

ERIC

"Sharon Ross's Lay Off"

By E.J. Rupert

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INT. ERIC'S HOME - BEDROOM - MORNING

SFX: Alarm BLASTS!

ERIC NELSON, 17, black, wakes up from bed and shuts it off. He turns to the camera and breaks the "fourth wall".

ERIC

Hey, what's up, ya'll? They call me Eric... 'cuz that's my name.

He gets out of bed.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I don't get to talk to you guys that often, so listen up. Today's Martin Luther King Day, and if you're like me, you don't have school today. But that don't mean you don't have to learn anything today. There are three important things that you can do today to illustrate this:

Eric sits on the right side of the screen. As he talks, words appear on the left side of the screen, along with a DING sound, parodying the film, "Ferris Beuller's Day Off".

SUPER: "THREE WAYS TO CELEBRATE MLK DAY"

ERIC

One: you can read up on King's famous speeches.

SUPER: "1. READ UP ON MLK'S SPEECHES"

ERIC

Two: Binge all of the MLK-related episodes of your favorite sitcoms.

SUPER: "2. BINGE MLK-RELATED EPISODES"

ERIC

Or three: Fake emotion to get free stuff from white people.

SUPER: "3. FAKE EMOTION TO WHITE PEOPLE"

ERIC

(fake sobbing)

"Is this what our ancestors fought for??"

(regular voice)

That's what me and my brother, Billy, are gonna do today! Lots of freebies to be had!

SFX: Horn HONK!

Eric looks out the window. He steps away, then walks back into the camera's view. He signals to the camera to follow him.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Eric hops in the passenger's seat of the car. His brother, BILLY, 20's, is in the driver's seat.

ERIC

Ready for our annual empathy trip, Billy?

BILLY

"You guys?? Who you callin', 'You guys'??"

ERIC

A little better.

BILLY

I've been practicing!

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

Eric and Billy drive down the street.

ERIC

Hey, let's stop at Sharon's job and get some food.

BILLY

Fine, as long as I don't have to see or talk to her.

They approach Subs n' Such, a sandwich shop.

ERIC

The parking lot looks empty.

Eric and Billy see dark lights through the store's windows.

ERIC (CONT'D)

They're closed?

BILLY

Looks like they got more customers than when they're open.

They drive off. An old lady, MILDRED, black, slowly approaches the shop.

MILDRED

I know these heifers didn't close the store! Them worthless pieces of...

PAULETTA, black, enters from the other direction.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Hey, Pauletta, honey! Good mornin' to ya!

PAULETTA

Hello, Mildred. This place ain't open?

MILDRED

That's what I was waiting on you for.

PAULETTA

Oh, no, dear, I'm here to get my check. Hmmph. We're usually opening and closing and opening by now.

Pauletta's coworker, PATTY, black, enters.

PATTY

What's goin' on, ladies?

PAULETTA

Patty, the store is closed!

PATTY

Aw, man! The rumors are true!

PAULETTA

Rumors?

PATTY

That we're getting bought out by that food chain, Efficient Fish!

MILDRED

Oh yeah, I heard of them. Based out of Connecticut. Poppin' up everywhere.

(MORE)

MILDRED (CONT'D)

If I weren't allergic, diabetic, or could keep food down easier, I'd eat there all the time.

PATTY

(to Pauletta)

It's all over the socials, girl. They even had petitions passed around.

PAULETTA

I was wondering why the GM was asking us for suggestions.

PATTY

Yeah. I suggested Sugar Honey Iced Tea. I thought it was pretty funny. I didn't know he would really do it. But this is no laughing matter!

PAULETTA

Does Sharon know?

PATTY

I tried calling. She didn't answer.

PAULETTA

Let's go to her house.

Pauletta and Patty begin to exit.

MILDRED

Hey, what about breakfast?

PAULETTA

Aw, Mildred, we probably wouldn't even be serving it right now, anyway.

Pauletta and Patty exit.

MILDRED

That's why I call you, "Ol' Reliable"!
(sotto voce)
Among other things.

