

ERIC

"A Stood-Up Guy"

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INT. BILLY AND SHARON'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, enters the room and straightens up. Her roommate, SHANA JONES, 18, biracial, enters from her bedroom.

SHANA

Sharon, have you seen Jacob?

SHARON

No.

(sotto voce)

Hmmph.

SHANA

What was that?

SHARON

Nothing.

SHANA

Oh, I know you ain't trying to judge me!

SHARON

You don't know anything about me!

SHANA

I...

(pause)

Oh yeah, I don't. But still, I'm gonna tell Jacob about Darius when the time is right! I'm responsible about mine!

She storms out of the house.

SHARON

(sotto voce)

Oh, now you're responsible.

Shana peeks her head back in the doorway.

SHANA

I heard that!

She SLAMS the door.

Sharon's boyfriend, BILLY NELSON, 20's, black, enters from their bedroom.

BILLY

What's going on out here?

SHARON

Just Shana actin' silly.

BILLY

Well, she ain't the only one. What's the deal?

SHARON

What do you mean?

BILLY

You been a little distant lately.

SHARON

I can't say. It's personal.

BILLY

Sharon, we have a kid together. Personal's out the window!

SHARON

Believe me, it has nothing to do with you. I was just thinking, how close are we really?

BILLY

We're close. We live together. We do things together. We're going to the Halloween party tonight.

PAUSE.

BILLY (CONT'D)

You didn't forget, did you?

SHARON

No! I already got my costume. Mr...Mrs...Halloween...guy...girl.

BILLY

Uh, yeah. But we're still gonna meet there after you get off work, right?

SHARON

With bells on! In fact, that's my costume. A belle!

BILLY

Alright then. See ya.

They kiss goodbye. Billy exits. Sharon SIGHS. Shana's husband, JACOB JACKSON, 18, white, rushes in the apartment.

JACOB

Hey, where's Shana? Oh, good, she's not here.

He fixes his composure.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Not that I'm worried.

SHARON
Oh, really?

JACOB
Yeah! Ain't nothing to worry about. I'm cool. I'm going to my room now and wait for her.

He struts to his bedroom.

SHARON
This is too much for me. I'm going to my room and lay down.

She walks to her room. Billy's brother, ERIC, 16, enters the apartment with his girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 16, black. Eric wears a vampire costume; Berniece wears a witch costume.

BERNIECE
Trick-or-treat!

ERIC
Billy, gimme all your candy! Or money or...
(pause)
Billy?

BERNIECE
Where is everybody?

Jacob storms out of his room.

JACOB
Shana, I slept with somebody else!

Jacob SLAPS his mouth. Berniece GASPS.

ERIC
Wrong house!

Eric and Berniece turn around and exit. Jacob starts to follow them.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - HALL - NIGHT

A room is adorned with Halloween decorations. Guests eat, drink, and mingle. Music BLASTS in the background.

Billy, wearing a lumberjack costume, walks and looks around. He runs into RON TYSON, 20's, black, with his wife, VANKA SMIRNOV, 30's, white. Ron wears a jacket over his clothes. Vanka wears a regular outfit.

BILLY

Hey, guys, have you seen Sharon? The party's almost over!

RON

No, man.

BILLY

By the way, guys, going as a married couple ain't the greatest Halloween costume.

VANKA

(in her Russian accent)

What do you mean? I'm wearing my costume right now!

BILLY

Who are you supposed to be?

VANKA

A Russian immigrant!

BILLY

But you are a Russian immigrant!

VANKA

Nobody has to know that! I'm new in this country!

BILLY

You couldn't think of a costume, could you?

VANKA

Nobody has to know that, either!

BILLY

Ron, what about you?

RON

Check this out!

Rob opens his jacket. He wears a white T-shirt that says, "STUDENT LOANS". Billy gives a MOCK YELL.

BILLY

Dang, close it up! There might be kids present!

The DJ makes an announcement.

