

THE NICEST GUY IN THE WORLD

Written by

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PILOT EPISODE

TEXT ON BLACK SCREEN-

Five days before-

A BLANK COMPUTER SCREEN-

After a moment, a video of STEVIE BOONE pops up. It's a self-recorded video. He is smiling and addressing the camera

STEVIE

Hello my friends. Today is Friday, the 16th of March. It's nice outside. The sun's out. There's a little spring in the air. You know what I mean. That fragrant breeze. So lovely.

He leans in.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

What shall today's good deed be? Hmm...Got it! At some point during your busy, busy life, stop and ask someone how they are. But really ask them. And smile at them. And thank them for their time. Remember, if we don't have each other's backs, we're left with nothing but a bunch of fronts. And what's a front? That's right, a battleground. I send you my love. My good thoughts. And my wish for your best selves.

He blows a kiss and waves. Then he's gone.

CUT TO BLACK:

TEXT ON BLACK SCREEN-

One day after...

ALEX's screen pops up first, she is video calling Stevie's manager and old friend, VAL. She is irritated.

ALEX

Pick up. Pick up. Pick up.

Val appears and without a beat-

VAL

What the fuck?

ALEX

I know!

VAL

What the fuck?

ALEX

I know!

VAL

What the actual mother fuck?!

ALEX

It's worse!

VAL

Worse?! How could it be worse? We are literally drowning in a toilet bowl!

ALEX

Yeah, well get ready, cuz apparently the life preservers are just made of shit!

VAL

Is that an apt metaphor?

ALEX

Well, gee, I don't know maybe we should split fuckin' pubic hairs over a god damned shit metaphor!

VAL

Okay, there's no need to attack me!

ALEX

Just check your phone, I just sent it.

VAL

Sent what?

ALEX

I can't say it out loud. It's so bad, we can't even say it! Read your phone.

Val looks at his phone. It doesn't take long.

VAL

Oh, fuck me with your dead dad's dick!

ALEX
I know!

VAL
He said this?

ALEX
He did!

VAL
Fuck.

ALEX
I know.

VAL
Fuck!

ALEX
I know.

VAL
Fuck.

ALEX
It's the end of the fucking world!

VAL
How, why, what, where, what, what,
fucking Jesus Holy raping Christ!
Why would he say this?

ALEX
There is no way we get him out of
this?

VAL
The world is going to fucking-

ALEX
I know-

VAL
Fucking-

ALEX
I know-

VAL
He's finished! He's just fucking
finished!

ALEX
He wants to speak.

VAL
To who? To why?? To WHAAAA!

ALEX
You're not saying words!

VAL
He can't speak!

ALEX
Yeah, I know.

VAL
He's cancelled!

ALEX
Yeah, I know.

VAL
We're out of a job!

ALEX
Yeah, I know!

VAL
Well Fuck, Al!

ALEX
Yeah, I'm all caught up!

VAL
What do we do?

ALEX
What can we do?

VAL
What do we do?

ALEX
What can we do?!

VAL
We have to do something!

ALEX
You think?

VAL
I do.

ALEX
For real?

VAL

Stop it!

ALEX

Well what the actual fuck do you think I've been doing all morning? It's been less than twelve hours since this gigantic shit bomb landed, the mushroom cloud hasn't even cleared yet. I mean we are literally standing under a billowing, fucking-

VAL

Oh will you stop with the god damned metaphors!

ALEX

Well we have to get to work on this fast. Twitter's already called for his castration! And he's had to remove his Instagram account. How can people be so fucking awful. So fucking fast?

VAL

Haven't I always told you the world is filled with only one kind of people. Garbage people! We're all garbage. We're just all waiting for reasons to show everyone that we're garbage.

ALEX

I have to talk to Misty. She's called me like a thousand times.

VAL

What can I do?

ALEX

Do you want to deal with Ray?

VAL

Oh god.

ALEX

Well someone has to?

VAL

Where the fuck is he?

ALEX

He's at some ashram or in a yurt or I don't know he joined some cult in North Dakota.

VAL

For what?

ALEX

It's a cult, Val! They're trying to make contact with aliens or learn how to communicate telepathically with farm animals, or binge-watch The Big, Bang Theory I don't know!

VAL

Fine, I'll talk to him. You talk to Misty and then we'll regroup after.

ALEX

Fine.

VAL

Fine.

ALEX

Fuck off then!

VAL

Fuck you.

ALEX

Kisses.

VAL

Love ya.

They both hang up at the same time.

VAL AND RAY

Val is on screen waiting for Ray to answer his video call.

VAL (CONT'D)

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck my life.

Ray answers with a towel wrapped around his head.

RAY

Val! Namaste brother, Namaste.

VAL

Ray! Hi. How are you?

