

ERIC

"Single Ladies (Put the Ring on It)"

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INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

COACH MALDONADO, the female gym teacher, makes an announcement.

COACH MALDONADO
Gather round, ladies!

Female students gather to the center of the gym floor where a mat lies. SHANA JONES, 17, who stands 5'10", accidentally bumps into BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 15, who stands 5'1".

BERNIECE
Hey, watch it!

SHANA
Oh, sorry, Berniece, I didn't see you there.

BERNIECE
I can't say the same for you.

SHANA
Ha, ha. Cute.

COACH MALDONADO
Let's review what we learned in our women's self-defense lesson yesterday. Mr. Nelson, you ready?

ERIC NELSON, 15, walks in wearing a football helmet and a jogging suit stuffed with pillows.

COACH MALDONADO (CONT'D)
Looking pretty buff there. What happened?

ERIC
I'm padded this time! Ya'll girls aren't gonna beat me down again!

COACH MALDONADO
Okay, the first volunteer.

BERNIECE
(raises her hand)
Ooh, me! Me!

COACH MALDONADO
Anybody but Ms. Williams this time?

BERNIECE
(puts her hand down)
Aww, no fair.

CONNIE McDOWELL, 15, approaches Eric.

COACH MALDONADO
Now, Ms. McDowell, grab Eric by the hand.

CONNIE
Okay.

She grabs Eric's hand.

COACH MALDONADO
And pull him forward with all your might!

Connie throws Eric, and he SLAMS into the back wall.

ERIC
(walks back to them in pain)
Okay, that's enough review for now.

BERNIECE
But Coach Maldonado, what if the attacker
tries to hit you? Can't you hit back like
this?

Berniece PUNCHES Eric in the pillow where his stomach is.

CONNIE
Or step on his foot like this?

Connie steps on his foot.

ERIC
Ow!

COACH MALDONADO
Those all work. Now, another way to get
your strength up is boxing.

She points to a boxing ring nearby.

COACH MALDONADO (CONT'D)
We have a ring right over there for
whoever wants to practice.

ERIC
Good. Let them beat up on each other for
once!

COACH MALDONADO
Now, girls, how do you fight off an
attacker when there's one of him and a
lot of you?

BERNIECE

Grab your purses, ladies!

Several girls start WHACKING Eric with their purses until he falls to the ground.

ERIC

Ow! What did I do to deserve this?

COACH MALDONADO

Panty raids!

ERIC

If I knew some of ya'll had granny panties, I would've called it off!

CONNIE

(rhythmically with each hit)
It...was...laundry...day!

Shana runs and moves everyone away from him.

SHANA

Stop! You're killing him!

CONNIE

So you get it.

Shana kneels and consoles Eric.

SHANA

Oh, Babycakes, if I was your woman, I'd never let you take a beating.

ERIC

(lifts his head in pain)
If you were my woman, I'd take a bullet!

BERNIECE

Coach, can we have that arranged?

Other girls clamor in agreement. Eric PLOPS his head back down.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eric, roughed up with his clothes torn, gingerly walks in the front door.

ERIC

Oh, my back. My everything!

He limps towards the kitchen and is SLAMMED by the kitchen door. Coming through the door is Eric's brother, BILLY NELSON, 19, holding some bags.

BILLY

What up, bro?

ERIC

(picks himself up)

What are you doing here?

BILLY

Mom and Matt are out of town, and Cynthia's off, so I raided the fridge. What's your problem?

ERIC

Got beat up at school again.

BILLY

That bully again, or panty raid?

ERIC

Actually, both.

BILLY

I told you, panty raids are a college thing.

ERIC

Well, I was preparing myself for it.

BILLY

You're wasting your time, then!

ERIC

Okay, then show me what college is like. Take me with you.

BILLY

What about school?

ERIC

Look at me! Does it look like they'll miss me?

BILLY

Fine, meet me in the car.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Eric walks to his dog, BONY, while holding a suitcase.

ERIC

Okay, Bony, guard the house for us.

He pets Bony, who licks Eric on his forearm. Eric exits the house. Bony then stands on his hind legs and grabs a megaphone.

