

ERIC

"Junior the Dad"

Written by E.J. Rupert

© E.J. Rupert for
Jimmy Rupe Productions
Milwaukee, WI
(414) 550-0547
ejrupert@yahoo.com

INT. RON'S APARTMENT - MORNING

RON TYSON, 20's, black, exits from his room and rubs his eyes. He spots his roommate, ERIC NELSON, 17, black, straightening up the kitchen table.

ERIC
Morning, roomie! Have a seat!

RON
Okay.

He sits at the table. Eric serves him a tray of food.

ERIC
Here's your breakfast. Eat up!

Ron lifts the spoon from a bowl of slop.

RON
Since when do you know how to cook?

He tastes the spoon and frowns.

RON (CONT'D)
Asked and answered.

Eric gives him a mug.

ERIC
And here's something to wash it down
with: Not Chocolate!

RON
"Not Chocolate"?

ERIC
Just like hot chocolate, except it's not
chocolate. Family recipe.

RON
Look, Eric, I know what you're trying to
do, but we still gotta talk about this.
Sit down.

Eric SIGHS and sits.

RON (CONT'D)
Now that Vanka's gone, there's no reason
for us to pretend to be a family anymore.

ERIC
But Ron, I need a dad!

RON

You have a dad! You have two of them!

ERIC

Please. Might as well say I have one dad.

RON

That's one more than I got. Mine passed away!

ERIC

Okay, never mind the dad thing. Let's just be roommates!

RON

But you're still underage, so I would still have to be responsible! And I'm trying to graduate on time! So I need to focus on my studies!

(gasps)

Oh my god! That isn't a lame excuse from girls!

ERIC

Aw, man!

RON

Now, look, Eric, I'll give you some time to talk to your parents, but...

ERIC

No, I don't wanna hear it! I'm outta here!

Eric storms out of the apartment and SLAMS the door.

RON

Well, it's not like this breakfast did you any favors!

He looks in his mug, underneath the mug, and touches the bottom.

RON (CONT'D)

How is this mug almost empty? I didn't even drink from it yet!

INT. SHARON'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eric's brother, BILLY, 20's, lies in a bed with his hands covering his ears. There are continuous BUMPING SOUNDS against the opposite side of the wall.

BILLY

I hate being here when Sharon brings her dates home!

The bumping sounds CONTINUE. Billy picks up a pillow and buries his head with it.

BILLY (CONT'D)

And now I gotta listen to that!

SFX: More BUMPING SOUNDS.

BILLY (CONT'D)

That does it! I don't care what I'm walking in on!

Billy hops out of bed, marches to the bedroom next to his, and opens the door.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Can you keep it down in here?

Billy exits and closes the door. The person that he talked to is his son, WILL, 1, who stands on his feet in his crib, which is next to the wall. He is surrounded by plush animals. A toy basketball hoop hangs on the rail, and Will holds a plush basketball. He speaks telepathically (in *italics*).

WILL

What? I was showin' my boys that I got hops!

INT. HOSPITAL - SHANA'S ROOM - DAY

A very pregnant SHANA JONES, 19, biracial, lies in bed and MOANS. Her husband, JACOB JACKSON, 19, white, stands over her.

JACOB

Alright, Shana, calm down!

SHANA

I don't wanna calm down! I wanna have this demon out of me! He's killin' me!

JACOB

"These demons".

SHANA

Shut up!

JACOB

Right!

Shana's father, JOHN DUMBECK, 40's, white, runs in the room.

JOHN

Shana, it's time? I rushed my private jet right over here from Thailand!

JACOB

(rolls his eyes)

You could've just said, "I rushed right over."

JOHN

(to Jacob)

And you could've said, "I'll stay faithful and keep it in my pants!"

John and Jacob BICKER.

SHANA

Hey! Stop it! If ya'll both gonna stay with me, you can't get me upset!

JOHN

Fine. Jacob, why don't you get us some snacks?

JACOB

I was just about to do that.

JOHN

Okay. Here's a few dollars.

JACOB

No, it's cool. I got it.

JOHN

I don't mind. Here.

JACOB

I can afford to get snacks for my wife, John.

