

ERIC

"'Scuse Me While I Diss This Guy"

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EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

ERIC, 14, looks at his crush, BERNIECE, 14, from a distance listening to her smartphone. Eric's best friend, DIMMEY, 14, stands with him.

ERIC

Dimmey, how can I get Berniece Williams to notice me?

DIMMEY

I don't know, become a completely different person?

ERIC

Thanks, man.

DIMMEY

Try to get on her level. Take interest in what she's doing.

ERIC

Alright. Don't stop me. I'm going in.

DIMMEY

(shrugs)

Eh.

Eric begins to march, then walks gently over to Berniece.

ERIC

Hey, what's up?

BERNIECE

I'm alright.

ERIC

What ya listening to?

BERNIECE

This new song from Lil Suzy Doo.

ERIC

Lil Suzy Doo? Hey, I got all her stuff! What's this song?

BERNIECE

It's called, "Little Willie."

(sings along to the tune)

"Don't want no little Willie, don't need no little Willie..."

ERIC

Okay, I can get with this.

Eric sings along with Berniece. ARNOLD, 14, approaches them.

ARNOLD

Eric, what are you doing singing this song?

ERIC

Well, the lyrics may sound feminine, but they're really not. Uh, that is the case, right, Berniece?

BERNIECE

Sure, I guess.

ARNOLD

No, I mean, are you that stupid that you're singing a song that's making fun of your father?

ERIC

What you talkin' bout, it's not about my father.

ARNOLD

Your father is Willie Jr., right? Washed-up star Willie Jr.?

ERIC

Yeah.

ARNOLD

Well, read between the lines, egghead!

ERIC

Arnold, you're messing up my chance!

BERNIECE

You never had a chance, Eric.

Berniece leaves. JACOB JACKSON, the school bully, walks up to Eric and Arnold.

JACOB

Eric, I just saw what happened. Must be rough. For that, I won't rob you today. As for you, Arnold, fork over your lunch money!

Arnold digs in his pocket and gives Jacob some change.

ARNOLD

My day's not going so great, either!

JACOB

Nice doin' business with you. Now beat it!

ARNOLD

Yessir!

Arnold scats away.

JACOB

Y'know, Eric, if I let you slide, I'll have to do it for others, too. It wouldn't be right.

Jacob sticks out his hand. Eric sighs and digs in his pocket.

INT. MCNAIR HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

CYNTHIA MCNAIR, mid-30's, walks towards the front door. Her kids, POLLY, 10, and PABLO, 7, sit on the couch and play with their phones.

CYNTHIA

I'm off to the Nelson house. Don't forget to take Arlene out.

POLLY

It's Pablo's turn.

PABLO

No, I already did this morning!

CYNTHIA

You guys are older now. I'm sure you can figure it out.

POLLY

Yes, ma'am.

Cynthia exits. Polly approaches Pablo and grabs him by the collar.

POLLY (CONT'D)

Do it or die!

PABLO

Yes, ma'am.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eric watches TV. His brother, BILLY, 18, writes at the dining room table.

BILLY

What do you think of this for a cover letter? "My name is William P. Nelson, III, and I am an inspiring food critic."

ERIC

I think you mean, "aspiring".

BILLY

You sure it's not, "inspiring"?

ERIC

Yeah. Believe me, bro, you're not that inspiring.

JUNIOR, the boys' biological father, kicks open the door and slides to the floor.

JUNIOR

Whassup, Nelson family?

BILLY

Must you always make a grand entrance?

JUNIOR

Don't ask silly questions, son. How's everyone doing?

ERIC

Dad, actually, I'm glad to see you.

RHONDA, the boys' mother, walks from the back to the kitchen, passing the three.

RHONDA

Don't tease your father, Eric.

ERIC

Seriously, Dad, have you heard the song by Lil Suzy Doo called, "Little Willie"?

JUNIOR

Yeah, catchy song! I need to request it for my wedding.

BILLY

You're getting married?

