

Eddie Nib and the Outer Space Ape

written by

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INT. HOUSE LANDING - EARLY MORNING

A couple are in the midst of a heated argument.

ANGELA paces up and down waving her hands. She's dainty but certainly delivers.

EDDIE NIB remains in one spot. He's composed but a slight twitch suggests a hidden bubbling rage.

ANGELA

Seriously, what the hell is going on in that head of yours?!

EDDIE NIB

Oh will you please give it a rest?

ANGELA

Give it a rest?! Need I remind you we have got a six year old child under our roof!

EDDIE NIB

I'm well aware of that.

He glances to his son's room.

The door is open but nobody's inside.

EDDIE NIB

Where is he anyway?

ANGELA

See this is what I mean! It's in one ear and out the other!

EDDIE NIB

Just a simple question.

ANGELA

He's with my mother, like i told you this morning!

EDDIE NIB

Oh. Good.

ANGELA

I mean when was the last time you took him to the park hmm? Or-or watched a film together? Christ, when was the last time you did anything to take your mind off...

She runs her fingers through her hair.

EDDIE NIB

You can say his name.

ANGELA

He's not even a 'he', Eddie.

EDDIE NIB

Look am I gonna get this shit every time I come back from the pub? It's not my fault I got locked in a conversation with Bill about Bern--

ANGELA

No! Don't say it!

She huffs and sits on the stairs.

ANGELA

Eddie, this has got to stop.

EDDIE NIB

Alright I'll come back earlier next time.

ANGELA

I mean, the whole situation with...

EDDIE NIB

You really can't say it, can you?

ANGELA

He's a character, Eddie. You're clinging to a make-believe world, it-it's not healthy.

EDDIE NIB

Oh don't be so dramatic.

ANGELA

The emails to the producers, talking Bill's ear off down the pub, the online pleas to bring this thing back it-it's madness. You need help.

EDDIE NIB

Pfft. Like you understand anyway.

He pushes past her and jogs downstairs.

ANGELA

A fucking cartoon character Eddie!

EDDIE NIB

I'm going to the garage! I'm telling you Ang, I will not rest until he's brought back into prime time television.

She knocks her head against the wall.

"I'm losing my husband".

INT. GARAGE - EARLY MORNING

He storms in, flicks on the light and turns his attention to a box marked MEMORABILIA.

Takes out a figurine of...

BERNARD BABOON.

The character wears a bright yellow jacket and trousers and a green tie.

EDDIE NIB

How did it come to this eh? She doesn't know what she's talking about. Pfft, 'Make-believe world', she's the one that needs her head tested, not me.

He clutches his hero close to his chest.

EDDIE NIB

You've still got so many more adventures. They can't just pull the plug.

LATER

Flashes of blue seep through the gap under the garage door.

Rain bangs against a tiny window.

Eddie Nib sits on a chair, mouthing along to a video tape of Bernard Baboon in action.

CHILD (O.S)

(On T.V)

So what's your name?

BERNARD BABOON (O.S)

I'm Bernard Baboon, the Outer Space Ape. I'm being pursued by my nemesis The Flamingo. He may look friendly and flamboyant but don't be fooled, those feathers are deadly.

CHILD (O.S)

Cooooool.

BERNARD BABOON (O.S)

Now, where's the control panel? Let's start up this ship so I can return home.

CHILD (O.S)
Er, this is my treehouse.

Eddie Nib chuckles.

EDDIE NIB
Classic.

MOMENTS LATER

CHHHHHHHHH!

The picture cuts out.

EDDIE NIB
What the...?

A Live action show appears on screen, two characters embracing on a beach.

Eddie Nib panic-stricken.

EDDIE NIB
No no no. She didn't.

He swiftly removes the tape and bolts out of the garage.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

He bursts through the door, almost snapping the hinges.

Angela scream and reaches for the bedside lamp.

ANGELA
Oh god, you nearly gave me a heart attack, what's wrong with you?!

He throws the tape on the bed and points urgently.

EDDIE NIB
Read the label.

ANGELA
Oh Eddie, I don't have the energy for this.

