

Googly Eyes

DRAFT 5

By

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1 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - DAY

GARY, late 20s, is on the PHONE, looking at medical SUPPLIES in his cabinet.

GARY

No. It's only when I move my head back and forth. It's like a clunk. Clunk. Clunk. I have no idea. I haven't been swimming. She--

The front door opens.

SUZY, late 20s, enters the apartment and beelines it to the bedroom. She's Gary's recent ex-girlfriend.

GARY

Oh she just walked in. Yeah, good idea. Bye Mom.

Gary hangs up the phone. He follows Suzy through the living room and into the bedroom.

2 INT. BEDROOM - CONT

Suzy packs a SUITCASE, never making eye contact with Gary.

SUZY

Sorry for barging in, I really need to get some stuff out of here.

GARY

It's okay.

Gary is distractedly shaking his head and moving his jaw. It's clear by now that he has a problem with his ear.

SUZY

I'm late for an audition and I couldn't find a spot anywhere, of course. Bullshit neighborhood.

She continues packing, grabbing CLOTHES and shoving them into BAGS, opening and closing drawers, etc.

GARY

You should have parked in the spot.

SUZY

Well, you were already there.

(CONTINUED)

GARY

Oh, but I mean...I would have moved.

SUZY

That's okay, I double parked. What's wrong with you?

She's noticed his ear issue, but it doesn't slow her down.

GARY

Oh I just, I think I have an ear infection.

SUZY

Huh. That your mom on the phone?

GARY

Yeah, she was helping me troubleshoot this thing.

SUZY

Yeah. She have anything to say?

GARY

About what?

This slows Suzy down.

SUZY

Did you tell her?

GARY

Well...no. I mean, we were talking about my ear.

SUZY

You gotta tell her, Gary.

GARY

Why do I have to tell her?

SUZY

We broke up. It's not fair to me to have people thinking we're still together.

GARY

Yeah but it's my mom. She lives in New Hampshire, it's not like you're gonna run into her at the grocery store.

(CONTINUED)

SUZY
Have you told your brother?

GARY
I haven't felt the need!

SUZY
Do any of your friends know? Gary,
this is really unfair.

Suzy walks back into the living room. Gary follows.

3 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - CONT

Suzy continues to pack up things from the living room--BOOKS
from the shelf, etc.

GARY
Look, I--do we have to talk about
this now? My ear feels like it has
a fucking pebble in it or
something, I can't hear anything--

SUZY
What's wrong with your ear? These
are all my books, by the way.

GARY
I'm saying, there's something in
it.

He gives his head a shake to demonstrate.

SUZY
It's earwax.

GARY
It's not earwax, it's like a
pebble.

SUZY
Your earwax hardened into a ball
and now it's rattling around in
your head.

GARY
Come on.

SUZY
It's because you use Q-Tips.

Suzy moves into the kitchen; Gary follows.

GARY

How could Q-Tips transform soft earwax into a hard ball?

SUZY

It gets compressed. I told you not to use those.

GARY

Who doesn't use Q-Tips? That's the most retarded medical advice, to stop using Q-Tips.

SUZY

It's common sense. Even the Q-Tip people say not to use Q-Tips.

GARY

What do I use then, a pencil?

SUZY

You wrap a tissue around your finger.

GARY

Have you seen my fingers? I'm sorry, I was born with fat fingers. We can't all have tiny girl fingers that can slip into any little ear canal.

Suzy is going through cabinets looking for something.

SUZY

You use Q-Tips, you get an ear infection. I don't know what else to tell you. Where is my tea??

GARY

Have you ever looked into the ears of someone who doesn't use Q-Tips? It's disgusting. No. Clean ears are an important part of my life. Call me crazy.

SUZY

Well. You get what you sow.

GARY

You reap what you sow, actually.

Gary sullenly holds his head in his hands, moving his jaw.

(CONTINUED)

SUZY

Right. Well, I gotta go.

She moves to the door. He follows.

GARY

You're seriously leaving?

SUZY

I'm double parked! What's the issue?

GARY

I thought you could help with my ear.

SUZY

How?

GARY

You worked at a pharmacy.

SUZY

I worked at a CVS in high school.

GARY

You must have learned something!

SUZY

Gary, I gotta go. You need to respect that we're not together anymore, and you need to start telling people we broke up. Have you taken a shower?

GARY

How can I!

SUZY

Take a shower, the hot water will loosen the wax up. You gotta wash your ear out with hot water, that's the only way. Alright? I gotta go.

GARY

Suze.

SUZY

Gary.

She makes a face as if to say "Seriously." She moves the 4 or 5 bags she's packed out the door.

