

ERIC

"Eric and the Other Woman"

Written by E.J. Rupert

© E.J. Rupert for
Jimmy Rupe Productions
Milwaukee, WI
(414) 550-0547
ejrupert@yahoo.com

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 18, black, who stands at 5'2", walks down the hallway with her books, stops, and turns the other way. A FEMALE VOICE is heard from afar.

FEMALE VOICE (O.C.)

I see ya, "Burn Mark"! You better not run away!

Berniece SIGHS. The female voice belongs to ANNETTE ANDERSON, 18, black, who stands at 5'8". She marches up to Berniece.

ANNETTE

Where's my money, Burn Mark?

BERNIECE

I told you, Eric got fired, so he's not making money anymore!

ANNETTE

Come on, midget, I know you got some money!

BERNIECE

I wear the same clothes everyday! I ain't got no money!

ANNETTE

Well, you better get it from somewhere, or you'll be pulling your hair from outta your throat!

BERNIECE

Look, Annette, you better leave me alone! You remember Jacob Jackson, right? Well, I told him about you, and he said if you keep messing with me, there's gonna be problems!

Annette grabs Berniece's shirt.

ANNETTE

So you a snitch now?

BERNIECE

I guess I didn't think that through.

ANNETTE

I oughta whoop that ass!

She lets go of Berniece.

ANNETTE (CONT'D)

But I got a spa date with Granny.

Annette fixes herself and walks away.

BERNIECE

(hesitantly)

Yeah. You better walk away!

ERIC NELSON, 18, black, taps her shoulder from behind.

ERIC

Hey, Berniece?

Berniece jumps up and turns around.

BERNIECE

AAAGH! What?

ERIC

What's wrong with you? Is that bully messing with you again?

BERNIECE

No! You saw her walking away, didn't ya?

ERIC

Yeah, right.

(calls out)

Principal Peters!

PRINCIPAL PETERS, black, approaches them.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Mr. Nelson, you're here more than when you went here.

ERIC

Just picking up my girlfriend, that's all.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Oh. It's almost as if you're not even in college.

ERIC

(chuckles halfheartedly)

Good one. Listen, Berniece has a girl bullying her here!

PRINCIPAL PETERS

A bully? Not on my watch! What's her name?

BERNIECE

Annette Anderson.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

(gasps)

Annette Anderson??

ERIC

What's wrong?

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Look, why don't you girls work it out yourselves?

ERIC

You're not scared of her, are you,
Principal?

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Of course not! And snitches get stitches,
ya'll know that! Gotta go!

He swiftly walks away.

ERIC

Unbelievable.

BERNIECE

Eric, honey, maybe you should confront
Annette!

ERIC

Uh, what, now?

BERNIECE

You my man! Stand up for me!

ERIC

Yeah, well, you see, Berniece, I'm a
lover, not a fighter.

BERNIECE

You're not really a lover, either.

ERIC

Well, since you put it that way...
(mockingly)
...never fear, my dear!

BERNIECE

Let's just get out of here.

ERIC

Good. I'm sure I heard some footsteps.

They both exit.

INT. POSH RESTAURANT - DAY

CASSIE, the waitress, black, walks away from a customer's table. Enter Eric's father, WILLIAM "JUNIOR" NELSON, JR., 40's, black. He slides to the floor and wears a sequined jumpsuit with a sequined headband around his afro.

JUNIOR

Wassup, lovely waitress!!!

CASSIE

Hey, keep it down! This ain't that kind of place!

JUNIOR

Hey, sweetie, any place is my kinda place after I'm done with it!

CASSIE

What are you doing here, anyway?

JUNIOR

I'm here to take you out!

CASSIE

I'm working, and you never asked me!

JUNIOR

Well, can I take you out?

CASSIE

Again, I'm working, and in addition, no!

JUNIOR

What? No one's ever said no to me!

CASSIE

I'm the first? What an honor. Excuse me.

She begins to exit.

JUNIOR

Hold on there. What's the deal, Cassie? You wanted to get with me before!

CASSIE

Yeah, then I discovered all your exes that you owe money to. Girlfriends and wives!

JUNIOR

Okay, so I have a checkered past.

CASSIE

More like chess!

