

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