

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.