

ERIC

"He Stopped Loathing Her Today"

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INT. OFFICER TOWNSEND'S APARTMENT - DAY

An unseen person opens the door. The person approaches OFFICER TOWNSEND, a short, big-boned lady.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Hey, I wasn't expecting you. You want something to drink? No, I'm not doing anything. Not necessarily. Ooh, "Sara Lee"! Now I'm hungry! You want something to eat?

SFX: UNSETTLING MUSIC begins.

The unseen person gets closer to Townsend.

OFFICER TOWNSEND (CONT'D)

Hey, what are you doing there? Hey, stop, I'm not on duty! Very funny, I've been on duty plenty of times!

SFX: Music CRESCENDOES.

OFFICER TOWNSEND (CONT'D)

Hey, back up! AAUGH!

SFX: Music ENDS.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

COACH SUGGS and the students gather around a rope that hangs from the ceiling. ERIC NELSON, 14, tries to climb it.

COACH SUGGS

Come on, Nelson, keep going!

One of the students on the side is SHANA JONES, 16, who is half-black and -white, stands at 5'10", and wears a pink shirt that says, "I [heart symbol] Love".

SHANA

You the man, Babycakes!

ERIC

(to Shana, grunting while climbing)

Quit callin' me "Babycakes"!

The other students giggle. Eric gets to the top, then jumps down.

COACH SUGGS

Very good. Jones, your turn.

Shana walks up to the rope and tries to climb it but struggles mightily. Some students laugh. Among them is DIMMEY ROBERTS, 14.

DIMMEY

(calling out)

Shana, you don't have to climb to the top. Just reach up there!

The students laugh. Eric joins in with them. Shana laughs a little.

SHANA

Yeah, yeah.

Shsna continues to struggle. BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 14, and JACOB JACKSON, 16, chime in.

BERNIECE

Use your upper body strength, Shana!

JACOB

Yeah, your massive upper body strength!

The students laugh. Shana gets halfway to the top, then jumps down.

COACH SUGGS

Not bad, Jones, but keep at it.

Shana walks past the students.

JACOB

You the man, Shana! I'm sure of it!

The students laugh. Eric sustains his laughter.

ERIC

All right, guys, let's cool it.

JACOB

What, Nelson, you like her now?

ERIC

Nah, man, you crazy.

BERNIECE

And why does she wear that "I Heart Love" shirt all the time? She got money. She needs to heart some new clothes.

KATHY and KEISHA HUGHES, two Gothic, black girls who dress in all black, chime in.

KATHY  
And her hair.

The students continue to laugh.

ERIC  
Hey, Shana can buy and sell all of us!

KATHY  
I'm sure she knows about that. She's half-white!

The students roar with laughter.

KATHY (CONT'D)  
Right, sis?

KEISHA  
(chuckles)  
Whateva.

ERIC  
(to Kathy, angrily)  
Hey, man!

SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS.

The students exit the gym. Dimmey walks with Eric.

DIMMEY  
Hey, what's up? We were just playin' around.

ERIC  
Oh, I know, man.

DIMMEY  
Shana doesn't think nothin' of it. Why should you?

ERIC  
Yeah, you're right.

Eric looks back at Shana walking with some other girls. He continues to walk with Dimmey.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eric's brother BILLY NELSON, 18, walks and sorts through some mail. His roommate RON TYSON, 18, and girlfriend SHARON ROSS, 19, sit on the couch.

BILLY

Look at all of these bills!

RON

Yeah, and rent's coming due!

BILLY

I can't pay these and get my car fixed!  
What are we gonna do for money?

RON

We could throw a rent party.

BILLY

Wouldn't that require us to go back to  
1973?

RON

You got any better ideas?

SHARON

Talk to your landlord. Maybe he'll set  
you up on a payment plan.

BILLY

(scoffs)

I have a better chance winning the  
lottery.

RON

Hey, that's a great idea! There's a big  
drawing tonight!

SHARON

Ya'll really gonna depend on winning the  
lottery to get out of debt?

BILLY

It's worth a shot.

