

C R I S P by Dejvi Dashi

1. INT. BATH TUB - AFTERNOON (OPENING SCENE)

TITLE CARD: Milford, Massachusetts 1971.

Twin brothers ROY and FRANKIE are taking a bath together.

Frankie is autistic, although diagnosed with "mental retardation" at the time he was born.

ROY
Frankie, c'mon, let me get your
back.

FRANKIE
Roy, do you love me?

Roy nods and hums in agreement while soaping Frankie's back.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Does Ma love me, Roy?

ROY
Frankie where are these questions
coming from?

FRANKIE
I love you Roy! You know what Jeane
says? She says you're retarded but
you sure ain't dumb Frankie-boy!
Haha

ROY
We all know that brother. You
always were the smartest boy in
school. And the most handsome one
too.

Roy caresses Frankie's hair. Frankie smiles and tilts his
head down in embarrassment.

ROY (CONT'D)
Hmm you like that? The smartest and
the handsomest boy in school you
were!

Frankie settles. Roy keeps washing him.

FRANKIE
Roy, does Pa love me too?

ROY

Pa's too busy putting food on our table. I ain't got time to ask him that. But I going to tell you one thing. It's not what a man says that matters; what matters are his actions.

FRANKIE

Pa is mean.

ROY

Pa's not mean Frank. Pa is tired. He works all the time.

FRANKIE

I'm not stupid, Roy.

ROY

I know, I know. Ok we're getting out now ok?

2. INT. DINNER TABLE - EVENING

Frankie, Roy, JEANE(sister), LAUREEN (mother), MITCHELL (father), sitting at the dinner table. Dinner is served. Mitchell is eating. Everyone else is waiting for Lauren to sit down.

LAUREEN

Roy take your elbows off the table young man! Jeane do you have to wear that? What's your next job gonna be, like a city stripper or something? Frankie are you good baby? Momma made your favourite dish - mashed potatoes with pulled pork - honey.

Jeane rolls her eyes and stumps.

FRANKIE

No, no I don't want honey in it!

JEANE

There's no honey in it stupid, she called you honey.

ROY

Jeane why don't you shut up and eat your own shit huh?

LAUREEN

Roy! I don't want none a' that in my house but you know he's right Jeane, if you call him stupid one more time...

JEANE

What? Is stupid a bad word now too?

FRANKIE

I'm not stupid, I'm retarded.

ROY

No, Frankie you're not.

LAUREEN

Baby don't say that word okay?

JEANE

Look! He knows, why is this my fault?

LAUREEN

Jeane, I swear to God!

Everyone is shouting, Frankie throws his arms around his body and crouches in his chair.

FRANKIE

Roy, Jeane is angry.

ROY

Okay stop! Jeane shut up!

JEANE

Who do you think you're talking to? I say whatever I want!

LAUREEN

Jeane I'm telling you to shut up!

MITCHELL

Everyone STOP!

Silently everyone readjusts in their dining positions. Laureen sits down.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

I don't come back from a long day of work to listen to this shit. Eat your damn meals your momma made for you! And no talking!

JEANE

But Ma!

MITCHELL

Jeane what did I just say God
dammit?

The mood in the room settles down. Frankie looks up at Roy.

FRANKIE

MA! MA!

ROY

Hahah! MA!

JEANE

Yup, that's right, make fun of
Jeane. C'mon everyone, that's just
great. I'm leaving this stupid
family.

FRANKIE

Hahah MA! Haha MA!

Laureen giggles.

Jeane leaves the table. Mitchell keeps eating seriously.
Frankie and Roy laugh.

3. INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Jeane and Mitchell have left the house. Laureen is at the
front door with Michael. Frankie and Roy are watching TV.

LAUREEN

Okay boys I'm about to leave. Roy
please make sure you both get
something to eat alright?

ROY

Yes, Ma you got it!

LAUREEN

Frankie I need you to listen to
your brother okay? Everything he
says I want you to do! I'll be back
at eight.

FRANKIE + ROY

Bye ma!

Laureen exits the house.

FRANKIE

Does Jeane love me Roy?

