

KATE
SMITH

Jackson's Night Out

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INT. JACKSON'S KITCHEN-MORNING

JACKSON is 18,tall,and looks like a typical high school senior. At the moment JACKSON is trying to study for a test and is also making sure his brother NOAH 8, and sister SANDY 6, eat there breakfast so they can be ready for school. Everyone is sitting at the dinning table and there is a lot of noise.

JACKSON

Hurry up you guys we don't want to be late for school.

We see that Jackson is looking around for his book.

JACKSON

Has anyone seen my book I left it here a minute ago?

We now see SANDY giggling.

NOAH

Sandy took it.

Jackson looks at Sandy with an irritated face.

SANDY

I didn't take it,Noah took it. I took it back to give it to you.

NOAH

What a liar! Tell Jackson you're lying.

JACKSON

Guys, I don't have time to play games.I want the book now. I have to study for a huge test.

Sandy sees that Jackson is starting to get upset so quickly obeys.

SANDY

Here you go, Jackson. You don't have to get made about it, it was just a joke.

NOAH

Yeah. A dopey joke..

SANDY

Jackson, Noah called me "dopey".

JACKSON checks his clock.

JACKSON

It's time to go guys or were going
to be really late.

CUT TO:

INT. SCIENCE CLASS-DAY

Jackson is in his physics class and is working with his partner BILL on a lab. Bill is 18 and is Jackson's best friend.

BILL

Guess who has tickets to go see the
sold out Aerosmith concert on
Saturday?

JACKSON

I give up. Who?

BILL

I do. My brother's been grounded
after wrecking dad's car, so he
gave me the tickets.

JACKSON

No feakin' way.

BILL

Yes freakin' way. we're gonna have
a blast at the concert.

Jackson's excited smile fades fast.

JACKSON

Sorry Bill, I can't go.

Bill looks disappointed at Jackson.

BILL

Jackson, we're talking Aerosmith
here. What do you mean you can't
go?

JACKSON

Is' just not possible. Thanks for
the offer, but....

BILL

But nothing! ever since your
parents passed away you've turned
into a hermit. I mean, you never
get out, never do anything fun..

JACKSON

Hey, I've got responsibilities.

BILL

Listen to you. Playing daddy to your brother and sister is making you old before your time. Wow, I even think I see a gray hair there.

Bill tries to pluck a hair from Jackson's head. Jackson shoos him away.

Bill

(singing)

"Dude looks like a lady".

JACKSON

I said forget it, okay?

BILL

You know, Kate Smith's got tickets to the concert. In fact, she even asked me if you were going to be there.

Jackson gives Bill a "Yeah, right" look.

BILL

For real, man:

JACKSON

Look, even if I wanted to go, I couldn't leave Noah and Sandy alone.

BILL

What's the big deal? Just find them a babysitter.

JACKSON

On such short notice? Easier said than done.

BILL

My Uncle Ray just hangs around our house all the time. I'll bet he'd be glad to get out and do some babysitting.

JACKSON

Are you serious? You mean your Uncle Ray, the alcoholic, the one who's been to jail like three times

already.

BILL
(defensive)

That was a long time ago. He's perfectly fine now, he's been clear for over a year.

JACKSON

Sorry, Bill. I'm not leaving my brother and sister with your Uncle Ray. No way.

The bell has rung and the two walk out of class in silence. Moments later, Jackson starts humming "Dude looks like a lady". Clearly he's starting to cave. At last, he sheepishly turn to Bill:

JACKSON

Kate Smith, huh...?

Bill just turn to Jackson and nods with a big smile on his face.

EXT. SCHOOL'S COURTYARD- DAY

Jackson and Bill are sitting on a bench trying to find a babysitter on the yellow pages. We can see that Jackson is calling babysitter agencies to see if their available Saturday night.

BABYSITTER AGENCY(V.O.)

Sorry were all booked for Saturday night. We need at least a weeks notice for Fridays or Saturdays.

JACKSON

(into cell phone)

Well thank you anyway.

We see Bill crossing out the last babysitter agency listed on the page.

BILL

Well that was the last one. I'm sorry your going to have to miss such a great time.

Just then Jackson's crush KATE SMITH, 18 and very attractive, passes by Jackson and Bill.

KATE

Hey Jackson.

JACKSON

Oh hey Kate.

KATE

Are you going to the Aerosmith concert on Saturday?

BILL

Sure he is.

KATE

Well I hope I see you there.

Kate leaves and Jackson gets mad at Bill.

