

ERIC

"Last Night a Nelson Saved My Life"

By E.J. Rupert

Jimmy Rupe Productions  
Milwaukee, WI  
(414) 550-0547  
ejrupert@yahoo.com

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ERIC NELSON and his girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, both 16, sit on the couch, making out. Berniece hesitates.

ERIC

Berniece, you're not as enthused with this as I am.

BERNIECE

Maybe I'm not in the mood, okay?

ERIC

Okay, we'll stop.

BERNIECE

Wait, that's it?

ERIC

You said, "no", that's it! You ain't gonna #MeToo me!

BERNIECE

It's not that, Eric.

ERIC

Then what is it?

BERNIECE

It's just that...well...it's hard to make out with your brother here!

She points to BILLY NELSON, 20, who sits next to Eric, playing on his phone.

BILLY

Don't worry, guys, pretend like I'm not even here.

ERIC

We don't wanna pretend!

BILLY

I get it. You want some time alone.

Eric and Berniece nod.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Then you'll get together. Then Berniece will say she loves you. Then she snoops around. And she claims she trusts you. You're gonna feel this tall, Eric.

He positions his fingers in the air.

BILLY (CONT'D)

More so.

BERNIECE

(to Eric)

I get the feeling this isn't about us anymore.

BILLY

Or maybe it's you, Eric, who does the snooping. Then you find out that you care for her a little more than she does about you! What then, huh?

BERNIECE

See ya.

Berniece gets up.

ERIC

Right behind you!

BERNIECE

No, stay here and talk to him.

She exits.

ERIC

(groans)

Why start now?

(to Billy)

Billy, what was all that about?

BILLY

Just telling you how love goes.

ERIC

I wouldn't know! I was trying to get me some love!

BILLY

Don't worry. You being you would have killed the moment, anyway.

Billy exits.

ERIC

It never hurts to try.

He begins to walk, then WINCES in pain. He straightens his waistband and fidgets with his crotch.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(moans)

I take that back.

He slowly walks away.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Eric sits in class with others. His best friend DIMMEY ROBERTS, 16, sits in front of him.

ERIC

Hey, did you and Connie do it yet?

DIMMEY

(grins)

What do you think?

ERIC

Oh, okay!

DIMMEY

What about you and Berniece?

ERIC

What do you think?

ARNOLD ALLEN, 15, dressed in Poindexter-type gear and wearing glasses, sits across from them.

ARNOLD

Please, Eric, I have a better chance doing it with her.

ERIC

I know you ain't talking about doing it with my girl, Arnold!

ARNOLD

Sorry.

Arnold turns his head.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

(bellows)

I had to, because your mother had a long line!

The rest of the class, except Eric, BURSTS WITH LAUGHTER. Arnold slaps hands with a student.

ERIC

Oh, really?

ARNOLD  
Yes, Eric, I can get "hood" like you.

ERIC  
Oh, you don't want this smoke.

ARNOLD  
Smoke. That's what your mother did when  
we were done!

Students OOOOH and giggle.

ERIC  
Okay, okay! Yo mama so dumb, she had to  
Google Google!

Students LAUGH.

ARNOLD  
Your mother is so old, she lived next  
door to Jesus!

Students LAUGH some more.

ERIC  
Yo mama so fat, she lives next door to  
everybody!

Students ROAR laughing. MR. DYKES, the teacher, quiets  
them.

MR. DYKES  
Kids, pay attention! How will you ever  
get through life without knowing what a  
trapezoid is?

The students quiet down and continue studying.

ARNOLD  
(quietly)  
Eric, your mother takes her shoes off to  
use the bathroom.

Students GIGGLE quietly.

ERIC  
(quietly)  
Yo mama has ears on her back and goes  
like this...

Eric tilts his head back.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
..."Huh? What?"

Students LAUGH.

MR. DYKES

That's it!

ERIC

Fine, Mr. Dykes. I'll head to Principal Peters.

MR. DYKES

No, you're not getting off that easy! Since you and Mr. Allen love to talk to each other so much, you two can be paired up for your project!

ERIC AND ARNOLD

What?!

ERIC

What kind of punishment is that?

