

ROUGH PLAY

Written by

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2nd Draft
August 27, 2018

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FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

The school bell RINGS. All the elementary students exit the art classroom with FLYERS in their hands. Up next is TIM DYE (11), quiet and socially disinterested.

Tim walks in the flowing stream of school kids. He observes the various kids at their lockers, conversing and teasing with each other.

Tim inspects the flyer in his hand.

FLYER

"New Orleans Art Fair. Be bold, be artsy!"

BACK TO SCENE

Tim sighs. Then HEARS footstep from behind. Turns around. *

REVEAL: MORTIMER (12), hardy and brutish, storms through the crowd. He first SHOVES JC out of his way, then several more kids. *

Tim FLEES towards the school exit. *

EXT. THE DYE HOUSE - LATER

Tim heads for the front door and enters.

INT. TIM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tim opens the door. He scans his behind to see if anyone else is tailing him. He quietly shuts the door and LOCKS it.

He proceeds to his bed and PULLS OUT a compartment beneath it. REVEAL: A doll play set and an antique but good-conditioned raggedy doll, LADY CRUMBLESON. Tim forms a small smile upon them.

LATER

The play set is all set. Tim looks at Crumbleson.

TIM

Hey, best pal. Do ya wanna know
about today at school?

Crumbleson remains silent and expressionless. Yet that does
not erode his pleasure.

TIM (CONT'D)

First of all, I learned about the
greatest classical paintings in art
history. Then doodling during
recess as usual. N' I escaped from
Mortimer.

Still no word from Crumbleson.

TIM (CONT'D)

I tell you what's the big deal
about Mortimer. He forces every
kid, including me, to hand over our
school lunches to him. He wrecks
our fun. He forces us to do his
homework. And he tramples on us
like daisies during school
dismissals.

Crumbleson's silence still goes on.

TIM (CONT'D)

What do you mean "He has nothing to
do with --"

DELIA (O.S.)

Tim, time for dinner.

Tim turns his attention to the door.

*

TIM

Um, Mom, I have chips and dip in my
room. I just have dinner up here.

*

DELIA (O.S.)

Not tonight, young man. It's time
for you to be with the family.

Delia's ignorance irks Tim.

TIM

I-I-I'm not in the mood, thank you.

*

DELIA (O.S.)

I made your favorite pasta:
Louisiana shrimp spaghetti.

Tim gives up.

INT. THE DYE HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Tim at the dining table with his parents, DELIA DYE (39) and ROY DYE (45), both lively and committed. Delia and Roy heartily eat their plates of spaghetti. Tim fiddles his plate.

DELIA (CONT'D)

Tim, how's yer day at school?

No response from Tim.

ROY

C'mon, son. I bet your art teacher had breaking news about the upcoming art fair.

Still no response from Tim. The anticipation in the parents starts to subside.

DELIA

Say, Tim, you haven't told us anything about the kids at school for a long time. And we're wondering if you like to tell us about them.

Tim remains silent.

ROY

You got trouble over there? I can give you some pointers.

Tim turns to Delia and Roy, who starts to perk. He returns to his plate and resumes his fiddling. Anxiety shrouds the parents.

ROY (CONT'D)

Tim, Tim.

Tim pays no attention.

DELIA (O.C.)

Is everything alright?

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MORNING

Sitting at a desolated table with stones on two sets of papers, Tim colors his DRAWING with his colored pencil. Not paying attention to the active kids in games and conversations.

The winds GUSTS the drawing away from Tim's grasp. Tim pursues it. He endeavors on grabbing it in vain, but it floats higher and farther. Now too exhausted to keep up.

A hand SEIZES the drawing from a great height. REVEAL: LUCY KRICFALUSI (10), sweet and robust.

Tim gazes at Lucy in awe. She returns the look with aplomb.

LUCY
Hey, does this drawing belong to
you?

*

Tim is still under her beauty's enchantment.

TIM
Uh... Yeah.

Lucy surveys the drawing.

UNFINISHED COLORED DRAWING

A superhero zaps the supervillain to death.

BACK TO SCENE

Lucy materializes a smile.

MONTAGE - TIM'S QUICK DRAWING SESSION

A) Tim draws a picture of a heroic prince vs. a fire-breathing dragon. Lucy watches him go with excitement.

B) Tim completes a picture of an ogre knight rescuing a princess from the wicked king. He hands it over to Lucy. She delights in it.

Lucy produces and exhibits her phone to Tim.

ON PHONE SCREEN: A scanned photo of Lucy and CHLOE STILLER (6), a young girl bent on adrenaline rush. The two girls seemed to enjoy their wild time together.

