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# **ERNIE ' S GIRLS**

"Life's a Picnic"

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FADE IN:

INT. ROBINSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ernie drinks from a half gallon milk carton by the sink. Vanessa enters, pours a cup of coffee. She notices a bowl on top of the stove, quickly moves it to the counter.

VANESSA

What's my potato salad doing on the stove?

ERNIE

There was no room in the refrigerator for our beer.

VANESSA

You mean, your beer? The oven's on, Ernie. Why didn't you at least put it in the cooler? Or for that matter, put your beer in the cooler. I can't even take this now.

ERNIE

(dismissive)  
It's fine.

VANESSA

Fine for making somebody sick. Now, I need to take something else to the picnic. And I'm not cooking anything else.

As Vanessa opens the freezer, Ernie makes a face at the webcam, mocking.

VANESSA

Great. And an empty ice tray in the freezer.

Vanessa removes the tray.

ERNIE

Must've been Toni. She won't drink out of a juice box anymore.

VANESSA

Uh-huh.

Vanessa closes the freezer, opens refrigerator.

ERNIE

Or Whitney. She's so snooty with her, "I only drink out of a glass now, Dad."

VANESSA

Mm-hmm. So, I guess the empty juice bottle is from one of the girls, too.

ERNIE

(shrugs)

Vanessa, you've done your best to raise 'em right. What more can you do?

VANESSA

And the butter?

Vanessa shows Ernie a dented stick of butter.

VANESSA

Is that a fingerprint?

ERNIE

You know Brandi's lactose intolerant. That girl would do anything to ruin breakfast for everyone.

VANESSA

(restraining herself)

You know what? I just need my coffee. One little cup of coffee.

ERNIE

Sure, honey. That'll make you feel better.

While Vanessa returns the butter to the refrigerator, Ernie quickly wipes his buttery fingers on a kitchen sponge.

ERNIE

(quietly, to camera)

Let's hope she makes it a big one.

Ernie finishes the milk.

VANESSA

Don't tell me we're out of milk, too.

Fed up, Vanessa closes the refrigerator. Ernie tries to hide the carton from her view.

ERNIE

Didn't I see you finish it with  
your bowl of cereal?

VANESSA

I didn't have cereal this morning,  
Ernie. But, you know what? You look  
hungry.

ERNIE

Me? No, I'm good.

VANESSA

Are you kidding? You look ravenous.

Vanessa sets the potato salad and serving spoon in front of Ernie.

VANESSA

Eat up. Like you said, it's fine,  
right?

ERNIE

(hesitates)  
Right.

VANESSA

Great!  
(coolly)  
Then, dig in.