

Waiting For Griffin

by
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FADE IN:

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM - DAY

A class is busy doing research work.

Two boys are distracting each other, one boy, JOE is helping DAVE balance a pencil on his nose.

The TEACHER notices, and is not amused.

TEACHER
JOSEPH AND DAVID!

DAVE
Yes, ma'am?

TEACHER
I'm not even going to bring up the obvious safety risk you two are posing with your foolish pencil game, but you're wasting valuable class time. Get to work like everybody else.

JOE
We ARE working, I'm figuring out angles and stuff.

DAVE
Like, researching equations that we can use in everyday life and stuff.

TEACHER
Boys, this is History class. Next time make sure your excuse is consistent. Get to work.

The Boys sigh heavily and sink in their seats.

DAVE
Why's she hate us so much?

JOE
I dunno, she's threatened, probably.

DAVE
Probably 'cause she hates everyone that isn't Griffin.

JOE
Yeah, well I'd love Griffin too. Look at him over there.

JOHN GRIFFIN is sitting alone at a table, writing furiously in a notebook, surrounded by a pile of thick reference books.

DAVE
Kid's a beast.

JOE
 Absolutely absorbs knowledge. Like
 a brain sponge.

DAVE
 A sponge with an unquenchable
 thirst.

JOE
 (slightly deeper tone)
 I am Griffin, I have come for your
 books.

The teacher starts tapping at the board to get the classes
 attention.

Everyone looks up, except Griffin, who's deep in
 concentration.

TEACHER
 Kay now. Time to make our groups
 for the presentation. We're gonna
 pick 'em randomly I have names in a
 hat, just gonna grab out groups of
 three.

Dave and John are tossing m&ms in each other's mouths.

TEACHER
 Okay, first group, you'll be
 doing... Manifest destiny. And the
 group consists of...

She reaches in the hat

TEACHER
 Okay, David, you're in group one.
 Along with, what are the chances,
 Joseph!

Joe and Dave bump fists.

JOE
 Nasty.

TEACHER
 Okay, and who's the lucky student
 to be working with the dream team
 over here.

Joe and Dave bump heads.

The teacher reaches in the hat.

TEACHER
 And our lucky contestant is...
 (Sigh)
 John Griffin.

Griffin picks his head up from his research. He looks around and looks right back down.

JOE
Thank the heavens my friend.

DAVE
Heavens thanked. Dude, Dr. Encyclopedia over there's gonna have the thing done in like twenty minutes.

JOE
He's a machine.

Joe and Dave walk over to Griffin.

They each pull up the seats surrounding Griffin.

DAVE
Hey O.G, you pumped?

GRIFFIN
O.G?

DAVE
Either original gangster or original Griffin, I haven't decided.

GRIFFIN
Oh. Pumped for what?

JOE
For this sick project we're doin'.

GRIFFIN
Yeah, I guess.

DAVE
Good, 'cause so are we.

GRIFFIN
Um, I'm going to be a little late tomorrow, so go ahead and start without me.

DAVE
You're going to be LATE?

GRIFFIN
Don't worry, I already told the teacher.

JOE
Which is of course our prime concern.

DAVE
But you ARE going to be there?

GRIFFIN
Yes, I, I should be there.

 JOE
It's gonna be sick kid, you're
gonna love it.

INT. BATHROOM - THAT DAY

Dave and Joe are causing trouble in the bathroom.

Dave has a marker in his hand, about to write on the wall.

 DAVE
What teacher should I say sucks?

 JOE
I dunno, Alberg or someone. So are
we just gonna have Griff do this
project for us?

 DAVE
What could we possibly contribute?

 JOE
Excellent point.

 DAVE
You see that kid working earlier?
He loves this stuff. Research is
like, his party. He doesn't want us
messin' it up.

 JOE
You're right. In fact, he'd
probably be offended if we did.

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Dave and Joe are sitting at the table, no books in front of
them. They are each holding an action figure, hitting them
together, making them fight.

 TEACHER
David and Joseph, put your dolls
away, and get to work.

 JOE
They're not dolls, ma'am.

 DAVE
And we'd love to, but we can't get
to work.

 TEACHER
And Why not?

DAVE
Because, Griffin's not here.

TEACHER
You can still work. Two of you are here.

JOE
Yeah, but he's got stuff that we need. Like, research.

DAVE
And pencils!

TEACHER
Come get a pencil from the can on my desk and get to work.

Dave sighs and gets two pencils from the jar.

He sits back down and hands a pencil to Joe.

JOE
Don't worry, Griffin should be here any second. Then we'll nothin' but a sweet little "A" on our hands.

DAVE
Okay, he better hurry up though.

INT. ONE TABLE OVER

A group of three girls are hard at work at another table.

