

Sex Ed

By

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SCENE 1

The scene is set in the Receiving & Discharge¹ room of a state penitentiary. It is early in the morning. There is a large desk at center stage. A computer sits on top of it. Next to the computer is a stack of file folders. There is a large whiteboard calendar behind the desk. The lighting is very bright. In this scene, the convicts are clad in their full state-issued uniforms.

SERGEANT SHARPE is doing paperwork at his desk center stage. SKEETER, a prisoner, is pushing a broom behind him and off of his radar.

ED GOODRICH, another convict, walks onstage from left. His hat is pulled down to cover his eyes. He approaches the desk and stands there for a few moments, waiting for SARGE to look up. SARGE doesn't acknowledge him.

ED clears his throat.

SARGE

What?

ED

They sent me down here.

SARGE

Who?

ED

The C.O. on my block said you needed to see me. He wrote me a pass.

ED hands SARGE a small, white piece of paper.

SARGE

You got your ID?

ED digs into his pocket and hands SARGE his State ID Card.

SARGE rifles through his paperwork. Once he finds the paper he's looking for, he checks it against ED's pass and ID.

SARGE

You know why you were sent for?

ED

Something about parole.

SARGE gets up and walks around the desk, bringing the paperwork and ID with him.

¹ Receiving & Discharge is where prisoners are processed into the system upon their arrival and out of it when they are discharged.

SARGE
Follow me.

ED trails SARGE. They exit stage right. A few moments after they leave, SKEETER heads over to stage right and sneaks a look at where they've gone. SKEETER is eavesdropping when CHUCKY enters from stage left carrying a partially filled trash bag.

CHUCKY
Yo, Skeet. Where's Sarge?

SKEETER is startled, but doesn't make a sound. He points offstage.

CHUCKY
Does his trash need emptied?

SKEETER shushes him and continues eavesdropping.

CHUCKY
Yo, homes. I don't have all day. I still gotta wax the hall.

SKEETER meets CHUCKY at center stage.

SKEETER
You'll never guess who just went back there.

CHUCKY starts to guess, but SKEETER cuts him off.

SKEETER
Goody.

CHUCKY
Eddie Goodrich?

SKEETER
I know, right?

CHUCKY
To the sex machine?

SKEETER
Yes the sex machine.

CHUCKY
You sure?

SKEETER
He wouldn't even look at me.

CHUCKY
I thought he had a robbery.

SKEETER
Yeah, I guess he snatched that snatch.

CHUCKY
You're lying. You always twitch when you're lying.

SKEETER
Two packs. Bet that.

CHUCKY
You already owe me two from the Mayweather fight.

SKEETER
Scared money don't make money.

CHUCKY
You for real it was Goody?

SKEETER
See if it wasn't.

SKEETER goes back to his eavesdropping post. CHUCKY takes SARGE's trash can from behind the desk and empties it into his bag.

SKEETER suddenly stops eavesdropping and starts sweeping again.

ED enters from right, followed by SARGE. ED passes by SKEETER.

ED
Hey.

SKEETER doesn't respond.

ED stops at the desk. SARGE signs the pass and hands it back to ED along with the ID. CHUCKY is doing his best to pretend that ED is invisible.

SARGE (to ED)
You can go back to the block.

ED
Thanks.
(to CHUCKY)
Hey, Chuck.

CHUCKY

Hey.

ED

I had to see the parole people again.

CHUCKY

Oh.

ED

They had to take my prints 'cause my home plan's for out of state.

CHUCKY

Oh.

ED

You hear anything about your thing yet?

CHUCKY

Huh-uh.

ED

Don't sweat it, man. Things'll work out for you, you know?

CHUCKY

Yeah.

ED

Alright, dude. See ya back on the block. Don't work too hard.

CHUCKY

Mm-hmmm.

ED exits stage left.

SCENE 2

The D-Block dayroom. The place is also very brightly lit. It is mid-afternoon. Three cell doors form a line upstage. There are prisoners playing cards at the tables. A phone bank is optional. Prisoners could be seated there talking to each other or making calls. A water fountain is at center stage. The prisoners can be dressed in either their uniforms or in some combination of sweat suits, t-shirts, and sweat shorts.

CHUCKY enters from stage right. Without looking in, CHUCKY raps on the door of the middle cell. A light flicks on and a face appears in the window.

CHUCKY

Jay, hit your button.

After a moment, the cell door unlocks then slides open. JAY pokes his head out.

JAY

What's up?

CHUCKY

Walk to the fountain with me.

JAY emerges from the cell with a mug in his hand.

JAY

What's the deal?

CHUCKY

Goody was down at work today.

JAY

Okay.

CHUCKY

I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it.

JAY

Believed what?

CHUCKY

Skeeter was there too.

JAY

What are you talking about?

CHUCKY

Goody was on the sex machine.

JAY
Goody? Get outta here!

CHUCKY
Shhhhh. It's not funny.

JAY
It's always the ones... Well, I guess I can't say that.

CHUCKY
C'mon. You tellin' me you knew?

JAY
No. I didn't know. But am I shocked?

CHUCKY
This is Goody we're talking about.

JAY
I didn't peg him for a deviant, but he's not exactly well-adjusted.

CHUCKY
But I never thought...

JAY
Did you really believe all that drugstore cowboy rap? I mean, what'd he claim to hit? Like a dozen pharmacies?

CHUCKY
Maybe not. I kinda thought he was just a regular fiend or something. I was in like four programs with him.

JAY
Could've been both. Maybe he hit a lick for some oxy's and got rapey with the pharmacist.

CHUCKY
Be serious.

JAY
Did you ask him?

CHUCKY
No.

JAY
Oh, I get it. You want me to find out.

CHUCKY

No. He'll know I told you.

JAY

You said Skeeter was there too.

CHUCKY

You can't just ask him.

JAY

Suit yourself. I won't ask him, then.

CHUCKY

If you ask him, don't say I told you.

SCENE 3

Later the same evening, outside in the D-block yard. The block yard consists of a stone wall topped with concertina wire. It's fairly cold and the guys are dressed in sweatpants, coats, and hats. Only BIG DUMMY is wearing his state-issued belt and pants. JAY, CHUCKY, SKEETER, BIG DUMMY, TONE, and BRI are hanging out in a group near a picnic table.

BRI

No way, dude. Rax has the most fireball roast beef sandwiches since cows were invented.

TONE

Rax isn't even in business anymore.

BIG DUMMY (*looking at the gambling slip tucked in his palm*)
You like the Bucs or the Reds tonight?

BRI

Where they playing?

JAY

Who cares where they're playing. Look at the pitching matchup.

TONE

I think it's in Pittsburgh.

BIG DUMMY

The Pirates are probably good money then.

JAY

Let him go. He wants to lose.

ED enters from stage left.

TONE

I think it's Oriano versus Guido.

JAY

Liriano and Cueto. What've you been watching all year?

BIG DUMMY

Guido's tough. I'm circling Cincy.

ED

What's up?

The conversation stops abruptly.

JAY
'Sup, Goody.

The rest of the guys mumble greetings.

ED
Just got off the phone with my pop.

JAY
Yeah?

ED
He had a sit down meeting today with my lawyer and two judges from over in Essex County.
This dude Steinmetz he got me is a gun for real.

JAY
Oh. That's good.

ED
Yeah, he's getting things set up so I go right over to Jersey and get that shit taken care of.

JAY
Cool, cool.

ED
It's like way different over there. I'll get right in and out of court. The sheriffs all know my old man, so I'll get real food from the door. I'm gonna make them take me to a steakhouse before they drop me at the county.

JAY
Dang, dude, that's some serious sway. But what about Court here?

ED
I been done with that. All I got left is Jersey and I'm home to roam.

JAY
You sure about that?

ED
Yeah, that's what the lawyer says. And my Dad'll get his ass disbarred if he fouls this up.

JAY
You get registered today?

ED
Huh?

JAY

This afternoon. Did you get registered?

ED

What? That? That was just some parole stuff I had to do.

JAY

That's funny, 'cause this warrant was delivered to my hut when you came back.

JAY removes a long scroll of paper from his waistband, and unfurls it.

JAY

Edward Goodrich, you are officially charged on suspicions of sexual molestitude. How do you plead?

ED

What the hell are you talking about?

JAY

How do you plead?

ED

I'm no sex offender.

JAY

The defendant pleads not guilty.

JAY lays the scroll on the same and pulls a homemade gavel from his coat pocket and bangs it on the picnic table. While he's doing that, BIG DUMMY pulls out a mop head he's been hiding and dons it as a wig.

JAY

Court is now in session. Let the case of...
(to BIG DUMMY) take that off.

BIG DUMMY

Baristas always wear wigs.

JAY

You're the Bailiff, not a barrister. And you look like a tranny.

JAY raps the gavel again.

JAY

Like I was saying, the case of the Convicts versus Goody is now is session.

ED
This is bullshit and I don't have time for it!

ED turns to leave.

JAY
Bailiff!

