

JORDAN

You can't let 'em talk to you like that.

KANGAROO BOY

Better than fighting back.

JORDAN

In what universe?

KANGAROO BOY

(gesturing at his eye)

I tried that already.

JORDAN

Oh yeah. I saw that. Tough first day.

KANGAROO BOY

I'm fine, I can handle myself.

JORDAN

Don't think throwing their stuff on the roof counts as handling yourself.

KANGAROO BOY

It's one way.

JORDAN

What'd you do to piss them off so much?

KANGAROO BOY

I dunno. Being different to them?

JORDAN

Be glad you're different to those idiots.

KANGAROO BOY

Look, I just want to be left alone.

JORDAN

By them? Or me?

KANGAROO BOY

Everyone.

JORDAN

(offended)

Oh, I get it.

KANGAROO BOY

Nah, you don't.

JORDAN

Trust me man, I know what it's like to be different.

KANGAROO BOY

You've never left the state. You sound like everyone around here. How can you know?

JORDAN

I wish I *didn't* sound like everyone here. It's so boring.

KANGAROO BOY

But at least they leave you alone.

JORDAN

Is that why you don't talk much?

KANGAROO BOY looks down again. He's finished his lunch, and starts packing it up.

JORDAN

You can't listen to them, you know.

KANGAROO BOY

Yeah.

JORDAN

It's tough to be a new kid.

KANGAROO BOY

You've been here your whole life.

JORDAN

Yeah, but there's more than one way to be new.

KANGAROO BOY doesn't press them on what that means.

What's it like where you're from?

KANGAROO BOY

It's hot. Nice.

(beat.)

I dunno.

JORDAN

Did your parents move for work?

KANGAROO BOY

My dad. Yeah.

JORDAN

Sucky time to be moving.

(beat.)

Grade 10, I mean.

KANGAROO BOY

I didn't really mind when we left. I thought it'd be an adventure. Something new.

JORDAN

It's not what you expected?

KANGAROO BOY

It's not like it is on telly. Everything's just a bit... different. And I never expected...

JORDAN

Never expected what?

KANGAROO BOY

Nothing.

JORDAN

It's okay, you can tell me.

KANGAROO BOY

I never expected how much of a problem my *voice* would be.

JORDAN

Because of that accent?

KANGAROO BOY

Yeah. I've seriously never thought about my voice until I got here. Not once. I just talk how I talk, you know?

JORDAN

Right, like, you don't think you have an accent.

KANGAROO BOY

Well, at home, I don't. Everyone sounds like this.

JORDAN

That's wild.

KANGAROO BOY

And my dad said things would be different but people would be interested to know about Australia. I never really considered...

JORDAN

That kids are assholes?

KANGAROO BOY cracks a smile for the first time.

KANGAROO BOY

Pretty much.

JORDAN

Listen, I get it, man. Really I do.

KANGAROO BOY

Like, every stupid stereotype there is. Even teachers making jokes with lines from old 80's movies. And kids making me repeat words back to them like I'm some kind of parrot.

JORDAN

(breaking in)

Real quick: say "tomato"...

KANGAROO BOY immediately reacts in the negative, but sees that JORDAN is messing with him. He smiles.

KANGAROO BOY

Yeah. That stuff. It's like I'm from another planet or something.

JORDAN

Isn't that, like, kind of special though? Kids are interested in knowing about you.

KANGAROO BOY

That was the first morning. Then the Kangaroo Boy thing started.

JORDAN

Ugh, I know. That sucks. You just can't react.

KANGAROO BOY

It's hard.

JORDAN

(almost to themselves)

Hahhhhd.

KANGAROO BOY

Yeah. It's hahhhhd.

JORDAN

(pronouncing the hard 'r')

HaRd.

KANGAROO BOY

Hahrd.

JORDAN

Is that how I sound to you?

KANGAROO BOY

(truly terrible accent)

"Is that how I sound to you?"

JORDAN

Dude!