

ERIC

"Matt the James"

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INT. NELSON HOUSE - MATT AND RHONDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, sleeps in the bed. Her husband, MATT JAMES, 40's, rolls over and spoons her. Rhonda trembles.

RHONDA

That better be the TV remote.

MATT

It is.

He pulls out the remote and shows her.

RHONDA

Oh.

MATT

But now that you're up...

RHONDA

(slowly gets up)

Matt, I gotta work in the morning! I know you don't, but...I mean...

MATT

Just for that, you should give me some.

RHONDA

(sighs)

All right, fine, but make it quick.

MATT

You don't have to tell me twice!

He goes into his nightstand drawer.

MATT (CONT'D)

Uh oh.

RHONDA

What?

MATT

Uh, honey, I appear to be out of condoms.

RHONDA

What do you mean? You had one left in the box.

MATT

I don't know!

RHONDA  
 (scoffs)  
 And to think I trusted you!

MATT  
 Trust? What are you doing counting my  
 condoms in my drawer?

RHONDA  
 (softly, smiling)  
 We shouldn't be arguing, dear.

MATT  
 Right. I got an idea. Hold on.

He hops out of bed.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Matt sneaks into his stepson ERIC NELSON'S, 16, bedroom.  
 Eric sleeps in his bed. Matt opens Eric's dresser drawer  
 and pulls out a condom.

MATT  
 (whispers)  
 Thank you, Eric!

Matt quickly tiptoes back into his room and into bed with  
 Rhonda.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 Alright, honey, let's do this.

RHONDA  
 Where'd you get a condom from?

MATT  
 From Eric's drawer. Now come on.

Rhonda turns around and faces Matt.

RHONDA  
 What??

MATT  
 I said, "From my wallet."

RHONDA  
 Eric has condoms? And you knew?

MATT  
 (babbles)  
 I...I...

RHONDA

You don't think that's an issue? We already have one grandbaby on the way!

MATT

Come on, Eric will be fine, as long as he uses these!

RHONDA

I don't want him to use these!

MATT

But what 16-year-old do you know that doesn't have...

Rhonda frowns at him.

MATT (CONT'D)

(sighs)

No action tonight?

RHONDA

The only one getting action in this house will probably be Eric!

She lays back down and rolls over. Matt does the same, but rolls over in the opposite direction.

MATT

(sotto voce)

Damn Eric.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

SFX: BANGING on the door!

Eric runs downstairs to the door.

ERIC

Who's banging like this?!

Eric opens the door. A man named HAROLD stands there.

HAROLD

Hey, shorty. Where's William P. Nelson, Jr.?

ERIC

He ain't here. What's the deal with you banging on our door?

HAROLD

Don't change the subject, and don't lie. Your mailbox clearly says, "The Nelsons" on it. Now he owes me \$20! Where is he?

ERIC

He doesn't live here anymore. He's up in Madison now.

MATT

What's going on down here?

HAROLD

(points to Matt)  
Oh yeah, then who is that?

ERIC

That's just my stepfather!

Eric GASPS and looks at Matt.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hey, Matt, I didn't mean it like that!

HAROLD

Whoa, that's cold!  
(walks away)  
The nerve of some folks.

ERIC

Matt, I'm sorry, you gotta believe me.

MATT

It's okay, son. Let's just eat breakfast.

ELEANOR DUMBECK, 17, walks into the house.

ELEANOR

Cool, don't mind if I do!

ERIC

Eleanor, what are you doing here?

MATT

Yeah, don't your butlers and maids feed you enough?

ELEANOR

Oh, they always do, but after a while, it starts to feel hi-hat.

ERIC

(to Eleanor)  
Old hat.

ELEANOR

No need to call me names, Eric. Besides, you're only a little younger than me!

ERIC

Just sit down.

The three walk to the dining room table. CYNTHIA McNAIR, the maid, approaches them.

MATT

Cynthia, please set up an extra place at the table.

CYNTHIA

You got it, Mr. James.

She leaves.

ELEANOR

Wow, who else is coming, Mr. James?

Rhonda approaches the table.

RHONDA

Good morning, everybody. Eleanor, what a surprise.