JUNIOR

Fair enough, but there's something about you that I wanna get to know.

CASSIE

Yeah, well know that I'm a little pessimistic!

JUNIOR

Good, that's a start! I...

Cassie exits.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Hey!

(pause)

I'm not gettin' through to her. Maybe I need to tone it down.

A SEXY LADY sashays up to Junior.

SEXY LADY

Oooh, Willie Jr., every time I watch your video on YouTube, I fog up my phone!

JUNIOR

Dang! Cassie who?

SEXY LADY

Who's Cassie?

JUNIOR

Exactly! Let's go, sweetie!

They exit.

INT. ERIC'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Eric enters his dorm room with Berniece.

ERIC

Berniece, I don't know why you're stressin'. At least you're in school!

BERNIECE

You can't be serious.

ERIC

Well, at least your life will be in danger in a building, rather than on the streets, like where I'll be.

BERNIECE

You're not gonna get kicked out. Just take the exams and do the best you can!

ERIC

Oh, that ship has pretty much sailed!

ELEANOR DUMBECK and her BOYFRIEND, both 19, white, both enter, carrying some boxes.

ELEANOR

Hey, guys! Ain't it a great day?

ERIC

Yeah, right. What are ya'll up to?

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

(in his usual, booming voice)

Moving some of my stuff into Eleanor's room. Seeing how it is to be married!

ELEANOR

Really? You're not doing this just to use my "Whiffy" password? [mispronounces "Wi-fi"]

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Eric, I'll be spending most of my time with her, so you can stay here as long as you need.

ERIC

Hey, keep it down!

ELEANOR

Don't worry, I didn't hear nothin'.

ERIC

Oh. Thanks, Eleanor.

ELEANOR

No, seriously, I didn't hear you. I wasn't paying attention.

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Eric's flunking out, honey.

ERIC
 (to Eleanor's boyfriend)
 You didn't actually have to tell her,
 man.

BERNIECE
 You don't have to worry about being here
 at all, Eric. It's Thanksgiving break!

ERIC
 Well, that's true.

BERNIECE
 Let's go to my mother's house early.
 It'll take our minds off of this stuff.

ERIC
 Fine.

ELEANOR
 Hmmph. Eric dropping out? I'll never look
 at him the same again.

Eric exits. Eleanor looks at him.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
 (lustfully)
 Mmm, I take that back!

Her boyfriend and Berniece look at her angrily.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
 What? I was just saying what we're all
 thinking!

BERNIECE
 You should never use yourself and
 "thinking" in the same sentence.

INT. SHARON'S HOME - DAY

SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, wears her hair pinned-up, with
 two pencils sticking out of it. She wears thick glasses
 and heavy makeup. She wears a tight sweater, a short
 skirt, and "fish-nets". She walks away from her window.

SHARON
 There's Billy's car!

She walks to a mirror on the wall and adjusts her bosoms.
 The door opens. Sharon still faces the mirror.

SHARON (CONT'D)
 (lustfully)
 Mr. Nelson, ready for some paper-pushing?

JUNIOR
 Normally, I would be turned on, but...

Sharon faces him and GASPS.

SHARON
 Junior! What are you doing here?

JUNIOR
 I thought my son would be here. I know
 ya'll back together.

SHARON
 We're not back together!
 It's...complicated.

Junior looks at her up and down.

JUNIOR
 Honey, "complicated" ain't what comes to
 mind.

Junior's oldest son, BILLY, 20's, enters the front door.
 He wears a blazer with no shirt underneath, a bowtie, and
 slacks.

BILLY
 I'm ready to work hard on my first day,
 Ms. Ross. Real hard!

He looks at Junior, GASPS, and SUCKS HIS TEETH.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 What do you want, Dad?

JUNIOR
 I need your advice.

BILLY
 Hmm. Just like when I would ask for your
 advice growing up. Oh, wait!

JUNIOR
 Come on, the sooner you can help me, the
 sooner ya'll can get back to...whatever
 the hell this is.

BILLY
 Sharon, can you give us a minute?

SHARON

Why not? It's only my house!

Sharon exits.

BILLY

This better be good!

Junior sits.

JUNIOR

Okay, well, I was with this lady last night, and I needed help performing...

