

ERIC

"Bern, Baby, Bern"

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INT. WHISKERS' HOUSE - EVENING

WHISKERS MOUSE, wearing a jacket and carrying a briefcase, enters his house from a mouse-hole in a wall.

WHISKERS

Guys, I'm home!

His wife, LISA, wearing an apron, walks over to him and gives him a kiss.

LISA

Hey, honey.

Their teenage son, RILEY, wearing a T-shirt and has long hair, sits on the couch and plays video games.

LISA (CONT'D)

Riley, say hi to your father.

RILEY

(in a dull voice)

Hey.

LISA

So how was your day?

WHISKERS

Still crazy. It's been that way since the new baby's been there. Hard to get any work done!

LISA

Baby? What new baby?

WHISKERS

Come on, I told you guys! The Nelsons have a new addition to the family.

He walks to the center of the living room and looks upward.

WHISKERS (CONT'D)

It all started last Christmas.

SFX: Dreamy, fantasy music PLAYS. A drone WHIZZES by, in Whiskers' view. The music abruptly STOPS.

WHISKERS (CONT'D)

(looks at Riley)

Riley, will you put that away? I'm trying to do a flashback!

RILEY (O.S.)

Sorry.

Whiskers resumes looking upward.

WHISKERS

Like I said, it all started last Christmas.

SFX: Dreamy, fantasy music RESUMES.

FADE TO:

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - EVENING - FLASHBACK

EDDIE THE CAT builds a "snow-cat".

WHISKERS (V.O.)

Me, Friskers, and Eddie were doing our usual thing.

Eddie reaches in a bucket and places a hat and coal on the head of the snow-cat. He reaches in and pulls out a SIZZLING firecracker. He places it on the nose area of the head. Eddie's eyes open wide.

SFX: KABOOM!

Eddie sits hunched over the body of the snow-cat, whose head is now on Eddie's head. Whiskers and his friend, FRISKERS MOUSE, LAUGH and point. Eddie SHAKES the snow off of him and leaps toward the mice.

Eddie chases the mice down the sidewalk. ERIC NELSON, 16, black, holding a suitcase, ZOOMS past them so fast that it knocks them down.

ERIC

Gotta get to the hospital! Gonna be an uncle!

BONY the dog, and director, walks over to the three on the ground.

BONY

Cut! The kid ruined the shot again.

FRISKERS

He always gotta steal the show, don't he?

Eric continues to run.

ERIC
Gotta go, gotta go!

SFX: Car horn HONKS!

Eric's mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, drives her car alongside him.

RHONDA
Uh, Eric, you might get there faster in a car?

They both stop. Eric gets in the car.

ERIC
Oh, right.

RHONDA
I'm gonna be a grandma!

ERIC
I'm gonna be an uncle! Step on it!

They speed away.

INT. HOSPITAL - SAME

Eric's brother, BILLY NELSON, 20's, and SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, who is pregnant, both waddle in the doors.

SHARON
(moans, rubs her stomach)
Oh, calm down, baby!

BILLY
(gasps)
Oh, I don't know if I can make it!

SHARON
You ran too fast! Calm down, Billy!

BILLY
(pants)
I need a breather!

He spots a wheelchair and jumps in it. Sharon pushes him.

SHARON
It's gonna be okay, Billy! Just breathe!

Billy TAKES SMALL BREATHS. His father, JUNIOR NELSON, and stepfather, MATT JAMES, both 40's, black, run in.

MATT

Sharon, we're here! How is he?

SHARON

He'll be fine.

JUNIOR

Calm down, son, you can do it!

Sharon's parents, DWAYNE and ROCHELLE ROSS, 40's, approach them and hug her.

ROCHELLE

Honey! Are you all right?

SHARON

Yeah, the baby didn't come yet.

DWAYNE

(points to Billy)
So this is the father?

SHARON

Yeah. He's a little nervous, though.

DWAYNE

Oh, it'll be alright, son!

All of the parents start to crowd around Billy. Eric and Rhonda run in and join them.

ERIC

That's right, big brother! Come on, let's take him to the room!

The crowd rushes Billy away. Sharon waddles behind them.

SHARON

(to her stomach)
This will be your family.

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT'S ROOM - LATER

The families gather next to a DOCTOR.

DWAYNE

What's the prognosis, Doc?

DOCTOR

We're in the home stretch! Any minute now!

ZOOM OUT TO SHOW FAMILIES AND DOCTOR HOVERING OVER BILLY

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Now, Mr. Nelson, keep this ice pack on your head. That'll keep the headache down.