ELEANOR

Mrs. Nelson-James! You can have my seat!

Eleanor hops out.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Really, Mr. James, you couldn't save your own wife a seat?

MATT

(mutters to Rhonda)

It's too early for her, dear!

RHONDA

Oh, leave her alone. By the way, did you talk to your son yet?

MATT

Right.

(to Eric)

Eric, what do you know about, you know, the birds and the bees?

ERIC

A good deal. We learn it at school, why?

MATT

No reason. I just saw some condoms in your drawer. While I was putting up laundry.

ERIC

But Cynthia puts up our laundry.

MATT

That's not the point, son. I...

ELEANOR

(to Matt)

Mr. James, can I?

(puts her hand on Eric's shoulder)

What your stepdad is trying to say is that you need to practice avalanche.

ERIC

"Avalanche"?

ELEANOR

Yeah, when it's time, make sure it's with the one you'll make your wife. You don't wanna end up like your real father!

Eric gets up.

ERIC

Goodbye, Eleanor.

Eric pulls her to the front door.

ELEANOR

Wait, wait!

ERIC

What is it?

ELEANOR

Does your brother ever ask about me?

ERIC

Go!

ELEANOR

I just want closure!

Eric pushes her out the door and shuts it.

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

Thank you.

Cynthia walks back into the living room with her cell phone.

CYNTHIA

Rhonda, I just saw this on the news.

Rhonda looks at her.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

(rolls her eyes)

Yes, I punched out. But there seems to be some kind of virus from Guatemala that ended up here in Milwaukee. Whoever comes in contact with it should quarantine at home.

RHONDA

That's ridiculous. Did you hear that, honey?

Rhonda turns to the chair that Matt was in, which is now empty.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Honey?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - MATT AND RHONDA'S BEDROOM - SAME

Matt lays on the bed and stares at the ceiling. He sighs.

MATT

God, what is my purpose for being here?

A cloud of smoke appears. Harp music PLAYS in the background. A man emerges from the smoke who is dressed like GOD with long hair, a beard, and white rags, but his face and body resemble that of Matt's friend, TIMMY ROBERTS.

GOD

You called?

MATT

Timmy? Why are you dressed like that?

GOD

I'm not Timmy. I'm God. I'm just in a form that you would recognize.

MATT

Why?



GOD  
You're questioning God?

MATT  
No! Sorry.

GOD  
You do have a purpose in this world, and I'm here to show you. Let's take a trip to the future.

MATT  
But I didn't even wash up yet. Can I at least comb my hair?

God looks at Matt's head.

GOD  
(chuckles)  
Why start now?

Matt prepares to pick him up by his collar.

MATT  
Oh, that's right, you're God now. Fine, let's just go.

SFX: God SNAPS his fingers.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - CONTINUOUS

They immediately appear in Timmy's Place.

MATT  
I was hoping you would fly me here.

GOD  
That's guardian angels, Ghosts of Christmases, and such. God cuts to the chase. Now pay attention to that good-looking guy over there.

God points to Timmy, who addresses a crowded restaurant.

TIMMY  
Ladies and gentlemen, here in 2035, few thought he would make it this far. But I always believed in him. My friend, my buddy...

MATT  
Aww.

TIMMY  
 ...Eric Nelson, AKA DJ Illson!

The crowd APPLAUDS. An OLDER Eric approaches Timmy, hugs him, and addresses the crowd.

OLD ERIC  
 Thank you! I just like to say that  
 because my DJ business took off, I have  
 enough money to revamp Timmy's Place!  
 Now, he can serve a better burger!

The crowd APPLAUDS.

OLD ERIC (CONT'D)  
 And I can move my family to a bigger  
 house!

The crowd APPLAUDS some more.

OLD ERIC (CONT'D)  
 Speaking of family, there are my 18 kids  
 right there with their mother, Berniece!

BERNIECE WILLIAMS stands with the kids. OLDER VERSIONS of  
 Matt and Rhonda are also present.

MATT  
 (to God)  
 18 kids?!

GOD  
 Yeah. You never taught Eric about  
 waiting, so he and Berniece got to work  
 right away!