DJ
Alright, ya'll, last call!

VANKA
Go get me a drink, Ron.

RON
Sure. A Smirnoff vodka for Vanka Smirnov?

VANKA
You've been waiting all night to say that?

RON
No!

Ron and Vanka walk away. Ron turns back at Billy, pumps his fist with excitement, and continues to walk with Vanka. Billy spots a lady with her back towards him. She wears an '80s Patti LaBelle-type wig and dress. Billy approaches her.

BILLY
Sharon, there you are. You said you were coming as a belle, not LaBelle!

He turns her around and kisses her. He jumps back right away. The lady turns out to be MAUREEN WALKER, 20's, black.

MAUREEN
Nice to see you, too, William!

BILLY
Sorry, Maureen, I thought you were Sharon.

MAUREEN
Now that would be a scary costume. And the party's ending. Don't look like she's showing up.

BILLY
Dang. She said she would come, too.

MAUREEN
Well, sorry, but I can't be your rebound. My man's waiting for me at home!

BILLY
(mutters)
Which one?

MAUREEN

Not you, boo-boo! Smooches!

She sashays away.

BILLY

I've been stood up by Sharon and dissed by Maureen? What next?

DJ (O.C.)

Would the owner of a black Civic please move your car out of the Dean's parking space before you get a ticket?

Billy starts dancing to the beat. As he dances, he slowly moves towards the exit.

DJ (O.C.) (CONT'D)

(to Billy)

You're making yourself look more suspicious. Just walk out normally!

Billy stops dancing and exits. A few partygoers point and snicker.

EXT. SUBS N' SUCH - DAY

Eric drives his car to the speaker in the drive-thru. Berniece sits in the passenger seat. PAULETTA, black, speaks from the other end.

PAULETTA (O.C.)

Welcome to Subs n' Such.

ERIC

Hi, I'd like...

PAULETTA (O.C.)

Sorry, we're closed!

ERIC

Closed? You just said, "Welcome!"

PAULETTA (O.C.)

You are welcome, but we closed!

ERIC

It's the middle of the day!

PAULETTA (O.C.)

But nobody's here!

ERIC

We're here!

PAULETTA (O.C.)

(sighs)

Fine, come inside. It'll be a few minutes.

Eric and Berniece drive to a parking space.

BERNIECE

I knew it! That Jacob is no good for Shana!

ERIC

Since when did you care so much about Shana?

BERNIECE

I don't, but Jacob is even worse!

ERIC

Look, maybe he had a reason.

BERNIECE

Wait, so Jacob needs a reason to cheat on her?

ERIC

Yes!

Berniece frowns at him.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I mean, "no"?

Berniece continues to frown.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Whatever you say is right, honey, and I love you!

INT. SUBS N' SUCH - SAME

Pauletta puts on her hair net and gloves. She approaches PATTY, black, and their manager, Sharon.

PAULETTA

The nerve of some customers. Like we supposed to be their servers.

SHARON

Ya'll, I need to go home. I don't feel so good.

PATTY

Hey, when I said that yesterday, you called B.S.!

SHARON

Because your "little friend" came three times this month already! And that ain't even what I'm talkin' 'bout!

PAULETTA

What's the matter?

SHARON

I was supposed to meet Billy at the Halloween party last night, and I sorta left him hangin'.

PAULETTA

Ooh, that's rough.

PATTY

Yeah, right! She don't have to do anything she don't wanna do!

SHARON

But Billy's my baby daddy!

PATTY

So? I got three! You still can't be forced into doing what you wanna do!

SHARON

But I did wanna do it, Patty! I just chickened out. After all the talk about my roommates cheating on each other, I didn't know what to do.

Eric and Berniece stand behind Sharon and the counter.

ERIC

(to Sharon)

So you know about it, too?

BERNIECE

And that's "roommate". Singular.

SHARON

No, Shana's cheating, too.

ERIC

What??