EDDIE NIB
Read it!

ANGELA
Fine! Do not touch.

EDDIE NIB
Exactly. Just like those profiteroles in the fridge. Start the diet Monday eh Ang?!

ANGELA

Oh well can you blame me?! You drove me to it! You're utterly obsessed with this stupid monkey!

EDDIE NIB

Baboon!

ANGELA

Whatever! What's the big deal anyway?!

EDDIE NIB

You used this tape to record one of your stupid soap operas. You've erased twenty minutes of the pilot!

She laughs in his face.

ANGELA

Can you hear yourself?!

EDDIE NIB

Because of you it's no longer a collection!

ANGELA

Oh grow up Eddie!

EDDIE NIB

Just wait til Bill hears about this.

He heads for the door.

ANGELA

The pub's closed he won't be there!

EDDIE NIB

Then i'll go to his house!

She rubs her face.

Exhausted.

ANGELA

You're not doing yourself any favours.

EDDIE NIB

At least he listens!

He slams the door.

She smacks the sheets and throws her head back on the pillow.

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

He opens the fridge and removes the plate of wrapped up profiteroles.

Sits at the table and opens his laptop.

A website dedicated to Bernard Baboon flashes on screen.

He scrolls through comments.

EDDIE NIB

(Reading)

Barry Baboon or whatever his name
is should never have existed. I
mean a baboon from space?! Why
not a story about a baboon in a
zoo?

Eddie Nib curls his lip.

Offended by the very notion.

EDDIE NIB

What is wrong with people?!

Starts typing aggressively.

EDDIE NIB

How dare you besmirch the
reputation--

Suddenly the laptop powers off.

EDDIE NIB

Daarrgghh!

He swipes the profiteroles off the table.

ANGELA (O.S.)

What was that?!

EDDIE NIB

I told you to charge the laptop!

She slams her bedroom door.

MOMENTS LATER

DOOMF! DOOMF! DOOMF!

Eddie Nib's attention shifts to the door leading to the garage.

EDDIE NIB

Oh what now?!

INT. GARAGE - EARLY MORNING

He stomps over to the garage door.

Listens closely.

DOOMF! DOOMF!

EDDIE NIB

This is private property get the
hell out of here!

A white card is fed through the gap below.

Eddie Nib picks it up, reads it.

TRIP TEZUNGA ANIMATOR OF THE LIVING.

He tries to tear the card but it remains intact.

Marches to the switch on the wall, flicks it, the door opens
and he scans the streets.

EDDIE NIB

What's the big idea?! Hey?!

No response.

He throws the card into the bushes and closes the door.

EDDIE NIB

God, freezing now.

He turns to his memorabilia box and finds the same card
resting on top of it.

EDDIE NIB

How did...?

He studies it and finds a number on the bottom.

LATER

He walks up and down the garage waiting for a response on the
phone.

Fidgety and still full of fire.

EDDIE NIB

C'mon, c'mon.

A jolly voice comes through.

TRIP TEZUNGA

Trip Tezunga, Animator of the
living.

EDDIE NIB

What do you think you're playing at?

TRIP TEZUNGA

Sorry?

EDDIE NIB

You just posted your card under my garage door!

TRIP TEZUNGA

Yes I did Mr. Nib, for good reason.

EDDIE NIB

It's half two in the pissing morning! What kind of a...how do you know my name?

TRIP TEZUNGA

I sensed you needed help.

Eddie Nib pauses for a moment then smirks.

EDDIE NIB

Oh hang on. This is you isn't it Bill? Yep. Well done, very elaborate.

TRIP TEZUNGA

Bill?

EDDIE NIB

Although one little snag, shouldn't that be Animator 'for' a living?

TRIP TEZUNGA

Oh hehe, you're not the first to make that observation. No, it's not a typo I can assure you.

EDDIE NIB

Oh come on, cut the crap. I mean 'Trip Tezunga?' Where did that come from?

TRIP TEZUNGA

It's my name and always has been.

EDDIE NIB

Pfft. Is that so?

Eddie Nib tries to tear the card again but fails.

