

Let's Get Real

Final Transcript

CHAPTER ONE – 00:03

Opening Montage

Alfredo: At this school there's all kinds of name calling and bullying.

Umma: Most of the fights in middle school come from gossip.

Joseph: Everybody makes up new stuff these days to say like "You hecka ugly" like that.

Brian: Especially last year the thing to say was "Your Momma." You'd say like "Dude, you're so stupid." They'd say "Your Momma's stupid." "Don't be such a jerk", "Your momma's a jerk."

Da'Laun: I used to bully on people, like push em, knock em down.

Stephen: I'm the guy that will pick on you, and like beat your ass.

Brandon: Rumors spread fast around school. They spread real fast. They spread like a virus.

Kate: Boys are so straight forward, and girls we talk behind their backs

Darrell: At this school I have been called nigger, retarded, or a girl.

Natalie: Just because I'm in Special Ed, people treat me like I'm weaker.

Gaby: They start laughing at me and say, "Ah, Gaby's in a wheelchair." And I don't like that.

Alfredo: People make fun of some other students just because, like, they're smart.

Umma: They would say you look stupid, why you have that on, I hope you know you look dumb.

Carneice: They'd say you eat too much.

- Bryce:** They started calling me fatso.
- Amina:** They told me, "Go back to Afghanistan."
- Iqwak:** They've called me, you know, Diaper head
- Laura#1:** Shorty little midget
- Ashley:** I've been called a whore,
- Natalie:** They've called me bitch
- LaKeia:** A queer and dyke
- Brian:** Gay, faggot
- Eric:** Gay, homo
- Jenn:** Slut
- Matthew:** Nah, niggah.
- Stephen:** Shut the hell up, I really don't care what you think
- Bryce:** I mean I don't really know why they, you know, call me names in the first place; I've never done anything to them.

TITLE

Gabe's Scene 1:54

One two ready....

Gabe: At the beginning of the year I was sorta shy. There were like so many kids that I found it, you know, overwhelming. Like at my other school, if anything went wrong, you know, someone would go and tell the teacher and then they would get punished. But here, like, you could pretty much get away with anything. You know, I used to think I could always tell the teacher, but then I found that that would be, you know, snitching and that would be bad. And so...I sorta had to learn to not rely on teachers to help you all the time.

I was at the very beginning of sixth grade, all the kids were getting to know each other, and the first thing that this one kid learned about me that was different was that I was Jewish. And he took that somehow as a way to insult me.

Then he thought "oh that's something different than I am, or that's something different than a lot of my friends are, so I can tease him about it.

And he like called me, like "Don't make me use the J word." Or like "You're a Jew, everybody knows that."

One, two, ready and...

I had never been called like Jew as a bad thing. I just said, "Whoa whoa, back up...that is like not an insult to call somebody!" I mean I didn't say that, but I was you know thinking it and then, and I was also just thinking like "What kind of person would do that? I mean, *is* that a bad thing?" and so then, just a whole bunch of different thoughts like "Play it cool, or get mad and tell a teacher" or something like that, so, a lot of different thoughts were coming through my mind.

CHAPTER TWO - 4:10

Brittany's Scene

Brittany: Sometimes people think that guys are big time bullies; but you know girls can just be the same, but just using gossip.

There were some friends at school that I was friends with for a while and on the last day of school, they kind of ganged up on me and started calling me mean names like "You look silly" and "I'll bet you that no one will have a crush on you just because of your race."

They were taking their fingers and like they would go "I'm Chinese, I'm Brittany" and stuff.

And when I got home, I got an email that said that everyone hates me and no one wants to talk to me or be my friend and people at school are talking about you and they say that your race is going low.

And it was kind of surprising that I was friends with them for a while and then they start saying these really mean things like they wouldn't want to be friends with someone that was half Chinese.

Well, I actually kind of cried for a while because it was kind of sad that I was friends with them and that they would turn around and stab me in the back like that.

Feelings Montage 5:29

Nancy: Popular guys, they feel they're up higher than you are, they're more popular than you are, they feel like you don't-you are nothing, they treat you like you are nothing.

Brandon: It hurts, you know, because at my school you get called names, it just hurts.

Laura #1: If people call me names, I think that it makes them stronger, but then it makes, makes me feel weaker.