BONY

Alright, places, everybody! And action!

EDDIE the cat chases WHISKERS and FRISKERS, two mice, around the house. The mice jump behind a cabinet. Eddie sticks his hand behind there, then pulls it out. In his hand is a lit bomb.

SFX: Bomb SIZZLING.

BONY (CONT'D)

Cut!

Eddie puts the bomb out and quickly leaves the scene. Bony sits back down. Eric reenters the house.

ERIC

Forgot my jacket.

Eric grabs his jacket and leaves the house again. Bony stands back up.

BONY

(through his megaphone)

Okay, places!

Eddie picks up the bomb. An unseen person lights it. Eddie SIGHS.

BONY (CONT'D)

And action!

SFX: Bomb SIZZLING.

Eddie holds up a sign.

INSERT - THE SIGN, WHICH READS:

"We all know what's going to happen, so
can we just move on to the next scene?"

Eddie turns the sign around.

INSERT - THE SIGN, WHICH READS:

"Just thought I'd ask."

SFX: Bomb EXPLODES!

Smoke fills the scene.

SUPER: BLAM!

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eric and Billy enter the apartment and put their bags down.

ERIC

Alright now, time to see how it is to be a college man!

Billy's roommate, RON TYSON, 19, walks past Eric on his way to the kitchen.

RON

Then you better find another apartment.

ERIC

Huh?

BILLY

Don't mind Ron. Sharon comes by a few times.

RON

All the time. She's here more than me.

BILLY

And she brought a few of her things along.

ERIC

Where's your bathroom?

Billy points to it, and Eric follows that direction.

BILLY

(to Ron)

It's not so bad.

Ron meets Billy in the living room and pulls up a coaster from the coffee table.

RON

Well, what do you call this?

BILLY

What, you never seen a coaster before?
Me, personally, I always use my dad's
comeback album, but still.

Eric runs out of the bathroom.

ERIC

Billy, have you seen what's in the
toilet?

BILLY

There's no right way to respond to that.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Eric, Billy, and Ron look inside the toilet.

BILLY

The water's blue!

RON

And check the seat covering! That's just
so wrong!

The boys walk back to the living room.

BILLY

So she made the bathroom more cozy.

RON

"Cozy"? What about our girl posters
hanging up in the bedroom?

BILLY

I didn't want her to be offended, so I
took them down.

ERIC

Did you pack your balls away with them?

BILLY

Hey, now! I'm the man in this
relationship...

Billy looks around to see if the coast is clear.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 (more subdued)
 ...and what I say goes. I'll talk to her
 about this.

Billy's girlfriend, SHARON ROSS, 19, enters the
 apartment.

SHARON
 Hey, guys.

RON
 Oh, you have a key to our place. Great.

BILLY
 Sharon, we gotta talk.

SHARON
 About what?

BILLY
 (waves his arms)
 This whole setup! The potpourri. The rose
 curtains on the blinds.

He holds up some CD's.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 The Barbra Streisand albums.

SHARON
 Those aren't mine.

BILLY
 Come on. Barbra Streisand.

RON
 And?

Ron snatches the CD's from Billy.

SHARON
 Let's finish this discussion later, hun.
 "Thelma and Louise" is coming on cable
 again.

She walks to the remote and turns on the TV.

BILLY
 Now, wait, we were about to watch the
 game!

SHARON
 Aw, can't you watch it at the bar?

BILLY
 Hey, I'm the man of the house, and what I
 say goes!

RON
 (to Billy)
 I'm the man here, too.

BILLY
 Shut up, Ron!

RON
 Carry on.

SHARON
 What you say goes? That ain't right!

ERIC
 (to Sharon)
 You heard the man! And we were here
 first! There's three of us, and one of
 you!

Sharon gives Eric a stern look.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The four of them sit in front of the TV. Sharon and Eric
 are engaged in it. Billy's and Ron's arms are folded.

BILLY
 I can see why you're such a hit back
 home, Eric.

ERIC
 Shh! This is getting good!

RON
 (to Billy)
 Let's go to the bar.

They both get up and head to the exit.

