

ERIC

"Duck, Duck, Goof"

By E.J. Rupert

(414) 550-0547
ejrupert@yahoo.com
©2020 E.J. Rupert

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - RESTAURANT - DAY

ERIC and DIMMEY sit at a booth and eat.

ERIC

Hey, Dimmey, I won't be able to play ball this afternoon. My mom wants me to come home.

DIMMEY

What did you do now?

ERIC

Apparently be a little brother. She wants the whole family there when Billy arrives.

DIMMEY

How does he like college, anyway?

ERIC

A lot of fun. It's the studying that gets in the way.

DIMMEY

Imagine that. Aw, man, that reminds me, I gotta bring something in for show n' tell.

ERIC

Guess the court will look pretty empty without us.

DIMMEY

Yeah, especially with all the skill I bring.

ERIC

Yeah, right, if you were on the court, it would still be empty!

DIMMEY

Whatever, man.

TIMMY, owner of the restaurant and Dimmey's father, approaches the table.

ERIC

Timmy, this burger tastes real good. What happened?

TIMMY

Everybody has an off day sometimes.

(to Dimmey)

(MORE)

TIMMY (CONT'D)

Speaking of off, why aren't you doing your homework?

DIMMEY

I'm going, Dad. See you later, Eric.

He grabs his plate of food.

TIMMY

Where are you going with that?

DIMMEY

Brain food while I study.

He walks to the hallway and up the staircase which leads to his and Timmy's residence. He enters his room to find his pet duck, OLIVER, who speaks telepathically, watching TV on Dimmey's bed.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

Here's your lunch, your favorite.

OLIVER

Well, it's about time. A man's gotta eat!

Oliver takes the food and eats it.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Pizza: is there a more perfect food?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Eric works on his homework at the dining room table. RHONDA and her son, BILLY, 18, enter the house with luggage.

RHONDA

Look who's home!

ERIC

Hey!

BILLY

Hey!

MATT enters the living room.

MATT

Hey!

BILLY

Hey!

Dimmey enters the living room from the kitchen.

DIMMEY

Wow, all this excitement for me?

ERIC

(to Dimmey)

No, it's Billy.

MATT

So how's the big man on campus?

ERIC

Shouldn't Billy find him and ask him?

BILLY

Cute, bro. College is great, everything you can imagine.

MATT

How long are you here for?

BILLY

Oh, just until tomorrow night.

ERIC

But don't you have class tomorrow?

BILLY

Eric, you don't have the same classes every day. That's college scheduling for ya.

(to Rhonda)

Don't worry, Mom, I got my books with me.

DIMMEY

It looks like you have your whole dorm room with you.

BILLY

But enough about me, look at this place. I see nothing's changed! Great to be home. Is our piano still here?

RHONDA

Yep, in the garage.

BILLY

Well, let's go!

INT. NELSON GARAGE - DAY

The family and Dimmey enter the garage and approach an old grand piano.

DIMMEY

I didn't know you guys had a piano.

ERIC

It's not really ours. It's our father's.

DIMMEY

Your rock superstar father?

MATT

Their washed-up rock superstar, million-times-married father.

BILLY

Dimmey, you know the song, "Papa Was a Rolling Stone"?

DIMMEY

Yeah. "And when he died, all he left us was alone."

ERIC

Except all he left us was this piano.

DIMMEY

But he's dead?

RHONDA

(smirks)

No, we're not that lucky.

BILLY

Hey, you know what I'm thinking?

DIMMEY

That your lives are nothing like that song?

BILLY

No, why don't I come to your guys's school and give my college experience?

ERIC

Hey, that'll be cool.

DIMMEY

And it can double as my Show n' Tell!

Billy sits on the bench and plays some discordant notes.

BILLY
Needs a little tuning.

MATT
Dimmey, you can't find anything to take
to Show n' Tell?

DIMMEY
No, Mr. James. Eric can tell you. I don't
have a lot going on in my life.

INT. DIMMEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Oliver continues to eat his pizza.

OLIVER
*Dimmey's good to keep around, but he
never gets me enough cheese. Maybe
there's some packets in his bag.*

Oliver climbs into the backpack on Dimmey's bed.

OLIVER (CONT'D)
*No cheese yet. Man, is it comfortable in
here. I wonder if it's true what they say
about birds and the dark.*

Oliver SNORES.

INT. DIMMEY'S BACKPACK - LATER

Oliver wakes up.

OLIVER
I guess so.

A female TEACHER makes an announcement.

TEACHER (O.S.)
Okay, Dimmey, you're up next.

OLIVER
What's going on out there?

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM

Dimmey sits in class with his backpack and Oliver still
inside. He approaches the front of the classroom where he
meets Billy.

DIMMEY

For Show n' Tell, I brought my best friend's brother, William P. Nelson, III.

STUDENT #1

Willie Jr.'s son?!

STUDENT #2

The rock superstar Willie Jr.'s son?!

STUDENT #3

The washed-up superstar Willie Jr.'s son?

BILLY

Yeah, or, "Billy", you know.

Dimmey walks back to his seat.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I'm a freshman at Parkland University, but I've been where you kids are, sitting right here in class. And I would say to myself, "Self, where do I see myself in four years?"

OLIVER

Oh, brother. I see myself falling back asleep. Let me get out of here.

Oliver sneaks out of the backpack and runs underneath the desks and chairs. He then sneaks out of the classroom door that is cracked open.

TEACHER

Great speech, Billy, but Dennis, you didn't have anything from your collection that you could've brought?

DIMMEY

Not really. Just a stupid duck I own.

Oliver stands outside the door.

OLIVER

That no good, little--

He SNIFFS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Hey, is that pizza I smell?

He sashays away from the classroom.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Eric sits at a booth. Billy, Dimmey, and a group of other kids laugh and converse as they approach the booth.

BILLY

What up, bro?

ERIC

Looks like ya'll having a good time.

BILLY

Yeah, you know, visiting the ol' stomping grounds, hanging out on the bus stop, chillin' with the guys.

DIMMEY

Yeah, your brother is so cool!

BILLY

Come on, Eric, go to the movies with us.

ERIC

You never wanted to hang out with me and my friends before. I remember you saying, "Go somewhere and die, you cretin."

BILLY

I said that with love. Anyway, I need to live it up some more before I prepare for your class tomorrow.

ERIC

I thought you were leaving today.

BILLY

I worked it out with my professor. Besides, I have a duty to guide my less fortunate youth.

Billy ruffles Eric's hair. Eric pulls away.

ERIC

You gotta be crazy to spend all your time at our school.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LATER THAT NIGHT

The lights are off. Oliver makes a plate of food from the kitchen fridge.

OLIVER

This is the life. I could get used to this.

He looks into a pot of mush.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

What the heck is this? Looks like it could eat ME.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Matt sits in the living room while on his cell phone.

MATT

I can't believe it. Denied for a credit card. All I did was type my name in!

The doorbell RINGS. Matt gets up and opens the door. RON, 18, stands there.

RON

Hi, are you Billy's dad?

MATT

I am.

RON

Oh, I'm so sorry!

He gives Matt a huge monster-hug. Matt looks confused.

MATT

(aside)

Why is this strange kid hugging me?

(to Ron)

Do I know you?

RON

Ron Tyson here. I go to your son's school.

He quickly walks in and sits on the couch.

MATT

(sarcastically)

Don't be shy, come on in.

RON

So what are we doing today?

MATT

I am minding my own business. What are you doing?

RON

I came to bring you empathy.

MATT

Empathy?

RON

And sympathy. Oh yeah, and Billy's homework.

He hands Matt a folder. Matt sits down.

MATT

Well, that's very nice of you, Ron.

RON

No problem. And my condolences.

MATT

What?

RON

Billy's grandmother passed away. That's why he hasn't been at school.

MATT

Both of his grandmothers are still alive.

RON

So there's no death in the family?

MATT

(sternly)

Not yet.

RON

Well, look at that, I'm gonna be late for class.

Ron gets up and starts to head to the door, but Matt holds his arm.

MATT

Oh, I think you got time. Sit back down, please.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM

CONNIE, 14, stands in front of the class with a snake in a cage and a stuffed pig.

CONNIE
For Show n' Tell, I brought my pet snake,
Winston...

