

Eddie, The Junior Year

Erika vs. Chuckie

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After lunch, the tribe sits on the lawn and relaxes. Erika fills them in on every last detail of what happened during the morning. Braden, in particular, is glad to see that Erika did not get suspended. Eddie asks Erika, “what happened with the Chuckie after your father left?” Erika tells everyone, “the last I knew, Chuckie was still in Mr. Crum’s office. He’s probably crying that I kicked his ass.” Everyone is wondering whether Chuckie is going to get suspended in addition to going to jail.

Hoping to get an answer, Paula curiously asks Erika, “so, what happened with the Chuckie back when you were in first grade?” Erika explains, “wow! Back then, when I was in first grade, Chuckie was in second grade. We were out on the playground during lunch, and it was a really hot day, so I had shorts on. Chuckie came up from behind me, and pulled my pants down in front of all my friends. Then, Chuckie and his friends all started laughing at me.” Paula exclaims, “what a shit!” Erika continues, “that wasn’t the end of it. As we were walking inside, Chuckie snuck up from behind, and pulled my friend Kate’s pants down. He disappeared into the crowd really fast, so we never actually saw it. But, we know it was him.” Paula interjects, “yeah. I don’t see how it could have been anyone else.”

Continuing her story, Erika explains, “then, when I was in second grade, Chuckie started teasing me, telling everyone that I was fat. So, I told him that he was a big fat bully.” Kathy interjects, “that’s the truth.” Erika continues, “so, when I was on my way home from school that day,

Chuckie beat me up, and then he tore all the pages out of my notebook, which blew all over the road. I was so mad. I lost all my notes. And, he beat me up one other time that year, and another time when I was in third grade.”

Paula asks, “so, when did you start working out?” Erika replies, “that’s another story. One day, when I was in fourth grade, school let out for the day, and Chuckie tripped me in the hallway and pushed me down. So, I got up, and punched him as hard as I could. Chuckie tried to punch me back, but some fifth grader pinned Chuckie against the wall, and punched him really hard in his stomach. Chuckie doubled over in pain, went down, and started crying. The guy, whoever he was, disappeared really fast. I never did find out who the guy was who came to my rescue. But, I thought to myself that, if I could beat up Chuckie, he would leave me alone. So, during the Summer between fourth and fifth grade, I started lifting weights and running. My dad showed me how to lift weights. I figured that, if I was stronger, I could beat him up. And, if I was faster, I could always run away.”

Mark interrupts, telling everyone, “I have a confession to make.” Paula asks Mark, “oh, really? And, just what would that be?” Mark explains, “that was me who punched Chuckie in the hallway that day. I remember doing that. But, the Chuckie was in a different class, so I had no idea who he was. We never ran into the Chuckie until sixth grade when we all went to middle school.” Erika gives Mark a high-five, telling him, “thanks!” Mark continues, “I thought to myself that guy was a real shithead for tripping a girl like that.” Mark, who started school a year late, was the strongest guy in the school in fifth grade. At that time, he was also the fastest.

Finally getting some relief from the bullying, Erika explains, “I was so glad when Chuckie went to middle school. I had an entire year of peace. But, I continued working out, knowing that I’d run into him again next year. So, when I got to middle school, Chuckie looked a lot bigger, but it was mostly all fat. And, I was a lot stronger than I was when I was in fifth grade. Then, one day, Chuckie tried to start something with me, and I ran away.

He started chasing me, and he couldn't catch me. Right then, I felt a lot safer since I could outrun him. Then, in seventh grade, I was sure that I could beat him in a fight. But, in middle school, he bullied other people." Eddie comments, "yeah. Me, Mark, and occasionally Braden."

Erika asks Eddie, "how did you guys take care of him?" Eddie replies, "we didn't want to get in trouble for fighting in school, so we just took the Chuckie out in gym class." Braden replies, "I remember that! We kicked his sorry ass every chance we got!" Paula exclaims, "you guys didn't!" Mark replies, "oh, yeah. We did!" Eddie adds, "yeah, seriously. About two or three dozen times. Then, the Chuckie's mother came down to the school, and tried to get the Chuckie put in another gym class. But, the school couldn't do it."

Finishing her story, Erika explains, "after a while, Chuckie stopped bothering me. But, I kept lifting weights, running, and working out. I figured someday he'd try to start something with me again, and I was ready for him. I guess that day was yesterday." Interrupting her story, Erika tells everyone, "uh oh. Here comes trouble!"

Mrs. Black walks out of the school with Chuckie. Eddie exclaims, "wow! Look at the little Chuckie! Erika! What did you do to him?" Braden, taking a look, tells Erika, "wow! That must have been some ass kicking you gave him! Somebody ought to take his ass to the hospital." Mark replies, "that looks more like a face kicking." Erika corrects Mark, telling him, "no, that end is his ass. He's the only Human who eats and shits out of the same hole." After Erika got finished with him, Chuckie looks like he got trampled by a few off-road vehicles out in the woods.

Finish reading this story in *Eddie, The Junior Year*.