

ERIC

"How Shana Got Her Groom Back"

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INT. ROOM - DAY

BONY DOG, wearing a French beret and holding a megaphone, sits in his director's chair.

BONY

Okay, everybody, places!

WHISKERS and FRISKERS MOUSE sit in their chairs in front of mirrors. Their assistants put makeup on them.

FRISKERS

So we're going for beers after this?

WHISKERS

I dunno, man. Wifey keeps stressin' me about bein' gone all day.

BONY (O.C.)

Where's Eddie? He's supposed to be in his bunker!

WHISKERS

He is!

EDDIE THE CAT sleeps in a bunk bed and SNORES.

BONY

He's so useless.

(to the others)

Alright, places! Now remember, Army theme! Think Army. And action!

Eddie continues SNORING. Whiskers leaps on him, pulls out a bugle, and PLAYS the "Reveille" tune. Eddie shoots up. Whiskers lands on the ground and joins Friskers. They both roll on the floor LAUGHING. Eddie leaps out of bed and chases them.

EXT. OUTDOORS - CONTINUOUS

Eddie chases the mice through an obstacle course. The mice leap through tires on the ground. Eddie jumps through the tires with each foot and GRUNTS.

The mice run behind a wall. Eddie jumps on the wall and struggles to climb over it. The mice go on each end of the wall and push it to the edge of a cliff. Eddie leaps over the wall, stops in mid-air, and looks down. He pulls out a sign.

INSERT - THE SIGN, which reads:

"WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE"

Eddie falls down, making a WHISTLING sound. He lands on an old mattress on the ground, flies into an open window of the Nelson house, and lands in his cat bed, placed in the living room.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MATT JAMES, 40's, black, enters.

MATT

Come on, Rhonda, we gotta hurry to Timmy's!

His wife, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, black, enters.

RHONDA

Now, you know that sentence don't sound right.

MATT

Not to eat. For Shana's welcome-home party.

RHONDA

Oh yeah! That's today?

ERIC NELSON, 16, enters from outside with Bony on a leash.

ERIC

I found Bony, guys.

Eric takes Bony to his bed, near Eddie's. He takes off Bony's collar and leash.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(to Bony)

Why can't you stay put like Eddie here?

Bony WHIMPERS and lies down.

MATT

Alright, let's get going, guys.

Matt, Rhonda, and Eric exit.

BONY

Stupid cat.

EDDIE

I'm off work now. Leave me alone.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Eric, Matt, and Rhonda put up decorations, as do Eric's girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 16, black, and her friend, CONNIE McDOWELL, 16, white.

CONNIE

I wonder how Shana is gonna look and act.
They say the military changes you.

BERNIECE

Knowing her, she probably changed them.
Probably bought them an additional Army
branch!

ERIC

When is she coming, anyway?

ELEANOR DUMBECK, 17, white, walks by.

ELEANOR

Oh, I know my sister. She doesn't miss a
party!

A FEMALE VOICE speaks.

FEMALE VOICE (O.C.)

She's right, you know.

Eric and Berniece turn around. The voice belongs to Eleanor's half-sister, SHANA JONES, 19, biracial, who, at 5'10", towers over them and wears her Army service uniform.

SHANA

At ease, guys!

ERIC

Eleanor, you were supposed to be on the
lookout for her!

ELEANOR

(scoffs)

I was, five minutes ago! She wasn't
there!

BERNIECE

(announces)

Hey, guys, Shana's here!

Matt, Rhonda, and Connie stop moving. Berniece signals everyone to say, "Surprise".

EVERYONE
 (to Shana)
 Surprise!

They all come and hug Shana.

MATT
 (to Shana)
 Congrats, fellow vet! I'm glad boot camp
 didn't kill you!

SHANA
 Oh, never that! It was rough, but I
 handled it like a soldier.

JACOB JACKSON, 18, white, is a gruff, stocky bully, who
 is the same height as Shana. He approaches her.

JACOB
 Well, you're more of a man than I am!
 Heh, heh!

SHANA
 Wow, Jacob, I'm not even mad about that.

ERIC
 Jacob, what are you doing here?

JACOB
 Just came to get a burger.

ERIC
 Well, the restaurant's closed. Timmy's
 not even here. He and Dimmey are out of
 town.

JACOB
 Well, cake will do!

He walks over to a cake on the table.

BERNIECE
 Jacob, this is a private party!

JACOB
 Don't worry, I won't tell anybody!

