

THE NICEST THING

Written by

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INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

AVERY is doing stand-up in front of a decent sized crowd.

AVERY

And then I said "bla bla bla" (I  
want Avery to come up with an  
actual routine for this part)

She gets laughs on her final joke and goes off-stage,  
beaming.

EXT. COMEDY CLUB - LATER

AVERY meets a man outside. They do a quick hug and a kiss.  
This is her boyfriend, ANAND (or ABHI. Who knows.)

AVERY

Hi! What'd you think?

ANAND

Um, it was good.

AVERY

Yeah?

ANAND

Yeah, it was good. Not your best  
one but it was good.

Avery gives Anand a look - "Seriously? I thought it went  
great".

Before she can say anything, her friend JACKIE grabs her arm.

JACKIE

Oh. My. God. You were so funny  
tonight. And that part at the end!  
So funny.

AVERY

Oh my god, that's the nicest thing  
anyone's ever said to me!

She puts an extra amount of emphasis on the phrase, and Anand  
notices. He looks at her - "what the fuck is that supposed to  
mean?"

JACKIE

Oh of course! Hey Anand, how's it  
going? You were great tonight too,  
by the way.

ANAND  
Oh, uh, thanks. Avery we should probably go...I'll call us an Uber?

AVERY  
Oh yeah great.

Anand takes out his phone as Avery and Jackie keep making small talk. They're having a great time.

Anand dips his head into their conversation.

ANAND  
Uh, Cecil will be here in 3 minutes.

Avery turns around - "why is he being so awkward?"

AVERY  
Ok great!

Anand walks away as they continue talking.

INT. CAR - LATER

Dead silence in the backseat of the car. Anand has his hand around Avery's shoulder but both of them are looking in different directions.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Anand and Avery walk through the front door of the apartment. Avery stops at the welcome mat and scrubs her shoes on it, while Anand walks right by, shoes and all, straight to the fridge.

ANAND  
We're out of milk.

CU on Avery's face as she's taking off her shoes.

AVERY  
(under her breath)  
Shit.

She pops back up.

AVERY (CONT'D)  
(normal tone)  
I totally forgot to get that, my bad.

ANAND

Oh no, it's all good. I'll just get some water.

Anand goes to the sink and fills up 2 cups. He brings one over to Avery, who has made her way to the couch.

AVERY

Thanks!

She takes a sip. Anand stares at her.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Uh...can I help you?

ANAND

I just think, that you look really beautiful right now.

AVERY

Um...thanks?

ANAND

Just the way you were drinking that water. Oh man. So beautiful. Gorgeous.

Avery is getting more and more confused.

AVERY

Why are you being weird?

ANAND

What do you mean? I'm not being weird. I just wanted to say a nice thing to you just now and that's what I did.

AVERY

Telling me the way I look while drinking water is creepy, not nice.

ANAND

Yeah well, you just seem to be in the mood of noticing it when people say nice things. And assigning large amounts of hyperbole to the things that other people are saying.

AVERY

Okay, what's going on?

ANAND

You told Jackie that the thing she said is the nicest thing that anyone's ever said to you.

AVERY

Okay, and...

ANAND

And? And I was standing right there! You said that to her when me, your boyfriend! Remember me? We've been dating for like, I don't know, years!

AVERY

Yes, I believe you and I have met.

ANAND

Nicest thing anyone's ever said to you?? I've said WAY nicer things to you over the years, I've even said nicer things to you today.

AVERY

Yeah? Like what?

Anand is at a loss for words. He can't think of anything.

Finally-

ANAND

I said your boobs looked great this morning.

Avery is disgusted.

AVERY

Okay first of all, IT'S A FUCKING EXPRESSION. Secondly, I said that to her because SHE actually said something NICE to me!

ANAND

Your boobs do look great!

AVERY

Not about my boobs!

ANAND

Oh.

He's confused.

AVERY

Seriously!? She actually had something good to say to me about my show. She complimented me. Do you know what that is? A compliment?

ANAND

You asked me for an honest opinion and I gave you one!

AVERY

Oh fuck you!

ANAND

What? Wouldn't you rather me tell you my honest opinion rather than telling you what you wanted to hear?

AVERY

Alright then, what is your honest opinion.

ANAND

I'm sorry what?

AVERY

Your honest opinion. About tonight.

ANAND

Are we back to talking about the boobs thing or...-

Avery glares at him. Of course we're not talking about that.

ANAND (CONT'D)

Guess not.

AVERY

Tell me what you thought of my set.

ANAND

There was...there wasn't enough air.

AVERY

What?

ANAND

Air. There wasn't enough air. On your last joke, you should've let that set-up sit for a little longer.

AVERY  
You're unbelievable.

ANAND  
I'm being serious!

AVERY  
I'm sorry that I'm not some comedy  
EXPERT like you that performs at  
all the big clubs in town-

Anand looks around.

ANAND  
I don't-

AVERY  
I KNOW YOU DON'T PERFORM AT BIG  
CLUBS IN TOWN, I'M JUST  
CHARACTERIZING YOU AS SOMEONE  
YOU'RE NOT TO MAKE MY POINT!

ANAND  
Oh. Continue.

AVERY  
I'm sorry that it wasn't up to your  
standards, Brown Jerry Seinfeld.

ANAND  
Are you done?

Avery plops down on the couch. Anand sits next to her. He's calmed down, her not so much.

AVERY  
I feel weird.

ANAND  
Weird how?

AVERY  
Like we're not dating, we're just  
like, co-workers. Who do comedy.  
Comedy co-workers.

ANAND  
That is weird. I think what you're  
feeling is what I felt about the  
second you started screaming.

Avery starts chuckling.

AVERY  
Was I screaming?

                  ANAND  
So loud. You wouldn't believe.

They both share an awkwardly quiet laugh.

                  ANAND (CONT'D)  
Sometimes, when you're around something for a long time, you kinda start to take them for granted. You don't notice certain things. Like the reaction of your girlfriend when you try to give her constructive criticism which, as it turns out, is not constructive in any way at all.

Avery laughs again.

                  ANAND (CONT'D)  
I think you're one of the funniest human beings that have ever existed. And I'm not just saying that because I'm dating you. Your comedy inspires me to be just as good as you are day in and day out. I hope you know that.

                  AVERY  
I'm thinking I might have been overreacting a little bit.

                  ANAND  
No, that was shitty advice and I deserved to get called out on it. I just said that because you did that same joke a lot better a couple days ago.

                  AVERY  
What joke?

                  ANAND  
Your final joke from tonight. Hold on.

Anand grabs a notebook from the coffee table.

                  ANAND (CONT'D)  
I wrote it down here on my notes.

We see Anand's NOTEBOOK has notes on his stand-up but also notes on Avery's.

She smiles at him as he's looking for it.

ANAND (CONT'D)  
Yeah see, here.

We see "FINAL JOKE - KILLED. LOVED THE SILENCE"

ANAND (CONT'D)  
You just rushed it a bit tonight,  
that's all.

Avery looks at him, smiling.

ANAND (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

AVERY  
So am I.

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Avery is on the STAGE again, doing the same final joke from the first scene. She lets the joke breathe a little bit more this time before delivering her punchline.

The audience BURSTS into laughter. She goes offstage, beaming. She passes ANAND as he's on his way up. They share a glance and a smile.

Anand takes the mic on stage.

ANAND  
That's my girlfriend, folks! Wow,  
gonna be tough to follow that one  
up but I'll try...

FADE OUT.