

ERIC

"Cast Away"

Written by E.J. Rupert

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

INT. SHANA'S HOME - BEDROOM - MORNING

SHANA JONES, 19, biracial, lies in bed and wakes up. She rubs her stomach and talks to her unborn children.

SHANA

Whoa! Am I giving birth to a hockey team in there?

She turns to her side.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Hey, Jakey, you gotta feel them!

She lifts her head and looks around.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Jacob? Hmm. He must be eating breakfast.

She gets out of bed and look around. The bedroom has a dull, greyish color and looks deserted.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Man, I need to borrow Jentille from Dad. It's getting kinda dusty in here.

She opens the door, which falls off the hinges.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Need to borrow his handyman, too.

Shana limps out of the bedroom and into the living room, which also looks dull and deserted.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Whoa, it looks strange in here.

She almost loses balance.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Whoa, I'm a little woozy. Jacob must've put it on me proper last night!

(pause)

I can't tell him that, though.

She looks around.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Sharon? You here?

SILENCE.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 Maybe she went to work early.  
 (laughs)  
 Hey, I just made a joke!  
 (stops laughing)  
 Jacob?

SILENCE.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 He must've gone to work.  
 (laughs)  
 I'm two for two!  
 (stops laughing)  
 But if they're not here, where are they?

She looks in the kitchen.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 Oh! Jacob must've taken Dexter out for a walk.  
 (pause)  
 But that still doesn't explain where Sharon is.

She sits on the couch. Dust escapes from the cushions. She COUGHS.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 They ran away together! That tramp!

She gets up and looks in Sharon's bedroom, which also looks deserted.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 The drawers are hanging out, the closet's empty. This is all creepy. She better have run off with Jacob, so I can kill 'em!  
 (pause)  
 Nah, she don't even like him like that. I don't even like him like that.

She looks in the bathroom, which also looks deserted. She returns to the living room.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 Wow! I got the whole house to myself! And it's not even my house! Cool! I can walk around naked!  
 (pause)  
 Wait, I already do that.

She looks at her phone.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
I better get ready for work.

INT. SHANA'S CAR - LATER

Shana, wearing her Army uniform, drives in her car, which also has a dull look inside.

SHANA  
There is, like, no traffic on the road at all! And I'm hitting every green light! It's like a dream come true!

She look out the window.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Sure looks abandoned out here, though. Why does everything look so different?

Her stomach RUMBLES.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Let's stop at Sharon's job for some breakfast, kiddos.

She pulls up to Subs 'n Such, a sandwich shop. The building looks abandoned, with the windows and doors open.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Nobody's there! Hmmp. So everything's not so different.

She drives off.

INT. ARMY BASE - OFFICE - LATER

Shana enters her office and looks around. Papers are flying around, and drawers are open.

SHANA  
Where is everybody?  
(calls out)  
Hey, guys, I'm no longer a newbie! You can stop hazing me now!  
(pause)  
Hello?  
(pause)  
Dang. Maybe we went to war, killed all the enemies, and I was the last soldier standing!  
(pause)  
(MORE)

SHANA (CONT'D)

No, that doesn't sound like me. Maybe the office went to war, and I stayed behind to support them!

(pause)

Nah, that really don't sound like me. Well, I can't work for somebody who ain't here.

She exits the office.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Shana enters an abandoned apartment with an open door.

SHANA

Eric? Ron?

(pause)

The new Marvel movie must've come out today.

EXT. SHANA'S CAR - LATER

Shana walks to her car and opens it.

SHANA

(to her unborn babies)

Something's real weird around town, guys. I'd never thought I'd say this, but let's go back to Milwaukee and see if it's normal down there.

She gets in and drives off.

INT. MANSION - LATER

Shana enters her family's mansion. It looks abandoned and dull.

SHANA

Dad? Eleanor?

(pause)

Jentille? Jentille's butler? Jentille's butler's butlers?

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Shana walks into the restaurant, which is also abandoned.

SHANA  
 Nobody's at Timmy's Place, either, but  
 maybe that's for the best.

She exits outside and GASPS.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 I'm the last woman on earth!

PAUSE.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (sighs)  
 But Eric still won't date me.