Tim glances at Lucy with willpower.

C) On just one piece of paper, Tim speedily ILLUSTRATES PANELS of Lucy and Chloe in daring adventures. Lucy views them in awe.

The school bell RINGS.

*

LUCY

Say, you're totally good at it. How 'bout you make more drawings for me after school?

TIM

Gosh, I don't know about that.

LUCY

Maybe even at your house?

Tim considers with a strong smile.

*

INT. THE DYE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Tim enters the main hall, followed by Lucy.

DELIA (O.C.)

Hi, Tim. Is this your new friend?

REVEAL: Delia.

*

TIM

Um, sort of.

*

LUCY

Pardon me, but are you Mrs. Dye?

DELIA

Why, yes I am. And I reckon both of you already became fast friends.

Delia's zeal irks Tim.

TIM

Well, uh... Actually, we even didn't talk much to each other.

*

DELIA

You can talk more with her right here.

*

Delia shifts her attention from Tim to Lucy.

DELIA (CONT'D)

So, little lady, what's your name?

LUCY

The name's Lucy Kricfalusi. And I'm only here to see Tim do more drawings for me.

DELIA

Well, glad to take notice of Tim's special talent. There hasn't been so many people who see him as a talented artist.

I tell you what: Why not you just wait at the living room while Tim brings his art supplies from his room. While he's at it, I --

TIM

I, um, prefer to draw in my room with Lucy.

*

The exuberance in Delia starts to diminish.

DELIA

Tim, you've been cooping up in your room too often. I suggest a change of atmosphere.

TIM

Mom, I don't think that... Well, I don't see why I should --

*

*

LUCY

Hey, I smell cookies. Can we have some after we hang out in his room?

DELIA

Well, the cookies are still in the baking process... Alright, just one hour in Tim's room.

*

Tim DASHES upstairs, dragging Lucy.

DELIA (CONT'D)

Hey! Have you forgotten the magic word?

DRAWING PAPER - LATER

More depictions of Lucy and Chloe in daring adventures. Tim nearly finishes a drawing of the pair in their escape from the rolling boulder.

INT. TIM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tim completes the drawing. Lucy glances at Tim in admiration.

LUCY

Wow, that's a cool drawing. Can you do another one?

Tim nods. Starts drawing another picture.

INTERCUTS BETWEEN DRAWING PAPER AND LUCY

A drawing of Lucy and Chloe, sitting with each other at the lake, begins to form. Lucy examines it closely.

INT. TIM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tim completes it. Glances at Lucy, who continues to stare at the drawing. The sight of it desaturates the optimism in Tim.

Lucy starts to COUGH, startling Tim.

TIM

Uh, Lucy... Are ya alright? *

LUCY

Oh, this?

Lucy coughs some more.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Let's just assume that I don't feel so good. *
*

The coughing continues; Tim rises.

TIM

Just stay tight. I-I-I go get some water for you. *

Tim hurries to the room corner and starts UNZIPPING his backpack. Lucy shifts her attention from Tim to one side of Tim's bed. Quickly aims for it, curious. Discovers the compartment. Starts to WITHDRAW it. *
*
*

Tim returns to the spot with a water bottle. Lucy is not there. He spots her at the other side of his bed.

Tim approaches Lucy, who is now with Lady Crumbleson. Trepidation starts to ascend in him.

Lucy fixates on Crumbleson, creepily cheerful.

LUCY

Hello, little raggedy doll. What's your name?

No response from the doll.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Oh, you prefer name guessing, eh?
Well, guess what? I have a way of
reading your mind.

*

Tim takes slow steps towards Lucy.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Is it Miss Sally? Princess Diana?
Queen Raggedy of Stitchson?

TIM

Uh, 'cuse me, Lucy.

Lucy quickly turns her attention to Tim.

TIM (CONT'D)

Yer water.

Tim hands over his water bottle to Lucy. Lucy hesitates, yet
her composure does not seem to waver.

LUCY

My throat is now fine.

Tim raises his eyebrow. Lucy hands out Crumbleson to him.

*

LUCY (CONT'D)

I suppose this belongs to you.

*

A devilish grin forms on Lucy's face.

*

TIM

Uh, thanks.

*

Tim retrieves Crumbleson from Lucy. CLICK! Lucy snaps a photo
of them with her phone.

*

*

TIM (CONT'D)

Hey! What are ya doing?

Lucy fiddles her phone.

LUCY

I'm just gonna share this special
moment with everyone.

