

ERIC

"The Two Mrs. Nelson-Jameses"

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INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

PRINCIPAL PETERS, black, slowly creeps through the cafeteria of students conversing and eating lunch. He looks around.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

(sotto voce)

That's right, children. Eat your lunch.  
Do as you're taught.

He approaches ERIC NELSON, 16, black, who collects money from ARNOLD ALLEN, 16, black. Eric wears his usual shirt with the letter "E" on it; Arnold wears his usual nerdy outfit with glasses.

ERIC

Thank you very much, sir! And don't let me ask you again!

Arnold runs away.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Mr. Nelson, what is the meaning of this?

ERIC

Well, Jacob Jackson is out sick, so I'm filling in for him.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

You're doing something for Jacob Jackson?

ERIC

He threatened me, so, yeah.

Two tall and buff FOOTBALL PLAYERS, wearing their letterman jackets, walk past Eric.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(to the football players)

Hey, you! Gimme your lunch money!

FOOTBALL PLAYER #1

Alright, alright, here.

Both players give Eric some money.

FOOTBALL PLAYER #2

You know, Jacob gave us a little slack.

Both players walk away.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Well, students helping other students is usually encouraged. I have to check the handbook on this. But I'll be watching you, Nelson. Make sure you don't start any food fights.

Peters walks away.

ERIC

(calling out)

What kind of fight?

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Food fight!!

He PAUSES, then looks at the camera, breaking the fourth wall.

PRINCIPAL PETERS (CONT'D)

And that's why I never say much.

The students begin throwing food at each other and Peters. He grabs Eric by the arm.

PRINCIPAL PETERS (CONT'D)

You're coming with me!

ERIC

To your office again?

PRINCIPAL PETERS

No, that's too good for you!

EXT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Principal Peters walks Eric to an office door.

PRINCIPAL PETERS

Here you are. Go wait inside.

Peters walks away. Eric looks up at the sign on top of the door.

ERIC

(reads aloud)

"The Eric T. Nelson Suite, a Subdivision of Principal Peters' Office"?

He looks down at another sign near the doorknob.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 (continues reading aloud)  
 "Now with two times the detention."

Eric sighs and walks inside the office.

INT. ROOM - SAME

Eric's stepfather, MATT JAMES, 40's, black, wears what appears to be a collared shirt and tie.

CU OF MATT'S FACE

MATT  
 Here is my sample, ma'am, for your consideration.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL MATT'S ENTIRE BODY

Matt stands naked with the exception of the shirt collar and tie. He holds a set of papers, blocking his private parts. He stands in front of his wife, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, black, who lays in bed wearing sexy lingerie.

RHONDA  
 (lustfully)  
 Well, Mr. James, I think this will meet our current needs.

MATT  
 Well, then, let's file it away.

RHONDA  
 You start work today!

They both giggle. Matt tosses the papers aside and climbs into bed with Rhonda. He pauses, then quickly SHIVERS and MOANS.

RHONDA (CONT'D)  
 Honey, what's the matter?

MATT  
 Something's wrong!

RHONDA  
 You're trippin'!

MATT  
 Eric's our son.

Rhonda pauses, then quickly SHIVERS and MOANS.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eric sits on the couch. Matt and Rhonda walk back and forth.

MATT

Called to the principal's office again?

RHONDA

Boy, what is wrong with you?

ERIC

I'm sorry, guys! I'm just a troubled youth!

MATT

Oh, you're gonna be in trouble, all right! Your mother and I were trying to spend time alone!

ERIC

Is that what this is about?

MATT

No, smarty! It's about you behaving and stop getting into trouble! And just for that remark, you're grounded for the weekend!

RHONDA

Hey, Matt, honey, just relax a bit. I think he gets the idea.

MATT

What? But...

RHONDA

Please?

ERIC

You go, Mom!

The parents turn to him angrily. Eric quickly cups his mouth with his hands.

MATT

Alright. You got a great mother, Eric. But if you screw up again, the punishment is back on! Now, go!

ERIC

I got a great mother, got it! And a great dad! Bye!

Eric runs away.

MATT  
 (to Rhonda)  
 Do you always have to "mom" everything to death?

RHONDA  
 (hugs Matt)  
 He'll be alright. We'll be alright.

MATT  
 Speaking of "alright", why don't we finish what we started?

RHONDA  
 Not now. I have a bit of a headache.

She leaves.

MATT  
 (grunts)  
 Oooh! When he gets married, I'm interrupting him every moment I get. Hell, I'll even set up their honeymoon. Then, bam! He won't know what hit him!

He continues to fuss as he walks away.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S BEDROOM - LATER

Eric lays on his bed and talks on the phone to his girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 16, black.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

BERNIECE  
 So your parents didn't ground you?

ERIC  
 No, my mom saved the day again.

BERNIECE  
 As a strong, black woman should.

ERIC  
 But Matt was sure PO'd! I don't get it. They're married! I bet they have sex all the time!

BERNIECE

(hesitates)

Uh, speaking of that...my father will be out of town this weekend.

ERIC

What, he's going to have sex somewhere, too?

BERNIECE

I don't know, but somebody else might.

ERIC

What?

BERNIECE

Well, Eric, I've been thinking.

(pause)

I think the time is right, to, you know...

ERIC

(in shock)

What?

BERNIECE

That is if you're ready.

SILENCE.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Eric, did you hear me?

Eric has a plastered grin on his face and stares off into space.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Eric? Hello?

MONTAGE - ERIC STARES INTO SPACE

-- CYNTHIA McNAIR, the Nelsons' maid, 30's, Puerto Rican, serves Eric a bowl of cereal at the dining room table.

CYNTHIA

Here's your cereal.

Eric has the same dazed look on his face. He pours the milk, but it misses the bowl and continuously spills on the table.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

I remember making boys feel like that.

-- Eric stands outside with his dog, BONY, on a leash. Bony and an unleashed pitbull, DEXTER, GROWL and BARK at each other. Eric continues looking dazed.

-- Rhonda is at a gas station in front of a counter. She talks to a cashier.

RHONDA  
How much for gas??

The cashier points outside a window at Eric, who still has the same look on his face.

RHONDA (CONT'D)  
 (calls out the door)  
 Eric! Eric!

Eric holds the gas pump, but it misses the car, and the gas continuously pours out.

-- Eric is in gym class, with the same look on his face, as he runs laps with other students.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. SCHOOL - GYM CLASS - SAME

ELEANOR DUMBECK, 17, white, walks into class with a lunch tray. The teacher, MS. STOTTS, stops her.

MS. STOTTS  
 What are you doing here? This is gym class!

ELEANOR  
 Then how come this looks like the cafeteria?

MS. STOTTS  
 It's the cafeteria when it's lunch time!  
 Right now, it's gym!

ELEANOR  
 Then how come I've never seen you before?

MS. STOTTS  
 Haven't you ever heard of subs?

ELEANOR  
 Yeah. Is that on the menu for today?



MS. STOTTS  
For the last time, it's not lunch yet!

ELEANOR  
(scoffs)  
You're just saying that because you're  
out of subs. It's okay!

MS. STOTTS  
Oh brother.

Ms. Stotts walks near the track and projects to the  
running students.

MS. STOTTS (CONT'D)  
Alright, class, keep it up!

Eric, still in a daze, CRASHES into Ms. Stotts. They both  
PLOP to the floor. The other students stop running and  
gather around Ms. Stotts, who lies on the floor. Eric  
gets up and faces SHANA JONES, 18.

SHANA  
Eric, you killed the gym teacher!

ERIC  
(out of his daze)  
I did not, Shana! Besides, I wouldn't  
waste that wish on a sub!

Ms. Stotts gets up and limps towards Eric.

MS. STOTTS  
Come on!

ERIC  
But...but...

They both limp away. Eleanor looks from afar and shakes  
her head.

ELEANOR  
The lows some teachers will go to deny  
students their meals.

INT. SCHOOL - TEACHER'S OFFICE - LATER

Eric sits in front of Ms. Stotts's desk. Ms. Stotts  
stands up on crutches.

MS. STOTTS  
You are in so much trouble, you wouldn't  
believe!

ERIC

Ms. Stotts, please! I wasn't paying attention! I'm sorry!

MS. STOTTS

And just think of what your mother would say!

ERIC

Aw, why you gotta talk about my mama?

MS. STOTTS

Because she's an educator, just like me!

ERIC

Don't tell my mama! I told her I wouldn't get in any more trouble!

(sotto voce)

Even I had a hard time believing that.

MS. STOTTS

This is an offense worthy of a suspension! You harmed a teacher! You remember when Jacob Jackson "accidentally" hit the principal with his car!

Eric SIGHS.

MS. STOTTS (CONT'D)

I tell ya what. I wanna meet this mother of yours. You have her meet me tomorrow during school.

ERIC

Okay.

(pause)

Wait! If I tell her, I'll still get in trouble!

MS. STOTTS

Fine, then you'll get suspended instead! It's a lose-lose!

ERIC

(sighs, sotto voce)

Who says today's teachers aren't motivational?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

Cynthia opens the door. Standing there is Rhonda's ex-husband, JUNIOR, 40's, black, and his new wife, LORETTA, 20's, black, who wears a skimpy outfit, a curly wig, and heavy makeup.

JUNIOR

Excuse me, you must be the man of the house.

He and Loretta laugh.

CYNTHIA

Well, it sure as heck wasn't you! And what happened to your grand entrance?

JUNIOR

I'm trying a new, sophisticated manner.

CYNTHIA

Well, good, then it makes it easier for me to do this.

Cynthia SLAMS the door. Eric approaches her.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

Door's for you.

She exits. Eric opens the door.

JUNIOR

Hey, son, meet your new mother, Loretta.

LORETTA

Hey, youngin'.

Eric SLAMS the door and heads to the garage.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Eric enters the garage and approaches the grand piano. His brother, BILLY NELSON, 20's, kneels under it and tries to tune it.

ERIC

Dad's out front with his new wife.

BILLY

Thanks for the warning.

ERIC

What am I gonna do, Billy? If I tell Mom, she'll tell Matt, and he'll ground me!

BILLY

Uh huh.

ERIC

And if I don't tell her, I'll really get grounded. And no way am I gonna miss my first time with Berniece!

Billy crawls out from underneath.

BILLY

Look, I'm gonna be a baby daddy. Sex ain't all it's cracked up to be.

ERIC

It's not?

BILLY

(laughs)

Yeah, right, it's the best feeling in the world! I would be having it right now!

ERIC

Then why don't you? With yourself? And leave me alone?

BILLY

I would, but I'm trying to fix this thing.

He points to the piano. Junior enters the garage.

JUNIOR

Look, boys, I know we don't have a good relationship, but at least make nice with your mother.

ERIC

"Mother"? That stripper ain't our mother!

(pause)

Mother! Our mother! Mother!

PAUSE.

JUNIOR

Yeah, say it less creepy, but yes, she's your mother now.

ERIC

Good! Bring her out here!

JUNIOR

Alright.

Junior exits. Eric wears a big smile on his face.

BILLY

Eric, I don't like that look. Or any of them.

ERIC

Ms. Stotts said that she wanted to see my mother. She didn't say which one!

BILLY

I didn't hear any of this.

Billy crawls back underneath the piano.

ERIC

I just gotta find a way for Loretta to attend the meeting without Mom knowing.

BILLY

So you're just gonna use her to save your own butt?

ERIC

No, not at all!

Loretta enters and approaches Eric.

ERIC (CONT'D)

In fact, me and our new mom are gonna spend some quality time together!

He wraps his arm around Loretta.

LORETTA

Aww, how sweet! But if we're gonna do something, I gotta go and put on some panties.

Billy quickly crawls out underneath, tries to look underneath Loretta's skirt, then crawls back.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - LATER

Eric and Loretta enter the garage. Eric wears a hat and holds a bag of popcorn. Loretta holds a balloon and wears a visor.

ERIC

Thanks for taking me to the zoo, Loretta!

LORETTA

Please, call me Mama! All of the men do!

ERIC

Uh, yeah. There's something that I want to ask you.

LORETTA

Aww, my first day on the job. Let me guess. The birds and the bees?

ERIC

Actually, yeah! But it will be leading to that.

LORETTA

Oh, I know. Going to your first dance? Well, I can show you how. Let me pull out my portable pole.

She pulls out a pole from her purse, then extends it until it is long.

ERIC

You carry that everywhere you go?

LORETTA

Hell yeah! It comes in handy, in more ways than one!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - LATER

The pole is standing in the middle of the garage. Loretta swings and dances from it. Eric and Billy sit and stare.

LORETTA

Now, boys, this is called, "The Banana Split".

The boys are dazed and smiling.

BILLY

We shouldn't be enjoying this.

ERIC

What, you wanna leave it up to those guys?

Eric points to an upper window, where JACOB JACKSON, 17, white, and other boys stand outside. One of the boys look through the window with binoculars. He stands on a ladder.

JACOB

Okay, fool, time's up. Get down.

The boy jumps off.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
 (announces)  
 Five dollars for the peep show, fellas!  
 We gotta do this quick before his parents  
 get home!

The boys give Jacob money, including Arnold.

ARNOLD  
 Racy and suspenseful. I like it!

JACOB  
 So much better than robbing you, don't  
 you agree?

KATHY and KEISHA HUGHES, two black, Goth-like girls with  
 dark makeup and clothing, approach Jacob with their  
 money.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
 Kathy?! Keisha?! I knew it!!

KATHY  
 (in a dull voice throughout)  
 Whatever.

Keisha nudges Kathy and looks at her puzzled.

KATHY (CONT'D)  
 (to Keisha)  
 Oh, sorry.  
 (to Jacob)  
 I mean, we just want to see what the fuss  
 is about. Now make way.

They give Jacob the money and approach the ladder.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Rhonda stands in front of her class and addresses them.

RHONDA  
 Okay, class, today, we're gonna review  
 the different speech patterns.

GINA RICHARDS, a black cheerleader wearing her uniform,  
 raises her hand.

GINA  
 Professor?

RHONDA

Yes?

GINA

Is it cool to date outside of a relationship?

Some students giggle. Her football-player boyfriend, MARTY O'DELL, black, sighs and puts his hand over his head.

RHONDA

(also sighs)

Ms. Richards, what does this have to do with the subject at hand?

GINA

You're right, sorry.

RHONDA

Anyway, as I was saying, the first speech pattern...

Gina stands up and interrupts Rhonda.

GINA

It's just that men act like they want it all! I'm not saying no names...

(to Marty)

...Marty...

(to Rhonda)

...but they don't appreciate the vibrant, sexy, women that we are. They want to add another woman to the mix and claim it's to "spice up" the relationship! But this is no one in particular...

(to Marty)

...Marty!

Students giggle.

MARTY

(to Gina)

Will you sit down?

RHONDA

Look, I'm an advocate of sticking with your man. I've been happily married for years. But it starts with being a good woman. I'm not perfect, but if I wasn't a good woman, or a good mother, where would I be?



INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - SAME

Eric and Loretta, dressed a little more conservative but still with heavy makeup, walk to Ms. Stotts's office.

LORETTA

(slurs)

Aaron, do you have any deodorant in your locker? I forgot mine.

ERIC

Yes. And if you're gonna start being my stepmother, the name is Eric.

LORETTA

And if you're gonna start being my stepson, my name is Loretta or Mama. Not Eric!

Eric sighs.

ERIC

Just let Ms. Stotts ask the questions and do as less talking as possible.

LORETTA

Fine with me. I'm waiting for my buzz to go down.

She BELCHES.

INT. SCHOOL - OFFICE - LATER

Eric and Loretta sit in front of Ms. Stotts's desk.

MS. STOTTS

So, you're Eric's mom.

LORETTA

(slurs a little)

That's me. Mrs. Nelson.

MS. STOTTS

Oh. I thought it was Nelson-James.

LORETTA

Well, yeah, but I'm a Nelson first!

She chuckles.

MS. STOTTS

Okay. One second.

She dips her head down and opens a drawer.

ERIC  
(whispers to Loretta)  
You might wanna add your first name?

LORETTA  
That's me. Mrs. Loretta Nelson-James.

Eric FACEPALMS. Ms. Stotts lifts her head and places a folder down on the desk.

ERIC  
Your first name isn't Rhonda?

PAUSE.

LORETTA  
Rhonda Loretta Nelson.

Eric nudges Loretta.

LORETTA (CONT'D)  
James!

MS. STOTTS  
Well, Rhonda, although I'm just a sub, I got reports from his regular teacher that Eric could do a lot better in class.

LORETTA  
Oh, well, in my day, just getting to school was an accomplishment. You had to deal with crime on the streets, no food to eat, strippers like me...

Ms. Stotts's eyes widen.

LORETTA (CONT'D)  
I mean, strippers who liked me! Heh, heh!

Eric laughs along with Loretta.

ERIC  
(under his breath)  
Oh, I'm dead.

LORETTA  
I'll make sure the little tyke will do better in class.

MS. STOTTS

Well, I guess that's okay. You have a different outlook on things. You must be a great professor.

LORETTA

Huh? Oh, right, professor! You should come down to one of my classes!

Eric's eyes widen.

MS. STOTTS

Really? That would be great! I've looked up to you for so long!

LORETTA

Wow! I've never had a woman say that to me! Why don't you come tomorrow?

ERIC

Mom!

MS. STOTTS

I will! Let's talk a little later. I got another appointment.

EXT. SCHOOL - OFFICE - LATER

Eric and Loretta exit the office.

ERIC

Loretta, what are you doing? You're not really a professor!

LORETTA

Sorry, I had to stay in character. As us strippers do.

ERIC

Stop saying "strippers" all loud!

LORETTA

Look, I'll find a way to handle this. Mothers always find a way.

Berniece and her FATHER walk past Eric and Loretta. They stop, then approach them.

BERNIECE

Hey, Eric, who's this?

FATHER

Well, if I overheard her correctly,  
that's his mother!

BERNIECE

Mother?!

ERIC

(sternly)  
Yes, "mother".

FATHER

I've been meaning to talk to you, Mrs.  
Nelson-James. Since our two kids are  
dating, why don't we get to know each  
other? You guys could come over for  
dinner.

LORETTA

Oooh, that'll be great!

FATHER

How about tomorrow?

LORETTA

Perfect!

FATHER

Good. See you then!

Berniece and her father leaves. Berniece looks back at  
Eric with a confused expression.

ERIC

You got two dates tomorrow as my mom! I  
can't believe this!

LORETTA

Me neither! That means I'll have to wear  
panties tomorrow, too!

She touches her behind.

LORETTA (CONT'D)

Starting tomorrow.

Eric shakes his head and walks away.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Billy sits on the couch and eats a snack. Eric paces back  
and forth.

ERIC

I ask Loretta to do one thing, and she messes everything up!

BILLY

Sounds like she and Dad are perfect for each other.

ERIC

No kidding! What am I gonna do? Loretta has to meet my gym teacher and Berniece's father tonight!

BILLY

Listen, if you're gonna narrate, can you do it quietly? I'm trying to watch TV, and our real mother is still here!

Rhonda walks downstairs and heads to the front door.

RHONDA

Alright, boys, I'll see you later.

ERIC

Where are you going?

RHONDA

I gotta tutor Gina. She needs help.  
(sighs)  
With studying, too.

She exits.

BILLY

Well, there's one problem solved.

ERIC

What are you talking about?

BILLY

If she's tutoring Gina, she'll be gone awhile.

ERIC

How does this solve the Loretta problem?

BILLY

She can meet Berniece's father without Mom knowing. Just ask Berniece to move the dinner up a little bit. During that time, your gym teacher can attend a virtual lecture from Mom.

ERIC

And how do I do that if neither Loretta or Mom will be available?

BILLY

(sighs)

Do I have to think of everything? Mom has a stack of old lectures on tape. Tell Ms. Stotts that there are technical difficulties. You'll call her and play the tape instead.

ERIC

(pause)

That might work. Thanks!

BILLY

Don't thank me. I'm not even here.

ERIC

Why are you here? Homesick again?

BILLY

If you must know, I got a date with Gina.

ERIC

You mean the girl Mom's about to tutor?

BILLY

(pause)

Aw, dang. Now I'm stuck here.

ERIC

No, go back home to Madison!

BILLY

(points to TV)

Hey, "Turtleman" isn't gonna watch itself!

Eric sighs and leaves.

EXT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - LATER

Eric and Loretta stand outside Berniece's door.

ERIC

Now, remember, short and sweet answers, just like last time. And no more new appointments!

LORETTA

Don't worry!

ERIC

And did you wear panties this time?

LORETTA

(sighs)

Yes already! Wanna check to make sure?

PAUSE.

ERIC

Maybe later.

Berniece opens the door, quickly stands outside with them, and closes back the door.

BERNIECE

Eric, you never told me what's going on!  
And where's your real mother?

LORETTA

Well, aren't we all mothers in life?

BERNIECE

(confused look)

What?

ERIC

Okay, listen, Berniece. She's really my dad's new wife. But my mom can't find out! Also, during dinner, I might have to dash in and out. I have to cover Mom's lecture.

BERNIECE

(rolls her eyes)

I'm glad you cleared all of that up!

ERIC

Just play along. You won't regret it.  
Especially this weekend!

He winks at her.

BERNIECE

Wait, what?

FATHER (O.S.)

Berniece, is that the door?

BERNIECE

Come on inside, ya'll.

They all enter the house.

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Berniece, her father, Eric, and Loretta sit at the table and eat.

FATHER

So, Loretta, you're a professor, right?

LORETTA

(stammers a little)

Yes, but it's Rhonda Loretta Nelson-James.

She nods to Eric. Eric signals her to quiet down.

ERIC

Mr. Williams, do you have a bathroom?

FATHER

No, our house didn't come with one. Those were the old models.

ERIC

(chuckles)

Okay. Can I use your bathroom?

FATHER

Down the hall to your left.

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Eric walks in the bathroom, pulls out his phone and a small tape recorder, and sits on the toilet seat. He looks at his watch.

ERIC

Okay, a few more seconds until Ms. Stotts calls. Time to cue up the tape.

SFX: Cell phone RINGS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Here goes nothing.

He presses PLAY on the tape recorder and picks up the phone.

MS. STOTTS (O.S.)

Hello?

Eric places the phone and the tape recorder on the sink, facing each other. Rhonda's voice plays from the tape recorder.



RHONDA'S RECORDED VOICE  
 What the dealio, my brothas and sistas?  
 For the next hour, we're gonna have a "P"  
 time learnin' about Ebonics, know'm  
 sayin'?

ERIC  
 (sotto voce)  
 Oh, I'm really dead.

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eric returns to the table and sits next to Berniece.

BERNIECE  
 (whispers)  
 Is the lecture starting?

ERIC  
 (whispers)  
 Yeah. I have it playing in your bathroom.

BERNIECE  
 Okay. What if someone has to use the  
 bathroom?

Eric PAUSES, then gets up.

ERIC  
 Excuse me, Mr. Williams, I have to go  
 back to the bathroom.

FATHER  
 What for?

ERIC  
 Forgot to wash my hands. Silly me!

BERNIECE  
 (sotto voce)  
 No kidding.

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eric enters the bathroom and picks up the tape recorder  
 and phone.

RHONDA'S RECORDED VOICE  
 Now, we may not have time for questions,  
 so save them for my assistant afterwards.  
 Now, let's "be gettin'" to the lesson!

Eric approaches a cracked bedroom door.

ERIC  
(sotto voce)  
This must be Berniece's room.

He opens the door wider, walks in, then out again.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
It'll all be worth it when I get back to  
this room!

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - DINING ROOM - SAME

Berniece, her father, and Loretta continue eating.

LORETTA  
So, Mr. Williams...

FATHER  
Please, call me Xavier.

LORETTA  
Oh, is that your name?

XAVIER  
Uh...yeah?

LORETTA  
Is there a Mrs. Williams?

XAVIER  
No. Sadly, things didn't work out, but  
it's all good.

LORETTA  
Aww. A nice man like you with no woman.  
You look like some of the men at my job.  
Big tippers, too.

Berniece's eyes open wide.

XAVIER  
At your school?

LORETTA  
Yeah, they give me, uh, big tips on how  
to prepare my lessons!

Eric returns to the table.

BERNIECE  
 (whispers to Eric)  
 What did you do?

ERIC  
 (whispers back)  
 I threw them on top of your bed. And you  
 need to clean your room.

BERNIECE  
 I'll remember that the next time you  
 bring your fake mother here.

Loretta BELCHES.

LORETTA  
 Oh, excuse me! 50/50 chance of it coming  
 outta that end, you know what I'm saying?

She laughs. The others look at her strangely.

INT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - BERNIECE'S BEDROOM - LATER

SUPER: "57 MINUTES LATER"

Eric runs to the phone and tape recorder.