BILLY
 (to Eric)
 Oh, and they die at the end!

ERIC
 Dang! You can't even say, "Spoiler
 alert"?

BILLY
 Not when it's over 30 years old!

Billy and Ron exit.

INT. SCHOOL - LUNCHROOM - DAY

Berniece is in line with her lunch tray. The LUNCH LADY begins to empty a serving dish.

BERNIECE

No more meatloaf?

LUNCH LADY

No, I gave the last piece to that tall girl there.

Berniece follows Shana to a table.

BERNIECE

Shana, how you gonna take the last piece of meatloaf?

SHANA

Sorry, I didn't know.

BERNIECE

You always in the way! Why don't you go somewhere?

SHANA

Somebody got their bra all tangled. No wonder you were all on my Babycakes.

BERNIECE

You mean Eric?

SHANA

First you flirt with him, then you beat him up. You need to ease up on my man.

BERNIECE

I don't want him!

SHANA

Why not, he's not good enough for you? You can't handle a man like him anyway!

BERNIECE

Get outta my way, Big Bird!

SHANA

Another tall crack? Look, I'm a nice girl, but if you don't stop messing with me, you gonna get this meatloaf up your nose!

BERNIECE

Oh yeah, let's see you do it!

Kids start to clamor around them. PRINCIPAL PETERS runs through the crowd and to the girls.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Stop! There'll be no food fight here!

JACOB JACKSON, 17, stands up from a distance.

JACOB

(hollers)

There'll be no what?

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Food fight!

(pause)

Oh boy.

The entire cafeteria starts throwing their trays of food at each other.

INT. SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Shana and Berniece sit in the office with Principal Peters. They are all covered in food. Also in the office is Coach Maldonado.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

I got Chicken Surprise in my eyes! I may never see again!

SHANA

She started it! She keeps throwing herself at Eric, and I'm sick of it!

BERNIECE

Oh my god, you're as dumb as your sister!

SHANA

No I'm not!

Both of them continue to bicker. Peters tries to talk over them.

SFX: Coach Maldonado BLOWS her whistle. The bickering STOPS.

COACH MALDONADO

(admires her whistle)

Good ol' Whistley.

(to the girls)

(MORE)

COACH MALDONADO (CONT'D)

Now, ladies, of course a boy would have you two acting crazy. My suggestion is for you to box it out, in the ring.

SHANA

What? I don't know how to box!

BERNIECE

Me neither!

COACH MALDONADO

Well, get a trainer or something! The match will be on Friday, after school.

SHANA

But we could get hurt!

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Food fights are grounds for suspension. What's gonna hurt more?

BERNIECE

I can't get suspended. My parents won't let me get my license.

SHANA

And it'll hurt my permanent record.

(to Coach)

Okay, you're on!

(to Berniece)

I mean, you're on!

BERNIECE

All right!

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Now go get cleaned up.

The girls leave.

PRINCIPAL PETERS (CONT'D)

I wish my ex-wives would have fought over me in the ring. Instead, they only shot at my car.

PAUSE.

COACH MALDONADO

Yeah, I'm gonna get out of here, too.

She leaves.

SFX: Peters SNEEZES. A food particle flies out of his nose.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

(sighs)

Tater tots.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Sharon and Eric watch TV in the living room.

SFX: KNOCK on the door.

SHARON

Get the door.

ERIC

I don't live here!

SHARON

Neither do I!

ERIC

You're here more than I am!

SFX: Keys UNLOCKING the door.

YOLANDA, the landlord, walks in.

YOLANDA

It's cool, don't get up.

SHARON

(gasps)

Eric, you sold me out?!

ERIC

Yeah, you didn't think I would let you use my brother, did you? That's my job!

YOLANDA

The lease that the men signed state that any visitors over five days need to be brought to my attention.

ERIC

(to Sharon)

So that means you have to step!

SHARON

(to Yolanda)

Wait, can't we talk it out?

ERIC

You two do that. I'm going to the bathroom. Standing up. 'Cuz that's what we men do!

Sharon SCOFFS. Eric walks to the bathroom and dials on his cellphone.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Eric walks out of the bathroom and talks on the phone.

