

ERIC

"How I Made Your Mother"

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INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ERIC NELSON, 15, and his brother, BILLY NELSON, 19, sit on the couch and watch TV.

ERIC

Look at that, Billy! Those are the shoes I want.

BILLY

\$400??

(scoffs)

Do they lace themselves?

Eric points to the TV. Billy's eyes open wide.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Oh.

The mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, and her ex-husband, JUNIOR, both in their 40's, barge in the living room bickering.

RHONDA

Junior, get out of here!

JUNIOR

It's only 20 bucks! I'm good for it!

RHONDA

You ain't good for nothing! Actually, you are a good-for-nothing!

ERIC

(to Billy, sotto voce)

I wish they'd stop. We're trying to watch the game.

BILLY

Wanna tell them that?

JUNIOR

I can't believe it! After all the times I helped you out!

RHONDA

Don't start with that!

JUNIOR

You ain't nothing but a bitter, old woman who takes all my money!

RHONDA

And you ain't nothing but a grizzled, one-hit wonder!

JUNIOR

Look who's talking!

Rhonda GASPS.

RHONDA

When I come back from the kitchen, I want you gone!

Rhonda marches to the kitchen.

JUNIOR

Ridiculous.

BILLY

(rapidly)
Yeah, well, bye.

ERIC

Hey, Dad...

BILLY

(to Eric, sotto voce)
What you doin'?

ERIC

When you said, "Look who's talking..."

BILLY

Eric, don't!

ERIC

...what did you mean by it?

Billy facepalms.

JUNIOR

Oh, I never told you the story?

BILLY

Yes, Dad, a million times.

Junior grabs a chair and turns off the TV.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hey!

JUNIOR

(to Billy)
But I never told your brother.

ERIC

Oh wait, I remember now, really!

JUNIOR

It all started while I was on tour with my band. Your mama was pregnant with Billy. I remember it like it was yesterday.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY - FLASHBACK

A group of GUYS are playing a song with their instruments. A pregnant Rhonda, with her hair in micro-braids, different from her current curly hairstyle, sits to the side, eating a bag of chips.

JUNIOR (V.O.)

The band consisted of Mert on drums, Porter on bass. There was also Scary Disc Jockey, Rok Now, the rapper, and Milt Chocolate, our hype man. And of course, me with my guitar.

Junior slides onto the middle of the floor. He has his hair in cornrows, different from the afro he wears in present-day, and he wears a jumpsuit with sequins.

JUNIOR

Whassup, Milwaukee?!

SFX: The band abruptly STOPS playing.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

What? That's gonna be my intro!

PORTER

Okay, that's real dope!

JUNIOR

You think so?

REST OF THE BAND

Psyche!

They laugh, and Junior rolls his eyes. Rhonda laughs with the band and approaches Junior.

RHONDA

(between giggles)

Oh, honey, Puff Daddy called. He wants his shiny suit back!

JUNIOR

Okay, tell him I'll return it this weekend.

ROK NOW

Are we ready to rehearse?

MILT CHOCOLATE

Yeah, our tour starts Thursday.

Junior nudges Milt.

MILT CHOCOLATE (CONT'D)

I mean, it starts tonight!

MERT

(drunkenly)

Hey, who's opening for us, anyway?

JUNIOR

I don't know. Kanye somebody.

PORTER

I never heard of him, but that Sunshine Anderson chick? She's gonna be huge. I can feel it!

The rest of the band clamor in agreement.

RHONDA

(to Junior)

You sure you don't want me to come along?

JUNIOR

Yeah, babe! You can't be waddling around with us! It's not good for you or Little Willie!

He pats her stomach.

RHONDA

You're right.

JUNIOR

I'll make sure I order your favorite food before we leave tonight.

RHONDA

Fine, but remember to make it Super-Sized this time! I'm eating for two!

JUNIOR

Alright, alright! That deal ain't gonna go nowhere!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

BILLY

So eating for two is a thing?

JUNIOR

Yep, and you ate for three, son!

BILLY

Wow, I guess that's what I have to look forward to with Sharon.

