

ZOMPEES

Written by

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ACT ONE

INT. SEL CLASSROOM - MORNING

JAYLAN TAMIR (26) places cardboard cut-outs of zombies around his social-emotional learning classroom. His phone rings, and he takes his phone out of his pocket. Walt, a nine-year old student, chimes in. He begins to jump and run around the classroom, his arms flailing.

WALT

Oooooh! Mr. Jay's breaking the
class rules!

Jaylan ignores him and reads the notification on his phone. It says, 'Rent Due'. Clyde, an eleven-year old student, answers Walt from behind his Chromebook, eyes glued to the screen.

CLYDE

He is most likely looking at the
latest news of the viral outbreak
that is infecting every continent
and every room in the world.

Jaylan opens his Messages app and reads a text from KEITH. It says, "Unfortunately, I can't start production on the film until we get the rate." Jaylan sighs. He opens his MoneyMaker app and selects SEND \$1000. His finger hovers over the button, SEND.

WALT

Infecting? Oooooh!

Walt jumps on top of ALDRICH's (aged 11) desk. He starts singing and dancing.

WALT (CONT'D)

We're gonna get outta *schooooool*.
We're gonna-

Aldrich stands up from his seat.

ALDRICH

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE! SHUT UP,
RETARD!

Jaylan checks his bank account app. It reads, CHECKING BALANCE: \$1,100.

JASON, a twelve year old student, hurls his shoe at Aldrich. It misses and hits Walt in the face. His blood gushes out and splatters on Aldrich's shirt.

ALDRICH (CONT'D)
I'm infected! I'm infected!

JASON
FUCK YOU, RICH DICK! STOP CALLING
WALT A RETARD!

Jaylan closes his phone and whirls around to see Walt's nose.

JAYLAN
Shit. What's goin' on here?

CLYDE
You should not swear. It is against
classroom and schoolwide policies,
you know, and my mother would not
be happy to hear that our teacher
utilizes such bad language.

JASON
(mimicking)
You should not swear. It is against
classroom and schoolwide policies,
I'm Clyde and I'm a little bitc-

JAYLAN
Knock it off, bruh! Right now!

Walt wipes his nose and walks up to Jason. Walt wipes his
blood on Jason's face.

Jason charges at Walt, his fists curled. Jaylan jumps between
Walt and Jason. Walt giggles and dances up and down as Jaylan
shoves Jason to the floor with an aggressive shove. Jaylan
stares down on Jason.

JAYLAN (CONT'D)
I HAVE HAD IT WITH YOUR DAILY
OUTBURSTS-

PRINCIPAL ANTONIO, 42, walks into the open doorway.

ANTONIO
Mr. Jay! Is everything alright?

ALDRICH
He's a hero! He just beat up Jason-

ANTONIO
Beat up?

Antonio motions to Jaylan.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

A word in my office, please? The nurse saw what happened, she's on the way.

JAYLAN

Coming right over.

ALDRICH

I can't take this anymore! I don't wanna be here!

Jaylan opens his phone, and hits SEND \$1000 to Keith.

JAYLAN

(whispering)

Me either, kid.

ACT II

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Both men walk into the office. Antonio sits on his chair while Jaylan remains standing up.

ANTONIO

There is nothing that you can tell me that will justify what she saw-

JAYLAN

Every single day. Every single day there's something violent with that kid-

ANTONIO

- He's here for a reason-

JAYLAN

- Exactly, for *autistic* students-

ANTONIO

- HIS EDUCATIONAL DISABILITY IS IRRESPECTIVE OF THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE TO TEACH-

JAYLAN

- AND I CANNOT DO MY JOB IF I AM NOT GIVEN THE SUPPORT STAFF, NOR THE RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH A KID WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE AUTISM! HE'S EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED!

Jaylan breathes heavily as Antonio stares at him, pale in the face.

JAYLAN (CONT'D)

I read his latest ETR, the one you said I didn't have to read? He tested out of Autism. But you're not gonna get those, what you call 'em, *governmental assistance* if he isn't at this school, right?

Antonio stares at Jaylan, emotionless. He pulls out his phone.

ANTONIO

I read something, too.

Antonio shows Jaylan a screenshot of Jaylan's Twitter account. The latest tweet read, 'One more year until my movie is out and I'm outta JUMP Institute!'

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

You would think that an aspiring writer would be careful of what they tweet.

JAYLAN

That's my priv-

ANTONIO

Which is embarrassing, because I shouldn't have seen it. You're fired.

Jaylan stares at Antonio, his eyes squinted and glistening.

JAYLAN

Good luck finding a teacher that puts up with what I have to.

Jaylan storms out of his office. He pulls out his phone and opens his MoneyMaker app. He attempts to click the CANCEL TRANSACTION button. It does not register to his touch.

JAYLAN (CONT'D)

Damn it!

Jaylan jumps when a hand slams into the glass window behind him. He turns around to see Antonio, infected as a zombie, rampaging through the enclosed office. Jaylan reaches for his car keys, but they are not in his pocket.

ACT III

INT. SEL CLASSROOM - MORNING

Walt is shaking in his seat while Nurse Ellie cleans his nose.

WALT

I'm boooooored! I wanna play Zombies-N-Seek already!

ALDRICH

Uh... I don't know. Mr. Jay isn't here-

JASON

Mr. Jay doesn't care about us, screw him.

CLYDE

Using inappropriate language doesn't make you tough, Jason.

JASON

Say that again.

Clyde shuts off his Chromebook and makes eye contact with Jason.

CLYDE

You don't pick on me, because you can't hurt me. I think its because your emotional trauma and pain has ruined your development, thus resulting in your cowardly choices in picking on kids who are smaller than you. That's my hypothesis.

Jason curls his fists, but hesitates. He notices Nurse Ellie staring intently at Walt, smelling his blood.

JASON

Uh, Nurse Ellie? What are you doing?

WALT

She's pretending to be a zombie, *duh*. Let's play! She's already making noise-sounds like them!

Nurse Ellie stands up, and licks the blood off her finger. She twitches and growls, and her eyes change from her natural blue, to gold.

JASON

G-get behind me. Something's wrong.