She SNAPS her fingers.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 Hey, let me check out his old house!

INT. HOUSE - LATER

Shana walks around Eric's parents' house, which is also  
 abandoned.

SHANA  
 And no one here, either. Hmmm.  
 (pause)  
 I must've said something to make them all  
 disappear, like in "Home Alone"!  
 (pause)  
 Or maybe I need to right my wrongs to  
 bring them back, like in "Groundhog Day"!  
 (pause)  
 Damn. I need to watch some black movies.

She walks around the living room.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 Okay, think, Shana. Did you do something  
 mean to somebody? Maybe it was Jacob.  
 (practices)  
 "Jakey, I'm really sorry for cheating on  
 you."

She faces the other direction.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (mimics Jacob, deep voice)  
 "And I'm sorry for cheating on you,  
 Shane. You know I'd do anything for you.  
 Even kill for you. Literally!"

She turns around.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (regular voice)  
 "What are you laughin' at, Eleanor?"

She faces the other direction.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (mimics Eleanor)  
 "You don't have to practice much to sound like a man, Shana!"

She turns back around.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (regular voice)  
 "Yeah, yeah. And I apologize to you for calling you dumb."

She faces the other direction.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (mimics Eleanor)  
 "Well, I'm glad you finally apologized, Shana. I came all the way to Madison for this. I even drove up to a sign that said, 'Do Not Pass'. So I just sat there!"

Shana LAUGHS, CLEARS HER THROAT, then turns around.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (regular voice)  
 "Hey, Eric. You looking good today! See ya later, Babycakes!"

She faces the other direction.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (mimics Eric, deep voice)  
 "Quit--"

She kneels down.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 "Quit calling me, 'Babycakes'! And you're just too much woman for me. That's why I settled for Berniece!"  
 (regular voice)  
 Wow, I finally got to do him!

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

Shana walks down a deserted street and looks around.

SHANA

This is crazy. I have to do something here.

A WOMAN'S spooky voice speaks from afar.

WOMAN (O.C.)

Shana!

Shana turns around.

SHANA

Huh?

WOMAN

Down here!

Shana looks down at the woman, who sits on the ground and looks homeless with ragged clothing.

SHANA

You're the first person I've seen all day. Where is everybody?

WOMAN

That's for you to figure out, Shana.

SHANA

And how do you know my name?

WOMAN

Let's just say, "Mama knows".

SHANA

Wait a minute. You look just like me. Only you're darker, and your hair is nappier.

(gasps)

Mom??

WOMAN

Yep. Justine Jones in the flesh. Sort of.

SHANA

But...but...I thought you were dead!

JUSTINE

I am!



SHANA

Wait, then I'm dead, too??

JUSTINE

You think heaven looks like this? Man, you are Eleanor's sister!

SHANA

Okay, so what are you doing here?

JUSTINE

Here to give you guidance, of course.

SHANA

Well, okay, but you don't have to speak in that ghostly voice no more. We're good.

JUSTINE

(clears her throat)

Excuse me, but that was my voice. I smoked a whole lot!

SHANA

Oh, Mom, there's so much I need to know.  
(pause)

What made you marry a white boy?

JUSTINE

After all these years, that's what you wanna ask me?

SHANA

We've never met, so I don't have much to go on!

JUSTINE

Your daddy was so handsome, rich, and famous. He could have anyone he wanted. Including me. I met him at one of his lavish parties on one of his yachts.

SHANA

And you dated and got married?

JUSTINE

Dated. We never married.

SHANA

I was a bastard?

JUSTINE

"Was"?

Justine LAUGHS, then COUGHS.

JUSTINE (CONT'D)

Just kiddin'. Your father was a ladies' man, and I was kind of a ho.

SHANA

I guess the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Justine looks at Shana's stomach.

JUSTINE

I see that!

SHANA

Okay, but how did you die, Mom?

JUSTINE

What did your daddy tell you?

SHANA

Ya'll were arguing, he told you to drop dead, and you did.

JUSTINE

Yeah, that's what happened. That, and I OD'd. Orgies weren't the only things happening at those parties. But now that you know about me, this should help you figure out who you are.

SHANA

What? I know who I am! Shana Jones! I got a husband, I'm a Soldier, and I'm about to have twins! I'm good!

