

Billy's Boogie Ball

by
Michael Cornetto

(c) Copyright 2008 Michael Cornetto (mcornetto@hotmail.com)

FADE IN:

BILLY

Eight years old, alone against a white background.

BILLY

My name is Billy and I pick my
nose.

Billy sticks his finger up his nose and moves it around.

BILLY

Mom thinks it's disgusting. Dad
calls it digging for treasure. I
sort of agree with Dad --

Billy pulls a large slimy boogie from his nose and smiles
at his find.

BILLY

But for me it's much more than
treasure, for me boogies are a
way of life.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

It's decorated for Christmas. Boys and girls sit at long
institutional tables. Billy sits at the end of one, across
from TOMMY. Both have their fingers up their noses.

BILLY (V.O.)

My best friend Tommy is into
boogies as much as I am.

Both pull out a plum boogie at the same time, much to their
pleasure and much to the distress of the nearby children.

BILLY (V.O.)

Only he likes to eat them.

Tommy pops his boogie in his mouth and smiles as he chews.
Billy gives him a slightly disgusted look but the nearby
children dry retch.

TOMMY

It recycles the protein!

BILLY (V.O.)

I could never eat a boogie. I'm
more of what you would call a
collector.

Billy pulls a ball out of his pocket that looks like it's
made of green threads. Then he puts his freshly picked
boogie on the ball.

Tommy is in awe of the ball.

BILLY
It's every boogie I've ever
picked.

TOMMY
Lemme see.

BILLY
No! You'll eat it.

TOMMY
I only eat my own.

Billy reluctantly hands the ball to Tommy. Tommy rolls it over in his hands, fascinated. Billy is proud.

INT. HOME

Billy enters the front door, with his finger up his nose. MOM is in the kitchen.

MOM (O.S.)
You better not be picking your
nose again, young man.

Billy quickly pulls his finger from his nose.

BILLY (V.O.)
How does she know?

MOM (O.S.)
Remember what Santa gives to nose-
pickers.

Billy can't remember.

BILLY
Hair on their palms?

MOM (O.S.)
Billy!

Billy shrugs.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM

Billy takes the boogie ball from his pocket and stares at it with a loving smile. He places it gently on his dresser.

Behind him the door to his room is ajar. An eye peers in.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM

The morning sun streams in the window. Billy turns over and yawns, then he snuffles.

He sticks his finger up his nose and moves it around. Then Eureka, the biggest boogie ever seen comes from his nose.

BILLY (V.O.)
The last day of school before
Christmas break was the worst day
of my entire life.

He looks at the dresser, the ball is gone.

INT. KITCHEN

Dad sits at the table absorbed in the paper and Mom serves him a bacon and egg smiley face.

Billy's scream makes the room shakes. Mom glances calmly toward the sound.

MOM
He's noticed.

Dad shakes the paper.

DAD
You shouldn't have done it.

Billy comes screaming into the room. Mom acts all innocent.

BILLY
It's gone! It's gone!

MOM
What's gone?

BILLY
My --

Billy looks at his Mom and she transforms into a hag.

HAGMOM
Stop picking your nose or you'll
go blind.

Then she's normal again.

MOM
Your what dear?

BILLY
Nothing.

Billy turns around and slumps away.

MOM
Have some breakfast.

BILLY (V.O.)
I lost my most precious
possession in the world. I could
never eat again.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Tommy pulls a nice sized boogie from his nose.

TOMMY
Whoa! Look at this one!

He extends his finger toward Billy. Billy shrugs and plays with his food. Tommy pops the boogie in his mouth.

TOMMY
You gotta get over it. When you
fall off your bicycle you gotta
get right back on. Start a new
collection.

BILLY
Maybe I'll just collect stamps.

Billy pushes his tray away and walks off. Tommy mouth hangs open and a half-chewed boogie hangs out. SUZY sits nearby.

SUZY
Ewww! That's disgusting.

Tommy pushes the boogie back into his mouth, then he leans in closer to Suzy.

TOMMY
If you think that's disgusting, I
read that when a girl turns
thirteen...

INT. LIVING ROOM

Billy listlessly unwraps a present. Mom and Dad watch from the sideline, hopeful.

It's a very expensive MP3 player. Billy tosses it aside with all his other presents: A bicycle, a computer, a game console, a live pony...

Billy sighs. Mom and Dad look disappointed.

BILLY (V.O.)
Mom and Dad tried so hard to make
me feel better.
(MORE)

BILLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Is it possible they felt guilty
about the disappearance of my
boogie ball?

Billy snuffles. He raises his finger to his nose. Mom and Dad watch with anticipation, but all Billy does is wipe his nose on his hand. Mom can't take it anymore.

MOM
Just pick it! Go on, pick it!

Billy looks at Mom incredulously.

MOM
If I'd known you would sulk like
this I never would have thrown
away that filthy disgusting ball.

BILLY
It was you...

The doorbell rings. Mom glances at Dad, he doesn't know who's there. Mom answers it. Billy fumes.

It's Tommy. He's all smiles as he hops on in. He ignores everyone else's foul mood.

TOMMY
Merry Christmas.
(to Billy)
Brought you a present.

He hands the gift to Billy.

BILLY
I don't want it.

TOMMY
Open it. Go on.

Billy reluctantly unwraps the present. Under the wrapping is a box. He's curious now. He opens the box and inside is a boogie ball. Billy looks up at Tommy with amazement.

BILLY
How?

TOMMY
I went to everybody on the block
and asked for donations.

Billy, all smiles now, gives Tommy a big hug.

BILLY
Thanks Tommy, that's the best
present ever.

TOMMY

It's smaller than your old one
but...

Mom and Dad look at each other, they smile and then nod.

DAD

We can help with that.

They stick their fingers up their noses and dig around.
Billy and Tommy watch with shocked amusement. Then Mom and
Dad each pull out a great big slimy boogie and present
them.

BILLY (V.O.)

Mom and Dad are the best. Merry
Christmas everyone!

FADE OUT.