JUNIOR

Yeah, this weekend, ya'll should come.
Anyway, what about the song?

ERIC

Have you listened to the lyrics?

JUNIOR

"Don't want no little Willie, don't need
no little Willie..." Yeah, what's up?

ERIC

Did you date, marry or piss off anyone
similar to her?

Cynthia enters the house.

CYNTHIA

You got a few weeks?

JUNIOR

(to Cynthia)
And who are you?

ERIC

Cynthia, our maid.

JUNIOR

My alimony is paying for a maid?

CYNTHIA

Word on the street is you don't pay for
anything.

Cynthia heads to the kitchen.

JUNIOR

Anyway, I don't know anyone like this Lil
Suzy Doo. Only this girl I dated long ago
named Susan Doolittle, and...oh dear.

ERIC

There you go.

JUNIOR

No, we ended on good terms!

Eric and Billy stare at him.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Well, I emailed her and told her that we
should just be friends! But that's no
reason why she should make this...this...

BILLY

"Diss" is right. It's a diss track.

ERIC

You know, when someone makes a track to
ridicule you?

JUNIOR

Yeah, right. If that were true, your
mother would have made one of me years
ago.

Rhonda walks past Junior from the kitchen to back where
she started.

RHONDA

I do have a life outside of you, Junior.

JUNIOR

What is this, "Get on Junior Day"?

MATT, the boys' stepfather, passes Junior from upstairs
to out of the house.

MATT

It's just a day now?

JUNIOR

Alright! If the song is a diss track,
what do I do now?

ERIC

Take the high road. It'll be forgotten as
soon as another new song comes out.

A TV REPORTER speaks.

TV REPORTER (V.O.)

Coming up is the hottest song in the
country right now, Lil Suzy Doo's "Little
Willie"! Nobody needs to release any more
new songs this year, because this jam is
killin' it!

BILLY

Well, on that happy note, I gotta bounce.
Good luck, Dad.

Billy exits the house. Eric hums along to the song.

JUNIOR

Eric!

ERIC

What? I'm not singing any of the lyrics!

INT. SUBS N' SUCH - RESTAURANT - DAY

Billy enters the restaurant and looks around.

BILLY

(sotto voce)

Okay, Billy, first day on the job. Let's make a good impression.

The restaurant MANAGER, 18, approaches Billy.

MANAGER

(extends her hand)

Hi. Sharon Ross.

BILLY

(shakes her hand)

No, Billy Nelson.

He laughs.

SHARON

(snickers)

Cute. So, welcome to Subs n' Such! What do you want to see first?

BILLY

How to make your best item on the menu.

SHARON

Okay, follow me. I hope we live up to your expectations.

BILLY

I've eaten at Timmy's Place. They're not that high, trust me.

They both exit to the kitchen.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAYS LATER

Eric raids the fridge. Junior enters the kitchen.

JUNIOR

Son, what does this mean right here?

Junior shows Eric his phone.

ERIC

There's a "Little Willie" Facebook page?
Look at all of the likes!

JUNIOR

I thought you said this was gonna blow
over!

ERIC

Dad, you still don't know that the song
is even about you!

Eric swipes left.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Then again...

JUNIOR

What?

ERIC

The song is from the forthcoming album,
"Songs About Willie". Her next single is
"Willie or Won't He?" And here's a video
on YouTube by her called, "I Bet You
Think This Song's About You, Willie Jr.,
Well, You're Right, You Little Turd."
Subtle.

JUNIOR

What am I gonna do? This could ruin my
career!

Cynthia walks in and fixes her lips to say something.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

(to Cynthia)

Oh, get lost!

Cynthia walks back out.

ERIC

Dad, I'm reading the lyrics on Genius.
"Don't need no Little Willie for me; not
that clown from Tennessee."

JUNIOR

What? I'm not even from Tennessee. Born
and raised here...well, Madison. She must
have confused me with someone else!