EDDIE NIB

You know I'm really not in the mood for this Bill.

TRIP TEZUNGA

There's no Bill here. Just you,
me and the opportunity of a
lifetime.

EDDIE NIB

Right, j-j-just stop okay you're
taking the piss now!

TRIP TEZUNGA

Look, why don't we start again?
My name is Trip Tezunga. I
specialise in shape-shifting.

He takes a seat.

EDDIE NIB

Shape-shifting?

TRIP TEZUNGA

Tell me, do you have a character
in mind?

He's skeptical but goes along with it.

EDDIE NIB

Alright, yes. Yes I do, but I
don't see how you--

TRIP TEZUNGA

And the name of this character?

Sighs.

EDDIE NIB

You know his name. Bernard.
Bernard Baboon.

TRIP TEZUNGA

Do you have merchandise of
Bernard? Anything will do?
Poster? Lunchbox? Mug?

EDDIE NIB

Yeah i've got a mint condition
figurine.

TRIP TEZUNGA

Do you have it with you?

He gets up, walks over to the box and removes it.

EDDIE NIB

I'm holding it now.

TRIP TEZUNGA

Great.

(MORE)

TRIP TEZUNGA (CONT'D)
 Now what I want you to do is
 close your eyes and picture him.

EDDIE NIB
 Are you serious?

TRIP TEZUNGA
 Only him.

He's fazed, comes to the conclusion...

"This isn't Bill".

TRIP TEZUNGA
 Hello? Are you still there?

EDDIE NIB
 J-just give me one second! Let me
 process this.

He pauses, then closes his eyes.

EDDIE NIB
 Right, my eyes are closed.

TRIP TEZUNGA
 You can see your character?

EDDIE NIB
 Yes yes.

TRIP TEZUNGA
 Perfect. Now, all you need to do
 is utter your character's
 catchphrase.

EDDIE NIB
 That's it is it?

EDDIE NIB
 Do that Mr. Nib, and the colour
 that's absent from your life will
 be restored.

EDDIE NIB
 Jesus. Can't believe I'm doing
 this.

TRIP TEZUNGA
 Nice and clear now.

Takes a deep breath.

EDDIE NIB
 (Bernard Baboon's voice)
 Marvel at the might of the
 martian monkey!

Waits patiently for his 'transformation'.

Opens his eyes and checks himself over.

EDDIE NIB
 Yep, just as I thought.

TRIP TEZUNGA
 No change?

EDDIE NIB
 No! Y-you got me, well done!

TRIP TEZUNGA
 What? N-no.

EDDIE NIB
 Thanks for wasting my time Tit
 Tazunga!

TRIP TEZUNGA
 P-please stay on the line.

Eddie Nib is about to end the call when the phone slips from his grasp.

His arm flops down to his side.

The same thing happens with his opposite arm.

He lets go of his figurine.

EDDIE NIB
 What's going on?

TRIP TEZUNGA
 Ah, here we go.

His face droops.

Now bearing an uncanny resemblance to a Saint Bernard.

EDDIE NIB
 (Slurred)
 C-call an ambulance!

TRIP TEZUNGA
 Try not to panic.

He collapses with a thud.

EDDIE NIB
 Daaah!

TRIP TEZUNGA
 It's all part of the process Mr.
 Nib, I can guarantee you no pain
 is involved.

Eddie Nib groans and drools as he drags himself across the floor.

He reaches for a shelf and pulls off a tub of screws.

TSSSSHHHHHH!

Twists violently onto his back and whimpers at the sight of his rippling skin.

He's a human lava lamp.

EDDIE NIB

H-help me!

TRIP TEZUNGA

Not long now, you're half way there.

EDDIE NIB

Half way there to what?!

He rolls onto his side, clutches his stomach and vomits up a puddle of cartoon mess.

EDDIE NIB

Arrh! You said no pain!

TRIP TEZUNGA

Just the colour stage to go.

EDDIE NIB

Colour stage?!

Patches of colour flash across his body.

He falls into a fit of uncontrollable laughter.

EDDIE NIB

St-haha-stop, it tickles hahaha!

