

**Below are several
extracts from the
Don't Smile Till Easter
Feature Screenplay:**

INT. COPPABELLA HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BLOCK -- DAY

Student Lukas, followed by Teacher Donny, saunters into the student reception area. Office-Lady-in-Charge Lorna is standing behind her desk. A Second Office Lady is working at her computer.

DONNY

Thanks a lot, mate: you've really outdone yourself this time.

LUKAS

No prob, Brother.

DONNY

(indicating chair)

Sit there.

Donny moves towards the window. Lukas BASHES the chair into the wall and, feigning innocence, sits on the chair.

LUKAS

(to Donny)

What? It slipped.

DONNY

Lorna, Lukas has dropped himself in it again.

LORNA

Really Mr Donaldson, you'd think teachers could control their students?

Lukas is at the window and starts DINGING the service bell.

LORNA (CONT'D)

Leave that alone!

LUKAS

I'm just seeing if it works.

LORNA

Go back to your chair.

Lukas DINGS the bell.

INT. COPPABELLA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

The door is closed. Sitting, are Principal Dr Martin Grey behind his desk with Donny to his side opposite Lukas and Lukas' Mother, Gail. Gail lights a cigarette and starts smoking it.

GREY

(to Gail)

Lukas throwing that stone was obviously dangerous in the extreme, and the Department now requires me to determine whether he is put into isolation, suspended, or, on his past record, expelled...the school is a non-smoking environment.

Gail continues inhaling and exhaling the smoke.

LUKAS

If ya put me in isolation I won't stay there.

GAIL

And if you suspend him, I'll send him to school anyway.

GREY

Mrs MacGregor, I must insist.

GAIL

Dr Grey! Do you watch A Current Affair?

GREY

Well, er, sometimes.

LUKAS

Keep watching.

GAIL

(melodramatically)

School's negligence rocks children's lives!

GREY

I don't think it need get to that.

GAIL

Well that's up to you, isn't it? Which of you teachers was supervising Lukas?

GREY

Mr Donaldson.

GAIL

(to Grey)

And you've lined Mr Donaldson up to be Lukas' mentor? Hello?

LUKAS

Donny's the best teacher in this shithole, aren't ya Donny?

GREY

Perhaps we all need to look at this situation from a new perspective and learn something from it for the future.

Lukas smiles.

GAIL

Yes, you do that, Dr Grey.

Gail stands and gives Grey a winning smile.

GAIL (CONT'D)

And Dr Grey, Lukas' "past record": isn't that tautological?

Lukas swings open the door and he and Gail exit.

INT. COPPABELLA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

The door is open. Grey is sitting at his desk, working on his computer. Without knocking, Donny enters, followed by Lukas.

GREY

Oh, Bill, what are you doing here?
And Lukas.

LUKAS

(indicating Donny)
He's my mentor. Remember?

GREY

Lukas, wait outside and close the door after you.

Lukas goes outside the room and CLOSES the door.

DONNY

Martin, not guilty, as in innocent.
I expect I start back here tomorrow.

GREY

Er, well, I'm afraid it's not quite that straightforward.

DONNY

No, it never is.

GREY

The Department has directed me to advise you that you won't be teaching at this school.

Lukas FLINGS open the door.

LUKAS
That's not fair.

GREY
(standing up)
Lukas! Get out!

EXT. COPPABELLA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS' CAR-PARK -- DAY

Donny, carrying the box, is walking to his car. He LOADS the box into the boot and CLOSES it. Lukas, holding his most recent A3 drawing, is standing nearby watching him.

LUKAS
(strolling up)
How ya goin' Big Fella?

DONNY
G'day mate.

LUKAS
Ya still in trouble.

DONNY
I'm always in trouble; a bit like you.

LUKAS
I got somethin' for ya.

DONNY
Oh yeah?

Lukas hands his drawing to Donny. It is the drawing Lukas was last working on: the scene of violence is only in the bottom left hand corner; the rest of the drawing is a montage of Rugby League play.

Donny studies the drawing. Lukas takes back the drawing, rips off the scene-of-violence corner and hands the main drawing back to Donny. Lukas smiles at Donny and Donny smiles back at him.

Suddenly Lukas hugs Donny. Donny flinches and hesitates, not returning the hug. Lukas steps back, tears in his eyes. Donny tousles his hair.

LUKAS
Why do you have to go?

DONNY
Life's a journey, Lukas. Just like I somehow have to, you need to make it work for you. For a start, how about you just concentrate on trying to stay out of trouble?

LUKAS

Trouble's always puttin' out a search party for me.

DONNY

Lukas, don't keep getting yourself lost.

(smiling, indicating drawing)

Thanks for this. Thanks a lot.

Donny gets into his car and slowly DRIVES towards the exit of the car-park. He waves to Lukas, who waves back.

EXT./INT. COPPABELLA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

Lukas, carrying a large rock, walks to stand about three metres from Grey's office window. Grey's office is unoccupied.

Lukas looks at the rock, grips it tightly, slowly releases it from his fingers and lets it DROP from his hand.

Lukas looks up at the window. Grey is standing inside his office, looking out at Lukas. Lukas defiantly returns his gaze.

Lukas reaches down and picks up the rock. He looks up at Grey and backs up a number of steps. Grey is watching him.