

SKATE PARK

Written by

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Address
Phone Number

EXT. SKATE PARK- DAY

Skate board wheels HIT the ramps. Teenagers on boards whisk on the ramps, float in the air and land on the ground, feet firm on their boards.

JOE, twelve , timid, distressed jeans, faded band t-shirt, old black converse. Stands at the edge of the skate park, holding beaten skate board. Looks around and starts to fidget and pull at his clothing. SCOTT, fourteen, intimidating, tall, joggers, flannel, white t-shirt underneath, stands over by the ramps, calls out to Joe. Joe walks over to him.

SCOTT

Look who decided to show up today.

Scott laughs which begins the laughter of the other CHILDREN, teens, around him.

JOE

Why wouldn't I show up?

SCOTT

Just kidding bud, can you show us all the tricks you know? We are all wanting to learn.

JOE

Ummmm.....

SCOTT

Come on...you know you want to show us. Or maybe you can't do it?

JOE

Okay. I will.

Joe tosses the board to the ground. He steps on it with one foot, the other on the ground. He pushes the board towards the ramp, faster the closer he gets. Now both feet on the board as the tip touches the ramp. He falls, hard. THUD.

Laughter EXPLODES. The children slap their knees and bend over in a riot.

SCOTT

I knew you couldn't skate. What a fake. I don't even know why you come here at all.

Joe stands there, motionless, glare fixates on Scott. Joe turns and runs to the edge of the park, cries and slumps over a tree stump.

SCOTT

What a baby! Babies can't skate board! All they can do is cry.

The laughter grows louder.

CHILDREN (O.S.)
(together)

Baby! Baby! Baby!

Joe breathes heavy, holds his weight against the tree. His body shakes with sobs.

JILL, thirteen, small frame, glasses, Joe's best friend, walks up to him, places her hand on his shoulder. Joe jumps.

JOE

What the...?

JILL

Sorry I scared you. What's going on? Why are you so jumpy?

Joe looks over at Scott.

JILL
(rolls eyes)

Ugh...I see now. What did he do?

JOE

Nothing. I don't want to talk about it.

JILL

Seriously? You tell me everything. Stop now. I want to know what he did.

Joe pulls himself up, wipes the tears, red faced he gives in.

JOE

Well you know how I can't skate?

Jill nods.

JOE

Now Scott knows that I can't.

JILL

So?

JOE

So...did you hear them laughing?

Joe points to the children. Their interest now on another unsuspecting boy. They laugh and point at him.

JOE

See what I mean?

JILL

Do not let him do this to you. Remember who you are. You are Joe, my best friend, the one person I look up to that I know can do anything he puts his mind to.

JOE

You are right. I don't know who he thinks he is, but his opinion means nothing to me.

JILL

There's my best friend.

Jill smiles and pats Joe's back. Joe grabs the skateboard. He walks back towards the ramp, where Scott still is. Joe hops on his skateboard. Scott starts laughing.

SCOTT

Look at this loser! What an idiot.

He draws the attention of the other children.

Joe puts one foot on the skateboard, one foot on the ground. He pushes the board forward. He gets going, faster, gaze steady on the ramp.

SCOTT

I don't think so. Not today son.

He takes both hands and pushes Joe off his board, points his finger and laughs.

SCOTT

What did I tell you? You can't skate, now and never will.

The children stop their laughs. The park grows quiet.

Joe looks up at Scott from the ground. No tears. Straight face.

JOE

You can do whatever you want to me, I am not giving up and from this point on I am never backing down from you again. Maybe I can't skate, but that doesn't mean I can't learn.

Joe starts to pick himself up from the ground. He looks up, there is Scott's hand. He hesitates.

SCOTT

You are right, just because you can't doesn't mean you won't. I don't know why I am such a jerk. I am sorry. Maybe I can teach you a thing or two.

Joe slowly reaches for Scott's hand. Scott pulls him to his feet, throws his arm around him, and walks him to the ramps. Joe looks back at Jill.

JOE

You coming?

Jill shrugs and follows.

They get to the ramp. Scott proceeds with his lesson and has Joe put his board on the ground and put his foot on it. A smile spreads across Joe's face. He pushes the board off with one foot and glides onto the ramp. He pushes faster and makes it to the top of the ramp. An even bigger smile presents itself.

JILL

You did it!

SCOTT

Way to go bud!

The children start to make their way to the ramps and start to clap.

Joe stands at the top of the ramp and puts his foot back on the board. He looks down at the bottom of the ramp. Minutes pass. He pushes off, he glides, he soars, but he does not fall. He makes it to the bottom. He did it.