RON

I'll even help fund it! Here's a dollar.

Ron gives a dollar bill to Billy.

BILLY

Thanks. Now I need a ride to the store.

He dials on his cell phone and raises it to his ear.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hello, Dad? It's Billy.

(pause)

Your son!

(pause)

No, the older one!

(pause)

Look, can you give me a ride to the store?

(pause)

I'm not in Milwaukee, I'm in Madison with you.

(pause)

For college!

(pause)

Yes! Can you come get me?

(pause)

Thanks, I'll wait downstairs.

He hangs up.

RON

(to Billy)

Here's some more cash. See if your father can get us some beer.

SHARON

You guys are broke, but you have enough money for beer?

BILLY

Yeah.

SHARON

Okay, then bring me back some Merlot.

Billy exits.

INT. JUNIOR'S CAR - DAY - LATER

JUNIOR, Eric and Billy's father, enters his car where his new wife, MARY, waits. Billy enters the back of the car.

BILLY

Okay, I got the ticket.

JUNIOR

And I got the alcohol.

BILLY

Thanks, Dad. Did they have MGD?

JUNIOR  
(chuckles)  
Oh yeah. I know how you down wit' MGD.

Billy stares at Junior.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)  
You down wit' MGD?

Billy continues to stare.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)  
(in a falsetto voice)  
"Yeah, you know me!"

Billy continues to stare.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)  
Just trying to be down with you young  
folks.

BILLY  
By referencing a song from '91.

MARY  
Oh, you two are too much. You remind me  
of me and my kids.

BILLY  
(to Mary)  
Oh. Who are you again?

JUNIOR  
(starts the car and drives)  
This is your new mother and my wife,  
Mary. You remember her!

BILLY  
Sorry, it's hard to keep track.

SFX: Billy's phone RINGS.

Billy hits the speaker.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Hello?

ERIC (O.S.)  
Hey, you called?

BILLY  
Yeah, do you have any money I can borrow?  
I need to get my car fixed.

ERIC (O.S.)  
No. Ask our deadbeat dad to do something  
for once.

JUNIOR  
(to Eric)  
Speaker's on, Eric!

ERIC (O.S.)  
(to Junior)  
I know!

BILLY  
(to Eric)  
Look, I'll talk to you later.

ERIC (O.S.)  
Wait. There's this girl who's been  
showing interest in me for the longest. I  
don't know if I should give her a chance.

BILLY  
Why not? Especially since Berniece ain't  
givin' you the time of day.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ERIC  
(sighs)  
I knew you'd say that. Talk to you later.

Eric hangs up the phone. He takes a deep breath.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
(sotto voce)  
Okay, you can do it. It's nothing  
serious. I'm going in.

He dials on the phone.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
Hello, Shana? Remember you said you have  
front row seats to all of the Bucks  
games? Well, uh, why don't we go to the  
next game together?

Eric has a shock and flips his body to the ground.

SFX: PLOP!

He gets back up and picks up the phone.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 (to Shana)  
 I take it that means "yes".

EXT. NELSON BACKYARD - BONY'S DOGHOUSE - DAY

The unseen person approaches BONY, the family dog.

SFX: UNSETTLING MUSIC begins. Bony BARKS and BARKS. The barking subsides and turns into WHINING.

SFX: Music CRESCENDOES, then ENDS.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

GRETCH JACKSON, the local robber, runs out of Timmy's Place, the local diner, with a sack of money.

GRETCH  
 (laughs evilly)  
 Thanks, Timmy, same time next week?

The unseen person walks up to Gretch.

GRETCH (CONT'D)  
 (to the person)  
 Oh, it's you. Hey, thanks for takin' care of Officer Townsend, but I run the show here, you understand me?

The person creeps closer to her.

SFX: The UNSETTLING MUSIC starts back up.

GRETCH (CONT'D)  
 Hey, take it easy! Back up!!

SFX: Music CRESCENDOES, then ENDS.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BASKETBALL ARENA - DAY

Eric and Shana sit in the front row and watch the basketball game. They cheer along with the crowd.

ERIC  
 I can't believe we're this close!

SHANA

Of course we are, Babycakes, we're on a date!

ERIC

I mean, close to the court next to all of the celebrities. And this isn't a date!

SHANA

Alright, whatever you say. I'm just glad we're here together.

ERIC

Yeah, yeah, as long as there's no kissing cam around us.

SHANA

(pointing away)  
Hey, is that Idris Elba?

ERIC

(turning his head)  
Where?

Shana looks up to the monitor on the ceiling.

INSERT - "KISSING CAM"

The monitor shows Eric looking the other way and Shana looking at the camera shooing it away.

BACK TO SCENE

ERIC

You know, I can play a little ball, too.

SHANA

(chuckles)  
Yeah, very little!

ERIC

(chuckles)  
Excuse me?

SHANA

Remember, we both went out for the team? It was a hilarious experience full of mishaps and mischief!

ERIC

Oh yeah. I recall that it was an interesting look inside the dynamics of upper-class and middle-class societies weighed against the backdrop of the sport.

They both look at each other, pause, and laugh.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Just playing, man.

SHANA

Yeah.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ron and Sharon sit in front of the TV watching the ANNOUNCER. Billy gathers food in the kitchen.

RON

Here go the numbers.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And the numbers are 14, 3, 7, 5, and 26.

BILLY

Alright, turn back to "Turtleman".

SHARON

(holding the ticket)

Uh, Billy, look at this.

Billy enters with the food.

BILLY

(taking the ticket)

What?

(reading aloud)

"14, 3, 7, 5, and 26." I won!

The three of them jump up and cheer.

RON

Yeah, we won!

BILLY

You speak French now?

RON

What do you mean? I gave you money for the ticket!

BILLY  
Yeah, a dollar!

SHARON  
Billy...

BILLY  
Alright, Ron, here.

He gives a dollar to Ron.

RON  
You just won \$20,000,000, and you're  
giving me a dollar?

SHARON  
(to Billy)  
You told me the drawing was for \$20,000!

BILLY  
(chuckles nervously)  
What's a comma or two? Look, Ron, I'll  
give you some.

SHARON  
And what about me?

BILLY  
You'll get some, too.

SHARON  
Just some?

BILLY  
Hey, you act like we're married. We're  
not that serious.

SHARON  
Oh, you didn't say that last night!

BILLY  
Sharon, let's discuss that in private!

RON  
Thin walls. Nothing's private!

They all bicker.

BILLY  
Alright, I'm sure we can work this out.  
Let's go get something to eat.

SHARON

(to Billy)

No, we'll go. You stay here with your...  
 (using air quotes)  
 ...earnings!

RON

(using air quotes)

Yeah!

BILLY

(to Ron)

You don't need air quotes for that!

Sharon and Ron leave.

BILLY (CONT'D)

How rude. Well, I'll buy more friends  
 with my money 'cause...

(in singsongy voice)

I got \$20,000,000!

He does a dance and hums.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, Eric and Billy's mother, talks on  
 the phone.

RHONDA

Have you seen Officer Yvette Townsend?

(pause)

Well, she works in your district, right?

(pause)

No, I haven't seen her in days.

(pause)

"Call 911?" But I thought this  
was...Hello? Hello?

Rhonda puts the phone down and walks over to the couch  
 where MATT JAMES, her husband, sits.

MATT

They haven't seen Yvette?

RHONDA

Nope.

MATT

Well, maybe she went on vacation.

RHONDA

Matt, she eats and sleeps all day. What's vacation, a coma?

Eric enters the house.

MATT

Hey, son, how was the Bucks game?

ERIC

Oh, it was great, man! We lost!

MATT

Good!

(pause)

Wait, what?

ERIC

We had front-row seats.

RHONDA

Front-row?

ERIC

If we sat any closer, we would have been in the game! And all of the celebrities were next to us, too!

RHONDA

Oh, I remember being a rock star wife and being next to celebrities. Yeah, that was a good two months.

MATT

(to Eric)

How were you able to score those seats?

