

THE BULLY GIFT  
A MUSICAL

A kindhearted fourth grader tired of being pushed around gives a big bully an unexpected birthday gift with riotous repercussions.

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FADE IN:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

A SCHOOL BELL RINGS. Kids dissipate toward their classrooms.

BILLY, the cutest 9-year-old puppet in the world, walks down the hall whistling a peppy ditty. He notices--

HEATHER, 8-years-old and human, struggles with her locker.

BILLY

Morning, Heather. Need some help?

HEATHER

Hi Billy. Would you mind? It's always stuck.

BILLY

No problem. Allow me.

Billy can't get it open either. He chuckles. He tries again, mustering all his puppet might.

BILLY (CONT'D)

You just have to... twist it... like this--

The door flings open and BONKS him down.

HEATHER

Billy, you okay?

BILLY

(slightly disoriented)  
I'm fine. Got your locker open!

HEATHER

Wow, thanks.  
(getting books)  
You're always so kind, Billy.

BILLY

Like my mom always says, "Kindness is a gift we all need."

HEATHER

Sure is. Well thanks again, Billy.

Heather leaves. Billy waves goodbye in a romantic stupor.

BANG!

TREVOR, a tall, beefy kid flanked by his TWO SNEERING PALS, slams his fist against a locker. Billy jumps. Trevor looms over him, cracking his chunky knuckles.

TREVOR  
What's goin' on, Felt Face?

BILLY  
(stammering)  
Uh, hiya Trevor. I was just on my way to class.

TREVOR  
Oh you were, were you? Well why don't I give you a hand.

Trevor picks Billy up.

BILLY  
Wait-- what are you doing?

Trevor stuffs Billy in the locker and slams the door. Trevor and his pals laugh and walk away. Billy KNOCKS from inside.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Um guys? Guys?

The door pops open. Billy tumbles out with a stream of school supplies. He stands up, disoriented. He sighs and leans against his locker. A SOMBER MELODY PLAYS.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
ALWAYS ON THE OUTSIDE/ LONGING TO  
FIT IN/ BUT HOW DO YOU STAND UP TO  
OTHERS/ WHEN YOU'RE ONLY ONE FOOT  
TEN?!

The MELODY becomes a jaunty, show-stopping SHOW TUNE.

MONTAGE OF BILLY'S TORMENTED LIFE AT SCHOOL

1) Kids pestering Billy in the cafeteria.

BILLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
TEASED IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA.

2) WINTER SEASON: Billy freezing outside, his classmates ridiculing him from inside the warm school.

BILLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
KEPT OUTSIDE IN THE SNOW.

3) Kids pointing and laughing at Billy getting strung up the school's flag pole by a super wedgie.

BILLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 ALL THE KIDS LAUGH WITH HYSTERIA/  
 AS I'M HUNG BY A WEDGIE ON THE  
 FLAAAAAAG POOOOOOOLE!

The kids place their hands over their hearts.

KIDS  
 I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
 the--

TREVOR  
 (stepping forward)  
 Loser!!!

4) Billy moping at his desk while his classmates deride him.

BILLY (V.O.)  
 THE WORDS THEY SAY HURT MORE THAN  
 THEY KNOW/ I WISH THEY'D JUST USE  
 STICKS AND STONES/ NOW AFTER TAKING  
 BLOW UPON BLOW IT SEEMS/ THAT A  
 BULLY IS THE BEST TO BE!

5) Billy hanging on a dart board. A dart misses him.

BILLY  
 MAYBE I'M AN EASY TARGET/ TO BE  
 PUNKED BY ALL THE GUYS-- Aaaah!!

6) PRESENT: Billy walking and singing down the school hall.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
 I WISH THAT FOR JUST ONE DAY/  
 THEY'D PICK ON SOMEONE THEIR OWN  
 SIZE!

7) Billy's classmates barraging him with dodgeballs in P.E.

BILLY (V.O.)  
 PUMMELED AGAIN PLAYING DODGEBALL.

8) Trevor shoving Billy off the swings.

BILLY (V.O.)  
 PUSHED AGAIN OFF THE SWINGS.

9) PRESENT: Billy walks into the empty school cafeteria.

BILLY  
 CHASED EVERY DAY DOWN THE SCHOOL  
 HALL/ AND NOW I AM REALIZING!/ MY  
 EYES ARE OPEN/ I FINALLY SEE/ THAT  
 IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ONE THING.  
 (standing on a table)  
 HERE'S MY GREAT DISCOVERY-

Billy spins around and furrows his eyebrows so that he looks like a MEAN PUNK.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
 THAT A BULLY IS THE BEST TO BE!

A LUNCHLADY TRIO (one's a puppet) pop up and sing along.

