

ERIC

"Doctored Phil"

By E.J. Rupert

Jimmy Rupe Productions  
Milwaukee, WI 53225  
(414) 550-0547  
ejrupert@yahoo.com  
©2021 E.J. Rupert

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone alarm BLARING.

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN:

"6:00"

BACK TO ERIC'S ROOM

ERIC, 14, laying in bed, reaches to his phone and stops the alarm. The TV plays in the background. A NEWSCASTER speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy Tuesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

Eric takes the TV remote and shuts it off. He exits his room. While these things occur, DIMMEY, 14, narrates.

DIMMEY (V.O.)

Eric Thomas Nelson gets up one Tuesday morning to start his day. The alarm rings. The TV blares. His lovely day begins.

Dimmey is shown standing in the corner and wearing a dark blue suit and tie.

(NOTE: Dimmey only plays the narrator for this episode and speaks to the camera.)

DIMMEY

Witness if you will: a 14-year-old boy, who, by the way, has a good-looking best friend, will have a day that is out of the ordinary. Or is it a couple of days? We will see as he enters the...uh, Zone. We're still thinking of a title.

Eric, wearing an undershirt and boxers, comes back into his room and approaches an ironing board. He irons his outfit and puts it on.

ERIC

Time to make the donuts.

Eric walks downstairs to the dining room table with his backpack. MATT, his stepfather, sits there, and looks on his cell phone.

MATT

I can't believe it. I applied for a credit card, but instead of a rejection letter, I got a letter saying, "Negro please!"

CYNTHIA, the housekeeper, enters with a tray of food.

CYNTHIA

(to Matt)

Here's your breakfast, Mr. James.

(to Eric, handing him a bag)

And here's your breakfast to go, Mr. Nelson.

RHONDA, the mother, walks to Cynthia with her purse and briefcase.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

(to Rhonda, handing her a mug)

And here's your coffee, Mrs. Nelson-James.

RHONDA

Thanks, Cynthia. Eric, help me take these things to the car.

Eric follows her outside.

EXT. TIMMY'S PLACE - MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Eric eats a sandwich from his bag and walks down the street. GRETCH, a robber, quickly runs from Timmy's Place, a diner, with a bag. She stops and turns around.

GRETCH

(chuckles)

Thanks, Timmy! See you next time!

She dashes off. TIMMY, owner of the diner, runs outside and calls out to OFFICER TOWNSEND, who lies on the side of her police car eating a donut and looking at her phone.

TIMMY

Stop her, Officer! Thief!

OFFICER TOWNSEND

Sorry, not my jurisdiction.

(looking at her phone and laughs)

(MORE)

OFFICER TOWNSEND (CONT'D)

Oh, Scooby, how are you gonna get out of this mess?

Eric continues to walk past Timmy's Place.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Eric walks to his locker and passes by JACOB JACKSON, the school bully, stepping up to ARNOLD, a nerd.

JACOB  
(to Arnold)  
Time to collect!

ARNOLD  
Yes, sir.

JACOB  
(to Eric)  
I'm running behind, Nelson. I'll rob you later.

ERIC  
Okay.

Eric opens his locker. SHANA, 16, who is significantly taller than Eric, snatches him, picks him up, and hugs him.

SHANA  
Hey, Babycakes, how are you?

ERIC  
(squirming away)  
Fine, and quit callin' me "Babycakes"!

Eric jumps down from her and walks away. He approaches BERNIECE, 14.

BERNIECE  
If I were you, I'd give her a chance.

ERIC  
And risk making you jealous, babe?

BERNIECE  
(rolling her eyes)  
My heart will go on.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eric gets into bed. His dog, BONY, hops in with him.

ERIC

What a day. No, Bony, you can't sleep with me.

Bony balls up in Eric's covers.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Oh, all right. Good night.

Eric turns off the lights.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone alarm BLARING.

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN:

"6:00"

BACK TO ERIC'S ROOM

Eric reaches to his phone and stops the alarm. The TV plays in the background. The newscaster speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy Tuesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

Eric takes the TV remote and shuts it off.

ERIC

"Tuesday"? Hmmp. Maybe it is.

Eric gets up.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Eric walks to the dining room table with his backpack. Matt sits there and looks on his cell phone.

MATT

I can't believe it. I applied for a credit card, but instead of a rejection letter, I got a letter saying, "Negro please!"

ERIC

What?

Cynthia enters with a tray of food.

CYNTHIA

(to Matt)

Here's your breakfast, Mr. James.

(to Eric, handing him a bag)

And here's your breakfast to go, Mr. Nelson.

ERIC

(curiously)

Okay...

Rhonda walks to Cynthia with her purse and briefcase.

CYNTHIA

(to Rhonda, handing her a mug)

And here's your coffee, Mrs. Nelson-James.

RHONDA

Thanks, Cynthia. Eric, help me take these things to the car.

ERIC

Is this a joke?

RHONDA

Excuse me?

ERIC

It feels like you told me this before.

RHONDA

Well, finally, you acknowledge that I have to keep repeating myself! Now come on.

Eric follows her out.

EXT. TIMMY'S PLACE - MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Eric eats a sandwich from his bag and walks down the street. Gretch quickly runs from Timmy's Place with a bag. She stops and turns around.

GRETCH

(chuckles)

Thanks, Timmy! See you next time!

She dashes off. Timmy runs outside and calls out to Officer Townsend, who lies on the side of her police car eating a donut and looking at her phone.

TIMMY  
Stop her, Officer! Thief!

OFFICER TOWNSEND  
Sorry, not my jurisdiction.

She looks at her phone and laughs. Eric approaches her.

ERIC  
"Scooby-Doo"?

OFFICER TOWNSEND  
Yeah, but this came on yesterday. Still holds up, though!  
(looks at her phone)  
Oh, Scooby, how are you gonna get out of this mess?

Eric mouths Officer Townsend's latter line of dialogue with no audio.

ERIC  
Hmmm.

Eric continues to walk past Timmy's Place.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Eric passes by Jacob and Arnold.

JACOB  
(to Arnold)  
Time to collect!

ARNOLD  
Yes, sir.

JACOB  
(to Eric)  
I'm running behind, Nelson. I'll rob you later.

ERIC  
(to himself)  
This is just too weird. It must be "deja view".

Shana snatches Eric, picks him up, and hugs him.

SHANA  
Hey, Babycakes, how are you?

ERIC  
 (squirming away)  
 Quit callin' me "Babycakes"!

Eric jumps down from her and walks away. He approaches Berniece.

BERNIECE  
 If I were you, I'd give her a chance.

ERIC  
 And risk making you jealous...sugar?

BERNIECE  
 Don't call me that.

Eric gives a sigh of relief.

BERNIECE (CONT'D)  
 (rolling her eyes)  
 And my heart will go on.

Eric gasps.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eric gets into bed. Bony hops in with him.

ERIC  
 Bony, it feels like I'm living the same day over and over again.

Bony balls up in the covers. Eric turns off the lights. Dimmey narrates from the other side of the room.

DIMMEY  
 Or is he?  
 (pauses)  
 Living the same day over and over again?  
 (pauses)  
 We shall see.  
 (to himself and looks around)  
 How do I get out of here?

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone alarm BLARING.

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN:

"6:00"

BACK TO ERIC'S ROOM

Eric reaches to his phone and stops the alarm. The TV plays in the background. The newscaster speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy Tuesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

Eric takes the TV remote and shuts it off.

ERIC

(looking underneath the covers)

Bony's not here. I'm living a repeat. I guess whatever I do today doesn't matter, because I get to do it again tomorrow...or today. Hmmm. I'm 'bout to have me some fun!

MONTAGE - ERIC CHEATS DEATH

-- Eric walks by Timmy's Place. Gretch quickly runs from Timmy's Place with a bag.

TIMMY

Stop her! Thief!

ERIC

I'll stop her!

Gretch runs into the street. Eric runs after her in front of a truck.

TIMMY

(in slow motion)

Noooooo!!

Eric dives after Gretch in slow motion.

CUT TO BLACK.

SFX: SCREECHING BRAKES, COLLISION SOUND.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

Eric wakes up in bed.

ERIC

Perfect. Not a scratch on me.

-- Eric approaches Jacob, who tries to take Arnold's lunch money. Eric taps on Jacob's shoulder. Jacob turns around, and Eric punches him in the face. Jacob takes a swing at Eric, who immediately wakes up in bed.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Amazing!

-- Eric stands on top of a building. Crowds of people clamor. Eric steps off of the building and slowly plunges down.

ERIC (CONT'D)

So long, world!

Eric wakes up in bed and turns off his alarm.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hello, world!

-- Eric is at the kitchen table with Matt. Rhonda has her coffee mug, purse, and briefcase.

RHONDA

Eric, help me take these things to the car.

ERIC

(loudly)

Ehh, do it yourself!

A large shadow hovers over Eric, who immediately wakes up in bed again.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Well, that was risky!

Dimmey narrates from the other side of the room.

DIMMEY

Yes, people, if you talk back to a black mother, you'll be dead. And no, that's not racist. It's factual. Don't try it at home. Now, back to the story.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. MR. DYKES' CLASSROOM - DAY

Eric is in class with other students. MR. DYKES, their teacher, passes them some papers.

MR. DYKES

Here are your test papers back. No surprises, as usual, and unfortunately. Arnold has the highest grade with an A.

ARNOLD smacks his head.

ARNOLD

No A-plus? Dang it!

MR. DYKES

I wrote all of the correct answers in red ink next to the wrong answers. Eric, let's just say your paper has a lovely red hue.

Eric takes his paper from Mr. Dykes and stares at it.

INT. MR. DYKES' CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Dykes passes Eric his test paper.

MR. DYKES

Congratulations are in order for Mr. Eric Nelson. He got an A-plus on his test. He even beat out Arnold!

Berniece leans over and looks at Eric's paper.

ARNOLD

What? Is this a joke?

Eric grins smugly at Arnold.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

Berniece walks quickly and catches up with Eric.

BERNIECE

Eric, what gives? You're no straight-A student!

ERIC

Well, lovers should keep no secrets from each other...

Berniece frowns at him.

ERIC (CONT'D)

...so I'll let you in. I'm repeating the same day over and over again!

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

I found out the answers to the test that I took yesterday, and I took them today, which is really yesterday!

BERNIECE

I'm sorry I asked.

She begins to turn and walk the other way, but Eric stops her.

ERIC

No, seriously! I know what everyone is going to say and do because I've already lived it! I can live like there's no tomorrow, because there isn't! I'm damn near invincible!

BERNIECE

No, you're more nuts than I thought.

ERIC

Don't be mad at me. I can't do anything about this. We just gotta go with the flow. You should be dying to get with me now.

BERNIECE

Oh, really?

ERIC

Yeah, I'm a real big deal now! And if you turn me down, I'll just ask again the next day, and the next day after that.

BERNIECE

How different is that from now?

ERIC

Because now it's guaranteed.

BERNIECE

Well, okay then. I will go out with you. Why don't you pick me up tomorrow after school?

ERIC

Finally!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

Eric gets out of bed, then stops in his tracks.

ERIC

Hey!!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Matt sits with Rhonda on the couch with a lottery ticket.  
Eric walks by. The TV plays.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And here are tonight's numbers!

MATT

Oh, I never win these things!

He rips up the ticket. Eric takes a notepad and writes  
while looking at the TV.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Matt, Rhonda, and Eric watch the TV.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And here are tonight's numbers!

RHONDA

(to Matt)

Oh my god, honey, you won!

MATT

Yeah!

The three jump around and dance.

RHONDA

Go call them!

MATT

Alright!

ERIC

Matt, don't forget who gave you the  
numbers!

MATT

I know, son, I'll split it with you.

RHONDA

Ahem.

MATT

...after I split it with my wife.

Matt dials his cellphone.

RHONDA  
 (to Eric)  
 Oooh, I'm already making plans with my  
 money!

ERIC  
 Forget going to school! I'm gonna buy a  
 school!

MATT  
 (to the two)  
 They told me congrats!

RHONDA AND ERIC  
 All right!

MATT  
 And they said we can pick up the money  
 tomorrow!

ERIC  
 All righ--

He stops and thinks.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 AAAARRGGH!!!

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Eric sits at the lunch table with Arnold.

