

SERIES BIBLE

***THE BULLYING SQUAD***

“An End to Bullies Everywhere!”

(2016 Moondance International Film Festival Award Winner – Best TV Pilot)



By Mike Murphy

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WGAE Registered

## **THE STORY**

*The Bullying Squad* is a children's half-hour comedy series about a diverse group of four pre-teens who band together to stop bullying wherever they can. Working out of the dilapidated barn of one of the main characters' families, it is there that they meet their peers/clients and formulate their bully-stopping plans.

## **MAIN CHARACTERS**

- *Jocelyn ("Joe") Trotter, 11*: Very well read (maybe too much). She started the Squad because her good friend, Ellen, was being bullied at school. She also initiated the much-too-wordy Squad oath, which features quotes from the likes of Mother Teresa and Jean-Luc Picard. Jocelyn is rather bossy and will be forced to learn how to tone that down as the series progresses. She is also a bit paranoid, thinking that many people – including the police – are itching to put an end to the Squad. She *hates* her nickname of "Joe."
- *Eli Roney, 10*: Very intelligent ten-year-old African-American computer and electronics whiz. If there's a way to thwart a bully with technology, Eli will find it. In the pilot, we are introduced to two of his inventions: The Camera-Pen 2000 and the LMT (Lunch Money Taker) Stopper 2500. Eli is being raised by his mom, his dad having died in Afghanistan.
- *Dominic ("Nick") Langford, 10*: An average American boy. Nick is a good kid who people trust at school, in town, everywhere. This likeability allows him entrance into the company of bullies to learn best how to beat them. Nick is starting to develop – and working hard to deny – a thing for Jocelyn. Nick's father is a police officer.
- *Dirk Oates, 9*: A big kid, a *brick*. Not the most intelligent, but with occasional touches of insight. Dirk is a friendly boy who many in town fear because of his size. He stands ready to use his physicality to solve bullying situations. The Squad tries not to do that much for fear that it will brand *them* as bullies. Dirk's learning difficulty will *never* be used against him in any episode. He is an equal and valuable member of the Squad and will sometimes be shown to save the day. An only child, he thinks of his fellow Squad members as siblings. Nick and Eli call him "Big Guy."

## **WHERE THE SHOW IS GOING**

Each self-contained episode will show how the Squad goes about trying to stop a bully and how they *might* learn about themselves in the process (don't want to get preachy). The Squad's diverse composition will allow scripts where a lesson may be offered about life, love, death, friendship, and humanity.

### **IDEAS FOR FUTURE EPISODES**

1. GROWN-UPS CAN BE BULLIES TOO: When Joe's dad encounters a bully at work, the Squad thinks about taking on their first adult case and what Mr. Trotter will think about them if they do.
2. SOMETIMES THINGS DON'T WORK OUT AS PLANNED: When an anti-bully plan goes awry, the Squad members find themselves in big trouble and scattered all over town.
3. ONE OF OUR OWN: The Squad springs into action when Dirk becomes the victim of a bully who believes he is a "retard."

### **A FURTHER NOTE**

In 2016, *The Bullying Squad* won the best TV pilot award from the Moondance International Film Festival.

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"Pilot (An End to Bullies Everywhere!)"

Written by

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Episode #1

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# ***THE BULLYING SQUAD***

"Pilot (An End to Bullies Everywhere!)"

Episode #1

## REGULAR CAST

JOCELYN ("JOE") TROTTER.....  
ELI RONEY.....  
DIRK OATES.....  
DOMINIC ("NICK") LANGFORD.....

## GUEST CAST

WARREN SCHLOPNOODLE.....  
DALLAS STONEHAND.....  
A VARIETY OF NAMELESS, SCHOOL-AGED EXTRAS.....

# ***THE BULLYING SQUAD***

"Pilot (An End to Bullies Everywhere!)"

## SETS

EXT. DRIVEWAY LEADING TO THE BULLYING SQUAD'S BARN/OFFICE

INT. BULLYING SQUAD BARN/OFFICE

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY NEAR LOCKERS

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

COLD OPEN1 EXT. DRIVEWAY LEADING TO THE SQUAD'S BARN/OFFICE - MORNING 1

The autumn leaves are falling from the trees as we zoom up a long driveway to an in-need-of-paint red barn at the very end. We dissolve through a window to the interior of the barn, which holds one large desk (on which an open laptop rests), four beaten-up lawn chairs, and an odd assortment of dusty, rusty, inexplicably saved bric-a-brac.

