

**SPEC SCENE, IT CHAPTER ONE (2017)- WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?**

EXT. QUARRY, SHORE- AFTERNOON

THE YOUNG LOSERS are at the QUARRY, sitting in a vague approximation of a circle on the shore. The seating order is: BILL, MIKE, STAN, EDDIE, RICHIE, BEV, BEN.

BILL

T-t-the m-monster appears as th-  
things we're af-af-afraid of, s-s-  
simple as that.

(beat)

Muh-Maybe if we s-s-share our f-f-  
fears, then it c-can't use them ag-  
against us.

The Losers aren't looking at Bill, but they're all listening.

BILL (CONT'D)

Like, M-Mine's easy, it uses G-G-  
Georgie. It says it was m-m-my f-  
fault that he d-d-died.

Mike places a hand on Bill's shoulder.

RICHIE

Aw, c'mon Big Bill, making a paper  
boat isn't murder.

BILL

I know.

(beat)

I k-k-know.

Bill actually feels better after sharing.

BILL (CONT'D)

(with renewed conviction)

That's w-w-why we're gonna k-k-kill  
that f-f-fucker. T-Talking about it  
is a-a-already helping, I can f-f-  
feel it.

(beat)

S-s-someone else s-s-share now.

There's a moment of silence, then Mikes speaks, head hanging.

MIKE

I saw my parents, burning.

*CUT TO:*

EXT. THE BLACK SPOT- NIGHT(FLASHBACK)

Flashes of fire and Mike's parents banging on a door.

MIKE'S PARENTS (V.O.)  
(screams of agony)

CUT TO:

EXT. QUARRY, SHORE- AFTERNOON

MIKE

They- they were screaming, saying  
it was my fault they died. That I  
wasn't strong enough to save them.

STAN

There was nothing you could have  
done.

(quieter)

You were younger than Georgie was.

They take that in. Mike feels better. Ben is thinking hard.

BEN

I don't think it's just basic  
fears, It's multi-layered.  
It goes for something deeper, you  
know? Like Bill and Mike's guilt.

(beat)

I mean, heck, I'm afraid of  
butterflies, but you don't see It  
turning into those to scare me.

Bev and Richie turn to each other with wide delighted eyes.

BEV

(snorts)  
Butterflies?

RICHIE

(bad British accent)  
Wot wot, butterflies I do say  
ol' chap? I used to run  
'round catching those inna  
wee 'lil net.

STAN

The Scottish say 'wee,' not the  
British.

EDDIE

Yeah, you idiot.

Eddie shoves Richie.

RICHIE

(bad British accent)

Lads! Please! Let's not forget that our ol' chap Haystack is scared of the butter-flittes, wot wot!

BEN

(solemnly)

It's their faces. I hate their creepy little faces.

There's a beat, then everyone cracks up, tension breaking.

BILL

(to Ben)

And your r-r-real fear?

Ben pointedly looks away from Bev as he speaks.

BEN

Well, I see a mummy. It's scary, but it's the way it's all wrapped up and hidden 'cause its body is so gross. It- it reminds me that I'm the same-

Ben gestures to baggy hoodie he has on, despite the heat.

BEN (CONT'D)

-It makes me think about how disgusting my body is, and that when people see me, they're grossed out, you know? It reminds me that I'm, I dunno, unlovable.

Beverly reaches out and squeezes his hand.

BILL

T-that's not t-t-true. We all l-l-love you.

Ben can feel that this is true, he smiles a little.

Richie reaches behind Bev and pats Ben on the shoulder.

RICHIE

There's just more of you to love Haystack. It's just like me and Eddie's mom. There's so much of her to love that we end up doin' it from dawn til dusk.

Richie thrusts his hips. Everyone except Eddie laughs.

EDDIE  
Shut the fuck up about my mom!

Eddie lightly splashes water on Richie. Richie splutters like he's drowning. Everyone giggles, even Eddie.

EDDIE (CONT'D)  
Yeah that's right, enjoy the giardia, dickface.

BILL  
(like a teacher)  
E-E-Eddie, t-t-tell us y-y-yours.

Eddie squeezes his inhaler in his hands, knuckles white.

EDDIE  
Mine's a leper. It was like a walking disease. It could've made me sick! Did you know their limbs can just fall off! They just *fall off!* Like, what the *fuck!*

BILL  
T-t-that's it? D-did it s-s-say anyth-th-thing to y-y-you?"

LEPER (V.O.)  
(Eddie's memory)  
*Give me a kiss Eddie.*

Eddie starts to wheeze and Richie places a hand on his back. Eddie takes a hit off his inhaler.

EDDIE  
(weakly)  
Can you come back to me?

Bill nods and turns his focus to Stan.

Richie suddenly snaps his hand from Eddie. Eddie looks at him, confused. Richie doesn't meet his eyes.

BILL  
S-S-Stan? What's y-y-yours?

STAN  
Why am *I* next?

BILL  
(shrugs)  
Y-y-you're next to E-E-Eddie.

STAN  
So is Richie!

Richie gives Stan a shit-eating grin. Stan huffs, but relents. Stan takes a deep steadying breath.

STAN (CONT'D)  
Fine. Let's get this over with. Mine's this lady, a painting, at my temple. It's so... uneven and twisted, it-it makes my skin crawl. It's like, if it touches me, it'll make me crooked too, like it'll ruin me. Or maybe I'm already ruined, being born a 'Christ killer,' and all that bullshit.

The Losers take this in for a quiet moment.

RICHIE  
Aww Stanny Boy, don't feel like that! It's not like you were gunnin' for ol' Jesus Christ. Wouldn't that make you a Roman or something? You're not cool enough to be a gladiator, Stan my man. Now, can you please tell us more about this ~curvy~ lady?