Gary turns and goes into the other room.

4 INT. HALLWAY - CONT

Suzy attempts to pick up all of her bags just outside the door. Because she's packed so many, it's not easy--it takes a few moments to get them all in her arms.

And as soon as she's accomplished just that, a SCREAM comes from inside the apartment.

SUZY
(exasperated)
Oh Jesus.

She drops her bags and opens the door.

5 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - CONT

She pokes her head through the door.

SUZY (CONT)
Should I call an ambulance?

No answer. Gary is nowhere in sight. She kicks her bags back inside and moves through the kitchen.

The living room is empty.

SUZY (CONT)
Gary.

Gary emerges from the bathroom, his face in a rictus of pain.

A Q-TIP protrudes from the afflicted ear.

SUZY (CONT)
Is that what I think it is?

GARY
I don't think I can move it.

Suzy goes over for a closer look.

SUZY
You thought you'd solve your Q-Tip
problem with another Q-Tip.

GARY
Don't touch it.

Gary sits on the sofa.

(CONTINUED)

SUZY
Do you want to go to the doctor?

GARY
I don't have insurance.

SUZY
Well, you can't leave it in there.
Can I touch it?

GARY
I don't think so.

SUZY
I'm gonna touch it.

Suzy puts her PURSE and KEYS down and sits. She takes hold of the Q-Tip gently.

Gary hisses.

SUZY (CONT)
I didn't do anything.

GARY
You're touching it.

SUZY
I'm not moving.

GARY
I'm on the brink of losing my
hearing.

SUZY
I'm gonna take it out.

GARY
Don't.

SUZY
On the count of three. One. Two.

She removes the Q-Tip. Gary wails for a second then stops.

GARY
That was actually okay. Is there
anything on it?

SUZY
No. Is your ear still blocked?

He shakes his head to test it.

GARY

Yeah.

SUZY

Okay. Let's heat up some water.

6 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - LATER

Close on Gary's face.

GARY

You know what I don't get?
Mermaids.

As his monologue continues, the camera slowly pulls back to reveal the following scene:

Gary has his head on the table. Also on the table are the instruments that will cure his ear infection: a steaming KETTLE, a TURKEY BASTER, a BOWL, a TOWEL, and an EGG TIMER.

Suzy sits behind him reading a gossip magazine.

She's filled his ear with hot water using the turkey baster, and now they're waiting for the water to work it's magic.

GARY

I mean, they're supposed to be this sexy mythological creature. But can you imagine if we really found something in the ocean that was half woman half fish? I mean, the top half is perfect, this perfect woman, great breasts, just gorgeous, and then you look down and instead of sexy legs you see a disgusting fish tail, with flippers and slime and a waste hole and everything. Is that really what sailors fantasized about? Why not fantasize about finding a real woman. It's a fantasy, why compromise by making her half sea-turtle or whatever. Or half jellyfish--that'd be sexy. What if it was the head of a fish and a woman's body--that would be even worse. Those big lifeless eyes and stupid fish mouth. Makes my skin crawl.

The egg timer DINGS. Suzy puts down her magazine.

(CONTINUED)

SUZY
That was five minutes.

GARY
Okay. What should I do?

Suzy covers the afflicted side of his head with a towel.

SUZY
I think sit up and flop your head
to the other side.

Gary does just that, shaking the contents of his ear into
the towel that Suzy is holding.

Suddenly his eyes go wide.

GARY
Oh! I think something came out.

Suzy inspects the towel.

GARY (CONT)
Did we get anything?

SUZY
Yeah...what is this?

Gary tries to take a peek.

GARY
What is it?

SUZY
You know what this is? It's a
googly eye!

GARY
What?

Suzy shows him the towel. Sure enough, there's a single
plastic googly eye staring back at him.

SUZY
It's one of those googly eyes from
a toy or something.

GARY (CONT)
Seriously?

SUZY
How did you get a googly eye in
your ear?

GARY

I have no idea. Oh, wait...Oh.

A look of wonder comes over Gary's face as he starts to recall...

7 INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

FLASHBACK

Young Gary, 7, watches the 1980's mermaid comedy "SPLASH" on TV in the living room.

ON TV

Darryl Hannah, on a dinner date, bites into a whole lobster, shell and all.

TOM HANKS

She's really hungry.

BACK TO SCENE

Young Gary, wearing a SOCCER UNIFORM, plays absent-mindedly with a NOVELTY PENCIL with frizzy hair and googly eyes.

In the background, GARY'S MOTHER and his SOCCER COACH are MAKING OUT against the kitchen counter.

It's an open floor layout, so the kitchen is visible from the living room.

