

ERIC

"Support Your Local Sharon"

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INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ERIC NELSON, 15, and his girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 15, sit on the couch kissing.

BERNIECE

You love kissing, do you?

ERIC

Hey, I've been waiting all my life to kiss you. I'm making up for lost time.

Berniece giggles, and they continue to kiss.

BERNIECE

So when are you gonna introduce me to your boys?

ERIC

What you mean? You met Dimmey.

BERNIECE

I mean the rest of your boys.

ERIC

Already, huh?

Eric tries to kiss some more, but Berniece backs away.

BERNIECE

So I'm good enough to have on the couch, but not enough to commit to?

ERIC

Berniece, you're in my parents' house. While they're home! If that's not commitment, I don't know what is.

BERNIECE

Hmmph.

ERIC

Alright, don't give me the "hmmph". We're going to Timmy's Place for the Packer game. You'll see my friends then.

BERNIECE

Okay, that's better.

ERIC

Now my lips need more kissin'.

BERNIECE

No, the moment has passed.

ERIC
 (pulls her close)
 Get over here.

They both giggle and continue kissing. Eric's mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, and his stepfather, MATT JAMES, enter the living room.

RHONDA
 (to the kids)
 Hey, hey! Don't be bringin' no babies up in here!

ERIC
 Billy is!

MATT
 Billy lives in Madison!

Eric's brother, BILLY NELSON, 19, enters the living room with a basket of clothes.

BILLY
 Hey, guys.

ERIC
 Then why is he always here?

BILLY
 (ruffles Eric's head)
 Because I know you miss me so, so, much.

Eric groans.

RHONDA
 Billy, are you gonna wash the baby's clothes here, too, when it comes?

BILLY
 No, Mom. Getting it all out of my system now. Speaking of the baby, I gotta call Sharon. Hold on.

Billy puts down the basket and pulls out his phone. He dials, waits, then hangs up.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 Her phone has been going straight to voicemail all day. She needs to clean her mailbox.

BERNIECE
 Uh oh.

BILLY
 (to Berniece)
 What was that?

BERNIECE
 Meaning, "Uh oh, I gotta get home." See
 ya, Eric.

Berniece leaves.

ERIC
 Bye.

RHONDA
 Billy, did you do anything to make Sharon
 mad?

ERIC
 You know, like get her pregnant?

BILLY
 Shut up, Eric.

MATT
 (to Billy)
 Hey, now. Just go visit her at her house,
 or job, or something. I'm sure
 everything's all right.

BILLY
 Fine.

Billy exits.

MATT
 And you, Eric, you don't need to be
 following in your brother's footsteps.

RHONDA
 (to Eric)
 Yeah, no sex until you're married.

MATT
 (sarcastically, arms crossed)
 Right, because you'll have all the sex
 you want when you're married.

Eric and Rhonda look at Matt. Rhonda frowns.

MATT (CONT'D)
 (with enthusiasm, lifts his
 arms up)
 Right! Because you'll have all the sex
 you want when you're married!
 (MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

(sotto voce)

Wait, which tone is worse?

(calling out)

What's that, Billy?

Matt runs after Billy.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

Eric and Berniece walk into the restaurant, which is filled with people watching the football game on multiple TV's.

BERNIECE

Man, the place is packed!

ERIC

Hey, if you know, you know!

BERNIECE

What does that mean, anyway?

ERIC

I don't know.

(chuckles with Berniece)

Here they go right here.

They approach a group of boys with their girlfriends. Among the group are Eric's and Berniece's best friends, DIMMEY ROBERTS and CONNIE McDOWELL, respectively, both 15.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hey, what's up, guys? This is my girl, Berniece.

The group exchanges pleasantries.

DIMMEY

So, ladies, do you wanna sit with us and pretend you know the game, or do you wanna go talk girl stuff?

CONNIE

We'll talk girl stuff.

(points to the TV)

By the way, your kicker needs to stop kicking it out of bounds. It gives the other team better field position.

