying since the beginning of the school year, Luther and Calvin have been working on putting all the data together and making some kind of sense out of it. And after the incident with Luther today, I thought we needed to hear what they've come up with so far.

CALVIN

Yeah. E-E-Everyone needs to l-l-l-look at the b-b-b-board. The d-d-d-data is pretty r-r-raw...

LUTHER

But like Trenton said, through observation, a lot of investigation, and some estimation, we've come up with this simple graph that details the types of assaults and the number of times these assaults have been committed on us or other students not members of The Loser's Club.

CALVIN

Es-s-s-entially e-e-e-everybody else.

LUTHER

The most common forms of bullying and aggression are being dunked, pushed or shoved, cursed at, tripped, mocked/laughed at, and homophobic name-calling. These offenses have been committed approximately 152 times since the beginning of the school year.

TRENTON

And remember, this number only reflects what has happened to us, what we've witnessed happening to other students, or students who told us about what happened to them.

CALVIN

As y-y-y-you can s-s-see, s-s-s-students were m-m-m-mocked or l-l-l-laughed at 53 t-t-t-times...

MONTAGE BEGINS - VARIOUS

A) CAFETERIA

Skeeter, Jim Bob, Trey, and several other boys mock Luther as he walks by their table.

B) HALLWAY

TWO BOYS follow Calvin down the hallway as they mock him by stuttering.

C) LIBRARY

Tawny, Kimberly, and TWO OTHER GIRLS are sitting at a library table whispering, definitely not studying. Cynthia approaches and starts to sit down, but Tawny pushes her books in the vacant space on the table. Cynthia gets the hint and finds a spot at another table. Tawny and her friends roll their eyes and giggle.

D) TRACK FIELD

Joe and a BUNCH OF OTHER BOYS point and laugh at Pooh as he finishes his lap around the track field. He is the last one to complete the run.

E) CLASSROOM

A GIRL with coke-bottle glasses is laughed at as she enters the room.

F) HALLWAY

Rosa and Tawny laugh as Skeeter and Trey mock two deaf students who are signing.

G) HIGH SCHOOL EXTERIOR

A group of JOCKS, including Jim Bob and Joe, walk by Trenton who is sitting on a bench.

JIM BOB
Freak alert!

END OF MONTAGE

INT. UNUSED CLASSROOM

LUTHER
...Called a homophobic slur 36
times...

MONTAGE BEGINS - VARIOUS

Rapid fire close-ups of Individual students calling out or shouting homophobic epithets.

JOCK
Faggot!

JIM BOB
Fag.

TAWNY
Lezbo.

TREY
Queer!

JOE
Freak!

JOCK
Homo.

SKEETER
Freakin faggot!

END OF MONTAGE

INT. UNUSED CLASSROOM

LUTHER
...And dunked in the toilet 24
times.

MONTAGE BEGINS - SCHOOL RESTROOM

Quick succession of different faces of terrified boys as they are individually dunked in a toilet. We only see hands holding them as another hand flushes the toilet. The only sound we hear is the swoosh of the toilet flushing.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. UNUSED CLASSROOM. AFTERNOON

LUTHER

These are the crimes committed the most often.

CALVIN

And, w-w-w-we only know of one r-r-r-r-ret-t-t-t-t-taliation.

LUTHER

And that was today.

KEVIN

How pathetic.

CYNTHIA

Wow. Just wow.

LIZZY

The trolls continue to reign terror and admin doesn't do anything about it.

TRENTON

They probably don't even know its a problem, because everyone's too afraid to say anything.

KEVIN

Snitches get stitches.

CALVIN

It's only until someone does something like you did today, that anyone does anything.

KEVIN

So cool, Trent. I'd like to rerun that in slow mo.

TRENTON

I shouldn't have lost my temper. And just for the record, I never meant to break his arm. Sprain maybe, but not break.

LIZZY

Plus Skeeter didn't get into any trouble for pushing Luther. But Trenton does for defending him.

LUTHER

How messed up is that?

CALVIN

I just w-w-w-w-wonder why they
d-d-d-o it.

KEVIN

Who the hell cares why they do it.
Why the hell do we let them.

LIZZY

Kevin's right. How chickenshit can
we be to let them punk us as many
times as they have and we do
nothing about it?

KEVIN

I mean come on guys... years of the
same old shit. This has been going
on since Kindergarten for some of
us.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM - DAY

Five year-olds Kevin and Cynthia, heavy-set, are sitting at a small table in the play area of the classroom. Two dolls sit in the other two chairs at the table. Kevin pretends to pour tea in each teacup. Two other boys, 5 year-old Joe and 6 year-old Skeeter, walk to where Kevin and Cynthia are playing and stand over them. Kevin slowly looks up and his eyes grow wide. Before he can say anything, Skeeter turns the small table over, scattering the tea set in all directions. Both Joe and Skeeter laugh as they walk away.