BILLY

Thanks.

Sharon waddles over to the bed.

SHARON

Oh, that's alright, guys! I'll take it from here!

The gang looks at Sharon.

MATT

Perhaps we should help out the person in labor.

RHONDA

Good idea!

The gang runs over to Sharon and consoles her, chattering over each other.

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT'S ROOM - DAY

Billy stands with some doctors. They all wear scrubs, hairnets, and masks. They talk to a moaning Sharon.

BILLY

Alright, Sharon, this might be the day now!

SHARON

(moans loudly)

I hope so!!

DOCTOR

Alright, push!

Sharon SCREAMS. The BABY comes out.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

There you go!

SILENCE.

SHARON

Hey. The baby isn't crying. Why isn't the baby crying, doc?!

SILENCE.

BILLY

Oh no!

SILENCE.

The baby starts to BAWL. Billy and Sharon SIGH of relief.

SHARON

Oh, thank god!

(NOTE: The baby always speaks telepathically, in a male voice. It is also written in *italics*.)

BABY

(laughs on the inside, cries on the outside)

Oh, I got ya'll good! I'm gonna have me a ball out here!

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSERY - LATER

The baby lies in a bassinet in the nursery with other babies. Matt and Rhonda stand outside the window and look at him.

MATT

There's your new grandson, honey.

RHONDA

I know! He's so beautiful!

Rhonda SOBS and hugs Matt. Sharon's parents approach them and put their arms around them.

ROCHELLE

(sobs)

He sure is!

DWAYNE

(sobs)

Runs in the family!

The four of them hug. Junior approaches them and joins the crowd.

JUNIOR

Don't I know it!

Matt and Rhonda look at him funny, then hug him as well.
The entire group hugs together.

GROUP

Aww!

Inside the nursery, OLIVER DUCK and his friend, DR. SYD the mole, walk and look around. (NOTE: Oliver, like the baby, also speaks telepathically, while Dr. Syd only squeaks.)

SFX: Dr. Syd SQUEAKS.

OLIVER

I'm looking, Syd, I'm looking!

SFX: Dr. Syd SQUEAKS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Well, they all look alike!

BABY (O.S.)

Hey, whatchu tryin' to say?

Oliver and Dr. Syd run up to the bassinet and jump up to the baby.

OLIVER

There you are!

(sings)

*Happy birthday to you/Happy birthday,
dear--*

(stops)

What the hell's your name?

BABY/WILL

William Patrick Nelson IV, in the flesh!

OLIVER

*Well, you missed Christmas by a few days,
but I bet your parents still consider you
a gift!*

WILL

*Yeah, but I still want presents on my
birthday. None of this "combining
holidays" crap!*

OLIVER

It's a deal!

Oliver and Dr. Syd hug Will.

INT. HOSPITAL - LOBBY - LATER

Eric sits in the lobby and plays on his cell phone. His girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 16, black, enters and approaches him, along with their friends, all around the same age. DENNIS "DIMMEY" ROBERTS, white, speaks up.

DIMMEY

What up, Uncle Eric?

ERIC

Hey, what are ya'll doing here?

BERNIECE

We're here to celebrate!

ELEANOR DUMBECK, 16, white, chimes in.

ELEANOR

Yeah!

She whispers to her half-sister, SHANA JONES, 17, biracial.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

What are we celebrating?

SHANA

I told you, Billy had a baby! A bouncing baby boy!

ELEANOR

Why? Ratings are down?

SHANA

(sighs)

Just pass these out.

Shana hands Eleanor a bag of pretzel rods. Eleanor hands the rods out.

ERIC

Pretzel rods?

DIMMEY

Yeah, we can't smoke cigars! Legally, anyway.

SHANA

Yeah, so take a bite off the end!

ARNOLD ALLEN, 16, black, interrupts them.

ARNOLD

But before that, let me say a few words.
 (clears his throat)
 To Eric and his new nephew, who I hope
 has his mother's looks. Heh, heh.

ERIC

You would know about ugly mothers,
 Arnold.

The gang lifts up their pretzel rods, then takes a bite.
 They start to chatter. Berniece pulls Eric aside.

BERNIECE

Eric, let's sneak outta here.

ERIC

But the celebration's just starting.

BERNIECE

(sotto voce)
 There's a vacant room upstairs with a
 bed.

Berniece walks away. Eric looks around and tiptoes out.

EXT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - SAME

Eric and Berniece approach a room.

ERIC

Are you sure this room is empty?

BERNIECE

Yep. Come on.

They hold hands and walk inside.

ERIC (O.S.)

Hey, beat it!

Eric pushes a wheelchair out of the room. In the
 wheelchair is CHAZ TREPUR, black, who is sleeping.

SFX: Chaz SNORES. Eric SLAMS the door.

EXT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY

SUPER: "TWO MINUTES LATER"

Another super appears underneath that one.

SUPER: "NO, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK"

Berniece runs out of the room and SOBS.

ERIC
Berniece, what's wrong?

BERNIECE
This is a mistake!

ERIC
But it was your idea!

BERNIECE
I know! I'm sorry, Eric!

She continues sobbing and runs away.

ERIC
Berniece, wait!

Billy approaches him.

BILLY
You're about to do it, but your girl runs
out of the room crying? You know that
joke writes itself, right?

ERIC
Oh, shut up, Billy!

Eric chases after Berniece.

INT. SHARON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sharon gets up from the couch, holding Will.

SHARON
Okay, Will, it's time for bed. Mommy
gotta go to work tomorrow.

She places Will in his crib.

INT. SHARON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sharon sleeps in her bed.

SFX: Will CRYING off-screen.

Sharon runs to him.

SHARON

Aww, what's wrong? Let me rock you for a minute.

She picks him up and rocks him back and forth. Will STOPS crying.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Good!

INT. SHARON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

SFX: Will CRYING off-screen.

Sharon limps over to Will.

SHARON

(in a groggy tone)

Will, it's not even 1:00! What's wrong?

Sharon picks him up and rocks him again. He continues crying.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S HOUSE - LATER

SFX: Doorbell CHIMES.

Billy walks to the door and opens it. Sharon stands there.

BILLY

Sharon!

(lustfully)

You were up thinking about me, too?

SHARON

(lustfully)

Yeah.

She pulls over Will, in his bassinet, from the side and into Billy's view.

SHARON (CONT'D)

(normal voice)

Can you take care of your son? He's keeping me awake!

BILLY

(sighs)

Alright. Come here, Will.

Billy grabs the bassinet and picks Will up.

SHARON

Thanks!

Sharon leaves.

BILLY

Never send a woman to do a man's job,
huh?

Will BAWLS.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(calls out)

Sharon? Sharon!

INT. BILLY AND RON'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Billy sits on the couch. Will is in his bassinet. Sharon enters the house.

SHARON

Hey, Billy, how did it go?

BILLY

I ain't gonna lie, it was rough starting out. He was off and on crying. But I looked up some tips online, and I learned how to swaddle him! Kinda like how you guys make sandwich wraps at your job.

SHARON

Make what now?

BILLY

Anyway, here you go.

He passes the bassinet to Sharon.

BILLY (CONT'D)

When he starts up again, bring him here.
Anytime!

Billy's roommate, RON TYSON, limps out of his bedroom and rubs his eyes.

RON

(in a groggy tone)

Yeah, about that, we gotta talk!

BILLY

Oh, dang.

EXT. WILLIAMS HOUSE - DAY

Eric stands on the porch and RINGS the doorbell.
Berniece's father, XAVIER WILLIAMS, opens the door.

XAVIER

Eric.

Eric barges in.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Don't be shy. Come on in.

ERIC

Sorry, Mr. Williams, but I'm looking for
your daughter. She's been acting weird
lately.

XAVIER

What do you mean?

ERIC

Well, we were about to...

(pause)

...study for our test, then she ran out
crying!

XAVIER

Really? Then it must be on this subject.

(points to a book on a table)

Another kid was here earlier. He left his
book here.

ERIC

"He"?

Berniece enters.

BERNIECE

Eric! What are you doing here?

XAVIER

I'll leave you two alone.

Xavier exits.

ERIC

You tell me!

BERNIECE

Uh, I live here...?

ERIC

Okay, I mean, you tell me why you're acting so weird!

BERNIECE

I really can't explain it right now.

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

(calls out)

It's open!

JACOB JACKSON, the school bully, 17, white, enters.

JACOB

Hey, there's my book. I forgot it.

He grabs the book.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(to Eric)

Hey, "Webster"! Came to give me your lunch money early, huh?

He chuckles and elbows Eric, then exits.

BERNIECE

See ya later, Jake.

ERIC

"Jake"?? What was "Jake" doing here?

BERNIECE

Nothing serious. Just studying.

ERIC

Look, woman, I demand you tell me what's going on!

