

THE POND

SCRIPT BY IVAN JAMES
Art BY TIM JENSEN

8 SCRIPT PAGES
REVISED: September 6th 2011

PAGE ONE (4 Panels)

1/ Open on MOM (late 30's) and BILLY (13) in a small cozy feeling kitchen. Billy sits at the table, with his head lowered, as if he is embarrassed. Mom is cooking at the stove top - finishing up some scrambled eggs. Through the window above the sink, we can see that it is snowing outside and that they live in a wooded area.

BILLY: I'm seeing him again...

MOM: Christ Billy. I thought we talked about this.

2/ Mom is sliding a plate of eggs and bacon over to Billy. She is slightly bending over and has eye contact with him.

MOM: Well I'm telling you that's enough. I DON'T want to hear it. You have an over active imagination. Now EAT. You'll be late for school.

3/ Billy is walking away from his small ranch style home. It is snowing, and there is about a foot of fresh snow on the ground. We can see his footsteps trail back behind him to his front door. He wears a winter coat, knit cap, mittens and his backpack. His hands are holding on to each one of his backpack straps as he walks. He looks a bit depressed.

NO DIALOGUE

4/ Billy stands at the corner of a street waiting for the school bus as it continues to snow. There are two other 13 yr old girls waiting with him. Billy looks lost in thought as he stares into the dense woods across the street. The two girls have kind of distanced themselves from Billy and try not to make it obvious that they are looking at him. One is giving him the side eye look over her shoulder while the other is facing her trying to hide her face with her bangs.

GIRL 1 (WHISPER): I think it was like a year ago today right?

GIRL 2 (WHISPER): Shhhh. He can probably hear you!

PAGE TWO (4 Panels)

1/ Cut to a close up of Billy's face. He can't believe what he sees.

NO DIALOGUE

2/ POV shot of Billy looking at the woods across the street. He sees his little brother NATE (6) waving at him in between two trees. NOTE: Nate is in full color. The rest of the world is in black and white.

BILLY: ...Nate...

3/ Cut to Billy running across the street, mindless of the incoming traffic. He is narrowly missing a car. The driver of the car has slammed on the brakes and looks scared out of their mind. Billy's line of sight is affixed on the location in which he saw Nate. Nate has turned around and is walking deeper into the woods.

SFX: HONNNNK

SFX: SCREEECH

4/ Cut back to the girls on the corner. One is yelling at Billy - the other is looking in his direction as if he's crazy.

GIRL 1: Billy WATCH OUT! What are you doing?!

GIRL 2: Great. What are we supposed to do?! I'm going to call my dad.

PAGE THREE (4 Panels)

1/ Cut to Billy in the woods. He is bent over hands on his knees catching his breath. He looks at Nate who is looking back at him emotionless, still walking deeper into the woods ahead of him.

BILLY: Nate... WAIT!

2/ Cut to a frontal shot of Nate continuing his emotionless trek forward. We can see Billy pursuing behind him over his shoulder.

BILLY: Where are you GOING?!

3/ Cut to a frontal shot of Billy who has stopped dead in his tracks. He is stunned and visibly shaken.

SFX: GASP

4/ Cut to another Billy POV shot. Nate stands on top of a frozen pond in a small clearing in the woods. He is staring emotionless at Billy. Note: make this a bigger panel than the others on this page.

NO DIALOGUE

PAGE FOUR (4 Panels)

1/ Cut to Nate and Billy running out of the front door of their home. They look happy and playful. Their Mother stands at the doorway shouting after them. Note: This is a flashback. It is still winter but a year earlier. Maybe differentiate the snowfall level on the ground so that reader/viewer gets a sense of some sort of time shift/passage? Also - Nate is in black and white here opposed to color.

MOTHER: Stay together and don't be late for dinner! You'll upset your Grandmother!

2/ Nate and Billy walk through the woods along with their friend, KYLE (age 12).

KYLE: My brother says he got to second base last night with Shelly.

BILLY: No way...

NATE: What's second base? Like baseball?

BILLY: Yeah, like baseball...

3/ Zoom into a closer shot of the above panel. Kyle and Billy are looking at each other laughing. Nate is looking up at them wondering what's so funny.

BILLY: Hahahaha

KYLE: Hahahaha

NATE: What's so funny?

4/ Something off panel has caught their eye. All three of them look mildly excited.

KYLE: Whoa! Check it out!