MR. DYKES

Hey, pairing you both with others would be punishment for them!

SFX: School bell RINGS.

The students begin to exit.

ERIC

(sighs)

I hope you're not expecting me to work all hard and stuff.

ARNOLD

I never do!

Dimmey approaches them both.

DIMMEY

(to Eric)

I know who works real hard. Your mom!

Eric and Arnold look at Dimmey puzzled.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

Oh, we're not doing mamas anymore.

(chuckles)

Especially after last night!

He laughs and lifts his hand up, waiting for a hand slap. Eric and Arnold scoff and walk away. Dimmey puts his hand back down.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)  
Screw ya'll. That was funny.

INT. COLLEGE DORM - EVENING

Professor RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, who is also Eric and Billy's mother, walks into the dorm. She runs into a college GIRL.

GIRL  
Professor Nelson-James! I don't condone any of this!

RHONDA  
Condone what?

GIRL  
Nothing! How can I help you?

RHONDA  
Where is Gina Richards' room? She left her pocketbook in my class.

GIRL  
Down the hall there and around the corner.

RHONDA  
Where that loud music is playing?

GIRL  
Hey, my name's Bennett, and I ain't in it!

RHONDA  
Thanks.

INT. GINA'S DORM ROOM - SAME

College kids dance and clamor. Music blasts from the speakers. GINA RICHARDS, a cheerleader, walks around. Her football-player boyfriend, MARTY O'DELL, follows her.

MARTY  
Gina, this a great party!

GINA  
I got the idea from an old movie. It's a rent party!

MARTY  
But isn't this a dorm room?

GINA

Yeah. Guess that means we have to throw a lot more parties!

MARTY

Hey, Gina, I gotta talk to you about something.

GINA

Right now?

MARTY

Well, soon.

Rhonda enters the room and makes her way through the crowd.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Professor Nelson-James?

(looks around)

This isn't the library!

GINA

No, but I was on my way to study, honest!

RHONDA

Forget it! I don't see anything!

MARTY

Wow, and you're a professor?

GINA

Community-college professor.

RHONDA

Take the damn pocketbook, Richards!

Gina grabs it from Rhonda.

GINA

Thanks.

RHONDA

Alright, let me get out of here, before the Dean catches me.

MARTY

You mean him?

He points to the DEAN, who is being carried and spun around by other partygoers.

DEAN  
 (drunkenly)  
 Whee! College rules!

Rhonda heads for the exit. Two SORORITY GIRLS do a Greek stroll down the party, then stop.

SORORITY GIRL #1  
 (to Rhonda)  
 Hey, where's Maggie Fletcher?

RHONDA  
 With her new husband!

They laugh. Rhonda hugs both girls.

RHONDA (CONT'D)  
 Hey, Theta girls, how you doin'?

SORORITY GIRL #2  
 Oh, you know, gettin' our stroll on!

RHONDA  
 Well, that's good, neo's, but ya'll look a little stiff. You gotta let it flow. Like this.

Rhonda begins to do the stroll and adds some hand claps to it. The other girls follow. The rest of the party stops, stares, and CHEERS.

GINA  
 Uh oh, look at the professor!

RHONDA  
 Aw, man, I haven't done that in years!

SORORITY GIRL #1  
 Here, have some of our Theta Punch! Don't worry, the flask is clean!

Gina hands an empty cup to Rhonda.

RHONDA  
 Well, I guess one drink wouldn't hurt. But we all got work to do tomorrow.

The girl pours the drink into Rhonda's cup.

GINA  
 Speaking of that, I need to call in sick for class tomorrow.

RHONDA

Gina, I see you "being sick" right now!

GINA

Oh, you're right.

Gina takes the cup from Rhonda.

GINA (CONT'D)

Well, thanks for stopping by!

MARTY

(taps Gina on the arm)

Gina!

Gina gives the cup back to Rhonda, who sips from it.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

The Nelsons sit and eat at the table, while CYNTHIA McNAIR, the maid, pours Rhonda a cup of coffee. Rhonda has her hair in micro-braids and one Afro Puff on each side of her head with sunglasses on the top, and she wears a football jersey and a gold chain, with ripped jeans.

