

Milk Carton

by

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FADE IN:

INT. MR. CONNOR'S OFFICE - SUPERSCRIPT 1 YEAR AGO

Mr. Connor enters his office whistling with a milk carton in his hand.

He walks over to a file cabinet and places the milk carton in it.

MR.CONNOR

There. Finally. Now you won't be causing anymore trouble around here.

INT. CAFETERIA - SUPERSCRIPT PRESENT DAY

A scrawny, scruffy boy wearing hand-me-own clothes sits at a lunch table eating his sandwich. This is LEO.

The only other person at the table is sitting across from him and has the same disheveled look. This is CHET.

LEO

Wow. Now I really won't be passing history after that test.

CHET

(biting into an apple)
Really? I find 16th century battle quite intriguing.

LEO

Chet, shut it.

A small carrot hits Leo on the back of the head and it lands on the table in front of him.

Leo shrugs his shoulders and tosses it behind him without looking.

Leo feels a tap on his shoulder and turns around to see MR. CONNOR with a carrot in his hand.

MR.CONNOR

Leo, that's an hour. How many times do I have to tell you to keep these delicious carrots on your tray?

LEO

But... I... it wasn't...

MR.CONNOR

No buts Mr. Thompson. In my office tomorrow morning, you'll be spending homeroom with me.

Mr. Connor walks away from their table to the other end of the cafeteria.

LEO

Another day, another carrot.

Suddenly a beautiful girl walks by with her boyfriend. This is JACKIE. Her boyfriend is PETER who is a burly kid and the quarterback of the football team.

LEO

(awkwardly waving)

Hi, Jackie.

Jackie continues to walk as if Leo does not exist.

CHET

Why do you even try, kid?

BELL rings.

Chet and Leo get up to throw away their trash.

INT. HALLWAY - NEXT MORNING

Leo is at his locker when the bell rings. Chet notices that Leo is walking in the opposite direction of homeroom.

CHET

Hey bud, aren't you coming to homeroom?

LEO

Nope. I have carrot duty, remember?

CHET

Oh, right. With Connor himself.

LEO

Not too sure what another punishment is going to do to me.

CHET

(talking really fast)

Maybe something exciting will happen this time and dramatically change your life.

(MORE)

CHET (cont'd)

You will have some epiphany and see life in a whole new perspective! You will realize your dull, boring life is actually much, much more interesting than you could ever imagine and if you really wanted you could change the world!

LEO

You really need to stop watching those phony know-the-ending-before-it-even-starts kind of movies.

CHET

Maybe you're right. See yeah later.

Leo closes his locker and heads down to Mr. Connor's office and Chet walks in the opposite direction.

INT. MR. CONNOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Connor is sitting at his desk singing Britney Spears when Leo opens the door.

Mr. Connor abruptly stops singing.

MR.CONNOR

Haven't you ever heard of knocking, boy?

LEO

Oh, sorry.

MR.CONNOR

Come in, come in.

Leo steps into his office and closes the door behind him.

He sits in a chair across from Mr. Connor's desk.

MR.CONNOR

Now, you know this needs to stop. Your behavior is unacceptable.

LEO

I understand.

MR. IMBUSCH pokes his head in the door.

MR IMBUSCH

(excited)

Connor come quick!

(MORE)

MR IMBUSCH (cont'd)
Mr. Bernstein is gonna jump Turco
Field on his motorcycle for the
Week in Review!

Mr. Connor jumps out of his seat to follow Mr. Imbusch but at
the last minute turns around just remembering Leo is there.

MR.CONNOR
Oh that's right. Um stare at the
clock for an hour. No funny
business I'll be back as soon as I
can.

Mr. Connor runs out of the room.

SMASH CUT

EXT. PARKING LOT

MR. BERNSTEIN is on his motorcycle.

MR. BERNSTEIN
...And the next Green Team meeting
is next week. But we're gonna spice
things up for this week's Week in
Review. I'm going to attempt to
clear Turco Field in my motorcycle.
Have a fun and safe weekend.

Mr. Bernstein revs up his motorcycle and prepares for the
jump.

