

ERIC

"Nelson Cruise"

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INT. CAR - DAY

Professor RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's, black, and her assistant, MARTY O'DELL, 20's, black, sit in a car. Rhonda's hands are on the steering wheel.

CU OF RHONDA AND MARTY'S UPPER BODIES

SFX: Rhonda HONKS the horn.

RHONDA
Come on, move it!

MARTY
It's always busy in the morning.

They start to move.

RHONDA
Okay, now we're moving.

MARTY
Yep. Hey, Professor, we still might wanna call the Dean.

RHONDA
Uh huh.

ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL THEM ON A ROLLER COASTER

RHONDA (CONT'D)
And tell him this is the best Educators' Convention ever!

The roller coaster ZOOMS down a steep hill of tracks. Rhonda, Marty, and other riders SCREAM and CHEER.

EXT. THEME PARK - DAY - LATER

Rhonda, Marty, and other educators walk and converse.

SFX: Rhonda's cell phone RINGS.

RHONDA
It's my son, ya'll. I'll catch up.

Rhonda stops walking and answers the phone.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
Hello?

INTERCUT - RHONDA/ERIC

ERIC NELSON, 16, speaks.

ERIC

Hi, Mom. How's it going?

RHONDA

Good. We're having a great time so far.

ERIC

Well, good. I just wanted to make sure that everything is okay.

RHONDA

Oh, right, this doesn't sound suspicious at all!

ERIC

No, seriously, Mom, nothing's wrong. Just saying hi.

RHONDA

Is your brother still there?

ERIC

Yeah. By the way, thanks for letting us watch the house while you're gone.

RHONDA

Matt's still out of town?

ERIC

Yeah.

RHONDA

Well, alright, Eric, I have to catch up with the guys. I'll miss the meeting.

ERIC

Oh, okay. Thanks again for trusting us!

RHONDA

Uh, yeah, you're welcome! As long as the house ain't on fire, it's all good! I'll talk to you later! Bye!

Rhonda hangs up. Eric walks upstairs.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - RHONDA AND MATT'S BEDROOM -
CONTINUOUS

Eric enters the bedroom. His big brother, BILLY NELSON, 20's, sits on the side of the bed.

BILLY
What did she say?

ERIC
(gloomily)
I think we're good.

They both look at a car that is wedged between the wall of the bedroom. Lights flash from the car.

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - NIGHT

JOHN DUMBECK, 40's, white, paces back and forth. His butler, JENTILLE, enters.

JENTILLE
Your daughters have arrived, sir.

JOHN
(exhales)
They're okay! Good. I'm gonna kill 'em!

Jentille leaves. Enter John's daughters, SHANA JONES, 18, biracial, and ELEANOR DUMBECK, 17, white, who sashay in.

ELEANOR
Hey, hey!

SHANA
What up, pop?

JOHN
"What up"? It's two in the morning! Your curfew was at midnight!

SHANA
Yeah, but I turned 18 at midnight, and what adult has a curfew?

JOHN
(approaches Shana)
Shana, you were born at 10:32 in the morning!

Shana turns to Eleanor.

SHANA

Thanks for that "logic", Eleanor.

ELEANOR

Hey, why'd you listen to me? You're the adult. So "nyaaaah"!

She sticks out her tongue at Shana.

SHANA

Dad, really now. They call it a birth-day, not a birth-time!

JOHN

Well, in this house, we have rules, and Eleanor here still has a curfew!

ELEANOR

Oh. I might have glossed over that part.

JOHN

Eleanor, no riding in your private jet for a week!

ELEANOR

(groans exaggeratedly)
Oooh, Daddy, I hate you!!

She stomps away.

JOHN

Yeah, yeah. And Shana, you're grounded, too!

SHANA

Grounded? I'm 18!

JOHN

Not yet, you're not!

SHANA

Come on, Dad, you said you would start treating me like an adult!

JOHN

Well, you're off to a crappy start!

SHANA

Dad, this is silly. Why don't we sleep it off, huh? Then we can wake up, and you can give me my b-day presents! Good night!

She kisses John on the cheek.

JOHN
Hey! I'm not done!

Shana exits.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(calls out)
Jentille!

Jentille reenters.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Where's my personal thinker?

JENTILLE
You gave him the week off, Mr. Dumbeck.

JOHN
Oh yeah. Where's his thinker?

JENTILLE
I'm sorry, but I don't know her schedule,
sir.

Jentille exits.

JOHN
Man. I guess I gotta figure this out for
myself.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - RHONDA AND MATT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rhonda stands next to the wedged car in the wall. She
stares at her sons angrily.

ERIC
(to Billy, sotto voce)
She literally hasn't said anything in ten
minutes! Her eyes are piercing through my
soul!

BILLY
Okay, calm down, Eric. We need to be
strong and stick together.

RHONDA
I had a long flight, I come to my room to
rest, and there's a car halfway in it!

BILLY
Well, we're okay. Thanks for asking!

Rhonda begins to run up to Billy. Eric pushes him back.

ERIC

Shut up, fool!

(to Rhonda)

Mom, there's a perfectly good explanation for this.

RHONDA

Well, start talking!

ERIC

Okay, me and Billy were heading to the Brewers game. On the way there, he was teaching me how to drive. Or yelling.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

Eric drives. Billy sits in the passenger's seat. Throughout the flashback, Billy speaks in a snooty voice, and Eric speaks in a gentle voice.

BILLY

Both hands on the steering wheel, ol' chap.

ERIC

Oh, okay. Sorry, big brother.

BILLY

Yes, we're gonna have a smashing good time at the Brewers game!

ERIC

Yeah, I can't wait! And it'll give you and me time to bond and...

BILLY

Don't talk while you drive, Eric. And make sure you keep your eyes on the road.

ERIC

Hey, William, do you think I could maybe speed up a little bit? We're gonna miss the first pitch.

BILLY

I think not! The speed limit is 30!

ERIC

But I'm going 10. The cops are passing us and giving us the finger.

BILLY

The speed limit is just that, the limit. I've been driving for many years, as well as have a college education. Remember how I told you I almost made valedictorian in high school?

ERIC

A few times today already, big brother, but you can tell me again. I'm proud that you're proud.

BILLY

Maybe later.

ERIC

Hey, aren't we supposed to pick your son up?

BILLY

Nah. I changed my mind. I already saw him yesterday. Forget him.

ERIC

Well, can we stop somewhere for lunch? I haven't eaten since we woke up. You got me right out of bed to practice driving.

BILLY

Eating. Another thing that we did yesterday.

(sighs)

Fine, let's stop at this restaurant here.

Eric signals, then switches lanes.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Eric, what are you doing? We just passed it.

ERIC

It looked closed to me. Let's stop somewhere else.

BILLY

No it didn't! Listen to your big, smart, brother! Gimme the wheel!

Billy puts his hands on the wheel. The car SCREECHES and swerves.

ERIC

Billy, that's not a good idea!

SFX: More SCREECHING as the car spins.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hey, stop!

Billy reaches over to the gas pedal and pushes Eric's right foot away. He places his left foot on it.

BILLY

Let's floor it!

ERIC

Whooooaaa!

The car ZOOMS down the street. It CRASHES THROUGH a "BRIDGE OUT" sign.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Oh no, we're heading off the bridge!

BILLY

Now, look what you've done!

The car leaps off of the bridge. Eric and Billy SCREAM. The car CRASHES into Matt and Rhonda's room.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - RHONDA AND MATT'S BEDROOM - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

ERIC

No scratches and scars, but everything's okay. Except for the car-crashing-into-the-wall thing.

BILLY

Eric, I know you wanna grow, but your nose, though?

ERIC

(to Billy)

Whatchu talkin' 'bout, it's the truth!

They both bicker over each other.

RHONDA

Enough! Follow me.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Eric and Billy sit on the couch. Rhonda stands.

RHONDA

You guys are staying down here until you tell me the truth about the car!

ERIC

Here? Isn't this where Aunt Hattie's remains are?

BILLY

That's just a myth!
(to Rhonda)
Isn't it?

RHONDA

Your remains will be down here if you don't come clean!

Rhonda exits.

BILLY

Thanks a lot, Eric!

ERIC

So it's better to let her know what really happened? She's already "full name" mad, "William Patrick Nelson, III"!

BILLY

Fine, Eric Tyree Nelson! Gimme a moment to think.

They sit in silence.

ERIC

It's "Thomas", by the way.

BILLY

Shush!

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - NIGHT

Eric and Billy's stepfather, MATT JAMES, 40's, sits at the bar. He talks with the owner, TIMMY ROBERTS, 40's. IKE, the bartender, walks around and serves drinks.

TIMMY

So how did the meeting go?

MATT

I gave the literary agent my pilot, complete with the logline and pitch. I spent all night perfecting those things!

TIMMY

And?

MATT

She pulled up her cell phone. Apparently, the pilot that I thought came to me was taken from a "Golden Girls" episode I saw years ago.

TIMMY

So? Most of those old geezers are dead. Who cares?

MATT

I told her that, and she showed me the door. Oh, and she was the daughter of one of the writers.

John, wearing a suit, enters the restaurant and looks around. He slowly walks over to the bar.

SFX: SQUEAK!

His right foot sticks to the floor, and he pulls it from there. He looks at the bottom of his shoe and continues to walk to the bar.

MATT (CONT'D)

(to John)

Aren't you John Dumbeck??

JOHN

Yeah.

MATT

What are you doing on this side of town?

JOHN

You get a little lonely living in the mansion on the hill, so I wanted to see how normal people act.

MATT

And you came here?

(scoffs)

Ike, get us two cold ones.

JOHN

Two cold what?

MATT

Just have a seat.

John sits next to Matt. Ike hands them some beers.

IKE

Here you go, Mr. Rich Dude, sir. Now I know this tab will be covered.

JOHN

Wow, I haven't had one of these in years.

He sips.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Which leads me to the real reason why I'm here, uh...

MATT

Matt. Matt James.

JOHN

Oh, yeah, Eric's stepdad.

MATT

(rolls his eyes)

Don't remind me.

XAVIER WILLIAMS and OFFICER YVETTE TOWNSEND, both 40's and black, enter the bar area and sit next to the guys.

XAVIER

Hey, Ike! Give us some cold ones!

IKE

Like, I thought you guys would never come!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

I know, but gospel choir rehearsal ran long!

She looks at John.

OFFICER TOWNSEND (CONT'D)

(to Matt)

Who's the dressed-up white boy?

MATT

(sotto voce)

The guy who might pay for our drinks, if you be quiet!

JOHN

Anyway, my oldest, Shana, just turned 18, and she acts like she can do whatever she wants.

MATT

Oh.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Having grown-up daughters can be the worst. That's why I left mine!

MATT

(to Townsend)

Yeah, thanks for that, "Mrs. C".

(to John)

Grown-up sons are a piece of work, too. Mine just drove a car through me and my wife's bedroom!

JOHN

At least you have a wife to share a bed with.

MATT

Along with a car blowing fumes up my ass.

JOHN

So Shana came in late last night with her sister and started talking about how she's grown now.

MATT

Did you ground them?

JOHN

Eleanor, yeah. Shana, well, I threatened to restrict access to her mountain home.

XAVIER

(laughs)

Dang, and she didn't call CPS on you?

MATT

John, you gotta do better than that. You have to show who's boss in that house.

JOHN

"Mansion".

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(to John)

Way to read the room, pal.

XAVIER

(to John)

Look, you're the father, and you gotta lay down the law. You pay the bills and all that.

JOHN

Pay what now?

MATT

Oh my god. John, have you ever lifted a finger in your life?

JOHN

Does writing a check count?

MATT

(sighs)

Watch this. This is how people pay for their drinks.

Matt pulls out his debit card. Ike approaches him again.

IKE

Like, isn't that the blind leading the blind?

The patrons LAUGH. John LAUGHS with them. Matt looks at him angrily. John quickly STOPS.

JOHN

Carry on. I'm taking notes.

Matt hands the card to Ike.

EXT. DUMBECK MANSION - NIGHT

Shana walks to the front door and tries to unlock it. She RINGS the doorbell. Jentille opens it.

JENTILLE

Welcome to the Dumbeck mansion. How may I help you?

SHANA

What? Hey, Jentille, my keys don't work for some reason.

JENTILLE

Will you be staying here tonight? We've been waiting for you. Please enter.

Shana enters.

SHANA

Jentille, what are you up to?

Eleanor approaches her, wearing a bellhop uniform.

ELEANOR

Welcome to the Dumbeck mansion, ma'am.
Take your bags?

SHANA

I don't have any bags, you "dumbbellhop"!

ELEANOR

Hmmph. Don't expect a tip from me!

She walks away.

SHANA

(calls out)

You don't tip guests!

John enters, still wearing his suit.

JOHN

Ms. Jones, glad you could make it.

He walks behind a makeshift desk and pulls out a notepad.

JOHN (CONT'D)

So one night is \$86, and checkout time is
at noon.

ELEANOR

And noon already passed, so you owe us
more money!

JOHN

(to Eleanor)

Just keep quiet, dear.

SHANA

Guys, what's going on?

JOHN

You wanted to be treated like an adult.
Adults do these kind of things, like pay
for hotel rooms, food, and stuff.

SHANA

Ya'll being silly. But since you
mentioned food, can Jentille get me some
room service, at least?

JOHN

Sorry, the kitchen's closed.

SHANA

Fine! I'll order a pizza.

She pulls out her phone and dials.

SFX: Disconnection chimes RING.

SHANA (CONT'D)
What's up with my phone?

JOHN
Well, Ms. Jones...uh...

Eleanor WHISPERS in his ear.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(to Shana)
...there's a charge for dialing outside!

SHANA
Fine, if that's the way you want it, I'm
outta here! I'll sleep in the car!

JOHN
Sorry, the car was due today at 5. We
took it back.

SHANA
(scoffs)
Then I'll just sleep outside. Is that
okay with everybody?

SFX: Rain and THUNDER outside.

ELEANOR
As long as it's okay with you!

JOHN
Look, since our bellhop seems to know
you, you can stay here tonight, on the
house.

SHANA
Uh huh. Good night.

Shana leaves.

ELEANOR
Dad, how's sleeping on top of the house
gonna make things better? She'll still
get soaked!

John stares at her, then walks away.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
I'll prove it to you.
(calls out)
(MORE)

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Jentille, get me my raincoat! I'm camping out again!

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - THE NEXT MORNING

John and Eleanor sit at the table and eat breakfast.

JOHN

When is your sister coming down?

ELEANOR

Oh yeah. I checked her room. She wasn't there.

JOHN

What?

ELEANOR

Yeah, maybe she moved out.

JOHN

And you didn't say anything?

ELEANOR

I can have her room, duh!

Shana enters from outside.

SHANA

Good morning, everyone!

She hands John an envelope.

JOHN

What's this?

He opens it. A pile of cash falls out.

SHANA

Money to cover room and board, and my car. That should cover me for a few weeks, at least.

ELEANOR

And what about accidentals?

SHANA

It's "incidentals", and that's in there, too.

JOHN

Shana, where'd you get this from?

SHANA

I went to the bank, told them my name and who my father was. They basically gave me the money!

JOHN

(sighs)

Shana, I don't want you to have things handed to you.

SHANA

But Dad, didn't you have all of this handed to you?

She points around the house.

ELEANOR

Oooh, she has a point, Mr. Dumbeck, sir!

John groans.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Rhonda sits on the couch. Eric and Billy stand and talk to her.

ERIC

Mom, we wanna come clean with what really happened.

BILLY

But this time, I'll tell it.

RHONDA

Oh, this should be good.

BILLY

Oh, it will be!

Rhonda and Eric stare at him.

BILLY (CONT'D)

...because it's the truth, that is. Me and Eric were heading to the ballgame. I was in the passenger seat, teaching Eric how to drive, or trying to, anyway.

INT. BILLY'S CAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

Eric ZOOMS down the street with Billy in the car.

SFX: Hip-hop music BLASTS.

Billy speaks in a soft, gentle voice, while Eric speaks in a brash, exaggerated slang-tinged voice throughout the flashback. Eric also waves his arms and hands as he speaks.

BILLY

Uh, Eric, you should slow down a bit.

ERIC

Say what? Bruh! Guys in the Mil zoom up and down this "skreet", know'm sayin'? How they gon' up n' stop me, know'm sayin'?

BILLY

But we still have time before the Brewer game start.

ERIC

And what about finding a parking space, tailgating, and buying me a beer? God, you're dumb!

BILLY

Well, I did almost make valedictorian.

ERIC

Keyword: almost!

BILLY

Eric, you just ran a red light!

ERIC

No I didn't! The light changed too quickly, know'm sayin'?

BILLY

Hey, let's go get my son. He'd like to spend time with his dad and uncle at the game.

ERIC

All the way in Madison? Please! His mama can find crap to do with him, know'm sayin'? Plus, he's a newborn. He won't even know the difference!

BILLY

Fine. Can we at least stop for something to eat?

ERIC

(sighs)

I guess. You can get me that beer, then.

BILLY
I never said I would. You're underage.

ERIC
You never not said it, either! Ha, ha!
It's Miller Time, fool!

He swiftly changes lanes.

SFX: Cars HONK at him. Two cars behind him CRASH into each other.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Let's run in here!

BILLY
That restaurant looks closed inside.

ERIC
Yeah? Then we're gonna have to "drive-thru", know'm sayin'?

Eric speeds up.

BILLY
What are you doin'? We're gonna crash!

ERIC
You got that right!

They ZOOM towards the building.

BILLY
Nooooooooo!

Billy grabs the wheel and quickly TURNS the car around.

SFX: SCREECH from the wheels.

ERIC
You big baby!

They drive through a "BRIDGE OUT" sign.

BILLY
Oh no! Brake, Eric! Brake!

ERIC
Man, look what you done!

They both speed off of the bridge. Both of them YELL. The car PLOWS through Matt and Rhonda's bedroom.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - BASEMENT - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

BILLY

And that's what happened.

He looks around and notices that Rhonda is no longer there.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Mom? Mom?

(to Eric)

She's gone. She must be satisfied with my explanation!

He chuckles nervously. Eric frowns at him.

ERIC

We are dead.

(mocks Billy, goofy voice)

"Know'm sayin'? Know'm sayin'?"

BILLY

Hey, I made you a little taller in the story!

ERIC

Oh. Thanks.

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

John talks on the phone with his ex-wife, RENEE CHAPMAN, 40's, white, who wears a white robe with sunglasses and sits in a beach chair near a pool. Servants come and go, giving her food and drinks.

INTERCUT - JOHN/RENEE

JOHN

Shana is really bugging me, Renee.

RENEE

Sorry, John! My daughter is the white one!

JOHN

I know that! I don't know who else to talk to. How do you discipline girls? I never had to before.

RENEE

Of course not. Those girls you got are "Daddy's Little Girls." They can do no wrong.

JOHN

Until recently. You know that Shana accused me of having everything given to me?

RENEE

(sighs)

Hello? Your parents are the Dumbucks. Mine are the Chapmans. We both had everything handed to us. You never worked a day in your life. And you got half of my stuff in the divorce!

JOHN

Oh yeah. Good times. But how do I teach Shana about being a responsible adult?

RENEE

Well, first, teach her about not sleeping with her spouse's sister!

JOHN

Hey now! That was after you slept with mine!

RENEE

Oh, if I jump off the Hoan Bridge, you would too?

JOHN

Do it and find out!

RENEE

Anyway, back to Shana, she's grown now. You might have to let her figure things out on her own.

JOHN

(sighs)

Screw you very much.

RENEE

(chuckles)

You wish!

She hangs up.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

Shana and Eleanor are in a college dorm room full of kids partying, drinking, and eating. Music PLAYS in the background.

ELEANOR

So, this is college, huh?

SHANA

Yeah, I think I'm gonna like it!

GINA RICHARDS, 20's, black, who lives there, approaches them.

GINA

Hey, ya'll having fun?

ELEANOR

Yeah! She's celebrating her birthday weekend!

GINA

(calls out)

Hey, everybody! Let's get this birthday girl a drink!

The kids CHEER. A girl hands Shana a drink.

GINA (CONT'D)

Go head! Bottoms up!

SHANA

Later.

(chuckles nervously)

I wanna pace myself.

GINA

Right. You don't wanna be like your sister, huh?

Gina points to Eleanor, who holds two cups.

ELEANOR

Hey, Shana! I'm having a blast already!

She quickly GULPS down a cup.

SHANA

How many of those have you downed?

ELEANOR

Three already. They're the best! But don't worry. I didn't taste any alcohol in it at all!

SHANA

Uh, Eleanor...

ELEANOR

And I had to keep drinking it to find out!

She LAUGHS, then quickly PLOPS on the floor. Shana and Gina look at her.

GINA

Dang. That Theta Punch is the bomb!

The kids CHEER. Shana tries to wake Eleanor up.

SHANA

Eleanor! Wake up!

Eleanor sits up.

ELEANOR

(slurred)

Hey, hey, beat it! My sister is big, black, and she'll kick your ass!

Eleanor PLOPS back down.

SHANA

Oh brother.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Rhonda sits on the couch. Eric's girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 16, black, and Billy's girlfriend, SHARON ROSS, 20's, black, enter the house.

BERNIECE

Hey, Mrs. Nelson-James.

SHARON

We were feeling guilty about what happened.

RHONDA

You mean about the house? Why would you feel guilty? The boys said they hit it on the way to the Brewers game.

Matt enters the living room.

MATT
Game? That's what they told you?

RHONDA
Yeah.

MATT
The Brewers didn't have a home game this weekend!

SHARON
Well, bye!

Sharon and Berniece attempt to dash off.

RHONDA
Hold it, girls!

The girls turn back around.

SHARON
I told you we should have group-texted them!

BERNIECE
You blocked me, remember?

SHARON
Well, I don't care about no "Peanut Butter Challenge"!

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eleanor lays on the couch, passed out. John paces back and forth. Shana sits in a chair.

JOHN
You guys go to a party, where neither of you are supposed to be drinking, and Eleanor gets drunk by accident?!

Eleanor sits up.

ELEANOR
(slurring)
You got it, Sherlock!

She lays back down.

SHANA
Dad, I'm sorry.

JOHN

You can't just be sorry, Shana! Your carelessness caused Eleanor here to act crazy!

SHANA

Uh, Dad...?

They both look at Eleanor.

JOHN

Be that as it may, this is what I was talking about. You gotta take responsibility for your actions.

SHANA

I know. I accept any punishment you'll give me.

JOHN

Well, I don't know. Like you said, I can't ground you. You're 18.

Eleanor sits up.

ELEANOR

Maybe you can't ground her, Dad, but I can!

JOHN

What?

ELEANOR

Shana was supposed to take care of me, so she should tend to me until I get better!

JOHN

(to Shana)

It must be the liquor, because she's starting to make sense!

SHANA

Okay, fine, Eleanor. But what about your punishment?

ELEANOR

I got a hangover. That's my punishment!

John hovers over her.

JOHN

(sternly)

Are you kidding me?!

ELEANOR

Well, it worked for the Cosbys.

Jentille enters.

JENTILLE

Mr. Dumbeck, are you ready for your weekly glass of scotch?

JOHN

No, I think I'll go out to Timmy's. You know, hang out with normal people.

(to the girls)

You girls stay put!

Jentille exits. John leaves out the front door. Eleanor gets up.

ELEANOR

Okay, big sis, let's go!

SHANA

What? You're grounded!

ELEANOR

Yeah, so you better get me to a party and back.

SHANA

But I'm grounded.

ELEANOR

Right, so you better do what I say.

SHANA

Wait, aren't you still drunk?

ELEANOR

Eh, I'll throw up on the way there.

SHANA

(sighs)

Only in your world, Eleanor.

They both walk to the exit. They walk backwards in the other direction, while John, looking angrily, follows them back inside.

SHANA (CONT'D)

Dad! I...I...

ELEANOR

(speaks over Shana)

Where am I? I'm drunk! What am I doing?

Eleanor walks in a circle and moves her hands around.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

Eric and Billy stand and talk to each other.