ON PHONE SCREEN: A photo of Crumbleson in a social media
app's field box. Just one more step in posting it.

Tim starts to wrest the phone from her. Lucy evades his
maneuver.

TIM

You can't do that. It-it-it ain't right. *

Lucy refrains from her phone. *

LUCY

You know what?

Lucy WRESTS Crumbleson from Tim. *

LUCY (CONT'D)

Let's ask your Mom for a better idea. *

Lucy proceeds to the door with Crumbleson. Tim RUSHES to it and BLOCKS, desperate. *

TIM

No! You're not supposed to have anything to do with Lady Crumbleson. *

LUCY

Oh, is that her real name?

Anxiety simmers faster in Tim. *

TIM

Please, Lucy. I-I-I'll play with ya everyday - even after school. If I put Crumbleson behind me, will ya... Will ya forget her? *

Lucy glances at Crumbleson in her hold. Smirks at Tim. *

LUCY

Shall we start playing tomorrow? *

Perplexity strikes Tim.

TIM

Wh-wh-wh-wh-wh-wh why not now? *

LUCY

Oh, I just need a night to figure out what games we should play. You'll do what I choose. Will you man up? *

TIM

Gosh, I -- *

Lucy LEANS closer to Tim, more intimidating. *

LUCY
Will you man up?

*

Tim's mind races.

EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON (THE NEXT DAY)

Tranquility fills the locale. Lucy BURSTS THROUGH the bush on her BMX. She pedals vigorously while dodging large trees and rocks along the way.

*

Behind Lucy is Tim, SCREAMING and EMERGING from a stony ramp. He lands with a THUMP. Now panting and striving to match her speed.

TIM
Lucy.

Tim evades a hollow log.

TIM (CONT'D)
Lucy, wait up!

Tim steers away from a thorny bush. Still in a lead, Lucy turns to him.

LUCY
We have a deal, Tim. You have decided to play with me. I decide what sport we should play.

*
*
*

Lucy pedals faster, then suddenly FALLS from the ground. Perplexity strikes Tim. Tim nears the scene of the disappearance.

REVEAL: A steep and narrow downhill slope with Lucy in front.

TIM
Oh, no. Oh, no!

Tim SCREAMS as he disappears into the slope.

EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON (THE NEXT DAY)

Lucy ASCENDS the towering ridge, made of rocks, with ease. Below her is Tim, nearly losing all his stamina in the climb.

TIM
Lucy, I... How should I say this?
Caint go any higher.

*
*

Lucy looks down at Tim, disgusted.

LUCY
Oh, don't be such a slowcoach.

TIM
But-but-but I'll fall to death! *

LUCY
You won't.

REVEAL: Both Lucy and Tim are nearly halfway up the ridge with a safe falling distance.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Your landing will be nothing but a soft bed. *

INT. THE DYE HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT *

Pizza dinner at the dining table. Tim sits with Delia and Roy. *

DELIA
So, Tim, how are you enjoying with your new friend? *

TIM
Uh, fine, Mom.

ROY
Son, let me ask ya a question: What do you and Lucy have fun together? *

TIM
Um... Beats me. Lucy always decides what kind of games to play. *

Suspicion arises in both Delia and Roy.

ROY
Well, what kind of games? *

Tim starts to exhaust his ideas.

TIM
What's the big deal about it? *

DELIA
Oh, let's just say Lucy should let you decide what games to play. *

TIM

Who cares? I'm supposed to do whatever she does. Ain't that right?

*

Beat.

ROY

Yer friend may have a mighty voice. But that doesn't mean she has the right to take over yer musical number.

Tim looks down at his dish, considering. Delia stares at Roy, uneasy. Roy looks at her.

ROY (CONT'D)

What? What?

EXT. SKATE PARK - AFTERNOON (THE NEXT DAY)

In front of Tim with his skateboard, Lucy executes THE OLLIE, THE NOLLIE and THE FAKIE BIGSPIN on her skateboard. She performs the WALLRIDE with a strong finish.

Lucy glances at Tim, brash.

LUCY

You're up, softie.

TIM

Uh, Lucy, all those tricks ya want me to do... They're only for pros. I'm just a newbie.

LUCY

Well, let's just call it a day and round up more guests for Lady Crumbleson's tea party.

*

*

*

Lucy's insolence agitates Tim. He switches spots with Lucy and starts emulating the OLLIE.

*

TIM

Say, uh, about the other girl from her photo...

*

Tim FALLS OFF the skateboard. Starts to move onto the NOLLIE.

TIM (CONT'D)

Is she yer friend?

Lucy starts to lose her coolheadedness bit by bit.

LUCY

Focus on your move, Tim.

TIM

Is she yer friend?

Tim TUMBLES DOWN.

LUCY

Nah, she's just a random girl who wanted me to be her friend... For just a day.

*

TIM

Just a day?

Tim feebly starts his FAKIE BIGSPIN.

TIM (CONT'D)

Well, um, why not for life?

*

Tim's persistence vexes Lucy.

LUCY

That girl didn't see me as her perfect match. So we went into different ways.

*

TIM

But both of ya have many things in common. So, uh, why bother me?

*

LUCY

I never had friends who are interesting to me before I found you interesting. Get a clue?!

Tim TOPPLES. He recovers; switches his attention from Lucy to the wall. He stares at it in firmness.

Tim charges towards the wall. Lucy watches him. He rides on his skateboard and attempts to roll up the wall. Tim FALLS to the ground, pained.

*

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

By the way, Tim...

*

*

Tim turns to Lucy, starting to recover.

*

LUCY (CONT'D)

Flop in another day's game, and Crumbleson will host a housewarming party.

*

*

*

Tim quakes with dread.

*

EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON (THE NEXT DAY)

Tim strives to catch up with Lucy while evading more trees and rocks in his BMX. He takes a turn and WHIZZES straight into the bushes.

Lucy, still in the lead, looks behind. No sign of Tim. Returns to her original focus, now with an overabundance of confidence.

Tim BURSTS THROUGH the bushes and KNOCKS off Lucy from the side. Turns to see her behind him. Continues to pedal.

*

*

Lucy glares at Tim. Gets back on the ground and viciously PEDALS.

Tim PEDALS harder to maintain his lead. Lucy catches up and matches his speed. BASHES Tim.

*

*

TIM

Hey! What gives?

LUCY

You miffed the gator, Tim. You miffed me up big time!

Lucy continues to bash Tim on the wheels. Tim strives to stay firm on the ground. Makes a turn at...

*

*

EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Lucy falls into a trance at the sight of the vast body of water. A stony rock on the path, up ahead. POP! The front wheel bursts. Still on her wobbly BMX, Lucy heads straight into the water. SPLASH! She plunges into it.

*

*

*

Tim comes to a halt and notices Lucy drenched. Still on his BMX, he doubles back to the scene of the accident. Steps into the water and DRAGS Lucy out of it, who is SNIVELING.

*

TIM

Uh, Lucy... Are ya upset?

*

Lucy is still under the trance.

TIM (CONT'D)

Lucy? Lucy?

Tim violently SHAKES Lucy.

TIM (CONT'D)

Lucy!

Lucy finally snaps out. Notices Tim staring at her, then herself in a soaked outfit. Senses tear in her eye.

*
*

TIM (CONT'D)

Are ya upset of me?

*

Lucy's mind races.

LUCY

Uh... I don't know. Lost track of the score.

*
*

TIM

Uh, me, too. So... I reckon ya want a rematch.

*
*

Beat.

LUCY

You know what? Let's forget the rematch. Forget the sports.

*
*

Tim sighs with relief.

*

LUCY (CONT'D)

Starting tomorrow, let's serve justice.

*
*

Perplexity knocks Tim.

TIM

What?

LUCY

There are many kids in school that'll turn into bullies at any time. The best way to stop that is to pull pranks on them.

TIM

But you caint just prank anyone. What if, well, some bad fellas are innocent?

*

LUCY

Are you my friend, or should I prove to everyone what a girly boy you really are?

*
*
*

Tim considers with caution.

*

TIM

I... I suppose.

*

MONTAGE - WATER BOTTLE PRANK PREPARATION

A) In a bucket, Tim weakly CUTS the base of the water bottle open with a KNIFE. Lucy dubiously examines the process. Water SQUIRTS out.

B) Tim GLUES a TRANSPARENT PLUG into the passageway of the bottle.

Tim glances at Lucy, who only displays suspicion.

C) Tim POURS back the water into the bottle in several cups.

D) Tim GLUES back the two disconnected parts of the water bottle.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Several moments before the school bell ring. Lucy leads Tim in a stream of kids, scrutinizing. She HALTS; he does the same. REVEAL: Two KIDS in their conversation at their lockers.

Lucy crosses to the targeted kids. She PRESENTS Kid #1 her water bottle.

LUCY

Care to have my water bottle?

Kid #1 ponders but without wisdom.

KID #1

I haven't had any drink this morning. So, sure.