BERNIECE

Well, it serves Jacob right, since he cheated on her.

SHARON

I think they simultaneously cheated on each other.

BERNIECE

Oh. Hmmp. Jacob must've been doing her wrong.

PAULETTA

(to Berniece)

Ooh, say it again, girl!

ERIC

Wait a minute. So if Shana cheats, it's because she was hurt, but if Jacob cheats, he's a dog?

PATTY

You said it, not us!

BERNIECE

Eric, that's not what I mean. We women are more sensitive.

ERIC

Oh, and men ain't?

PATTY

Ugh, who would want a sensitive man? All crying on me and stuff?

PAULETTA

(to Sharon)

Anyway, boss, you had a right to not show up last night. Talk to Billy. He'll understand.

ERIC

(to Sharon)

Wait. You stood my brother up?

SHARON

A little. But I was gonna talk to him last night, I swear!

ERIC

Well, you can do it now, 'cuz here he comes.

Billy enters the shop.

BILLY

Hey, guys. You know the drive-thru line is stretched out to the street, right?

PAULETTA

(sighs)

Fine.

(to Patty)

Take notes for me, girl.

Pauletta exits the shop.

BILLY

Wait, I thought that meant she was going to the window and...never mind. Sharon, you didn't say goodbye to me this morning.

SHARON

I know. I'm sorry. And I'm sorry for last night, too.

BILLY

Well, that's okay.

ERIC

Hey, bro, let it out. You don't have to let no girl punk you!

BILLY

Eric, it's cool.

(to Sharon)

Let's talk about it later. I just came to grab a bag of chips.

SHARON

You sure?

BILLY

Yeah, ya'll don't ever have anything else.

SHARON

This is true.

BILLY

See ya later.

He kisses her on the cheek, grabs a bag of chips, and exits.

BERNIECE

Sharon, he seemed to take it well!

SHARON

Yeah!

PATTY

Too well.

The three ladies cross their eyes.

ERIC

Oh brother. I bet a beauty shop doesn't have this much drama.

He walks away.

PATTY

(to Berniece)

Hey, your man seems to have a good heart. He's cute, too!

Sharon shakes her head at Berniece.

BERNIECE

(curiously)

Yeah, we're gonna get our food down the street.

Berniece walks away.

PATTY

That's okay. We closin', anyway.

SHARON

No we're not!

INT. BILLY AND SHARON'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sharon sits on the couch and plays on her phone. Shana enters.

SHANA

Sharon, you gotta help me!

SHARON

I don't wanna hear it! I got issues of my own!

SHANA

Oh, why can't things be easier, like back when only Eric wanted me?

Jacob enters the front door. He sees Shana and stops walking.

JACOB

Oh. I'll come back.

He turns around.

SHARON

Wait, stop! I'm tired of this! Both of ya'll sit down! You both have something to say to each other!

JACOB

I'm only doin' this because I feel like sitting down.

SHARON

Jacob, shut up and plant it!

Jacob walks to the couch and sits. Shana also sits on the couch.

JACOB

See?

SHARON

I'm outta here! I got my own man to worry about!

Sharon stomps out of the apartment and SLAMS the door.

SHANA

Okay, Jakey, I know we had our problems, and there's no excuse for what I did, but I am a woman, a soldier, even, and it's time for...

JACOB

Shane, I slept with somebody else!

SHANA

No, Jacob, I slept with somebody else.

(pause)

Oh. Well, this isn't good.

JACOB

What are you doing sleeping around?

SHANA

Well, what about you?

JACOB

Hey, I only slept with one woman! And we were on a break!

SHANA

Wait, no we weren't!

JACOB

Are you sure? We had an argument.

SHANA

So every time we have an argument, you're gonna sleep with somebody?

JACOB

Hey, don't come down on me! You did the same damn thing!

SHANA

(sighs)

I know. I wasn't thinking. But really, I don't love him. He does nothing for me. Anymore.