EXT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

8 year-old Cynthia, heavyweight and breathing hard, is playing handball with 8 year-old Calvin, who wears glasses that are attached to a paracord. They are laughing and having a good time. Tawny and KIMBERLY HARRIS, both very pretty 8 year olds, are sitting on the bench waiting for their turn to play. They are obviously impatient.

TAWNY/KIMBERLY

Fatty, Fatty, two by four. Couldn't
get through the bathroom door. So
she did it on the floor. Licked it
up and did some more.

Cynthia is embarrassed and misses hitting the ball and walks off the handball court.

CALVIN

Th-Th-Th-That was r-r-r-really m-m-mean.

Calvin goes after Cynthia. Tawny and Kimberly laugh as they get up to play handball.

INT FIFTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

Students are walking around the room and placing Valentine cards in student-designed Valentine folders on various student's desk.

Cynthia, now 10, sits at her desk, her Valentine folder empty. Jim Bob(10), approaches Cynthia's desk and puts a Valentine in her folder. Cynthia is surprised and smiles.

Jim Bob immediately snatches his Valentine back and he and other students laugh uproariously as he places it in Tawny's already full envelope.

INT SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Ten year old Lizzy, wearing a baseball cap, sits by herself on the school bus. She can hear the GROUP OF GIRLS behind her talk about the slumber party they are having and all the things they have planned. As she continues to listen, she seems on the verge of tears, then wipes her eyes, and takes out her earphones. She puts them on and pulls her cap down covering her eyes.

Calvin(10) is on the same school bus. He is sitting by himself and reading a book. Skeeter(11) and Jim Bob(10) are sitting behind Calvin. Skeeter reaches over and grabs the book out of Calvin's hands.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Hey, g-g-g-give that b-b-b-back.

SKEETER

(mimicking Calvin)

M-M-M-Make m-m-m-me.

BOY

D-D-D-Do y-y-you st-st-st-stutter
w-w-when y-y-you r-r-r-read t-t-t-
too?

EXT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Joe and Jim Bob, both 12, are choosing team members for their soccer game. Only two boys remain; Trenton(12), skinny with spiked black hair and Pooh also 12 and bigger than any boy on either team.

JOE
Man, you can have 'em both

JIM BOB
I don't want 'em.

JOE
At least Trenton could use his hair
as a weapon. Okay let's play

TRENTON
Hey, what about us?

JOE
We want to win the game, not lose,
Losers!

Joe, Jim Bob, and everyone else laughs and walks away with
their respective teams.

INT JR HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Several boys, including 8th Graders Kevin, Skeeter, and Jim
Bob are in various stages of dressing. Skeeter looks at Jim
Bob and winks and nods his head toward Kevin, also in 8th
grade, who is buttoning his shirt on a nearby bench.

SKEETER
Hey, what are you looking at?

Kevin looks up.

SKEETER (CONT'D)
Yeah, you, faggot. What're you
looking at.

KEVIN
Uh...my buttons?

JIM BOB
We saw you looking at Skeeter, you
faggot.

KEVIN
What? I wasn't looking at anybody.

JIM BOB
You calling me a liar, faggot?

JOE
I think he is, JB.

JIM BOB
Only one thing to do then.

Skeeter, Jim Bob, and several other boys rush to Kevin.

KEVI

I swear. I was just getting...

Before he can finish his sentence, the boys have pushed him all the way inside his locker and slammed the door.

KEVIN

Hey. Let me out of here. Come on,
guys

All the boys are laughing and exit the locker room.

INT JUNIOR HIGH GYM - NIGHT

The gym is decorated with streamers and balloons and a large sign hangs above the refreshment table. It reads. "8TH GRADE FORMAL DANCE." Cynthia(13) sits in a row with other girls. Several boys approach and ask the other girls to dance, leaving Cynthia all by herself.

INT CLARKSVILLE HIGH HALLWAY - DAY

"WELCOME FRESHMEN" is written on a large banner.

Topsannah(14) carrying a flute case, places the case down and opens her locker. As she pulls her locker door open, she screams.

Skeeter, Jim Bob, and several other 8th GRADE BOYS are standing at their lockers across the hall watching Topsannah. When she screams, they all burst out laughing and begin dancing the cliched "Powwow" dance.

Topsannah slowly pulls out an old wig dripping in red paint from her locker and drops it on the floor.

Cynthia approaches Topsannah.

CYNTHIA

They're such jerks... I'm Cynthia

TOPSANNAH

I'm Topsannah. I just moved here.

CYNTHIA

I know. I was in the office when you checked in. Cool name by the way!

EXT CLARKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL DAY

As Calvin finishes locking his bike to the bike stand in front of the school, Joe, Skeeter, and Jim Bob grab Calvin's backpack and toss it to one another. Calvin makes a feeble attempt to intercept it to no avail. Finally, Skeeter lobs it into a nearby tree. All three boys fist bump one another as they walk away.

Calvin just stands there, shaking his head.

