

Opening credits over images of SHADOWS of people engaged in various activities -- playing tennis, walking, jogging, dancing. We see long shadows, short shadows, shadows thin and not so thin. Then we see a shadow of a RABBIT...a large shadow, the same size as that of a human. The camera PULLS BACK and we SEE that the owner of the shadow is a teenage boy. He is anxiously looking around as he hurries toward his school classroom.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING

We follow the boy down the halls of the school. Many kids look over at him, laughing. We pick up comments along the way...

STUDENT 1

There goes the Rabbit Kid.

STUDENT 2

What a freak!

STUDENT 3

(a Bugs Bunny imitation)

Hey, what's up doc?

RABBIT KID laughs a little, appearing to join in the fun.

INT. CLASSROOM-MORNING

Inside the classroom under fluorescent lights, his shadow doesn't show, but still, a few kids glance over at the kid with a rabbit's shadow. We pause on VANESSA, who sits in the corner of the room, observing the actions of her classmates.

STUDENT 4

Hey, Rabbit Kid, what did you have for lunch today? Carrots?

Everyone laughs. Except VANESSA.

EXT. TRACK-MORNING

The students are running a lap for P.E. RABBIT KID is well in the lead. He crosses the finish line first.

GYM TEACHER

(reading his stop watch)

Excellent time.

STUDENT
(sarcastically)
Yeah, he's the Energizer Bunny.

The students erupt in laughter. The GYM TEACHER, unable to control himself, breaks out in laughter too. Soon everyone is joining in, laughing hysterically. Except RABBIT KID, who smiles nervously, and VANESSA, who looks troubled.

INT. BATHROOM-MOMENTS LATER

RABBIT KID is alone, standing in front of a mirror, his tell-tale shadow cast upon the wall in the reflection behind him. He turns and kicks at the shadow in frustration, then stomps on it. Resigned, he lifts up his arms, and on the wall the stubby arms of a rabbit lift up. He puts his face in his hands. He suddenly gets a new idea, and vigorously attempts washing the shadow off with soap. Just then a student walks in.

STUDENT 5
(amused)
You think that's going to do anything?

RABBIT KID is embarrassed, tongue tied.

RABBIT KID
No, I was...

STUDENT 5
Stupid rabbit.

STUDENT 5 leaves. RABBIT KID stares blankly at his reflection in the mirror, and wipes his eyes.

INT. RABBIT KID'S HOME-AFTERNOON

RABBIT KID walks past his sister, who sits at the television, watching the scene of DISNEY'S PETER PAN where PETER is trying to use soap to attach his shadow to his feet.

INT. RABBIT KID'S BEDROOM-MOMENTS LATER

RABBIT KID enters his room and opens his closet. He removes a baseball cap and puts it on. He looks at his shadow. Rabbit ears protrude from the cap. We watch him try on a sombrero, a safari hat, and a children's fireman hat. He then puts on a beanie, but the ears still show.

He throws the beanie on the ground. He folds in his ears, but the rabbit ears bend only slightly.

CLOSE UP ON: HIS EYES AS THEY BECOME WATERY

EXT. QUAD-AFTERNOON

RABBIT KID leans against a wall eating his lunch when a group of BULLIES gathers around him.

BULLY 1

Hey, what's your name? Bugs Bunny?

As the BULLIES laugh, RABBIT KID looks past them and sees VANESSA watching the event from under a tree. Their eyes meet for a moment before a bully pushes him.

BULLY 1 (CONT'D)

I asked you a question. You have big ears, don't ya, Roger Rabbit?

RABBIT KID attempts to push through the wall the BULLIES formed around him.

BULLY 1 (CONT'D)

Trying to hop away?

They close in on him. He glances back at the tree where VANESSA had stood, but she is no longer there. They close in more and start to shove him back and forth.

RABBIT KID

(defiant)

Leave me alone!

They laugh. A voice comes from behind the mob.

VANESSA

You heard him. Leave him alone.

BULLY 2

(stupidly)

Yeah, like we should do what this girl says.

BULLY 1 seems to consider this for a moment.

BULLY 1

Maybe we should.

A pause.

BULLY 1 (CONT'D)

Her dad's a cop.

He walks away. His entourage reluctantly follow after him, while casting scornful looks at the RABBIT KID.

RABBIT KID

(relieved)

You really didn't have to..

VANESSA cuts him off.

VANESSA

I know you could have handled it. It's just that...

She pauses, awkwardly. A long silence.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

...I wanted to meet you.

A mutual smile, sincere this time.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I like your shadow.

RABBIT KID looks at her, disbelieving.

RABBIT KID

C'mon.

VANESSA

I'm serious. You're not like anyone else and I think that's really cool.

He considers this for a moment.

RABBIT KID

Well I guess I don't want to be like anyone else around here anyway.

VANESSA

I know what you mean.

They laugh, and begin to walk, as we follow.

RABBIT KID

My name's Travis.

VANESSA

I know. We're in the same biology class.

RABBIT KID

I know.

A pause.

RABBIT KID (CONT'D)

And you're Vanessa.

She smiles. They walk on in silence for a moment.

RABBIT KID (CONT'D)

Nervous about the test tomorrow?

VANESSA

A little. Biology's not my best subject.

RABBIT KID

Maybe we can study together at the library in the morning.

VANESSA

Before school?

RABBIT KID

Yeah, 7:00?

VANESSA

I'd like that.

(pause)

But won't you be tired getting up so early?

RABBIT KID

Not me.

A grin slowly comes over his face.

RABBIT KID (CONT'D)

I'm the energizer bunny.

She smiles. We begin to ZOOM OUT as they walk on together.

A moment, then VANESSA's shadow morphs into the shadow of a butterfly.

THE END