Witness Montage 5:57

Joseph: The kids who are in special ed, people stand in groups outside on the yard, and then somebody walk past em...they'll try to hop in their face and say Blah Blah Blah.

Nick: If I see like you are making fun of somebody, I should probably go and like say, like that's not "don't make fun of people, like that, its not, think about how it makes them feel." But I don't because like it might make me feel...like they might make fun of me now.

Nathan: I've always been kind of afraid to stand up, because I'm afraid that something will happen to me.

Joseph: I feel like going over there and doing something about it, but I can't because it's like all them vs. me.

Zaid's Scene- 6:40

Ready, set...

Zaid: A few years ago when another kid came from Iran, he couldn't speak English very well, he could only say like "yes" and "no." I mean, he came straight from Iran, he didn't know a single word in English. So at recess the kids would like take Ketchup or take a marker and write on themselves and say that "oh, uh this kid did it to me, he has to get in trouble" and the kid couldn't say "no, it wasn't me...cuz he didn't know how to say it.

Kian: Made me feel like wasn't in the class you know, cuz I didn't know English and they were picking on me.

Zaid: And so I saw this, and I was really mad. Because like, just because you

come from somewhere doesn't mean you have to be picked on. So I just said, "Leave him alone. It's not his fault."

CHAPTER THREE – 7:48

Groups/Cliques Montage

Solomon: There's three groups at my school—ghetto, weird and dorky.

Brandon: There's a lot of gangs at my school. The bloods, they wear red, and the crips wear a lot of blue..

Stephen: Our group is like just; we're basically like the skaters. Like we're the guys that just skateboard everyday.

Solomon: I dunno, it's mostly the dorks that are made fun of.

Kate: I'm not in the popular-popular group anymore...or, uh, ever

Solomon: The weird people are people like me.

Umma: Our school is like a map. We have a place where everybody calls Mexico, place where everyone calls Africa, a place everyone calls America, and then the little islands in between. Africa is where all the African Americans hang out, Mexico's where all the Latinos hang out, America is where all the Caucasians hang out.

It like lot of things happen where it's like another race comes in to a different country...they be like " why you hanging out here? You guys you go back over there to where you belong."

And I see that happen a lot and that what starts fights sometimes.

If a Caucasian person wants to insult an African American person, they'll say something like "what's up Homey? Yeah, Dawg... like I'm down with it."

If an African American person want to say something that'll offend a Caucasian person, then they'll say something like "Hey Dude. What's up? Let's go surfing sometime...or peace out!" or just you know, just imitating the race. Don't you guys see that a lot? That happens a lot, just to...

(Librarian: So, go American History first, and then go Civil War and...)

Umma: The N word is a word that is used a lot right now and it's mostly between African Americans –

Nigga. I think everybody thinks that's the word—well not everybody, I think African American think that that's a word just African Americans can use. So I think that African Americans took a word that was an insult and tried to change it around for them, but if a Caucasian uses it, even if they're not trying to be a racist remark, it just starts something like a big fight between people and I think that that's not fair, because how they supposed to know if they should use it or not, since African Americans use it...it's ok

Ana: Like, if someone called us an immigrant, or something we would get offended by that, you know, we would probably joke around and call each other that, but if it's outside the race, its kind of...its offending. They don't usually call us Mexicans but immigrants, they call us that, like joke around, but its not funny, so then people start fighting like that.

Race Montage 10:30

Jenn: I don't really like it when people make an assumption just by what race I am, because they're not getting to know who I am.

Khyber: Everyday at school, kids call me like tar baby, black ass, and like chocolate chip cuz I'm dark and I have a chipped tooth.

Jazmyne: They call me Yellow, Yellow Banana, White girl, white. Just names about light colors

Khyber: Mostly the kids of my same race who are light skinded, but you know like whiter than me at least, then they are basically the ones who do it.

Jazmyne: I don't want to seem like I'm a cry baby, so I just laugh, its like "Heheh...yeah that's funny." I laugh along with them, ...but really I just feel like saying "Shut up" like cuz they, they, there's a few names that I could call them...but I choose not to.

Matthew: The white kids will make fun of me and they would have, they wouldn't let me play in their games and they would call me blacky.

Tina: They go around calling me names like ...Ching Chang Chong or Bruce Lee's daughter.

