

Nick suddenly stops smiling and becomes noticeably uncomfortable as he directs his attention to the front door. Standing in the frame is Gabby, drenched in rain holding luggage.

NICK JEFFRIES
What are you doing here?

Abby stops taking photos and turns to face Gabby.

GABBY
This is what you're doing?

Abby walks over extending her hand to Gabby.

ABBY
Hi, I'm Abby. I'm a journalist for
Art House Magazine.

Gabby ignores the attempted handshake and stares silently into Abby's eyes that grow more and more uncomfortable. Nick jumps off the stool and walks over. Nick turns to Abby and whispers.

NICK JEFFRIES
Sorry, could you give me a moment.

Abby lowers her hand and walks back to where she was before. Nick furiously grabs Abby by the hand and leads her out into the hallway.

INT. NICKS APARTMENT, HALLWAY - DAY

Nick pulls Gabby through the doorway and slowly creeks the door shut. Nick enunciates heavily as he whispers.

NICK JEFFRIES
What are you doing here?

Gabby opts to not whisper.

GABBY
You said you would give me a ride
to the airport.

NICK JEFFRIES
Yeah, well something came up.

GABBY
Clearly, and you didn't think it
would be a good idea to clue me in.

NICK JEFFRIES
Are you jealous?

GABBY
Are you fucking serious?

NICK JEFFRIES
Look I can't help the fact that the public loves me and my art. You're money problems have nothing to do with me.

GABBY
Listen here you pretentious prick!

Nick turns his back to Gabby and starts to open the door.

NICK JEFFRIES
I can't deal with this right now.

GABBY
Oh you can't can you?

Gabby tugs Nick's arm back into the hallway. Nick turns and lunges towards Gabby.

NICK JEFFRIES
Let go of me you psycho.

Gabby backs up too stunned to speak.

NICK JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
I want to make this as painfully clear as possible. I am tired of you constantly whining for attention.

Gabby's eyes fill with tears.

NICK JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
Whatever we had going on, you clearly can't handle now. And I need you to leave, for good.

Gabby's tears begin to silently flow uncontrollably.

NICK JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
Understood?

Gabby doesn't respond as Nick scoffs and walks back inside.

Gabby puts her hands to eyes to wipe away the tears. Through the door, Nick is heard saying-

NICK JEFFRIES (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Where were we?

Gabby retracts her hands and glances towards the apartment with a face of pure hatred.

CUT TO:

INT. NICKS APARTMENT, HALLWAY - NIGHT

The hallway is long, dark and bare. Shadows litter the hallway from the soft, warm overhead lights.

Nick is fidgeting with his keys in hand. Nick goes to insert his key through the door but notices that the door is already open. Nick slowly pushes the door open and walks inside with ease.

INT. NICKS APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The room is dark. Only the light from the hallway shines through. Nothing but a silhouetted figure of a woman can be seen as Nick creeps through the door and slowly turns on the light.

The lights turn on and the silhouetted figure is revealed to be Gabby. Nick looks annoyed to see her.

NICK JEFFRIES
What are you doing here?

Nick puts his bags down as Gabby stands frozen.

NICK JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
Hello? Are you going to answer me?

Gabby stays still.

NICK JEFFRIES (CONT'D)
Guess not.

Nick ignores her presence as he walks over to the kitchen. Nick reaches inside the fridge and pulls out a wine bottle. Nick then reaches into the cabinet for a glass.

GABBY (O.S.)
I got rid of it.

Nick begins to pour himself a glass of wine.

NICK JEFFRIES
Got rid of what?

Gabby doesn't answer.

Nick finishes pouring the glass when a horrid look of realization grazes across his face. Nick turns to Gabby and is careful to enunciate his next words slowly.

NICK JEFFRIES (CONT'D)

Gabby, what exactly did you get rid of?

Gabby is still.

Nick leaves the freshly poured glass of wine on the counter and slowly paces towards Gabby. Nick's breathing is heavy.

NICK JEFFRIES (CONT'D)

What the fuck did you do?

Gabby adjusts herself to stand tall.

GABBY

You were obsessed.

NICK JEFFRIES

Where did you put it.

GABBY

Its gone.

Nick gets so close to Gabby she can feel his breath.

NICK JEFFRIES

Where the fuck did you put it!

GABBY

I told you, it's gone.

Nick lets out a scream and thrashes the easel in the middle of the room down to the floor and violently kicks the paintings on the floor across the room.

NICK JEFFRIES

Are you fucking crazy!

Gabby's calm demeanor is broken and slowly backs away as Nick continues his rage.

Gabby's fear seems to intensify as she hastily backs into a night stand beside the couch with a porcelain vase sitting atop.

The vase falls off the stand and shatters on the ground. The cube lays glowing among the scattered pieces. Gabby seems to realize what she's done.

Nick pauses from his fit as he notices the cube and slowly begins to approach.

GABBY

No!

Gabby throws herself in between Nick and the cube.

NICK JEFFRIES

Get the fuck off of me!

Nick tries to push Gabby off but her grip holds as Nick pushes through.

GABBY

Don't do this!

Nick turns to grab the nearest object, a table lamp and yanks it from the socket.

NICK JEFFRIES

I said get off!

Nick raises the table lamp high and bludgeons gabby across the forehead in one full swoop. Blood rushes across Gabby's face as she falls to the ground immobile.

Nick finally free of Gabby's grip kneels down and hovers above the cube. Nick breathes heavily as he examines the cube's well being. Gabby appears lifeless.

INT. NICKS APARTMENT, ENTRANCE

The front door to the dimly lit room creaks open.

PAUL (O.S.)

Nicolas?

Paul, dressed in a fresh pressed suit walks through the door.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Nicolas, I noticed the door was open and I figured-

INT. NICKS APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM

NICK JEFFRIES

Nick quickly turns his head toward Paul.

INT. NICKS APARTMENT, ENTRANCE

Paul stands speechless as he notices Nick on the floor with the cube beside Gabby's body. Paul's face seems shocked as he clears his throat.

PAUL

Do you need help with the body?

FADE OUT.