New Kid Placement Committee

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EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

A grade school. Imposing and huge, looming over the camera.

REVERSE - a ten-year old boy, ETHAN. Ready for his new school and totally unfazed. He grins and goes skipping in.

INT. SCHOOL - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Hallways bustle with students getting ready for class. Ethan smiles, about to join the rush when--

--BOOM! Out of nowhere BILLY and LILY pop up. They're adults but dressed in all denim like late-90's cool kids. They carry clipboards, and pencils.

BILLY
My name's Billy.

LILY
And I'm Lily.

ETHAN
Hi! I'm Ethan Coleman. I'm new here.

BILLY
We know. We've read your file.

Billy flips open a TWO-INCH THICK file. The word 'NEW KID' stamped across it in red.

BILLY
It took a long time to read.

ETHAN
Oh cool!

LILY
That's not a good thing.

ETHAN
Oh no!

Lily tosses it aside. SMASH O.S..

LILY
We're the *New Kid Placement Committee.* We make sure every new student finds the <u>perfect</u> group to join.

Lily hands Ethan an ornate business card.

INSERT: NKPC CARD IN ETHAN'S HAND

ETHAN
Thanks, but I'd rather just make friends and--

BILLY
(interrupting)
Uhp bup bup, you follow, we lead.

Lily and Billy ignore Ethan as they each take an arm and walk him into the hallway. A beat.

BILLY
Dang it, we went the wrong way.

LILY
We're going to confidently turn around now.

Lily and Billy confidently turn Ethan around and walk the other way.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Lily and Billy walk into the busy hallway with Ethan. *NOTE: THE DIFFERENT GROUPS CAN BE PLACED ANYWHERE IN THE SCHOOL - HALLWAY, CLASSROOM, LIBRARY, ETC...*

BILLY
Do you like basketball? You look like someone who likes basketball.

INT. GYM - CONTINUOUS

Billy and Lily bring Ethan to THE BASKETBALLERS - a small group of kids in basketball uniforms, sweatbands, and with waaaay too many basketballs awkwardly spread among them.

LILY
These are the Basketballers.

BILLY
Because they like basketball.

LILY
It was supposed to be a placeholder name but it just kinda stuck.

BASKETBALLER 1
New kid, huh? Can you do this?

The basketballer concentrates hard and SPINS the ball on his finger for a few seconds before it falls.

ETHAN
Doesn't hurt to try!

Lily hands a ball to Ethan. He TRIES to spin it on his finger but can't quite do it.

The basketballers roll their eyes and shake their heads.

BILLY
Next!

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

THE CHECKMATES - gathered around a desk where two kids play chess with those timer-clock things.

LILY
These are the--

Watching the board--

CHECKMATES
Checkmate!

BILLY
Checkmate-*s.*

LILY
Again, we were going to revisit these names but you know how things can pile up.

The checkmates pepper Ethan with rapid-fire questions.

CHECKMATE 1
Can you castle?

CHECKMATE 2
Do you know how a knight moves?

CHECKMATE 1
Did you invent the French defense?

CHECKMATE 2
Have you found Bobby Fischer?

They DING the timer each time they ask Ethan a question.

ETHAN
Who's Bobby Fischer?

CHECKMATES
Checkmate!

LILY
Next!

INT. FANCY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

THE KIDS WHO DRINK TEA IN A SUPER FANCY WAY - a small group of foppish kids with fancy teapots, fine china teacups and saucers, drinking with their little finger extended.

BILLY
The kids who drink tea in a super fancy way.

ETHAN
Seriously? That's the group name?

LILY
Naming groups is not easy, Ethan.

ETHAN
What about the Tea Party?

LILY
Shoot, that's good.

BILLY
I'm not redoing the whole filing system, Lily.

LILY
Fine fine, we present to you the kids who drink tea in a super fancy way.

TEA DRINKER
Earle grey?

They pass Ethan a cup of tea. He SLURPS it, without sticking out his little finger. The Tea Drinkers shake their heads and TUT-TUT-TUT him.

TEA DRINKER
Oh my, how <u>dreadful</u>...

LILY
Next!

INT. BATHROOM

THE KIDS WITH SICK BEARDS - kids with impressive beards that they're combing and waxing.

LILY
The kids with sick beards.
(off Ethan's look)
Don't even say anything.

ETHAN
(softly to self)
The Beardos.

Billy and Lily look at each other, incredulous. The beard kids LAUGH at Ethan.

BEARD KID
You call <u>that</u> a beard?

ETHAN
No? Because I don't have one.

BILLY
Next!

INT. SCHOOL STAGE

THE KIDS WHO LEVITATE - kids who hover just off the ground.

LILY
The kids who... you know what, I'm not even gonna finish it, you get it.

LEVITATING KID
(to Ethan)
It's simple, just throw yourself at the ground and miss.

Ethan JUMPS but comes back down.

LEVITATING KID 2
What you're doing right now is the opposite of levitating.

LILY
Next!

QUICK CUTS - close on Ethan as he NODS to a BEAT, then is CONFUSED, then is GROSSED OUT, reacting to GROUPS O.S..

LILY (O.S.)
The kids who make beat noises with their mouths. The kids who quack like ducks but in a super realistic way. The kids who ate too much breakfast.

AUDIO fills out those groups: mouth beats, duck quacks, gurgling stomachs and a BURP.

INT. CLASSROOM

CUT TO - Billy, Lily, and Ethan in the hallway. Billy checks his clipboard. Looks grim.

BILLY
Hmmm. There's only one group left.

LILY
Our group - the New Kid Placement Committee.

BILLY
But he couldn't even place himself.

LILY / BILLY
Next!

ETHAN
So what now?

BILLY
Since none of the groups wanted you, that means--

LILY
You're automatically in the 'kids-who-wouldn't-fit-into-any-group-and-are-destined-to-be-alone-forever group'.

WHIP TO - cobwebbed kid skeletons, slumped against a locker.

ETHAN
Um, sure. I'm just gonna go be me now, if that's alright?

Ethan takes a juice box from a skeletal hand. Picks up a book from the floor and sits down to read.

KIDS FROM ALL THE OTHER GROUPS - walk up and stare, still all doing their THING (dribbling, drinking tea, etc...).

BASKETBALLER 1
Why isn't he practicing basketball?

TEA DRINKER
Is he drinking *juice*? I wish I could drink juice. I don't even LIKE tea!

CHECKMATE 1
Whoa! He's reading a book that's not about chess!

SHOT - of the skeletons around Ethan.

LEVITATING KID
He's sitting. I miss sitting...

BEARD KID
His face doesn't even look itchy!

The beard kids scratch at their beards.

ETHAN
You can all join me if you like.

All the other kids join Ethan. He hands out drinking boxes and books from the skeletons, snacks from his backpack. Everyone hangs out chatting among each other.

DIFFERENT KIDS
This is awesome! / Pass the juice. / Where's the green crayon? / I haven't read this book before. / It is SO good to sit down. / Anyone have any shaving cream?

Even Billy and Lily toss aside their clipboards and join in.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END