One of Old Eric's sons, ERIC JR., approaches Old Matt.

ERIC JR.  
 Grampa, can I borrow \$5?

OLD MATT  
 Oh, sorry, sonny, I don't have it on me  
 right now.

OLD ERIC  
 It's okay, Eric Jr. He's just your step-  
 grandpa! I have plenty money! Here!

He opens his wallet, and it overflows with piles of money  
 that lands on the floor. The audience OOHS and AHHS.

SFX: God SNAPS his fingers.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - MATT AND RHONDA'S BEDROOM -  
CONTINUOUS

They appear back in the bedroom.

MATT

Aww, I wanted to try one of Timmy's  
improved burgers.

GOD

Oh yeah. First time for everything,  
right?

MATT

I thought you were gonna show me that my  
life had a purpose.

GOD

Well, that was before your son dissed  
you.

Matt looks confused.

GOD (CONT'D)

Hey, I don't know everything!

SFX: RINGING sound.

GOD (CONT'D)

Doorbell!

MATT

Huh?

The ringing becomes Matt's cell phone chimes. Matt  
awakens from what was a dream.

MATT (CONT'D)

Wow, I'm even broke in my dreams!

Matt sits up and answers his phone.

INTERCUT - MATT AND RHONDA'S BEDROOM/PIERRE'S ROOM

Matt talks to his older brother, PIERRE JAMES.

MATT

Hello?

PIERRE

What's goin' on, little bro?

MATT

Nothing, Pierre, just dozed off. How's everybody?

PIERRE

Our sisters are out shopping, Mom's cooking Thanksgiving dinner, you know. But I understand if you can't make it. You and your family and all.

MATT

I didn't say that. How's Dad?

PIERRE

All right, I guess. You know he's still trying to get back in the music business. But he spends all his nights at the club, and...

MATT

What??

PIERRE

Yeah, it's kinda sad, to tell you the truth.

MATT

Damn right it is! We need to get him out of there and bring him back home!

PIERRE

For real?

MATT

Yeah. I'm gonna pack a bag. I'm already there!

PIERRE

Don't you have to ask Rhonda first?

MATT

(clicks his tongue)

Shoot. I don't have to ask her! I'm the man, and I'll do what I wanna!

PIERRE

Okay, now keep on practicing that until you believe it. Come on now.

MATT

Shut up.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Rhonda opens the front door, where OFFICER YVETTE TOWNSEND, 40's, a short, big-boned black lady, stands. Townsend positions herself so her right arm isn't in Rhonda's view.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Hey, Rhonda! I got good news!

RHONDA

What's up, 'Vette?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

I captured my first real criminal! Oh, you should have seen me! Your girl was in action!

ERIC

(to Cynthia, sotto voce)

I would have wanted to see that.

Cynthia chuckles.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

It was some guy from Guatemala. I wrestled him down and everything. But there's just one issue.

RHONDA

What?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Have you seen my key to my handcuffs? I couldn't put them on him, and he got away.

ERIC

Officer Townsend, did you say, "Guatemala"?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah!

(sneezes)

Excuse me.

RHONDA

(backs away)

Oh no! Stay away from us, 'Vette! I'll see you later!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

What's the problem? Oh, that virus thing? It's just a rumor.

CYNTHIA

But what if it isn't?

ERIC

Then you'll have to quarantine at home...or here.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

But if I head home, I risk spreading it to everyone else! And what if I have to arrest someone else?

Everyone BREAKS OUT LAUGHING.

OFFICER TOWNSEND (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, but seriously, maybe I should just play it safe and stay here for a bit.

RHONDA

(sighs)

Fine. Cynthia, I guess we'll have one more person joining us for Thanksgiving dinner.

GRETCHEN "GRETCH" JACKSON, a big, gruff, Caucasian bully, steps from behind a corner and next to Townsend. They are both handcuffed together.

GRETCH

Make that two.

RHONDA

Huh?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah, about that key thing...

Rhonda throws up her hands in disbelief. Matt approaches them.

MATT

Rhonda...

(gently)

...honey, how would you feel if I went down to Kenosha for Thanksgiving?

RHONDA

What?

MATT

Pierre just called. Dad needs me.

