



# THE LOSER'S CLUB

**HOMECOMING:** A TIME FOR CELEBRATION  
AN EVEN BETTER TIME FOR **REVENGE**

A Comedy Feature by **Jonathan Turner Smith**



# LOGLINE

On the night of their Centennial Homecoming, a group of high school misfits, self-named “The Loser’s Club,” put their revenge plan, “Operation Get Back,” into action by kidnapping the two most popular students in their small West Texas high school and putting them on trial for crimes committed against their fellow students. **“Operation Get Back” is about to kick some serious butt!**

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# THE STORY

**Kevin Mayfield** cannot use the bathroom without being harassed. **Luther Washington**, who has cerebral palsy and walks with a cane, just wants to be noticed and not be called a “retard.” **Cynthia Henderson** is forced to stop her cheerleading routine during tryouts because students make fun of her weight. And **Lizzy Bishop** often finds herself at the mercy of crude jokes simply because she is gay.

So begins another day in the life of “**The Loser’s Club**” (TLC) at Clarksville High. Cynthia and **Trenton Ogletree**, an impressive looking “goth/rocker” senior, lead the small band of high school misfits as they decide to plot to kidnap two of the Clarksville ‘s most popular students, and put them on trial for crimes committed against their fellow students.

After several years of enduring the constant harassment and bullying by the ‘elite” of their school, TLC decide to put into action “**Operation Get Back**,” their long gestating plan to turn the tables on their tormentors.



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# THE STORY

continued

**TLC** kidnap **Joe Taylor**, the school's star football player, and **Tawny Harris**, a cheerleader and homecoming queen nominee, on the night of their West Texas high school's Centennial Homecoming.

They lure their two classmates to an abandoned science wing of the school under the pretext that they are going to take the photos of the homecoming candidates. However, it soon becomes clear to Joe and Tawny that no photos will be taken.

When Joe and Tawny discover that they have been tricked, they are obviously upset and angry and try to leave. They are thwarted by various members of The Loser's Club, including **Pooh Collins, a huge football player, who's brute strength overpowers Joe**

Trenton introduces everyone to the captives, even though they may recognize everyone. Trenton states that he wants them to see the members of TLC as fellow human beings and not as objects to harass or make fun of. Each TLC member relates how they have been affected by the constant bullying of Joe, Tawny, and their friends, and that it has to stop.

During the Trial, **Sam Blake**, an English teacher, and **Principal Bridges**, the no-nonsense school principal, suspect that "The Loser's Club" is up to something and vows to discover what it is. Their suspicions are even more aroused when the head football coach approaches Mr. Blake and asks if he has seen Joe and/or Pooh. Mr. Blake and Principal Bridges begin their search in earnest which takes them to various locations on the Clarksville campus.

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R YOUR FUTURE  
TO GET A JOB AND KEEP IT.



A close-up, profile view of a young woman with light-colored eyes and blonde hair. She has a shocked or distressed expression, with her mouth slightly open and teeth visible. The background is dark and out of focus.

# THE STORY

continued

**As each member testifies**, Joe listens and occasionally responds, but it is **Tawny who refuses to admit she is at fault** and how the members of TLC should not be so “sensitive.” At one point, Luther becomes so enraged, that he pulls out a gun and waves it around, threatening to make Joe and Tawny understand how it feels to be bullied. Panic breaks out, and everyone, except Joe, hides under chairs and scrambles for safety.

Luther fires the gun. As people start to recover, it is revealed that the gun is merely a cap gun. But the damage has been done and Tawny has a meltdown, blaming everyone for ruining her chance at being crowned homecoming queen. As she searches for one of her shoes she lost in the gun incident, she flops down on her chair and weeps. Pooh, seeing how distressed she is, finds her shoe and gently places it on her foot...while quoting a soliloquy from Romeo and Juliet!

The last member of “The Loser’s Club” to testify is **Topsannah Peta Serrano**, a Native-American, who relates how several of Joe’s friends grabbed her after school and took her behind the band hall. Everyone is horrified by her story, but before anyone acts upon their anger, Topsannah reveals that Joe was the one who came to her rescue. And even though she didn’t believe anything would have happened, Joe truly became her “knight in shining armor.”

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# THE STORY

continued

As disappointed as everyone is that Joe now seems to be a hero, Trenton declares that the trial is nearly over and that it is time to vote on whether they all agree that Joe and Tawny are guilty of the “crimes” for which they have been accused.