BILLY

Hey, whoa! Stop!

JUNIOR

...but I couldn't! I didn't know what to do!

BILLY

"Stop" doesn't mean, "Keep going!"

JUNIOR

Son, what do you do in situations like this?

BILLY

Dad, I don't know! It's never happened to me before!

SHARON (O.C.)

Ha!

BILLY

(to Sharon)

What? How you figure?

Sharon reenters.

SHARON

Both of ya'll act like ya'll God's gift to women. I'm just saying that every man has his flaws.

BILLY

Yeah, but performing isn't one of them!

JUNIOR

But what if it's one of mine?

SHARON

Well, Junior, do you love this woman?

JUNIOR
No! I just met her!

SHARON
Do you even like her?

JUNIOR
Like I said, I just met her.

SHARON
Maybe that's it! Your heart's in the way.

JUNIOR
(scoffs)
That's silly!

SHARON
Okay, then maybe you need some Viagra or something.

JUNIOR
That's better!

He shoots up from his seat.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
To the drug store!

He hurries out.

SHARON
(calls out)
And get some extra for your son here!

BILLY
If I'm so bad, then maybe I should leave, too!

SHARON
Oh, Billy, I'm just playing.

BILLY
You got that right. I can do it. We have a son to prove it.

SHARON
And you're a good father, too.

BILLY
And you're a good mother.

They both kiss. Behind them, in an open bedroom, their son, WILL, 1, sits in his crib and talks on a cell phone.

WILL

Hello, Dr. Syd's office? Do you have any late-night appointments? They're doing it again.

(pause)

Put it on my mom's tab, I don't care!

INT. ALANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

ALANNA GREGORY, 40's, black, opens the front door. Her daughter, Berniece, stands there with Eric.

BERNIECE

Hey, Mom!

ALANNA

"Bern-Bern", baby, how are you?

They both hug.

ALANNA (CONT'D)

And you must be Eric!

ERIC

Hi, Ms. Williams.

ALANNA

Oh no! "Williams" was a long time ago! I was young and dumb, I tell ya!

BERNIECE

Mom, don't start!

ALANNA

I know, I know. He gave me you, so he's alright with me.

BERNIECE

That's progress. You said one good thing about Dad.

ALANNA

Who's talking about your father? I'm talking about God!

Alanna CHUCKLES.

BERNIECE

(sighs)

Oh boy.

ERIC

It's okay. My parents hate each other,
too.

BERNIECE

I'm gonna take my bags to our room.

She looks at Alanna.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

...or rather, my room. Where I'll be
staying all weekend. While Eric sleeps on
the couch.

ERIC

And remain there, even at night!

ALANNA

It's okay, guys. You're both adults. You
can bunk together.

BERNIECE

Good.

They all CHUCKLE. Berniece exits. Alanna STOPS and steps
up to Eric.

ALANNA

Get her pregnant, and I'll kill you.

Eric STOPS.

ERIC

Yes, ma'am.

Eric SIGHS and walks with his bags.

ALANNA

Something wrong?

ERIC

You mean, other than you threatening me?

ALANNA

You're not still worried about school,
are you?

ERIC

I guess Berniece told you about that,
huh?

ALANNA

I know that college is tough for
freshmen.

Eric puts his bags down.

ERIC

Yeah, but...

ALANNA

And I also know that Bern-Bern thinks the world of you. She talks about how you always find a way to overcome any obstacle.

ERIC

That's true, I guess.

ALANNA

So look, why don't you take a load off, and enjoy Thanksgiving while you're here? We won't ask about anything school-related.

ERIC

I'd appreciate that!

ALANNA

Then when you go back, I'm sure you'll have a plan.

ERIC

Thanks, Ms. Gregory!

ALANNA

Call me, "Alanna".

ERIC

Okay, thanks, Alanna!

They both prepare to hug. Eric leans in and kisses her on the lips. He pulls away and GASPS.

ALANNA

Boy, what you doin'?

ERIC

(stammers)

I'm sorry, Ms., uh, Williams! I didn't mean to! Uh, tell Berniece I'll be right back!

ALANNA

But Eric...

ERIC

I'll be back!

Eric darts out of the house.