SMASH CUT

INT. MR. CONNOR'S OFFICE

Leo is left alone in the office.

LEO
Alright...

Leo sits there aimlessly looking around the room when he
hears a tapping noise coming from the filing cabinet.

Leo looks up to listen but does not hear it again.

LEO
Hm. Must be hearing things.

Leo continues to bite his nails when he hears it again.

Leo stands up and walks over to the filing cabinet and puts his ear up against the drawer and hears the noise again.

Leo opens the drawer and sees a milk carton.

Leo picks up the milk carton to examine it when Mr. Connor comes back into the room.

An ambulance sounds in the background.

Leo quickly shuts the door and stuffs the milk carton in his pocket.

MR.CONNOR

Well that didn't end well. What are you doing?

LEO

Oh, there was a, um, a bee, yes a bee and I killed it 'cause I didn't want it stinging you.

MR.CONNOR

Well then thank you! I hate bees. They make me swell like nothing you've ever seen!

INT. LEO'S ROOM-DUSK

Leo and Chet sit on Leo's twin bed staring at the milk carton that is on Leo's desk.

CHET

It's just a milk carton. The carton was designed in the 60's as a more convenient way to sell milk in small quantities.

LEO

Well, have you ever heard of a milk carton that makes a tapping noise?!

CHET

(defeated)
No. Not recently.

LEO

That's what I thought.
(beat)
Ew, old Mac and Cheese.

Leo picks up the milk carton to wipe off food residue that is stuck to it.

Chet taps Leo on the shoulder.

CHET
Ummmmm...Leo?

LEO
(turning to Chet)
What?

When Leo turns around, he is surprised to see a peculiar man standing next to Chet. This is GENIE.

GENIE
Yo yo yo yo, my friends! Wow! It's good to smell fresh air again. That carton was getting a little stuffy if I do say so myself! I feel like I've been in there since the Boston Tea Party! What's your name good sir?

LEO
(hesitantly)
Leo.

GENIE
Leo! Oh goody! That's my sign! Can I call you lion? Or how about Lee? My last master was Jean, quite the name confusion.
(winking at Leo)

LEO
Wait, wait, wait! What do you mean by master?

GENIE
Well, I'm a genie of course. Do you think Mr. Jean became a ping-pong genius over night?
(smiling)
Nope that was all me.

Leo's and Chet's jaws drop.

GENIE (CONT'D)
What did you think I was? A princess coming out of a milk carton, maybe a fairy godmother? No, of course not! I'm your genie and your my master. Four wishes at your command.

LEO

Four, I thought it was three wishes.

GENIE

Yeah, we're trying to separate ourselves from all those Hollywood genies, you know there's a huge misconception about us. Anyway! Let's lay down a few rules here. Stay away from anything big. Life, death, love, becoming president. It's the small things that matter. Maybe a hearty buff chick sandwich?

LEO

One moment, let me conference with my buddy here.

Leo and Chet leave the room.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEO'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Leo closes the door to his room.

LEO

(whispering)

A genie! What the heck am I going to wish for!?

CHET

What about world peace?

LEO

What? Stop being so selfish. These are my wishes, not yours.

CHET

Your life is fine the way it is. You have great friends and family. What more could you ask for? Stick to what genie said, wish from something small. There's no need to mess with fate. Be happy with what you've got. Remember what Whittenhall said in history last week? It's not what the man has that makes him, it's what he doesn't have.

LEO

What?! Are you kidding me? Let's see: I DON'T have a passing grade in history, I DON'T have the girl I love, and I DON'T have a best friend that's being very helpful!

CHET

Okay. Then wish for what you want.

INT. LEO'S ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Genie is sitting on Leo's bed.

GENIE

Finished?

LEO

I think we've come to a consensus.

GENIE

All right, let me have it.

LEO

I wish I was the man at history.

GENIE

The man?

LEO

Yeah, you know? Like wicked awesome at it?

GENIE

Wicked awesome? That's quite the oxymoron.

LEO

(getting frustrated)

I wish I knew a lot about history!