Zaid: They said that "oh you're a killer" because I come from the Middle East.

Tina: I just like get this fire inside of me that I can't put out and I just get really angry, but at school, nothing really happens I can't get anything to...happen.

Matthew: It made me feel bad, because I wanted to tell em I was the same as them, just a different skin pigment, the same inside.

Tina: But if I had the courage to do it...I'd walk up to them and tell them that I didn't like it, that it really hurt, and they should stop, because they wouldn't like it either.

CHAPTER FOUR – 12:23

Bullies Montage

Out after race related comments which end with "But if I had the courage to do it... I'd walk up to them and tell them that I didn't like it, that it really hurt, and they should stop, because they wouldn't like it either."

Lyndsey: I think everybody does bully somebody around cuz, I don't think there is anybody out there who can say "Oh I never teased a kid"

Nick: There was this guy who had a really weird personality and um, he was really big so they call him a Walrus.

Kate: Like I say "Idiot," or "you're dumb or I knew that and you didn't" or something.

Nick: We'd go like this, cuz it looks funny...and he didn't really like that...and, um, I started it.

Da'Laun: Like if I was really mad at someone else, I'd take it out on other people, I'd just take it out on them.

Carlos: Sometimes in class we like just totally made fun of em until they started crying.

If they said something wrong, we'd be like totally humiliate them like, we'd like just totally put like the spotlight on them.

Stephen: I don't know, I just like making people mad. I don't know why but I do.

Kate's Scene – 13:25

Girls: Hey, what's up with you and Matt?

Yeah, yeah, you have to tell us.

I'm not sure if I like him

He told her that she told her and he said...

Kate: I used to make fun of people or bully some girls around at my school, because I knew I was more, I was better than them, and I was more popular than them, and I didn't care how they felt.

I went up to this girl once who was just in line I was like "move, move, like move now" and she just like "oh o.k." And then she walked away. And I mean, she couldn't do anything, but I was just so mean to her.

I was really just thinking about myself. Mainly, I wanted to impress my peers, show them how cool I am, but I was mainly into me and my friends, I didn't care about the person I was picking on.

So you sort them out and I'm gonna write down how many there are and what the title of the book

Later on, when I experienced it, I'd be like, "Oh, I see what she's talking about, or I see what she means." Cuz like I had a really good friend. She wanted to be really popular so bad, she talked behind my back and she told another friend who told me that she hates me and I'm so ugly, and totally picked on me and I was, like, I burst into tears and I was like, "Oh, that's how it feels" and it really hurts them, even though they don't show it sometimes.

Stephen's Scene – 14:40

Stephen: I say a lot of things to kids like I'll swear at em, like at the same time if they're making me mad or aggravating me or something, I'll just say something to 'em. It just gives you a feeling of, like you have power you know...It's like, you just call 'em a name and then they get mad at you and just, I dunno, it just feels good.

I do it so people will think of me as like a person not to screw with, and you're just like, What can you do? You can't do anything back to me, what are you going to do? People get scared.

I don't like the way people look at me, like it just really aggravates me the way people look at me. That's basically what it's all about. Seeing how pissed off you can get the other person. My brother does it to me, and I just feel free to do it to kids that are like littler than me. It's like an ongoing cycle.

My brother is like the star football player and he's the big guy. He picks on me, I cant do anything back to him cuz he's huge and then, I'll try to hurt him, but my punches are like people flicking him,

but when I'm around other kids and I'm bigger than them I feel like I can do that and they can't do anything back to me.

CHAPTER FIVE – 16:05

Sexual Harassment Montage

- Brandon:** To be popular around school, they say boys have to, o.k. you have to touch this girl's chest or this girl's behind, or kiss this girl.
- Jenn:** A lot of girls get, um, not made fun of, but guys will make comments about their chests or their butt.
- Ezra:** But if it's a unpopular girl, it's usually, there's usually some issue with her body type that they just don't like. Like, "Oh she's fat. Oh, she's this, oh, she's that."
- Claudia:** Sometimes they call them dogs
- Shaneka:** The guys always saying that they slept with that girl and it don't be true. Or they say they do anything sexual.
- Alfredo:** I felt pressure a lot, when like guys like just come up to me and talk about girls. But it's like, "I don't know what to say."
- Eric:** I used to, uh, give girls no respect. I used to slap 'em in their booty.
- Jenn:** Sometimes it just doesn't feel that good when you have like a whole group of guys surrounding you doing that.
- Eric:** I just thought it was a joke. Basically, I thought it was funny and my friends did too.
- Claudia:** They don't take it seriously. They think it's a game and they can do whatever they want.