ERIC  
 (approaching them)  
 Matt, this has nothing to do with what I  
 said, does it?

RHONDA  
 (to Eric)  
 What did you say?

MATT  
 It's not important, and no, it doesn't,  
 Eric. But I gotta help Dad.

RHONDA  
 Can't Pierre help him?

ERIC  
 Yeah, then you can stay and have  
 Thanksgiving dinner with us!

GRETCH  
 Oh yeah, Nelsons, I like dark meat.  
 (to Townsend)  
 Don't get any ideas.

OFFICER TOWNSEND  
 Hmmph. Well, you are a jailbird.

Rhonda looks at Gretch and Townsend, frowns, then quickly  
 turns back to Matt.

RHONDA  
 (to Matt)  
 Drive safely.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Matt unlocks the front door and enters.

MATT  
 (calls out)  
 Mom? Pierre?

Pierre comes downstairs. Their mother, MARGARET JAMES,  
 enters from the kitchen and hugs Matt.

MARGARET  
 Matt, honey! What a surprise!

MATT  
 Hey, Mom. I know you're upset about Dad  
 being gone.

MARGARET

I am?

PIERRE

Yeah, Mom, remember?

MATT

But I'm here for the weekend. We'll get him back.

MARGARET

Okay, whatever. I'm gonna finish dinner.

She exits.

MATT

She's doing a good job holding it together.

PIERRE

Yeah. Have a seat.

Matt sits on the couch. Pierre pulls out a VCR tape.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Did I ever show you this? Dad's first performance?

MATT

No. I heard about it, though.

PIERRE

This aired on TV right before you were born.

Pierre loads the VCR, presses "PLAY", and sits next to Matt.

ON THE TV

SFX: GROWING, TYMPANI ROLLS.

The graphics saying, "SPECIAL PRESENTATION", slowly emerges from the black background.

BACK TO JAMES HOUSE

PIERRE

(chuckles)

I used to be scared of this when I was little.



Matt chuckles with him. Pierre stops, then looks worried. He starts to get up.

PIERRE (CONT'D)  
Oh, make it stop!

MATT  
Sit down!

Matt pulls Pierre back down.

ON THE TV

MONTAGE - "WORD UP" OPENING CREDITS

(NOTE: The following is a parody of the '70s-'80s variety show, "Hee Haw".)

-- A cartoonish cat takes a 40 oz. of malt liquor and chugs it. He lets go and starts to clear his throat. The ANNOUNCER speaks.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
A-yo, cool cats! Break out your 40's, and  
get ready to call Earl! Tell 'em it's  
time for...

The cat readies to vomit and turns his open mouth to the camera. Instead of vomit, the graphics, "WORD UP" appear on the screen. PEOPLE scream the title.

PEOPLE (V.O.)  
..."Word Up"!!

SFX: Hip-hop music PLAYS in the background.

The announcer names each cast member and guest. A shot of each person looking at the camera appears simultaneously.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
With Mack the Booster...

A black man stands with television sets, radio systems, and other various items behind him. He gives a thumbs-up.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
...The Polka Dot Guys...

A white man and a black man, wearing black and white polka dot shirts, stand side by side with their hands folded and a mean expression on their faces.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 ...Old Man Herman and the Ghetto Kids...

An old, black man sticks his head out of the window of his house, frowning. A group of black kids stand on his lawn next to the window, smiling.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 ...Loni and the Happy Heifer...

A black lady in overalls stands in a field with a cow. She smiles and waves to the camera.

ANNOUNCER  
 ...Ron-Ron and Junior the Second...

Two black middle-aged guys sit on stoops in front of a gate, each holding a 40 oz. of malt liquor.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 ...Belinda the Blind Psychic...

A black lady with a turban and dark sunglasses sits behind a table with a crystal ball.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 ...Donovan the Stand-Up Comedian Dog...

A dog sits on a stage, in front of a microphone.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 ...the "Word Up" Ballet Dancers...

A group of people in tights pose for the camera.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 ...and in his network television  
 premiere, MC JustSayNo!

Matt and Pierre's father, DAMON JAMES, as "MC JUSTSAYNO", folds his arms, and poses for the camera.

