

Leave Me The Hell Alone

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM/RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

The room looks almost medical with linoleum floors, two beds and sparse decorations. Two elderly men are side by side in an old-fashioned love seat.

EDDIE (80s) has a big grin and sunny disposition. Sits uncomfortably close to JACKIE (80s) who is asleep.

EDDIE
(whispers)
Jackie. Jackie.
(pokes)
Hey Jackie.

Jackie opens his eyes. Licks drool from the corner of his mouth. Glares at Eddie.

JACKIE
Why would you wake me up?

EDDIE
Good dream?

JACKIE
No, bad roommate. Leave me alone.

Jackie closes his eyes again. Wiggles to get comfortable.

EDDIE
Come on, Jackie. It's Wednesday. You know what that means.

JACKIE
Pretty sure I don't care.

Eddie holds up an OLD-FASHIONED JUMP ROPE.

EDDIE
It's jump rope day!

Jack barely reacts.

EDDIE
Jackie, we've been talking about this for weeks!

JACKIE
No, you've been talking about this for weeks.

EDDIE
Well I can feel it. Today's the day.
We're finally going to get the nurses
to join in.

Eddie excitedly bobs his head up and down.

EDDIE
Bonga, bonga, bonga, bonga!

Jackie just glares. Annoyed.

EDDIE
Nothing? Really?

JACKIE
You know those kids that live in
straw huts and play with rocks?

EDDIE
What, like in Africa?

JACKIE
Yeah. Poor, malnourished, shoe-less
and yet somehow, incredibly happy.
You know why?

EDDIE
Is this a trick question?

JACKIE
It's because they don't know any
better, Eddie.

Jackie closes his eyes. Tries to go back to sleep.

EDDIE
Wait. In your story -- am I the kid?

JACKIE
I was thinking more the rock.

EDDIE
Good one.

JACKIE
Right. Now leave me alone.

Jackie closes his eyes again. Eddie gets closer.

EDDIE
Jackie, we're friends right?

JACKIE
Not really.

EDDIE
Lately, you seem a bit depressed. Do you want to talk?

JACKIE
No.

EDDIE
Did something happen?

JACKIE
Does anything happen here? Ever?

EDDIE
I just want to cheer you up, buddy. Come on. Let's go watch some bouncing nurse boobies.

JACKIE
Eddie, I hate jump rope. I hate this room. I hate this place. I hate just about everything, including you.

Eddie furrows his brow. Carefully studies Jackie's face.

EDDIE
So, you don't want to go.

JACKIE
That would be correct.

Eddie finally gets up. Leaves Jackie to close his eyes once more.

Jackie opens them again as Eddie gets to the door.

JACKIE
You know what, why don't you just leave the jump rope.

EDDIE
Really?

Jackie smiles widely.

JACKIE
Yeah. And pull the curtains when you go.

FADE TO BLACK