

ERIC

"Guess Who's Coming to Diner?"

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INT. NELSON HOUSE - DAY

DIMMEY enters the house. ERIC sits at the dining room table reading.

DIMMEY
(in a miserable tone)
Hey, Eric, what's happening?

ERIC
What's up with that "Office Space"
voice?

DIMMEY
Nothing. I don't wanna disturb you.
I know you're studying.

ERIC
Okay.

Eric continues to read.

Long silence.

Dimmey SIGHS.

ERIC (CONT'D)
I get the feeling something's
wrong.

DIMMEY
No, go ahead.

ERIC
Dimmey, I don't have time to play
around. I gotta hurry and study for
this exam.

DIMMEY
It's tomorrow?

ERIC
Yeah. The teacher told us about it
only two weeks ago. I hate when
people wait til the last minute.

DIMMEY
Well, you go ahead. I'll see you
later.

Dimmey leaves the house.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - SECONDS LATER

Dimmey busts in the house.

DIMMEY

It's just that my dad is stressing out! He needs help at the restaurant.

ERIC

What, with his cooking?

DIMMEY

That's what I said, and now I'm grounded for a week. No, he's short-staffed and needs help with that.

ERIC

Well, I don't know what to do. I'm kinda focused on this exam.

DIMMEY

Okay, you go ahead. I'll just sit here and think of something.

Dimmey sits silently. Eric continues to study.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - SECONDS LATER

Eric's father, JUNIOR, kicks open the door and slides to the floor. He has a large afro with a sparkling headband around it. He also wears sunglasses with lenses shaped liked stars and a cream-colored jumpsuit.

JUNIOR

Whassup, Nelson family!

DIMMEY

Hmmph. How rude.

ERIC

Hey, Dad.

JUNIOR

How's one of my favorite sons?

(turns to Dimmey)

Who are you? You're not one of my sons, too, are you?

ERIC

No, this is my friend, Dimmey.

JUNIOR

Well, that's good because I ain't got no money.

ERIC

So what brings you around?

JUNIOR

Can't your ol' man just drop by and say hi?

ERIC

(aside)

Why start now?

MATT enters the room.

MATT

(dryly)

William Nelson, Jr. What a surprise.

JUNIOR

Why so formal, Matt? Call me Junior, or call me by my stage name, "Willie Jr."!

MATT

"Willie Jr."?

JUNIOR

Yeah. "Willie Nelson" is already taken.

ERIC

By who?

Eric looks at Dimmey, who looks confused with him.

JUNIOR

So, how are you guys? Where's Rhonda?

MATT

She's at work. Why?

JUNIOR

Just wondering. Tell her I dropped by, okay? I'm out! Milwaukee, I love you!

Junior pulls out his cell phone, plays some lively music, and dances out the door.

MATT

Dropping by like that, you would think he wants something.

DIMMEY

Or someone.

ERIC

What do you mean?

DIMMEY

Oh, nothing. I saw on a TV show how exes come back to try to get their loved ones back. But this ain't no TV show.

(turns to the camera and smiles)

Or is it?

ERIC

Dimmey, who are you talking to?

DIMMEY

(takes his eyes off of the camera and gives an aside)

I guess it's not.

ERIC

Matt, don't listen to him. My dad has plenty of ex-wives to run back to. Why would he single out Mom?

MATT

I know, right? That's silly. By the way, Dimmey, is your father still having trouble at the restaurant?

DIMMEY

You know it. Why, are you thinking about helping down there?

ERIC

Yeah, Matt, so you can start working again! It'll be cool!

MATT

No, Eric, that's also silly.

Matt walks away and into the kitchen.

MATT (CONT'D)

(aside)

Real silly.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - DAY

RHONDA stands near a booth where two of her students, MARTY O'DELL, 19, and his girlfriend, GINA RICHARDS, 19, sit. Marty is a 275-lb. football player for their school, and Gina is a cheerleader.

RHONDA
So, are there any questions?

GINA
Yeah, when do we eat?

MARTY
Honeybun, I think she meant on the course material.

GINA
Oh, then no. I wasn't really paying attention.

RHONDA
Look, I didn't take my time out to give an extra tutor session for nothing.

GINA
Don't worry, Marty will buy you a burger.

RHONDA
Mr. O'Dell, do you have any questions?

MARTY
Yeah, who's that guy staring at you?

Rhonda turns around and sees Junior who stops in his tracks.

JUNIOR
Aw, man, ya'll ruining my entrance!
Turn back around!

Rhonda sighs and turns back around. Junior enters sliding on the floor.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Wassup, Rhonda!

RHONDA
Junior, how did you know I'd be here?

JUNIOR

Went by your school, and the dean told me. He ruined my entrance, too.

RHONDA

Well, you found me. What do you want?

JUNIOR

Just saying hi and seeing how you doing.

RHONDA

I'm okay. I'm in the middle of tutoring.

GINA

That's okay, Mrs. Nelson-James. We were just leaving.

RHONDA

No, sit down. The only one leaving is Junior.

JUNIOR

You just gonna do me like that, babe?

RHONDA

Get out of here. I don't even know you.

GINA

(to Marty)

She don't know him? I thought she just called him Junior. And she's a college professor.

MARTY

(to Gina)

Well, a *technical college* professor.

JUNIOR

Alright, I'll see you around. Willie Jr. has left the building!

He plays his music again and dances out of the restaurant.

RHONDA

Sorry about that. Now where were we?

GINA
Starving.

RHONDA
(calling out)
Timmy, is the food coming yet?

TIMMY yells from the kitchen.

TIMMY
It's coming already. Going as fast
as I can!

RHONDA
We're impatiently waiting for
Timmy's food. I never thought I'd
see the day.

MARTY
See what day?

GINA
Yeah, what did we miss?

RHONDA
Keep your head in your books, guys.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Eric and Dimmey sit at the dining room table.

ERIC
I'll never pass this test!

DIMMEY
Have you ever tried the osmosis
thing?

ERIC
What's that?

DIMMEY
You can record all of your study
material on tape, then play it back
while you sleep. It's supposed to
plant in your mind so you can
retain the info when you take the
test.

ERIC
Sounds alright, but where am I
gonna get a tape from?

He gets up and looks through the drawer of a cabinet. He pulls out an answering machine.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Looks like there's a tape in here, whatever this is.

DIMMEY

Well, check it out to make sure nothing important is on there.

Eric hits the "Play" button.

RHONDA

(recorded)

"Whazzzaaaaapp!"

MATT

(recorded)

"Whazzzaaaaapp!"

RHONDA

"The Jameses are in the house!"

MATT

"No, we're NOT in the house!"

RHONDA

"Thinkin' 'bout hanging up? Don't go there!"

MATT

"Leave a message after the bizeep, and we'll call you back on the flip side!"

MATT AND RHONDA

"Peace out!"

ERIC

Ugh. Were they wearing Fubu when they recorded this, too?

The tape BEEPS. A MAN on the tape begins to speak.

MAN

"Yes, I'm looking for Matthew James, it looks like you pulled the winning lottery numbers!"

Eric fast-forwards to a WOMAN speaking.

WOMAN

"Good evening, Rhonda, this is your advisor. It looks like you might have enough credits to graduate early!"

Eric fast-forwards to a TEENAGE GIRL speaking.

TEENAGE GIRL

"Eric, tell your brother, Billy, fine, I will go out with him. Tell him to call me back tonight, or the date's off."

Eric stops the tape.

ERIC

Doesn't sound like anything important on here. Let's roll.

He takes the answering machine and walks away with Dimmey.

DIMMEY

Hey, what's a "bizeep", anyway?

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Matt enters and walks up to the kitchen serving window where Timmy is.

MATT

Hey, Timmy, how's it going?

TIMMY

Look who's here, the world famous writer!

MATT

I wish. That leads me to this question.

LONG PAUSE.

TIMMY

Okay, go ahead.

MATT

(mumbling)
Are you still hiring here?

TIMMY

What was that?

MATT

Come on, you know what I'm trying to say.

TIMMY

Is that how you would ask a potential boss?

MATT

(sighs)

Okay. Are you still hiring here?

TIMMY

There you go!

MATT

Look, it's not real easy for me to ask that.

TIMMY

Well, let me make it easier for you: The position's already filled.

MATT

What?

Timmy points to Junior, who dons his usual wardrobe but this time with a hairnet and an apron. He slides on the floor to a table with a GENTLEMAN and a LADY.

JUNIOR

Wassup, Timmy's Place's...uhh, customers!

He slides into the table and bumps his head.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Here's your food!

LADY

This ain't what we ordered!

JUNIOR

Oh, please don't make me slide here again!

GENTLEMAN

Why don't you just walk the order out to us?

JUNIOR

Oh, now you're just talking crazy.

Junior walks to the kitchen. Matt stops him.

MATT

Junior, what are you doing here?

JUNIOR

I'm the new employee! Hey, are you here with Rhonda?

MATT

No. And I mean, why are you working here?

JUNIOR

I need a little extra money. Plus, I can work at a place where I can be incognito.

TIMMY

Hey, can I have a word with you, what's-yer-name?

JUNIOR

(to Matt)

See?

Junior walks over to Timmy.

TIMMY

I'm getting complaints about you messing up the customers' orders.

JUNIOR

But at the same time, I'm making things better! I even added that special sauce to your chicken sandwiches!

TIMMY

We don't have a special sauce!

JUNIOR

Oh. Well, moving to an unrelated subject, you might wanna check on that mayonnaise.

TIMMY

(angrily)

Ooooh!

He runs to the kitchen.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Eric sits at the dining room table. He hits "RECORD" on the answering machine.

ERIC
(reading aloud)
"Madison is the state capital of
Wisconsin. Olympia is the state
capital of Washington."

He pauses.

ERIC (CONT'D)
"Berniece Williams will like you.
Berniece Williams will go out with
you." Well, as long as I'm speaking
stuff into existence.

He rewinds the tape. Rhonda enters the room. Matt also enters from outside wearing a suit and holding a bouquet of flowers.

MATT
Hey, baby, how you doin'?

He grabs Rhonda and passionately kisses her.

RHONDA
What's gotten into you?

MATT
The love of you, that's what!

ERIC
Mom, Matt, I'm trying to study.

MATT
(to Rhonda)
Alright, let's get out of here. I'm
taking you on a shopping spree!

ERIC
You have money?

MATT
Let me worry about that.

RHONDA
And all I heard was, "shopping
spree"! Let's roll!

Rhonda runs out the door.

MATT
 (speaking into his phone)
 "Set reminder to report fraudulent
 activity on my card."

He walks out the door.

ERIC
 Now where was I? "Madison is
 the..."

Junior enters the house with a hairnet ridiculously tied to
 his afro.

JUNIOR
 ...place where I was born!

ERIC
 Dad, what are you doing here?

JUNIOR
 Timmy's missing some silverware.

ERIC
 What?

JUNIOR
 You know how you're at a
 restaurant, and you take the
 silverware and some dishes with
 you, saying to yourself, "They
 won't miss it"? Well, Timmy misses
 it!

ERIC
 Again, what?

JUNIOR
 Never mind. Where's your mom?

ERIC
 You just missed her. Of course, the
 feeling's far from mutual.

JUNIOR
 Well, what are you up to?

ERIC
 Trying to study for this exam
 tomorrow.

JUNIOR
 What?! Son, I'm putting my foot
 down.

(MORE)

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

You better buckle down, study, and pass that test, if you know what's good for you!

LONG PAUSE.

Eric stares at Junior.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Nothing?

ERIC

Lose the hairnet, and we'll talk.

JUNIOR

Okay, I'm going to the garage.

Junior walks into the garage and under the piano. Eric follows him to the garage.

ERIC

Dad, I wanted to ask you something. Matt was wondering why you're here.

JUNIOR

Is that right?

ERIC

Yeah, hanging around here, working at Timmy's Place, asking about Mom. He has a silly feeling that you're trying to get Mom back.