ERIC

Maybe if you tell her that, she'll pull
the songs or something.

JUNIOR

What have I got to lose? I remember her address. Come on.

ERIC

Cool, I can get her autograph.

Junior turns to look at him.

ERIC (CONT'D)

And throw it away...because it's a waste of paper...and I want to see her face when I throw it...oh, let's just go.

They both exit the house.

EXT. OUTDOORS - DAY

Pablo walks the McNair family dog, ARLENE.

PABLO

Stupid Polly, making me walk Arlene again. That's alright. I know those pills in her sock drawer ain't candy.

Pablo stops and stands on Arlene's leash. Arlene tries to pull away. She grunts.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Hold on, I gotta tie my shoe.
 (to himself as he ties)
 Through the rabbit hole.
 (to Arlene)
 Good girl, you stopped wiggling.

He lifts his head. Arlene is no longer on the leash.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Uh, where'd you go?

He sees Arlene a few steps ahead of her. She looks at him, pants, barks, and wags her tail.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Come on, Arlene.

He steps closer, and Arlene steps back a few steps.

PABLO (CONT'D)

I'm not playing right now.

He inches closer, and Arlene inches in the other direction.

PABLO (CONT'D)
Come on, you stupid dog!

Arlene stops moving.

PABLO (CONT'D)
Finally, let's get you back on this
leash.

Pablo tries to grab her, but she runs away.

PABLO (CONT'D)
Oh, I'm getting too old for this!

INT. BILLY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Billy walks to the door and opens it. Sharon is there.

SHARON
William P. Nelson, III, how dare you?!

BILLY
Have we met?

SHARON
You remember me. You did a horrible
review of my restaurant, Subs n' Such!

BILLY
All I did was write a Yelp review and
said your sandwich was good.

SHARON
Right! How could you?

BILLY
(confused)
I don't know what I was thinking?

SHARON
We take pride in our work. We usually get
nothing but high marks in our food.
Quality meats, hand-made bread, you name
it! What do you know about critiquing
food, anyway?

BILLY
I know a good deal. Besides, I'm just one
critic. This can't be the first time
you've heard a less-than-perfect review.

SHARON
You're wrong. You're not a critic at all!

BILLY

Well, if I wanted to, I would have said that your bread tasted day-old!

SHARON

It was in the freezer. Sue me!

BILLY

Don't tempt me! And what gives you the right to come to my doorstep anyway?

RON, Billy's roommate, calls out from his bed.

RON

Especially since some of us are trying to sleep.

BILLY

Stay outta this, Ron!

SHARON

I hope you get fired from your job!

She storms away.

BILLY

(calling out)

Yeah, well...I hope your meats get slimy...and smell bad and...wait, come back, I wanna do it over!

Billy grunts in frustration.

EXT. LIL SUZY DOO'S HOUSE - DAY

Junior and Eric stand on the doorstep. Junior knocks on the door. LIL SUZY DOO opens it.

LIL SUZY DOO

Well, look who came crawling back!

JUNIOR

Susan, I think there's been a misunderstanding.

LIL SUZY DOO

No misunderstanding! Now get off my property, fool!

ERIC

Hey, don't talk to my dad like that!

LIL SUZY DOO
(looks up in the air)
Huh? Who said that? Where are you?

ERIC
Oh, is that a short joke?

LIL SUZY DOO
No, that would be you.

JUNIOR
Look, Susan, are you sure you got the
right guy? You and me only went out once.
And I'm not even from Tennessee.

LIL SUZY DOO
I think I remember Willard Thomas, Jr.,
okay?

JUNIOR
See, that's not even me!

LIL SUZY DOO
Oh, there you go with your mind games
again.
(turns to her cell phone)
Ain't it sad, ladies, when men do stuff
like this?
(turns back to Junior)
Now get outta here, Willard, if that's
your real name!

JUNIOR AND ERIC
IT'S NOT!!

LIL SUZY DOO
Oh, I don't know what to believe anymore.