JOHN

I didn't say you couldn't, Jacob.

JACOB

(sternly)

Then put your money back in your pocket, John!

JOHN

Look, I'm trying to be nice, and you should just accept the help!

JACOB

I don't need your help!

JOHN

Yeah, that's not what my daughter said!

JACOB

Well...

SHANA

(yells)

Both of ya'll, get the hell outta here!

John and Jacob hurry out the room.

INT. HOSPITAL - ELEVATOR - LATER

John and Jacob enter the elevator, hands full of snacks.

JACOB

Did you have to purchase the whole vending machine?

JOHN

Anything for my daughter!

JACOB

I'm tired of you throwing your money around. You're rich, I get it!

JOHN

(sighs)

Whatever. I'm just trying to stay in my daughter's life. Every day, she keeps pulling away.

JACOB

Well, maybe if you loosen your grip a little, man!

The elevator stops. A NURSE hops on.

JOHN

When you become a father, you'll understand.

JACOB

Which ain't too far away.

JOHN

I can't believe it. Jacob Jackson, a father.

NURSE

Excuse me, you're Jacob Jackson?

JACOB

Yeah.

NURSE

Oh, good, your wife's been asking about you!

The elevator stops.

JACOB

Well, we're going to see her right now.

Jacob and John begin to exit.

NURSE

But this is the third floor.

JACOB

I know.

NURSE

Your wife's on the sixth floor.

JACOB

No, we just came from the third floor.

NURSE

But isn't your wife Vivian Hopper? She's gonna be in labor soon!

Jacob looks shocked. John turns to Jacob and frowns.

JACOB

(to John)

Don't start!

INT. HOSPITAL - VIVIAN'S ROOM - LATER

Jacob, carrying the snacks, enters the room of Shana's boss, SERGEANT VIVIAN HOPPER, black. She lies in bed.

JACOB

Vivian? I thought you went back to Milwaukee!

VIVIAN

I did. I came back up here, and it seems like my baby...our baby is ready to come out.

JACOB

Oh.

VIVIAN

I'm surprised you came for me! I have so much I wanted to talk to you about! I'm so glad you're here!

JACOB

Well...I was in the neighborhood, so...

VIVIAN

And how'd you know I liked Takis?

She snatches a bag from Jacob.

JACOB

Anything for the mother of my newborn.

He CHUCKLES nervously.

INT. SUBS N' SUCH - DAY

Eric and Billy sit at a table with their hands on their heads.

ERIC

Ron's kicking me out.

BILLY

(dryly)

But you're such a joy to live with.

ERIC

Whatever, man.

BILLY

I'm having housing problems, too. I have to keep dealing with Sharon's dates coming home.

ERIC

I thought you said she only brought one dude home.

BILLY

That's one dude too many.

ERIC

Oh, I get it. You love her.

BILLY

Shut up. No I don't.

ERIC

Really?

BILLY

I'd rather get back to your problem. Just go back home to Milwaukee.

Eric SCOFFS. Their father, WILLIAM "JUNIOR" NELSON, JR., 40's, black, sashays in the shop. He wears his usual sequinned jumpsuit with a headband around his afro.

JUNIOR

Wassup, fruits of my loins?

An old lady, MILDRED, black, approaches Junior.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Mildred.

MILDRED

Jackass.

Mildred walks away.

ERIC

What was that all about?

JUNIOR

I married and divorced her daughter once. Or her. I forget. Why so down?

BILLY

Like you care.

JUNIOR

I care about the lives of my two sons that I know about. Now lay it on me.

BILLY

We're having problems with our living arrangements. I don't wanna live with my baby mama.

ERIC

And I can't live with Ron anymore!

JUNIOR

(scoffs)

I can't believe it! You guys didn't think to ask me?

ERIC

For what?

JUNIOR

To live with me, silly! I got plenty room! You're my sons!

BILLY

Dad, on many occasions, you literally said in public that we're not your sons!

JUNIOR

Hey, you can't show your first date everything! Now, do you want a place to live or not?

BILLY

Well, yeah.

JUNIOR

Then shut your mouths and follow me!

Junior exits. The boys stare at each other confused, then slowly get up.

