

ERIC

"Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Ex-Wife?"

By E.J. Rupert

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

INT. NELSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

EDDIE the cat, WHISKERS the mouse, and FRISKERS the mouse read a script that each of them have in their hands. They address their director, BONY the dog.

WHISKERS

What is this, Bony?

BONY

Just our standard fare. Nothing different from what we usually do.

EDDIE

But aren't we insulting the fans' intelligence with this?

FRISKERS

Yeah, Eddie tries to catch us, but he gets hit with a literal pie in his face? I can hear the laugh track now.

Whiskers nudges Friskers.

FRISKERS (CONT'D)

I mean, "I can hear the laughter from the studio audience now."

BONY

Just go with it. All right, places!

Eddie and the mice position themselves.

BONY (CONT'D)

And action!

Eddie chases the mice around the kitchen. The mice run behind a banana cream pie and hide. Eddie searches around for them.

SFX: Friskers WHISTLES with his fingers.

The mice both wave to them. Eddie positions himself to run to them. Suddenly, they hear MATT and RHONDA arguing and heading to the kitchen.

MATT (O.S.)

Alright, already! I heard you!

RHONDA (O.S.)

No you didn't, because you don't listen!

BONY

Cut!

Bony runs to his doggie bed on the floor and lays down. Eddie runs to his bed on the other side of the room and also lays down. The mice run to a mouse hole on the side of a wall. Matt and Rhonda enter.

RHONDA

I told you to put up those blinds a long time ago!

MATT

Why are you on my back? Is it your time...

Rhonda looks increasingly frustrated at Matt.

MATT (CONT'D)

...to take out the garbage? No, of course not! It's my turn, honey! Excuse me.

Rhonda walks out of the kitchen. Matt walks to the garbage can. TIMMY enters from the back door.

TIMMY

What's all the hubbub, bub? I can hear ya'll all the way from outside.

MATT

Just me and Rhonda getting into it. You know, I love her, but man, does she nag sometimes.

TIMMY

You see, that's why I never married.

MATT

(sarcastically)
Yeah, that's why.

JUNIOR slides in from the living room onto the floor.

JUNIOR

Wassup, Mil-town?!

MATT

And here's someone who always marries.

JUNIOR

So you heard?

MATT

What are you talking about?

JUNIOR

I'm having a bachelor party tonight and inviting the whole crew.

MATT

Don't you have to have a crew first?

JUNIOR

Okay, all the guys I know. You two are invited.

TIMMY

Where will it be?

JUNIOR

(to Timmy)

Oh, that's another thing. Can we use your restaurant?

TIMMY

Fine, whatever.

JUNIOR

You comin' through, Matty?

MATT

Partying with my wife's ex-husband. Sounds like a dream come true.

JUNIOR

I won't tell anyone if you don't.

MATT

Oh, you just want someone to pay for your drinks.

TIMMY

Why not, Matt? He already gave you his woman. Now, he can give you his tab!

Timmy chuckles. Junior grabs Timmy by the collar and leads him to the door.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

(to Junior)

Hey, wait! You don't even live here!

MATT

I'll allow it.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - BACK DOOR PORCH

Timmy is tossed out the door.

TIMMY

AARRGH!!

SFX: CRASHING off screen.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

MATT

Maybe I will stop there to let off a little steam. Rhonda can wear me down.

CYNTHIA, the housekeeper, enters the kitchen from the living room.

JUNIOR

You're preaching to the choir. You'll have a good time. There'll be no women in sight. So Cynthia, you should come, too.

CYNTHIA

Before I tell you to kiss my butt, you should know that your son is hanging off of the front door.

JUNIOR

Matty, go get your son.

MATT

Oh, he's my son now?

Matt and Junior enter the living room. They see ERIC, 14, hanging on the top of the open front door.

MATT (CONT'D)

Eric, what are you doing?

ERIC

Stretching myself out to get taller.

MATT

I don't think that really works.

ERIC

I saw it on YouTube. And it wouldn't be on there if it wasn't true.

JUNIOR

Well, time for me to enjoy my last day on the market! Later!

Junior pulls out his phone, plays lively exiting music, and dances out of the house.

ERIC
 (calling out to Junior)
 The market? Pick up some more milk!
 That'll help me grow, too!

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - NIGHT - LATER

Junior and other men gather in the bar area of the diner.
 Matt and BILLY, 18, enter and walk over there.

JUNIOR
 Glad ya'll could make it!

MATT
 Your son here twisted my arm.

BILLY
 Aw, it's good to get out of the house
 sometimes. Take your mind off of the
 bills, the job applications, the
 rejections, the...

MATT
 And you're doing a good job of that,
 thank you. Come on.

The three guys walk to the counter and greet IKE, the
 bartender.

JUNIOR
 Three cold ones, Ike.

IKE
 Okay, dude.

BILLY
 (loudly)
 By "cold ones", I hope you mean, "milk",
 because that's all I'm allowed to drink,
 me not being 21 yet!

Ike hands them three beers. They take a sip.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 (loudly)
 What is this you call it? Beer?

Matt and Junior frown and smirk at him.

JUNIOR
 (to Billy)
 Aww, shut up and drink it.

BILLY

Thanks.

MATT

One beer and that's it for me.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - NIGHT - HOURS LATER

A CROWD of guys are around Matt while he chugs down a mug of beer.

CROWD

Chug! Chug! Chug!

Matt finishes it and slams the mug down on the table.

MATT

(slurring and hugs on Junior)
Whooh! Let's give it up for my man,
Willie, Jr..."The Thrill..y Jr.!"

The crowd cheers.

JUNIOR

(slurring)
Yeah, yeah! My last night of freedom!

BILLY

(to himself)
I really should be taking pics of them.
It'll be worth a whole lot of blackmail.

IKE

Last call, dudes!

MATT

"Last call"? Who's calling? Tell Rhonda I
ain't here!

The crowd laughs.

MATT (CONT'D)

Junior, you tell her!

JUNIOR

Nah, man, that's you! I did my time!

Matt and Junior continue laughing.

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT - LATER

Junior enters his house stumbling.

JUNIOR
 (in a singsong voice)
 I'm getting married! I'm getting hungry!

He gets food out of the fridge, puts it in the microwave,
 and turns it on.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
 I'm getting married! Don't need these
 papers anymore!

He opens a folder on the counter and pulls out some
 papers. He looks at them.

SFX: Microwave DINGS.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
 (normal voice)
 Uh oh.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Matt lies down on the couch with dark sunglasses on.
 Rhonda stands over him.

RHONDA
 Staying out all night, and now look at
 you! What do you have to say for
 yourself?

MATT
 Oh, come on, honey, I haven't partied
 like that since the Navy. And where's my
 coffee?

Cynthia enters with a mug and gives it to Matt.

CYNTHIA
 Here you go.

Junior enters the house.

JUNIOR
 Hey, guys.

CYNTHIA
 And here I go.

RHONDA
 Junior, shouldn't you be at a wedding?

CYNTHIA

(while exiting)

Maybe the bride found out who she was marrying.

JUNIOR

Well, that's kinda why I'm here. You might need to sit down.

RHONDA

(sitting down)

Oh boy, what foolishness is this now?

JUNIOR

(pulling out the divorce papers and sitting down)

Well, I was looking at our divorce papers here. I see your signature here, but I, well, don't see mine.

RHONDA

Let me see that.

She takes the papers from Junior. She and Matt read them.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

There's no signature from the judge on them, either.

MATT

So what does this mean?

JUNIOR

Without those things, I don't think the divorce is final! That means all those women that I married were done illegally! I could go to jail!

RHONDA

More important than that, you idiot, we could still be married!

MATT

Wait a minute, can't you just call the courts or something to verify this?

JUNIOR

I can, but there's another issue.

RHONDA

(sarcastically)

Even more great news than this?

JUNIOR

Mama Nelson was coming to town to see my new wife, but I told her that there is no new wife. But since there is no new wife, that means that I have the same old wife, and she thinks it's you.

RHONDA

And why would she think that?

JUNIOR

Because I told her that.

RHONDA

WHAT??

JUNIOR

Look, I'll tell her the truth, but it's way too complicated. And according to the papers here, it is true.

RHONDA

Okay, so why are you telling me about your mother? She's not coming anymore, right?

SFX: The doorbell RINGS.

Rhonda frowns at Junior.

JUNIOR

I want to say, "yes", but...

Matt walks to the door and opens it. Eric enters.

ERIC

Thanks, Matt. I forgot my keys.

MATT

Oh.

