

NiceGuys

By

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALEX sits on the couch, watching TV. He is dressed casually, but with clean clothes. The room is also pretty tidy.

NARRATOR OF NICEGUYS COMMERCIAL

So come by our downtown offices
where we can guarantee a
satisfactory revenge and a helping
hand from one of our wonderful
assistants. And remember, an eye
for an eye makes the whole world
just fine.

STEF walks into the bedroom and stands in front of the bed.

ALEX

(Surprised to see Stef)
Hey honey, I thought you weren't
gonna be home until later.

Alex tries to pull Stef onto the bed, but she tears her arm away.

STEF

(Visibly angered and nervous)
Alex, don't touch me.

Alex sits up in his bed.

ALEX

Honey, what-what's wrong?

STEF

You're what's wrong, Alex. I can't
put up with you anymore. I mean,
Jesus! All you do is sit around in
your boxers, watching football and
eating Cheetos-

ALEX

Remember, honey, they're Doritos.

STEF

Cheetos, Doritos, whatever Alex. I
can't clean up after you all the
time, you lazy slob. For God's
sake, get it together! You know why
you're sitting here like a bum?

ALEX

I tried to get a job!

(CONTINUED)

STEF

Alex, you can't wear sweatpants to a job interview, you have to actually show up on time, and what were you thinking when you tried to pass this off as a resume?

STEF holds up a sheet of paper, hand-written with crayons.

STEF

And clean yourself up, you fat pig. Lay off the Cheetos.

ALEX

Doritos.(under breath)

Alex jumps out of bed and slowly walks to STEF.

ALEX

Please Stef, you don't mean what you're saying.

STEF

(her temper rises)

Alex, I meant everything I said. It's over.

ALEX leans toward her to kiss her, placing his arms around her shoulders and embracing her neck. Alex is very emotional. He is devastated.

ALEX

I love you Stef! I love you! Let's just talk through everything, I can change, I will do anything to make you happy.

Alex pulls her closer, his arms are still around her shoulders, trying to settle himself down and keep her from leaving him.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE. DAY

Alex sits slumped on a big chair. He plays with his watch, thinking to himself.

ALEX

I really really liked her, I don't know what went wrong.

THERAPIST

I know, Alex. I know. But it's over now and you have to move on with your life.

ALEX

I pay you \$150 an hour for these stupid appointments and all you give me are stupid words of "wisdom" and questions about how I feel about this or how I feel about that.

THERAPIST

Mmhmm...

ALEX

You see! Right There! You just did it!

THERAPIST

Listen, Alex. I've dealt with situations like these a million times before. There are men who simply cannot take the feeling of rejection and I believe you are one of them. We've been meeting for many months now, and I know you well enough to say that all the aggression (making hand signals), that's unhealthy. That's not getting you anywhere. What you need is serenity, peace. Make peace with yourself, Alex. When you do that, you can finally make peace with Stephanie and move on from this gutter of self-pity that you're in. Does that sound good to you?

ALEX

Honestly, no. Wishing all my problems away won't do anything. they stick to me way too easily. What I need to do is just tear them off.

(CONTINUED)

THERAPIST

What I'm telling you is that you need closure, Alex. A way to finish off this phase that you're in once and for all. And that can be done only with peace. Oh, and no therapy for 3 weeks.

ALEX

What? No! That's ridiculous!

THERAPIST

I'm sorry, Alex. At this point, there's nothing left for me to do. You must heal on your own from now on.

ALEX jumps out and grabs his coat.

ALEX

I'm done with all this nonsense. You're worthless.

ALEX stomps out.

INT. GYM. DAY

Inside of a gym Alex and his friend Marty are lifting dumbbells by a mirror.

ALEX

Then he told me I needed inner peace or something Buddhisty like that.

MARTY

Oh, don't take that crap, dude. These shrinks are whackos, they can't really fix any of your problems.

ALEX

Yeah, maybe. His advice about Stef is just so worthless.

MARTY

Are you still obsessing over her?

ALEX

Not really..

MARTY

Oh yeah, sure-- this coming from the guy who called me at three in the morning crying saying My sniff hearts sniff so sniff broken sniff sniff. (he laughs at his own joke)

ALEX

It was a moment of weakness.

MARTY

Yeah, a big one.

ALEX

Leave me alone.

MARTY

Alex, what did I tell you about getting over women? The best way to get over one of them is to get with a new one. What you need to do is-

ALEX

(interrupting)

I can't take another one of your little nuggets of wisdom. They never work.

