

1b2- Talk about strange

David Collins was sitting in the outdoor courtyard next to the cafeteria. He had already wolfed down half his lunch by the time Laurie arrived, and he was beginning to feel like a normal human being again. He watched Laurie put her tray down next to his and then noticed that Robert Billings was also headed for the courtyard.

“Hey, look,” David whispered as Laurie sat down. They watched as Robert stepped out of the cafeteria carrying a tray, looking for a place to eat. True to form, he had already started eating and stood in the doorway with half a hot dog sticking out of his mouth.

There were two girls from Mr. Ross’s history class sitting at the table Robert chose. As Robert set his tray down, they both stood up and took their trays to another table. Robert pretended he hadn’t noticed.

David shook his head. “Gordon High’s very own Untouchable,” he mumbled.

“Do you think there’s something really wrong with him?” Laurie asked.

David shrugged. “I don’t know. He’s been pretty strange for as long as I can remember. Then again, if people treated me like that, I’d probably be pretty strange too. It’s just weird that he and his brother could come from the same family.”

“Did I ever tell you that my mother knows his mother?” Laurie asked.

“His mother ever talk about him?” David asked.

“No. Except I think she told me once that they had him tested and he really does have a normal I.Q. He’s not really dumb or anything.”

“Just weird,” David said and went back to eating his lunch. But Laurie only picked at hers. She seemed preoccupied.

“What is it?” David asked.

“That film, David,” Laurie answered. “It really bothers me. Doesn’t it bother you?”

“Talk about strange,” Brian whispered, nodding toward Robert Billings.

They all looked. Robert was sitting alone at his table, engrossed in a Spider-Man comic book. His lips moved as he read and there was a red streak of cat-sup on his chin.

“You see him sleep through the whole movie?” Brian asked.