BILLY: AWESOME!

PAGE FIVE (5 Panels)

1/ Billy and Kyle are sliding across the frozen pond on their feet. Nate stands at the pond's edge looking a little fearful to go out onto its surface.

BILLY: C'mon Nate. It's frozen through. There's nothing to be scared of...

KYLE: Yeah, don't be such a baby.

NATE: I'm not a baby!

2/ Cut to Nate cautiously tip-toeing across pond.

BILLY (OFF PANEL): See. You're fine right?

NATE: Yeah I guess so.

KYLE (OFF PANEL): And since you're not a baby it probably won't scare you if I do this--

3/ Zoom out to show Kyle having just thrown a large rock by Nate. It has landed near Nate's feet and caused some cracks to spread out from its impact point. Nate looks angered and scared at the sight of the cracks.

NATE: DON'T. I'LL TELL!

KYLE: Hahaha

BILLY: C'mon Nate don't be a tattle. You gotta stand up to bullies. Let's practice...

4/ Billy and Kyle have thrown more large rocks around the area. Nate stands frozen with fear. Nate is looking at them both in terror.

NATE: STOP IT! IT'S GONNA BREAK!

BILLY: There ya go. Get mad! Let us know what you'll do to us if

we don't stop.

KYLE: Yeah baby boy, whattaya gonna do to me if I don't stop?

5/ Zoom in to Nate screaming at Kyle and Billy.

NATE: I'll, I'll... Kick you in the BALLS! Now QUIT IT! I'm SERIOUS!

KYLE: Hahahaha

BILLY: Hahahaha

SFX: CRAAAAACCKKKK

PAGE SIX (4 Panels)

1/ The ice has broken apart under Nate. He is falling into the pond water below. He looks absolutely terrified. As he falls he is reaching out toward Billy. Billy and Kyle are wide eyed and panicked - frozen still in fear.

NATE: ARRRGH! HELP!

BILLY: ...What do we--

2/ Kyle is kneeling, holding onto Billy's feet - who is now laid down stomach first on the ice. He is inching toward the hole but Nate is nowhere to be seen.

KYLE: Don't go too far! It'll keep breaking.

BILLY: SHUT UP Kyle! Where IS HE?! Why hasn't he come back UP?!!!

3/ Kyle and Billy are looking over to their right in sheer horror. Billy is mortified, screaming in horror. They see Nate's body pinned under the ice with an emotionless expression on his face. He's dead. Note: Nate is now in full color.

KYLE: THERE! Look!

BILLY: NOOOOOOOO!

4/ Cut to a funeral shot/interment scene. We see a frontal shot of Billy sitting next to his mother looking forward, emotionless, at a closed casket with Nate's picture on top of it. Billy's Mother is crying profusely.

NO DIALOGUE

PAGE SEVEN (5 Panels)

1/ Cut back to the present. Nate stands out on the frozen pond as Billy stands at its edge. Billy is crying.

BILLY: I'm so sorry Nate. I never wanted to lose you. I think about it every day. I'm sorry. I'm SORRY! What do you WANT from me?! Tell me what I can do!

2/ Nate is smiling and holding his arms outstretched as if he is inviting Billy in for a hug. Billy looks confused but is walking across the pond toward him.

BILLY: I told mom that I've seen you... She thinks I'm crazy. She misses you. She doesn't tell me but I can tell. She's even kept your room the same as you left it... You are real right? Or am I really crazy?

3/ Nate has disappeared. Billy is looking around, now really confused.

BILLY: Nate? Nate, don't LEAVE again! Come BACK!

SFX: CRRRRAAAAACCCKKK

4/ The ice has broken beneath Billy's feet. He is falling into the pond looking horrified and screaming out.

BILLY: NOOOOOOOOO!

5/ POV shot of Billy underwater looking up through the ice at Nate who has now reappeared. Nate looks emotionless.

NATE: Is it funny now Billy?

PAGE EIGHT (2 Panels)

1/ Cut to a zoomed out aerial shot of Billy stuck under the ice of the pond - dead, eyes and mouth open, and an open hand pressed against it. Nate is gone. Note: Billy is now in color.

NO DIALOGUE

2/ Cut to a shot of their mother sitting at the breakfast table

in her robe. She has a cigarette in hand and is holding a cup of coffee in the other. She looks like a mess. She is all cried out and emotionless. She has a super long ash on her cigarette.

NO DIALOGUE

THE END