

ETERNAL EXPRESS

BY
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ACT 1

SCENE 1

It's early morning in the Waysides' home. The scene is set in the kitchen. The table is only half set. Suddenly there is a shout from **Shaunte Wayside** (17) from off set (OS).

SHAUNTE (OS)

MAMA!! MAMA!! Can you please make me
a plate?! Mama...Mama?

Shaunte enters stage right.

SHAUNTE

Mommy? What in the world?

Shaunte looks around, not seeing her mother in the kitchen. She starts grabbing food and putting it on a plate quickly as if in a hurry.

TRACY ENTERS.

SHAUNTE

Momma, we gotta hurry! Daddy's gonna be
home from his morning run at any time. And we
have to go straight to the DMV to get my
license!!
AYE Woo Woo!!!

TRACY

Yeah, something else for me to be worried about!!
And you better not be havin' that fast tail "Kaliku" in
my car all the time!

SHAUNTE

Mom, its "KALIKA".

TRACY

"KALULU"

SHAUNTE

"KALIKA"

TRACY

“KALENADRA”

SHAUNTE

“KALIKA”

BOTH

UGH!!!

TRACY

Well whatever her name is, she better not be ridin' shotgun in the jag or I gotta shotgun for both of y'all.

SHAUNTE

Oh Mama! Kalika is a great friend and she knows EVERYBODY! You should hear all the guys tryin' throw their lines at us while we're chillin' in the mall! They be like...
AYE WHATS GOOD SHAWTY!

TRACY

And Imam tell you whats good...my belt! And I got that for you AND that "KALIWAG".

SHAUNTE

IT'S KALIKA!!

TRACY

Oh whatever!! (*Looks at the clock and gasps*)
Oh no! I haven't even finished preparing breakfast and your father will be home soon! Ok, you gotta help me!

Tracy and Shaunte begin scrambling around. The more food Tracy puts down, the more food Shaunte comes up behind her and puts on her own plate. Until Tracy turns around and notices her eating instead of helping.

TRACY

SHAUNTE WAYSIDE!! You are supposed to be helping!

SHAUNTE

I am! I'm helping to clean the table! Look mom, I don't why you do so much. I mean, I love Daddy too but I think it's unfair the way he treats you. He makes over \$750,000.00 a year but he can't get us a maid, and he makes you work at a library as if he isn't a successful business man.

TRACY

I know...I know, but your dad doesn't like to spend extra money on anything. And in order to keep paying Nana's assisted living bills, I have to work to do it. And don't knock the library! You should go there some time and learn something!

SHAUNTE

Well either way mama, I think that you deserve a better treatment than that.

TRACY

Well Baby, just pray for your daddy. You know he's under a lot of pressure with the merge and all. But through it all, just know we mean the world to him. Especially you!

SHAUNTE

Really? You think I mean the world to Daddy?

TRACY

Well (*stands in front of Shaunte*)...You, my dear...are his world!

SHAUNTE

Awe, thanks mama.

JORDAN WAYSIDE (40) enters. Jordan is in a jumpsuit. He just got finished with his morning run and enters in on his cell phone.

JORDAN

Well I don't care what CNN says, I know for a fact that the stocks will quadruple in value once they merge with us. My brother and I have a lock and an inside on this whole ordeal. Have you ever heard of supply and demand, Latimore?! There is a demand for us and we have the supply!

As Jordan is talking, both Shaunte and Tracy have been following him around, standing in his way just to get a hug or hello. He moves around them to continue to talk and get food.

JORDAN

Uh-huh, yup, absolutely, I totally agree. Ok, yes, as soon as my brother Phillip gets here, we will be right there. I promise.

Shaunte suddenly starts to look disappointed.

JORDAN

Yes... (Finally notices his daughter standing in front of him) ...wouldn't miss this for the world.

Shaunte looks at Tracy and then leaves back to her room quickly. SHAUNTE EXIT.
Jordan notices her exit and looks a bit concern.

JORDAN

Ok. Sure. Phillip and I will be there momentarily...Hey uh, Latimore, let me give you a call back when I get in the Benz.

Jordan walks over to Tracy. As he gets closer, she turns and walks the other way.

JORDAN

Wait, I walk in from my morning run, which I do every morning at the same time and it's as if I've walked into a bad episode of the THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR! What is goin' on?!

TRACY

Well first of all, you barely even acknowledged that we were here. And then second of all, you were supposed to take your daughter to the DMV today to get her driver's license!

JORDAN

Awe man! Was that today? I can't believe I forgot. Ugh, yet another reason for her to frolic around some boys with that "Kakalakie"!

TRACY

Again...first of all, if you spent time with her you would know she doesn't frolic around with boys! And second of all, her name is not "Kakalakie".

JORDAN

Well what is it?

Both of them start mumbling names and sounds that don't make sense. Shaunte yells off set from upstairs.

SHAUNTE

IT'S KALIKA!!!

TRACY

See! She heard you!