RHONDA

Good lookin' out, Cindy. Had a rough night.

She sips the coffee. The rest of the family stare at her.

ERIC

Mom, there's something different about you.

RHONDA

Oh, word?

MATT

Yeah, did you take a shower with 1992?

RHONDA

Aw, whatever, bro! I'm just livin' my best life. YOLO, right?

BILLY

Mom, nobody says that anymore!

RHONDA

Well, I'm bringin' it back. What's old is new, right?

CYNTHIA

Then you must be real, real, new.

RHONDA

(laughs)

Aight, ya'll got jokes!

MATT

Anyway, Billy, how's your article coming along?

BILLY

I posted it. Check it out.

He hands Matt the phone. Matt reads from it.

MATT

"Subs N' Such in Madison, Wisconsin has some of the most mediocre sandwiches ever. Their manager, Sharon Ross, can be unprofessional, too."

ERIC

(to Billy)

That's a step up from, "If you have to go to Subs N' Such, stay the hell away from Sharon Ross. She plays mind games."

BILLY

What's wrong with a little edge?

MATT

Nothing, if you like a little lawsuit.

CYNTHIA

Or a little brick through your windshield.

RHONDA

(to Billy, standing up)

Alright, check it, sonny. Lemme put you up on game. She ain't the only thot out there with that good good.

She does a pelvic thrust. The boys cringe.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

There's more of that in the sea.

Billy stares at her.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Now, I know what you're thinking.

BILLY  
I highly doubt it.

RHONDA  
"What does a boss 'beyotch' like me know about this?" Well, I've been there before. And if you can't find another woman right away, take up another hobby.

BILLY  
Uh, right. I gotta go.

ERIC  
Yeah, me too. I'm getting a headache.

The boys exit.

RHONDA  
Aight, then!

Matt looks at Rhonda's shoes.

MATT  
Honey, are those Yeezys?

RHONDA  
Fo sheezy! Daddy likes?

MATT  
"Daddy" can't afford Yeezys!

RHONDA  
Well, you really can't afford anything, Matt. But I got these from making small, monthly payments.

MATT  
Oh yeah, I heard of that. Let me apply.

He pulls out his phone and types.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Okay, name, social security number...

SFX: BOOM!

The cell phone BURSTS into flames and lands on the phone. Cynthia approaches it.

CYNTHIA  
Again? I'll get the fire extinguisher.

She exits. Rhonda pulls Matt away from the fire.

RHONDA  
You won't need your phone, anyway, for  
what we 'bout to do.

MATT  
Oh yeah?

RHONDA  
Step in our room and get that thang up,  
so I can come sit on it!

MATT  
(frowns)  
Yeah, that's kind of a turn-off.

RHONDA  
Really?

Matt pauses.

MATT  
No.

He takes her hand, and they both head for their bedroom.

RHONDA  
I knew you was cappin'.

MATT  
Please stop talking.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Eric and Arnold sit at a desk. Eric's head is down.

ARNOLD  
Come on, Eric, I need you to focus!

ERIC  
Man, can't you figure out the math  
problems by yourself?

ARNOLD  
Yes, but that's not the point. We're  
supposed to be partners.

ERIC  
I got too much on my mind.

Arnold sees Dimmey and his friends approaching their  
desk.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
My brother's always in my hair. Now my  
mother is acting crazy.

ARNOLD  
(announces)  
Well, I have been known to have that  
effect on women!

The others LAUGH.

ERIC  
Arnold, I thought we were done with that.

ARNOLD  
That's what she said!

The others continue LAUGHING and walk away. Arnold LAUGHS  
and looks around. He quickly STOPS laughing and leans  
over to Eric.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)  
(sotto voce)  
Meet me at my house after school.

ERIC  
What? Why?

ARNOLD  
Just do it!

INT. ALLEN APARTMENT - LATER

Arnold enters his apartment with Eric. They enter his  
parents' room.

ERIC  
Arnold, why'd you call me over here?

Arnold lifts up the mattress of the bed and grabs a key.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
Unless we're gonna look at your dad's  
girly magazines, I'm outta here!

ARNOLD  
We will later. Just follow me!