END OF MONTAGE

BACK TO JAMES HOUSE

MATT  
 "MC JustSayNo"?

PIERRE  
 Yeah, catchy, huh?

ON THE TV

RON-RON and JUNIOR THE SECOND sit on the stoop in front of the gate, drinking their malt liquor. Both speak with a slow drawl.

RON-RON

Me and my girl made love last night.

JUNIOR THE SECOND

Word?

RON-RON

So much that she hit her head on the headboard and passed out.

JUNIOR THE SECOND

Oh no! Did she come to?

RON-RON

(sighs)

No. Just me.

SFX: The studio audience GROANS and LAUGHS. A stake from the gate falls and PLOPS Ron-Ron on top of his head.

CUT TO THE GHETTO KIDS

A BOY and a GIRL from The Ghetto Kids stand together.

GIRL

Hey! You can't say that on television!

BOY

Really? I didn't know that.

SFX: A bucket of milk DOWNPOURS on top of the boy. The girl GIGGLES. The studio audience LAUGHS.

CUT TO MACK

MACK THE BOOSTER stands in front of the camera and addresses it.

MACK THE BOOSTER

(laughs)

And now, MC JustSayNo!

SFX: Audience APPLAUDS. Hip-hop music PLAYS in the background.

MC JustSayNo runs onto the stage with a mic in his hand. He dons a tracksuit, black shades, and a fat gold chain.

DAMON/MC JUSTSAYNO

(raps)

Say nope to dope, crack is wack/Get high?  
Don't try/JustSayNo's got your back!

BACK TO JAMES HOUSE

Damon continues to rap on the TV, while his sons continue talking.

PIERRE

Dad wowed the crowd, and that started a run of countless hits. Man, he could sing the ABC's, and it would go platinum!

MATT

I thought he did.

Matt pulls out a vinyl album cover. It has MC JustSayNo in a black cap and gown in front of a chalkboard. He holds a stick up to the chalkboard which reads, "ALPHA-BETTER".

PIERRE

No, that only went gold. You're thinking about this one, released around the same time.

Pierre pulls out a vinyl album cover. It has a sexy woman on a telephone. The album cover reads, "HI, THIS IS MC JUSTSAYNO. I'M NOT AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW, BUT PLEASE LEAVE YOUR MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP, AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU."

MATT

Oh. So what happened to Dad's career, anyway?

PIERRE

His name was JustSayNo. Dr. Dre's "Chronic" became a hit. You do the math!

MATT

Alright, so what happened then?

PIERRE

His career faded out, he joined the Navy, then retired. And now, he's hanging out at...

MATT  
...the club! What's the name of it?

PIERRE  
The Happening.

Matt gets up.

MATT  
Come on, let's get him.

PIERRE  
Look, Matt, I don't know about this. It's  
a lot of young folks there.

MATT  
You serious? We can hang with them! Come  
on.

PIERRE  
(claps his hands)  
You're right!

Pierre shoots out of his seat.

PIERRE (CONT'D)  
But gimme an hour. I need to take a nap.

MATT  
Yeah, me too.

They both head upstairs.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Eric, his brother, BILLY NELSON, 20's, and Rhonda sit at the table and eat their dinner. Officer Townsend and Gretch, still handcuffed together, sit on the couch in the living room with their food on TV trays, struggling to eat together. They both lift the same handcuffed hand together.

OFFICER TOWNSEND  
Hey!

GRETCH  
I can't eat with my left hand!

OFFICER TOWNSEND  
Well, I can't eat with my right hand!

GRETCH

You can eat with your hands, feet, your stomach if you could!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

That's enough out of you, Gretch!

RHONDA

Both of ya'll stop it! You're lucky we're letting you eat here!

BILLY

So, Mom, Eric told me what happened. Want me to smack him around for ya?

ERIC

No, we need to find a way to make Matt feel more like part of the family. He's the man of the house.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Rhonnie, can I get some more chitlins?  
(to Gretch)  
You wouldn't know anything about that.

GRETCH

Please. My black friend in Racine used to make them all the time.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(gasps)  
Why yo' friend gotta be black, huh??