JACOB

It was Darius, wasn't it?

SHANA

(sighs)

Maybe. But we ended it! I don't love him! I only love you! The same way you don't love her! Right?

JACOB

Well, right. I don't love her at all. When I did it with her, all I kept thinking about was you. So I stopped. Okay, I kept doing it a couple more times, but you stayed on my mind.

SHANA

Aww, Jakey, that's so sweet!

JACOB

We both got issues!

SHANA

Well, yeah, but look. We're back home with each other, so let's just start from scratch.

JACOB

Alright.

SHANA

Look, all this took a lot outta me. I'm gonna lay down.

She kisses Jacob and heads to the bedroom.

JACOB

I'm right behind you, dear!

Shana CLOSES the bedroom door. Jacob quickly gets up and opens the front door. Eric stands there, about to knock.

ERIC

Jacob?

JACOB

Outta my way, "Lil Jon", I'm gonna kill somebody!

ERIC

What?

JACOB

Shana's boss had sex with her! I'ma make sure he has sex with no one ever again!

Jacob begins to storm away.

ERIC

Wait, Jacob, you can't do that!

Jacob turns around.

JACOB

Try and stop me!

ERIC

But Shana could get kicked out of the Army!

JACOB

Well, it's been a few months. She had a nice run.

ERIC

Jacob!

JACOB

(sighs)

What do you want?

ERIC

Do you really wanna beat him up?

JACOB

I really wanna beat you up!

ERIC

You ain't a kid no more. You're married. You can't just go around killin' people no more. You wanna fight? Fight for your marriage! You and Shana fight to make it work.

Jacob pauses, then PUNCHES Eric on the arm.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Ow!

JACOB

I had to let off some steam. Now it's time for some angry sex! Shana! You ain't sleepin' yet!

He storms back in the apartment.

SHANA (O.C.)

Yay!

Jacob SLAMS the door. Eric puts his hand on his heart.

ERIC

Kinda gets you right here.

He moves his hand to the sore arm.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(groans)

Or here.

INT. SUBS N' SUCH - DAY

Sharon, Paulette and Patty make sandwiches.

PATTY

(to Sharon)

Did you talk things over with Billy?

SHARON

He didn't even mention it this morning!

PAULETTA

Really?

SHARON

Well, I gave him a lil' ass, so maybe that's why.

PATTY

Well, at least it'll take his mind off the other woman.

SHARON

What other woman? What are you talking about?

PATTY

Oh, nothing. Just from past experience, if somebody gets stood up, that gives them a license to get with someone else.

PAULETTA

That's ridiculous! Don't listen to her, boss.

PATTY

Oh yeah? Where else is the dumped gonna get his love if he can't get it from home?

PAULETTA

But he is getting it from home!

SHARON

That's right! And I'll prove it again tonight when he gets home!

PAULETTA

Home? Home from where?

SHARON

I forget, but he's always gone at a certain time every Thursday evening.

PATTY

That's exactly what my second baby daddy did, every Tuesday morning between 8 and 10!

SHARON

Okay, quiet, my roommates are coming.

Jacob and Shana approach the counter.

SHANA

Sharon, thanks for bringing me and Jacob back together.

SHARON

Oh. You're welcome.

SHANA

Yeah, we both did wrong, but we're growing up now. Jacob isn't even gonna come after Darius!

JACOB

(grins and speaks through his teeth)

I never said that!

SHANA

And I'm not gonna go after his mistress!
(to Jacob)
Hey, wait, you never told me who she was.

JACOB

We're through! Does it matter?

SHANA

No, I guess not. Go find us a table.

JACOB

Okay, I'll go find a table in this empty restaurant. You girls can finish talking about me.

SHANA

(chuckles)

Oh, you!

Jacob exits.

SHANA (CONT'D)

(to the girls)

When I find out who she is, the bitch is dead!

Pauletta and Patty nod their heads.

PATTY

You should do the same thing, boss.

