

NEW GIRL

"Advice"

by
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ACT ONE

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. DAY.

NICK and SCHMIDT eat breakfast at the table.

NICK

Why can't I find a girl that isn't crazy?

SCHMIDT

There's no such thing. All women are crazy. You just need to weigh hotness against crazy. The hotter she is, the crazier she can be. Recently you've been dating a lot of-

NICK

Different people?

SCHMIDT

-Fat girls, Nick. You've been in a slump. I know you are just doing this to keep the whole Ressa thing from getting to you, but-

NICK

-Ressa thing?

SCHMIDT

Ryan and Jess. Ressa. Pick up a paper, once in a while. Everyone is doing the combined names thing.

NICK

I don't care that Jess is with Ryan.

SCHMIDT

Yeah, and I buy my suits off the rack.

NICK

You do?

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

I do not buy off the rack!

A perky JESS enters the kitchen.

JESS

You guys are up early!

SCHMIDT

I'm talking to Nick about his terrible life decisions.

JESS

Oh, Nick, are you still trying to be a writer?

NICK

I am a writer.

SCHMIDT

No, we're talking about his terrible taste in women. Present company excluded, of course.

JESS

Well, that's fun.

SCHMIDT

It's fun? A carousel is fun. Plane rides are fun-

JESS

-Maybe you just need to spend some time alone. You know... to find yourself.

SCHMIDT

That's a terrible idea, Jess.

NICK

That's a great idea.

JESS

Hey, Schmidt. I was talking to Cece, and I think you guys should go out, as friends- just the two of you.

NICK

Oh my god, you're meddling.

JESS

I am NOT meddling!

NICK

Jess, you are the worst at relationship advice.

JESS

Your last date stole your ipod.

NICK

It was an older one. I wasn't really using it anymore.

SCHMIDT

Okay, I'll do it!

SMASH TO MAIN TITLES

INT. LOFT. DAY.

WINSTON and Jess sit closely on the couch.

WINSTON

I have to ask your advice on something and I don't want the guys to know.

JESS

A secret with me is kept indeed. You know that! What is it?

WINSTON

There's this girl at work, and I like her, but she is... kind of my boss.

JESS

So, you came to the master. Well, Winston, as you know, I was recently in a similar situation-

WINSTON

-This is why I didn't want to talk to you about this.

JESS

You gotta follow your heart. If you like her, put it out there. Who cares what her job is? You're both people. Be people. People like each other. It's part of life.

WINSTON

Thanks, Jess! That's what I was hoping you would say.

Winston quickly stands up.

JESS

Aren't you working today?

WINSTON

At midnight. I told Coach I'd help him with the basketball team.

JESS

That's great! We have a really good team this year, and I'm NOT just saying that because I'm their principal.

Winston opens the loft door to exit. He looks back at Jess.

WINSTON

We'll see.

INT. GYM. DAY.

COACH looks disappointed, as a team of 9-year-olds flails about the basketball court.

COACH

(unenthusiastic)

Okay, team. Good work. You're all doing great.

COACH tosses a ball to KEVIN, 9, skinny with glasses.

COACH (CONT'D)

Do the lay-up!

Kevin throws the ball overhand at the wall.

COACH (CONT'D)

Or throw it at the wall. Sure. That works, too.

Coach turns to the team.

COACH (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Alright guys let's pull it in!

The team gathers around Coach.

COACH (CONT'D)

Do any of you remember anything from last week?

THOMAS, 9, chubby, raises his hand. Coach points to Thomas.

THOMAS

Kevin's mom brought orange soda after practice.

COACH

Yes. Yes, she did. Do you remember anything before that?

The kids all stare blankly at Coach.

INT. LOFT. NICK'S ROOM. DAY.

Nick is pacing and talking to himself.

NICK

Find yourself. Find yourself.
That's all you need to do. You've
been out having too much fun.
What's important to you?

Nick stares off into space.

NICK (CONT'D)

Blankets. You like blankets. This
is about you being you! And you
like blankets and writing. How can
we combine these? You can write on
sheets.

NICK (CONT'D)

(doubtfully)

Yeah, but who would read it?

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

CECE and Jess are doing their nails on the sofa.

CECE

Does Nick have someone over?

JESS

Oh! No. He's finding himself.

CECE

Like a spiritual thing?

JESS

I guess so. I just suggested that
he take some time off from all the
girls and spend some time to
himself.

CECE

This doesn't have anything to do
with-

Jess laughs at the notion.

JESS

-I'm with Ryan. And we're happy.

Jess checks her phone.

JESS (CONT'D)

We're happy, but we can't seem to
text today. He's probably just
busy. You know how British guys
are...

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)
always forgetting to text their
girlfriends... and talking in those
super sexy accents.

Jess chuckles nervously. Cece points at Nick's bedroom door.

CECE
Did you tell him to lock himself in
his room?

JESS
No, he kind of locked himself in
there when I brought up you going
out with Schmidt.

CECE
(surprised)
Why on Earth would I go out with
Schmidt, again?

JESS
You know, just as friends. I'm
tired of seeing you two go back and
forth. One minute you like him but
he is with someone, then he likes
you but your family tries to
arrange a marriage. There's always
something! This way you can just be
friends again. Schmidt already
agreed to it.

CECE
(nervously)
I guess that could be fun.

JESS
You'll have a blast!

Nick opens his bedroom door and pokes his head into the
hallway.

NICK
(yelling)
You shouldn't listen to her, Cece!

Jess turns to Nick.

JESS
Did you find yourself, yet, Nick
Miller?

Nick opens the door wider.

NICK

I'm working on it. You know,
there's a lot to find?

JESS

Take notes!

NICK

I've got like five pages already!

CECE

Instead of cutting yourself off
from women, why don't you just make
a rule that you won't date girls
that you meet at the bar.

NICK

What's the difference between what
I'm doing now and what you just
said? I don't understand the
question.

JESS

Cece, you're going to abrupt the
centering process.

NICK

Yeah, you're abrupting my process.

Nick slams the bedroom door. Cece looks to Jess, with
concern.

JESS

He'll be alright.

END OF ACT ONE.