ALANNA

Hmmph. That's the most action I've had all year. Hmmm, if I was his age...what am I sayin'?

INT. HUGHES'S CAR - DAY

KATHY HUGHES, 17, black, drives the Hughes family car. Her twin sister, KEISHA, sits in the passenger seat. Both wear all black and have a Goth-like appearance. They stop at a red light. Kathy looks out the window.

KATHY

(dull voice)

Hey. There goes Willie Jr. and one of his groupies.

KEISHA

(dull voice)

Hmmph. Whateva.

Junior walks past their car with a woman on his arm.

JUNIOR

(to the woman)

Let's go upstairs, so I can give you some of that good!

The woman GIGGLES. They enter an apartment. The sisters sit in the car.

LONG SILENCE.

KATHY

You really don't say much, do you?

LONG SILENCE.

Junior runs out of the apartment and calls out to the woman.

JUNIOR

I'm so sorry! I'll call you later!

Junior runs past the car. The sisters look at him.

KATHY

That was quick. If I knew anybody, I would tell everybody.

She halfheartedly CHUCKLES. Keisha CHUCKLES along with her. Both abruptly STOP.

KEISHA

Whateva.

They pull off.

INT. ALANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

Eric sits in the living room and watches TV. Berniece enters.

BERNIECE

Watching the Macy's parade, Eric?

ERIC

(booming, deep voice)
Only 'cuz the game ain't on!

BERNIECE

Yes it is, it's on channel 6.

She picks up the remote. Eric pulls her hand back.

ERIC

(regular voice)
Leave it.

BERNIECE

(slyly)
Right.

She puts the remote down.

ALANNA (O.C.)

Time to eat!

ERIC

Cool!

Eric and Berniece sit at the dining room table.

ALANNA (O.C.)

You want it nice n' hot, Eric?

ERIC

Oh, you bet, I...

Eric looks at Alanna, standing over him. It appears that she is naked and holding a plate with a turkey on it, covering her breasts.

ALANNA

What's the matter, baby?

ERIC

Ms. Gregory, you ain't wearin' no clothes!

ALANNA

So? It's Thanksgiving, and we're thankful for our bodies!

ERIC

Uh, Berniece?

He turns to Berniece, who also appears naked. Eric GASPS.

BERNIECE

What, Eric? The apple don't fall far from the tree! Speaking of apples, which one do you prefer?

She sits closer to him.

ALANNA

Hold on, Bern-Bern, he needs to get some of this stuffing first!

(to Eric)

Now, are you a leg, breast, or thigh man?

She and Berniece inch closer to Eric.

ERIC

Uh...

INT. ALANNA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eric wakes up from what was a dream. He GASPS. Berniece wakes up on the side of him, in bed.

BERNIECE

Eric, what's wrong?

Eric jumps out of bed and runs to the bathroom.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Did you have a bad dream?

SFX: Toilet FLUSHES off-screen.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Oh.

Eric sashays back to the bed.

ERIC

Hey, baby!

He winks, does a "gun" with his finger, and lies back down next to Berniece.

BERNIECE

Eric, it's okay. It happens to a lot of guys. As long as you dreamed about me.

ERIC

I can honestly say I did.

BERNIECE

Good. Let's get back to sleep.

She kisses him on the cheek, and they both roll over.

ERIC

(sotto voce)

Fat chance.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Billy sits at the bar and sips on a drink. Junior enters.

JUNIOR

Son! There you are!

BILLY

Do you follow me everywhere? Where were you during any of my recitals?

JUNIOR

Please. Even the word, "recital", doesn't sound exciting.

Junior KNOCKS on the counter and signals to the bartender, IKE, black.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Ike, hit me.

BILLY

Don't tempt these guys in here, Dad.

Junior sits next to Billy.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What's the matter now?

JUNIOR

Well, I took yours and Sharon's advice. I got some medicine. Then I took a girl to my crib.

Ike gives Junior a drink.

IKE

(with his "surfer dude" accent)

Ooh, a sex story! Keep going!

Berniece's father, XAVIER, 40's, sits nearby.

XAVIER

And feel free to exaggerate!

JUNIOR

Well, there ain't much to tell!

