

ERIC

"Connie Goes to an A.A. Meeting"

By E.J. Rupert

Jimmy Rupe Productions
Milwaukee, WI 53225
(414) 550-0547
ejrupert@yahoo.com
©2022 E.J. Rupert

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

SFX: School bell RINGS.

Students exit out of a classroom. ERIC NELSON, ARNOLD ALLEN, and DIMMEY ROBERTS, all in their teens, meet up with Dimmey's girlfriend, CONNIE MCDOWELL, and BERNIECE WILLIAMS, also in their teens.

CONNIE

Hey, honey, how was Sex Ed?

DIMMEY

It was alright.

ARNOLD

It would have been better if Eric didn't keep on laughing.

ERIC

Sorry, but it was funny!

ARNOLD

What? The video was filmed in Oconomowoc.

ERIC

(giggling)

I know! "Oconomowoc"!

(to Berniece)

But anyway, I know you want me, Berniece, but we can't have sex until the time is right.

He wraps his arm around her.

BERNIECE

You'll be waiting a long time.

ERIC

So you're saying it will happen!

BERNIECE

Get your arm off of me before I wrap it around your neck.

Eric removes his arm from around her.

ERIC

Oooh, talk dirty some more, baby!

JACOB JACKSON, 17, walks past the kids. He knocks down Connie's books from her arm.

JACOB

Hey, nerds! Oops, my bad, Connie!

CONNIE

Hey! Dimmey, do something!

DIMMEY

Aw, that's just Jacob Jackson being Jacob Jackson.

CONNIE

You're not gonna stand up for your woman?

DIMMEY

He's gone now, Connie. Besides, I'm a peaceful man.

ARNOLD

Eric, you really need to quit all that joking around. I was trying to take notes.

ERIC

Take all the notes you want, Arnold. I don't think you'll have to worry.

Eric and Dimmey chuckle. Arnold rolls his eyes and walks away.

CONNIE

Please, he probably gets more women than you, Eric!

(to Dimmey)

And he probably knows how to treat them right!

Connie and Berniece walk away.

ERIC

Well, she told you!

DIMMEY

Whatever. She's always smarting off. That's another reason I'm breaking up with her tomorrow!

Eric and Dimmey walk away.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Professor RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, stands in front of her class.

RHONDA

Okay, everybody. Look to the left of you.

The students look to their left.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Now look to your right.

The students look to their right.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

If you see my reading glasses, please put them on my desk. Class dismissed.

The students begin to exit.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Ms. Richards, can I see you for a moment?

GINA RICHARDS, 19, wearing her cheerleader uniform, walks over to Rhonda.

GINA

Yes, Professor Nelson-James?

RHONDA

You said you wanted to talk to me after class.

GINA

Yeah. Why are men so stupid?

RHONDA

I assumed it would be school-related.

GINA

Duh, it is! Marty got all these girls hanging around him! Between that and his football games, he hardly has time for me anymore!

RHONDA

Well, talk to him about it, not me.

GINA

(sighs)

Okay. It's just that he has a hold on me. I can hardly eat, sleep, pay bills...

RHONDA

Hold on now, you gotta pay your bills.

GINA

Oh, I got that taken care of. I'm staying with Marty and subletting my room.

RHONDA

You mean your dorm room??

GINA

Uh, I gotta go!

Gina quickly runs away.

INT. ALLEN APARTMENT - DAY

Arnold walks around the living room practicing vocal runs. His mother, AMBER ALLEN, enters.

AMBER

Arnold Allen, will you stop with all of that?

ARNOLD

But Mother, I'm practicing my duet for the glee club. Also, Connie will be here any minute.

AMBER

Ooh, you finally have a date?

ARNOLD

It's not a date.

AMBER

Oh, I'm sorry. "Play date"!

ARNOLD

How is that better?

Arnold's father, ALOYSIUS ALLEN, marches in the living room.

ALOYSIUS

What's going on out here?

ARNOLD

Nothing, Father, just practicing.

ALOYSIUS

Well, keep it down. You know I never miss the local four o'clock news.

ARNOLD

But it also comes on at five, six, nine,
and ten!

ALOYSIUS

Arnold...

ARNOLD

Fine.

AMBER

Well, duty calls! I'll be back later.

Amber opens the door. Connie stands there.