GRETCH

'Cuz...she's...black?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah? Well, you just watch it, Jackson.

ERIC

Billy, you thinking what I'm thinking?

BILLY

I think so.

ERIC

Let's change our last name to "James"!

PAUSE.

BILLY

You mean on Facebook?

ERIC

No! Let's go down to whatever office or court next week and get it legally changed!

RHONDA

Wow. Are you sure you wanna do that? Have the both of you talked about this?

BILLY

We will now. Excuse us.

Billy grabs Eric by the arm, and they head upstairs.

ERIC

Ow! Hey, I wanted some more chitlins, too!

RHONDA

That reminds me, when are you two gonna accept my friend requests?

BILLY (O.S.)

Sorry, Mom, can't hear you, we left the room!

SFX: Door SLAMS off-screen.

EXT. THE HAPPENING - EVENING

A long line of partygoers form outside of the club. Matt and Pierre, wearing sweaters, buttoned shirts underneath, and slacks, walk to the front. Dance music PLAYS from inside.

MATT

Look at this line! I told you we should've got here earlier!

PIERRE

I was looking for my bowtie!

MATT

Let me handle this.

They approach the BOUNCER.

MATT (CONT'D)

My dude, listen, me, my brother, and my friend...

He pulls out a dollar from his wallet and hands it to the bouncer.

MATT (CONT'D)  
...Washington, have someplace to be.

They begin to walk to the entrance. The bouncer stops them.

BOUNCER  
Yeah, not here!

PIERRE  
We're only here to look for our father.

BOUNCER  
You two look like you are someone's fathers!

MATT  
I'll have you know that we've been goin' to clubs since you were in diapers!

BOUNCER  
That's not the flex you think it is.

PIERRE  
(to Matt)  
Come here.

They stand to the side.

PIERRE (CONT'D)  
I may not have been truthful about where Dad is.

MATT  
What? Then where is he, Pierre?

PIERRE  
That casino across the street.

MATT  
Then let's go!

They begin to walk. Matt turns back to the bouncer.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Hey, can I get that dollar back?

The bouncer looks at Matt angrily. Pierre pulls Matt away.



INT. CASINO LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

Matt and Pierre enter the lounge. A few people sit, drink and smoke.

MATT

So this is the place? For real?

PIERRE

Yeah, check it out.

Pierre points to Damon, who performs on stage wearing a leisure suit. He raps a part of Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back", as a small band PLAYS behind him.

DAMON

Turn it out!/Stick it out!/Even white  
boys have to shout!/Baby Got Back!

(speaking)

Yes, folks, the kitchen is serving baby  
back ribs as the entree tonight. Oh, look  
over there! It's two of my kids. Pierre  
and his brother, coming up from  
Milwaukee...

MATT

Down!

DAMON

Whatever! Matt James, ya'll!

SFX: Audience CLAPS.

MATT

(to Pierre)

Dad's a lounge singer?

PIERRE

Lounge rapper!

MATT

No amount of money is worth this!

PIERRE

Money?

MATT

(in a curious manner)

Yeah. Dad's getting paid, right?

PAUSE.

PIERRE

In drinks.

MATT

What?!

DAMON

So enjoy the ribs, but you gotta wash it down, too. So...

The band SWITCHES UP the music to an instrumental of Rupert Holmes's "Escape (The Piña Colada Song)".

DAMON (CONT'D)

(sings)

If you like piña coladas...

SFX: Sparse CLAPPING from the audience.

DAMON (CONT'D)

(shouts out)

Thank you!

(sings)

...and gettin' caught in the rain.

PIERRE

Okay, he's a lounge singer-slash-rapper.

MATT

We gotta talk to the manager.

They both exit. Damon continues singing.

INT. CASINO LOUNGE - BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Matt and Pierre march up to Damon's manager, MR. GRIFFIN, and his two buff BODYGUARDS.

MATT

Excuse me, are you Damon James's manager?

MR. GRIFFIN

Oh, Dame James? Yeah. Mr. Griffin at your service!

MATT

Well, he's our father. What's this about you not paying him?

MR. GRIFFIN

We pay him in drinks, food, etc. Haven't you heard of the Chitlin Circuit?