Laura's Scene – 17:11

O.k. guys, we'll run a mile...

- Laura#2:** Some boys in class, they talk a lot and you can just hear the boys, like, "Oh yeah, she has a big ass." I talked to this boy and I said, "What's the deal? Why do you guys like to do that on girls?" And he would just say, "Maybe because we like it and you know, it feels good for us and it makes us cool. It's all good." I'm saying, "For you it is, but not for us."

I was with my friends and this one boy said, "I wanna slap some booty." So I walked really fast cuz I didn't want him to touch me or nothing. He's all, "Laura, honey, wait for me, Laura, honey come back here. I need you." And I said, "Well, I don't and I just wanna get back to class." I knew he was gonna do something so I started running back to the class and he slapped my ass, so I just said, "Well, that's like one of my private parts and I didn't really like that."

So I told my friends first and then they said, "Well, he did it to me too." And we started talking about it and decided we would tell teacher, and that same day we told the teacher as a group. It felt better to go as a group because the teacher wouldn't only be focusing on you and would be focusing on other people.

She said, "I know what you're dealing with" and so she was going to talk to him.

A lot of things changed when I decided to tell teachers. They would send him in front of the line and not with us. The boy, he stopped doing it, he would just like stay with the boys and not do nothing.

So it's really good that you tell at least like someone because if you keep it to yourself the whole time, it's just gonna keep on going on and it's never gonna stop.

CHAPTER SIX – 19:15

Gay Montage

- Solomon:** Um, the most common insult at my school is people accuse each other of being gay.
- Jenn:** They'll just come up to you and go like "you're a lesbian aren't you?"
- Brandon:** People call a lot of people gay because they don't like the person.
- Solomon:** And that's really stupid, because most of the gay people I have met are really cool and they're really nice.
- Gabe:** I have a friend who I hang out with a lot, we're real good buds, like a lot of people do.
- LaKeia:** I used to wear boy clothes like baggy jeans long shirt, with an Adidas jacket.
- Gabe:** They started calling me gay and him gay because we were hanging out

together.

LaKeia: People used to come up to me and be like "Are you a bisexual? Are you a dyke? Cuz I heard such and such from this person, and such and such from that person."

Gabe: And then it like got to such a high point when they said like "Oh he was waiting for you behind the gym to make out." And I was just, you know I was very embarrassed.

Stephen: Most of my friends they call people like faggots and stuff.

Carlos: You know we always picked on like kids that seem gay or acted feminine.

Stephen: They just say it, because it's like a diss or whatever

Like someone will like say something to you that you don't agree with it and you'll be like "shut up fag" or something like that.

You just say it right in their face. You never really say it behind their back, because behind their back doesn't get to them.

It's kind of like calling someone dumb. I don't know, it just gets to them faster if you say like fag or something.

Carlos: I think the reason why I started calling people gay and faggot, is because of my stepfather. He would, uh, call me those things if I was like acting weak or like not doing the manly thing.

Brian's Scene – 21:00

Brian: Right now in Davidson Middle School, gay is the universal word. That's gay, he's gay, she's gay, that teacher's gay, this homework assignment's gay, that pencil's gay, that pen's gay, you know...you could use it for anything. Sometimes people literally do mean gay, and sometimes people mean gay as in stupid.

And you know your friends'll just be like, "dude I was just joking". And there's, in my opinion, there's just some things you just don't joke about.

I had just gotten to Davidson, and it was kinda different than I thought.

In 5th grade and in all the grades below, you know, nobody knew the S word or F word, or racial slurs or whatever, and then I got to middle school and it was like "whoa you know."

Probably like the first week I was in school, I already got called like a faggot, and dumbass and stuff like that, like, you know, 50 times.

People kept on calling me fag, especially in PE because that's where most of the older people were. They'd lock me out of the locker room when they were changing so that they wouldn't think that I was checking them out or, you know, like trying to hit on them when they're undressing and stuff like that.