JACKSON

What did you do BILL, you know I cant go. Who's going to take care of NOAH and SANDY?

BILL

I told you already my Uncle Ray can do it, hes a totally different person know.

JACKSON

Are you sure BILL?

BILL

Confident.

CUT TO:

INT. JACKSON'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Its Saturday night, the night of the of the concert. BILL and his Uncle RAY have arrived. Uncle ray is wearing an old sock cap. Uncle ray is in his early 30s but looks much older. Ray is also about as mature as a ten-year-old.

JACKSON

UNCLE

Thanks for helping out, Mr. ray. I know it was short notice...

UNCLE RAY

Believe me, it's good to be working again. Even at five bucks an hour.

BILL

Hey, Jackson we should hurry up its getting late. The concert starts exactly one hour from now.

Uncle Ray walks over to Noah and Sandy, who are on the sofa eating popcorn and watching television.

UNCLE JACKSON

Well MR.RAY all the important phone numbers are posted on the fridge. Fire department,police department...

UNCLE RAY

Hey you guys are watching "SPONGE BOB" That's my favorite show.

NOAH

No way, mine too.

JACKSON

My cell phone number is also listed there.And is there is any kind of emergency...

UNCLE RAY

(to the kids)

Man, what I would give to live in a pineapple in Bikini Bottom. Heck, I'd even settle for a studio apartment.

JACKSON

(now frustrated)

Like I was saying, If you need any help, the lady next door, Mrs.--

SANDY

I think pineapples are yummy.

UNCLE RAY

So's popcorn. You guys mind if I have some?

SANDY

Sure, here you go.

Sandy hands Ray the popcorn box. He grabs a handful.

BILL

Hurry up JACKSON,I'm sure Uncle Ray has everything under control.

UNCLE RAY

You bet.

Uncle Ray then tosses some popcorn high in the air to catch with his mouth. Instead they land on his head, his

chest, and the floor. Right away the kids CRACK UP.

JACKSON

(to the kids)

Well bye guys. Remember, bedtime is at nine.

MR. RAY

Oh don't worry, I go to sleep at eight.

JACKSON

We'll be back around midnight the latest.

UNCLE RAY

Have fun guys!

Uncle Ray takes out a liquor flask and salutes Jackson. Jackson suddenly freezes at the sight of it.

UNCLE RAY

Pure apple juice. I don't go anywhere without it.

Uncle Ray gives Jackson a thumbs up and takes a long drink out of the flask. Bill and Jackson then head out the door and to the concert.

CUT TO:

INT. BILL'S CAR-NIGHT

Bill excitedly drives the care, blasting "Sweet Emotion" on the cd player. Beside him is Jackson, who seem to be lost in thought.

BILL

Man, I can't wait to get there. It's gonna be a mob scene! during one of their Australian concerts, two kids were crushed to death in a stampede to the stage...

Bill turns and looks at Jackson.

BILL

Are you even listening to me?

JACKSON

Man, I forgot to give your Uncle Ray the number of DR. Curtis, the kids pediatrician.

BILL

Oh Jeez.

Jackson takes out his cell phone and dials.

JACKSON

(after a pause)

It just keeps ringing and ringing.

BILL

Maybe his on the phone or something.

JACKSON

Doesn't his phone have an answering machine?

BILL

Jackson will you relax already? You're driving me crazy here.

JACKSON

I'm relaxed. Everything's cool.

The look on Jackson's face says otherwise. Suddenly, a terrible new thought occurs to him :

JACKSON

My father kept a jug of in the back of the cupboard...Oh man, I knew I should have hid it!

CUT TO:

INT. CONCERT HALL PARKING LOT- NIGHT

The lot is jammed with cars in search of a parking space.

INT. BILL'S CAR-NIGHT

There is a lot of traffic and Bill is trying to look for a parking space while Jackson tries to reach Ray.

BILL

Man, there is absolutely no parking here.

JACKSON

What the hell's up with your uncle? Why doesn't he answer the phone?

BILL

Why don't you try calling him on

your home phone.

JACKSON

What do you think I've been doing
for the last ten minutes?!

BILL

(his mind elsewhere)

Whoa, there's a space. Hallelujah!

Bill laughs triumphantly as he peels into the spot. Jackson doesn't share his glee, his thoughts are clearly elsewhere.

INT.CONCERT HALL-NIGHT

Bill and Jackson are know in the crowded auditorium were the concert is going to be held. In the midst of all the noise and chaos everywhere, Jackson is still trying to call home.