Connie and Berniece step aside.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
Are you just gonna take that?

BERNIECE
Take what?

CONNIE
You're "his girl"? Not "his girlfriend"?

BERNIECE
(scoffs)
Whatever, man.

SFX: The restaurant CHEERS.

ERIC
Touchdown! We scored first! Alright,
Chaz, pay up!

Eric walks to the table where CHAZ TREPUR, teens, sits, lays his head on the table, and naps. He holds a dollar bill in his hand, and Eric takes it.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Oh, now you don't have nothing to say,
huh?

Eric walks away.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - THE NEXT DAY

Berniece and Connie sit at tables eating their lunches.
ELEANOR DUMBECK, 16, sits nearby.

BERNIECE
It's not a big deal, Connie.

ELEANOR
What's up?

CONNIE
Eric introduced Berniece to his friends
as "my girl."

ELEANOR
As in...
(seductively)
..."my girl", or...
(deep voice)
..."my girl, y'know what I'm sayin'?"

She mimics trendy hand gestures.

BERNIECE

I don't know. We were in front of his boys.

CONNIE

That's all I'm saying!

Eleanor's half-sister, SHANA JONES, 17, sits next to them.

SHANA

Ladies, it's a beautiful day out! Why ya'll looking so down?

ELEANOR

It's about Eric, sis.

Berniece gets up and picks up her tray.

SHANA

(to Berniece)

What? Now, I let you have him, but if you hurt my Babycakes in any way...

Berniece stands over her and stares her down.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Look, just don't hurt Eric, okay?
(with a nervous smile)
Grrrl?

She gives Berniece a small tap on the arm. Berniece exits.

INT. SUBS N' SUCH - DAY

Billy approaches the counter where a FEMALE CASHIER stands.

BILLY

Hi, can I see your manager?

FEMALE CASHIER

Oh no, is it about the fake nail you found in your sandwich?

Billy looks disgusted.

BILLY

No, but gimme a new steak sandwich for my troubles, or your ass is grass!

FEMALE CASHIER

Yes sir!

She runs away.

BILLY

With fried onions!

SHARON ROSS, the manager and Billy's ex-girlfriend, steps up to the counter.

SHARON

Billy, what's up?

BILLY

I've been trying to call you.

SHARON

I had a long day. It's real busy.

Billy turns around to see no one in the restaurant except Chaz, who sits down at the table with his head draped over the chair.

SFX: Chaz SNORING.

BILLY

Well, I'm here to take you to your doctor's appointment.

SHARON

Aw, that's sweet, but my parents are taking me. I'll talk to you later.

Sharon prepares to exit.

BILLY

Sharon, you're not blowing me off, are you?

SHARON

No, of course not! Now, I have to go. We're in the middle of a lunch rush.

Sharon exits. Billy looks around the restaurant again.

SFX: Billy's phone RINGS.

BILLY

(answers)

Hello?

ELEANOR (O.S.)

Did you call me?

BILLY

Yeah, Eleanor, it's me. Look, I know I embarrassed you, and I'm sorry.

ELEANOR (O.S.)

Uh huh.

BILLY

But I have a lot of things going on, what with the baby on the way. Can we still be friends?

ELEANOR (O.S.)

Well, okay. But who is this again?

BILLY

(sighs)

Goodbye, Eleanor.

Billy hangs up.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eric talks on the phone with Berniece.

ERIC

Hey, Berniece, I was just thinking about you.

BERNIECE

Were you?

ERIC

Yeah, what's up?

BERNIECE

Why did you call me "your girl" at Timmy's Place?

ERIC

You are my girl.

BERNIECE

I thought I was your girlfriend!

ERIC

Yeah?

BERNIECE

But you didn't say "girlfriend". You said...

(deep voice)
(MORE)

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

"This is my girl, Berniece, y'know what I'm sayin'?"

ERIC

I didn't say, "Y'know what I'm sayin'."

