

FADE IN:

*A fantastical, magical world, with an old Hollywood feeling.*

INT. FILM SET - LOS ANGELES - DAY

NICHOLAS (26) a good-looking guy with glasses, in a black tuxedo, is in the middle of directing a romantic scene between two GOLDEN RETRIEVER DOGS that sit on chairs, sharing a plate of spaghetti.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)  
I began making films when I was eleven. I would shoot them on my dad's digital camera, but I think it's more romantic to pretend it was on Super 8.

The dogs sloppily finish eating their plate of spaghetti.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
And cut!

The dogs break character and look up at Nicholas. They communicate in barks and Nicholas can understand them perfectly.

GIRL DOG  
Bark! Bark!

Subtitles: **How was that?**

NICHOLAS  
It was perfect! One more for safety.  
You guys like spaghetti right?

The dogs bark excitedly as another plate of spaghetti is placed in front of them.

GIRL AND GUY DOG  
Bark! Bark! Bark!

Subtitles: **We love spaghetti!**

The camera is rolling. They slate it.

NICHOLAS  
And...

IRIS (O.S.)  
Nicholas!

Nicholas turns to see-

IRIS (25), a beautiful Latina woman, with big brown eyes, dressed in a long, elegant gown. An overly-dramatic romantic score begins to play. Nicholas smiles.

NICHOLAS

Yes, my love?

We push in on Iris looking annoyed. She rips off the long elegant gown and returns to normal clothes. The world and everything around her except for Nicholas freezes.

Nicholas turns and breaks the 4th wall.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

That just about sums up my relationships with women. Pretending, guiding, changing events to be more romantic, more meaningful, more cinematic than they really are.

The freeze frame ends and Iris speaks.

IRIS

I need some time to work on myself.

The music is so loud that Nicholas can't hear her.

NICHOLAS

What?

IRIS

I can't do this anymore! I'm breaking up with you!

The music stops. Nicholas's face goes white. He is in disbelief. *Bang! Bang! Bang!* Nicholas and Iris turn to see a JAMES BOND VILLAIN (45) in a white tuxedo firing at them.

NICHOLAS

Oh, no! Let's go!

Nicholas grabs Iris by the hand and pulls her to run.

IRIS

Nicholas, we need to talk!

NICHOLAS

We'll talk about it in the car chase!

Nicholas and Iris jump into a white 1934 CORD parked magically in the middle of the set. Nicholas tries to turn on the ignition, but Iris stops him.

IRIS

Nicholas, stop it! There is no car chase!

Nicholas looks behind them. The James Bond Villain is in a 1965 BLACK MUSTANG waiting impatiently for the car chase to begin.

*Honk! Honk!* The James Bond Villain honks the horn.

JAMES BOND VILLAIN

What's the hold up?!

Nicholas turns back to Iris.

NICHOLAS

I'm pretty sure there's a car chase.

IRIS

It's over. I have to do this for me. Have some time to just...be alone.

NICHOLAS

But we can do that together.

Iris gets out of the car. Nicholas follows.

IRIS

I'm sorry. There are other girls out there. You deserve someone as wonderful and amazing as you are. What about Cinnamon?

Nicholas looks back at the two Dog Actors.

NICHOLAS

Cinnamon's a dog. Plus she's in love with Biscuit.

GIRL DOG

Bark! Bark!

Subtitles: **I love Biscuit!**

IRIS

If we're meant to be together we'll find each other later.

NICHOLAS

But what about our love?

IRIS

If it's real. It'll survive.

NICHOLAS

But that's not how our story goes!

Iris shakes her head sadly. She feels awful.

IRIS

Our story, Nicholas? I'm not your princess.

*BANG!* Nicholas's face goes white. He looks down at his chest and realizes he has been shot in the heart. He turns around to see the James Bond Villain holding a smoking gun.

NICHOLAS

Dude?!

The James Bond Villain shrugs his shoulders, "*what?*"

JAMES BOND VILLAIN

I'm the the bad guy. You're the good guy, right?

NICHOLAS

I don't know! I don't know anything anymore!

Nicholas drops to his knees as blood starts to pour from his chest in the form of broken heart candies.

Iris kneels down to Nicholas. Nicholas holds his heart.

