

~~NICK~~

~~(sotto)~~

~~You should leave. This is your
nightmare.~~

~~GRACE~~

~~(sotto)~~

~~Why would you say that?~~

~~NICK~~

~~(sotto)~~

~~You told me you hoped my mother had
passed so you'd never have a moment
like this.~~

~~GRACE~~

~~(sotto)~~

~~Let's hope we die, and I'm loving it!~~

Cathleen, now finished with the waiter, addresses Grace:

CATHLEEN

So, how do you two know each other?

NICK

Mom, this is Grace. Remember, I
told you? The woman I was seeing.

CATHLEEN

(thinking he's kidding)

Ha-ha.

(to Grace)

Who are you really?

GRACE

I'm Grace. Nick's girlfriend.

NICK

Ex. Girlfriend.

GRACE

(to Cathleen)

We've had a few hiccups.

NICK

More like a fatal, full-body
seizure.

CATHLEEN

(realizing)

Oh. Oh. Oh! So, you two were...
dating?

4/7

GRACE

I know I'm not exactly who you were picturing.

CATHLEEN

Well, no. When Nicky said he was seeing someone more mature for once, I was thinking you were maybe forty. Not forty times two.

NICK

She's not that old, Mom.

GRACE

Funny story for later...

An obsequious MANAGER walks up to the table.

MANAGER

Mr. Skolka, I hope everything was to your liking and that you and your mother...

The Manager can't figure out which woman is Nick's mother.

GRACE

(to the Manager)

She's the mother. She's clearly the mother.

(to Cathleen, saving it)

I mean, because you look so much like him... or he looks so much like you.

Nick hands him his credit card. The Manager crosses off. Grace plasters on a smile:

GRACE (CONT'D)

So, Cathleen, what brings you to San Diego?

CATHLEEN

Oh, just seeing Nicky and my grandson. Do you have grandkids?

GRACE

I do. They're so, so precious.

NICK

I've never met them.

GRACE

I don't get to see them as much as I'd like.

(CONTINUED)

CATHLEEN

Oh, they live out of town?

GRACE

(caught)

No.

The Manager returns with the bill and exits. As Nick signs it and takes his credit card:

NICK

You two do have something in common. Mom just moved into a retirement community, too. Of course, she called and told me she was moving before she did it.

GRACE

Well, I'm here to tell you in person, I moved out of that retirement community.

CATHLEEN

Oh, did you have a Richard, too? Because we got our Richard kicked out. You shouldn't have to move.

GRACE

No, it was a mistake to move there.
(off Cathleen's look)
For me.
(can't help herself)
They're fine for some people.
(then, to Nick, sincere)
I made a lot of mistakes.

NICK

So, we agree. And on that note, I have a plane to catch.

He stands and kisses his mother on the cheek.

NICK (CONT'D)

Mom, I'll see you when I get back.
Grace... what was this?

Grace is speechless and crushed. As Nick walks to the door, she sees the door closing on her chance to win him back. She blurts out:

GRACE

WAIT, DON'T LEAVE!

(CONTINUED)

The entire restaurant turns. Grace is embarrassed to see everyone staring, but goes to Nick anyway:

GRACE (CONT'D)

You know, I came here to make some big, romantic gesture. But it's probably the only thing that could make this even more awkward. *

~~He starts to interrupt her, but she puts up her hand:~~

~~GRACE (CONT'D)~~

~~By having sex with that young woman, you confirmed all my worst fears. But I still came here today.~~
~~(she gathers her courage)~~
~~Because I'm in love with you.~~

Nick is shocked to hear Grace say those words.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I know I've wasted a lot of our time. But I know what I want to do with the time we have left. I want to do you.

He smiles. Grace realizes what she said.

GRACE (CONT'D)

You know what I mean.

NICK

I do.

Now she smiles, too. With a nod, Nick turns to leave. Grace watches him exit. After he's gone, Cathleen makes her way over to Grace.

CATHLEEN

You sure know how to crash a lunch. *

GRACE

Thank you.

Grace walks out, victorious.

END
//

7/7
|