

Timmy Cooke: A Cannibal Love Story

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

SUPER: 2004

A little red schoolhouse. The afternoon sun glints across the Crestside Elementary School sign.

Freshly mowed grass surrounds a high flying American Flag. A carefully maintained sign reads: Field Day is Just Around the Corner - Buy Sunscreen!

The circular parking lot is quickly becoming crowded with small yellow busses and luxury sedans, SUVs, and a Hummer or two. Many of the parents in these cars speak on Nokias and Motorola Razrs, driving forward and backwards slightly in an attempt to improve their reception.

Stinking up the joint is a 1991 Geo Metro. TESS COOKE (28), dirty blonde, attractive, and the youngest of all the parents, sits inside, staring at a large, colorful waste basket near the school's entrance, and considering her next move. She peeks cautiously at the other drivers.

TESS

To hell with it.

She steps out of her car, and walks toward the waste basket...

TESS (CONT'D)

(To herself)

Chicken salad sandwich. Chicken salad sandwich...

She ruffles through the waste basket, tossing paper lunch bags to the ground. A few other parents make eye contact with each other, judging Tess.

Finally, Tess finds what she has been looking for. A lunch bag reads: TIMMY C.

She opens it up, and retrieves a chicken salad sandwich. She stares sadly at it for a moment, before tossing it back into the trash.

TESS (CONT'D)

Goddamnit, Timmy.

She picks up some of the mess that she made, and tosses it into the trash.

INT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM -
AFTERNOON

A sign on a teacher's desk reads: MISS SMILEY.

Sitting behind that sign is MISS SMILEY (67), the harshest looking, cruelest, tightfaced, grey-haired kindergarten teacher to ever exist.

She stares at the chaos of her kindergarten class, and then at the large analog clock on the wall, as the second hand passes 3:26 - and five seconds.

MISS SMILEY
(mutters)
Six, seven, eight...

A note on Miss Smiley's desk reads:

Miss Smiley,

Please ensure that my son Timmy eats his chicken salad sandwich today. Thank you, Tess Cooke.

RICK SCHMEISER (4), dirty face, torn clothing, a bully's snarl, and probably a 5 o'clock shadow if one were to look closely enough, runs past Miss Smiley's desk, pretending to shoot a toy gun.

SCHMEISER
Boom! Boom!

Miss Smiley effortlessly snatches the toy gun.

MISS SMILEY
Ricky! You can't play with guns
until...

SCHMEISER
The community college rejects me.

MISS SMILEY
That's right.

Rick takes two steps away, and promptly pulls another toy gun from his pocket. Miss Smiley considers taking action, then looks up at the clock.

MISS SMILEY (CONT'D)
Eh.

She resumes reading a magazine article.

EXT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Tess steps back from the trash, and leans against a tree.

RONALD ROSE (30), classically handsome, approaches Tess. When children draw tall stick figures of "Daddy", this is the man they have in mind.

RONALD
Timmy still not eating?

Tess turns, alarmed, to face Ronald.

TESS
Ronald...

RONALD
Hey, Tess.

TESS
Haven't seen you since... How's Rebecca?

RONALD
She's fine. She's scary tough.
Sometimes I don't even know if she remembers Ashley.

TESS
Timmy loves her.

Ronald looks towards the sandwich in the garbage.

RONALD
Yeah.

INT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

In the corner of the room, behind a wooden table displaying many colorful books with large print, REBECCA ROSE (4), cute, well-mannered - one of the sweetest, if not precocious, kids you'll ever meet, chills with TIMMY COOKE (4), even cuter - dirty blonde hair that hasn't fully chosen between straight or curly yet. They play with toy cars and a boat. She speaks calmly to him, with the confidence and authority of a much older child.

REBECCA
What noise does the car make, Timmy?

TIMMY
Vroom.

REBECCA

Where does it go? Where does the car go?

TIMMY

The car.

REBECCA

Where does it go, Timmy?

TIMMY

Vroom.

REBECCA

On the ferry. It goes on the ferry.

TIMMY

The car.

REBECCA

You know what sound the ferry makes?

TIMMY

Vroom.

REBECCA

No. It goes "Blub. Blub."

Timmy giggles.

TIMMY

Blub.

Rebecca laughs, enjoying Timmy's company. This adorableness is interrupted by an announcement from Rick Schmeiser...

SCHMEISER

Rebecca's playing with the retard!

Rick Schmeiser stands atop the wooden table, pointing his toy gun in an accusing manner.

Miss Smiley is only half paying attention to the classroom. She reacts instinctively, unaware of the content of the tattling she just heard...

MISS SMILEY

Stop playing with the retard, Rebecca.

SCHMEISER

Rebecca loves the retard.

REBECCA

Stop it.

SCHMEISER

Rebecca and Timmy, sitting in a tree... ABC ABC ABC.

Other children begin to laugh.

SCHMEISER (CONT'D)

Boom, boom. I shot Rebecca!

TIMMY

Stop it.

SCHMEISER

Boom.

He pushes Rebecca.

TIMMY

Stop!

Timmy has begun to cry.

SCHMEISER

Boom!

Schmeiser shoves Rebecca a second time, and upon seeing this, Timmy slowly rises to his feet.

EXT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Tess continues speaking with Ronald.

TESS

Whenever you need time to yourself -
drop her off. Day, night -
whatever. We're here. We love her.
And we miss her.

Tess is interrupted by a high-pitched, shrill SCREAM from inside the building. It's Miss Smiley.

Ronald turns to run in the building.

TESS (CONT'D)

Timmy!

She follows Ronald in. Several parents step out of their cars, phones still attached to their ears, and run towards the building. One RUDE PARENT (mid-40s) in a business-style miniskirt and high heels trips on the curb and falls, phone to her ear the whole time.

RUDE PARENT

(into phone)

I fell... No, I'm not okay. I think I'm bleeding. Well, Pennington Academy doesn't have high curbs for me to trip on, does it, Wayne?

INT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The parents storm in as the bell rings, and unsuspecting students file into the halls, only to be pushed to the side.

INT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The parents noisily arrive in the classroom, but a shocked silence quickly overcomes them, until the only audible sounds are a child's wailing cry, and a very loud eater chewing something. The parents all stare. The Rude Parent arrives, still on her phone. She surveys the room.

RUDE PARENT

I'll tell you something else Pennington Academy doesn't freakin' have, Wayne...

TESS

(entering the doorway)

Timmy Cooke!

Rick Schmeiser sits on the floor, gun thrown to the side, cupping his ear, which spouts blood.

DAVE SCHMEISER (43), fresh off his living room couch, runs towards Rick.

DAVE SCHMEISER

Ricky! What did this kid do to you?

Schmeiser continues to cry, staring at Timmy. Timmy slowly chews something.

DAVE SCHMEISER (CONT'D)

(attempting to see his son's ear)

What is he eating?

Silence.

DAVE SCHMEISER (CONT'D)

Miss Smiley, what is Timmy Cooke eating?

Miss Smiley watches, horrified.

DAVE SCHMEISER (CONT'D)
*What the fuck is in that kid's
mouth?*

INT. CRESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM -
MOMENTS LATER

Miss Smiley, Tess, and Timmy remain in the otherwise seemingly empty classroom. Miss Smiley impatiently taps on her desk, annoyed that she still has to be at work.

Tess sits near Timmy's desk, where Timmy is firmly planted.

TESS
We've spoken about this, Timmy. You can't... what's in your hand?

Timmy looks at his mother, panicked.

TESS (CONT'D)
Timmy, show me your hand.

Timmy hides a tiny, bloody piece of Schmeiser's ear under the desk, grasping it tightly in his hand.

TESS (CONT'D)
Timmy...

With the speed of a squirrel attacking a nut, Timmy attempts to shove the ear into his mouth. Tess, with trained reflexes, catches his hand just short of his face. She retrieves the ear, and holds it between her thumb and forefinger.

TESS (CONT'D)
I am very disappointed. You just wait until your father hears about this, young man.

Timmy lunges for the ear, mouth first. Tess pulls it back - out of his reach.

TESS (CONT'D)
No.

Miss Smiley shrieks, jumping back from her desk.

MISS SMILEY
Jamie Paine! Get out here this instant!

JAMIE PAINE (4), terrified, steps out from under the desk.

MISS SMILEY (CONT'D)
 Why are you hiding under my... did
 you wet your pants?

Jamie nods and whines.

MISS SMILEY (CONT'D)
 Front or back, Jamie?

Jamie nods and whines. Miss Smiley glares at Tess.

MISS SMILEY (CONT'D)
 (staring at Tess)
 All things considered, Jamie, I
 think that was a perfectly sensible
 reaction.

Tess lowers her head.

EXT. COOKE HOUSEHOLD - EVENING

The one-story yellow house sports a well-maintained garden.
 Under an early evening blue sky, it is the perfect portrait
 of suburbia.

Tess's Geo Metro sits in the driveway, next to a blue 1993
 Pontiac Sunbird that has been repainted cheaply - likely more
 than once.

INT. COOKE HOUSEHOLD/ LIVING ROOM - EVENING

A bit of evening sunlight comes through the window,
 illuminating the beige couch, which looks to be a decade old.

Tess sits facing the window, trying not to pay much attention
 to Timmy and DALE COOKE (30), Timmy's father. The uncombed
 hair, plain grey T-shirt with dark yellow pit stains, and
 ripped boxers suggest that Dale likely did not work today.

Dale spansks Timmy repeatedly, and painfully.

DALE
 Stop! Eating! People!

TESS
 This is questionable parenting,
 Dale.

DALE
 Well I missed the chapter on this
 subject in the Dr. Spock book.

TESS
 You don't read books.

Dale frowns.

INT. COOKE HOUSEHOLD/ KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Tess places a peanut butter sandwich in front of Timmy.

TESS

You...

INT. COOKE HOUSEHOLD/ KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Dale places a bowl of sugary cereal and milk in front of Timmy - who wears a different shirt.

DALE

Need...

INT. COOKE HOUSEHOLD/ KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tess, in another outfit, places a chocolate cake in front of Timmy - who wears a different shirt.

TESS

To eat...

INT. COOKE HOUSEHOLD/ KITCHEN - MORNING

Dale, in yet another outfit, places a plate of sunny-side-up eggs and bacon in front of Timmy.

DALE

Something *else!*

Timmy stares at the eggs, and then back at his father. Timmy slowly and apologetically pushes the eggs to the side. An exhausted Tess crosses her arms over her ragged bathrobe.

TESS

Two days, Dale. He's starving.

Dale stares.

TESS (CONT'D)

He can't help it. It's not a choice.

Tess places her hand on Timmy's shoulder, prompting a loving hug from the troubled boy. Tess's eyes fill with tears.

DALE

(exasperated)

Do it.

Tess opens the refrigerator door to reveal a Pyrex container with a lid - holding the remaining portion of Rick Schmeiser's ear.

Resigned, Tess removes the lid and places the container on the table. Timmy instantly snatches the ear and places it in his mouth hungrily.

Dale looks at Tess, and mimics something she likely said once:

DALE (CONT'D)

"I wanna keep it, Dale. What if our baby grows up to be president?"

TESS

He still could.

Timmy continues to chew.

Dale quietly and sarcastically begins to sing the presidential march.

DALE

Bom bom ba dum dum da dum da dum da
dum dum...

Timmy swallows, and smiles at Dale's song.