ERIC

(as he walks into the kitchen)

By the way, there's an old lady heading this way.

MATT

Hey, Junior, who am I in this whole scenario?

MAMA NELSON enters the open door.

MAMA NELSON

(to Matt)

Hello.

JUNIOR

Mom, hi! I see you've met our butler,
Matt.

MATT

Right, I'm a plain-clothes butler, ma'am.
In fact, I need to go to the store for
you Nelsons.

(to Junior)

I need some money from you, sir.

JUNIOR

Alright, here you go.

Junior hands Matt some cash from his wallet.

MATT

We have company, so I need a LOT more
money.

(sternly)

We don't want to be inconvenienced.

JUNIOR

Right, here.

Junior empties his wallet and gives it to Matt.

MATT

And the credit card just in case I go
over.

JUNIOR

Fine.

Junior gives it to him.

MATT

Pleasure, sir.

(to Rhonda)

Ma'am.

(to Mama Nelson)

Ma'am.

He leaves the house.

MAMA NELSON

Now there's a nice young man. He'll make
some woman happy.

RHONDA
Yeah, I love him.

Junior and Mama Nelson look at her.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
...I love him for his work ethic.

Rhonda walks away and sighs.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Matt sits at the bar and talks with Timmy, who tends it.

TIMMY
So Junior's there, and you're out?

MATT
Just until his mother leaves.

TIMMY
Well, you could use that to your
advantage. You're temporarily single now.

MATT
Whatchu talkin' bout, Timmy? I'm not
gonna cheat on my wife!

TIMMY
I'm not saying that. But this will give
you a chance to clear your head, take a
little vacation, go party.

MATT
Well, last night was fun. But is that
worth leaving home?

INT. BILLY'S DORM ROOM - EVENING

Billy and his girlfriend, SHARON, sit in front of a
candlelight dinner.

SHARON
Billy, the dinner is great, but are you
sure you're okay?

BILLY
Yeah, I'm fine. It's just my goof of a
dad is at home while my grandmother is in
town.

SHARON

You never told me your father was living!

BILLY

I know, wishful thinking on my part.

SHARON

Well, is there anything else that I should know?

BILLY

Mom, dad, little brother, pets...that's it.

Matt barges in the room, wearing sagging pants, a football jersey, sunglasses, and a backwards cap. He holds a suitcase.

MATT

What up, son? Stepson?

BILLY

(to Sharon)

Wanna dump me now or later?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Rhonda and Junior sit on the couch, and Mama Nelson sits on a chair, all sitting in silence. Rhonda twiddles her thumbs.

MAMA NELSON

So...

JUNIOR

Yep.

RHONDA

So, Mama Nelson, we haven't seen you since the wedding.

Rhonda catches herself while speaking. Junior nudges her to quiet her.

MAMA NELSON

That's true! My son never invited me over.

JUNIOR

Well, we've been on the road a lot, Mom!

MAMA NELSON

Yeah, because I know how much in demand one-hit wonders are. So what else have you guys been up to?

JUNIOR

Well, we got two healthy boys, one of them in college.

RHONDA

Yeah.

LONG SILENCE.

MAMA NELSON

So where is the one who's not in college?

Eric enters the living room.

RHONDA AND JUNIOR

(excitedly)

Right here!

Eric jumps in shock.

JUNIOR

Eric, you're going to set the table? Make sure there's a spot for me!

ERIC

What for?

RHONDA

(chuckles awkwardly)

Eric, is that any way to talk to your father?

ERIC

Well, yeah.

JUNIOR

(rapidly getting up and hugging Eric)

Aww, he's such a kidder! Mom, this is your grandson here.

Eric says hi, and Mama Nelson says hi back.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Forget the table. Just go out and play.

ERIC

Dad, I'm 14.

JUNIOR

Right, recapture your youth! Run along!

He pushes Eric out the front door.

EXT. OUTDOORS - CONTINUOUS

Eric meets his friend DIMMEY, 14.

DIMMEY

What's going on in there?

ERIC

They're acting crazy. Do you have the jump rope and your pet duck to stretch my body out?

DIMMEY

Yep.
(calling out)
Hey, Oliver!

Dimmey's pet duck OLIVER comes over with a jump rope.
(NOTE: Oliver always speaks telepathically, written in *italics*.)

OLIVER

At your service!

The three walk up to a tree. Dimmey takes the jump rope and ties one end to Oliver. He then ties the other end around Eric's legs.