JUNIOR

Yeah, well...wait a minute, you're saying I'm gonna be a grandfather??

ERIC

Dad, you're getting off the subject!

(pause)

Now, what's this about the Super Size?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

JUNIOR (V.O.)

That night, I decided to hang out with an old friend.

Junior sits on a couch making out with RAMONA, a seductively dressed girl.

RAMONA

Oh, Junior, stay with me.

JUNIOR

Baby, we got the next few days.

RAMONA

But why can't I go with you?

JUNIOR

Oh, come on! I go home to my wife, but when I'm on the road, I can only see a few women at a time. What's so hard to grasp?

RAMONA

Speaking of "hard to grasp", ready to take this to the bedroom?

JUNIOR

Now you're talking!

They are about to head for the bedroom, until Junior's cell phone RINGS.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

Rhonda sits while waiting on the phone.

RHONDA

Why isn't Junior answering? He's not doing anything important. I just know he's up to no good.

(gradually turns into a whiny voice)

And that sexy hunk of a man is leaving me behind because I'm so insensitive, only care about myself, and I only want him for his money, and...

ERIC (V.O.)

Dad...

JUNIOR (V.O.)

Sorry.

Rhonda clears her throat.

RHONDA

(normal voice)

Pick up, Junior.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JUNIOR

Hello?

RHONDA

Hey, honey. Just seeing how you doin'.

Junior walks out to the balcony.

JUNIOR

I'm all right, just hanging out with some friends. How are you?

RHONDA

Fine. I thought you said you were going on tour tonight.

JUNIOR

Right! My friends are my bandmates.

RHONDA

Oh, okay. It's just that I miss you,
that's all. And me and the baby are
groggy and hungry.

Rhonda's FETUS speaks telepathically.

FETUS

(in Billy's voice)

Hey, leave me out of this!

JUNIOR

Well, hold on tight, and I'll order you a
pizza.

RHONDA

Make sure it has extra peanut butter on
it!

JUNIOR

Sounds delicious. Bye.

They both hang up.

RHONDA

Oooh, I know that Junior's foolin'
around. I'm gonna get him!
(to the fetus)
Ain't that right, sugah-woogah!

She mimics baby gibberish and rubs her stomach.

EXT. NIGHT CLUB - EVENING

YVETTE TOWNSEND, a young, rotund, black woman (and a cop
in the present day) walks around wearing a trench coat. A
MALE and FEMALE COP approach her.

FEMALE COP

Yvette Townsend, are you scalping tickets
again?

YVETTE

No, copper!

MALE COP

You're not flashing people, are you?

YVETTE

(lustfully)

Wouldn't you like to know?

She slowly opens her coat while humming a striptease-type tune.

FEMALE COP

Oh, stop before you blind us all!

YVETTE

Relax, it's just a "Willie Jr." shirt I'm selling.

Yvette wears a shirt with Junior's face on it and pulls out a similar shirt.

MALE COP

Are these authentic?

YVETTE

Yeah, sure.

FEMALE COP

Get out of here before we take you downtown!

YVETTE

Hey, that flashing deal is still on the table.

MALE COP

Beat it!

Yvette laughs and runs away.

MALE COP (CONT'D)

She should use her energy to do more good. Ain't that right, Gretchen?

The cops look to GRETCHEN JACKSON, a little girl (who becomes a thug in the present day). She wears a trooper uniform with badges adorning it and sells cookies at a booth.

GRETCHEN

(sticks her finger up)
Crime doesn't pay!

INT. NIGHT CLUB - SAME

Crowds of people gather, converse, and drink.

JUNIOR (V.O.)

Then came the night that changed everything. Me and the guys were on stage doing our hit song, "Funky Business".
(MORE)

JUNIOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The crowd was into it, man, hanging on our every word.

Junior and his band play music. The crowd continues to walk around, drink, and converse.

JUNIOR (V.O.)

Your mother was still pregnant with you, Billy, so I left her at home. Or so I thought.

Rhonda looks at the band from backstage.

RHONDA

Look at Junior. I'm gonna let him know how I feel!

Rhonda starts to walk onto the stage.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

JUNIOR

(to Billy)

I don't know what possessed her to do it. Maybe it was her hormones, or your strength and will that forced her out there.

ERIC

(looks at Billy)

I put my money on "hormones".

BILLY

(mockingly laughs)

Ha ha, what money?

INT. NIGHT CLUB - FLASHBACK

JUNIOR

Rhonda, what you doin'?

RHONDA

I'm sick of you dissin' me!

JUNIOR

We're in the middle of a song. Just pretend like you're performing!

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

(sings)

Gimme some of that funky business!

RHONDA
 (raps, initially stammers)
 Leavin' me home all alone!

JUNIOR
 I want some of your funky business!

RHONDA
 (raps on beat)
 Barefoot n' pregnant by the phone!

The crowd starts to gather toward the stage, throw their hands in the air, and rock to the beat.

JUNIOR
 (sings)
 Gimme some of that funky business!

RHONDA
 (raps)
 I ain't come to scream and shout!

JUNIOR
 (sings)
 I want some of your funky business!

RHONDA
 (raps)
 You don't treat me right, yo' ass is out!

SFX: The crowd CHEERS.

Standing in the crowd are two Navy sailors in uniform. One of them is MATT JAMES, Rhonda's future husband, and the other one is his friend, TIMMY ROBERTS, a future owner of a subpar restaurant.

MATT
 Yo, who is that rapping on stage?
 Honeydip is pretty bad! Bad meaning good.

Timmy takes a bite out of a burger and SPITS it out.

TIMMY
 Well, this burger is bad meaning bad.
 (calls out)
 Yo, Ike, where's the beef?

Across the way is IKE, the cashier at a food stand (and future bartender at Timmy's restaurant).

IKE
 Like, I don't know, man, I'm just filling in for my pop.

Standing nearby the sailors is CYNTHIA, a young woman who is the Nelsons' maid in present day.

CYNTHIA

Wow, must be rough. You won't see me serving anybody.

TIMMY

(to Cynthia, scoffs)

Aw, you make good food and you give it to people. How hard can it be?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Rhonda enters from the kitchen and picks up some dishes from the dining room table.

RHONDA

You're still here, Junior?

BILLY

Yeah, he's telling us that story again.

ERIC

Wow, Mom, you had skills like that on the mic? You're a down-ass bitch!

JUNIOR

Eric!

RHONDA

(to Junior)

What? He's right!

Rhonda goes back into the kitchen.

JUNIOR

Anyway, your mom and I came back here and had it out.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

Junior and Rhonda enter the house. The band follows them in.

JUNIOR

Rhonda, what the dealio? You embarrassed me!

RHONDA

Well, you shouldn't keep dissin' me!

JUNIOR
I keep telling you, it wasn't me!

RHONDA
It wasn't you, what?

JUNIOR
Oh, uh, nothing. But look, you messed up our whole gig! I can't show my face there again!

Junior's manager, SAM, a white, middle-aged guy, enters the house.

SAM
Willie, Jr., you guys were a hit!

JUNIOR
Huh?

SAM
Turn on the radio!

Junior FLIPS ON the nearby boombox. The DJ, ALOYSIUS ALLEN, announces loudly.

ALOYSIUS (V.O.)
What up, ya'll, Aloysius Allen, A.K.A. DJ A-Plus, back here with the hottest jams!

INT. RADIO STATION - CONTINUOUS

ALOYSIUS
And number 1 tonight on my "Alo Wish List" is the exclusive, live recording from Willie Jr. and his wife, Rhonda, in a new, slammin' version of "Funky Business"! Check it out!

Aloysius plays the recording of the song.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

RHONDA
(gasps)
That's my voice!

SAM
That's right! You're famous! And we want you guys on a new tour right away!

ROK NOW

Say word!

Sam looks puzzled.

JUNIOR

(to Sam)

I think you're supposed to literally say, "Word."

SAM

Oh. Word! You guys should pack your bags! First stop is Paris, and not Texas this time. Paris, France!