BERNIECE

You know what I'm saying. I'm not good enough to be your girlfriend. I'm only good enough for making out.

ERIC

Wait, where is all this coming from?

BERNIECE

Look, we need to take a break, so you can think about it!

ERIC

Are you breaking up with me?

BERNIECE

No, I need some time alone, that's all. Bye!

Berniece hangs up.

ERIC

What the...?

Billy enters the house.

BILLY

(dejected)

Hey.

He plops down on the couch next to Eric. Matt and Rhonda enter the living room.

MATT

(to Rhonda)

Will you slow down? I was just kidding what I said.

RHONDA

Sex, sex, sex is all you men ever think about!

MATT

Well, it'll be nice if I could get some once in a while!

ERIC

Kids in room.

MATT
(to Eric)
Good point. Get out.

RHONDA
(to Matt)
Treat me like a lady once in a while, and
we'll see!

MATT
(to the boys)
What's the matter with you guys?

ERIC
My girlfriend won't talk to me.

BILLY
And Sharon won't talk to me.

MATT
Well, count your blessings!

Rhonda looks at Matt in shock.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matt lies on the couch with a pillow and a blanket. Eric
and Billy stand over him.

BILLY
Matt, I'm so glad our love lives can't
compare to yours.

ERIC
Yeah, is this what I have to look forward
to when I get married?

Matt lifts his head up and looks around.

MATT
What, you guys are trying to have me
sleep on the lawn? Get out of here!

The boys chuckle and leave. Matt fidgets in his blanket.

INT. SUBS N' SUCH - DAY

Matt enters the restaurant and approaches Sharon cleaning
a table.

SHARON
Mr. James! What are you doing here?

MATT

Just driving around and decided to stop by.

SHARON

90 minutes from home?

MATT

Yeah. Do you think we can talk for a minute?

SHARON

We have to walk and talk.

MATT

Here, let me get that. You don't wanna hurt yourself or your child.

Matt takes a tray of plates from Sharon, as she hurries from table to table.

MATT (CONT'D)

Okay, slow down.

SHARON

Mr. James, I'm really busy.

An OLD LADY approaches them.

OLD LADY

Excuse me, but I have a question about the gluten-free options.

SHARON

Yes, ma'am. The cashier can help you up front.

OLD LADY

She didn't know, so she directed me to you.

Matt and Sharon continue to walk and talk.

MATT

Okay, I know you're in a predicament, but I come in peace.

SHARON

Did Billy send you?

MATT

No, he doesn't even know I'm here. You know, he only wants to help you.

SHARON
I'm fine, really.

The old lady returns.

OLD LADY
What is gluten, anyway? And how does it taste?

MATT
(to the old lady)
Just a minute, lady.

Matt and Sharon continue walking.

MATT (CONT'D)
Sharon, all pregnant women need help every now and then.

A rotund lady walks past them.

MATT (CONT'D)
(points to her)
Even this pregnant lady, I'm sure!

SFX: The lady SLAPS him and walks away.

MATT (CONT'D)
Or, "not-pregnant lady"?

SHARON
My family will give me all the help I need!

MATT
You know, Billy wants to be part of that family.

SHARON
Well, maybe I don't want him to be!

Sharon walks away.

MATT
What?

The old lady approaches Matt.

OLD LADY
If you're gonna continue to be rude to me, I'm gonna talk to your manager!

MATT
Lady, I don't work here!

OLD LADY
(scoffs)
Yeah, not with that attitude!

Matt looks back in Sharon's direction.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Eric kneels underneath the old, grand piano, and tries to tune it. Berniece enters.

BERNIECE
You wanted to see me?

Eric gets up.

ERIC
Berniece, I wasn't trying to hurt your feelings. I really like you, and I'm not usually thinking about titles.

BERNIECE
Mmm hmm.

ERIC
But I will call you my girlfriend, no matter where we go and who we meet.

BERNIECE
Well, okay. And I'll call you my boyfriend.

They both kiss and hug.

ERIC
Let's go watch some TV.

BERNIECE
Okay. You know, I met your family, but you never met my father yet.

ERIC
Oh no?

BERNIECE
Yeah, you should really meet him soon.

ERIC
O...kay. Sure.

They both walk into the living room. Berniece sits on the couch. Eric hesitates.

BERNIECE

Aren't you gonna sit down?

ERIC

Oh yeah. It's just that you're sitting in my spot.

BERNIECE

Aw, come on. Just sit next to me.

ERIC

Okay.

He sits down next to Berniece.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Why don't we switch?

BERNIECE

What's the big deal?

ERIC

The big deal is that it's my spot. I always sit here when I watch TV.

BERNIECE

Okay, if it's that serious to you, fine.

She gets up and switches with Eric.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

You would think you'd be more friendly to your guests.

ERIC

You're not a guest! You're my girl!

BERNIECE

Oh, there you go with the "girl" again!

ERIC

You know what? You should go.

He gets up and opens the front door.

BERNIECE

What?

ERIC

You heard me! Out! Now!

BERNIECE

Fine, then!

ERIC

Yeah, fine!

Berniece marches out of the house. Eric slams the door.
Rhonda enters the living room.

RHONDA

Eric, why are you slamming my door?

ERIC

Sorry, Mom. Berniece was trippin', so I sent her home.

RHONDA

Yeah, I heard. She sat in your seat.
Nothin' but trouble, I tell ya!

ERIC

No, it's the principle of it. She wants me to change, and I'm not down with that!

RHONDA

Are you sure that's it, Eric?

ERIC

Yeah, what else would it be?

RHONDA

Why don't you think about it for a bit?

She kisses Eric on the cheek and exits. Eric sits back down in his spot. He shifts around.

ERIC

Great, now she messed up my groove! It's all warm and everything!

EXT. SHARON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Billy knocks on Sharon's door.

BILLY

Come on, Sharon, your job said you were here.

Sharon opens the door.

SHARON

My god, I see more of you and your family than when we were dating!

BILLY

Yeah, speaking of my family, Matt told me what you said.

SHARON

Look, I didn't mean anything by it.

BILLY

You're trying to keep me from my baby!

SHARON

I don't want to, but we have history!

BILLY

It didn't have to be that way. You left me, remember?

SHARON

You put me on the spot with that proposal in front of everybody! We never talked about marriage before! Do you even love me?

BILLY

Yeah, I love...the idea of love.

SHARON

See?

BILLY

Okay, fine. But we're gonna have a baby now, and I'm missing everything. Like, what are your cravings? Are we having a boy or a girl?

The FETUS inside of Sharon's belly speaks telepathically [written in *italics*].

FETUS

(in a male voice)

Wouldn't you like to know?

SHARON

Billy, you're not missing much, believe me. I had to call in sick just to take a nap.

BILLY

Look, my father was hardly there for me. I don't wanna be like him.

SHARON

Can you give me some time, at least?

BILLY
Fine. Call me later.

Billy prepares to leave.

SHARON
(sniffs)
Billy, did you eat some pizza?

BILLY
Yeah, a few hours ago, at Timmy's.

He leaves.

FETUS
Mmmm, pizza!

SHARON
Man, I could go for some Timmy's right now!

FETUS
Road trip, road trip, road trip...

SHARON
(calls after Billy)
Hey, Billy, wait up!

FETUS
Yes!

EXT. DR. SYD'S OFFICE - DAY

Sharon walks in the outdoor office of DR. SYD the mole. She approaches the desk of OLIVER the duck, who wears reading glasses and types on a typewriter.

SHARON
Hi, I got a referral to see Dr. Syd.

Oliver speaks telepathically, just like the fetus.

OLIVER
He's with a client, but here's some paperwork to fill out.

He hands Sharon some papers. Sharon sits in a chair next to his desk. Oliver begins to eat some pizza on his desk.

SHARON
Dang, does everyone eat pizza in Milwaukee?

