

THE PLEASANTRIES OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOL BATHROOM
(SECOND DRAFT)

Written by

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Based on

Childhood Memories

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

A long hallway full of doors stretches far into the distance. Decorations and art projects line the tiled walls.

The echoes of children laughing and playing games blast from each door, silencing the small, quick footsteps of CHARLES - a pudgy 5th grader with large oval glasses. Alongside him is DENNIS - also a 5th grader, strolling casually and without care. As per the dress code, button-up shirts and black ties cling to them.

CHARLES
(adjusting his tie)
How do I look?

Dennis daydreams, staring at the projects they pass by.

DENNIS
Huh? You look fine.
(pause)
Stop messing with your tie, though.

CHARLES
Don't people say image is
everything? Or something like that.
I got a good feeling about today!

Dennis turns his head to Charles and looks him up and down. He's still adjusting his tie, more anxiously than before.

The pair stop at the end of the hallway, standing before the final door. There's "art" on the walls, but it's not projects -- it's harsh scribbles of graffiti and vandalism. Complete disrepair.

DENNIS
You know you don't have to do this,
right? You can just go in-and-out.

CHARLES
And disappoint everyone? They're
waiting for me! They love me!

Charles takes a deep breath and continues for the door, and Dennis follows.

DENNIS
I guess so, dude. Do your best, and
don't screw it up.

CHARLES
(shocked)
Don't say that! That means, like,
the F-Word!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BOYS' BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

UPPERCLASSMAN
Fuck yeah!

The Boys' Bathroom - home to a unique form of lawlessness. Crude drawings of genitalia put the graffiti outside to shame. The radiator is covered in freshly melted crayons.

Charles and Dennis enter into a sea of rowdy UPPERCLASSMEN, chattering jokes and vulgarities in every direction.

UPPERCLASSMAN (CONT'D)
Ah, there's the little champion!

Charles smiles and nods as the upperclassmen cheer, all of them giving him high-fives and pats on the back.

SHANE (O.S.)
(shouting)
There he is!

Charles' neck snaps to the left, eyes locking with SHANE - a 5th grader among the sea of "young adults". Scrawny, with thick glasses and a missing tooth.

SHANE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Took the fatty long enough to get
here!

The upperclassmen snicker and quiet down. Charles glances at Dennis, who gives him a thumbs up and promptly stations himself at a urinal. Someone takes the one next to him, and he shuffles away.

Charles faces Shane yet again and makes a big grin.

CHARLES
Let's just say I was fashionably
late, Shane. I wouldn't expect you
to know anything about being
fashionable.

The upperclassmen go into a frenzy. Charles scans the room, basking in his cheering audience.

SHANE

What were you doing? Stuffing your
face full of pizza?

CHARLES

Real funny. I was actually-

SHANE

Average day for you.

Charles steps back, eyes darting around the room. He sees that, thankfully, the upperclassmen were still laughing at his previous joke -- they didn't hear Shane.

CHARLES

(loudly, now playing with
his tie)

Is that, like, the only roast you
got? You say something about food
every time!

Charles' eyes widen and he covers his mouth, but it's too late. The upperclassmen, faces red with laughter, now turn to Shane. He ponders for a second, then smirks and crosses his arms.

SHANE

You're not getting any skinnier.

The upperclassmen lose their minds. One of them, one of the same people who were just high-fiving him, clamps his hand onto Charles' shoulder and shakes him around.

Charles stumbles backwards. Now panicking, he looks at Dennis, still planted at the urinal.

DENNIS

(mouthing the words)

Make fun of his tooth!

CHARLES

(whispering)

What?

Dennis sticks out his teeth like a massive overbite. Charles flinches, but nods and faces Shane. Yet, he keeps his eyes low.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

You know what I think is really
stupid, Shane?

(hesitating)

Your tooth. Or like, your lack of a
tooth!

Shane frowns. The upperclassmen roar with laughter.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
(nervously laughing)
Really, what's up with that? It
fits, since you act like a baby all
the time!

Charles and Dennis fist bump. Shane observes this, and his
frown transforms into a harsh grimace.

SHANE
At least I'm not gay.

CHARLES
What?

All eyes lock onto Charles, piercing him from every
direction.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I'm not, though? I'm not!

The crowd begins to murmur. Charles takes a step back.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
And isn't that, like, not even a
bad thing? What's wrong with that?

The room goes silent. And with that, Shane's harsh grimace
has twisted all the way around into a wicked, devious smile.

SHANE
(shouting and pointing)
You're gay! You're gay! You're gay!

The room explodes with laughter. So much laughter, in fact,
that Charles' defenses cannot be heard. The upperclassmen
cheer for Shane, and Charles puts his head down in shame.

DENNIS
(whispering to CHARLES)
Don't let him win!

Loud, aggressive knocks on the door.

JANITOR (O.S.)
Hey! What's going on in there?

The upperclassmen quiet down and funnel out of the room. Some
of them quickly exchange money. Shane walks out, grinning at
Charles.

As the bathroom empties out, Charles retreats to a stall. Dennis waits a moment and then exits.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Charles, alone, sits hunched over on a bench in the hallway. He absentmindedly adjusts his tie over and over, and he repeatedly runs his tongue over his teeth, particularly the spot where Shane was missing a tooth. He takes the tie off.

UPPERCLASSMAN (O.S.)
It was so fucking funny! You had to
be there!

Charles perks his head up. He peeks around the corner. It's some upperclassmen gathering books from their lockers.

UPPERCLASSMAN (CONT'D)
These 5th graders are so stupid,
man. So, it was the dorky fat kid
again today...

Charles steps back and heads the other direction.

UPPERCLASSMAN (CONT'D)
And the skinny 'tard was there,
too! So, they're both going back
and forth, trying so damn hard to
be cool, and they think they're
actually impressing us. Like, the
skinny one thinks he's hot shit
now! How fucking stupid can you be?

The gang of upperclassmen laugh and walk away.

CHARLES
(pause)
Huh.

Charles puts his tie back on.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Charles heads into the bathroom, from which light chatter and laughter can be heard. The room quiets down once he enters.

About a minute passes, and Charles leaves the bathroom, drying his hands with a paper towel, smiling softly.

He continues down the hall.

THE END.