*

*

Kid #1 takes the bottle from Lucy. She opens it and POSITIONS the bottleneck into her mouth. No water coming through it. Confusion arises. Points the bottle down; still no gushing water. INCESSANTLY SHAKES the bottle up and down; no luck - much to Lucy's delight.

Lucy shifts her attention to Tim. Tim approaches Kid #2 and PRESENTS his water bottle.

TIM

Would ya... Wondering if ya.. Like to have some water?

*

Same amount of consideration for Kid #2.

KID #2

Uh, okay.

Kid #2 takes the bottle from Tim. The base of the bottle DETACHES. Water splashes on his shoes. All the other kids stare at him. Bewilderment smacks both Tim and Kid #2.

KID #2 (CONT'D)

What the...

Tim turns to Lucy, who glowers.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Lunch time is on. Nobody to supervise in an empty room.

Lucy SNIPS the paintbrush's bristles with her pair of scissors, one at a time. She passes them to Tim, struggling to FIT the HARDENED CLAYS into them.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - LATER

Class is in session; everyone ready to paint.

Kid #3 dips his paintbrush with red paint. About to dab paint on his paper. SNAP! The bristles come off. Kid #3 inspects his paintbrush's end, puzzled.

Five more kids encounter the same dilemma with the same reaction. Even the art teacher.

Tim weakly grins at Lucy. Lucy shakes her head.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON (THE NEXT DAY)

*

Lunch time is almost over. Tim and Lucy peek from another corridor.

LUCY

There he is.

REVEAL: JC (10), meek and innocuous, organizes his locker.

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

The next soon-to-be bully.

Tim and Lucy retract.

TIM

Gosh, Lucy. That fella is unlikely to be a bully.

*

*

LUCY

Well, have your parents told you
not to judge the book by its cover?
What if he is a double agent?
Anyway...

*

Lucy HANDS OUT an open CAN OF COLA to Tim.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I had the rest of the prank for
ready for you. Inside this can is
something that would prevent him
from following his dark path. All
you have to do is to give it to
him.

*

*

*

Tim OBSERVES and SNIFFS the content of the can.

TIM

I'm... Uh...

*

*

Tim passes the can back to Lucy.

*

TIM (CONT'D)

This is overkill.

*

Lucy SHOVES the can back to Tim. Patience is draining.

LUCY

If you decide to be a stool pigeon
for that guy, then I'll be a stool
pigeon in front of everyone.

*

Tim stares at Lucy, daunted.

Tim crosses to JC. He pokes him in the shoulder. JC turns
around and notices him.

TIM

Hi. Um, my mom gave me two cans of
cola. So, like, now I'm down to
one.

*

*

*

*

Tim offers JC a can of cola.

TIM (CONT'D)

Would ya like to, uh... If ya don't
mind... Have one?

*

*

JC stares at Tim, skeptical.

JC

Positive?

Tim slightly glances at Lucy. Lucy gives a stony stare. Tim shifts his attention to JC. *

TIM

Positive.

JC takes the drink from Tim. About to take a sip. Someone else's hand SWIPES the can from JC. Tim GASPS. REVEAL: Mortimer. *

MORTIMER

Hmmm, I love coke. *

Mortimer gulps a whole can of cola. JC gives a dissatisfactory glance at him. So do the other children. Tim sneaks out. *

More liquid in his mouth paralyzes Mortimer. SPEWS it violently towards JC. Cleans his tongue in distress. The passerby LAUGH at him.

From the same corridor, Tim and Lucy remain out of sight. JC SCREAMS.

JC BOLTS past Tim and Lucy. Mortimer pursues him in fury.

MORTIMER (CONT'D)

I'm gonna ink your eyes black! *

Tim and Lucy withdraw from the troubling sight. Lucy hardly controls her giggled.

LUCY

Man, this is way better than expected. Now you know what it takes to stop bullying. *

Lucy falls to the ground and ROLLS. Tim views Lucy in her continuous laughter. His guilt transforms into resent.

Tim STORMS OFF. The cruel celebration fades as Lucy notices his departure, puzzled.

Still undetected, Tim continues to march on. Lucy catches up with him.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You got somewhere to be? *

No eye contact from Tim.

TIM

I'm done, Lucy.

LUCY

Tim, we can't rest until we get rid
of all the bullies in school.

*

Tim halts and WHEELS to Lucy, more furious.

TIM

Don't ya see? The real bullies we
have to get rid of are us.

*

Tim departs. Lucy scowls at him.

*

INT. THE DYE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Tim enters through the front door.

DELIA (O.S.)

Oh, there you are, Tim.

*

Delia emerges from the kitchen.

