

Nice Guys

FADE IN:

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

The room is bright, lit by an almost surreal amount of sunlight pouring through the windows.

PAUL (late-20's), lies in bed asleep. His eyes open as he awakens. Paul sits up and finds JERRY (early-30's, disheveled beard) sitting in a nearby chair. Jerry eats from a bowl of cereal and reads a newspaper in his lap.

As Jerry raises the spoon to his mouth, he finally notices Paul looking at him.

JERRY

Hey Paul.

PAUL

Jerry. Why are you in my apartment?

JERRY

I was out of milk. I didn't think you would mind.

PAUL

Of course. Why would I?

Paul looks to the closed bathroom door as he finally notices the SOUND of the shower running.

PAUL

Jerry, why is my shower running?

JERRY

There's a girl in there.

PAUL

And why is there a girl in my shower?

Jerry shrugs his shoulders. Paul looks at him for a moment, dumbfounded. He gets out of bed and opens the bathroom door.

Jerry leans forward in his chair just in time to see NIKKI exit the shower and reach for a towel. She has the body of a pin-up girl. Her hair is jet black, cut in a short bob.

Paul stares at Nikki in disbelief as she dries herself off.

PAUL

Jerry, please leave.

JERRY

Are you sure you don't want me to
stick around?

Paul turns and looks at Jerry, again dumbfounded. Without a word, Jerry grabs his cereal and exits the room.

Nikki, now dressed in a men's shirts, walks towards Paul.

NIKKI

Hi.

PAUL

Hello.

Paul backs away as Nikki approaches, until he bumps into the bed and falls onto his back. He pushes himself up the bed as Nikki follows, crawling towards him.

He finally has nowhere left to go. Nikki straddles over him and looks down into his eyes.

NIKKI

Do you have any idea how much I've
missed you?

Paul shakes his head. Nikki then places his hands on her hips.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Do you like my hair?

Paul nods. Nikki smiles and then kisses him.

HANNAH (O.S.)

Daddy... are you going to make
breakfast? I'm hungry.

Paul looks over to find HANNAH (6 y/o), standing a few feet away. Despite the intrusion, Nikki continues to embrace Paul.

PAUL

Hannah, baby, go back to your room.

HANNAH

But I'm hungry.

PAUL

Just give daddy a few more minutes, okay?

HANNAH

But it's time to get up.

Paul looks over at his alarm clock. He looks back to Hannah, who is now holding a pink feather. She smiles at him, coyly.

PAUL

Sweetie, what are you doing with that?
Baby, please don't wake daddy up yet.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

The room is now noticeably darker. Paul again lies in bed, asleep. A pink feather appears and begins to rub against his nose. Paul springs awake.

After a moment collecting his wits, Paul looks over to find Hannah, standing by the bed with a pink feather in her hand.

Hannah begins to GIGGLE. Paul lets out a SIGH, but can't help but smile. Hannah then attempts to jump up onto the bed.

Paul pulls the covers close to his waist and holds out his hand, to stop her.

PAUL

Hold on, sweetie. Give daddy a second.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

DAVID (late-20's), opens his refrigerator and removes a carton of eggs. He walks to the stove and cracks an egg on a skillet.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

CHRISTINE (mid-20's), rolls over in bed and reaches out for the alarm clock. She tilts the clock towards her to read it.

CHRISTINE

Shit.

She throws the covers off of her and tries to jump out of bed. But her leg catches on the sheets and she falls to the floor.

INTERCUT - DAVID / CHRISTINE

David stands over eggs cooking on the stove. He looks up, curiously, as he hears something THUMPING against the floor.

Christine enters the bathroom and turns on the shower. She slips down her panties and sits on the toilet. Christine then looks over to the toilet paper rack and finds it empty.

David looks up from cutting strawberries as he hears Christine SCREAM from the back room.

DAVID

Christine, are you alright?

Christine exits the bedroom and hurries down the hallway, half dressed for work. She stops twice to put on each of her shoes.

CHRISTINE

(yelling)

David?

Christine enters the dining area.

CHRISTINE

Why the hell did you let me...

Christine stops as she finds David setting out two plates on the table, where breakfast is laid out. David looks up at her, surprised by her flustered demeanor.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Hannah stands on a stool in front of the sink, brushing her teeth with Paul.

PAUL

Come on sweetie, finish up. You're mom is going to kill me if we're late

Hannah begins to brush her tongue but accidentally gags herself. She leans over and throws up toothpaste.