DIMMEY

Okay, here we go. Now Eric, you hang on to the tree here, and Oliver will flap his wings to stretch you, you know, like a tug of war.

ERIC

You sure this will work?

DIMMEY

Not at all.

ERIC

Sounds good to me. Let's do it.

Eric holds on to the trunk of the tree. Oliver starts flapping his wings and tugging on the rope.

OLIVER
 (grunting)
*Maybe he should try some weight loss
 exercises first!*

DIMMEY
 Tell me again why you're doing this?

ERIC
 Look, I just want to get a little taller.
 I don't wanna be short for the rest of my
 life. Hey, stop, Oliver, my hands are
 slipping. I said...

Eric's hands slip off the trunk. Oliver stops, but Eric
 flies past him. The rope unties from Eric's legs, and
 Eric crashes off screen.

SFX: CARS BRAKING, CRASHING!

DIMMEY
 (running after Eric)
 Eric!

OLIVER
Do I still get pizza for helping out?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAYS LATER

Cynthia walks to the table where Junior, Rhonda, and Mama
 Nelson sit.

CYNTHIA
 And here's your dinner, Mrs. Nelson-
 Jame...Nelson.

RHONDA
 (under her breath)
 Thank you, Cynthia.

Cynthia goes back to the kitchen. The others eat.

MAMA NELSON
 Wow, Junior, ya'll have a butler and a
 housekeeper?

JUNIOR
 Well, yeah. We got it like that!

MAMA NELSON
 And I guess your butler has been off all
 this week, huh?

JUNIOR

Yep. That's why Cynthia is here. Working harder. Yeah.

MAMA NELSON

Well, you guys seem to have a lovely family.

JUNIOR

Yep, I love Rhonda like crazy!

MAMA NELSON

But I haven't seen you guys show any affection or anything.

RHONDA

(chuckles nervously)

Only in privacy. Where no one can know. No one at all.

MAMA NELSON

Well, we're all family here! Unless you're ashamed to kiss my son.

RHONDA

No.

(nervously to Junior)

Come here, you.

JUNIOR

Yes, dear.

Rhonda and Junior scoot their chairs closer to each other. They hesitantly lean to each other, quickly kiss, and go back to their places.

MAMA NELSON

Can you feel the love.

RHONDA AND JUNIOR

Mmm hmm.

MAMA NELSON

So how much longer are you two gonna pretend you're still married?

JUNIOR

What do you mean?

MAMA NELSON

Junior, you can't fool your mama! I just wanted to see you kiss.

RHONDA

How did you know?

MAMA NELSON

I follow him on social media. I know all about his failed marriages.

JUNIOR

Mom, I don't even follow social media.

MAMA NELSON

That's why your career isn't going anywhere. Well, that's one of the many, many reasons.

JUNIOR

Mom, I forgot to sign the divorce papers, so we're still married, I guess. We're trying to sort things out.

MAMA NELSON

Well, let Rhonda handle it because you're a buffoon.

JUNIOR

Agreed.

MAMA NELSON

And as for you, where is your real husband?

RHONDA

I'm not sure, but it's alright. I never have to worry about him.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Matt, wearing similar "hip-hop" gear as before, leads a crowd of partygoers in a line dance. Billy and Sharon sit down at a table with their hands on their heads, frustrated.

SHARON

Billy, your stepfather has been here every night this week!

BILLY

Not yesterday.

SHARON

Only because they were closed!

BILLY

Look, this is just a phase. He'll get out of it soon.

SHARON

But when will he get out of your place?

BILLY

I wish I knew.

MATT

(yelling out)

Yeah! Don't hurt nobody! Shake that thang! Woo-hoo!

A curvy FEMALE dances close to his body.

FEMALE

You brought your game tonight!

MATT

You too, baby!

FEMALE

So, what say we get outta here?

MATT

I say that's a good idea! Let me call my wi...oh.

FEMALE

What's wrong? I'm feeling you, I know you're feeling me.

(she looks down)

Literally.

MATT

(backs away quickly)

Yeah, but I kinda have a wife.

FEMALE

I'm okay with that.

MATT

But I'm not. Sorry.

He walks away.

MATT (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Well, that's it.

(calling out)

Alright, party's over! Everybody out!

The partygoers continue to dance.

