

The Middle Ages

CREATED By Stephen Neigher

PUPPY LOVE EPISODE

Lead Characters

Byron Cornell 14, rising eighth grader. Cooler than cool, he thinks. Girl magnet in his head, basketball star, dancing fool, unconcerned student. Refers to himself in the third person

Lani Cornell, 12, Rising 7th grader. Adorable, tweener, very insecure about who likes who when, Very curious about boys, smart, but settles, crush on Derrick's friend. Worried about the way she looks at all times.

Dean Cornell, 10. Rising 5th grader. Incredibly smart, but hides it. Photographic memory. Wants to be cool like brother Byron and have a posse.

Nat Cornell. 38. Father. Gym teacher at middle school. Sports coach. Way too busy. Laissez faire parenting style. Oblivious/trusting as to what kids are up to. Former star athlete at school. Still has macho instincts. Went to State. Married wife at 22.

Toni Cornell. 38. Retiring as major in the Army after twenty years. Took ROTC in college. Met Nat at State. Excellent athlete. Very disciplined. Meddling. Meticulous. Can't help herself.

Toyman. 14. Byron's friend. New to the school. Very cute. Lani's crush.

INT. CORNELL KITCHEN - MORNING

Nat crosses by Byron.

NAT

Byron, did you clean out the old
food from the fridge?

BYRON

I tried, but I couldn't tell if I
was starin' at spinach or mold.

NAT

Well, now that Major Mom's back
from Iraq, you better do it. You
know she's a stickler.

Nat exits. Byron laughs to himself.

BYRON

I'll do it when a black man gets to
be president...
(then, realizes)
Oops.

Byron crosses away just as a crisply dressed Toni enters.
She goes to and opens the fridge. She takes a container.

TONI

Hmmm. I thought China Dragon went
out of business years ago.

Toni takes a bite. She swallows it.

TONI

Not bad.
(then looks at box)
For May 2006!

Toni scowls and throws the container in the trash.

Just then,

SFX/TELEPHONE

Toni picks up the phone.

TONI

Hello. Yes, this is Major Cornell.
Sure I remember Shmoozie the
Dalmatian. She practically lived
in my tent in Bagdad.

(MORE)

TONI (cont'd)
She had puppies? Of course I'd
love one. Put it on the next
plane.

Toni hangs up. Just then, Toni's stomach rumbles loudly and she rushes away to the bathroom.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

The whole family is gathered around eating breakfast.

TONI
So, what's everyone got planned for
the day?

LANI
Well, I've developed a whole new
strategy to get Toyman to like me.

BYRON
You getting an extreme
makeover...homely sister edition?

TONI
Byron!

LANI
That's obviously not necessary in
my case.

DEAN
So, you're just paying him cash?

TONI
Dean!

LANI
According to what I saw on Bebo and
what I read in Teen Word Up...The
way to a man's heart is to either
show him what your family's like or
show him you know how to kiss. I
know which one I'm gonna do.

NAT
Yeah, it's the one that doesn't
involve lips.

TONI
Amen!
(to Byron)
Byron, what are you doing today?

BYRON

Well, after trying to outrun some cheerleaders at school, I plan on selling some autographed pictures of myself to my fans. But don't worry, I'll be donating all the money to a worthy charity.

TONI

That's my boy.

BYRON

Yes, the money goes to the Byron T. Cornell Fund for the providing of a new Corvette to Byron T. Cornell.

TONI

That's my boy, all right.
(turns to Dean)
Dean, what about you?

DEAN

My goal for today is to catalogue the universe and grow six inches.

NAT

What about you, Honey? Any announcements?

TONI

Actually, I do have some exciting news.

Just then, Lani looks out the window.

LANI

Oh look, It's old man Murphy mowing his lawn naked again.

At that, Lani and the boys rush to the window. Toni continues with her news.

NAT

Lani, just keep your eyes on that John Deere.

TONI

(excited)
There's gonna be a new arrival.

Everyone's too distracted to hear her.

NAT
(not paying attention)
Oh, really?

Just then, Toni grabs her stomach.

TONI
Uh oh, I think I'm going to throw
up.

Toni rushes off to the bathroom. Just then, the kids return
to the table.

DEAN
So, what was Mom's big
announcement?

NAT
She said something about "a new
arrival?"

BYRON
A new arrival?

LANI
Say where is she, anyway?

NAT
She's throwing up?

DEAN
Wait a minute. New arrival.
Throwing up in the morning.
Why...she's...

ALL TOGETHER
Having a baby!

Nat falls out of his chair.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Nat and the kids are sitting around.