ERIC

I went with Shana.

RHONDA

The "girl-you-can't-stand" Shana?

MATT

And the "super-rich-girl" Shana.

RHONDA

Oh, Eric.

ERIC

It's not what you think. We're just hangin' out. She's actually pretty cool. I might even ask her to the school dance.

He goes to his room.

MATT

Eric's trying to date Shana? Yvette's M.I.A.? There's some crazy stuff going on here.

RHONDA

Yeah, it's a mystery to me.

Rhonda exits.

MATT

Well, I can't figure out the mystery.

He points his finger to the camera, appearing to break the fourth wall.

MATT (CONT'D)

Can yooooooooou?

Matt is actually pointing to the unseen person who now walks closer to him. Matt backs away.

SFX: The UNSETTLING MUSIC plays.

MATT (CONT'D)

Yeah, you. I was just asking. Hey, stand back. No, don't! AAUGH!

SFX: Music ENDS.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Ron and Sharon stand in the living room. Billy paces back and forth.

BILLY

Guys, I've been doing some thinking about the lottery ticket.

PAUSE.

SHARON

And?

BILLY

That's it.

RON

Come on, quit playing around.

SFX: SHAKING of the front doorknob.

JUNIOR (O.S.)

Son, can you open the door for me?

BILLY

No one's home!

RON

(walking to the door)

I'll get it.

BILLY

Sharon, I'm sure we can discuss this in an adult way.

SHARON

Damn that, I'm telling your daddy!

(walks to the door)

Mr. Nelson!

BILLY

You better not!

Ron opens the door and pulls Sharon away. Junior comes sliding in on his knees.

JUNIOR

(bellows)

What's up, my lovely namesake?

RON

(to Sharon)

That's his thing.

BILLY

Dad, this ain't a good time.

SHARON

No, it's perfect!

(to Junior)

Your son here won the lottery and won't share with me!

RON

Actually, I funded the ticket, so I should decide who to share with.

BILLY

But I'm the one who chose the numbers and bought the ticket! Now, I came up with a solution.

JUNIOR

Well, I hope that solution includes your father, seeing that I drove you to get the ticket.

Everyone stares at Billy.

BILLY

My solution is I collect the money, change my name, and move to Canada.

Billy walks away. The rest follow him and bicker.

EXT. DUMBECK MANSION - EVENING

Shana and her white half-sister ELEANOR DUMBECK pull the car out of the gates of their mansion. As Shana backs up the car, she sees Eric behind them on his bike.

SFX: Car abruptly BRAKES. Shana SCREAMS.

ELEANOR

Don't worry, sis, Timmy's didn't close yet!

ERIC

(riding up to Shana's window)  
Hey, Shana, what you doin'?

SHANA

Oh, we decided to give Jentille the night off, so we're going to get some takeout.

ERIC

Cool! Can I come?

SHANA

Uh, yeah, sure. But you're on your bike.

ERIC

No problem, I'll trail ya!

Shana pulls off. Eric follows her. They both pass ARNOLD ALLEN, who sits on a bench and reads a comic book.

ARNOLD

No, Turtleman, don't go into that dark cave!

The unseen person approaches Arnold.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Hey, stay away!

SFX: The UNSETTLING MUSIC starts back up.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

I mean it! I didn't even get a chance to  
do it yet! Please! Arrgh!

SFX: Music ENDS.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Billy, Ron, Sharon, and Junior all sit and stare at the lottery ticket on the coffee table.

BILLY

Guys, we haven't solved anything. Why don't we sleep on it?

RON

I'm cool with that.

JUNIOR

Yeah, the store doesn't open until tomorrow, anyway.

SHARON

And the ticket still needs to be signed.

The four of them pause.

RON

I think we should take turns tonight holding on to it.

(swipes the ticket)

I'll keep it first!

SHARON

Why should you hold onto it?

RON

'Cuz I already got it, mutha...

BILLY

Shut your mouth!

JUNIOR

(to Billy)

He's only talking about the ticket.