And my friends that would try to help me they'd say, "Why are you doing that you fag are you gay with him or something?" and sometimes they'd beat up on my friends, just so that they wouldn't open the door, and it happened everyday, all 6/7 periods, its just ...I cant deal with that you know? If someone is just right next to your ear going "Faggot faggot faggot faggot faggot" through the entire day...you just want to turn around and sock em.

When all this stuff was going on, I couldn't pay attention to anything. And you know just be sitting there doing math, and I'd keep on writing down I hate this person, I hate this person, I hate the world, I hate my life, or I felt that I needed to, you know, like ditch school everyday or just like kill myself or something.... Just, just, just anything to get out of it.... You know, I just couldn't take it anymore.

Extreme Feelings Montage 23:16

Bryce: You know I barely have any friends, I mean, I'm trying to make a friend now; I'm kinda hanging out with him but last year I didn't have any friends, I was lonely, I was sitting by myself.

Carneice: I feel like I would wanna cry but I would like, wait til I get home, so like, I mean, I don't have people see me that way.

Laura#1: It makes me feel like I'm not supposed to be there, and that I should be somewhere else and that I just shouldn't like belong here.

CHAPTER SEVEN – 24:05

Jasper's Scene

Jasper: So the kids in my drama class like 5 of em or whatever, they like always, you know, harass me all the time. Cuz, most of my clothes I get from my brother, but they're not like crappy hand me downs, they are actually pretty nice. I mean they are not even like that big, but just a little big.... and they fit me fine and everything, I just have a belt. But then a lot of these kids, are just like "why you wearing hella big clothes...you look hella stupid." And I'm just like "Why don't you worry about yourself?" They're like, "Jasper's hella poor. Look at his clothes."

And, like, they make fun of me, my shoes even though they are pretty new they are just out of style. Like, when then time I bought em they were cool, but I'm not gonna spend a hundred dollars every month just to get the latest shoes.

And then they just like try to beat me up just for that.

They'll come up with any reason to beat you up really.

This has happened to me a hundred times, I'm right in front of a teacher, something happens, I mean they didn't really do anything about it. Some teachers do and some teachers don't, but

One time this kid comes up to me and he just takes a belt and then he chokes me up right around like really hard and like he's behind me and pulling on my neck really hard and I'm trying to get it off, then the other kids come up and like socking me in my stomach hella times, he's like "yeah, that's what you get white boy...that's what you get." And I tried to get up again to leave and he just pushes me back down.

Then when I'm on the ground they act like a friend "oh let me help you up. I'm sorry, I'm sorry." just so they don't get me to tattletale, I'm not gonna tattletale but, that's just what they do.

Sometimes I get so mad, I'm wish I could just like, sock 'em in the face. Then if I do that, it'll just start this whole circle of getting beat up. It'll never end.

I wouldn't actually do this, but if I had a gun I just feel like shooting them, like right in the leg, or somewhere really painful, just see them bleed, that's how mad I get sometimes.

Not to actually have to kill them, I'd never kill someone, but just, just that sometimes I get so pissed at 'em I just want to see them in pain.

Which is cruel but I mean, they just push me to the limit.

I dunno, I just hate this school. It makes me just wanna go home and go to sleep and just not even go to school anymore cause I'm so tired of it.

Sometimes I hope that just one day, some big kid or some bully would just stand up for me and say, like " You know, hey guys, stop messing with him. We've messed with him enough." And then they would just leave me alone forever.

But that would be really cool, you know if a bully would just stand up for me one day.

CHAPTER EIGHT – 26:35

Bully Reform Montage

- Carlos:** I started to think more about the kids that we picked on, because they were seriously getting hurt ...and like seriously emotionally getting hurt and physically and everything.
- Kate:** When I did it, I thought it was cool and all, but looking back, I know it was dumb. It was stupid.
- Eric:** I used to say "What's up bitch?" like that, to a female but now I say, "Hello, how you doing?" and then they'd be like, "Oh Eric, you've changed."
- Stephen:** If they knew the real me, like I'm not the kind of person that would, I don't really, I don't like fighting.
- Da'Laun:** With every body I messed with, they didn't want to be my friend. I'd walk up to them and ask if I can play basketball...NO. They'd be like, NO. Be like why not? Cuz you like to pick on people too much. They used to tell me that.
- Brandon:** I mean, people have said to me they'd be my best friend if I'd beat up someone or punch someone or something like that and you know I don't do that. I was like, "No, I'm not gonna be your friend just because you want me to fight this person. You know if you wanna fight, you wanna get into trouble, you do it yourself. You don't have me do it. Cause I'm a smarter person than that.