GENIE

Oh! Why didn't you just say so?

With that, Genie disappears from the room.

Leo and Chet stare at each other in awe.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Students sit in their seats chatting with friends, waiting for the teacher to arrive.

One studious boy sits at the front of the room engulfed in his history book. This is ANDY

MR. WHITTENHALL then enters the room.

MR. WHITTENHALL
Good morning, class!

The class grumbles in a pathetic attempt to respond except for Andy.

ANDY
(excited and eager to
learn)
Good morning, Mr. Whittenhall

MR. WHITTENHALL
Alright then. With that, let's get
started! So today we are going to
learn about the first American
colonies.

LEO
(whispering)
Pilgrims, came to America in 1620
hoping to land in Virginia.

ANDY
The pilgrims came to America in
1620 hoping to land in Virginia.

MR. WHITTENHALL
Thank you, Andy. That's is just
where I wanted to start. Does
anyone know why the pilgrims landed
in Massachusetts?

Andy eagerly raises his hand as he always does in history class.

LEO
(blurting out)
The pilgrims landing in
Massachusetts in 1620 but were
actually suppose to land in
Virginia when a storm threw them
off course.

MR.WHITTENHALL

Excellent, Mr. Thompson! I see you have been studying.

ANDY

What?! What was that? He didn't even raise his hand. That's not fair! The Classroom Management Plan states clearly that all students should raise their hands before they speak to show respect.

MR. WHITTENHALL

Andy, let's not be dramatic. We all know that no one really reads to Classroom Management Plan, the school just makes me have one.

ANDY

I bet he didn't know that most of the pilgrims didn't...

LEO

(interrupting Andy)

Most of the pilgrims didn't survive because they landed right before winter so they did not have enough time to build substantial shelter.

MR.WHITTEHALL

Wow! I think we've found ourselves a new student of the month.

ANDY

(shouting)

What?! What?! I have been student of the month for history class 12 consecutive times since freshman year! Not to mention the perfect score I received on the MCAS. This is ridiculous.

LEO

(interrupting Chet)

I think Andy is just a little jealous he doesn't study as hard as I do.

MR.WHITTENHALL

Well then, Mr. Thompson, I think you will be the perfect candidate to enter the history essay writing contest. Thirty page paper.

(MORE)

MR.WHITTENHALL (cont'd)
I was going to give it to Andy but
it seems you have outdone him.

ANDY
What?! I cleared my whole weekend
to write that paper! I even told
Ms. Milne I couldn't make it to the
math meet!

Leo stares at Mr. Whittenhall in awe and the BELL rings.

INT. LEO'S ROOM-DAY

Chet is lying on Leo's bed tossing and catching a ball in the
air.

Leo is sitting in his desk chair.

CHET
So what is wish number two gonna
be?

LEO
Well, I'll tell you this much, it
will have nothing to do with
school. What about Jessica?

CHET
What about her?

LEO
Have her like me, duh.

CHET
Kid, don't mess with fate. Remember
it's not what the man has that
makes him...

LEO
(interrupting Chet)
I know, I know, it's what he
doesn't have. But I don't have
anything and I am a nothing. I
might as well try. Nothing else
seems to get her to notice me.

Leo takes the milk carton out of his backpack that is lying
on the floor next to him.

Leo rubs the milk carton.

Genie appears.

GENIE
Yo yo yiggity yo.

LEO
Hey there, bud. I'm ready for my
next wish.

GENIE
Wonderful! Now do you want your
buff chick medium or spicy?

LEO
No, no buff chick. I want Jackie
Meyers to love me.

Genie's eyes widen in shock.

GENIE
Whoa. What did I tell you?

LEO
I'm sick of people telling me what
to do. I'm sick of the girl of my
dreams not even knowing I exist.

GENIE
Alright, but don't say I didn't
warn you.

Genie snaps a puff of smoke comes around him as he attempts
to disappear.

LEO
How could it not wor-

Leo nods toward Genie who failed to disappear. There is an
awkward pause of Leo and Chet staring at Genie. Genie snaps
again and disappears successfully.