A man named DAVE, 40's, black, enters with a duffle bag.

DAVE
 Where should I put this, Ms. Jones?

SHANA
 Over there, thanks.

MATT

Dave? Is that you?

DAVE

Hey, what up, frat?

Dave drops Shana's bag and approaches Matt. They do a lengthy handshake, then laugh and hug. Rhonda approaches them.

RHONDA

You guys gonna pop-lock next?

MATT

The comedienne here is my wife, Rhonda.

DAVE

Nice to meet you.

MATT

So, what you been up to, fellow Gamma Man?

DAVE

Running this taxi service. You know, living the dream, working hard!

MATT

Oh, me too!

Rhonda SNICKERS. Matt SHUSHES her.

JACOB

Hey, Eric, what kinda party is this, anyway? Where's the food, the music, the cool people?

SHANA

The big fool is right.

JACOB

Thanks.

ERIC

Hey, don't look at me! I would have planned an even bigger party for her leaving! Ha, ha!

Shana fake-smiles at him.

MATT

(to Eric)

Hey, Eric, one of my frat brothers wanna talk to you.

ERIC

Matt, we're kinda having a party right now.

MATT

He has something where you can make a lot of money.

ERIC

(to the kids)

Whoa! See ya'll later!

Eric ZIPS away. Matt follows him.

ELEANOR

I'll go order some food and pick it up.

BERNIECE

And Connie and I will call up some people.

CONNIE

Okay. Eleanor, can you give us a lift?

ELEANOR

I doubt it. But you girls can ride with me in my car.

CONNIE

Uh, yeah.

Berniece, Connie, and Eleanor exit. Shana and Jacob are the only ones who remain in the restaurant. They look at the exit and then at each other. Jacob tosses his slice of cake aside. They both run to each other, passionately kiss and MOAN.

SHANA

I missed you, honey!

JACOB

I missed you, too, soldier!

They continue kissing. Berniece and Connie reenter.

BERNIECE

I forgot my purse.

She and Connie GASP.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

What the hell??

Jacob and Shana quickly stop kissing and pull away from each other.

JACOB
(to Shana)
Get away from me, "Zendaya"!

CONNIE
Did you guys even know that you were kissing each other?

JACOB
(scoffs)
Not me!

SHANA
Give it a rest, Jacob.
(to the girls)
Yes, we're a thing. But don't tell nobody yet, especially Eric!

BERNIECE
But how did this even happen?

SHANA
Look, it's complicated and kinda private.

JACOB
Yeah, we wanna keep it to ourselves.

BERNIECE
Well, okay.

She and Connie search for Berniece's purse.

LONG SILENCE.

SHANA
Alright, you twisted my arm! It all happened like this...

INT. SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY - FLASHBACK

JACOB (V.O.)
During our graduation, Shana was giving her lame speech.

SHANA (V.O.)
I thought it was pretty good!

JACOB (V.O.)
Whatever.

Jacob and his friends, wearing caps and gowns, laugh and chatter. Shana, wearing a cap and gown, speaks from behind a podium.

SHANA

I want to make a difference in life. So here's what I'm gonna do.

She takes off her cap, pulls out a camouflage hat, and puts that on.

SHANA (CONT'D)

I enlisted in the United States Army!

Jacob and his friends look at Shana and GASP.

JACOB

Whoa!

JACOB (V.O.)

Something looked very different with her. She still looked manly, but in a sexier way. Her broad shoulders and statuesque figure didn't make me gag this time!

EXT. PARK - DAY - FLASHBACK

SHANA (V.O.)

That day, before I shipped out to basic training, Jacob stopped me and pulled me aside.

Jacob and Shana walk behind a building.

SHANA

What do you want? I'm trying to have a party.

JACOB

Nothing. I just wanted to see you off.

SHANA

And to tell me, "Don't come back."

JACOB

Tempting, but no. You looked kinda cool in that Army hat. And it's brave in what you're doing.

SHANA

You know what's brave? Getting with Maureen Walker! She's the definition of STD.

Jacob SCOFFS.

SHANA (CONT'D)

And I thought you would be recuperating
after a night with her.

JACOB

It's none of your business, but I
couldn't go through with it.

(pause)

I wanna wait until I find the right one.

SHANA

Really?

SHANA (V.O.)

As he said that, his repulsiveness slowly
faded away. I started to notice him as
Jacob, and not as a, you know, "Richard".

SHANA

I gotta get back to the party. Stay if
you want to, but don't cause any trouble.