INT CLARKSVILLE HIGH LOCKER ROOM DAY

Cynthia is putting on her PE uniform. She is obviously shy about undressing and looks around to see if anyone is watching. She hears laughter behind her and turns around to see Tawny, Kimberly, and two other GIRLS(14)with towels stuffed in their shirts, pretending that they are fat.

Cynthia turns slowly back around.

INT CLASSROOM DAY

Skeeter, who sits behind Pooh, throws a spitball that lands in Pooh's hair. There are other spitballs that have stuck to Pooh's hair as well. Although Pooh is oblivious to what's going on, Jim Bob, who sits next to Skeeter, can barely contain his laughter.

INT CLARKSVILLE HIGH GYM DAY

Two teams of FIVE BOYS EACH are playing basketball. Joe and Jim Bob are on one team and Trenton is on the opposing team. One of Trenton's teammates throws him the ball and as he is about to shoot, Joe body slams him from behind, knocking him into the wall. Joe and Jim Bob high-five one another.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT UNUSED CLASSROOM - DAY

TRENTON

So...lets do something about it.

KEVIN

Oh, I pray to God you mean what I think you mean.

TRENTON

O.G.B.

KEVIN

Finally!

TRENTON

When we formed "The Loser's Club" three years ago, we planned Operation Get Back and promised we would put it into action when we all felt it was necessary... when we had finally had enough. I think today is that day. I say enough is enough.

KEVIN

Hallelujah! Can I get an Amen?

KEVIN/LUTHER/CYNTHIA/

Amen!

TOPSANNAH

I thought that was all just talk... that we would really never do it.

KEVIN

No way. We kidnap Joe and Tawny and put them on trial like the criminals they are.

CALVIN

W-W-We could r-r-r-really get in a l-l-l-lot of trouble.

KEVIN

So what? What do you think would have happened to Luther if Trenton hadn't stepped in?

LIZZY

And Trenton gets suspended for defending Luther while Skeeter gets off scot free.

TRENTON

At least we have each other. Just think of all the kids that walk around in silence, just praying to make it through another day without being bullied.

TOPSANNAH

But kidnapping? Calvin's right... That's really serious.

KEVIN

Serious times cause for serious measures.

CYNTHIA

Topsannah, I know you've only been at Clarksville for a few years and although it doesn't happen often, don't you get tired of people making fun of your heritage?

TOPSANNAH

That's just ignorance and I'm not sure you can change that. Besides it's usually Skeeter or Jim Bob that makes stupid comments. Joe never does.

KEVIN

So what are you saying...we should kidnap Skeeter and Jim Bob and not Joe?

TOPSANNAH

I'm just saying they're far worse than he is.

LUTHER

Yeah. We should kidnap all of them.

KEVIN

No way. Besides Skeeter and Jim Bob only follow Joe. They're not the leaders.

TRENTON

If you want to kill a snake, you cut off the head, not the tail.

LIZZY

Yeah, makes a bigger statement.

TOPSANNAH

He just seems like he's different than they are.

KEVIN

Yeah right. Didn't seem any different when he dunked my head in the toilet this morning.

CYNTHIA

Why are you defending him?

TOPSANNAH

I'm not...It's just that...I don't know...he's never done or said anything bad to me. He even...

CYNTHIA

He even what?

Topsannah thinks a moment...

TOPSANNAH

Look. You're my friends. I'll support what ever we all decide.

POOH

Same here. Nobody messes with me because of my size, but I'm never invited to any of the team's parties. They say their my friend, but they're not. You're my friends. True friends. "I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends."

KEVIN

I knew you'd hit us with some of the Bard, Mr. Shakespeare.

LUTHER

I'm with Trenton. Its time we stopped them.

CYNTHIA

And just think... we'll be giving a voice to all the kids that are too afraid to speak out or even join "The Loser's Club."

TRENTON

And OGB is the best way to do that. We kidnap Joe and Tawny and put them on trial for all the years they have made our lives miserable.

LIZZY

And for all those without a voice.

TOPSANNAH

So what happens to them if they're found guilty?

KEVIN

You mean when they're found guilty.

TRENTON

Still to be decided. But the punishment will definitely fit the crime.

KEVIN

Yeah, it's scary. And you're right, Calvin, we could get in a lot of trouble. But after years of torture, it's about time we turn the table on those trolls.

TRENTON

We all agreed, though, its a consensus vote. If one person doesn't want to do it, OGB is null and void. So...

Trenton puts his hand out and Cynthia places her hand on top of his. Then Calvin, Luther, Lizzy, Pooh, and Kevin all do the same as they individually repeat.

TRENTON (CONT'D)

No matter what...

CYNTHIA

No matter what...

CALVIN

N-N-No matter wh-wh-wh-what...

LUTHER

No matter what...

LIZZY

No matter what...

POOH

No matter what...

KEVIN

No matter what...

Topsannah hesitates and then places her hand on top of Kevin's.

TOPSANNAH

No matter what...

TRENTON

Operation Get Back is officially activated!

KEVIN

This is going to be epic!!!