

Script: Stand By Me, ROLE: Chris, boy, 12

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Gordie moans and thrashes in his bedroll. A hand reaches in and shakes him awake. Gordie opens his eyes and finds Chris staring down at him.

CHRIS
(whispers)
Are you okay?

GORDIE
Huh?

CHRIS
You were dreaming.

GORDIE
Oh...

CHRIS
Go back to sleep.

Chris stands up and walks back to his "guard post" by the fire. Gordie raises up on one elbow and watches him go. After a beat, he gets up, crosses over, and sits down next to Chris, and after a long pause:

GORDIE
I never cried at Denny's funeral.

Chris understands completely. We can almost feel the friendship between the boys

GORDIE (cont'd)
(looking up at the sliver of
moon)
Maybe you could go into the college
courses with me.

CHRIS
That'll be the day.

GORDIE
Why not? You're smart enough.

CHRIS
They won't let me.

(CONTINUED)

GORDIE

What do you mean?

CHRIS

(after thinking about it)
It's the way people think of my family is this town. It's the way they think of me. I'm just one of those low-life Chambers' kids.

GORDIE

That's not true.

CHRIS

It is. Nobody even asked me if I took the milk money that time. I just got a three-day vacation.

GORDIE

Did you take it?

CHRIS

Yeah. Yeah, I took it. You knew I took it. (points at Vern and Teddy) Teddy knew. Everybody knew. Even Vern knew, I think.

Gordie opens his mouth and closes it.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

But maybe I was sorry and tried to give it back.

GORDIE

You tried to give it back?

CHRIS

Maybe. Just maybe. And maybe I took it to old lady Simons and told her, and maybe the money was all there, but I got a three-day vacation anyway, because the money never showed up. And maybe the next week old lady Simons had this brand-new skirt on when she came to school.

GORDIE

Yeah, it was sorta brown with dots all over it.

CHRIS

So, just say that I stole the milk money, but then old lady Simons

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS (cont'd)
stole it from me. Just suppose I
told that story. Me, Chris
Chambers. Kid brother of Eyeball
Chambers. You think anybody would
have believed it?

GORDIE
No way. Jesus Christ!

CHRIS
And do you think that she would
have dared try something like that
if it had been one of those jerks
from up on The View that had taken
the money?

GORDIE
No.

CHRIS
But with me...well, maybe she had
her eye on that skirt for a long
time. Anyway, she saw her chance
and she took it. I was the stupid
one for even trying to give that
money back. But I never thought...I
never thought that a teacher...oh,
who cares anyway? I just wish I
could go someplace where nobody
knows me.

Chris swipes an arm angrily across his eyes and we realize
he is crying. Gordie pats him consolingly on the back.

CHRIS (cont'd)
I guess I'm just a baby, huh?

GORDIE
No way, man.