ROY

Yes, Frankie of course she does.

FRANKIE

I think she hates me Roy! You know what she said once? She said, you sure ain't dumb but you are retarded.

ROY

Yes, I know Frankie! You already told me that, and I don't wanna hear it again alright? And don't use that word anymore. Ma and Pa get really mad when you use that word. You know that!

FRANKIE

But Roy that's my word. Everybody says it!

ROY

But no one should, you understand that? Do you understand that?

FRANKIE

Yeah I do, I'm retarded, I'm not dumb Roy!

Someone knocks at the door.

ROY

UGH! Okay I am going to go open the door but you just did it again, exactly what I said to not do.

Roy opens the door. It is Lonnie, Roy's friend. Roy rubs down his own shirt and runs his hand through his hair.

LONNIE

Hey! What's happening?

ROY

Oh hi! Come in! Frankie, Lonnie is here.

FRANKIE

Lonnie! Hey Lonnie! Hey! Lonnie!

LONNIE

Hey, Frankie, how's it going? Are you good?

FRANKIE

Lonnie did you bring your bike?

LONNIE

Yeah that's how I came here.

FRANKIE

Can I ride it, Lonnie? Please!

ROY

Frankie, you know damn well you ain't allowed to use the bike.

FRANKIE

Lonnie, please?

LONNIE

Maybe one day, Frankie, not today.

Lonnie gives Roy a look. Roy accepts it and leans over to Frankie.

ROY

Uhm... Hey Frankie we're gonna go into the room now ok, I want yo-

FRANKIE

Can I also play today?

ROY

I'm afraid you can't brother. We'll go out for ice-cream after, alright?

FRANKIE

Hmm... Okay Okay now, like I always say, if you need anything knock on the door first Frankie. You hear me? Yes, Roy, I hear you!

ROY

Love you too kiddo. I'll be right here; we'll get some food after.

CUT TO:

5 MINUTES LATER ...

Frankie gets up from the sofa and quietly walks towards Roy's room. He looks through the key hole and sees Roy kissing Lonnie in the mouth.

Frankie squints his eyes and rubs his face with his hands but maintains a neutral facial expression. He slowly walks back to the sofa but he hits a door knob by accident.

4. INT. BEDROOM - SAME MORNING

ROY
Did you hear something?

LONNIE
I don't think so.

ROY
Wait I feel bad doing this to Frankie; we always leave him alone. How about we just hang out with him today?

LONNIE
Yeah of course!

ROY
Okay... Thanks!

Roy gives Lonnie a kiss. They leave they get up from bed and walk to the living room.

ROY (CONT'D)
Fuck, where is he?

LONNIE
Frankie?!

Roy looks out of the front window. The bike is missing.

ROY
Shit, the bike!

5. EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - SAME MORNING

They run out of the house to go look for Frankie. They find him 30 meters away from the house on the ground.

ROY
Frankie, what happened?

FRANKIE
The bike Roy, the bike fell me!

LONNIE

He means he fell from the bike.

ROY

I fucking know what my brother is saying Lon, no need for an interpreter here alright?

LONNIE

I'm just trying to help!

ROY

I fucking raised him, you think I need help?

FRANKIE

Roy, don't fight Lonnie!

ROY

I'm not, Frankie, don't worry. Just go home will ya Lon? I'll see you soon goddam it!

Roy picks Frankie up and walks him back home.

6. INT. BATH TUB - AFTERNOON

Roy is soaping Frankie. They are both in the tub. Frankie is making pain noises.

ROY

Can you tell me what happened there?

FRANKIE

Nothing.

ROY

What do you mean nothing? You did what I told you not to do! Why Frankie?

FRANKIE

I'm sorry, Roy.

ROY

It's okay. Just don't tell Ma, she'll kill both of us... Hey what's wrong with you? Why you putting your head down?

FRANKIE

Nothing.

ROY
 Hey, if you don't tell me who're
 you going to tell then?

FRANKIE
 I am not telling anyone Roy, I
 promise!

Frankie starts crying. Roy hugs him and caresses his hair.