ERIC

Yeah, Billy, you and Ron can come back. I got it all taken care of.

He walks into the living room and sees Yolanda sitting down on the floor while Sharon braids her hair.

YOLANDA

(to Eric)

Hey, kid, you didn't tell me your friend knew how to do hair.

SHARON

One of my many talents. Just ask my boyfriend!

The girls giggle.

ERIC

(to Billy on the phone)

Uh, I have to call you back.

YOLANDA

Can you turn to the Hallmark Channel?

SHARON

Oh yeah, it's "Candace Cameron-Bure Day"!

Eric frowns and turns back around.

INT. BERNIECE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Berniece faces forward. Connie's voice is heard in the background.

CONNIE (O.S.)

They say you have no chance. They're ready to see you fall. You gotta get up and prove that you'll prevail!

Berniece is in the bathroom on the toilet. Connie's head is in the bathroom window from outside.

BERNIECE

Alright, fine, but can I get a little bit of privacy?

CONNIE

If you believe you can!

Connie steps out of the window.

CONNIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Also believe in some spray!

BERNIECE

Shut up!

MONTAGE - SHANA AND BERNIECE TRAIN

SFX: "Rocky"-esque music plays throughout the montage.

-- A hand cracks three eggs into a glass on a counter. The hand picks it up. It belongs to Shana.

SHANA

This is your brain.

She pours the yolks onto a hot skillet on the stove. Her sister, ELEANOR DUMBECK, stands nearby.

SFX: Eggs FRYING.

SHANA (CONT'D)

This is your brain on drugs. Any questions?

ELEANOR

You're an idiot.

SHANA

(smirks)

That's not a question.

ELEANOR

Hmmph.

-- Berniece, wearing sweats, jogs outside and runs up a staircase. She pants and meets Connie in the middle of a line of ladies outside of a shoe store.

CONNIE

See, Berniece? I told you to wait for the elevator. Now you have to go to the back!

BERNIECE

I know.

(points to the left)

Hey, look!

Connie turns her head.

CONNIE

Huh?

Berniece quickly skips in front of her.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

(turns back around)

Hey!

Both of them clamor and shove each other out of the line.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Shana and Eleanor stand in the boxing ring. Eleanor wears pads, and Shana wears boxing gloves. Shana throws a punch and immediately GROWLS in pain.

SHANA

I'm hurt!

ELEANOR

From taking one swing?

SHANA

This training is taking too much out of me!

ELEANOR

I have an idea. At the match, why don't you just circle around her until she gets tired? Then you take a swing, and she'll be down for the count!

SHANA

Okay. Hey, how do you know so much about boxing, anyway?

ELEANOR

Oh, I watched all the "Rocky" movies: "Rocky", the second, the third.

(MORE)

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

But I was disappointed. He named all those sons after him, but I never saw Rocky II or Rocky III in the movies!

Shana frowns and hits Eleanor on the head.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Hey, I didn't hold up the pads yet!

SHANA

(cuts her eyes)

My mistake.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY - LATER

Berniece wears boxing gloves and stands in front of a punching bag with Connie.

BERNIECE

Connie, I should just call this off. We don't know the first thing about boxing.

CONNIE

Well, what you could do is tire out the opponent. Just circle around Shana, then after a few minutes, knock her out!

BERNIECE

Okay, I can do that! I'ma murder her!

Berniece PUNCHES the bag, then looks at her right glove.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Oh no. I think I broke a nail! Help! Doctor!

CONNIE

Medic! Time out!

Both of them continue calling out.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sharon and Yolanda, wearing bath robes, sit in the living room and file their nails. The living room has more light, pastel-colored decorations compared to earlier. Billy, Ron, and Eric march in the living room.

BILLY

Look, this has gone too far, Sharon!

SHARON

Oh, we'll be done in a minute.

RON

(to Yolanda)

And you, you're supposed to be upholding
the law!

YOLANDA

Oh, what are they gonna do, throw me in
landlord jail?

JESSICA, a lady who wears a jacket that says, "Landlord
Police", walks in the apartment.

JESSICA

Landlord Police here.

