

ERIC

"Junior Sailor"

By E.J. Rupert

Jimmy Rupe Productions
Milwaukee, WI 53225
(414) 550-0547
ejrupert@yahoo.com
© E.J. Rupert

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

SFX: Church bells RING.

Crowds of people converse in the altar, which is decorated in pastel blue and white.

INT. CHURCH - DRESSING ROOM - SAME

ERIC NELSON, dressed in a light blue tux, stands in the mirror, fixing his bowtie.

ERIC

This is the moment. The day is finally here. Nothing's gonna stop it. Unfortunately.

He turns to his big brother, BILLY NELSON, who is also wearing a light blue tux.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Tell me again why we're doing this?

BILLY

Dad said this girl is very special to him!

ERIC

Aren't they all?

Their father, JUNIOR, approaches Eric.

JUNIOR

I heard that! Look, this woman is different! When we met, we clicked just like that! It feels like I knew her from someplace before!

ERIC

Well, I guess you two are lucky to have women like that.

BILLY

What?

ERIC

(to Billy)

Sharon!

BILLY

Oh yeah. I do have a woman like that, huh?

JUNIOR

Uh, excuse me, this is my day?

BILLY

(fixing Junior's tie)

Actually, it's the bride's day. And you had so many brides, it should feel like second nature.

JUNIOR

On the contrary. I wrote all-new vows this time!

ERIC

(rolls his eyes)

She'll be so lucky to have you, Dad.

INT. CHURCH - ALTAR - LATER

Eric and Billy's mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, and their stepfather, MATT JAMES, wearing a dress and a suit, respectively, sit in the pews. Their maid, CYNTHIA McNAIR, and Billy's girlfriend, SHARON ROSS, sit with them.

MATT

Why are we here again? To meet Junior's next victim?

RHONDA

The boys are in the wedding, and they needed a ride.

MATT

No offense, but I don't get what you or other women keep seeing in that fool.

RHONDA

Well, he starts off with a charm, then it gradually dies when he figures out that he doesn't know what he wants. He needs stability.

MATT

What he needs is a zip code outside of Wisconsin.

RHONDA

And this girl must be special, because this is the first time Junior's invited any of us to his weddings. I wish I hadn't gone to ours.

SHARON

Well, we'll see in a minute. Here she comes.

The congregation stands. The BRIDE walks down the aisle with her father.

SFX: Organist PLAYS wedding music.

The bride stands with Junior in front of the REVEREND.

REVEREND

Do you, William P. Nelson, Jr., take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife?

JUNIOR

I do.

REVEREND

And do you, Taquanna Evans...

JUNIOR

"Taquanna Evans"?

REVEREND

Uh, yeah?

JUNIOR

(to the bride)

Haven't we already met?

REVEREND

I would hope so!

JUNIOR

No, I mean, I think I married you before!

The congregation murmurs.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Lift up your veil!

TAQUANNA

Uh, it's not time for that yet!

JUNIOR

Lift it!

Taquanna lifts it.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

I knew it! We were married about 15 years ago! It was one of the worst marriages of my life!

TAQUANNA

Oh, I know, honey, but we were both in emotional states back then.

JUNIOR

You got that right! You wiped out my bank account and moved to Nevada!

TAQUANNA

I had a job offer!

JUNIOR

Was it good?

TAQUANNA

I got fired from it, but it was good at the time.

CYNTHIA

(holds up her phone to record)

Ooh, I am glad I came to this!

TAQUANNA

I'm sorry, Junior, but can we try it again?

Junior walks in a circle.

JUNIOR

I'm sorry, everybody. I can't believe I'm saying this, but the wedding's off!

The congregation exclaims and talks over each other.

TAQUANNA

Worth a shot. Dad, drop me off at work?

Taguanna walks to her father. Junior exits the altar. Billy thinks for a minute and quiets the crowd down.

BILLY

Excuse me, guys? Maybe there can still be a wedding today.

RHONDA

What do you mean?

Billy approaches Sharon.

BILLY

Sharon, I just know that we're meant to be together, and I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

Sharon GASPS. Billy gets down on one knee.

RHONDA

Oh my god!

MATT

Yeah!

BILLY

Sharon Ross, will you marry me?

Sharon looks puzzled, then looks around.

SHARON

Yes, Billy!

The congregation cheers, as do Eric and the wedding party.

REVEREND

Praise the Lord! We're gonna take a little break before we start this ceremony.

