

TO KILL A MOCKINGBOY

An original piece written by
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EXT. GHOST TOWN - DAY

It's a hot sunny day. Vultures circle around the scorching sun. Two figures stand fifteen feet apart from each other on a dusty street separating a sheriffs station and bank from a general store and saloon.

Each figure is dressed like a platinum cowboy; hats, handkerchiefs, and boots. Each cowboy dangles their fingers on the handles of their pistols.

Several seconds go by until each cowboy draws their weapon and fires! BAM! BAM! BAM!

TEN YEAR OLD TERRY AND RONALD conclude their fantasy duel with a loud draw. They laugh and continue firing their plastic pistols.

TERRY

I killed you!

RONALD

I got you first and you know it!

A banner hanging outside the general store reads: HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY, TERRY!

Parents gather around the saloon talking amongst themselves while a dozen cowboy dressed kids play in the street.

TERRY'S MOM yells out to her son.

TERRY'S MOM

Terry! Stop the rough housing!

TERRY

Mom! My western name is Terry
"Tiny Terror" Timmons!

She rolls her eyes.

TERRY'S MOM

Okay, Terry "Tiny Terror" Timmons.
Stop the rough housing!

Terry tips his hat to her.

TERRY
Certainly, ma'am!

Suddenly, a spurred boot stomps onto the dusty street. Several kids turn around and gasp at the sight. This is the foot of MARK(10), a snazzy dressed cowboy with a mean look on his face.

He's quite a sight; a brand new white hat, a bright red handkerchief, and some authentic looking boots. He slowly observes his surroundings.

Terry's mom joyfully walks over to him.

TERRY'S MOM
Hi! You must be here for Terry's party!

Mark speaks in a spiteful, mocking tone, and shakes his head from side to side as he responds.

MARK
Hi! You must be here for Terry's party!

TERRY'S MOM
Yes, of course I am.

MARK
Yes, of course I am!

Terry and a few of his friends watch as his mom speaks to Mark. Terry speaks with aggravation.

TERRY
I can't believe that kid is here!

RONALD
Who is he?

TERRY
He's the biggest freak in school!
He goes around mocking everybody
and thinks it's funny!

RONALD

Why's he at your party then?

TERRY

My mom made me invite him!

Mark continues to mock Terry's mom, but she's having a riot.

TERRY'S MOM

You're just the sweetest little thing!

MARK

You're just the sweetest little thing!

Twelve year old AARON walks over to Terry. He's huge compared to the other kids.

AARON

Hey, why'd you invite that kid?

TERRY

My mom made me invite him! She thinks he's just misunderstood.

AARON

Listen, I'm not going to let some stupid jerk ruin my trip to the coolest ghost town in the world. If he says one thing to me then I'm going to beat him up!

TERRY

You can beat him up now! I don't care!

Mark walks over to the group with a look of mischief on his face. Terry forces a smile.

TERRY

Hi Mark.

Mark goes into his routine.

MARK

Hi Mark!

AARON

Why do you always do that?

MARK

Why do you always do that!

AARON

Shut up! Nobody likes you!

MARK

Shut up! Nobody likes you!

Aaron chokes up and then exits.

EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

A sleazy and malign dressed cowboy talks on a payphone. This is COWBOY CHRIS. He's rugged and dirty like he hasn't showered in days. He yells into the line.

COWBOY CHRIS

Listen, if I don't pass this presentation today then I'm done! There's two social workers here to evaluate my performance and if it isn't a good then I go straight to jail!...I don't care! I'm pathetic enough as it is! I'm a frickin' bummed out cowboy who hasn't showered in two and a half weeks!...Yeah, same to you!

He hangs up with a slam. Two sharply dressed social workers confront Chris with clipboards in their hands. These are SHRUMP and DOLLY.

SHRUMP

We're ready, Mr. Plummer.

COWBOY CHRIS

Look, I need a few more minutes.

DOLLY

The group is ready. It's time to give your tour.

SHRUMP

You're on thin ice as it is, Mr. Plummer. If we don't see a satisfactory presentation today then you're outta here.

Chris nervously nods his head then walks over to the group of kids.

EXT. DUSTY STREET - DAY

Mark is sitting on the porch outside the general store. A sweet, big blue eyed boy walks over to him and sits down. This is BOBBY.

BOBBY

Hi.

Mark goes into his mocking routine.

MARK

Hi!

BOBBY

My name is Bobby.

MARK

My name is Bobby!

Bobby gasps.

BOBBY

You're Bobby too?

MARK

You're Bobby too!

BOBBY

Cool! Let's be friends!

MARK

Cool! Let's be friends!