Mildred exits in the opposite direction.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Lemme go see my no-good son. Just how many days does it take to exterminate the place?

INT. SHARON'S APARTMENT - LATER

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

JACOB JACKSON, 19, white, opens the door.

PATTY
Hey, is Sharon there?

JACOB
Yeah, hold on.

He begins to walk away.

PAULETTA
Hey! You're that pig who cheated on his
wife and got another girl pregnant!

Jacob faces them.

JACOB
Not that it's any of your business, but
my wife cheated, too! She's just as
guilty as me!

PATTY
Women never are!

PAULETTA
Nope!

SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, enters.

SHARON
What's going on out here?

JACOB
Sharon, talk to your employees before I
kill them.

Jacob sits in the living room.

SHARON
Patty, Pauletta, why are you here?

PATTY
Boss, it finally happened! They closed
our store! We're out of a job!

SHARON
Don't worry, I explained to the GM that
the Sugar Honey Iced Tea was a joke.

PAULETTA

I think this has to do with the merger!

SHARON

(gasps)

No, it can't be! He can't do this to us!
We got kids to raise!

PATTY

Yeah! Where are we gonna get money from?
Lord knows our baby daddies ain't gonna
provide for us.

(to Jacob)

Ain't that right?!

JACOB

I'm not her baby daddy, you idiot!

PATTY

Hey, you talk to one baby daddy, you
talked to them all. I should know. I have
a couple of 'em.

PAULETTA

Boss, we can't let Mr. Harper do that to
us! I got bills to pay.

(pause)

Well, I assume I do. But all those years
you gave to Subs n' Such, and they gonna
turn it into an Efficient Fish?

PATTY

Hey, we can go to his house and give them
a piece of our minds!

SHARON

What? Get outta here! We still have our
jobs!

PATTY

Do we, though?

Sharon pauses.

SHARON

Where does he even live?

PAULETTA

Somewhere in East Chicago. My cousin
lives across the street from him.

PATTY

I'm hearin' "road trip"!

PAULETTA

And it's MLK Day! What better way to go
and stick it to The Man?

SHARON

But what if he's not there when we get
there?

PATTY

Then we park on his lawn and put it on
our socials! Within hours, more people
will come or at least have the video
trending.

SHARON

(sighs)

Can't lose a job that I ain't got. Wait
in the car. I'll get my things.

Sharon begins to go to her room. The other girls begin to
exit.

JACOB

Hey, on the way back, get me some
Garrett's popcorn.

The girls SCOFF.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Shana's eating for three!

The girls exit.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(smirks)

And she can order her own!

He lies back in the recliner, which swiftly falls back.
Jacob falls with it, GRUNTS, and tries to adjust it.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

Eric rides in the car. Billy drives.

ERIC

Billy, I think that was supposed to be
our exit.

BILLY

Don't be a backseat driver, Eric.

ERIC

But I'm in the front seat.

BILLY

I've lived here for years! I recognize things!

ERIC

Hey, isn't that Sharon standing outside that car on the road?

Billy shrugs.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Billy, I really think that's Sharon! We should go see what's wrong!

BILLY

(sighs)
We should?

EXT. PAULETTA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Sharon, Pauletta, and Patty stand outside the car.

SHARON

Hey, that kinda looks like Billy's car.

PAULETTA

He's turning around to help us!

PATTY

You need all the help you can get, Pauletta!

SHARON

Yeah, what did you think "Check Engine" meant?

PAULETTA

I opened up the lid thingy at the gas station. The engine looked alright to me!

SHARON

Great, and now, Billy's gonna come rub it in.

Eric and Billy pull over behind the girls. The boys get out and approach them.

BILLY

Sharon, having car trouble?

SHARON

Pauletta is, but she called roadside assistance.

PAULETTA

What? I don't have--

Sharon nudges Pauletta.

BILLY

Oh. Okay, just checking!

Billy and Eric prepare to exit.

SHARON

Wait! You think you could give us a ride
into town?

Billy SIGHS.

ERIC

(sotto voce)

Billy, don't do it!