INTERCUT - MS. STOTTS'S PHONE/ERIC'S PHONE AND HIS TAPE  
 RECORDER

RHONDA'S RECORDED VOICE  
 Okay, I ended a little early. Any  
 questions?

MS. STOTTS  
 Yes, Professor Nelson-James, thank you so  
 much for letting me dial in. I loved your  
 throwback to the '90s! You know, I've  
 studied you for so long, and...

RHONDA'S RECORDED VOICE  
 If there are no more questions, I'm Audi  
 5000!

Eric GASPS and quickly hangs up his phone.

MS. STOTTS  
 Hello?

Eric runs back to the dining room table and sits.

ERIC

Oh, boy! That was a great dinner, Mr. Williams!

XAVIER

Are you sure? You went to the bathroom about six times!

ERIC

Oh, don't mind me. I had to make sure I washed my hands. Berniece didn't tell you I had ESP?

BERNIECE

OCD.

ERIC

(to Berniece)

Close enough!

BERNIECE

Not even.

Loretta GROANS, then PLOPS her head onto the table. The others GASP.

ERIC

What's wrong with her??

BERNIECE

Dad fixed her a drink!

ERIC

Oh no! She's not supposed to be drinking liquor!

XAVIER

It was a virgin drink!

ERIC

(sotto voce)

Oh, did he have to say, "virgin"?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Billy sits and watches TV. Eric enters the house with Xavier, who carries a passed-out Loretta into the house.

ERIC

You really didn't have to give us a ride back, Mr. Williams.

Xavier PLOPS Loretta onto the couch next to Billy.

XAVIER

It's the least I could do for getting  
your mom, uh, drunk.

BILLY

(sniffs around)

But there's no alcohol on her breath this  
time!

ERIC

Don't even ask, Billy.

(to Xavier)

Well, it's late, sir. You better get back  
home to your daughter!

XAVIER

Okay.

They both head to the door. Rhonda meets them there.

RHONDA

Hi. What's going on here?

XAVIER

Oh, nothing. I'm just dropping off Eric  
and his mom.

RHONDA

But I'm Eric's mom!

BILLY

(smirks)

Uh oh.

RHONDA

Eric?

ERIC

Yes, Mr. Williams, this is my biological  
mother.

(to Rhonda)

And Mom, this is Dad's new wife.

Loretta SNORES.

RHONDA

Okay, but what is everybody doing over  
here?

ERIC

Berniece's dad wanted to meet my mom, and  
you were busy tutoring, so I introduced  
him to her.

RHONDA

Oh. Well, I guess that's okay, but you still should have let me know.

ERIC

(hurriedly)

You're right! I'm sorry about all of this, not telling you, the parent-teacher conference, the taped lecture...

RHONDA

What??

ERIC

Oh yeah, I didn't tell you all of that yet.

Billy quickly stands up.

BILLY

Mom, I had nothing to do with any of this!

RHONDA

Wanna get out of here while I still believe you?

BILLY

Good idea!

He races out of the house and SLAMS the door. Loretta wakes up from the slam.

LORETTA

(woozy voice)

Whoa, that was some drink. So, did I miss anything?

Rhonda and Xavier look at Loretta, then at Eric.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S BEDROOM - LATER

Eric lays on his bed and talks on the phone to Berniece.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

BERNIECE

I can't believe it. You went through all of this just to be with me this weekend?

ERIC

(sighs)

What can I say? I'm just a horny so-and-so. I'll talk to you later.

BERNIECE

All right. You know, maybe this is for the best. We should just wait.

ERIC

Hey, I got all the time in the world. My parents made sure of it!

Eric puts the phone down, then picks it back up. He swipes on his phone screen.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Well, we'll always have the stripper pole, Mom.

BERNIECE (V.O.)

Uh, Eric, you never hung up!

Eric GASPS, then quickly hangs up.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

Matt answers the door. Loretta stands there.

LORETTA

Hi. You may not know me, but we all share the same last names. Seeing that we're all related now, can you please pay for an Uber for me? I'm so used to getting free rides, you know what I mean?

Loretta chuckles. Matt SLAMS the door.

LORETTA (CONT'D)

Dang. What did I marry into?

Matt walks away from the door.

MATT

(sighs)

What did I marry into?

THE END