

Social Climbers
"Lead Poisoning"

Elijah Kay

Copyright (c) 2010 This ekay44@gmail.com
screenplay
may not be used or reproduced
without
the express written permission
of the author

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL CAFÉ-DAY

Five high school freshman, GREG, a ginger, DYLAN, a short curly haired boy with glasses, NOAH, a tall lanky Jewish kid, DARIUS, a half black, half Asian kid with glasses, and DICK, some random kid, sit at a lunch table, with a lead ball in the center.

GREG

I'd probably throw in five.

DYLAN

All right, five from me, Lucius and Greg (points to each on respectively). Plus Noah will throw in ten.

NOAH

Why ten from me?

DYLAN

Noah, you're really contributing to a stereotype right now.

NOAH

I'm in for five.

DYLAN

Okay, whatever, that's twenty bucks Dick.

DICK

Okay, I'll do it.

Dick picks up lead ball and swallows it. The other four smile and cheer. DICK drinks some water.

DICK

I got to us the bathroom

Dick gets up and goes to the bathroom, leaving the other.

DYLAN

Damn...Damn... that was not worth five bucks.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

I want my five bucks back.

DARIUS

Is he all right?

DYLAN

I dunno, Noah, you're the genius,
is he going to come out of this
alive.

NOAH

I thought we should have lubed it.

DYLAN

We don't have lube, Noah, retard.

NOAH

It dosen't have to be lube, it
could have been butter or
something.

DYLAN

Well you should have said...

Dylan is interrupted by the sound of an ambulance. the four
get up and look out the window to see Dick being wheeled out
in a gurney. The four stand, mouths agape.

END TEASER

INT. GREG'S MOM'S MINIVAN- LATER

GREG and his mom are in the front, DARIUS and DYLAN are in
the back and NOAH is in the boot. GREG is embarrassed, head
in hands.

DARIUS

I'm just saying there must be some
damage to that area.

DYLAN

Ya, but that dosen't mean he can't
have sex, he's just has a slightly
deformed penis

NOAH

No, when Obi-Wan left him there
everything from the waste down
pretty much got third-degree burns.

(CONTINUED)

DARIUS

Damn, that sucks for Vader.

DYLAN

Ya, I bet he could have any bitch he wanted.

DARIUS

Oh ya, second hand man to the emperor, every girl probably wanted him.

DYLAN

I'd probably fuck him. Just to say I did. Come on, you guys wouldn't fuck Darth Vader just to say you did, I mean if he could.

NOAH

No!

DARIUS

I dunno, I'd probably give him a handjob, or at least let him give me a handjob.

GREG

We're here! (turning around)

DYLAN

All right, great

The four file out of the car. GREG gives his mom a kiss before leaving

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT- RIGHT AFTER MINIVAN SCENE

DYLAN

Okay, Noah, you got the flowers?

NOAH

Right here. (waves flowers)

DYLAN

Good, and I got the twenty, let's just get this stuff to him and get out, hopefully he doesn't get us in trouble.

INT. HOSPITAL- LATER

Dylan kneels at the bedside of Dick, who looks in pain, the others behind him. There is a big black nurse in the room.

DYLAN

Hey, buddy, how you doing?

Dick says nothing and gives a stone cold face to Dylan.

DYLAN

Brought you some flowers and the money.

NURSE

He can't talk, baby, that lead ball banged up his throat pretty good. I dunno who put him up to this but I would smack the shit out of him right now. Poor baby.

The gang looks at each other with fear as the nurse steps out. GREG steps forward.

GREG

All right Dick, what's it going to take to put this all in the past?

DICK puts up a pad and pen and writes, then shows them the pad with \$1000 written on it. The gang looks at each other in shock.

NOAH

Dick, our lives aren't worth that much collectively.

DYLAN

Dick, you're being a real dick right now.

DICK picks up the pad and pen again and writes a new number of \$1500 and dollars and shows the Big four. They respond with woah's and aww's.

DYLAN

Woah, group meeting.

The big four step aside and huddle up so they can whisper.

GREG

Aww, we can't come up with that money. I'm going to get suspended and no college is going to...

(CONTINUED)

Dylan slaps Greg.

DYLAN
Chill the fuck out

GREG
Why'd you call him a dick

DYLAN
I didn't know he was so sensitive

GREG
First you guys scare the shit out
of my Mom, now I'm going to get
suspended...

Dylan slaps Greg.

DYLAN
You're doing it again

NOAH
Guys, let's just accept the price
know, we'll figure it out later.

Dylan slaps Noah. Noah in disbelief.

DYLAN
Let's do that. (turns to Dick).
When do we need it by?

Dick writes on the pad again, seven days. Greg takes a hit
from his inhaler.

DYLAN
Damn it

INT. CLASSROOM-NEXT DAY

Class is about to end. Greg sits up at front. Darius comes
up to talk to Greg.

DYLAN
How much money did you get

GREG
Ummm... \$23 and 42 cents from my
savings

DYLAN
You mean your piggy bank

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Whatever Dyl, money is money. The point is that's not a lot. How bout you?

DYLAN

I stole fifty bucks from my dad and Noah and Darius have seventy buck together so that's what.. like \$143

GREG

Ya

DYLAN

Damnit! A voice comes on the intercom.

INTERCOM VOICE

Attention students. I regret to inform you (chokes up a little bit)... that one of our dear students is currently suffering lead poisoning. Please visit Richard Friedlander when you get a chance, our thoughts and prayers go out for him.

GIRL #1

Oh my god, poor Dick! I heard some kids force fed him a lead ball

GIRL #2

Fucking people.

GREG throws his head in his hands

GREG

We're going to get expelled

DYLAN

Everyone's going hate us too

GREG

Oh really Dylan, cause we were really climbing the social ladder before

DYLAN

Okay, look we can get this money, I have an idea, I'll tell you in gym with Darius and Noah.

EXT. GYMNASIUM- NEXT PERIOD

The gang is sitting on the bleachers in their gym clothes talking over the plan.

DYLAN

Alright fellas, as you probably know we don't even have a tenth of the money, but I have a plan that's a little risky but has big reward

NOAH

Oh Christ, what is it?

DYLAN

Well, you know how pretty much everyone in school is worried sick about

DICK DARIUS, NOAH AND GREG

Ya

DYLAN

Well I figure we can use that to our advantage. (pauses) How bout a fundraiser?

NOAH

For Dick?

DYLAN

No, Noah, for Darth Vader's genitals. Look were smarter than all these kids, lets just milk them like cows, its not like they've treated us with respect.

FLASHBACK-MONTAGE

DYLAN gets pegged with basketballs in gym class. Cut to NOAH doing homework and handing to kids in varsity jackets. Cut to GREG receiving a crude drawing of a ginger looking very similar to him. Cut to Darius just getting punched in the face for no reason.

BACK TO SCENE:

NOAH

You're right, I fucking hate these people.

(CONTINUED)

DARIUS

I got punched for no reason last
week and the teacher just laughed

Greg says nothing, the other three look towards him

DYLAN

What about you Greg? You in?

GREG

(shrugs shoulders) What the
fuck

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY-NEXT DAY

The boys are passing out flyers, most people are taking
them. A couple of girls walk up to the boys to talk to them
about their cause.

GIRL# 1

Wow, you guys are really going all
out for Dick, its really great of
you.

DYLAN

Well, you know, he's our friend and
we just want to get him these new
throat transplant as soon as
possible

GIRL#2

God bless the man who donated his
throat

NOAH

Ya, it restores my faith in
humanity, you know when people get
together like this.

GIRL#1

Well, good luck, give Dick our
love.

DYLAN

Don't forget the to get as many
sponsors as you can for the 5k.

The two girls walk away and the boys huddle up and talk

DARIUS

Jesus Christ these people are
stupid, I mean a throat transplant
that's not a thing right Noah

(CONTINUED)

NOAH
No, of course not.

DYLAN
We're doing great, I'm out of
flyers

NOAH
Same

GREG
We're going to hell

DYLAN
See Greg, this is a situation where
everyone is being optimistic and
you're just raining on our parade.
We're going to make the money back
and then some. The 5k is in three
days and there's no stopping this
monster now.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-THREE DAYS LATER

High school kids are walking on the track, the turf and
around the track. The boys, except for Greg, are standing on
a small platform. Dylan has a megaphone.

DYLAN
(speaking through megaphone)
okay everyone, welcome to the
first annual "Fight for a
Throat", we want everyone at
the starting line in five
minutes, make sure you handed
in your entry fees.

Dylan puts down the megaphone and the boys walk over to the
entry booth to see how much money Greg is making.

