

MEET THE DUFUSES

by

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First Draft (2nd Revision)

August 2006

FADE IN:

A busy neighborhood street with people walking, jogging and doing everyday things.

SCENE 1. INTERIOR – THE JOHNSON’S HOME – DAY – KITCHEN

Betty Johnson is sitting at the table peeling potatoes as her new neighbor Tom Dufus enters the backdoor carrying a small bowl.

BETTY

(crazy look on her face)

Excuse me! I know you didn’t just walk through my door like that!

TOM

(comically nervous)

Yo-your husband told me to-to come on in.

(holding out his hand in friendship)

My name is Tom Dufus, we just moved in next door.

I told your husband I had a little problem and he told me to come talk to you.

BETTY

Well! What’s your problem?

TOM

We’re out of eggs, I promised my son if he hit a home run at the game I’d fix him an omlette.

BETTY

You promised your son an omlette for hitting a home run?

TOM

(goofy smile on face)

Well yeah, he love eggs, so do I.

Betty takes a dozen eggs from the refrigerator and sets them on the table. Tom puts two eggs in his bowl, then puts two more in it.

BETTY

Who’re those for?

Scene 1. cont.

TOM

I hit a couple of home runs last night myself, if
you know what I mean.

(he smiles and winks his eye)

Betty looks at him and shakes her head, takes the eggs and puts them
back into the frig.

As Tom is leaving out the door, Ed is entering.

ED

You get your eggs man!

TOM

Yeah, thanks Betty!

ED

Nice guy, but a little goofy.

(a little excited)

Honey! Remember when I promised to
take you to see Cats?

BETTY

Yeah I remember, June 1, 1999.

ED

Well, I'm keeping my promise!

Bob came over this morning and gave
them to me, He and Karen has to leave
town.

He passes her the tickets:

BETTY

(surprised)

Oh! They'er to that new Tyler Perry show.

ED

You can put those potatoes away, we'll
get something after the show.

BETTY

(disgusted)

Aw Ed, I can't go tonight.

Scene 1. cont.

BETTY (CONT.)

I've got a bad case of gas, and I've been taking medicine all day.

ED

You mean to tell me, you'll let a few farts keep us from seeing Tyler Perry?

BETTY

Honey I can't go there like this.

(holding her stomach)

I don't want to blow up the place.

Call your sister, she'll love to go.

ED

I'm not taking her with me.

It'll be like taking a frog to a fly eating contest.

BETTY

She's not that bad.

ED

I know! I'll ask Tom to go with me.

He starts towards the back door.

Tom comes in through the door carrying a carton of eggs.

BETTY

Do you ever knock?

Tom goes back out of the door, knocks, then comes back in.

TOM

(comically)

How was that?

I bought you some eggs over.

He sets them on the table:

BETTY

You didn't have to do that Tom!

Scene 1. cont.

TOM

My daddy always told me, if you borrow something always give it back. That was after I didn't take his truck back to his house. Well, got to go.

He starts towards the door:

ED

Hey Tom, how would you like to go see a Tyler Perry play?

TOM

Sorry! Won't be able to go tonight, there's a Power Ranger marathon on.

He leaves out the door:

ED

I don't believe this!
I got two free Tyler Perry tickets.
My wife is blowed up with gas, and my friend is watching the Power Rangers.

He leaves out of the kitchen:

SCENE 2. INTERIOR – LIVINGROOM – EVENING

Ed puts the tickets on the coffee table, turns on the television and sits on the sofa.

Betty comes into the livingroom rubbing her stomach as if in pain. As she sits next to Ed on the sofa she lets out a big one and the lamp falls from the table onto the floor, Ed jumps from the sofa.

ED

Good googly moogly!
Woman what are you trying to do, bring
the house down?

Betty getting up from the sofa:

BETTY

My stomach hurts me some awful, I'm
going and lie down.

As she slowly leaves from the livingroom she farts again, this time a picture falls from the wall.

Ed jumps again, this time in karate stance looking around.

ED

I'm glad we ain't going to that show, she would've
shot Madea plum cross the stage with that one.
I think it's save now.

He goes out of the front door.

Scene 2a. EXTERIOR – ED'S FRONT PORCH – EVENING (about 7:30p.m.)

Ed is sitting on the porch, Tom's son Eric comes over and sits on the steps.

ERIC

Hi Mr. Johnson, why are you so sad?

Scene 2a. cont.

ED

(addresses Eric)

Me sad! No my boy, I'm just a little tired.

When is your next game I'll come see you play.

ERIC

We play next Saturday at King Park.

Do you fix good omlettes?

ED

If you eat one of my omlettes, you may never make another home run.

ERIC

I tell you what, if I hit a home run will you buy me one?

Ed looks at the boy and chuckles:

ED

Sure kid, you got a deal.

ERIC

Ok see ya.

The boy leaves and Ed goes into the house.

SCENE 3. EXTERIOR – TOM’S DRIVEWAY – MORNING

The next morning Tom was up early outside working on his car.

