

ERIC

"Nelson Ratings"

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INT. DIMMEY'S CAR - DAY

ERIC NELSON, 16, rides in the backseat of the car that his best friend, DENNIS "DIMMEY" ROBERTS, 16, drives. Dimmey's girlfriend, CONNIE McDOWELL, 16, sits in the passenger's seat. Dimmey and Connie argue.

CONNIE

I don't know why you don't wanna go, Dimmey.

DIMMEY

I told you! A cotillion is a silly idea!

CONNIE

But my parents really want to see you! And I can't be the only McDowell there without a date!

DIMMEY

I don't care, Connie! I'm not going!

CONNIE

I can't believe it! I have to go everywhere with you and your stupid duck and his stupid doorag!

DIMMEY

And I have to hang around with your stupid toy pig! At least my pet is real!

CONNIE

Whatever, man!

DIMMEY

Don't "whatever" me! And you can forget about the cotillion! I ain't goin'! I'm the man in this relationship, and that's that!

Dimmey pulls over. Connie gets out and SLAMS the car door. Dimmey drives off.

ERIC

Going down swinging, huh?

DIMMEY

(sighs)

Yep. Let's go find me a tux.

ERIC

Hey, wait. Connie left her book in here. Turn back around.

DIMMEY

Well, you take it in to her. I can't stand her! I really should break up with her.

ERIC

Right.

EXT. CONNIE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Eric, with a book in his hand, KNOCKS on Connie's door.

ERIC

Connie, you forgot your book!

SILENCE.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Connie?

He jiggles the doorknob, turns it, opens the door and walks in.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Connie? I'm just gonna leave it here on your couch!

He places the book on the couch and heads towards the door. FRANKFURT, a six-foot pig who wears a collar, walks from the kitchen into the living room with a plate of food.

FRANKFURT

(to Eric)

How ya doin'?

ERIC

Oh, hey. Tell Connie I left her book here.

Eric walks out of the house and closes the door. He stops in his tracks and GASPS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(shakes his head)

Nah!

He reopens the door and looks around the living room. He closes the door.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 No, it couldn't be!
 (pause)
 Could it?

He opens the door again.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 Connie?
 (hesitantly)
 Large, talking pig?

INT. DIMMEY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Eric enters Dimmey's car, looking puzzled.

DIMMEY
 What's up with you? You look like you've
 seen a ghost.

ERIC
 I wish I had!

DIMMEY
 Huh?

ERIC
 Oh, you wouldn't believe me if I told
 you. I'm sure of that.

They drive away.

INT. CONNIE'S HOUSE - CONNIE'S BEDROOM - SAME

Frankfurt lies on top of Connie's bed, eating a sandwich.
 Connie enters.

CONNIE
 Was that somebody at the door?

SFX: Frankfurt MAKES the "I don't know" mumble and
 shrugs.

FRANKFURT
 Oh, hey! Guess who I saw today!

INT. COLLEGE LOUNGE - DAY

INSERT - a sign, which reads:
 "5TH ANNUAL BACHELOR AUCTION"

Female students sit and converse. Eric's brother, BILLY NELSON, sits with his friend/roommate, RON TYSON, both 20, to the side.

BILLY

This is awesome, Ron. They're about to bid on me: newly single, clean record!

RON

I don't know, man, this seems so degrading.

BILLY

This has nothing to do with that hoodrat that wanted to buy you?

RON

She wanted to pay with a coupon, Billy!

BILLY

So? Take it as it comes. When's the last time you had a date?

RON

You know, good point.
(calls out to someone off-screen)
Hey, Targonesha, wait up!

Ron runs off. BELINDA, a college girl, approaches the microphone.

BELINDA

Alright, ladies, next up is William P. Nelson III!

Billy walks up to the front.

BILLY

Thanks. "Billy Nelson" works just fine.

BELINDA

Right.
(to the ladies)
Okay, let's start the bidding for William!

Different LADIES shout out.

LADY #1

One dollar!

BELINDA

Do I hear two dollars?

LADY #2
Two dollars!

BELINDA
Five?

LADY #3
Five dollars!

BILLY
(to Belinda)
Ya'll ain't gonna bid higher?

BELINDA
We're in college. We ain't got no money
as it is!
(to the ladies)
Do I hear ten?

A WOMAN stands up.

LADY
Twenty dollars!

Belinda BABBLES gibberish similar to an auctioneer, then
continues announcing.

BELINDA
Do I hear 25?

SILENCE.

BELINDA (CONT'D)
Going once. Going twice. Sold!