JACOB

Dang, what's the point, then?

Shana exits.

INT. HOTEL - EVENING - FLASHBACK

JACOB (V.O.)

Shana got on the bus, and it took her to
a hotel, where she had to stay until she
got picked up for basic training. Since
the Army booked her there, I had to be
real sneaky to go and see her.

Jacob approaches the front desk, where an EMPLOYEE sits.

JACOB

Say, man, is Shana Jones here?

EMPLOYEE

Yeah, room 312.

Jacob exits.

SHANA (V.O.)

I sat in my room, staring out the window.
I couldn't wait until I got to boot camp,
but I needed to see Jacob one more time,
for some reason.

Jacob enters the room.

SHANA

Jacob!

JACOB

Hey, Shana. Let's get outta here. You can always go back to the Army.

SHANA

Okay!

She begins to run, then stops.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Wait.

She looks at the bed.

SHANA (CONT'D)

What did you say about waiting for the right one?

JACOB

"Right now" also works for me.

SHANA

And we're already breaking the law.

JACOB

I'm starting to like you already.

They both passionately kiss and fall to the bed.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

CONNIE

Come on, guys, that was just one night!

SHANA

No, Connie, it's more than that. This is different from when I tried to get with Dimmey.

CONNIE

Yeah, but I don't...wait, when did you try to get with Dimmey??

SHANA

Oh, don't worry, ya'll were on a break back then.

CONNIE

Wha...? We were never on a...

BERNIECE

Shhh! Eric's coming!

Eric enters.

ERIC

(to Berniece)

Hey, babe! Guess what? Matt and his friend want me to DJ their frat party tomorrow!

BERNIECE

Aw, that's cool!

ERIC

But the bad news is that the party is around the same time as the movie.

BERNIECE

Oh, that's alright. We'll just give our tickets to Shana and...

Berniece catches herself. Shana, Jacob, and Connie stare at her.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

...Shana!

ERIC

"Shana and Shana"? One Shana is a big enough group, am I right?

Jacob steps up to Eric.

JACOB

Hey, watch what you say about my...

(pause)

...veteran of the United States!

CONNIE

Yeah, she's sacrificing her life for us!

She, Berniece, Jacob, and Shana do a hand salute.

ERIC

Uh, okay...?

SHANA

(stilted voice)

Besides, I know you really missed me...uh, Babycakes!

ERIC

Shana, you haven't called me "Babycakes" in years.

SHANA

It's a blast from the past.

ERIC

Well, quit it! What's wrong with you guys?

JACOB

(to Eric)

Nothing. We're acting the way we usually do. Matter fact, give me your lunch money!

ERIC

Jacob, you're out of school!

JACOB

Well, uh...gimme some, anyway. I wanna get a pizza.

ERIC

No!

JACOB

"No"?

(to Shana)

Can he say that to me?

ERIC

Anyway, I gotta go get my music ready.
(to Berniece)
See you later.

Eric kisses her on the cheek and exits.

BERNIECE

Shana, what's the big deal of letting Eric know about ya'll, anyway?

SHANA

The two people he hates, getting together? It'll mess him up! You gotta keep it a secret 'til the time is right!

BERNIECE

No, I don't feel right keeping stuff from him.

Shana marches up to Berniece.

SHANA
 (bellows)
 Listen, you midget, you will keep your
 mouth shut, and that's an order!!

Shana looks up and smiles.

SHANA (CONT'D)
 (regular voice)
 Wow!

CONNIE
 Shana, where'd you get balls from?

SHANA
 The Army!

JACOB
 Such a turn-on!

BERNIECE
 (to Shana, lustfully)
 I'll say. Do it again!

JACOB
 Anyway, me and Shana were on the run, and
 we couldn't go to her house, so we ran to
 mine.

INT. JACKSON APARTMENT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Jacob enters his apartment with Shana.

JACOB
 Here's my place.

Jacob's pitbull, DEXTER, runs up to them and BARKS.

SHANA
 Whoa!

JACOB
 Dexter, quiet!

Dexter stops.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 That's our dog. He's alright.

Jacob's sister, GRETCHEN "GRETCH" JACKSON, 20's, a buff,
 gruff, woman, wearing all black, enters halfway through
 the window with a sack. She stops and sees Jacob and
 Shana.

JACOB (CONT'D)
And this is my sister.

GRETCH
Jacob?? What are you doing here?

JACOB
We live here! Gretch, are you breaking
into your own house?