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

Leo is sitting in class watching Jackie talk to her group of
friends, assuming that the wish did not work. The bell rings
and he turns to face the television.

ON TV

The Week in Review comes on and Mr. Bernstein is in a full
body cast mumbling while subtitles show at the bottom of the
screen.

BACK TO SCENE

All of the sudden, Jackie is at her desk, which is oddly close to Leo's, staring at him.

LEO
Chet, it's working! Look at
Jessica.

Chet glances over at Jackie and sees her waving.

CHET
(whispering)
Do something!

The BELL rings and students head for the door.

JACKIE
Hey, Leo! Wait up!

INT. ENGLISH HALLWAY

Leo is seen at his locker with Jackie leaning up against the locker next to his flirting with him.

She has her hand on his shoulder and is giggling.

We are unable to hear what they are saying.

All of a sudden, Peter shows up next to Leo.

PETER
And might I ask what are you doing?

LEO
Uhh... I....

JACKIE
Peter! This loser here was trying
to flirt with me!

LEO
What?! I didn't... You were the
one...

PETER
Enough! You. Me. After school.
Downstairs in the basement. Be
there or never see the light of day
again.

Peter takes Jackie's hand and they walk down the hall.

Jessica glances over her shoulder and winks at Leo.

JACKIE
(mouthing)
I'm sorry.

The BELL rings and Leo is the only one left in the hall.

Leo slams his locker and sighs.

LEO
(to himself)
Wow. When Genie said every wish
would cause great misfortune, I
thought he was just messing around,
not that my life would be in
danger.

Leo takes out the milk carton from his pocket and rubs it.

GENIE
What up buds?

LEO
Bud? Bud?! I'm not going to be
living in less than 2 hours and
it's your fault! You call us
friends.

GENIE
Whoa, don't get your knickers in a
bunch. I warned you.

LEO
Yeah, well, I'm ready for my third
wish.

Genie takes out a pen and paper as if he is a waiter taking
an order.

GENIE
So would you like lettuce on this
buff chick sandwich.

LEO
I don't want a sandwich! I'm about
to get my butt kicked! I want to be
amazing at fighting! Yeah! Yeah! To
be an amazing fighter, that's what
I want!

GENIE
(sighing)
Your wish is my command.

Genie disappears and Leo is left in the hall alone.

LEO
Yes! I am all set. Peter won't know
what's coming.

Leo looks around and notices he the only one in the hallway.

LEO (CONT'D)
Crap! I'm late for math! Good thing
it's only math.

Leo runs down the hall towards the math wing.

INT. LOWER GYM - DAY

Peter is punching the air practicing for the fight.

Jackie is standing next to him holding her books.

Leo opens the door with Chet.

Jessica waves when she sees Leo.

Leo reluctantly waves back.

PETER
Are you ready to never see the
light of day again, Thompson?

LEO
(setting down his
backpack)
Give me your best.

PETER
Oh, you asked for it.

Peter is about to swing a punch when all of a sudden Leo starts punching and kicking like a maniac.

Peter runs away screaming like a girl and Jessica runs after him.

JACKIE
(running)
Hey! Wait up! You're my ride home!

CHET
Where did you learn moves like
that?

LEO
 (picking up his backpack)
 I don't have to conference with you
 for all my wishes. I am capable of
 thinking on my own sometimes.

CHET
 Emphasize the sometimes.

Leo jokingly punches Chet and the arm.

The two laugh and walk out.

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

Leo and Chet sit in homeroom talking while their fellow
 students watch the morning news. Leo is quickly distracted.

INT. ON TV - CONTINUOUS

NEWS ANCHOR
 Uh... Would Leo Thompson please
 report to Mrs. B. Sullivan's room
 at the end of the day.

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

CLASS
 Ohhh...

Leo turns to Chet.

LEO
 I don't think I have ever even seen
 that teacher since I've been at
 Walpole High

CHET
 (seriously, as if he has
 experienced B. Sullivan's
 wrath first hand)
 She's a wise woman. She knows more
 than you can ever imagine.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE MRS. B. SULLIVAN'S ROOM - DAY

Leo tries to open the door but it seems to be locked.