ARNOLD

Hey, Connie. Come on in.

Connie enters.

AMBER

Aww, isn't that cute!

(to Aloysius)

Keep your door open at all times.

ALOYSIUS

Yes, dear.

Amber leaves.

CONNIE

Will we be able to concentrate?

ALOYSIUS

You will in a minute.

Aloysius stomps on the floor.

ALOYSIUS (CONT'D)

Damn cop always has her television up
loud!

Aloysius exits to his room.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

MATT JAMES, Eric's stepfather, stares at his laptop
screen, with his hands on his head, while sitting at the
dining room table. Rhonda walks past him.

RHONDA

What's the matter, Matt?

MATT

Oh, just a little bit of writer's block.

(pause)

I got it!

(starts typing)

Delete "Matthew James". Instead, put
"Matt James". Okay, now we're cookin'!

(pause)

No, maybe I should put "Matthew James".

SFX: Doorbell CHIMES.

Matt walks to the door. He opens it to find Amber there.

AMBER

Hi! Amber Allen here. I notice your
Christmas lights on the house.

MATT

Oh yeah. Pretty nice, huh?

AMBER

Well, that's what I want to talk to you
about. You know those neighborhood
associations that come by and want you to
put your Christmas lights up?

MATT

Yeah, I hate them.

AMBER

Well, be ready to hate me a little more.
I'm from the neighborhood association
that wants neighbors to take them down.

MATT

What?

AMBER

The holidays are over, so we all should
be taking our decorations down.

MATT

It's January 2nd! And the lights aren't
even plugged in!

AMBER

Be that as it may, the sooner you take
them down, the sooner our neighborhood's
property value can go back up. Have a
nice day!

Amber walks away.

MATT

But...

He sighs.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

Matt climbs on the roof from his ladder.

MATT

I can't believe it. Do something about the crime in our neighborhood, then talk to me about lights.

He looks around.

MATT (CONT'D)

Nice day. Pretty nice view, too.

(pause)

Hmmm. "It's a nice day, as Jimmy leaves his house." Okay!

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

Matt sits with his laptop on his lap and talks as he types.

MATT

"Meanwhile, an alien lurks in the bushes and follows Jimmy's car." Oh, this is great! Nothing can stop me now!

SFX: Thunder ROARS.

Rain and hail start to come down.

MATT (CONT'D)

Dang!

He closes his laptop and dashes away.

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

ELEANOR DUMBECK, 15, stands outside and argues with ARLENE the dog, who stands from her doghouse.

SFX: Arlene GROWLS and BARKS. Eleanor GROWLS and BARKS back.

Arlene's owner, POLLY MCNAIR, 10, peeks out of her window.

POLLY

Hey! Quit barking at our dog!

ELEANOR

She started it! I'm trying to get down to her level!

POLLY

You'll never be on her level!

Polly slams the window shut. Eleanor walks away.

ELEANOR

Stupid dog.

Eleanor notices Connie leaving Arnold's apartment from afar.

CONNIE

Hey, we make good music together!

ARNOLD

Yeah, it was my first time, you know.

CONNIE

I wouldn't have noticed.

SFX: Eleanor gives an exaggerated GASP.

She pulls out her phone and starts texting.

MONTAGE - ELEANOR'S TEXT REACHING VARIOUS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, PHONES, AND PEOPLE

-- Insert, which reads, "Arnold and Connie make great music together!" and an emoji of eyeballs to the left.

-- Insert, which reads, "Arnold says it was his first time."

-- Insert, which reads, "Dimmey and Connie are finished!"

-- Insert, which reads, "Good, she needs to leave him! #ByeFelecia".

-- Pic of Arnold and Connie talking at his apartment doorstep.

END MONTAGE

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - ELEANOR AND SHANA'S ROOM - LATER

Eleanor's half-sister, SHANA JONES, 16, sits on her bed and plays on her phone. Eleanor enters the room.

ELEANOR

Hey, word on the street is that Connie spent the evening at Arnold Allen's house.

SHANA

What? Where'd you hear that?

ELEANOR

From me! I took a pic and spread it around.

SHANA

(looking at her phone)

What happened with Dimmey?

ELEANOR

Who knows? Maybe all that talk about Connie dumping him finally came true. Oh yeah, your breaking that chair in class is no longer trending.