MATT

Yeah, in the '70s! Look, you need to pay him what he's worth, and now!

The bodyguards approach Matt.

BODYGUARD #1

(deep voice)

Look, boy, you better leave, before you get knocked out.

MATT

Then you'll just have to knock me out. I'm his son, and I'm not going anywhere.

He and Bodyguard #1 stare at each other. The bodyguard turns his body, then quickly reverts and SMACKS Matt to the ground.

PIERRE

Ooh, what a way to go.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S BEDROOM - LATER

Eric and Billy walk around and talk.

BILLY

So because you insulted Matt, we have to change our names?

ERIC

Yeah. Problem?

BILLY

Eric, I don't wanna change my last name! It's part of a legacy!

ERIC

(scoffs)

Some legacy! Our father only comes around to bug us or when he needs something!

BILLY

But if my baby is a boy, I might want to name him, "William P. Nelson IV".

ERIC

Please, ain't having three of ya'll bad enough?

BILLY

Look, I'm not gonna do it. It wouldn't feel right! Now go away. I have to call my girlfriend and her boyfriend.

Eric exits the room. Rhonda approaches him.

RHONDA  
I see he took it well!

ERIC  
He might come around.

RHONDA  
Eric, it's very admirable what you're suggesting, but it'll change you forever. I'd think about it a little more.

Rhonda walks away. Eleanor approaches him wearing a chef's hat and carrying a turkey.

ELEANOR  
Aw, thinking's overrated. Take it from me.

ERIC  
Eleanor, what are you doing here?

ELEANOR  
Spreading Turkey Day cheer!

ERIC  
But we already had dinner.

ELEANOR  
Oh no, you can't be done yet! I brought a turkey and everything!

ERIC  
What, a pre-cooked turkey?

PAUSE.

ELEANOR  
Uh, I need to use your kitchen.

Eleanor hurries away. Eric sighs.

INT. CASINO LOUNGE - BACKSTAGE - LATER

Matt sits with a raw steak on his black eye. Pierre stands next to him.

PIERRE  
Hey, at least you're having steak tonight!

He chuckles. Matt looks at him angrily. Damon approaches them.

DAMON

What the hell, guys? You trying to get me fired?

Matt puts the steak down on the table and stands up.

MATT

Dad, to get fired, you have to be working, and if you were working, you would be getting paid!

DAMON

I get paid! Just not in money. You know, like the Chitlin Circuit.

MATT

But you're a lounge singer!

DAMON

"Lounge rapper-slash-singer". Which makes me a trail blazer!

MATT

I can't believe none of this bothers you!

DAMON

I still get my retirement money. I'm good! Plus, I get to relive my dreams before the Navy!

MATT

Oh.

DAMON

Now if you're gonna stay, stay, but don't mess things up anymore. I'm really winning the crowd over!

PIERRE

See ya at home, Dad.

Damon exits.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Look, Matt, he's happy, and Mom's happy, so why don't you just let him be?

MATT

Pierre, you're the one who had me come all the way out here!

PIERRE  
 No, you did that all by yourself!  
 (pause)  
 I just didn't stop you.

MATT  
 What??

PIERRE  
 Well, I hardly see you anymore!

MATT  
 (sighs)  
 Well, you should have been honest with me  
 and asked me to come down. Then I would  
 have politely said, "No".

Both chuckle, shake hands, and hug each other.

PIERRE  
 You wanna stay?

MATT  
 No, Dad's making me lose my appetite.  
 Let's go home.

They approach the exit. Pierre points to Matt's steak.

PIERRE  
 Take your steak to go.

MATT  
 Whatever!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Matt enters the house.

MATT  
 Honey, I'm home!

Gretch and Officer Townsend, still handcuffed, sit on the  
 couch and watch TV.

GRETCH  
 What did you bring me, honey?

Rhonda approaches Matt.

MATT  
 (signals to Gretch and  
 Townsend)  
 Rhonda...?

RHONDA  
They'll be gone soon.

Eleanor enters from the kitchen, still wearing the chef's hat.

ELEANOR  
Hey, Mr. James, welcome back!

MATT  
And what are you doing here?

