

"Speechless"
by
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FADE IN:

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

JACK STEVENS a short fourteen year old boy sits at a table reading from a notebook. He stammers.

JACK
(reading)
I th-ink Eng-land w-ill g-et to
th-e w-orld cup sem-i-f-inals.
B-ut I...

MOTHER (O.S.)
(calls out)
Jack, time for school.

Jack looks up, a worried expression.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Teenage girls huddle together in groups, tinker with their mobile phones and watch their heroes play football.

JONES a big fourteen year old boy, the centre of attention, leans against the school building wall talking to two BOYS.

Jack enters the playground, an apprehensive sideways glance at Jones, locked in conversation, as he walks quickly towards the school building, a solitary figure in an empty part of the playground. Jones sees him.

JONES
(calls out)
You know what lesson we got today,
Stevens, don't you?

Jack tightens up but keeps walking.

JONES
Don't you Stevens?

A TEACHER in his thirties close to the school entrance, looks towards Jack sympathetically, as Jack passes him.

TEACHER
Stevens...

JACK
Sir.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Jones sits behind Jack at the back of the class. The Teacher stands up from a desk as a BOY sits down.

TEACHER
Thank you, Tomkins. That was very
good.

A beat.

TEACHER
 (on the breath)
 Right, who wants to read out
 their piece about the world cup
 next?

JONES
 (cynically)
 Stevens, sir.

TEACHER
 (carefully)
 Stevens, you've not read yet.
 Want to give it a go?

JACK
 Y-es, sir.

Jones nudges Jack in the back with a pencil.

JONES
 (whispering, at
 Jack's shoulder)
 Go on Stevens, give us a laugh.

TEACHER
 In your own time, Stevens.

JACK
 Sir.

A beat. Jack sits motionless, frozen to his seat.

TEACHER
 Stand up then, Stevens. Let's
 hear what you've written.

Jack stands slowly, holding a notebook. He turns a page
 but fumbles badly, clumsily. Children in the classroom
 look towards him and giggle with anticipation.

TEACHER
 (to the class)
 That's enough now.

Silence.

TEACHER
 (to Jack)
 Okay Stevens.

JACK
 (reads)
 I th-ink Eng-land w-ill g-et to
 th-e w-orld cup sem-i-f-inals.
 B-ut I d-on't t-hink th-ey w-ill
 w-in it.

Jones plants his head on the desk, pretending to be asleep,
 snoring.

TEACHER
 Jones!

Jones sits up quickly.

JONES
 Sorry, sir.

Laughter.

TEACHER
Carry on, Stevens.

JACK
(reads)
I th-in-k the wi-nn-ers w-ill b-
e be-tween It-aly a-nd Br-az-il.

LATER:

Jack struggles badly, and visibly wilts with the effort he puts in.

JACK
Germ-an-y an-d Fr-an-ce -are...

The Teacher stands up and throws in the towel.

TEACHER
Okay Stevens, that's fine.
(a beat)
Someone else want to read?

Jones thrusts his hand high in the air.

JONES
Me, sir.

TEACHER
Okay, Jones. Let's hear it.

Jones stands up. He reads very confidently, the occasional glance towards Jack.

JONES
(reads)
I definitely think England will
win the world cup. They've got
the best mid-field players in the
world. Lampard, Gerrard, Beckham.
They're all great players. Better
than any other country.

Jack lowers his head more with every assured word he hears.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Jack leaves the school, a disconsolate figure.

Jones stands talking to the two boys. He sees Jack walk by.

JONES
(calls out)
That was a real laugh, Stevens.
You almost sent me to sleep.

They laugh as Jack walks away from them.

JONES
Love it when you read. Makes my day.

Jack looks enviously towards boys playing football.

EXT. A LONDON HIGH STREET - DAY

Jack walks with his head lowered, kicking at the floor frustrated with things.

GAVIN in his forties, and JANE, his daughter, a very attractive blonde fourteen year old girl, leave a music shop. TWO CAMERAMEN snap at them as they walk to a limousine parked outside. A CHAUFFEUR in his fifties opens the rear door for them.

Jack kicks an empty drinks can very hard, it lands close to Jane and Gavin as they are about to get in the car.

The Chauffeur closes the rear door and walks to the driver's side door.

The cameramen continue to take shots of Gavin and Jane in the car. Jane the closest to the pavement, smiles at Jack as he passes.

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Jack lies in bed on his side. He looks at a clock on the bedside table.

INSERT: CLOCK

7.30.

BACK TO SCENE

Jack grabs the clock and hides it under the covers.

EXT. JANE'S DETACHED HOUSE - DAY

Establish a large detached house with a drive.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jane wearing fashionable casual clothes, sits munching toast noisily in a very large kitchen listening to music via an I-Pod, flicking pages of a magazine.

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jack looks at his notebook, puts an untouched piece of toast back on a plate and looks ahead very worried.

MOTHER (O.S.)

What is it Jack, you haven't eaten your breakfast?

JACK

N-ot hu-ngry.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN(CONT'D) - DAY

Gavin appears at the kitchen door. Both American.

GAVIN
Good luck for today.

Jane removes the earphones.

GAVIN
I said good luck for today.

JANE
Oh.

GAVIN
Nervous?

JANE
(confidently)
No.

Gavin comes forward and kisses Jane on the cheeks, as she puts on the earphones again.

GAVIN
I'm sure you'll be fine.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Children begin to enter school.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL - DAY

Jack approaches the playground. He sees Jones up ahead and tightens up.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Jack enters the school with other boys.

TEACHER (V.O.)
We have a new member of class
joining us later today.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

The Teacher stands in front of the class.

