

"STENCHILS PENCILS"

Written by

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At a last ditch job interview, Frankie Lanning encounters his old neighbor and must confront his past as a child bully.

INT. STENCHILS INC. HEADQUARTERS, DAY

FRANKIE (30), a salesman in a wrinkled suit, sits on the edge of his pink striped chair. He is outside of an interview room with a lime green door, fiddling with his resume.

FRANKIE

(to himself)
Stenchils... *Stenchils*. Wood you buy this smelly pencil? No, that's terrible. You will be *lead* by the scent of our pencils- No. Pencils don't even really use lead. That's toxic. And why are they called *stenchils*? The word scent is *right there*. What kind of person says their product has a stench--

A toilet flushes. KAI (28), a laid back woman wearing a fedora and galaxy print leggings, exits the bathroom and sits

KAI

You here for the sales interview?

Frankie turns to face her. She looks familiar.

FRANKIE

Yeah. Sorry. I'm a little nervous.

KAI

Neat-O. You've got this, player.

Kai starts scattng to herself. Frankie taps her shoulder.

FRANKIE

Hey, this might sound weird. But is your name Kai?

KAI

Sure is. Want a snack?

Kai starts fumbling around in her bag.

FRANKIE

(to himself)
Kai Earl, the pencil girl.

Kai hears this and faces Frankie, suddenly recognizing him.

KAI

Wait a minute...

FRANKIE

It's me. Frankie Lanning? We both grew up in Meadow View, remember?

KAI

Right! Man, how have you been? We used to play together all the time--

Kai turns back around. Frankie taps her shoulder again.

FRANKIE

I am so sorry. I just... I feel kind of bad about how me and my friends treated you, you know?

Kai stares at him, blankly.

KAI

I do not follow.

FRANKIE

You know. We'd come over to your front yard to play and-

KAI

Dare me to eat pencils until my mom made you leave so she could pull all the splinters out of my gums?

Frankie is shocked at her bluntness. She shrugs and fumbles through her bag again.

FRANKIE

Yeah, uh, exactly. I am really, really sorry about that. We were so young and-

KAI

Ah Ha!

Kai pulls out a sandwich bag of Stenchils pencils and nibbles the middle of one. She has wood shavings in her teeth.

KAI (CONT'D)

Don't sweat it! It's not like it affected me long term, ya know?

Kai continues biting into the pencil until it breaks in half. She offers one to Frankie. He shakes his head.

KAI (CONT'D)

Suit yourself.

Kai doesn't hesitate this time and breaks this pencil in half, shoving it all in her mouth. Frankie watches in horror.

KAI (CONT'D)

The peppermint forest ones are my favorite. They're from our holiday collection.

FRANKIE

Our?

Kai sticks out her hand.

KAI

Kai Earl, CEO of Stenchils Inc.

Frankie shakes her hand reluctantly.

FRANKIE

Oh my god.

KAI

This has been the most interesting interview today, I must say.

Frankie grabs her arm.

FRANKIE

Kai, for old time's sake. I really need this job. If I could just start the interview over-

KAI

No need. There's just one more thing I need from you.

FRANKIE

Please! I'll do anything.

Kai goes in her bag and pulls out a second bag of Stenchils.

KAI

Sample the Winter Cherries.

Kai grabs one and chomps it, sharp side first. Frankie shakes his head. Kai thrusts a pencil into his hand.

KAI (CONT'D)

Do it.

Kai stares at him. Frankie stares it down and gulps. He opens wide.

FADE TO BLACK.

