

Soap Slider

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OVER BLACK:

The familiar *BWOOP-BWOOP!* of a POLICE SIREN.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

We're at the base of a large GRASSY HILL. The sound of LAUGHTER is heard as THREE GUYS wearing SOAP-COVERED TRASH BAGS slide down the hill like penguins.

A KICKSTAND on a POLICE BICYCLE is propped up and off steps OFFICER BENNY (mid-20's, mustachioed). He approaches the boys confidently, despite being a Bicycle Cop.

BENNY

Okay, guys, let's wrap it up!

One of the guys, ETHAN (16), reaches the bottom of the hill, smiling and enjoying himself... until he spots Officer Benny.

ETHAN

(caught)

Shit.

The two other guys, SETH and DANIEL (both 16), reach the bottom, still unaware of Benny's prescience.

BENNY

Look, I know it's a public park, but that kind of mess is far too dangerous - especially at this hour.

(points at Ethan)

And especially for you, young dude.

Ethan looks deeply embarrassed. Seth and Daniel finally catch on and join Ethan.

SETH

What's the problem, officer?

BENNY

Seriously? "What's the problem?"

(off their oblivious expressions)

Can't be having no tummy-sliding in the park. And c'mon now, it's almost midnight. You need to get on outta here, m'kay?

Daniel spots the Police Bike.

DANIEL

What's the milage on that thing,
officer?

Benny smirks - catching the sarcasm.

BENNY

Funny. Real funny.
(to Ethan)
Your friends are comedians.

Seth and Daniel look to Ethan, confused. Ethan, clearly trying to play it off, shrugs: *"I have no idea"*.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Now you've tested my patience,
guys, you really have. I'm a nice
guy, I'm letting you all off with a
warning. But you keep testing me
any further, I'm gonna end up with
a degree from Harvard. A degree in
whoop-ass... PHD.

That makes Seth and Daniel chuckle, but that's not what Benny intended.

BENNY (CONT'D)

You want me to bring you down to
the station!? Hmm!? How's a night
in county sound, gentlemen?

SETH

How you getting us there? On your
pegs, Officer?

Benny points a finger in Seth's face.

BENNY

Young man, one more snippy remark
from you and I won't be afraid to
roundhouse kick you to the earlobe.
(off Seth's stunned
silence)

Little fact about Bicycle Cops for
you: we peddle a lot. All day. My
calfs are practically lethal
weapons, young man. If I got you in
a little jujitsu move, I'd squeeze
you right in half like a damn
Twinkie. KEEYAHHH!!

Benny does a karate chop. Seth and Daniel flinch hard. Benny may not be very intimidating, but he makes up for it in sheer sincerity.

BENNY (CONT'D)
Get on outta here while you still
got use of your legs.

Seth and Daniel speed-walk out of the park. Ethan, who's been watching this whole time with his head in his hand, tries to go with them... but Benny grabs him by the collar.

BENNY (CONT'D)
Whoa, whoa - Not so fast, dude.

Ethan's friends look back to see what's taking him so long.

ETHAN
(whispering to Benny)
Can you at least make it seem cool?
Please?

Benny thinks on it, then sighs: "Fine".

He proceeds to shake Ethan, about to grab and handcuff him while Ethan STRUGGLES like he's trying to get away.

BENNY
(playing it up)
WHOA THERE, YOU AIN'T GETTING AWAY
FROM ME, YOU HOOLIGAN -

ETHAN
UNHAND ME, I WILL DO CRIME AGAIN!!
I AIN'T GOING BACK TO COUNTY!!

BENNY
NOT ON MY WATCH!

Seth and Daniel watch the struggle and TAKE OFF RUNNING.

Benny HANDCUFFS Ethan, just as they notice Seth and Daniel are out of sight. They drop the act.

ETHAN
Thanks.
(notices the handcuffs)
You can take 'em off now.

BENNY
Nope.

ETHAN
What!?

BENNY
You have any idea what kind of
night it is?

ETHAN

You're kidding me, Benny. Do you have nothing better to do?

BENNY

It's a school night, what the hell are you thinking?

ETHAN

It's summer!

BENNY

Even still, what's mom gonna think? Huh? This park is dangerous at night, you know that. And that's not even counting the off-brand Jackass stunts you're doing.

ETHAN

Take the cuffs off, Benny-

BENNY

No. And I'm taking you home to mom.

ETHAN

In handcuffs??

BENNY

Yes! In handcuffs!

Suddenly Ethan takes off running. But Benny TACKLES HIM to the ground. The two brothers tussle with each other.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Quit slapping me! Ethan! No slapping, c'mon, man!

ETHAN

I can't even slap you, dumbass, my hands are behind my back!

Benny gets Ethan to his feet. They're both out of breath.