Three of our four main characters are seated around the desk:

JOCELYN ("JOE") TROTTER, a bright and bossy 11-year-old girl with her hair in a ponytail,

ELI RONEY, a 10-year-old African-American computer and electronics whiz (he is seated in front of the laptop), and

DIRK OATES, a *big* 10-year-old boy - an absolute *brick* of a kid, both in height and musculature.

An annoyed Jocelyn sighs and looks at her watch. She briefly strums her fingers on the desk.

JOCELYN

He's *late*.

Eli checks *his* watch.

ELI

No, he's not. I've got -

JOCELYN

It's 10:01. I sync my watch to the atomic clock at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., first thing every morning. We all agreed to meet here at 10:00 a.m.

ELI

Cut him some slack, Joe.

JOCELYN

*Don't* call me that!

ELI

Why not?

JOCELYN

(righteously)

My name is "Jocelyn."

ELI

What's wrong with "Joe?" It's a . . . a  
nickname.

JOCELYN

It's a *boy's* name. I'm a girl.

DIRK

We call Dominic "Nick."

JOCELYN

That's different. *His* nickname doesn't  
imply that he's a girl.

Befuddled, Dirk turns to Eli.

DIRK

Dominic is a girl?

ELI

Later, Big Guy.

JOCELYN

How'd you like it if we shortened your  
name to. . . to. . .

ELI

(amused)

Go on. What would you shorten "Eli"  
to?

(beat)

"Eel?"

JOCELYN

Yeah, "Eel." How would you like *that*?

ELI

Doesn't bother me.

DIRK

Oh, I *like* eels, especially the  
electric ones.

(beat)

*Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzz!*

Dirk flutters his fingers about his face.

ELI

And what about Dirk here? How would  
you shorten *his* name?



DIRK

*Nobody's* short in my family. Not even Mom.

JOCELYN

Forget it.

(beat)

It's just that *I* founded The Bullying Squad and, if there's one thing I *insist* on, it's punctuality.

ELI

Nick will be here. He said he would.

DIRK

Maybe he doesn't set his watch to your clock?

ELI

Just because *you* want to start your day on the boring side -

There is a knock on the door.

Jocelyn gasps.

ELI (CONT'D)

See?

JOCELYN

How do we know it's Dominic?

DIRK

That's easy.

(calls out)

Who is it?

NICK

(calling from outside the barn until mentioned otherwise)

It's me. Let me in.

DIRK

It's her, all right.

JOCELYN

He said it was "me." Very inscrutable.

(beat)

What if it's someone *imitating* Dominic?

ELI

Who would want to do that?

JOCELYN

Someone trying to find out our secret location.

DIRK

Secret? You hung up a "The Bullying Squad" sign outside.

JOCELYN

(beat)

Just a *little* one.

ELI

It's written in black Sharpie on a white poster board!

Nick knocks on the door again.

NICK

Will one of you let me in?

Jocelyn leaps from her chair and throws her arms urgently in the air.

JOCELYN

Battle stations!

NICK

(sighs)

Not "battle stations."

JOCELYN

Places, everyone!

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

2

INT. BULLYING SQUAD BARN/OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

2

A nervous Jocelyn is standing, hopping from foot to foot, while Eli and Dirk remain calmly seated.

JOCELYN

Get up, you two! Don't you know what "battle stations" means?

ELI

Sure, but why are we going to battle stations?

JOCELYN

Because we have an unknown person outside.

DIRK

We have *Nick* outside.

JOCELYN

We can't be sure of that.

ELI

Why?

NICK

Yeah, why?

JOCELYN

Because he *wasn't* on time. Part of the reason for punctuality is to ensure that only club members show up for our meetings. No outsider would know the *secret* time of our *secret* meetings.

ELI

So someone who *isn't* Nick just happened to show up outside this old barn at 10:00 a.m. on a Saturday?

JOCELYN

10:01. *That's* why we need battle stations.

NICK

(growing exasperated)  
I'm getting tired out here.

DIRK

I'm tired *in* here.

NICK

Just look through the peephole.

ELI

*Good idea.*

DIRK

I'll do it.