They go to another room. Arnold unlocks the door with the  
key. Inside are crates of vinyl records, CD's, posters,  
light fixtures, and microphone stands.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

My father was not always the smooth, mild-mannered man that I am. No, back in the day, he was the top DJ here in Milwaukee. This is some of his equipment.

ERIC

Wow.

ARNOLD

He was known as DJ A-Plus, short for "Aloysius Allen".

ERIC

Oh, that was him? Get outta here!

ARNOLD

I'm serious! Everybody listened to him and his Top Ten playlists. He called it, "Alo's Wish List". Get it?

Arnold grabs a book.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Look at this photo album. It's a "who's who" of the music industry back then.

They both flip through the book together.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

There's him with Destiny's Child. And him with Michael Jackson.

ERIC

Is that Snoop Dogg?!

ARNOLD

You bet! My dad was a key figure in ending the East Coast/West Coast beef.

Arnold closes the book.

ERIC

I've never known this side of you guys.

ARNOLD

Well, this was all before my dad met my mom. He wanted to get out of the music biz and start a lovely family.

ERIC

Well, tell him to keep trying.

Arnold laughs mockingly.

ERIC (CONT'D)

This is cool and all, but why are you showing me this?

ARNOLD

Dad doesn't use this stuff anymore, and he might wanna sell it.

ERIC

And?

ARNOLD

Doesn't your brother need something to do?

ERIC

Yeah, but...

(pause)

Oh!

Arnold's father, ALOYSIUS ALLEN, wearing khakis, a polo-type shirt, and a sweater tied around his shoulders, approaches them.

ALOYSIUS

Arnold Allen, what the heck are you doing?

ARNOLD

Father, don't get mad! You may have a customer for your DJ equipment!

ALOYSIUS

Really?

ARNOLD

(lifts his right hand)

Genius' honor!

ALOYSIUS

Well, alright. Now that you guys know my secret, close this door back. Arnold, your mother doesn't even know about this stuff.

Arnold's mother, AMBER ALLEN, calls out.

AMBER (O.S.)

(singsong voice)

Yes I do!

Aloysius SIGHS.

ERIC

Thanks, guys. I'll let my brother know right away!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - LATER

Billy PLAYS music on the DJ equipment. The Nelsons' pets, BONY the dog and EDDIE THE CAT, run around in circles to the music. Eric enters.

ERIC

Alright, bro, I see you!

BILLY

Thanks for telling me about the DJ gear. I used the rest of my student loans to buy it!

ERIC

Are you supposed to do that?

Billy shrugs.

BILLY

Anyway, I came up with a new name. DJ Illson! Get it? Instead of "Nelson", it's "ill son"!

ERIC

Was "Broke Son" already taken?

Billy scoffs, turns the music off, and walks away. Eric follows him out.

ERIC (CONT'D)

What about "DJ No-girl"? "No-wife"? "No-life"?

Eddie jumps behind the turntables.

EDDIE

I used to do this in my third life.

He SCRATCHES a record. Bony jumps in his director's seat.

BONY

Okay, places, everybody! Whiskers, Oliver, come on!

WHISKERS the mouse and OLIVER DUCK approach Eddie.

EDDIE

Oliver? Where's Friskers?

WHISKERS

He's holding out for more money,  
remember?

OLIVER

(speaking telepathically)  
I can do what he can, easily!

Whiskers and Oliver step away.

BONY

And action!

Eddie flips on the music and leaps to the middle of the floor. He starts break-dancing.

SFX: He hears SCRATCHING SOUNDS in the music.

Whiskers and Oliver are running on top of a vinyl record, which causes the scratching. Eddie LEAPS to them and starts chasing them.

Eddie and Whiskers run all around the garage. Oliver extends the cord to a sound speaker attached to a tripod high-up. Whiskers jumps over the cord, but Eddie trips over it and PLOPS to the ground on his face.

Eddie SHAKES his head, then looks up at the speaker falling towards him. Eddie holds up a sign.

INSERT - THE SIGN, which reads:  
"Eric will be back..."

Eddie turns the sign around, and the back reads:  
"...but I won't!"

BACK TO GARAGE

The speaker's shadow grows bigger on Eddie, and the speaker CRASHES onto him.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eric sleeps in bed.