His body proportions begin to mutate.

Everything goes black.

FADE IN

EDDIE NIB POV

TRIP TEZUNGA

Mr. Nib? Can you hear me?

EDDIE NIB

Awwwww, my head.

TRIP TEZUNGA

There now, that wasn't too hideous was it?

EDDIE NIB

What just happened?

TRIP TEZUNGA
It worked, that's what happened.

EDDIE NIB
I need to find a mirror.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Of course. In your own time.

He stands up and falls right back down.

EDDIE NIB
Ow!

TRIP TEZUNGA
All good?

EDDIE NIB
No I fell over!

TRIP TEZUNGA
You've been born again as it
were, like a newborn calf.

EDDIE NIB
Come on Eddie you've got this.

He gets back on his feet, takes one step forward and falls
against a shelf knocking over a paint can.

EDDIE NIB
Shit!

He glances at his trembling, ape-like hands.

EDDIE NIB
Daaah!

TRIP TEZUNGA
It's a lot to take in I know.

EDDIE NIB
My hands! The colour is blinding
me!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Your eyes will adjust to your new
tone, don't worry about that.

He uses the shelf as support and steadily pulls himself
towards a mirror.

EDDIE NIB
I've found one.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Oh boy are you in for a treat.
Ready?

EDDIE NIB
Yes and no.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Then Eddie Nib, say hello to
Bernard Baboon!

Eddie Nib lifts the mirror to his face.
An unfamiliar creature stares back.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Well? Impressive or what?

He feels around for the chair behind him and drops down onto
it.

Mouth gaping, eyelids flickering.

TRIP TEZUNGA
There a problem? It's the hair
isn't it? You know I can never
get it spot on.

He throws up a second helping of animated chunks.

EDDIE NIB
(Raspy)
What have you done to me?!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Is it not to your satisfaction?

EDDIE NIB
Not to my satisfaction, you've
turned me into a monster!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Erm--

EDDIE NIB
Where are the trousers?!

A putrid green fog seeps out of his underpants.

He gags.

TRIP TEZUNGA
He never wore trousers Mr. Nib.

EDDIE NIB
Oh yes he did! And look at the
jacket, Bernard never wore this!
His was of the highest quality
and crisp yellow! This is weak
mustard at best!

TRIP TEZUNGA
W-well--

EDDIE NIB
And why am i skeletal?!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Bernard is skeletal.

EDDIE NIB
The hero is never skeletal!

TRIP TEZUNGA
R-right.

He glimpses down at his red raw behind.

EDDIE NIB
Oh god, where's the dignity?!

TRIP TEZUNGA
I-i don't think he has dignity,
that's the whole point of the
show isn't it?

EDDIE NIB
And what is this?!

He pulls off a ginger toupee to reveal flies circling his
mole-riddled scalp.

EDDIE NIB
Bernard Baboon had a full head of
hair! He didn't wear a flimsy
piece of carpet on his head!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Sure he does. Don't you remember
the episode where it went
missing?

EDDIE NIB
I have been following him since I
was a child! I know every episode
and he never wore a wig!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Er, Mr. Nib. Bernard Baboon has
only been on the air for a couple
of weeks.

EDDIE NIB
No, 1988 is when it first aired!

TRIP TEZUNGA
I'm afraid you're mistaken.
Surely you must have seen him on
TastelessToons?

EDDIE NIB
Tasteless what?

TRIP TEZUNGA
It's a channel for adult
animation. They usually broadcast
it right about now.

Eddie Nib frantically switches on the T.V.

EDDIE NIB
What channel?

TRIP TEZUNGA
Eighty eight.

He's utterly distraught at the newly regenerated Bernard
Baboon who is now a sitcom character.

He covers his mouth.

TRIP TEZUNGA
My favourite episode is where the
drug dealing meerkat shows up.
You won't believe how many of my
clients opt to be turned into him
hehe.

Eyes watering.

EDDIE NIB
Every drawing. Every painstaking
moment in animation to fit him
into the Saturday morning
schedules. And for what...?