ERIC

Billy, I'm scared.

BILLY

Are our bodies gonna end up chopped up somewhere?

ERIC

That might make more sense!

They follow Junior out.

INT. HOSPITAL - SHANA'S ROOM

A group of DOCTORS and nurses surround Shana, who constantly pushes. Jacob, wearing scrubs, stands with them.

DOCTOR #1

Come on, Shana, keep pushing!

SHANA

I am!

JACOB

Don't give up!

SHANA

Easy for you to say! You weren't around for any of this!

The doctors and nurses look at Jacob.

JACOB

What? We got a history!

NURSE #2

We know! You're a real hit in our break room!

DOCTOR #2

Here comes the first one!

Shana SCREAMS. A FEMALE BABY comes out and BAWLS, while speaking telepathically.

FEMALE BABY

Aww, I told myself I wasn't gonna cry!

DOCTOR #1

Okay, Shana, stay strong! Keep pushing!

SHANA

(grunts)

God, if you get this baby out of me, I promise I'll only have babies with my husband!

The doctors and nurses look at Jacob.

JACOB

Yeah, yeah, keep doin' your job!

DOCTOR #2

And here comes baby #2!

Shana SCREAMS, while a MALE BABY comes out and BAWLS. He speaks telepathically.

MALE BABY

(to female baby)

Dang, now your crying is making me cry!

JACOB

You did it, Shana.

DOCTOR #2

Yeah, congratulations, Ms. Jones!

SHANA

(pants)

Thanks. Now bring 'em both over here.

A nurse brings them over. Shana holds them.

SHANA (CONT'D)

A boy and a girl me! Who would've thought?

JACOB

Yeah.

(pause)

Well, bye.

SHANA

Jakey, where you goin'?

JACOB

I'm gonna get your dad. I'm sure he wants to be here.

SHANA

But what about you?

JACOB

I'll be back, trust me.

Two nurses SNICKER.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(to the nurses)

Knock it off!

Jacob exits.

FEMALE BABY

If he's gonna be in our lives, I'm gonna need him to be a little more receptive to us!

MALE BABY

You tell 'em, sis!

FEMALE BABY

Uh, what?

MALE BABY

Oh yeah.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jacob walks past John.

JOHN

Hey, Jacob, wait! How's Shana doing?

JACOB

Oh yeah. She had the babies. Go in and see them.

JOHN

What's up with you?

JACOB

Nothing.

JOHN

Aren't you happy for Shana?

JACOB

Of course!

JOHN

But you'll be more happy when your baby is born upstairs, right?

JACOB

(sighs)

Look, what do you want from me, huh?

JOHN

Calm down, Jacob.

JACOB

Yeah, right. And you just couldn't wait to tell your daughter that Vivian is here, too!

JOHN

I didn't tell her, and she won't hear it from me. Just go upstairs and wait for your baby to come out.

PAUSE.

JACOB

Alright.

Jacob prepares to exit, then turns back around.

JACOB (CONT'D)

You know, I don't know if I can get used to you tolerating me like this.

JOHN

If it makes you feel any better, I still hate your guts.

JACOB
 (smirks)
 You always know what to say.

He puts his hand on John's shoulder.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 ..."Dad".

John frowns. Jacob pulls away and exits.

JOHN
 So do you.

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE - LATER

Eric and Billy, with their luggage, follow Junior into his house.

JUNIOR
 Here you go, guys.

The boys look around.

ERIC
 Dang! This place is a palace!

BILLY
 A one-hit wonder lives like this?

JUNIOR
 That one hit has me set for life!

ERIC
 I'll never listen to, or laugh at, "Funky Business" the same again.

They go into each boy's bedroom.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 You already have posters up?

JUNIOR
 Well, yeah. I know what you like, Eric.

BILLY
 There's a desk here! I always wanted this setup.

JUNIOR
 Well, there you go. And if you ever want a special study place as a change of scenery, you can use my man cave.
 (MORE)

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

When I'm not in it, of course. And look over here.

They enter another room, decorated like a nursery.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

A nursery for little Willie, right next to your room, Bill. So ya'll make yourselves at home.