BILLY

(sighs)

We'll put it on the kitchen table.

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

Me and Sharon will sleep in the bedroom.  
Dad, you and Ron sleep out here.

JUNIOR

Wait, why can't I go home?

BILLY

Because you'll take the ticket in the  
middle of the night!

JUNIOR

Oh yeah. Good point.

BILLY

Good night, everybody.

Billy places the ticket on the kitchen table and turns  
off the kitchen light. The four go to their respective  
areas.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - TWO MINUTES  
LATER

It is pitch black in the kitchen. Billy turns on the  
light. The four of them are near the light switch.

BILLY

Uh, I just came to turn off the light.

JUNIOR

Yeah, me too!

SHARON

And I was making sure my boyfriend was  
safe.

RON

The light was already off.

BILLY

(to Ron)

Then why are you out here?

RON

(pauses)

Shut up.

Billy turns off the light.

EXT. DUMBECK MANSION - NIGHT - LATER

Shana and Eleanor drive the car into the open gates. Eric rides his bike to the gates.

ERIC

Uh oh, I forgot to ask Shana to the dance!

Eric darts inside before the gates close. He gets off of his bike and walks to the house.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Wow, look at the yard! Everything looks so nice. Except for that guard dog...uh oh.

A baby pit bull BARKS and runs up to Eric.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Okay, boy, down! I'm not here to rob the place!

The pit bull jumps up and hits his head onto Eric's crotch.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Oof!

Eric falls backwards onto a rake that WHACKS him on his back.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Oww!

Eric walks with his back hunched over. JOHN DUMBECK, Shana and Eleanor's white father, calls off-screen.

JOHN (O.S.)

What's going on out there?

ERIC

(in a high-pitched, strained voice)

Nothing!

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - MOMENTS LATER

John walks into the mansion with Eric, who waddles similar to "Steve Urkel", and is still in pain. Shana and Eleanor sit at the dining room table and eat.

JOHN  
Shana, you have a visitor.

SHANA  
Eric?

ERIC  
(still in a high-pitched,  
strained voice)  
Hi, Shana.

SHANA  
I just saw you. What's wrong?

ERIC  
Nothing. Just wanted to see if you want  
to go with me to the school dance.

SHANA  
Okay, fine.

JOHN  
There, you have your answer. Now go home,  
Eric.

ERIC  
Okay. Good night, Dumbucks!

Eric walks out of the doorway and bumps into a vase  
standing on an end table.

SFX: The vase BREAKS onto the floor.

The family looks shocked.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
Oh me, oh my. Well, bye!

John growls at Eric as he hurries out the door.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - THE NEXT  
MORNING

Sharon puts on a leather jacket and tiptoes to the  
bedroom door. Billy hops out of bed.

BILLY  
Good morning, Sharon!

SHARON  
(shrieks)  
Billy! I thought you were sleep! Fully  
dressed for the day, huh?

BILLY

(gets out of bed)

Yep, just like you. I was taking a little power nap. Where you goin'?

SHARON

Nowhere in particular. Where you goin'?

BILLY

To the store to cash in the ticket. The one that seems to be in your hand.

SHARON

Because that's exactly where I'm going, too. I was waiting for you to wake up so I could go with you.

BILLY

Well, good, because my dad's warming up the car right now.

SHARON

Yeah, that's exactly why he's out there, too.

BILLY

Is that a new jacket?

SHARON

Boy, you crazy. Give me some credit.

BILLY

Looks like somebody already did.

SHARON

It's only a small purchase. I'll pay it back when we get the winnings.

BILLY

(sighs)

Is Ron the only sane one here?

They both walk out to the living room. Ron sits on a leather couch wearing a football jersey and black sunglasses. He watches TV on a huge flatscreen and sips on a drink. Around the living room are expensive memorabilia.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Ron!

RON

What?

A goat stands near Ron and BLEATS.

BILLY

Why do you have a goat??

RON

Because it was there!

BILLY

A goat was "there"?

RON

Okay, I was there. "There" being a farm.

The goat BLEATS. Billy sighs and walks out of the apartment with Sharon.

