

DANNY V THE BULLY

"Ernie"

written by

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&
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Song lyrics by
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Series created by
Nick Stern
&
Jake Witterschein

Made in Highland

EXT. PARK - DAY

Nick and Jake (the bestest friends) sit amongst a shitty picnic consisting of breakfast cereal. There's an open cooler next to them with milk and bananas sticking out of it. The surrounding park is bucolic with kids playing, birds singing, etc.

JAKE

Gee. My favorite food with my favorite buddy on my favorite lawn.

NICK (V.O)

Nothing could possibly ruin this day, not even...

The camera WHIP ZOOMS to DANNY V THE BULLY in the far distance swinging on a swing and smoking a cigarette. ZOLLY IN on Nick and Jake as they notice him.

NICK

Oh no! Our bully, Danny V!

JAKE

Oh no! Our bully, Danny V!

Danny V gets off the swing and begins walking toward them.

JAKE

Quick, Nick! Pick up the picnic, and don't nit pick!

Nick and Jake scramble to collect all their belongings.

NICK

If we don't get everything it's littering!

Danny V is nearly there.

JAKE

HURRY!

Too late. Danny V is upon them. He clears his throat.

DANNY V THE BULLY

Uh, hey.

Nick and Jake hold each other as Jake screams like a girl.

NICK

If you're gonna clobber us just do it already, Danny V!

DANNY V THE BULLY

No clobbering necessary. I'm here to...let bygones be bygones.

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JAKE
WHAT'S A BYGONE?! NICK??

NICK
I don't know, but WE don't want
them, Danny V!

DANNY V THE BULLY
You guys don't understand. I've
changed. I want to stop being a
bully and start being a bro.

Nick crosses his arms and looks at Danny suspiciously.

NICK
I don't know, Danny V. Why now?

The sound of an AIRPLANE overhead causes the three to look into the sky. Up in the air, a plane tows a banner advertisement that features a rip off of The Last Supper with a skinny man in the place of Jesus surrounded by his entourage of apostles, all of whom look like stereotypical high school bullies. The banner says, **"Ernie: Unleash the Bully Within - Conquer Today's Dweebs. Take Control Now."**

TILT DOWN from the airplane to a BILLBOARD with the exact same image/message.

TILT DOWN further to street level, where a CITY BUS drives by, the same exact advertisement is featured on the length of the bus.

As soon as the bus clears frame, reveal ERNIE AND HIS GANG OF BULLIES sitting on the bus terminal bench, looking EXACTLY like their pose in the previous advertisements.

Once Ernie and his gang are revealed, Danny V gets noticeably tense

DANNY V THE BULLY
Trust me. I'm ready to be a better
bul-- person.

Nick and Jake look to each other, skeptical. Ernie begins crossing the street even though he doesn't have the right of way. Ernie looks straight ahead, deadpan, as cars SCREECH to a halt, beep and even crash (sound effects including Wilhelm scream). Ernie's gang stares at him in awe and begin to chant his name.

GANG
Ernie! Ernie! Ernie!

Danny V outstretches his hand to Nick and Jake.

DANNY V THE BULLY

I promise. I've turned over a new leaf.

Ernie is almost upon them. His gang scurries to catch up, the traffic light having now turned in their favor.

NICK

Alright--

Jake and Nick cross arms and lean against each other's backs

NICK

We believe you!

JAKE

We believe you!

They go to shake Danny V's hand. Ernie arrives. Danny V goes to shake Nick's hand but then pulls it back and smoothes his hair in a classic fakeout. Nick and Jake's faces fall in disappointment. Ernie appraises Danny V's move with an upwardly tilted head like a snob.

ERNIE

Hm. Amateur.

Danny V's face falls in disappointment just the same as Nick and Jake's.

DANNY V THE BULLY

But I told them I was going to be their friend!

Ernie considers.

ERNIE

Hm. Psychological manipulation. Nothing I haven't seen before. Or perfected myself. Let me show you how it's done. Bring me the PD!

He snaps his fingers.

NICK

He's calling the police!

From inside the throng of bullies, a scrawny little man is pushed out. He is SKEEMER.

SKEEMER

Not police, portable dweeb! Hi, I'm Skeemer, the intern!

ERNIE

Shut up, dweeb.

SKEEMER

Ok!!