SHANA

How do you know that?

ELEANOR

I asked about it online.

SFX: Twitter notification CHIMES from their phones.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Oh, never mind.

Eleanor leaves.

SHANA

Hmmm.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Eric and Dimmey sit on the couch. Eric looks on his phone. Dimmey watches TV.

SFX: Twitter notification CHIMES.

ERIC

Uh, Dimmey, did you see what they're saying about your girlfriend?

DIMMEY

Please. I don't follow that social media stuff.

ERIC

Yeah, most of the time, it's just gossip. With that said, I would start kicking some ass.

Eric shows Dimmey his phone.

DIMMEY

(surprised)

Huh?

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Dimmey and Shana sit at a table and study.

DIMMEY

(slams his book shut)

Forget about Connie! I don't care.

(pause)

I mean, what does Arnold Allen have that I don't?

(pause)

I was gonna break up with her anyway. She gets on my nerves.

SHANA

Dimmey, if you don't mind, I'm trying to study.

DIMMEY

Sorry.

They continue to study.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

If she don't want me, that's fine with me!

(pause)

We just took that Sex Ed class, and now, Arnold's a sex machine? How can I compete with that?

(pause)

I'm doing it again. Sorry, Shana. I'm outta here.

Dimmey begins to walk away.

SHANA
(hesitates)
I'm not a virgin.

DIMMEY
(turns back around)
What?

SHANA
I said, I'm not a virgin.

DIMMEY
Wait, what are you saying?

SHANA
Oh, boys can't be this dumb!
(sotto voce)
If you want to get Connie back...I can
show you.

DIMMEY
Uh, sorry, Shana, but I don't like you
like that.

SHANA
I don't like you like that, either, but
you're cute enough.

DIMMEY
Gee, thanks.

SHANA
Look, just think of it as practice.

DIMMEY
Man, I don't know. Won't your feelings
get hurt?

SHANA
Give it some thought. My father will be
gone tomorrow morning.

Shana continues to study. Dimmey stands still.

SHANA (CONT'D)
I thought you were leaving.

DIMMEY
I can't. I'm frozen stiff.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - LATER

Eric lays underneath the Nelsons' old piano and tries to tune it. Dimmey walks in.

DIMMEY

Eric, I gotta talk to you.

ERIC

I'm listening.

DIMMEY

I was invited to go over to a girl's house tomorrow.

ERIC

Okay.

DIMMEY

Nobody else will be there.

Eric stops and lifts his head from underneath.

ERIC

Alright, cool! Connie's taking you back, huh?

DIMMEY

No, it's not Connie.

ERIC

(goes back underneath)

Oh?

Dimmey pauses and walks around a bit.

DIMMEY

(hesitates)

It's Shana.

SFX: Eric BUMPS his head underneath the piano. Piano keys PLAY discordant notes.

ERIC

(lifts his head up while holding it)

Are you serious?

DIMMEY

Yeah, I wanted to talk with you first because of your history with her and...

Eric jumps up, then rushes him out of the garage and into the house.

ERIC

No, go ahead, have fun! Hell, I'll take you there myself!

DIMMEY

But me and Shana don't even like each other like that!

Eric pushes him through the living room.

ERIC

I know, I know, friends with benefits! F-buddies! Now go to her now! Get an early start!

Eric stops them both. He looks at an empty space in front of the couch.

ERIC (CONT'D)

We used to have a TV, right?

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - ROOF - SAME

Matt sits on the roof in a chair watching TV and eating snacks.

MATT

(pops open a beer)
This is the life. If I had a toilet up here, I'd never have to leave. Unless...

He gets up and looks over the edge of the roof.

MATT (CONT'D)

"You know the saying! 'Watch out for #1'!" Nah, just kidding.
(walks back to his seat)
#2 might be an issue, though.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Arnold sits at a table, eats, and reads his comic book. Connie and Berniece sit at a nearby booth. Gina sits at another table.

Enter MAUREEN WALKER, 15, who wears a pink body suit, long braids, makeup, and pink lipstick. She has a curvaceous body with a big bust and behind. She does a sexy walk towards Arnold's table.

CONNIE

Uh oh. There goes Maureen Walker.

BERNIECE

Ugh. I'm catching something just by looking at her.