Gretch looks around.

GRETCH
Dang, I'm getting bad at this.

She exits from the window.

INT. JACKSON APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Gretch enters the bathroom. The shower is RUNNING. Jacob
speaks from the shower.

GRETCH
Jacob! While I left the police station, I
heard that Shana ran away from the Army.
Did you hear anything about that?

JACOB (O.C.)
No!

GRETCH
Do you know where she is?

JACOB (O.C.)
No!

GRETCH
Alright.

Gretch grabs a tube of toothpaste and exits. Jacob peeks
his head from the curtain. Shana peeks her head after
him.

SHANA
Do you think she heard me?

JACOB
No.

SHANA
Do you think she'll hear me now?

JACOB

Maybe.

They both giggle and go back in the shower.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

BERNIECE

Yeah, ya'll don't have to tell us
everything.

Eleanor enters.

ELEANOR

Berniece, how long does it take you to
find your purse?

SHANA

(to Eleanor)

It takes you hours!

ELEANOR

That's because I need a purse for my
purse!

SHANA

Eleanor, that's...not a bad idea,
actually.

CONNIE

Alright, let's get going. Jacob, are you
coming with us?

She looks at Shana.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I mean...

ELEANOR

Don't worry, Connie. I already know about
Shana and Jacob.

CONNIE

You do?

ELEANOR

Of course. I married them!

BERNIECE AND CONNIE

Married them??

Jacob and Shana frown.

SHANA
 (to Eleanor)
 You weren't supposed to tell them yet!

ELEANOR
 What I meant is that I'm married to the
idea that they...

SHANA
 Forget it!

ELEANOR
 Okay.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

Partygoers chat and dance. Eric PLAYS music from his DJ booth.

ERIC
 (in the mic)
 "DJ Illson" in the house! Shout out to
 Gamma Phi Gamma!

The partygoers CHEER. Dave approaches the booth.

DAVE
 You're doing great, DJ Illson!

ERIC
 Thanks! Hey, when do I get paid?

DAVE
 Oh, we're getting it together right now.
 Don't worry!

A LADY approaches the booth. She shows Eric her phone screen.

LADY
 Hey, DJ, can you play this song?

DAVE
 (to Eric)
 Give the lady what she wants!

ERIC
 Okay, I think I got that one!

Dave and the lady leave. Eric FADES OUT the song and PLAYS a smooth jazz tune. The partygoers stop dancing and chatting. A MAN calls out to Eric.

MAN

Hey, DJ, what's up? Am I on hold?

ERIC

Huh?

MAN

What's with the muzak?

ERIC

(in the mic)

Hey, ya'll, I should have mentioned that this song was a special request!

MAN

Well, we specially request for you to turn that mess off!

Other people CHATTER in agreement. Eric FADES OUT the song and PLAYS an upbeat song. The man approaches the booth.

MAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, we don't like that song. Play something else.

ERIC

(sighs)

Okay.

Eric changes the song, and people start to dance.

MAN

Okay, this hits!

The man leaves.

ERIC

(sotto voce)

This sucks.

SUPER - "ONE HOUR LATER"

Partygoers continue dancing. Eric spots Dave walking with his frat brother, DON, and stops them.

ERIC

Hey, Dave, when are you guys gonna pay me?

DAVE

Oh, right! Don, who's gonna pay Matt's son?

DON
 What? I'm not in charge of that! Roscoe
 is! Roscoe, come here!

ROSCOE approaches them.

DON (CONT'D)
 Pay the DJ!

ROSCOE
 Don't we usually pay them in beer?

DAVE
 He's 16!

ROSCOE
 Answer the question!

The three of them leave.

ERIC
 But...!

Matt approaches the booth.

MATT
 Hey, good party, son! Everyone's lovin'
 the music!

ERIC
 Matt, what would you do if somebody's
 playin' you? They owe you money, but they
 jerk you around?

MATT
 Well, I would stand my ground and not get
 walked over!

He looks to the side.

MATT (CONT'D)
 Oh, excuse me, we're about to get our
 stroll on!

Matt runs away.

ERIC
 Aight, then.

Matt and his frat brothers stroll through the party,
 stepping and chanting. Eric abruptly STOPS the music.
 Everyone else STOPS and CHATTERS in confusion.

ERIC (CONT'D)
(in the mic)
That's gonna do it for me! Look me up on
social media! DJ Illson, I'm out!