BERNIECE

You're not demanding anything in my house! Now you need to go! I'll talk to you later!

She pushes Eric towards the front door and out.

ERIC

What? Then if you're gonna be like that, I'm gonna start dating other women!

BERNIECE

(gasps)

Fine! Be that way!!

ERIC

Fine!

Berniece SLAMS the door. Eric pulls out his phone.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I can get plenty of women.

He dials and puts it to his ear.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hey, Tareeka, it's Eric!

(feigns sad voice)

My girl just dissed me.

(normal voice)

I know you've been trying to get at me.

Well, now, I'm free!

(pause)

Eric Nelson.

(pause)

Nelson!

(pause)

No, that's Billy Nelson, my brother.

(pause)

You remember me! I'm Willie Jr.'s son!

(pause)

That rock star from the 90's?

(pause)

Yeah, that's it!

(pause)

Hello? Hello?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rhonda sits on the couch and SPEAKS baby-talk gibberish to Will, who lays on the couch. Matt barges in from the front door.

MATT

Rhonda, baby, I'm full of beer and love.
So get "nekkid", and let's do this!

RHONDA

Hey, language!

She covers Will's ears. Matt approaches them.

MATT

Hey, why is Will here?

RHONDA

Billy got an exam tomorrow morning, and Sharon picked up an extra shift. They needed a babysitter.

MATT

All the way here? There wasn't one in Madison?

RHONDA

Oh, come on! This is our chance to bond with him!

MATT

Aww, you're right. Look at him! I can see the family resemblance.

RHONDA

He kinda looks like his uncle!

WILL

Except I'm taller! Ha ha!

Eric enters the house.

ERIC

What's Will doing here?

MATT

(smirks)

Like you don't know! You got some explaining to do!

Rhonda nudges Matt.

RHONDA

(to Matt)

Oh, stop it.

(to Eric)

We're babysitting.

Matt sits next to Rhonda and Will.

MATT

Well, I hope he doesn't cry all night.

ERIC

(sighs)

Don't worry. I won't.

Eric slowly limps upstairs with his head down.

RHONDA

Something must be wrong. We better check on Eric.

MATT

I can't right now. I'm drunk.

RHONDA

Well, my hands are full with Will.

WILL

The love just oozes out of this house, doesn't it?

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Eric and Dimmey walk down the hall.

DIMMEY

Jacob Jackson with Berniece? Come on, now. He breaks a lot of things: glass, arms, legs, ribs. A heart isn't one of them.

ERIC

Why else would he be over at Berniece's house? That fool got me every which way I turn!

DIMMEY

I still think you're crazy.

They both see Berniece and Jacob exiting a room from afar.

BERNIECE

I finally got it! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Berniece gives Jacob a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

JACOB

Alright, take it easy!

He fixes himself.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(exclaims, then looks around)
Just give me your lunch money tomorrow, or you'll be sorry!

BERNIECE

Right!

Berniece runs away.

DIMMEY

See, Eric? He's his usual thuggish self!

ERIC

No, man! It's an act! He's messin' around with her!

Arnold approaches him.

ARNOLD

I saw that, Eric. Very unfortunate. The only girl you can get, and Jacob steals her from you? You gonna take that?

DIMMEY

Arnold kinda has a point.

ERIC

I know. He's made my life a living hell for years. Guys, I think it's time I take that bully down!

DIMMEY

Now you're talking!

Eric marches away.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Going from a living hell to not living at all.

ARNOLD

Remind me when it happens! I'll bring the popcorn!

Arnold laughs and runs away.

INT. WHISKERS' HOUSE - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

WHISKERS

So little Eric decided to prep up for a showdown with the big, buff, Jacob Jackson.

RILEY

Is Eric really the same height as the baby?

WHISKERS

(laughs)

He's the same height as all of us!
Speaking of the baby, Will kept coming
around the house.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Matt sits at the dining room table with his laptop.

MATT

C'mon, think! How do I start this story?

Billy, Sharon, and Will enter.

BILLY

Hey, Matt, here's your favorite grandson!

MATT

What, we're taking him again?

SHARON

Yeah, me and Billy got back together, and
we're making up for lost time. Rhonda
said it was okay.

MATT

Well, I guess I...

BILLY AND SHARON

Great! See ya!

They both ZOOM off. Matt picks up Will from his bassinet.

MATT

I guess the baby is back.

(pause)

Baby, back. Baby got back.

(gasps)

"Baby Got Back"! That's good!

He runs to the laptop and TYPES.