DANA
But then, I was thinking that me and my boyfriend will probably be the President and First Lady. When I told my mom that, she said we'd be the best looking ones ever. Don't you think she's right?

INT. JOE AND DAVE'S TABLE

Joe and Dave have notebooks out, but they're drawing pictures instead of researching.

JOE
What's our project even on?

DAVE
Manifesto Destiny.

JOE
I thought you couldn't teach religion in school.

DAVE
There's like, bylaws or something.

JOE
We should just do it on Destiny's
Child.

DAVE
Yeah, there were those two girls
who left, and that other girl who
replaced them both.

JOE
And Beyonce was all
(upward infliction)
"MMHMM, what up Jay-z?"

DAVE
This is a bad idea.

JOE
Yeah, I don't like it.

Dana turns around and faces their table.

DANA
I think that maybe you guys should
do some work.

JOE
I think that maybe you're dumb.

DAVE
I think that maybe you should mind
your own business.

DANA
I want to get class of the month,
and we're not going to get
nominated with you guys joking
around all the time.

JOE
I think that maybe you and your
boyfriend are each other's only
friend.

DAVE
I think that maybe you should stop
trying to be smart 'cause you're
stupid and Griffin's the smartest
kid in the class.

DANA
You guys are like children.

DAVE
I think that maybe...

DANA
(frustrated)
UGH!

She turns around and faces her own table.

JOE
(in a girl voice)
Me and my boyfriend drive BMW's!

DANA (O.S.)
Shut up!

JOE
Where do you think Griffin is?

DAVE
I dunno man. But if he WAS here,
I'm pretty sure we wouldn't have to
deal with Sassy-Pants-Dana all day.

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM - DREAM

Dave and Joe are at the same table, except Griffin's in between them, they're all buried in work. Griffin's huge reference books are strewn about the table.

Dana turns around to face the table.

DANA
(Dave's voice)
BLAAAAAH!

Griffin stands up

GRIFFIN
(Dave's voice)
Listen, Dana, my group is hard at work, and can't be bothered to listen to your senseless prattle. Now, if you please.

Griffin twirls his finger, motioning for Dana to turn around.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM

Joe and Dave are walking out of the room. The Teacher is sitting at her table.

TEACHER
And where are you boys going?

JOE
Getting books, it's a library, you said we could.

TEACHER
 It's fine, I just need you guys to
 tell me where you're going.

The boys turn around and walk out.

INT. OUTSIDE THE ROOM-LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

DAVE
 This lady seriously needs to back
 off.

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM

DANA
 Miss, do you want me to write them
 up for you?

INT. REFERENCE BOOK SECTION

Joe and Dave are sitting on the ground and each have
 encyclopedias on their laps.

JOE
 So Griffin never told you where he
 was going?

DAVE
 Nope. Probably somewhere awesome.

JOE
 I know, there's not much even left
 for him to do. He's basically done
 every thing. Mostly from the years
 he spent in Europe.

DAVE
 He was in Europe?

JOE
 Yeah. For years. He went there
 originally to go to France. He
 wanted to study to be a Jazz
 musician. But apparently there
 wasn't much learning he could do. I
 guess he showed up and was already
 the best one there.

DAVE
 What'd you say? Sorry, I was just
 busy being pissed at Dana.

JOE
 I'm actually not gonna repeat
 myself. But I'm not mad, cause I
 think I hate Dana just as much.

DAVE
Yeah, but I have a legit reason,
you don't.

JOE
What's your reason?

DAVE
She annoys the hell out of me. You,
on the other hand, don't like her
just because she hangs out with
Mark.

JOE
Don't even say "Mark." It just
brings me back to the day.

DAVE
T'was a rough day, sir.

EXT. OLD POST ROAD SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - FLASHBACK

We see Joe, who looks the same as he does as a seventeen year
old. He's approached by MARK, A fifth-grader.

MARK
HEY JOE!

Joe turns around timidly.

MARK
I heard what you said about me!

JOE
I didn't say...

Before Joe can finish, Mark socks Joe in the Jaw. Then
proceeds to beat the crap out of him.

BACK TO SCENE:

DAVE
Could you imagine what it'd be like
if we were friends with Griffin
then?

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

Griffin comes out of the bushes, dressed in all black like
he's on a covert mission.

Griffin then saves Joe by using his technical mastery to flip
Mark over his back and put him in the sleeper hold.

Across the field, A group of fifth-graders notice what's
happening.

LEADER OF PACK
 HEY! Some commando guy's submitting
 Mark!

The horde of kids charges toward Griffin.

Griffin drops the unconscious, limp Mark, and proceeds to take out the group of kids, not unlike a ninja.

