

PLAYING HOOKY

NICK GIEDRIS

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Middle-schoolers BEN (wants to be cool) and DAVE ("bad" kid; intense), sit on Ben's bed. Dave wears a leather jacket.

BEN

I can't believe we're skipping.

DAVE

I love skipping school. Especially when I have this to smoke.

Dave pulls what looks like a joint from his pocket.

BEN

Dude, is that weed?

DAVE

Even better. It's an oregano cigarette. Gets you high AF.

BEN

You can't get high off oregano.

DAVE

How would you know? You never even skipped school before and I live in a single-parent home on the wrong side of the tracks. So I know.

BEN

Fine. Do you have a lighter?

DAVE

(patting his pockets)

Look like I forgot it. But it's cool; let's do this instead.

Dave pulls out a baggie with white powder in it.

BEN

Holy shit, is that cocaine?

DAVE

Even better. Sugar packets mixed with baby laxatives. Gets you high AF and makes you shit like a canon.

Dave takes a key bump and give a loud "Woo!"

BEN

Did that really get you high?

DAVE

Let's just say it's open season on toilets in t-minus any minute now. You wanna bump?

BEN

I don't know man.

DAVE

If you don't want to shit, then get off the pot.

BEN

But you didn't bring pot, you brought oregano.

DAVE

It's a phrase, rook. And why don't you trust me? You never even skipped and I've been watching R-rated movies since I was 11.

BEN

You're 11 right now.

DAVE

Exactly. So I know about adult situations and brief female nudity.

BEN

Whatever. This is stupid. I think I'm gonna go to school.

DAVE

And miss out on this?

Dave pulls out a jar with clear liquid in it.

BEN

Is that vodka?

DAVE

Even better. It's water spiked with electrolytes. Keeps you hydrated AF when those laxatives kick in.

BEN

Dude, this is dumb.

DAVE

Why do you question me? My favorite band is Limp Bizkit and I can put my hair in a ponytail. So I know.

BEN

Whatevs. Do you have anything else?

Dave pulls out a clear jar with brown liquid in it.

BEN (CONT'D)

Whoa, is that whiskey?

DAVE

Even better. It's ecstasy punch.

BEN

You mixed whiskey with ecstasy?

DAVE

Nah, it's room-temperature tea with lemon juice squeezed in.

BEN

So why is it called ecstasy punch?

DAVE

'Cuz the taste makes you ecstatic!

BEN

Isn't it just iced tea with no ice?

DAVE

Don't pretend like you know. I wear a leather jacket and my mom works a part-time job. So I know.

BEN

Whatever. Are you hungry? I kinda want a sandwich.

DAVE

Privileged bish. Lemme guess: Your mom gets groceries once a week?

BEN

Actually my dad does the shopping.

DAVE

Man, I don't even know my dad.

BEN

You don't get to see him at all?

DAVE

Nah, he's just really shy and doesn't like to engage.

BEN

Ok, I think this whole thing was a mistake. Let's just go to school.

DAVE

Guess you'll miss out on this then.

Dave pulls out a syringe and a small bag.

BEN

Dave, are you about to shoot up?

DAVE

You got a problem with that?

BEN

I think I might. Is that heroin?

DAVE

Even better. It's insulin.

BEN

Insulin?

DAVE

Man, you know I'm diabetic. I need this shit to keep me alive. And I should really check my levels before you make me that sandwich.

BEN

Oh. Ok. But look: After we have sandwiches, if we want to get fucked up, my mom buys cough syrup in bulk so we can drink that.

DAVE

(freaked out)

You get fucked up on cough syrup?

BEN

Sometimes. What? You want something harder? She also started doing meth recently; should I find her stash?

DAVE

Let's just go to school. After I take a dump.

Blackout.