She holds up the cage.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
...and my friend, Frankfurt.

She holds up her stuffed pig.

TEACHER
You mean your toy?

CONNIE
Yeah, that's what I said.

SFX: SNORING.

SFX: LAUGHING from students.

TEACHER
Miss Jones, nudge your friend next to
you.

SHANA JONES, 14, looks to her left.

SHANA
You mean Chaz?

To the left of her is CHAZ TREPUR, 14, who has his head drooped over his seat and quietly snores.

TEACHER
No, behind you.

Behind Shana is a student with his head down on the desk. He wears an oversized sweatshirt, pants, and a backwards cap.

SFX: SNORING.

SHANA
(nudging the student)
Hey, wake up!

The student is Oliver in disguise. He keeps his head down.

OLIVER

Uh oh, I can't blow my cover.

TEACHER

Hey, Sleeping Beauty, go to the principal's office! And take your Sleeping Beauty 2 with you!

Oliver gets up and attempts to keep his head covered with his sweatshirt hood on and sunglasses on his eyes.

OLIVER

(shaking Chaz)

Hey, kid, let's go.

Chaz gets up and sleepwalks out of the classroom. Oliver follows him.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

Chaz continues to sleepwalk down the hallway. Oliver sneaks into a nearby classroom and sits behind Dimmey. Eric sits in front of Dimmey. Oliver puts his head down.

ERIC

Any luck on finding Oliver?

DIMMEY

Not yet. I looked everywhere.

Billy talks in front of the class.

BILLY

There is a Billy Nelson in each and every one of you!

(pointing to various students)

You, and you, and you...

(pointing to Oliver)

...and even you!

TEACHER #2 walks over to Oliver.

TEACHER #2

Hey, no sleeping in class.

She shakes Oliver, which makes his hood and sunglasses fall off. Oliver wakes up.

OLIVER

Is it lunchtime already?

Teacher #2 SCREAMS.

TEACHER #2
Whose animal is this?

DIMMEY
(stammering)
He's mine. I'll take him.

TEACHER #2
You and your duck, get outta here!

DIMMEY
Yes, ma'am.
(to Oliver)
Come on, stupid.

Dimmey and Oliver leave the room.

BILLY
As I was saying, education is very
important, and it will take you places.
Even ducks want to go to school!

Eric approaches Billy.

ERIC
Billy, I think I need to show you out.

BILLY
But I'm not done yet.

TEACHER #2
Billy, leave before I have you reenrolled
and then suspended!

BILLY
Let's go.

TEACHER #2
Berniece, you're up next.

Eric and Billy exits the classroom. BERNIECE, 14,
approaches the front of the class.

BILLY
Hmmp. It's not like anything exciting
ever happens at this school.

The boys walk away from the classroom door.

BERNIECE (O.S.)
And now, for my Show n' Tell, is my
friend and yours, the President of the
United States!

SFX: CAMERAS FLASHING.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Billy and Eric enter the house. Matt and Rhonda sit on the couch.

BILLY

Hey, guys.

RHONDA

Boys.

ERIC

Oh no, I know that sit.

MATT

Billy, a word.

ERIC

(to Billy)

Nice knowing you, big brother!

Eric hurries to his room. Billy sits down.

MATT

So, how's school?

BILLY

It was great, helping the little youngin's and all.

MATT

I mean, YOUR school.

BILLY

It's good, too.

RHONDA

Well, I hope you can focus, seeing how your grandmother passed away and everything.

Billy is silent momentarily.

BILLY

Well, she lived a full life. Gotta go.

He attempts to get up.

RHONDA

Sit!

Billy stays in his seat.

MATT

Here's your homework that Ron dropped off. You have some explaining to do.

BILLY

Look, it's hard up there. It feels like everyone's smarter than me. I can't keep up with the material.

RHONDA

Well, maybe you can keep up if you stop arguing with your professor.

MATT

Yeah, Ron told us.

BILLY

Where does it say that you can't have a different interpretation of a book?

RHONDA

But your professor wrote the book!

BILLY

It's not just that. I used to be the man in high school. Dating all the time. Now, I'm lucky to get a friend request.