JUNIOR
Well, believe this. It's not fair that
you're making me pay for another dude's
mistakes. I make plenty mistakes on my
own.

ERIC
Yeah, Susan, what do you say?

LIL SUZY DOO
I hear ya. I'll do some editing of the
song and repost it. Don't worry.

JUNIOR
Thanks, Susan. And I'm sorry things
didn't work out between us.

LIL SUZY DOO

Me too. See ya.

She closes the door. Junior and Eric leave the doorstep.

JUNIOR

And that is that, son! This move we made
absolutely solved everything! I'm sure we
will never hear about this issue again!

INT. NELSON GARAGE - DAY - LATER

Eric is underneath the grand piano and tries to tune it.
Junior barges in.

JUNIOR

Eric, how could you?

ERIC

(lifts up his head)
Tune your piano?

JUNIOR

Aw, I don't care about that, you idiot!
Look at this!

Junior pulls out his phone and shows Eric.

ON THE PHONE

Lil Suzy Doo's "Little Willie" song is remixed with
splices of her, Junior's, and Eric's earlier
conversation.

ERIC (ON THE VIDEO)

Wh-wh-what do you say?

JUNIOR (ON THE VIDEO)

I'm sor-sor-I'm sorry...

BACK TO NELSON GARAGE

ERIC

Wow, is that Beyoncé?

JUNIOR

And look on TikTok!

Junior swipes right on his phone.

ERIC

Look how many challenges there are for that song! But why are you blaming me?

JUNIOR

You told me to take the high road, and now she's making it worse!

Cynthia enters with a package and hands it to Junior.

CYNTHIA

Special delivery.

Cynthia leaves. Junior opens the package. He reads the letter inside.

JUNIOR

"Sorry, but there's money to be had. To make up for it, here are two tickets to my next show and a few autographed tee shirts. Susan."

ERIC

(takes the package)

Is there a size medium in here?

JUNIOR

(snatches it back)

Gimme that! We need to fight fire with fire. I need to make a diss track about her. And you're gonna help me!

ERIC

What? Help an old guy make a diss track? No way!

JUNIOR

Boy, as long as you live under my house, you're gonna follow my rules!

ERIC

Wait, didn't you give this house to us?

JUNIOR

Yeah, but I always wanted to say that.

ERIC

Look, you know some people in the industry. Ask them!

JUNIOR

But they're all my age and don't have the young ear to the street like you.

ERIC

Dad, it's not that hard to write. Just look for what's current.

JUNIOR

Hmm, okay. Well, I do like that song, "Beep Me 911". And I just saw, "Phone Booth", on TV the other day.

Eric stares at him.

ERIC

Yeah, I'm gonna help you out.

EXT. OUTDOORS - DAY - LATER

Polly walks up to Pablo.

POLLY

Hey, squirt, what's taking you so long with Arlene?

PABLO

She walked off and won't come back!

Pablo points to Arlene who is a few feet away. She looks at both them, smiles, barks, and pants.

POLLY

(claps her hands)
Here, Arlene, here!

PABLO

That won't work. Here, give me your candy bar.

Pablo snatches a candy bar from Polly's hand.

POLLY

Hey!

PABLO

(waves the candy bar to Arlene)
Want some chocolate? Come on!

Arlene inches closer to them. Polly tries to grab her, but she runs away into the traffic.

SFX: TIRES BRAKING HARD.

POLLY

Watch out!!

The car stops in front of Arlene, who stands there and continues to pant and bark.

PABLO

Oh well. Not goin' anywhere for a while?

He takes a bite out of Polly's candy bar. Polly looks at him angrily.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eric and Billy sit and watch TV. Junior bursts through the front door and slides on the floor.

JUNIOR

Wassup, Nelson family?

He gets up, runs to the remote, and changes the channel.

ERIC AND BILLY

Hey!

JUNIOR

My video's about to come on.

ERIC

You made one that fast?

JUNIOR

Yep. I took your advice and called all of the people I know. Check it out.

ON THE TV

Junior sits on top of a desk and addresses the camera.

JUNIOR

Hi. I'm Willie Jr., award-winning artist who brought you, "Funky Business". But I'm here to talk about something serious. Women's rights are important in our society, but so are men's. We can't spend our time fighting with one other. We have to show unity. I wanted to make a song about it, so I called on Taylor Swift, BTS, Olivia Rodrigo, and Nas to help me out. They couldn't make it, so I reached out to Cardi B, The Rolling Stones, and Garth Brooks.

(MORE)

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

They passed, so I enlisted the help of some lesser artists like Rok Now, Scary Disc Jockey, and Milt Chocolate, and we present to you, "Don't Bring Me Down".

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

BILLY

Oh, lord.

ON THE TV

Junior and the artists are in a recording booth. The music starts.

JUNIOR

"Don't believe the things you hear about me, we need to get together naturally."

MILT CHOCOLATE chimes in.

MILT CHOCOLATE

"Suzy Doo, your days are through, stop wrongin' us, sing along with us."

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

JUNIOR

This song will double as a Christmas tune, so I got Christmas Claus to perform on it, too.

ERIC

"Christmas Claus"?

JUNIOR

Yeah, we didn't have time to find a Santa Claus, so there's Christmas Claus.

ON THE TV

CHRISTMAS CLAUS, a black man donning a white, dingy Santa hat, a dirty, grey beard, and a wrinkled, red, track suit, gets on the mic and holds a full wine glass.

CHRISTMAS CLAUS

(slurs his speech)

Ho, ho, and uh, ho! Yeah, all ho's! Let's become one and come together!

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

BILLY

Wow.

JUNIOR

I know, right? But I can't take all the credit. It was Eric's idea.

ERIC

No way, man, this is all you.

JUNIOR

Billy, give me your honest opinion.

BILLY

Okay. That was the worst thing I've ever seen in my life. Everything about it sucks.

(to himself)

"Sucks". "Sucks n' Such"! "Sharon, your restaurant should be called, 'Sucks n' Such'!" That's what I should've said! Damn!

Billy runs away. Junior sits next to Eric.

JUNIOR

Why's he playa-hatin'? Hashtag, square!

Junior tries to draw a square shape in the air with his hands, but Eric pushes his hands away.

ERIC

Stop it! Where are those tickets? It's time to solve this once and for all. Follow me!

Eric gets up and exits. Junior follows him.

EXT. OUTDOORS - DAY - LATER

Arlene kneels in the middle of the street. Behind her is a traffic jam. Arlene barks.

SFX: Cars HONKING.

POLLY

You just had to get a dog! Why not a fish?

PABLO

What? You wanted her for your birthday!

POLLY

Why you bringin' up old stuff?

Matt and Rhonda approach them as they walk their dog, BONY.

RHONDA

What's going on over here?

POLLY

The usual "dog plays in the traffic" thing.

MATT

Well, dogs like to play with each other. Let's get Bony to lure her back here.

He lets Bony loose.

MATT (CONT'D)

Go get her, boy!

Bony runs to Arlene. They both walk around and sniff each other.

MATT (CONT'D)

Okay, now come back.

The dogs both continue to sniff and walk. Then they sit down.

PABLO

What are they doing, having a sit-in?

RHONDA

Hell no, they won't go.

POLLY

I'm gonna call Mom for help.

Polly leaves the area.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - DAY - LATER

Billy drives and presses a button on his phone.

SHARON (V.O.)

Hi, Billy, this is Sharon. I wanna apologize for the way I acted. It was very unprofessional of me. Listen, I'm the manager of another restaurant. If you're not busy, the address is 555 N.

(MORE)

SHARON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Howell. Come by, and I'll make sure you
have a better experience. Bye.

EXT. APARTMENT DOOR - EVENING

Billy approaches the door and looks around.

BILLY
Hey, this isn't a restaurant!