He steps away. Eric walks up to Billy.

ERIC

Congratulations, brother!

MATT

Yeah, what a surprise!

RHONDA

Sharon, me and Cynthia can help you get fixed up!

Cynthia nods in agreement.

SHARON

(forced chuckles)

Okay. Hold on.

(to Billy, sotto voce)

Billy, can I talk to you for a minute?

BILLY

Uh oh.

INT. CHURCH - ALTAR - MOMENTS LATER

Eric, Matt, Rhonda, and Cynthia sit down while Billy walks back in the altar.

MATT

Son, it's been an hour. Everybody already left! What's going on?

BILLY

There's not gonna be a wedding. In fact, me and Sharon broke up.

Everyone GASPS.

RHONDA

(hugs Billy)

Oh, baby, I'm so sorry!

BILLY

It's okay. We both agreed to it. I guess we don't really know each other that well. Let's just go home, okay?

MATT

Fine, let's go.

Matt and Rhonda exit with Billy. Cynthia and Eric follow them.

CYNTHIA

(to Eric)

I don't get it. Why would Billy try to marry somebody that he doesn't really know?

ERIC

That's Mr. Apple. And you've met Mr. Tree earlier!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Billy, unshaven and unkempt, sulks in the couch and eats from a bag of chips. Junior sits next to him and also sulks. Eric, Matt, and Rhonda enter the living room.

ERIC

Hey, like father, like son!

RHONDA

Now, Eric, they are both in a bad mood.

MATT

But do they have to be in a bad mood here?

ERIC

Yeah, and Billy, I thought you and Sharon wanted to break up.

BILLY

If you don't mind, I don't want to hear Sharon's name again.

ERIC

Okay. Hey, let me have some of those chips.

BILLY

No.

ERIC

Come on, Billy, you know what they say. "Share n' [Sharon] share alike!"

BILLY

Will you stop it? I just got left at the altar!

ERIC

Technically, you never made it to the altar.

BILLY

Technically, shut the hell up!

Billy gets up and leaves.

RHONDA

(to Eric)

Now look what you've done.

ERIC

He always flaunts his life to me. I'm gonna have me some fun!

Eric chases after Billy.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Come on, Billy! Sharin' is carin'!

MATT

(to Junior)

Shouldn't you be getting up, too?

JUNIOR

Aw, what's the point? My life is at a stand-still.

He stands up.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Oh my god. I think I married every single girl in Wisconsin!

Cynthia walks in and starts cleaning.

CYNTHIA

Well, you haven't married me!

Junior looks at her, then exits the house with his head down.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

(calls out to Junior)

Oh, come on! That was an easy one!
Where's the comeback?

RHONDA

(to Matt)

Do you think Junior's gonna be alright?

MATT

I don't know, but at least he's out of my seat.

Matt sits down where Junior sat, sniffs in the air, then gets back up and frowns.

MATT (CONT'D)

Which needs to be Febreze'd.

EXT. SHOPPING PLAZA - DAY

Junior walks around the plaza.

JUNIOR

My music career's dead. I've married every woman in this state. I need to find a purpose for my life. A new career.

He walks past a military recruitment center, where a Navy recruiter, PETTY OFFICER ANDERSON, 20's, sits.

PETTY OFFICER ANDERSON

Excuse me, did you say you need a new career?

JUNIOR

Maybe. I need a change in my life.

PETTY OFFICER ANDERSON

Have you thought about our line of work?
It'll change your life for the better.

JUNIOR

What do you mean?

PETTY OFFICER ANDERSON

Well, you can wear cool uniforms like what I'm wearing, travel the world, and stack up lots of dough!

JUNIOR

Hmm, tell me more!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Matt, Rhonda, and Eric sit in the living room and watch TV. Junior busts in the front door and slides to the floor.

JUNIOR

Wassup, Nelson family!

MATT

Junior's back to normal. Yay.

JUNIOR

I think I found what I want to do with my life, and it doesn't involve marrying any more women. Get this: what if I joined the Navy?

RHONDA

What? You're too old for the Navy. And everything else.

MATT

Unless the reserves, maybe.

JUNIOR

Which is exactly what I'm looking into. I can see the world on the weekends and hang around town after that. Besides, the guy I talked to said that it depends on some guy that waves.

ERIC

A guy that waves?

JUNIOR

Yeah, a waver. The guy that waves his hand right next to his head.