Mary Jo was standing watching him.

Ed walks over to where they are.

ED

What seems to be your problem?

TOM

I don’t know, can’t get it to start
got plenty of gas in it.

(pointing)

What’s that thing right there?

ED

That’s the carburetor, move over.

Ed works on the car for a few minutes:

ED

Mary Jo, get in and start it up.

Mary Jo gets into the car, while Tom goes around in back of it.

Ed tinkers with it again:

ED

(motioning to Mary Jo)

Ok Mary, start it up!

She starts the can and it back fires.

Tom comes from the back of the car with black soot all over his face

ED

What happened to you man!

TOM

(coughing)

I thought I could see what was wrong from the back, that was a mistake.

Scene 3. cont.

ED

Tom, you're a real dufus.

TOM

I know, my daddy was one too.
He married my mom and made her one,
I came along now I'm one!

ED

Tom, shut up.

Ed walks back to his house:

TOM

(loudly V.O.)

Thanks for fixing my car!

SCENE 4. INTERIOR – LIVINGROOM – DAY

Tom is watching television and Mary Jo is reading a book on the sofa.

TOM

(looking at his wife)

You know Hun, I'm glad we moved here.
We got Ed and Betty for friends, and a toilet in
the house.

MARY JO

(still reading the book)

Yes dear.

Suddenly there's a knock at the door.
Tom opens it, it's a newspaper salesman.

Scene 4. cont.

SALESMAN

Good afternoon sir, would you like to take the Southern News?

TOM

(scratching his head)

Well I don't know, where would I have to take it?

SALESMAN

(confused)

No! I mean would you like to sign up for it to be delivered to your house.

TOM

Oh! Sure why not.

SALESMAN

Just sign right here and you'll receive your first newspaper in the morning.

The salesman leaves, Tom shuts the door and sits back on the sofa.

MARY JO

(still reading the book)

Who was at the door dear?

TOM

A man selling newspapers, we'll get ours in the morning.

MARY JO

(still reading the book)

That's nice dear.

SCENE 5. INTERIOR – KITCHEN – DAY

Betty is taking food from the refrigerator and putting it on the table when Ed's sister Vinetta walks through the back door.

VINETTA

(loudly)

Betty! What are you doing?

BETTY

Cleaning out the refrigerator, put this over on the counter.

(passing Vinetta a bowl of fried chicken)

Vinetta looks at the bowl with great temptation, licking her lips.

VINETTA

Oooooo ,I know you ain't throwing this away!

She starts to eat the chicken:

Ed enters the kitchen:

ED

Oh no!!!

We got a black hole in our kitchen and it's sucking up all the chicken!

He jumps in front of the table with the food on it holding his arms out to the side as if to protect it.

ED

Betty! Get out of the way before she sucks you up too!

BETTY

Don't be ridiculous Ed, Vinetta don't eat that much.

ED

Try telling that to that poor chicken.

VINETTA

(walking pass Ed)

Look out you old fool.

She goes into the bathroom:

Scene 5. cont.

ED

I'm going over to Tom's, I'll be back
in a little while.

As he leaves out the door he says very loudly:

ED

That's if I have a place to come back too!

He leaves:

Betty starts to put the food back into the refrigerator.
Vinetta comes back into the kitchen and sets down at the table
looking over all the food.

She sees a pie:

VINETTA

Oooo Betty, ya'll going to eat that pie?

BETTY

Vinetta, I'm not going to let you eat that
pie.
You just ate 8 pieces of chicken.

VINETTA

I'm a big girl and big girls need lots of energy.
(with a sneaky look on her face)
Hey, I just stopped by to holler at ya'll, I'm
on my way over to mama's house.

Betty turns her back to put some water in the frig.

Vinetta quickly puts the pie in her large purse.

VINETTA

I'm leaving now, I'll talk to ya'll later.

She quickly leaves out of the door, Betty turns and looks for the
pie but it was gone.
She puts her hands on her hips and shakes her head.

SCENE 6. INTERIOR – LIVINGROOM

Betty enters the livingroom and walks to the front door and exits it.

SCENE 6a. EXTERIOR – FRONT PORCH – DAY

Ed, Tom and Mary Jo is sitting on the porch.

Betty comes onto the porch and sits next to her husband.

BETTY

(wiping sweat from her face)

It's so hot! My cookies began to bake before
I put them in the oven.

MARY JO

You're baking cookies, what kind?

BETTY

Oatmeal.

MARY JO

You know I once ate an oatmeal
cookie, and it made my eyes cross up.

ED

Are you sure that's all it crossed up?

Betty hits him on the shoulder.

TOM

(sniffing the air)

Boy! They sure do smell good.

BETTY

I better go check on them.

Betty goes into the house:

After a while she comes out with a plate of fresh baked cookies.
Everyone takes a cookie, she puts them on a table and sits down.
They're all talking about how good the cookies are.

Scene 6a. cont.