JUSTINE

Do you need anything?

SHANA

What I need is for you to tell me why I'm here!

JUSTINE

You gotta find out by yourself!

SHANA

So you came here to tell me to find out for myself?

JUSTINE

Hey, like you said, we don't have much to go on!

SHANA  
Thanks for nothing.

JUSTINE  
(spooky voice)  
Goodbye!

Justine waves her arms in a wiggly fashion.

SHANA  
Yeah, whatever.

Shana walks away.

INT. SHANA'S CAR - LATER

Shana drives and talks to herself.

SHANA  
Okay, I need to get things back to  
normal! Oh, I know! Maybe if I give  
something back to the community!

She looks out the window at the abandoned buildings and  
dirty streets.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
What community?

She pulls over and gets out. She pulls out her cell phone  
and looks at it.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Man! For a deserted planet, I sure got a  
great connection!

She types.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Okay, I'm gonna send the Boys Club...1  
million dollars. Ah, what the heck, make  
it 2 million. It's just money!

She types.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
And send!

She reads from the screen.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
"Your transaction did not go through;  
please call customer service"?

She SIGHS and dials on her phone.

SFX: DEAFENING CHIMES sound!

An AUTOMATED FEMALE VOICE speaks.

AUTOMATED FEMALE VOICE  
(in stilted, robotic dialect)  
There...is no one...on...the...Earth...to  
take...your...call...which is  
weird...because you...shouldn't be  
here...to call...either...Goodbye.

Shana hangs up and GRUNTS.

SHANA  
Well, as long as I'm on the phone, I  
might as well get caught up with  
"Turtleman."

She clicks on a button and looks at the screen for a few seconds.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
AARRGH! It's a clip show!

She forcefully clicks on a button and turns it off. She sits on a tree stump and puts her phone to the side.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
(to her unborn kids)  
My friends and family love every episode  
of "Turtleman", even the clip shows.  
(chuckles)  
I do kinda miss them, though.

PAUSE.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
What? Ya'll wanna hear about them? Well,  
let me tell you about the time...

EXT. OUTDOORS - NAVAL BASE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shana and ERIC NELSON, 15, black, are dressed the same as Navy recruits in their division, wearing their Navy-issued gear and ball caps that say, "RECRUIT". They stand at attention and listen to the MALE RECRUIT DIVISION COMMANDER (RDC).

MALE RDC  
All right, recruits, I need a volunteer.  
How about half-pint here?

He points to Eric, who runs up to him. The RDC passes him a fake grenade.

MALE RDC (CONT'D)

Now, we're gonna teach you the safety of grenades.

SHANA (O.C.)

Noooooo!

She runs and jumps on Eric. They PLOP to the floor. The recruits CHUCKLE.

MALE RDC

(to Shana)

It's a dud, dud!

SHANA

Oh, sorry, Eric, but see? If you were mine, I'd take a grenade for you.

ERIC

(grunts)

Funny, I was kinda thinking the same thing.

SHANA

(hugs Eric)

Aww, Babycakes!

ERIC

Get off me!

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shana and her half-sister, ELEANOR DUMBECK, 17, white, are in a college dorm room full of kids partying, drinking, and eating. Music PLAYS in the background.

ELEANOR

So, this is college, huh?

SHANA

Yeah, I think I'm gonna like it!

GINA RICHARDS, 20's, black, who lives there, approaches them.

GINA

Hey, ya'll having fun?

ELEANOR

Yeah! She's celebrating her birthday weekend!

GINA

(calls out)

Hey, everybody! Let's get this birthday girl a drink!

The kids CHEER. A girl hands Shana a drink.

GINA (CONT'D)

Go head! Bottoms up!

SHANA

Later.

(chuckles nervously)

I wanna pace myself.

GINA

Right. You don't wanna be like your sister, huh?

Gina points to Eleanor, who holds two cups.

ELEANOR

Hey, Shana! I'm having a blast already!

She quickly GULPS down a cup.

SHANA

How many of those have you downed?

ELEANOR

Three already. They're the best! But don't worry. I didn't taste any alcohol in it at all!

SHANA

Uh, Eleanor...

ELEANOR

And I had to keep drinking it to find out!