BILL

(re the pandemonium)

What did I tell you? It's a
freakin' zoo. Is this cool or not?

JACKSON

(re the phone)

This is crazy! he just doesn't
answer. Nobody does.

BILL

Jackson you got to be kidding me
here!

JACKSON

Something's wrong. I know there
is...

BILL

Man, can't you relax and be a
teenager for just one night?

JACKSON

It's no good, Bill. I gotta go.

BILL

Leave? But we just got here!

JACKSON

Your uncle's got my brother and
sister. Man, if anything happened
to them--

Jackson waves to Bill goodbye and as hes headed out the

auditorium he sees his crush Kate come in.

KATE

Hey Jackson were are you going?

JACKSON

Home.

KATE

The concert hasn't event stated yet. Come on, you should join me.

JACKSON

Sorry Kate I have to go.

KATE

Well ill see you at school.Bye

Jackson waves bye to Kate.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jackson runs out of the concert hall into the street. He waves his hands frantically at the first cab he sees. The taxi keeps on going and Jackson chases after it.

JACKSON

Hey Taxi! Wait up! Stop!!!!

But the taxi disappears down the street. Jackson catches stops, catches his breath, looks up to see a cab has stopped nearby. He lets out a breath of relief and trots over.

As he is about to get in, Jackson hears the first power lick of the electric guitar. The crowd starts to go wild as the band breaks into "Dream On" Jackson's favorite song.

Jackson takes a last, bitter look at the concert hall before getting in the cab.

CUT TO:

INT. JACKSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jackson bursts through the door. He dashes into the living room, looks all around, and freezes at what he discovers: No one is there!

JACKSON
 (calling out)
 Noah, Sandy, Mr. Ray... Anybody
 home?

Jackson is now looking everywhere: through every door, behind every sofa, under every table. He is starting to freak out.

JACKSON
Where is everybody?!?

He slumps down onto the sofa, lowers his head, and buries it in his hands. It looks like his worst fears have come true.

Just then, the sound of the door opening. Jackson's eyes widen and his heart soars as he sees Noah, Sandy and Mr. Ray standing in the doorway, each with an ice cream cone in their hand.

NOAH
 Hey Jackson, you home already?

Jackson sits there in silence, his mouth hanging open.

SANDY
 (waving her cone)
 Look what Mr. Ray bought us. I got
 chocolate cookie dough.

NOAH
 I got vanilla.

UNCLE RAY
 To tell you the truth, I was a
 little short of cash so I had to
 borrow from Sandy's piggy bank.
 (Jackson just glares at him)
 Okay, so you can take it out of my
 salary.

JACKSON
 Where were you guys? I've been
 worried sick!

UNCLE RAY
 What for? Everything was under
 control.

JACKSON
 Under control? I tried to call you
 all night. Why didn't you answer
 the phone?

UNCLE RAY

Uhm, well, there was a little problem with the phones.

NOAH

(laughing)

Mr. Ray tripped on the rug and sat on the phone.

SANDY

You should have seen it, Jackson. It was so funny.

Sandy points to the crushed portable phone in the garbage.

JACKSON

Why didn't you answer your cell phone?

UNCLE RAY

Honest to God, I would've if I could've. Thing of it is, I forgot to take it with me.

NOAH

So we all went over to Uncle Ray's house to find it.

SANDY

And we looked everywhere, didn't we, Mr. Ray?

UNCLE RAY

We sure did, honey. Until it finally dawned on me I musta left it in Bill's car. Heck, you were probably even sitting on it.

Jackson just stares and fumes. Uncle Ray gets the hint.

UNCLE RAY

Well, I guess I'm no longer needed here so I'll be going home. I'll, uhm, send you my bill...

SANDY AND JACKSON

(in unison)

Bye Mr. Ray.

UNCLE RAY

Seen you, kids. Sandy, I promise to pay you back the three bucks.

Jackson follows Ray, who backs up warily until he's out the

door. As he gives a goodbye wave to the kids, Jackson slams the door shut. He turns to Noah and Sandy.

JACKSON

Okay, guys, it's time for bed.
Brush your teeth and lights out.

The kids grumble "Awwww" in unison. Jackson sinks against the door, exhausted to put it mildly. As Noah heads into his room --

NOAH

How was the concert, Jackson?

JACKSON

Terrific. They even played my favorite song.

A trace of a smile appears on Jackson's face.

FADE OUT.

The End