The party CLAMORS in disappointment and begins to exit.
Dave approaches the DJ booth.

DAVE
Uh, DJ, what are you doing? There's
another hour left!

ERIC
Sorry, but I'm standing up for myself, as
a man! Plus my dad said I should!

DAVE
(calls out)
Matt!

Matt hurries to the booth.

MATT
Eric, what's the deal?

ERIC
Just packing up.

DAVE
But we paid you for the whole night!

ERIC
You didn't pay me at all!

MATT
Is that true, Dave?

DAVE
Well, no, I mean...look, we'll have it
all worked out. I promise.

ERIC
Well, while you work it out, I'm ghost! I
don't work for free!

MATT
Now, wait a minute, guys. Just relax.

DAVE
Wait, whose side are you on, Matt?

MATT
Oh, come on, Dave, you know I'm gonna
side with my family.

DAVE
 (scoffs)
 Well, you can forget about that reference
 for your job application.

Matt GASPS. Dave exits.

ERIC
 Hey, Matt, thanks for...

MATT
 Eric, I'm gonna kill you!

ERIC
 ...standing up for me!

Matt chases after Eric.

INT. ELEANOR'S CAR - LATER

Eleanor ZOOMS down the street. Berniece sits in the front. Connie, Jacob, and Shana sit in the back. Jacob's arm is around Shana.

SHANA
 Eleanor, slow down! You're gonna total
 yet another car!

ELEANOR
 That's all right, I have a couple more at
 home. Besides, Berniece needs to get to
 Eric's house to meet him!

BERNIECE
 How can I meet him when I'll be dead?

ELEANOR
 Aw, we'll be fine.

A police car follows them. Its lights flash, and the siren RINGS. Eleanor looks in her rear mirror.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
 Wow, they must be in a hurry, too! Hey,
 we never finished telling you guys about
 Shana and Jacob's marriage!

BERNIECE
 (sighs)
 Go ahead.

INT. DUMBECK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shana and Eleanor's father, JOHN DUMBECK, 40's, white, sits on the couch and reads his newspaper. His butler, JENTILLE, enters with two Army POLICE OFFICERS.

JENTILLE

Mr. Dumbeck, you have visitors.

Jentille exits. John stands up.

JOHN

How can I help you, gentlemen?

POLICE OFFICER #1

Does a Shana Jones live here?

JOHN

She does, but she's in basic training right now.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Well, that's why we're here, sir. She never showed up for it.

Eleanor enters.

JOHN

What? You're kidding!

POLICE OFFICER #1

No, sir. There's nothing funny about running away from your country.

ELEANOR

What about when a clown car crosses the Mexican border?

PAUSE.

POLICE OFFICER #1

I stand corrected.

JOHN

Gentlemen, I haven't seen her, but if I do, I'll tell her to call the...Army.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Thank you. Good day.

The police officers do an about-face and exit.

JOHN

That's crazy! Now where would your sister be?

ELEANOR

I don't know, Dad! On a completely unrelated matter, I gotta go!

Eleanor dashes away.

JOHN

(sighs)

Why couldn't we all be unrelated?

ELEANOR (V.O.)

Shana told me that she started to see a different side of Jacob, so I put one and two together, and ran straight to his house!

Eleanor runs down the street.

INT. JACKSON APARTMENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Shana and Jacob sit on the couch, making out. Eleanor BURSTS in through the front door, catching her breath.

ELEANOR

Shana, you gotta get outta here!

JACOB

(to Eleanor)

No, you do!

SHANA

What are you doing here?

ELEANOR

I "literary" ran across town to tell you that the Army police is after you!

She continues to PANT.

SHANA

Why didn't you drive?

Eleanor PAUSES.

INT. ELEANOR'S CAR - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Eleanor and the gang are pulled over to the side of the road. A police car parks behind them, with the flashing lights on.

CONNIE

I think we all know the answer to that!

ELEANOR

Hey, can I finish?

INT. JACKSON APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

ELEANOR

There's no time for that, Shana! You could both be in big trouble!

SHANA

Fine, I'll just tell them that I changed my mind about the Army!

JACOB

But if the cops are after you, you could go to jail! Believe me, I know!

SHANA

Okay, so what do I do now?
(to Jacob)
I can't leave you!

ELEANOR

Well, maybe you don't have to. How many soldiers do you hear about who's married, barefoot and pregnant?

SHANA

None, why? I'm not pregnant!

ELEANOR

Not yet!

SHANA

Huh?

