

THE DROWNINATOR

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SPLASH RESIDENCE, KITCHEN - MORNING

It's a typical morning for the Splash family. A kitchen table is neatly set for three, the placemats adorning plates, utensils and a glass for each person. MOM, donning a pantsuit, is busy cooking scrambled eggs in a pan as DAD enters, also wearing a suit, adjusting his tie as he enters the kitchen. The couple is in their mid-thirties. Dad, a brown-haired man in his mid-thirties with some light stubble, looks visibly frustrated as he enters the space, but Mom, also a brunette, but with hair down to her shoulders, is oblivious to Dad's frustration.

Mom walks over to the table, grabbing a plate and walking back to the stove.

MOM

Nick, get down here please! Food's almost ready and you're gonna be late for school!

A child's voice is heard from upstairs.

NICK (O.S.)

I'm coming!

The sound of footsteps fills the kitchen as NICK is heard frantically running about upstairs.

Mom pulls the pan off of the stove and transfers the eggs onto the plate. She notices some brown spots on the eggs.

MOM

Oh no! I overcooked them. I'll eat these.

Mom brings the plate over to her spot on the table and swaps it out with the empty plate that was there. She brings that plate over to the stove and pours more of her pre-scrambled egg mix into the pan.

DAD

You know, you don't have to cook breakfast every morning. I can do it some-

MOM

(interrupting)

No, because you don't cook it the way Nick likes it.

Dad shrugs his shoulders.

DAD  
You know, given his recent  
behavior...

MOM  
You and I both know this is just a  
phase.

Dad looks as if he has a retort, but gives up and sighs.

DAD  
...okay, whatever you want, dear.

The loud footsteps continue from upstairs.

NICK (O.S.)  
ZOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Dad glances up at the ceiling, trying to track the footsteps.

DAD  
And you don't think we should  
address this?

MOM  
It's not that big of a deal!

DAD  
Not that big of a deal? You realize  
that he -

Before Dad can finish, Nick runs into the kitchen and hops into his chair before slamming a water bottle on the table next to the glass. He's about 7 years old, wearing a white T-shirt with a bottle drawn on it using blue marker. Drawn pointing at the bottle is an arrow, clearly labeling it "water bottle". Below this on the shirt is more text which reads, in all caps "THE DROWNINATOR".

DAD (CONT'D)  
Oh god, it hasn't stopped.

NICK  
BWA HA HA HA!!! I AM THE  
DROWNINATOR! FEAR ME AS I SEND YOU  
TO YOUR WATERY DOOM!

MOM  
And how's my favorite little boy  
doing this morning?

NICK

Uh, good.

Nick pauses.

NICK (CONT'D)

Wait, no. The Drowninator is never  
"good" because he is EVIL! BWA HA  
HA!!!

DAD

Nick, can we please talk about  
this?

NICK

About my evil plans? Of course,  
Assistant Dad!

Dad sighs.

DAD

I'll be right back.

Dad heads out of the kitchen and heads upstairs.

NICK (O.C.)

Mom! The Drowninator demands  
susti... sust... sustina...

Nick can't remember how the word is pronounced.

NICK (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Food!

MOM (O.C.)

You have to say "please", Nick, or  
you're not getting anything.

NICK (O.C.)

The Drowninator doesn't say  
"please" because he is EVIL! BWA HA  
HA!!!

Dad makes it to the top of the stairs and enters the upstairs  
hallway.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. SPLASH RESIDENCE, UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The carpet is soaked with lines of wet spots. Water bottles  
are thrown about everywhere.

DAD  
 (muttering to himself)  
 ...she stresses out about  
 everything else, but not this? I  
 mean this carpet's gonna have to be  
 replaced.

Dad walks through the hallway and enters his bedroom at the back.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. SPLASH RESIDENCE, PARENT'S BEDROOM

Dad walks over to the closet on the right side of the wall and opens it. He flicks a light switch next to the entrance, illuminating the closet space. Looking way back into the corner, he sees a box labeled "COMICS". He digs through the closet and pulls the box out.