(CONTINUED)

MARTY

Please, this one's worked for me
everytime, dude, I swear.

ALEX

Fine, what is it?

MARTY

(very giddy)

Ok. You have like, 5 dates in one
week. Each time, a totally
different girl. Then, at the end of
the week, you decide who was hot.
It's incredible!

ALEX

That sounds a lot like speed
dating.

MARTY

I swear, it's different.

ALEX looks contemplatively back at a now very giddy Marty.

INT DINER. DAY

ALEX and JENNIFER are sitting across from each other at a diner.

ALEX

So, Jennifer, you're a painter...

JENNIFER

Oh, "painter" is such...an ugly word. You see, Alan-

ALEX

Alex.

JENNIFER

Alex. I don't just paint...I get up each and every day to what? To spill the pain and sorrow and agony that is my soul onto a canvas of white. A canvas as white as the sky.

ALEX

Oh my god.

JENNIFER

A canvas as white as thy eye.

ALEX

I think you mean thine.

JENNIFER

A canvas as white as a hard-boiled egg.

ALEX

Yup, there you go.

JENNIFER

And I blacken that white canvas with the shattered mass of dust that is my body and mind.

ALEX

But you draw children's books!

JENNIFER

That's irrelevant Alex. You know, I can't be with an irrelevant person.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
Yeah, well I can't be with an
arrogant idiot.

CUT TO:

ALEX is sitting at the same diner with the small, shaking
BUBBLES.

ALEX
Bubbles. So, your name's Bubbles?

BUBBLES
Yes sir.

ALEX
(Laughing)
That's a really awful name.

BUBBLES
Oh...ah-

ALEX
(laughing)
Do you have a sister named
Butterscotch?

BUBBLES
No sir.

ALEX
Do you fight bad guys?

BUBBLES
No sir. Can we please talk about
something else?

ALEX
Why didn't you change it?

BUBBLES
Well, I kind of like it. But if you
don't I'd be more than happy to get
rid of it.

ALEX
No, c'mon, don't be a suck-up.

BUBBLES
Um, ok. So, Alex, what do you do
for a living?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I'm sorry, but at some point in your parent's lives, they decided to name their daughter "Bubbles"?

BUBBLES

Yes, they did. Can we move on?

ALEX

Sure, I'm sorry, sorry.

BUBBLES

Ok, then. What do you do for a living, Alex?

ALEX

(bursting out laughing)
Bubbles?

CUT TO:

ALEX is sitting with a third girl, LATIQUASHA.

LATIQUASHA

So, things were starting to get a little rough, a few slaps here, a few slaps there, but then she slapped a little too hard. And I said, "Listen up you whale, if you touch me one more time, I'm gonna tear off your head and eat it like a candy apple." And, then she hit me.

ALEX is sitting with his face in his hands, miserable.

LATIQUASHA

So, I grabbed a baseball bat and started beating her to the ground. She was screamin' "Help! Stop! Please!" And I said "What? I can't hear you!" and just kept on beatin' her...

ALEX

Was she still breathing?

LATIQUASHA

She wasn't moving for like, 2 hours, but I splashed some water on her fat face and I think she woke up.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
You THINK she woke up?

LATIQUASHA
Hey! A girl's gotta do what a
girl's gotta do, you nawmean.

ALEX
No, actually, I don't. Just leave,
I can't take another second of
this.

LATIQUASHA pokes her fork at ALEX.

LATIQUASHA
What did you just say?

CUT TO:

ALEX, who has some scratches and bandages on his face is sitting alone. CANDICE runs in, folds her umbrella, and takes a seat. She rubs her hands together excitedly and grabs a menu.

ALEX
Hello?

CANDICE
Oh, hi!

ALEX
Are you Candice?

CANDICE
Yup, and you're Alex.

ALEX
I am. Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

ALEX
So, where are you coming from?

CANDICE
(looking at menu)
Work, work, work.

ALEX
Oh yeah? What do you do?

(CONTINUED)

CANDICE

Nothing important. You know, just business stuff.

ALEX

Yeah? What's the business?

CANDICE

Like I said, nothing important.

ALEX

Alright...listen, Candice. I've tried this whole blind date thing every night this week, and it hasn't worked out for me. I had a really rough break-up about 2 months ago and ever since, the only thing on my mind is her. So, let's not waste our time with all the generalities about your job, your parents, how much you love your dog. Talk to me about something I actually care about.

