Jurassic Love

Ву

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FADE IN:

INT. MRS. K'S KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM - DAY

We pan across a row of crudely decorated Valentines Day mailboxes lined up in a row.

A tiny hand reaches out to deposit small pink envelopes into the top of each until it stops in front of a box enshrined with Tyrannosaurus Rex photos, stickers, and hearts.

THADDEUS (5) stares down at the cardboard alter dedicated to the king of dinosaurs, adjusts his thick rimmed glasses, and takes a deep gulp. He fumbles out a small box of chocolates and a rose from the plastic grocery bag he carries.

Nervous, he hands them to JUDY (5) who stands proudly behind her T-Rex box. She brushes her long hair back behind the ears to reveal cute tyrannosaurus earrings.

> THADDEUS Here, Judy. These are for you.

Unimpressed, she takes the gifts.

JUDY Thank you, Thaddeus.

He fishes out of the bag a large envelope with Judy's name written in crayon and hands it over.

THADDEUS I know you like dinosaurs so I got you this. Maybe we can be Valentines?

She takes the envelope and begins to opens it.

JUDY You know I can't. My heart belongs to another. I'm so madly in love with Tyrannosaurus Rex.

INSERT - JUDY'S OPENED VALENTINE

of a happy brontosaurus that reads, "Our love will never go extinct. I think you are DINO-mite."

Content with his cleverness, Thaddeus smiles proudly.

Judy looks at him in disappointment. She holds the card out for Thaddeus to take back.

JUDY

I don't know who you think I am, but I'm a one thereopod woman.

THADDEUS (crushed) I thought T-rex was extinct.

JUDY

Besides, how could you ever be my Valentine with those long lanky arms? Not short and stubby like a real T-Rex. And are you even a carnivore? I won't date vegans.

THADDEUS

What's that?

She rolls her eyes.

JUDY Spoken like a true herbivore... You don't even have a tail. Or powerful jaws with serrated teeth.

With sad reluctance, Thaddeus takes the card back.

JUDY It's not me. It's you.

MRS. K (O.S.) Move along, Thaddeus. The other children are waiting patiently for their turns too.

Behind Thaddeus, a line of KINDERGARTNERS wait to deliver their Valentines. At her whiteboard, MRS. K (28) gives Thaddeus a stern non-verbal cue to move along.

At the head of the Valentine's line, ROY (5) and his lackey DAN (5) sneer and taunt at Thaddeus.

ROY Didn't you hear her, man? She said she only likes dinosaurs.

Head down, Thaddeus slinks back to his seat.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

All alone at the back table, head in his hand, Thaddeus scribbles on a piece of paper.

Surrounded by energetic SCHOOL CHILDREN with their lunch, Mrs. K patrols the rows of tables like a prison warden.

INSERT - JUDY'S VALENTINE

With large X's already drawn over the happy brontosaurus's eyes, Thaddeus scribbles a large fiery meteor in the corner, mere seconds away from an extinction level impact.

At the end of another table, Judy eats her lunch out of a T-Rex lunchbox while surrounded by GIRLS who simply ignore her. They cheerfully chatter as clean up their lunch trays to leave.

Now alone, Judy take a sip of her juice box.

Thaddeus looks down at his lunch tray. On it, a pile of dinosaur shaped chicken nuggets remains untouched.

He pushes them away in disgust.

A large orange drops on onto and crushes the dino nuggets.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Wild SCHOOL CHILDREN run around like crazy over the playground equipment for lunch recess.

By the basketball court, Mrs. K scans the playful chaos before her for the slightest hint of trouble.

Alone on the grassy field, Judy bounces a red ball with both hands but struggles due to the cumbersomely large T-Rex backpack she wears.

Up to no good, Roy and Dan approach her.

ROY Dan says he heard you fart in PE.

Dan gives Roy a small shove in his own defense.

DAN Shut up, I did not! ROY He says he loves them. He loves your smelly farts.

Roy and Dan both laugh out loud, amused by the funny joke.

JUDY Go away Dan and Roy! Or I'll tell Mrs. K you are giving me... giving me sensual harassment.

ROY

Oh yeah?

Roy grabs the ball from Judy and kicks it away hard.

It sails through the air until it lands in front of Thaddeus, seated on a nearby bench, a strip of beef jerky in his hand.

> ROY Give us that box of chocolates we saw you have in your backpack and maybe we will.

JUDY Wait a second, I'm getting a text.

