

ERIC

"Cougar Townsend (or, 'Weekend With Berniece')"

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INT. RON'S APARTMENT - DAY

RON TYSON, 20's, black, sits on the couch and talks on the phone.

RON
I know, baby.
(pause)
Yeah, I miss you, too.

SFX: Door KNOCK!

RON (CONT'D)
Hold on.

He gets up and opens the door. ERIC NELSON, 18, black, enters.

ERIC
Hey, Ron.

RON
'Sup. Here's your mail.

Ron sits back down. Eric sorts through the mail. He reads an envelope.

ERIC
"Jury duty"? I drove all the way up to Madison to pick up junk mail?

RON
At least I told you about it this time!
I'm getting better at it!

ERIC
Yeah, well, fortunately, the school sent me a replacement financial aid check.
I'll see ya.

He prepares to exit.

RON
(on the phone)
You know age ain't nothin' but a number.
(pause)
No, you say it first.
(pause)
Okay, fine. Goodbye, Ms. Townsend.

ERIC
(sotto voce)
"Ms. Townsend"?
(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

(pause)

Nah.

He exits.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

The restaurant is decorated with balloons and a banner that reads, "HAPPY 14TH BIRTHDAY, TIMMY!" People gather around the owner, TIMMY ROBERTS, 40's, white. He blows out the candles on his birthday cake. The crowd CHEERS.

Eric's stepfather, MATT JAMES, and mother, RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, both 40's, approach Timmy.

MATT

Happy 14th birthday, Timmy!

RHONDA

(chuckles)

Yeah, you look real mature to be 14!

TIMMY

(chuckles)

Hey, my birthday only comes every four years! Waiting for it made me get old!

Eric stands with his brother BILLY, 20's, and Billy's son, WILL, 2.

WILL

Dad, what does he mean by that?

BILLY

Mr. Roberts was born on February 29th, which is a leap year.

ELEANOR DUMBECK, 19, white, chimes in.

ELEANOR

(to Timmy)

Good thing you weren't born on February 30th. Then you wouldn't have a birthday at all!

ERIC

(to Eleanor)

I actually understood that! Am I on your level now??

ELEANOR

Welcome! There's plenty of room!

BILLY
Well, that's my cue.

He walks away and shakes his head. Ron approaches him.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Hey, let me know when you're ready.

RON
Oh, it's cool, Billy. Yvette's taking me home.

BILLY
Yvette? You mean Officer Townsend?

RON
Yeah!

OFFICER YVETTE TOWNSEND, 40's, black, is a short, big-boned woman. She approaches Ron, wearing her cop uniform.

OFFICER TOWNSEND
Let's roll, Ronny. First time I'll have a guy in my squad car that I'm not arresting!

BILLY
All of that should be unchartered territory for you.

Townsend laughs mockingly.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Have a good night, Ron.

RON
Oh, I will!

Ron and Townsend exit. Eric, Rhonda, and Matt approach Billy.

RHONDA
Billy, have you seen Yvette?

BILLY
She just left with Ron.

Eric GASPS.

ERIC
Wow, they became an item, huh?

BILLY
What are you talking about?

ERIC

I overheard him talking to her on the phone the other day. Now they're taking trips together?

MATT

And they were at the bar earlier this week, chumming it up.

RHONDA

Her and Ron? No way!

XAVIER WILLIAMS, 40's, black, chimes in from the bar.

XAVIER

Yeah, that's ridiculous!

They turn to him, who covers his mouth with his beer mug and sips.

ERIC

Hey, men can be attracted to old...

He signals to Rhonda, who frowns at him.

ERIC (CONT'D)

...der ladies like you.

BILLY

Naw, man. Older ladies are only out for one thing.

RHONDA

And what's that?

BILLY

Uh, never mind.

RHONDA

She wouldn't want him, anyway.

BILLY

Wait, why not?

RHONDA

He ain't right for her. He's just a kid.

MATT

Guys...

BILLY

He's over 21, like me!

RHONDA
You're a kid, too!

BILLY
(whines)
But Mom!

RHONDA
And all guys your age look for is a MILF!

Eric GAGS on his drink. Billy chuckles.

ERIC
Almost lost my lunch there.

BILLY
Mom, I'm sure he doesn't see Officer
Townsend as a MILF! And older women only
look to have some fun with younger guys!

