

"Keep It Clean"

by Shane Eric Dent

PAGE ONE

Panel 1: Martin Waxman stands at the threshold of his janitorial supply closet. We see him face-on (from the perspective of something within the closet, having just opened the door, backlit with thick shadows heavy on his clothing and wrinkled facial features. His lips grimace tightly around a toothpick in his mouth.

Panel 2: His jaw drops open in pure shock at whatever he is seeing (should be obscured). The toothpick in his mouth falls out (catch this in motion), as his bloodshot eyes widen.

Panel 3: A mysterious creature's silhouette looms in the foreground, as we see Waxman's increasingly despairing expression. Attached to the creature's alien form we see a purple teddy bear.

CAPTION 1 (Waxman)
Oh god no... Harriet!

Panel 4: Jimmy wanders the halls of the school, obviously early for class by the relative lack of students. He is mindlessly counting each locker as he passes by, creating a constant TAPPING sound (the few other students socializing in the halls should look irritated at his passing).

PAGE TWO

Panel 1: Coming from the opposite direction of Jimmy, Principle Reed hurries through the halls with a stack of books higher than his head and a dangerously full cup of coffee (that should be dribbling over the rim as he walks).

Panel 2: The two collide head-on, books and coffee flying into the air.

CAPTION 1 (Reed)
GAH!

Panel 3: The pair sit on the ground, staring at each other in confusion.

CAPTION 2 (Reed)
Son...?

CAPTION 3 (Jimmy)

Dad...?

Panel 4: The two try to get up off the floor...

Panel 5: ...and slip on the linoleum floor; Jimmy lands on his rear end and Reed lands on his chest.

Panel 6: As the two try to steady themselves a second time, they take stock of a pair of feet sticking out of the nearby janitor's closet (the feet should be poking out of the half-open door, just barely in the panel).

Panel 7: Close-up of Jimmy's face, eyes wide.

CAPTION 4 (Jimmy)

Waxman?

PAGE THREE

Panel 1: Waxman lies on a bed that's about two sizes too small for his height in what is obviously a school nurse's office (show nurse-y equipment littered about, not too sterile). The Nurse (old and round, with curly gray hair and glasses that look a lot like bottles) looks at him with a magnifying glass and a flashlight.

Panel 2: Jimmy and Reed sit in chairs nearby, watching her attentively. Jimmy fidgets with a Rubik's cube.

CAPTION 1 (Jimmy)

Is he dead?

Panel 3: The Nurse turns to Jimmy and rolls her eyes.

Panel 4: Extreme close-up on Waxman's face as his bloodshot eyes spring open.

Panel 5: Waxman bolts upright on the bed, causing Jimmy and Reed to fly out of their chairs in surprise.

Panel 6: Waxman begins flailing his arms about wildly, babbling incoherently.

CAPTION 2 (Waxman)

Nrgh... my precious... Habblebuh...

Panel 7: Reed goes over to Waxman and places his hands on his shoulders, calming him down. Jimmy looks on with worry while the Nurse checks out her nails indifferently.

CAPTION 3 (Reed)

What is it Waxman? What happened in there!?

Panel 8: Waxman collapses back on the bed in exhaustion before uttering...

CAPTION 4 (Waxman)

Harriet...

PAGE FOUR

Panel 1: Jimmy sits in class as a stereotypically boring-looking Math Teacher drones on. All of the students are clearly not paying attention (talking to each other, throwing paper airplanes, drawing, etc.), and the teacher appears to be borderline asleep.

Panel 2: Jimmy looks impatient, tapping a pencil rapidly.

Panel 3 (Inset): Flashback of the Nurse's Office. An obviously distressed Jimmy stands over Waxman, who is curled up asleep childlike in the fetal position.

Panel 4: Carson leans over and puts a too-muscly arm around the distracted Jimmy, raising an eyebrow in curiosity.

CAPTION 1 (Carson)

What's wrong bruh?

Panel 5: Jimmy lets out a long sigh and looks at the ceiling wonderingly.

CAPTION 2 (Jimmy)

You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

Panel 6: Carson's eyebrow just keeps raising as a knowing smile comes over his face.

CAPTION 3 (Carson)

It's about your Janitor buddy, isn't it?

Panel 7: Jimmy turns to Carson, an expression on his face that obviously reads "How the hell did you know that?" Carson shrugs slyly.

CAPTION 4 (Carson)

Nothing gets past me bruh.

Panel 8: Carson springs to attention and holds out a hand to Jimmy, causing Jimmy to flinch like he's bracing for a hit. Carson looks deathly focused.

CAPTION 5 (Carson)

There's only one way to uncover the Truth. And it just so happens to get us out of class. Are you with me little buddy?

Panel 9: Before Jimmy can even utter a response Carson throws him up over his shoulder and starts carrying him out of the classroom (catch this in motion; Jimmy should look embarrassed and bewildered). The teacher is sound asleep, face-first on the desk.