Dirk stands and walks to a small hole in the door. He bends at the waist, closes one eye, and peers through the hole with the other one. In the circle of the peephole, we see an impatient, pacing DOMINIC waiting outside the door. He is dressed in jeans and a red T-shirt, and leaves are falling around him.

JOCELYN

(anxiously)

What do you see?

Dirk stands up straight. He blinks his eyes a few times to adjust them from having looked in the peephole.

DIRK

I see Nick.

NICK

(exasperated)

What did I tell you?

JOCELYN

Are you *sure* it's not a clever disguise? Someone *posing* as Nick.

ELI

Who?

JOCELYN

A grown-up. Someone in authority, like. . . like his dad.

NICK

This is *crazy*.

JOCELYN

(righteously)

What does your dad do for a living, "maybe-Nick?"

NICK

He's a cop. You know that.

DIRK

It's Nick, Joe. I *saw* him.

Jocelyn winces at the name "Joe" and starts pacing nervously.

JOCELYN

The police might not like us running the Squad, doing some of their work for them by protecting bullied kids.

NICK

The police don't care about us.

JOCELYN

They may be trying to put us out of business.

ELI

How can you call this a "business?" We don't charge anything.

DIRK

We *don't*?

JOCELYN

Whoever's outside *could* be wearing a clever disguise.

NICK

A *disguise*? My dad's in his 40s, he's taller than Dirk, and he talks. . .

(he briefly attempts a deep voice)

*Like this.*

Jocelyn stops pacing.

JOCELYN

Ah ha!

NICK

"Ah ha" what?

JOCELYN

Did *that* sound like Nick?

NICK

This is *nuts*. The FBI has less security!

Nick raps impatiently on the barn door.

NICK (CONT'D)

Will you let me in? I'd like to attend the meeting while I'm still ten years old.

ELI

You *are* killing punctuality, Joe. . .  
uhm. . . Jocelyn.

DIRK

"Eel" is right.

(beat; suddenly)

How about the Squad password - the  
"Squadword?"

ELI

Yeah! *That* would prove it's Nick  
beyond any shadow of doubt.

NICK

Finally!

Jocelyn clears her throat.

JOCELYN

OK, out there: What's the Squadword?

NICK

(proudly)

Kumquat.

ELI

That's that.

Eli starts to rise.

JOCELYN

Wait! He's wrong.

Eli stops mid-rise.

DIRK

He is?

Eli reluctantly sits.

ELI

It's *not* kumquat?

DIRK

*I* thought it was.

JOCELYN

I changed the Squadword.

ELI

When?

JOCELYN

This morning - before the meeting.

ELI

Before the. . .

NICK

Did you bother to tell me the new password?

JOCELYN

(beat; growing embarrassed)

No. I. . .

NICK

Call me? E-mail me?

JOCELYN

Uhm. . .

NICK

Smoke signals?

(beat)

Did you tell *anyone* I know?

ELI

She didn't even tell *us*.

NICK

I'm going home.

Eli leaps to his feet.

ELI

No, Nick!

DIRK

Think of the bullied kids!

NICK

I *want* to help, but I'm growing old out here.

JOCELYN

I've got it!

2 CONTINUED: (5)

Jocelyn climbs upon the rickety lawn chair she was sitting on.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

There's only one *surefire* way to prove  
who that *really* is outside.

NICK

(exasperated)

Not the pledge!

JOCELYN

(proudly)

The Bullying Squad pledge!

(beat)

Recite it, stranger.

NICK

All of it?

JOCELYN

(slowly; adamantly)

Every word.

NICK

But it goes on *forever*, and it's full  
of words that no one but you uses.

JOCELYN

That's for secrecy.

ELI

(sighs)

I'd better head home for lunch.

JOCELYN

It's not lunchtime.

ELI

By the time Nick finishes reciting the  
pledge, it *will* be.

3 INT. BULLYING SQUAD BARN/OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

3

Jocelyn is calling out the pledge so Nick, who is *still*  
outside, can hear her.

NICK

(exasperated)

Are we done yet?



JOCELYN

Almost.

(beat)

Repeat after me.

NICK

"After me."

JOCELYN

Huh?

NICK

"Huh?"

JOCELYN

Stop it!

NICK

"Stop it!"

DIRK

(chuckles lightly)

This is *fun*.

