

BETWEEN YOU AND ME

written by

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EXT. SCHOOL GATE. MORNING.

A MOTHER holding her CHILD'S hand stops in front of the gate. She bends down to talk to her child.

MOTHER
Do you want to bring Buzz with you,
Ben?

Ben hugs his bee soft toy closer to himself and nods.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Okay then, go make some new friends
and have fun!

She gently pushes Ben towards the gate. Ben goes, constantly looking back to his mother with shining eyes.

INT. CLASSROOM.

Ben takes puts down his bee bag and takes an empty seat. He looks around. Several kids are chasing each other. One kid is picking his nose. Another kid is reading a book. The teacher is trying to pacify a wailing child.

Ben looks down and plays idly with Buzz.

INT. CAFETERIA.

School bell rings.

Ben looks around the crowded place for a seat and finally spots one. He quickly goes over.

He looks towards the stalls, then his seat, then the filled seats around him.

Ben bites his lip, puts Buzz on the seat, then runs off to the stalls.

At the snack stall

Ben is in the queue. He looks anxiously back to his seat, which is obscured from his view.

He unzips his bee pouch and pours out all the coins onto his palm and counts them.

He looks to the selection of snacks, all with a sign for their prices.

When his turn comes, he grabs a snack that is the exact price of what he has, pays for it, then runs back to his seat.

Back at his seat

Buzz is gone. Ben looks around frantically, but everyone else does not seem to notice his distress.

His lips quivers and he wipes furiously at his eyes.

He runs out of the cafeteria.

EXT. EMPTY CORNER NEAR THE OUTDOOR COURT.

Ben is sitting on a curb, knees to his chest. His face is buried in his arms, shoulders shaking.

A clearing of throat makes him lift his head up.

A GIRL of his age, hair cropped short, is standing in front of him.

She holds out a hand, palms up.

GIRL

Give me your money.

Ben sniffs.

BEN

I.. I can't. I used it up on this snack.

He holds up the untouched packet.

BEN (CONT'D)

I can share it with you, if you want.

The girl considers his offer for awhile, eventually deeming it acceptable. She snatches it from him and takes a seat beside him. She opens the packet and takes the first cracker, then offering it to Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

He takes a cracker. They share the food in relative silence.

GIRL

I'm Gina.

BEN
I'm Ben.

GINA
So, why are you crying?

BEN
I left Buzz on the table to buy my
snack, but when I got back, its..
its gone!

He stops chewing and rubs his eyes.

GINA
I think I know who took it.

Ben whips his head to look at her with hopeful eyes.

She licks her finger after finishing the last cracker and
wipes her hand on her skirt. She crushes the empty packet
while standing up.

GINA (CONT'D)
Come on, let's go get Buzz back.

EXT. SECLUDED AREA BEHIND BLEACHERS

THREE OLDER BOYS are tossing around Buzz.

BEN
Buzz!

The boys turn around to face Ben and Gina with a sneer.

LEADER
Well, well, well. If it isn't the
weird bee freak.

The other two boys laughs.

Gina steps forward in front of him, right palm out.

GINA
Give it back.

The leader smirks and holds Buzz out to her.

When she tries to grab it, he holds Buzz above her reach.

The three boys share another ugly laugh.

LEADER

What are you going to do, little
gi-

Gina gives a swift kick to the leader's groin, making him
howl and drop Buzz, which she catches.

The other boy approaches her, but was met with a knee in the
groin as well.

The last boy grabs Buzz from her behind in a hug.

She bites the arm around her, hard, making him shout and
retreat. Then, she gives a back kick to his groin.

Ben watches in awe.

Gina flicks the hair that have fallen in her face away
impassively and walks towards Ben, three guys behind her
groaning on the floor.

She shoves Buzz into Ben's hands, who hugs it tightly.

BEN

Thank you!

Ben looks at his feet and bites his lip.

BEN (CONT'D)

You.. you don't think I'm a bee
freak?

GINA

(whispers)

Between you and me, I have a toy
rabbit at home too.

BEN

Oh! What's it's name?

GINA

DESTROYER OF WORLDS! I leave it at
home so it doesn't get dirty.

Ben nods gravely and ponders at the advice.

BEN

So.. are we friends now?

GINA

Oh, alright.

Ben beams.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE. EVENING.

BEN

Mom!

Ben tackles his mother's legs in a hug with Buzz in one arm. She chuckles and strokes his hair.

MOTHER

How's your first day at school,
sweetie? Have you made any new
friends?

Ben buries his smile into her skirt.