

Fresh Off The Boat  
Same-Same But Different

Written By

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Based on the TV Show "Fresh Off The Boat"

FADE IN:

INT. ROOM. - MORNING

"Never Had A Friend Like Me" by 2Pac plays over a series of close ups of someone touching a gangsta cap, caressing a 2Pac CD (1994 Thug Life: Volume I) and feeling a gold chain.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Breakfast!

The hands clasp the gold chain and put them in a pocket. The draw it came from is closed. The person sneaks out of the room marked "Do Not Enter Haterz".

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Jessica places pancakes on the table. Emery sits at the table already eating.

Eddie enters, sweaty.

JESSICA

Why are you so sweaty?

(Beat)

Oh no. Don't answer that,

EDDIE

I'm working out Ma. Starting from today, I'm waking up early, getting my Nikes on and crunching up the bod like never before. In no time I should look like 2Pac.

Eddie hands over a folded poster.

JESSICA

Where did you get this? How did you afford it? Are you dealing drugs?

EDDIE

It came with the album Ma, even has his signature on it.

Jessica examines the paper. She smells it for drugs. Open it up, looks at the poster, then Eddie, then back to the poster.

JESSICA

But he is black, and you are...

(Beat)

Panda.

EDDIE  
It's all about the Vitamin D Ma.  
Jessica looks at Emery for a translation.

EDDIE  
The more exposure I get-

EMERY  
From the sun...

EDDIE  
Will get me tinted and toned-

EMERY  
Darker skinned...

EDDIE  
And I'll have homiez round the  
block-

EMERY  
Boys and Girls from school...

EDDIE  
Wanting my autograph and shizzz.

JESSICA  
Don't swear!

Evan enters and sits next to Eddie. They fist pump. Emery looks at his watch, then at Evan.

EMERY  
Where have you been?

JESSICA  
(To Emery)  
Hey! Why are you so mean to Evan?  
Huh? He is my favorite- the  
favorite- the son... that I like the  
most.

(To Evan)  
Hi Evan.  
(Gasp)  
Why are **you** so sweaty?

Evan looks at his mum and bashfully smiles.

JESSICA  
Oh never mind. You allowed.

Eddie gags after trying to **eat** some pancake.

EDDIE

Ew. What is in these?!

JESSICA

Ha! I tricked you! You thought your Mummy was going to start cooking you Orlando food! Well your Mummy is smarter than that. Tell them Emery.

EMERY

It's Durian. Some people believe it's aroma to be pleasantly sweet, while most others compare it to rotten onions and sewage.

JESSICA.

Next time just say, "It's Durian" because, Emery, the rest of it was very boring.

Emery shrugs.

EDDIE

While you two go to war, us slum kids are struggling to survive...  
*that ain't no lie.*

(Beat)

That's good lyrics. I'm out.

Eddie pushes the plate away and exits. Jessica looks at Evan for his approval but he too pushes the plate away and follows Eddie. Jessica frowns. Emery puts a comforting hand on her shoulder.

EMERY

Where's Dad?

JESSICA

Upstairs. He is sweaty too. I made him work really hard for mummy this morning.

Emery, confused, nods his head. Emery exits.

Mum takes a bite of the pancake and gags.

JESSICA

Ugh. White people food.

She pulls out the durian and eats that instead. She licks her fingers after.

INT. ABRAHAM LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL - LUNCH

1

Trent and Walter and peach - talks about having a rap battle at lunch. yeah that sounds cool. etc etc.

he must discover his gold chain is missing.

meanwhile at home. Jessica is trying to cook more white food from her white friends.

back home.

DINNER AT CATTLEMAN RANCH

2

isn't this nice a family dinner altogether?

Eddie shrugs. Evan copies.

It is indeed Dad. Thank you for having us at your well established restaurant: Cattlemans Restaurant.

Emery you did it again. The first part was nice. The second part was boring. Stop doing that.

Eddie clears throat

I don't mean to break up the

food in the place.

Dad tells Mum to put it away because it is scaring the customers.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Generic raps beats play in Eddie's ears as he spins some words together.

EDDIE

... It was like food but not. It's mostly smelt like rot. **Nice.**

He writes the lyrics in his book.

Evan enters. Eddie takes out his earphones and shoves his lyric book under a pillow.

EDDIE

What's up homie?

EVAN

What are you doing?

Eddie looks around. He gets up, closes the door and listens

for anyone outside.

EDDIE

I'll let you on on a big secret  
brother. Come on, sit down.

Evan joins Eddie on the bed. Eddie takes out his lyrics.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

This is my book of Wordz yo.

EVAN

What's that?

EDDIE

You see, as we live this hard life  
of ours, it's always really  
important to write down the  
struggles we all have. To reflect  
on the journey so far and what is  
to come.

EVAN

Woah.

EDDIE

It's aight. If I start now... my  
music will be hella heavy when I'm  
ready to be released.

EVAN

Can you read some to me?

EDDIE

No. Are you kidding Evan. Top  
Secret.