Tawny is unanimously found guilty, while Joe is found guilty by all members, except Topsannah. Trenton declares guilty verdicts.

When everyone begins asking what their punishment will be, Trenton slowly... pulls a large hunting knife from an old desk in the classroom and walks toward Joe and Tawny. The Members of “TLC” are shocked and beg Trenton to put the knife away, that “this isn’t who we are.”

Ignoring his friends’ pleas, Trenton offers the knife to several members to exact their “pound of flesh” for all the times Joe, Tawny, and their friends bullied them. Every member refuses to take the knife and goes to stand in front of Joe and Tawny to protect them.

Trenton tells Pooh to take the knife and give it to Joe. Now everyone, including Joe and Tawny, are really confused. Reluctantly, Pooh, takes the knife and hands it to Joe. Trenton then holds out his arms in front of Joe and tells Joe to cut him, to make him bleed, as that is what he and Tawny do every time they make fun, ridicule, or physically harass one of them.

Joe just stares at Trenton and, after a brief moment, gives the knife back to him. Tawny, however, protests and tries to convince Joe to keep it.

While all this is happening, Mr. Blake and Principal Bridges continue to search for anyone connected with “The Loser’s Club,” as well as Joe and Tawny. After several unforeseen circumstances they finally obtain a key to the old science wing and check it out.

**What happens next is a shock to everyone.**

# MAIN CHARACTERS

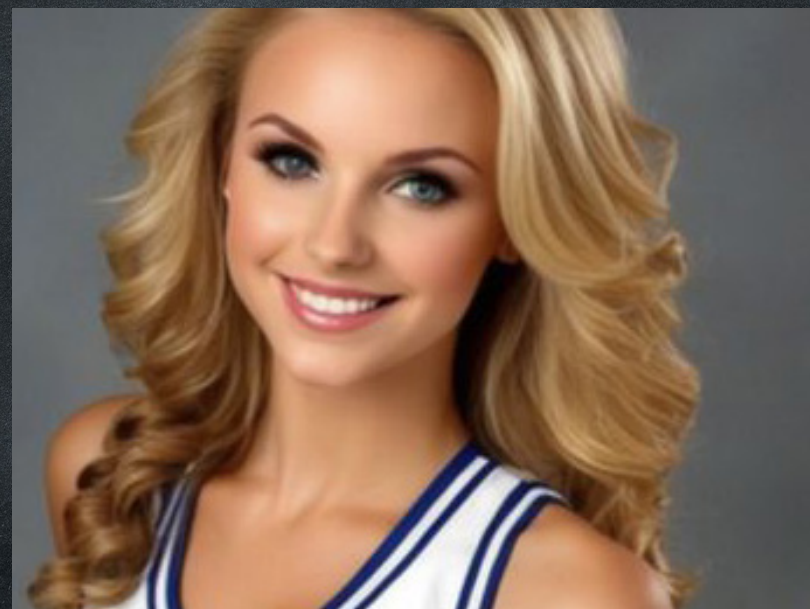
# THE BULLIES

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## Tawny Harris 17

Tawny is very beautiful and completely self-centered. She is a cheerleader and Nominee for Homecoming Queen. Her home life - her mother beats up her dad - has necessitated the emotional armor she wears and no one can pierce it.



## Joe Taylor 17

Joe is tall, well-built, as well as handsome, and the high school star quarterback. Obviously the leader of the school. Can be a bully with the best of them, but underneath there is more going on.



# MAIN CHARACTERS

## THE LOSER'S CLUB



### **Trenton Ogletree** 17

is the leader of "The Loser's Club," and he is not only smart, but also a non-conformist in the truest sense of the word. He is a defender of the defenseless.



### **Cynthia Henderson** 16

is extremely bright. She is overweight but confident enough to try out for cheerleader, knowing she didn't have a chance. Considered one of the leaders of "The Loser's Club."



### **Topsannah Peta Serrano** 17

is a Native American girl, attractive, quiet, and genuinely authentic. Has had a crush on Joe since he "saved" her from Jim Bob and Skeeter at the end of the previous year.



### **Kevin Mayfield** 16

is small for his age, a gymnast and the only male cheerleader at Clarksville High. He is clever and truly wants revenge on his tormentors.

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## Skeeter Craig 17

is six feet tall and all cowboy. A true Future Farmer if there ever was one. There is a mean streak in Skeeter, but he is also a whiner.



## Jim Bob Thornton 17

is built like a wrestler - which he is. Perhaps has had too many hits to the head as he is not exactly the sharpest tool in the shed.



## Jennifer Gifford 16

is hard of hearing and wearing a hearing aid. Witty and best friends with Calvin. Uses ASL when speaking.



## Mr. Sam Blake 60's

is a caring and understanding English teacher.



## Luther Washington 17

has cerebral palsy and walks with a cane. Very much wants to fit in. Can be very funny.



## Calvin Myers 15

stutters and is best friends with Jennifer. He is computer whiz and is the stenographer for the "trial. He also uses ASL when speaking. He likes it because he doesn't stutter when signing.



## Lizzy Bishop 16

is fearless and gay. May be the only lesbian in her small West Texas high school. Loves her friends and no longer afraid to show the world who she really is.



## Pooh Collins 17

is a huge senior and tackle on the football team with a mop of curly hair. He loves poetry and is nicknamed Mr. Shakespeare. A gentle giant.



# WHY THE LOSER'S CLUB

**Bullying is universal...** it occurs in junior high and high schools throughout the world and its language is universal. If you are different in any way you are a potential target for bullying. Bullying is an epidemic. It is rampant, widespread, pervasive, and the effects can be catastrophic. It occurs in our communities, in our schools - and sadly - even in our homes. Bullying statistics are staggering, scary, and merit serious consideration and immediate action.

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Consider the following (pertaining to the United States):

Percentages of students who experience bullying ([stopbullying.gov](http://stopbullying.gov)):

Grades 4-8: **90%** Grades 6-12: **28%** Grades 9-12: **20%**

In grades 6-12, **9%** of students have experienced **cyberbullying**.

- **Over 160,000 kids refuse to go to school each day** for fear of being bullied. (Nation Education Association)
- Each month **282,000 students** are physically assaulted in some way in secondary schools throughout the United States—and the number is growing.

**Statistics suggest that revenge [due to bullying] is the number one motivator for school shootings in the U.S.**

- **86%** of students surveyed said, “other kids picking on them, making fun of them or bullying them” is the number one reason that teenagers turn to lethal violence at school.

**Nearly 75% of school shootings have been linked to harrasment and bullying.**

- **87%** of students surveyed report that bullying is the primary motivator for school shootings.
- **64%** of students who are bullied do not report it. (Petrosina, Guckenburg, Devoe and Hanson 2010)

These are staggering statistics. The fact that approximately 64% of students who are bullied do not report it is even further evidence that Bullying is a monumental problem in American schools.



# COMPARABLE PRODUCTIONS



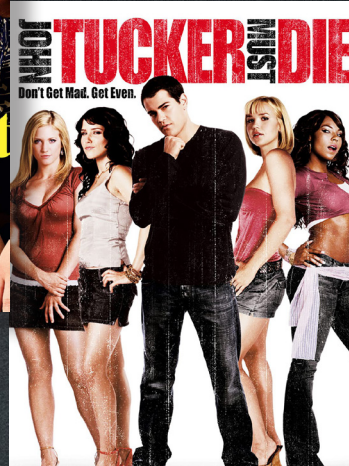
**MEAN GIRLS (2024)**  
 Budget: \$36M  
 Box Office: 103.6M  
 Net Income: \$67M



**MEAN GIRLS (2004)**  
 Budget: \$17M  
 Box Office: \$128.9M  
 Net Income: \$111.9M



**BOOKSMART (2019)**  
 Budget: \$6M  
 Box Office: \$26.5M  
 DVD/Video Sales: \$1.09M  
 Net Income: \$21.6M



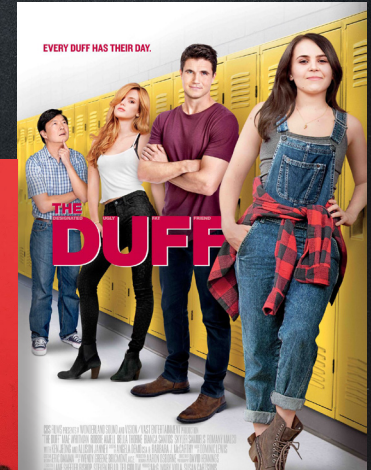
**JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE (2006)**  
 Budget: \$18M  
 Box Office: \$68.8M  
 DVD/Video Sales: \$32.8M  
 Net Income: \$83.6M



**THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (2012)**  
 Budget: \$13M  
 Box Office: \$33.1M  
 DVD/Video Sales: \$17.9M  
 Net Income: \$38M



**LOVE SIMON (2018)**  
 Budget: \$10M  
 Box Office: \$65.5M  
 DVD/Video Sales: \$6.3M  
 Net Income: \$61.8M



**THE DUFF (2015)**  
 Budget: \$8.5M  
 Box Office: \$43.5M  
 DVD/Video Sales: \$7.7M  
 Net Income: \$42.7M

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# JONATHAN TURNER SMITH

**Writer / Producer**

I recently retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District as a high school English/theatre teacher. I loved teaching and won several awards during my career. I was named the Texas Classroom Teacher Association Representative of the Year and was a Finalist for “You’re the Best Teacher” Award. I was also twice nominated for Teacher of the Year for the Los Angeles Unified School District and was selected for inclusion in Who’s Who in American High Schools.

As part of my Master of Arts Degree, I wrote a one-act play, **The Losers’ Club**, that has been published by Eldridge Publishing and has been produced over 100 times by 60+ junior high and high schools from across the country and even Australia! Productions of the one-act play have garnered more than 15 area and state high school theatre awards.

Due to the success of **The Loser’s Club** and understanding that the play had a strong fan-base, I adapted the play into a screenplay in 2020. **The screenplay has been honored by more than 80 Screenplay Competitions and Film Festivals from around the world.**

I have also written two awarding-winning faith-based Screenplays, **Jeremy** and **Our Final Hour**. My screenplay, **Nathan**, co-written by JP Christy and Fred Watkins, is a family drama adapted from my play of the same name.

Besides **The Losers’ Club**, I have written three other published plays: **The Election** and **Aftermath**, both published by Eldridge Publishing and **Whose High School Is It Anyway**, published by Heartland Publishing.

I also co-produced, co-wrote and played the lead role in the independent feature film, *Broken Victory*. The film won the Silver Medal at both the New York Film & Television Festival and the Houston International Film Festival. It was also a Finalist for a Billboard Dramatic Video Award and the recipient of four (4) Halo Awards from the Southern California Motion Picture Council.

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# THE LOSER'S CLUB SCREENPLAY REVIEWS

## GREENLIGHT COVERAGE Script Score

**Character Development: 8/10** - The main characters are well developed, with distinct personalities and backstories that drive their behaviors and interactions. However, some secondary characters could be more fleshed out.

**Plot Construction: 9/10** - The plot has a clear conflict and builds tension well, culminating in the "trial" scene. The storyline is cohesive and moves the narrative forward effectively. A few scenes slow down the pacing.

**Dialogue: 9/10** - The dialogue sounds natural for the most part and gives insight into the characters. Each character has a distinct voice. Some exchanges are a bit lengthy.

**Originality: 8/10** - The concept of outcast students putting popular kids "on trial" for bullying is fairly original. However, the archetypical high school cliques and dynamics are familiar territory.

**Emotional Engagement: 9/10** - The bullying and isolation the "losers" face makes them sympathetic protagonists that the audience connects with. The reveals of Tawny's and Joe's backstories also draw empathy.

**Theme and Message: 10/10** - The themes of bullying, acceptance, and defining one's own selfworth resonate strongly. The message about respect and inclusion comes across clearly.

## OVERALL RATING: 8.5/10

In summary, this is a **well-crafted screenplay** with some **compelling characters** and an **impactful narrative arc**. The dialogue and emotional engagement are particular strengths. With some tightened pacing and more dimensionality to secondary roles, it would be very strong. The thematic content gives this story weight and purpose. **Nice work!**

## ATLANTA SCREENPLAY AWARDS

"The core premise is **appealing, unique, and quite entertaining**. The writer demonstrates a strong comedic writing voice here with some dynamic characters and witty dialogue... The writer demonstrates a **clear and strong voice** here, employing a solid comedic writing voice and fully immersing the reader into this world. The writer also employs nuanced dialogue that makes for an entertaining script. It provides a consistent and appealing edgy tone."