SFX: LOUD THUMPING of music from a distance.

ERIC

(with eyes closed)  
Billy, turn your music down.

Billy is in his bed, half-sleeping.

BILLY  
 (with eyes closed)  
 All right.

Billy wakes up.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
 Wait a minute. That's not me!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The boys enter the living room, which is filled with partygoers and loud music. They approach Rhonda, who wears similar clothes as before.

RHONDA  
 Hey, ya'll, these my boys here! They're my heart! "Periodt"!

She hugs them both.

BILLY  
 Mom, what's going on here?

ERIC  
 Yeah! I gotta focus at school tomorrow!  
 (gasps)  
 I gotta focus at school!

BILLY  
 Where's Matt?

RHONDA  
 He got tired of the distractions, so he went down to the bar. I'm just gettin' down with my students.

BILLY  
 But isn't that fraternization?

ERIC  
 No, stupid, she's in a sorority! You know, for girls!

BILLY  
 (rolls his eyes)  
 Oh, silly me.

RHONDA  
 Billy, it's not fraternization if you invite the **WHOLE DAMN CLASS!**

The partygoers CHEER. A GIRL approaches Rhonda.

GIRL #2

Man, I hope my birthday party next week is this much fun!

RHONDA

Oh, it will, because my oldest son here will DJ it for ya! Right, Billy?

BILLY

Uh, yeah, sure!

OFFICER YVETTE TOWNSEND approaches Rhonda.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Rhonda, as your friend, I say, "Great party." But as a cop...I say, "Great party!"

She laughs.

RHONDA

That's what I'm talkin' 'bout, 'Vette!

Cynthia chimes in.

CYNTHIA

Yeah, boys, chill out!

ERIC

(to Cynthia)

But don't you have to clean all this mess up tomorrow?

PAUSE.

Cynthia SHUTS OFF the music from her cell phone.

CYNTHIA

Party's over! Get out!

The partygoers express disappointment and start exiting the house.

MARTY

Gina, I still need to talk to you.

GINA

Okay, Marty, we'll get a chance.

Rhonda stretches out on the couch.

RHONDA

Guys, I'll understand if you don't make it to class.

GINA  
That's cool. I was gonna skip anyway!

Gina and Marty exit. Cynthia closes the door and leaves.

ERIC  
(to Billy)  
Mom got you a gig! What's your first song  
gonna be?

BILLY  
Hmm, I don't know. Maybe this.

He pulls out his phone and PLAYS a song that THUMPS  
through the speakers. Rhonda jumps up.

RHONDA  
Party's back on!

The partygoers reenter the house and resume having fun.  
Eric sighs and exits.

INT. COLLEGE HALL - NIGHT

Crowds of people gather and converse. Billy stands  
backstage and talks to himself.

BILLY  
Alright, Bill, let's do this! You're  
gonna be great!

He walks onto the stage behind his DJ equipment. He picks  
up his microphone and addresses the crowd.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Uh, hi...

SFX: EXTREMELY LOUD FEEDBACK.

The people cover their ears. Billy adjusts the volume.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
(stammers)  
Sorry. Yeah. I'm Billy...I mean,  
William...uh, DJ Illson... 'cuz my last  
name's Nelson.

The crowd stare in silence.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
By the way, happy birthday to Rebecca.

GIRL #2/ROCHELLE

"Rochelle"!

BILLY

Her too. Well, let's get it rockin'!  
Here's one of my favorite songs!

SFX: Billy PLAYS a country song. The crowd looks at each other and GRUMBLES. A BOY calls out.

BOY

This ain't no hoedown! Play something to  
get us turnt up!

Other people laugh and talk in agreement.

BILLY

(sotto voce)

Damn heckler.

SFX: Billy STOPS the song and PLAYS a midtempo '80s song.

ROCHELLE

WTF, bro?

BILLY

This was a big song in 1985!

ROCHELLE

Here's an idea: Play something that we'll  
all like. From this century. Like this.

She shows Billy her phone.

BILLY

Oh, I got that one. Hold on.

SFX: Billy CUTS the song and PLAYS an upbeat, recent song.

