

ROBOT BULLIES!

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WE OPEN ON A CALENDAR hanging on the wall. It reads 2017. We hear a <SCHOOL BELL> sound as we PAN from the calendar to the WHITEBOARD. MR. B, the teacher, feverishly shakes the remnants of ink out of his dry erase marker.

MR. B
(to himself)
Almost finished... Come on Mr. B,
you can do it!

He continues frantically scribbling the math equation on the board as his STUDENTS swarm into the class.

NELLIE, 10, lonely and shy, enters and makes her way towards her seat. She sees a fun-looking girl named JUDY doing a funny little dance (like the chicken dance?) that is making her FRIENDS laugh, but then a mean girl named KATIE approaches with her BULLY FRIENDS.

KATIE
Ew. You call that dancing? Who
taught you, your grandfather?

Katie and her friends laugh at Judy.

KATIE (CONT'D)
And I mean, seriously? That's what
you wear to school? You look like a
garbage man took you shopping at
the dump.

JUDY
I... I...

All the girls laugh. Katie notices Nellie isn't and looks at her nastily. Frightened, Nellie is unsure what to do. She makes eye contact with Judy, whose eyes beg for mercy.

KATIE
Nellie, why aren't you laughing?
Was that not funny to you?

NELLIE
(stammering) No. I mean, yes. It
was really funny. Ha hahahah.

Katie smiles. Nellie looks away and slinks into her seat, ashamed of her behavior.

Mr. B finishes scribbling out the math problem, admires his work, and turns to his class.

MR. B

OK, everyone take your seats!

They are all sitting.

MR. B (CONT'D)

OK, great! So, who would like to
take a stab at today's math
problem? Judy, wanna give it a
shot? It's a toughie!

Mr. B turns back to the board, trying to make sure he himself
can answer the equation. Judy slowly walks to the whiteboard,
looking unsure of herself. As she walks through the row of
seats, Katie chuckles.

KATIE

(whispers) Ten bucks says
she gets it wrong.

Judy looks to Nellie, who looks away in shame. She gets up to
the board and reads the math problem. As she goes to answer
it, she realizes that the marker has run out of ink.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Ha, saved by the ink.

The kids laugh.

MR. B

Oh Dear! Nellie, you're the supply
monitor this week. Would you please
get another marker from the supply
closet?

KATIE

(whispers to Nellie)
Take your time while genius over
here tries to figure this out.

As Nellie exits, she gives Judy a sheepish look.

MR. B

Since we have a minute, did I ever
tell you kids about the time I sat
next to Mario Lemieux on a flight
to Saskatoon?

2

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

2

Nellie walks down the empty hall and eventually finds the
supply closet. It's dark inside. She sees no light switch.
She squints and steps into the darkness.

3 INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER 3

The door swings shut behind her. It's completely dark, save an illuminated FUTURISTIC CHAMBER. Sitting on the floor of the chamber is a very FUTURISTIC WHITE BOARD MARKER. Nellie steps into the chamber. The door <CLICKS> shuts. We hear a <WHIRRING> noise, then see a blinding <FLASH> of light. On the chamber door we see a sign that reads: WARNING: TIME MACHINE - USE WITH EXTREME CAUTION!

4 INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER 4

Nellie steps out of the chamber and opens the supply closet door.

NELLIE POV: LOOKING OUT INTO THE FUTURISTIC HALLWAY

In the empty hallway she sees a DIGITAL CALENDAR hanging on the WALL. It reads: 3017.

NELLIE
What's going on?

She steps out into the hallway.

5 INT. FUTURISTIC CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER 5

Nellie enters a classroom and looks around in shock. There are HIGH TECH GIZMOS all over the place, and everyone, including the teacher, are metal ROBOTS! They all speak in FLAT, MONOTONE VOICES. The ROBOT TEACHER, who looks exactly like a robotic Mr. B, magically projects a math equation onto the board with a FUTURISTIC WHITEBOARD MARKER. Nellie, eyes wide open, awkwardly sits back at her desk.

ROBOT TEACHER
It looks like we have a new student. Why don't you tell us your designation and where you were assembled?

NELLIE
My name's Nellie and I think I was assembled a thousand years ago. Can you teach me how to get home?

ROBOT TEACHER
The only thing I'm programed to teach is robot math, and robot bartending during summer breaks.

He points to the complicated math equation on the whiteboard, and gestures for Nellie to come up.

Nellie slowly stands up and heads towards the board, as Some ROBOT BULLIES stare at Nellie and whisper to one another.

ROBOT BULLY 1

I bet she only has 16 gigabytes of RAM.

The Robot Teacher tosses Nellie the futuristic marker.

ROBOT TEACHER

This one's easy. Tell, me, What does three bleep blorps plus seven blorp bleeps equal?

Nellie's hand shakes as she raises it to the board. The marker <SPUTTERS> and <FIZZLES> sadly, and a puff of smoke emits from the marker.

ROBOT BULLY 1

Let me show you how it's done.

He zips up to the front of class, and grabs the marker from Nellie's hand. He holds the marker up and it magically projects the answer onto the board. He blows on the marker and coolly hands it back to Nellie.

ROBOT BULLY 1(CONT'D)

It only works if you know the answer. Clearly you don't.

ROBOT BULLY 2

Of course not. She's inferior. I mean, look how old her phone is.

NELLIE

It's an iPhone 7.

ROBOT BULLY 3

We have iPhone one millions.

The Bully holds up an iPhone the size of a computer chip and they all laugh at her. Uncomfortable, Nellie raises her hand.

NELLIE

May I please go to the washroom?

