

The Ant

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LUNCHTIME

We see the chaotic scene of a school lunch room. JANITOR JOE is seen cleaning up a mess in the corner.

The camera zooms in on one messy lunch table full of a group of 4 immature teenage boys: JACK, BILLY, SAM, and BRYAN. The boys are invested in a concoction that they are creating out of their lunches. We see their amused faces and they add foods to their mixture.

Jack, the leader of the friend group, adds his chocolate milk to the concoction.

JACK

That looks nasty! Hey, Bryan, I dare you to try it.

BRYAN

(with a face of disgust)

Are you crazy dude? You'd have to pay me \$100 to even touch that.

JACK

Come on, don't be a loser. I said I dare you. Now you have to.

BILLY

You heard him, Bryan. Do it!

The boys, Jack, Billy, and Sam, begin to chant "do it" to convince Bryan to try the peculiar mixture.

BRYAN

Alright, alright. I'll do it.
Just one sip.

Bryan, picking up the cup of cloudy liquid, looks down at the contents with disgust, as he gags. Bryan takes a sip of the liquid with a sour expression on his face.

JACK

Damn, he actually did it! That's nasty.

That moment, Janitor Joe begins yelling at a table of girls behind this group of boys about a mess. Jack, Sam, and Billy turn to see what all the commotion is about.

JANITOR JOE

Who spilled this juice? I've had enough of this school's carelessness. Pick up your own damn mess.

The boys turn their attention back to their own table, shocked to see Bryan has disappeared.

BILLY

Where'd Bryan go? He was just here a second ago.

JACK

I bet he's making a run for the bathroom. Who knows what that food mixture did to him.

The boys laugh in agreement about this joke.

Sam points at a spot on the table.

SAM

Hold on. What is that right there?

All the boys look intently where Sam is pointing.

JACK

What?

SAM

That, right there. Is it...an ant?

Sam whips out a magnifying glass and looks at the ant. There is a very real resemblance between the ant and Bryan.

SAM

(with a look of horror)

Oh. My. God. Guys, I think we found Bryan.

The boys look carefully at the table where Sam is pointing. They see an ant strolling across it.

JACK

Don't be stupid, Sam. There's no way that's Bryan. Stop playing.

Billy takes a look at the ant through the magnifying glass too.

BILLY

(picking up the ant)

I wish I could say the same, but this ant looks just like Bryan. Can't you see the resemblance?

JACK

You sound pathetic. Let me take a look.

Jack peers down at the tiny insect through the glass and it is just a normal ant.

JACK (CONT'D)

It's an ant. Not a boy, not our friend.

Sam gets closer to the ant, looking intrigued and confused.

SAM

I'm telling you, his looks and mannerisms are identical to Bryan's.

BILLY

Jack, I don't want to believe it either, but what else possibly could have happened. We have to accept that this is reality now.

JACK

Fine, I guess he does look like Bry Guy a little bit.

BILLY

The least we can do is make sure he passes class. After all, this is our fault for forcing him to drink the concoction.

Sam leans in to talk to the ant.

SAM

Don't trip little bro, we got you.

The boys exit the cafeteria with faces of worry. Billy continues to cup the ant in his hands.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

MR. SALMANS is seen at his desk as students walk into class.

MR. SALMANS

Alright class! I'll take a quick attendance and then we'll jump into today's lessons. G'Bless!

Mr. Salmans begins listing off his students names in alphabetical order.

Suddenly, Sam and Jack rush into the classroom with Billy right behind them, still holding the ant in his hands.

MR. SALMANS (CONT'D)

Welcome boys. Just in time for attendance. I see Sam, Jack, and Billy. So no Bryan today? Absent.

JACK

(in a serious tone)
No sir, he is right here.

Billy holds up his cupped hands to reveal the ant to Mr. Salmans.

MR. SALMANS

(with the class
laughing)

Um. I must be going bonkers, because that's no boy, that's an ant.

JACK

Trust me Mr. Salmans, it's Bryan. If you take a closer look, you'll see the resemblance. You can't mark him absent! Don't ask how this happened, that remains unknown.

MR. SALMANS

(shaking his head)
You know what? They do have the same eyes. I don't know who I've become, but it would only be right to mark him present.

MR. SALMANS (CONT'D)

(waving at the ant)
Hey there, Bryan.

The 3 boys go to their seats, relieved that Bryan wasn't marked absent. Class continues as normal.

INT. GYM CLASS - DAY

The boys are lined up, picking teams for a basketball 4v4 in gym class. Jack and their fellow classmate RICHY are captains.

JACK

Ok, I'll take Sam, Billy, and Bryan, I guess.

RICHY

Um...Ok I guess I'll take Kobe, Lebron, and Shaquille. Seems like Bryan isn't here though so we can just play with a sub.

BILLY

What are you talking about? Bryan is right here.

He holds up the ant that he is still holding in his hands.

RICHY

UHHH. Sure, ya, OK. I guess he can play. Easy dub.

All the boys line up and start playing their game.

GYM MONTAGE:

-- Billy passes the ball to the ant and it goes over the ant's head.

-- Richy's team continuously scores.

-- Jack's team looks dejected and confused, as they continue to turn it over when passing to Bryan.

END MONTAGE

The boys begin leaving gym class after taking a demoralizing loss.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

During their free period, the boys go to the library to study. They bring the ant along.

JACK

Alright, let's review for our APUSH test to get our minds off of that fat L.

BILLY

I agree, I need help.

SAM

We need to make sure that Bryan stays up to date on all of his work since he isn't exactly feeling like himself. It's the least we can do for him.

Billy opens his textbook to start studying.

BILLY

Ok Bryan, we are learning about the Civil War. Do you remember what the Emancipation proclamation was?

The boys look at each other as no response is given. Jack takes a swig of chocolate milk.

JACK

Ya, I don't think this is going to work. How are we going to fix this?

SAM

Fax, I want my friend back.

Sam wipes a tear from his eyes.

Billy slams his textbook shut.

BILLY

I'll tell you what. We got into this mess because Bryan drank that mixture. Maybe we can reverse its effect by making him drink it again.

JACK

I mean, it may be worth a shot.

SAM

(continuing to sob)
Its not like things can get worse.

The boys stand up to leave.

JACK
Off to the cafeteria.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The boys are walking to the cafeteria and Billy holds the ant in his hands.

JACK
Hey, Billy, give the kid a little respect. He can walk by himself.

Billy nods in agreement and puts the ant down. The ant trails behind the boys.

They are about to turn the corner to get to the cafeteria, when a foot comes around it and steps on the ant. We see the sole of the foot from the ant's perspective.

JANITOR JOE
Don't worry boys, I got that pesky ant.

All three boys are frozen in shock and Sam drops to his knees.

SAM
NOOOOOOOOO! BRYAN!

Sam starts to cry again and Billy is still standing there with his mouth wide open, frozen.

Then a voice is heard from behind them.

BRYAN
Guys?

Sam, now sobbing on the ground, looks up at Billy and Jack.

SAM
Crazy isn't it. Bryan is gone, but it is almost like I can still hear his friendly voice.

Bryan walks closer to his grieving friends.

BRYAN
What are you talking about? I am right here.

Billy, Jack, and Sam whip around to see their friend. With antenna on his head.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Sorry I missed English and study block. My stomach just felt iffy after drinking that at lunch.

All three boys are looking at Bryan weirdly.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Why are you guys looking at me that way.