RON (CONT'D)

(petting the goat)

He'll get used to you, Millie Goat.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

SFX: The doorbell RINGS continuously. CYNTHIA McNAIR, the maid, walks to the door.

CYNTHIA

Alright, alright, hold your horses.

She opens the door. Eleanor stands there.

ELEANOR

(in a labored voice)

Good day, Mrs. Nelson. Does Eric Nelson reside here?

CYNTHIA

I'm the maid, and yes, Eric is here.

ELEANOR

Wow, you're the mother and the maid? The house must be extra-clean, I guess!

CYNTHIA

Um, who may I say is here?

ELEANOR

You may say it's Michelle Obama, but you might want to tell the truth and say it's Eleanor Dumbeck.

Eleanor repeatedly presses the doorbell.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)  
So this is a doorbell? Cool!

CYNTHIA  
(moves Eleanor's hand from  
it)  
Yes. If you stop, I'll send you home with  
a couple.

ELEANOR  
I wouldn't know. Our butler answers the  
door for us. Very different from what you  
guys have, Mrs. Nelson.

CYNTHIA  
(quickly calls out)  
Eric!

Cynthia walks around the living room to clean. Eric  
enters.

ERIC  
(in his normal voice)  
Hey, Eleanor. Cynthia, can we be alone?

ELEANOR  
If you need to be alone with your mom,  
why did you agree for me to come over?

ERIC  
No, I meant for you and me to be alone.

ELEANOR  
Oh. Well, no. Whatever I can say to you  
in private, I can say in front of  
everyone else.

ERIC  
I almost understood that. Go ahead.

ELEANOR  
Well, on behalf of my big sister Shana,  
she loves you very much, but you're  
freaking her out.

Rhonda enters the living room.

RHONDA  
Eric, have you seen Matt?

ERIC  
No, Mom. What do you mean, Eleanor?

ELEANOR

Shana wants to make sure that you're serious.

ERIC

Well, yeah, I am. I was just trying to make her feel better. People keep clowning her and stuff.

ELEANOR

You're preaching to the orchestra, Eric. My last name is Dumbeck. Do you know how many people keep calling me, "Dumbbell"?

CYNTHIA

(to Eleanor, smirking)

Are you sure that's the only reason?

ELEANOR

Sure I'm sure!

RHONDA

Hey, my maiden name is Underwood. All through school, kids called me, "Rhonda Underpants".

ELEANOR

(laughs)

"Rhonda Underpants"! I get it!

RHONDA

(to Eleanor)

Hey!

Eleanor stops laughing.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Son, make sure you're hanging out with Shana for the right reasons.

ELEANOR

(to Eric)

Yeah, listen to your other mother.

(laughs again)

"Rhonda Underpants"!

RHONDA

(shoving Eleanor out the door)

Goodbye.

ELEANOR

But it gets funnier the more you say it!

Rhonda closes the door.

ERIC

I hear what you're saying, Mom. I'll take it easy.

RHONDA

Good.

LONG PAUSE.

Eric and Cynthia start to giggle.

ERIC

"Rhonda Underpants"!

Rhonda looks at them angrily. They both hurry out of the living room.

INT. BILLY AND RON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Ron sits on his leather couch, watches TV, and eats popcorn. Billy and Sharon enter the apartment.

BILLY

Ron, start returning that stuff.

RON

Why? If it's Millie, she can change!

BILLY

That's not what I mean.

RON

Good, because she can't change. She's a goat.

SHARON

There was a glitch in the system. Billy won the jackpot, as well as a couple other people around Wisconsin.

BILLY

So I had to share the winnings.

RON

Leaving you with how much?

BILLY

15.

RON

Thousand? Hundred?

BILLY

No. \$15.

RON

Dang, that's not enough for one meal.

SHARON

(to Billy)

Well, it serves you right for not wanting to split the money with us!

BILLY

Yeah, I guess.

Junior and Mary enter the apartment.

JUNIOR

Hey, guys.

RON

Hey. This is your wife, right?