ERIC

You mean until your wife comes home, right?

JUNIOR

I'm not married or dating anybody, Eric.

BILLY

Okay, Dad, what gives? I mean, now, your house is open to us?

JUNIOR

It always was.

ERIC

Do you even believe that?

JUNIOR

Look, what's the first thing a rock star does when he's out of the spotlight?

ERIC

Come out of the closet?

JUNIOR

No! Spend more time with his family!

He wraps his arms around both of them.

SFX: His cell phone RINGS.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

I gotta take this call. Get unpacked.

Junior exits.

BILLY

I'm calling. BS, that is!

ERIC

Billy...

BILLY

There's gotta be some kind of catch here.

ERIC

Well, maybe he's dying.

(gasps)

Oh god! Our lives would change forever!

BILLY

No they wouldn't!

ERIC

I was trying to be nice.

BILLY

I'm still gonna find out what's up with Dad. If you were smart, you would find out along with me, unless you're cool with being on the street a week later.

Billy exits.

ERIC

I'm reaching adulthood, and Dad wants to be a dad now. Is he gonna take me out for pizza and jump in the colored balls, too?

(pause)

That don't sound like a bad idea. Hey, Dad!

He runs away.

INT. HOSPITAL - VIVIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Jacob holds his and Vivian's BABY BOY in his arms.

JACOB

Wow, man, look at him.

The baby looks at Jacob.

BABY BOY

(speaks telepathically)

Hey, look at that, a whiter me!

VIVIAN

He sure looks good in your arms. The way it should be. Two handsome men in my life together.

JACOB

Uh, listen, Vivian, you know I'm with Shana. Now I know I'm good-looking and all...

VIVIAN

Please! If I weren't carrying your son, I wouldn't even remember you!

JACOB

Uh huh.

VIVIAN

But, you see, I have another son, and he stays with my parents, while I'm deploying and all that.

JACOB

Yeah, and?

VIVIAN

And I'm wondering if you'd like to keep this son.

JACOB

A Jackson growing up in a broken home. Why does that sound familiar?

VIVIAN

Please try to understand, Jacob.

JACOB

We have enough kids already, Vivian. I'm not doing your dirty work.

He gives the baby back to Vivian and begins to exit.

VIVIAN

But I named him after you!

Jacob stops and turns back around. He smirks.

JACOB

Really?

VIVIAN

Yeah. It's my gift to you.

BABY BOY

*Some gift. "Kermit Jacob Jackson III".
I'd kick my own ass.*

JACOB

Well, I'm sure me and Shana can take him on!

VIVIAN

Don't you wanna ask Shana first?

JACOB

Oh, she'll be fine with it. It don't matter, anyway, since we'll all be living with Sharon!

INT. SHARON'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, sits on the couch with her DATE. They are about to kiss. Sharon starts to tremble.

SHARON

Whoa! Something don't feel right!

DATE

(lustfully)

But it will in a minute!

Sharon stares at him. He backs away.

DATE (CONT'D)

(regular voice)

If it's okay with you.

EXT. OUTDOORS - POND - DAY

Eric, Billy, and Junior, wearing life vests and fisherman's hats over their clothes, sit in a boat with fishing rods in the water.

JUNIOR

Isn't this the life, boys?

BILLY

Maybe if we knew how to fish.

ERIC

Yeah, my bait been fell off the hook.

JUNIOR

(pause)

Uh, bait?

Billy SIGHS.

ERIC

What's wrong, bro? Not feeling this father-son pop-up event?

BILLY

No, but it's not just that.

JUNIOR

I know that look. You're missing your girl!

BILLY

Dad, you don't know what you're talking about.

JUNIOR

Oh really?

BILLY

Yeah! And what's up with these Kodak moments? I know you ain't dying. I called your doctor.

JUNIOR

My doctor shared my records with you?

BILLY

Yeah. He was shocked that you even still breathin' after all them drugs!

JUNIOR

Hey, they were all over the corner. I mean, "counter".

ERIC

What Billy's trying to say is we're waiting for the other shoe to drop.

JUNIOR

But why are you waiting?

PAUSE.

ERIC

(to Billy)

Maybe Dad's right. We just probably just embrace this.