The woman walks up to Billy and Belinda.

BILLY
(to the woman)
Hi.

BELINDA
(to Billy)
You know, no one ever got this high like
you!

BILLY
Really?

BELINDA
The only one to do it is him!

She points over to Billy's father, JUNIOR, who slides to the middle of the floor. He wears a sequined jumpsuit and a large afro with a headband in the middle of it.

JUNIOR

Wassup, Mad-town!!

BILLY

Dad?! What are you doing here? You don't even go here!

JUNIOR

That's where you're wrong, son. I enrolled in a five-day seminar here. So that makes me a student.

BILLY

A seminar in what?

JUNIOR

Marriage! But I'm getting a "C" so far.

BILLY

(dryly)
You don't say.

A SEXY LADY walks up to Junior.

SEXY LADY

Ready to go?

JUNIOR

You know it! By the way, this is my son, William P. Nelson III.

BILLY

Or, "Billy".

WOMAN

(to Billy)
You didn't tell me your dad was Willie Jr.!

SEXY LADY

(to Junior)
And you didn't tell me you had a son!

BILLY

(sternly)
He has two.

SEXY LADY

Are you gonna introduce me to the rest of your family?

JUNIOR

Sure! That's what love is all about.
(pauses, then snaps his
fingers)

That's what love is all about! We need to
go by my professor's. I gotta change an
answer on my test!

Junior and the sexy lady walk away.

INT. DIMMEY'S CAR - LATER

Dimmey continues driving with Eric in the passenger's
seat.

ERIC

Dimmey, how much do you know about
Connie?

DIMMEY

Oh, too much! I really should have left
her long ago!

ERIC

But you always say that!

DIMMEY

Eh, no different from a married couple.
But don't tell her I said that. I don't
wanna give her any ideas.

ERIC

And what about her friend, Frankfurt?

DIMMEY

You mean her toy, Frankfurt?

ERIC

Yeah. He is just a toy, right?

DIMMEY

What? Man, you sound just like her. Maybe
you should date her.

ERIC

(laughs)

Yeah, sure. And I give you Berniece.

DIMMEY

Wait, really?

ERIC

No, fool!

Dimmey pulls over to Eric's house. Eric gets out.

DIMMEY

Well, if you think that toy is real, then
you're the fool.

Dimmey drives off.

ERIC

Maybe I was seeing things.
(points up)
Like those two mice flying in the air.

FRISKERS MOUSE flies through the sky with his bow tie operating as propellers. WHISKERS MOUSE hangs on to Friskers' feet.

ERIC (CONT'D)

And Chaz falling asleep behind the wheel.

CHAZ TREPUR drives past Eric in his car. His head is down as he SNORES. Eric walks away.

SFX: Car horns HONK! Chaz's car CRASHES off-screen.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Billy paces back and forth. Ron sits in a chair. Billy's pregnant ex-girlfriend, SHARON ROSS, sits on the couch, eating a large bag of chips.

BILLY

I hate this, Ron! I would have been the hottest one in the auction if it wasn't for my father!

SHARON

There was nothing behind door #3?

She and Ron snicker.

BILLY

(to Sharon)
Tell me again why you're here?

SHARON

You're supposed to be taking care of your baby mama!

BILLY

The jury is still out on everything you just said.

Sharon sticks her tongue out at Billy.

BILLY (CONT'D)

It's just that I'm sick of being in Dad's shadow. I want someone to like me for me!

SHARON

You did have someone like that!

Sharon's FETUS telepathically chimes in from her stomach.

FETUS

Yeah, and then some!

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

Billy opens the door, where MAUREEN WALKER, 19, stands, wearing skimpy clothes.

BILLY

Hey, Maureen, what's up?

MAUREEN

Billy, honey, I'm here to tell you that you won!

BILLY

Won what?

MAUREEN

Well, you're very close to winning. It's the annual "Sexiest Man in Madison" contest!

BILLY

Wow, I didn't know there was a contest. What's the prize?

MAUREEN

(pause)

Winning the annual "Sexiest Man in Madison" contest!

BILLY

Whatever, fine. So when's the ceremony and all that?

MAUREEN

Oh, details coming soon, baby. I actually just wanted to know that now that I see your place, do you wanna see mine? You know, for dinner?

SHARON
(fake coughs)
Slut!

MAUREEN
(to Sharon)
Says the pregnant, single girl!

Sharon starts to stand up and walks towards Maureen. Ron pulls her back down to her seat.

BILLY
Sure, that would be nice.

MAUREEN
Oh, it will be.