ELEANOR

You can tell the Army that you can't go to basic training yet because you're married! Then eventually, you can get pregnant!

SHANA

Eleanor, that's ridiculous! Besides, who would marry us?

ELEANOR

I just got ordained online! You're looking at Reverend Eleanor Dumbeck!

SHANA

Huh? I never knew this!

ELEANOR

There's a lot of things that you could know about me, if you would have hung around me more.

SHANA

Aww. I'm sorry, Eleanor. I promise, if I don't go to jail, I'll start hanging out with you. In between me and Jacob kickin' it, of course.

ELEANOR

So, what do you say? Ready to get married?

SHANA

Yes. Yes I am!

JACOB

Wait a minute, hold on! I'm not ready to get married, let alone be a father!

Eleanor SCOFFS and approaches him.

ELEANOR

Jacob, you took so much from your country. Now it's time to give back. Jacob Jackson, don't do it for your girlfriend.

She puts her hand on his shoulder.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Do it for America!

Jacob looks up and ponders. Eleanor squeezes his shoulder a bit, then pulls away.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

(to Shana)

Strong shoulders. Good catch!

SHANA
I know, right?

EXT. OUTDOORS - DAY

ELEANOR (V.O.)
The next day, we decided to go to a
secluded place to perform a quick
ceremony.

Shana and Jacob stand and face each other. They hold each
other's hands. Eleanor faces them both.

ELEANOR
Dearly beloved, we are gathered today to
join...

JACOB
We're on the run, woman. Speed it up.

ELEANOR
Right. Shana, repeat after me. I...

SHANA
I...

ELEANOR
...take Jacob Jackson...

SHANA
...take Jacob Jackson...

ELEANOR
...to be my lawfully wedded husband.

SHANA
...to be my lawfully wedded husband.

ELEANOR
Jacob...

SHANA
Jacob...

Eleanor and Jacob look at Shana and frown.

SHANA (CONT'D)
Sorry.

ELEANOR
Jacob, repeat after me.

The Army police officers approach them.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Hold it! We found you, Jones!

OFFICER TOWNSEND, 40's, black, comes from the other direction.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

And I found you, Jackson!

SHANA

(to Eleanor)

I told you not to check us in on Facebook!

ELEANOR

Hey, you know how it is! Pics or it didn't happen!

SHANA

(to the cops)

Hey, I'm about to be married! Can I hold off on this Army thing?

POLICE OFFICER #2

No, you took an oath. Let's go!

The officers start pulling Shana away.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(to Jacob)

And I need to take you downtown!

She starts pulling Jacob away.

SHANA

Jakey!

JACOB

Eleanor, keep going!

ELEANOR

(calls out)

Jacob, do you take Shana?

JACOB

Yeah!

ELEANOR

Then by the powers invested in me by the state of Wisconsin, I pronounce you husband and wife! Here's the certificate!

She quickly runs back and forth to each of them. They both sign it.

JACOB
Hey, what about kissing the bride?

SHANA
Oh, we did that already!

JACOB
Oh, we did more than that!

SHANA
(giggles)
Oh, Jakey!

They drift further apart.

JACOB
But what about our honeymoon?

ELEANOR
Don't worry! Maybe one of the places will
let you guys have a conjugal visit!

SHANA
That's "conjugal"!

JACOB
I'll wait for you!

SHANA
Me too!

ELEANOR
Bye, guys! Congratulations!

She smiles and waves frenetically at both of them.

INT. ELEANOR'S CAR - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

BERNIECE
Okay, they both got caught. Then what
happened?

CONNIE
I think Eleanor's a little tied up right
now.

A cop stands outside Eleanor's window.

ELEANOR
(to cop)
But you were speeding, too! Oh, do as I
say, not as I do, huh?

SHANA
(to Berniece)
Uh, it's gonna be a while. I'll take it
from here.

INT. ARMY BASE - SERGEANT'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

SHANA (V.O.)
I was in hot water when I had to report
to the sergeant's office.

SHANA
Sir, please let me explain!

SERGEANT PAUL sits behind her desk.

SERGEANT PAUL
Stand at attention!

Shana does so.

SHANA (V.O.)
See?

SERGEANT PAUL
I got a good mind to throw your butt out
of here! That's what you wanted anyway,
right?

SHANA
No, Sergeant! I did want to stay behind
with my new husband, but now that he's in
jail, I have nowhere to go! My dad would
be P.O.'d at me, and it's too late to
enroll in college!