MOTHER

Oh yes. Yes, Dale, yes...

The coach, dressed in a TEAM UNIFORM, gropes her feverishly. There's a big net of soccer balls on the kitchen floor.

COACH

Oh Dorothy...Dorothy...

They grope.

Close on Young Gary as he plucks one of the EYES off the toy and plays with it.

Meanwhile, in the kitchen, the coach suddenly breaks away from the make-out session.

COACH

Wait, wait. What about Gary?

Gary's mother does some quick thinking.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER

Let's go to the bedroom. He'll be fine as long as the TV's on.

The coach mulls it over.

COACH

Okay.

They embrace like horny teenagers and shuffle towards the bedroom.

Young Gary, meanwhile, puts the googly eye INTO HIS EAR. He shakes his head back and forth, listening to the rattle.

Sensual moans come from the bedroom.

FADE BACK to the present...

8 INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gary is still staring into space with wonder.

GARY

Wow! Is that a metaphor or what?

SUZY

What?

Gary looks at her.

GARY

Don't you think that's like a metaphor for our relationship?

SUZY

No. It sounds like you stuck something in your ear while your mom was boffing the soccer coach.

GARY

Yeah but I chose not to hear it, you know? I chose to plug up my ear.

SUZY

Well, yeah, Gary. You did choose not to listen. You also chose to act like an asshole, and you chose to visit a prostitute--

(CONTINUED)

GARY
(interrupting)
She wasn't a prostitute!

SUZY
--on that trip to Las Vegas. You
chose to do a lot of shitty things,
and you made me feel really
unwelcome. And now--

She notices the clock.

SUZY (CONT)
Shit, my audition!

GARY
Oh yeah, I was wondering about
that.

A look of exasperation comes over Suzy's face. She leaves
the kitchen to get her purse off the couch. He follows.

SUZY
This is the fucking metaphor. It's
me giving and giving and you taking
advantage of me when it suits you
and ignoring me the rest of the
time.

GARY
I honestly wasn't trying to take
advantage of anything--

SUZY
You were though.

Back to the kitchen.

GARY
I had a fucking eyeball stuck in my
ear, who could have predicted that?

SUZY
(reasonable)
Gary. If you have any love for me
at all, you'll let me go. You'll
tell your mom we've broken up. And
you'll tell her it was your fault,
because it was.

GARY
Fine. Fine, I'll tell everyone it
was my fault. I'll call our friends
and tell them I'm an asshole.

(CONTINUED)

SUZY
Will you really?

GARY
I don't know! No! I don't want to!

SUZY
Please try to remember you broke up
with me.

GARY
But then I changed my mind.

SUZY
(tenderly)
You are a very confused person,
Gary.

She goes to the door. He follows her and watches her gather her bags.

They face each other as if to say goodbye.

SUZY
No more Q-Tips.

GARY
I will never give up Q-Tips and
there's nothing you can do to stop
me.

She leaves. He paces for a minute, then goes to the bedroom.

9 INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gary goes to the WINDOW.

10 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Gary's POV of Suzy as she takes a TICKET off the windshield, swears, and drives away.

11 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gary stands in the room alone.

A lonely electric-piano jazz standard comes over the soundtrack.

Finally, he walks out. The music continues as...

12 INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Gary watches a HOT POCKET rotate in the microwave.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gary lazily watches TV, milking his beer.

ON TELEVISION

A clip from "The Little Mermaid."

14 INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Gary relaxes in the tub. He LIGHTS A BONG and reclines, staring at the ceiling.

15 INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Gary, wearing a BATHROBE, watches YOUTUBE on his laptop.

ON THE MONITOR

Two sea otters hold hands and slowly rotate in a pool.

BACK TO SCENE

Gary watches the screen for a minute. Then he starts clicking his mouse.

ON THE MONITOR

Gary goes to his RELATIONSHIP STATUS on FACEBOOK. He hesitates, and then changes his status to SINGLE.

Instantly, several INSTANT MESSAGES from his mother pop up on the bottom of the screen:

Honey are you and Suzy ok?

Your page says single...

Is that a mistake?

Did you do something??

Should I come visit???

BACK TO SCENE

He closes his laptop. The piano soundtrack ends.

(CONTINUED)

Gary picks up the googly eye from the table and studies it.

He puts the googly eye just inside his ear, just to see what it's like. He gives his head a shake.

Satisfied, he tries to remove the googly eye from his ear. But instead, he pushes it deeper into his canal.

He panics. He shakes and slaps his head a few times.

GARY

Oh shit.

The eye is stuck.

MUSIC with TITLE OVER BLACK.

FADE OUT.