ROBOT TEACHER

The what?

ROBOT BULLIES

Ha. Ha. Ha.

NELLIE

What did I do wrong?

ROBOT BULLY 1

Robots don't go to the washroom.
That's a vile outdated human
function.

ROBOT BULLY 2

The only waste we robots produce is
a methane based paste.

NELLIE

Well in that case, can I please go
to the water fountain?

ROBOT BULLIES

Ha. Ha. Ha.

NELLIE

What now?

ROBOT BULLY 2

Only humans drink water.

NELLIE

What do you guys drink?

ROBOT BULLY 3

We drink only the clean solar
energy of the sun. We're good for
the environment, unlike humans.

ROBOT BULLY 2

Hey, I have an idea. Let's start
mean rumors about the human and
spread them to each other through
wireless cloud technology.

BULLY ROBOTS

Agreed/Agreed/Agreed/Agreed

The robot close their eyes and emanate a <WHIRRING> sound.

ROBOT BULLIES

Ha. Ha. Ha.

<STEAM> starts coming out of some of the robots ears and
noses, they are laughing so hard. Nellie is humiliated.

SFX: <FUTURISTIC BELL>

NELLIE

What now?

ROBOT TEACHER

It's time for our daily dancing.

NELLIE

Really? That... that sounds like fun.

ROBOT TEACHER

It's not, it is only fuctional.

NELLIE

What's it called?

ROBOT TEACHER

The robot.

Everyone stands and a <METRONOME> starts playing over the PA. The robot teacher leads the group in a dull repetitive dance.

ROBOT TEACHER (CONT'D)

Left...right...left...right...

NELLIE

Can't we do other dances? I don't know how to do the robot.

ROBOT TEACHER

There are no other dances.
Left...right...

NELLIE

What about the chicken dance?

Nellie starts to dance the chicken dance.

ROBOT BULLY 1

That is terrible dancing. The key to dancing is to keep your arms, hips and shoulders locked. Everyone knows you NEVER bend your elbows. EVER. Ha. Ha. Ha.

Nellie looks for an ally, but sees only robots avoiding eye contact.

NELLIE

Stop making fun of me!

ROBOT BULLY 2

Negative. Mocking protocol will continue, human.

Nellie backs away from the robots.

ROBOT BULLY 3

Next viable target, humans poor choice in outer casing.

ROBOT BULLIES
HA. HA. HA. HA. HA. HA. HA.

NELLIE
Why won't anyone help me? Someone
help me! HELP ME!

POV OF NELLIE: THE LAUGHING ROBOTS CLOSE IN ON HER. SHE
SQUEEZES HER EYES CLOSED

JUDY (O.S.)
Nellie, you okay? Nellie?

POV OF NELLIE: OPENING HER EYES SHE'S BACK IN HER SEAT IN THE
PRESENT

6 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

6

Mr. B is nowhere to be seen.

Judy touches Nellie's shoulder.

JUDY
Nellie?

NELLIE
GET YOUR ROBOT HANDS OFF ME!
(coming to)
Judy, Wh... What year is it?

JUDY
Um, 2017?

NELLIE
(relieved)
Then yeah, I'm okay.

Katie and her fellow bullies turn to face Judy and Nellie.

KATIE
Like you would even know, Judy. I
hear you failed grade two math.
Even the kindergarten kids can pass
grade two math.

JUDY
(flustered)
I didn't fail math, I... I...

Katie and her friends laugh. Katie looks to Nellie, assuming
she will join in on the laughter. Nellie looks at Judy, then
to Katie and her friends, and makes a firm choice.

NELLIE

Katie, it's not funny to be mean to Judy. What makes you think you're so much better?

KATIE

Because Judy's the biggest loser in school. Which I guess makes you the second biggest loser now, doesn't it?

NELLIE

Well you can have fun trying to seem cool by being mean to people. Meanwhile I'll be having fun hanging out and dancing with Judy. If you have a problem with it, we don't care.

Nellie starts dancing the chicken dance and encourages Judy to do her moves from earlier. A few students standing by cheer them on, even someone from The Mean Girl group starts to applaud. She abruptly stops when Katie shoots her a look.

KATIE

Whatever. You dorks deserve each other.

Katie and her bullies return to their seats.

JUDY

That was really cool of you, Nellie.

NELLIE

I should have stood up for you sooner. I was acting like a robot, just going along with what everyone else was doing. I'm sorry.

JUDY

That's OK. What are you doing after class? Wanna hang out with me?

Nellie smiles. Suddenly Mr. B returns.

MR. B

Nellie, where were you? I was worried.

NELLIE

Sorry Mr. B, I got a little lost.

MR. B

Well, you're back now, do you have the marker?

NELLIE

Oh, no...

She pats her pockets. In one of them she finds the futuristic marker.

NELLIE (CONT'D)

Yes, I do.

She holds up the futuristic marker with a big grin.

MR. B

Thanks Nellie. OK Judy, try and see if you can solve this thing.

Judy takes the marker from Nellie, who gives her a reassuring nod. Katie pierces her eyes at Judy.

Judy holds the marker up to the board, when all of a sudden it <SHOOTS> out futuristic code, magically answering the question on the board. Everyone's jaws drop, especially Katie's.

MR. B (CONT'D)

How... How did you do that?

NELLIE

(proud)

She knew the answer.

After a beat.

KATIE

OK, that was pretty cool.

Katie smiles to Judy. Judy looks to Nellie, who shrugs her shoulders and laughs.

The class <CHEERS> for Judy as we pan back to the calendar, which <GLITCHES> before we CUT TO CREDITS.

THE END.