MATT

(sighs)

Oh, tell me you didn't take the officer's exam. Listen, Junior, that's called a hand salute. And a waiver is something that could get you past the normal rules.

RHONDA

Uh, Junior, how far did you get with this Navy thing?

JUNIOR

Oh, I told them I would think about it. I did fill out some paperwork, though.

ERIC

Paperwork, Dad?

JUNIOR

Yeah! They took me to this room with some other people. There was a flag there, and we said the pledge of allegiance or something.

ERIC

Uh, Dad...

JUNIOR

What?

MATT

It's been a while since I've been in, but I think you enlisted!

JUNIOR

What? No way. I'm smarter than that!

ERIC

And you still have to clear the waiver, right?

RHONDA

(to Junior)

Yeah, did they even get one for you yet?

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

The three look at Junior.

JUNIOR

Uh oh.

Matt walks to the door.

MATT

Why does everything have to happen at our house?

He opens the door to see two male MASTER-AT-ARMS (MA) standing there.

MA #1

Hello. Are you William Nelson, Jr.?

MATT

No, I'm Matt James. You got the wrong house.

MA #2

Then why does it say "The Nelsons" on the mailbox?

PAUSE.

MATT

(to Junior)

Well, I tried.

JUNIOR

(runs up to the MA's)

Okay, it's me! But I want some time to think it over! Come on, I had a mid-life crisis!

MA #1

Then you'll fit in with the other old farts at boot camp. Let's go.

The MA's drag Junior away.

JUNIOR

Noooooooo...

(inhales)

...oooooooooo!

RHONDA

Well, that's that. What's Cynthia cooking for dinner?

MATT

I hear that!

Rhonda and Matt exit to the kitchen.

ERIC

Guys, my dad could be shipped off to war!

Billy, still unshaven and unkempt, walks slowly past Eric and into the kitchen.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Billy, they just took Dad away!

BILLY
(in a sluggish tone)
Who cares?

ERIC
How can ya'll act like this, after all
the stuff he...

Eric pauses to think.

ERIC (CONT'D)
What is for dinner?

Eric walks to the kitchen.

EXT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - DAY

Eric approaches DR. SYD the mole, who wears glasses and a white coat.

ERIC
Thanks for the last-minute appointment,
Doc.

Dr. Syd shakes Eric's hand. Eric jumps into a hammock.
Dr. Syd sits on a rock with a notepad.

ERIC (CONT'D)
You know, it's amazing that this is the
first time I've seen you!

Dr. Syd nods and SCRIBBLES on his notepad.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Anyway, my father just got sent to boot
camp, and I don't know how to feel.

SFX: Dr. Syd SCRIBBLES.

ERIC (CONT'D)
I mean, he was never there when I was
little, but now that he's gone, I'm
really confused. Does it mean I actually
cared about the times we did share
together?

SFX: More SCRIBBLING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

But maybe the Navy will do him good. Give him some discipline and teach him responsibility.

SFX: More SCRIBBLING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

And I heard the Navy got it pretty good. Being on a ship out to sea. And they feed you well. You get steak, shrimp, pizza, burgers, fries...

SFX: Dr. Syd SMACKS his lips while SCRIBBLING.

Dr. Syd holds up his hand to stop Eric from continuing, then holds his finger up. He runs to his assistant, OLIVER the duck, who is at his desk typing on a typewriter. Dr. Syd shows Oliver his notepad.

SFX: Oliver GASPS and SMACKS his lips.

Oliver and Dr. Syd run to Eric.

OLIVER

(speaks telepathically)

*Sir, this is in need of a house call!
We'll come and help you find your
pizza...I mean, father! Come on!*

They pull Eric out of the hammock, and they all run away.

EXT. DUMBECK MANSION - LATER

Eric, Oliver, and Dr. Syd stand on the porch of the Dumbecks. Eric talks with one of the daughters, SHANA JONES, 17.

ERIC

So, Shana, against my better judgment, I'm here asking you for help.

SHANA

Okay, and you said boot camp is in Lake County, Illinois? That's not too far from here.

ERIC

And you're the only one I know with a car. And who gives a damn about my dad.

SHANA

But what are we supposed to do when we get there?

ERIC

We have to disguise ourselves as Sailors, I guess. Then find my dad and bring him back here. I'll figure it out in the car.

SHANA

It's okay, Babycakes, I'll do anything for you. But what am I gonna tell my dad?