DYLAN
How we doing Greg.

GREG
Everyone has just about signed in,
so that's about 300 people at
twenty bucks each that's... \$6000.

DYLAN
Shit.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Oh my god, this got way out of hand.

NOAH

What are we going to do with all this money, do we give it back.

DYLAN

Everyone just relax, we should just be happy we can pay Dick back.

GREG

We're going to the deepest part of hell.

DYLAN

We'll see Dick there. (picks up megaphone) Okay everyone, lets get to the starting line and do this for Dick!

GREG

Oh Christ

EXT. STARTING LINE- A COUPLE MINUTES LATER

All the students are pumped up and ready to run. The boys stand to the side with a starting flag, ready to set everyone to go.

DYLAN

On your marks...

RANDOM BOY#1

Wait you guys aren't going to run?

DYLAN

Well, we're the organizers so...

RANDOM BOY#2

No, you gotta do it for DICK.

Everybody in the background, shouts "ya" and "do it".

RANDOM BOY#1

We're not going until you do it for DICK.

The boys look at each other anxiously and finally look down and set themselves at the starting line.

(CONTINUED)

DYLAN
Ready, set, go!

Everyone starts to cheer, some go out sprinting but most keep as steady pace, including the boys.

EXT. RACE ON TRACK- A MINUTE LATER

The boys are running next to each other on the track

NOAH
I can't feel my legs

DARIUS
Christ, it hasn't even been a quarter mile yet.

NOAH
I gotta... I gotta stop, my body is screaming for me to stop.

DYLAN
Okay... Okay... let's just slow down.

The boys slow down to essentially a walk.

DYLAN
Okay, this is essentially a walk at this point.

Shot of Dick walking in from the distance with the vice principal. The boys catch sight of them and freeze up.

DYLAN
Shit

NOAH
Fuck

DARIUS
Damn it

GREG
This is it. It's over.

The boys stop running and make there way towards Dick and the vice principal, knowing they're the ones they came to talk to.

(CONTINUED)

DYLAN

Noah, what's worse case scenario right here.

NOAH

Worst-case scenario, we get expelled for a holding a charity scam and giving Dick lead poisoning.

DYLAN

You know, at least we tried. In retrospect, the charity idea probably made things worse.

GREG

I hate you guys so much

DYLAN

Love you too Gregggy

The boys finally meet Dick and the vice Principal. It is silent for a moment.

DARIUS

That was a quick recovery, Dick.

DICK

Fuck off.

MR. HANRATTY

Watch your mouth Dick. Now look boys, I know what you're doing here and I just want you to know how sick and twisted this whole thing is. That being said, I want in.

NOAH

What? Mr. Hanratty Come on, don't act dumb. I heard all about it, you boys raising money for a new throat for Dick. That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard, your just trying to pay Dick back, he told me all about it.

DYLAN

So, what do you want from us. MR. Hanratty Just a cut that's all I want, I've got some debts I had to pay off.

(CONTINUED)

DARIUS

What kind of debts? Mr. Hanratty
That's none of your business, just
pay back Dick, give me the rest and
we'll forget about this whole
thing.

GREG

Wow, this changes my whole
perspective on you Mr. Hanratty.

MR. HANRATTY

Look, you little fuck, the state
dosen't pay me enough no hand over
the bills.

DYLAN

All right, Christ, we made \$5000,
\$1500 to Dick and \$3500 to you.

MR. HANRATTY

That's what I like to hear boys,
drop that money off in my office
tomorrow in an envelope, not a cent
less than \$3500, or else I well
personally beat escort you off this
campus and make sure you never come
back.

DYLAN

Okay, we got it.

MR. HANRATTY

Good, now go finish your race

The boys start to walk away.

DARIUS

This school is so goddamn weird.

INT. DYLAN'S HOUSE- THE NEXT DAY

The boys are sitting in front of a new giant flat screen TV.

NOAH

That worked out a lot better than I
thought it would.

GREG

Ya, looks like I can still go to
college.

(CONTINUED)

DARIUS

Still I lost a lot of my faith in
humanity today.

DYLAN

Shrugs shoulders) I never really
had any. At least we got a nice TV
out of it.

NOAH

Ya, but why didn't you just tell
Mr. Hanratty that we made less, so
we could of kept more of the money
to ourselves.

DYLAN

Shut up Noah

FADE TO BLACK.