BENNY

You're not gonna run, okay? I'm taking you home... and Mom is gonna ground your ass. End of story.

ETHAN

Whatever, bike cop.

BENNY

I am a bike cop! And I'm proud to be a bike cop!

(MORE)

BENNY (CONT'D)

I wear my bike cop badge with honor. What do you do, huh? I ain't see you getting a job - helping Mom out, no... because all you want to do is fart around and slide down hills. Real productive, Ethan. I'm out here saving lives, protecting nature... and getting good exercise while doing it.

(beat)

I stay limber, Ethan. You know how close I am to getting the marathon security position? Five more weeks!

Ethan has such a loss for words. But he manages:

ETHAN

...what the hell are you talking about??

Benny catches his breath, runs a hand through his hair.

BENNY

Just... never mind, Ethan. Never mind.

Benny takes a few steps away, collecting his thoughts. Ethan sits down on a curb. There's a quiet moment. Until:

ETHAN

Look, Benny, I'm sorry. I just wanted to have fun with my friends for a change - is that so bad? I mean, when was the last time you had fun, man? Seriously.

Benny doesn't turn to look at Ethan. Ethan actually listens.

BENNY

(sighs)

You're so lucky, man. You've got all the time in the world to figure things out.

(beat)

In a strange way, I'm jealous. I never had time for friends or... fun... I dunno... I just wish that...

But as Benny turns to face Ethan, **HE ISN'T THERE ANYMORE.** Benny looks up to see him **SPRINTING UP THE LARGE GRASSY HILL.**

BENNY (CONT'D)

ARE YOU KIDDING ME???

ETHAN
C'MON! YOU SHOULD TRY IT OUT!!

Benny runs after him.

EXT. TOP OF THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Ethan reaches the top. A HALF-EMPTY BOTTLE OF DISH SOAP rests at the peak. Ethan quickly grabs it and douses his trash-bag shirt with it.

MEANWHILE, Benny is huffing and puffing up the slope of the hill, on a mission. But just as he's about to reach the top -

Ethan salutes his brother and penguin-dives down the hill.

ETHAN
Whoops! Sorry!

Benny is practically hyperventilating, hands on his knees. He watches as Ethan safely makes it to the bottom. Ethan waves.

BENNY
Dude! Come on!

Ethan digs into Benny's frustration and hops onto his Police Bike, starting riding it around in circles.

BENNY (CONT'D)
Hey! That's Officer use only!

ETHAN
Come down, then! Stop me!

BENNY
I will!
(catching his breath)
... Just gimme a minute...

ETHAN
You miss having fun? This is your chance, Benny. Nobody's looking!

Benny spots the dish soap and a BOX OF TRASH BAGS.

BENNY
Shit.

ETHAN
Just try it! Come on!

BENNY
I'm on duty!

ETHAN

Then call it in as a bike theft!
You need to stop me!

Benny thinks it over.

BENNY

If I do it, you'll go straight home
and tell Mom what you did?

ETHAN

Every word!

Off Benny, troubled, looking over at the dish soap...

RAPID-FIRE MONTAGE: Benny takes a trash bag! He cuts three holes into it! He puts it over his head! (epic). And then takes the dish soap and lathers it onto his trash bag shirt!

Now he's standing on the edge of the hill. Looking down, he sees his brother watching him from below, doing bike tricks.

He takes a deep breath.

BENNY

(to himself)

I'm gonna laugh so hard when Mom
takes away your PS5.

And with that, Benny let's go. He leaps down the hill!

IN SLOW MOTION...

...we FOLLOW his descent. He GLIDES, arms outstretched, eyes closed at first...

...but as he opens his eyes, he sees how fast he's going...and he actually SMILES... then starts LAUGHING...

...he looks like an glorious eagle in the wind. For this moment, Benny has never felt more free in his life...

ON ETHAN. He watches his brother, in awe. He's actually doing it! But that awe soon turn to a look of horror as we GO BACK TO...

NORMAL SPEED

...and we watch Benny crumple down the hill like a rag doll, sliding face first into rough grass and collapsing in a heap.

There's a stunned beat. Ethan rushes over to Benny and flips him over. He's in bad shape, GROANING IN PAIN.

ETHAN
OH MY GOD, BENNY, ARE YOU OKAY??

On Benny. Through the bruises and the missing teeth... he manages to smile. Ethan doesn't know what to make of it.

BENNY
Never better... Ow.

Ethan laughs, despite himself.

BENNY (CONT'D)
(beat)
But seriously, CALL AN AMBULANCE
FOR GODSAKES...!

ETHAN
Of course, yeah-yeah, lemme go do
that now.
(stands up)
Should I call mom too-

BENNY
DON'T CALL MOM!!

Off the crippled, but smiling Officer Benny...

BLACKOUT.