BILLY

What, you couldn't perform again?

JUNIOR

Exactly the opposite!

BILLY

But how is that a bad thing?

PAUSE.

The men FROWN and GROAN.

IKE

I am so sorry, dude.

JUNIOR

Man, I'm losing my mojo! Literally!

ALOYSIUS ALLEN walks past with his wife AMBER, both 40's, black, and their son, ARNOLD, 17. They all wear sweaters, slacks, and glasses.

AMBER

Let's go, honey!

ALOYSIUS

Yeah, I've officially lost my appetite!

XAVIER

Ya'll had one? You're here!

The Allens exit.

BILLY

What happened, didn't you take your time?

JUNIOR

I thought I did.

BILLY

Did you think about baseball?

JUNIOR

About reaching every base? Yeah, great idea!

(scoffs)

I can't believe I'm getting sex advice from my son!

BILLY

And I can't believe I'm giving it!

IKE

Like, why's it such a big deal for women, anyway?

XAVIER

Yeah, Officer Townsend, what's up with that?

OFFICER YVETTE TOWNSEND, 40's, black, wearing her cop uniform, sits next to Xavier.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Well, it's not like I have any recent experience to go off of, but women don't wanna be taken for granted.

JUNIOR

Oh, whatever!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah! We wanna be satisfied, too! Show that we matter!

JUNIOR

Hmmph. That's a hard task. There's only two women I would do that with. Billy's mother and Susan Doolittle.

BILLY

Well, Dad, there is one more woman.

JUNIOR

You mean, that waitress? What's-her-face?

BILLY

Don't even! You know her name!

JUNIOR

Well, she act like she don't want me, so she shall remain nameless.

BILLY

And that's gonna stop you, huh?

XAVIER

Yeah, Junior, don't let her get away.

JUNIOR

You know, that reminds me. I recorded "The Blues Brothers" when it was on demand. I had it saved and everything. I was gonna watch it later. I think I deleted it by accident or something. So I said, "Fine, I'll catch it next week."

(pause)

Weeks went by, and I kept seeing it come up, and I said, "I'll record it next time."

(sighs)

Then the calendar month changed, but the movie was nowhere to be found. Now I have to rent it or buy it!

BILLY

Uh, Dad?

(to Ike)

Cut him off.

JUNIOR

You keep expecting that movie to be there, and then it's gone. I'm not gonna let that happen with Cassie! Lemme at her!

Junior shoots out of his seat and races away.

IKE

Wow.

XAVIER

Yeah.

IKE

Let's, like, turn to Netflix, before they get rid of that cartoon with the kids growing up!

BILLY
 Cartoon kids growing up?
 (scoffs)
 Yeah, okay.

Ike picks up a remote and turns on a TV. The patrons gather.

INT. STORE - DAY

Eric runs into his stepfather, MATT JAMES, 40's, black. Both have shopping carts.

ERIC
 Hey, Matt! Happy Thanksgiving!

MATT
 Same to you, son! What are you doing here?

ERIC
 The game ain't on yet, so I decided to help Berniece out with dinner, know what I'm sayin'?

MATT
 Yeah. Your woman sent you out for last-minute items, too.

ERIC
 (dejected)
 Yep.

MATT
 But at least I was able to get this football for Will here.

He pulls out the football from the cart and shows Eric.

ERIC
 Cool.

Matt spots a LADY with a clipboard.

MATT
 Well, nice talkin' to ya!

He sneaks away, carrying the football.

ERIC
 Matt?

MONTAGE - MATT CARRIES FOR YARDAGE

-- Matt walks through various aisles of the store. He sees the lady inching closer.

-- He runs out of an aisle and approaches a customer with a cart. He does a spin move and runs around him.

-- He zigzags through an aisle of clothes while watching the lady walk.

-- He continues to run and sees a woman bending over to a shelf. He leaps over her and lands on his feet.

MATT

Yes!

-- The lady with the clipboard taps him on his shoulder.

LADY

Hi! Who do you have for your cell phone provider?

MATT

Dang!

END OF MONTAGE

Eric looks at Matt and the lady from afar.

ERIC

How silly.

From a distance, Alanna looks at Eric. In a nod to "Boyz in Da Hood", the following plays in slow motion:

Alanna yells.