Betty notices her neighbor Ms. Connie coming up the walkway.

MS. CONNIE

(at the foot of the steps)

Betty! I know you done fix something sweet,
the smell came from your house to mine.

BETTY

I baked some oatmeal cookies, would you
like some?

Betty holds out the plate Ms. Connie takes some of the cookies.

MS. CONNIE

(taking a bite of cookie)

Hmmmm! This is good, thank you Betty.

She walks off eating the cookies.

BETTY

(addressing Ed, Tom, Mary Jo)

Why is it everytime I cook something, people
come like birds at a birdseed convention?

TOM

Well Betty, the birds go to the birdseed
convention to taste the birdseed.
I guess they come to taste your food.

Everybody looks at him in disbelief, then starts to laugh.

SCENE 7. INTERIOR – DUFUS’ KITCHEN

Mary Jo, Tom, Ed and Betty is at the table playing cards when Mary Jo’s friend Annie Lee comes in.

ANNIE LEE

(pulling up a chair)

Put me in the next round,

(lighting a cigarette)

I’m tired, I took the kids to the library.

TOM

Libraries are fun!

ANNIE LEE

You go to the library Tom?

TOM

No, but I once got freaky in the back of a bookmobile.

Everybody laughs:

There’s a knock at the door:

Mary Jo goes to the door and opens it; it’s Ed’s brother North and his girlfriend Poppy.

NORTH

Hi Mary Jo, we’re looking for Ed and Betty.

MARY JO

Come on in they’re in the kitchen.

Care to join us in some cards?

NORTH

Sure, what are you playing?

As they enter the kitchen:

ED

What wind blew ya’ll by?

POPPY

(comically)

The North!

Scene 7. cont.

Everyone looks at her:

POPPY
Ooops, my bad.

ED
I got an idea, why don't we all go over to my
backyard, it's shady and cool and the table is big
enough for everybody.

TOM
Sounds good to me!

Everybody leaves:

SCENE 8. EXTERIOR - -JOHNSON'S BACKYARD- EVENING

GENERAL CONVERSATION-----LAUGHING AND TALKING
(OPEN DIALOGUE)

Suddenly, they're interrupted by Betty's mother toting her
suit case.

MAMA JUDE
(upset)
No wonder ya'll didn't hear me knocking!
Out here getting drunk and playing cards.

ED
Mama Jude! We didn't know you were
coming.

MAMA JUDE
North, didn't you tell them?

Scene 8. cont.

NORTH

Sorry ya'll I forgot.

MAMA JUDE

(slaps Ed on the head)

Take my bag in the house!

(Ed takes the bag)

I'm tired, it was a long drive.

BETTY

(addressing her mother)

Mom, you only drove 10 blocks.

She sits in the chair and starts fanning with her hand.

MAMA JUDE

Yeah, but I had to take a detour.

BETTY

Where's daddy?

MAMA JUDE

I don't know I put him out.

BETTY

(surprised)

You put him out! For what?

Mama Jude starts to cry:

MAMA JUDE

He's cheating on me, I saw him go into
a jewelry store with a younger woman.

He was all smiles, he even opened the
door for.

He don't open doors for me!

NORTH

Daddy loves you too much for that mama.
She was probably just a friend.

MAMA JUDE

You been listening to too much Biz Markee.

Scene 8. cont.

MAMA JUDE (CONT.)

(addressing Betty)

If he calls, I'm not here.

I don't never want to see him again!

She get up and goes into the house.

SCENE 9. EXTERIOR – FRONT OF ED'S HOUSE

Betty's father and the young lady Mama Jude saw gets out of the car and walks toward the house.

Ed, Betty, North and the rest of their friends met them.

ED

(addressing Betty)

At least he has good taste.

Betty hits him:

PAPA JUDE

(Fred Sanford style)

I bought a package over for your
mama.

TOM

Hot dang!! Betty your daddy's
freakier than I am.

PAPA JUDE

(loudly)

Who you calling freaky?

BETTY

She don't want to see you daddy.

Scene 9. cont.

PAPA JUDE

I was just trying to make her happy!

NORTH

Dad, mom's a little too old for a threesome.

PAPA JUDE

What!!!!

PAPA JUDE

Boy! You're dummier than a jackass in a corn field.

This young lady is a party planner I hired to put together your mother's birthday party.

Mama Jude heard what he had said and came onto the porch.

MAMA JUDE

(holding her arms out)

Come here you old handsome hunk.

They hug and kisses:

PAPA JUDE

I knew tomorrow was your birthday.
So I got Pamela to help me with it, we went
and got you this yesterday.

He takes out the ring and puts it on her finger.

Mama Jude looks at it and smiles with tears in her eyes.

MAMA JUDE

I love you, let's go home I have a
package for you too.

PAPA JUDE

(devilishly)

And I'm ready to open it.

They forget about Pamela, gets in the car and drives off.

Everybody goes into the house, including Pamela.

FADE OUT.