BIG DUMMY grabs ED and easily slams him into a seat at the picnic table.

JAY
I don't think you want this trial held in absentia. Now, you have your choice of competent counsel to represent you.

JAY motions towards TONE and BRI.

ED
I'll represent myself.

JAY
As you wish. But the creep who represents himself has a fool for a client.

ED
I'm no creep.

JAY
Your Honor.

ED
What?

JAY
I'm not a creep, Your Honor.

ED
I'm not a creep, Your Honor.

JAY
That remains to be seen. Tony, Brian, since Goody has opted to proceed pro se, you will be presenting the case on behalf of the convicts. Call your first witness.

TONE
I call Charles McMahon.

BRI
Call Skeeter first.

TONE

No. I'm calling Chucky. Chuck, take the stand.

JAY

Charles McMahon, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so long as it suits you?

CHUCKY *nods affirmatively.*

JAY

You'll have to speak up so we have your response on record.

CHUCKY

Yes.

TONE

Mr. McMahon, where were you on the afternoon of... what's today?

BRI

The twenty-second? No. The twenty-third.

TONE

Where were you the afternoon of the twenty-third?

CHUCKY

I was at work.

TONE

Would you tell the Court what you did that day?

CHUCKY

Yeah. I was finishing my rounds, emptying the garbage, when Skeeter got my attention.

BRI

And who is this Skeeter?

CHUCKY

Skeeter got my attention and told me that Goody had gone in the back room with Sergeant Sharpe.

TONE

Go on.

CHUCKY

I waited around for a minute and Goody came back out with Sarge.

TONE
Did you talk to him?

CHUCKY
I could barely look at him.

TONE
Did you talk to him?

CHUCKY *doesn't respond.*

TONE
Did you talk to him?

JAY
Answer the question.

CHUCKY
Can I plead the fifth?

JAY
No.

CHUCKY
He talked to me.

TONE
What did he say?

CHUCKY
He said he was back there getting printed.

TONE
Did he tell you why?

CHUCKY
Yeah, he said it 'cause he was being paroled out of state.

TONE
No further questions.

ED
Do I get to cross-examine him?

JAY
No. Next witness.

ED

But –

JAY

Next witness.

PHONE

I call Skeeter Townsend and I'd like to qualify him as an expert.

JAY

In what field?

PHONE

Meghan's Law-ology.

JAY

What are his credentials?

PHONE

He's worked at Receiving and Discharge for five years and has seen all types of sickos and freaks come through there – who knows, he might even be one.

JAY

Very well, I'll accept. Skeeter Townsend, do you swear to tell the truth so long as it benefits you?

SKEETER

I do.

BRI

How long have you worked at R & D?

JAY

Check it out, dude, we're trying to have a trial here. If you don't stop asking questions I already know the answer to, I'm bringing you up on suspicions of being a monkey.

BRI

My bad.

PHONE

You were at work on the October the twenty-third?

SKEETER

I was.

PHONE

Please fill us in on what went down.

SKEETER

I was pretending to work and waiting for Sarge to leave his desk unattended so I could steal some of that good cop coffee, when this weirdo tried to slink in without being seen.

JAY

Let the record show that Skeeter has identified Goody as the weirdo in question.

PHONE

Then what?

SKEETER

Sarge took him back to the room with the sex machine. I was doing my best to listen to see what kind of creep case the dude had when Chucky came in and made a bunch of noise.

PHONE

And did you ultimately find out who Goody had unlawfully made sex on?

SKEETER

No. You can thank Chucky for that.

PHONE

What did you find out?

SKEETER

I heard Sarge telling him he couldn't come within five hundred feet of something or other.

ED (*jumping to his feet*)

Objection! Queersay!

SKEETER *stands up and gets nose to nose with him.*

SKEETER

Call me a homo again.

ED

I'll call you whatever I want.

SKEETER *takes his index finger and jams into ED's temple.*

SKEETER

I know you're not gonna do nothin'. If you don't watch your mouth, I'm gonna take your parole.

ED (*pushing SKEETER's finger away*)

You won't take shit.

JAY
Bailiff.

BIG DUMMY *separates the two of them.*

SKEETER
I can't wait to belt you black 'n blue, you diaper snipin' faggot.

JAY
Calm down, Skeet. Objection sustained. Sharpe isn't here. Just say what you saw Goody do.

ED *and SKEETER return to their seats.*

SKEETER
He had his prints and his picture taken.

STONE
Is that all?

SKEETER
That's all I can say for sure. But if Chucky hadn't been howling the whole time, "Oh, it's not Goody. It can't be. Not Goody," I'd be able to give you more.