INT. BACK TO SCENE

Joe is looking in the Guinness Book of World Records.

JOE
 That would have made things go ofar
 easier. Dave. Did you know
 (beat)
 That the fastest selling techno
 album of all time is 1997's "The
 Fat of the Land" by Prodigy?

DAVE
 Yes.

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM

Dana is sitting, straight backed, with her hand raised.

TEACHER
 Yes, Dana?

DANA
 Do you want me to go out and make
 sure Thing 1 and Thing 2 are doing
 their work?

TEACHER
 That would be lovely. Thank you
 Dana.

INT. REFERENCE BOOK SECTION

Joe and Dave are still looking sitting on the ground.

JOE
 So yeah, I guess I'd have to say
 that Griffin could...

DANA (O.C.)
 (cutting off)
 Are you guys serious?

The camera reveals Dana, who has approached them.

DAVE
OH! Eva Braun, glad you could make it.

DANA
The Guinness Book of World Records is NOT your project.

JOE
I disagree.

DANA
IT'S NOT AN OPINION! You guys REALLY need to do your work! I want to win class of the month!

DAVE
We already won class of the month.

DANA
What are you talking about?

JOE
WE won. I don't know about you.

DANA
WILL YOU GUYS TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY!?

DAVE
SHH! Dana, I'm going to have to ask you to stop talking. This is a library.

DANA
UGH! You guys have 15 minutes. I hope you pull something together.

Dana storms off.

JOE
So much anger.

DAVE
She should do yoga or something.

JOE
Griffin does yoga.

DAVE
He does?

JOE
Yeah, and somehow, while he's doing it... The EPITOME of masculinity.

DAVE
I believe it.

JOE
Speaking of the little guy.

DAVE
He here?

JOE
No, I was gonna point out his not here-ness.

DAVE
Oh, well I already knew that.

JOE
He's probably at the doctor's office or something.

DAVE
Griffin? Why would he be at the doctor? He's the picture of health.

JOE
Well, he could have a check up? Or he could maybe be fishing for compliments. Like when a girl gets a haircut that they like, they'll say they hat it so that you'll tell them how good it looks.

DAVE
Right, he goes to the doctor and's all, "Hey, doc, I'm not quite feelin' it today, what's the deal?" So he'll go "Well, Griffin, you, my good man, are absolutely tearin' up, you're healthy as a horse."

JOE
Exactly. All that and showing up just in the nick of time to rock out on this project.

DAVE
Yeah, when's that part gonna happen?

JOE
It will.

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM

Every group is working hard and putting the final touches on their projects.

INT. REFERENCE BOOK SECTION

Joe and Dave, yet again, still sitting on the ground.

JOE
 Okay, as much as I hate to say it.
 I don't think Griffin's going to
 show.

DAVE
 What are you getting at?

JOE
 We need to quickly through this
 project together while we still
 can.

DAVE
 Are you serious? Fine. I'll do it,
 but I'm not gonna spell everything
 right.

INT. TABLES IN THE LIBRARY

Dave and Joe are hard at work, thick books all around them.

They're frantically writing down in their notebooks, with an
 empty poster board on the table.

GRIFFIN (O.C.)
 Looks like you guys have been
 working hard.

JOE AND DAVE
 (together)
 GRIFFIN!

JOE
 I knew you'd make it.

GRIFFIN
 Let's make a project!

All three high five each other.

MONTAGE: GRIFFIN AND BOYS DOING PROJECT

-- Griffin pulling notebooks out of his backpack.

-- Three man high five.

-- Dave holding up a book, underlining sentences with his
 finger and Joe writes stuff down.

-- Three man high five.

-- Although you can't hear what he's saying over the music,
 Griffin yelling at Dana, and she runs away crying.

-- Three man high five.

-- Dave, on the verge of tears.

DAVE
I'm NEVER going to learn this!

GRIFFIN
YES YOU WILL!

- Three man high five.
- They're putting together the poster, writing with marker.
- Decorating it with glitter.
- Griffin pouring glitter on Dave's head.
- Griffin and Joe high five.
- Dave bends over, using the head glitter to decorate the poster.
- Three man high five.

END MONTAGE

The three boys look in awe at their peice of work.

JOE
Now THIS is what I call a damn good poster board.

DAVE
I couldn't agree more if I tried.

GRIFFIN
(cheerily)
I'm gonna kill you guys!

DAVE
Excuse me?

GRIFFIN
You better wake up right now!

JOE
Will you explain yourself Griffin?

Camera reveals that the poster's title is "MANIFESTO DESTINY'S CHILD"

GRIFFIN
(voice fading into Dana's)
This is a new low, even for you two!