BILLY

Come on, Eric, I can't leave the mother
of my child out here by herself.

ERIC

Fine, but leave them other two broads
here!

BILLY

Eric...

ERIC

(sighs)

Do we have to spend every holiday like
this? Remember when we had to save
Grandma and Grandpa's marriage?

BILLY

Yeah, but you still had time to learn the
true meaning of Arbor Day! Come on, it
won't be that bad.

ERIC

Fine.

BILLY

(to the girls)

Hop in.

Everyone gets into Billy's car. The girls sit in the
back.

ERIC

We'll give you a ride home, but none of that finger-waving, neck-rolling, "Girrrrrll" stuff, alright?

Eric mimics a neck-roll.

PATTY

(laughs)

Do your head like that again.

ERIC

Shut up.

BILLY

And no touching the radio! If I wanna listen to R. Kelly in here, I'll listen to R. Kelly, ladies!

SHARON

Whatever.

Billy starts the motor and drives.

BILLY

So what's the first stop?

SHARON

Uh, Chicago?

BILLY

Excuse me??

SHARON

East Chicago! It ain't that far from here!

BILLY

Sharon, do you know where East Chicago is?

SHARON

The eastern part of Chicago?

ERIC

East Chicago is in Indiana!

PAULETTA

Well, that explains why my cousin always said she has to go back to Indiana. I thought it was for the food.

BILLY

If you think we're driving ya'll to
Indiana, you're crazy!

SHARON

Oh, come on, Billy! We have to see our
manager! He closed our shop down and laid
us off!

PATTY

And they're gonna turn it into an
Efficient Fish!

ERIC

Oh yeah! Them fish sandwiches is on hit!

BILLY

Always get a good meal there.

ERIC

Friendly service.

BILLY

And they don't close the restaurant for
lunch, ladies!

PAULETTA

Billy, can't you just take us? We gonna
stage a protest!

PATTY

Yeah, it's the least you could do!

ERIC

Well, he did pick ya'll up.

PATTY

And now, he can take us to fight "The
Man"!

BILLY

If we're gonna go to Indiana, all of
ya'll are gonna help me drive!

THE OTHERS

Fine!

BILLY

And put in for gas!

SILENCE.

SHARON

Yeah, that might be a problem.

BILLY
 Whatever. Here's a spot.

They pull into a gas station parking lot.

EXT. GAS STATION - LATER

The gang stands outside the pump. Billy hangs up the pump.

BILLY
 Alright, it's full.

ERIC
 Let's go in and get some snacks.

BILLY
 We gotta hurry, though. There are lines for these pumps.

PATTY
 Yeah, wait'll they find out the "3" fell off of the "3.49" sign!

PAULETTA
 You guys go in. I'll pull the car around.

Eric, Billy, Sharon, and Patty exit the car. Billy, Sharon, and Patty enter the store. Eric turns around and notices ELEANOR DUMBECK, 18, white, who struggles with a pump. She GRUNTS and fumbles over her car, while she tries to pull the pump over to the other side of the car. Eric approaches her.

ERIC
 Eleanor!

ELEANOR
 (pants)
 What?

ERIC
 Why don't you go to another pump?

ELEANOR
 Because there isn't one open! Duh!

Eric SIGHS and follows the rest of the gang inside.

EXT. GAS STATION - LATER

Eric, Billy, Sharon, and Patty exit the gas station, carrying snacks.

SHARON

Billy, I don't think we should let Pauletta drive.

BILLY

Why not?

They look around.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Where's my car?

They look upward to the left.

PATTY

I'll drive next.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

Patty drives. Billy sits in the back with Sharon, next to Pauletta. Eric sits in the front.

PATTY

Well, we got the tree branches that were stuck in the hood, but the car still runs good.

BILLY

Yeah, great.

Sharon nods off and falls on Billy's shoulder. Billy pushes her away.

PATTY

And we're driving through Milwaukee right now.

ERIC

My old stomping grounds.

Sharon falls on Billy's shoulder. Billy pushes her away harder.

SHARON

Hey!