TRIP TEZUNGA
It's got pretty good reviews.

Eddie Nib switches off the T.V and throws the remote at the
garage door.

EDDIE NIB
Gaaahhhh!

TRIP TEZUNGA
I'm guessing you don't like
gross-out humour?

He buries his head in his hands.

EDDIE NIB
I-i-i can't do this.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Is it really that bad?

EDDIE NIB
They've turned him into an object
of ridicule don't you see?!

He paces up and down, eyes darting, hands shaking.

TRIP TEZUNGA
So, let me get this straight.
Bernard Baboon's been on before?

EDDIE NIB
Outer Space Ape! 1988!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Can't say I recall.

EDDIE NIB
I want you to change me back,
right now!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Ah, yes, you see--

EDDIE NIB
I don't care how you do it just
put me back in my own body!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Let me consult my handbook.

EDDIE NIB
Handbook?!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Getting on a bit you see hehe.
Mind's not what it once was.

EDDIE NIB
If my wife sees me like this
she'll keel over! She hates
Bernard as it is.

EDDIE NIB
I-i'll have you back to normal in
no time, trust me.

Flash of lightning.

LATER

Eddie Nib is slumped against his box, phone in his hand.

He's about to dose off...

TRIP TEZUNGA
A-ha!

EDDIE NIB
What?! What?!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Here we are. Reversing the
process.

EDDIE NIB
Finally!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Now unfortunately you're going to
have to make a small...er,
sacrifice.

Eddie Nib looks up to the ceiling and raises an eyebrow.

"The wife'll do".

EDDIE NIB
Go on.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Yes, em, the doll.

EDDIE NIB
My mint condition doll?

TRIP TEZUNGA
I'm afraid you're going to have
to dispose of it.

EDDIE NIB
Dispose of it?!

He glances back in the mirror and gags at his reflection.

EDDIE NIB
Yes yes let's do it. I've still
got other things to treasure.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Ah. Yes I'm afraid anything
significant to your character
must go.

EDDIE NIB
No. No way.

TRIP TEZUNGA
Eddie--

EDDIE NIB
I am not prepared to turn my back
on a lifetime of precious
memories!

TRIP TEZUNGA
I understand that but if I could
just--

EDDIE NIB
Don't you see?! Doesn't anyone
see?! Without Bernard I'm
nothing!

TRIP TEZUNGA
Please calm down.

EDDIE NIB
No! No i-i'll give up the
figurine but that's your lot!

TRIP TEZUNGA
But that's not how it works, you
could suffer damage if you only
give up one--

EDDIE NIB
Oh shut up!

He picks up his figurine and smashes it.

ON BLACK

FADE IN

Eddie Nib is fully restored.

He open his eyes, lifts his head and winces, he's groggy.

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

He walks in to find Angela furiously wiping up the
profiteroles off the floor.

EDDIE NIB
Hey.

She blows the hair from her face and scowls at her husband.

EDDIE NIB
How did that happen?

ANGELA
You know full well how it
happened! At least now I won't
put on anymore weight hey!

EDDIE NIB
Well I can see somebody got out
of the wrong side of the bed this
morning.

ANGELA
Don't start with me! Go and get
dressed, you've got a doctor's
appointment in half an hour.

He tilts his head and squints.

EDDIE NIB
Doctor's appointment?
(MORE)

EDDIE NIB (CONT'D)
Why would I need a doctor's
appointment? Although, my head is
banging.

ANGELA
You know full well why!

He looks his wife up and down.

"She been drinking?"

EDDIE NIB
I-i'll go and get dressed then.

He turns to walk up the stairs.

MOMENTS LATER

Angela lets out a piercing scream.

EDDIE NIB
What's the matter?

She points at him.

He looks down to find he still has Bernard Baboon's red raw
behind.

EDDIE NIB
Holy shit!

ANGELA
What the hell is that?!

EDDIE NIB
I-i-i don't know! S-some kind of
allergic reaction?!

ANGELA
Wait. Oh my god. It's him. You're
actually turning into Bernard
Baboon!

EDDIE NIB
Who?

FADE OUT

THE END