RHONDA
Watch it! You talkin' 'bout my best
friend!

BILLY
And you talkin' 'bout my best friend!

ERIC
(sighs)
Well, my work is done here.

He steps away and sees his girlfriend, and Xavier's daughter, BERNIECE, 18, black, sitting at a booth with Eleanor and her half-sister SHANA JONES, 20, biracial, with Shana's babies: J.J., J.R., and JENNIFER JACKSON.

BERNIECE
(calls out)
Hey, Arnold, come here!

ARNOLD ALLEN, 18, black, wears nerdy Poindexter-type gear. He approaches them.

ARNOLD
What can I do you for, Ms. Williams?

BERNIECE
What do you think of my niece?

ARNOLD
That's a loaded question.
(pause)
I hate her!

BERNIECE

Come on. I know Annette bullied you a few times.

ARNOLD

I can still feel the scars! Figuratively and literally!

BERNIECE

Have you ever wondered if she picks on you so much because she likes you?

ARNOLD

What?

SHANA

Yeah, what?

BERNIECE

A woman knows these things. Maybe you should try talking to her first.

Eric approaches the booth.

ERIC

Don't listen to Berniece, Arnold! She don't know nothing about that! She dumped me!

Berniece approaches Eric.

BERNIECE

Eric, I told you, it's just a little break. I need time to think.

ERIC

Well, then, if it's just a break, can I see other people?

SHANA

Yeah, can he?

ELEANOR

Yeah!

BERNIECE

Of course not! It's just a break!
(to Eric)
You've seen, "Friends"!

SHANA

It's just as well.

ELEANOR
 (to Shana)
 Yeah, since you're married!
 (sighs)
 Just like me.

SHANA
 No, all you guys are doing is shacking
 up.

ELEANOR
 Schematics.

SHANA
 "Semantics".

ELEANOR
 Shut up.

ARNOLD
 You guys are all bringing my I.Q. down.
 Excuse me.

He exits.

BERNIECE
 (to Arnold)
 Think about what I said!

Shana's babies talk to each other telepathically [written
 in *italics*].

J.J.
 (to J.R.)
*All this talk about love, I can't wait
 till girls start liking me!*

J.R.
Ew! You'd want that?

J.J.
*Jennifer, do you think I'll ever get a
 girlfriend?*

JENNIFER
*Why, sure, J.J.! You're pretty okay-
 looking! If we weren't related, man...!*

J.J.
Technically, we're not, you know.

PAUSE.

JENNIFER

*There's no way to get out of this but to
take a nap, so...*

She SNORES. J.J. SIGHS.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Arnold stands with his two nerdy friends, EZEKIEL and BRADY, both black and wearing similar gear to his. They see ANNETTE ANDERSON, 18, black, from afar.

EZEKIEL

(nasal voice)

Uh oh, here comes Annette!

BRADY

(deep, scratchy voice)

You guys got your wallets ready?

ARNOLD

No need for that, Brady. Watch this.

He WHISTLES with his fingers.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

(to Annette)

Yo, broad! Bring your behind!

The other two nerds GASP. Annette, who towers over the nerds, marches to them. The nerds hide behind Arnold.

ANNETTE

Have you lost your mind??

ARNOLD

(gulps)

I believe I have. But I'm sorry! Let me make it up to you! I'll take you out somewhere!

ANNETTE

(cackles)

You serious? Why would I wanna go anywhere with you?

ARNOLD

I got tickets to see "Turtleman on Ice"!

ANNETTE

Turtleman?

EZEKIEL

(to Arnold)

We're preparing your eulogy right now as we speak.

ANNETTE

(softly)

I love Turtleman.

EZEKIEL AND BRADY

Huh??

ARNOLD

(stammers)

Me too. And from the wedgie you gave me last week, you know I wear his underpants! My dad's got front row seats to his show.

ANNETTE

Okay. But it's not a date. And don't try anything funny!

ARNOLD

(sotto voce)

Don't worry.

ANNETTE

(forcefully)

What?

ARNOLD

I said, "Don't worry! I'll be good!"

Annette walks away.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

(to the nerds)

You just gotta know how to woo a woman!

He strolls away.

BRADY

Arnold going out with Annette? What's next, Brooks going easy on us?

A tall guy named BROOKS pushes Brady into Ezekiel, and they fall into an open locker. Books land on their head.

BROOKS

Move!