Sharon stops and thinks.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - REC CENTER - DAY

Sharon and Shana enter the rec center. Students and faculty walk and TALK.

SHARON

I don't know if Billy would be here,
Shana.

SHANA

Hey, this is the most popular spot on
campus!

SHARON

How do you know? Let me guess, your rich
daddy owns it?

SHANA

No. I do! Now remember, I help you find
the little tramp after your man, and you
help me find the one after mine.

SHARON

Yeah, but it's a lot easier to just
backtrack and think of any women that
Billy was involved with.

(pause)

Your sister, Eleanor, for one.

SHANA

You really suggesting that my sister
stole your man?

SHARON

No, girl, of course not.

They begin to walk.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Hey! Look over there!

Sharon points. Shana turns to that direction. Sharon ZIPS
away, hides behind a plant, pulls out her cell phone, and
dials.

INTERCUT - SHARON/ELEANOR

Shana's half-sister, ELEANOR DUMBECK, 17, white, answers
the phone.

ELEANOR

Look, for the last time, I'm too young
for Medicare!

SHARON

Eleanor, it's me, Sharon! Billy's
girlfriend!

ELEANOR

Okay, Sharon, I'm too young for Medicare!

SHARON

(sighs)

Eleanor, listen. Have you seen Billy around?

ELEANOR

No. Why, are you guys not together anymore? Did he say something about me? Because I love my boyfriend but, man...

SHARON

No! I'm just wondering if he's been around the city, if you've seen him.

ELEANOR

I can't say that I have.

SHARON

Okay.

ELEANOR

Because I haven't.

SHARON

I get it!

ELEANOR

Is Shana with you?

Shana approaches Sharon.

SHANA

Hey, there wasn't anything over there! What are you doing?

Sharon hands Shana the phone.

SHARON

Here, it's your sister.

SHANA

Eleanor, what's up?

ELEANOR

Do you know where the remote is? Dad can't find it!

SHANA

No, I don't.

ELEANOR

Well, it's been missing for weeks. We can't watch any TV!

SHANA

Have you tried walking up to the TV?

ELEANOR

(sighs)

Look, if you're not gonna be serious, I'm hanging up.

Eleanor hangs up. Shana gives Sharon her phone.

SHANA

I don't see Billy anywhere, Sharon.

SHARON

Hey, let's go to Milwaukee. He likes to go there to visit our son. And maybe you'll find the woman after Jacob.

SHANA

But Jacob hates Milwaukee!

SHARON

No, he hates it here! He never wanted to leave Milwaukee, you said.

SHANA

Oh yeah. He keeps talking about some step team or something that he taught. I don't be paying attention.

SHARON

(sarcastically)

How could he ever step out on you?

SHANA

Oh, I know you ain't talking, Ms. Stood-My-Baby-Daddy-Up!

SHARON

Okay, okay. What do you say? Road trip?

SHANA

Don't you have to work?

SHARON

Don't you?

SHANA

Good point.

SHARON
So, road trip?

SHANA
Road trip.

They exit.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Shana and Sharon enter the restaurant.

SHARON
Let's get something to eat, then continue
looking.

Sharon sees GINA RICHARDS, 20's, black, sitting at a booth. Gina wears her cheerleading uniform. Sharon and Shana approach her.

SHARON (CONT'D)
Excuse me, but you look familiar.

GINA
So do you.
(gasps)
You dated that one guy.

SHARON
Yeah, and you dated that football player!

GINA
And we were about to have that foursome,
then you went into labor! How are you?

SHARON
I've been good. Speaking of that guy,
have you seen him around? His name's
Billy.

GINA
No, I haven't. But if I do, I'll send him
right home to you!

SHARON
(chuckles)
You better!

Gina CHUCKLES.

SHANA

Look, I hate to put a damper on this heartfelt reunion, but we need to get going.

She and Sharon leave the booth.

SHARON

We need to get into our inner whores. But we need some help.

