

SUMMER SIDE 1

Start

She goes. The CHILDREN stare at DEWEY. DEWEY stares at them.

DEWEY: Who's got some food?

SUMMER: We can't bring food into school. It's forbidden.

DEWEY: Yeah, yeah. Nobody's going to get in any trouble. I'm hungry.

LAWRENCE: I have a Granola bar.

DEWEY: Give it here.

LAWRENCE approaches. Some of the other children drift over. A girl, TOMIKA, puts up her hand.

DEWEY: What do you got?

She opens her desk and takes out a huge sub sandwich.

DEWEY: That's what I'm talking about.

He beckons her, drawing all the children to him, as he talks between mouthfuls. There is a sense of Fagin and his gang.

DEWEY (CONTD): OK. Here's the deal. I've got a hang-over. Who knows what that is?

LAWRENCE: Does it mean you're drunk?

DEWEY: No. It means I was drunk yesterday.

ZACK: It means you're an alcoholic.

DEWEY: What's your name?

ZACK: Zack Mooneyham.

DEWEY: Well, shut up, Zack Mooneyham. The point is, today you can just chill out. We'll start on the teaching crapola tomorrow. Take recess. Have fun. Leave me alone.

SUMMER raises her hand.

DEWEY(CONTD) : You. Rihanna.

SUMMER: Summer Hathaway. Do you have any questions about our schedule? Mrs. Dunham starts with a vocabulary followed by a word quiz, then she divides us into reading groups-

DEWEY: How interesting. Snore. Don't you see that Mrs. Dum-Bum is not your teacher today? I am. And I say it's time for recess.

SUMMER mutters audibly.

SUMMER: My parents don't spend thirty thousand dollars a year for recess.

DEWEY: What did you say?

SUMMER: Mr. Schneeby, this poster tracks our achievements. We get gold stars for how we do in class.

DEWEY strolls over to the chart, weirdly fascinated.

DEWEY: What kind of sick school is this? This is the tool of the Man.

ZACK: The who?

DEWEY: The Man! Don't you know who the Man is? The Man is everywhere. In the White House or down the hall. Ms. Mullins is the Man. At Horace Green, she's the Man. He's to blame for Global Warming, tuxedos and parking tickets, taxes, and acid rain! He burned the Amazon! For Chrissakes, he kidnapped Shamu and put her in a chlorine tank!

ZACK: So what are we supposed to do about it?

DEWEY: You're supposed to fight him! With Rock'n'Roll and spirit and everything you've got to give!

SUMMER: That's all very well, but how can we be graded or get any gold stars today, if we just have recess?

DEWEY yanks the poster down and tears it to shreds.

DEWEY: Now, listen! As long as I'm here, there'll be no tracks and no grades and absolutely no gold stars! We're gonna have recess all the freakin' time. Geddit? I said recess! Go!

SUMMER: We'll see what Ms. Mullins has to say about this.

DEWEY: No, we won't. Not if you want to live to see tomorrow. Now go!

The CHILDREN run for it.

END