JOCELYN

Not to me.

NICK

"Not to me."

JOCELYN

Enough already!

NICK

See how ridiculous this is?

DIRK

Why don't you just open the door and  
let her in?

NICK

(beat)

Her?

JOCELYN

Only a few lines left.

(beat)

Are you ready?

NICK

As I'll ever be.

JOCELYN

Therefore, I, state your name.

NICK

Therefore, I, Nick Langford. . .

JOCELYN

No, no, no!

NICK

(exasperated)

Now what?

JOCELYN

This is an *official* pledge. You need to use your *real* name.

NICK

That's it! I'm going home.

JOCELYN

Just another couple of minutes?

NICK

(sighs heavily)

*Promise?*

JOCELYN

*Absolutely.*

NICK

(longish beat)

My "real" name is *Dominic* Langford.

JOCELYN

I pledge to end bullying everywhere.

NICK

*Everywhere?* Isn't that a . . . a little much?

DIRK

She's got a point.

JOCELYN

What do you want me to say: End bullying in our town, our school, our block?

ELI

It *would* be more realistic.

CONTINUED: (3)

NICK

(quickly)

Yes, to all of the above. Signed  
Dominic Langford, Esquire.

(beat)

Now will you let me in?

Jocelyn nods at Dirk and starts climbing down from the chair.

Dirk walks to the door and opens it wide.

Nick walks in, closing the door behind him. He looks  
unhappily at Jocelyn.

NICK (CONT'D)

Do you want to stick me with a pin to  
make sure I bleed?

JOCELYN

Maybe later. We have work to do, and  
our client will be here shortly.

(beat)

Why were you so late?

They all begin to sit down around the desk.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

4

INT. BULLYING SQUAD BARN/OFFICE - LATER

4

Our four main characters are seated around the beaten-up desk. There is a light knock on the door.

JOCELYN

Come in!

They all stand to greet their visitor. Dirk is closest to the door.

The door is opened cautiously, and WARREN SCHLOPNOODLE - a diminutive 10-year-old boy - slowly shuffles in. He wears thick glasses, and his hair is greasy. As he enters, he is looking down at the barn floor. He accidentally bumps into Dirk and is knocked to his bottom. He is dazed for a moment, but then shakes his head clear. Amazed, he looks first at Dirk's feet, then slowly travels up his entire body.

WARREN

(frightened)

Ho-ly. . . cow.

Jocelyn approaches him.

JOCELYN

Warren Schlopnooodle?

WARREN

Y-Y-Yes?

Eli and Nick approach Warren. Eli pats Dirk on the shoulder.

ELI

Don't you worry about Dirk here. He's on our side. . . *your* side.

WARREN

Phew!

Dirk takes a couple of steps towards Warren and offers him his hand. Uncertain, Warren puts his right hand in Dirk's. Effortlessly, Dirk picks Warren up from the floor and shakes his hand enthusiastically - a little too enthusiastically.

DIRK

You don't weigh much of anything, do you?

WARREN

Not to you, I suppose.

DIRK

Dirk Oates. Happy to meet ya.

Warren is nervous about his hand.

WARREN

Yeah. You. . . You too.

NICK

Easy with his arm, Big Guy. We don't want to *hurt* our clients.

Embarrassed, Dirk lets go.

DIRK

I'm sorry about that. It's just that when I meet a new friend, I want to shake their hand.

(beat)

We are gonna be friends, right?

WARREN

(quickly)

Of *course*.

JOCELYN

Dirk, do you mind giving your chair to Warren?

DIRK

Not at all.

(beat)

You sit, *pal*. I'll watch the door.

Jocelyn, Nick, Eli, and Warren walk to the chairs. Warren nervously sits in Dirk's chair while the others take their places.

WARREN

(still a bit nervous)

Are you *sure* this is alright?

ELI

If the Big Guy says it's OK, it's OK.

DIRK

No sweat.

NICK

We will need to get some extra chairs soon.

JOCELYN

I'm on the lookout every trash day.

WARREN

(beat; looks Dirk up and  
down)

I think he's bigger than my bully.

ELI

Dirk is bigger than a *lot* of things.

WARREN

Are you going to send him to punch out  
the guy?

JOCELYN

We're going to try *not* to.

WARREN

(surprised)

But. . . why?

