

The Sandwich Days

by
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BLACK.

ADMISSIONS REP (V.O.)
So, tell me about your childhood.

FADE IN:

INT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM - FLASHBACK - MORNING

MRS. ZIMMERMAN stands at the front of the class, taking attendance.

MRS. ZIMMERMAN
Jenny Anderson?

JENNY
(raising her hand)
Here.

MRS. ZIMMERMAN
Eric Ball?

ERIC
Here.

MRS. ZIMMERMAN
Billiam Bradley?

BILLIAM BRADLEY sinks down into his seat, as the other kids around him laugh. Mrs. Zimmerman looks up.

MRS. ZIMMERMAN (CONT'D)
Billiam Bradley?

Billiam continues to sink.

CUT TO:

INT. REP'S OFFICE - PRESENT - AFTERNOON

Billiam sits across from a well dressed, middle aged admissions representative. The rep has a note pad in his lap and a pen in his hand, looking attentively at Billiam.

ADMISSIONS REP
So your parents named you Billiam?

BILLIAM
Yeah, my parents were fans of alliteration.

ADMISSIONS REP

But why would they do that to their son?

BILLIAM

Well, you know how sometimes a parent will pick that really unique name for their child, but then the other-more sensible parent- talks them out of it? Well, my dad must have been absent the day that argument was supposed to take place because my mother named me Billiam.

ADMISSIONS REP

Could be worse. I once knew a kid who's parents named him Bobert.

BILLIAM

Really?

ADMISSIONS REP

Yeah.

(laughs)

We mocked the hell outta that kid!

(continues to laugh)

Billiam is unamused, and the admissions rep notices this.

ADMISSIONS REP (CONT'D)

(clears his throat)

Sorry. Please, continue.

BILLIAM

Why do you want to know so much about my childhood?

ADMISSIONS REP

Well, when we ask most people to talk about their childhood on this form they at least give us *something*. You just wrote "Not Applicable".

Billiam nods slightly.

BILLIAM

(agreeing)

Mmmhmm.

ADMISSIONS REP

Would you really describe your childhood as "Not applicable"?

Billiam opens his mouth as if he's about to say something, thinking very hard.

CUT TO:

INT. LUNCH ROOM - FLASHBACK

Subtitle: "1989"

Billiam sits at a lunchroom table, all alone.

BILL (V.O)
Back then, kids were-
(pause)
-less than civil towards me.

Billiam suddenly gets hits directly in the face with a large, sloppy sandwich. Shocked, he wipes the contents of the sandwich off his face as LOUD LAUGHTER erupts from off screen.

Seated across the lunchroom is YOUNG TERRENCE, the source of the laughter. Terrence sits amongst his lackeys.

BILL (V.O) (CONT'D)
Terrence was my constant tormentor.

Young Terrence retrieves another sandwich from his paper lunch-sack.

BILL (V.O) (CONT'D)
And over the years it became quite apparent to me that Terrence's mother stocked him with a steady supply of sandwiches.

Young Terrence begins to happily eat his next sandwich.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS

Billiam sits in class and gets hit with a sandwich in the back of the head. YOUNG TERRENCE'S LAUGHTER erupts behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS

Billiam stands at the urinal and gets hit with another sandwich. YOUNG TERRENCE LAUGHS off-screen.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS

Billiam prepares to catch a kicked ball in the back of the gym and gets hit with a ball from behind by the LAUGHING unseen Terrence.

BILL (V.O.)

Well, c'mon, he couldn't always throw sandwiches. That's just ridiculous.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS

BILL (V.O.)

But my mother was always there for me when I got home. And she always tried to make me feel better about the situation.

MOTHER

Oh, Billiam.

Billiam's mother picks a piece of tomato out of his hair.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Do you know why the kids do this to you? Billiam
(sniffing)
Because my name's Billiam?

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Oh, heavens no. It's because they're jealous of you. Billiam lifts his head, displaying a look of hope.

BILLIAM

Really?

His mother nods, smiling. Billiam smiles back.

CUT TO:

INT. REP'S OFFICE - PRESENT

BILLIAM

What were they jealous of? The friends I didn't have? The social skills I was unable to acquire?

ADMISSIONS REP

Well, your mom sounds like a pretty smart person. I mean, my mom told me the same thing, and I...

(look of realization)

Oh..

BILLIAM

The worst part was that I actually listened to her.

(thinks)

Wait a minute, no. That's not the worst part. The worst part was...