ELEANOR  
Making a turkey, duh!

She goes back into the kitchen.

RHONDA  
Her too.

Eric and Billy enter the front door with a shopping bag.

ERIC  
Hey, Matt! The man we wanted to see!

MATT  
What's up?

BILLY  
Me and Eric talked it over, and we wanna show our appreciation to you.

ERIC  
So we went to the Black Friday sale and picked up this!

Eric pulls out a mailbox that says, "JAMES/NELSON".

RHONDA  
Oh, look at that!

ERIC  
Yeah, pretty cool, huh?

MATT  
(sighs)  
But guys, I like being part of the Nelsons! As long as ya'll like being part of the Jameses.

BILLY  
Well, yeah.

RHONDA  
 (to Matt)  
 You sure about that, honey?

MATT  
 Yep!  
 (to the boys)  
 So just go on and get your money back.

ERIC  
 Well, they don't do cash refunds on  
 embroidered...

The three look at Eric.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 (subdued)  
 We'll talk to the manager.

He chuckles nervously.

OFFICER TOWNSEND  
 Hey, this is all very touching, but can  
 you keep it down? The Cowboys are taking  
 the field!

GRETCH  
 Yeah! And I could use a beer, too!

Eleanor reenters.

ELEANOR  
 Guys, please! I need to microwave my  
 turkey in peace!

MATT  
 That's it!!

He grabs the remote and SHUTS the TV off.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 Everybody who's not part of the Nelson  
 family, get out!

ELEANOR  
 Aw, Mr. James, we're not part of your  
 family?

She walks towards Gretch and Townsend. The three of them  
 give him "puppy eyes".



MATT

(sighs)

Everybody whose last name isn't James or Nelson, please leave.

ELEANOR

(to Billy, pointing to herself and him)

That could have been us, Billy.

MATT

(to Eleanor)

Out!!

ELEANOR

Fine! I'm taking my Butterball and going home!

She marches into the kitchen.

MATT

(to Gretch and Townsend)

What are ya'll waiting for?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

But we might be contagious! What if somebody catches the virus from us?

MATT

I'm gonna catch a case if you don't get outta here!

Rhonda holds Matt back. Gretch and Townsend begin to fumble around and drag each other out the door.

GRETCH

Some host!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(to Rhonda)

Later, girl.

They exit.

MATT

And as for you, Eric, you keep it in your pants until you're grown! You hear me?

ERIC

(sighs)

Yes, sir.

RHONDA

Well, there's the Matt I've been missing!

MATT

I ain't been nowhere! Now, you, me,  
upstairs, now!

Rhonda cuts her eyes at Matt.

MATT (CONT'D)

(chuckles nervously)

When you're ready.

Rhonda exits to the kitchen. The boys smirk at Matt.

MATT (CONT'D)

I believe in a woman's right to choose!

(to Eric)

And you don't need any more influences!

Matter fact, give me all the condoms in  
your drawer!

ERIC

Dang it!

Eric begins to head to his room. Billy chuckles at him as  
Billy dials on his cell phone. Eleanor enters with her  
turkey on a tray.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(to Billy, mockingly)

Ha ha ha!

(to Matt)

Hey, Matt, your son's involved in a  
threesome!

Matt and Eleanor GASP. Matt looks at Billy shockingly.

BILLY

(to Matt, stammers)

But I...

Eleanor walks to Eric.

ELEANOR

It's okay, Eric. I won't judge you.

Eleanor begins to exit the house. Eric looks at her  
angrily.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

(sotto voce)

I knew I dated the wrong Nelson.

INT. MARTY'S ROOM - LATER

MARTY O'DELL, 20's, a tall, buff, football player, puts his cell phone down. He talks with a woman off-screen as he walks in her direction.

MARTY

Alright, honey. He's on his way. Now, are you sure you wanna go through with this? No strings attached?

The woman that he is talking to is SHARON ROSS, Billy's ex-girlfriend and soon-to-be baby's mother.

SHARON

Look at me. Does it look like I need any more attachments?

The FETUS in her stomach speaks telepathically.

FETUS

Uh oh. Whose thing do I have to deal with now, knocking me upside the head?

THE END