The crowd begin to dance.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(sotto voce)

Hey, I recognize this. This was me and  
Sharon's song.

(sniffles)

Keep it together.

ROCHELLE

Yeah, that's it! What else you got?

BILLY  
 (breaks down in tears)  
 I'm sorry, this ain't a good time!

He runs away crying. The song ENDS. The crowd looks at each other. A BOY talks to Rochelle.

BOY #2  
 Uh, what are we supposed to do now?

ROCHELLE  
 I don't know. Them Nelsons need to know how to throw a party.

Billy's father, JUNIOR, slides to the floor. He wears his signature sequin-laced jumpsuit with a large afro pinned by a headband.

JUNIOR  
 Did somebody call for me?!

ROCHELLE  
 (to the boy)  
 Like I said.

The crowd exits the hall. Junior stays behind.

JUNIOR  
 Hmmph. Some party. Where's the DJ at? His daddy should be embarrassed.

He grabs some chips from a table and snacks on them.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Eric sits at a booth in the restaurant. Arnold approaches him.

ARNOLD  
 Eric!

ERIC  
 Arnold, you're around me. In public.

ARNOLD  
 How'd your brother do?

ERIC  
 From what he told me, he really made an impression.

ARNOLD

(sits down)

Good. I helped you, now you need to help me.

ERIC

Whatchu talkin' 'bout? I helped you with that project.

ARNOLD

Only because the teacher made us.

ERIC

(sighs)

What do you want, man?

ARNOLD

There's this girl who I'm sure notices me, but I haven't been paying attention until now.

MARY, the waitress, roams around the booth. She is dressed similar to Arnold, with the exception of her apron.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Whenever I see her, I don't know what to say.

ERIC

Do I know her?

ARNOLD

Yeah.

Mary lifts her head up and smiles.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

It's Shana.

Mary marches over to the booth and SLAMS a tray of food down on the table.

MARY

(to Eric)

Here's your food!

Mary marches away.

ARNOLD

I didn't know Mary worked here!

From off-screen, Mary throws her apron at Arnold's head. Eric looks back in Mary's direction.

ERIC  
 "Worked" is right.

EXT. DUMBECK MANSION - LATER

Eric and Arnold sneak to the side of the mansion.

ERIC  
 Okay, there's Shana's window. I'll go behind the bushes. Keep your earbuds on, and I'll feed you the lines to say to her.

ARNOLD  
 You mean like "Cyrano de Bergerac"?

ERIC  
 "Cereal" what?

ARNOLD  
 (sighs)  
 Just go.

Eric goes behind the bushes.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)  
 (sotto voce)  
 The next time we're paired up together, you'll be taking my lunch order.

The window opens.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)  
 Uh oh, here she comes! All right, be cool.

SHANA JONES, 17, looks out the window.

SHANA  
 Hello? Is somebody out there?

ERIC  
 Shana, hi. I've been noticing you, and I know that you've been noticing me.

Eric continues to speak. There is an empty spot where Arnold used to stand.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 I really like the way you're put together, and if you give me the chance, I'd...

Shana walks up to Eric.

SHANA  
Eric!

ERIC  
(shrieks)  
Shana! I...I...

SHANA  
Oh, how I've waited for this moment!

ERIC  
But I...

SHANA  
But I'm sorry, it wasn't meant to be.

ERIC  
Huh?

SHANA  
You're with Berniece now, and I don't  
wanna hurt her. Sorry.

Shana walks away.

ERIC  
Huh??

Shana returns.

SHANA  
And speaking of Berniece, don't worry.  
You'll get to hit that soon.

She pats Eric on the head.

SHANA (CONT'D)  
Let yourself out, okay?

Shana leaves. Eric SIGHS. Shana's half-sister, ELEANOR  
DUMBECK, 16, looks out the window.

ELEANOR  
Hmph. I wish somebody pretended to be  
somebody for me.

INT. COLLEGE BUILDING - NIGHT

Eric helps Billy set up his DJ equipment in front of a  
room of partygoers.

ERIC

So when are you gonna pay me for helping set up?

BILLY

After the party, man!

ERIC

I'm surprised you got another gig so quickly.