Leo looks through the window to see MRS. B. SULLIVAN slapping
 MR. CASHMAN on the shoulder, hinting him to answer the door.

Mr. Cashman jumps up frightfully to answer the door.

The door opens.

MR. CASHMAN
(bowing his head)
Welcome, child.

Leo cautiously steps into the room.

INT. MRS. B. SULLIVAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Leo slowly walks over to Mr. B. Sullivan's desk where she is reading a Cat Fancy magazine.

Mr. Cashman sits down in a tiny chair next to her and he is looking down at the floor.

Mrs. B. Sullivan abruptly puts her magazine down.

Mrs. B. Sullivan bows her head when she sees Leo standing in front of her desk.

LEO
I know I was told to come here, but
I'm not...

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
(interrupting Leo)
Honey don't be nervous! I just
wanted to congratulate you on your
big fight! You must be so hungry! I
have some cookies for you right
warm out of the oven!

LEO
(reaching for a cookie)
Uh ok thanks...Oh, these are really
good, maybe even better than my
mom's.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
You know Leo you could have these
everyday if I were in charge -

LEO
(throwing cookies in his mouth)
Wow you should really bring that up
to administration no one would deny
these cookies.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN

That's why I called you in here
Leo. I don't think I need to go to
administration to get the things I
want. I've earned the right to make
the rules now, I've paid my dues. I
want to be principal and I think
you can help me out.

LEO

What do you mean? I don't really
think I would be much help with
convincing administration of
anything.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN

(forcefully gritting her
teeth and temporarily
whipping out her Brooklyn
accent)

NO! I mean no honey. You're not
understanding me. I think you can
get me what I want without
administration, without any other
'person' getting involved.

Mrs. B. Sullivan moves closer to Leo as she talks as her
voice gets louder. She stares down Leo intimidatingly. Leo
puts down his cookie as his face shows that he now
understands Mrs. Sullivan knows about the genie.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN

(in a full-fledged
Brooklyn accent)

I don't think you know who I am. I
didn't grow up in sheltered little
Walpole. No! I grew up on the
streets of Brooklyn. This is about
survival of the fittest!

LEO

(starting to get up)

Listen I think you have the wrong
kid here. I have no power and I
really don't think I can help you.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN

(heavy Brooklyn accent)

Listen let's not kid ourselves.

(MORE)

MRS. B. SULLIVAN (cont'd)
You and me both know that you can
get what ever you want right this
second with just the snap of your
fingers!

LEO
(getting nervous)
I don't...I have no idea what you
are talking about.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
(heavy Brooklyn accent)
Leo there is no way Peter, the
quarterback of the football team,
was defeated by, well, you -

Mrs. Sullivan scans Leo up and down.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
I've seen this happen before. I
know what you are hiding. Where is
he! Where is the genie!

LEO
I don't know what you are talking
about. A genie? You're crazy. I
think there has been some kind of
misunderstanding.

MR. CASHMAN
Master Sullivan is never...

Mrs. B. Sullivan hits Mr. Cashman in the arm.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
What my trainee was trying to say
is that I am one of the most
powerful teachers in the school,
but that is not enough. I must be
the leader, and I must have the
genie's power! Now!

LEO
Listen I'm sorry I don't kn-

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
(shouting)
Don't question my intelligence!

Leo dashes to the door and panics when the door knob is
locked. He looks up to see the key dangling on the door knob.

Leo unlocks the door with the key and runs out.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
Cashman! You inept fool! I told you
to put that key in a safe place
where you wouldn't forget.

MR. CASHMAN
Well, I figured if it was hanging
on the doorknob I wouldn't forget
where it was.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
Now, does that really make it a
safe place then?

MR. CASHMAN
No, no I guess it doesn't.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Leo is walking down the hall and turns around to see Mrs. B. Sullivan standing outside her room with Cashman standing next to her.

MRS. B. SULLIVAN
Don't stand here you naive
individual. Catch him!