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - FLASHBACK

Billiam walks to his seat, and Young Terrence sticks his foot out to trip him. Billiam falls with a thud.

YOUNG TIM, who sits all alone in the corner, watches this.

Billiam comes back to his feet and turns to Terrence.

BILLIAM

You know what, Terrence? I know why you pick on me.

YOUNG TERRENCE

Oh, really?

BILLIAM

You're just jealous of me, and you pick on me because you're really unsecure about yourself, and need to make me feel bad to make yourself feel better.

Young Tim, hearing this, shuts his eyes wincing. Young Terrence pauses as he takes this all in.

YOUNG TERRENCE

(sarcastic)

You know what? You're right. I am jealous of you. All I really want to be is your friend.

BILLIAM

Really?

Young Terrence reaches into his pocket and pulls out a sandwich, throwing it in Billiam's face. He walks away, and Billiam stands there, shocked.

BILL (V.O)

My first run-in with sarcasm.

Young Tim shakes his head, getting up from his seat and walking over to Billiam. He pulls out some tissues from his pocket and hands them to Billiam.

BILL (V.O) (CONT'D)

And that's when I first met my best friend, Tim.

YOUNG TIM

He's not really jealous of you, you know.

BILLIAM

But my mom said he was.

YOUNG TIM

Well, there's your first problem. When it comes to bullies, never listen to your mother.

Billiam thinks about this.

BILL (V.O)

He was right. And the more I thought about it, the more I remembered all the horrible advice my mother had given me.

INT. BILLIAM'S LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

POV SHOT of Billiam looking up to his mother.

MOTHER

Just ignore them, and they'll stop picking on you.

CUT TO:

MOTHER (CONT'D)

The next time they pick on you, you just tell your teacher. She'll make everything better.

CUT TO:

MOTHER (CONT'D)

I think it's time I gave their parents a call. Once they get a good talking to, they'll stop picking on you.

INT. REP'S OFFICE - PRESENT

BILL

Her heart was in the right place, but she just didn't understand what it was really like. Sure bullies were probably insecure with themselves which caused them to pick on those lesser than them, but knowing that didn't help as a little kid. In the end, there are just no good ways to deal with a bully.

Bill smiles deviously.

BILL (CONT'D)

But there are some bad ones.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - FLASHBACK

(1994)

TEENAGE BILL and TEENAGE TIM sit at a lunchroom table, eating.

BILL (V.O.)

Tim and I basically became inseperable for the next several years well into high school.

(MORE)

BILL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I'd like to say by that time I'd
 taken care of my Terrence
 situation, but I can say that
 things were at least starting to
 change.

Teenage Bill gets hit with a sandwich, which smears across
 his face and falls on the table. He remains unfazed.

TEENAGE BILL
 Hmm. Terrence's mother switched to
 Miracle Whip.

He wipes off his face with a nearby napkin, and continues
 eating.

TEENAGE TIM
 At least she stopped using those
 toothpicks.
 (pause)
 You ever going to stand up to him?

TEENAGE BILL
 Well, I look at it like this-
 eventually I'll graduate and move
 on to college where I won't have to
 deal with him anymore. I mean, the
 odds of Terrence going to college
 with me are, what, only 75%?

TEENAGE TIM
 The odds of Terrence going to any
 college are about 5%, but that's
 not the point. You need to do
 something, Bill. If you don't,
 there's just going to be another
 Terrence waiting down the road for
 you.

TEENAGE BILL
 I know.

Teenage Bill sits there and thinks to himself.

TEENAGE TIM
 Someone needs to hit him with a
 sandwich.

Bill suddenly gets a look of realization across his face.

TEENAGE BILL
 I've got it.

TEENAGE TIM

What?

TEENAGE BILL

We're going to settle this on the
playground.

Teenage Tim looks confused.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - FLASHBACK - AFTERNOON

Teenage Bill and Tim stand at the playground to their old school, waiting. Teenage Tim glances at his watch.

TEENAGE TIM

Maybe he won't show.

TEENAGE BILL

He'll show.

Suddenly in the distance, Teenage Terrence shows up on his bike. The scene plays in slow motion. He ride up to the playground and tosses his bike to the ground, his long coat tails flutter in the wind (in slow motion a la John Woo). Teenage Bill and Tim watch this.

Teenage Terrence approaches the duo.

TEENAGE TERRENCE

Well, well, well..if it isn't
Billiam William.

Teenage Bill and Tim exchange glances.

TEENAGE TERRENCE

And you brought your friend Dim
Tim.