LUNCHLADIES  
 BULLY IS THE BEST TO BEEEEEEEEEEEE!

INT. FOURTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

Billy's TEACHER dismisses the class.

TEACHER  
 Alright, class, have a wonderful  
 weekend. But before you leave,  
 Trevor has an announcement to make.

TREVOR  
 (none too pleased)  
 I'm having a birthday party and my  
 mom's making me invite everyone.

The class cheers. Billy cocks his head to the side.

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
 But you better bring me a present,  
 or else!

The class hushes. Trevor folds his arms smugly. Billy frowns.

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Billy is watching television and scribbling copious notes.  
 His human mom, SHERI, walks by.

SHERI  
 Billy, why are we watching Carrie?

BILLY  
 I'm researching for Trevor's  
 birthday party tomorrow.

SCREAMS are heard from the TV.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Oh, that's brilliant.

Sheri sits beside him. She shuts the movie off.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Mom!

SHERI  
Sweetheart, I know Trevor hasn't been very nice to you, but what do I always say?

BILLY  
"Kindness is a gift for everyone."  
But mom! He treats me like I'm a big loser. Probably because I am a loser.

SHERI  
You're not a loser, Billy. You're a gift. A wonderful gift.

BILLY  
What good is being a gift if it only gets me bullied?

SHERI  
Sweetie, a kid usually bullies others when he's insecure about something in his own life.

BILLY  
What does Trevor have to be insecure about? He's strong. He's popular. Everyone at school fears him. Even the principal!

SHERI  
Just because they fear him doesn't mean they love him; and it doesn't mean he feels loved. If you want to stop a bully, you've gotta give him something he's never received.

(singing)  
KINDNESS IS THE GREATEST GIFT/ ONE  
THAT WE ALL NEED/ TO SOFTEN UP THE  
HARDEST HEART/ AND SET A BULLY  
FREE.

(spoken)  
You'll see. Give a bully a gift;  
change the whole world.

BILLY  
Thanks, mom.

Sheri hugs him, then leaves. Billy contemplates.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
A gift for a bully, huh?

An idea strikes him. He smiles deviously.

EXT. TREVOR'S BACKYARD - DAY

Billy arrives at a lavish birthday party towing a beautifully wrapped box. He spots an everest of presents on a gift table.

BILLY  
Just wait 'til Trevor opens this.  
He's about to learn the real  
meaning of a "stinkin' good time."

Billy snickers mischievously.

HEATHER  
Billy!

BILLY  
(startled)  
Heather?

Heather, donning a pink party dress, hugs him tightly.

HEATHER  
I'm so glad you came!

BILLY  
But- why are you here?

HEATHER  
Trevor's my cousin, silly. I helped  
set up the party! I'm so glad we  
get to celebrate his birthday this  
year. Trevor really needs this.

BILLY  
What do you mean?

HEATHER  
(leaning close)  
His dad left after his last  
birthday, and hasn't come back. No  
calls, no letters. It's been rough  
on Trevor, so we're throwing him a  
party to keep him cheered up.

BILLY

Really...

Billy looks at his gift ruefully.

HEATHER

Wow, is that for Trevor?  
(tries taking the gift)  
You're so thoughtful, Billy!

BILLY

(not letting go)  
Actually... it's for the trash can!

HEATHER

Silly Billy. Whatever it is, Trevor  
will love it. He loves presents.  
I'll add this with the others.

Heather yanks the gift away and skips off.

BILLY

Wait!

TREVOR'S EXTREMELY LOUD MOM rallies up the kids.

TREVOR'S MOM

Alright kids. Time to get this  
party started!

KIDS

YAY!

Billy attempts to sneak his present away from the pile, but  
Heather pulls him away.

HEATHER

Come on, Billy!

Billy groans. MUSIC BEGINS.

LATER

MUSIC CONTINUES. Trevor SMACKS a piñata. It EXPLODES,  
showering the backyard with PROFUSE CONFETTI.

Billy's eyes widen. Now's his chance.

He slips through the confetti storm. He reaches Trevor's  
altar of presents.

TREVOR'S MOM

LIMBO!

Trevor's mom snatches Billy up and thrusts him into a conga line of children shimmying under a lowering limbo stick.

On his turn, Billy attempts to limbo. He almost makes it through, but he hits the bar and collapses. The kids laugh.

LATER

MUSIC CONTINUES. A MAGICIAN dazzles the kids with an incredible contact juggling trick.

KIDS

OOOOOOOOO! AAAAAAAAAAAAA!

Billy slips away to steal his present.

The magician removes his hat and drops the balls in there one by one. He waits a beat, then snatches BILLY out of the hat.