JORDAN

Well, I guess I have to make this up to her. I'll get her that new Iphone 11. They haven't even released it yet! She'll get it before anybody else! she wanted.

TRACY

Good, then she can call somebody who cares.

JORDAN

What?! She would love it.

TRACY

Yeah, but she just wants to be with you more. We all want to be around you more.

JORDAN

Well, I tell you what after this merge today, we will have so much in the bank, I'll take off for a week and we will go somewhere nice.

TRACY

Really?

JORDAN

Absolutely! Where do you want to go?

TRACY

Well....I...

JORDAN

Suddenly the doorbell rings and Jordan is immediately distracted.

JORDAN

Ahhhhh...There's my whiz kid little brother right there! Ill buzz him in. (*Presses a button on the wall*)
Hey Phillip, come on in!

TRACY

Well, don't forget we need to finish this conversation!

PHILLIP

(*Enters.*) Hey family!

JORDAN

Hey lil' bro.

TRACY

Hey Phillip, how are you?

PHILLIP

I'm good...sounds like interrupting something though. Imma just eat all this good food in the car!

TRACY

Oh Phillip, you know you are always welcomed here.

Shaunte comes back in with an attitude and starts getting her bags and things, snatching stuff around while everyone is just watching her for a moment.

PHILLIP

Not sure it's safe though.

SHAUNTE

Hi Uncle Phil. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to ignore you.

TRACY

Beyoncé here is a bit upset over the fact that JayZ over there forgot to take her to the DMV today.

SHAUNTE

It's ok...I got KALIKA to take me.

JORDAN

What?!!

PHILLIP

Well now that really is my cue. I'll be in the Benz. It looks like there's someone at your door.

SHAUNTE

OH! That's' KALIKA!! (*Buzzing her in*) HEYYYYY
GIIIRL! Come on in!

JORDAN

Shaunte I forbid this!

SHAUNTE

Well daddy you left me hanging and I am the only girl in my class without a license!!

KALIKA

HEY YALL!!!

KALIKA enters and is smiling and laughing and chewing gum while TRACY and JORDAN look at her in disgust. Shaunte looks at her and they laugh and back and forth. Phillip starts acting like them. Then Tracy and Jordan look at him.

PHILLIP

I'll be in the car. (*Exits*)

SHAUNTE

Alright Mom and Dad, we are gone too. I'll see you when I get back.

JORDAN

Not yet, we need to discuss this.

SHAUNTE

No daddy, you go and have your business merge with Uncle Phil. We will be just fine.

TRACY

You and Kalamazoo come back here at a reasonable time!

SHAUNTE

It's Ka...oh whatever! (*Exits*)

JORDAN

Well that's a fine mess you've created.

TRACY

Me?! You're the one always doing disappearing acts in the middle of when we need you.

JORDAN

Now you know this merge is important to our future. And I can't have any distractions right now.

Doorbell rings again.

JORDAN

Good grief!! Who can this be?

TRACY

Oh that's Deacon Peters. He's coming to chop down the branches on the tree in the front.
(*Buzz*) Hello Deacon Peters! Come on in!

JORDAN

Wait, I know I said I would cut that myself.

TRACY

Yes you did Jordan...and that was last year.

Deacon Peters enters.

DEACON PETERS

Praise the Lord boys and girls!!!

TRACY

Well praise The Lord Deacon Peters! How are you this morning?!

DEACON PETERS

OHHHHH I'm *Wondermus* this *gloriful* day!!
I see you two are mighty blessed this morning
and God is good all the time and all the time....
And all the time.....

TRACY AND JORDAN

...God is good????

DEACON PETERS

YYYYYYEEEEEESSSSSS HE IS!!! And....
(*Looks at the table*) FOOOOOODDD!!! I knew
I was coming over here for something special!
God had a purpose for me being here and now I
see that it is to break bread together with this
mand and *womand* of God!

JORDAN

Well I need to be going now. (*Quickly attempting to exit.*)

TASHA

Wait, you're not even dressed yet!

JORDAN

Uh, I'll pick up something on the way.

DEACON PETERS

(*Interrupts.*) And before I dig into these awesome vittles, let's have a word of prayer to bless this fine food. So come on in where the table is spread and the feast of the Lord is mightily before us.
Let us pray...

Deacon Peters sits at the table and closes his eyes. He holds both his hands out signaling to Tracy and Jordan to hold his hands for prayer. They reluctantly get on each side of him and sit down. Tracy grabs one hand and bows her head. Jordan does not. Deacon

Peters signals again. Jordan does not. Deacon pops Jordan in the back of his head and Jordan holds his hand. Deacon Peters begins a long drawn out prayer of grace. Finally, he says amen. Tracy says Amen and Jordan doesn't say anything. Deacon looks at him in disgust.

DEACON

Well...you are so disrespectful! You don't even know a good grace when you hear one. You need an annulment!

JORDAN

What?

DEACON

You don't love God and God don't love you! You need an annulment!!

JORDAN

Deacon Peters, I love God just fine.