TEENAGE TIM

Hi Terry

TEENAGE TERRENCE

I got your note. What do you want?

TEENAGE BILL

I just want to teach you a lesson.

TEENAGE TERRENCE

Oh yeah? And what's that?

TEENAGE BILL

That when someone you've tortured for his entire life asks you to meet him out in a secluded area- (pause) -you should always watch where you stand.

Terrence looks down to find that he is standing on a giant X. Teenage Bill pulls a string. Terrence sees Bill pull the string and looks up as a giant bucket of sandwiches is released above his head.

A hundred sandwiches fall out of the bucket and fall all around Terrence, not a single one hitting its mark. Terrence slowly looks up from his feet at Bill and Tim.

TEENAGE TERRENCE

You're dead.

As they move forward, Teenage Bill and Tim start backing up.

TEENAGE TIM

Uh, Bill? What was your plan for after we hit him with the sandwiches?

TEENAGE BILL

That's about as far as I got.

Teenage Terrence backs them both into a tree, grabbing Bill and raising his fist.

TEENAGE TERRENCE

(smiling)

I'm really going to enjoy this.

Teenage Bill winces, waiting for impact when in the distance a car engine is heard REVVING. Teenage Terrence slowly turns his head around.

Far in the distance, a SILVER STATION WAGON sits at the end of the parking lot. The ENGINE REVS again.

Teenage Terrence lets go of his grip and walks towards the car.

TEENAGE TERRENCE (CONT'D)

Now, what's this?

TEENAGE TIM

Bill? Is that your mother?

Teenage Bill simply stares ahead, nodding in shock.

Teenage Terrence squints towards the car to get a better look. He laughs to himself.

TEENAGE TERRENCE

Aww, isn't that cute? Billy called his mommy to come and save him.

The CAR ENGINE REVS AGAIN

INT. BILL'S MOM'S CAR - movie - DAY

Mother

Nobody hurts my boy and gets away with it.

Ext. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MOVIE - DAY

The car suddenly peels forward, towards Terrence. Terrence's face drops in horror, as he begins to run in the opposite direction. He runs towards his bike and hops on, pedaling away.

Terrence cowardly screams as he drives his bike fast away, Bill's mother on his tail. They drive off into the distance and disappear, leaving Bill and Tim alone.

TEENAGE TIM

Wow.

(pause)

Your mom is insane.

Teenage Bill smiles, as he stares off to where they drove off.

TEENAGE BILL

Naw, she just loves me.

Bill pats Tim on the back. They walk off.

CUT TO:

INT. REP'S OFFICE - PRESENT

BILLIAM

And, so that's how it ended. Terrence ended up transferring to a new school, and I really haven't seen him since.

The admissions rep places his folder on the table.

ADMISSIONS REP

Well, I must say, that's one heck of a story. And I can see why you didn't try and fit that into a single essay. I mean, this isn't Spanglish.

The rep sticks out his hand.

ADMISSIONS REP (CONT'D)

We'll let you know.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - PRESENT -CONTINUOUS

Billiam walks out into the lobby and looks around to see several students sitting in a line of chairs. At the front of them is Terrence. He looks up and notices Billiam, surprised.

BILLIAM

Terrence?

TERRENCE

Oh hey, Bill.

BILLIAM

You're going to this school?

TERRENCE

If they let me.

Awkward pause as the two think of what to say.

BILLIAM

Well, good luck Terrence.

TERRENCE

Hey, you too.

Billiam begins to walk away.

TERRENCE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hey Billiam!

Billiam shields his face in terror, wincing. He looks back to see Terrence is sticking out his hand, smiling.

TERRENCE (CONT'D)

Good to see you.

Billiam shakes Terrence's hand.

BILLIAM
You too.

TERRENCE
Hey, maybe we can get together and
get a bite to eat sometime. No
sandwiches of course.
(laughs)

BILLIAM
Yeah, I'd like that.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - PRESENT - CONTINUOUS

Tim's leans against the hallway wall next to the door as
Billiam exits.

TIM
How'd it go?

BILLIAM
Good, good.

They begin to walk.

BILLIAM (CONT'D)
Ran into Terrence.

TIM
Really?

BILLIAM
Yeah, we're gonna meet up for lunch
sometime.

TIM
Wow, never thought I'd see the day
you and Terrence would get along.

BILLIAM
Stranger things have happened.

Billiam and Tim round the corner of the hallway, exiting.

FADE OUT.

THE END