

NEW GIRL

"Tran Knows Best"

by
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ACT ONE

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. DAY.

NICK slumps over a cup of coffee at the kitchen island. JESS waltzes in singing a cheery song.

NICK
Must you be so loud?

JESS
Must you be so grumpy?

Nick looks up from his coffee and gives Jess a mean look. Jess sits down at the island across from Nick. She smiles.

NICK
I'm not grumpy. It's morning.

JESS
It's noon.

NICK
Same thing.

JESS
They say that if you get your day going by 8am, you will be the most productive.

Nick sits up and sips his coffee. He blinks at Jess.

NICK
8 am, huh?

JESS
Yes! If you want, we could be morning buddies. I'd wake you up and...

NICK
No.

JESS
Fine.
(annoyed)
Why? Why can't you and I be morning buddies, Nick?

Nick stares at Jess. Her hair is perfect. Her skin is perfect. Her body is perfect. He notices her mouth.

JESS (CONT'D)
Nick?

Nick snaps back.

NICK
I mean... I own a bar.

Jess flips her hair. A smile spreads across Nick's face as he goes back to his coffee. SCHMIDT and CECE burst in.

CECE
We are not going to have a
Bollywood wedding!

SCHMIDT
Let me set the scene for you,
Cecelia.

Cece stomps over to Jess, defiant. Schmidt continues.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)
We will be wearing bright colors,
which you love.

Cece rolls her eyes.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)
The lights go down and I run into
the room, pretending that you've
called off the wedding.

Everyone looks at Schmidt.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)
What? Too soon? I mean, it's
theatre, guys!
(moving on)
Then the music begins and we all
dance in to *Saturday Saturday* by
Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania.

Schmidt looks around at everyone. They don't get it. Cece pipes up.

CECE
Humpty... what? No. No. I want this
wedding to be us. I don't want to
look back and regret anything.

Schmidt taps Nick. Nick looks at him.

SCHMIDT
Nicholas? Is there something you'd
like to add?

NICK

I'm not getting in the middle of this.

SCHMIDT

You're the only one smart enough to weigh in on all of this.

JESS

Schmidt. You and Cece need to decide, together, what you want. This isn't some stupid frat party. It's your wedding.

CECE

Thanks Jess.

Nick stand up.

NICK

I need to clear my head.

Cece, Schmidt, and Jess watch Nick struggle to put on his shoes. He puts his feet in the shoes but doesn't use his hands to pull the shoes up.

JESS

Use your hands, Nick.

SCHMIDT

Yeah, Nick. Use your hands.

CECE

What's wrong with you, Nick? Just bend over and pull the shoes on.

Nick spots a pair of flip flops and attempts to slide his feet into them. They are too small. He walks towards the door.

JESS

You're ruining them! Take them off, Nick!

NICK

Never!

INT. LOFT. HALLWAY. DAY.

Nick shuffles to the door and runs into WINSTON as he walks in.

WINSTON

Where are you headed... in those?

Winston points at Nicks feet that don't fit in Jess's tiny flip flops.

NICK

Out.

(over dramatically)

Don't wait up.

Nick turns and shuffles away.

EXT. PARK. LATER.

Nick shuffles down a path at the park. His head down, he doesn't see an absolutely stunning SIDEWALK PREACHER, dressed in trendy clothing, poring over her bible. He runs into her. She drops her bible.

NICK

Excuse me. Sorry. I'm trying to clear my head.

The sidewalk preacher grunts and bends over to pick up her bible. Nick goes to help then realizes...

NICK (CONT'D)

Roz the Stripper?

ROSALIND

Nick Miller?

They hug.

NICK

Roz the Stripper! What are you doing out here?

ROSALIND

I go by Rosalind, now. I'm a preacher of the gospel. I'm out here trying to save souls. Keeping folks out of hell.

(a pause)

What about you?

Nick's mouth is wide open.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

Nick?

Nick snaps back.

NICK

I own a bar. Well, I'm part owner of a bar that I work at.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

I just work at the bar. I don't drink. Well, I do drink. I am just... You're a preacher? Wow. When did... That's crazy because you used... dance. Naked.

Rosalind nods and puts up her hand to silence Nick.

ROSALIND

I have turned to Jesus. He changed me. I have been redeemed. Do you want to be redeemed as well, Nick?

Nick nods.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

We should have dinner. Tonight. You're paying. You owe me. You stood me up. You remember that?

Nick nods. Rosalind cycles from happy to angry and back again.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

Great. Let's meet at Foster's on La Brea.

Nick nods.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

See you at 7? Then afterwards maybe you can show me where you work?

Nick nods. Rosalind packs up her milk crate and sign. She leaves. When she's out of site, Nick kneels and crosses himself. He appears to pray. People walk by and stare.

Nick rises and shuffles towards a bench. A man sits next to him. Nick glances over. It's TRAN!

NICK

Tran! Tran! My friend!

Nick hugs Tran. Tran says nothing.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm so happy you're here! You will never guess what happened to me today.

Nick hugs Tran again. Tran is silent.

NICK (CONT'D)

You're right. I'm just so excited.
Ok. I figured out that I am in love
with Jess.

Tran stays quiet.

NICK (CONT'D)

Yes. She's great. Well, I looked at
her today and it was like I was
seeing her for the first time.
She's beautiful and funny and smart
and...

Tran doesn't speak.

NICK (CONT'D)

(laughs)

Yes! They are perfect, you sly old
dog!

Nick playfully punches Tran in the arm. Tran doesn't move.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm in love. I am head over heels
in love with Jess! But I just ran
into an old girlfriend who used to
be a stripper but is now a street
preacher. She is hot but she's into
Jesus, now. But I am taking her out
for dinner tonight.

Tran blinks.

NICK (CONT'D)

I do love Jess. I just...I'm too
messed up for her. I need to work
out my crap before I can tell her.
Because...

Tran leans toward Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)

I know. I know. I was so stupid. I
was scared that she would get to
know all of me and she would decide
that I wasn't good enough for her.

Tran says nothing.

NICK (CONT'D)

I wish you could just follow me
around and tell me what to do,
Tran.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

I could go out with Rosalind tonight and just catch up. There's no way that she's interested in me. The last time I was in church, I accidentally washed my hands in the baptismal.

Tran looks at Nick and smiles.

NICK (CONT'D)

I know. It was hilarious. They weren't amused.

Tran shifts on the bench. Nick lights up.

NICK (CONT'D)

Tran! You are a genius! I need to meet with Rosalind and give her closure. That way she can move on and I won't have the guilt of standing her up on my conscience.

Tran says nothing. Nick leaps up from the bench.

NICK (CONT'D)

Yes! That's the best idea yet. You are the best. Thanks for everything. I owe you. Come into the bar. Drink on me.

Nick runs off then trips over his flip flops and falls. Tran sees and raises his hand, as if to wave. Nick hops up, waves, then shuffles away.

INT. LOFT - SCHMIDT'S ROOM. DAY.

Schmidt paces around the room. He opens a drawer. Closes it. He rifles through his closet then shuts the door. He sits on his bed. A blue-tooth device can be seen on his ear.

SCHMIDT

I see. I see. You think that I should learn the dance without Cece?

He pauses and a smile spreads across his face.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

Ok. I will! Thank you, Mrs. Parekh.

Schmidt turns around to see Winston in the doorway. Schmidt is startled.

WINSTON

I feel like you're up to something.

SCHMIDT

I'm not. I'm only planning a surprise... for Cece.

Winston rolls his eyes.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

What? Look. She doesn't want the procession to be Bollywood. I get that. She is just being coy.

WINSTON

When Cece says no...

SCHMIDT

Stop. I'm doing this.

Winston turns and walks away.

INT. LOFT. WINSTON'S ROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Winston walks in and sits on the floor to play with his cat, FERGUSON.

WINSTON

(singing)

Ferguson! Ferguson!

Nick stands at the door.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Why are you my best friend?

NICK

Uh...

Winston jumps and grabs Ferguson to protect him.

WINSTON

What? What do you want, Nick?

NICK

I love Jess.

WINSTON

I know. We all know.

END OF ACT ONE.