JUNIOR

And as for you, William, if you love Sharon, you'll go get her back! Don't be like me. I lost a good woman.

ERIC

You mean Mom?

JUNIOR

(passively)

Yeah, sure.

BILLY

Well, I'll give you that one.

He stands up.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Guys, I'm goin' back to Sharon!

He steps out of the boat and PLOOPS down in the water.

ERIC

He could've waited until we got to land.

JUNIOR

Yes he could've, son. Yes he could've. So what's this bait you speak of?

INT. HOSPITAL - SHANA'S ROOM - LATER

Shana's half-sister, ELEANOR DUMBECK, 18, white, carries her female baby in her arms. John holds the male baby. Jacob sits on the bed with Shana. Sharon stands over them.

SHARON

Welcome to the club, Shana!

SHANA

Thanks. It's great to be here!

ELEANOR

(to baby girl)

Hey, girl, hey! It's Auntie Eleanor!

JOHN

(to baby boy)

And Grandpa John!

SHANA

Um, can we get our babies back now?

Eleanor hands the baby girl to Shana.

ELEANOR

Okay, we'll give your babies back to you.

(to Jacob)

You hear that? Those are her babies. Not yours. Hers!

JACOB

I know that!

ELEANOR
Just making sure you didn't forget!

JACOB
Did you?

ELEANOR
(pause)
Yes. Yes I did.

JACOB
I'll be back.

Jacob hurries out.

SHANA
Where does Jakey keep going? He's been acting real distant.

JOHN
He's in a real tough position, Shana. Why don't you give him a break?

SHANA
I guess you're right. That's cool of you to stand up for Jacob for once.

She GASPS.

SHANA (CONT'D)
(sternly)
What do you know?

JOHN
Hey, young lady, I'm gonna need you to watch your...

SHANA
Out with it!

JOHN
(rapidly)
He's upstairs on the sixth floor with Vivian, and she's giving birth!

SHANA
So that cow's gonna steal him away from me again? Not this time!

She hops out of bed, hands the baby back to Eleanor, and marches to the door.

JOHN

Honey, slow down! You don't wanna hurt yourself!

SHANA

The only one's gonna be hurt is her! And she's at the right place to recover!

She marches out the door. Everyone else follows her.

INT. HOSPITAL - VIVIAN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob rocks his baby in his arms. Vivian lies in bed. Shana and the gang burst in the room.

SHANA

Get away from my man, Vivian!

VIVIAN

(gasps)
Private Jones!

SHANA

I figure I can call you, "Vivian", since you boinked my husband!

ELEANOR

And you both share the same baby daddy!

John pulls Eleanor back.

JACOB

Shana, there's a good explanation. Vivian just had my baby!

SHANA

Yeah, and what? She'll have you next?

JACOB

No! I ain't goin' nowhere! But she is.

SHANA

What?

VIVIAN

Jones, none of my kids live with me. Not even Darius' kid. They're all back at home.

SHANA

Yeah, so?

VIVIAN

I always dreamed of going to the Army and retire an officer. Just like my parents and their parents.

SHANA

Okay.

VIVIAN

And a good way to get promoted is by going on a lot of deployments. Apparently, screwing your way to the top ain't all it's cracked up to be.

MALE BABY

(to the other babies, smirks)
These are our mommies, ya'll.

VIVIAN

What I'm trying to say is, my newborn needs a place to stay.

JACOB

Shana, it's not a bad idea. I don't wanna be like my dad and leave my kid out there. I'll still take care of yours, but I wanna take care of mine, too!

PAUSE.

ELEANOR

Wow. Shana?

SHANA

Yeah?

ELEANOR

Which floor is the vending machine on again?

SHANA

Shut up!

(to Jacob)

Okay, we'll take...what's his name?

JACOB

Kermit. She named him after me!

SHANA

But I named my baby Kermit.

JACOB

You did? But I'm not his father!

SHANA

You are now.

JACOB

I don't know what to say.

SHANA

Let them both be named Kermit.

(points to her son)

Call this one, "J.R." for "Junior"...

(points to Jacob's son)

...and the other one, "J.J." for Jacob, Jr.