Junior lifts his head from under the piano and walks up to him.

JUNIOR

And if I was?

ERIC

What?

Sounds come from inside the house.

SFX: CRASH! MEOW!

ERIC (CONT'D)

Eddie, keep it down in there!

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

EDDIE is the household cat. He chases two mice, WHISKERS and FRISKERS, around the house. Whiskers wears a small jacket. Friskers wears a burgundy bowtie.

The mice run on top of a cabinet. Before they get to the end of it, they quickly stop.

SFX: CAR BRAKING.

Eddie passes the mice, runs off the cabinet, then stops in mid-air. He looks down below him, then holds up a sign.

INSERT - THE SIGN, which reads:

"HERE WE GO AGAIN!"

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

Eddie falls into a couch. He gets up with a spring wrapped around his neck.

SFX: BOUNCY SOUND OF THE SPRING!

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

Whiskers and Friskers run down the street. Eddie runs after them from a distance.

The mice stop running. Friskers spins his bowtie which turns into a propeller. Whiskers grabs on to Friskers' tail, and they lift off. Eddie jumps to pounce on them, but they quickly fly away.

Friskers flies Whiskers and himself down a few blocks and approach a tree. A large fishnet sweeps them up.

SFX: WHOOSING SOUND.

Eddie takes the fishnet and grabs the mice from it. He has an evil smile. A DIRECTOR calls out.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

And cut!

The director is BONY, a talking dog.

BONY

Okay, that's good for now. Let's
break for lunch, people.

Eddie and the mice talk as well.

WHISKERS
Let's go to Timmy's Place.

FRISKERS
Alright, but I forgot my wallet, so
you'll have to pay.

WHISKERS
What else is new?

They walk towards Timmy's Place.

EDDIE
Hey, guys, I'm hungry, too!

Eddie runs behind them.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE

The mice walk inside and pass the kitchen window. In the kitchen, Timmy approaches a counter with a coffee mug.

TIMMY
(calling)
Thanks for the cup of coffee, son!

DIMMEY
(approaching him)
I didn't pour you one.

TIMMY
Oh.

He takes a sip, frowns, then spits it out.

SFX: LOUD SPIT!

TIMMY (CONT'D)
What the heck is this?

JUNIOR
It's my special recipe. You heard
of hot chocolate? Well, this is NOT
CHOCOLATE!

DIMMEY
What's not chocolate?

JUNIOR
This is!

TIMMY
Yeah, but what is it??

JUNIOR
Not Chocolate!

TIMMY
You're not answering my question.

JUNIOR
Well, it's just like hot chocolate
but it's *not* chocolate!

TIMMY
But is it even hot?

Dimmey looks in Timmy's mug. Steam comes out of it.

DIMMEY
(looking puzzled)
It is now.

TIMMY
Junior, get this cup of crap out of
here!

JUNIOR
Yes, boss.

He snatches the mug away from Timmy and walks down the
kitchen floor.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
(to himself)
That Timmy makes me sick. Giving me
a hard time, strutting around here
like he owns the place. I should
give him a piece of my mind.

Junior puts the mug down and picks up a stack of plates. He
slips on an orange peel, falls, and drops the stack.

SFX: PLATES CRASHING!

Timmy comes rushing to him.

TIMMY
That's it! I can't take it no more!
You're the worst cook ever! And I
would know!

Junior lifts himself up. He sees a microwave with the door
open. He puts a nearby burger wrapped in foil into the
microwave and presses "START".

JUNIOR

Yeah? Well, you can take this job
and...uh...give it to someone else!

He takes off his apron and hairnet, and tosses them to Timmy.

TIMMY

(sarcastically)
Oh no. Whatever will I do?

JUNIOR

I don't know, but I know what I'm
gonna do.

(sternly)
What I came out here to do in the
first place.

As Junior walks away in slow motion, the microwave behind him
explodes with a ball of fire and smoke.

SFX: LOUD EXPLOSION!

Timmy looks at the disaster with his mouth open. Dimmey looks
at the mug on the counter which still has steam coming from
it. He touches the side of the mug.