ROY
 Hey, hey it's all good brother.
 Come here. Does anything hurt?

FRANKIE
 Not anymore.

ROY
 Alright, that's perfect boy. Just
 relax, alright?

7. INT. DINNER TABLE - EVENING

Everyone is quiet, eating their meal. Mitchell is not home yet. Jeane is fidgety. Frankie bows his head.

LAUREEN
 So what did you boys do today?

ROY
 Lonnie came over, we played some
 games.

LAUREEN
 Did you enjoy the games Frankie,
 honey?

JEANE
 What's wrong with him?

LAUREEN
 What's wrong baby? Roy what's wrong
 with him? Did Lonnie say something?

ROY
 No, nothing happened! Frankie tell
 them we went for ice-cream too.

FRANKIE
 We went for ice-cream, Ma.

LAUREEN
 Well, that's good!

Jeane looks at Roy with suspicion.

LAUREEN (CONT'D)

Why are you not touching your food
Frankie?

FRANKIE

I'm tired, Ma.

JEANE

You know who came to the store
today? Your boy Lonnie. He looked
so mad, didn't say a word. Rude! So
tell your boy to say "Hi" and "Bye"
next time he comes around!

ROY

Yes, I will.

JEANE

Oh ok great. Can you give a shorter
answer next time? This family,
gosh. I'm gonna start talking to
the walls soon, I swear!

ROY

Frankie you want to go to bed?

FRANKIE

Yeah!

ROY

Okay we're going to bed, Ma.

LAUREEN

Night boys! Frankie looks tired.
You have exhausted him Roy. No more
this much playing, please! Oh look
at my boy. Goodnight honey!

FRANKIE

Night Ma! Night Jeane! Night Mikey!

LAUREEN

Mikey say goodnight for God's sake.
Do I still have to tell you what to
say, when to say it? If you keep
doing this, I swear...

ROY

Goodnight all!

JEANE

Hey Roy! Come here! What going on
huh? Something fishy here.

ROY

Nothing is going on Jeane!

JEANE

Then why did I see scars on
Frankie's arm. What happened today?
I want you to tell me. Did that
fucker Lonnie touch Frankie or
something, because I'll deal with
him?

ROY

No sis' it's all good. Nothing like
that. It's going to be fine
tomorrow morning.

JEANE

Roy you know you can ask for help
sometimes, right? You have been
doing this your whole life, you
need to know I can help too. I care
about you shitheads.

ROY

Thanks Jeane, I appreciate it.

8. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Roy and Frankie are lying in bed in the dark. Frankie is
moving around.

ROY

Frankie, will you quit that.

FRANKIE

I can't sleep.

ROY

Well, start counting, you'll fall
asleep soon.

FRANKIE

I saw you, Roy.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE

Mitchell walks into the house. Laureen and Jeane are waiting for him at the front door. Mitchell looks concerned. Jeane starts talking to him (silent).

ROY
What?

FRANKIE
I saw you and Lonnie in your room.

ROY
What did you see?

Roy turns on the lamp next to the bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE

We see Mitchell walking towards the front door of a house. Laureen and Jeane are trailing behind him.

FRANKIE
I know Roy.

ROY
Frankie, tell me what do you know!
Tell me right now.

FRANKIE
You're gonna wake Ma, don't scream!

ROY
Frankie I need you to tell me what
you saw brother. What is it that
you know?

FRANKIE
That's why you get mad when Jeane
says the word.

CUT TO:

Mitchell bangs on the door.

ROY
What word?

FRANKIE

You know, what Jeane calls me when
I do something wrong. The word Ma
hates so much!

ROY

What does that have to do with
Lonnie, Frankie? Tell me!

cut scene EXT. Lonnie opens the door. He looks confused.

FRANKIE

You hate that word, Roy.

ROY

What are you saying?

CUT TO:

Mitchell is pulls Lonnie by his shirt and starts kicking him.
Laureen covers her mouth with her hands. Jeane is looking
around anxiously. Leasuren screams into her hands. Screen
goes black. Frankie whispers.

FRANKIE

I know why Roy. It's because you're
also retarded!