BILLY

Sharon, you were touching me!

ERIC

Can't have your baby mama doing that!

Eric, Pauletta, and Patty LAUGH.

BILLY

Shut up, Eric.

Pauletta presses a button on her cell phone.

PAULETTA

Oooh, that "Turtleman" finale was the bomb!

ERIC

Hey, don't tell me! I ain't seen it yet!
And what do you know about "Turtleman"?

PAULETTA

I got the lunchbox, action figure set,
and bedding set! And I've seen all of the
episodes!

ERIC

Even the very special episode where he
was fighting that custody battle?

PAULETTA

Shoot. Almost won an Emmy for that!

ERIC

Wow, I never would've known that about
you.

BILLY

Oh, get a room, ya'll.

PATTY

Hmmph, next thing you know, Pauletta,
he'll tell you he has a woman, and he'll
leave you high and dry.

ERIC

I do have a woman!

PATTY

Oh.

(pause)

Do you have a brother?

BILLY

Me!

PATTY

A brother worth talking about?

ERIC

Not really.

BILLY

Ya'll feel that way, I'll drop ya'll butts off right on the freeway. Speaking of that, get from behind this car, Patty.

PATTY

I'm already in the carpool lane. Fine.

She begins to switch lanes.

ERIC

No, not that one!

Patty returns to her lane. A car ZOOMS past their car. A cop car ZOOMS after it, with the siren BLARING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

That's the crime lane!

PATTY

Oh. I wondered why there were so many Kia cars in that lane. When can I move over?

BILLY

Not for a while. When we get in Chicago, the lane doubles.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

Eric drives. The others sit in the car.

PAULETTA

Eric, I'm a little hungry. Let's stop somewhere.

SHARON

Yeah, I could go for something.

ERIC

Is that cool, Bill?

BILLY

Sure.

PATTY

I heard of this new "jy-ro" place that opened up around here! [mispronounces "gyro"]

ERIC

(cuts his eyes)
"Jy-ro"?

PAULETTA

Oh yeah! It should be across the street from the laundry-mat!

ERIC

Uh, yeah.

INT. LESTER'S GYROS - LATER

The gang walks into the restaurant and grabs a booth.

BILLY

Looks like a cool place.

A waiter named RICH, black, approaches their table.

RICH

Welcome to Lester's Gyros. Here are your menus.

Rich passes the menus to them.

PATTY

(to Pauletta, sotto voce)
If he wanna stay working here, he needs to learn how to say the name of his job right!

She and Pauletta giggle.

RICH

Care to know our specials?

SHARON

As long as it's nothing fattening. I'm trying to cut down. Do you have any nonfat, gluten-free options?

RICH

Water. And even then... But you don't need to cut down on anything, miss.

Sharon CHUCKLES.

BILLY
 (mock laughter)
 Ha, ha. You know we're sitting right here, right?

RICH
 Well, I don't hear her complaining, do you?
 (to Sharon)
 Speaking of which, what is your name?

SHARON
 Sharon Ross.

RICH
 Sharon, huh? You look like someone I met before.

BILLY
 Man, take those lines back to 1960.

ERIC
 Yeah, then take our orders!

RICH
 Okay. To go?

BILLY
 Yeah, to go.

RICH
 Fine.

He points to the door.

RICH (CONT'D)
 Go!

BILLY
 (scoffs)
 Whatever. Come on, guys.

The gang gets up and heads for the exit.

SHARON
 (to Rich)
 Call me!

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

Sharon drives. Billy sits in the passenger's seat. The others sit in the back.

SHARON

Nice job getting us kicked out, Billy! He could've gotten me free food!

BILLY

And risk getting you-know-what in ours? No way!

PAULETTA

Sounds like you were jealous, if you ask me!

BILLY

Which I didn't!

SHARON

Well, what are we gonna do now? I haven't seen a restaurant in a minute!

ERIC

And we gotta watch what we spend.

Eric looks outside the window.

SHARON

Hey, ya'll, have you noticed that the same car has been following us for a while?

Patty looks out the window.

