

APPENDIX 4.7 *What I Like about You*

Scene 1

It is recess at Munroe Public School. Kids are running outside to play in the spring sunshine. A group of boys and girls run to the playground; others head to the outdoor basketball court. A game of tag is organized on the grassy field. The focus is on two boys sharing their recess snacks, laughing and leisurely walking to no destination in particular.

Lewis: (pointing to the basketball game) Want to play?

Jerry: Nah, Kyle is so tall his elbows jab people when he tries to get the ball. I've already got bruises and I don't need more.

Lewis: Playground?

Jerry: Hmm, looks like a bunch of kindergartners, wouldn't want to squish anyone.

Lewis: To the moon rock?

Jerry: Race you!

The boys run towards a large rock nearby, climb on top, and begin pretending they are traveling through space using the rock as an aircraft.

Jerry: LOOK OUT! SPACE JUNK! DUCK!

(Lewis and Jerry both crouch to avoid imaginary object flying through the air)

Lewis: Phew, that was close!

Jerry: Good thing we're wearing our super gravity pants!

Lewis: (watching a girl in the distance sitting underneath a tree all by herself) Hey, should we see if Karen wants to play?

Jerry: (freezes in the middle of what he is doing and turns to stare at Lewis) No! She's weird, Lewis, everyone knows that. Besides, this is our moon rock. If word gets out pretty soon we'll have to fight people off to play here.

Lewis: But how do we know she's weird? We've never talked to her.

Jerry: Hello? Have you looked at her? She wears two different shoes every day! Plus, Jeremiah heard her talking to herself and Lydia told me she doesn't watch TV!

Lewis: (Thinking) I guess she does some things differently than us.

Jerry: Yeah, like I said, she's weird.

Bell rings and everyone runs to go back inside

Scene 2

Jerry and Lewis take their seats at their desks, next to each other

Mrs. Zink: Okay kids, please get into groups of two or three for a special art project!

Jerry: Partners?

Lewis: You bet! I'm going to see if Karen wants to join our group.

Jerry: (annoyed) I just told you I don't want to talk to her.

Lewis: Well I do, and no one else is going to invite her into a group.

Jerry: Then I'm going to find a different group.

Lewis: Fine.

Jerry: Fine! Hope you're not disappointed when your art project is ruined by her weird ideas.

The boys walk away from each other looking angry. Lewis approaches Karen and sits down beside her. Jerry joins another boy and girl sitting on the opposite side of the room.

Jeremiah: Lewis ditched you for Karen?

Jerry: He just feels bad for her, she has no friends.

Lydia: I hope he doesn't start acting strange too. You better keep an eye on him, one weirdo is enough for this class.

Jerry: (looking over shoulder at Lewis and Karen) It's just this once, and you know Lewis is not strange. He's my best friend.

Lewis says something to Karen and they both laugh. Jerry turns away to focus on his art project, looking sad.

Scene 3

Jerry arrives at the schoolyard the next morning and sees Lewis already on the playground playing with Karen. Jerry walks right past the playground towards a group of kids playing tag.

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Lewis: JERRY! JERRY, I'M UP HERE ON THE SLIDE!

Jerry: *(keeps walking, pretending not to hear Lewis)* Hey Lydia, can I play?

Lydia: *(looking at Lewis and Karen on the playground)* Looks like Lewis has a new best friend, told you he would turn into a weirdo. Come on, you're it!

Jerry ignores Lydia's comment and starts chasing the other kids. Lewis and Karen approach the group. Lewis leads the way while Karen trails behind looking nervous. The other kids stop their game and stare at the pair.

Lewis: Hey everyone, Karen and I want to play too!

Lydia: Sure Lewis, you can join, we have room for one more.

Lewis: It's just tag Lydia, everyone can play.

Lydia: *She* can't. Look at her feet! She's not even wearing matching shoes. She'll never be able to run fast enough so why bother playing? Just go away.

Karen walks away looking at the ground.

Lewis: None of you know anything about Karen. I'd rather play with her than any of you, she doesn't say mean things to people. *(Lewis looks at Jerry)* Come on Jerry, let's go play on the moon rock.

Kyle: *(laughing)* The moon rock? Lewis you're just as strange as Karen, I can't believe we didn't notice it before.

All the kids start laughing with Kyle. Jerry looks at the ground and remains silent. Lewis looks sad and turns to follow Karen.

Lydia: So long weirdos!

Kyle: Don't get lost on the moon!

More laughter

Scene 4

After school, Jerry watches Karen and Lewis playing on the rock. They are laughing and having fun. Jerry joins the other kids who are talking in a group, they seem to be planning something.

Lydia: *(to Jerry)* Oh good, you're here! We're going to sneak up on Lewis and Karen and scare them.

Jerry: Why don't we just play basketball and leave them alone. They aren't doing anything to us.

Kyle: Don't be a wimp. We've already decided, come with us or go play by yourself.

The spotlight shifts to Lewis and Karen, playing on the "moon rock"

Karen: Hold on Lewis, we're being attacked by a group of space cows! I'll steer us through their legs!