MILT CHOCOLATE

Oh my god, we've never been overseas before!

MERT

(hiccups)

I've never been allowed overseas before!

JUNIOR

(shakes Sam's hand)

Thanks for the news, Sam. We're gonna rock out!

SAM

Alright! Word up! Fo shizzle, my n...

The band stops him.

SAM (CONT'D)

But you people are allowed to say that!

The band approaches him angrily. Junior backs them away.

JUNIOR

(to Sam)

You better go.

SAM

Right. 5000, "beyotches"!

He throws goofy hand gestures and moonwalks out.

JUNIOR

Something is definitely wrong with him.

RHONDA

Oh, who cares? Baby, I'm a star!

She hugs Junior.

JUNIOR
 (hesitantly)
 Yeah, dear, that's the bomb dot com.
 That's real...bomb dot com.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

ERIC
 Alright, that was great, Dad. I'm out.

Eric gets up to leave, but Junior stops him.

JUNIOR
 You kiddin'? There's more!

Eric sits back down next to Billy.

ERIC
 (groans)
 To make the short story long!

BILLY
 (to Eric)
 I told you!

JUNIOR
 So after touring overseas, I was billed
 as host and musical guest on "Tuesday
 Afternoon Prerecorded."

INT. HUGHES HOUSE - DAY

KEVIN and KARLA HUGHES, a black, married couple, dressed
 in all black, sit in front of the TV.

ON THE TV

Junior and Rhonda are posed in a still photo. Rhonda is
 slightly closer to the camera than Junior. The graphics,
 "TAP", which stand for "Tuesday Afternoon Prerecorded",
 show on the screen.

BACK TO HUGHES HOUSE

Aloysius enters the house.

ALOYSIUS
 Yo, yo, yo, what it do, home skilletts?

KEVIN
 (in a drab voice throughout)
 Watching "TAP".

ALOYSIUS
 Oh, is this the episode with Tim Allen
 and the Geto Boys?

KEVIN
 No, that was last week. It's Willie Jr.
 this week.

SFX: Loud SNORING.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 (to a person off screen)
 Hey, can you get Taz to be quiet?

The person off screen is MARSHALL PETERS, who sits next
 to TAZ TREPUR, a girl who sleeps and snores.

MARSHALL
 She said to wake her up when the news
 segment comes on.

Kevin sighs.

KARLA
 (in a drab voice)
 Whateva.

ON THE TV

An ACTRESS stands in front of the camera.

ACTRESS
 Ladies and gentlemen, Willie Jr....

The studio audience CHEERS.

ACTRESS (CONT'D)
 (more enthused)
 ...and Rhonda Nelson!

The audience CHEERS raucously. Junior, Rhonda, and the
 band start performing.

JUNIOR
 (sings)
 Gimme some of that funky business!

RHONDA

(raps)

Leavin' me home all alone!

They continue performing. Rhonda mugs the camera at every moment. The audience CHEERS raucously whenever she does her parts.

JUNIOR (V.O.)

It was a great show. People were loving me! But your mother kept trying to hog the spotlight.

INT. PHOTO SHOOT - DAY

Junior and Rhonda stand in front of a PHOTOGRAPHER taking pictures.

PHOTOGRAPHER

All right, Rhonda, look this way. Now that way.

The photographer gives her more directions as he FLASHES his camera.

JUNIOR

Sir, where do you want me?

PHOTOGRAPHER

Oh, I'll let you know.

JUNIOR

Okay, I'll stand over here.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Yeah, whatever.

Junior walks over to Porter, who stands to the side.

JUNIOR

Why does she need professional pics done, anyway? Just take some pics with your smartphone.

PORTER

Because smartphones aren't a thing yet!

JUNIOR

Oh. Well, that would explain it.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Junior enters the garage from outside.

JUNIOR
Where is everybody?

Junior walks into the house. The band members sit in the living room.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Hey, what's going on here? We have rehearsal!

ROK NOW
Not right now. Rhonda's out shooting some commercials. She postponed practice.

JUNIOR
She can't do that! Only I can!