MATT

Listen, it's all different territory. It takes a while to get used to.

BILLY

But it's taking too long. I need to take some time off!

MATT

What?? Boy, if you think you're gonna spend our money and...

RHONDA

(cutting Matt off)

...take time to think about it, that's fine.

BILLY

What?

MATT

Yeah, what?

RHONDA

Billy, you're an adult now, and you have to make these types of decisions yourself, like a man should, right, Matt?

MATT

(hesitating)

Right.

BILLY

What's happening here? Y'all being reasonable? This is too weird for me. I'm going to the garage.

Billy scats away.

MATT

A college assistant telling her son to not go back to college??

RHONDA

Well, I'm a parent first. Besides, I know Billy will make the right decision. If he doesn't, we'll kill him.

MATT

That's why I love you.

He kisses Rhonda.

EXT. OUTDOORS

Dimmey and Connie walk down the street. Dimmey carries Winston in his cage. Connie carries Frankfurt.

DIMMEY

That dumb duck!

CONNIE

What exactly happened, sweetie?

DIMMEY

He pretended to be a student, and then he got caught!

Connie stares at him.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

You're looking like you don't believe me!

They walk to Connie's front door.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

I'll see you tomorrow at school.

CONNIE

(kissing him on the cheek)

Yeah, get some rest.

Dimmey walks away. Connie walks in the house. WINSTON begins to speak.

WINSTON

Man, your boyfriend has some imagination!

FRANKFURT appears as a six-foot talking pig, walking upright. He sits on the couch.

FRANKFURT

Yeah, where do you meet these guys?

CONNIE

Shut up, you two.

INT. NELSON GARAGE

Billy kneels underneath the piano. Dimmey enters the garage.

DIMMEY

Hey, Billy, did Eric make it back yet?

BILLY

Yeah. Don't mind me. Just trying to tune this piece of junk.

DIMMEY

What a day. I'm gonna kill Oliver!

BILLY

You should. He put a damper on my presentation. Everybody was so engaged!

DIMMEY

Yeah, okay. Anyway, he stole my gym clothes, paraded around like a student, and somehow got an "A" on his oral exam. He almost got me suspended!

BILLY

But he didn't, so just move on and go back to school tomorrow.

DIMMEY

No way, I'm not showing my face there again! I'm transferring!

BILLY

(getting up from under the piano)

C'mon, you don't mean that.

DIMMEY

The heck I don't! I'm gonna go to a new school where nobody knows me and start off fresh there.

BILLY

But what if you make a mistake at your new school? Are you gonna transfer from there, too? You can't keep leaving just because of a...bad experience...Oh, dang.

DIMMEY

What's wrong?

BILLY

Lock the door if you leave. I gotta get going.

Billy runs away.

DIMMEY

(sighs)

Why can't I have a normal pet duck like everyone else?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Matt, Rhonda, and Eric stand at the front door with Billy and his luggage.

RHONDA

You got everything, dear?

BILLY

Yes, Mom, I do.

(to Eric)

Sorry I can't do my daily presentation to your class tomorrow, bro. I know how much you guys were looking forward to it.

ERIC

How will my heart go on?

BILLY

Now, guys, I might not be back for a while. I gotta focus on my studies. Then I gotta spend some time making a name for myself there.

MATT

We understand. Just give us a call. Now go before your Uber leaves.

Everyone hugs Billy and says bye to him. Billy leaves the house.

MATT (CONT'D)

He figured it out himself.

RHONDA

I knew he'd make the right decision.

ERIC

He decided that for himself? Will you put that in consideration when I decide to leave school?

RHONDA

When you decide to leave school??

ERIC

Uh, that's my phone. Gotta go. Speaking of that, if the school calls, I didn't do it.

Eric runs to his room.

INT. UBER CAR

Billy sits in the back seat.

BILLY

To the bus station, sir.

Silence follows.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Before we go there, can we stop and get some dinner?

More silence follows.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(aside)

Must not be much of a talker.

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

(to the driver)

You know, I could go for some pizza.

The driver turns out to be Oliver dressed in an oversized coat and large hat.

OLIVER

(smiles)

All I needed was a reason.

THE END.