BILLY

Alright, Eric, it's the moment of truth.
Let's face the music.

Billy starts to walk. Eric stops him.

ERIC

Wait! Can we at least make a grand
entrance?

PAUSE.

BILLY

Yeah, fine.

Billy and Eric slowly walk into the living room. Rhonda sits on the couch and looks at them.

SFX: Dramatic music PLAYS.

RHONDA

Boys, why are you walking so slowly?

The boys stop. Music ENDS.

ERIC

We got a job to do, Mom.

They both run to Rhonda and fall on their knees.

ERIC AND BILLY

Please don't kill us! I'm sorry!

RHONDA

Stop it! Are you ready to tell me the
truth about the ballgame trip?

ERIC

Yeah.

Rhonda stands up.

RHONDA

Despite the fact that the Brewers are
playing against San Diego this weekend?
Now, unless ya'll were going on a long
road trip, something doesn't add up!

BILLY

Well, we're very passionate about our team!

ERIC

Yeah, we love the Bruins!

RHONDA

Oh, you guys are pathetic! Sit down!

The boys sit.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Your girlfriends came and told me the truth!

BILLY

They...did?

RHONDA

Yeah! Tell me if any of this sounds familiar!

INT. BILLY'S CAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

Billy drives his car with Sharon in the passenger's seat. Eric and Berniece sit in the backseats, making out.

BERNIECE

(sotto voce)

Slow down, Eric! They're in the front!

ERIC

(sotto voce)

They won't hear us! They're too into each other!

Billy pulls over to a drive-thru menu at a restaurant.

SUPER: "FIVE MINUTES LATER"

Billy HONKS the horn.

ERIC

Billy, I think they're closed.

BILLY

But the sign is up.

SHARON

Yeah, but the rest of the restaurant isn't!

All four of them look at the restaurant building, which is torn-down.

BILLY
So the Arch Deluxe didn't make a comeback?

SHARON
No.

Billy pulls off. Eric and Berniece continue making out.

BILLY
(to Eric and Berniece)
Ya'll keep it down back there! Don't nobody wanna hear all that!
(to Sharon, sotto voce)
Hey, Sharon, you wanna, you know?

SHARON
What?

Billy nods his head in the direction of his pants, then looks back at Sharon.

SHARON (CONT'D)
(sotto voce)
While you're driving?

BILLY
It'll be fun!

SHARON
For you!

BILLY
No one will know.

ERIC
Hey, idiot, we can hear you!

Billy turns his head.

BILLY
Oh, shut up!

SHARON
Billy, look out for that squirrel!

Billy turns back around.

BILLY
AAARRGH!!

He swerves, turns around, and loses control of the car.

SFX: Car SCREECHING.

The car rolls down a hill. Everyone SCREAMS.

ERIC

Billy, look out!

The car drives off of a cliff, then CRASHES into the wall of Rhonda and Matt's bedroom.

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

BILLY

Well, we got that all cleared up. I'm going home.

Billy gets up.

RHONDA

Sit!

Billy sits back down.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

You boys are grounded like you wouldn't believe!

BILLY

Even me? I don't even live here!

RHONDA

But you're gonna work to pay off the damages. And the sooner you pay it off, the sooner Eric will get off punishment!

ERIC

Ooooh, that hurts.

BILLY

Yeah.

RHONDA

I hope you guys learned a lesson from all this.

ERIC

What, that women will ruin our lives?

RHONDA

Yep!

Rhonda exits.

BILLY

Hmmph. I love 'em anyway.

ERIC

Me too.

INT. ROOM - DAY

Billy and Sharon's baby boy, WILL NELSON, stands up in his playpen. His friends, OLIVER DUCK and DR. SYD the mole, stand next to the playpen. Will and Oliver speak telepathically to each other [written in *italics*].

OLIVER

Uh, Will, isn't your dad supposed to pick you up?

WILL

I guess not! Man, this is just like when you stood me up when we were supposed to go to the zoo!

OLIVER

What? That's not how I remember it! Let me tell you what really happened!

FADE TO BLACK.

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

Oh, never mind.

THE END