YOLANDA

Wait, that's a thing?!

JESSICA

Sure is! Ain't that right, honey?

Eric and Billy's father, JUNIOR, calls from the hallway.

JUNIOR

You bet!

Junior runs in and slides on the floor.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

What's up, Madison!

SHARON

Junior?

BILLY

Dad, what do you want?

ERIC

That's my surprise! Dad is married to a
lady from the Landlord Police.

JUNIOR

Yeah, Eric told me all about your
problem. Well, I came over to borrow
money from you, and then Eric told me all
about it.

BILLY

Dad, get out of here, and take your
latest wife with you. In fact, everybody
whose name is not Billy or Ron, out!

ERIC
But Dad's name is Billy.

BILLY
Out!!

JUNIOR
(to Billy)
Now, calm down, son. Let Jessica take care of everything.

JESSICA
That's right. You boys step out. I got this.

BILLY
(sighs)
I hope so.

The men all leave.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The men return to the apartment. More ladies are there. Balloons and decorations are in the living room.

SHARON
(to Billy)
Honey, you didn't tell me your dad's wife was expecting! Let's have a gender reveal here!

BILLY
(deadpan)
What?

YOLANDA
Yeah, we can turn this into a baby shower, too!

JESSICA
Don't forget the bachelorette party that I never got!

The ladies cheer excitedly.

BILLY
Well, Dad, as per usual, you're no help at all.

JUNIOR
Hey, at least I got Sharon to give her keys back to you.

Junior checks his pockets.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Oh wait, I didn't do that, either. Hey,
Jess, is that a Bundt cake I smell?

Junior walks over to the girls.

ERIC

I have an idea.

BILLY

To go with your other great ideas?

ERIC

Just wait here!

Eric runs out of the apartment.

BILLY

(to Ron)

I'm so tempted to lock the door.

RON

Come on, trust your first instinct.

INT. SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Berniece and Shana sit on opposite sides of the stage in front of a group of students with their flashing cell phones and cameras. Connie sits with Berniece, while Eleanor, with her hair raised up similar to Don King's, sits next to Shana.

SHANA

(to Eleanor)

How'd you get your hair to stand up like that?

ELEANOR

A whole lot of mousey!

SHANA

You mean, "mousse"?

ELEANOR

No, that's an animal, silly! So is a mouse, for that matter. That's why they add an extra "s" to it.

SHANA

(sighs)

It's a good thing you have your looks.

(MORE)

SHANA (CONT'D)
 (looks at her hair)
 Then again...

ARNOLD ALLEN, 15, stands in front of a cameraman with a microphone in his hand.

ARNOLD
 (in a Howard Cosell-type voice)
 This is Arnold Allen here for a very special event. "The Thrilla in the...Mil-a." Yeah, that's it. Two women fighting for the heart of one boy. One very little boy.
 (turns to Berniece)
 Ms. Williams, why should we believe you will win?

BERNIECE
 (in a Muhammad Ali-type voice)
 'Cuz I know how to fight, I'll bug ya like a flea. Man, I make nightmares scared of me!

The crowd clamors and FLASHES cameras.

ARNOLD
 And Ms. Jones, have you been getting a lot of practice in the gym?

SHANA
 (in an Allen Iverson-type voice)
 Practice? We're talking about practice? Not the upcoming match? Come on. Practice. You serious? We're talking about practice!

The crowd clamors and FLASHES cameras.

BERNIECE
 (to Shana)
 Hey, that's basketball!

CONNIE
 And it didn't even rhyme!

BERNIECE
 How can she beat me, when she can't even get her references right?

The crowd clamors and FLASHES cameras.

ELEANOR

My client doesn't have to answer that!

The crowd clamors and FLASHES cameras.

BERNIECE

Oh yeah?

The crowd clamors and FLASHES cameras.

SHANA

Yeah!

The crowd clamors and FLASHES cameras.

ARNOLD

(turns back to the cameraman)

We will continue with this riveting debate, but for now, this is Arnold Allen signing off.

SHANA (O.S.)

Shut up!

BERNIECE (O.S.)

You shut up!