BILLY

Word didn't get around about my last crappy performance. But it's not gonna happen this time.

Rhonda, wearing hip-hop-type gear, waltzes in with Gina and Marty.

RHONDA

(calling out)

Ayo, we in here! Where the party at?

ERIC

(to Billy, pointing to the three)

Better tell that to "Bone Thugs-n-Poverty" there.

RHONDA

Hey, look at those fine brothas behind the boards up there! They must have a fine mama, know what I'm sayin'? Ha ha!

MARTY

Uh, yeah.

(to Gina)

Look, Gina, we really need to talk.

GINA

I'm listening!

MARTY

But I can't get you alone! Professor Nelson-James is always with us!

BILLY

(announcing on the mic)

What's up, ya'll, DJ Illson here. Let's kick this party off right!

SFX: Billy PLAYS a song. The crowd gets excited and dances.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
 (to Eric, still on the mic)  
 Hey, look at that!  
 (steps off the mic)  
 Oops.

INT. COLLEGE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Music PLAYS. The crowd dances.

RHONDA  
 Yo, DJ! Crank that ish up!

Other kids CHEER in agreement.

BILLY  
 All right!

He turns the volume all the way up.

RHONDA  
 Louder! Louder!!

Billy turns up the volume on the speakers. Eric looks at a flashing red light on the left speaker.

ERIC  
 Hey, Billy, what does this flashing red light mean?

BILLY  
 I don't know, but let's keep the party goin'!  
 (to the crowd, on the mic)  
 How ya'll feelin'?

The crowd CHEERS.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
 I said, "How ya'll feelin'"?!

The crowd CHEERS louder.

SFX: Loud POPS and CRACKLES from the left speaker.

ERIC  
 (yelling over the music)  
 Billy, this speaker sounds funny!

BILLY  
 (also yelling)  
 Later, Eric! I'm in the zone!

SFX: The music STOPS from the left speaker.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Did the crackling stop?

ERIC  
Yeah, and so did the sound!

BILLY  
What?

Billy runs to look at the speaker.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Can't hear anything from here! What do I do?

SFX: The song ENDS. SILENCE follows, then CLAMORING from the crowd.

Billy looks at the crowd and is frozen.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Uh oh.

RHONDA  
Come on, son, play the music!

BILLY  
Excuse me!

Billy runs off.

RHONDA  
(to Gina and Marty)  
Man, this party is wack! Let's hit up some bars!

Gina and Marty look at each other.

GINA  
Actually, Professor Nelson-James, we got an early class tomorrow. Yours.

Rhonda scoffs.

MARTY  
We're just gonna get a bite to eat and go home.

RHONDA  
(sighs)  
Can you at least wait for me? I wanna talk to my son.

MARTY

Sure.

GINA

You're a great mother to your boys.

MARTY

Yeah.

(enunciating)

A...great...mother.

RHONDA

(half-smiles)

Alright, I get it. Thanks.

Rhonda exits. Eric gets on the mic.

ERIC

All right, ya'll. Can't keep a good party down! We still got this speaker working over here! Who knows the "Cupid Shuffle"?

He plays the "Cupid Shuffle" song. Some people come to the floor.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Now, I know ya'll been watching your parents do this dance at weddings! Come on, ya'll, no standing around!

More people fill the floor and do the "Cupid Shuffle" dance.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's it! That's it!

INT. BACKSTAGE - SAME

Billy sits down with his hands on his head. Rhonda enters.

RHONDA

Billy, are you okay?

BILLY

Is my mom asking, or is "Rhonda From the Block" asking?

RHONDA

I'm sorry if I ruined your party.

BILLY

(sighs)

I'll be alright. But my question is are you okay?

RHONDA

I was just having a little fun!

Billy scoffs.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Hey, you're the reason I've been doing this!

BILLY

Really?

Rhonda nods.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Then in that case, you should talk to Matt. He'll understand.

RHONDA

(sighs)

Do I have to?

BILLY

Yep.

RHONDA

Fine. Let me go home. I need to take my hair down, anyway. That lady braided it too tight.

She pats her head.

BILLY

That's good. Matt can do that, too!

