

ERIC

"Eric: The Musical"

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INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

ERIC, 14, and DIMMEY, 14, both wear shirt-and-jeans outfits. They head down the hallway and see BERNIECE, 14, who wears a red dress.

Dimmey turns to Eric and signals, "Stop," with his hands.

DIMMEY

Here she comes. Remember, keep it cool.

ERIC

Don't worry, I got this.

Berniece minces, smiles, and waves.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hi, Berniece. You're in this class, too?

BERNIECE

We've had this class together all year.

ERIC

Of course. I was just playing.

He chuckles and wipes balls of sweat off of his forehead.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Well, see you later.

BERNIECE

Same class...?

ERIC

Ha, ha. Still joking. Got you again.
After you.

Berniece raises an eyebrow and heads into the classroom.

DIMMEY

You're a real charmer, all right.

ERIC

Maybe I'm just nervous around girls.

SHANA, 14, sashays down the hall and to the boys.

SHANA

Hey, Babycakes.

ERIC

Stop calling me, "Babycakes."

Eric heads into the classroom. Dimmey looks at Shana's T-shirt which says, "I [heart symbol] Eric."

DIMMEY

There you go with that shirt again. He doesn't even like you.

SHANA

Maybe he doesn't love me today, but he's starting to tolerate me. See? Today, he didn't even call me, "Booger Breath."

DIMMEY

Baby steps?

SHANA

Baby steps.

Dimmey shakes his head.

INT. MUSIC CLASSROOM - DAY

The school bell RINGS. Students exit, and MR. HAYES, 40s, calls out to them.

MR. HAYES

Don't forget your homework assignment.

ARNOLD, 14, wears a shirt and tie underneath a red sweater vest with khakis. He grins and parades to Mr. Hayes's desk.

ARNOLD

I finished mine last week. Would you like to see it?

Eric walks past Arnold and rolls his eyes.

MR. HAYES

No, just bring it tomorrow. Mr. Nelson, a word, please?

Arnold exits. Eric turns back around.

MR. HAYES (CONT'D)

See this pile? Do you know what this is?

ERIC

My award-winning papers?

MR. HAYES

Yeah, right. They're all D's and F's.

ERIC

But I'm trying real hard. Come on, I'm never gonna be like Arnold with the great looks, great voice, annoying personality.

MR. HAYES

Arnold or no Arnold, your head's always in the clouds. You need to focus. Here.

Mr. Hayes hands Eric a sheet of paper.

MR. HAYES (CONT'D)

If you fail this assignment, you don't pass the class, and you don't graduate.

INSERT - THE PAPER, WHICH READS:

"Songwriting Assignment:

Get your creative juices flowing.
Write a song about anything."

BACK TO SCENE

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Eric exits the classroom and throws the paper away.

ERIC

Yeah, whatever.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eric turns on the television.

ON THE TV

A man serenades a young lady in a music video.

BACK TO ERIC'S BEDROOM

ERIC

Corny. Even I could do better than him.

He pauses.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hmm, wait a minute...

EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Eric and Dimmey play a one-on-one basketball game.

DIMMEY

A love song? You can't write no song.

ERIC

It can't be that hard. I see fools doing it on TV every day. Besides, Berniece would like that.

Arnold strolls past them and heads to Berniece.

ARNOLD

Hey, you wanna partner up with the best singer in class?

BERNIECE

I don't see him anywhere.

ARNOLD

Very funny. Let's work on music and then, a more fitting subject, chemistry.

BERNIECE

Get lost.

She walks away.

DIMMEY

The same way she likes Arnold's come-ons?

Dimmey laughs and shoots the ball.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eric types on his laptop.

ERIC

How do I start this song?

FANTASY - EXT. RANCH - CATTLE BARN - DAY

Eric wears a ten-gallon hat as he sits on a haystack and strums a COUNTRY RIFF on a guitar.

ERIC

My baby don't notice me/I reckon that I try/To write her this here love song/If she hates it, then I'll die.

A cow walks by and shrugs.

END OF FANTASY.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ERIC

Yeah, that sucked. Hmm, what about...?

FANTASY - EXT. HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Berniece stands on a balcony. Wind blows her long, black hair, as Eric sings to her from the ground.

ERIC

Berniece, I adore, mi amor --

The audience behind him boos and hisses.

END OF FANTASY.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ERIC

No, that's no good.

He snaps his fingers.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I got it.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Shana enters Eric's house with flowers.

SHANA

Hey, Babycakes, look what I got for you.

ERIC

Can't talk now. I'm on a roll here.

SHANA

It's for that stupid girl, ain't it?

ERIC

Berniece ain't stupid. She's very classy.
You could learn a thing from her.

SHANA

Yeah, how not to treat someone. But never mind that. Let me put up these flowers for you.

She walks and trips over the power cord of the laptop. The cord rips out of the socket and causes a shortage.

ERIC

Shana, you idiot! I lost my work. I gotta turn it in tomorrow.

SHANA

Oh, I'm so sorry, Babycakes.

ERIC

Stop calling me, "Babycakes." I don't even like you like that. Now can you please just go?

Shana sobs and runs out of the house. Eric sighs.

INT. SCHOOL - MUSIC CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Hayes looks at his list of students.

MR. HAYES

(sotto)

Well, let's get the ol' red pen ready.

(to Eric)

Time for your presentation, Mr. Nelson.

Eric approaches the center of the room.

ERIC

I gotta be honest with you, I can't --

Shana rushes towards Eric.

SHANA

-- do it without his partner.

(whispers to Eric)

Don't worry. Follow my lead.

Shana BEAT-BOXES.

MONTAGE - ERIC AND SHANA PERFORM IN A MUSIC VIDEO

-- Outdoors -- The classroom morphs into an outdoor stage. Eric's shirt-and-jeans outfit morphs into a black leather ensemble with dark sunglasses.

-- A jam-packed street -- Shana's music stand morphs into a drum set. She plays it while Eric raps and dances.

ERIC

Oh, Berniece/I can't deny/See her walk
down the street/I get a tear in my eye.

-- A dark alley -- Break dancers join him and dance on top of cars.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Will she ever see me?/I don't know/But
ya'll check my moves/And feel my flow.

-- Berniece smiles. Mr. Hayes nods his head.

END OF MONTAGE.

INT. SCHOOL - MUSIC CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Hayes smiles and applauds.

MR. HAYES

Great job. A-minus.

ERIC

Thank you.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Berniece approaches Eric and Dimmey.

BERNIECE

That was so sweet. So, Music Man, wanna
go to the movies?

ERIC

Wow, that --

Shana sashays from afar.

ERIC (CONT'D)

-- will have to wait. Excuse me.

Eric treads towards Shana.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Thanks for having my back in class.

SHANA

Well, I had to. I ruined your laptop.

ERIC

It's okay. And sorry for yelling at you.
Listen, you wanna go for some custard?

Shana widens her eyes and gasps.

ERIC (CONT'D)

As friends. Not a date whatsoever.

SHANA

Okay, fine. But you see, I'm wearing you
down, Babycakes.

ERIC

Stop --

SHANA

I know, I know.

THE END