Lewis: I've got your back, Karen! I'll hit them with space cheese if they get too close! The smell will make them gag!

All of a sudden Lewis and Karen get hit with clumps of mud. Karen falls off the rock and scrapes her knee. Lewis' shirt is ruined.

Kyle: *(laughing and snorting)* YES! DIRECT HIT! Take that losers! In case you haven't noticed it's just a regular rock.

Jerry quietly stands away from the rest of the group, watching.

Lewis: Hey! I just got this shirt last week for my birthday. How would you like it if someone popped your new basketball?

Kyle: Get a life Lewis, it's just a little mud. As long as you hang around with this loser *(gestures towards Karen whose eyes have started to water)* don't be surprised if there's a whole lot more mud in your future!

Lydia: *(Looking nervously at Karen who is now crying)* Let's go everyone, I don't want to waste any more of our free time.

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Scene 5

Jerry walks away from the schoolyard towards his home. Lewis angrily chases after him.

Lewis: Thanks a lot for sticking up for me!

Jerry: I told you this would happen if you started hanging around with Karen. What was I supposed to do?

Lewis: You're supposed to be my friend!

Jerry: It's hard to be your friend when you're busy making new friends.

Lewis: All you care about is yourself!

Jerry: Then let's not be friends anymore!

Lewis: FINE WITH ME!

The boys turn and run in opposite directions.

The scene continues at Jerry's house. It is after dinner, Jerry had no appetite and asked to be excused from dinner early. He is sulking in his room.

Jerry's Dad: (knocking on door) Jerry? Can I come in, I'm worried about you.

Jerry: I'm fine.

Dad: You left a whole bowl of macaroni of cheese on the table, something must be bugging you.

Jerry: Lewis is stupid.

Dad: Why would you say something like that about your best friend? Did you get into a fight?

Jerry: All he wants to do is spend time with this new girl Karen. She moved here a month ago and all the other kids make fun of her and think she's weird. They made fun of Lewis for being friends with her. It's embarrassing.

Dad: Does Lewis think she's weird?

Jerry: No. They always seem to be laughing and having fun.

Dad: Are you having fun with the other kids?

Jerry: No, all they do is talk about Lewis and Karen.

Dad: Well which is better, having fun with Lewis or hiding in your room?

Jerry: But Karen is different than the other kids, and what if they make fun of me?

Dad: Jerry. There is something to love about everyone, and I challenge you to find it. And when you find it, share it with the other kids. Hopefully they'll accept Karen. If not, have fun with the people you care about and don't let anyone tell you who you can be friends with. The other kids will get bored and move on. If they don't, you let me know. You can tell me anything.

Jerry: Well... you are *really* old Dad. I guess you know what you're talking about. Love you, Dad.

Jerry's dad laughs and ruffles Jerry's hair, putting him in a playful headlock

Scene 6

The next morning Jerry sees Lewis and Karen near the moon rock and walks right up to them.

Jerry: Lewis, I'm sorry for being mean to you. I miss hanging out with you.

Lewis: I miss you too, Jerry. I didn't mean it when I said I didn't want to be friends anymore.

Jerry: (to Karen, looking ashamed and nervous) Hi Karen, I'm Jerry. Sorry that I haven't talked to you before now. Sorry that we've all been so rude to you since you moved here.

Karen: It's nice to meet you, Jerry. Hey! Cool Dinosaur Detective Agency notebook! I love that show!

Jerry: What? I thought you didn't have a TV?

Karen: (laughing) Of course I have a TV! My parents don't let me watch it during the week but I tape some shows and watch them on the weekend.

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Jerry: Oh! So, um . . . why do you wear two different shoes?

Karen: *(looks at her feet)* I guess it does look a little funny. When I had to move my best friend Marigold and I exchanged shoes so that we'd never forget each other. When I'm feeling lonely it's sort of like she's here with me. I guess it sounds silly.

Jerry: It's not silly. It must be scary to move to a town of strangers.

Kyle, Lydia, and Jeremiah approach the rock

Jerry: *(Whispering to Lewis)* Quick, give me your left shoe!

Lewis and Jerry exchange shoes

Kyle: Look at the aliens on their "moon rock!"

Lydia: *(laughing and pointing at their shoes)* Look, they're starting to dress the same!

Jerry: That's right! We're here from the planet Shoe-piter to save you Earthlings from being boring. Karen is the bravest person in our class. She

moved here without knowing anyone and all we did was ignore her for no reason!

Kyle: She's not like us!

Lewis: Kyle, Karen was on the basketball team at her old school just like you. Know what else? She hates the piano lessons that her mom makes her take, kind of like someone else I know . . . right Lydia?

Lydia: *(looking at Karen)* You do? Me too!

Karen: It's true. So watch out Earthlings because we're going to get you and take you back to SHOE-PI TER!

Jerry, Karen, and Lewis jump off the rock and start chasing the other kids, trying to capture them. All the kids are laughing and yelling in happiness at the new game. The scene ends as Lydia is finally captured by Karen and they both fall to the ground smiling.

The End