

RESERVOIR PUPS

by

Robert Spence

FADE IN:

EXT. PLAY PARK - DAY

Children run around like maniacs whilst parents watch from a far. They go down slides, as well as climb up them.

Away from the action are a cluster of picnic benches. Seated at one in particular are four smartly dressed children.

A.J, 7, is wearing a "seven today" badge. RORY, 7, LEWIS, 7, and BETH, 7, sit with him.

A group of adults wave to the children from a couple of tables away. The children notice this and skillfully avoid their parents attention.

LEWIS

This is the best birthday party ever. When are we going to crazy golf A.J?

A.J

My mummy says she wants some
(air quotes)
"grown up time" for an hour first.

Lewis looks confused.

LEWIS

(mimicking A.J's air
quotes)
What are those?

A.J

I don't know, big rabbit ears!

Beth notices Rory picking his nose.

BETH

Rory!

Rory shrugs his shoulders.

BETH (CONT'D)

That's disgusting.

LEWIS

My big brother told me that his friend knew someone who knew a boy that got taken away by these big skinny aliens because he picked his nose too much.

Rory freezes instantly, finger mid pick.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

They never saw him again...

A.J observes the rest of the park. Stuck to a nearby tree is a huge crayon written sign entitled "The Kid Mafia." Kids in Italian suits are sat in deck-chairs smoking fake cigars.

His eyes rest on LILLY, 6. Her golden hair gleams in the baking sun. She begins to run with an ice cream cone, trips and drops it on the ground.

JEFF, 12, a mean looking kid who works in the ice cream stall laughs from afar at Lilly. She looks down at it in sadness. A.J's face drops.

As he continues his observation, he notices an array of children queuing up at an ice cream stall. He looks back to his friends who are sweating in the blistering heat.

A.J

Put your hands up if you like ice cream!

They all smile, putting their hands up instantly. At a certain realization, their hands go down.

RORY

I'm not allowed it. My daddy says there's too many C numbers...

BETH

What are they?

RORY

I don't know, but I don't like the sound of it.

A.J

It's E numbers silly! What about you Beth?

BETH

My parents said it makes you big and fat, so I'm not allowed it.

A.J

Lewis?

LEWIS

Mummy says it makes me swing from the trees. I don't even know what that means...

A.J sighs. He looks back to Lilly in the distance. She now looks more sad than before.

BETH

Why don't you go and talk to her?

A.J blushes.

RORY
Yeah! Why don't you go and give her
a flower or a big mud pie?

BETH
She won't want a mud pie silly!

A.J
Guys, I've got a plan.

LEGEND: THE PLAN

EXT. BENCHES - MOMENTS LATER

The children are sat in silence.

A.J
So what do you think?

RORY
This is suihide!

Beth rolls her eyes.

BETH
Suicide Rory.

RORY
That's what I said.

BETH
So to get this straight. You want
us to take ice cream that's not
ours? Why don't you just ask our
parents?

A.J
Because we won't be allowed it. If
we work as a team, we can have
loads of it! We can have more ice
cream than the ice cream mountains!

The group are awestruck.

RORY
I don't know about this A.J. I
remember what happened when you had
your last idea...

A.J
This won't be anything like last
time.

RORY
You promise?

A.J
I cross my heart and hope to die,
stick a needle in my eye!

LEWIS
Yuck!

BETH
So what are you thinking A.J?

A.J signals them to move their heads in as if about to expose a master plan.

A.J
We need a bigger team. We need a
team with more skills to pull this
off. We need to hold auditions...

LEGEND: THE TEAM

EXT. PLAY PARK - DAY

The four of them sit on the ground as one by one they witness different children auditioning.

MONTAGE

A) A child sings a power ballad. The group look at each other covering their ears.

B) A child meditates in silence. The group look at each other and shake their heads.

C) Another child burps the alphabet. Rory is transfixed.

RORY
Wow.

A.J interjects.

A.J
You're not what we're looking for.

END MONTAGE

EXT. PLAY PARK - LATER

Defeated, A.J looks around the play park. At the monkey bars he notices a kid dressed in camouflage, doing chin ups.

MONKEY BARS

A.J and the gang approach the kid.

INSERT: DOG TAGS

The name "Rambo Einstein" can be seen gleaming in the light as he rises for another chin up.

From toe up he is kitted out in war attire. Fake grenades, plastic knives, and camouflage. He looks like one strong kid. This is RAMBO EINSTEIN, 7, going on 45.

A.J

How many of those can you do?

Rambo drops to the ground.

RAMBO

About a bajillion.

Beth blushes.

BETH

Wow, that's amazing. I'm Beth, what's your name?

He blushes also.

RAMBO

I'm Rambo, Rambo Einstein.

The rest of the team nod a hello.

RORY

What's your skills?

RAMBO

Well, I have an IQ of 114, and as well as being extremely intelligent and strong, I served three years in the C.M.

A.J

C.M.?

RAMBO

Child Military.

The group raise their eyes. Impressed. Especially Beth.

RAMBO (CONT'D)

I also have a gun.

He pulls out a water pistol.

LEWIS

Nice.

RAMBO

I call it the jet fusion paddling pool 2000.

RORY

Why?

RAMBO

If I told you, I'd have to soak you.

Rory looks scared.

The team deliberate. A.J finally addresses him.

A.J

We want you to join our team. We're pulling off an ice cream job. What do you say?

Rambo looks to a grinning Beth.

RAMBO

Count me in.

LEGEND: THE TACTICS

EXT. PARENT'S BENCHES - DAY

The parents look over at the gang conferring with each other.

A.J'S MUM

Aw look how cute they are.

LEWIS' MUM

They've made a new friend.

THE TEAM'S BENCH

They discuss tactics. A.J rolls out a crayon drawn blue print of the play park.

A.J

(illustrating on diagram)
OK guys, with Rambo's help, we can hold off the adults until I sneak into the back of the stall.

RORY

But how do we get into the stall?
We don't even have a distraction!

A.J

I'm working on it.

RAMBO

If I may add something that hasn't been mentioned yet.

A.J nods his head.

RAMBO (CONT'D)

We may have a slight problem.
Interference may be an imperative
issue due to the prominence of one
certain entity.

The rest of the team look at him in confusion. Rambo realises
he has lost them.

RAMBO (CONT'D)

Have any of you guys heard of The
Godson?

A.J

Isn't he in The Kid Mafia?

RAMBO

Yes. The Godson is the head of the
mafia, and he knows everything that
goes on in this place.

A.J

So what are you saying?

RAMBO

I'm saying that if we want this
plan to be a success, then we need
to get his blessing.

A.J lets out a sigh.

EXT. THE KID MAFIA'S TERRITORY - DAY

A.J and the gang sidestep the kids sitting on deck-chairs. A
large buff looking child BODYGUARD, 9, awaits them with his
arms folded. His sunglasses and ear piece signals
professionalism.

A.J

I'd like to speak to The Godson.

The Bodyguard looks side to side. He speaks in a deep voice.

BODYGUARD

He's not interested.

A.J

We're not going anywhere until we
see The Godson.

BODYGUARD

I said-

THE GODSON (O.S.)

(in Italian accent)

-Let him past. Only him.

The Bodyguard shrugs and lets A.J by. The group wait behind.

A.J now faces the back of The Godson ,7. From behind he looks like a fully grown suited man. He turns to face A.J...

His pin-striped suit spells sophistication, and this is topped off by slicked back hair. His eyes show much wisdom. He holds a fake cigar in hand.

THE GODSON (CONT'D)

What brings you to my part of the park?

A.J

I've brought you a gift.

The Godson looks intrigued. A.J reveals a bubble pipe. He hands it over with two hands like he is handling Excalibur.

The Godson looks at it in admiration.

THE GODSON

How did you know?

A.J

I did my research.

The Godson loads the pipe with bubbles and puffs away.

THE GODSON

So what can I help you with?

A.J

I'm planning an ice cream heist, and would appreciate your blessing.

THE GODSON

Why should I do such a thing?

A.J

Because there's a large amount of ice cream in it for you.

The Godson turns to face the sun, and looks at kids running around having fun.

THE GODSON

Growing up in Sicily, I was never allowed ice cream. I was told it was the stuff of evil because it was fun.

(takes a puff from his pipe)

I vowed when I left to never deprive anyone of it.

A.J

Then don't.

The Godson turns.

THE GODSON

Approaching me was a bold move, and that took guts. You have my blessing at one request... you bring me a cone.

A.J smiles.

A.J

With an extra large flake. We do have a slight problem though.

The Godson signals for him to continue.

A.J (CONT'D)

Getting into the ice cream stall.