MATT (CONT'D)

Little Willie, it's like you're a good
luck charm.

Rhonda enters.

RHONDA

You're gonna have to get another one,
dear. I'm taking him with me.

MATT

Where are ya'll going?

RHONDA

Out with my sorority sisters. They're fun, young, and vibrant, just like me. To prove it, I'm gonna show off my grandson! See ya!

Rhonda and Will exit.

MATT

All right, now where was I? What was the name of that title again?

(pause)

Eh, it'll come back to me later.

He gets up and lies on the couch.

MATT (CONT'D)

Ahh, the life of a writer.

Matt SNORES.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Eric marches down the hall. He envisions partially transparent heads of people giving him "floating advice".

JACOB'S HEAD #1

(from Eric's left shoulder)

Gimme your money, "Gary Coleman"!

The head disappears.

JACOB'S HEAD #2

(above Eric's head)

I'm gonna kill you, Nelson!

The head disappears.

JACOB'S HEAD #3

(from Eric's right shoulder)

Your girl likes me better than you!

The head disappears.

ELEANOR'S HEAD

(from Eric's left shoulder)

Who's gonna take care of the baby, Eric?

Eric looks in Eleanor's head's direction confused.

ELEANOR'S HEAD (CONT'D)

Oh, wait, that's Billy's issue.

The head disappears. Eric marches up to Jacob. He taps Jacob on the shoulder.

ERIC

Yo, Jackson! I wanna talk to you!

Jacob turns around.

JACOB

You must not wanna breathe! What's wrong with you?

ERIC

You mess with me all these years. Now you tryin' to move in on my girl?

JACOB

It ain't like that, Nelson.

Jacob attempts to walk away. Eric grabs his arm.

ERIC

Oh yeah?

Eric looks at Jacob's arm that he grabbed and tries to squeeze it.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Damn!

He lets go.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I'm tired of you, Jackson! This afternoon, after school!

JACOB

(scoffs)

I can't make it.

ERIC

Why not?

JACOB

(muffled voice)

I gotta study.

ERIC

What?

JACOB
I said, "I gotta study!"

A crowd of students GASP.

JACOB (CONT'D)
(to everyone)
If I don't pass this class, I don't
graduate, alright? Shut up!

ERIC
Fine then. Friday after school! Be there!

JACOB
Get lost.

Jacob walks away. Dimmey approaches Eric.

DIMMEY
You lost your mind, you know that?

ERIC
Dimmey, this gives me plenty of time to
train. Not that I need much training! Ha!

He fakes a punching move.

SFX: SNAP from his arm!

ERIC (CONT'D)
Ow! Which way to the school nurse?

DIMMEY
(sighs)
Where the janitor's office is. Same room.

Eric holds his arm and slowly walks away.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Eric jumps rope and struggles a bit.

ERIC
Come on, Eric, you can do it!

Billy approaches him.

BILLY
Hey, squirt, you seen Mom and Matt? I've
been trying to call them.

ERIC
No! I'm kinda busy right now!

Eric jumps rope and moves backward.

BILLY
Do you realize that you're moving
backwards?

ERIC
What you talkin' about?

Billy exits. Eric and his jump rope SLAM against the garage door. The rope tangles around Eric, and he SPLATS onto the ground.

ERIC (CONT'D)
(calls out)
That's part of the routine!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Billy enters the house.

BILLY
(calls out)
Mom? Matt?

The maid, CYNTHIA McNAIR, 30's, Puerto Rican, enters from the kitchen.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Cynthia, have you seen my parents? I
wanna pick my baby up.

CYNTHIA
They must not be back yet from the store.

BILLY
Hmm. Alright. Tell them I came by.

Billy leaves. Cynthia walks over to the closet door and opens it. Matt, Rhonda, and Will are in there.

CYNTHIA
Billy came by.

RHONDA
Okay, that bought us some time.

MATT
Let's get outta here. The zoo closes in
two hours.

The three exit the closet.

CYNTHIA

Can I come? I just covered for you!

MATT

No! Get back to work!

Cynthia lowers her head and gives Matt "puppy eyes".

MATT (CONT'D)

Oh, come on!

CYNTHIA

(exclaims, claps her hands)

Oh, goody!

They all exit the house.

EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Eric walks with Dimmey. He does arm curls with a dumbbell.

ERIC

Three...four...five...

Dimmey rolls his eyes. Arnold approaches them.

ARNOLD

(to Eric, points to the
dumbbell)

Hey, nice to see you getting acquainted
with your namesake! Ha ha!