EZEKIEL
(gloomily)
Thankfully, that hasn't changed.

BRADY
Hmmp. And Mr. Brooks calls himself a
teacher!

INT. ARNOLD'S CAR - NIGHT

Arnold drives Annette in his car.

ARNOLD
That was some show, huh?

ANNETTE
Yeah. Too bad about that electrical fire,
though.

ARNOLD
Right. I hope Turtleman can grow his hair
back. He's getting up there in age.

ANNETTE
That was the audio crew's fault, anyway.
One coffee spill can ruin the whole show.
(pause)
They should've had me help them. I used
to do a lot of radio stuff for my middle
school.

ARNOLD
You mean, in between beatdowns?

Annette sneers at him.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
My father used to be the number-1 DJ in
Milwaukee. He could teach you a thing or
two, if you wanna get back to that.

ANNETTE
Hey now, this is too weird! In no
universe are we considered equals!

ARNOLD
Why not? I could give you wedgies!

ANNETTE
Actually, I might enjoy that.

ARNOLD

Whatever, you don't want my help, suit yourself.

ANNETTE

(sighs)

I'll keep a mental note of it.

ARNOLD

Alright.

He looks at Annette.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

I may have forgotten to tell you that you look nice in that dress.

ANNETTE

What, punk??

ARNOLD

I said that you look nice!

ANNETTE

And I don't look nice any other time?

ARNOLD

You don't take compliments too well, do you?

ANNETTE

Shut up!

(clicks her teeth)

And not really. But for your info, when Turtleman comes to town, you dress to impress!

ARNOLD

Well, at the risk of getting my teeth knocked out, you should dress that way more often.

ANNETTE

Sweet-talking ain't gonna change the way I feel about you! And remember, this is not a date!

ARNOLD

Duly noted. I'm hungry, though. Let's continue this non-date and get a bite to eat.

ANNETTE

(sighs)

I'm hungry, too. But there ain't nothin' open this late.

ARNOLD

Subs n' Such is.

They drive into the drive-thru of Subs n' Such and to the speaker box. PAULETTA, black, speaks.

PAULETTA (O.C.)

Welcome to Subs n' Such.

(pause)

Check that, we're closed.

ARNOLD

What? The sign says you're open 24 hours!

PAULETTA (O.C.)

Yeah, we were open for 24 hours, and now we're closed!

ARNOLD

Come on now!

PAULETTA (O.C.)

(sighs)

Alright, but you gotta come in. It'll be a minute.

(calls out, away from the mic)

Okay, Patty, wake up!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DAY

SFX: KNOCK on door!

Berniece opens the door and sees Xavier standing there.

XAVIER

Berniece? You're staying here now?

BERNIECE

(shrugs)

Somebody has to. This is the spot!

XAVIER

Well, where's Eric?

BERNIECE

Back at the dorm. He wanna act like we're married, but I'm not ready for all that yet.

XAVIER

Well, let me find him. I'll see you later.

He exits. Billy walks downstairs with a load of clothes.

BILLY

Berniece, did you wash my lucky Vin Baker jersey?

BERNIECE

I keep tellin' ya'll, if it's not in the basket, I ain't washing it!

BILLY

But it was! Where'd it go?

His father, JUNIOR, 40's, enters from the kitchen.

JUNIOR

I got it! The jersey's mine, anyway!

BILLY

But it looked better on me!

They both BICKER.

BERNIECE

Hey! Inside voices!

They STOP. Berniece walks away.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

What am I gonna do with them?

INT. ERIC'S DORM ROOM - LATER

Eric sits and watches TV. He hears a loud THUMP at the door. He gets up, UNLOCKS the door, and opens it. Xavier rubs his shoulder.

XAVIER

Boy, you make it really hard for folks to barge in!

ERIC

Uh, sorry?

XAVIER

And where do you get off telling people that Yvette is dating that kid?

ERIC

I didn't say that, Mr. Williams! I was just goin' off what I saw!

XAVIER

Well, you didn't see anything! Nobody saw anything! It's ridiculous!

He paces back and forth.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

I hang out with Yvette all the time at Timmy's, and she never mentioned dating anybody!

ERIC

(gasps)

You like her, don't you?

XAVIER

Yeah, as a friend!

ERIC

No, you "like her, like her"!

XAVIER

Watch it, now!

ERIC

(chuckles)

Mr. Williams, do you wanna "go with" Officer Townsend?

XAVIER

Stop it!

ERIC

Just having fun. Why don't you tell her how you feel?

XAVIER

I don't know. We've been friends forever. And I don't know how to flirt or be romantic and stuff. I only did that stuff with Berniece's mother. And look how that turned out!

ERIC

Look, I can help you get her, if you help me get your daughter back!

XAVIER

I don't need help! And who said I wanted ya'll to get back together?

ERIC

Aw, come on, Mr. Williams, you know you like me.

XAVIER

(dryly)

You mean like right now?

ERIC

Fine, go head and let Ron sweep your woman off your feet.

XAVIER

(sighs)

Alright, deal.

ERIC

Now we need to bring out the big guns. I don't know any, so we'll go see my brother.

XAVIER

Let's roll.

ERIC

Hope I'm not forgetting anything.

They exit. Will sits in his playpen.

WILL

Five...four...four...two...

Eric reenters.

ERIC

Forgot my jacket.

He grabs it and exits. Will SIGHS.

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

SFX: School bell RINGS!

Students exit the building. Ezekiel and Brady exit together.

BRADY

Rats! School's over!

EZEKIEL

And on a Friday! We'll just have to wait until Monday.

ARNOLD (O.C.)

Hey, guys! Wait up!

They stop. Arnold rushes to them.

EZEKIEL

Arnold Allen. You actually remember us?

ARNOLD

What do you mean? We literally talked yesterday!

BRADY

Yeah, and then you went and fraternized with that Amazon!

ARNOLD

Annette? Come on, nothing's goin' on between us.

EZEKIEL

I would hope not!

ARNOLD

Wouldn't you be happy? She hasn't messed with us all day!

BRADY

Yeah, but...

ARNOLD

So it's a win-win! We all get to live another day, and that girl feels good about herself!

BRADY

Arnold...

ARNOLD

I mean, who would go out with Annette, anyway? Please! She's big, mean, and she's standing right behind me, isn't she?

Ezekiel and Brady nod, then run away. Arnold turns around and sees Annette stand behind him.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

That's not what I meant, see, I...

(gulps)

Go ahead, Annette, knock me out.

He closes his eyes and leans toward her. Annette turns around and walks away. He slowly opens his eyes.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Man, that's worse than getting beat up.

Brooks walks by him, shoves him to the ground, and walks away.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Don't you ever quit?

BROOKS (O.C.)

I did! I retired today!

Brooks CACKLES.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DAY

Eric enters the house. Berniece and Billy sit at the dining room table and eat.

ERIC

What? You wait until I move out to sit at the family table?

BERNIECE

Don't worry. Your father isn't here. He went out with Cassie. Without picking up his room, I might add. He said don't wait up.

BILLY

Have we ever?

BERNIECE

(to Billy)

Time for dessert. Hope you left room for Raisinets!

Berniece runs to the kitchen. Eric approaches Billy.

ERIC

You not really letting Berniece run the house, are you?

BILLY

All I know is that if I don't finish my plate, Sharon can't come over.

ERIC

Billy, we need your help, man. Officer Townsend is dating Ron.

BILLY

I know that!

ERIC

But Berniece's father is interested in her!

BILLY

How anybody is interested in that is beyond me. But they're all grown. They can do who they want.

ERIC

(low voice)

But if you help me find a way to get Mr. Williams and her together, he'll be happy, and Berniece will get back with me.

Billy SCOFFS.

ERIC (CONT'D)

And she'll be out of your hair!

BILLY

See, you should've led with that.

ERIC

So let's go. He's behind me in his car.

BILLY

But what's the plan?

ERIC

We gotta ask Mom when's the next time Ron and Officer Townsend will be going out.

BILLY

Oh no, I'm not talking to Mom! She insulted my friend!

ERIC

Aw, come on, bro!

BILLY

(sighs)

Fine, you do all the talking. I'll keep quiet.

ERIC

I'll believe that when I see it. Let's bounce.

Eric and Billy begin to leave. Berniece reenters.

BERNIECE

Hey, where you goin'?

BILLY

We're going to help out Xavier.

BERNIECE

And who is this "Xavier"?

ERIC

Your...father?

BERNIECE

Oh. I wonder why he didn't ask for my help.

ERIC

(rolls his eyes)

Gee, what a mystery. But if you wanna help, give him a pep talk.

