

EXT. STREET - DAY

A bike rides down a suburban street. ERIC rides the bike with JAMAL (13) standing on the rear pegs, carrying a water gun. A few water balloons hang from Eric's handles.

Jamal sprays KID #1 in the face as they ride by.

Two GIRLS play with chalk on their driveway until Eric ruins their work with a water balloon.

They skid to a stop so Jamal can spray KID #2 in the crotch.

They keep riding and soon pass a house where MIKEY (11) ties a shoe for MICHAELA (5) on the front porch.

MIKEY

Make a teepee. Go inside. Pull down tight so we can hide. Around the mountain... here we go. Here's my arrow, here's my bow.

Mikey sits back. A bike rests on its kickstand a few feet away.

MIKEY

Now you try.

She starts on her other shoe.

MICHAELA

Make a teepee...

ERIC (O.S.)

Come on kid, whaddya got for us?

Down the street, Eric and Jamal push around a helpless kid named TERRY (9), who holds his toy airplane close to his chest.

TERRY

No!

Mikey and Michaela watch as the bullies push the kid back and forth like a hot potato.

TERRY

Stop it!

Eric grabs the kid around the neck with his arm.

ERIC

Stop it? But you would make such a good punching bag. Jamal, wouldn't he make a good punching bag?

Michaela looks at Mikey, who can't do anything but watch it unfold.

Jamal prepares to punch Terry in the stomach.

Mikey stands up.

Jamal stops the punch, just to scare him.

MICHAELA

Mikey?

Eric lets go of Terry and shoves him to the ground. Eric grabs his toy airplane and drops it to the ground. He smashes it with his shoe.

Jamal sees Mikey staring at them. Mikey quickly crouches into a little ball to hide from view.

MICHAELA

What're you doing?

MIKEY

Just duck.

Michaela ducks, but she is still in full view.

Someone clears their throat off screen.

Mikey turns to see Eric and Jamal standing right behind him.

JAMAL

Well, well, well.

ERIC

Whatcha doin' down there?

MIKEY

Nothing.

ERIC

Why don't you stand up so we can get a better look atcha.

Mikey stands.

ERIC

Jamal tells me you been peeking
into other people's business. That
true?

Mikey looks at his feet.

ERIC

Didn't your parents tell you not to
eavesdrop?

JAMAL

Yeah. What are you, a Peeping Tom?

Jamal looks at Mikey's bike.

ERIC

In case you didn't know, peeping is
a crime round these parts.

JAMAL

Yeah. And round here, criminals get
punished.

Jamal kicks up the kickstand. Mikey looks up.

MIKEY

You can't--

ERIC

--Whoa, whoa. Were you just talking
back to an officer of the law?

MIKEY

You're not...

ERIC

We're gonna have to confiscate
this. And there's nothing you can
do about it. Is there?

Mikey looks at his bike, then at Eric, who is much taller
than him.

Jamal raises his water gun and points it right at Mikey's
nose. He looks back down at his feet.

ERIC

I didn't think so. Let's go, Jamal.

Jamal hops onto the bike, which he is too big for, and rides
across the lawn. Eric gets on his bike and they ride down
the street.

Mikey watches them leave.

MICHAELA

Why'd they take your bike, Mikey?

After a moment, he goes after them. He runs down the road as fast as he can, but his legs are no match. The bullies laugh as they get further out of reach.

Mikey comes to a stop in front of Terry's house. Mikey sees Terry sitting on the lawn, trying to piece together his broken toy airplane.

MIKEY

Hey. Do you want me to help?

TERRY

No. Go away.

Mikey turns to see other KIDS in the wet aftermath of Eric and Jamal's water guns and water balloons.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - LATER

Mikey trudges back to the porch where Michaela practices tying her shoe.

MICHAELA

Around the mountain... here we go.
(she looks up at Mikey)
What was the next part?

Mikey sits next to her.

MIKEY

Here's my arrow...

MICHAELA

Oh yeah!

Michaela finishes on her own.

MICHAELA

I did it!

Mikey nods approval. He looks out at the neighborhood.

MICHAELA

Thanks for teaching me.

Mikey doesn't respond. He's distracted by watching the victims of Eric and Jamal.

He bolts up.

MONTAGE - MIKEY PREPARES THE RETALIATION

-- Mikey walks into his garage.

-- He turns on the water hose.

-- He drops empty balloons in front of the chalk girls. He keeps walking, leaving them clueless as to what's going on.

-- He walks up to Terry and pulls him to his feet.

-- He and Terry walk out of Mikey's garage with water guns.

-- In a kitchen, he and Terry set different drinks like chocolate milk and orange juice onto the counter.