ERIC  
 Hot dogs again?

ARNOLD  
 What do you mean? We haven't had this in  
 months.

ERIC  
 Alright, this is getting out of hand.  
 Arnold, I'm living the same day over and  
 over again. You're a brainiac. How do I  
 get out of this rerun?

ARNOLD  
 That's something even I don't know. But  
 have you ever seen the movie, "Groundhog  
 Day"?

ERIC

No.

ARNOLD

Well, the main character kept repeating the same day until he righted his wrongs.

ERIC

What wrongs?

ARNOLD

I don't remember. It was so long ago. But he ended up with the girl.

ERIC

He did? That's all I need to know!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Eric approaches Berniece.

BERNIECE

If I were you, I'd give Shana a chance.

ERIC

If I were you, I'd get with me! In fact, you and me are going out tonight, and that is that, woman! Now, what do you say?

BERNIECE

You're an idiot.

She walks away.

ERIC

Okay, if she's not the girl, then who else would it be?

(pauses)

Oh, hell no!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Shana grabs Eric.

SHANA

Hey, Babycakes, how are you?

ERIC

(squirming, then pulls away)  
Fine. And how are you doing?

SHANA

I'm, uh, fine. Sorry, I wasn't expecting that.

ERIC

Well, expect it for now on. You're, uh, a nice person, and I'd like for us to, uh, talk on a more regular basis.

SHANA

Yeah, okay. I gotta go.

Shana hurries away.

ERIC

Okay, I was nice to her. That should solve things.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone alarm BLARING.

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN:

"6:00"

BACK TO ERIC'S ROOM

Eric reaches to his phone and stops the alarm. The TV plays in the background. The newscaster speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy Tuesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

ERIC

Oh no.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Shana grabs Eric.

SHANA

Hey, Babycakes, how are you?

ERIC

(squirming)

Fine, but please stop calling me "Babycakes." I'll see you later.

SHANA

Okay.

Eric walks away from her.

ERIC

All right, I toned it down.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

The newscaster on TV speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy  
Tuesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

Eric lets out a FRUSTRATED GRUNT.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Shana approaches Eric.

SHANA

Hey...

ERIC

"Babycakes", I know. Look, Shana, you  
wanna go out?

SHANA

Sure!

ERIC

Alright, how about tomorrow--uh, I mean,  
today? Yeah, why wait until tomorrow?

SHANA

Okay, meet me after school!

Shana sashays away.

ERIC

Oh, I wish I was dead. But then I would  
just wake up again.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - EVENING

Eric and Shana enter the diner.

SHANA

Thanks for taking me here, Eric, but the floors are a little sticky.

INT. POSH RESTAURANT - EVENING

Eric and Shana, dressed up, enter the restaurant.

SHANA

Thanks for taking me here, Eric! This place is nice!

ERIC

Alright, but just be careful on what you order. It's a little pricey.

INT. POSH RESTAURANT - EVENING

Eric and Shana enter the restaurant.

SHANA

Thanks for taking me here, Eric! This place is nice!

ERIC

Anything for you.

Dimmey is seated at a corner table in front of a plate of food while talking on his cellphone.

DIMMEY

But Connie, honey, I do love you, and...

He looks at the camera.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

What, I can't take a break? Go on. Pay attention to them.

He signals the "shoo away" motion with his hand.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - NIGHT

Shana drops Eric off in front of his house. Eric exits Shana's car.

SHANA

Want me to walk you to the door?

ERIC

No, that's okay. You know, this night  
wasn't that bad.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - NIGHT

Eric exits Shana's car.

SHANA

Want me to walk you to the door?

ERIC

No, that's okay. I had fun. We should do  
this again some time.

SHANA

Okay, Babycakes. See you tomorrow!

She drives away.

ERIC

I sure hope so.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone alarm BLARING.

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN:

"6:00"

BACK TO ERIC'S ROOM

Eric wakes up. The newscaster on TV speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy  
Tuesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

ERIC

Aarrgh! That's it! I can't take it no  
more!

He slams his cellphone down until it breaks.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Now let's see what happens.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

Eric wakes up. The newscaster on TV speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy  
Wednesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

ERIC

Yes! Finally, Wednesday!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Eric walks downstairs to the dining room table with his  
backpack. Matt and Rhonda sit at the table.