BERNIECE

What for?

BILLY

He's interested in Officer Townsend. And so is Ron.

BERNIECE

How is anybody interested in that?

ERIC

Talk to him and find out! Meanwhile, we can talk to Ron!

BERNIECE

Fine, let me get my purse. But when we get back, I need to check your homework, Billy. You need to graduate on time.

BILLY

So do you!

BERNIECE

Do as I say, not as I do, boy.

Berniece runs upstairs.

ERIC

I told you about her.

BILLY

I know.

They exit.

INT. DUMBECK MANSION - EVENING

Matt, dressed in a white suit with gold chains, sits at the dining room table, earbuds in his ear, phone on the table, dinner in front of him.

MATT

Okay, Billy, I invited you here for dinner because you and your mother seem so distant.

Billy and Rhonda, also wearing earbuds, with their dinners and phones in front of them, are shown sitting at opposite ends of an extremely-long table. They both fold their arms in anger. Rhonda is dressed similar to Matt. Eric, also with earbuds, sits across from Matt.

ERIC

What about me?

MATT

I didn't invite you!

RHONDA

I'm not acting distant. I just don't wanna see my friend get hurt.

BILLY

Neither do I!

ERIC

Guys, there's a bigger issue here: Berniece needs to come back to me!

MATT

This was a mistake. Maybe going to our happy place will make us feel better.

(calls out)

Jentille, get our private jet ready!
We're going to Maui!

The rest of the family GROAN.

BILLY

Matt, we always go there!

MATT

Well, then, ya'll fix this!

ERIC

You guys basically want the same thing: to not have Ron and Officer Townsend get hurt! So why not try to prevent them from dating?

RHONDA

I guess so. They're supposed to go out on Monday. That gives me time to try and talk to Yvette.

BILLY

And I'll see if I can talk to Ron.

ERIC

And I'll help Berniece get her dad to approach Townsend.

RHONDA

She's my girl, but I can't believe any guy is interested in her, let alone two of 'em.

ERIC

See? Another thing you two agree on!

MATT

Good.

BILLY

Sorry, Mom.

RHONDA

Me too.

They both extend their arms, mimicking a hug, look around, and put their arms down.

RHONDA (CONT'D)

Damn, I love this place!

The family GIGGLES.

ERIC

Yeah, if I weren't living at the dorms, I'd stay here with ya'll!

Eric looks down and eats his food. The others look at him, frown, then look at each other.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Rhonda enters and approaches Officer Townsend, who sits at her desk.

RHONDA

Hey, 'Vette.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Hey, what you doin' down here?

RHONDA

Got a minute?

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah, nothin' goin' on right now.

Behind them is a holding cell. GRETCHEN "GRETCH" JACKSON, white, opens the door and walks out.

RHONDA

Well, you've been lookin' pretty happy lately.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Yeah, haven't you heard?

RHONDA

Yeah, but are you sure you want to, you know, deal with him? He's my son's age.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Hey, you know me! I like 'em young!

RHONDA

Whoa!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Just bein' real! I'm gonna take him under my wing. Among other things!

RHONDA

I can't believe what I'm hearing, girl.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Rhondie, you're telling me that you never felt that way when Marty started working for you?

RHONDA
No, 'cuz I'm married!

OFFICER TOWNSEND
What does that got to do with anything?

RHONDA
Look, I know it's tempting, but don't hurt him!

OFFICER TOWNSEND
Rhondie, I've been waiting a long time!
I'm gonna hurt him good!

RHONDA
Oh brother.

OFFICER TOWNSEND
And I hear he got a girlfriend. She can join us!

Rhonda frowns. CHIEF OAKLEY, male, white, calls out.

CHIEF OAKLEY (O.C.)
Townsend, front and center!

OFFICER TOWNSEND
Gotta go. We'll talk later.

Rhonda exits. Townsend hurries to Oakley. He stands with a male COP.

CHIEF OAKLEY
Against my better judgment, here's your rookie cop that you requested. Show him everything you know. Then when those ten minutes are up, have him report to me.

Oakley exits. Townsend walks with the cop back to her desk.

OFFICER TOWNSEND
So, is your girlfriend still coming with us for the ride along?

COP
Yeah, shortly.

OFFICER TOWNSEND
How sweet of ya'll to do things together. That reminds me, I gotta check my email. I might have a hot date!