STAN  
Shut up, Richie. If she's your type, you're going to have babies that look like The Scream.

BEN  
You mean the Edward Munch painting? From eighteen, ninety... four?

STAN  
Three.

BEV  
Nerds.

RICHIE  
MUNCH?!

STAN  
Beep Beep Richie.

Bill turns to Eddie again.

BILL  
E-E-Eddie? Do y-you th-think you can fuh-fuh-finish?

EDDIE

Why do I have to go twice? I told you, it's a leper! Sickness!

BEN

And there's nothing deeper?

Eddie squirms nervously.

MIKE

You got this Eddie, if we shared, you can too.

EDDIE

I- what do you want me to say?! The- the leper is diseased! I don't wanna get sick! 'Cause then I'd have to be taken care of by my mom forever, alright? I'm scared of being stuck with her...

And it puked all over me! Like *all* over me, I was *covered*, okay! *Covered* in that fucking shit!

Richie gives Eddie an inquisitive look. Richie can tell it's not Eddie's whole truth, but he doesn't mention it.

Unthinking, Richie slings an arm around Eddie's shoulders.

RICHIE

Aww don't worry Eds. I'll take care of ya. I wouldn't mind being stuck with your mom forever, if you know what I mean.

Richie wiggles his eyebrows suggestively.

EDDIE

Oh yeah, big shot?

Eddie shoves Richie's arm off.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

What's your fear, huh? Wanna share with the class, tough guy?

RICHIE

(smiling)  
Gladly.

BILL

And n-n-no d-d-doing v-voices!

RICHIE

(pouts)

Aww why so serious, Big Bill!

Bill shoots Richie a stern look. Richie rolls his eyes, but complies and speaks in his normal voice (for now).

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Fine. It's clowns. I know, I know, not very creative, but that's it.

Richie pauses, hoping someone will interrupt him.

When no one does, he sighs and continues.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

For one, they're like, creepy as fuck, I mean c'mon right, like who the fuck decided those creeps are fun for kids? Like, have you ever-

EDDIE

Richie.

RICHIE

Right, sorry. I guess it's 'cause I'm the funny guy, but I don't wanna be, like, *clown* funny. Ha, so cheesy I know. I sound like a hot girl in a movie.

(valley girl voice)

Like, oh my god, I want you to like me for the squishy thing in *here-*  
(pointing to his head)

Not the squishy things down *here-*

Richie points to imaginary boobs on his chest, pretending to bounce them.

The Losers all snicker. Bill gives Richie another look and he drops the act, shrugging.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

I guess I want people to like me for more than being funny.

EDDIE

You're really not that funny, Rich.

Everyone laughs, but his confession doesn't ring true.

STAN

So you saw the clown... as a clown?

BEN  
 (thoughtfully)  
 Stan's right, everyone saw  
 something else, and the clown.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK- DAY (FLASHBACK)

*Flashes of the PAUL BUNYAN STATUE attacking Richie.*

*PENNYWISE'S VOICE plays over the flashback.*

PENNYWISE (V.O.)  
 (Richie's memory)  
 (sing song voice)  
 I know your secret...

CUT TO:

EXT. QUARRY, SHORE- AFTERNOON

Richie laughs, nervously.

RICHIE  
 What can I say? I've got a two for  
 one fear, that's why the clown  
 loves me so much, I'm a bargain.

Eddie eyes Richie suspiciously. Richie catches Eddie's eye by accident and looks away, guilty.

PENNYWISE (V.O.)  
 (Richie's memory)  
 (sing song voice)  
 Your dirty little-

BEV  
 I didn't see something else,  
 though. Not really.

Everyone's attention turns to her.

BEV (CONT'D)  
 Well, I did, but I more heard  
 something. The voices, from the  
 drain. And we all saw the blood.  
 The blood could be... 'becoming a  
 woman' and all that...

Richie makes a gagging noise and Bev kicks him.

BEV (CONT'D)

But it's more than that. I'm  
scared- I'm scared that-

BEV'S DAD (V.O.)

*Are my still my little girl?*

BEV

My dad. It pretended to be my dad,  
his voice at least. But It didn't  
have to. My dad, my *real* dad, he-  
he does more than hit me, he does  
things like in those rumors...

Bev looks down shamefully, then she hides her face in Ben's  
arm, quietly crying.

The Losers are in shock. Ben and Bill are seething, Richie  
and Mike exchange a wide-eyes, Stan stares off into space.  
Only Eddie around looks helplessly, not understanding.

Nobody will meet Eddie's eye. Richie takes pity on him and  
raises his eyebrows suggestive way and Eddie understands.  
Eddie covers his mouth, horrified and gripping his inhaler.

Despite everything that's been shared, they all feel better-  
lighter. After a while, Ben speaks up.

BEN

Bev, you can stay at my house, my  
mom won't mind, promise.

BILL

Or m-m-mine. My parents d-d-don't  
even n-n-notice me.

RICHIE

Ditto, toots.

Bev sits up, wipes tears from her eyes, and smiles.

BEV

Thanks guys. I think I'll take you  
up on that.

BILL

L-L-Losers stick together. No  
matter what.

On instinct, the Losers reach out and hold hands in a circle.  
They all squeeze hands simultaneously. Everyone feels a  
little better. The Losers drop their hands.

Richie and Eddie hold hands for a moment longer. A scared look passes between them. They know they've both lied.

After a beat, Richie and Eddie drop their hands too. They awkwardly look away from each other.

The other Losers don't notice.

**END SCENE**