DIMMEY

I mean, how can a drink be cold and
hot at the same time?

Timmy smacks his head.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Eric sits at the dining room table and speaks into the
answering machine.

ERIC

The state capital of Washington is
Olympia. The state capital of
Washington, D.C. is...uh...wait, I
know this one...

INT. NELSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

Rhonda and Matt enters the house from the back door. The
kitchen lights are out. There are lit candles on the kitchen
table with two plates of food.

SFX: VIOLIN MUSIC.

RHONDA

Oh, what is this? Matt, that's why you took me out? To have this all set up for me? You're gonna get a surprise later!

MATT

Uh, I didn't do this, but can I still get that surprise?

SFX: VIOLIN MUSIC VOLUME INCREASES.

MATT (CONT'D)

Why does this sound like one of Junior's songs?

Junior enters the kitchen donning a black tuxedo and holding a tray of food.

JUNIOR

It's the orchestra remix of my classic, "Funky Business"!

RHONDA

Junior, what are you doing here?

JUNIOR

I am serving you two a special romantic dinner. Don't worry, I didn't cook it. Got it from Timmy's. I hope you like fried chicken!

Junior places the food down on the table and passes out the plates.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

For the missus, I serve you two drumsticks. And Matt, I made sure you're kept a breast [abreast].
(chuckles)
See what I did there?

Matt stands up in anger.

MATT

All right, pal, what's going on here?

He turns to Rhonda, who is in the middle of eating. She stops right away and also stands up in anger.

RHONDA
Yeah! What is going on here?
(burps)
Excuse me.

JUNIOR
I'm making sure you have a good
time!

MATT
But you've been sneaking up on us
all this time!

RHONDA
Following me at work!

MATT
Working for Timmy! Admit it, you're
trying to get back with my wife!

JUNIOR
No, I'm trying to get with both of
you!

RHONDA AND MATT
WHAAAT??!!

JUNIOR
I mean, I want to make sure there
are no hard feelings!

The three of them argue over each other. Eric storms into the kitchen.

ERIC
(yelling)
All right, will everybody shut up?!

The three stop and look shocked at Eric.

ERIC (CONT'D)
And I mean that rhetorically. Look,
Matt, why don't we leave my parents
alone, so Mom can find out why Dad
is here once and for all?

MATT
I guess that's fair. Let's go.

Matt and Eric leave.

RHONDA
I have a better idea.
(to Junior)
Get out!

Rhonda pushes Junior out the back door.

JUNIOR
Wait a minute! I'm just trying to
get some closure!

RHONDA
Perfect!

She slams the door.

SFX: SLAM!

JUNIOR
(knocking on the door)
You know what I mean!

Rhonda opens the door.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
I'm not trying to get back with
you. The truth is that I'm getting
married this week.

RHONDA
Why, need another alimony
recipient?

JUNIOR
I like to think of her as "the
one".

RHONDA
The one to get half?

JUNIOR
Come on now, stop. I want to start
a new life with her, but I feel bad
about how I left things with you.

RHONDA
Look, Junior, I moved on a long
time ago, and I'm at peace. But you
did hurt me when you left.

JUNIOR
I know, and I feel bad about that.
But I left you with the house, car,
and a whole lot of money!

RHONDA

But you can't just leave a wife
those material things to make up
for leaving her!

JUNIOR

Okay, I'll know that for next time!
Just remember that I'm sorry, and
I'm happy for you.

RHONDA

Well, I appreciate that.

JUNIOR

Can we still be friends?

RHONDA

I don't know. Do I have to give
back your letter jacket?

JUNIOR

Very funny. I'm serious here.

RHONDA

I'm not making any promises. Now,
good night.

Junior begins to walk away but is stopped by Timmy
approaching.

TIMMY

Oh, I thought I'd find you here.

Timmy hands Junior an envelope.

JUNIOR

What's this, my final paycheck?

TIMMY

No, it's a bill! But I knocked off
a few charges. I see what your plan
was. That's why you were doing all
those things to try and get fired.

JUNIOR

(shifts his eyes)
Yep, you got me. Well, good night,
Milwaukee!