PATTY

And his blinkers have been on, too.

Billy looks out and leans forward.

BILLY

Aw, Sharon! You drove us into a procession! They're on their way to a funeral!

SHARON

Oh, my bad! I'll get us out.

PATTY

No, wait, hold on! Just stay in here!

SHARON

What?

PATTY

Trust me! Put your blinkers on!

Sharon presses the emergency lights button.

INT. DINING HALL - LATER

Crowds of PEOPLE gather with drinks and plates of food while they CHAT with each other. Eric and the gang enter.

ERIC

Patty, what are you up to?

PATTY

Just follow my lead!

Patty pretends to SOB and approaches a LADY.

PATTY (CONT'D)

It's so not fair! Why, God, why?

The lady puts her hand around Patty.

LADY

It's okay, dear!

The rest of the gang pretend to SOB.

ERIC

Why did he have to go?

LADY

"She".

ERIC

She!

LADY

It's okay. He used to be a he. A very unfortunate operation.

ERIC

Ugh!

Billy nudges Eric.

LADY

You guys don't have to cry no more. That's what the funeral was for. This is the repast. So grab yourselves a plate.

SHARON

So what would her name have been?

LADY

Debra.

SHARON

Poor Debra.

THE OTHERS

Poor Debra!

The lady leaves.

PAULETTA

Patty, this is wrong! We shouldn't be doing this!

PATTY

Hey! Debra would've wanted us to enjoy ourselves.

ERIC

Would she, though?

BILLY

(sniffs)

I don't know, but those ribs are callin' my name!

Billy, Eric, and Patty head for the table of food.

PAULETTA

I still don't know about...

She looks in the other direction.

PAULETTA (CONT'D)

Does that sign say, "Open Bar"??

SHARON

C'mon!

They both head to the bar. Billy eats from a plate and approaches a mural with pictures of a man with various kids. A WOMAN approaches him.

WOMAN

Pretty nice, huh?

BILLY

Yeah.

WOMAN

I'm sorry, have we met before?

BILLY

Yeah. Billy.

WOMAN

Billy? Doesn't ring a bell.

BILLY

Are you serious? You remember me, from that thing?

WOMAN

Oh yeah.

BILLY

What's with him and all these kids?

WOMAN

He was a teacher since forever. Very respected around here. Kids and adults looked up to him.

BILLY

Even on his salary?

WOMAN

Money didn't matter. The joy of seeing the kids' expressions was payment enough. And it made him grow, too.

BILLY

I didn't know all that about him.

WOMAN

(sotto voce)

Neither did I. I got it from the "obit". I'm just crashing for the open bar! Cheers!

She raises a glass and walks away. Sharon and Pauletta look at her from the bar.

SHARON

Who was that skank talking to him?

PAULETTA

Why do you care, hmm?

SHARON

(scoffs)

I don't.

PAULETTA

Look, boss. I know you still love Billy.

SHARON

He gave me a son. That's all I love about him.

PAULETTA

I bet. Look, me and Patty may dog him, but ya'll are made for each other. Don't you wanna be happy with somebody? You know, like that couple sitting out there?

EXT. OUTDOORS - CONTINUOUS

Pauletta points out to a window, where a BOY and a GIRL sit on a hill. The boy and girl are patterned after "Lucky" and "Justice", respectively, from the film, "Poetic Justice".

BOY

We gonna be happy together. You know I'm feelin' you, right?

GIRL

I'm feelin' you, too.

BOY

We gon' be rollin' in the dough! When we get back home, I'm quittin' the post office and gonna be a rapper. Maybe even an actor, too!

PAUSE.

GIRL

Let's just be friends.

The boy CLICKS his tongue, gets up, and exits.

INT. DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Eric eats from a plate and stands next to the table of food.

ERIC

Chicken Parmesan. I don't know them, but they must know me!

He spots the boy approaching the table.

ERIC (CONT'D)

A-yo, guess you got the juice now.

BOY

What?

ERIC

The juice. Pass the juice when you're done.

The boy holds a pitcher of juice and walks away. Billy approaches Eric.