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - LATER

The apartment is filled with WOMEN dancing to music and conversing. Billy and Ron stand in the kitchen.

BILLY

This more than sucks.

RON

I know. Not even a fine girl in this whole party.

Sharon rolls in a large birthday cake-designed box.

SHARON

The cake's here!

The women CHEER.

SHARON (CONT'D)

On the count of three.

(with the ladies)

One, two, three!

Eric, wearing nothing but an black, open vest, sunglasses, and black jeans, pops out of the box and thrusts his pelvis.

ERIC
Here's your stripper, ladies!

WOMAN #1
Where's the rest of him?

WOMAN #2
Yeah, he could've just jumped out of that store-bought cake over there.

JUNIOR
(gives the thumbs-up)
That's my boy!

Billy and Ron approach Eric.

BILLY
What are you doing, stupid?

ERIC
Trying to get the ladies to leave.

RON
I know it's making me wanna leave.

ERIC
And that's not all! Fellas?

A group of MEN, some looking ragged, enter the apartment.

MAN #1
Is this where the party at?

JUNIOR
Hey, Mert, Porter! My old bandmates! Did you bring your instruments?

PORTER
Yep!

MAN #2
Hey, let's get some music up in this piece!

JUNIOR
(to his bandmates)
Alright, let's jam, guys!

ERIC
No, Dad, he said, "music"!

MERT

(looks around)

Love the bright colors. Helps me sober
up!

The Nelsons' housekeeper, CYNTHIA McNAIR, enters the living room with a tray of food.

BILLY

Cynthia? What are you doing all the way
up here in Madison?

CYNTHIA

Your girlfriend promised to pay me for
travel. Also, when she said it was to
help piss your father off, I jumped at
the opportunity!

Junior and his guys start to play music loudly.

JUNIOR

(singing)

Gimme some more of your funky business,
nothin' but that funky business!

BILLY

Unfortunately, Dad's having a good time.

CYNTHIA

Yeah. What a gyp.

Everyone chatters and dances. Billy walks around holding his head. Sharon approaches him.

SHARON

Billy, can we talk on the balcony?

BILLY

You're not gonna try to off me, are you?

SHARON

(chuckles)

No.

BILLY

Well, let's hurry before Ron offs us.

EXT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Billy and Sharon walk outside to the balcony.

SHARON

You're upset, aren't you?

BILLY

Oh, no, it's just a gender reveal-slash-bachelorette party-slash-concert in my apartment.

A woman sticks her head out the window.

WOMAN #4

This is the best repast I've been to. My Aunt Bertha would be proud!

She goes back inside.

SHARON

Why didn't you just talk to me about your concerns?

BILLY

I did!

SHARON

No, you were barking at me.

BILLY

Fine, I'm sorry, but can you tone the changes down a little?

SHARON

Yeah, I can.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - SAME

Partygoers are carrying Junior around.

JUNIOR

Hey, I'm crowd-surfing!

The crowd throws Junior out the open window.

EXT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Junior flies out and crashes into some trash cans off-screen. Billy and Sharon watch.

SFX: CRASH!

BILLY

So, anyway, do we have a deal?

SHARON

Yes. I'll start with the face soap in the bathroom.

BILLY

We can keep that. It makes my face silky smooth.

SHARON

(touches Billy's face)

And we wouldn't want to ruin that.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - SAME

Mert stumbles off of the counter. The crowd gets out of the way. Mert PLOPS face-first on the floor. Eric runs to him.

ERIC

Oh my god! I didn't know you were stage-diving!

MERT

Diving where?

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

The gym is full of spectators. Berniece and Shana are in opposing corners. Connie and Eleanor prep them.

CONNIE

Now, remember what I told you.

BERNIECE

Alright, I'm ready.

ELEANOR

Do you remember what I told you, Shana?

SHANA

Yep.

ELEANOR

Good, 'cuz I forgot.

Berniece and Shana meet with Coach Maldonado in the center. MAUREEN WALKER, teens, wears a skimpy outfit and walks around the ring with a sign that reads, "Round 1". Berniece and Shana watch her.

SFX: Men in the audience CHEER and WHISTLE.