Maureen wears a skimpy dress, heavy makeup, and swishes her hips as she walks past Shana and Sharon.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Hey, Maureen!

MAUREEN

Go to hell, Sharon.

SHARON

Oh yeah, we don't like each other.

Maureen turns around and walks back to them.

MAUREEN

(to Shana)

That wasn't very nice. How can I help you, woman that's not Sharon?

SHANA

We're looking for a lady who's stealing our men!

MAUREEN

Why does everyone always blame me? I'm not The Clean-Up Woman! Take care of your own men, and you won't have that problem! Like I do with mine!

Maureen pulls out her phone and shows them a pic of Chaz Trepur sleeping.

SHANA

Chaz Trepur is your man? But he spends all his time in bed!

MAUREEN

Yeah! My kinda man!

(sighs)

Look, when I used to frequent Billy's campus, I noticed him getting all giddy with this light-skinned chick.

(MORE)

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

They would always meet in Murray Hall at a certain day.

SHARON

Thursday?

MAUREEN

Yeah, that's it.

SHARON

Is she pretty?

MAUREEN

Not prettier than us! Or not me, anyway.

SHARON

Alright. Thanks. Shana, let's head back home.

SHANA

But what about me?

SHARON

Jacob ain't seeking revenge on your entanglement, so you don't seek revenge on his!

SHANA

Whatever. As long as he keeps her name out of his freakin' mouth. Come on.

Sharon and Shana walk away.

MAUREEN

Oh, tell Jacob I said what's up!

SHANA (O.C.)

Shut up, Maureen!

MAUREEN

Skanks.

Maureen adjusts her breasts, sticks them out, and continues sashaying.

INT. MURRAY HALL

SUPER: "THURSDAY EVENING"

Sharon walks through the hallway, past some classrooms.

SHARON
 (to herself)
 See, Sharon, this is a school building,
 not a dorm! There's nothing goin' on.

She hears Billy's voice with the voice of a WOMAN behind a closed door.

BILLY (O.C.)
 She just doesn't understand!

WOMAN (O.C.)
 It's okay, I'm here!

Sharon GASPS.

INT. MURRAY HALL - CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Billy stands in front of a group of students. He has ARLENE, a dog, on a leash. He talks to the dog trainer, LIZ, black, light-skinned.

BILLY
 I can't get her to speak, Liz!

LIZ
 Relax, Mr. Nelson, it'll take a bit.

Sharon BURSTS THROUGH the door.

SHARON
 (to Liz)
 Get your hands off my...!

She STOPS and looks around. Arlene BARKS at her.

BILLY
 Sharon?? What are you doing??

SHARON
 Hitting rock bottom?

Billy GROANS.

INT. BILLY AND SHARON'S HOME - EVENING

Sharon paces back and forth. Billy enters from the front.

BILLY
 Alright, Sharon, make it good!

SHARON

You're always gone Thursday nights!

BILLY

Right. That's my dog training class,
which I probably failed, thanks to you!

SHARON

Hear me out. I thought you were still mad
about me standing you up that night!

BILLY

For the last time, I'm okay! At first, I
was disappointed, but after having "The
Real Housewife of Madison" in our house,
I knew how you felt!

SHARON

Hmmph.

BILLY

See, that's what happens when you keep
talking to your friends at work!

SHARON

Shows how much you know!
(subdued voice)
They're not my friends.

BILLY

Sharon, if we're gonna be together,
you're gonna have to start trusting me!

SHARON

Well, you need to give me more attention!

BILLY

I thought I was! That's why we were
supposed to go to that party!

SHARON

Alright, Billy!
(exhales)
I get it. So you haven't been screwin'
around on me?

BILLY

No, but I might as well have! So I
wouldn't have to deal with you!

Billy pauses. Sharon's eyes widen.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Eric and Billy's stepfather, MATT JAMES, 40's, black, opens the front door. Billy stands there with some boxes and luggage.