DAD  
 (muttering to himself)  
 It's been so long...

Pulling open the four lid flaps, Dad pulls out the first comic book. The front page reads "Wet Willy versus the Schoolboy Snatchers". Wet Willy himself wears a blue jumpsuit with a bold "W.W" logo that catches the eye rather nicely.

DAD (CONT'D)  
 Who thought the name "Wet Willy"  
 was a good idea? Bah.

Dad leaves the box out, but takes the comic back with him downstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. SPLASH RESIDENCE, KITCHEN

NICK  
 BWA HA HA HA!!!

Dad enters the kitchen to see Mom and Nick at the table with their food, his son happily feasting on his scrambled eggs. A mound of cheese is melted on top of the eggs.

DAD  
 What happens if he develops a  
 lactose intolerance?

Mom doesn't respond. Dad shrugs, sits down at the table, and turns to his son.

DAD (CONT'D)  
Son, why do you want to be evil?

NICK  
(muffled, mouth full of  
food)  
Becufffff itfff fun!!!

MOM (O.C.)  
Nick, don't eat with your mouth  
full!

Dad braces himself for Nick's inevitable response to Mom. Nick swallows his food.

NICK  
The Drowninator doesn't have to be  
polite because HE'S EVIL! BWA HA  
HA!!!

Dad sighs and sets the comic book on the table.

DAD  
What if you were a hero, like this  
guy?

Nick looks at the comic's front cover and pauses.

NICK  
Wet Willy. What does he do?

DAD  
Well, he has water powers just like  
you.

Dad points to Nick's water bottle with his eyes.

DAD (CONT'D)  
He can control the way water moves  
and even walk on water!

NICK  
Can he breathe underwater too?

DAD  
Uhhh... no.

NICK  
Well that's no fun!

DAD

Well I didn't get to the fun part.  
Wet Willy saved the day from bad  
guys!

Dad points to the Schoolboy Snatchers on the front cover.

DAD (CONT'D)

And you know what the best part of  
it was for Wet Willy?

Nick looks up at Dad.

NICK

What?

DAD

He felt good about it afterwards.

NICK

What does that mean?

Mom gets up from her seat, all smiles.

MOM

Well, I hate to cut this short, but  
someone's gotta get to school.

DAD

Yeah, and both of us need to get to  
work, too.

MOM

Come on, Nick.

Nick runs out the door to his mom's car.

NICK

ZOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!

Mom follows, leaving Dad sitting in the kitchen. He picks up  
the comic and sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LATER

Dad is frantically typing on a keyboard when suddenly a RING  
comes from his pocket. He picks up his cell phone and answers  
the call.

DAD

Hello... yes?

Dad pauses to hear the other line.

DAD (CONT'D)  
 What about Nick? What did he do  
 this time?

Dad pauses again.

DAD (CONT'D)  
 Oh no...

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - 30 MINS LATER

Nick sits in a chair, clearly disgruntled and upset. Dad enters the room from behind him.

DAD  
 Nick, I'm so disappointed in you.

NICK  
 Bad guys are supposed to win.

Dad sighs and looks at the PRINCIPAL, sitting at his desk across from Dad and Nick.

DAD  
 So what's going to happen?

PRINCIPAL  
 I mean, he poured water all over an  
 entire class's notebooks and  
 splashed the teacher in the face.  
 That's pretty serious.

DAD  
 No one was hurt or anything, right?

PRINCIPAL  
 No.

DAD  
 But it's still incredibly rude and  
 disrespectful. It's an  
 embarrassment for me as a parent to  
 be here.

Nick looks more angry than he was a few seconds prior.

DAD (CONT'D)  
 I'm so sorry on his behalf.

PRINCIPAL  
I appreciate it.

DAD  
Nick, apologize to the principal  
and then we're going home. You're  
grounded.

Nick's face starts to turn red.

DAD (CONT'D)  
Son, apologize!