FADE INTO THE BOYS SLEEPING IN THE REFERENCE BOOK SECTION

The boys wake up, with Dana standing over them

JOE
Oh, uh, huh?

DANA
What are you guys doing!?

DAVE
Working, now if you'll excuse us.

DANA
This is it! I'm giving up on you!

JOE
You sound like my mother.

Dana storms off.

JOE
Dude, did you just have the same
dream that I did?

DAVE
I think SO. Did it involve Jackie
Chan?

JOE
No, not that I remember.

DAVE
Then it wasn't the same, 'cause
that was pretty much all that was
going on in mine.

JOE
Okay, but anyway, now I'm starting
to think that maybe, we should
start our project.

DAVE
That's what Jackie Chan told me!

INT. TABLES IN THE LIBRARY

The boys have all their materials set up, ready to go.

They're standing, looking at it all, about to start.

JOE
Okay, um, about to start the
project, here we go. Starting
project... NOW! Project started,
okay.

DAVE
We're not making much progress,
huh?

JOE
Hand me that marker.

Dave hands Joe a marker.

DAVE
Marker handed.

JOE
Okay. WAIT! WHAT'RE WE DOING!?

DAVE
Starting the project, or at least I
thought.

JOE
NO NO NO! If we do that, then we're
quitters. Giving in at the worst
time.

DAVE
What are you talkin' about?

JOE
What's gonna happen if we do this
project?

DAVE
We hand it in?

JOE
Yeah, you bet we do. And for a
grade, after all our hard work, D+
tops. Let's face it Dave, we do
lackluster work, and we don't even
know the material.

DAVE
You have a point. But a D+ is
better than an F.

JOE
You know what's better than both of
those? An A+! And THAT'S what we
get when Griffin comes to town!
He'll be here I tell you, he'll be
here!

DAVE
So what do we do now?

JOE
What we always do. We wait.

Joe sweeps the table clean with his arm.

They both sit, straight backed, hands folded on the table,
looking forward.

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM

The kids are all finishing and handing in their projects.

We continuously cut back to see Joe and Dave still sitting in the exact same position.

Dana looks out at them, crosses her arms and scoffs.

INT. TABLES IN THE LIBRARY

The boys are still sitting, and don't appear to have moved one inch.

Griffin comes storming in, holding a poster, and waving his written portion of the project.

 GRIFFIN
 (approaching the boys)
 Sorry I'm so late, it took longer
 than I expected.

 JOE
 Griff, my good man, as long as you
 made it, that's all we care about.

 DAVE
 Where were you?

 GRIFFIN
 That's actually none of your damn
 business, but I can assure you it
 was very important.

 DAVE
 Okay, okay, well let's have a look
 at this project.

Griffin puts down the poster on the table.

 JOE
 Dude, that's unreal!

Joe puts up his hand for a three man high five.

Griffin and Dave look at his hand in confusion.

Joe looks embarrassed and puts his hand down.

 JOE
 Manifest destiny. You forgot the
 "O."

 GRIFFIN
 What "O"?

The Teacher looks out of the back room at the boys.

 TEACHER
 Mr. Griffin, do you have a pass?

GRIFFIN
 (yelling to her)
 Yes, miss.

 DAVE
 Okay, let's just go hand this thing
 in!

The boys walk to the back room.

INT. LIBRARY BACK ROOM

The boys are at the teacher's desk.

 TEACHER
 Wow, this looks lovely. Mr.
 Griffin, I'm sure you're going to
 get an excellent grade. However,
 the little duo over here will be
 getting fat little zeros for
 today's assignment.

 DAVE
 WHAT!? WHY?

 JOE
 We did just as much on that as
 Griffin did!

 DAVE
 We worked SOOOO hard!

 TEACHER
 Boys, despite what you may believe,
 I'm not stupid. I've been watching
 what you do all day. Plus, do you
 think there's a thing that Dana
 doesn't tell me?

Dana quickly picks her head up from her note taking.

 DANA
 What was that Miss?

 TEACHER
 Nothing Dana, just keep taking your
 notes. What you're taking them on
 right now, I have no idea, just
 keep taking them. Now, you boys. I
 think you need to learn what it
 takes to get a good grade.

 JOE
 This is ridiculous.

The two boys turn and storm to their seats.

They sit violently.

DAVE
Well, that worked.

JOE
What did we learn today?

DAVE
The cheetah is the fastest land mammal, but I already knew that. And now I'm pretty sure I have a strong dislike for that Dana girl.

JOE
Yeah, look at her over there.

Dana is furiously taking notes while everyone else around her is standing up with their backpacks on.

JOE
Actually, if we work with her next time, she'll probably make it easier to look like we're doing something.

DAVE
True, I can't picture her ever missing a class.