IRIS

You're gonna be okay. I hope one day we can be friends again.

Nicholas looks up at her absolutely devastated.

NICHOLAS

Friends? But we were never friends.

IRIS

We were friends before this. Remember?

Nicholas dramatically turns his head away from Iris as he begins to remember.

EXT. WESTERN - DEATH VALLEY CANYON - DAY

*Bang! Bang! Bang!* We transition into a cloud of white gun smoke and we find ourselves in a small western town at the edge of civilization in 1865.

NICHOLAS (O.S.)

Ahhh! You just shot me!

Nicholas, clutching his bloody arm, is chasing after Iris, walking briskly in front of him, carrying a smoking six-shooter pistol.

*Film Aesthetic:* 1940-50's old classic Western film with a darker tone. Think *The Searchers* meets *Once Upon a Time in the West*.

IRIS

I'm done playing these games with you!

NICHOLAS

Games?! I haven't been playing games! I can't believe you just shot me.

IRIS

That's what you do in a duel pussy.

NICHOLAS

That was no duel. I was unarmed! I'm an innocent!

Iris stops and turns.

IRIS

Oh, really! You're "unarmed?!"

NICHOLAS

Yeah!

IRIS

Prove it! Take off your clothes.

NICHOLAS

What? No!

IRIS

Prove to me you don't have a gun.

Iris raises her gun and points it at him threatening to shoot.

NICHOLAS

Oh, come on, Iris! This is ridiculous! There are snakes around.

IRIS

I don't care. Strip.

NICHOLAS

Poisonous snakes! I'll get sunburnt. You know I have sensitive skin!

Iris cocks the gun.

IRIS  
Strip or I shoot you in the other  
arm.

Nicholas reluctantly removes the pistol he was hiding and  
throws it in the dirt. Iris reaches down and picks it up.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
"Oh, Iris! I don't have a gun on me.  
I'm soooooo innocent."

NICHOLAS  
It's not even loaded!

IRIS  
Oh, really?

She points it at Nicholas's feet and fires. *Bang!* She shoots  
him right through the foot. Blood sprays everywhere.

NICHOLAS  
Ahh!!!

Nicholas falls to the ground clutching his foot in pain.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
You monster!

IRIS  
You said it wasn't loaded!

NICHOLAS  
We're just friends! Why are you doing  
this?!

IRIS  
We are not just friends!

NICHOLAS  
You knew I was lying! You shoot me  
on purpose.

Iris throws the gun on the ground and turns to walk away,  
leaving Nicholas alone in the desert, holding his foot.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
Iris! Iris wait! You can't leave me  
out here. There are bandits! Iris!  
Friend! Iris!!!

Nicholas jumps up and chases after her the best he can,  
hopping on his one leg.

INT. WESTERN - CASINO BROTHEL BAR - DUSK

Nicholas, with his arm in a sling and his foot in a cast, sits across from Iris in tense silence while the two play poker.

NICHOLAS  
You gonna talk to me?

Iris throws a few chips in the pile and looks up.

IRIS  
Call.

NICHOLAS  
What do you want me to say?

IRIS  
I want you to admit it!

NICHOLAS  
Admit what?!

IRIS  
That we're a couple. We've always been a couple. And that this whole we're together, but we're not really together, is just so L.A and pathetic.

NICHOLAS  
I don't know what you're getting so upset with me for. We're in Wild Wild West! I'm trying to protect you.

IRIS  
Protect me from what?

NICHOLAS  
Bad hombres! ... Me. You don't want to be in a relationship with me, Iris. I got some serious psychological and emotional issues. But that's a ME problem. Not a YOU problem.

IRIS  
You're trying to protect yourself. You're afraid of getting hurt. That's it.

NICHOLAS  
I ain't a scared of no ghost... Get it?... Ghostbusters? Do you think they have ghosts in the wild wild west?

Iris shakes her head. A long beat.

IRIS

Look, if you're not going to take this serious. If you can't make a real commitment to me, then it's over. You can choose to be a child the rest of your life. But you are going to have to do it without me.

Iris cashes out her chips and stands to leave. Nicholas quickly removes his iPhone and begins to type ferociously.

Iris sighs, and anticipating the text message, she removes her phone.

*Beep!* Iris looks down at her phone and sees a text message from Nicholas: It's a squirrel emoji.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Squirrel emoji?

NICHOLAS

I meant to send the elephant emoji.

IRIS

Why the elephant emoji?

NICHOLAS

Because an elephant never forgets a friend.

IRIS

We are not friends!!!

Iris turns to leave. Nicholas chases after her.

NICHOLAS

Where are you going! You need to type a response!

IRIS

I'm not gonna have another text fight with you while we're in the same room.

NICHOLAS

I'm a visual person, Iris! I need to see what I'm saying so I don't say anything I don't mean.

IRIS

I completely surrendered to you. I laid down my pistol.

Iris throws her pistol on the ground.

IRIS (CONT'D)

But you won't so here we are. You  
and me can go back to being "friends."

NICHOLAS

Great. Fantastic!

IRIS

But we're not sleeping together  
together. And I don't want you using  
my Netflix or my Hulu.

NICHOLAS

What?! NO!!! Come on. I let you use  
my HBO GO!

IRIS

Goodbye, Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

Iris! WAIT!

Iris stops and turns.

IRIS

What?

NICHOLAS

Native Americans!

Iris looks at him confused.

IRIS

What the hell is a Native American?!

A long, quiet pause. And then all of sudden, we hear a loud  
Indian war cry from the hallway.

*Whoosh!* The door is violently kicked open. A bunch of violent  
and scary-looking INDIANS enter to steal Nicholas away.

IRIS (CONT'D)

No! No! There are no Indians in this  
film!

NICHOLAS

You'll have to save me now, iris!  
You'll have to find me, no matter  
what, just like Daniel Day does in  
*The Last of the Mohicans*.

Iris remains unconvinced as the Indians are about to carry  
him off.

IRIS  
No! No! Stop it!

The Indians stop. They turn and look at Iris, confused.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
We're not doing this, Nicholas. You know why? Because we're not in a Western. We're in a horror film.

EXT. HORROR - CREEPY MANSION - NIGHT

*Lighting and thunder!* Nicholas and Iris find themselves in a large, creepy, abandoned gothic mansion.

Film Aesthetic: A creepy horror film. Think *Halloween* meets *The Shining*.

NICHOLAS  
Oh, come on! Really? A horror film! You have to be that cynical about our relationship!

IRIS  
What relationship? We're just friends. Remember?!

*Wham!* The door is kicked open. A JASON-LIKE KILLER is standing in the doorway with a machete. Nicholas and Iris turn and look at him.

NICHOLAS  
Oh, geeze. I don't want to die. Why are you doing this to us?

IRIS  
I'm not doing this to us. You are. This is the end of the line. There's a killer on the loose. What are you going to do?

The Killer begins to walk toward them but Nicholas doesn't budge. The Killer raises his machete to kill Nicholas but Nicholas doesn't move.

NICHOLAS  
Just give me one second. Will you?

The Killer, confused, stops and lowers the machete.

IRIS  
No! You're the scary killer guy! You don't take breaks or give us time to think. You try and kill us! That's your job!

Nicholas shrugs, "Yeah, she's right." The Killer raises his machete to kill them both. But Nicholas grabs Iris by the hand and leads her to the bathroom. The Killer chases them, but they slam the door shut, and lock it behind them before he can enter.

INT. HORROR - CREEPY BATHROOM - NIGHT

The killer pounds on the door, trying to get in. Nicholas turns to Iris. This is painful.

NICHOLAS

Okay, look... the thing is... my feelings for you... as you know... ummm, well... speaking from an intellectual perspective...

IRIS

(shouting)

Do you love me or don't you?!!

NICHOLAS

Can you rephrase the question?

All of a sudden, the shower turns on and begins to spray blood into the tub. Ghosts begin to make scary sounds. Iris yells at the top of her lungs like *Carrie*. And the killer begins to chop the door down, making slow progress like in *The Shinning*.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Okay. Okay. I'm scared. I don't trust this. But not in the way you think. This doesn't feel real to me. It feels like I've made you up in a dream and at any moment you're just going to disappear on me. I mean you're this amazing, beautiful, wonderful person, who is kind, and smart, and funny, and who, I know I don't deserve. You think you love me now for now. But I don't know what's wrong me. There is something missing. And eventually you'll see it too. What shot do I have with the girl that's perfect? And I'm afraid that if I let myself love you, they way you want me to, when you finally understand me you, when you finally do, you won't love me anymore. And I'll be alone.