PAUL

Sweetie, are you okay?

Hannah raises her head up from the sink, still in shock.

HANNAH

Whoa.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - DAY

David, now dressed for work, waits by the open front door. Christine appears, walking towards him.

CHRISTINE

I'm coming... I'm coming.

Christine catches up, and the two turn to exit. Then David suddenly stops.

DAVID

I left my phone in my office.

CHRISTINE

Oh, I'll get it.

Christine starts back into the house.

DAVID

No, I'll get it.

CHRISTINE

I'm already half way there.

DAVID

Christine. I said, I'll get it.

Christine stops. David walks past her into the house.

CHRISTINE

Fine.

EXT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Paul and Hannah exit the front door and stop for him to lock it. Hannah turns and waves as she notices Jerry exiting his apartment next door.

HANNAH

Hi Jerry.

JERRY

Well, good morning Hannah.

Embarrassed, Paul avoids eye contact and ushers Hannah away.

PAUL

Sorry Jerry, no time to talk, gotta go.

Jerry watches them rush off, perplexed by their quick exit.

EXT. DAVID'S HOME - DAY

David and Christine walk away from the front door, making their way to the driveway.

CHRISTINE

So when do you find out if you got it?

DAVID

I don't know... soon.

CHRISTINE

If you really want it you should talk to someone. They're not just going to give it to you.

DAVID

Actually, that's kind of how it works.

CHRISTINE

You do want it, don't you?

DAVID

Of course I do. Designing a residential property this big could make my career.

They come to a stop in front of their respective cars.

CHRISTINE

Then go after it.

DAVID

I'll see you at the party tonight.

David leans in for a kiss, but Christine doesn't reciprocate.

DAVID

What?

CHRISTINE

We've been together almost two years now. Don't you think it's strange that there's a room in your house that I'm not allowed in?

DAVID

It is my house, Christine.

CHRISTINE

And what about when it's our house?

David struggles to answer. Christine turns and walks off.

INT. ENGINEERING FIRM - ELEVATOR - DAY

David stands in front of the closed elevator, waiting. The doors open and he enters.

Before the doors close, TINA (mid-20's, Asian) enters. They both stand in silence for a moment.

DAVID

Good morning, Tina.

TINA

Hello, jerkface.

David laughs to himself.

TINA (CONT'D)

So the word on the street is it's down to you and Rob for the Sienna project and the lead designer position after that.

DAVID

I may have heard something like that.

TINA

Congratulations.

DAVID

Thank you. I'm sure your name would have been in the running if you had been here a little longer.

TINA

Maybe.

DAVID

Don't be so modest. You're a good engineer. Your time will come. And when it does think how much better you will feel knowing affirmative action had nothing to do with it.

Tina laughs to herself.

TINA

You are such an asshole.

INT. ENGINEERING FIRM - MAILROOM - DAY

VICTOR (early-20's, Hispanic), stands, filling mail slots with mail. Paul suddenly enters.

VICTOR

You're late.

PAUL

I know, Victor, I know. I'm sorry.

VICTOR

How is it you manage to be late every single day?

PAUL

You're right. I'm sorry.

VICTOR

Paul, you don't have to apologize to me. I work for you.

PAUL

Right.

David and ALLEN (early-30's, balding) enter the room.

ALLEN

Good morning mailroom employees.

PAUL

Hey Allen.

DAVID

(to Paul)

Wow. You look like shit.

PAUL

Thank you.

DAVID

You had the dream again, didn't you?

PAUL

I don't want to talk about it.

VICTOR

Yo. I have a great book on dreams if you need it.

DAVID

No. This one's pretty straight forward, actually. It seems our dear friend, Paul, can't seem to stop dreaming about his old girlfriend, the one and only, Nikki Love.

VICTOR

What? He dated Nikki Love, the pornstar?

DAVID

Well, he dated her before she became a pornstar. And if you wanted to be more accurate, you could say that she broke up with him, dropped out of college and started showing up on box covers a month later.

PAUL

I'm pretty sure I said I didn't want to talk about it.

Allen steps close to Paul and puts his arm around him.

ALLEN

It's alright, buddy. My old man took me to a prostitute when I was fourteen and it still haunts me.

Paul just looks at Allen, unsure what to think of the comment.

ALLEN (CONT'D)

Anyway, so you guys are all going to make it to the party tonight, right?

DAVID

Yeah. We'll be there.

ALLEN

Good. I'm counting on you guys to be there for all three of them.