(Beat)

But I've never shared that with  
anyone before... so you are pretty  
special E.

Eddie puts the book away.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Now get out of here. I gotta put  
some swear words into verse three.

Evan opens to door to leave.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Oh yeah... Have you seen my gold  
chain Evan?

Evan shakes his head. He leaves the room, closes the door and touches the gold chain around his neck.

EXT. FRONT YARD - MORNING

Eddie drills a basketball. He throws it up and claps once. Repeats this a few times, increasing the number of claps. He adds a spin and the ball goes awol. He runs after it.

INT. ROOM - MORNING

The door creaks open. Someone brushes their fingers across the now stuck up poster of 2Pac, a bling-ring on top of the drawers and towards the book of lyrics under the pillow.

JESSICA (O.S.)  
Breakfast!

The hand grabs the bling-ring and exits.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Eggs and Beans are on the table. Jessica stares at Emery as he moves his mouth, she does not know what he is saying.

EMERY  
- and I think that's where  
astrophysicists have got it wrong  
because the equation should have  
that extra F in the 42nd line.

Eddie enters.

JESSICA  
Oh thank god you are here.

Emery frowns.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
What?! It's boring Emery.  
(To Eddie)  
How's the workout, you got two  
packs?

EDDIE  
It's 2Pac and I'm going for more of  
a six pack actually. Wanna see?

JESSICA  
No.

EDDIE  
Wanna see Emery?

EMERY

No thanks, Edwyn.

Evan enters. He sits next to Eddie, they fist pump. Emery checks his watch.

EMERY

Where have you been?

JESSICA

Emery! Again! With the language!  
You got something against my most,  
- the most, - my son... that is my  
favorite?

(To Evan)

Hi Evan. What have you been doing  
this morning?

EVAN

Nothing.

JESSICA

I believe him.

EDDIE

Hey Evan wanna see the start of my  
six pack?

Evan nods his head. Eddie lifts up his shirt. There are  
lines drawn all over his stomach.

EVAN

Cool.

JESSICA

Ay yah not cool.

She licks a piece of cloth and tries to wipe Eddie's  
stomach.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

That better not come off onto the  
shirt.

EDDIE

It's permanent. Looks like this six  
pack is sticking around.

Jessica stares at Eddie. Is this really her child?



EMERY

Mum, what is for breakfast today?

JESSICA

Ah yes, good job. Today we have the Orlandian egg and beans.

Eddie and Evan look at each other concerned. They take a bite. To their surprise they enjoy it. Jessica watches with wide eyes.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

You like that huh?

They nod. Jessica high fives Emery.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Well you just ate authentic asian again! Ha! You thought I was gonna change, looks like **your** wrong again. You just ate bee larvae!

Eddie tries to spit out the beans. Evan copies.

EDDIE

Not cool Ma! The old disguise food as something else trick... *I better keep you in check.* Damn that's tight.

Eddie pushes his food away and exits. Evan copies.

EVAN

Not cool Ma!  
(While walking away)  
Damn that's tight.

Jessica looks at Emery and they both shrug.

EMERY

Where's Dad?

JESSICA

I don't know. I don't care. We are having a fight. Don't get involved. But tell your dad, if you see him...

3

Emery exits. Ma takes out a squirming bee larvae, looks it square in the eye.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Hello Hachinoko... Goodbye

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Hachinoko.

She eats it.

INT. ABRAHAM LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

4

Evan puts invitations to a rap battle into peach and edgers locker. first rule don't speak about the rap battle.

they go thinking it will be eddie but it's not it's Evan all dressed.

Eddie finds Trent and Walter are their lockers before lunch starts.

EDDIE

Where were you guys? I couldn't find you all lunch.

TRENT

We were, uh-

WALTER

We were just-

TRENT

Swimming!

EDDIE

What?

WALTER

Yeah. We had the urge to go swimming.

TRENT

And we know you don't like swimming.

EDDIE

I like swimming.

TRENT

You don't like it that much.

EDDIE

I enjoy it quite a lot.

TRENT

But it's not in your top three things to do for a school day lunch break, right?

EDDIE

True. You know me so well.

WALTER

Yeah so we went and forgot to tell you.

EDDIE

All good homies. Just let me know next time because I'm feeling the burn these days and maybe some H2O could cool it off, you know what I mean.

Walter and Trent look at each other. Phew!

EDDIE

Glad we're keeping no secrets. Because that, my friends, is what tears blood brothers apart.

WALTER

Blood brothers!

TRENT

Eddie, have you seen Evan today?

EDDIE

Hmm? No. I don't hang out on the west side. Especially away from the cribs.

TRENT

You should go see Evan today.

WALTER

Yeah, check out your real blood brother.

EDDIE

Guys it's just a term for like best friends...

Off their looks, Eddie thinks something terrible has happened to Evan. The final bell goes for class.

TRENT

Oh well, maybe just see him after school then.

Slow-mo. Eddie drops all his stuff and sprints to the grade four block.

WALTER

Eddie no! The bells gone. You don't  
have a hall-pass.