JUNIOR

Not anymore. It's not working out. Yeah, I admit it.

BILLY

And how many times have you been admitting it?

JUNIOR

Never mind that, son. Did you tell Ron about the money?

BILLY

Yeah.

(digging in wallet)

Why don't you take the \$15? It's gas money. Thanks for driving me around.

JUNIOR

(takes the money)

Thank you, son.

MARY

(sticking her hand out)

Of course you know, Junior, I take half of everything you got.

Junior pauses.

JUNIOR

On second thought, son, why don't you keep it?

Everyone starts bickering over each other, while the goat BLEATS.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - NIGHT

The gym is decorated for the school dance. Students gather, dance, and converse. Eric and Shana enter the dance.

SHANA

Eric, can you get me some punch?

ERIC

In a minute. Let's walk around first and make our presence known.

SHANA

Why?

ERIC

Because I want everyone to know you're my date!

Jacob and his friends approach the couple.

JACOB

A tall girl and a short guy dating? Isn't it supposed to be the other way around?

SHANA

(chuckles)

Very funny, Jacob.

ERIC

(to Jacob)

Hey, knock it off! Yeah, Shana's my date! Deal with it!

SHANA

Eric, cool it a little.

ERIC

Oh, sorry. Hey, this my jam! Come on, Shana!

Eric drags Shana to the middle of the dance floor. He starts dancing swiftly and crazily.

SHANA

This is a slow song!

ERIC

No, it just means ya'll can't keep up!

He bumps into several couples slow-dancin. One couple bumps him down to the floor.

SFX: PLOP!

ERIC (CONT'D)  
That's part of the dance, ya'll!  
(looking around)  
Shana?

JACOB  
(approaching Eric)  
Remind me to take your lunch money at school next week, just for wasting our time.

Jacob leaves.

ERIC  
Shana left me? Oh no, she's not gonna ruin that joy for me!

Eric begins to chase after her. The unseen person starts to approach him.

SFX: UNSETTLING MUSIC starts.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
(to the unseen person)  
Oh, not now!

SFX: UNSETTLING MUSIC abruptly stops.

Eric continues to walk after Shana.

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Shana exits the school. Eric chases after her.

ERIC  
Shana, wait. Come back!

SHANA  
(stops and turns around)  
Why, so I can be your charity case?

ERIC  
Yes! I mean, no! Look, I was just trying to stick up for you. It's not right to see people make fun of you.

SHANA

I don't need you to save me, Eric. I like who I am!

ERIC

You do?

SHANA

Yeah! I almost liked it better when you were dissing me!

ERIC

(pauses first)

Well, things made a little more sense when you were chasing me around.

SHANA

I knew you'd see it my way, Babycakes.

ERIC

Quit calling me, "Babycakes". Hey, that does feel a little better!

SHANA

Well, here's something that won't make you feel good.

Shana points in the direction of the unseen person, then runs away.

SFX: UNSETTLING MUSIC starts back up.

ERIC

(to the unseen person)

Oh, here you go. Look, stand back. I'm warning you. Hey, stop!

SFX: The unseen person's hand HITS Eric on his shoulder. The unsettling music ENDS.

Camera PULLS BACK to reveal the unseen person to be PABLO McNAIR, 7.

PABLO

Tag, you're it!

ERIC

I tagged you already, Pablo. And my fingers are crossed. No tag-backs!

Eric holds up his crossed fingers.

PABLO

What?

Officer Townsend, Arnold, and Matt approach the two and hold up their crossed fingers.

ARNOLD

He's right. And so are ours.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

It's the law. Believe me, I know.

MATT

Come on, Eric, let's go home.

Eric, Townsend, Arnold, and Matt all leave.

PABLO

Aw, man, no fair!

He looks around and then breaks the fourth wall by looking into the camera.

SFX: UNSETTLING MUSIC starts back up.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Where do you think you're going?

SFX: He SMACKS his hand onto the camera lens, making it CUT TO BLACK. Music ENDS.

PABLO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Dang, your fingers were crossed, too?

THE END