

ERIC

"Duck Off! (or, 'What Women Wanted')"

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INT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - DAY

In DR. SYD'S outdoor office, DIMMEY ROBERTS, 18, white, stands with his pet duck OLIVER, who is dressed as his alter ego, FRESH D (a doorag, sunglasses, and a black jacket). Oliver has luggage in hand. Standing with them is Dr. Syd the Mole, who wears reading glasses and a white jacket.

DIMMEY

Alright, Oliver, you all packed up?

OLIVER/FRESH D

(speaks telepathically [*in italics*])

Hey! The name's "Fresh D", B! The "D" stand for "duck"!

DIMMEY

It'll feel good to go back home and visit your friends.

OLIVER/FRESH D

Yeah, gotta tend to the flock, you know! All them females waitin' on the kid!

He walks away.

OLIVER/FRESH D (CONT'D)

(*sotto voce*)

And I'm gonna look at that bastard and prove to Daria that he ain't mine!

Dr. Syd SIGHS.

DIMMEY

Don't worry, Dr. Syd. Like I said, I got you a replacement.

(calls out to his side)

Hey, you're running late!

Enter ERIC NELSON, 18, black, carrying a notepad.

ERIC

I can't believe I'm doing this.

DIMMEY

Where are your reading glasses?

ERIC

I don't need reading glasses!

DIMMEY

They'll make you look more professional!

ERIC
(sighs)
Alright, Dimmey! Dang!

He pulls them out of his pocket and puts them on. Dimmey and Dr. Syd crack a smile.

DIMMEY
You need a job, right? And it's only temporary, until Oliver comes back!

ERIC
Demeaning is what it is! Taking calls, scheduling appointments. I ain't no damn secretary!

DIMMEY
Get with the times! It's called an office assistant! And wasn't Matt one in the Navy?

ERIC
Yeah, and where is he now?

DIMMEY
In the Dumbeck mansion!

ERIC
You know what I mean.

DIMMEY
You're making too much out of this, Eric. Plus you told me that Berniece wanna see you do something with your life.

ERIC
Am I even getting paid for this?

DIMMEY
You're getting valuable work experience for your resume!

Eric angrily stares at him.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)
I'll make sure you get paid something.

ERIC
It better not be in cheese!

DIMMEY
He's a mole, Eric.

ERIC
 Sorry, I got him confused with another
 rodent psychiatrist!

DIMMEY
 Actually, I don't think moles are...

ERIC
 Really, Dimmey??

DIMMEY
 Never mind. But before Oliver leaves for
 real, he's gonna train you.

Oliver returns. He holds his hands out, pretending like
 he's talking. He points to various things. There is a
 long period of silence during this.

ERIC
 Alright, I get it! Let me set up my desk!

Dimmey, Dr. Syd, and Oliver exit. Eric sits at Oliver's
 desk.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 (sighs)
 Why can't this crap just end?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, lies in the bed. In the
 bathroom is her baby's father, and Eric's brother, BILLY,
 20's. He looks in the mirror.

BILLY
 (sotto voce)
 Alright, Billy, you can do this.

He exits the bathroom and approaches Sharon.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 Sharon?

SHARON
 Yeah?

BILLY
 We've been through this a long time.

He grabs her hand.

BILLY (CONT'D)
I've known you forever, it seems. We have
a son together.

Sharon smirks.

BILLY (CONT'D)
You know what I wanna ask you, don't you?

SHARON
Yes, but go ahead!

BILLY
Okay. Here goes. Sharon...

SHARON
Yes, Billy?

BILLY
You wanna just be friends?

SHARON
Oh, yes, Billy!

BILLY
Oh my god, I was wondering what you were
gonna say!

SHARON
Yeah, we keep dancing around it!

BILLY
And don't worry, I'll still be there for
Will!

SHARON
You better!

BILLY
So, friends is okay? We can see other
people?

SHARON
Hell, I got a date tonight!

BILLY
Well, I gotta run. Let yourself out.

SHARON
Alright!

BILLY
Sharon, you made me the happiest brotha
in the world!

Billy kisses her on the cheek and exits. Sharon wipes her face off.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 18, black, sits on the couch and plays on her phone. Billy races downstairs.

BILLY

Berniece, I popped the question! She said yes!

BERNIECE

You did??

BILLY

Yeah! Now I'm gonna go chase some tail!

His father, JUNIOR, 40's, enters the living room.

JUNIOR

That's my boy!

BILLY

Thanks, Dad!