JOCELYN

We don't use physical force to stop  
bullies unless we have no other  
choice. We don't want to look like  
bullies *ourselves*.

(beat)

Oh, forgive me.

She indicates each Squad member as she introduces them.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

I'm Jocelyn. This is Nick, Eli, and  
you've already met Dirk.

Warren rubs his right hand.

WARREN

I *certainly* have.

ELI

What's your problem, Warren?

JOCELYN

He's got an LMT.

ELI

A what?

WARREN

A lunch money taker. Jocelyn told me about the abbreviation when we met at the library.

ELI

How'd you know about the Squad?

WARREN

Julie Crandall told me.

JOCELYN

(happily)

A satisfied customer!

NICK

I guess word's getting around.

(beat)

How long has this lunch money taking been going on?

WARREN

Since the beginning of school.

NICK

That was three weeks ago!

Warren rubs his tummy.

WARREN

I know.

(beat)

My doctor says that I have a very sensitive digestive system. If I don't get the right nutrition each day at the same time, I. . . I can break out in hives.

ELI

What's the name of your LMT?

WARREN

Dallas Stonehand.

Nick briefly face palms.

NICK

Oh boy!

ELI

You know him?

NICK

*Of him, yeah. We've talked once or twice, briefly. He and his family moved up here from Texas during the summer.*

*(beat)*

*Big guy.*

JOCELYN

Bigger than Dirk?

DIRK

Not possible!

NICK

I think they're about equal. It's hard to tell exactly how tall Dallas is. He's always got a cowboy hat on.

WARREN

And don't forget the *buckle*.

ELI

Buckle?

NICK

Belt buckle. It says "Dallas" on it, and it's *huge*. I've never seen him without it.

JOCELYN

Why did he start picking on you, Warren?

WARREN

Have you ever tried going through life with the name "Warren Schlop noodle?"

DIRK

I *like* your name.

WARREN

*(happily)*

Thank you, Dirk.

DIRK

I like noodles.

JOCELYN

Eli, what do you think?



ELI

(beat)

The solution *might* be electronic.

NICK

Eli's a master at computers,  
electronics, and stuff.

ELI

(amused)

Especially stuff.

(beat)

Nick, do you have any classes with  
Stonehead?

NICK

One - American History. Why?

Eli reaches into his shirt pocket and removes a device that  
resembles a fountain pen. He passes it to Nick.

ELI

You know how to use this?

WARREN

I *hope* he knows how to use a pen.

JOCELYN

It's *not* a pen. It's the Camera-Pen  
2500.

WARREN

Oh?

ELI

Nick, I'll need you to get some  
pictures of our LMT so I can figure  
out if electronic is the best way to  
go.

NICK

Not a problem.

WARREN

Get as many as you can.

NICK

Will do.

Nick puts the Camera-Pen 2500 in his shirt pocket.

WARREN

I *still* think Dirk could do the job quickly and easily.

ELI

We *all* think that, but we of the Squad want to work under the radar whenever we can.

WARREN

(defeated)

If you insist.

JOCELYN

We'll keep Dirk on reserve.

(beat)

Has Dallas taken a lot of money from you?

WARREN

(sighs)

Enough.

JOCELYN

I don't know if we'll be able to get back what's already gone, but we can stop him from taking any more.

WARREN

How long do you think your plan will take?

ELI

If the solution *is* electronic, we should be ready by Monday lunchtime.

JOCELYN

Can you avoid your LMT until then?

WARREN

I could check into the hospital.

(sighs)

It's always the same thing: "Hey, Noodle!" he yells from outside the cafeteria. Then it's bye-bye lunch money.

(beat)

Dirk?

DIRK

Yeah?

CONTINUED: (7)

WARREN

If I give you five bucks, will you sit with me in the cafeteria every lunchtime until Monday?

NICK

No! That's just what we *don't* want to do.

WARREN

Maybe you don't want to. . .

ELI

If you change your pattern, Stonehead will think something's up. We might need the element of surprise for Monday.

WARREN

(beat; resigned)

OK.

Jocelyn places a hand on Warren's shoulder.

JOCELYN

You'll be *amazed* at what Eli can do.

(beat)

Come lunchtime Monday, there will be one less LMT in the world.

