

AS GOOD AS IT GETS

INT. SIMON'S APARTMENT - DAY
LONG SHOT - SIMON

A lonely figure -- who now holds his good hand up to his face and appears on the verge of enormous emotional release -- CAMERA MOVES TOWARD him as if to rendezvous with the moment of catharsis...

... but Simon is denied even this small luxury as the CAMERA ABRUPTLY ADJUSTS just as he begins sobbing to focus on the door opening and Melvin and Verdell entering the room.

MELVIN

Maybe I'll bring him some food by.

SIMON

Thank you for walking him.

Simon wheels away from Melvin.

SIMON

If you'll excuse me I'm not feeling so well.

MELVIN

It smells like shit in here?

SIMON

Go away.

MELVIN

That cleaning woman doesn't...

SIMON

Please, just leave.

MELVIN

Where are all your queer party friends?

SIMON

(his first shout)
Get out.

Melvin pauses -- Simon weeping... Verdell looks at Simon with concern. Melvin is thrown. Moved?

SIMON

Nothing worse than having to feel this way in front of you?

MELVIN

Nellie, you're a disgrace to depression.

SIMON

Rot in hell, Melvin.

MELVIN

No need to stop being a lady...
quit worrying -- you'll be back on
your knees in no time.

Simon swings his arm and cast at Melvin -- the sudden
attack jolts Melvin but not as much as what follows.

SIMON

Is this fun for you? Well, you
lucky devil... It just gets better
and better. I am losing my
apartment and Frank wants me to
promise to paint hotter subjects
and to beg my parents, who haven't
called, for help... and I won't.
And I don't want to paint anymore.

Melvin has made for the door... Simon blocks him.

SIMON

So the life I was trying for is
over. The life I had is gone and
I am feeling so damn sorry for
myself that it is difficult to
breathe. Right times for you --
huh, Melvin. The gay neighbor is
terrified...

(a sudden screamed
word surprises them
both)

Terrified... Lucky you, you're
here for rock bottom... me
wallowing in self-pity in front of
you, you absolute horror of a
human being...

As Simon works to stop crying, Melvin is weird with
discomfort.

MELVIN

Well, I'll do one thing for you
that might cheer you up.

SIMON

Get out.

MELVIN

Don't piss on a gift, tough guy.
You want to know why the dog
prefers me... it's not affection.
It's a trick.

Simon looks up, his mood turning on a dime -- he's
rapt... Melvin comes and stands by his wheelchair.

MELVIN

I carry bacon in my pocket.

SIMON
(pleased)
Oh, my gosh.

MELVIN
(hands him bacon)
Now we'll both call him.

SIMON
Come on, sweetheart...

MELVIN
Yo, yo, yo...

Verdell goes like a bullet to Melvin... who is totally surprised and staggered by the implications. True love and such.

SIMON
Would you leave now, please?

MELVIN
Stupid dog.
(to Simon)
I don't get it.

He exits... looking apologetically at Simon in stoic ruin.