BILLY

Eric, who would you say is your favorite teacher?

ERIC

I hate them all the same, why?

BILLY

Just wondering.

A big, tall, TOUGH GUY marches up to Billy.

TOUGH GUY

(gruff voice)

Say, man, don't I know you? You tried to talk to my girl in the 10th grade!

ERIC

(to Billy, sotto voce)

Tell him you're not the guy!

BILLY

(sotto voce)

And blow our cover? I'll handle it.

He steps up to the guy.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(firm voice)

Yo, I don't think you know me, man.

TOUGH GUY

(calm voice)

Oh. My mistake.

The guy begins to exit. Billy and Eric begin to exit the other way. The guy turns back around.

TOUGH GUY (CONT'D)

Wait a minute!

ERIC

Run!

Eric and Billy run away.

TOUGH GUY

What? I was gonna make amends!

An OLD LADY approaches him.

OLD LADY

It was probably your tone, as usual!

TOUGH GUY

Mom, why you always gotta nag me?

OLD LADY

Because, shut your mouth!

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

Billy drives. The rest of the gang ride in the car.

SHARON

Billy, we're in Chicago now. Let's get a Chicago Dog!

ERIC

Yeah, with ketchup!

The others, except Billy, CLAMOR in agreement.

BILLY

We just stopped somewhere to eat!

PAULETTA

But when's the next time we'll be here?

BILLY

Driving back!

SHARON

Billy!

BILLY

(sighs)

Fine.

They pull over. Billy hits a button.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Oh, crap, I hit the trunk button. Eric, go out and close it.

Eric jumps out and fidgets through items in Billy's trunk. A basketball falls out and bounces away. Billy jumps out of the car.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hey! Get my ball before the cars run it over!

ERIC

You mean before it causes an accident?

BILLY

Yeah, sure!

Eric runs to the ball. It bounces off a curb. Eric jumps up, catches it, and throws it to Billy.

ERIC

Tip!

BILLY

Aw, please, that's not "Tip". This is "Tip"!

Billy jumps up, catches the ball, and passes it to Eric, who passes it, behind his back, to Billy. They continue to pass to each other. The girls get out of the car.

PATTY

What's this, "Keepaway"?

PAULETTA

No, it's "Hot Potato"!

BILLY

It's "Tip"! You have to keep passing it while in the air, and the ball can't land!

SHARON

That's stupid!

ERIC

Oh yeah? Heads up!

Eric passes the ball to Sharon, who jumps and catches it.

SHARON

Whoa!

ERIC

Keep it going! Neither you or the ball can land!

PATTY

Over here!

MONTAGE - PASSING THE BALL AROUND CHICAGO

-- The gang passes the ball to each other while jumping in the air. They each add a fancy move when they pass. Pauletta passes the ball, but it flies to a male stranger.

PAULETTA
(to the stranger)
Help!

-- The stranger drops his bags, jumps up in the air, catches the ball, and passes it to Eric, who passes it to a lady walking by. The lady jumps up, passes it, and tosses it in another direction.

-- The ball flies to a dog, who leaps up and kicks it to a KID. He jumps up and catches it.

KID
Good boy!

-- The kid passes the ball to Sharon, who then passes it to Billy.

BILLY
No look!

-- He does a no-look pass and loses the ball in the street, where a band marches and PLAYS MUSIC.

SHARON
Uh oh, look out!

-- The drum major takes the ball, dances, dribbles the ball between his legs, and rhythmically BLOWS his whistle.

PATTY
The ball's touching the ground!

PAULETTA
So? Look!

-- The drum major passes the ball, which falls in a tuba. The tuba player BLOWS the ball out. The ball bounces to Sharon, who makes a pass-bounce to a man on a basketball court.

SFX: Background percussion beat with rhythmic shoe-squeaking STARTS.

-- Various players dribble the ball with different moves, handles, and dances. [NOTE: This is a homage to the Nike basketball commercials in the early 2000's.]

ERIC

Hey! I'm open!