Mr. Cashman, rips off his breakaway clothes revealing a full track uniform. He gets in the runner's starting position, and sprints ahead after Leo.

Leo takes off his back pack and throws it on the ground to create an obstacle for Mr. Cashman.

Leo begins to open lockers and throws books on the ground to stop Cashman.

Mr. Cashman hurdles over all the back packs like some kind of track maniac.

Leo makes a sharp right around the corner to the stairway leading to the basement.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Cashman and Leo are seen running down the stairwell.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Cashman stops Leo at the bottom of the stairway and has him pinned against the wall.

MR.CASHMAN

There is no running from me now.
Come on, let's fight!

LEO

I... I... Can't fight you.

MR.CASHMAN

From what I here you defeated
Peter, the quarterback of the
football team. If you don't need a
genie then you should be able to
fight me!

Leo whips out the milk carton from his back pocket and rubs
it.

LEO

Ah ha!

Mr. Cashman feels a tap on his shoulder

GENIE

Heeeey ol' buddy.

Mr. Cashman turns around to see Genie and jumps because he is
so startled.

MR. CASHMAN

Whoa! Genie! I mean.. Uh... Who are
you?

GENIE

You know exactly who I am, Cashman.
Or should I say master?

LEO

Wait, wait slow down. You use to be
Mr. Cashman's master?

GENIE

Why yes, yes I did.

MR. CASHMAN

What, what are you talking about?
I... I...

GENIE

Cashman. Let's see, let me look at
my file.

Genie puts on a pair a reading glasses and mysteriously has a
folder in his hands.

GENIE (CONT'D)
 (running his finger down a list)
 Allison, Archembault, Balkus,
 Bakale, oh! Here we are, Cashman.

MR. CASHMAN
 What is that? What do you have
 there?

GENIE
 Okay, let's see. Connor Cashman.
 At 24 years of age. Came into
 possession of my milk carton on the
 18th of April in 2005. First wish-
 be a track fanatic. Second wish- be
 a vocab master. Third wish- Become
 the Junior Honors English teacher.
 (turning to Leo)
 You didn't think they'd give that
 job to fresh meat, did you? And the
 final wish I recall is when things
 really fell apart for you, no?

MR. CASHMAN
 Stop! Stop you're humiliating me!

Cashman runs away crying.

GENIE
 Well, that wasn't too hard to get
 rid of him now was it?

LEO
 So what was that final wish?

GENIE
 He wished to be the faculty advisor
 of the Rebellion. Little did he
 know he would have to stand the
 wrath of B. Sul. Genius of a woman.
 Ah, yes B. Sul. I think she came
 across the carton spring of 1985.
 Boy, those were the good old days.

LEO
 Wow. Who knew?

GENIE
 (laughing)
 Boy, see what I mean now? You need
 to learn the key to life is the
 little things. So I believe you
 still have one wish left kid.
 What'll it be.

LEO

I've thought a lot about this.
Genie, I had my chance, and now I
wanna give you yours. I wish to set
you free!

GENIE

Alright, let's not get dramatic.
What do you think this is Aladdin?
I have to make a living somehow
buddy.

LEO

Oh thank god cause I really want
everything to go back to normal.

GENIE

I can do that. Cleaning up your
mess shouldn't be too hard. I've
had worse.

Genie and Leo walk up the stairs together.

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL - DAY

At the end of the day kids are getting in their cars to go
home.

A chunky FRESHMAN BOY is sitting on the front wall waiting
for his ride.

He notices a milk carton sitting on the ground and picks it
up to see if there is anything in it.

Disappointed the freshman boy puts the carton down next to
him.

Genie is then sitting next to the boy.

GENIE

Yo, sup guy! I am your new master!

FRESHMAN BOY

Wow! A genie! Do I get three
wishes!

GENIE

Today's your lucky day! You get
four wishes! But there are some
rules you have to follow.

FRESHMAN BOY

Yea, yea whatever! I just want a
buff chick! Yea! A buff chick, come
on! On a bulky roll with fresh
lettuce and blue cheese!

GENIE

I like your style, kid

Genie winks.

FADE OUT.