

Just a Load of Baloney

By

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FADE IN

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

TOBY, 16, slim with short dyed hair, is on the grass getting punched by JARED, 16, tall and skinny.

HASSAN, 16, Middle Eastern, walks by and notices the beating. He runs over grabs Jared and tries to pull him off Toby.

HASSAN

Get off him!

Jared stands up and turns around to find out who's just grabbed him.

Hassan looks up as a mad Jared towers over him.

Hassan sees the image of Jared's large fist come straight at him - the last image Hassan sees before he falls backwards and hits the ground.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Jared, Toby and Hassan sit in front of the principal's desk. Toby's lip is split and starting to swell.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR, 50's, causally dressed, sits behind his desk.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Right who started this?

No one answers. Guilty scared looks all around.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Oh come on, we aren't in prison boys.

Silence.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

FYI boys. If any of your parents decide to press charges I have to have the facts straight... Since no one's talking, how about I tell you what I think happened. You Jared the bully, decided to lay into Toby here for no apparent reason other than you felt you could? Right?

Jared looks guilty. He puffs up his chest in an attempt to hide his guilt.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Right?

Jared's chest deflates.

JARED

He's a faggot!

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Ahhhh, a worthy reason in YOUR mind then... I see.

Hassan looks at Toby with a slight look of disgust.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

And you Hassan?

HASSAN

I was helping.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Okay, and let me guess. Mr. Bully here punched you too?

HASSAN

I just got in the way.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Of his fist when he hit you?

No one answers.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Good Lord, it's like pulling teeth. Alright, so YOU
(points to Jared)
were beating up on HIM
(points to Toby)
because of his sexuality. HE
(points to Hassan)
came to the rescue, and YOU
(points to Jared)
punched him. Am I right?

Silence.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Am I right?

HASSAN
Yes.

TOBY
Yes.

JARED
Yeah.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR
Great. Well done. Thank God that's
over. Now I can have my sandwich.

He opens the desk drawer and pulls out a bulky sandwich
loaded with baloney.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR
Right, out, and don't leave the
country. This isn't over.

They pile out.

INT. HALLWAY

Jared towers over Toby and Hassan, he is angry.

JARED
You fags are gonna get me into
trouble now.

Toby and Hassan look at each other. Toby smiles, grabs
Hassan's arm and they take off down the hall.

EXT. SCHOOL BUILDING

They fly through the exit doors, and come to a halt,
both out of breath and laughing.

TOBY
Hey thanks for what you did.
How's the eye?

HASSAN
It's fine.

Toby moves in closer to check Hassan's eye.

Hassan pulls back quickly, raises his fist.

HASSAN
What are you doing?

Toby takes a step back.

TOBY

I was just looking. Ha, I'm sorry.
It wasn't anything gay. Don't worry,
you're not my type.

Hassan looks incredibly uncomfortable.

HASSAN

Okay, well, I better go. Goodbye.

Hassan leaves in a hurry. Toby looks annoyed as he watches him walk away.

EXT. BOYS GYM LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Hassan is getting dressed in front of the lockers. His eye is now black. He puts on a shirt then a gold pendant that reads Allah in Arabic. He kisses it.

A tanned and MUSCULAR STUDENT, 16, walks towards him. A shorter STUDENT, 16, follows behind. The Muscular Student grabs the necklace.

MUSCULAR STUDENT

Is that your Allah necklace?

He yanks it off Hassan's neck just as Toby walks by the end of the lockers.

Toby stops and looks, his black eye visible.

Hassan notices Toby. They lock eyes lock for a second. Hassan's eyes plead for help.

Toby looks down then walks off.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Toby is at his locker putting books away. Students are milling around. Hassan walks by.

HASSAN

Faggot.

Toby looks at him in shock. He slams the locker door shut and yells back at Hassan.

TOBY

What did you just say?

Hassan ignores him and carries on down the hall. Toby starts walking towards him. He's mad.

TOBY

What did you say to me?

Hassan keeps walking. Toby starts running towards Hassan. He runs up and pushes him hard.

TOBY

What did you say?

Hassan flies forward. Catches himself from falling, turns then runs at Toby.

HASSAN

Don't you touch me!

Hassan raises his fist ready to strike.

HASSAN

Keep your perversions away from me.

Toby is shocked. Students stand by watching.

TOBY

Fuck you. You moron!

A TEACHER comes out of a classroom. He heads straight for the boys.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - DAY

Toby and Hassan sit in chairs in front of the Principal's desk. Principal Taylor has another baloney sandwich in his hands.

He takes a large bite. A small piece of baloney falls and lands on his pants. He picks up the piece of meat, looks at it as if it's done something wrong then throws it in the wastebasket.

He puts the sandwich down. Chews for a moment then wipes his mouth with a napkin.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

So boys, now you two are fighting?
I don't get it?

TOBY

Well he's a Muslim so I suppose I shouldn't be surprised should I?

Hassan stands up.

HASSAN

I am not staying here to listen to you insult my religion.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Hassan, please. Sit down. Toby is not insulting you.

TOBY

Well, don't they like to kill us homos?

HASSAN

You didn't help me when they were harassing me. I saw you.

TOBY

Well you made it clear the other day that you didn't like me.

HASSAN

What do you mean? I helped you. I got a black eye to help you.

TOBY

I was being nice to you, checking your eye and you went all homophobic on me.

The Principal sits back and watches as the boys get into it.

HASSAN

Allah forbids homosexuality. If I accept you, I reject Allah.

Toby looks to the principal.

TOBY

See, no getting through.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

So what do you think is going on here boys?

TOBY

What do you mean?

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

How about instead of me telling you what I think. Why don't you guys try figure it out while I go get myself a tasty old coffee from the staff room. And if you do figure it out you can both get out of detention.

Principal Taylor gets up and heads to the door.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Have fun boys.

The boys look at each other.

TOBY

Lets just pretend to get it. We don't have to make up or whatever it is he wants us to do.

HASSAN

No.

TOBY

Aye?

HASSAN

I am sorry. I was wrong. This isn't the way I normally behave. I don't really care about you being gay.

Toby looks at Hassan somewhat surprised.

HASSAN

I have a cousin who's living with us. He's gay. My Aunt kicked him out of the house. I have talked with him about it. I was upset and confused, but I am learning to understand what it is. But now my family are being ostracized for helping him. I was rude to you because I did not want to be harassed by more people about accepting homosexuality. But I am learning that I shouldn't care.

TOBY

Wow. This homo stuff even sucks for you and your not even gay!

Hassan laughs.

TOBY

Well, I'm sorry too. I was being a dickhead. Religion, homosexuals, you get it. Yadda, yadda... Whatever. How about this. We keep away from each other, just so people know you're not a potential gay. And when this family stuff blows over, maybe we can hang out and you can bring your cousin. Is he cute?

Hassan gives him a stressed look.

TOBY

Just kidding! Come on you'd ask the same thing if I was going to bring my straight female cousin...

They look at each other and ponder for a second.

TOBY

Nah.

HASSAN

No I wouldn't.

Toby gets up, grabs a pen and piece of paper off the desk. Writes something.

TOBY

We can go. He isn't coming back. He's done this before with me. One of his psychological ploys that hasn't worked. Until now.

He puts the note on the desk. Hassan gets up and they head to the door.

CLOSEUP ON THE NOTE

Principal Taylor, we've realized thanks to your wise intervention that we need to tell you to cut down on the baloney. That stuff's bad for you.

FADE OUT