

Juice Box

Screenplay
By
Aaron & Derek
Jones

Based On The Absolutely True Diary
of a Part-Time Indian
By
Sherman Alexie

INT. HALLWAY- DAY

During VO, students are walking up and down the hallway. Focus on the shoes. All of the students are wearing fancy footwear. CU of Arnold's old sneaker as he ties it. A juice box is next to his shoe. Arnold is wearing somewhat tattered clothes. Arnold picks up the juice box and walks off.

Arnold (VO)

How do you pretend you're not poor?
Well, first you spend your life's savings and get yourself a good pair of shoes, then you slick your hair back and you tell everyone that the holes in your jeans are all the rage in Seattle.

INT. CAFETERIA- DAY

Arnold walks into the cafeteria drinking his juice box. Arnold gets out his wallet, he looks over at where the cashier is, and he sees a student paying for a sandwich.

Arnold (VO)

At Reardan High I'm the only poor kid. The other kids can afford lunch. Me, I can afford to watch them eat, that's about it. My family is poor enough that I could sign up for the school's free lunch program, but I don't want to be the only kid on charity.

Arnold stops and looks in his wallet, he sighs at the small amount of change in his wallet. Dismayed, Arnold walks over to a table. Arnold is sitting alone at a table reading a book. Penelope sits down by Arnold with a sandwich. Penelope is wearing nice clothes.

Penelope

Hey Arnold, are you going to get lunch?

Arnold

Ah, I'm not hungry.

Penelope

Okay.

Penelope starts eating the sandwich. Arnold watches. After a while Penelope puts down her half eaten sandwich and sighs.

I'm not hungry any more.

Penelope gets up.

See you around.

Arnold nods, not smiling back. Arnold watches Penelope throw the sandwich away in the trash.

EXT. ROAD- DAY

Arnold is walking along the side of the road, carrying his juice box.

Arnold (VO)
When home is 22 miles away and your
parents don't have gas money...

Arnold sticks his thumb out as a car goes by.

You hitchhike.

Arnold looks and turns to face another car passing by with his thumb out. The car swerves away from Arnold and honks its horn at him. Arnold lifts his hands in the air in a 'what' gesture. An ugly, old car pulls up in front of Arnold. Arnold runs up to it.

People think that hitchhiking is
dangerous...

Arnold looks into the car window. The driver is very scary-looking and has a look of pure evil on their face.

Sometimes they're right.

Arnold backs away slowly. The driver watches Arnold walk away, smiles, and then drives off. A nice car drives by Arnold as he sticks his thumb out. The car stops past him, Arnold smiles and rushes up to it.

Arnold
Thanks. I...

Arnold's smile fades from his face. Penelope is sitting in the passenger seat, looking at Arnold in shock. Penelope's friend is driving. Penelope lowers her sunglasses.

Penelope
Arnold... What are you doing? Are you... hitchhiking?

Arnold fidgets.

Arnold
Uh... No... I... Uh...

Penelope
Arnold, you're crazy, you can't go around letting complete strangers pick you up!

Arnold
It's usually fine.

Penelope
You've done this more than once? Can't your parents pick you up?

Arnold
Uh... I'm protesting carbon emissions, besides it's... good exercise.

Penelope
Get in. We're bringing you home.

Arnold hesitates, and then slowly gets into the car. They drive off. Penelope looks at Arnold and takes off her sunglasses. She has a serious expression on her face.

Penelope
Arnold, are you poor?

Arnold
No.

CU of Arnold's hand, holding his juice box. CU of Penelope's hand, she's holding a fancy coffee mug. Penelope keeps looking at Arnold.

Yes...

Penelope
Don't worry, Arnold. It's okay.

They drive off. And drive.

FADE TO BLACK.