*

DELIA (CONT'D)

Your friend is expecting you.

*

Perplexity descends upon Tim.

TIM

Friend? Ya mean Lucy?

DELIA

Of course, I mean Lucy. She said
you will be doing homework with her
today.

*

*

*

TIM

Homework?

*

DELIA

Right now, she is waiting for you
in the living room.

*

*

TIM

The living room? I don't see why
she prefers to wait in the --

*

*

Tim remembers.

TIM (CONT'D)

Oh, no!

Tim SCRAMBLES upstairs. Delia looks at him, perplexed.

DELIA
Is everything okay?

INT. TIM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tim BUSTS IN. No sight of Lucy. He rushes towards his secret compartment.

Tim withdraws the compartment. GASPS. Picks up something from it. It is not Lady Crumbleson but a written note. He reads in escalating dread.

NOTE

"Ya miffed the gator. It now has Lady Crumbleson. Lucy."

BACK TO SCENE

Tim lowers the note, aghast.

DELIA (O.S.)
Tim, seems Lucy is not in the
living room. Tim? Tim?

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Tim slouchingly walks on a clear path. On his left, he notices the other children staring at him.

KID #3
Look like you could use a teddy
bear. *

Kid #3 snickers along with Kid #1. Tim lowers his head.

KID #2
Looky here. It's Little Miss Dye.

Tim turns to Kid #2 to the right. With him are the other kids. All of them with devilish smiles.

KID #4
Hey, Miss Dye, where's your gal
pal?

The kids LAUGH at him. Tim briskly motions forward, struggling.

KIDS (O.C.)
 Yo, Princess Wimpy! / Sissy
 Sis! / Cream Puff Boy! / Yellow Belly!

Tim arrives at the door and enters...

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tim comes to a halt. All the other children in their desks look at him, smug.

KIDS
 Hi, Lord Crumbleson!

ON THE BLACKBOARD: Lady Crumbleson, taped. Also taped is a printed photo of Tim and Crumbleson with a written message, "Tim plays with dolls." *
 *

Tim SUFFOCATES at the sight of Crumbleson. The tone of the other children's mocking heightens. The petrification in Tim turns into rage.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tim tearfully SPRINTS and scans. All the scorning children could not break their wicked glee upon that sight.

Tim spots Lucy at the end of the corridor. He CHARGES towards her. Lucy turns around in a split second. Tim RAMS her into the floor. Incessantly SLAPS her in the face. *

Lucy violently RECOILS, fling Tim towards the floor. Leaps and BODY SLAMS Tim, followed by incessant HEAD BANGING. Tim struggles to counterattack. The crowd HOWLS rowdily. *

DELIA (V.O.) *
 So yer suspended from school.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Tim sits on a couch, guilty and bruised. Standing before him are Delia and Roy, grim. *

DELIA *
 Yer given a chance to make a fresh *
 new start. N' ya get suspended. *

ROY *
 Plus, how come you didn't tell us *
 that you had salvaged a doll and *
 kept it a secret for many years? *

TIM

Well, that doll now, sort of,
belongs to Lucy.

*

ROY

Timothy Hitchcock Dye.

The anguish in Tim boils.

TIM

I don't like people judging me
according to the way I look and do.
I even don't know what y'all gonna
do to Lady Crumbleson if ya had
found out.

*

*

*

*

DELIA

I have to admit that toys can be
like real people. But you need real
people to listen to your problems.

*

*

*

TIM

Maybe I would start looking out for
real friends if Lucy is still with
Chloe Stiller.

*

*

ROY

Chloe Stiller?

TIM

Yeah, and if I had known better
about Lucy, I wouldn't have become
a 24/7 laughingstock. I never wanna
go to school again.

*

*

*

*

DELIA

But Tim, you can't skip school
after one week of suspension.

*

TIM

But I don't have the guts to move
on like this.

*

*

Delia and Roy exchange looks, then nod. They redirect their
eyes towards Tim.

DELIA

How about this? A day before your
return to school, there'll be an
art fair.

*

TIM

Yeah, so?

*

ROY

First thing to do, son, is to find
inspiration. Allow me to bring up a
light on that Chloe character.

*
*
*

INT. STUDY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Roy fixates on his computer, PUNCHING the keyboards.
Alongside him is Tim.

ROY

If I recall correctly, ya did say
you rescued Lucy from the lake.

*
*

TIM

That's right.

*

ROY

Had you asked her about the lake?

*
*

TIM

Well, not really.

*
*

Roy stops typing.

ROY

My son, five years ago, I
discovered that Lucy was involved
in another accident.