The kids applaud. Billy grunts. Thwarted again.

LATER

MUSIC CONTINUES. Trevor takes a deep breath and blows out the sparkling candles on his humongous cake. The kids cheer.

Billy seizes the opportunity and ducks under the table. He army crawls past dangling legs and feet.

He makes it out on the other side, right next to the gifts. He checks over his shoulder. The kids are devouring cake like heathenous fiends. This is it.

Billy spots his gift. He reaches for it. Almost grabs it.

TREVOR'S MOM

Alright kids. Time to open--

KIDS

PRESENTS!

BILLY

Oh no.

The kids stampede and crowd Billy far out the way. Billy tries to glance over them to no avail. He grunts with frustration and ends up peeking between two kids' bodies.

TREVOR

Which one should I open first?

HEATHER  
 (points out Billy's gift)  
 Open this one. It's from Billy!

Billy lets out a faint yelp.

TREVOR  
 A gift from Felt Face?  
 (forcefully rattles gift)  
 What is it?

BILLY  
 Don't shake it!

Everyone looks at Billy. He shrinks back. Trevor shreds the bow and wrapping paper off. He opens the box--

Out springs an ANGRY PUPPET SKUNK, its fierce gaze locked on Trevor. Trevor's face pales.

TREVOR  
 Sk-sk-sk-SKUNK!!!!

The skunk SPRAYS him. Trevor SCREAMS. A fracas erupts. The kids scramble. Billy watches in horror as the furious skunk assaults them with its spray. Billy chases after it.

BILLY  
 No no no no! Come back! STOP!

The skunk freezes in front of Trevor's mom. Trevor's mom SHRIEKS. The skunk DOUSES her. Trevor's mom stumbles backward and CRASHES on a food table, catapulting grub into the air.

Billy blanches as a meteor shower of food rains down on the screaming, scrambling children.

The skunk finds Heather cowering against a fence. It poises itself to spray her. Heather screams.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
 Heather!

Billy dashes across the backyard. The skunk lifts its tail. Heather shields herself.

Billy dives in front of Heather, catching the skunk's BLAST.

Billy, drenched in skunk spray, looks up and meets a wall of glares. Billy hangs his head, terribly ashamed.

INT. MRS. WHITE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Billy is sulking in his seat as his classmates walk by.

KIDS

I can't believe he brought a skunk  
for a gift!/Yeah, Billy's such a  
mean bully./I'll never invite him  
to my birthday party./Me neither.

BILLY

(dejectedly singing)  
ONCE AGAIN ON THE OUTSIDE/ ONCE  
AGAIN IN THE SLUMPS/ I DIDN'T  
SUCCEED AS THE NICE GUY/ BUT BEING  
A BULLY WAS JUST PLAIN DUMB...

A daisy is held in front of his face. Billy looks up,  
surprised. Heather smiles, holding the flower out for him.

HEATHER

KINDNESS IS A TREASURE/ ONE THAT WE  
ALL NEED/ WHETHER WE DESERVE IT--  
(spoken)  
--or not--  
(singing)  
IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Billy accepts the flower. He smiles weakly.

The class DOOR BURSTS OPEN. Heads turn. Trevor stomps in. A  
weighty hush falls in the classroom. Billy's smile fades.

Trevor marches right up to Billy. Billy gulps. Trevor reaches  
forward and swoops Billy into a giant bearhug.

TREVOR

That was an AWESOME gift!

The kids exchange surprised glances.

BILLY

You're not mad about the party?

TREVOR

Sure I was. But then I realized, I  
now have my own pet skunk! And...  
(off Heather's look)  
I haven't always been the nicest  
person to you, so... I'm sorry.

BILLY

(relieved)  
I, er... I forgive you, Trevor!

Heather smiles. She holds both their hands and sings.

HEATHER  
KINDNESS IS A PRESENT/ GIVEN TO THE  
WORLD.

Trevor belts out in a surprising Pavarotti-like voice.

TREVOR  
MADE TO OPEN EVERY HEART/ BULLY,  
BOY, OR GIRL!

The entire CAST appears out of nowhere and sings along.

ALL  
KINDNESS AND FORGIVENESS/ GIFTS  
THAT MOVE OUR HEARTS/ SOFT AND FULL  
OF HEAVEN/ BITTERNESS DEPARTS.

HEATHER  
KINDNESS IS THE GREATEST GIFT-

TREVOR  
GIVEN AND RECEIVED!

BILLY  
A PERFECT PRESENT WRAPPED IN LOVE-

ALL  
FOR ALL ETERNITY!

Billy sings at CAMERA with a positive smile.

BILLY  
A BUDDY IS THE BEST TO BE.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.