Gretch walks back in her cell, sipping on a coffee mug.

GRETCH

I have a better chance getting a date than you do.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Quiet down, Jackson! And don't you move a muscle!

INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Annette sits at a table and plays on her phone. Arnold slowly approaches her.

ARNOLD

Uh, Annette?

ANNETTE

What do you want, nerd?

ARNOLD

I just want to apologize. I didn't mean what I said.

(pause)

Okay, I kinda did, but let me explain.

ANNETTE

You don't have to. Now go away.

ARNOLD

But look, I just don't like you in that way.

ANNETTE

And you think I do? Please!

ARNOLD

Hey, what's so wrong with that?

ANNETTE

Just leave me alone!

ARNOLD

Well, maybe if you got on my level, you would see how I am.

ANNETTE

I'm warning you, Allen!

Berniece approaches them.

BERNIECE

Hey! Nice to see ya'll gettin' along!

They both frown at Berniece.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

Annette, after I help my father tonight, I'm gonna study for the Trig exam. You got that thing for me?

ANNETTE

What thing?

BERNIECE

You know!

ANNETTE

No, I don't know what you're talking about, Auntie.

BERNIECE

The answers to the test!

Arnold looks at her.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)

(low voice)

The answers to the test.

ANNETTE

I don't have it.

BERNIECE

But you said you'd get them to me if...

ANNETTE

I'll talk to you later, Auntie!

She shoos Berniece away. Berniece CLICKS HER TEETH and exits.

ARNOLD

Wait a minute. Why would she ask you for the answers? You're barely passing Trig!

ANNETTE

What? How you figure?

ARNOLD

I help grade all of the classes' work, including yours!

ANNETTE

What, I can't experience educational growth?

ARNOLD
 (gasps)
 Were you using me??

ANNETTE
 (sighs)
 Well, yeah! Why would I date your dorky
 behind?

ARNOLD
 So you don't really like me, and I don't
 really like you. Why don't we call it a
 wash and go back to normal?

ANNETTE
 "Back to normal"? Fine with me!

She stands up and grabs Arnold by the collar.

ANNETTE (CONT'D)
 So gimme your lunch money!

ARNOLD
 Hey, how about I take you out to dinner?
 You'll get your money's worth, and you'll
 get fed!

ANNETTE
 Hmmm. Nah, I'd rather have the money now.

Arnold SIGHS, digs in his pocket, and hands Annette his
 wallet. Annette lets Arnold go and exits. Arnold PLOPS to
 the ground.

ARNOLD
 She's smarter than I thought.

INT. MATT'S CAR - NIGHT

Matt drives Rhonda, Eric, and Billy.

RHONDA
 (to Matt)
 I'm tellin' you, honey, I heard her with
 my own ears!

ERIC
 And I heard Ron!

BILLY
 And we all saw them both!

MATT

Alright, guys, relax.

They drive past Officer Townsend's apartment building and see a parked car.

BILLY

That's Ron's car right there!

RHONDA

In front of Yvette's apartment!

MATT

That could be anybody's car.

RHONDA

In front of "anybody's" apartment?

MATT

(sighs)
I'll pull over.

INT. XAVIER'S CAR - SAME

Xavier, driving Berniece, follows Matt.

XAVIER

There's Yvette's place.

BERNIECE

Now remember what I told you, Dad. Be cool and confident. You may have lost Mom, but Officer Townsend should go for you. She's less maintenance.

XAVIER

(dryly)
Why aren't you and Eric together? You put such a positive spin on things.

He pulls over.

INT. OFFICER TOWNSEND'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The Nelsons approach Officer Townsend's door.

OFFICER TOWNSEND (O.C.)

(moans)
Ooh, yeah, that feels good.

RHONDA
 (hushed voice)
 Now you see, Matt?

MATT
 (hushed voice)
 But what are we supposed to do now?

RHONDA
 Bust up in there, like she does in her
 job!

The others look at her.

RHONDA (CONT'D)
 Or like she reads about! Do the honors,
 Matt.

Matt SIGHS, gets a running start, and BURSTS THROUGH the
 front door.

MATT
 A-ha!

THE NELSONS
 Eww!

They frown and hold their noses. Townsend sits on the
 couch.

OFFICER TOWNSEND
 Well, excuse me! I didn't know ya'll
 would be bustin' through my house! What
 are you doing here?