Jacob bursts in the door.

JACOB
Shana, there you are!

SERGEANT PAUL
Hey, how you'd get past the watchmen?

JACOB
Watchmen?

He looks behind him.

SHANA
Jacob! I thought you were in jail!

JACOB

I thought you were in jail!

SHANA

What happened?

JACOB

They just wanted me to go downtown and answer some questions about my dad. Apparently, he was running some Ponzi scheme down where he lives.

SHANA

And you were about to go down there with him?

JACOB

Guess that wasn't meant to be.

SHANA

But you and me together is.

SERGEANT PAUL

(sarcastically)

I'm gonna cry.

(regular voice)

Jones, I'm not finished with you! Matter fact, I am! Get outta my sight, maggot!

JACOB

Hey, you can't talk to her that way!

SERGEANT PAUL

I just did!

SHANA

(to Paul)

Now, look here! I could easily buy this whole Army and all of the people in it!

JACOB

Uh, Shana...?

SHANA

Wait, let me finish!

(to Paul)

But I don't want that to define me. I want to work hard and defend my country. But before I do that, I have to know what I'm defending. So I skipped town and married my true love. And doggone it, I'd do it again! Now, let me back in your Army!

SERGEANT PAUL

Fine, whatever, it'll help us reach our quota.

SHANA

Great!

She jumps up and down, then hugs and kisses Jacob.

JACOB

Give 'em hell, Shana!

SHANA

You bet I will! Now where's my drill sergeant?

Paul waves at her and smiles evilly. Shana stops dead in her tracks.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Oh.

MONTAGE - SHANA IN BOOT CAMP

SHANA (V.O.)

So I was let back in and was welcomed with open arms!

-- Shana, in her recruit uniform, stands at attention. Sweat comes down her forehead. "Floating heads" of Sergeant Paul and other drill sergeants, soldiers, and recruits circle her head and yell at her (with no audio).

SHANA (V.O.)

And after fitting in with the team...

-- Shana runs with her combat gear on and carries a rifle, while she HUFFS and PUFFS. Sergeant Paul stands with the other recruits with her arms crossed. The recruits point and laugh at Shana.

SHANA (V.O.)

...I get my orders...

-- Shana stands in Sergeant Paul's office and reads from some papers.

SHANA

Milwaukee?! I joined the Army to see the world, and I've been ordered back home?

SERGEANT PAUL

We can give you a gun, and you can fight overseas!

SHANA

Back home, it is, Sarge!

Shana does a hand salute.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Shana, Eleanor, Connie, Berniece, and Jacob approach the door and enter.

SHANA

...and here I am! Private Jones!

She looks at Jacob.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Slash-Jackson. I haven't figured it out yet.

The five sit on the couch and love seat. Rhonda sits in a recliner facing the TV.

RHONDA

(frowns)

Make yourselves at home.

ELEANOR

Thanks, Mrs. "Nelson-Jamisez"!

Eric and Matt enter the door arguing.

MATT

I'm saying, there was a better way to go about it!

ERIC

No way, Matt! Your friends were using me and you!

ELEANOR

(scoffs)

Guys, hello? We're in the middle of something!

RHONDA
 (to Matt and Eric)
 Let's take this to the kitchen.

The three of them enter the kitchen.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
 Now what happened?

MATT
 Your son stopped the music in the middle
 of the party!

ERIC
 That's because no one was gonna pay me!

MATT
 But you can't just stop performing in the
 middle of a show!

ERIC
 You can if you're getting played! And
 your frat brothers are playing you!

Eric and Matt continue BICKERING.

RHONDA
 Hold it!

They STOP.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
 Eric, tell me you didn't just walk off!

ERIC
 Yeah, I did! What would you have done?

RHONDA
 You have to be professional about it!

ERIC
 Oh, sure, take his side!

RHONDA
 Look, next time, make a contract, have
 your customer sign it, and hold them to
 it. It's the only proof you have.

ERIC
 (sighs)
 Oh my god, I don't believe this! I'm
 outta here!

Eric storms out of the kitchen.

RHONDA

Eric, wait!

Eric reenters the living room. Shana and Jacob are kissing.

ELEANOR

Eric!

She taps Shana and Jacob. They quickly pull away.

SHANA

Uh...uh...

Berniece gets up and hugs Eric.

BERNIECE

You okay, babe?

ERIC

Not really.

(to the others)

What are you guys even doing here?