RAY

Ugh. The sun penetrated my sphincter yesterday.

VAL

Oh wow. That...begs a few questions.

RAY

You would not believe how much dirt is in North Dakota. The earth is everywhere, man. It's everywhere.

VAL

Right. Well, yeah, we're on it so-

RAY

What can I do for you? Are you pooping okay?

VAL

What?

RAY

You look a little backed up.

VAL

Um. Thank you. I'm good. I'm actually calling because-

RAY

How crazy is it that we're all stuck. We're like stuck. Right? Like I mean I used to think that the world wasn't round, but like inverted in itself, so like we were all trapped in some sort of shape that hasn't been invented yet. And look! I mean, I was right.

VAL

Uh-huh. So, your boyfriend-

RAY

How is Stevie? We're taking a cleanse, so we don't speak. A hundred days. It's long, right?

VAL

Yeah. That is long.

RAY

You know his Uncle put his hand on his balls when he was a kid, right?

VAL

I- I- I didn't know that. No.

RAY

Uncle's have hands, Val. Sometimes, they have hands.

VAL

Yeah, that makes sense.

RAY

Nicest guy in the world. Do you know who gave him that title?

VAL

Um, I don't think anyone gave it to him-

RAY

He really is. He really is the nicest guy in the world.

VAL

Yeah, funny you should mention that-

RAY

ALEX and MISTY

MISTY

Is this on? Can you see me? Hello?

ALEX

Hello? Yes. I can hear you. Misty?

MISTY

Hello? Where are you?

ALEX

Misty? Are you there?

Misty appears way too close.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Okay, you are way too close to your camera.

MISTY

Is this on?

ALEX

Misty!

MISTY

Hello?

ALEX

Oh Christ, she has me muted!

MISTY

Hello?! I'm so sorry. I'm not great at technology. I thought my garage door opener was my late husband's pace maker. God rest his soul. I saved it in a special drawer.

ALEX

Who does she think she's talking to?

MISTY

I couldn't get the car out of the garage for months.
Hello?

ALEX

I'm gonna kill myself.

MISTY

Are you in there?

Back to Val and Ray

RAY

He didn't actually say this?

VAL

Yeah, he did.

RAY

Oh my god. Well, I have to leave him at once.

VAL

Wait, what? No! Wait! You can't just-

RAY

Tell him I love him. But I can't follow him down this rabbit hole. Not after the last time. That poor rabbit was not prepared for what we did to him.

VAL

Okay, but you can't just dump him.

RAY

I'm not dumping him. You are. I'm disassociating. I can't even have contact with someone who would say something like that. In fact, just talking to you is probably transitively bad. That's a different kind of trans. It's not insensitive. I went to a seminar!

VAL

Ray, wait- before you do anything rash.

RAY

Speaking of rash, what do you think this is?

Ray shows him a rash on his elbow.

VAL

Ray? I'm sure it's all out of context.

RAY

My elbow? The rash? How can a rash be out of context?

VAL

No, what he said.

RAY

Oh yeah, we can't talk about that. Ever again. I'll send out a message to my followers denouncing him as garbage. That's what you want, right?

VAL

What? NO!

RAY

We must show the world we're better than other people now. That's what cancel culture is. We're the good, moral one's and anyone who disagrees with us is just Hitler.

VAL

No, Ray, I'm on his side.

RAY

What? Oh no. Then goodbye.

VAL

Wait-

Ray hangs up. Val looks at himself on screen.

VAL (CONT'D)

FUUUUUUUCK!

Back to Misty and Alex.

Alex is sitting back with a hand to her head propping it up, she has clearly been waiting for Misty to figure this out.

MISTY

I can see you now.

Alex gives her a thumbs up.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Can you hear me?

Alex gives her another thumbs up

MISTY (CONT'D)

I can't hear you. I can't hear you at all. There are so many different buttons. Oh! I think I did it. I think I gave you sound.

ALEX

Yeah? Can you hear me?

MISTY

Go ahead and say something.

Alex's head drops to the table.

VAL, and MOODY

Moody answers.

MOODY

I knew you were going to call. Oh wait, who are you?

VAL

I'm sorry. Are you Moody?

MOODY

Sometimes, when I haven't slept enough.

VAL

So, you're name isn't Moody?

MOODY

That's confidential. The Chinese have a saying- But it's in Chinese so I don't know how to say it.

VAL

Okay, you're Stevie Boone's life coach, right? Moody Charmin?

MOODY

And who are you?

VAL

I'm his manager, Val.

MOODY

Oh, yeah, I've heard him mention you in our sessions. Which are confidential, so I will thank you to not remember that I said that.

VAL

Sure. Listen- Have you spoken to Stevie?

MOODY

I'm his life coach of course I have. You're not the brightest fork in the sky, are you?

VAL

No. No, I mean, today! Have you spoken with him today?

MOODY

Confidentially? Means I can't tell you.

VAL

Oh my god! Okay, did you read what he said?

MOODY

I shouldn't have answered this call. I saw the name Val and assumed you were Val Kilmer.

VAL

Oh, is he a client of yours?

MOODY
No, we've never met.

VAL
Right.

MOODY
But I have a feeling. Right here in
my stomach.

VAL
About Val Kilmer?

MOODY
No, I think that's my appendix. Do
you know which side hurts before
you blow? I took a new supplement
yesterday that's supposed to help
me poop compost ready.

VAL
I don't. Um, look as much as I'm
starting to regret making this
call, I need your help.

MOODY
I charge two hundred dollars a
session.

VAL
Wow. That's steep. Two-hundred
dollars an hour. My first hooker
didn't make that much.

Val laughs, Moody doesn't. Val stops.

VAL (CONT'D)
Sorry.

MOODY
You can't say that.

VAL
Okay.

MOODY
It's not okay that you said that.

VAL
I apologize.

Moody closes his eyes and takes a breath and then blows on a
kazoo and smiles and opens his eyes.

VAL (CONT'D)

Aren't you a little young to be a life coach?

MOODY

Astrologically, I am seventy-eight years old. So, you do the math.

VAL

Okay, I have your phone number, so I'm going to text you the transcript of what Stevie said.

MOODY

Just say it.

VAL

Oh no. It's so bad. I can't say it out loud.

MOODY

You have my phone number?

VAL

Yes. We're on a phone call. Right now.

MOODY

We are?

Moody looks around himself as if he's being watched. He's a bit paranoid now.

VAL

Okay, I'm just gonna go ahead and send it.

Val texts him.

MOODY

You know this is exactly how they caught the second gunman on the grassy knoll.

Val looks up from his phone.

VAL

Through technology that didn't exist yet?

MOODY

Ugh! Wake up. 9/11, the Kennedy's, the "moon" landing.

VAL

Why did you put the quotes on moon?

MOODY

You can't spell conspiracy without U.S.

VAL

Only if you spell it right.

MOODY

Do you know what a ping is?

VAL

I don't.

MOODY

It's not just a Chinese slur. It's also a bit of technology that can calculate coordinates like down to a matter of milliseconds.

VAL

Yeah. I just sent it.

MOODY

Great! Now the interwebs knows about us. I can't deny this now. Do you know what you've just done?

VAL

I don't want to have this conversation anymore.

MOODY

I'll bet not. Now that you've involved the government.

VAL

Will you please just read the text?

MOODY

Fine. But I still don't see what this has to do with Val Kilmer.

Val can't. He retreats and buries his face in his hands while Moody reads the text. Moody mouths as he reads and when he gets to THE part his mouth slowly opens and his eyes move slowly from his phone back to the camera.

MOODY (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

VAL

Yeah.

MOODY

Did Stevie really say this?

VAL

He did.

Beat. Moody holds the phone to his chest to think.

MOODY

This is bad.

VAL

I know.

MOODY

His soul needs to be disinfected.

VAL

Um-

MOODY

Like with real bleach.

VAL

So, here's what I need from you-

MOODY

How has the world not cancelled him for this?

VAL

Oh they have. Yeah, he's pretty much been denounced by everyone that's ever met him, and Turkey for some reason. I think they think he has Turkish blood.

MOODY

Oh no, no he doesn't. I made him get rid of those vials. He thought they would make him younger. He had a witchdoctor at the time. So stupid. Thank god, I got him out before he was turned into a crow.

VAL

Just. So many questions.

MOODY

But how can I help? I mean, I'm just a magical shaman with healing crystals and potions that are for sale on my etsy page. Visit my website for extras.

VAL

I think we need to rehabilitate him. We need to show the world that people can change. That people can make mistakes and come back from it. I mean, he's the nicest guy in the world. If he can't be forgiven, who can?

MOODY

I think it's Greek blood that has anti-aging properties. I could be wrong. It's been so long since I went to that occult seminar for the criminally insane.

VAL

As his life coach-

MOODY

You know what, it was Russian!

VAL

Who cares? Oh my god, stop talking about blood!

MOODY

You brought it up.

VAL

I really didn't.

MOODY

Of course I'm on his side. He's my favorite client. Well, he's my most famous client. Well, he's my only famous client. But he is famous.

VAL

Right. So, you'll help?

MOODY

Of course.

VAL

Ugh. Thank you.

MOODY

Now. You still haven't told me how
Val Kilmer is involved.

Val just reacts with a look.

VAL, ALEX, and STEVIE

Stevie answers. He is dishelved, unshaven and angry.

VAL

Hey buddy.

ALEX

Hey there, little guy.