Rhonda exits.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Gina sits at a booth. Marty stands across the way, looks at her, gets his composure together, and marches over to her.

MARTY

Gina, time is running out, so I'm just gonna say what I need to say.

GINA  
Okay, Marty-poo.

MARTY  
Now we've known each other for a long  
time, and a man knows what he wants. So I  
stand here to you, on bended knee.

Marty gets down on one knee.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
Or is it "bent" knee? I could never  
figure that out.

Gina GASPS.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
Gina Margo...

GINA  
"Madeline".

MARTY  
Gina Madeline Richards...

GINA  
It's actually Madeline Anne, my parents  
are weird, but go on.

MARTY  
Gina...

He stands back up and holds her hand.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
...I want a ho!

PAUSE.

GINA  
Say what?

MARTY  
For us! You and I should get a ho!

GINA  
(pause)  
I don't know if they sell hoes in a  
store. I can check.

MARTY  
(sits down)  
No, I mean maybe we should experiment!

GINA

What, I don't do it enough for you anymore? What about when we role-play, and I wear my cheerleader uniform?

MARTY

Yeah, but you're already a cheerleader, so you're not really playing a role. Don't stop doing those things, though.

GINA

Oh, I get it! You got your eyes on somebody else!

MARTY

No, there's no one else. In fact, that's what would make it better. We find somebody we don't have any connection with. She goes home to wherever, and you and I go home together!

GINA

Well, I don't know.

MARTY

Come on, you already said that our love life could use some spicing up.

GINA

(holds up her plate of food)  
Marty, this need some spicing up. Our love life will be okay.

MARTY

Look, just think about it. I'm cool either way. But just let me know, okay?

He kisses her on the cheek and exits.

GINA

(sighs)  
Every woman's dream.

MAUREEN WALKER, teens, sits in the booth behind Gina. She wears a provocative and revealing outfit. She turns around and talks to Gina.

MAUREEN

(amorously)  
Isn't it, though?

Gina turns her head towards Maureen.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Matt finishes taking Rhonda's hair down. They both sit on the couch.

MATT

And that's the last one.

RHONDA

Thanks. Honey, I don't wanna be a grandmother! I want to be young forever! Aren't you worried about being a grandfather?

MATT

Rhonda, being young is a state of mind. And yeah, I'm a little worried, too. But that's the great thing about you and me. We can both be worried together.

RHONDA

But what if we mess up?

MATT

Billy will be the parent. He'll do the majority of the work. And we'll be there for him, just like I'm here for you.

RHONDA

Aww, really?

Matt puts his arms around her.

MATT

Mmm hmm. You'll always be my bitch.

RHONDA

Word is bond.

MATT

Yes, honey. Word is bond.

They embrace and lay back.

INT. COLLEGE BUILDING - LATER

Billy approaches Eric, who still plays music on the DJ equipment. The partygoers dance.

BILLY

Look at this! You kept the party going!

ERIC

Yeah, they can't get enough of it! Even  
Chaz passed out over there!

Eric points to CHAZ TREPUR, who lies in the middle of the  
floor full of dancing people.

SFX: Chaz SNORES.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I might wanna do this stuff full-time! Oh  
yeah, and I'm taking your name!

BILLY

Oh?

ERIC

Now I'm gonna need some milk crates for  
some vinyl.

BILLY

Or to stand up on. Look, what makes you  
think I don't wanna give this another  
shot?

A GENTLEMAN'S voice calls out.

GENTLEMAN (O.S.)

All right, stop the music!

SFX: Eric CUTS the music.

The people stop dancing and turn to the direction of the  
gentleman who yelled. He is the BUILDING MANAGER, and he  
walks in with a MALE COP.

MALE COP

(points to a keg)

What's this keg doing here? Let's see  
some ID's, kids!

BUILDING MANAGER

And who gave you people permission to  
throw a party here, anyway?

The cop walks and trips over the cord to a speaker. He  
CRASHES into the DJ equipment. Eric and Billy stand back.  
The speaker then PLOPS on top of him. Everyone else  
GASPS.

BILLY

(to Eric)

It's all you, DJ Illson!

Billy dashes away. Eric does the same behind him.

THE END