CANDICE

(looking at menu)

Rough break up, huh? She give you those cuts?

ALEX

No, that was someone else.

CANDICE

(looking at ALEX)

Listen, clearly dating other girls isn't working out for you. Another woman isn't always the solution for a broken heart. I would know, I was once in your position. Mopey, stiff, constantly checking your e-mail in the slightest hope that they sent you a e-Christmas card or an apology message or something. But, there's a way out, Alex.

ALEX

Oh yeah? What?

CANDICE'S phone rings very loudly.

CANDICE

Oh shoot. (picks it up) Yes? What, oh come on. Fine, I'll be right

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CANDICE (cont'd)
there. (hangs it up) I'm sorry
Alex, I have to go. Just take this
card, I swear they can help you.

CANDICE hands ALEX a business card, jumps up and runs off.

ALEX
(softly)
Bye...

ALEX stares down at the business card.

EXT. OUTSIDE NICEGUY'S BUILDING. DAY--SCENE 5

Alex is standing outside the NiceGuy's building, looking from the business car and back to the building.

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION AREA. DAY

Alex enters the NiceGuy's office, expecting something bigger than what he gets. It's a simple waiting room with chairs and a receptionist's desk. He approaches the desk and realizes that the receptionist is CANDICE.

ALEX

Candice?

CANDICE

Hey! You decided to come!

ALEX

This is your job?

CANDICE

Yup!

ALEX

This is the "business stuff"?
(making quotation marks)

CANDICE

Well, you know, I said that so we could get off the subject. I don't really like to talk about my job. But, when I see someone, like you, that really needs what this place can provide, then I'll give them a card.

ALEX

I still don't get it! What is it that you "provide"? "NiceGuys...an eye for an eye makes the whole world just fine." What does that mean?

CANDICE

It means, Alex, that we help people...get what they want. People that wouldn't have been able to get it otherwise.

ALEX

Like, what kinds of things?

CANDICE

Do I have to spell it out for you? Revenge, Alex. This is a revenge agency.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

(laughing) Revenge agency? That's stupid.

CANDICE

Does getting back at Stephanie seem like a stupid idea to you?

ALEX

What? How'd you know her name?

CANDICE

Listen, Alex. This girl broke you. And through that facade of witty comments and , I see a very weak, very scared little man. A Nice Guy, if you will. But that little man wants his revenge. We can help him.

ALEX

How do you know what I want? I met you two days ago.

CANDICE

I know a Nice Guy when I see one. Close your eyes, Alex. Imagine Stephanie begging for your forgiveness, crying, admitting how wrong she was. Now imagine the beautiful smile across your face, the smile that she so carelessly rejected.

We see ALEX smiling slightly.

ALEX

(coming out of his trance) I don't know, this seems suspicious. I feel like Ashton Kutcher is gonna come out of nowhere and tell me I just got Punk'd.

CANDICE

Trust me, Alex. This isn't a joke.

ALEX

Fine. I'll give it a try. But if I don't like it, I walk.

CANDICE

I knew you'd come through. Just go to Room 306 down the hall.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
Right down the hall?

CANDICE
Right down the hall. Good luck,
Alex.

ALEX gives CANDICE one last look, then starts his walk down the hall.

INT. WAITING ROOM MONTAGE - DAY

Alex sits in a bleak waiting room by himself waiting to be called for his appointment. Alex flips through a pile of magazines on top of an adjacent coffee table. He taps the wall, getting a little restless. He plays with a pencil like it's rubber. He walks back and forth. He does impressions of Barack Obama and others.

NICEGUYS ASSISTANT walks in.

NICEGUY ASSISTANT

I apologize for the long wait. A woman came to our offices seeking revenge, and she took quite a while to tell her story.

ALEX

Yeah? What was her "story"?

NICEGUY ASSISTANT

Well, Alex, do you know somebody named Stephanie?

ALEX

Yes...wait, she wasn't here, was she?

NICEGUYS ASSISTANT

She was, and I have to tell you, your stories of the break-up are certainly...contradictory.

INT. STEF'S POV OF BREAKUP FLASHBACK - BEDROOM

ALEX is lying on the couch, under blankets, eating Doritos out of a bag. Laundry is sprawled across the floor and his clothes are dirty and stained. STEF enters a little timidly.

ALEX

Hey, you're home. Grab me another coke?