Nick takes a deep breath and his face returns to normal.

NICK  
(whispering)  
Bad guys don't apologize.

DAD  
What?

NICK  
Bad guys... DO NOT... APOLOGIZE!

SPOOOSH! A loud gushing noise is heard from outside the  
office. Water starts to leak into the room.

PRINCIPAL  
What's going on?

The principal runs to the door and opens it. Down the hallway  
he sees the remains of what was a water fountain on the  
floor, with bursted pipes resulting in water gushing from the  
walls. The

DAD  
Oh no... Oh god no...

PRINCIPAL (O.C.)  
THE TOILETS ALL EXPLODED TOO?!

Children and teachers flood the hallways as quickly as the  
water gushes out from everywhere. All attempts to  
systematically evacuate the building are quickly squandered  
by waves of both panic and water.

Nick sits calmly in his chair as water fills the space.  
Instead of floating to the surface, Nick sits in his chair,  
which is still on the floor. The water didn't appear to  
affect Nick whatsoever.

Dad panicks, unsure of what to do. He tries to grab his son,  
but water currents prevent his arm from even getting close.

DAD  
He's... too... strong...

He decides he has no other choice but to temporarily leave the building.

DAD (CONT'D)  
I'll be back for you, son.

Dad swims out of the room and into the hallway.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD

Students and teachers are panicking. The principal, among other school heads, are on cell phones frantically trying to describe what happened.

Dad escapes the building, riding on a wave of water crashing outside of the main entrance. He runs around to the side of the building.

FFFFFWOOOOOSH! A fountain of water erupts from the center of the building, crashing through the ceiling and roof. Sitting atop this fountain is Nick, fully immersed in his role.

NICK  
I AM THE DROWNINATOR!!! FEAR ME!!!

Screams of panic can be heard all across the courtyard.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD, SIDE OF BUILDING

Dad throws off his suit jacket.

DAD  
(to himself)  
I never thought I'd have to do this...

Dad takes off his tie and unbuttons his shirt, revealing a bold "W.W" Logo. Dad fully declodes himself, leaving nothing but the blue Wet Willy jumpsuit.

Dad sees a broken window with water gushing out of it and leaps in.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD

FFFWOOOOOSH! Another fountain of water erupts from the building, crashing through the roof. This time, Dad is standing atop the water.

DAD  
WET WILLY COMMANDS YOU STOP THIS  
TREACHERY, VILLAIN!

Dad leaps from the fountain of water, using the fountain as a sort of slingshot to better launch him towards Nick.

Suddenly Nick's fountain grows a second appendage of sorts, splashing Dad in the face and knocking him from the sky.

RANDOM KID IN CROWD  
See? I TOLD you Wet Willy was lame!

Dad crashes through the ceiling and falls into a room full of water. He swims to the top of the room to find a small pocket of air.

DAD  
(gasping for breath)  
It's a shame... that Wet Willy...  
can't breathe... underwater...

Dad seems to lose hope, but then has an idea.

DAD (CONT'D)  
(yelling as loud as he  
can)  
DROWNINATOR! HELP ME! I CAN'T  
BREATHE!

Nick realizes who is calling for him, and snaps out of it.

NICK  
DAD?

DAD  
I KNOW YOU CAN HELP ME,  
DROWNINATOR! YOU'RE A HERO!

Nick leaps from his pillar and jumps into the hole he knocked his dad into. He embraces his dad.

DAD (CONT'D)  
I knew it.

Bubbles start to form underneath Nick and Dad, and another fountain of water erupts from underneath them.

The fountain is just high enough for Nick to use the water to safely lay his dad down on the roof.

DAD (CONT'D)  
You saved me.

NICK  
Wet Willy is kinda lame.

Dad laughs, but it turns into a cough.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Dad?

Dad stops coughing.

DAD  
Yeah son?

NICK  
It feels good to be a hero.

The two embrace as police cars and ambulances arrive on the scene.

FADE OUT.