SCARY DISC JOCKEY
I was gonna question that, but a day off is a day off, nah mean?

JUNIOR
That's it. She's letting this fame thing get to her head.

SFX: The house phone RINGS.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Hold on.

Mert sits at a desk in front of a computer.

MERT
Damn! Can you get the phone quick? The internet disconnected!

JUNIOR
Just grab one of those free trial startup disks in the drawer.

Mert opens a desk drawer, and a pile of packaged disks flow out.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JUNIOR
Hello?

RHONDA
 (in a goofy, scratchy voice)
 Whazzzzzaaaap!

JUNIOR
 Rhonda?

RHONDA
 Whazzzzzaaaap!

JUNIOR
 Honey, we gotta talk!

RHONDA
 You gotta say it with me!

JUNIOR
 But...

RHONDA
 Whazzzzzaaaap!

JUNIOR
 (sighs)
 Whazzzzzaaaap!

The others overhear Junior.

ROK NOW
 Oooh! Guys, dial in from your cellular
 phones!

MERT
 (hiccups)
 Dang. I only have a two-way pager.

RHONDA
 Hello?

REST OF THE BAND
 (on their cell phones)
 Whazzzzzaaaap!

RHONDA
 Hold on. Let me merge this other call.

Rhonda presses a button.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
 Hello?

Yvette speaks from a phone booth.

YVETTE

Whazzzzzaaaap!

EVERYONE ELSE

Whazzzzzaaaap!

RHONDA

Junior, put your little friend on the phone.

JUNIOR

(chuckles)

Rhonda, what are you talking about?

RHONDA

Don't play dumb with me. That slut you keep in our guest room whenever I'm gone?

Junior pauses and looks around.

JUNIOR

(calls out nervously)

Lawanda, telephone!

LAWANDA picks up the phone.

LAWANDA (O.S.)

Hello?

RHONDA

Whazzzzzaaaap!

LAWANDA (O.S.)

(with everyone else)

Whazzzzzaaaap!

JUNIOR

All right, can I talk to you alone now, Rhonda?

RHONDA

We'll talk when I get home, honey, I promise. Oh, one more thing.

JUNIOR

What?

RHONDA

Whazzzzzaaaap!

EVERYONE ELSE (EXCEPT
JUNIOR)

Whazzzzzaaaap!

Everyone hangs up their phones.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Yvette begins to exit the phone booth.

SFX: Phone RINGS.

Yvette answers it.

YVETTE

Hello?

A MAN speaks from the other end.

MAN (O.S.)

(in a menacing voice)

If you hang up, I'm gonna kill you.

YVETTE

Oh, not again!

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Junior walks through crowds of people gathering around a table where Rhonda, wearing an Erykah Badu-esque headwrap and sunglasses, sit. A little BOY stops Junior.

BOY

Hey, aren't you Willie Jr.?

JUNIOR

I am!

BOY

Willie Jr., you have to wait in line like everybody else.

JUNIOR

Get outta here!

Junior approaches Rhonda's table.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Rhonda, what is all this?

RHONDA

Just a little meet n' greet. Look at all the people here to see me!

JUNIOR

This has gotten out of hand. And you haven't been home to cook for me!

(pause)

Well, that part I don't miss, but you haven't been home!

RHONDA

Please, not now! I'm busy supporting our family!

She signs a T-shirt and hands it to a little GIRL.

GIRL

Thanks, Rhondie U!

She leaves.

JUNIOR

"Rhondie U.?"

RHONDA

Yeah, my new stage name, incorporating my maiden name, Underwood.

JUNIOR

But you're a married Nelson now!

RHONDA

It was all Sam's idea, to make me appeal to the male fans.

JUNIOR

As a pregnant female rapper?

RHONDA

Proof that I'm doable!

JUNIOR

But it ain't right to pass off as a single woman when you're married!

RHONDA

I guess it's better to let women know you're married before you get with them, huh?

Junior pauses.

JUNIOR

I'm not gonna answer that! And if it wasn't for that, your jealous butt wouldn't have gotten on stage to attack me! You're famous because of me!