CONNIE

Oh, stop.

MAUREEN

So you're Arnold Allen, huh?

ARNOLD

Yeah.

MAUREEN

(extends her hand, expecting
a kiss)

Well, I'm...

ARNOLD

I know who you are. The girls in my homeroom say you're on the Welcome Committee, whatever that means.

Maureen still holds out her hand.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry.

He kisses her hand. She sits at his table.

MAUREEN

I hear you're quite the man.

ARNOLD

Well, they already want me to be Valedictorian, and I'm not even a senior.

MAUREEN

Yeah? Well, the girls also say that you can teach them a few things.

ARNOLD

Well, I don't know if I wanna be a teacher. That takes years and years of college and studying.

(pauses)

Ooh, I'm getting excited just thinking about it!

MAUREEN

You should get with me. Maybe we can teach other some new things.

She picks up a napkin and slowly wipes Arnold's mouth.

ARNOLD

Well, okay, but...wait a minute! Excuse me.

Arnold gets up and looks around. What he sees are girls whispering to each other, looking at him, and smiling.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

(slowly waves and nervously chuckles)

Uh...hi.

MARTY O'DELL, late teens, is a 6'5", bulky football player and dons a letter jacket. He marches into the restaurant and over to Gina's table.

MARTY

Geenie, we have to talk!

GINA

Oh, now you wanna talk? Why don't you talk to your groupies?

MARTY

Because they're not here right now!
(pauses)

Oh, I get it. You're jealous!

GINA

No I'm not! Go ahead with your women! I'm gonna start talking to as many guys as I want!

MARTY

Oh, no you're not!

GINA

Oh, yes I am!

Berniece and Connie exit the restaurant. Arnold starts to chase after them.

ARNOLD

Connie, wait up! I gotta talk to you!

Arnold bumps into Marty.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Sorry, sir.

MARTY

(to Gina, grabbing Arnold's arm)

(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)

Is this the kind of guy you want?
Poindexter here?

GINA

(snatches Arnold from Marty)
And what if I do?

ARNOLD

Oh brother.

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - ELEANOR AND SHANA'S ROOM - THE
NEXT DAY

Shana is dressed in a nightgown with some makeup. She has
candles lit and the lights down low. Smooth jazz PLAYS in
the background.

SFX: KNOCK on the door.

SHANA

(sprays perfume in the air)
I see Jentille let you in. Come on in.
I'm waiting.

She lays on the bed seductively. Eleanor barges in and
turns on the lights.

ELEANOR

(deep voice)
Thanks, baby!

SHANA

Eleanor, why did you knock on your own
door?

ELEANOR

To screw with you!
(looks around)
Before your man does.

SHANA

I thought you would be gone.

ELEANOR

Me too. I went to school.

SHANA

We don't have school today.

ELEANOR

I know. The one time I go, and it's on a
day off. So you're ready to jump a shot,
huh?

She mimics a basketball jump shot.

SHANA

If you mean, "shoot your shot", then no. This isn't a relationship-type thing. I'm just helping out a friend.

ELEANOR

This romance scene from a '90s soap tells me different.

SHANA

Shut up, you don't know anything.

ELEANOR

If this is just a hookup, blow out these candles!

Eleanor starts blowing them out.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Turn on the lights! Don't shave! Skip the shower and just do a quick wash-up!

SHANA

Eww.

Eleanor shuts off the music.

ELEANOR

And lose the sexy music. "Hit it n' quit it" calls for trap music! That's what I used!

SHANA

Used for what?

ELEANOR

Uh, for my playlist. That's it. And don't tell Dad.

SHANA

Wait, you did it before??

ELEANOR

Yeah, but look where it got me. We're not even together. I'm outta here. Enjoy your morning.

SHANA

I can't believe you're giving me love advice.

ELEANOR
Yeah, who's stupid now?

SHANA
You still are.

ELEANOR
Later.

Shana sits down on the bed, sighs, and looks at herself in a mirror on the dresser.

INT. CORNER STORE - SAME

Dimmey enters the store. Arnold chases him down.

ARNOLD
Hey, Dimmey, I gotta tell you about
Connie. I don't know what you heard,
but...

DIMMEY
I don't care! Do what you do! I got me a
hot date!

ARNOLD
But...