MATT (CONT'D)
Why isn't anyone listening?

Billy and Sharon approach him.

BILLY
Because it's not your party?

MATT
Oh, right. Then I'll leave.

BILLY
Come on, Sharon.

Matt leaves the club. Billy and Sharon follow him out.
The DJ abruptly stops the music.

DJ
(on the microphone)
Alright, ya'll, he's gone!

The lights come on. The crowd hurries to different sides
of the room and brings chairs to the center of the room.
They all sit down and pull out some books.

DJ (CONT'D)
Okay, folks, so did everyone get a chance
to read Chapter 2?

A MAN raises his hand.

MAN
Yes, but I want to first discuss the
objective of the antagonist in Chapter 1.

The rest of the crowd clamor in agreement.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Eric lays down on the love seat. He has a cast on his
leg. SHANA, 16, signs it.

SHANA
(as she writes)
"Get well soon, Babycakes. Love, Shana".

ERIC
(as he writes underneath
Shana's signature)
"Quit calling me, 'Babycakes'".

SHANA

Why did you write that down?

ERIC

(sighs)

Just leave me alone.

SHANA

What made you do that dangerous stunt, anyway?

ERIC

I'm sick of being short. I stick out like a sore thumb!

SHANA

I'm a 5'10" half-white female. You think that I don't stick out?

ERIC

Whatever.

SHANA

Look, you can't do anything about your height, anyway, just like I can't. So just be happy with who you are.

ERIC

(sighs)

You may be right. Thanks.

SHANA

Besides, we can get together and make average-height babies!

ERIC

Don't make me renege on that compliment, Shana.

SHANA

All right. See ya, Babycakes.

Shana exits the house. Eric lays back down.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL MATT

Matt, wearing dark sunglasses, lies on the other couch near Eric.

MATT

You have a good woman there, Eric.

Eric grunts.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL JUNIOR

Junior walks to both of them.

JUNIOR
So do you, Matty.

MATT
Then why are you still here?

JUNIOR
To get my credit card.

MATT
Oh, I left it the club.

JUNIOR
Wait, don't they charge you more for that?

MATT
Yeah. My gift to you.
(chuckles, then holds his
head in pain)
Ow.

JUNIOR
Well, go get it back!

MATT
No. I'm staying far away from those clubs.

JUNIOR
It's just as well. Look, I go from woman to woman. You, Matty, you're not that way.

MATT
What are you saying?

JUNIOR
I get on Rhonda a lot, but you're lucky to have her. She's a sweet woman.

Rhonda marches up to Junior while hanging up her cellphone.

RHONDA
Junior, I'm gonna kill you!

JUNIOR
What's up?

RHONDA

I called the court secretary. Our divorce is final!

JUNIOR

(pulling out the divorce papers)

But I forgot to sign these!

Rhonda looks at the papers.

RHONDA

Fool, this says, "Copy"! I signed first, then you got served!

ERIC

Dad, you must have signed them afterward.

JUNIOR

Oops.

RHONDA

"Oops"?!

JUNIOR

Hey, look at it this way: Matt had a chance to party, and you and me had a chance to bond!

RHONDA

My foot is gonna bond with your butt if you don't get outta here!

JUNIOR

Alright, alright, later!

Junior runs out of the house.

RHONDA

You see what I had to deal with?

MATT

Well, you don't have to worry no more. I love you. That's why I came back.

RHONDA

You came back because Billy kicked you out.

MATT

I was heading back here anyway!

RHONDA

Well, I'm sorry I gave you a hard time.

MATT

Fine, dear. I just wanna rest. I still feel sick.

RHONDA

Or "hung over", but okay.

MATT

(calling out)

Hey, Cynthia, where's my coffee?

Cynthia enters.

CYNTHIA

Sorry, sir, but Mrs. Nelson-James ordered me to take her out clubbin'!

MATT

What?

RHONDA

You had a chance to party like a teenager, now it's my turn! Especially with the week I had! Don't wait up!

Rhonda and Cynthia laugh and exit the house. Matt sighs.

MATT

Well, at least we can rest now.

ERIC

Yeah.

Eddie chases Whiskers and Friskers. All of them hop on Matt's stomach and cause him to retch.

MATT

Excuse me!

Matt runs away. Eric laughs until Eddie, Whiskers, and Friskers run into his cast.

ERIC

Ow!

THE END