She kisses Billy on the cheek and sashays away. Billy closes the door.

BILLY
Whoa.

SHARON
Sexiest Man in Madison? No wonder Madison sucks.

She and Ron giggle.

BILLY
(to Sharon)
That's it. Get out!

SHARON
Fine, fine.

Sharon gets up and exits the apartment.

BILLY
You get out, too!

RON
It's my house, too!

BILLY
Oh yeah. Then I'll leave!

Billy exits the apartment.

RON
That always works.

Ron sniffs the air and frowns.

RON (CONT'D)

Ugh! How you gonna fart and leave?

Ron runs to the back. Sharon reenters the apartment, sits in Ron's seat, and eats from her bag of chips. She kicks her feet up.

SHARON

That always works.

INT. CONNIE'S HOUSE - DAY

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

Connie opens the door and finds Eric there, wearing a backpack.

ERIC

Hey, Connie, are you alone?

CONNIE

No.

ERIC

So someone else is with you?

He enters the house.

CONNIE

Yeah. My mom and dad.

ERIC

(chuckles)

Oh. Of course. I thought I saw something strange the other day.

CONNIE

(cuts her eyes)

I'm seeing something strange right now.

ERIC

Oh, you see him, too?

He turns his head around, then back.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Oh, ha ha, very funny.

CONNIE

Do you see him now?

ERIC

Just your toy pig there on the couch.

SFX: Phone RINGS.

CONNIE

I gotta get that. Are we done?

ERIC

Yeah, go ahead. I'll let myself out.

Connie exits. Eric takes his backpack off and unzips it. He walks past the couch where Frankfurt sits. He feigns tripping over his feet and holds out his arm.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Whoops!

He PLOPS to the floor, while Frankfurt falls in his backpack. Eric quickly gets up, looks around, and exits the house.

FRANKFURT (O.S.)

Oooh, I'm gonna get him for this.

EXT. COLLEGE LIBRARY MALL - DAY

Billy walks outside the mall area and stops Maureen.

BILLY

Hey, Maureen! It's been a minute.

MAUREEN

Uh, yeah!

BILLY

So, what's going on with that contest?

MAUREEN

Oh, that. Well, you see, you've been disqualified.

BILLY

What? How?

MAUREEN

The contest was given by Channel 15, and employees and their relatives are ineligible.

BILLY

What are you talking about? I'm not related to anyone there!

MAUREEN

But isn't your father, William P. Nelson, Jr., married to a producer there?

BILLY

(sighs)

I wouldn't be surprised.

MAUREEN

Sorry.

She begins to leave.

BILLY

Wait! The date is still on, right?

MAUREEN

Oh, I don't wanna be involved in this scandal. How would that make me look?

She straightens out her breasts, pulls her skirt from the crack of her behind, and shimmies away.

BILLY

Oooh, I'm gonna kill him!

Junior approaches Billy.

JUNIOR

Hey, fellow student! Or "former fellow student". I'm all done with class!

Billy GRUNTS.

BILLY

Dad, are you still married to that producer at the station?

JUNIOR

(pause)

Ooh, I knew I forgot to do something!

BILLY

I just got disqualified from a contest because of you. And you cost me a chance with Maureen Walker! She's the surest of sure things!

JUNIOR

Oh, come on. You'll find another. Believe me, I know.

BILLY

You keep messing up everything for me!
Why don't you do like in the past and
just stay out of my life?

Billy marches away.

JUNIOR

I can't believe it! After all I've...
(pauses, then sighs)
Oh. That's it. I better go talk to him.

Junior walks in Billy's direction.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

(calls out)
Hey, Billy! Does that mean Maureen's
available?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Eric's mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, and stepfather, MATT JAMES, sit at the dining room table. Rhonda drinks a beverage. Matt looks on his phone.

MATT

Hey, honey! My credit score went up!

RHONDA

From zero?

MATT

(mockingly laughs)
No, for real. Check it out!

He looks at his phone again.

MATT (CONT'D)

Oh, never mind. That's just my area code.

Eric enters the house.

ERIC

Guys, I wanna show you something, and
tell me if I'm crazy.

MATT

Okay.

ERIC

Introducing Frankfurt the pig!

Eric unzips his backpack. Frankfurt's plush head sticks out.

SILENCE.

RHONDA

Aw, honey, you and your little toys. Are you having a mid-life crisis?

ERIC

No, he talks! Okay, Frankfurt, say something!

SILENCE.

ERIC (CONT'D)

But he said something to me a few days ago!

His parents stare at him.

ERIC (CONT'D)

We'll be back. Talk amongst yourselves.

Eric dashes away with his backpack.

MATT

That's your son.

RHONDA

Oh, now he's my son?

MATT

I married into this family. You created it. Don't blame me!

RHONDA

Mmm hmm.

INT. BAR - LATER

Billy takes a seat at the bar.

BILLY

Bartender, gimme a beer, please.

A FEMALE BARTENDER serves him his drink.

FEMALE BARTENDER

Here you go, honey.

(pause)

Hey, you look familiar!

BILLY

Ma'am, I only have enough for one beer,
okay?

FEMALE BARTENDER

No. Didn't you win that "Sexiest Man"
contest?

BILLY

Almost.
(smiles)
You recognize me, huh?

FEMALE BARTENDER

Yeah. You're Willie Jr.'s son!

BILLY

(smile fades)
Oh, great. I am more than that, you know.

FEMALE BARTENDER

Okay, okay, just trying to cheer you up.
You're killing our business. This is
happy hour, you know.

BILLY

Oh yeah. Sorry.

A MALE BARTENDER approaches the counter.

MALE BARTENDER

Miranda, close that woman's tab over
there.

FEMALE BARTENDER/MIRANDA

Okay.

The male bartender leaves.

BILLY

Miranda, huh? Don't go too far. Let's
finish talking.

Miranda smiles.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Eric sits at a booth with his girlfriend, BERNIECE
WILLIAMS, 16.

ERIC

I can't figure it out, Berniece. I took your friend's toy, and he won't say a thing!

BERNIECE

You sure it wasn't Connie in a costume or something?

ERIC

Halloween already came and went!

BERNIECE

And you didn't do anything for it?

ERIC

No. Was I supposed to?

BERNIECE

Would've been nice.

ERIC

Oh. Maybe next year.

BERNIECE

Mmm.

ERIC

I even took that pig to school with me for Show n' Tell!

BERNIECE

And?

ERIC

Let's just say I would have gotten a better grade if I turned nothing in.
(sighs)

At least I can talk to the one person who understands me.

Berniece smiles.

ERIC (CONT'D)

...the beaver doctor!

Eric gets up and runs away. Berniece stops smiling.

BERNIECE

(sotto voce)

I think he's a squirrel.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Billy sits at a table in a posh restaurant. Junior walks by.

BILLY

Dad, wait!

JUNIOR

What's up, son?

BILLY

Hey, I'm sorry for the way I came off at you.

JUNIOR

Oh, it's okay. I've said some bad things about you, too. Even more frequent!

BILLY

Anyway, what are you doing here?

JUNIOR

Waiting for my date.

BILLY

Oh, cool. Mine's in the restroom. You should see her, too. Nice figure, fine, a Latina.

JUNIOR

What a coincidence. So is my date.

BILLY

Oh. Well, she's a bartender at a bar around the corner.

JUNIOR

Hey, mine is, too! But she works at some pub down the street.

PAUSE.

BILLY

No way can this be true. My girl's name is...

JUNIOR

Miranda?

Miranda walks up to both of them.

BILLY

Miranda! Oh, not again!

MIRANDA

Billy, wait a minute!

BILLY

It's no use! I'm no match for my dad!

JUNIOR

But son...

BILLY

Know what? Keep her, Dad. I guess I'll always be in your shadow. It's not worth fighting it anymore.

JUNIOR

Son, listen...

BILLY

Have a good time. Both of you.

Billy exits. Another LATINA, who looks exactly like Miranda, approaches Junior and Miranda from the other direction.

LATINA

(to Miranda)

Hey, sis.

(to Junior)

Sorry I'm late. I see you've met my sister, Maria Miranda.

JUNIOR

I sure did, Linda Miranda.

MARIA MIRANDA

(to Linda)

My date just left me, though.

Junior puts his hands around both ladies.

JUNIOR

It's alright, ladies. You'll just have to fight over me!

MARIA MIRANDA

Oh, we don't fight. We share!

JUNIOR

(face lights up)

Really?

LINDA MIRANDA

The hell we do!

MARIA MIRANDA
Not even for a threesome?

LINDA MIRANDA
Not after what happened last time!

JUNIOR
What happened last time?

LINDA MIRANDA
You don't wanna know.

Junior takes his arms from around them.

MARIA MIRANDA
Fine, Linda, you take him then.

LINDA MIRANDA
No, that's alright. You don't have a date. You take him.

MARIA MIRANDA
No, the young guy looks better. I'm really not that into old dudes. I just thought he was famous!