INT. SCHOOL HALL NEAR LOCKERS - THE NEXT MORNING

Lots of students are milling about, hurriedly getting things from their lockers for their next class. Nick approaches DALLAS STONEHAND, a ten-year-old who is very big for his age. He is dressed in a denim shirt and faded blue jeans. He is wearing a large brown cowboy hat, and his oversized "DALLAS" belt buckle is glinting in the hall's overhead lights. He is rummaging around in his locker.

NICK

(approaching)

Dallas, how are ya?

Dallas closes his locker door a bit to see who is talking to him.

DALLAS

(beat)

"Dominic," right?

NICK

Yeah, but my friends call me "Nick."

(beat)

So, how are you adjusting to life up north?

DALLAS

I'm doing OK. I lived in Texas all my life. It sure is *different* here.

NICK

How?

DALLAS

Once, when I was five, I got on a train early one morning. I had breakfast, lunch, and dinner on that train. I even slept on it overnight in a berth.

(beat)

Do you know that when I woke up the next morning, I was *still* in Texas?

NICK

We have slow trains up here too. You should feel right at home.

The school bell rings. Many of the students disperse. Nick smirks as he hurries to his next class. Dallas closes his locker, a confused look on his face.

Eli and Nick sit at the desk. Eli is on his laptop. We see various pictures of Dallas appear on the computer screen.

ELI

Thanks! These are *just* what I needed.

NICK

I'm glad the Camera-Pen 2500 worked. When I didn't hear any clicking after I took each picture, I got worried.

ELI

Clicking? Oh please! That is *so* last year. Clicking went out with the 2300.

NICK

(beat)

Whaddya think, Eli?

A smile crosses Eli's face.

6 CONTINUED:

ELI

I know *exactly* what Warren needs.  
It'll be ready Sunday afternoon.

7 INT. BULLYING SQUAD BARN/OFFICE - SUNDAY AFTERNOON

7

Nick, Jocelyn, Eli, and Warren are seated around the desk. Dirk is standing by the door, since he let Warren have his seat again.

A confused Warren holds up a small, squarish device that looks like a key chain car alarm with one large red button.

WARREN

*This* is it?

ELI

(proudly)

My own invention: I call it the LMT  
Stopper 2000.

JOCELYN

2000?

ELI

*Everything* sounds more official with  
numbers.

(beat)

You bring it to school with you  
tomorrow, Warren.

WARREN

What does it do?

ELI

It solves your problem.

WARREN

How?

ELI

Do you have any reason to believe that  
Stonehead *won't* try to take your lunch  
money tomorrow?

WARREN

None.

ELI

That's where the 2000 comes in. When  
he's close to you - as close to me as  
you are now - press that red button  
*once*.

DIRK

What'll happen then, Eel?

ELI

We'll have one less bully at school.

WARREN

But *how*?

ELI

(amused)

You just wait. I want to see the look of surprise on your face. . . all of you.

NICK

Does Warren need to aim it at Dallas, like a remote?

ELI

No. The signal will find its way.

(beat)

Keep it in your pocket - with your lunch money. If Stonehead sees it, he'll take it from you.

JOCELYN

When do you start lunch period?

WARREN

11:45.

NICK

We'll all be nearby.

DIRK

Tomorrow is Sloppy Joe Day!

Warren twirls the device before his eyes.

WARREN

What if this thing *doesn't* work?

ELI

It'll work. I'll stake my reputation on it.

NICK

There ya go. The reputation of a ten-year-old. What more could you want?

8

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA - THE NEXT DAY 8

Many preteens - laughing and talking - are walking into the busy cafeteria. The Squad stands scattered nearby (Jocelyn and Nick are side by side), watching a nervous Warren wait for Dallas. Suddenly, the crowd disperses, and Dallas struts towards Warren. We see Warren put Eli's gizmo in his pants pocket, followed by his right hand.

DALLAS  
(calling as he approaches)  
Hey, Noodle! What's for lunch?  
(chuckles a little)

Warren tries to hold back his nervousness as Dallas stops in front of him.

WARREN  
Whatever *I* want. I hear it's Sloppy  
Joe Day.

DALLAS  
Fork it over, Noodle.

WARREN  
Not today.

Dallas is shocked. He grabs Warren's right shoulder with one hand.

DALLAS  
(very angry)  
What did you say, pipsqueak?