JACOB

As long as you guys never call either of us, "Kermit", ever again. But what about the girl?

SHANA

I was thinking, "Jennifer".

JACOB

Jennifer Jones?

SHANA

Jennifer Jackson.

JACOB

Man. What have I done to deserve any of this?

ELEANOR

Good question!

SHANA

(to Eleanor)

Put up with me! Just like I put up with him!

Everybody puts the babies down in bassinets.

VIVIAN

Thank you so much, guys.

SHARON

Hold on a minute! I hate to break up this touching moment, but where are all these babies gonna stay at? I already have my own baby! And I'm sick of dealing with ya'll screwed-up love life! I have my own screwed-up love life to deal with!

JOHN

You don't have to deal with their love life or family, Sharon. They're coming back to Milwaukee with me.

(to Shana)

I got a house for you guys.

JACOB

What?

SHANA

No, Dad, I don't want you to keep throwing money at us!

JOHN

I know. You'll be throwing money at me! I'll be your landlord, and you'll pay me rent every month!

JACOB

Landlord? Well, hey, I already give you crap!

JOHN

Likewise! Only this time, I'll get paid for it, too!

SHANA

Aww, thanks, Dad!

She hugs John.

JOHN

Think of it as a wedding present from me. That you'll be paying for.

JENNIFER

Well, boys, I guess we're a family now!

J.J.

I'm glad we never started dating, huh?

JENNIFER

Yeah, you and J.R. really dodged a bullet!

J.J.

Yeah, and...hey!!

Jennifer CHUCKLES. J.R. and J.J. frown.

INT. SHARON'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sharon sits on the couch and reads a magazine. Billy bursts into the house.

SHARON

Billy! Your clothes are soaking wet!

BILLY

(sternly)

Then take 'em off of me, damn it! And yours!

Sharon stands up. Billy SNAPS his fingers. Sharon runs up to him, and they kiss.

SHARON

This is sexy and all, but you smell like algae.

They continue kissing.

INT. SHARON'S HOME - BEDROOM - LATER

Sharon and Billy lay in their underwear, underneath the covers.

SHARON

Welcome back, Billy!

BILLY

Great to be back.

They roll over, kiss, then return to their positions.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Well, see ya later!

He gets out of bed and quickly throws on Sharon's gown.

SHARON

Okay, thanks for coming over!

BILLY

Have a good night!

He walks past Will's room. Will looks at him from his playpen.

BILLY (CONT'D)

See you later, son!

Will looks confused.

WILL
*Even if I could talk, I wouldn't even
 know what to say.*

INT. JUNIOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Junior and partygoers dance and CHATTER. Music BLASTS.
 Smoke fills the room. Eric enters from his room.

ERIC
 Dad, what's all this?

JUNIOR
 You serious? It's a party!

ERIC
 Cool, what's the occasion?

JUNIOR
 It's Tuesday!

The partygoers CHEER.

ERIC
 Will you be able to follow up that Monday
 party? Or even that Sunday party?

JUNIOR
 We'll have to keep tryin'!

The partygoers CHEER. A SEXY WOMAN approaches Junior.

SEXY WOMAN
 That's right, baby!

JUNIOR
 Oh, hey, Luz, this is my son, Eric! Eric,
 meet Luz, my new wife!

SEXY WOMAN/LUZ
 Yep! Just got hitched, too! This is our
 honeymoon!

ERIC
 (to Junior)
 Oh, that's where you were all day. It's
 cool. Nothing can kill my joy. Billy's
 moving out!

Billy enters the house.

CROWD
 Billy!

BILLY

'Sup, ya'll?

Eric looks at the gown on Billy.

ERIC

So, I take it you made up with Sharon.

BILLY

You got that right, after the best eight minutes of her life!

JUNIOR

That's my boy!

ERIC

It's good that ya'll finally back together!

BILLY

What? We ain't back together! That was just a booty call!

ERIC

What? So you ain't movin'?

BILLY

I am, but I'm moving back in with Ron! He needs me!

ERIC

Well, I still get a second room, so either way, I'm winning!

BILLY

I just came back to change. Ya'll keep the party goin'!

