

John Smith is
NOT
BORING!



SHERIFF John THE (PARTY) WILD

by Johnny Smith

Chapter One

So I'm minding my own business, cramming liquorice gobstoppers into my mouth, when...

“Wotcha?!”

...a great big lump of a fist smashes into my back.

“Well, well, if it's not Mr Nobody!” sneers Adam Virgo, World School Bully Champion.

Why does it always have to be me? It's not like I go round with a sign on my back

saying “Make my life a misery”... (Actually I did once go round with a sign on my back saying “Make my life a misery”, but I hadn’t put it there!)

Well, it’s time I stood up to Adam Virgo. I’m not letting this gorilla beast me in the playground. What I need is a smart reply, something he’ll remember for ever.

So I blow a big massive raspberry right in his face.

BRBRBRBRBRBR!!!

After that Virgo decides it would be a really good idea to hang me upside down on the school gates with the words “I am John Smith. If you think I’m a nobody, blow a raspberry in my face” in thick black marker down the front of my shirt.

“I’m not a nobody,” I yell.

I AM JOHN
SMITH. IF YOU
THINK I'M A NO
BODY BLOW A
RASPBERRY IN MY
FACE



“Sorry,” sneers Virgo, looking around, “did someone say something?”

I see my big sister and her bone-brained boyfriend sloping through the school gates. Hayley totally hates my guts and Rufus thinks I’m a complete non-starter. But still, family is family, they always stick by you.

“Hayley,” I gurgle, “can you help me?”

Hayley looks at me and giggles.

“Nice work, Virgo,” says Rufus.

They stare at the message on my shirt and both blow a raspberry.

The head teacher walks across the playground with a steaming mug of tea. He turns his head upside down and reads the words. “I am John Smith. If you think I’m a no body, blow a raspberry in my face...”

“This is disgraceful, absolutely disgraceful,” he mutters darkly.

At last, someone to help me. Step aside,
the cavalry is here!

“‘Nobody’ is spelled as one word!” says the head teacher. “Look it up in the dictionary – nobody: a person of no importance.”

Everyone looks at me.

“Yes, head teacher,” says Virgo. “I won’t make that mistake again...”

“Too right you won’t,” barks the head teacher. “Give me that marker pen!” The head teacher snaps his fingers and Virgo hands him the thick black marker.

“Now pay close attention,” says the head teacher. “It’s nobody! nobody! nobody!”

He writes the words three times down my shirt.

“John Smith is a nobody! Got that?” says the head teacher.

“John Smith is a nobody,” says Virgo.

“John Smith is a nobody,” says the head

teacher again. This time all the other teachers and most of the playground join in too.

“John Smith is a nobody!” they all cheer.

The head teacher looks me squarely in the eye. “You too, Smith, come on now...”

“John Smith is a nobody,” I murmur.

“Excellent,” says the head teacher. Then he blows a raspberry.

Then EVERYONE starts blowing raspberries. The other mums and dads, my fellow pupils ... even Mrs Williams, the lollipop lady!

Then they wander off, leaving me upside down on the school gate, alone with my tormentor. Virgo leans in really close. I can feel my heart thumping, the sweat running down the back of my neck, the liquorice gobstoppers gently rolling out of my pocket.

“I’m not finished with you, John Smith,”

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sneers Virgo. “It’s school sports day tomorrow and you know what that means?”

“We’ll pair up on the same team, steer our side to victory and afterwards become best friends?” I nod hopefully.

“Almost,” he chuckles. “It means I’m going to trample you into the mud.”

He pops a gobstopper in his mouth and slopes across the playground, chuckling.

Johnny Smith is an experienced animation and live-action screenwriter. As one half of Sprackling and Smith, the comedy screenwriting team, he sold numerous original feature film scripts here and in Hollywood, including Disney's box office hit **GNOMEO & JULIET**. He lives in London with his wife and children.

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