*

TIM

Another accident?

With his index finger on his trackpad, Roy CLICKS on the web
link.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: An online news article with headline,
"Watery Death Ended Friendly Contest".

INTERCUTS BETWEEN TIM AND NEWS ARTICLE

Tim moves closer to the screen. Examines the image above the
body of text. REVEAL: Lucy, 5, sobbed at Chloe Stiller, 6,
lying deathlike on the stretcher.

Tim scrutinizes the text from top to bottom.

TIM

Lucy told me that Chloe had no
interest in her.

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

But it says here that Lucy valued her as both her best friend and her mentor since their orphanage days. So when she pushed her too far in their lake swim, Chloe drowned to death from all her exhaustion. Even though Lucy wanted to save her, she couldn't do it in time.

Beat.

ROY

Well, how come Lucy wanted ya to bully others with her?

TIM

Because...

Tim realizes and turns to Roy.

TIM (CONT'D)

She wanted me to take Chloe's place.

MONTAGE - TIM'S ART PROJECT

A) A whiteboard with story ideas. Tim SCRIBES on it, "Kill bully". Delia shakes her head. Tim crosses out the idea. Writes another, "Help bully become a better person". Delia nods.

B) Tim draws an angry picture of a bully against other kids. Roy inspects it and shakes his head. Tim draws the same picture, only with a less intense face. Roy inspects it again and nods.

C) At the dining table, Tim discusses with Roy and Delia about his drawings.

D) Tim starts drawing on a WHITE BOARD with a black marker.

INT. ART FAIR - AFTERNOON

The whole festival is filled with works of art and populated by numerous guests. Donned in their Sunday bests, Tim and Roy convey STACKS OF DRAWN BOARDS. Delia follows.

LUCY (O.C.)

Well, well, well. If it isn't the Fresh Prince of Toyland.

The Dye family halt. REVEAL: Lucy approaches to Tim from a distance.

Tim sets his stack on the floor. Marches towards Lucy. Delia watches in concern.

Face-to-face between Tim and Lucy.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Your doll friend has a message for you.

TIM
And what would that be?

LUCY
She said she is done with you. I'm now her friend, and there's nothing you can about it.

TIM
Oh, yeah? Well, I'm done with that girly doll. And I have a presentation for everyone on behalf of Chloe Stiller.

Bafflement descends upon Lucy. Tim doubles back to his stack of boards. *

LUCY
That's just tosh.

The Dye family walks past Lucy.

LUCY (CONT'D)
That's just tosh, right?

Lucy continues to stare at Tim, still perturbed.

HOST (V.O.) *
Now, this art showcase wouldn't *
have a grand finish without a visit *
to a graphic novel world. *

INT. ART FAIR - LATER *

On stage, a host stands front and center with his microphone.

HOST *
Please give your hands to a what-supposed-to-be art aficionado, Tim Dye.

The audiences APPLAUSE. The host proceeds to backstage. Tim, with a microphone in his collar, emerges from backstage, with all his drawing boards. Still walking, he turns his head towards the audiences. *

Tim detects Roy and Delia among the audiences. So are several children from school, including Mortimer and the bandaged JC. Most of all, Lucy and Lady Crumbleson. Tim ignores her and proceeds to the easel. *

Tim sets the boards next to the easel. Directs his eyes towards the audiences. *

TIM

Uh, hi, everyone. I like to tell stories through many fun art styles. I always find something cool within them. So, um, the art style for today's presentation is graphic novel. *

Tim sets up the first graphic novel board, depicting a bespectacled boy and a raggedy doll, surrounded by mocking children.

TIM (CONT'D)

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Hugo. He was always picked on by all the other kids at school for playing with a girly doll named Maggi. In fact, they didn't want to be nice to him who liked to do girls' stuff.

Mortimer and the school kids snicker at Tim. Lucy's smugness expands, too.

NEXT BOARD: Two young girls in punk outfits, tormenting other kids.

TIM (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, a girl named Geena enjoyed the art of bullying with her best friend, Mandy. To top it up, she cherished her as her idol.

Lucy starts to melt.

KID #4 (O.S.)

Hey, that punk looks like Lucy.

TIM (O.S.)

But one day...

*

NEXT BOARD: Geena mourns over the departure of Mandy. *

TIM (CONT'D) *

Mandy had to move to another town,
where she can learn how to become a
proper girl. *

Bafflement descends upon Lucy. *

TIM (O.S.) (CONT'D) *

Without her, Geena became too
scared to bully other kids on her
own. *

Lucy slowly shakes her head. *

TIM (O.S.) (CONT'D) *

When she discovered Hugo's wish for
respect from everyone, she decided
to train him to become a great
bully like Mandy. *

Lucy begins to squirm. Detects nearby audiences around her,
whispering to each other. All of them seems to be judging
her. *

NEXT BOARD: Collective scene of Geena's transgressions upon
Hugo and Maggi.