Dimmey sashays to the register. KATHY HUGHES, the cashier, dons black garb with Goth-like makeup and speaks in a gloomy voice.

DIMMEY
Hi, can you show me where the...
(mumbles)
...condoms are?

KATHY
What?

DIMMEY
Condoms!

KATHY
You don't have to whisper about condoms
anymore. They're in Aisle 4.

DIMMEY
You mean by the tampons?

KATHY
Shhh! Have some tact. Dang!

Dimmey walks over to Aisle 4. What he sees are shelves of condoms that fade in and out.

SFX: Suspenseful music PLAYS.

ARNOLD
(runs up to him)
Dimmey, please, listen to me.

DIMMEY
(runs away)
Noooooooo!!!

ARNOLD
Hmmp. Someone running away from me.
That's a change of pace.

Arnold walks up to the register.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
Can I get that aspirin behind you?

KATHY
Sure, you can get it.

ARNOLD
(rolls his eyes)
Oh, I can "get it", huh? What can I get?

KATHY
The aspirin...that you just asked for?

ARNOLD
Oh, right. Sorry.

He gives the money to Kathy, who gives him the aspirin.
Arnold exits.

KATHY
(smirks)
Mmm hmm, you can get it.

INT. ALLEN APARTMENT - EVENING

Connie sits on Arnold's couch. Arnold paces back and forth.

ARNOLD
I know you heard the rumors. I didn't start them.

Arnold walks into the kitchen.

CONNIE

I know. Look, stop worrying about it.
Dimmey's not even after you!

SFX: Doorbell BUZZES.

Connie opens the door to find Marty there.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

(looks up at him)
But this big guy might be.

MARTY

Okay, Allen! Where's Gina?

CONNIE

I'll leave you two alone!

ARNOLD

(enters the living room)
Connie!

She runs out of the apartment.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Gina ain't here!

MARTY

Well, you better not be messing around
with her!

ARNOLD

I'm not dating her! I don't even know
her!

MARTY

(sternly)
That's right. You don't.

He turns and begins to walk away, then pauses and turns
back around.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Rather, "You're not." ...dating her.
Wait, can we do that over?

ARNOLD

Get out of here!

Arnold pushes Marty out with the front door.

EXT. OUTDOORS - SAME

Eleanor looks at Connie exiting Arnold's apartment building from afar.

SFX: Eleanor turns around and GASPS.

She turns back to the apartment building and sees Marty exit.

SFX: Eleanor turns around and GASPS again.

ELEANOR

Wow, Arnold must got some freaky stuff going on over there.

SFX: A dog BARKS off-screen.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

(turns to the dog)

Hey, I'm warning you!

She follows the dog's barks.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

Matt climbs up the ladder to the roof with his laptop and a lawn chair.

MATT

Alright, now to finish my story!

He gets on the roof and sees Eric sitting there. Eric jumps up and GASPS.

MATT (CONT'D)

Eric! I was calling for you! What are you doing up here?

ERIC

Sorry, I didn't hear you.

MATT

Wait a minute, is this where you go whenever you're supposed to do chores?

ERIC

No! I was looking for my cell phone. Maybe I dropped it up here.

MATT

Boy, get downstairs and take out the garbage!

ERIC

Yes, sir!

Eric runs to the ladder, then climbs down.

MATT

(opens up his chair)

My goodness.

SFX: SMACKING SOUNDS off-screen.

Matt walks behind a chimney. Rhonda sits there eating a donut.

MATT (CONT'D)

Rhonda, what are you doing?

RHONDA

Just having a little snack.

MATT

But why are you hiding?

RHONDA

(with her mouth full)

I'm not hiding.

MATT

Aren't you supposed to be watching what you eat?

RHONDA

I am! I'm watching...

She holds out her donut and looks at it.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

...and eating a donut!

Matt frowns at her.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

And now I'm leaving.

Rhonda exits and climbs down the ladder.

MATT

Maybe my secret spot isn't so secret after all.

SFX: A man HUMS loudly off-screen.

Matt follows the sound. IKE SWANSON, 20's, is dressed in a brown robe with his head covered and hums with other men dressed the same way.

IKE

Hummmmm!

The other men repeat after him.

MATT

I don't even wanna know what this is about! Get the hell off my roof!

