

NICOLE

Hey.

CHARLIE

Where's Henry?

NICOLE

He's with Cassie and her kids at
Laser Tag.

CHARLIE

Oh, I'm going to have to leave a day
early to go to New York on the 22nd
so I was wondering if I could take
Henry that Friday--

NICOLE

The 22nd? So, that's the 21st? We
have plans actually. We're going to
this thing at LACMA with the
cousins--

CHARLIE

But could you change it so I can
take him--

NICOLE

It's only that night. He's looking
forward to it.

CHARLIE

Really?

NICOLE

It's my night, Charlie, we
negotiated it.

CHARLIE

(coldly) OK. Fine.

NICOLE

I mean...what?

CHARLIE

No, I'm just asking you to be
flexible--

NICOLE

I AM flexible. You come in and out
and I adjust based on your schedule.

This one night we happen to have to have tickets to a thing. I mean...

CHARLIE

It's not only this one night, but fine...

NICOLE

So... I thought we should talk. I feel like maybe things have gone too far. So, maybe we can figure something out between us--

CHARLIE

You'll remember I said this to you at the beginning.

NICOLE

I know you did, but these are different circumstances--

CHARLIE

I was anticipating these circumstances--

NICOLE

(pause) Ok... Do you understand why I want to stay in LA?

CHARLIE

No. I don't understand it.

NICOLE

You don't remember promising that we could do time out here?

CHARLIE

We discussed things. We were married, we said things. We talked about moving to Europe, about getting a sideboard or what do you call it, a credenza, to fill that empty space behind the couch. We never did any of it.

NICOLE

And you turned down that residency at the Geffen that would have brought us here and--

CHARLIE

It wasn't something I wanted. We had a great theater company and a great life where we were.

NICOLE

You call that a great life. Me discovering you're fucking Mary Ann--

CHARLIE

I don't mean we had a great marriage. I mean, life in Brooklyn... Professionally. I don't know. Honestly I never considered anything different.

NICOLE

Well, that's the problem isn't it? I was your wife, you should have considered my happiness too.

CHARLIE

Come on! You WERE happy. You've just decided you weren't now--

NICOLE

The only reason we didn't live here was because you can't imagine desires other than your own unless they're forced on you. And now you're going to put Henry through this horrible thing so you can yet again get what you want.

CHARLIE

It's not what I want...I mean, it's what I want, but it's what was...WAS...what's best for him.

NICOLE

I was wondering when you'd get around to Henry and what HE actually wants.

CHARLIE

Oh, fuck off--

NICOLE

No, YOU fuck off. If you listened to your son, or anyone, he'd tell you he'd rather live here.

CHARLIE

Stop putting your feelings about me onto Henry.

NICOLE

He tells me he likes it here better.

CHARLIE

He tells you because he knows it's what you want to HEAR!

NICOLE

He tells me you're on the phone all the time. You don't even play with him.

CHARLIE

Because I'm going through a divorce in LA and trying to direct a play in New York.

NICOLE

You're fighting for something you don't even WANT.

CHARLIE

Which closed because I wasn't THERE! That was a HUGE opportunity for me. For the theater. And I let everyone down.

NICOLE

You're being so much like your father.

CHARLIE

DO NOT compare me to my father.

NICOLE

I didn't compare you. I said you were acting like him.

CHARLIE

You're exactly like your mother! Everything you complain about her, you're doing. You're suffocating Henry.

NICOLE

First of all, I love my mother, she was a great mother!

CHARLIE

I'm just repeating what you've told me--

NICOLE

Secondly, how dare you compare my mothering to my mother? I might be like my father, but I'm NOT like my mother.

CHARLIE

You ARE! And you're like my father. You're also like MY mother. You're all the bad things about all of these people. But mostly your mother. When we would lie in bed together, sometimes I would look at you and see HER and just feel so GROSS.

NICOLE

I felt repulsed when you touched me.

CHARLIE

You're a slob. I made all the beds, closed all the cabinets, picked up after you like an infant--

NICOLE

The thought of having sex with you makes me want to peel my skin off.

CHARLIE

You'll never be happy. In LA or anywhere. You'll think you found some better, opposite guy than me and in a few years you'll rebel against him because you need to have your VOICE. But you don't WANT a voice. You just want to fucking complain about not having a VOICE.

NICOLE

People used to say to me that you were too selfish to be a great artist. I used to defend you. But they're absolutely right.

CHARLIE

All your best acting is behind you. You're back to being a HACK.

NICOLE

You gaslighted me. You're a fucking villain.

CHARLIE

You want to present yourself as a victim because it's a good legal strategy, FINE. But you and I both

know you CHOSE this life. You wanted it until you didn't. You always made me aware of what I was doing wrong, how I was falling short. Life with you was JOYLESS.

NICOLE

So you had to fuck someone else? How could you?

CHARLIE

You shouldn't be upset that I fucked her, you should be upset that I had a laugh with her.

NICOLE

Do you love her?

CHARLIE

No! But she didn't hate me. You hated me.

NICOLE

You hated ME. You fucked someone we worked with.

CHARLIE

You stopped having sex with me in the last year. I never cheated on you.

NICOLE

That was cheating on me.

CHARLIE

But there's so much I could have done. I was a director in my 20's who came from nothing and was suddenly on the cover of fucking Time Out New York. I was hot shit--and I wanted to fuck EVERYBODY and I didn't. And I loved you and didn't want to lose you...and I'm in my twenties and I didn't want to lose that too. And you wanted SO much so fast...I didn't even want to get married...and fuck it, there's so much I DIDN'T do.

NICOLE

Well, thanks for that.

CHARLIE

You're welcome. You're...welcome.

NICOLE

I can't believe I have to know you
FOREVER!

CHARLIE

You're fucking insane! And you're
fucking winning.

NICOLE

Are you kidding? I wanted to be
married. I'd ALREADY LOST. (sadly)
You didn't love me as much as I
loved you.

CHARLIE

What does that have to do with LA?

CHARLIE

What?

NICOLE

You're so merged with your
own selfishness that you
don't even identify it as
selfishness anymore. YOU'RE
SUCH A DICK.

CHARLIE

Every day I wake up and hope you're
dead-- Dead like-- If I could
guarantee Henry would be OK, I'd
hope you get an illness and then get
hit by a car and DIE.

I'm sorry.

NICOLE

Me too.