

# CODE JOSIE

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3<sup>rd</sup> draft, Mar. 14, 2014

FADE IN:

EXT. CHERRYDALE LIBRARY - DAY

It's a chilly November afternoon yet the sun is shining and a herd of middle schoolers stampede into the library after school. KEVIN CRAPSHOOT (13), a chubby, white boy with straw-like, caramel-brown hair and beady, brown eyes, about five feet tall, lingers behind and walks in after them.

INT. CHERRYDALE LIBRARY LOBBY - DAY

Kevin passes people browsing the NEW arrival shelves. Older women at the front desk casually glance up at him while checking out material for patrons. He is wearing an oversized white hoodie, black track pants, and long white socks with black, Adidas slippers, his empty backpack slung over one shoulder.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

He quickly boards the elevator and closes the doors on a little old lady approaching with a walker from yards away. He takes the elevator to the second floor and gets off.

INT. YA SECTION - DAY

Kevin passes students with their laptops open at study tables, some in groups and some loners. He walks over to his favorite isolated aisle and sits down with his back to one wooden shelf. He reaches inside the shelf and pulls out a comic book. Kevin flips it open to his bookmark and resumes reading.

INT. ISOLATED AISLE - DAY

After a while, he looks up at the clock. It says 4:00 pm. As he's about to turn back to his book, a sign catches his attention: "PLEASE DO NOT WRITE INSIDE THE LIBRARY BOOKS". He runs his hands over one of the comic book's glossy pages and goes back to reading.

A few minutes later, he casually looks up and sees the sign again. The letters look bigger. Kevin smirks, then reaches inside his backpack to pull out a blue pen. When he looks back up at the sign, it says, "DON'T DO IT!" The letters are even bigger.

Kevin stares at the sign and then, clicking open the pen, brings it closer to the page. Now, the sign says: "DON'T!!!" The bold exclamation marks are spilling onto the wall. He grins and draws a dress and a bonnet over Super Hero's face. His goofy grin quickly drops though when thunder booms overhead and lightning flashes through the windows next to him, casting a faint blue glow on the comic book's pages.

He rests the comic book to his side and gets up. Then, he cranes his neck out from the aisle to see that the once bustling library has come to a standstill. People are frozen in awkward poses. At the YA desk, one librarian's hand is glued to a coffee mug and the other stuck to the computer keyboard. The computer screens on nearby tables are flickering.

Kevin inches back into the aisle and is startled by a presence at the other end.

JOSIE  
(all excited)  
Hi there!

It's a little girl (5) in a white, cotton sundress. Her black hair is cropped in a short bob. Her dress sways to a breeze that isn't there. She runs up to him as he scoots out of the aisle.

INT. YA SECTION - DAY

Kevin's eyes widen. She corners him against another wall.

JOSIE  
I'm Josie! What's your name?

KEVIN  
Um, Ke-, Kevin. You can move?

JOSIE  
Of course I can, silly! It's easy.

KEVIN  
But, but, how? Look at those others.

He raises his arm to point ahead and Josie turns her head to look at the frozen people.

JOSIE  
Hmm? Oh, don't worry about them.  
Come on, let's pl--

She turns back to find Kevin gone.

JOSIE  
Hey! Where'd ya go?

Josie begins to search the aisles.

JOSIE  
Keevviinn! Come out, come out,  
wherever you are!

INT. CHERRYDALE LIBRARY LOBBY - DAY

Kevin scrambles down the stairs and zigzags around frozen adults, passing the old lady with the walker still making her way to the elevator. He squeezes through two people waiting in the long, frozen line at the front desk and runs towards the exit. Kevin rams his body against the revolving door, but it won't budge and there's no one outside to help either. When he turns back,

JOSIE  
(in a bubbly voice)  
There you are!

Kevin gasps in horror and pushes his body against the glass door, trying to stay as far away from her as possible.

JOSIE  
Come on! Play with me!

KEVIN  
Uh, no. I gotta get home and...  
and.. um, you know...

JOSIE  
Don't be silly! This is your home  
now.

KEVIN  
Wait, what?! No! I--

Before he can say anymore, Josie grabs his hand and pulls him with impressive strength to the children's playroom.

INT. PLAYROOM - DAY

The circular room is filled with dirty stuffed animals. Plastic tea cups, loose board game pieces, and foam blocks litter the floor. Josie lets go of his hand and spins around the frozen children, pretending to be a ballerina princess.

JOSIE  
Let's play dolls!

Kevin tries to run out of the playroom...

JOSIE  
(all excited)  
You be the doll---

...but an invisible wall blocks him.

JOSIE  
--and I'll play with you!

Josie finally looks at him and her large, green eyes start glowing. Kevin shrinks down to three inches. She is now colossal and as she stomps closer, he starts running. She crouches down and blows him into the air like a feather. While Kevin is slowly floating back down, the same comic book appears magically between Josie's small hands. She cradles it in her arms like a baby.

JOSIE  
Awww, don't cry. Mommy's here. Who would hurt...

Josie leans her ear closer to it, nodding her head and saying uh-huh several times as if understanding. Then, she looks up at Kevin with dangerous eyes.

JOSIE  
(whispers accusingly)  
It was you...

Kevin sees the drawing he made inside from up above.

KEVIN  
(high squeaky voice)  
It's just a stupid book! Leave me alone!

JOSIE  
Ooooh, you said a bad word. AND you hurt my baby!! I think you need a time-out, mister.

Kevin's body suddenly becomes heavy and he drops fast. When he looks down, he sees Josie holding the comic book open and he falls inside, but there's no solid surface underneath him. He waves his hands in the air as he feels himself sinking and being swallowed into the page.

KEVIN  
 (high squeaky voice)  
 Wait! I'll pay for it! Wait!  
 Noooooooooooooooooo-----

Josie slams the book shut and holds it against her shoulder, patting it on the back several times.

JOSIE  
 (innocently)  
 There, there. It's all right now.  
 Feel better?

After a moment, the book burps and out flies a tiny, black Adidas slipper. Josie flips the book open to see Super Hero, in a blue dress, chasing Kevin across the page. She closes the book again and giggles playfully, a glint of evil in her eye as she turns to look directly into the camera.

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. CHERRYDALE LIBRARY STUDY AREA - DAY

The next week, a high school student is sitting at a small table and studying for the ACTs. She spills some coffee on a library-issued ACT practice book. She dabs at the liquid with a tissue, but the stain bleeds into the pages. Thunder booms overhead. Lightning flashes a faint blue glow over her and the cycle starts again.

FADE OUT: