

NYCHA

Written by

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FADE IN.

INT. FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOUSING - SINGLE MOTHER'S APARTMENT -
LIVING ROOM - DAY

A SINGLE MOTHER changes the dirty diaper of a her youngest child, with the oldest child there to assist her.

SINGLE MOTHER

Okay, watch your sister, Keisha.
I'm gonna throw this in the
incinerator. I'll be right back.

KEISHA, keeps a close eye on her baby sister.

KEISHA

Okay.

The single mother balls up the dirty diaper and leaves her daughters to step out of her tenth floor apartment.

INT. FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOUSING - HALLWAY - DAY

The single mother comes to the incinerator and throws a fit when she finds it jammed with one of her neighbor's trash.

SINGLE MOTHER

God damn it! My neighbors are so
ghetto. Look at this mess. This
shit makes no sense.

Single mother stands in the middle of the hallway and addresses all of her neighbors from the top of her lungs.

SINGLE MOTHER (CONT'D)

I wish people would stop jamming
the garbage chute with their trash!
There are other people living on
this floor besides you, whoever you
are!

The single mother attempts to push her neighbor's trash down the garbage chute then comes to her senses.

SINGLE MOTHER (CONT'D)

Man, to hell with this shit! Let
somebody else deal with this shit.
Why should I be the one?

The single mother walks back to her apartment still holding on to her daughter's dirty diaper.

INT. SINGLE MOTHER'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Single mother has no idea what to do with the dirty diaper in her hand.

SINGLE MOTHER

That's it. We're getting the hell out of NYCHA. I had it up to here with NYCHA.

KEISHA

NYCHA? What's NYCHA?

SINGLE MOTHER

NYCHA. You know what NYCHA stands for.

KEISHA

No, I don't. What's NYCHA?

SINGLE MOTHER

NYCHA, New York City Housing Authority. No more questions, not until I figure out what to do with this dirty diaper.

INT. FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOUSING - BELTRAN HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - DAY

ROBERTO, a bored nine-year-old who happens to live ten floors below the single mother, finds his mother putting her spices away in the pantry.

ROBERTO

Ma, can I go outside with my skateboard?

ROBERTO'S MOTHER

With all those knuckleheads hanging around outside? I don't think so.

ROBERTO

Come on. We live on the second floor. Can't you just watch me from the window?

ROBERTO'S MOTHER

No, I can't just watch you from the window, Roberto. Don't you see that I'm busy in here? Hang out in your room.

Roberto rolls his eyes and turns his back on his mother.

INT. THE BELTRAN HOUSEHOLD - BEDROOM - DAY

The sign on the door reads "Roberto's Room." Roberto hears chicks chirping from a nest in a tree right outside his second story bedroom window.

ROBERTO
Hey, you guys finally hatched, huh?
It's about time.

Roberto can't stick his head out the window to get a better look at the chicks because of the screwed in window guards.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
How many chicks are in the nest?

Roberto starts counting the number of chicks in the nest.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
I see one, two, three, three
chicks.

A fourth chick pops its head out of the nest.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
No, four. There are four chicks.

Roberto can't help but notice a pair of shorts dangling from a tree branch.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
Oh, look at that. One of my
neighbors upstairs tossed a pair of
shorts out the window. Who does
dumb stuff like that?

Roberto pulls himself away from the window and leaves the room.

INT. THE BELTRAN HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Roberto grabs a broom and goes back to his room.

INT. THE BELTRAN HOUSEHOLD - ROBERTO'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Roberto goes to his window and tries to knock the pair of shorts off the tree branch with the broom stick but can't reach it.

ROBERTO

If it wasn't for these damn window guards, I'd have a better chance of reaching it.

Roberto gives up trying to get his neighbor's shorts down from the tree.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

Fucking window guards! Window guards are for babies! I don't know why I have to get permission from NYCHA to take these stupid things down.

Roberto can't stand looking at a his neighbor's shorts in the tree any longer and decides to try again.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

Man, forget NYCHA! These window guards are coming down.

Roberto storms out of his bedroom.

INT. THE BELTRAN HOUSEHOLD - HALLWAY - DAY

Roberto gets his father's toolbox out of the closet.

INT. THE BELTRAN HOUSEHOLD - ROBERTO'S BEDROOM - DAY

Roberto rummages through the toolbox and finds the right screw driver to unscrew the window guards.

ROBERTO

This should work.

Roberto unscrews one of the window guards and takes it down.

INT. SINGLE MOTHER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The single mother is tired of holding the dirty diaper, so she goes to the window and throws it out.

INT. BELTRAN HOUSEHOLD - ROBERTO'S BEDROOM - DAY

Roberto stretches his arm out the window holding the broom stick.

ROBERTO

Now, this is more like it.

Roberto succeeds in knocking his neighbor's shorts out of the tree with the broom stick, only to get hit on the head with the dirty diaper the single mother just tossed out the window.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

Ah-Ha, so, babies falling to their deaths is not the only reason why NYCHA wants tenants to keep their window guards up at all times. I see that now.

Leaving the turd on his head, Roberto puts the window guard back in place and never speaks of taking them down again.

FADE TO BLACK.