Eddie runs. A teacher blocks the hallway. Eddie slides  
between her legs.

PRINCIPAL THOMAS

No running!

A teacher holding a stack of paper walks in front of a fan.  
All her sheets fly all over the hallway. Eddie runs through  
them, like a gangsta money music video moment.

He sees a bench, runs up to it, does a cool ninja-like jumps  
off it and finds himself at Evan's class. He takes a few  
deep breaths recovering from his athleticism.

Eddie looks through the glass pane of the door and sees Evan  
dressed up as a gangsta. Close on his chain, his ring and  
his book. Evan sees him, looks shocked. Eddie is cross.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - SAME DAY

Eddie is still cross. Evan is crying.

Evan sits on one side with Dad, Jessica sits on the other  
with Eddie.

PRINCIPAL THOMAS

So once again Eddie has come up  
against school policies and in the  
process has managed to invoke a lot  
of, how do I put this...

(Beat)

Fear, into an entire year four  
class.

INT. EVANS CLASS - FLASHBACK

Eddie, like a beast of some kind, pushes over desks and  
throws paper all about the room, in an attempt to get to  
Evan.

He rips the chain, the ring and the book out of Evan's hand.

He makes a finger gun with his right hand and points it to  
the roof and at the children.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE - PRESENT

Eddie has no regrets. He looks over at Evan and puts his middle finger up to him. Evan starts crying loudly.

JESSICA

Evan, stop crying! You are not cute when you cry and Mummy feels nothing for you.

Evan calms himself and wipes away his tears.

LOUIS

Evan, you can cry whenever you like okay? Sometimes things make us sad and we must cry about them.

Evan starts crying again. Jessica looks at Louis, angrily. He freezes and changes the subject.

LOUIS

So what's this policy?

PRINCIPAL THOMAS

Ah yes. The final bell had gone, all the children made there way into class but Eddie-

Principal Thomas points at Eddie. Jessica and Louise roll their eyes. They know which one is Eddie.

PRINCIPAL THOMAS (CONT'D)

-decided to: 1) Run through the hall. And 2) why you are really here... Did not have a hallpass.

JESSICA

How much?

PRINCIPAL THOMAS

I'm sorry.

JESSICA

How much do you need for this to all go away?

PRINCIPAL THOMAS

Are you bribing me?

JESSICA

Are you threatening my sons?

PRINCIPAL THOMAS

No.

JESSICA

Good. Then give Eddie a hallpass.  
Write one up now.

Jessica indicates for her to write one. The teacher does so out of fear.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Now, give it to Eddie.

He does so.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Now Eddie. You know what to do.

Eddie sighs.

EDDIE

Principal Thomas I am sorry for  
running in the halls. And here is  
my hallpass for before.

Principal Thomas takes it, unsure of what just happened.

JESSICA

See! He had a hallpass all along.  
You were just late at writing it.  
We forgive you. Let's go boys.

LOUIS

See you at Cattleman's Ranch.

Jessica and the boys exit. Principal Thomas looks at the hallpass and stamps it 'approved'.

INT. CAR - ON THE WAY HOME

The three boys sit in the back. Jessica in the passenger seat and Louis driving.

Eddie stares out the window, his rap music blaring. Evan sings along to it, getting the rap entirely correct.

EDDIE

Shutup Evan.

Evan stops singing. Dad clicks on the radio. Dad starts singing. Jessica switches of the radio.

JESSICA

Shutup Louise.

Emery puts his hand on Louis' shoulder, he feels better. He does the same for Jessica, she feels better. He holds Evan's

hand, he smiles. Evan touches Eddie's hand. He pulls away.

HE WAS MAKING FUN OF ME! big fight. Emery brings it down for 5  
him. Maybe he just wants to be included

wanna be like you

mum and dad they really connect over the i love your cooking  
stuff. eddie and Evan really connect after eddie and him  
write some raps together.

Emery's work is done at keeping the peace.

Emery why don't you go hang out with your brothers. I am  
going to make you daddy very sweaty. Dad smiles and they  
leave for their room. Follow Emery to Eddie's room. He looks  
in, Eddie and Evan are rapping to the same song, Emery  
smiles, follow Emery to his room. He takes his diary out  
from under his mattress, opens it up, the page says, reasons  
why I am adopted. He writes in "I am too intelligent" under  
entries of "i do not like rap", etc... he looks up and the  
frame ends on Emery not smiling.

Evan hands Eddie a picture. It's of Mum, dad, a gangsta kid  
and a normal kid. the lyrics book has to come out.

Expressing yourself Evan. You gotta  
keep this alive and you can make  
some killer material.

1 All of this

**May Grehan Feb 25, 2017 12:55 PM**

2 Food cattlemans ranch. Why does everyone want to change

**May Grehan Feb 25, 2017 12:56 PM**

3 Something

**May Grehan Feb 25, 2017 1:30 PM**

4 All of the school stuff

**May Grehan Feb 25, 2017 1:32 PM**

5 The whole end

**May Grehan Feb 25, 2017 2:10 PM**