THE GODSON

A kid that can pick locks owes me a favour. When the time is right, the door will be open.

A.J

Thank you Godson.

THE GODSON

And may I suggest a team member that may be valuable to you?

A.J smiles.

A.J

Of course.

THE GODSON

I call him, Cry Baby Jones.

EXT. PLAY PARK - DAY

CRY BABY JONES, 6, stands before the team. He has curly black hair.

BETH

So what can you do?

In an instant he begins crying hysterically, causing many children and parents to look over. In a second he stops.

CRY BABY JONES

I can provide a distraction.

The team smile.

MONTAGE

A) The team jog with each other.

B) Rambo Einstein shows the physics of properly squirting somebody with a water gun on a chalkboard. A.J cannot keep his eyes off Lilly.

C) The team do jumping jacks.

D) A.J goes over the plan on a drawing board. It consists of stick figures.

E) The team sport sunglasses and bow ties.

END MONTAGE

EXT. PLAY PARK - DAY

The team stand before A.J. He lowers his sunglasses to reveal his eyes.

A.J
We're ready.

EXT. PLAY PARK - LATER

From afar, A.J riles himself up before approaching Lilly on his own. She is playing hopscotch. She stops when she sees him.

A.J
Hi, I'm A.J. Nice to meet you.

He extends his hand.

LILLY
(accepting it)
I'm Lilly. You look really fancy.

A.J blushes.

A.J
Thanks. Do you like ice cream?

LILLY
Of course. I dropped mine earlier...

A.J
Would you like some more?

Her face glows with happiness.

LILLY
I'd really like some more.

A.J
 (smiling)
 OK.

As A.J walks away he is welcomed by the claps of his team members. They all pat him on the back.

EXT. PLAY PARK - DAY

A.J delivers a speech as the team sit on the ground.

A.J
 I stand before you today on the eve
 of the greatest plan ever to grace
 a play park. Through hard work, and
 planning, we will change the face
 of history. We will give ice cream
 back to the children, and we will
 do it with honour. They may take
 our lives, but they will never
 take, our ice cream!!!

He raises a water pistol in the air and fires. The team shout in agreement.

EXT. ICE CREAM STALL - DAY

Jeff hands out ice cream to adults. The back door quietly clicks opened...

Cry Baby Jones approaches the stall and stares at Jeff.

JEFF
 What do you want kid?

Cry Baby Jones continues to stare.

JEFF (CONT'D)
 What do you want? I don't have all
 day kid.

Cry Baby Jones begins crying hysterically. Jeff covers his ears. At this, boxes of ice cream are quickly snuck out the back of the stall by A.J and the rest of the team.

Rambo Einstein looks through binoculars from afar witnessing the action. A.J's voice can be heard from a walkie talkie he has beside him.

A.J (O.S.)
 Now!

Rambo Einstein replies.

RAMBO
 Copy that.

Satisfied, he takes a bow and suction arrow and aims at Jeff. He fires...

...BANG! He hits Jeff right in the heart. Jeff looks down in shock at the arrow and screams. He faints in shock.

As Jeff's motionless body lies on the ground, A.J begins serving cones to every kid in the radius. The kids look like they have found the holy grail.

EXT. PLAY PARK - DAY

A.J approaches Lilly with an extra large cone and hands her it.

A.J
I told you I'd get you ice cream.

Lilly is beaming with happiness.

LILLY
It's beautiful.

Lilly hugs him and kisses him on the cheek. A.J smiles with success.

EXT. BENCHES - DAY

A.J and his group are back at the benches brimming with achievement. The Godson and Lilly are also sat with them enjoying themselves, as is Rambo and Beth making eyes at each other.

A.J turns to The Godson.

A.J
So you got everything sorted?

The Godson smiles.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - DAY

Jeff is tied to a chair with plastic handcuffs. His mouth is stuffed with marshmallows. The Godson's Bodyguards laugh at him.

EXT. BENCHES - SAME TIME

The Godson leans into A.J.

THE GODSON

Once my boys are through with him,
he won't say a thing.

A.J smiles.

As this happens, an adult voice can be heard from behind them. The team quickly turn to see A.J's mum approaching with a--

-- huge tray of ice cream.

The group look on in shock.

A.J's mum gives him a kiss on the cheek and walks away.
Silence from the team as they stare at the ice cream.

A.J

Oh no!

FADE OUT.