Skeemer shoots Nick and Jake a thumbs up.

ERNIE

Watch this.

He turns to Skeemer, who is still smiling ear to ear. Ernie outstretches his hand to him.

ERNIE

Thanks for all your hard work on tour so far. We couldn't do this without you.

SKEEMER

Really?!

Skeemer goes to shake Ernie's hand but Ernie, in the same move as Danny V, removes his hand at the last second and smooths his hair over with it. When he does, his motion is accompanied by a magnificent WHOOSH sound effect. Cut to Nick and Jake, where their hair blows up like they're being blown with a leaf blower. They stare at Ernie, impressed.

NICK

Woahh!

JAKE

Woahh!

There's a brief BEAT as everyone absorbs Ernie's awesomeness.

GANG

Ernie! Ernie! Ernie!

Nick and Jake start to join in on the chant as well. Ernie stands there looking bored and soaking in the adulation. He looks straight at Danny V.

ERNIE

Can't beat the best.

(to Danny V)

Dweeb.

Danny V returns Ernie's gaze. The two bullies stare at each other in silence as Ernie's gang plus Nick and Jake chant Ernie's name. Ernie SNAPS his fingers again and the chanting immediately STOPS.

DANNY V THE BULLY

You're nothing but a sell out, Ernie. I do this because I love it. You're just in it for the money and sponsors.

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ERNIE

Hear that, guys? He's in love!

Ernie's gang "oos" and "aws" amidst laughing. Ernie snaps his fingers to silence his gang again.

ERNIE

If you love it so much, why aren't you in the union?

DANNY V THE BULLY

I don't need an organization to tell me how to do what I do best.

Ernie chuckles.

ERNIE

Best? No wonder you haven't gone pro. Talk to me when you're sponsored by Breitbart, Tyson and the fossil fuel industry. Come on, gang. This lawn is full of dweebs.

He conspicuously looks Danny V up and down and leaves. His goons follow. Danny V looks after them. A single tear rolls down his cheek.

NICK

Wow, that was really something!

JAKE

It was like watching Da Vinci paint! But wait a second. Let's not forget that you--
(points to Danny V)
--lied to us!

NICK

Yeah, we thought you were our friend!

Danny V looks at them for a beat, then walks away slowly back toward the swings. Nick and Jake look after him.

JAKE

Yeah, that's right! Looks like Ernie spooked him. I guess there's always a bigger fish.

NICK

Jake, for once can you stop thinking about food? Don't you see there's something off about Danny V? We can think about dinner later.

JAKE
I guess he did seem less scary
once Ernie showed up.

NICK
You know what, Jake? We're not
bullies. What would regular, non-
bully people do in a situation
like this?

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - SWINGS - MOMENTS LATER

Danny V is forlornly swinging on the swings, his head bowed
toward the ground. Nick and Jake approach him tentatively.

JAKE
Heyyyyy champ. Why the long face?

Jake places a calming hand on Danny's shoulder.

NICK
Yeah, sport. Come on, pal. Why so
down in the dumps?

Danny V slowly looks up. Jake flinches and lets out a small
gasp of fear in spite of himself as he tears his hand away.

DANNY V THE BULLY
Not now, dwee...oh, what's the
point?

Woahh.

NICK

Woahh. JAKE

NICK
Jake, a quick word?

Nick and Jake don't move, they simply turn to each other and
whisper right in front of Danny V.

NICK
Dude, we have a serious situation
on our hands.

JAKE
Yeah. I don't like being bullied
by Danny V, but seeing him like
this is unnatural.

NICK
Ernie really took a toll on him.

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NICK

He must have wanted to be part of that squad so badly.

JAKE

Yeah, he feels left out!

NICK

I have an idea.

JAKE

I'm hungry, too.

NICK

No. Listen. Maybe if we help Danny V, he'll be so thankful that he'll stop bullying us forever!

JAKE

I don't know, Nick. This is Danny V we're talking about. You just don't mess with him.

NICK

You're right.

JAKE

You know, I thought about what you said and I think you're right. This is our chance to get Danny V to stop messing with us! Or better yet, maybe we can even be friends.

NICK

Worth a shot. What do we have to lose?

Nick and Jake turn around back to Danny V.

JAKE

Ok, Danny V. We can see you're upset and we want to help.

DANNY V THE BULLY

Why?