-- Eric runs down the court and jumps feet-first into a player's hands. The player heaves Eric into the air. Eric catches the ball and dunks it into a hoop. Eric gets tangled in the net. The rest of the gang approach the hoop.

BILLY

(chuckles)

Look, ya'll, it's the "Eric up there"!

ERIC

Yeah, yeah, just get me down!

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

With Billy driving, the gang pulls up to a house.

PAULETTA

This must be the place.

PATTY

Let's do this, girls!

SHARON

Aw, do we have to? Amazon is hiring!

PATTY

Move your ass!

Sharon looks at Patty.

PATTY (CONT'D)

...with all due respect, Ms. Boss Lady, ma'am.

The girls get out of the car.

BILLY

Generally speaking, Sharon knows what she wants.

ERIC

It's hard to find a woman like that,
Bill.

Billy smirks. The girls approach the front yard.

SHARON

Alright, guys, get your phones ready.
We're gonna start this protest and make
the GM come out of his house!

MR. HARPER, the GM, white, peeks his head out of the
front door of his house.

MR. HARPER

Sharon, is that you? Hey, come on in!

The girls look at each other.

SHARON

A little unexpected, but we got his
attention.

PATTY

Please, now he's being nice.

PAULETTA

Girl, he's just tryin' to save face. Come
on.

The girls enter Mr. Harper's house.

MR. HARPER

What are you guys doing all the way in
Indiana?

SHARON

Oh, we're just visiting Patty's cousin.

PAULETTA

(sotto voce)
My cousin.

SHARON

(sotto voce)
Whatever!

MR. HARPER

Well, it's a great day for it, seeing
that you guys are off!

SHARON

Yeah. What's up with that, anyway?

MR. HARPER

(chuckles)

You serious? It's Martin Luther King Day!
All of our restaurants are closed!

SHARON

Oh, right! Of course!

MR. HARPER

You know, we can't change what happened
in the past, but we can at least show our
appreciation for Dr. King. You know, I
was there in person to listen to one of
his speeches.

PAULETTA

Wow. This is the total opposite of what
we came down here to accomplish.

MR. HARPER

Haven't you ladies ever wondered why the
restaurant was never open on this day
every year?

PATTY

Not really, because Sharon always gives
us the day of--

The other ladies NUDGE Patty.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Oof!

SHARON

Well, we just wanted to say hi. We gotta
get going to see Pauletta's sister.

PAULETTA

Cousin.

SHARON

Come on, ya'll, get!

Sharon hurries them out of the house.

MR. HARPER

Alright, if you're ever in the area
again, drop on by!

INT. BILLY'S CAR - LATER

With Eric in the driver's seat, they wait outside a drive-
thru window of a restaurant.

ERIC

Ladies, ya'll never told us what happened.

SHARON

We gave our GM a piece of our minds. He didn't know what hit him!

BILLY

He gave ya'll the day off, didn't he?

SHARON

Oh, hush, Billy! Actin' like you know everything!

The male CASHIER opens up the window and gives Eric drinks and bags of food.

CASHIER

Hey, guys, I'm so sorry, but we ran out of apple pies. But I upgraded your fries and drinks for your troubles. I also included 50% off coupons for your next visit. Have a good day.

The cashier closes his window.

PATTY

Dang. What crappy service!

Eric passes the food around, then starts to drive.

EXT. BILLY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ERIC (O.C.)

Alright, guys, back home we go.

BILLY (O.C.)

To the mean streets of Madison.

SHARON (O.C.)

Yeah, good. We gotta work in the morning.

PAULETTA (O.C.)

We do?

They drive off into the sunset.

FADE TO BLACK.

END CREDITS.

FADE IN:

Eric drives and breaks the "fourth wall".

ERIC

What are ya'll still doin' here? Show's
over! Go on now!

Eric gives the "shoo-away" motion with his hand.

BILLY

Eric, pay attention!

Eric GASPS and BRAKES the car, making a SCREECHING sound!

CUT TO BLACK.

SFX: Car CRASHES!

ERIC (V.O.)

Where does this tree keep coming from?

THE END