ALANNA

Eric!!

Eric looks at Alanna, then turns around and runs away. He crashes into a toilet paper display and flops to the ground. Alanna SIGHS.

INT. POSH RESTAURANT - DAY

Junior sits at a table. Cassie approaches him.

CASSIE

Junior, my manager says that you keep shooing away the other servers! He's about to throw you out!

JUNIOR

I only wanna be served by you, babe!

CASSIE

You're not even wearing anything casual! You still wearin' that ol' jumpsuit!

JUNIOR

This is who I am, take it or leave it!

CASSIE

I'll leave it! And speaking of "leave"...

She points to the exit door. Junior SIGHS, gets up, and heads out.

JUNIOR

Screw this.

(pause)

"Screw"! That's it! Cassie, listen, I can have any woman I want, but they're not you!

CASSIE

Probably because they're crazy.

JUNIOR

Maybe, but you're not like other women either. You'll never be my first love. You'll never be my kids' mother. But I don't care. I wanna see what you're all about.

CASSIE

Junior...

JUNIOR

Okay, okay, fine, go back to work, but I'll be here everyday at the same time, wearing the same outfit, and giving your coworkers the same hard time. And if you transfer out, I'll go to that restaurant, too!

He sits back down.

CASSIE

You are something else.

JUNIOR

Well?

CASSIE

I'm gonna make your life a living hell!

JUNIOR

See? You already sound like my exes!

CASSIE

Pick me up after 6.

She exits.

JUNIOR

Dang, after all that, I don't even wanna date her anymore.

Cassie returns.

CASSIE

You gonna take me out and like it!

She exits.

JUNIOR

Wow, I like her already.

INT. ALANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

Eric and Berniece sit at the table. Eric looks nervous. Alanna approaches the table with a turkey.

ALANNA

And here's the bird!

She places it on the table. Eric quickly looks at her and quickly turns away.

ALANNA (CONT'D)

Eric, what's up?

ERIC

Nothing, just making sure you were wearing clothes.

ALANNA

What?

ERIC

I said it was nothing. Let's eat.

ALANNA

Look, you don't have anything to worry about!

BERNIECE

Worry? What's going on?

ERIC

Worry? What, me worry? Me no worry!

BERNIECE

Eric, you been acting kinda strange.

ALANNA

Why don't we eat first?

BERNIECE

"First"? So there is something going on? And Mom, what do you know?

ALANNA

That's enough now. It's Thanksgiving. Let's give thanks.

BERNIECE

Okay. Eric, why don't you lead.

ERIC

Uh, alright. Bow your heads.

Everyone bows.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Lord, give us this day, our daily bread, rather, cornbread...

(gulps)

...and lead me not into temptation...

Berniece looks at him confused.

ERIC (CONT'D)

...and forgive those who trespass among us, especially me...

He turns to Berniece.

ERIC (CONT'D)

...because I cheated on you with your mom, Berniece! I'm so sorry!

BERNIECE

What??

ALANNA

Oh, he did not!

ERIC

Well, what would you call it?

ALANNA

Berniece, we were trying to hug, and he accidentally kissed me.

BERNIECE

On the lips?

ERIC

Mmm hmm.

BERNIECE

Mom! I can't believe it!

ALANNA

It was an accident!

BERNIECE

What, he slipped and fell on your lips?

ALANNA

That's exactly what happened!

ERIC

Berniece, you gotta believe me! I only love you! I have no feelings for your mother!

BERNIECE

Oh yeah? Then prove it! Sit next to her!

ERIC

Okay, fine!

He pulls a chair next to her.

ALANNA

Berniece...

BERNIECE

Now kiss her like you did before!

ERIC

Oh god, this must be another dream.

He SOCKS himself in the face. The ladies GASP.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 (mumbles)
 Excuse me.

He holds the side of his face and exits.

ALANNA
 Are you done?

BERNIECE
 Are you done?

ALANNA
 Excuse me?

She hovers over Berniece.

BERNIECE
 (subdued voice)
 Just asking.

ALANNA
 Berniece, that man loves you. He's a bit
 of a goof, but so are you. Ya'll be goofy
 together.