Judy pulls out a small toy phone from her backpack and holds it to her ear in a pretend call.

JUDY (into phone)

Oh dear. I have to go. It's an emergency. My mom says she is on her period. And I think I'm on my question mark.

At the basketball hoop, Mrs. K surveils the yard. Out of the blue, a CLUMSY BOY (5) runs in under her gaze and full steam into the basketball pole. He collapses into tears.

Startled, Mrs. K stoops to his aid.

MRS. K

Oh my God!

Back on the field, Roy and Dan stand shoulder to shoulder in Judy's way. She tries to budge past them but is unable.

ROY Give us your chocolate, Dino-Girl!

JUDY Leave me alone!

In the scuffle, the T-Rex backpack falls off her shoulders.

In slow motion, the mighty T-Rex falls to the grass.

From his bench, Thaddeus watches on. Dramatically, he takes a bite of his beef jerky. His anger boils over.

Judy drops to her knees and cradles the T-Rex backpack on the ground.

Roy and Dan stand over her and laugh.

Suddenly, a loud ROAR from Thaddeus who lunges at the two boys.

A wild melee ensues as the boys fight. Dan reaches from behind to grab Thaddeus in a bear hug. With his elbows pinned, Thaddeus flails his forearms wildly to break free.

Eyes wide, Judy watches Thaddeus fight to protect her.

With all his young strength, Thaddeus finally breaks free of Dan's clutches. As soon as he does, Roy grabs him by the shoulders. Desperate, Thaddeus bites down hard on Roy's arm to break free.

Judy can't believe her eyes.

A trickle of blood runs down Roy's arm as he recoils in pain. He lets go of Thaddeus with with a shove that pushes him off balance. As Thaddeus falls he stumbles to catch his balance but in so doing sweeps his leg out and trips Dan onto his butt.

Terrified, Roy and Dan scramble to their feet and run away.

Thaddeus holds his ground and let's out a deep triumphant ROAR.

In awe, Judy can't take her eyes off Thaddeus. He turns to face her ...

MRS. K (O.S.) ...Thaddeus Reginald Xaxier!

Mrs. K's arm swoops in and yanks Thaddeus by the hand.

MRS. K What on Earth has gotten into you? She pulls Thaddeus away with a jerk. Judy's Valentine falls out of his pocket.

It flutters to the ground.

Judy leaves her backpack behind on the ground and rises to pick up the Valentine.

INSERT - JUDY'S VALENTINE

The meteor and the X's over the eyes of the happy brontosaurus have been drawn over with bright red hearts.

JUDY

Thaddeus!

Dragged away by Mrs. K, Thaddeus looks up at Judy.

She holds the valentine close to her heart.

Satisfied, Thaddeus nods back with a huge grin.

INT. PRINCIPAL HANDY'S OFFICE - DAY

Diplomas and motivational posters adorn the walls of the small tidy office. Shoulders shrugged, Thaddeus sits on a chair before, PRINCIPAL HANDY (38) annoyed on the phone as he types an email out on his computer.

PRINCIPAL HANDY ... He's usually a very good student... No... Yes... No I don't think they'll press charges...Hold the school liable?

INT. MRS. K'S KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM - DAY

The children all sit in a circle for story time. Mrs. K sits on a chair before them and reads from a book. The kids hang enthralled on every word of the story.

> MRS. K I can take you for a ride, said the dinosaur. He put his head down so Danny could get on him.

A door creaks.

Thaddeus stands in the class doorway. Ashamed.

MRS. K Thaddeus, will you please come sit down and join us?

He sits in the only open space in the circle, right next to Dan and Roy. Afraid of Thaddeus, they both slide away.

Across the circle, Judy turns to look and Thaddeus. A small smile across her face.

Mrs. K picks up where she left off.

MRS. K Let's go! Said Danny.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

The dismissal bell rings. STUDENTS pour out of their classrooms and run to parked buses or to meet PARENTS.

Amid the chaos, Thaddeus waits by the flag pole.

Judy walks up to his side. Hands him a small envelope.

JUDY I guess we're Valentines now.

THADDEUS

Yup.

JUDY But I'm on my question mark so I'm supposed to be all agitated and bloated I think. You'll need to give me my feminine space.

THADDEUS

OK.

At her side, Thaddeus holds Judy's hand.

THADDEUS Where's your cool tyrannosaurus rex backpack?

JUDY I forgot it in class.

Students walk past and obscure them from view.

FADE OUT: