

ERIC

"Dumblin"

Written by E.J. Rupert

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INT. DUMBECK MANSION - DAY

JENTILLE, the butler, enters the living room. He announces to MATT JAMES, 40's, black, who sits in a chair, wearing a white bath robe and smoking a cigar.

JENTILLE
Mr. Nelson, sir!

Matt's stepson, ERIC NELSON, 18, black, enters behind Jentille.

ERIC
Of the Nelsons!

JENTILLE
(reluctantly)
Right.

Jentille exits.

MATT
Hey, son, what's up?

ERIC
That's what I came to ask you! Enjoying the luxury here?

MATT
You know it! Jentille already gave me a tour of the first floor!

ERIC
Well, what about the second first floor?

MATT
What?

ERIC
Follow me.

Matt gets up.

MATT
Do I have to put something on?

ERIC
No, it'll be quick.

MATT
What're we taking, the elevator?

ERIC
 (chuckles)
 "Elevator". That's rich!

They enter a tunnel, where other passengers stand.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 We have to take this train to the
 escalator!

The train stops, they hop on, and it ZOOMS down the
 tracks.

MATT
 This is so cool! I know I had my
 reservations...

ERIC
 No, they have reservations! I think
 Shana's mother had Cherokee in her.

MATT
 Oh.

ERIC
 How does everyone else like it?

MATT
 Oh, the pets can't get enough of it!

MONTAGE - COMMERCIAL

-- An ANNOUNCER speaks.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 And now, for one night only: More
 crashes! More deaths! Bigger budget!

-- The family dog, Bony, is shown sitting in a director's
 chair, wearing dark shades and a black beret.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 From director Bony Dog comes a new
 musical...

-- He announces the title on the screen.

SUPER: "MAMA, I WANT WHISKERS & FRISKERS TO SING FOR MY
 BIRTHDAY"

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Starring Whiskers and Friskers Mouse!

-- Friskers flies through a house with his bowtie that operates like a propeller. Whiskers hangs on to Friskers' feet.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Featuring Eddie the Cat!

-- Eddie chases them.

ANNOUNCER
And introducing Maybelle Adams!

-- MAYBELLE ADAMS, a heavy-set, black woman, only shown from the neck down, hollers at Eddie. She takes a broom and SWATS it at him.

MAYBELLE
You stop that runnin' around!

-- Eddie and the mice exit. Maybelle GASPS.

MAYBELLE (CONT'D)
They're really gone!

-- A spotlight shines on her. She sings part of the chorus to "Is That All There Is".

SFX: Melancholy music PLAYS.

MAYBELLE (CONT'D)
(sings)
"Is that all there is?/Is that all there is?"

-- Eddie and the mice return and HOWL to the music.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
"Cat & Mouse" magazine says, "Great show. I laughed, I stopped laughing, then I cried, then I stopped crying, then I laughed again, then I was hungry!"

-- The quote appears on the screen, as Eddie chases the mice.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
"Bony Dog has created a masterpiece."
Says Bony Dog.

-- Quote appears on screen.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
"The feel-good, cat-splattling musical of the year," says Mouse Daily.

-- Quote appears on screen, as Eddie gets SLAMMED by a falling safe.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

"Mama, I Want Whiskers & Friskers to Sing for My Birthday!" The most anticipated musical of the year!

(sotto voce)

...by nobody.

END OF MONTAGE, BACK TO TRAIN

ERIC

Matt, do you ever wonder what Bony and Eddie do while we're gone?

MATT

Not really.

ERIC

Anyway, how's Mom enjoying the place?

They get off of the train and hop on an escalator.

MATT

She's still taking it all in. Right now, though, she's pledging some girls for her sorority.

ERIC

Need any extra dough for your pocket?

MATT

What am I gonna say, "no"?

ERIC

Let's go in this bank.

INT. BANK - LATER

Eric and Matt stand in front of a BANK TELLER.

ERIC

Just tell him what you want.

MATT

Uh, okay.

(to teller)

How you doin'? I'd like to borrow a hundred doll--

BANK TELLER

Here you go.

He hands Matt the money.

MATT

Don't you need an application from me or something?

BANK TELLER

It's best that I don't, sir. You're pretty well-known.

MATT

Wow!

Eric and Matt exit.

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - AUDITORIUM - SAME

Eric's mother, Professor RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, and her friend, OFFICER YVETTE TOWNSEND, both 40's, black, walk around a pair of female pledges who stand at attention. The pledges wear white tee shirts with a gerbil's face on the front of them.

RHONDA

Alright, Gerbils, your shirts look ridiculous, as usual.

One of the pledges, ELEANOR DUMBECK, 19, white, speaks.

ELEANOR

Really? 'Cuz I can have Jentille sew us up some better ones, and...

RHONDA

Shut up! And you only respond by saying, "Ma'am, yes, ma'am"!

ELEANOR

Ma'am, yes, ma'am!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Have you Gerbils come up with some names for yourselves, if and when you become members of my sorority?

The other pledge, MAUREEN WALKER, 20's, black, responds.

MAUREEN

Ma'am, yes...

Eleanor nudges Maureen.

ELEANOR
(whispers)
Together, remember?

MAUREEN
Oh, right.

PLEDGES
(shout)
Yes, Big Sister Milwaukee's...
(slick their hair with their
right hand)
...Finest, ma'am!

OFFICER TOWNSEND
Okay, Number 1, what's your name?

MAUREEN
Sister Jamaican Rum! Thought of by Big
Sister "Educata", ma'am!

RHONDA
That's me!
(to Eleanor)
And what's yours, Number 2?

ELEANOR
Ma'am, yes, ma'am!

RHONDA
(confused)
What?

ELEANOR
Well, you said to respond to you by
saying, "Ma'am..."

RHONDA
What's your name, fool?

ELEANOR
Sister Vanilla Fudge, also thought of by
you, ms'am!

RHONDA
And why that name?

ELEANOR
Ma'am, because "Affirmative Action" would
be too easy, and this Gerbil didn't get
it, ma'am!

RHONDA

That's right.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

I kinda like "Affirmative Action", Number 2. Change it to that!

ELEANOR

Ma'am, yes, ma'am!

RHONDA

No, you keep your name!

ELEANOR

Big Sisters, who do I listen to first?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Good question, Gerbil. You listen to your Dean first.

OFFICER TOWNSEND AND

RHONDA

Which is me!

They look at each other in shock.

MAUREEN

Uh, Big Sisters?

RHONDA

That's enough for today. Fall out!

PLEDGES

Ma'am, yes, ma'am!

ELEANOR

Get your beauty sleep!

MAUREEN

Not that you need it!

ELEANOR

But we do!

PLEDGES

So we can be the fine, fine women of Theta Theta Pi! Bye-bye!

They both exit.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Rhonda, you said I could be Dean!

RHONDA

No I didn't!

COACH RAQUEL MALDONADO, 40's, Puerto Rican, wearing a polo, jeans, and a whistle, enters.

COACH MALDONADO

What's up, ya'll? Why did the pledges leave so early?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

No big deal, Raquel, we can handle it.

RHONDA

It is a big deal! Coach, who decided that 'Vette could be Dean?

COACH MALDONADO

We all voted on it. Didn't you get the email?

RHONDA

I was copied on it. It wasn't to me! So I didn't read it yet. I was gonna get to it!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Well, while you were ignoring your emails, we were voting "yes" to me!

RHONDA

But that's not fair! I have the most experience running a line!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah, and now it's time to give others a chance!

COACH MALDONADO

Now, ladies, I'm sure you can decide on this, just like when you guys elected me as President of the grad chapter.

RHONDA

I don't remember doing that, either.

COACH MALDONADO

Check your spam folder or something. Anyway, you two handle it.

RHONDA

Fine, let's discuss this over a burger.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

All I heard was "burger".

Rhonda and Townsend walk and turn the corner. They enter a restaurant named, "Dumburgers". They sit at the counter. Eleanor appears on the other side with an apron on.

ELEANOR

Welcome to Dumburgers, how can I help you?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Two Dumburgers with cheese, and make it snappy!

ELEANOR

Hey, our session is over! You're in my place now!

RHONDA

But we're paying customers!

ELEANOR

(threateningly)

Okay, you've won this round...

Rhonda and Townsend look at her angrily.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

(normal voice)

...ma'am!

She runs away.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eric puts items in a box. His brother, BILLY, 20's, enters the front door.

BILLY

Oh no you don't, squirt!

ERIC

"No I don't" what?

BILLY

Movin' back in here! I'm watching this place while Mom and Matt are gone! You go take care of your fake family!

ERIC

Don't worry! I just came to get my autographed J.J. Watt jersey! By the way, your "fake family" includes your son.

BILLY

Oh yeah. Hey, where is he anyway? With a babysitter?

ERIC

Huh?

BILLY

Because Berniece is at school, right?

ERIC

(rapidly)

Right, of course! Gotta go!

He races out of the house.

BILLY

(sighs)

That's why they don't see me around much.

Eric pokes his head back in the house.

ERIC

(scoffs)

Yeah, that's why!

He exits again. Billy sits on the couch. His father, JUNIOR, 40's, enters the house.

JUNIOR

Hey, son, I just ran into Eric. He didn't stop for me or nothin', though.

BILLY

Dad, what are you doing here?

JUNIOR

I'm here to watch the house while your mother and Matt are gone!

BILLY

Oh, no you don't, old man! I'm staying here!

JUNIOR

I bought the place!

BILLY

You've barely been in it!

JUNIOR

I've laid my hat here more times than not! And I'm still paying on it! Go back to Ron!

BILLY

He's sick, so as a friend, I'm staying as far away from him as possible. What about you and Cassie?

JUNIOR

She's making me sick!

BILLY

Well, I ain't leavin'!

JUNIOR

Me neither!

BILLY

Fine, we'll both stay here, but just give me my space!

JUNIOR

Fine with me!

Junior goes upstairs.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

I hope Rhonda and Matt's room don't smell like sex!

(chuckles)

Hey, I just made a joke!

The maid, CYNTHIA McNAIR, 30's, Puerto Rican, enters from the kitchen.

CYNTHIA

Well, if that's the way it's gonna be, I'm out! I can't work under these conditions!

BILLY

Believe me, Cynthia, I don't want Dad here, either.

Cynthia stops walking.

CYNTHIA

Your dad's here?

Billy frowns at her.

EXT. OFFICER TOWNSEND'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Officer Townsend walks inside her apartment building.

SFX: Her phone RINGS!

She answers the CALLER, female.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Hello?

CALLER (O.C.)

Hello, is this 911?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(sighs, sotto voce)

Whose bright idea was it to forward these calls to our cell phones?

(to caller)

What's your emergency?

CALLER (O.C.)

I'm calling to report a kidnapping!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

I don't have time for this. I just got home.

CALLER (O.C.)

What? Let me speak to your supervisor!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

I'm off my shift, so the only person I answer to is myself, Yvette Townsend!

CALLER (O.C.)

I should've recognized the voice of a old cow! This is Henrietta!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(gasps)

Henrietta Esser?? The one who stole my husband?

HENRIETTA (O.C.)

Henrietta Townsend, the one who took him after you left him behind!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Whatever, Miss "Clean-Up Woman". Enjoy my leftovers!

HENRIETTA (O.C.)

Actually, I am! We just celebrated our anniversary, and our oldest has just been accepted to Harvar--

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(sternly)

I said, "Enjoy my leftovers!"

She hangs up and enters her home. Eleanor and Maureen sit on a couch, then quickly shoot up, form a line, and stand at attention.

PLEDGES

Good evening, Big Sister Milwaukee's...
(whip their hair with their
right hand)
...Finest, ma'am!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

What are ya'll doing here? We don't have session tonight!

ELEANOR

Ma'am, Big Sister Educata let us in, ma'am!

MAUREEN

She said there's a special session tonight, ma'am!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

What? But ya'll report to me! I'm the dean!

ELEANOR

Big Sister Educata said she's the dean, ma'am!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(sighs)

All I wanted to do was come home after a hard day's work and take off my bra!

MAUREEN

(confused)

"Bra"?

ELEANOR

(to Maureen)

Shh!

SFX: RUMBLING sound.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

What's that sound in my bedroom? It's usually the quietest place in Milwaukee! Where's my pistol?

PLEDGES

No!

MAUREEN

That's our surprise for you, ma'am!

ELEANOR

And your pistol is propping your window open, ma'am!

Townsend opens her bedroom door. A man in a mascot costume hops out. He has his wrists and legs tied up, with his mouth taped up. He MOANS.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

What is this?

PLEDGES

Ma'am, we kidnapped the other school's mascot, ma'am!

Rhonda exits from the bathroom.

RHONDA

That's right! We all had to do that stuff when we pledged!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(sotto voce)

Rhonda, you could've asked me first!

RHONDA

I didn't think you'd mind capturing...

She looks at the mascot and GASPS.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Gerbils, what the hell? You kidnapped our own mascot??

ELEANOR

No, ma'am! How stupid do you think we are?

RHONDA

You kidnapped our own mascot!

She and Townsend untie the mascot.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Really? Didn't you fools recognize the Dogcat costume?

MAUREEN

That's supposed to be a Dogcat?

ELEANOR

I thought we were the Muskrats.

RHONDA

Take off your head, Harry!

HARRY, the man in the costume, takes off his costume head.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Now why did you let them do this to you?

HARRY

I heard Maureen's voice, and I was getting tied up. Wishful thinking, I guess!

ALOYSIUS ALLEN, 40's, black, dressed in Poindexter-type gear, barges in the apartment.

ALOYSIUS

Yvette, for the last time, keep it down in here!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

It's not my fault this time, Mr. Allen!

ALOYSIUS

It's bad enough I have to listen to you teach your rhythm-less pledges here how to step! And I used to DJ. I know about rhythm!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Is that why that album you released sold ones and ones of copies?

ALOYSIUS

Hey, it did moderately well in Yugoslavia! Now stop it before I call...you...on yourself. And you probably wouldn't do anything about it anyway.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

So we good.

Aloysius GROANS and exits.

OFFICER TOWNSEND (CONT'D)
Harry, follow him out.

Harry walks by the pledges.

HARRY
(to Maureen)
See you tomorrow?

MAUREEN
Yeah, and bring the costume.

Harry exits.

RHONDA
(to Townsend, sotto voce)
Okay, so it didn't work out as planned.

OFFICER TOWNSEND
Planned? I didn't even authorize this!

RHONDA
Hey, listen, 'Vette, what say you and me
be co-deans? That way, I can give you
some pointers when you get stuck!

OFFICER TOWNSEND
Oh, come on, Rhonda!

MAUREEN
Big Sisters, with all due respect, we're
getting confused about who to really take
orders from.

ELEANOR
Yeah, it's too much thinking involved. We
didn't come to college for this!

Townsend, hands on hips, looks at Rhonda.

EXT. OFFICER TOWNSEND'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Rhonda exits the building and talks on her phone.

RHONDA
I can't believe it, honey! Yvette thinks
that I'm trying to sabotage her line! I
just want it to be successful! I do have
more experience running one. What do you
think, honey?

INTERCUT

The person that Rhonda is talking to is Eric, who is in his dorm room.

ERIC

I don't know, Mom. I don't think I'm the right person to talk to about this.

RHONDA

Oh, you're right. We'll talk about stuff you know. How's class? And your living situation, hmm?

ERIC

(nervously)

Hey, Mom, don't hold back! Tell me more about your line!

Eric's nephew, and Billy's son, WILL, 2, cries in the background.

WILL (O.C.)

WAAH! WAAH! Oh, WAAH!

ERIC

Will's crying, gotta go!

He hangs up and runs to Will, who is crying and wiggling on the couch.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hey, hey! Tell me what's wrong!

WILL

I can't explain it! WAAH! WAAH!

ERIC

Okay, I already changed you, you already had a nap. Dang, what is it?

(pause)

I know! Horsey-time!

He sits down, puts Will on his right leg, and bounces him up and down. Will STOPS crying.

WILL

(shaken)

This'll work!

Eric's girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 18, black, enters.

BERNIECE

Hey, guys!

Eric puts Will down.

ERIC

And where have you been all day?

BERNIECE

Uh, school?

ERIC

And said school doesn't have a phone?
While I've been home taking care of our
child!

BERNIECE

Um, you haven't been leaving the oven
door open again, have you?

ERIC

I'm just playin', Berniece. This is how
married couples act.

BERNIECE

Well, while we're playing house, did you
think of what we're gonna have for
dinner?

ERIC

I thought you were picking up Chinese.

BERNIECE

No, we need that money for the
laundromat.

ERIC

Alright, we'll just make something here.

BERNIECE

Eric, neither of us cook.

ERIC

I can cook!

BERNIECE

Just because you can doesn't mean you
should.

ERIC

(to Will, curiously)
Uh, can you?

WILL

I can eat a mean Happy Meal.

ERIC

I have a few dollars left on my ID card.
Go and get us something from the
cafeteria.

BERNIECE

Why me?

ERIC

It's Tuesday! I stay at home with Will,
while you pick up dinner.

BERNIECE

Fine.

Berniece takes the card from Eric and heads for the exit.

ERIC

And bring back three trays, so we can go
sledding afterwards!

WILL

Yay!

Berniece exits. Eric resumes bouncing Will on his legs.

ERIC

Grown man doin' grown man things!

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Eleanor and Maureen stand in line, at attention. They
both wear white blouses, black pants, and blindfolds over
their eyes. Rhonda approaches them.

RHONDA

Alright, Gerbils, we've been up all
night. Well, you guys have. Me and my
Sisters have been taking shifts. You guys
better not be sleep underneath them
blindfolds!

PLEDGES

Ma'am, no, ma'am!

RHONDA

Good, because I know Number 1 is used to
being up all night!

MAUREEN

Yep!

Eleanor nudges Maureen.

RHONDA

So you think you're ready to cross over to Theta land tonight?

MAUREEN

Ma'am, yes, ma'am!

RHONDA

Really?

ELEANOR

Ma'am, we're ready when you think we're ready, ma'am!

RHONDA

That's more like it, Number 2!

ELEANOR

(to Maureen, chuckles)

Who's stupid now?

MAUREEN

Quiet!

RHONDA

Now it's time to cross the burning coals. This symbolizes the burning desire to cross over to our side. Take off your shoes and take a step forward.

The pledges do so. In front of them are cut-up shoe box tops.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Now these coals are very hot, so you each have to walk across them very quickly, got it?

ELEANOR

Ma'am, yes, ma'am!

RHONDA

Number 1, I didn't hear you!

Maureen is silent.

ELEANOR

Come on, Maureen!

MAUREEN

Hot coals? I'm used to ropes, whips, and chains, but that's a new one!

RHONDA

I know you're scared, Maureen, but we've all done it! It'll be over before you know it!

MAUREEN

But I thought there wasn't supposed to be any hazing!

RHONDA

There isn't!

MAUREEN

Then what's having big-ass burn marks on my feet? That ain't a good look!

ELEANOR

Maureen, we got this far, it's just one more step! A few quick steps!

Maureen trembles and starts to SNIFFLE.

RHONDA

Eleanor, let me.

(to Maureen)

You remember how we've been saying that things aren't always what they seem? You know, to think outside the box? Keyword, box?

MAUREEN

(holds back tears)

Ma'am, yes, ma'am.

RHONDA

(sighs)

I shouldn't be doing this, but take a quick peek.

Maureen and Eleanor quickly lift up their blindfolds and see the box tops.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

There's your hot coals right there. Now cover up.

They do so.

MAUREEN

Okay, so the coals ain't really coals.

ELEANOR

Just like the dog food was really Mrs. Nelson-Jamisez's meatloaf.

RHONDA

I told you before that it was meatloaf!
Number 1, you first.

Rhonda holds Maureen's hand, and Maureen quickly walks over the box tops.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Number 2?

Rhonda does the same with Eleanor.

ELEANOR

(fake yells)

Owweee! That's smarts! Yow!

RHONDA

Okay, let's cool you guys off.

Rhonda rubs each pledge's feet.

ELEANOR

Ahhh, how relaxing!

RHONDA

Now stand back at attention!

The pledges do so. Officer Townsend enters.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

(calls out)

What's up, 'Vette? Gerbils, speak!

PLEDGES

(shout)

Greetings, Dean Big Sister Milwaukee's...

(slick their hair with their
right hand)

...Finest, ma'am!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah, yeah.

(to Rhonda)

Did these fools make it through the
burning hot coals?

ELEANOR

Ma'am, yes, ma'am! And boy, were they
hot, ma'am!

(pause)

This Gerbil is winking, although you
can't see it, ma'am!

Maureen nudges Eleanor.

MAUREEN

Shut up, man!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(gasps)

Rhondie, what is she talking about?

(hushed voice)

Does she know about the box tops?

RHONDA

(hushed voice)

Well, yeah.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(exclaims)

What??

RHONDA

(regular voice)

But listen, Maureen wouldn't go through it at first! I had to tell her!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

No you didn't! We had a built-in extra hour to convince the pledges!

RHONDA

An extra hour? Man, I ain't got time for that! I got work in the morning!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

You're doing it again!

RHONDA

Doing what again?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Tryin' to take over! I'm the dean, not you!

Coach Maldonado enters.

OFFICER TOWNSEND (CONT'D)

Hey, Raquel! Gerbils, speak!

PLEDGES

(yell)

Greetings, Big Sister Coach...Put me in, put me in, Coach! Ma'am!

COACH MALDONADO

Hey, Gerbils.

Maldonado approaches her Sisters.

COACH MALDONADO (CONT'D)

I'm here to pick ya'll up. The place is set up, and the girls are waiting.

RHONDA

Yeah, Raquel, hold on.

(to Townsend)

I was trying to protect all of us involved!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

You never wanna see me excel! It's always about Rhonda, Rhonda, Rhonda!

RHONDA

Calm down, "Jan Brady"! The pledges will hear us!

COACH MALDONADO

What pledges?

Rhonda and Townsend look at the empty spot where the pledges stood.

RHONDA

Oh dear.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Now look what you did!

RHONDA

But I walked on fake coal, you walked on fake coal! They would've found out eventually!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

It's not just that. Can't I ever have anything in life?

RHONDA

Yeah, but...

(sighs)

I hear ya. It was just difficult seeing you do something that I usually do.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

And doing it better!

RHONDA

I didn't say all that.

COACH MALDONADO

Kiss and make up later. Did ya'll forget that we lost our pledges?

(MORE)

COACH MALDONADO (CONT'D)

This is...wait, ya'll heifers didn't have to step on real coal??

RHONDA

They couldn't have gotten far. I'll go stop them.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

No, they're my people. I'll go.

RHONDA

It's okay, 'Vette, I insist.

COACH MALDONADO

Oh my god, ya'll even arguing over that? Move it!!

Rhonda and Townsend race out the door. Maldonado trembles and looks at her feet.

EXT. OUTDOORS - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor and Maureen walk down the street.

RHONDA (O.C.)

Girls, wait up!

They stop. Rhonda catches up to them. Townsend follows her, catching her breath.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(to Rhonda, pants)

I'ma get you for this.

(to the pledges)

We just wanna say we're sorry.

RHONDA

No, I'm sorry. To all of you.

MAUREEN

Ya'll should be.

ELEANOR

How are we supposed to follow your lead, if you guys can't get it together?

RHONDA

That's fair. But you know, you're gonna have disagreements. Sorority sisters fight sometimes.

She looks at Townsend.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Friends fight sometimes. But you get it together and keep pushing.