VICTOR

Why the hell are you having three engagement parties, anyway?

ALLEN

Excellent question. Tonight is for co-workers and people we don't really like. The second one is so Jessica can celebrate with her cousins. And the third is for our parents.

VICTOR

Oh.

Allen again puts his arm around Paul and hugs him close.

ALLEN

Come on, get happy, bitches. I'm getting married.

INT. LOCAL IRISH PUB - NIGHT

Paul walks through a small crowd up to the large oak bar. The bartender, NATALIE (mid-20's), stops in front of him.

NATALIE

Hey Paul. What can I get you?

PAUL

Hey Natalie... gin and tonic.

NATALIE

(pouring a drink)
So where is she?

PAUL

Who?

NATALIE

The girl from your art class. I thought you were going to bring her.

PAUL

I'd rather not talk about it.

NATALIE

That bad, huh?

PAUL

Apparently I'm a really nice guy but she just doesn't see me that way. Whatever way that is.

NATALIE

Oh. That would be the, I want to have sex with you way.

PAUL

Yeah. Thanks for clearing that up.

Natalie hands Paul his drink. Allen then walks up behind Paul and slaps him on the back.

ALLEN

There he is. What are doing over here? Come join the party.

INT. LOCAL IRISH PUB - LATER

Allen leads Paul through the group gathered for the party to a spot where David, Christine, and JESSICA (late-20's) stand.

ALLEN

Hey everybody. Look who I found.

Paul waves to David and Christine.

PAUL

Hello Jessica... Congratulations again.

JESSICA

Thank you.

(to Allen)

Sweetie, we should probably say hello to some of the other guests.

ALLEN

Yeah, okay.

(to the group)

We'll see you guys later.

Allen and Jessica walk into the crowd.

PAUL

Why is it I always get the feeling
that she doesn't like me?

CHRISTINE

Probably because she doesn't.

Christine grabs a drink from the tray of passing waitress.

DAVID

Christine. Take it easy, alright?

CHRISTINE

Would you relax... it's a party.

DAVID

You know how this is going to end,
don't you?

CHRISTINE

I don't know what you're talking about.

Christine turns and walks off into the crowd. David turns his attention back to his dejected friend.

DAVID

So what are you looking so depressed
about?

PAUL

Oh, I don't know. The thought of having
to go to yet another wedding alone.
Sitting there for hours with Alex and
his wife's fake tits mocking me.

DAVID

Well you could always ask Lisa.

PAUL

Is that supposed to be funny? I don't
know what's worse. Me going alone or
having to spend the day with me ex-wife.

INT. LOCAL IRISH PUB - LATER

Christine walks through the crowd sipping her drink, which has clearly had its effects on her.

TINA (O.S.)

Christine.

Tina stands a few feet away, waving at Christine. Standing next to Tina is MARILYN.

Marilyn is a tall, above average looking, brunette in her mid 30's. Her demeanor is stern and confident.

Christine walks to them.

CHRISTINE

You finally made it.

TINA

Yeah. My mother called and I made the mistake of telling her where I was going. The conversation naturally turned into a lecture about me still being single. In high school I was barely allowed to date now the woman wants to pawn me off on every man she meets with a mortgage and a college degree.

Christine laughs.

TINA (CONT'D)

Anyway... have you met Marilyn? She works with us.

(to Marilyn)

Christine is David's girlfriend.

CHRISTINE

No, we've never met. But David speaks highly of you often.

MARILYN

I doubt that, but it's nice of you to say.

CHRISTINE

No, he really does. Just this morning he was saying how much he loves working with you and how... tall and pretty you are.

MARILYN

Did he? How awkward that must have been.

CHRISTINE

No. We talk about other women all the time.

MARILYN

How nice. Well, if you ladies will excuse me, I see someone I need to talk to. It was a pleasure meeting you.

Marilyn walks away. Christine turns to Tina, who looks at her both shocked and amused.

CHRISTINE

What?

INT. LOCAL IRISH PUB - LATER

Jessica and Allen stand at the front of the room facing the crowd.

JESSICA

Everyone, If I could have your attention.

The crowd quiets down and gives her their attention.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

First of all, Allen and I would like to say thank you to all of you for being here and celebrating this moment with us. It really does mean so much.

In the middle of the crowd, Christine stands sipping her drink. David steps next to her and speaks into her ear.

DAVID

I hear you've been making friends.

CHRISTINE

Tina's a liar.

DAVID

Okay. I think it's about time for us to go home.

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