ERIC

Nothing! You've seen all them TV shows. This will all get solved within a half-hour!

SHANA

And we got a duck and a mole with us, too. That might give us an edge. Let's go!

EXT. NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES - DAY

Eric, Shana, Oliver and Dr. Syd walk around a parking lot filled with buses, groups of Sailors, and groups of recruits.

ERIC

Okay, guys, to blend in with the recruits, just pretend like we're newbies, and we don't know anything about the Navy.

SHANA

But we don't know anything about the Navy.

ERIC

Good, keep it up!

OLIVER

(to Dr. Syd)

Okay, Navy men usually go to the ship, so we have to look for a bus going to a ship. Then we can eat all the pizza we want.

SFX: Dr. Syd SQUEAKS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Oh, and find that kid's dad, too.

Oliver spots a bus that says, "To USS-Enterprise".

OLIVER (CONT'D)

There's one! Let's get on it!

Oliver and Dr. Syd run and get in line for that bus. Eric and Shana continue to look around. They approach a group of people.

ERIC

We gotta look for a group of recruits.
That'll get us closer to boot camp.

A FEMALE RECRUIT DIVISION COMMANDER (RDC) yells to the group.

SFX: BLEEP NOISES for each "expletive" listed.

FEMALE RDC

Hey, you stupid mother-[expletive], if I have to tell you one more [expletive] time to get your stupid [expletive] on this bus, I'm'a put my [expletive] foot in your [expletive]! Now get ya'll deaf [expletive] on this bus!

The group runs on to the bus.

SHANA

Gee, you think this is the group?

Eric and Shana run with the group.

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

Eric and Shana are dressed the same as the other recruits in the division, in their Navy-issued gear and ball caps that say, "RECRUIT". They stand at attention and listen to the MALE RDC.

MALE RDC

All right, recruits, I need a volunteer.
How about half-pint here?

He points to Eric, who runs up to him. The RDC passes him a fake grenade.

MALE RDC (CONT'D)

Now, we're gonna teach you the safety of grenades.

SHANA (O.S.)

Noooooooo!

She runs and jumps on Eric.

SFX: Eric and Shana PLOP to the floor. The recruits
CHUCKLE.

MALE RDC

(to Shana)

It's a dud, dud!

SHANA

Oh, sorry, Eric, but see? If you were
mine, I'd take a grenade for you.

ERIC

(grunts)

Funny, I was kinda thinking the same
thing.

SHANA

(hugs Eric)

Aww, Babycakes!

ERIC

Get off me!

MALE RDC

RPOC, get these fools off the floor!

RPOC (O.S.)

Yes, Petty Officer!

The RPOC (pronounced "ar-pock") runs to Eric and Shana.
As they stand up, they look up to see that the RPOC is
Junior, who is dressed the same as them.

ERIC

Dad??

JUNIOR

"RPOC" to you!

(to RDC)

Permission for a head call?

MALE RDC

Granted.

JUNIOR

(to the division)

Pump and dump!

REST OF THE DIVISION

Aye aye, RPOC!

The rest of the division scats away. Eric and Shana stay with Junior.

SHANA
"Pump and dump"?

Eric points to the restroom, where the division hurries to.

SHANA (CONT'D)
(with a disgusting look)
How PC.

ERIC
Maybe you should go with the female division over there for a moment?

SHANA
Good idea.

Shana runs away.

ERIC
Dad, these guys actually listen to you?

JUNIOR
Yeah. The RDCs picked me because I'm the most mature.

ERIC
Or because you're old as hell.

JUNIOR
Hey, don't talk to your RPOC that way!

ERIC
If that's Navy slang for "father", that's debatable!

JUNIOR
No, RPOC: Recruit Petty Officer Chief. And the RDC is the Recruit Division Commander. Now, I'm flattered that you're walking in my footsteps, but you're underage!

ERIC
I'm not here to join! I'm here to get you out of here!

JUNIOR
What for? I've finally found my calling!

ERIC

You mean to tell me you talked to a
Sailor for a few minutes, and now, you're
a Navy man?

JUNIOR

It can happen. Just look at the new AROC.

(NOTE: "AROC" is pronounced "ay-rock".)

Shana and a female division all wear Navy tee shirts and
shorts, and they jog past Eric and Junior. Shana holds up
a flag. They sing a call-a-response cadence.

SHANA

Check the sound my Navy makes!

REST OF THE FEMALE
DIVISION

Check the sound my Navy makes!

SHANA

(to Eric, still singing)

How ya doin', Babycakes!

REST OF THE FEMALE
DIVISION

How ya doin', Babycakes!

JUNIOR

"Assistant Recruit Chief Petty Officer."
Mix up the letters and omit the "P". Now
I'm staying, but we gotta get you outta
here!

ERIC

Hey, on second thought, can we wait a
day? They're serving Chicken Parmesan in
the galley tonight!

JUNIOR

Negative! I'm the father, and what I say,
goes!

(pause)

Hey, that actually means something here!

He pulls Eric by the arm, and they both walk away.

ERIC

Ow!

JUNIOR

March!

INT. PERSONNEL SERVICES DEPARTMENT - LATER

Eric, Shana, and Junior sit in the waiting room.

JUNIOR

Now, kids, let me do all the talking.

SHANA

But why do I have to leave? They already made me AROC, and I did a great job making my bed today.

ERIC

We all need to leave. Now, I know they made you guys iPods or whatever, but...

JUNIOR

(points to himself)
That's "RPOC"....
(points to Shana)
...and "AROC".

ERIC

I don't care-ock!

A female chief petty officer, PSC ADAMS, opens her office door.

PSC ADAMS

Seaman Recruit Nelson, front and center!

The three walk into her office. Adams sits at her desk. Eric begins to sit in a chair.

PSC ADAMS (CONT'D)

Did I say, "sit"?

ERIC

Does right now count?

Junior SLAPS Eric on the arm to shut him up.

JUNIOR

Chief, I'm the RPOC for my division, and my RDC told me to bring my fellow recruits down here. It seems to have been a mistake with their paperwork.

Adams lifts an eyebrow.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

A mistake by them. Never by you, as you're too great and fine to ever make a mistake.

PSC ADAMS

(stands up)

Um, idiot, do you realize you're trying to sweet-talk a superior?

JUNIOR

(approaches her closer)

Then permission to send me to the brig, Chief.

PSC ADAMS

(gets giddy)

Well, then, you'll have to report back to my office.

JUNIOR

This recruit will accept his punishment accordingly.

ERIC

(to Shana)

I don't know how he does it sometimes.

SHANA

I wish you would fraternize like that with me!

Eric turns his head and scoffs.

JUNIOR

I'll come back here tonight at 8.

PSC ADAMS

Whatchu talkin' 'bout?

JUNIOR

Sorry, I mean, 2000 hours.

PSC ADAMS

You're in boot camp. You can't leave!

JUNIOR

What??

ERIC

Dad, didn't you know that?

JUNIOR

No! The recruiter said that we can go out around the town, go to Gurnee Mills...

PSC ADAMS

Yeah, they can. They work here!

JUNIOR

But...but...

SHANA

What did you expect when they gave you beds to make up?

JUNIOR

I thought we were just doing BS chores!

PSC ADAMS

Well, you were, in a way. And you have about two more months to do them.

JUNIOR

Two months? We're all stuck here!

JUNIOR AND SHANA

AAAUUGHH!!

ERIC

But on the bright side, we're having Chicken Parmesan tonight.

PSC ADAMS

No, that was last night.

ERIC

As you were.

ERIC, JUNIOR, AND SHANA

AAAUUGHH!!

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Billy sluggishly gives a presentation to Rhonda's class. Rhonda looks bored, while the class looks confused.

BILLY

(in a dreary voice)

So, class, communication is important, especially if you want to have a healthy relationship. You don't want to one day wake up and walk to the altar, just to find out the woman of your dreams doesn't want to marry you. So talk about your hopes and dreams with your loved ones. Even if said loved one crushes your hopes and dreams.

GINA RICHARDS raises her hand.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Yes, you have a question?

GINA

Yeah, what are they serving in the cafeteria today?

Rhonda rolls her eyes.

BILLY

Whatever they serve to lonely hearts around the world.

RHONDA

Okay, that's enough for today. Class dismissed.

The students start filing out.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

(to Billy)

Billy, I know I asked you to come to my job this week, but...

BILLY

Mom, is this about me microwaving my leftover fish dinner in the break room?

RHONDA

No, but don't do that anymore, either. I thought this would take your mind off of Sharon, but it's not working. You're bringing the class down!

BILLY

Sorry, but I don't know what to do. Everything I do reminds me of her! Even when I take a shower.