Da'Laun Scene – 27:38

- Da'Laun :** I just like walked up to them and say you're ugly, or just talk about them very badly, and make them cry or something sometimes. I used to call them names, push them for no reason.

You know like, if you're gonna get in trouble at school, and like something happens where they tell you that you can't do this, you can't do that, you get mad, you take it out on somebody else. You walk up to 'em, like, "Shut up, don't talk to me" or something like that. It wouldn't do nothing. I just like walk up to them, hurt em, Bow. People like I used to be end up in jail, or are hurt, or put somewhere or are killed, you know, for doing something like that.

I was alone. I was by myself, I didn't have no friends at all. Like nobody to talk to me or something.

They think that I was like a mean person, not nice, doesn't have nothing nice in his heart. No kind of dignity in himself, or no kind of pride. But really inside me, I have a good heart and like I don't want people to be thinking that I'm a bad person, or just a bully or just a plain bad person.

Thank you, I was a little scared there.

I started to change because I wanted to go to college, get me a job, and be able to have good people on my side and when I stopped the bullying, I started getting friends, slowly and slowly.

You break...

I see some of the kids I used to bully, we're cool now, we talk, we chill out together. They'll go about their business and I go about mine.

Solutions Montage 29:34

Umma: I think a good solution, would be you should just keep things to yourself.

Eric: Instead of fighting, and all that, we should have more conflict mediation.

Zaid: You should just like count to 10, walk away, mind your own business.

Gaby: I just drive away in my wheelchair and don't even listen to them.

Heydayeh: Whoever's making fun of you, they have the problem, not you.

Iqwak: If they're ignorant, they'll do it again. So, I go up to a bunch of kids and, you know, tell them what my religion is about.

Khyber: Or maybe an assembly once a month, just to let you know that like, you know, like gay people, black people, white people, everybody is different and that they should accept that.

Alfredo: When I have a problem with them I usually go to a teacher that I really really trust.

Claudia: I go talk to my counselor.

Nathan: I kind of got a little more courage yesterday, the other day and uh, I think that helped, you know I was just, o.k. I'm older, it's 8th grade, I'm at the top of the school, I can handle this now.

Amina: My best friend Marilyn, she's not Muslim, but she stands up for me when there's fights, and that like, that makes me happy.

Nathan: There's this boy that just moved here, he's new this year, and I stood up for him. I just felt really bad when I saw that he was being made fun of. Because I know how that feels and it doesn't feel good at all.

Paola: I've been put in to that situation too where people didn't stand up for me... and it was just hard, so then when people started to stand up for me, I was like why shouldn't I stand up for other people too?

Paola's Scene – 31:08

Robert, are you taking the test?

No

You're not?

Paola: We were going to get our lunch, and there was this guy who was overweight and they were making fun of him.

They called him a geek and a dork and they told him that in his face and I was right next to him.

And then, like, we didn't want to say anything, but then we realized that it was kind of messed up that these guys were making fun of him.

And I felt really bad, and I'm like that's just messed up, you shouldn't be doing that, you don't know him. And, this is like the first time I had ever stood up for like a stranger. And I was like should I do it? Or should I shouldn't?...and I'm like, you know, I'm gonna do it, even though its none of my business...I should just go in cuz its not right.

That guy was like what are you going to do? You're just a girl. And that *really* pissed me off. I was like, you know what? Just because you're a guy doesn't mean that you're stronger than me, No, don't call him a geek or a dork, cause you don't know him. And don't be sexist neither, cause that's just being plain sexist. And the guy was like, "I'm not being sexist or anything like that. Shut up, you ho." And I was so mad. And I was like you know what, you better go tell that kid that you're sorry because I'm going to go tell the principal, and its not cool of you say that cuz what if he starts to believe it and he's just gonna get that in his head. And he went apologize to that kid and he felt good. I know he did. He's like, "Thank you very much." And I'm like, "Yeah, sure."

I felt so much better because I helped this guy and I just felt much better. I felt really good.

Credits