VAL

You look so good.

ALEX

So good. Have you gotten some sun?

VAL

Such a handsome guy.

STEVIE

All right! Be straight with me.

VAL

Gross.

STEVIE

How fucked am I? Like on a scale of
I can barely feel that, to
screaming orgasm?

ALEX

Oh. Well. When you put it that way,
you're at like what, a moaning
neighbor?

STEVIE

Oh god.

Stevie's head drops.

VAL

No, no! No, it's okay. No one's
moaning.

ALEX

Uh...people are moaning.

STEVIE

Oh god!

VAL

Is this you helping?

ALEX

I'm not gonna lie. He asked me to rate this shit show!

VAL

It was a metaphor! You can lie in a metaphor!

ALEX

I'm not having this argument with you.

Stevie's head pops up.

STEVIE

So it's a shit show? My life is a shit show? You said it! I heard you!

VAL

No.

ALEX

No? How is lying to him going to help?

STEVIE

Yeah! I can take it! I'm a big boy! I'm a big nice boy. I'm the biggest nicest boy in the world.

Stevie is crying.

VAL

Hey. Hey. It's okay. Look, we're gonna fix this. We're gonna make it all better.

STEVIE

You can't! You can't. No one can! It's over. I'm just another cinder in the dumpster of the vanquished. The language police have spoken. You know Orwell was right..."Four legs good, two legs bad."

ALEX

Um. I don't, I don't know about that, but Orwell also said, "don't run from the guys that want to...big brother. You."

VAL

Really!?

ALEX

I don't read! What do I know from Orwell?

VAL

Idiot! He needs our help.

ALEX

He is also a big boy, who needs to own up to what he said.

STEVIE

Don't talk about me like I'm not here! I'm the nicest boy in the world! I am! Me! Talk to me!

ALEX

Oh my god.

VAL

All Alex is saying-

ALEX

Bitch, are you seriously going to mansplain for me!

VAL

I wasn't mansplaining.

STEVIE

You know I texted that word the other day, and it wasn't underlined. It's a real word now!

VAL

Stevie-

STEVIE

I was texting it to some dumb bitch who didn't know what it was, so naturally, I was explaining it, and there it was- a real word.

VAL

Stevie-

STEVIE

And now when I try to text nail salon as one word, you know to save time, it autocorrects to mansplain. Is that irony? Is Siri digitally mansplaining every time that stupid cunt changes what I want her to ducking say?

Stevie cries again. Val and Alex make faces at each other on screen.

ALEX

Stevie? Buddy? We're all gonna fix this. We are, we just need you to stay off all social media.

VAL

Yeah, don't use your phone.

ALEX

And no laptop.

VAL

You can't Tweet, or Insta, or Snap, or crackle, or bump or Grind, or poke or prod or nudge or fist or whatever the christ flewgarfing is.

ALEX

You have to disappear. Okay? You can't let anyone hear anything from you. Are you hearing me? Stevie?

They watch as he stops crying and lifts his head.

STEVIE

It was out of context.

ALEX

Yeah, it wasn't.

STEVIE

I was misquoted.

ALEX

You weren't.

STEVIE

It was a joke.

ALEX

No.

STEVIE

Well fuck, Al! What excuse are we going with? I was drugged by a white guy?

ALEX

No, the truth!

STEVIE

But I was drugged by a white guy!

ALEX

Yeah, you're boyfriend giving you uppers doesn't count.

STEVIE

The truth? That's your answer? Who hired you?

VAL

What she means is-

ALEX

Really?

VAL

Well, what do you want me to do? You're really bad at explaining things!

STEVIE

Just tell me!

VAL

We're going to let it settle, and then you'll apologize and then you'll change. Okay, hearing it out loud, I didn't explain it great either.

STEVIE

You're both fucked in the head. You think I'm going to just let this settle? And let people think that Stevie Boone, that the nicest guy in the world is a guy that would say-

VAL

/Please don't say it!

ALEX

Ah! No! Don't repeat it!

STEVIE

No! No! No! No! It was drug-induced. I was kidnapped and forced at gunpoint! You will have an excuse for this and you will have it by the end of the day tomorrow or I will drink all the 409 under my sink because the President told me to!

VAL

Oh god. No! Don't!

ALEX

He was being sarcastic!

STEVIE

You have twenty-four hours! So start spinning motherfuckers! You're Jewish, right?

VAL

What?

ALEX

Oh god-

STEVIE

Cuz it's time to Dreidel this motherfucker. And don't contact me again until you have! Shalom!

Stevie hangs up. Alex and Val stare at one another.

VAL

Fuck.

ALEX

Dreidel?

VAL

Fuck.

ALEX

Well, at least this is going to be super easy.

VAL

I'm not even Jewish.

Blackout

End Of Episode