## LOS ANGELES COMEDY & SCREENPLAY FESTIVAL

"The Loser's Club's strength lies in its human approach to each of its flawed characters. The writer understands the many intricate layers that a teen can possess, and **never falls into tired tropes** that are often so used to dehumanize this category of humans, who is so easily misunderstood. The dialogue has personality, and there's an abundance of solid moments scattered throughout the script that are worth highlighting.... As a premise, this **feels fresh and exciting**, given that more often than not, the "losers" in teen films, either remain passive, or get their revenge as individuals. The idea of a group of kids standing up for themselves in this manner seems much more realistic and **on par with the teen mentality, nowadays**."

## AUSTIN SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

"The Loser's Club works primarily because it pairs great fundamentals in the presentation and structure of the narrative with **wildly creative characters**.... The Loser's Club succeeds because of fantastic characters and solid structure. These two qualities make for the bedrock of any good script, but this narrative has a lot of other positives on top of this. Ever escalating tension, some great moment-to-moment writing in the action description, **creative dialogue** - these all add up to give the impression of a **very professional script**."

## SLATED REVIEW

"The Loser's Club" is a coming-of-age comedy that follows a group of high school students who kidnap their bullies when their school does nothing to punish the bullies. This premise offers a rich foundation for conflict to unfold... **...each character has a distinct personality** and the ensemble's relationships with one another are **rendered realistically**. Dialogue is consistently conversational, and the action description is **evocative and memorable**. Scenes build tension effectively, which allows for developments to unfold in satisfying intervals."

## DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL & TABLE READ SCREENPLAY REVIEW

"This is a **really interesting script** that mostly centers around a single moment of confrontation between bullies and their victims... get a single extended scene that provides some of **the most in-depth exploration of childhood bullying ever put to screen (well, script)**, exploring both bullies and their own take on the events just as well as those of the 'losers'... this was a genuinely interesting read, and **something that I can't recall ever being explored in such depth before**."

## CHICAGO SCREENPLAY AWARDS

"The core concept can be discerned and summarized quickly and does contain novel elements that make the script stand out from others in the genre... One of the script's most attractive qualities is the **diversity at the school** and the themes that bullying people who belong to these marginalized groups is wrong."

## NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL SCREENPLAY AWARDS

"The script offers a very marketable premise with diverse characters and convincing world building. The plot is generally **emotionally engaging, funny, and entertaining**. Overall, the script's core concept has good market potential. Overall, there's a **very fresh premise** here that makes it stand out in its genre... The writer successfully builds this atmosphere with convincing visuals and a **variety of dynamic, interesting characters**."

## RENO TAHOE SCREENPLAY CONTEST

"One of the script's most attractive qualities is the fact that the victims of the intense bullying at the school have had a potential plan in place to kidnap the two most popular kids as revenge. The extremity of this matter, rather than giving the information they've recorded about the bullying at the school to the authorities, **adds comedy to the script while emphasizing the seriousness of bullying**."

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# THE LOSER'S CLUB SCREENPLAY AWARDS



## Winner

Best American Screenplay:

**New York Script Awards**

Best Screenplay:

**NYLA International Film Festival**

Best Comedy/Drama Screenplay:

**LA Live Film Festival**

Best Comedy Screenplay:

**Los Angeles Film & Script Festival**

Best Comedy Feature Screenplay:

**Austin Spotlight Film Festival**

Best YA Feature Screenplay:

**Golden State Film Festival**

Best US Screenplay:

**Cambridge Script Festival**

Best American Screenplay:

**Berlin International Screenwriting Festival**

Grand Jury Prize:

**Film Invasion Film Festival**

Best Comedy Screenplay:

**Canadian Diversity Film Festival**

Best Youth Screenplay:

**Culver City Film Festival**

Best American Screenplay:

**Chicago Script Awards**

Gold Award:

**International Independent Film Awards**

Best Youth Screenplay:

**Silver State Film Festival**

## Honorable Mention

Hollywood Script Awards

Big Apple Film Festival & Screenplay Competition

New York Screenwriting Awards

## Finalist

Los Angeles Screenwriting Competition

New York Independent Film Festival

American Independent Film Festival

Filmatic Filmfare

Austin Comedy Film Festival (Best Comedy Screenplay)

Vancouver Independent Film Festival

National Independent Film Association

Las Vegas International Film & Screenwriting Festival

Los Angeles Film Awards

Portland Comedy Film Festival

Inroads Screenwriting Fellowship

Screencraft Film Fund

Los Angeles Independent Film Festival

## Semi-Finalist

Page Turner Screenplay Awards

LA Screenplay Awards

San Francisco International Screenplay Competition

Filmatic Comedy Screenplay Awards

Best Script Awards



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