Iris looks at him sympathetically.

IRIS

I understand. I know you Nicholas.  
It's why I've put up with this.

NICHOLAS

But if we stay friends then this  
safe. That way I know I'll never  
lose you.

Iris looks at him with tears in her eyes.

IRIS

I'm sorry, Nicholas. But I can't  
accept that.

*Wham!* The Killer is almost inside.

NICHOLAS

Just give me one more chance!

IRIS

That depends.

NICHOLAS

Okay. But we can't do it here. We  
need a different genre.

The killer breaks down the door and he raises his machete to  
kill them. Nicholas extends his hand to Iris. She takes it.

We do a match cut spoof of "*2001 A Space Odyssey*" of the  
machete being thrown at their heads to-

INT. SCIENCE FICTION - DEEP SPACE - NIGHT

A spaceship flying through deep space.

Film Aesthetic: Science Fiction. *Brave New World* meets 1984.  
Think *Gattaca*. Everything is white and completely sterile.

INT. SCIENCE FICTION - SURGICAL ROOM - NIGHT

Nicholas and Iris find themselves lying side-by-side on a  
surgical operating table surrounded by a bunch of DOCTOR  
SCIENTISTS ready to perform surgery on them.

IRIS

What is this?

NICHOLAS

This surgery will fix everything.

IRIS

What surgery?

NICHOLAS

They are going to cut into our brains  
and rewire our neurons so we'll be  
in love with each other and only  
each other. It's going to be perfect.

Iris sits up horrified.

IRIS

What?!

NICHOLAS

They are going to intertwine our  
particles. We won't feel bad emotions  
anymore either. It's going to be  
awesome!

IRIS

We won't be human.

NICHOLAS

Who wants to be human?!

IRIS

Me! I do! I'm not going to give up  
my humanity in order to have "perfect  
love." It's unnatural!

NICHOLAS

What does "natural" even mean anymore?  
Nothing about the way we live now is  
"natural."

IRIS

This is a lobotomy!

NICHOLAS

A very special lobotomy.

Iris begins to remove all the medical wires that are hooked  
up to her.

IRIS

I am not going to let them perform a  
lobotomy on us so we can be in love.  
We're already in love!

Iris, having removed all her IV's and medical equipment,  
stands across from Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

But how do we know it's real? That  
our love will last forever?

IRIS

We don't! We just have to risk it. You have ask yourself if I'm worth maybe getting your heartbroken. If I'm not...then okay. It's not meant to be. But if you take my hand, and we give it a shot, we can try for something so much better than this. I can't promise that I'll love you forever. If we're meant to man and wife. But I love you now. I'm certain of that. Do you love me?

Iris extends her hand. Nicholas looks at it. He takes a long, painful beat. He looks her in the eyes. He stands and rips off all his medical stuff and takes Iris by the hand.

Epic orchestral Romantic Adventure Music begins to play as Iris and Nicholas make their escape like in "The Graduate" as the scientist doctors converge on them and try to stop them. But Iris and Nicholas eventually fight them off and exit the double hospital doors, running toward a giant white light that envelops them both.

EXT. NICHOLAS AND IRIS APARTMENT - EVENING

We leave the magical film world and find ourselves in reality.

Time has passed, Nicholas looks healthy but different. He is more grounded and mature. He waits outside of his apartment. Iris pulls up in her car. She gets out and walks toward him.

They hug. It's emotional and sweet. This is the final breakup meet-up and they're ending it on good terms.

He hands her a box of her things. She hands him the keys to the apartment.

NICHOLAS

Thank you.

She turns to walk back to her car. Nicholas and Iris turn and look up at each other with a smile gazing at each other lovingly in the eyes. Longing to people, that care about each other as she gets into her car to take off.

Nicholas smiles to himself, bitter-sweet, but happy, he wouldn't change a thing.

FADE OUT.

The End.