LINDA MIRANDA
Well, he used to be, right?

Junior quietly slips away.

LINDA MIRANDA (O.S.)
(CONT'D)
I don't know. Mom said so!

MARIA MIRANDA (O.S.)
Well, just have him pay for dinner!

LINDA MIRANDA (O.S.)
Man, I don't know.

MARIA MIRANDA (O.S.)
Yeah, he don't even have a song out. We might have to pay.

The two continue to argue as Junior exits.

INT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - LATER

Eric lies in a hammock outdoors. DR. SYD, a mole with long, curly hair who wears a white coat, sits on a stump next to Eric. He scribbles on a notepad.

ERIC

So, Dr. Syd, I'm pretty sure that I saw
Connie's toy pig walk through her house.
He even said hi to me!

SFX: Dr. Syd SCRIBBLES.

ERIC (CONT'D)

But it's weird that he hasn't said
anything to me since. I must be losing my
mind.

SFX: More SCRIBBLING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

And Dimmey thinks Connie loses her mind
whenever she sees Frankfurt. I guess me
and Connie are kinda the same.

SFX: More SCRIBBLING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

You know, the only time I saw Frankfurt
is after Dimmey and Connie talked about
it.

(pause)

Maybe this is a way of understanding
where Connie is coming from!

SFX: More SCRIBBLING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Thanks, Doc, great advice as usual!

He gets up and runs to Berniece, who sits in the waiting
area next to OLIVER DUCK, Dr. Syd's assistant. He types
at his desk. (NOTE: Oliver speaks telepathically
throughout [written in *italics*].)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Come on, Berniece! I'm all good now!

Eric runs away. Berniece gets up. Dr. Syd approaches
Berniece and Oliver.

BERNIECE

Wow! What would Eric be without you guys?

Berniece follows Eric out.

OLIVER

I dunno. Canceled?

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Billy lies on top of his bed.

SFX: His phone RINGS.

BILLY

Hello?

(pause)

Oh, you finally called!

(pause)

Yeah, you sounded nice online. Now wait, you don't know who my father is, do you?

(pause)

No, that's okay. He's not really worth knowing.

(pause)

Great! Another thing, I just got out of a bad relationship, so I'm not really looking for anything serious.

INTERCUT - BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT/GIRL'S DORM ROOM

The girl on the phone is GINA RICHARDS, a college cheerleader and girlfriend of college football player Marty O'Dell.

GINA

(laughs)

That's fine. Serious is not in my vocabulary. Just ask my teachers!

BILLY

So you're not looking for a long-term relationship?

GINA

Yeah, you might say that.

BILLY

(sighs with relief)

Finally!

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The school bell RINGS, and students exit the building, along with Eric and Dimmey, who look to their right.

DIMMEY

Here comes Connie. She looks upset. I wonder what's her deal now.

ERIC

Hey, lay off on Connie a bit. She's not that bad.

DIMMEY

She's a weirdo!

ERIC

Yeah, but if she were any less weird, you'd love her less. Admit it!

Connie approaches them.

CONNIE

Dennis Roberts, I've been hearing that you're trying to dump me! Well?

DIMMEY

And you believe them? Honey, those are just rumors! You know my heart's for you!

CONNIE

Uh huh.

(to Eric)

I'm sorry I was rude to you.

ERIC

It's okay. I get you. You're cool peeps.

He fist-bumps her.

CONNIE

Uh, okay.

DIMMEY

So everything's cool now. Hey, guys, where's Frankfurt?

Connie and Eric stare at him.

CONNIE

Dimmey, don't be weird.

DIMMEY

(sotto voce, sighs)

I don't know why I keep trying with them.

CONNIE

(to Eric)

Let's get some ice cream.

ERIC

Cool.

Eric and Connie leave.

DIMMEY

(gasps)

Hey, wait! You're gonna need a ride!

Dimmey chases after them.

INT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - SAME

Frankfurt, in the plush form, is seated in the hammock.
Dr. Syd sits and stares at him while holding his notepad.

SILENCE.

Oliver approaches Dr. Syd.

OLIVER

*Syd, I've been done with my work. Can't I
just go home?*

SFX: Dr. Syd SQUEAKS.

More SILENCE. Dr. Syd continues to stare.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

But he's been sitting here for hours!

More SILENCE. Dr. Syd continues to stare.

SFX: Dr. Syd SQUEAKS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

You might be getting through to him?

More SILENCE. Dr. Syd continues to stare. Oliver SIGHS
and walks away.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

*I really need to complete that union
paperwork.*

THE END