

From the World's Largest Rodent

For more information on this play, contact me at don@donzolidis.com

BILLY, 14, a troubled teen
BOB, 40s, a counselor

BILLY, 14, has been in trouble a lot at school. In this scene he visits the school counselor, BOB, 40s.

BOB

So... Billy? Am I pronouncing that correctly?

BILLY

No.

BOB

It's not Billy?

BILLY

It's Bill-ai. Accent on the second syllable.

BOB

Okay, Bill-ai.

(He makes a note of it.)

Are you sure that's right?

BILLY

Yes.

BOB

Bill-ai?

BILLY

It's French.

BOB

Why are you here?

BILLY

Because Mr. Edmonds sent me here.

BOB

Yes, but why did he do that?

Because he hates me. BILLY

He doesn't hate you. BOB

You don't know that. BILLY

Yes I do. BOB

No you don't. BILLY

Did you go to graduate school for five years? BOB

Yes. BILLY

No you didn't. BOB

Why are you arguing with me? BILLY

Because you're not telling the truth. BOB

Why do you think I'm not telling the truth? BILLY

Because I know you didn't go to graduate school— BOB

Are you sure of that? BILLY
(BOB pounds his fist on the desk.)

Billy! BOB

Bill-ai. BILLY *(correcting him)*

BOB (*gathering his composure*)

Bill-ai. Mr. Edmonds has reported that you have engaged in some disturbing behavior—

BILLY

I think Mr. Edmonds is disturbing.

BOB

Okay, but—

BILLY

Do you know that he eats fruit flies?

BOB

But—

BILLY

Maybe you should examine him.

BOB

I'm not examining anyone—

BILLY

That's because you're not very good at your job.

BOB

I'm not going to engage in this—

BILLY

Does it normally take five years of graduate school?

BOB

Bill-ai. Please. Allow me to ask the questions.

BILLY

Why?

BOB

Now what is this about your mother?

BILLY

What about my mother?

BOB

She's in the hospital?

No. BILLY

It says here she's in an institution. BOB

Then it lies. BILLY

Billy—Bill-ai. Do you see your mother often? BOB

Yes. BILLY

Do you want to tell me about her? BOB

If you have a computer I can give you my whole presentation. BILLY

I don't think that will be necessary. What is your mother like? BOB

She loves me. BILLY

Does she tell you that? BOB
(Pause. BILLY seethes.)

Does she tell you that she loves you? How do you know she loves you if she doesn't tell you?

Fuck you. BILLY

I'll pretend you didn't say that. BOB

Pretend all you want. BILLY

When did your father leave the family? BOB

BILLY

I don't know.

BOB

You don't know?

BILLY

That's what I said.

BOB

Were you very young?

BILLY

No.

BOB

Then you remember it?

(Pause.)

Why don't you tell me about it? Did he ever hit you? Did he ever hit your mother?

BILLY

Why don't you suck my dick?

BOB

Well, Bill-ai, I have here a recommendation form in front of me. Do you know what its purpose is? I'll tell you. I have a feeling you hate rhetorical questions. And what this form is for is whether or not I recommend that you're—

BILLY

Did you always want to be a middle school counselor?

BOB *(continuing)*

Whether or not you should remain at this school or be remanded—do you understand what that word means? Remanded to another school more capable of dealing with your special needs.

BILLY

Did you ever have dreams of being important or something?

BOB *(continuing)*

And what I am going to do—

BILLY

It must suck to realize that you're like on the lowest rung of the ladder—

BOB *(continuing)*

I am going to recommend that you transfer to the Lark Center. And perhaps there you will learn respect and discipline, and in time, if you progress, you may return to a mainstream school.

(Pause)

Do you understand what I'm saying to you?

BILLY

Yeah.

BOB

Good.

(a little buzzer rings.)

Oh. I have an appointment.

(He gets up.)

It was nice talking with you Bill-ai.

(BOB reaches in his desk and pulls out a pair of boxing gloves.)

I've got to be going.