She LAUGHS, then quickly PLOPS on the floor. Shana and Gina look at her.

GINA

Dang. That Theta Punch is the bomb!

The kids CHEER. Shana tries to wake Eleanor up.

SHANA  
Eleanor! Wake up!

Eleanor sits up.

ELEANOR  
(slurred)  
Hey, hey, beat it! My sister is big,  
black, and she'll kick your ass!

Eleanor PLOPS back down.

SHANA  
Oh brother.

INT. SUBS N' SUCH - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shana's roommate, SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, makes sandwiches with her employees, PAULETTE and PATTY, both black. Shana and her husband, JACOB JACKSON, 19, white, approach the counter.

SHANA  
Sharon, thanks for bringing me and Jacob back together.

SHARON  
Oh. You're welcome.

SHANA  
Yeah, we both did wrong, but we're growing up now. Jacob isn't even gonna come after Darius!

JACOB  
(grins and speaks through his teeth)  
I never said that!

SHANA  
And I'm not gonna go after his mistress!  
(to Jacob)  
Hey, wait, you never told me who she was.

JACOB  
We're through! Does it matter?

SHANA  
No, I guess not. Go find us a table.

JACOB

Okay, I'll go find a table in this empty restaurant. You girls can finish talking about me.

SHANA

(chuckles)

Oh, you!

Jacob exits.

SHANA (CONT'D)

(to the girls)

When I find out who she is, the bitch is dead!

Pauletta and Patty nod their heads.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - LATER - FLASHBACK

Shana and her fellow soldiers, PRIVATE GEORGE and PRIVATE WEBSTER, both female, 19, black, watch SGT HOPPER, female, 30's, black, do an exaggerated dance move and spin to the floor.

SHANA

(laughs)

Oh, I can't keep up with all that!

GEORGE

We shoulda told you. Sarge can get down!

WEBSTER

Yeah, especially since she's been taking dance lessons from some guy!

GEORGE

What? Get outta here! If anything, she would be teaching him!

SHANA

I know!

WEBSTER

Well, she has been taking them from this white guy.

GEORGE

I rest my case!

The three LAUGH. Shana STOPS and GASPS. She looks at Hopper and walks towards her.



She taps Hopper on the shoulder; Hopper turns around. Shana lifts her fist and throws it in her direction.

FREEZE FRAME.

Everything and everyone freezes, with the exception of Shana, who still has her fist up. Her head and mouth are the only body parts that move.

SHANA

Oh no. What am I doing? Well, if I'm gonna knock her out, I better do it good. Still, how could I risk my career over this?

Hopper also moves her head and mouth only.

HOPPER

(to Shana)

Yeah, I would hit me, too. So just get it over with.

SHANA

(to Hopper)

Yeah, my arm is cramping up.

BACK TO LIVE ACTION.

Shana PUNCHES Hopper in the face. Hopper lands to the floor. Shana gets down with her, and they both fight each other.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

SHANA

Man, I gotta get them back! Including them crazy broads!

EXT. TALL BUILDING - ROOF - LATER

Shana looks down from the rooftop.

SHANA

I'll toss some money in the air, and people will grab it when it lands.

She reaches in her pocket and pulls her hand out.

SHANA (CONT'D)

A roll of quarters? Hmmph, better than nothing!

She opens it up and tosses the quarters down. They RAIN DOWN on a moving car.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Hey, there is one other person on Earth!

The car CRASHES off-screen.

SFX: EXPLOSION!

Smoke flies up to the roof.

SHANA (CONT'D)

There was, anyway.

She calls out to the driver.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Sorry! Just preparing you for the inevitable!

EXT. OUTDOORS - CLIFF - LATER

Shana drives her car to the edge of a cliff.

SHANA

Hmmm. I saw in this movie. If I drive this car off a cliff, it'll get sucked into a vortex and damage the multiverse.

She jumps out the car, runs and gets a large rock.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Thus giving back to the world and bringing life back to normal!

She throws the rock on the gas pedal and SLAMS the car door. The car rolls off of the cliff and CRASHES off-screen. Shana looks around.

SHANA (CONT'D)

No changes yet. Better get my Monday car.