RHONDA

Whoa, I do not want to know about that! Look, if you wanna find something else to do, go check up on your brother. He went to the Dumbecks yesterday but never came back.

BILLY

All right, fine.

Gina approaches Rhonda and Billy. She hands Rhonda a note.

GINA
 (to Rhonda)
 Professor Nelson-James, here's a doctor's
 note for tomorrow.
 (to Billy)
 Oh, all that stuff you talked about today
 will be on the exam, right?

RHONDA
 No.

GINA
 Oh, then I'll save this for some other
 time.

She takes the note back from Rhonda and walks away.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

The division is in formation and faces Junior.

JUNIOR
 Division, take!

REST OF THE DIVISION
 (squats and yells)
 Take!

JUNIOR
 Seats!

REST OF THE DIVISION
 (sits down on the floor)
 Ahhh, seats! But only for a little bit!

JUNIOR
 Take out your recruit's handbooks. Chief
 wants you to study while I take Nelson
 and Jones back to the PSC. Nelson, Jones,
 fall out!

Eric and Shana jump up and run away.

ERIC
 (whispers)
 Later, suckers!

SHANA
 Shhh!

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

Eric and Shana stand at attention side by side. Junior stands in front of Shana.

JUNIOR
(in a cadence)
Element, march!

They start to march in unison.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Left! Left! Left, right, left!

ERIC
So how are we doing this, Dad?

JUNIOR
The gates are right there! All we have to do is make a detour. Then we'll hitch a ride to Shana's car.

SHANA
I don't think this is a good idea. I'm too tall and pretty to be a jailbird.

JUNIOR
Nobody's breaking the law. Trust me, it'll work. Left, left! There's a truck. Left, right, left! March alongside of it!

They march alongside a big, black truck that exits the gates.

ERIC
We did it!

An MA raises the window down in the truck.

MA #3
Yeah, sneaking out by hiding behind an MA truck. Very genius.

The three look at the truck, which says, "U.S. Navy".

JUNIOR
Oh, dang.

EXT. OUTDOORS - DAY

Billy walks down the street with Shana's younger half-sister, ELEANOR DUMBECK.

BILLY

Thanks for taking me to find our siblings, Eleanor.

ELEANOR

Actually, we don't have siblings. We're not related, silly! Shana is my sister, and Eric is your brother.

BILLY

Uh, yeah, sorry.

ELEANOR

It's okay. And I'm sorry that we have to walk. Silly of me to think the "E" stood for "Extra gas".

BILLY

Well, while we wait for the tow truck, let's get something to eat.

INT. DINER - CONTINUOUS

They walk into a diner and sit at a table. A WAITRESS greets them.

ELEANOR

We'll have the usual, ma'am.

WAITRESS

Okay. Wait, who are you?

ELEANOR

We're new here. I just always wanted to say that.

Eleanor and Billy chuckle.

BILLY

We'll just get some burgers and fries.

The waitress leaves.

BILLY (CONT'D)

So what's the plan when we get to the base?

ELEANOR

Not sure, but we'll figure it out.

Eleanor spots the waitress going to another table.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Hey! That waitress is serving other customers!

BILLY

Yeah?

ELEANOR

I feel so used!

BILLY

Anyway, I hope we get back home soon. I guess I have to eventually go back to school.

ELEANOR

And I have to go to Miami next weekend.

BILLY

Really? What's in Miami?

ELEANOR

Beaches, sun, I guess. I won't know until I get there.

Billy looks confused.

BILLY

No, I mean, why do you have to go to Miami?

ELEANOR

Oh, a funeral for one of my aunts.

BILLY

You're a pretty unique lady, Eleanor.

ELEANOR

Thanks! Wait, is that good or bad?

BILLY

(pause)

Yes.

The waitress arrives with their food and sits it down.

WAITRESS

Here's your food.

ELEANOR

(to the waitress)

Hmmph. I saw what you did. I'll eat it, but I won't enjoy it.

WAITRESS

O...kay.

She leaves.

BILLY

(takes a bite)

This burger is incredible! The buns don't
soak up the grease.

ELEANOR

(takes a bite)

Because the coleslaw runs interference.

BILLY

And the pickles are seasoned just right.

ELEANOR

Just the right amount of tang.

BOTH

Knocks it out the park!

They stare at each other, reach over, and kiss
passionately.

