

# *Ray Ray's Storybook*

*by*

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Cast of Characters

MARLO: 30

JANICE: 28

RAY RAY: 28

Place

Queens home

Time

1:00 AM

Setting: Modest home in Queens in need of renovation.

At Rise: Marlo stands in the middle of the living room and Janice sits on the couch.

**MARLO:** He don't listen this kid, he don't listen to anything I say.

**JANICE:** What happened now?

**MARLO:** Can't even go down to the pub with him, before he starts getting into fights, the dumb shit that he is---

**JANICE:** Who was he fighting now?

**MARLO:** I told him, I said, "Ray Ray, I don't mind if we hang out, but don't start losing your head cause I'm not in the mood." And what does he do? After two drinks he's barking at the bartender, giving demands like he owns the place and I know Phil since I was a kid, he's a good guy and we're good friends and Philly looks at me totally confused cause if Ray Ray wasn't my cousin, he'd probably give 'em a beating he'd never wake up from, alright?

**JANICE:** But you're not explaining what he did?

**MARLO:** I'm telling ya, I'm telling ya that he was getting all up in Philly's face, like, you know that tone he takes like he's the Prince of Denmark or some shit and I can't stand it when he does that cause he always makes me look like an asshole in front of my friends or whoever I'm around. He's got no self-control.

Alright, so, he starts acting up and Philly gives me a look and I tell Ray Ray to calm down and stop acting up and he tells me that Philly keeps giving him dirty looks. So, right off the bat I tell Ray Ray that we should go but then he pleads with me that he'll be on good behavior and straighten up, won't cause trouble and all that shit, so I said okay and on we go with the night.

'Bout another drink later he goes off to the toilets and he's gone for like a good fifteen minutes or so, so I go and check on him, make sure he's alright but he wasn't alright...Ray Ray is sprawled out on the bathroom floor completely knocked out. Got an egg on his head the size of like your heel on your foot, ain't never seen a knot like this in my life.

I pick him up and lean him up against the radiator but I didn't realize the radiator was full on and it was sizzling his ass cheeks the whole time I had him sitting on it, but at some point he springs up and starts screaming like a siren and I had no idea his ass was getting grilled and he pushes me aside in this tremendous rage and bursts out of the bathroom shouting and pointing like a mad man at Philly and I'm trying to hold him back and Philly pulls out a wooden bat and I get in front of Ray Ray and he starts taking swings at random people.

He punches Freddy from the car wash, he punches Rudy from the freakin' ah, the mechanic shop, he almost punched Susie but missed thank God and he throws a glass full of beer at Philly and Philly is a big guy alright, you know Philly, you know this son of a bitch can eat a man for breakfast and he jumps over the bar with the wooden bat and he's going for Ray Ray and I don't blame him one bit but it's my cousin and I'm not gonna let anybody touch my cousin right or wrong, right?

**MARLO** (cont'd): So, what happens? I try to get in front of Philly but that's like a fly trying to stand in front of an elephant and in one swipe of his hand I'm already on the floor, I don't even know how it happened, it was like getting hit by a car, I swear, and so there's Ray Ray about to get his brains pushed out of his ears and I bum rush Philly and jump on his back and put him in a choke hold and let me tell you right now, it was like trying to put a choke hold on a freakin' bull, alright?

So, now me and Philly the tornado are spinning around in circles and I swear it was like trying to pin down a lion, he wouldn't go down, so I started biting his head, I must have punctured about thirty holes in his skull with my fangs but he wouldn't stop and I didn't even wanna fight this bastard but it's my cousin and Ray Ray is standing on top of the bar laughing his head off while I'm punching holes in Philly's head and Philly just won't stop.

What happens?

By now I'm exhausted and out of nowhere Ray Ray jumps off the bar counter, feet flying through the air and straight into Philly's face. Done. Out for the count. Both of them, knocked out from the impact and jackass Ray Ray is stuck beneath Philly.

After I finally pull Philly off of Ray Ray, we made our way out of the joint but then I got into it with Ray Ray and we started goin' at it in the parking lot and I ended up putting his ass in the trunk. He's in the trunk right now as we speak.

**JANICE**: You're all insane.

**MARLO**: I'm insane? I wouldn't be insane if I didn't have insanity all around me. I tried to stop the thing from happening.