He rings the doorbell. Sharon opens it.

SHARON
Hi.

BILLY
Sharon, what's the deal? You told me to
come to a restaurant.

SHARON
Yeah, I did. Come in.

Billy walks in. There is a dining room table set up for
two.

SHARON (CONT'D)
Have a seat, and I'll get your food.

BILLY
This is your restaurant?

SHARON
You might say that.

BILLY
But you said that.

SHARON
Yeah, I lied.

Billy smirks, then sits down.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Eric and Junior enter a smoky dive bar. There are a few
people scattered around the bar.

ERIC
Pretty empty for it to be a concert here.

JUNIOR

You kidding? This is half the size at my concerts.

The MC steps up to the mic.

MC

Now, the moment you've been waiting for,
Lil Suzy Doo!

The audience gives scattered applause. Lil Suzy Doo hits the stage.

LIL SUZY DOO

(singing)

"Don't want no Little Willie..."

ERIC

Why aren't the people gathered at the stage?

JUNIOR

Maybe they're getting drinks?

Eric stops a PATRON.

ERIC

Hey, what's up with this crowd?

PATRON #1

Oh, that broad's old news! I'm just here for the drink specials!

Lil Suzy completes her song and looks flustered.

LIL SUZY DOO

Thank you, Cleveland!

She exits the stage. Another PATRON yells.

PATRON #2

It's Milwaukee!

ERIC

(to Junior)

I think her career's dead, Dad!

JUNIOR

Hey, it is!

He and Eric laugh and give each other a high five.

ERIC

Ha, ha, ha...
 (to a bartender, in sotto
 voce)
 ...gimme two beers.

JUNIOR

(grabs Eric's arm and pulls
 him away)
 Nice try.

ERIC

But it's a special occasion!

They both leave the bar.

INT. SHARON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Billy and Sharon finish eating.

BILLY

Sharon, why did you do all of this for
 me?

SHARON

Well, I didn't make the best first
 impression. And you're kinda cute.

BILLY

So are you, I guess.

They both move their chairs closer to each other and
 kiss.

BILLY (CONT'D)

And you make a pretty great dinner.

SHARON

I make a good breakfast, too. You should
 try it.

BILLY

Oh, I bet people around the block line up
 for it!

SHARON

Uh, no, not really.

BILLY

Well, they should! When can I come by to
 taste...?

Sharon raises her eyebrows and smirks.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Ah. Oh, happy day!

They continue to kiss and lower to the floor.

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER THAT EVENING

Polly returns, with Cynthia, to Matt, Rhonda, and Pablo.

POLLY

There they are, Mom.

CYNTHIA

Oh, no problem. Wait here.

Cynthia walks out in the traffic to Arlene and Bony.

PABLO

Oh no, she's gonna get killed!

POLLY

She's risking her life for them. I, for one, am proud of her.

MATT

Will you two be quiet?

Cynthia kneels a few steps from the dogs.

CYNTHIA

(slaps her thighs a few times)

Here, girl! Here, boy! Come on!

The dogs walk up to Cynthia, who sticks out her hand. They both lick her hand. Cynthia grabs them both by the collar and walks them back to the sidewalk.

RHONDA

How'd you do that?

CYNTHIA

You have to get on their level, literally.

The families put the leashes back on their respective dogs and walk to the Nelson house. Matt unlocks the front door and opens it.

RHONDA

(lets go of Bony)

Thanks for your help, Cynthia.

Bony runs into Matt's hand and then runs into the house. Matt drops his keys on the floor inside. Arlene wiggles out of her harness and follows Bony inside. The dogs close the door.

MATT

Hey!

Matt wiggles the doorknob but cannot open it.

MATT (CONT'D)

The door's locked. Rhonda, where are your keys?

RHONDA

They're inside!

Matt pounds on the door.

MATT

Bony!

CYNTHIA

Arlene!

POLLY

Wilma!

The others angrily look at her.