Arnold walks away.

ERIC

(calls out)

After I Google all of that, I'ma kick
your butt!

DIMMEY

Might be easier to kick his than Jacob's.

ERIC

Don't try to talk me outta it, Dimmey.
I'm just about trained up for this
afternoon!

His dumbbell slips out of his hand and PLOPS on his foot.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Ow! Look what you made me do!

DIMMEY

No one told you to walk and arm-curl at the same time, "Chachi"!

ERIC

Back to the nurse-slash-janitor.

DIMMEY

Slash-security guard.

Eric limps away and passes Berniece.

BERNIECE

Eric, I've been calling you!

ERIC

Oh, really? Well, I've been busy. I'll talk to you later.

He limps away. Shana and Eleanor walk past Berniece in the other direction.

BERNIECE

Eleanor, do you know what's going on with Eric?

ELEANOR

No, what?

BERNIECE

No, I mean literally, do you know what's going on him?

ELEANOR

(chuckles)

I give up!

BERNIECE

(sighs)

Exactly. Shana, what about you?

SHANA

(laughs arrogantly)

Oh! You steal him from me, now you don't know what to do? Well, he's your man now. You figure it out for yourself!

Berniece reaches up to Shana, grabs her by the shirt, and holds her against the school building.

SHANA (CONT'D)

(nervously)

He challenged Jacob Jackson to a fight this afternoon!

BERNIECE

What??

She lets go of Shana and runs away. Shana fixes her shirt and chuckles.

SHANA

I decided to throw her a bone.

She turns around and discovers that Eleanor is gone.

SHANA (CONT'D)

--and Eleanor's no longer here.

EXT. BILLY'S CAR - DAY

Billy drives Sharon in his car.

BILLY

Did you enjoy the movie?

SHARON

Yeah, I did.

BILLY

Well, there's more where that came from!

SHARON

I hope Will's having fun at the water park.

BILLY

Water park? Mom told me he was taking a nap!

SHARON

Matt said, "Water park!"

Billy BRAKES his car really hard.

SFX: Car SCREECHES.

A FEMALE DRIVER rides around Billy's car and ZOOMS past.

FEMALE DRIVER

Ass!

BILLY

Methinks we've been had!

SHARON
 (sticks up a finger,
 projects)
 To the Nelson House!

Billy ZOOMS past the female driver's car.

SHARON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (to the driver)
You're an ass!

EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - LATER

Eric walks around the playground. A CROWD of students follows him. Eric turns around and sees Dimmey and Arnold with them.

ERIC
 What are ya'll doing here?

DIMMEY
 We're instigators! Every fight needs some!

ERIC
 First, ya'll don't believe I'll win; now, you're here instigating?

ARNOLD
 Not me! I'm only here taking bets!

Eric sees Jacob and marches up to him.

ERIC
 'Bout time you showed up, Jackson!

JACOB
 Huh? You were serious?

Eric SLAPS books out of Jacob's hands, then puts up his fists.

ERIC
 Come on, put up your dukes!

JACOB
 Look, knock it off, alright? I'm outta here.

Jacob picks up his books and leaves.

ERIC
 (calls out)
 Not so fast!

He follows him, and the crowd follows Eric.

CROWD
 (chants)
 Kick his butt! Kick his butt!

ELEANOR
 Eric bullying Jacob Jackson. You gotta
 love the ironing!

SHANA
 That's "irony".

ARNOLD
 No, it's not that, either.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Eric marches to the building and presses a button on the
 intercom.

SFX: BUZZ!

A WOMAN answers.

WOMAN (O.S.)
 Yes, who is it?

ERIC
 I'm looking for Jacob Jackson! This is
 Eric T. Nelson!

DIMMEY
 And instigators!

Eric signals to Dimmey to be quiet. Jacob exits the
 building.

JACOB
 Look, I'm warning you!

ERIC
 And I'm warning you! Come take your
 beating like a man!

Eric mimics boxing moves.

CROWD
(chants)
Kick his butt! Kick his butt!

ERIC
See? The crowd here's got my back!
They're cheering me on!

The crowd stops and looks at each other.

DIMMEY
Uh, yeah, sure! Kick his butt!

ERIC
You steal my girl, now your ass is mine!

JACOB
It's not what you think!

Eric STOMPS on Jacob's foot.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Ow! Hey! Alright, that's it!

Jacob marches up to Eric.

BERNIECE (O.S.)
Stop it, ya'll!

Berniece marches up to Eric and Jacob.