BERNIECE
 So you weren't trying to come on to him?

ALANNA
 I've been married twice. I know a thing
 or two about come-on's.

BERNIECE
 Alright, but you can't blame me. I
 haven't exactly been around loving
 parents!

ALANNA
 Hey, that's between me and Xavier.

BERNIECE
 What about the guy before him? How come
 you never talk about him?

ALANNA
 What's to talk about? I got pregnant in
 school, we eloped right after that. Then
 got annulled right after that.

BERNIECE
 What happened to him?

ALANNA

Don't know or care. Probably at the same place his son is.

BERNIECE

He's your son, too, Mom.

ALANNA

Hmmph. Excuse me if I feel some kinda way about an AWOL Marine!

Eric storms back in the dining room.

ERIC

Alright, Berniece, I'm gonna prove my love to you! Let's go to your room and get it on!

BERNIECE

Eric!

ERIC

Don't mean to be crude, but it needs to be done. You need to be done!

ALANNA

Boy, sit down!

ERIC

Yes, ma'am.

He sits next to Berniece.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Berniece, let me tell ya, I'm not gonna play "The Dozens" with my boys anymore! Facts!

ALANNA

Now, let's eat. But Bern-Bern, you say grace. 'Cuz Eric's gonna go to hell for that last prayer.

Eric and Berniece smirk. All three bow their heads.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Berniece walks down the hall. Annette calls after her.

ANNETTE (O.C.)

Burn Mark!

Berniece stops and SIGHS. Annette approaches her and grabs her shirt.

BERNIECE

I suppose you need something?

ANNETTE

Whatever money you got!

Berniece digs in her pocket.

BERNIECE

Fine, here.

Annette lets go, takes the money, and begins to exit.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Oh, and tell your daddy I said hi.

Annette turns around.

ANNETTE

You talkin' about my daddy?

BERNIECE

Oh, no. We would have to know him for that, right?

Annette GASPS and approaches her.

ANNETTE

What the hell did you just say??

BERNIECE

If he weren't on the run, you wouldn't be actin' all crazy!

Annette grabs Berniece by the shirt.

ANNETTE

I hope you like hospital food,
"Smurfette"!

BERNIECE

"Hospital". Wasn't that your father's field in the Marines? Staff Sergeant Blake Young?

ANNETTE

Yeah, what's it to ya?

BERNIECE

He left the country and can't come back,
unless he wants to get put under the
jail!

ANNETTE

You got one more time to talk about my
daddy!

BERNIECE

Fine. His mom is my mom! Alanna Gregory!

ANNETTE

(curiously)
Wait, what're you saying?

BERNIECE

I'm your auntie, you moron!

ANNETTE

"Auntie"??

BERNIECE

Put me down!

Annette does so and wipes Berniece down.

ANNETTE

(chuckles nervously)
There you go, Auntie. You look nice.

BERNIECE

Gimme back my money!

ANNETTE

Here you go!

BERNIECE

And from last week!

ANNETTE

Okay!

BERNIECE

And that jacket!

ANNETTE

But this is mine!

BERNIECE

So?

ANNETTE

Hey, no fair! I'm tellin' Granny!

Berniece pulls Annette by her shirt.

BERNIECE

So you gonna be a snitch?

Arnold approaches them.

ARNOLD

Well, look at this! If Berniece can stand up to you, then so can I!

BERNIECE AND ANNETTE

Shut up!

ARNOLD

Roger that! Here's my life's savings in advance!

He tosses his wallet on the floor and dashes away.

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Junior talks on the phone.

JUNIOR

Hey, son. You probably got me on speaker phone, but who cares? Thank you and Sharon for all ya'll advice! I got Cassie, and I ain't gonna mess it up! And the sex was great! You should've been there!

INT. SHARON'S HOME - SHARON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door is cracked open. Junior's voice blasts from Billy's phone, which lays on the nightstand.

JUNIOR (O.C.)

I gotta go! Time for round whatever!

SFX: Junior HANGS UP.

Billy wears nothing but suspenders, pants, and floppy shoes. He has on clown makeup and looks at Sharon, who wears lingerie and clown makeup.

BILLY AND SHARON

(miserably)

Great.