-- Mikey hands a water gun to Kid #1.

-- Terry gives one to Kid #2.

-- Mikey knocks on the door of a house. KID #3 answers. Mikey thrusts a water gun into his arms.

-- Terry does the same at KID #4's door.

-- Mikey shows KID #5 a yearbook with Eric's face X'd out.

-- Terry shows KID #6 an X'd out picture of Jamal.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Eric and Jamal come riding down the street, unarmed.

After they pass a trash can, Mikey comes out from behind it. He has a water balloon hanging behind him from his belt.

MIKEY

Hey!

Eric and Jamal turn their heads. They skid to a stop.

JAMAL

Well, well, well.

ERIC

You got another present for us,
kid?

MIKEY
Give me back my bike.

ERIC
Your bike?

Mikey points to his bike.

ERIC
Well, that's Jamal's bike. You
wouldn't want to take it from him,
would you? That would be stealing.

MIKEY
Give me back my bike and I'll leave
you alone.

ERIC
Ha! Did you hear that, Jamal?

Mikey puts a hand on the water balloon.

ERIC
He's gonna leave us alone. I guess
we better give his wittle bicycle
back.

The water balloon hits Eric right in the chest but doesn't
explode. Eric watches it bounce on the ground, looks up.

ERIC
Get'm.

Mikey turns and sprints through a yard, heading toward an
intersecting street.

Eric and Jamal ride through the yard after him.

Mikey leads them around a corner and onto another street. A
large crowd of KIDS is there to greet them.

Eric and Jamal skid to a stop.

Mikey stands at the front of the group and turns to face the
bullies.

JAMAL
Well, well, well.

ERIC
What do we have here?

MIKEY

It doesn't have to be this way.

ERIC

What?

MIKEY

Just drop my bike and turn around.

Eric looks at the crowd of kids.

ERIC

You're all gonna get beat up for
this guy?

All the kids look at Mikey, unsure.

Terry takes a step forward.

TERRY

No. We're doing it for us. We're
sick of all your shenanigans.

KID #1

B'sides. Who says you're gonna beat
us up?

ERIC

Uh. We do. We're gonna beat you up.

Michaela steps forward.

MICHAELA

Yeah? Well you're gonna have to go
through me.

Eric and Jamal laugh hysterically.

KID #2

And me.

KID #3

And me.

GIRLS

And us.

ERIC

Ooh, I'm shaking in my boots.

MIKEY

Laugh all you want, but if you
don't turn around now, you'll
regret it.

ERIC
You guys put up a lotta talk.

MIKEY
We mean it.

ERIC
What're you gonna do?

Mikey looks to his left at Terry and gives a nod. He looks to his right at Michaela and nods. Then they lift their arms in the air.

MIKEY, TERRY, MICHAELA
Charge!

All the kids simultaneously pull water guns and balloons out from behind them and rush toward the bullies.

Fear dawns on Jamal's face.

Before Eric has enough time to get pedaling, the kids reach them and pull him off his bike. Jamal starts to get going, but a water balloon to the side of his face knocks him off.

The girls stand over Eric and squirt him in the face with guns filled with chocolate milk and orange juice. Kid #2 shoots Jamal in the crotch with a yellow liquid. Balloons explode against the bullies with liquids of all colors.

Mayhem ensues. Mikey sees Eric's face, filled with terror and anguish. He sees the faces of the kids, all consumed with hatred. It's a scary sight.

MIKEY
Guys.

They continue with their mayhem.

MIKEY
Guys... Guys!

The kids stop and look at him. Except Kid #2, who has taken off the tank to his water gun and begun spilling it over Jamal's head. Someone nudges him and he stops.

MIKEY
I think they've had enough.

Eric and Jamal are practically whimpering on the ground.

Mikey offers his hand to Eric. He looks up at it and grabs it after some hesitation. Michaela holds out his hand to Jamal.

Back on his feet, Eric wipes his shirt, dusting himself off.
Mikey offers a handshake.

MIKEY

Even?

Eric considers for a moment. He grabs Mikey's hand and shakes it. But then -- he punches Mikey in the stomach.

Winded, Mikey drops to the ground. There is an outburst from the crowd and the sound of running feet.

Mikey's bike is rolled into his view. Mikey looks up to see Jamal, drenched, holding the bike and an outstretched arm.

Jamal pulls Mikey to his feet. The former bully looks uncomfortable.

MIKEY

Thanks.

Jamal kicks down the kickstand and lets it rest against the pavement.

Jamal turns to walk down the street. In the distance, the crowd of kids chase Eric away.