NICK

Because as much as we hate wet willies, knuckle sandwiches and swirlies, we know this is the right thing to do and gosh darnit we're gonna do it! I was raised to treat people like equals, including bullies and adults!

JAKE
Yeah, me too!

NICK
Whatever you need, we're here for you. Just let us know how we can help!

JAKE
I'm here, too. We're your pals. Our treat!

DANNY V THE BULLY
If you really want to help you're going to have to step out of your comfort zone.

JAKE
That's ok, I'm pretty much always uncomfortable.

NICK
What do you have in mind?

DANNY V THE BULLY
If we're gonna put Ernie in his place, I've only got two words: Bul-ly.

NICK
Isn't that one word?

Danny V punches Nick in the face.

DANNY V THE BULLY
Lesson one: make people question what they think they know...then punch them.

NICK
Woah.

JAKE
Woah.

JAKE
What's lesson two?

MUSIC CUE: "Pure Imagination" - Willy Wonka

Sitting motionless on the swing, Danny V pumps a few times, swinging higher and higher until he JUMPS OFF over Nick and Jake's heads and lands on his feet in front of them. He walks off without turning back to Jake and Nick, who are staring at him with mouths wide open.

DANNY V THE BULLY
Come with me.

INT. DANNY V THE BULLY'S APARTMENT - DAY

The music from "Pure Imagination" persists over the next few scenes.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
And you'll be...

Close on a poster of Ernie and his gang being RIPPED OFF the wall. Nick crumples the poster up and pitches it to Danny, who is holding a CANE A LA WILLIE WONKA.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
In a world of pure dweeb
domination.

INT. DANNY V THE BULLY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Danny V, Nick and Jake are sitting meditation style in a row with Danny V in the middle. Their eyes are closed and their hands are together as if praying. The cane rests across Danny V's lap.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
Open your mind. And you'll find.

Danny V shoves Jake to the floor. Nick laughs. Danny V shoots Nick a glare. Nick shuts up.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
It's a really sweet sensation.

EXT. POOL - LATER

Danny, Nick and Jake stand in front of a pool.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
Here we go. With the nose...

Danny points to Nick's chest. Nick looks down to see if there's anything on his clothes. Danny V flicks up and hits Nick in the nose in a classic bully "made you look" move.

DANNY V THE BULLY
 (singing)
 Flicking up like in this
 demonstration.

Nick clutches his nose. Jake laughs. Danny V puts an arm around Jake as they both take in Nick's discomfort.

DANNY V THE BULLY
 (singing)
 It's a way. To relay.

He pushes Jake into the pool. Now Nick is the one laughing.

DANNY V THE BULLY
 (singing)
 Humiliation.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Danny V, Jake and Nick walk along a hiking trail. The scenery is gorgeous, a la The Sound of Music (The Hills Are Alive). Danny V walks with them and twirls around like Julie Andrews.

DANNY V THE BULLY
 (singing)
 If you want to punch geeks and
 nerds, simply find a dweeb and do
 it.

JAKE
 A nerd by a locker?

DANNY V THE BULLY
 (singing)
 Shove 'em through it.

NICK
 A knuckle sandwich?

DANNY V THE BULLY
 (singing)
 Introduce them to it.

EXT. DANNY V THE BULLY'S APARTMENT - ROOF - LATER

Danny V, Nick and Jake are on the roof. Danny V wears a BOXING GLOVE on one hand and holds a sign that says "kick me" in the other. Nick wears a punching mitt.

DANNY V THE BULLY
 (singing)
 What a sound.

He smacks the "kick me" sign on Jake's back.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
When I pound.

Danny V turns around and punches Nick's mitt.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
Dweebs and nerds in sweet
pulverization.

INT. DANNY V THE BULLY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Danny, Jake and Nick sit down on a couch, Danny V in the middle. Danny puts his arms around Nick and Jake.

DANNY V THE BULLY
(singing)
I'm so proud. That I've found. The
best new bullies around.

Nick and Jake smile and high five. Danny V smirks.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ernie is hunched over a SLEEPING MAN on a bench. His gang is surrounding him, silent. Ernie is drawing on the man's cheek with a sharpie. He moves his hand down to write his signature.