POLLY (CONT'D)

Oh, come on, that was funny.

RHONDA

I'll handle this.

Rhonda rings the doorbell.

SFX: DOORBELL CHIMES.

The dogs bark repeatedly.

MATT

(to Rhonda)

What did you think that would do?

RHONDA

Sorry!

INT. JUNIOR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SFX.: DOORBELL BUZZ.

JUNIOR

Eric, get the sodas. I'll get the pizza.

Junior opens the door. Lil Suzy Doo, who wears a pizza delivery uniform, awaits.

LIL SUZY DOO

(begrudgingly)

Here's your pizza.

JUNIOR

Susan, this is your job now?

LIL SUZY DOO

Yeah, but I had it coming.

JUNIOR

You got that right.

They both walk into the apartment.

LIL SUZY DOO

Sorry for everything.

JUNIOR

(gives her the money)

Me too, I guess.

LIL SUZY DOO

It's too bad things didn't work out.
You're really an okay guy.

JUNIOR

Yeah, you too.

They both stare at each other.

MOMENTS LATER

ERIC

(walking out of the kitchen)

Alright, Dad, here are the sodas.

Junior and Lil Suzy Doo are kissing.

JUNIOR

(to Eric)

Daddy has company. Go home.

Eric sighs.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

SFX: DOORBELL CHIMES.

Eric opens the door. Matt, Rhonda, Polly, and Pablo are there.

ERIC
(walks and sits on the couch)
Mom? Matt? Where were you guys?

Polly and Pablo run inside. The others walk in.

MATT
Bony accidentally locked us out, so we
spent the night at Cynthia's.

Matt and Rhonda go to their room. Polly and Pablo return with Arlene on her leash.

POLLY
Alright, Mom's waiting for us. Let's go
to the car.

PABLO
I don't get it. Why would they lock us
out? What could he and she be doing in
here all by themselves?

POLLY
Uh, I think Mom should explain that to
you.

Polly, Pablo, and Arlene exit the house.

Billy suavely promenades into the house and hums. Bony suavely promenades to Billy. They both nod and grin at each other and walk away.

Eric turns on the TV. Junior enters and slides on the floor.

JUNIOR
Whassup, Eric Nelson?!

ERIC
I take it you're in a happy mood now.

JUNIOR
You got it. Everything is better.

ERIC
Well, good luck dealing with Susan.

JUNIOR

Hey, that's your mother-in-law you're talking about!

ERIC

Uh...what?

Junior directs Eric's attention to the TV.

ON THE TV

REPORTER (V.O.)

Early this morning, washed-up singer Willie Jr. tied the knot with recently washed-up singer Lil Suzy Doo!

Lil Suzy Doo, wearing a wedding dress, walks outside a chapel. Junior, wearing a tux, slides outside on his knees as usual, and greets some onlookers.

JUNIOR (ON TV)

Whassup!

An ONLOOKER throws a box at Junior's head.

JUNIOR (ON TV) (CONT'D)

Ow! You're supposed to take the rice out of the box!

ONLOOKER (ON TV)

We know!

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

ERIC

I'm looking at this like I should be surprised. Well, congrats.

JUNIOR

Also, something good came out of this. You and me got to bond.

ERIC

Well, that's true.

JUNIOR

Thanks for sticking up for me.

ERIC

Hey, nobody gets to badmouth my father but me.

JUNIOR

Right back at you, son.

Eric and Junior hug each other.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Breaking news: in an interesting turn of events, Lil Suzy Doo has filed for divorce from Willie Jr.! She says she now has a new batch of songs ready! Here's one of them!

LIL SUZY DOO (V.O.)

"I'm gettin' you for everything you own/I'm gonna leave yo ass all alone..."

Junior sits down in shock.

ERIC

Yeah, I'm gonna head on out.

Eric exits the house. Lil Suzy Doo continues singing on TV.

JUNIOR

(lifelessly)

Well, the song is a little catchy.

THE END.