RHONDA

Hmmph! Is that why I'm front and center on our album?

JUNIOR

What you mean, it's my album!

RHONDA

Just look. It's been repackaged.

She hands Junior a CD. The album cover reads, "Rhondie U. & the Juniors" and has a sticker that says, "With the SMASH hit, 'Funky Business' (Live)!" The picture is similar to DeBarge's "Rhythm of the Night" album cover, where Rhonda's picture is large, and the rest of the band's pictures are small.

JUNIOR

"And the Juniors"??

RHONDA

You may have put me on, but I'm the voice, brains, and body of this operation now.

JUNIOR

Well, be all of that, without us! You're out!

Rhonda directs his attention to a laptop on the desk.

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN

A newspaper article reads, "WILLIE JR. KICKS PREGNANT WIFE TO THE CURB", and shows both Junior and Rhonda's pictures.

BACK TO SCENE

JUNIOR

What the...?

RHONDA

Isn't the World Wide Web great?

JUNIOR

All right, you can stay, but you need to listen to me, not the other way around!

RHONDA

No way! In fact, I'm leaving you! I'm going solo!

JUNIOR

Fine then! 5000, "Rhondie"! 5000 forever!

He begins to march away, then turns back around.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

See you at home.

RHONDA

When I get there!

Junior looks at the laptop screen again.

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN

The newspaper article now reads, "RHONDIE U. KICKS HUBBY TO THE CURB. YOU GO, GIRL!", and again shows both Junior and Rhonda's pictures.

BACK TO SCENE

Junior GROANS and marches away.

MONTAGE - JUNIOR AND RHONDA SABOTAGE EACH OTHER'S GIGS

-- Junior runs backstage at Rhonda's concert. He takes a CD, smears it with some petroleum jelly, and puts it in its case. He quickly tiptoes away. Later, Rhonda raps her lyrics to her song along with the instrumental on the CD.

RHONDA

(raps)

Leavin' me home all alone!

SFX: The CD SKIPS repeatedly.

Rhonda ad-libs along with the skips.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Uh! Yeah! Yeah! What?

The crowd CHEERS. A LADY talks with her friend.

LADY

This must be the remix!

-- Rhonda sneaks in Junior's dressing room and replaces a folded card with another one. She sneaks out.

-- Junior and his band approach a nursing home. Junior has the card in his hand.

JUNIOR

Is this the right address for the concert?

They enter the building. An OLD LADY limps up to them.

OLD LADY

You're the strippers for my birthday party!

(calls out)

Ethel, they're here!

(back to the guys)

Shake it, baby!

The old lady sways her hips.

JUNIOR (V.O.)

After we shook it, and got some nice tips, by the way, I decided to put up some posters.

-- Junior puts up a poster on the side of a building that reads, "See WILLIE JR. in concert!"

-- Rhonda covers up Junior's poster with a larger one that reads, "See RHONDIE U. in concert!" She shows the poster off to Junior.

-- Junior covers up her poster with an even larger one that reads, "See the person who found Rhondie U., WILLIE JR., in concert!" He shows the poster off to Rhonda.

-- Rhonda covers up that poster with an even larger one that reads, "RHONDIE U., here to stay! See her in concert!" She shows it off to Junior. A shadow hovers over them. They look behind them.

RHONDA AND JUNIOR

AAARGH!

They both move out of the way as a wrecking ball SMASHES the wall where the posters were. The DRIVER of the crane lowers his window.

DRIVER
 (to Rhonda and Junior)
 Now, now, don't stop on my behalf!

END OF MONTAGE

INT. NIGHT CLUB - EVENING

Crowds of people drink and converse. The MC makes an announcement.

MC
 Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for
 Rhondie U.!

The crowd CHEERS. Rhonda walks out slowly in a '80s Patti Labelle-esque wig, wearing a fur coat. She goes to the center of the stage and strikes a pose. The crowd CHEERS louder, then subsides.

SUPER: "15 MINUTES LATER"

Rhonda keeps her same pose. The crowd's cheers turn into grumbles. A FAN talks to another.

FAN
 Isn't she gonna perform?