JACOB
Thank god! Talk to this fool, Berniece.

Jacob reenters the apartment building.

BERNIECE
Eric, what are you doing?!

ERIC
Feeling light-headed.

Eric faints, PLOPPING to the ground.

ARNOLD
(to the crowd)
Alright, you guys see that! Eric's down!
Pay up!

The crowd SCOFFS and walks away.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
I'll accept layaway for people like you!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Matt and Rhonda walk around and look behind various places.

MATT

Will? Come out!

RHONDA

Come on, Will!

Billy and Sharon burst in from the front door.

BILLY

Busted!

RHONDA

(nervously)

Hey, guys, what's up?

SHARON

Cut the crap, old lady! Where's our baby?

RHONDA

(gasps)

Billy, you gonna let her talk to me like that?

BILLY

Answer the question!

MATT

We don't know! We're looking for him right now!

SHARON

You took our baby and lost him?

RHONDA

Please! You kept pawning him off to us!

BILLY

And now we want him back!

They all bicker.

SHARON

Hey, wait! I think I know where he is. Let's go to Timmy's.

MATT

Ugh, why?

BILLY

Yeah, you ain't pregnant no more!

SHARON

Trust me on this. Come on.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Customers dine and chatter in the diner. TIMMY ROBERTS, the owner, enters from the kitchen. Matt, Rhonda, Billy, and Sharon walk past him and head to the staircase.

TIMMY

Hey, guys! Come here to eat?

MATT

You already know the answer to that, Timmy. 'Scuse us.

TIMMY

But...

INT. ROBERTS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Will sits on the couch in the living room.

WILL

Thanks for getting me, guys. Those people are too crazy for me!

Dr. Syd and Oliver, dressed as his alter ego, FRESH D, with his black jacket, black doorag, and black sunglasses, sit with Will.

OLIVER/FRESH D

No prob. Always depend on Fresh D! The "D" stands for "duck"!

WILL

Okay. Who's Fresh D?

His parents and grandparents enter the house.

SHARON

Will! I knew you'd be here!

WILL

And I'm stayin'! I ain't goin' nowhere, and you can't make me!

Sharon picks Will up.

WILL (CONT'D)

It just so happens I wanna get up.

BILLY

Look, everybody. Why don't Sharon keep Will during the week, since she's the mother. I'll help her out while we're in Madison.

SHARON

Billy, don't worry. I got this.

BILLY

Sharon, don't be one of them "Happy Father's Day" chicks. I said I'm in it for the long haul. For both of you.

SHARON

(smiles)

Alright.

BILLY

(to his parents)

Then you guys can help us out when we're in need.

MATT

That'll work.

RHONDA

But when will we get to see our Will?

BILLY

Talk to your lawyer about that!

Billy LAUGHS. The others stare at him.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Get it? 'Cuz his name is Will, and...never mind. We'll come down here on the weekends. He got family and friends here.

RHONDA

Well, okay.

MATT

Fine with me.

BILLY

See, I knew we'd be able to work out a schedule with Will, his parents, and his grandparents.

He points to each of them. Junior enters the house.

JUNIOR
Hey, what about me?

Sharon's parents follow him in.

ROCHELLE
And what's this about our grandson being missing, Sharon?

DWAYNE
Yeah!

Billy and Sharon SIGH.

BILLY
Let's go downstairs and discuss this over dinner.

RHONDA
(rolls her eyes)
Yeah. That'll make us feel better!

All of the parents and grandparents begin to exit with Will.

JUNIOR
Son, do me a favor. When you say, "grandfather", around women, put more emphasis on "father", okay?

Billy GROANS.

INT. JACKSON HOUSE - LATER

Eric wakes up and finds himself on a couch. He looks around and sees Berniece standing there.

ERIC
How'd I get here? Did Jacob literally slap me into next week?

Jacob answers from behind the couch.

JACOB
No, but I should have!

BERNIECE
Eric, what were you thinking?

ERIC

What were you thinking? Bringing me to the scene of the crime!

BERNIECE

Crime? What crime? We didn't do anything!

ERIC

Yeah, right! My nephew might've been born a few days ago, but not me!

Berniece sits with Eric.

BERNIECE

Eric, let me explain. You know I have two left feet, right?

ERIC

(pause)

Are we talking about the same thing?

BERNIECE

You saw me dance. I can't dance! But Jacob Jackson can!

ERIC

You expect me to believe that?

BERNIECE

Look!

She points to a shelf full of trophies that shine and glisten. Eric approaches the shelf, picks up a trophy, and reads it.