DEACON

No you don't! You stand here and lie in my face!

JORDAN

What? I do love God.

DEACON

(Starts crying) No you don't!! Oh Lord help his dying soul Lord Jesus!!!

Deacon Peters starts sliding down in his chair as if he is collapsing.

TRACY

Oh Lord Jordan, look at what you did to the Deacon!!

JORDAN

I didn't!! He just started trippin'!!

TRACY

Well don't just stand there! Help me help
him up!

TRACY and JORDAN began to try to help Deacon Peters up.

DEACON

(Looking at Tracy) Oh thank you baby...
(Jordan goes to help) DON'T TOUCH ME
WITH YOUR DEVIL HANDS!! YOU GOT
DEVIL HANDS! YOU GOT DEVIL HANDS!!

JORDAN

I do not have devil hands!!! And I love God
just fine!

DEACON

Prove it!!

JORDAN

Prove it? How?!

DEACON

You don't even know your Bible. You can
only prove it with the evidence of an unknown
tongue...DUH! Read the word of Yahweh
sometimes!

JORDAN

Well...I won't be speaking in any unknown
tongues...

DEACON

I KNEW IT!! I KNEW YOU HAD DEVIL
HANDS!! I KNEW IT!! SOMEBODY CALL
AN EXERTRISS!! HE GOGT DEVIL HANDS!!!!

JORDAN

I DO NOT HAVE DEVIL HANDS! FINE!
I'll speak in unknown tongues...

DEACON

(Excited) Ooh...this is gonna be good!

Tracy and Deacon stare at Jordan but he doesn't say anything.

DEACON

I do believe this boy got the devil in him.

JORDAN

Well I don't know what to say.

DEACON

Just stand there...let the Lord download
in your spirit...you are so disconnected
from him!

JORDAN

Well, maybe we can do this another time.

DEACON

No! He's a right now God!! You gotta get to
glory and there's no time to wait!! Now...I
could help you if you want my help...

Jordan looks at him. They look at each other but no one says anything. Then Deacon starts crying again.

DEACON

(Crying) Ohhhhh nooo!! I told you he got
devil hands!!!

JORDAN

Ok! Ok!!...Deacon would you help me?

DEACON

Who me?????!! Really?!!? Well ok I
guess I can help you. Well, first you gotta stand
up like this. *(They stand up straight)* Then you
gotta hunch your back like this. Then you have to
make your stank face.

JORDAN

Stank face?!?!?

DEACON

Boy don't talk back or you'll never get the evidence!! Now do this...and move like you got somethin' brewin' in yo stomach!! Then you got to hold your bosom like this!! Uh huh... just like that...now say E-SHA SHA!!

JORDAN

E sha sha??

DEACON

SAY IT!!

JORDAN

E sha sha

DEACON

SAY IT!!! E SHA SHA

JORDAN

E sha sha!

Deacon and Jordan go back and forth and finally Jordan starts yelling E SHA SHA and Deacon starts throwing small pieces of breakfast food at him.

JORDAN

OK!! That's enough. I am going to my business meeting with my brother who has been waiting in the car for me for like 2 hours!!

TRACY

Wait honey, we gotta talk about Shaunte, you need to...

JORDAN

(Interrupts) Look...don't tell me what I need to do! This is MY house!! I say what goes. I don't work my fingers off to be dictated to like a child. IM THE MAN OF THIS HOUSE AND I say what goes...and I'm going to work...And you are going to say....you are going to say...

TRACY

(Intimidated) Have a nice day dear.

JORDAN

Yeah...I thought so. *(Exits)*

Tracy starts to clean up the kitchen.

DEACON

Was it something I said?!

TRACY

No Deacon Peters. He's just like that sometimes.

DEACON

Well that's not good for you or the child! I almost did my karaoke on him!

TRACY

KARAOKE?!

DEACON

Yeah! Karaoke! You ain't never seen that "Chuck Nordstrom" do his karaoke?!

Deacon starts doing weird karate moves.

TRACY

Oh you mean KARATE!

DEACON

That's what I said KARAOKE!! Well he better get right or he will meet his doom messin' with you like that!

TRACY

Oh Deacon, I'll be alright.

DEACON

I know 'cuz Imma "protectigate" you!

TRACY

"Protetigate"?!

DEACON

That's right!

TRACY continues to clean. Deacon Peters begins his song. "GASOLINE UNDEROOS"

TRACY

Oh Deacon Peters, you don't have to send anyone to glory in their gasoline under roos!

DEACON

Well you know I'm just funnin' with ya. But you have a power over him that he has to come subject to...PRAYER! Girl just send up one of those down home good prayers to your God and let him fix it all!

TRACY

Yes Deacon, you know I will never stop praying for him. Now we gotta go, I've gotta go to the library to pick up my check.

DEACON

You want me to leave the fine vittles?

TRACY

Yes...come on. I'll stop you by Mama James' new restaurant downtown on the way.

DEACON

Oh they got the chicken and waffles!!

Scene fade to black.