

EXT.PLAYGROUND

Establishing shots of playground accompany the following
voice over

AVERY (V.O)

I was twelve going on thirteen when
my life changed forever. It all
started on the old elementary
school playground while I was
showing my best friend Tommy
Atkinson the news sports cards I
had just gotten.
Shot of young Avery showing young
Tommy Atkinson the sports
cards.

TOMMY

Woah!!! ALLEN IVERSON! WOAHH!!! J.R.
SMITH!!! WOAHHH! MAHAMOTI DJIN!!!!
AVERY (V.O.)
While I knew my sports cards sure
were a big tickle...

AVERY (V.O)

I was far more interested in her...

Show a glamour shot of a girl standing across the playground.

AVERY (V.O.)

Stacey Jones. She was the ginchiest
girl around. She had a classy
Chassis and she really razzed my
berries. I hesitate to say more,
considering she was 13 years old...
but then again-
(Avery smiles)
So was I.

TOMMY

WOAHHHH! LOOK EDUARDO NAJERA!

The two boys look at the incredibly sick and valuable Eduardo
Najera card, but the cards get slapped out of Tommy's hand.

The two look up to see the menacing face of the neighborhood
bully, Billy.

AVERY (V.O)

That was our neighborhood Bully,
Billy. Back then, he sure was a
mean cat.

2.

BILLY THE BULLY

Either of you two wanna knuckle
sandwich?

TOMMY

I've never in my life wanted a
knuckle sandwi-

Tommy gets a knuckle sandwich.

BILLY THE BULLY

You want one, punk?

AVERY

No Billy, I just wanna be a beta
male in peace!

BILLY THE BULLY

HAH! That's what I thought. Now if
you'd excuse me, I gotta got hit on
that Roosevelt over there, if ya
catch my drift!

AVERY

(sadly)

I catch your drift.
Billy leaves to do that. Tommy
stands up sporting a fresh
shiner.

TOMMY

Roosevelt? That's whose on the
dime!

AVERY

Yeah Tommy I said I caught his
drift.

TOMMY

But that means he's going to hit on
Stacey Jones! The girl you think is
the ginchiest!

AVERY

I know...

TOMMY

And said had a classy chassis!

AVERY

Yeah Tommy I get it-

TOMMY

You said she razzed your berries!

AVERY

Look Tommy I know what I said!

TOMMY

Oh god look he's offering her a
cigarette!

Shot of Billy giving and lighting Stacey's cigarette.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(hands on head, panicked)
THAT'S THE FIRST STEP IN HER

BECOMING A SLUT!

AVERY

Shit! What do I do?!

TOMMY

You have to go over there and
challenge him, man!

AVERY

What? I can't challenge Billy, the
neighborhood Bully! Are you crazy?

TOMMY

If you don't those two are gonna
get passionate in the passion pit.

AVERY

(conflicted)
Ohhh

TOMMY

They're gonna fuck.

AVERY

I UNDERSTOOD!

Switch focus to Billy and Stacey. They're flirting is
interrupting by a sports card being flung ninja star style at

Billy's face.

BILLY THE BULLY

OW!

Billy grabs his face following impact. He reaches down to grab the card.

BILLY THE BULLY (CONT'D)

Wha? An Eduardo Najera first edition card?

AVERY

That's right punk, and there's more where that came from!
Billy the Bully and Stacey turn to face Avery.

BILLY THE BULLY

You cruisin' for a bruisin', babyface?

AVERY

I'm not going to let you corrupt my pussycat!

STACEY JONES

I just wanted a cigarette...

BILLY AND AVERY

Shhh!!//Shut up!!// The men are

talking here, sweetheart.

AVERY (CONT'D)

I CHALLENGE YOU BILLY!

BILLY THE BULLY

Oh yeah, and what do you challenge me to?

Avery scans the playground for a good challenge.

PAN across swings, slides, monkey bars, see-saw, back to monkey bars.

AVERY

I bet I can hang onto the monkey bars longer than you, you son of a bitch!

BILLY THE BULLY
I FUCKING LOVE THE MONKEY BARS!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. MONKEY BARS

Billy the Bully and Avery hang across from each other on the monkey bars as Stacey, Tommy, and others look on.

AVERY (V.O.)
What was I thinking? Challenging Billy the neighborhood Bully to a monkey bar hanging competition? It was a death sentence from the start, but I was determined to hang on. And as I looked across at Billy, I knew he was too. Shot of Billy hanging, staring intently on Avery.

AVERY (V.O.)
I remembered all the rumors I'd heard about Billy's dad, and realized he had been hanging on far longer than this monkey bar competition.

Another shot of Billy and Avery hanging across from each other.

AVERY (V.O.)
We hung there for awhile longer, long enough that everyone eventually left, including Stacey Jones. The sun set, and you know... Billy and I learned a lot about each other, hanging there. Staring into each other's eyes.

Close ups on the eyes.

AVERY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Eventually, we broke the hours long silence and agreed this whole thing was ridiculous. Besides, hanging there, we had been playing footsie for the last hour and a half.

Long shot of the monkey bars showing Avery and Billy hanging,

feet intertwined.

AVERY (V.O) (CONT'D)

We made a gentleman's agreement to let go at the same time. As he counted down, my arms were so damn tired I didn't think I could summon the energy to even let go.

BILLY THE BULLY

(in slow-mo, distorted)

3...2..1!...

Rather than letting go, Avery's arm remains clinged to the monkey bars. Instead his arms detach from the shoulders.

AVERY

As it turned out, instead of letting go, my arms simply left me behind. As I fell to the ground, Billy just stayed there, hanging. Once I was safely on the ground without any arms, Billy let go... Billy lets go and stands above Avery.

AVERY (CONT'D)

At first he said something about the scorpion and the frog, I don't know what the fuck that stupid shit was about. Avery lies looking up at Billy.

AVERY (CONT'D)

But I'll never forget the last

thing he said to me...

BILLY THE BULLY

Nothing Personelle, kiddo.

Billy walks away.

AVERY

Billy went on to marry Stacey Jones, and together they had too many kids. Billy was the foreman of an asbestos removal crew and Stacey waited tables at a Denny's while selling Mary Kay makeup to her

(MORE)

AVERY (CONT'D)
friends on Facebook.
Shot of Tommy.

AVERY (CONT'D)
As for Tommy, he ended up hosting a
podcast about Star Wars before
overdosing on prescription
benzodiazepines.
And as for me... without any arms,
I bled out right then and there
through my stumps. But one thing
was for certain: I would never
forget that crazy summer of 2008.

Crane shot of Avery lying, bleeding out through his stumps,
to the tune of Boston's More Than a Feeling.

THE END