ERIC

Who's "Millicent Davis"?

JACOB

Oh, I stole that one. But I am really good.

BERNIECE

Yeah, watch!

She gets up and approaches Jacob. Jacob puts his hands around Berniece's waist. Berniece puts her hands on his shoulders.

JACOB

Five, six, seven, eight.

They slow-dance as Jacob counts "one, two".

ERIC

Okay, so you can dance now. I'm still not following.

Berniece and Jacob stop dancing. Berniece approaches Eric.

BERNIECE

Eric, if we're gonna have our first time, I need to make sure it's with the one I want to make my husband. And I want that to be you.

ERIC

Okay.

BERNIECE

But if you're gonna be my husband, we need to have a wedding. And if we're gonna have a wedding, we're gonna have a first dance. And I need to make sure that I can dance!

PAUSE.

ERIC

Berniece?

BERNIECE

Yeah?

ERIC

You stupid!

BERNIECE

(smirks)

Shut up!

ERIC

You ain't got nothing to worry about!

BERNIECE

Well, neither do you! Me and Jacob don't have anything going on!

JACOB

Yeah! I am in no way attracted to Berniece. She does nothing for me whatsoever! I don't even care for her that much!

BERNIECE

You done buttering me up, Jacob?

JACOB

Yeah, now ya'll get outta my house. Come on.

He directs them both to the front door.

BERNIECE

Thanks for everything, Jacob.

ERIC

Yeah, and I guess I'm sorry.

JACOB

Tell me about it. You owe me extra lunch money next week.

ERIC

Hey, why do you steal trophies?

JACOB

Because I can! Now get lost!

Eric and Berniece leave. Jacob closes the door. His big sister, GRETCHEN "GRETCH" JACKSON, enters.

GRETCH

Are they finally gone?

JACOB

Yeah.

GRETCH

Well, you didn't kill him. I'm very disappointed. But you taught the girl how to dance, so I guess I should be proud.

JACOB

Hey, I learned from the best.

Jacob does a tap dance, sticks out his hand, and pauses. Gretch follows suit.

MONTAGE - JACOB AND GRETCH DANCE

-- Jacob and Gretch both tap-dance through images of the city, countryside, alleys and mountains. Lively music PLAYS in the background.

-- They dance on illusions of a rainbow and then, a long keyboard that travels through the sky.

END OF MONTAGE

They both end up back in their house, stop, and stick out their hands at each other.

SFX: Music STOPS.

They quickly compose themselves, stand up straight, fix their shirts, and walk away from each other.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eric and Berniece enter the house.

ERIC
Mom, Matt? Anybody home?

SILENCE.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Guess not.

BERNIECE
Eric, I wanna show you some moves.

ERIC
I already saw you dance.

Berniece points, with her head, to upstairs.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Oh?

Eric grabs her hand, and they race upstairs.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eric and Berniece walk back downstairs.

ERIC
Yeah, you really learned some moves there.

BERNIECE
Thank you.

ERIC
I won't ask from whom.

BERNIECE
(giggles)
Whatever.

She kisses him on the cheek and exits the house. Eric heads back upstairs. He stops, turns to the camera, and breaks the fourth wall.

ERIC

Well, what did you expect to see? A sex scene?

He continues up the stairs.

INT. WHISKERS' HOUSE - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

WHISKERS

So baby Will made his way into the Nelson family, while Eric finally had his way with Berniece.

LISA

Good story, dear.

RILEY

Yeah. Hey, how'd you know all that stuff happened? Were you there that whole time?

WHISKERS

Huh? Know-it-all son says what?

He pretends to look around. Riley smirks. Whiskers pats him on the head.

WHISKERS (CONT'D)

Anyway, Will coming into the world is a lot like when you came into the world, son.

He looks upward again.

WHISKERS (CONT'D)

It all started on a crisp, fall day.

He turns around to see the room empty.

WHISKERS (CONT'D)

Aww, not cool, guys!

LISA (O.S.)

Whiskers, help!

WHISKERS

Huh?

He runs out of the mouse-hole. He sees Eddie with Lisa and Riley in each of his hands. Eddie LAUGHS evilly.

RILEY

Dad, help us!

WHISKERS

Eddie, did you get permission to work overtime?

Eddie STOPS laughing and pauses.

EDDIE

Dang!

He puts Lisa and Riley down and runs away.

WHISKERS

Welcome back, family!

Lisa and Riley run to Whiskers. They all hug each other.

THE END