Reveal an IMMACULATELY DETAILED DRAWING OF HIMSELF on the man's cheek. He writes "Ernie" with a little PENIS next to the name below the drawing. He turns and shoots his gang a smug glance. His facial expression exactly mirrors the drawing of himself on the man's cheek.

Ernie's gang gasps in wonder and starts chanting his name.

GANG
Ernie! Ernie! Ern--

Ernie aggressively SHUSHES them and points to the sleeping man.

GANG
(whispering)
Ernie! Ernie! Ernie!

NICK (O.S.)
Hey, Ernie!

JAKE (O.S.)
Hey, Ernie!

Reveal Nick and Jake are standing, back to back with arms crossed, a few feet away from Ernie and the gang.

ERNIE

What do you dweebs want?

NICK

We're not dweebs, we're bullies!

Ernie snickers and walks over to Nick and Jake. The gang follows. Nick and Jake's confidence starts to crack. They look behind them where we see Danny V watching from around a nearby corner. He shoots them a thumbs up. Nick and Jake nod and turn back to Ernie. Ernie approaches and takes Jake by the collar of his shirt, nearly lifting him off the pavement.

ERNIE

Oh, yeah?

Jake looks at Ernie, petrified. The diegetic sound DROPS OUT and we are now in JAKE'S SONIC POV. All we hear is his heartbeat as he looks to Nick, who nods in encouragement and mouths "the training!" Jake gulps and looks to Ernie, then points to the bottom of Ernie's shirt.

JAKE

Hey, what's that?

Ernie looks down to where Jake is pointing.

We are now in SLOW MOTION

MUSIC CUE: The swelling instrumental climax of "Pure Imagination."

Jake slowly raises his finger up, up, up Ernie's chest to his nose and flicks it.

CUT BACK TO REAL TIME

Ernie, mildly surprised, releases Jake. Nick hugs Jake and they jump around while hugging.

NICK

We did it!!

JAKE

We did it!!

The triumphant music still plays until...

LAWYER (O.S.)

Excuse me?

The music cuts. Nick and Jake stop jumping and turn to the man, who is holding a brief case, dressed in a three piece suit and standing in front of Ernie and his gang.

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LAWYER
Are you Nick and Jake?

NICK
If you mean the best bullies in
town then yup, sure are.

The lawyer opens his brief case and removes a stack of papers.

LAWYER
We'll let the judge determine
that.

He hands them a stack of papers.

LAWYER
You've been served.

NICK
Wait...what?

JAKE
Wait...what?

Ernie stands behind his lawyer, arms crossed and a smug
expression on his face.

LAWYER
Under the Copyright Act of 1976
and title 17 of the U.S Code,
you've unlawfully used the "Made
You Look Fakeout," AKA the "Silly
Snout Smack Psych-out™" which is
currently patented by my client,
Ernest J. Bullington, as an
original work of authorship fixed
in a tangible medium of
expression.

The lawyer closes his briefcase.

LAWYER
Dweebs.

A POLICE SIREN is heard approaching in the distance.

JAKE
But...but...

Nick and Jake look to each other. Ernie's gang, including the
lawyer, start chanting his name again.

The opening glockenspeil/piano notes of "Pure Imagination" come
over the soundtrack once more.

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Removed from all the action is Danny V, still looking behind a corner. He smirks, performs the action of wiping dirt off his hands (as if to say 'my work here is done.') then disappears behind the corner as the police sirens get louder.

DANNY V THE BULLY (V.O.)
(singing)
It is true. I fooled you.

INSERT - NICK'S WRISTS

A pair of HANDCUFFS are slapped on Nick's wrists.

DANNY V THE BULLY (V.O.)
(singing)
Now you're in substantial
litigation.

EXT. PARK

We see Nick and Jake as they stare out the back of a police car driving away. They look sad and defeated.

DANNY V THE BULLY (V.O.)
(singing)
Hear my words. You're both nerds.

Ernie, smoking a cigarette, his gang in a semi-circle behind him get smaller and smaller in the distance.

DANNY V THE BULLY (V.O.)
(singing)
Hope you enjoy incarceration.

Nick and Jake are gazing at Ernie and his gang from the back of the car.

NICK
Danny V, you bully!

JAKE
Danny V, you bully!

The police car drives away.

EXT. FIELD - MAGIC HOUR

Danny V twirls triumphantly into the sunset, the Wonka music swelling to its beautiful conclusion.

THE END

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