ERIC
 Getting the smell outta my mouth!

RHONDA
 Yeah, 'Vette, you need to throw your
 whole ass away!

MATT
 Guys, stop! Townsend, is Ron here?

OFFICER TOWNSEND
 Well...

BILLY
 We saw his car outside!

OFFICER TOWNSEND
 Ron, come out!

Ron enters from Townsend's bedroom.

RON

What's going on out here?

BILLY

Okay, Ron, think about what you're doing!
She's too old for you!

RHONDA

She's not that old! But he's too young!

BILLY

Mom!

Townsend's daughter, GLORIA, 20's, black, enters from the bedroom.

GLORIA

Alright, Ronny, let's go.

ERIC

Gloria?

He and Rhonda FACEPALM.

ERIC AND RHONDA

Gloria!

BILLY

Who is Gloria?

ERIC

Officer Townsend's daughter!

BILLY

So those two are dating!

RON

No, we're just hanging out. We been doin'
it off and on, you know.

GLORIA

(to Ron)

What? I thought we had something!

RON

Come on, Gloria! I don't wanna get
involved in your baby daddy drama!

GLORIA

But I got it narrowed down to two guys
now!

RON

Let's finish this in the car. We're gonna be late for the show.

Ron CLICKS HIS TEETH at Billy and follows Gloria out the apartment.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Wait. Rhondie, did you think...me and Ron?

(scoffs)

I have a hard enough time getting grown men to notice me!

ERIC

I wouldn't be so sure about that, Officer.

Berniece and Xavier burst in.

XAVIER

(to Townsend)

Get yo hands off that kid, woman!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

(sighs)

When did my place become the hangout spot?

MATT

Better your place than ours.

Townsend approaches Xavier.

OFFICER TOWNSEND

X, what the hell?

BERNIECE

Dad, maybe we should come back.

XAVIER

No, let me do this, while I still have the nerve.

He steps closer to Townsend.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

(stammers)

Now, uh, Yvette, uh...you see...you're you, and I'm me, right? And...I mean, you know...we hang out at Timmy's a lot...you know, and like...

Townsend grabs Xavier by the shirt and kisses him.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

(smirks)

I guess I said the right things!

MATT

Guys, let's beat it.

RHONDA

(to Townsend)

Ooh, later, girl!

She, Matt, and Billy exit.

ERIC

Come on, Berniece.

BERNIECE

No, I'm not ready to leave!

XAVIER

(to Berniece)

Be ready.

He continues kissing Townsend. Eric pulls Berniece as they exit.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Billy, Berniece, and Eric approach the house.

BILLY

What a day.

He opens the door and walks in. Berniece and Eric stay on the porch.

BERNIECE

Yeah, but I haven't seen my daddy happy like that in a minute. Thanks for helping me out, Eric.

ERIC

Anytime. So seeing your daddy gives you more hope about love, huh?

BERNIECE

Something like that.

She enters the house. Eric follows her.

ERIC

So since we work so good together, I was wondering if we--

Berniece SLAMS the door in Eric's face.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Kicked outta my own house. How is this
not like marriage?

He exits.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

ON THE TV

A FEMALE at a podium on a stage speaks.

FEMALE

And the Grammy winner for Record of the
Year is...

She opens the envelope.

FEMALE (CONT'D)

Rappin' Mikey T for, "Pass the Michael-
phone"!

The audience CHEERS and APPLAUDS. MICHAEL TOWNSEND,
black, runs up on the stage. The female gives the award
to him.

MICHAEL

Yeah! I did it! Thank ya'll! But I
couldn't have done it without my mom and
her husband! They produced the track!
Gloria, Ron, come on up here!

OLDER VERSIONS of Ron and Gloria run up to the podium and
hug Michael. They speak on the microphone.

OLD GLORIA

Yeah! This is great! We didn't even know
anything about production!

OLD RON

But Annette taught us everything she
knew! So thanks, Annette, wherever you
are!

BACK TO HOUSE

An OLDER VERSION of Annette sits on the couch, watching
the TV. She has a baby in her lap and feeds her a bottle.

OLD ANNETTE

Great. While I'm stuck here.

An OLDER VERSION of Arnold enters the room and looks at both of them.

OLD ARNOLD

(chuckles)

I knew you'd get on my level!

OLD ANNETTE

Shut up!

OLD ARNOLD

Yes dear.

THE END