MAUREEN

I guess you're right.

ELEANOR

Yeah. Even with me and Shana, I call her a light-skinned giraffe, and she keeps trying to stuff my head in the washer, but it's all love.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Now I'm not supposed to say this to Gerbils, but you've done fabulous so far, and you're a few hours away from crossing.

RHONDA

(to the pledges)

Your Dean speaks the truth.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

What say you guys come back, and we can resume this thing?

RHONDA

You have every right not to, by the way.

Eleanor and Maureen look at each other.

MAUREEN

(to Rhonda)

You're right! See ya!

Maureen prepares to exit.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(to Rhonda)

You don't know when to stop, do you?

ELEANOR

But Maureen!

MAUREEN

Hey, I do enough arguing with other women! "He'll never leave me for you," my butt! And ya'll wonder why I always seek the comfort of men!

She SCOFFS and exits.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

It's okay. We can have a solo line.
Eleanor, you ready?

ELEANOR

Actually, I think I'm gonna leave, too. I don't have half these problems with my sorority sisters.

RHONDA

Your sorority sisters??

OFFICER TOWNSEND

You're already in a sorority??

ELEANOR

Yeah!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

But you can't be in more than one sorority!

ELEANOR

Why not? I'm in five of them! I'm pretty sure I'm in a fraternity, too! But I was thinking of giving all of those up, just for yours!

RHONDA

Eleanor, you can't jump from one sorority to the next, either! It's really frowned upon!

ELEANOR

I always get frowned upon. I don't care.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

But I do. As the Dean, I say this line is hereby dissolved.

ELEANOR

Suit yourself. Sorry you guys wasted your time. Oh, and make sure you clean up after yourselves in my auditorium, alright?

She exits.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Well, Rhonda?

RHONDA

Oh, come on, all of this can't be blamed on me!

Coach Maldonado enters.

COACH MALDONADO

The hell it can't!

RHONDA

I already apologized! What else do you want me to do?

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Rhonda, Officer Townsend, and Coach Maldonado, wearing all black, sneak into a dark office. They use their cell phones as flashlights. They all speak in whispers throughout.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Okay, so this is where they keep their mascot. This chicken right here.

She points to a chicken in a cage. The chicken CLUCKS.

RHONDA

In their Chancellor's office? What if he comes in?

COACH MALDONADO

That's why you're supposed to be on the lookout!

RHONDA

Oh yeah!

She hurries to the door. The CHANCELLOR begins to open it.

CHANCELLOR

Hey, who's in here--

Rhonda runs to the door and BUMPS into it, The door WHAPS the Chancellor, and he TUMBLES down the staircase.

SFX: PLOP off-screen!

The ladies look down the staircase.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Oooh.

RHONDA

Look, if anybody come up to us, our former pledges did it, and we're no longer affiliated with them!

COACH MALDONADO

(to Rhonda)

Dang. Maybe you should've been Dean!

RHONDA

I'm sayin'!

The Chancellor MOANS off-screen.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Quick, to the window!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Don't forget Cluckster!

The ladies run back inside.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Eric, Berniece, and Will sit at the table with their heads down.

ERIC

Lord, bless this food that we're about to eat, and thank You for letting us eat it. Amen.

They lift their heads and begin EATING rapidly and messily.

BERNIECE

(in between bites)

It's nice to have a home-cooked meal for a change!

It is revealed that Matt sits at the table with them. They are all located in the Dumbeck Mansion with butlers and maids surrounding them with food.

MATT

Yeah, and speaking of home, how is home life treating you guys? Eric, is there something you'd like to say?

ERIC

(in between bites)

Well, we're not having sex, so you don't have to worry about being a grandfather!

MATT

I already am a grandfather!

ERIC

Matt, you gotta work with me here.

Matt SIGHS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

More Chicken Parm, Jentille!

JENTILLE

Yes, sir.

He exits.

WILL

(to Matt)

So, Granddad, you gonna finish that beer?
I won't tell!

Matt frowns at Will, who smiles nervously.

THE END