IKE

Fine. Like, come on, brethren dudes.

Ike and his group leave. Matt starts to walk, then almost trips over some Christmas lights on the roof.

MATT

Dang lights. Maybe I should take them down.

He climbs back down the ladder with his things.

EXT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Arnold and Connie happily walk up to the entrance.

CONNIE

Man, we killed it!

ARNOLD

To celebrate, let's eat. My treat.

Arnold heads inside.

CONNIE

Timmy's Place? But we won the competition!

Connie follows him.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - SAME

Marty confronts Gina.

MARTY

Fine, Geenie, get gone! I don't need ya!

GINA
 (arms closed)
 Fine, I will!

Marty storms away, then quickly comes back to her on his knees.

MARTY
 Oh, please take me back, baby! I'm better than that Arnold Allen! Tell me what I have to do!

Arnold and Connie approach them.

ARNOLD
 Alright, that's it. Marty, get up!

Arnold holds Marty's arm. Marty stands up and looks down at him.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
 ...please?
 (to Gina)
 Look, lady, you need to tell your boyfriend the truth!

GINA
 (sighs)
 Alright. Marty, I don't like him.

MARTY
 Oh.
 (to Connie)
 Then you like him.

CONNIE
 No! Nobody likes Arnold!

Arnold looks at Connie.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
 You know what I mean!

Dimmey and his father, TIMMY, 40's, who owns the restaurant, walk out of the kitchen.

TIMMY
 (points to a table)
 Grab those plates, and you can leave.

DIMMEY
 Okay, Dad.

Dimmey walks to the table to find Shana sitting there.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

Uh oh.

SHANA

It's okay, Dimmey, I'm not mad.

DIMMEY

I'm sorry I didn't come over.

SHANA

(gets up)

Maybe it wasn't meant to be. But I won't forget you standing me up!

DIMMEY

Look, I didn't mean to! I mean, you're cool and all, but I love Connie!

SFX: The entire restaurant stops what they're doing, GASPS, and stares at Dimmey. Connie walks up to him.

CONNIE

You love me?

DIMMEY

No, I said, "I luuuuhhhike Connie." "I luuhhike Connie." I like you. I said it real fast.

(speaks like a pimp)

See, you say I speak too fast, when I say you listen too slow, ya dig?

(pause)

I saw it on a movie once.

CONNIE

(smiles)

I luuhhike you, too.

DIMMEY

(smiles)

You like me?

CONNIE

Shut up and come here.

They both hug and kiss.

SHANA

(along with other patrons)

Awwww!

GINA

(holds on to Marty)

Marty, honey, do you love me?

MARTY

We just got back together. Don't push it.

Gina playfully hits Marty.

DIMMEY

But what about Arnold?

ARNOLD

(to Dimmey)

We were practicing for the glee club!

CONNIE

We have a gig tomorrow. I can take you there to prove it.

DIMMEY

Ugh. I'll just take your word for it!

CONNIE

Whatever. Walk me home.

They begin to exit.

DIMMEY

So you really didn't do anything else with Arnold?

CONNIE

No, that's silly!

ARNOLD

(sotto voce)

It's not that silly.

He pulls a comic book from inside of his shirt.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

(starts to walk)

Well, Turtleman, it's just you and me again tonight.

A GIRL, 15, dressed similar to Arnold (glasses, prim and proper outfit) approaches him.

GIRL

You're still getting caught up, huh?

ARNOLD

What?

GIRL

The new issue came out yesterday.

ARNOLD

Oh yeah. My mind has been a little off lately.

GIRL

Oh, I bet. I'm Mary.

ARNOLD

(shakes her hand)

Arnold Allen.

MARY

I know who you are.

ARNOLD

Oh, great. Before you finish, that's just a rumor, okay?

MARY

What rumor? I know you from science class.

ARNOLD

Oh, well, good.

MARY

I saw your glee club performance. You're a good singer. I sing a bit, too.

ARNOLD

Wow, I can't believe we never met each other before.

MARY

Yeah!

They both stare at each other and smile.

ARNOLD

(quickly)

Well, bye!

He quickly turns the other direction and walks away from Mary. He reopens his comic book.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Oh, Turtleman, how do you keep these women off you? Apart from your spandex tights?

He exits the restaurant.

THE END