NAT
This can't be right. How could she
be pregnant? I never visited her
in Iraq.

DEAN
Yeah, and there's no other men over
there.

Dean catches himself, raising his eyebrows.

LANI

I'm sure she's not pregnant.

Just then, Lani re-enters.

TONI

So, everybody excited about the new little one?

Everyone looks shocked.

TONI (CONT'D)

I sure hope it looks like it's father. What a stud he was!

Nat falls backward.

TONI (CONT'D)

Is something the matter, Honey?

NAT

Noooooo. What could possibly be the matter?

BYRON

Mom, are you saying there's gonna be a baby coming?

TONI

Yup. Should be here in a little while.

LANI

She's not even showing.

TONI

It'll be flying in.

DEAN

Classic stork symbolism.

NAT

Toni, how could you?

TONI

How could I not? Something laying down with me on my cot night after night. How could I not form an attachment?

NAT
 Couldn't you have gotten a stuffed
 bunny?

DEAN
 Do you know what sex it is?

TONI
 Doesn't matter to me. I'm going to
 get it fixed anyway.

Everyone reacts.

BYRON
 That's cold.

DEAN
 Don't you want grandchildren?

TONI
 Of course, but you guys will take
 care of that...like in a hundred
 years.

NAT
 I thought you said you never wanted
 to see a diaper again?

TONI
 Why would I bother with diapers?
 We'll just put some newspaper down
 in the kitchen, and once it's got
 the hang of it, it can go outside.

BYRON
 That's cold too.

DEAN
 (to himself)
 I think I can sell the rights to
 this story...this could be a new
 reality show

Toni crosses toward the hall.

TONI
 I'm going to make a list of things
 we're going to need. In the mean
 time, try to find a place I can go
 to have its ears trimmed.

Toni exits. Lani turns worriedly to the others.

LANI
Listen, I'm afraid to look. Will
someone check to see if I have
pointed ears?

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Toni is putting a baking tray into the oven.

TONI
(to herself)
Let's see. This takes about
fifteen minutes to bake.

Just then, the rest of the family enters.

DEAN
Mom, the family wants to talk to
you.

TONI
Be right there. I've got a bun in
the oven.

BYRON
We know, Mom. We know.

TONI
Where's Dad?

LANI
He's upstairs talking to doorknobs.

TONI
That's weird.

DEAN
He's having a little trouble
thinking about the new member of
the family.

TONI
Oh, because of his allergies.
Well, I know this little guy's not
gonna shed. Oh, by the way, remind
me to put a microchip in it.

LANI
Mom!

TONI

Just in case it spots a squirrel
and runs away...That's another
thing. We need to get a strong
leash for the rascal.

BYRON

Mom, No!

DEAN

This could be a mini-series.

Just then, the doorbell rings.

SFX/DOORBELL

Lani opens the door. Standing there is the adorable TOYMAN.

LANI

Toyman!

Toyman steps into the living room and looks at Lani.

TOYMAN

Lani, I got your note saying that
you thought in order to appreciate
you, I should meet your family.

Lani looks around at the mayhem behind her. Nat enters in a
trance.

NAT

I can't believe there's a new baby
coming.

TOYMAN

Really?

TONI

Yeah, and it's going straight to
obedience class.

Toyman reacts.

LANI

She's such a kidder.

TONI

I don't want it using it's six inch
tongue to lick everything it sees.

TOYMAN
 (to Lani)
 Is this your house?

LANI
 Nope. These are neighbors. The
 Sweeneys Hi Mrs. Sweeney.

TONI
 Oh, and Nat, Honey. Please pick up
 a cage for it. It's got to sleep
 in something for the first few
 months.

Toyman's heard enough.

TOYMAN
 I think I've heard enough. Bye.

Toyman exits. Lani shouts after him.

LANI
 No, Toyman. Come back. Don't
 leave. I love you Toyman!

He's gone. Lani turns to Toni.

LANI (CONT'D)
 Well, thanks a lot Mom.

TONI
 What?

LANI
 You being pregnant has ruined
 everything. Plus, what a mean Mom.

DEAN
 Yeah.

BYRON
 Yeah.

NAT
 Yeah.

TONI
 Wait a minute. You think I'm
 having a baby?

Before they can answer, the doorbell rings again.

SFX/DOORBELL

LANI
Toyman's back!

Lani opens the door to reveal a FedEx man with a small cage.
In the cage is a small puppy.

FEDEX MAN
I've got a puppy here for a Major
Cornell.

The amazed family then turns as one to Toni.

ALL TOGETHER
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG!!

THE END.