SHANA

Okay, you caught us. Me and Jacob are dating. Married, even.

ERIC

So?

SHANA

You mean, you're not mad?

ERIC

No, man! Come on, Berniece, let's get out of here. The rest of ya'll, kick your own asses out.

Eric and Berniece exit.

JACOB

Well, that's that.

SHANA

(sighs)

Yeah.

CONNIE

What's wrong?

JACOB

Well, now that "Gary Coleman" isn't mad at us, it ain't as fun anymore!

SHANA

I know! Maybe this was a mistake.

ELEANOR

Now, wait a minute! I didn't spend 20 minutes of my life to get my certificate and to marry you guys just for you to break up! Now, you guys have to work things out, just like Mom and Dad did!

SHANA

They slept with each other's sisters and got divorced!

ELEANOR

Well, thanks for reopening old wounds. Look, find something deep inside that brought you together.

Shana and Jacob pause.

SHANA

Well, I no longer find myself wanting to vomit when I see him.

JACOB

Yeah. And the sex is good.

SHANA

What the heck? Let's stay married!

They both kiss and hug.

ELEANOR AND CONNIE

Awww!

ELEANOR

(sniffles)

Excuse me, I have teardrops in my eye!

She takes some tissue and BLOWS her nose. Matt and Rhonda enter the living room.

MATT

How touching, now get out.

ELEANOR

(to Matt)

But you don't understand! My sister and Jacob got married, and I married them!

PAUSE.

CONNIE

And it doesn't look like he cares.
(to the other kids)
Come on.

ELEANOR

(to Matt)
Okay, but you need to be nicer to them.
They're your new neighbor-in-laws!

The kids exit.

RHONDA

You know you gotta talk to your frat
brother, right?

MATT

Rhonda, you just said that Eric needed to
type up a contract.

RHONDA

But you gotta talk to him! You know, for
your son!

MATT

(subdued)
Step-son.

RHONDA

Matt...

MATT

(sighs)
Parenting sucks.

RHONDA

I know.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Matt and Dave sit at the bar with drinks.

MATT

Dave, what's up with the money? You know
you gotta pay my son.

DAVE

I know, but we thought we had it under
control. We thought we would pay you
back.

MATT

What? You gotta be kidding me!

DAVE

Hey, we're good for the money! Come on, frat!

MATT

Oh, so that's it? I'm only frat because of what I can do for you?

DAVE

(sighs)

No. You're right. Let's roll to the bank.

MATT

Alright.

DAVE

Hey! Didn't you ask me for a reference because I'm frat, too?

MATT

(pause)

I was gonna give you a shout-out on Twitter, if I get the job!

DAVE

Man, I'm not on that!

MATT

Whose fault is that? Get with the times!

DAVE

Let's go.

Matt and Dave exit. IKE, the bartender, calls out.

IKE

Hey! You forgot to pay...
(to himself, dejected)
Oh, it's Matt. I forgot.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DAY

Matt talks on the phone with Eric, who rides in Berniece's car.

INTERCUT - MATT/ERIC

MATT

Eric, did you get the money I CashApped you? It was from Dave.

ERIC

Yeah. Thanks. And sorry about what happened.

MATT

Me too, son. See you at home.

Eric hangs up.

INT. BERNIECE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Eric rides in the front. Berniece drives. Shana, Jacob, and Eleanor sit in the back.

BERNIECE

So everything worked out now?

ERIC

Yeah, finally.

Berniece pulls over. Shana, Eleanor, and Jacob begin to exit.

SHANA

Thanks for the ride, Berniece.

They close the door.

ERIC

Hey, where's Jacob going?

BERNIECE

Really?

ERIC

Yeah! And why is he always around them all of a sudden?

BERNIECE

Don't you remember, Eric? He and Shana got married!

ERIC

Married??

BERNIECE

I'll explain it to you on the way home.

ERIC

Ew!

They drive away. Shana and Eleanor walk with Jacob to their front door.

ELEANOR

Hey, guys, you didn't have to worry about Eric trippin' out after all!

JACOB

(sarcastically)

Yeah, I was shaking in my boots.

They enter the mansion.

ELEANOR

Only thing you gotta do now, Shana, is figure out how to tell Dad about your marriage!

They run into John, who looks angry and shocked.

JOHN

Your what??

Jacob FACEPALMS. Eleanor looks worried. Shana frowns at Eleanor.

SHANA

You know, I never really liked you.

Eleanor smiles nervously.

THE END