

PAPER AIRPLANES

Written by

Desiree Argentina

5857 Pierce St. Apt 104. Arvada, CO 80003
607-232-2648
Dargentinal@gmail.com

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

A mini van pulls up to a school. CHILDREN litter the schoolyard.

BRIAN, 10 years old, short, lanky, with big glasses and a mushroom cut gets out. It's his first day at a new school.

His dad, JASON, a kind and soft man waves goodbye.

DEREK and his CREW walk off the bus. Derek, 11 has spiky hair and exudes cool. It's obvious he is the leader of his pack.

JAY, a short and stalky 11 year old with a backwards baseball cap and MATT, a 10 year old with a crew cut follow close behind Derek.

DEREK

What kind of dork still has his
parents drive him to school?

The kids all point and laugh as they pass Brian. His face turns beat red. He looks down as he walks into the school.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Brian stands in front of the class.

MRS. ANDREWS

Class, meet Brian. He's new so show
him around and be nice!

Brian looks around the room, everyone stares. He gives a gentle smile.

He walks towards a seat when Matt knocks his books to the ground.

Matt smirks. Brian bends down to pick them up. He tries to hide his sorrow.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Lunch time. On the playground there are groups of kids. Everyone seems to belong somewhere. Brian sits alone.

Lonely and humiliated, he picks at his sandwich. Something catches his attention. He looks up to see a paper airplane soar across the sky.

A group of kids fly paper airplanes. They stand in a circle. Brian watches an airplane fly high up in the sky. Amazed.

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Brian exits school. He looks down to the ground. His body looks heavy with sadness. Jason stand in front of the van, eager. Excited to hear about his first day.

Brian walks past his dad. He gets in the car without a word. Jason's eyes widen with worry.

EXT. BRIAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

Brian walks downstairs, hesitant but ready to go to school.

Jason sits at the kitchen table. He reads the newspaper and drinks coffee.

JASON

Have a good day, kid.

Brian's confused.

JASON (CONT'D)

Get going, you're going to miss
your bus.

Brian's eyes light up. He runs over, hugs his dad and rushes out the door.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - MORNING

Brian exits the school bus. Feels confident and independent. He sees the group of kids fold paper airplanes.

Brian takes a deep breath and walks over confidently. He squeezes through the circle.

BRIAN

Hey, can you show me how to make
one?

Derek smirks.

DEREK

Sure, I'll show you.

He points to Jay.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Give me paper.

Jay hands a piece of paper to Derek.

Derek crumbles the piece of paper in Brian's face, soaks it in water from a water bottle and places it in Brian's hand.

DEREK (CONT'D)
There ya go, fly it!

The group laughs in hysterics and walks away.

Brian looks down at the wet ball of paper in his hand. A tear rolls down his cheek.

INT. BRIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Brian lies in bed. Jason sits beside him.

JASON
Is there anything I can do to help?

Brian looks up, teary eyed.

BRIAN
Can you show me how to make a paper airplane?

Jason nods. Brian sits up, hopeful.

Jason walks over to the desk, grabs two pieces of paper. He hands one to Brian. He shows Brian the first step.

Brian is hesitant. Jason gives him a nudge. He makes a fold.

Next step.

After a series of steps Brian's paper airplane is complete!

He holds it up. Victorious. Jason nods, proud.

Brian throws it but it immediately crashes to the ground. Bends and crinkles up. Jason's eyes widen. Brian is shocked, frozen.

Silence.

Brian throws himself down to his bed and covers himself with his blanket.

Jason pats his shoulder. Gets up, stands in the doorway. Watches his son, a sad pile of blankets.

His eyes light up. He has an idea.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Brian walks to the back of his classroom. Plops down into his chair and puts his head down.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Brian sits alone and draws paper airplanes while he watches the students fly their paper airplanes.

INT. BRIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Brian tosses his backpack to the ground and face-plants onto his bed. A "kick me" sign on his back.

He lies facedown in bed for a moment before he forces himself up.

He sees a book on his desk. Curious, he walks over. Picks it up.

"101 Paper Airplane Designs."

Brian's face lights up like a Christmas Tree.

MONTAGE-

Brian gets to work. He practices all day and all night. Planes fly and crash everywhere. Balls of paper cover his floor. Unique designs of planes are damaged on the floor. A few hopeful throws but they come crashing down. Until-

Brian throws a beautifully designed plane across his room. It soars and lands perfectly on his desk. Brian is overcome with success!

Beautifully designed planes fly all over. They zip past his dad, they loop, they go high, they go low.

Jason smiles, proud.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - MORNING

Brian exits the school bus. An aura of confidence.

Matt tries to trip him but he hops over his foot, pleased with himself. Matt is angry.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Jay slaps a "Kick Me" sign on Brian's back but he rips it off and crumbles it in Jay's face. Shocked.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Brian sits in his usual corner on his own. He watches the circle of kids. They talk, laugh, push each other in good fun, they fly paper airplanes.

Brian pulls out a notebook.

The group stands in a circle, they have fun. A paper airplane lands on the floor next to Derek.

Derek bends down to pick it up. He stares at it, admires it. It's the most beautiful paper airplane he has ever seen.

DEREK

Huh?

He looks around. He notices Brian fold paper.

Derek nudges Matt. Shows him the plane and nods over to Brian.

The group watch Brian, curious.

Brian folds an exquisite airplane. He looks up to fly it. Notices all eyes on him.

His face turns red. Nervous.

He and Derek make eye contact. A stare down.

A bead of sweat falls from Brian's forehead. He launches the paper airplane.

The paper airplane flies high in the air, up towards the clouds, up towards the sun.

All of the kids in the school yard stop in place. All eyes on the paper airplane.

It disappears in the cloud.

Everyone watches Brian.

He takes a deep breath. He rapidly folds paper airplanes and launches them.

Paper airplanes fill the big blue sky.

An eruption of cheers! The school yard goes wild!

Brian is surrounded by children. Derek walks over. They make eye contact. Derek shrugs and pats Brian on the back.

Brian smiles and looks up at the blue sky with a bright golden sun filled with flying paper airplanes.

FADE OUT