RHONDA
 (in a snooty voice)
 It's a pleasure for you all to see me
 tonight. For my first number, I will
 present my #1 hit!

She snaps a finger. The instrumental to "Funky Business" PLAYS. The crowd walks away from the stage and resumes conversing and drinking.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
 (raps)
 Leavin' me home all alone!

She sees the crowd being inattentive.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
 Come on, you guys need me!
 (regular voice)
 I need you!

Junior walks on stage, approaching Rhonda.

JUNIOR
You need Jesus!

RHONDA
You came here to gloat?

JUNIOR
No, but pat your hair for a second.

Rhonda pats her hair.

RHONDA
Ow! I think I cut myself!
(pause)
Oh my god, what am I doing?

JUNIOR
It's okay, honey.

RHONDA
I am so sorry. I guess you wouldn't want me back in the band, huh?

JUNIOR
Well, I'll talk with the guys, but I think we work a lot better together than apart. That goes for marriage, too.

RHONDA
Aww, honey!

They both kiss and hug.

JUNIOR
(in the mic)
We gettin' the band back together, ya'll!

The crowd is still inattentive.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
(to Rhonda)
They're thrilled.

INT. RECORD STORE

SUPER: "THE NEXT DAY"

Shoppers walk around while Aloysius makes an announcement on the radio.

ALOYSIUS (V.O.)

DJ A-Plus here, and the word is out!
Rhondie U. & the Juniors are back
together! But that didn't stop them from
being dropped by their label. Soon after,
the band broke up again!

Shoppers walk past a bin that reads, "99 Cent Bin".
Copies of "Funky Business" are in there.

INT. RADIO STATION - CONTINUOUS

ALOYSIUS

And with that, there's a new #1 in town!
Hot off the "Alo Wish List", it's called,
"Don't Go There", by DJ Fresh D and Dr.
Syd!

INT. NIGHT CLUB - LATER

OLIVER DUCK, as his alias, "DJ Fresh D", wearing a
doorag, leather jacket, and shades, SCRATCHES on the
turntables. His friend, DR. SYD the mole, has curly,
black hair, wears a white jacket, and plays the drum set
near him. Oliver speaks telepathically.

OLIVER/DJ FRESH D

The "D" stands for "duck"!

Dr. Syd SQUEAKS to Oliver.

OLIVER/DJ FRESH D (CONT'D)

Well, you cared enough to comment!

Dr. Syd SQUEAKS back.

OLIVER/DJ FRESH D (CONT'D)

As a matter fact, I am the first one to
say that.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

JUNIOR

So, Eric, even though our careers were
over, your mom and I made up and
continued on with our happy lives. Well,
we had you and got divorced, but at the
time, we continued on with our happy
lives. So that's the story, guys.

(pause)

Guys?

He looks up to see that Eric and Billy have left the living room.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Hmmph.

He pulls out his cellphone and pulls out a pic of Rhondie U. & the Juniors' album cover.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

Rhonda holds a copy of that CD, with the same picture, and looks at it. She takes a little pause, then walks into the living room.

RHONDA

Junior?

Junior stands up.

JUNIOR

Yes?

RHONDA

Get out.

She begins to shove Junior out the front door.

JUNIOR

Hey now, wait a minute! Okay, just give me a 10! Come on now!

She closed the door on him locks it. She then whistles the "Funky Business" tune.

RHONDA

(raps)

Leavin' me home all alone.

She continues to whistle Junior's part and raps her part as she exits the living room.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

Oliver, as DJ Fresh D, sits in a chair in front of a video camera. He begins to "talk" to an INTERVIEWER.

OLIVER/DJ FRESH D

Syd knows what he did. I wrote the majority of the songs, and he still didn't pay me. He went in and took all of our per diem. He even stole my girl!

(MORE)

OLIVER/DJ FRESH D (CONT'D)

And I still stood by his side. I'm just glad you let me give my side of the story.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Okay, sir, as soon as the cameras roll, you can start talking.

Oliver begins to open his mouth, freezes up, closes his mouth, and looks straight into the camera.

THE END