He runs out of the house. Junior enters the kitchen. Sharon walks downstairs.

SHARON

I'll see ya, Berniece.

BERNIECE

Hold up! You guys are callin' it quits?

SHARON

We were never together like that! At least we're ending it now, while it's early!

Junior reenters, sipping on a beer.

JUNIOR

Yeah! Don't end up like the old me!

BERNIECE

But it's obvious that you and Billy love each other. Why not be together?

SHARON

Oh yeah? What about you and his brother, huh?

BERNIECE

Hey, I'm not the lead in this story!

SHARON

And I am? I'm hardly ever around!

JUNIOR

Who you tellin'? I feel like an
afterthought.

SHARON

Hell, even my son gets more visibility!

BERNIECE

Where is your son, anyway?

Sharon shrugs.

JUNIOR

Maybe the three of us should do our own
thing.

BERNIECE

Yeah.

PAUSE.

ALL THREE

Nah.

BERNIECE

(to Junior)

Yeah, I thought you were getting killed
off, anyway.

JUNIOR

What??

BERNIECE

Nothing. What's for dinner?

Berniece gets up and goes to the kitchen.

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - EVENING

RENEE CHAPMAN, 40's, white, enters the living room and
walks into the kitchen.

RENEE (O.C.)

AARRGHH!

She runs out of the kitchen. Eric's mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, and his stepfather, MATT JAMES, both 40's, black, run out of the kitchen, fixing their clothes.

MATT

Renee, it's not what it looks like!

RENEE

Please! I've walked in on the help plenty of times!

RHONDA

Us too! I hope they replaced that butter, by the way.

MATT

We were just "christening" every room in the house. And schools, city hall...

RHONDA

Townships...

RENEE

Say no more. I did the same thing with John. Which probably turned me off to him eventually. Speaking of him, since he's as dead as everyone says he is, you guys won't mind if we use this place for the reading of the will tomorrow.

MATT

Uh, what?

RENEE

Yeah, you didn't think this would last forever, did you? We all wanna move on with our lives!

She prepares to exit, then turns back around.

RENEE (CONT'D)

By the way, there are a few dark, unmarked cars circling the premises. Probably has to do with those hoodlums that bought this place.

She exits. Matt and Rhonda look at each other.

MATT

Well, Rhonda, if we're gonna go out, we're gonna go out happy.

He grabs her hand.

RHONDA
(shrugs)

Eh.

They go back into the kitchen.

INT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - DAY

Eric, wearing his glasses, sits at the desk and types on a laptop. Enter SHANA JONES, 20, biracial, and her half-sister, ELEANOR DUMBECK, 19, white.

SHANA
Eric! You work here now?

ERIC
No, it's only temporary.

ELEANOR
Well, good, because Oliver needs a replacement while he's gone.

ERIC
Right, Eleanor. Dr. Syd's prior appointment is running long, so have a seat, Shana. He'll be with you in a minute.

SHANA
Alright.

Both sit down.

ERIC
Uh, Eleanor, I only have Shana listed.

ELEANOR
I know. We're seeing him together.

SHANA
It prevents him for charging us twice.

ERIC
Since when did ya'll have to think about saving money?

SHANA
Well, money ain't really coming in, what with Dad not working.

ELEANOR
On account of his fake death.

ERIC

Uh, ladies, what does your dad do?

ELEANOR

Shoot, what doesn't he do?

PAUSE.

ERIC

Well, that answers that.

SHANA

I wish he was still around. Things are getting crazy without him.

ELEANOR

Mom's getting suspicious, those goons are after him...

ERIC

You sure that's all? You guys don't miss him?

SHANA

That too! But he's doin' just fine in Canada being "Erik Coffee"! He has a girlfriend and everything!

ERIC

But it's off of lies! You guys can't keep living your lives off of lies!

ELEANOR

And I guess it wouldn't be fair looking for a father figure in my boyfriend. But I wanna know how he is before I take his name!

ERIC

Why don't you go and talk to him? Maybe he can come back home and bring his girlfriend with him.

SHANA

You know, that's a good idea.

ERIC

It'll free you from your problems!

(pause)

Well, no it won't, but it'll make you feel better!

ELEANOR

Great! Shana, let's use your yellow jet this time!

SHANA

Screw that! We're taking Dad's private jet! He owes us!

They both get up. CLEO, black, with afro puffs and a dashiki, walks past them, turns back and talks to Dr. Syd.

CLEO

Thanks again, Dr. Syd. Stay grey!

She holds her right fist in the air. Dr. Syd does the same. Cleo exits.

ERIC

Your next appointment is here, Dr. Syd.

SHANA

No need, Doc! Eric helped us out!

ELEANOR

Yeah! Give that boy a raise, kid!

SHANA

Let's go, Eleanor.

The ladies begin to exit.

ELEANOR

Hey, Eric, do you do house calls?

SHANA

He's not a doctor!

ELEANOR

I know.

SHANA

Come on!

She shoves Eleanor away.

SHANA (CONT'D)

(to Eric)

You don't, do you?

ERIC

No!

The ladies exit.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 This job ain't that bad. I'm taking my
 break now, Syd.

Eric exits. Dr. Syd frowns at him and GRUNTS.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - EVENING

Billy and his roommate, RON TYSON, 20's, black, wearing
 caps and gowns, smile and pose. Their families and
 friends take pictures of them.

BILLY
 (to Matt)
 Are we done yet?

RON
 Yeah, my fake smile is fading!

MATT
 Nope, we're gonna be doin' this all
 night!

Billy and Ron gather with their families.

ERIC
 Congrats again, bro!

He fist-bumps Billy.

MATT
 Oh, that's a good one! Hold it, boys!

Eric and Billy turn to Matt, smile, and pose.

BILLY
 (to Eric, while smiling)
 You can do it, too, you know.

ERIC
 (while smiling)
 This day isn't about me, Billy!

BILLY
 Be glad somebody cares about you! Not me,
 you know.

They gather with their family. Junior wraps his arm
 around Billy.

JUNIOR
 I'm so proud of you, son! The first one
 in our family to graduate from college!

RHONDA
 (to Junior)
 I'm a college professor, moron!

JUNIOR
 (scoffs)
Community college!

BILLY
 Hey, ya'll, have you seen Sharon?

MATT
 No. Did you tell her to come?

BILLY
 I just assumed that she would be at one
 of my biggest moments.

ERIC
 It's just a party, Bill.

BILLY
 Okay, then, was she at the ceremony?

ERIC
 Uh...

RHONDA
 Yeah, I didn't see her, there, either.

Ron's girlfriend, GLORIA TOWNSEND, 20's, black,
 approaches Ron.

GLORIA
 I'm so proud of you, baby! I finally got
 an educated man to rub in my baby daddy's
 face! Figuratively, of course.

She and Ron kiss. Eric and Billy look at them and SIGH.

BILLY
 Guys, I'm gonna get outta here.

MATT
 Already? But this is your party!

BILLY
 You guys have fun without me.

JUNIOR
 Now hold on there, son. I know what the
 issue is. Come here, boys.

ERIC

Do we have to?

Junior gathers them both and stand to the side.

JUNIOR

You need to forget about that girl! She ain't even here for you right now! Move on and get someone better!

ERIC

(to Billy)

Surprisingly, he's right.

JUNIOR

That goes for you, too, Eric.

Eric SCOFFS.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Look at all these fine women here! They certainly ain't here for the food! They're here to see a tall, fine brotha who just graduated!

Billy looks around.

BILLY

They are here for me, aren't they? Guys, watch this!

Billy approaches a LADY at the bar.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Mind if I refill that glass for ya?

LADY

Sorry, I'm married.

BILLY

I don't see a ring on your finger!

LADY

The fact that I told you I'm married should tell you something, Mr. College Grad!

Billy retreats.

ERIC

(chuckles)

Real smooth, bro. Can I subscribe to your podcast?

JUNIOR

See, you still got that Sharon stench on ya. Women still think ya'll together. Now watch me work!

BILLY

But you and Cassie are together.

JUNIOR

But I'm me! Women flock to me all the time! Even when I was with your...

His sons frown at him.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Never mind. Excuse me.

He approaches a WOMAN at the bar.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

How you doin'? I...

WOMAN

Nope.

Junior retreats.

ERIC

As entertaining as this has been, I'm gonna go.

Eric walks past Rhonda and Matt.

RHONDA

Where are you going, anyway?

ERIC

New job. I told my boss that I'd come in for a few hours.

MATT

Nothing wrong with a hard day's work.
(sotto voce)
I'm guessing.

RHONDA

As long as you don't have to work for no rat!

ERIC

(dejected)
Yeah.

He exits.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Shana and Eleanor's father, JOHN DUMBECK, 40's, white, with longer hair than usual, works behind the counter. His girlfriend and co-worker, STEPHANIE, white, calls out to him.

STEPHANIE (O.C.)

Erik. Erik! Erik!!

JOHN

Oh yeah, that's me. I mean, "That's me! Erik Coffey!"

Stephanie approaches him.

STEPHANIE

What's up with you? Daydreaming?

JOHN

No, I was concentrating on my work!

STEPHANIE

(chuckles)

Yeah, writing the name on the customer's cup takes a lot of skill!

JOHN

Actually, it does! That's why Mr. Wallen made me Employee of the Month!

STEPHANIE

And I gave you the proper award last night.

They both GIGGLE lustfully.

JOHN

Yeah. This mug.

He pulls out a mug.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(boastfully)

After we had sex!

The shop turns around at them.

STEPHANIE

Erik!

JOHN

I'm gettin' lovin' from a young chick in Canada. I'm tellin' everybody!

A female CUSTOMER, black, approaches John.

CUSTOMER

Excuse me, but you spelled my name wrong.
It's not "Kisha", but "Qisha", with a
"Q".

JOHN

Sorry. I'll fix it.

Qisha hands John the cup and leaves.

STEPHANIE

You were saying?

JOHN

Hey, at least I didn't write
"#FixThePotholes"!

STEPHANIE

I didn't know it would turn into a
political war!

John puts the cup down and picks up another drink. He
reads from it.

JOHN

(calls out)

Shana!

(to Stephanie)

She has the same name as...

He pauses. Shana approaches the counter.

SHANA

As who, "Erik"? Go ahead!

JOHN

...as someone I know! One second,
Stephanie.

John walks from behind the counter and pulls Shana to the
side.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

SHANA

I should ask you that!

JOHN

Alright, look, I'm waiting for things to
smooth over back home. Then I'll come
back, promise!

SHANA

Actually, things are getting worse!
Renee's going over your will, and those
hoodlums are coming back to take your
belongings!

JOHN

(rolls his eyes)

Well, you said all the right things
there!

SHANA

But you can't stay here! You gotta go
back and fight!

JOHN

But I'm doing such a great job here! You
got to join the Army to break away from
being rich! Now it's my turn to find
myself!

SHANA

As "Erik Coffey".

JOHN

It's just a nickname. And I really like
this girl here. She actually likes me for
me!

SHANA

As "Erik Coffey"!

JOHN

Okay, I get it! But I have another
customer, so I gotta get going...whoever
you are!

John begins to exit.

SHANA

But Dad...!

John turns back around. Stephanie approaches them.

STEPHANIE

"Dad"? Why is she calling you, "Dad"?

JOHN

As in, "Who's your daddy"!

Shana and Stephanie frown at him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Okay, here goes. Stephanie, I may have been a little untruthful.

(pause)

My name is really John Dumbeck. And this is my daughter. We're from the States.

STEPHANIE

What?? So all this time we've been dating, and you've been lying to me?

JOHN

Well, yes, and I'm sorry, but that's all I've been lying about! And I'll never lie again!

Eleanor enters.

ELEANOR

Dad, one of your grandchildren had an accident in your private jet. Do you guys have a bathroom here?

Stephanie's eyes widen.

JOHN

Those are all part of the same lie!

STEPHANIE

Tell Mr. Wallen I'm going home sick, whoever you are!

Stephanie prepares to exit.

JOHN

Wait, Stephanie!

Stephanie turns back around.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'm in big trouble back at home. Some guys want to take away my things. Now I think I can fight the case...as soon as I tell everybody that I'm not dead.

Stephanie prepares to leave again.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Wait, please! You're the best thing that's happened to me! I don't care about all the riches or anything! I want to continue to get to know you!

He steps closer to her.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And if you give me another chance, I promise to be honest about everything from this moment on.

(pause)

I think I love you, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE

Oh, Erik...John.

JOHN

It'll take some time, but I think we can do it. What do you say?

PAUSE.

Qisha returns.

QISHA

Actually, give me the cup back. I wanna get back at my mama.

SHANA

(to Qisha)

Shhh!

John and Stephanie stare at each other in silence.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Junior sulks on the couch. Berniece enters and walks past. Junior SIGHS. Berniece heads to the kitchen. Junior SIGHS LOUDER.

BERNIECE

I take it something's wrong?

JUNIOR

I've been calling and texting Cassie for two days, and she ain't replied yet!

BERNIECE

Did you go up to her house in Madison?

JUNIOR

I ain't drivin' way up there! She's the one who ain't responding!

BERNIECE

Okay, have you checked any of your socials? Has she made any posts?

JUNIOR

You know I don't know how to do any of that, Berniece. I'm old school.

BERNIECE

You, old school? No! Lots of people have a rotary dial on their cell phone!

Junior LAUGHS MOCKINGLY.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

I'm sure there's a logical explanation.

Billy enters and slides to the floor, similar to Junior's usual grand entrance.

BILLY

Wassup, ya'll?

JUNIOR

Boy, do you mind?

BILLY

I come bearing gifts, for me, that is!

Two SEXY LADIES, black, enter behind him. They both wear skimpy gear and heavy makeup. Junior lifts his head up.

JUNIOR

Oh?

BILLY

Yeah, Dad, you tellin' me I don't got it! Well lookee here, I got two!

BERNIECE

(to Junior)

You must be so proud.

BILLY

Meet me upstairs, ladies.

The ladies go upstairs.

JUNIOR

You sure you wanna do this, son?

BILLY

Oh yeah! Mom and Matt will be moving back soon. Might as well make the most of it. Now, I'd love to talk to you some more, but...I don't want to! Later!

He runs upstairs.

JUNIOR
I'm his father. I need to stop him.

BERNIECE
You telling me that or yourself?

JUNIOR
You and Cassie, just in case she comes over. I'll be right back.

Junior gets up. Sharon enters.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
(yells)
I'm just checking up on...!
(to Sharon, normal voice)
Oh, it's just you.

He goes upstairs.

SHARON
Checking up on who?

BERNIECE
Some skanks.

SHARON
And where's Billy?

BERNIECE
With them.

SHARON
What?? Why??

BERNIECE
Oh, for God's sake! What do you care? You two broke up or whatever!

SHARON
Because he wants to be with all these women! I want him alone!
(pause)
I want him alone. Just like how he wanted me. I just haven't been listening to him.

BERNIECE
Well, unless you want to listen to him, and his tramps, right now, I suggest you leave.

Sharon begins to exit.

SHARON

For all his flaws, he just wanted to make me happy.

BERNIECE

Mmm hmm.

SHARON

It must run in the family.

She faces Berniece.

SHARON (CONT'D)

But you already know that, right, Berniece?

Sharon exits. Berniece SIGHS.

INT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - MORNING

Eric, wearing his reading glasses, sits at the desk and talks to an unseen patient.

ERIC

You have to do something extraordinary to make your mark here, and don't take no for an answer!

The patient is MATT DARLING, 20's, black. He speaks with a Southern accent.

MATT DARLING

So you're saying it's not too late for me?

ERIC

Mmm, no.

MATT DARLING

Right, thanks.

Dr. Syd enters and signals Matt Darling to come forward. Matt Darling does so. Dr. Syd approaches Eric with his hands on his hips, looking mad.

ERIC

Good morning, Dr. Syd!

Dr. Syd GRUNTS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Now, don't worry. I'm not here to take your patients from you.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Think of me as just "rooming" the patient, or "pre-gaming" them. I get them all ready for you to take them and listen to them!

Dr. Syd GRUNTS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I made you a hot pot of coffee! And none of that flavored, foo-foo crap that Oliver usually makes! It's nice and black!

He hands Dr. Syd a mug of coffee. Dr. Syd SNIFFS it. He HUMS SATISFYINGLY, then quickly STOPS, resumes frowning, and begins to leave. Dimmey enters, carrying his cell phone.

DIMMEY

Syd, hold on. I gotta talk to you.

Dr. Syd stops.

ERIC

Dimmey, I never thanked you guys for this temp job! I think I've found my calling! Eric T. Nelson, Licensed Therapist!

DIMMEY

Well, prepare to do it a little longer.

ERIC

I will! I think I'm gonna go back to school for it!

DIMMEY

That's not what I mean. Oliver's still gone.

ERIC

When's he coming back?

Dimmey looks at his phone.

DIMMEY

I don't think he is!

INSERT - ON DIMMEY'S PHONE

OLIVER

(text message)

"Dear Dimmey, I don't know how to say this, but..."

Eric reads along with Dimmey. (The text bubbles are scrambled together.)

OLIVER (CONT'D)

"Djoejfhnoeifnoeilknfononfoanonbobonfonao
nfnoanfoanfpnafp..."

DIMMEY

Didn't your mama teach you not to read
over someone's shoulder?

ERIC

Don't talk about my mama.

Eric backs off.

DIMMEY

He said that he and his ex are working
things out, but in the meantime, he's
gonna room with another owner!

Eric and Dr. Syd GASP.

ERIC

Man! That means I have a permanent job!

Dr. Syd SOBS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Syd, I'm just trying to lighten the mood!

Dr. Syd STOPS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I thought you shrinks were equipped for
stuff like this! Maybe you should talk to
yourself!

He CHUCKLES. Dr. Syd SOBS and runs away. Dimmey SCOFFS
and walks away.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Okay, that's the last one, I swear!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone RINGS!

Junior, in bed, wakes up and answers it.

JUNIOR

(groggy)
Wassup, caller?

His girlfriend, CASSIE, 40's, black, is on the other line.

CASSIE (O.C.)
Hey, Junior, it's me!

JUNIOR
(regular voice)
Cassie?

CASSIE (O.C.)
Yeah!

JUNIOR
I been trying to reach you!

CASSIE (O.C.)
I been trying to reach you! Where are you?

JUNIOR
In Milwaukee, house-sitting for my ex-wife! Nothing out of the ordinary!

CASSIE (O.C.)
Alright, I'm coming to see you! Gimme 30 minutes!

JUNIOR
It takes 90 minutes from Madison to here!

CASSIE (O.C.)
You haven't seen me drive! Bye!

Junior puts the phone down.

JUNIOR
Alright, we can finally have a talk when she arrives! Ain't that right, girl in bed?

He turns over to one of the two sexy ladies, who is asleep.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Uh oh.
(pause)
Wait a minute. I don't remember sleeping with her! Did I?

BILLY (O.C.)
No, you didn't.

Billy enters.

BILLY (CONT'D)

We all partied hard. You had an NA beer and passed out. The ladies had it much worse. This one walked in here and laid down.

JUNIOR

So we didn't do it! Where's the other girl?

BILLY

She went home already.

JUNIOR

So you didn't do it, either?

BILLY

(chuckles)

I didn't say that!

JUNIOR

You did?

BILLY

(dejected)

I didn't say that, either. Deep down inside, I must be thinking about Sharon, our child, and...

JUNIOR

Oh, shut up, Billy! What am I gonna do about this chick?

He shakes her.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

C'mon, you! Wake up!

She lies there lifeless.

BILLY

Is she dead? Well, she really lived it up!

Junior shakes her again.

JUNIOR

I'll be dead if Cassie catches her in bed here!

BILLY

You need me to do anything?

JUNIOR
No, I can handle...

BILLY
(quickly)
Alright!

He exits. Junior continues shaking her.

INT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - LATER

Dr. Syd pours a bottle of medicine in a coffee mug. He stirs it with a spoon. He pulls the spoon out, which is shriveled up. He places the mug on Eric's desk. He SNICKERS EVILLY and sneaks away.

Eric enters with ADAM, black, who wears a Navy sailor uniform.

ERIC
Right this way, Adam.

ADAM
(bellows)
Sir, yes, sir!

ERIC
Uh, I'm a civilian. You don't have to respond like that to me.

Adam stands at attention.

ADAM
Aye aye!

ERIC
At ease, sailor!

Adam relaxes his pose.

ADAM
(regular voice)
Sorry, man. This stuff got me all wound up.

ERIC
Have a seat. What's wrong?

Both sit down.

ADAM

My Chief is really riding me! I'm getting blamed and written up for all of the screw-ups in my shop! I'm too old for this mess!

Eric lifts the mug.

ERIC

And how old are you?

ADAM

18!

ERIC

What?? I'm 18!

He puts the mug back down.

ADAM

I just look older. Those stupid airmen will make your hair turn grey! Underage drinking, showing up late to work, forgetting to salute the officers. And that was all one person doing that!

ERIC

I see.

ADAM

I'm only a third class petty officer, and all the higher-ups are trying to get me to get promoted and reenlist.

ERIC

Do you want to?

ADAM

Maybe.

ERIC

Why do you want to?

ADAM

Eh, I'm from the 414. I can take anything! Besides, it's better than what I got going on here. It keeps me outta jail!

Eric CHUCKLES.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I ain't kiddin'. I'm literally not supposed to be here right now!

He looks around. Dr. Syd enters.

ERIC
Okay, you're up.

Adam gets up and walks with Dr. Syd.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Oh, Dr. Syd, I almost forgot. I got you
your favorite cookie from that all-night
cookie shop!

He hands it to Dr. Syd.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Here, dip it in some coffee!

He gives the mug to Dr. Syd. He starts dipping the cookie
in it.

Eric appears in a telescopic sight, with the reticle
positioned to his head, which is down as he reads on his
laptop. The view hovers over to Dr. Syd, who looks
directly in it. Dr. Syd shoos it away with his hand. The
scope moves away.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Billy sits at the bar, where the bartender, IKE SWANSON,
black, hands him a drink.

IKE
(with a "surfer dude" accent)
So, Billy, dude, now that you're a
college grad, what are you gonna do?

BILLY
Well, Ike, I'm still gonna help Jacob run
Tha Charter, but while school's out, I
wanna make a little more money on the
side.

IKE
I know some guys in the restaurant
business. You could go work at that
custard shop down the street.

BILLY
Yeah, but I might have to wait a few
weeks. They give drug tests, you know
what I'm sayin'?

IKE

Uh, no, I don't!

BILLY

Oh. My bad, Ike. I thought that you...

IKE

What, do drugs? No! This is the way I am!

BILLY

I know. I didn't say anything.

IKE

Well, good!

Ike walks away.

IKE (CONT'D)

(sotto voce)

How can they be called, "drugs", if they're legal now?

Sharon and Berniece enter the restaurant.

BERNIECE

There he go, Sharon.

SHARON

Alright.

They enter the bar area. Sharon approaches Billy.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Hey, Billy. Congratulations on your graduation.

BILLY

Thanks, Sharon.

PAUSE.

SHARON

Billy, do you remember when you asked me to marry you?

BILLY

Yeah, so?

PAUSE.

SHARON

Well...can you ask me again?

Billy looks at her.

BILLY

Really?

Sharon nods. Billy gets up.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Okay. Sharon Ross, will you marry me?

SHARON

No.

Billy sneers at her. Sharon CHUCKLES and kisses him.

BILLY

I can't believe this!

SHARON

(shouts)

Hey, Timmy's Place! We're getting married!

The restaurant CHEERS and APPLAUDS.

BILLY

Yeah! Drinks are on yo' damn selves!

The restaurant GROANS and LAUGHS. Billy and Sharon exit. Berniece's smile fades. She stands next to her father, XAVIER, 40's, who sits at the bar.

XAVIER

You know you need to go, right?

BERNIECE

Yeah, Dad, I'm gonna go talk to him.

XAVIER

No, I mean, you're in the bar area. But whatever moves your feet.

Berniece smirks and exits.

INT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - SAME

Dr. Syd places a thumbtack on the chair where Eric sits. He tiptoes away. Eric approaches the chair and prepares to sit at the desk. He pauses and sees Oliver from afar.

ERIC

Hey, ya'll, Oliver's back!

Oliver, with his luggage, approaches his desk.

OLIVER

Hope you didn't get too comfortable! I got seniority!

Dimmey and Dr. Syd run to Oliver. Dr. Syd hugs him.

DIMMEY

Oliver! You're back! Does that mean you're staying?

OLIVER

Yeah! I was gonna move in with my new roommate, but there was a big sign on the apartment building that said, "No Ducks Allowed"! I swear, I go through things that no other pet goes through!

He, Dimmey, and Dr. Syd exit. Eric prepares to sit down. He pauses and sees Berniece approaching him.

ERIC

Berniece? What are you doing here? You have an appointment?

BERNIECE

Consider it a walk-in.

ERIC

Alright, well, I have to check with Dr. Syd.

BERNIECE

Actually, I'm here to see you.

ERIC

Okay, I'm not licensed or anything, but have a seat.

Berniece sits in a chair. Eric sits on the end of the desk.

ERIC (CONT'D)

So what's up, Ms. Williams?

BERNIECE

Ooh, so formal. Well, I got a job at Summerfest. Orientation starts in a week.

ERIC

That's cool. Congratulations.

BERNIECE

So I don't need to depend on a man and his money.

ERIC

Okay. Good for you.

BERNIECE

Eric, I did it so you and me can put our money together.

ERIC

What?

BERNIECE

I'm sorry for putting so much pressure on you. I know you're trying your best.

(pause)

But I'm with you every step of the way, if you'll have me back.

ERIC

Berniece, I never left.

They both get up and hug each other.

BERNIECE

Aw, babe!

ERIC

In fact, I finally know what I want to do with my life!

BERNIECE

Really? Tell me all about it!

They both exit. A large safe SLAMS down on the desk and chair. Oliver and Dr. Syd approach the mess.

OLIVER

Trying to get rid of the temp, huh, Syd?

Dr. Syd looks away.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Huh, Syd?

Dr. Syd turns to him, smiles halfheartedly, and nods.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Junior paces back and forth. The lady still lays in the bed unconsciously.

JUNIOR

I can't believe I'm paying for my past sins! Is this the way to heaven?

(MORE)

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

(pause)

No, then I wouldn't be here.

SFX: Doorbell BUZZ!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cassie enters the front door.

CASSIE

Junior? Anybody here?

Junior races downstairs and gives Cassie a "bear hug".

JUNIOR

Cassie! How are ya?

CASSIE

Hey, baby! Wow, what a welcome!

JUNIOR

Yeah! Well, see ya later!

CASSIE

Wait! You in the middle of something?

JUNIOR

You have no idea.

CASSIE

Junior, is something up?

JUNIOR

No!

(pause)

Actually, I should be asking you the same thing!

CASSIE

I haven't called because I went out of town. My grandfather passed away.

JUNIOR

Oh?

CASSIE

I tried to call you, but my phone got disconnected!

JUNIOR

You expect me to believe that?

CASSIE

(sighs)

You sound just like the phone company!
Here! I took a screenshot of the payment
I made and everything!

She pulls out her phone.

JUNIOR

That's not what I meant! You could've
contacted me through my socials!

CASSIE

Sorry, I guess I'm just old school!

JUNIOR

Wow! Just like me!

He embraces her.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Guess we can be old school together!

CASSIE

Or just old!

They both kiss.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Everything good now?

JUNIOR

I was trippin', Cassie! I don't know what
I was worried about!

The sexy lady slowly limps downstairs.

SEXY LADY

(slurred)

Woo! What a night, babe! I must've got it
good!

She plops on the couch.

JUNIOR

Oh yeah.

Cassie lets go of him.

CASSIE

Who is this??

JUNIOR
Cassie, it's really not what it looks like!

CASSIE
Oh yeah?

JUNIOR
She's Berniece's friend! They were hangin' together all day!

Berniece enters the front door.

BERNIECE
(to Junior)
Woo, I had the best morning with your son, Junior! It feels good to be back here!

Cassie GASPS. Junior looks at Berniece.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)
But that don't mean I have to stop being with him! Bye!

She runs out the door.

CASSIE
Goodbye, Junior!

JUNIOR
Wait! Nothing happened!

CASSIE
Then what is she doing here?

JUNIOR
Billy brought her over here.

CASSIE
And why did you have to lie?

JUNIOR
Because...I'm good at it?

CASSIE
(scoffs)
Bye.

She storms out.

JUNIOR
Cassie!

He SIGHS.

SEXY LADY

Hey, pal, I'm gonna need \$100.

JUNIOR

You're a hooker??

SEXY LADY

No, but I need to get my hair did.

JUNIOR

Get out.

The lady exits.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

I might as well have did her.

The lady pokes her head back in.

SEXY LADY

It's not too late, for \$50!

JUNIOR

Out!

The lady exits again. Matt and Rhonda enter.

RHONDA

We're back.

MATT

Junior, who was that slutty-looking woman coming out of here? What kind of stuff were ya'll doin'?

JUNIOR

Guys, it's not what you think, and I was just leaving.

He mopes and prepares to exit.

MATT

Wait a minute, Junior, come back.

JUNIOR

Alright.

He returns.

MATT

Get out.

Junior CLICKS HIS TEETH and exits. Matt shuts the door.

MATT (CONT'D)

Now we're back!

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

ERIC

I can't wait to tell Mom and Matt the good news!

He prepares to open the door.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

RHONDA

So what are we gonna do about our little college dropout?

MATT

He's on his way over here.

Matt pushes the couch to the front door.

MATT (CONT'D)

We're gonna do like "The Cosby Show". Eric spent all this time having "biiiiig fun", so we're gonna face the door when he opens it, then we're gonna pounce on his ass!

RHONDA

I love it!

They both sit on the couch.

MONTAGE - CLIFFHANGER

-- A NARRATOR speaks. Soap opera-esque music plays in the background (similar to the '70s show, "Soap".)

NARRATOR

Will Eric please his parents with the good news?

-- Still shot of Eric opening the door.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Will Eric's parents pounce on said ass?

-- Still shot of Matt and Rhonda sitting on the couch.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Will...iam Patrick Nelson IV?

-- Billy and Sharon's son, WILL, 2, sits in his playpen and looks at the camera.

WILL

Uh, can I help you?

NARRATOR

Find out all these answers and more in the conclusion of "Eric"!

THE END