STONE
And in your experience, what is that machine used for?

SKEETER
It's the Meghan's Law database for the state cops. They take the touchers there and log them in before unleashing them back into the wild.

STONE
Does anyone have their picture taken that isn't a creep?

SKEETER
No.

STONE
The convicts rest, Your Honor.

JAY
Very good. Goody, it's your turn. Would you like to plead guilty now in exchange for a reduced sentence?

ED
I'm not gonna cop a plea for something I didn't do.

JAY

That's your right. Present your case.

ED

Alright. I call myself to the stand. Mr. Goodrich, why did you go down to R & D? I went down to R & D...

TONE

Objection. He can't ask and answer his own questions.

JAY

Sustained.

ED

What I am supposed to do then?

JAY

Call another witness. I don't care. But you will abide by the Rules of Procedure in this Court and answering your own questions is a clear violation of some legal doctrine that I don't feel like citing.

ED

Fine. Gimme a lawyer then.

JAY

Bri, do you accept this Court's appointment?

BRI

I do, Your Highness.

JAY

Proceed.

ED

Don't you need to swear me in?

JAY

You planning on lying?

ED

No.

JAY

Proceed.

BRI

First question, when did you stop touching kids?

ED

I never... what, no? You can't ask like that.

BRI

This is a hostile witness, Your Highness.

JAY

Answer the question.

ED

I don't touch kids.

BRI

Who'd you rape then?

ED

I didn't rape nobody!

TONE

My turn. Does that mean you *did* rape somebody?

ED

No!

JAY

I can see we're not getting anywhere with this. Closing arguments.

BRI

My client pleads involuntarily.

ED (to BRI)

No I don't. You're fired.

(to JAY)

Will you let me talk a minute.

JAY

This goes against the very nature of these proceedings, but in the interest of justice I will allow it.

ED

Look, they called me down to parole. Sarge took me to the back office. He told me they needed to get my prints on file before I could go to Jersey. I went through the process. Then everyone starting acting funny. I didn't rape anyone. I never touched any kids. And that's it. Those are the facts.

JAY

The machine you were printed on was the sex machine. You know that, right?

ED

I don't know anything but what I told you.

JAY

Tone, any argument from the convicts?

STONE

Yes, Your Honor. Since Goody's been here, he's always claimed to be a junky and a robber and I don't doubt that he's both of those things. But he's also told some wild stories about his Dad bribing judges, his family going on vacation with Governor Christie and Billy Joel, and his brother owning ten percent of the Brooklyn Nets. We had three witnesses put him at the scene of the sex machine on the twenty-third, one of whom was the defendant himself. We also heard expert testimony from Skeeter, whose as good an eavesdropper as there is, saying that the sex machine is only used for creeps and deviants. I say he's guilty as charged and we request the maximum punishment allowable by law.

JAY

After considering the evidence from both sides, I hereby proclaim Edward Goodrich guilty as charged.

ED jumps up out of his seat.

JAY

Bailiff.

BIG DUMMY

Sit down.

BIG DUMMY socks ED with a body shot that buckles him.

JAY

Goody, the convicts have spoken. You are sentenced to a vigorous belting that will commence immediately.

JAY nods to BIG DUMMY. BIG DUMMY undoes his belt as the group circles ED.

ED

How 'bout an appeal.

The house lights fade out.

JAY

How about not.

The group laughs loudly as BIG DUMMY belts ED repeatedly.

SCENE 4

Back in the dayroom the next day, JAY and TONE and BRI are hanging out and playing cards at one of the tables.

JAY
What a freakin' jerk.

TONE
Can you believe he put us through that?

BRI
A whole trial when he could've just copped to it from the jump.

JAY
What's he think, we like issuing beltings?

CHUCKY enters from left and sits down next to JAY.

CHUCKY
Jay, can I talk to you a sec.

JAY
I'm listening.

CHUCKY
Well, it's just that I was at work today and I seen one of the ladies that's in charge of parole.

JAY
Who was down there this time?

CHUCKY
Nobody. It wasn't anybody. But I had a chance to pull her to the side and ask about Goody.

JAY
And?

CHUCKY
His story checked out.

JAY
So?

CHUCKY
You don't think we should apologize?

JAY

Nah. Suspicion is nine tenths of the law.

CHUCKY

I don't know, man. I just feel like what we did was wrong or something.

JAY

Yeah, sure. I can understand that. You gonna be around tonight?

CHUCKY

Yeah, man, of course. You think I got a date?

JAY

Cool. We'll hang out in the block yard.