BERNIECE AND SHANA

Ugh.

COACH MALDONADO

Okay, now I want a clean fight!

SFX: Bell DINGS.

Berniece and Shana out up their dukes and circle each other. The audience cheers each of them on.

SUPER: "FIVE MINUTES LATER"

Berniece and Shana continue circling each other. The audience grows frustrated. Dimmey and Jacob sit behind where Connie stands.

DIMMEY

They're just circling each other!

JACOB

Come on! Punch someone in the boob! Rip a shirt or something!

CONNIE

Even I wouldn't mind seeing that.

Dimmey walks up to the ring.

DIMMEY

Coach, is it supposed to take this long?

COACH MALDONADO

Actually, I'm not sure. Boxing's not really my forte. But I did see "Creed" I and II.

Berniece and Shana stop moving.

BERNIECE

Oh, seeing Michael B. Jordan is worth it!

Shana, Maldonado, and other girls clamor in agreement.

DIMMEY

Hey, focus!

Berniece and Shana resume circling each other.

SHANA

Had enough, Williams?

BERNIECE

Not even, Jones!

SUPER: "TEN MINUTES LATER"

Berniece and Shana sluggishly circle each other.

BERNIECE

(pants)

You're dead, Jones.

SHANA

(catches her breath)

I know.

Some audience members start to file out.

ELEANOR

(to Connie)

Do you think they'd mind if we left and got a burger?

CONNIE

Who cares? Let's go.

They both leave.

SHANA

(to herself)

Okay, here I go!

She takes a swing at Berniece, who simultaneously takes a swing at Shana. They both miss each other and PLOP face-down on the ground. Maldonado counts to ten.

SFX: Bell DINGS.

COACH MALDONADO

Down for the count!

BERNIECE

Did we win or lose?

JACOB

Who gives a crap? It's over!

Jacob leaves.

MAUREEN

But what about my signs?

BERNIECE

What are you talking about?

MAUREEN

I printed up ten of these!

SHANA

Ten?

COACH MALDONADO

(pulls out her phone)

Yeah, according to this website, there's supposed to be nine more rounds.

BERNIECE AND SHANA

Nine?!

They both clamor in disagreement.

SHANA

I can't do this again. Berniece, you can have Eric!

BERNIECE

Have him? I don't even want him!

COACH MALDONADO

I've had enough fun for one day. Everybody clear out!

Maldonado and more students exit the gym. Berniece and Shana try to sit up.

BERNIECE

How can my body ache, and I didn't even do anything?

SHANA

I know, girl, no man is worth fighting over.

A HANDSOME GUY, teens, approaches Dimmey, who is about to exit the gym.

HANDSOME GUY

Hey, man, where's that fine girl from the boxing match?

DIMMEY

Which one?

Berniece and Shana overhear them and look over in the guy's direction. They both immediately fix their hair and outfits.

HANDSOME GUY

(points to Maureen)

Her!

Maureen sashays to the guy.

MAUREEN

Hey, sweetie, you asked for me?

She and the guy exits, along with Dimmey.

BERNIECE

Too late. Maureen already got to him.

SHANA

Maureen already got to everybody.

BERNIECE

Yeah, I'm sure kissing her would be kissing all of Milwaukee.

SHANA

And the surrounding areas.

They both chuckle.

BERNIECE

Let's hit the showers.

They head for the locker room until Eric enters the gym and stops them.

ERIC

Hey, what happened in here? Some kind of match?

SHANA

Yeah, Babycakes, but we realized that fighting over you just ain't worth it.

ERIC

Oh, okay, well...wait, ya'll were fighting over me?!

BERNIECE

She was.

ERIC

And I missed it? Wait a minute, come back!

He stammers. The girls exit.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Dang it. Well, at least I got these!

He pulls out a large pair of panties from his pocket.

BERNIECE (O.S.)

Eric!!

Berniece, Shana, and other girls reenter the gym and chase Eric.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Come back here!

They chase Eric and corner him up to a window.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

You're trapped!

ERIC

(holds up the panties)

No, I can use these for a parachute!

Eric laughs and runs in another direction. The girls continue to chase him.

THE END