TEACHER
Her name's Jane Mortimer. She's
American.

EXT. JANE'S DETACHED HOUSE - DAY

Jane strides confidently towards the limousine. The Chauffeur holds the rear door open. Gavin stands at the open door.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

The Teacher addresses the class.

TEACHER
Her Father's the film director
Gavin Mortimer.

EXT. JANE'S DETACHED HOUSE - DAY

Gavin waves to Jane, as the Chauffeur closes the door.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM(CONT'D)- DAY

A hum of anticipation in class.

JONES
(disbelievingly)
You're kidding us sir?

TEACHER
No. Her Father's making a film
in London. Jane's joining us
until the end of term.

JONES
Really?

EXT. JANE'S DETACHED HOUSE - DAY

The limousine drives out of the driveway.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

JONES
You mean the guy who made
'Houdini's Ghost'?

TEACHER
Yes, Jones, that's right.

JONES
That was a great film. I loved it.

INT. LIMOUSINE - MOVING - DAY

Jane looks at herself in a mirror, and puts on lipstick.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

JONES
(in awe)
And...Gavin Mortimer's daughter's
joining our class sir?

TEACHER

Yes Jones.

JONES

Wow! That's really something.

EXT. LONDON STREETS - DAY

The limousine in motion.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Jones stands with the two boys eyeing up a group of girls close by.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL - DAY

Jane's limousine pulls up outside of the school gates, close to a bus stop.

The Chauffeur opens the door for Jane.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

All eyes are on Jane as she strides across the playground.

A boy facing Jane nudges Jones who turns and looks very impressed.

JONES

Wow! That must be her. She's bloody gorgeous.

Jack stands close to the school entrance door. Jane smiles at him as she approaches.

Jones takes in the form of Jane from the rear, as she approaches and enters the school.

JONES

(bog-eyed)
What I wouldn't give to shag that.

INT. SCHOOL RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Jane at a reception area, close to the school entrance. A female RECEPTIONIST behind a counter, lowers a phone and moves to the counter.

Jane and the Receptionist talk.

MOMENTS LATER:

Jones enters with the two boys. Jane turns away from reception.

JONES
 You Jane Mortimer? Gavin
 Mortimer's daughter?

JANE
 (smiles)
 Yes.

The Teacher approaches Jane, and shakes her hand. Jones gawks at her open-mouthed.

TEACHER
 Go to class, Jones. Please.

JONES
 Sir.

Jones shakes his head, as they walk away.

JONES
 She's bloody gorgeous.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

The children are all seated. A hum of anticipation.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Jane and the Teacher reach the classroom door. The Teacher opens the door for Jane.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Complete silence. The Teacher and Jane enter.

TEACHER
 I'd like to introduce you to Jane
 Mortimer.

JANE
 Hi.

ALL
 Hi...Hello...

TEACHER
 I hope you'll all make her feel
 very welcome.

Jones gestures screwing to another BOY.

TEACHER
 Let's find a seat for you, Jane.

JONES
 (puts up a hand)
 She can sit next to me if she
 likes, sir. I don't mind.

TEACHER
 It's very nice of you to offer,
 Jones, but no thank you.

Laughter.

JONES
(feigning disappointment)
Oh, sir.

Laughter. Jane looks towards Jack, seated at the back and on the side.

TEACHER
(points towards Jack)
Go and sit next to Stevens,
please Jane.

Jane sits down next to Jack.

JANE
(smiling)
Hi.

JACK
Hi.

LATER:

TEACHER
Okay, still on the world cup
theme, who would like to read
their summary of England's
progress to date?

JONES
(puts up his hand)
Jane, sir. She can read mine.

Jones offers her a notebook.

TEACHER
No.
(considered)
Read Jack's piece, please Jane.
If you would.

Jack hands her his notebook, open at the right page.

Jane stands up, very assuredly. She starts reading. She stammers as badly as Jack, but does it confidently and with a smile.

JANE
(reads)
En-gland's s-ix nil w-in ag-ainst
Ja-maica w-as a very g-ood per-
form-ance. T-he th-ree g-oals sc-
ored b-y P-eter Cr-ouch w-as a
conf-idenc-e boo-ster f-or a pl-
ayer who h-as h-ad h-is cr-itics.

LATER:

TEACHER
Thank you, Jane. You can sit down.

Jack smiles at Jane as she sits down. A warm glowing bond between them, like nothing he's ever experienced.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Jack runs across the playground, exhilarated. Boys play football up ahead.

The ball crosses Jack's path as he runs. He scores a goal between two coats set as goal posts, much to the surprise of the boys watching.

The Teacher by the entrance door smiles and shares Jack's moment.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL - DAY

Jack stands on his own, at a bus stop, a glowing smile.

Jane approaches Jack, unseen by him.

Jones and the two boys follow behind her.

Jane joins Jack at the bus stop, and stands behind him.

Jones and the two boys reach the bus stop, and stand a few yards away from Jane and Jack.

JONES

She's so bloody gorgeous.

Jack turns round and looks at Jones, the faintest of smiles.

Jane's limousine pulls up by the bus stop.

Jane, half inside the car, turns to Jack.

JANE

W-ant a l-ift?

JACK

Y-es. Ok.

Jack gets in the rear of the limousine. He turns and smiles towards Jones and the two boys standing at the bus stop, lastingly.

JONES

Lucky bastard.

INT. LIMOUSINE - MOVING - DAY

Jack and Jane in the back of the limousine. Jack turns back and sees Jones at the bus stop as they drive into the distance.

FADE OUT: