

INT. FIFTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

A throng of 10-year-olds enjoy a Valentine's party. Cupcakes and juice boxes. Lots of chatter. Standing in the corner, CADE stares across the room at KRISTI, who brushes the blond hair away from her porcelain face.

Cade looks down at the Scooby-Doo valentine in his hand. "I Ruff You." But it's the reverse side that he reads, where he's written a love letter. Poetic phrases like: "Only one for me" and "Meant to be" and "Meet me by the swings."

His friend, JEREMY, walks over.

JEREMY

Hey, Cade. What's the matter?

CADE

This is my last chance to tell
Kristi how I feel.

JEREMY

Why? Are you moving?

CADE

We're all moving. To middle school.
That's got three floors. I might
never see her again.

JEREMY

I didn't know you liked her.

CADE

(shrugs)
I don't hate her.

JEREMY

Not hating a girl is a big
commitment.

CADE

I just want her to know how I've
felt about her all these years.

JEREMY

You met her in September.

CADE

No, we had pre-K together.

JEREMY

Oh. Back in the day.

CADE
What does that mean?

JEREMY
I don't know. My dad says it all
the time.

Cade looks across the room at the red cardboard box on
Kristi's desk. But he doesn't move. Jeremy snatches the
valentine.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I'll do it.

CADE
No, no, I need to be a man.

He tries to get it back, but Jeremy turns away, reading it.

JEREMY
You didn't even dot any I's with
hearts.

CADE
Only girls do that.

JEREMY
Not if you want her to like you
back. It's your funeral.

CADE
What does that mean?

JEREMY
I don't know. My mom says it all
the time.

He walks off, weaving through the rows of desks.

CADE
Jeremy! Wait!

Cade scampers after him, but it's too late. Jeremy has
already shoved the valentine into the box. Cade is frantic.

CADE (CONT'D)
You idiot! That's the wrong desk!

JEREMY
Kristi sits here.

CADE
No! Mrs. Otis moved desks around
last week. Remember?

JEREMY
Oh, that's right. Then who's--

BARB, pigtails and glasses, suddenly appears.

BARB
What are you doing at my desk?

	CADE		JEREMY
Barb!		Barb?	

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

Cade is fuming as he and Jeremy walk to their bus.

JEREMY
She'll know it's not for her. You wrote Kristi's name on it.

CADE
No, I didn't!

JEREMY
You didn't? Why not?

CADE
Cause I wasn't going to put it in the wrong box!

They cut through a group of students. And nearly bump into Kristi, who stands glowing in the sunlight.

KRISTI
Hey, Jeremy.

JEREMY
Oh, hi, Kristi.

KRISTI
I really liked your valentine. The way you dotted the I's in my name with hearts. So romantic.

JEREMY
Thanks. You know, I don't do that for all the girls.

CADE
Kristi, I made you a card too but--

KRISTI
Weren't we in the same pre-K?

CADE
Yes! You remember me!

KRISTI
Yeah, you picked your nose a lot.
Come on, Jeremy, let's walk and
talk.

She reaches out. Jeremy takes her hand.

KRISTI (CONT'D)
Why are you friends with him? He's
so weird.

Cade watches his ex-friend walk away with the girl of his
dreams. A tap on his shoulder. He turns. It's Barb.

BARB
Your card had the nicest things
anyone has ever said to me.

She kisses his cheek. Cade stares at her. She exudes a
sweetness that he never noticed before. Cute dimples.
Electric eyes.

CADE
You don't think I'm weird?

BARB
Yeah, but so what? I'm weird too.
We can be weird together.

CADE
Okay.

BARB
Walk me to the bus?

She extends her hand. Cade reaches for it, hesitates.

CADE
You don't have cooties, do you?

BARB
Not anymore. I passed them to
Kristi at lunch.

Cade takes her hand. As they walk along, Cade looks back at
Jeremy and Kristi holding hands. He chuckles.

CADE
Sucker.

FADE OUT.