STEF

Um, Alex, could we talk about something? We've been together for a pretty long time now, and it's been great but-

Alex sits up.

ALEX

Are you breaking up with me?

STEF

No, well...no, we just need a break, to spend time without each other. Our relationship has changed. You're a great guy, but we are not as close anymore. I just think we can benefit from spending some time alone.

ALEX

(He is very angry.)

What the hell do you mean, we are not as close anymore? Nothing has changed. You don't know what you're talking about. Sit down, shut up, and talk to me.

Beat of silence.

STEF

Wait, what? No, Alex, I-

ALEX

I think there's someone else...is there someone else?

STEF

No one. There is no one else. I just can't do this anymore. I care about you Alex, I just can't put up with your laziness-- your lifestyle. Look at you, look at this room, covered in Cheetos-

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
(screaming) They're Doritos!

Alex jumps out of bed completely naked and hurries over to Steff to stop her from leaving. Alex claps his hand around Stef's arm, dragging her onto the bed.

ALEX
You're not going anywhere, Stef.
We're gonna fix this right now, I
don't care what you want.

STEF
(her temper rises)
Get off me Alex! Get your hands
off of me! I know what I said. I
need to be alone, I just need time
without you, please let go of me!

Stef gets up from the bed, but Alex wraps his hands around her neck, jerking her down onto the bed beside him. Alex pounces on Stef and violently lunges forward to kiss her, placing his arms around her shoulders and embracing her neck. Alex is very emotional. He is devastated that Stef broke up with him, and he tugs her toward himself, his arms are still around her neck. Stef tries to get up and leave, but Alex infuriated from the breakup, won't let her go, and tightens his grasp around her neck. Stef's face turns red.

STEF
(Stef screams as she gasps for
breath)
Alex, stop, you're choking me,
please, don't kill me, Alex!

INT. ROOM 306. DAY

ALEX is shocked after hearing Stephanie's POV of their break-up.

ALEX

I...I...

ALEX is cut off when THE ASSISTANT grabs him by the neck.

ALEX

What are you doing? Stop!

THE ASSISTANT stares blankly into ALEX's face, tightening his grip. ALEX begins losing breath, while kicking his feet everywhere.

ALEX

Ah! Please, I'm sorry! Stop, you're choking me, please, don't kill me!
Please don't kill me!

We see flashes of STEPHANIE screaming the same words. THE ASSISTANT loosens his grip and leaves the room, with the same blank expression on his face. ALEX gasps for breath, but falls to the ground unconscious.

INT. ROOM 306. DAY

We see ALEX's POV. A blurry STEPHANIE comes into view. She's holding a glass of water and looking at him with a concerned expression on her face.

ALEX
Stephanie?

STEPHANIE
Yeah. Are you all right, Alex?

ALEX
I think so.

ALEX grabs the glass of water and takes a long gulp. STEPHANIE takes the glass, but ALEX grabs it from her hands and takes another gulp, finishing the glass. She smiles a bit then takes it from his hands and puts it aside.

STEPHANIE
Listen, Alex. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have come here. I shouldn't have had them do this to you.

Silence.

ALEX
Did I really do that to you?
(points to the bruises on her neck)

STEPHANIE
Yeah, you did.

ALEX
I had no idea, Stef. God, I'm so sorry.

STEF
What's done is done, Alex.

Beat of silence.

ALEX
How does it feel?

STEPHANIE
What?

ALEX
You know...getting your revenge...getting even. How does it feel?

(CONTINUED)

STEPHANIE

I don't know, nothing special. Sort of an empty feeling, like now what? NiceGuys didn't help, I can tell you that, but I did get this button!

She holds up a sticker from her pocket that says "I got my revenge!" She takes off the back and sticks it to the wall. She's about to exit the room.

STEPHANIE

Bye, Alex.

STEPHANIE walks out of the room. ALEX is left sitting on a floor, thinking to himself. We see the sticker on the wall.

INT. HALLWAY OF NICEGUYS

ALEX and the NICEGUYS ASSISTANT are walking down the hallway together when they notice BUBBLES at a few feet away. She's notices him and stops in shock.

BUBBLES

Oh my god that's the guy! That's
him!

Alex looks surprised, then resigned. He looks over at the Assisant, who gives him a "Ok-Let's-go" signal. They turn around and walk back to Room 306. The NiceGuys assistant opens up the door for Alex, who enters. The NiceGuys's assistant enters too, slamming the door behind him.

ROLL CREDITS.