Junior pulls out his phone and plays exiting music. He
sashays away. Matt enters the kitchen.

MATT
 (yelling)
 Man, am I hungry! I hope I'm not
 walking in on anything!

RHONDA
 (walking in the kitchen
 with Timmy)
 He's gone. It's just me and Timmy.

MATT
 Well, I hope you sent him packing.

RHONDA
 (embracing Matt)
 You don't have anything to worry
 about, honey. You are twice the man
 that Junior ever was.

TIMMY
 Yeah, but zero times two is still
 zero!

Timmy laughs.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Timmy is thrown out of the house.

TIMMY
 WHOA!

SFX: CRASH INTO GARBAGE CANS OFF SCREEN.

TIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I deserved that.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - ERIC'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eric, wearing pajamas, sets up the answering machine and
 plugs earbuds into it.

ERIC
 Okay. Here goes nothing. Tomorrow,
 I'm gonna pass that exam!

He plays the answering machine, puts on his earbuds, and lays
 in the bed.

INT. SCHOOL - THE NEXT DAY

Eric stands in a classroom while his TEACHER sits.

TEACHER

Let's continue, Mr. Nelson: what is the capital of Georgia?

Eric barks, then hisses like a cat.

ERIC

You're trying to get back with my wife! I'm studying for this exam!

Eric hisses some more, then meows. He then kneels and scratches an itch with his foot like a dog. The teacher stares at him with a long pause.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Do I at least get credit for getting my name right?

TEACHER

Well, you called yourself, "Willie Jr.", so no.

Eric sighs.

INT. NELSON HOUSE - LATER

Matt and Rhonda sit in the living room and watch TV, where a REPORTER speaks.

ON THE TV

REPORTER (V.O.)

And this morning, one-hit wonder Willie Jr. married his sweetheart.

Junior and his bride slide to their knees outside of a chapel to people cheering and throwing rice. The bride stops, but Junior slides continuously until he falls down the steps.

REPORTER (V.O.)

But if you missed this wedding, don't worry, just wait for his next one!

The bride helps pick Junior off of the ground. He then gets hit with some rice.

SFX: SPLAT!

JUNIOR

Hey, the rice isn't supposed to be cooked!

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

MATT

Well, I guess you were right, honey. Maybe he was just looking for closure.

RHONDA

Even if he wasn't, you should know that I would never leave you.

MATT

I know.

They hug and kiss. Eric and Dimmey enter the living room.

ERIC

Guys, I have some good news and bad news.

MATT

(sighs)
Bad news first.

ERIC

I failed my oral exam. And I know what you're gonna say. I shouldn't have waited until the last minute.

RHONDA

Okay, so what's the good news?

DIMMEY

That he has proof that osmosis works!

ERIC

(rolls his eyes)
Yeah, because that's been racking my brain forever! No, the good news is that we're signed up to see Dr. Thomas Lewis, the most acclaimed family therapist in Milwaukee!

RHONDA

It's good that your teacher gave him that recommendation.

ERIC
Yeah, let's call it that.

He and Dimmey walk away.

INT. TIMMY'S PLACE - LATER

Timmy searches in his kitchen. His employee, IKE, calls him from across the room.

IKE
Hey, Timmy, man, thanks again for giving me a job here.

TIMMY
Sure.

Timmy looks in a drawer.

TIMMY (CONT'D)
(sotto voce)
Some of my silverware is missing.

SFX: FOREBODING MUSIC.

Timmy looks up to the upper right of the ceiling.

SFX: FOREBODING MUSIC FADES OUT.

Ike approaches Timmy.

IKE
Like, I take it you heard about your serving spoon being missing, dude.

TIMMY
No, Ike, I'm missing some silverware. But...I guess the serving spoon is missing, too.

SFX: FOREBODING MUSIC RESUMES.

Timmy looks up to the upper right of the ceiling. Ike looks up to the upper left of the ceiling.

TIMMY (CONT'D)
No, this way.

Timmy positions Ike in his direction. They both look up to upper right of the ceiling.

THE END.