WARREN  
(trying not to show nerves)  
I said "not today." My lunch money is  
*mine*.  
(righteously)  
The days of Warren Schlopnnoodle,  
doormat, are over.

JOCELYN  
(in the distance, whispering  
in Nick's ear)  
He's overacting.

Kids start gathering around Warren and Dallas, sensing an imminent fight.

DALLAS  
Fork over the money, dweeb, or fork  
over your *teeth*!

CONTINUED:

Dallas takes a step towards Warren. We hear a slight buzz as Warren presses the gizmo's red button.

DALLAS (CONT'D)  
(beat; getting nervous)  
What the. . .

ELI  
(sotto voce)  
I *knew* it would work.

Dallas's belt buckle grows red hot. He grabs at it, but he can't bear to touch it. After a few seconds, the smoldering buckle shatters and falls to the floor. Instantly, Dallas's pants drop to his ankles, revealing large, smiley-face boxers. Derisive laughter is heard all around.

Dallas quickly gathers up his pants, clutching them at the waist.

WARREN  
See what I mean?

DALLAS  
(beat; disbelieving)  
You *couldn't*. . .

WARREN  
No? So the timing was just a coincidence, huh?

DALLAS  
Well. . . I. . .

WARREN  
Maybe I can make it happen again?  
(beat)  
You'd better find something to hold up your pants, Stonehand. I'm going to lunch.  
(beat)  
I'm sure it'll be the best Sloppy Joe I've ever had.

Warren starts walking into the cafeteria. The assembled kids applaud and whistle loudly. Warren turns at the threshold to the cafeteria. The applause and whistles subside.

WARREN (CONT'D)  
There's no place for bullies in this school, Dallas. *Maybe* that was OK in Texas, but it's *not* up here.



CONTINUED: (2)

He turns and enters the cafeteria. The kids applaud and whistle more. The Squad members all look very pleased - smiling from ear to ear. They start gathering together.

Uneasily holding his pants at the waist, Dallas waddles into the men's room.

Dirk slowly approaches Eli.

DIRK

Eli?

ELI

Yeah?

DIRK

Can you explain to me *now* how Nick can be a girl?

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

9

INT. BULLYING SQUAD BARN/OFFICE - EARLY EVENING

9

The Squad, with the exception of Eli, are seated around the desk. Eli enters the barn, holding several sheets of paper in his hand. He closes the door, walks to the desk, puts the pages down in front of Nick, and stands behind him.

NICK

Thank you.

Nick starts leafing through the printed pages.

JOCELYN

What's that?

NICK

The Bullying Squad pledge. I asked Eli to print it out for me.

JOCELYN

Why?

ELI

It needs editing.

JOCELYN

But. . .

Dirk rises and stands beside Eli, looking at the printed pledge.

Eli pokes at the paper with a pen.

ELI

A quote from Mother Teresa?

JOCELYN

(defensively)

A *wonderful* woman.

ELI

Agreed, but she had *nothing* to do with bullies.

NICK

It *goes*.

Nick tears off a portion of a page and drops it to the floor. Jocelyn gasps. Eli again pokes with his pen.

CONTINUED:

ELI

And look at this: George Washington.

(beat)

Nah.

He tears that section away and drops it.

NICK

(chuckles)

Britney Spears?

DIRK

Not if Washington is gone.

More tearing.

ELI

Ruth Bader Ginsburg?

Rip!

NICK

Jean-Luc Picard?

Rip!

DIRK

The Professor and Mary Anne?

Eli leafs through the remains of the pages.

ELI

I don't see them mentioned, Big Guy?

DIRK

No? They *ought* to be.

JOCELYN

Enough already!

She scoops up the remaining paper and, after a beat, rips it some more and throws it into the air. The pieces rain down on the Squad.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

In the grand scheme of things, those words don't matter. What matters is what we're *doing*: Helping bullied kids like Warren.

(beat)

What's our motto, after all: An end to bullies everywhere!

CONTINUED: (2)

NICK

Uhm. . .

JOCELYN

(reluctantly)

OK. OK.

(beat)

An end to bullies. . . wherever we  
can.

DIRK

*That's* more like it.

NICK

Agreed.

ELI

Ditto.

Jocelyn places her right hand, palm down, on the desk.

JOCELYN

*This* is the only pledge I need.One at a time, the other kids place their right hands on hers  
and their smiles grow all around.END OF SHOW