MATT

Morning, son.

ERIC

Good morning! Wow!

RHONDA

Everything all right?

ERIC

Yes, it is, finally.

RHONDA

Well, sit down and eat.

ERIC

Okay.

Eric sits at the table.

SFX: ALARM BUZZING.

MATT

That's our cue!

Matt and Rhonda give each other a fist bump, jump up, and  
spin in a circle. They stop and appear in superhero gear.

MATT (CONT'D)

Magna Twins, advance!

They both fly into the air and push open the ceiling.  
Outside are red clouds with fire and smoke surrounding  
the house.

ERIC

What the...

A gigantic monster comes and lurks over the house.

RHONDA

Oh no, he's coming this way!

The monster lets out a ROAR, sticks his hand into the house, and tries to grab Eric.

ERIC

Aaaugh!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone alarm BLARING.

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN:

"6:00"

BACK TO ERIC'S ROOM

Eric wakes up groggy. His eyes are puffy and has lines around them. Frustrated, he turns off the alarm. The newscaster speaks on TV.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching!

ERIC

(together with newscaster)

"Have a crappy Tuesday! Enjoy your crappy job!"

Eric takes the TV remote and shuts it off, then slowly walks to the ironing board. He finishes ironing, then puts on his outfit. He walks out of the room, then comes back in.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Forgot to turn off the iron.

He turns off the iron, then leaves again.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - MORNING

SFX: Cell phone alarm BLARING.

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN:

"6:00"

BACK TO ERIC'S ROOM

Eric wakes up and turns off the alarm. He turns over and sees Bony in his bed.

ERIC

Bony! You're still here!

He pets Bony, who licks Eric. The newscaster on TV speaks.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Thanks for watching! Have a crappy Wednesday! Enjoy your crappy job!

ERIC

It's not Tuesday! It's Wednesday! Yes!

He grabs Bony and spins him around.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Eric runs to the dining room and finds Rhonda and Matt sitting there.

ERIC

Mom! Matt! You're not superheroes!

MATT

Well, maybe she's not.

RHONDA

Did you have a weird dream, Eric?

ERIC

(sitting down)

I don't think so, but I'm fine now. Let me hurry and eat. I can't wait to get to school!

MATT

What? Am I in a weird dream?

ERIC

Matt, did you win the lottery yesterday?

MATT

No, but I'll try again some other time.

ERIC

And you didn't apply for a credit card today, did you?

RHONDA

Hey, stop poking fun at your stepfather.

MATT

Yeah!

RHONDA

Eric, your outfit looks nice. Did you remember to turn off the iron?

ERIC

Yes I did, Mom. Yes I did.

Dimmey stands in the corner on the other side of the room and narrates.

DIMMEY

Life is full of mysteries to solve. Sometimes, you have to make your bed, or the sheets get wrinkled. Sometimes, you have to treat your friends right, or they won't give you a good reference. But you always have to remember to turn the iron off. Really, it could cause a fire. And Eric is lucky that he didn't witness that while he was in...The Zone.

Eric eats his breakfast. Then he gets up from the table, walks to the camera, and addresses it.

ERIC

You know, we had a lot of fun today, but there's nothing funny about iron safety. They're small, but they can cause a lot of damage, and...

Dimmey runs to him and interrupts him.

DIMMEY

Whoa, what are you doing?

ERIC

Giving the audience the closing.

DIMMEY

But you said I could do that!

ERIC

It's my show. I should be able to have a say.

DIMMEY

You've been saying stuff this whole episode! Just look at the highlights!  
(pauses)  
"The Highlight Zone!" That could have worked!

ERIC

Well, I think my closing fits.

DIMMEY

Eric, you said I could close this out.

ERIC

(sighs)  
Okay, Dimmey. Go ahead.

DIMMEY

I already did.

ERIC

Fine. Sorry.

DIMMEY

Yeah.

Dimmey walks away.

ERIC

(to the camera)  
If you'd like to learn more about irons,  
please visit your local library--

Dimmey returns and pulls him away from the camera.

DIMMEY

(to the camera)  
Roll the credits!

THE END