ELEANOR

The tow truck won't be here for a while.
Why don't we take our meals to that motel
across the street?

BILLY

Aw, I don't know. I just got left at the
altar. I don't wanna use you as a
rebound.

ELEANOR

Well, I'm getting over a bad breakup.
Those two would cancel each other out.

BILLY

(pause)

Works for me!

They both grab their food and run away.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - LATER

The MA's drag Eric, Junior, and Shana into the office,
where they meet a male MA, CHIEF THAO.

ERIC
 (to Junior)
 Oh, great idea, Dad!

SHANA
 Calm down, Babycakes.

ERIC
 Quit callin' me, "Babycakes"!

JUNIOR
 (to Eric)
 Hey, the plan would have worked if the
 guy from the van hadn't spotted us!

ERIC
 The guy? Don't you mean the "waver"?

Eric mimics a wave. The three of them argue over each other.

CHIEF THAO
 Hey, shut up! And stand at attention!

The three of them stand at attention.

CHIEF THAO (CONT'D)
 RPOC, explain yourself!

JUNIOR
 Chief, this recruit apologizes, but he...
 (stammers)
 ...the truth is, I thought that the Navy
 was what I wanted, but it's not really
 for me.

CHIEF THAO
 But I hear you're becoming a model
 recruit. Everybody is looking up to you.

JUNIOR
 But I can get that same kind of respect
 back home.

ERIC
 (shrugs)
 Ehh...

Shana nudges Eric.

JUNIOR
 If you're gonna punish me, fine, but not
 them. My son here and his friend were
 just trying to get me out.

CHIEF THAO

(sighs)

If you wanted out, why didn't you just say so?

JUNIOR

Say what?

CHIEF THAO

It's only the first week. At worst, you'd get out on a "Failure to Adapt".

Eric, Junior, and Shana gasp.

JUNIOR

A failure! That's good enough for me! But what about these guys? They're underage! That would harm you more than it harms them!

CHIEF THAO

Yeah, yeah, get them outta here! As long as you guys stay the hell away from my Navy!

Junior fanatically shakes Thao's hand.

JUNIOR

Thank you so much, sir! Come on, kids!

Junior starts to head out.

SHANA

Thank you Navy guys for everything! I learned some cool things, and I gained a little muscle!

She flexes her right arm.

ERIC

Wait, so we're civilians now?

SHANA

Yeah! Come on!

Shana and Eric walk out the door. Eric peeks his head back in.

ERIC

(to Thao)

You shut up!

Thao advances towards Eric. Junior pulls Eric away.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Matt sits on the couch and opens an envelope.

MATT

Another note from the bill collector?
When will he stop living in the past?

Eric enters the front door.

MATT (CONT'D)

Son, you're back!

Rhonda runs into the living room and hugs Eric.

RHONDA

Oh, I'm so glad you're safe. What were
you thinking?

ERIC

I wanted to get Dad out, and in a way, we
did.

MATT

But if you wanted to get your father out,
why didn't you ask me? I was in the Navy.
I could have talked to somebody!

ERIC

Oh. I'll remember that for next time.

MATT

Well, did you learn anything while you
were there?

ERIC

Yeah, that the Navy ain't for me. In
fact, the Navy told me that.

RHONDA

So where's your father?

ERIC

Oh, he'll be alright. In fact, on his way
out, he found his next ex.

Eric's best friend, DIMMEY ROBERTS, 15, walks in the
house.

DIMMEY

'Sup, Eric?

Eric and Dimmey shake hands.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

Glad you're back. I'm here to pick up my duck. Where is he?

Eric pauses.

ERIC

Uh...

INT. NAVAL SHIP - DAY

Oliver and Dr. Syd, both wearing Navy coveralls, have mops in their hands and swab the deck.

OLIVER

Come on, Syd, the sooner we finish swabbing the deck, the sooner we can go to the galley for pizza!

SFX: Dr. Syd SQUEAKS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

That's, "Petty Officer Oliver", to you! And we're gonna finish this job, and that's an order!

SFX: Dr. Syd SQUEAKS angrily and gets in Oliver's face.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Yes, Chief!

SFX: Two SWIPING SOUNDS as Oliver quickly runs away and back.

Oliver returns with a chair. Dr. Syd sits in it. Oliver hands Dr. Syd a lit cigar. Dr. Syd smokes it while Oliver polishes Dr. Syd's boots.

THE END