Billy exits to his room.

ERIC

Alright, ya'll! You heard him! Let's keep the party goin'!

LUZ

(sotto voce)

Willie, dear, you didn't tell me your sons were living with you.

JUNIOR

Well, yeah, honey. Problem?

Eric walks over to Junior's bandmates, MERT, PORTER, and MILT CHOCOLATE.

ERIC

Hey, what ya'll smokin' over here? You in my house, you need to puff, puff, pass!

MERT

(drunkenly)

Hey, Willie, if I wanted to baby-sit, I would call one of my baby moms!

PORTER

Yeah, your son is kinda killin' the vibe!

JUNIOR

Look, my son comes with the house! So if you don't like it, you can step!

LUZ

Fine, I'll step! I ain't ready to be a mama again! I just got out of jail from fighting my daughter!

JUNIOR

(to Luz)

Whoa, baby, hold on there!

(to Eric)

Son, here's some cash. Get lost for a while. You're too young for this stuff, anyway!

ERIC

No I'm not!

JUNIOR

Listen to your daddy and beat it!

ERIC

Hmmph! I can't wait till I'm grown, so I can smoke, drink and party all I want!

JUNIOR

Yeah, and how's that goin' for ya? Ha, ha!

Other partygoers CHUCKLE. Eric marches out of the house.

MILT CHOCOLATE

Luz, you and your daughter were fighting?

LUZ

Yeah, over Willie here!

MILT CHOCOLATE

Damn, when'd you get out?

LUZ

That's between you and me. Matter fact,
Willie, can you turn the music down a
little, so the cops won't come?

JUNIOR

(calls out)

What the lady says, goes! Turn the music
down!

Some partygoers MOAN.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Eric and Billy's stepfather, MATT JAMES, 40's, black,
sits on the couch and looks at his phone.

MATT

(reads)

"Dear sir or madam, your application for
a credit card has been rejected." Great.
I'm the only person I know that gets spam
rejection letters!

SFX: Front door OPENS.

ERIC (O.C.)

Matt?

MATT

Hey, son. What's up?

Eric stands at the door with his luggage.

ERIC

Yeah, I heard that you guys were pretty
lonely without Billy and his son here.

MATT

Oh?

ERIC

Yeah, so, uh, how about if I keep you and
Mom company for a while?

Matt gets up.

MATT

Well, you really don't have to. Me and
your mom can manage.

ERIC

Oh, no, I insist.

MATT

But what about Madison?

ERIC

I can do without it. I'm a Milwaukee kid! Besides, when Dad starts becoming the voice of reason, I know that's it's time to come home. To help you out, of course.

MATT

Of course. And what about the whole weed thing?

ERIC

It's over and done. Whatever you want.

MATT

Eric, it's not about what I want.

(pause)

Well, actually, it is, since it's my house. But it's all about you making the right choices and not rushing through stuff.

ERIC

I get it.

MATT

So if you're down with that, then you can come back...to help us out.

ERIC

(sighs with relief)

Okay, great!

(pause)

Only if you want me to.

His mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, black, enters from the kitchen.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hi, Mom.

RHONDA

Eric, you're a fool.

ERIC

Yeah.

RHONDA

Welcome home.

She hugs him. Eric shakes Matt's hand and gives him a hug.

ERIC

I'm gonna get the rest of my stuff.

He exits the house. Matt dials on his phone and puts it on speaker.

MATT

Hey. He's back now. Thank you.

INTERCUT - MATT AND RHONDA/JUNIOR

Junior speaks on the other end from his house.

JUNIOR

I have no idea what you're talking about.

RHONDA

Yeah, whatever. Eric's coming back in. We gotta go.

JUNIOR

Okay. Bye.

Junior hangs up. Luz enters and hangs onto him.

LUZ

Oooh, Junior, I'm feelin' freaky!

JUNIOR

Oh?

LUZ

Yeah. Let's make the most of your son living here. I know! Let's do it with the doors cracked and try not to get caught!

JUNIOR

But Luz...

LUZ

And if he catches us, so what? Come on!

She kisses him and rushes to the bedroom.

JUNIOR

Damn Eric.

THE END