TIM (CONT'D) *

Geena kidnapped Maggi and so forced
Hugo to play extreme sports with
her. Then she forced him to pull
mean pranks on other kids with her. *

Tim directs his attention towards the squirming Lucy. *

NEXT BOARD: Collective scene of Geena's cola prank on JC and
Mortimer. *

TIM (CONT'D) *

Even framing an innocent kid named
JC on pranking Mortimer. *

JC and Mortimer GASP. Then the other school children. Give a
distrustful look at Lucy, who now has a red face. *

Lucy returns her attention to Tim, who smiles triumphantly.
He is about flip another board. Lucy slowly gets off her seat
with Lady Crumbleson in her hands. Rage starts to flare. *

Lucy WAVES Crumbleson at Tim. Tim starts to become
distracted. Delia and Roy shift their attention from him to
Lucy, disturbed. Back to Tim.

Tim is still under a trance. Finally snaps out. Delia and Roy *
sigh with relief. *

Tim produces the next board, depicting the destruction of *
Geena upon Maggi. *

TIM (CONT'D)

Hugo finally stood up with her, but
only to make her rip his doll
apart. Well, that only drove him to
fight her. But...

NEXT BOARD: Geena suffocates Hugo with her bare hands.

The audiences GASP, including Mortimer and JC.

TIM (CONT'D)

Geena proved too strong to be
defeated. She was 'bout to choke
him to death when...

Tim notices Lucy, still standing with a hint of tears and
pushed cheeks. She gradually raises her fist. Reveals her
gritted teeth. Everyone around her views her in suspense. Tim
anticipates.

Lucy DASHES off from her seat, still with Lady Crumbleson. *
Conceals her teary face with her hands, yet quietly sobbing.
Exits through the doors.

The audiences shift their attention to Tim. So do Delia and
Roy, anxious.

Tim starts to lose focus upon that discomforting sight. He
quickly turns to his last board. He privately views it,
depicting Geena in an electric chair, much to Hugo's and the
victims' glee.

Tim takes a deep breath. TOSSES away the final board.
Everyone else GASPS.

	DELIA	ROY
Tim!		What are ya doing?

TIM

For the ending of my story, I shall
draw it in front of ya'll.

Tim produces a black marker.

TIM (CONT'D)

Can anyone give me a new clean
board?

The host returns to the stage with a blank board. Sets it on the easel. Tim looks at the host, satisfied.

TIM (CONT'D)

Thanks.

The host double backs to backstage. Tim COMMENCES his drawing. The audiences observe the demonstration, scattered and in suspense. *

Tim COMPLETES and unveils the final board to the audiences.

NEW FINAL BOARD: Some rough drawings of Geena and Hugo in their resolve.

The sight of the improved board begins to astonish Roy and Delia.

FIRST DRAWING: Geena and Hugo in their hug.

TIM (CONT'D)

Geena realized that turning Hugo into another bully wasn't exactly what she had in mind. Out of her choice, he told him about the loss of her best friend. *

The school children warm up. Followed by JC.

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

In return, Hugo told her that he didn't like to be misunderstood n' mistreated for his passion for dolls.

Mortimer SNIFFS out of pity.

SECOND DRAWING: Geena and Hugo on stage with their graphic novel presentation in front of their audiences.

TIM (CONT'D)

Eventually, Geena and Hugo resolved to team up on telling their issues to everyone at the graphic novel showcase.

SECOND DRAWING: Geena and Hugo in their peers' welcome.

TIM (CONT'D)

As a result, all the other kids accepted them as their own friends. Geena and Hugo were now real best friends forever.

The thrill is at its peak for the audiences.

TIM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
N' they all lived happily ever
after.

Roy and Delia extend the widths of their smiles. Start to APPLAUSE. Next the school children in their rowdy CHEER. Even JC.

JC
Bravo! Bravo!

Mortimer breaks down in tears and EMBRACES JC. Bewilderment trembles JC.

FINAL DRAWING: Geena and Hugo sit together during the lake's sunset.

Tim smiles in front of the audiences. Better spirits than ever. The acclamation continues to permeate the entire hall.

TIM
Thank you. Thank you.
And Mortimer, soda is on me
tomorrow.

FADE OUT.