OLIVER
 (smacks)
 Mmm mmm!

Oliver and the fetus strike up a conversation, while Sharon writes.

FETUS
Hey, buddy, why don't you pass some over here?

OLIVER
This is my lunch, man!

FETUS
I know what a lunch is! I had three of them today!

OLIVER
Get your mom to run by Timmy's. And tell her to mention to Timmy that his son's duck sent you.

FETUS
Hey, good idea! Thanks. Is everybody out there as nice as you?

OLIVER
Most are, but you know, this is the north side. After certain times of the night, you might wanna stay inside.

FETUS
I'm talking about my mom's ex. He's from here, right?

OLIVER
Yeah. I don't know Billy too well, but if he's anything like his brother...wait, that's not a good selling point.

FETUS
Well, from what I've heard, he seems cool.

OLIVER
He can't be too bad. He made you.

FETUS
Did he?

Oliver's eyes open wide.

FETUS (CONT'D)

I'm just kidding! Man, I wish I could see your face!

OLIVER

Whatever. But don't worry. Me, Timmy, and his son live right above the diner, so you'll be seeing a lot of me. I'll look out for ya.

FETUS

Thanks.

Eric lays in a hammock in front of Dr. Syd, who sits on a rock and scribbles on a notepad.

ERIC

Doc, I just snapped at my girlfriend. She's trying to get me to change.

SFX: Dr. Syd SCRIBBLES.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I do like her, but maybe I'm a little scared. Who knows, maybe she is, too.

SFX: More SCRIBBLING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's it! I better go and talk to her! Thanks, Doc! You always know what to say!

Eric gets up and approaches Sharon.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Sharon, you're here for the doc, too?

SHARON

I was, but suddenly, I feel a lot better. I wanna go talk to your brother. Come on.

Eric and Sharon start to exit.

OLIVER

(calling out)

Does that mean we won't get paid?

FETUS (O.S.)

I'll talk to her!

Oliver walks over to Dr. Syd.

OLIVER

What do you write in that pad, anyway?

Dr. Syd hands it to him.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

(reads)

"The problem that you are having stems from a society of confusion, hate, and inferiority."

The background around Oliver goes dark. A spotlight shines on Oliver as he steps up.

SFX: Melancholy music BUILDS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

(continues reading)

"We as a society must find the passion within ourselves to befriend the other man. Only then can we..." Hey, there's a copyright date here! This is from a magazine!

The spotlight disappears, and the background goes back to normal.

SFX: Music stops. Dr. Syd SQUEAKS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Turn the page?

Oliver flips the page over.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Scribble lines. That's more like it.

He hands the notepad back to Dr. Syd.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Billy and Sharon sit on the couches opposite each other.

BILLY

Sharon, we may not like each other anymore, but we love our baby. I'm sure there's a way to coexist for him...or her.

SHARON

That's fine. And let me know the next time you drive up here. We can keep driving up here together.

BILLY

What about doctor's appointments and Lamaze class? I want to do that stuff, too.

SHARON

You can start by taking me to Timmy's. I keep having a craving for it!

BILLY

Ugh. You must be preggo.

FETUS

Make sure you get it with extra yogurt and pickles this time!

They both walk out the front door as Berniece walks in. They greet each other. Eric enters from upstairs.

ERIC

Hey, Berniece.

BERNIECE

(sighs)

I'm here for the hat trick!

ERIC

Look, I'm sorry.

BERNIECE

(pause)

I am, too.

ERIC

Why don't we just start over?

BERNIECE

I'm cool with that.

Rhonda and Matt enter from the kitchen.

MATT

Alright, looks like our kids' lives are back in order.

RHONDA

Everything good?

ERIC

Yeah, me and Berniece are gonna take it slow.

RHONDA

Well, that's great, because there is to
be no sex in this house!

Matt prepares to say something. Rhonda frowns at him,
then stops and thinks.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

(to Matt)

Okay, I'll give you that one.

THE END