Bobby is completely clueless but remains happy. Chris stumbles off the porch of the general store and addresses the group.

He tries his best to seem pleasant.

COWBOY CHRIS

Howdy partners! That's what your generation calls western slang, g-town, yo!

Nobody laughs. He looks over at Dolly, who writes something on her clipboard. Chris grunts.

COWBOY CHRIS

(to himself)

Oh boy, this is gonna be hell. Well, we're going to begin the tour, so if I can get all of the children to follow me that would be great. Parents, you can hang out and have a refreshing drink in our old west saloon! It dates back to 1866!

The adults head into the saloon and the kids gather around the general store. Chris kneels down to their level and gets into story mode.

COWBOY CHRIS

Okay, partners! Now this general store dates back to 1863 and was robbed many times by Jessie "Black Jack" Ginter!

RONALD

Your breath stinks.

Chris stares at Ronald in disbelief. He then moves in closer to him so he can whisper.

COWBOY CHRIS

Hey kid, this tour could mean life or death for me, all right? So if you're not going to be any help then why don't you just go home!

A few tears come to Ronald's eyes as Chris stands up and continues with the tour.

Bobby walks with Mark.

BOBBY

Bobby, do you like cowboys?

MARK

Bobby, do you like cowboys!

BOBBY

Yeah! They're cool!

MARK

Yeah! They're cool!

On the other side of the group is Terry and Aaron.

AARON

When I get the chance I'm going
to beat that kid up!

TERRY

Good. I don't need him ruining my
party.

Chris comes to a trough.

COWBOY CHRIS

And on our right we have this big
tub thing which horses drank out of!
If you had a horse back in those days
then you had to be pretty rich, I tell
you what!

HORSE KID

I have a horse right now but my
daddy isn't that rich.

COWBOY CHRIS

Well, then you're a rotten, stinky,
and manipulative kid who gets whatever
he wants from his parents.

Chris catches himself but it's too late. Shrump writes
something on his clipboard while the kid cries.

BOBBY

Bobby, will you come over to my
house sometime?

MARK

Bobby, will you come over to my house sometime!

BOBBY

Yeah! I'd love to!

MARK

Yeah! I'd love to!

BOBBY

Bobby, you're the coolest!

MARK

Bobby, you're the coolest!

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

The children disperse in the store while Chris gives them verbal instructions.

COWBOY CHRIS

All of the items that you see in here are vintage and date back to frontier times and may have been used by Jessie "Black Jack" Ginter himself! Amuse yourselves for a few moments with the fascinating odyssey of history!

The group spreads out across the store checking out the vintage items on the shelves. Aaron and Terry glare at Mark, who's checking out a box of toothpaste.

TERRY

So, when are you going to beat him up?

AARON

When the time is right. I've had enough of that kid's mocking.

Bobby snatches the box of toothpaste from Mark.

BOBBY

Let me see it.

Mark snatches it back.

MARK
Let me see it!

Bobby snatches it once more.

BOBBY
Come on, Bobby!

Mark snatches it back again.

MARK
Come on, Bobby!

Bobby is fed up.

BOBBY
Fine. We're not friends anymore!

MARK
Fine! We're not friends anymore!

Bobby stomps off as Mark continues to observe the box.
Mark continues down the shelves until he's standing next to Terry and Aaron.

AARON
Looking for something?

Mark sharply turns around and gets into mocking position.

MARK
Looking for something!

AARON
You better stop! I'm warning you!

MARK
You better stop! I'm warning you!

Aaron violently shoves Mark.

AARON
Listen, I've just about had it with you.

Mark violently shoves Aaron back.

MARK

Listen, I've just about had it with you!

That did it. Aaron tackles Mark to the ground and starts punching him repeatedly.

The only adults in the store, Chris, Shrump, and Dolly, have their backs faced to the kids while discussing something at the front of the store.

SHRUMP

Plummer, I'd bust your ass right now if only I had some hard evidence on you!

COWBOY CHRIS

Well you don't! You don't have any proof that I've done anything wrong! I treat my customers with respect!

A KID pokes Chris.

BRAT

Mr. Cowboy-sir, where's the bathroom?

COWBOY CHRIS

It's in your pants you little brat.

Shrump and Dolly glare at Chris, who instantly puts his head down in shame.

The scuffle is over. Aaron stands on top of Mark, who now has a bloody nose.

AARON

Did you learn your lesson?

Mark speaks up with his usual mocking tone.

MARK

Did you learn your lesson!

AARON

Not enough, huh?

Aaron body slams onto Mark and continues to rough him up.