EXT. OUTDOORS - CLIFF - LATER

Shana throws another rock onto the gas pedal of another car, which rolls off and CRASHES off-screen.

SHANA

Tuesday?

EXT. OUTDOORS - CLIFF - LATER

A pile of wrecked cars sits on the ground. Shana flies in a helicopter.

SHANA  
Here goes nothin'!

She jumps out of the helicopter, releases her parachute, and lands on top of the cliff. The helicopter CRASHES into the pile.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Oh. I think that was just a Youtube clip I saw.

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

Shana walks down the street.

SHANA  
This is awful! It's like a bad dream!  
(pause)  
Hey, maybe it is!

She pinches herself.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Ow!

She SLAPS her face a few times.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Nothing yet!

She PUNCHES herself a couple of times.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
(woozily)  
Not waking up yet.

Justine sits on the sidewalk.

JUSTINE  
Keep doin' it. Don't let me stop ya!

SHANA  
Will you get out of here?

JUSTINE  
God didn't tell me to come back inside yet.

INT. SHANA'S HOME - LATER

Shana limps inside.

SHANA

What a day. And I ain't even eat nothin'  
yet.

She walks to the kitchen and opens the fridge.

SHANA (CONT'D)

There's still food there!

She pulls out some items and places them on the table.

SHANA (CONT'D)

I saw on a TV show that somebody made a  
sandwich. Instead of their butler making  
it!

(pause)

Hmmm, I don't need a butler! How hard can  
it be?

She takes a plate and puts two slices of bread on it.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Okay, we got bread.

She prepares the sandwich.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Mayo, mustard, ham, cheese...

She reads from a jar of pickles.

SHANA (CONT'D)

"Dill Pick-lees..."

She puts some pickles on the sandwich.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Lettuce...

She tops the sandwich with the other slice of bread.

SHANA (CONT'D)

And bread again.

(sighs)

Whew! What a workout! But it looks good!

She studies the sandwich, then GASPS.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 What's this white, flour-y stuff on the  
 crust? Must be mold! Oh no, my sandwich  
 is ruined!

She takes the plate with the sandwich and dumps them both  
 in the garbage.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 Okay, Shana, don't fret. There's gotta be  
 something else here to eat.  
 (to her unborn kids)  
 Alright, stop kicking! I'm coming!

She goes to the cabinet and grabs a can of tuna.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 This tuna will have to do. But how do you  
 open it?

She looks around.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 (calls out)  
 Jentille? Oh, right.

She goes to the drawer, which is empty.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
 No tools. Man, I need some help!

A MAN speaks off-screen.

MAN (O.C.)  
 So you finally admit you need help?

Shana ZIPS through moving, flashing lights. She now  
 appears in a normally-lit hospital bed with a gown on.  
 She sits upright, facing the man, who is her father, JOHN  
 DUMBECK, 40's, white.

SHANA  
 (sighs)  
 Yes, Dad. I need help.

MAN/JOHN  
 You're just as stubborn as your mother  
 used to be.

SHANA  
 I'm sure she was alright.

John holds Shana's hand.

Standing at the forefront, away from Shana and John, is Eric. He plays as a narrator and talks to the screen, breaking the fourth wall.

ERIC

Hi. I'm Eric, the title character.  
Although you wouldn't be able to tell,  
since I'm just now in the episode! And  
clips don't count!

He looks at Shana, then back to the screen.

ERIC (CONT'D)

What you just saw with Shana was a trip  
into another dimension. Either that, or  
she was high off of the epidural.  
Nevertheless, she learned that the way to  
let go of her crutch was to admit to her  
father that she needed help. Which is  
what we all need sometimes. And she is  
now the better person for it. Thank you.

He talks to an unseen person off-screen.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Not even a couple of lines in the first  
act? Sheesh.

SHANA

(to Eric)

You know, you should follow your own  
advice, Eric.

ERIC

(to Shana)

Hey, you ain't supposed to talk to me!

JOHN

She's right. When are you gonna talk to  
your father?

ERIC

Why do I need to talk to Matt?  
Everything's fine!

SHANA

Is it?

Eric SIGHS. He talks to the camera.

ERIC

See you next time. I'll be here, of course. I don't know about these two clowns.

THE END