**JANICE**: You should have let him attack Ray Ray, teach him a lesson---

**MARLO**: He was gonna kill 'em. I know Philly a long time.

**JANICE**: Good! Let him kill him then.

**RAY RAY**: Ain't nobody killing me.

**MARLO**: How'd you get out from the trunk?

**RAY RAY**: I picked it from the inside. Not the first time I been in a trunk.

**JANICE**: Your forehead looks abnormal. I think you should go to the hospital.

**RAY RAY**: I'm not going to no hospital. Fuck that.

**JANICE**: I ain't never seen anything like that before, Marlo.

**MARLO:** Hey, let me look at your head.

**RAY RAY:** I'm fine, man!

**MARLO:** Shut up, let me see it.

*Ray Ray reluctantly shows Marlo his head.*

**RAY RAY:** Just a knock, man.

**MARLO:** Looks like a tumor.

*Ray Ray imitates Arnold Schwarzenegger from the movie Kindergarten Cop.*

**RAY RAY:** It's not a tumaaa, it's not a tumaaaa.

**MARLO:** It's funny to you, right Ray Ray? This is funny. (to Janice) Look at him, a comedian now.

**RAY RAY:** What's wrong with a little humor, man, everything's gotta be so fucking serious all the time.

**MARLO:** Idiot! You fucking made a mockery out of me at the pub and now I have problems with Philly cause of you!

**RAY RAY:** I could have took him.

**MARLO:** You weren't taking shit, if I didn't step in you woulda been dead right now.

**RAY RAY:** That big fat bastard wasn't gonna do shit.

**MARLO:** No, huh?

**RAY RAY:** Oh, please, one shot to the balls he would have dropped like a bag of ice.

**MARLO:** What's wrong with you? Why you always causing trouble? Can't even go grab a drink with you and have a decent time. Gotta cause a ruckus, always gotta cause a ruckus, right?

**RAY RAY:** You don't see what I see?

**MARLO:** What do you see?

**RAY RAY:** He came into the bathroom and elbowed me in the head and that's after he was making faces at me all night.

**MARLO:** He put that egg on your head?

**RAY RAY:** Yes, he did.

**MARLO:** He was working the bar counter, what the hell are you talking about Ray?

**RAY RAY:** I'm telling you he hit me and took off.

**MARLO:** Did you see his face?

**RAY RAY:** ...No.

**MARLO:** You didn't see his face before he elbowed you?

**RAY RAY:** It felt like him.

**MARLO:** Felt like him? You going crazy or what?

**RAY RAY:** It felt like a big guy is what I mean.

**MARLO:** So, it could have been anybody that hit you.

**RAY RAY:** It was Philly.

**MARLO:** You're stupid.

**RAY RAY:** I don't have to see his ugly face to know it was him.

**MARLO:** (to Janice) See? This is what we're dealing with.

**RAY RAY:** You taking that asshole's part?

**MARLO:** Yeah! I am!

**RAY RAY:** Why you taking his part over my part?

**MARLO:** Cause your part is the crooked part, cause everything those two eyes in your head sees is wrong.

**RAY RAY:** Doesn't matter cause even if it wasn't fat fuck Phil it was somebody.

**MARLO:** Could be anybody cause everybody loves you.

**RAY RAY:** I'm not like you, okay? People don't like me cause I speak the truth. Fuck 'em.

**MARLO:** There's no getting through to you.

**RAY RAY:** Hey Janice, Janice----

**JANICE:** Leave me outta this---

**MARLO:** Leave her alone, Ray---

**RAY RAY:** I just wanna ask a simple question---

**JANICE:** I'm going upstairs to bed, goodnight!

*Janice goes upstairs in a hurry.*

(pause.)

**MARLO:** ...Why do you act like this?

**RAY RAY:** Act like what?

*Marlo gives Ray Ray a look.*

Cause it's how I am, I don't know, I'm not deliberately trying to cause a problem, you know, I just wanted to go to the bar and have a drink with you is all, it's everybody else giving me a hard time all the time. It's like there's this storybook out on me and everybody's read it, so they know my story and because they all think they know my story, they treat me a certain way, which isn't right and rather than treating me based on what they believe, they should treat me based on how they know me themselves.

**MARLO:** You're right.

**RAY RAY:** I'm right?

**MARLO:** Yeah, you're right.

**RAY RAY:** Right.

**MARLO:** But two wrongs don't make a right. If you trained yourself to have restraint, if you didn't allow people to get a rise out of you, they'd never win and you'd flip the script. Whatever narrative people keep telling themselves about you, it would change cause you are showing the narrative you want them to see, but that's up to you.

**RAY RAY:** Fuck them all.

**MARLO:** I know. You're right, but you're gonna fight everybody that gives you a look or makes a remark and one day you're gonna look back on a life filled with fighting over things that weren't worth fighting for...we could have had a chill time tonight...talking, drinking, being cousins and it was taken away from us cause you couldn't resist your own temper and here we are...

**RAY RAY:** It's hard for me to let things die without saying anything. I feel like people take advantage of me and get the last word and I hate that shit.

**MARLO:** Let them. What difference is it gonna make, Ray? Who gives a shit?

**RAY RAY:** I do.

**MARLO:** Stop caring about what other people think, cause at the end of the day it means nothing. Go grab some ice in the fridge before that thing on your head explodes and ruins my furniture.

*Ray Ray goes into the fridge and gets some ice.*

**RAY RAY:** Where's a cloth, got a---oh, can I use this towel over here?

**MARLO:** Use it. I'm all sore, taste blood or some shit in my mouth. Disgusting.

**RAY RAY:** Oh shit, the way you were hole punching Philly's head. (laughs hysterically)

*Marlo laughs, too.*

**MARLO:** I didn't know what else to do, he wouldn't stop chasing you.

**RAY RAY:** Now that's a memory to remember right there. I won't forget that one.

**MARLO:** Neither will I.

**END OF PLAY**