DOLLY

We read about your case that you
actually spit on a kid here.

In the background, Aaron is landing punch after punch onto Mark.

COWBOY CHRIS

All rumors! I swear to God!

SHRUMP

Don't you dare swear to my God you
piece of maggot ass!

Aaron stands on top of Mark, who is now bleeding from a few scratches on his face.

AARON

Are you going to shut up?

Mark's mocking action is as annoying as ever.

MARK

Are you going to shut up!

AARON

Oh come on!

Aaron pounces onto Mark once more.

SHRUMP

Is it true you once made a child
drink out of a toilet?

COWBOY CHRIS

Listen, you don't have any hard
evidence of any of this, so none
of it is true.

Aaron does another body slam onto Mark and then stands on top of him. He seems pretty aggravated at this point.

AARON

You learned your lesson yet?

Mark's hair is scuffled and now he's got a bloody lip.

MARK

You learned your lesson yet!

Aaron is furious. He prepares for another attack until Bobby comes to the rescue and stops him.

BOBBY

Wait! Don't hurt Bobby!

AARON

I don't have a problem with you.

BOBBY

He's a good guy! You just have to understand him! Please don't hurt Bobby!

AARON

Why are you talking like that?

Mark painfully gets to his feet and faces Aaron.

MARK

Why are you talking like that!

BOBBY

Bobby's a nice guy!

AARON

Why are you talking like that?

MARK

Why are you talking like that!

AARON'S P.O.V.

Everything in the store starts rapidly spinning around and Bobby and Mark's speech is echoed.

BOBBY

Bobby's a nice guy!

MARK

Why are you talking like that!

Aaron squeezes his hands onto his ears and then falls to the ground.

The three adults quickly turn around to the unconscious Aaron and the beaten up Mark.

DOLLY

What happened here?

SHRUMP

Plummer you really are out to get these children!

COWBOY CHRIS

I was talking to you the whole time you jerk! How could I have done this?

Dolly kneels down to Mark and examines his wounds.

DOLLY

Are you okay, sweetie?

MARK

Are you okay, sweetie!

COWBOY CHRIS

Here, I'll take him in the back to clean him up.

Chris takes Mark to the back of the store where he wets a handkerchief and cleans up Mark's face.

COWBOY CHRIS

You guys are little nightmares.

MARK

You guys are little nightmares!

Chris chuckles in amusement. He takes off his hat and uses the handkerchief to dry his sweat, then continues using it to clean Mark's face.

That's when a small bag with a white substance falls out of his hat. They both look down.

COWBOY CHRIS

Crap, my crack!

Mark says this one especially loud.

MARK
Crap, my crack!

Everyone in the front of the store looks at them. Shrump and Dolly slowly walk toward them.

SHRUMP
What was that?

MARK
My crack!

Cowboy Chris tries hiding the bag and playfully smiling at Mark, but he's clearly hiding something.

COWBOY CHRIS
The kid is clearly confused. Don't listen to him.

MARK
My crack!

DOLLY
What's in your hand, Chris?

COWBOY CHRIS
My hand? Nothing. Just some skin and bone.

Shrump forcefully opens his hand and examines the bag.

SHRUMP
This is crack cocaine.

Chris looks ashamed.

SHRUMP
Dolly, head over to the sheriff station and tell them we got us an outlaw here.

Dolly exits.

SHRUMP

Mr. Plummer, you're under arrest
for possession of an illegal
substance. (smiles at Mark) Good
job, little boy!

BOBBY

All right, Bobby!

The kids unanimously cheer for Mark and pat his back in
congrats.

TERRY

Mark, thanks for saving us from
that jerk!

Terry hands Mark his plastic pistol.

TERRY

Here, you can have this.

Mark takes the pistol and smiles. He reaches into his
pocket and hands Terry a gift card.

MARK

Here, you can have this.

Terry looks at the gift card in joy.

TERRY

Thanks, Mark!

MARK

Thanks...for inviting me.

Everyone gasps!

TERRY

You talked!

Mark gets an embarrassed look on his face, but now mocks in
a questioning tone.

MARK

I talked?

TERRY
You talked!

MARK
You talked?

TERRY
Yes!

MARK
Yes?

Ronald pats Terry's back.

RONALD
I think that's the best you're gonna
get out of him.

They look outside where Cowboy Chris is in handcuffs and
kicking up dirt onto Shrump.

COWBOY CHRIS
This is bullcrap! I am a cowboy!

SHRUMP
Tell it to the boot!

Everyone starts laughing and celebrating.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Shrump is forced to tackle Chris to the ground, which
dirties him up even more.

FINAL FADE

THE END
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