BILLY

I was almost home free, Matt.

MATT

And now you're back home. And it's anything but free here.

Billy enters with a few things. Matt helps him. Billy and Eric's mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, black, enters from the kitchen.

RHONDA

Aw, Billy, did you "Nelson" it up again?

BILLY

I "Nelson'd" it up again, Mom.

Billy PLOPS down on the couch next to his infant son, WILL.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(to Will)

Hey, son. Daddy's home.

WILL

(speaking telepathically)

Hmmph. Hello, stranger. You know I took your room, right?

BILLY

Well, at least someone is happy to see me!

Billy smiles, picks up Will, and hugs him.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - EVENING

Shana and her fellow soldiers are at a party drinking, dancing to the MUSIC, and CHATTING. Shana talks with PRIVATE GEORGE and PRIVATE WEBSTER, both female, 19, black.

GEORGE

See, Jones, ain't you glad we made you come out here?

SHANA

I guess. Where's Darius...I mean, SGT
Murphy?

WEBSTER

He stayed after work to clean up,
remember?

SHANA

Oh yeah.
(takes a swig)
It's time to turn up! This my song!

Shana moves to the middle of the floor and starts
dancing. SGT HOPPER, 30's, black, approaches George and
Webster.

HOPPER

(smirks)
Oh, there Jones goes again.

GEORGE

Yo, you gonna take that from her, Sarge?

Hopper goes to the middle of the floor and dances with
Shana.

WEBSTER

(yells)
Dance-off, ya'll!

Shana and Hopper do various dance moves. The crowd CHEERS
and CLAPS. Hopper does an exaggerated move and spins to
the floor. Shana steps aside to George and Webster. The
rest of the crowd return to mingling.

SHANA

(laughs)
Oh, I can't keep up with all that!

GEORGE

We shoulda told you. Sarge can get down!

WEBSTER

Yeah, especially since she's been taking
dance lessons from some guy!

GEORGE

What? Get outta here! If anything, she
would be teaching him!

SHANA

I know!

WEBSTER

Well, she has been taking them from this white guy.

GEORGE

I rest my case!

The three LAUGH. Shana STOPS and GASPS. She looks at Hopper and walks towards her. She taps Hopper on the shoulder; Hopper turns around. Shana lifts her fist and throws it in her direction.

FREEZE FRAME.

Everything and everyone freezes, with the exception of Shana, who still has her fist up. Her head and mouth are the only body parts that move.

SHANA

Oh no. What am I doing? Well, if I'm gonna knock her out, I better do it good. Still, how could I risk my career over this?

Hopper also moves her head and mouth only.

HOPPER

(to Shana)

Yeah, I would hit me, too. So just get it over with.

SHANA

(to Hopper)

Yeah, my arm is cramping up.

BACK TO LIVE ACTION.

Shana PUNCHES Hopper in the face. Hopper lands to the floor. Shana gets down with her, and they both fight each other.

WEBSTER

Jones! You got served! Don't take it personal!

She and George rush to break up Shana and Hopper. Other partygoers attempt to break up the fight.

INT. ERIC, RON AND VANKA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eric and Berniece sit on the couch and cuddle.

BERNIECE

Eric, I wasn't trying to make you mad.
Just that hearing about Shana and Jacob
made me crazy.

ERIC

You'd have to be crazy to deal with
either of them. And them girls at
Sharon's job.

BERNIECE

Yeah.

ERIC

I don't know what's going on with them or
my brother, but we shouldn't let them
affect what you and me got going on.

He kisses her on the cheek.

BERNIECE

I agree.

SFX: Doorbell RINGS.

Eric opens the door. Shana, looking roughed-up, stands
there.

SHANA

Eric, I might be going away for a long
while. Can I hide out here for now?

Eric SLAMS the door and walks away.

SHANA (O.C.) (CONT'D)

If it's Berniece, tell her don't worry!
I'm faithful to my husband now!

THE END