

NEW GIRL

"Quit Ducking Around"

Written by

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ACT ONE

INT. LOFT. BATHROOM. MORNING.

NICK, covering up with a towel, stands with his back against the wall, bringing a whole new meaning to "naked and afraid."

NICK

W-winston!

WINSTON walks into the bathroom, ranting.

WINSTON

Nick, this phobia of yours is getting irrational. You just can't cry Winston every time there's a ball of hair in drai --

A DUCK QUACKS, startling Winston against the wall.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Please tell me you see Aflac too?

NICK

So it's not yours?

WINSTON

Mine? I arrest quacks not bring them home.

NICK

(calling out)

Jess!

JESS pops her head through the door.

JESS

Hmm?

NICK

(pointing to the duck)

What is that?

The duck stands on the other side of the room.

JESS

That, guys... would be a duck.

NICK

No. I know what a duck looks like. I mean what is it doing in our bathroom?

She picks the duck up and notices Nick's nakedness.

JESS

(avoiding the question)
I think the real question here is,
what are you guys doing in the
bathroom together?

Winston and Nick look down at Nick's lack of clothes and awkwardly step away from each other.

Jess covers the duck's eyes, shakes her head, and walks out.

INT. LOFT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

ALY, still in uniform, enters the loft and closes the door, exhausted. She can be seen walking to the kitchen.

She drops her keys on the island, and Winston's head pops up from behind the couch.

WINSTON

(surprised)
Aly, baby. Home so soon?

ALY

It's eleven A.M.

He stands, clearly hiding something behind him.

WINSTON

Right, Right. Well, why don't you
get in bed and I'll make you some
breakfast?

ALY

(not buying it)
Why don't you tell me why you were
hiding behind the couch?

WINSTON

Funny you should ask --

FERGUSON, in a tux, reveals himself from behind the couch.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

(revealing a laser
pointer)
Meet the one, the only, Fer-go-ring-
bearer-two-thousand. Ta da!

He points it in a trail on the floor, singing a circus tune. Ferguson follows the laser, but stops and lays on the floor.

ALY

Nice.

WINSTON

(to Ferguson)

No. Buddy, you're supposed to keep going.

(to Aly)

He's supposed to keep going.

Aly chuckles.

ALY

See, what would I do without you,
always adding humor to my mornings?

Aly walks over to Winston and kisses him. Winston, stiff,
doesn't chuckle back.

ALY (CONT'D)

Oh, you're serious.

INT. LOFT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Aly and Winston sit on the couch, drinking coffee.

ALY

No! I'm not letting a cat bring my
wedding ring down the aisle!

WINSTON

Oh, you're wedding ring, huh?

ALY

You know what I meant, Winston.

WINSTON

(defensive)

You don't know what you're saying.
Ferguson isn't just any cat.

ALY

I know, I know, babe.

WINSTON

He's --

ALY

(using air quotes)

"Intelligent," "devilishly
handsome," and "likes to party." I
know.

Winston stands, clearly offended.

WINSTON
Now you're just being sarcastic.

ALY
It's just a stupid idea.

Jess walks through the front door, struggling with a huge bag of duck feed.

JESS
What's a stupid idea?

WINSTON
Aly doesn't think Ferguson can be our ring bearer.

JESS
(overly upset)
Have you even asked Ferguson what he wants? No. No one ever asks them what they want. They just exploit them, and make them think they are safe...

Ferguson can be seen entering from behind the couch. He plops down at Jess's feet.

JESS (CONT'D)
--Until they're nice and fat.
(gesturing to Ferguson)
What's next? You gonna' chop him up and serve him in little cute to-go boxes? You make me sick.

She storms to her room, struggling to carry the duck feed.

ALY
What's her problem?

WINSTON
Something about a Chinese restaurant and a duck. I don't know, but this conversations isn't over.

ALY
Yeah, it is.

Aly leaves to her room.

EXT. CECE AND SCHMIDT'S HOUSE. BACK YARD. DAY.

Cece opens her back door and walks out onto an unfinished deck in progress. SCHMIDT hammers a nail into one of the boards on the deck, visibly having a hard time.

Cece bends down to Schmidt.

CECE
Everything alright out here?

SCHMIDT
(still hammering)
Good. Grand, everything's just peachy out here.

Schmidt accidentally hits his finger with the hammer. He drops the hammer.

Cece rushes to help him.

CECE
Oh my god, are you okay?

SCHMIDT
Do I look okay, Cece? I'm a freaking mess out here. There were no IKEA instructions for building a deck.

Schmidt stands and turns away from Cece, hiding his finger.

CECE
I took a wood shop class in high school, I could help...

SCHMIDT
(frustrated)
Really, Cece? I think what you meant to say is, "Oh, Schmidt. You aren't manly enough to handle building a deck. Let's ask our buff neighbor, Rick."

Schmidt snaps in the direction of his neighbors backyard. RICK, 25, shirtless and muscular, can be seen in his yard, grilling steak. He waves.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)
I will not let you and your muscles infiltrate the building of my deck or sanctity of my wife's mind!
(to Cece)
(MORE)

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)
 Cece, it's boiling hot out here. Go
 inside!

CECE
 Schmidt, you can't be serious.

SCHMIDT
 This is no place for a woman with
 child! Go.

Cece, in disbelief, storms back into the house.

INT. LOFT. JESS'S ROOM. DAY.

Jess sits in the corner on newspapers, trying to coax the
 duck to eat the feed. A bowl of chips sits next to her.

JESS
 You have to eat something.

Jess tries to eat the duck food herself.

JESS (CONT'D)
 See? Not so --Oh, no. Nope.

She spits it out and pushes the bowl of chips to the duck.

JESS (CONT'D)
 I did the right thing, right? I
 saved you. Who knows, five more
 minutes and you could have been a
 duck-ca-bob!

The duck pecks at her chips.

Nick bursts through the door, wearing an apron, rubber boots,
 and holding a broom.

NICK
 (swinging the broom)
 Ah! Back. Stay back.

JESS
 Nick. What are you doing?

NICK
 (to the duck)
 I come in peace. I just want my
 iPod. Also, my girlfriend back...
 but I'll settle for the iPod.

JESS

No, you do not come in peace. You
come with a broom.

Jess grabs Nick's iPod and tries to hand it to him. The duck
moves in front of Jess and QUACKS, unnerving him.

Nick smacks the floor with the broom. The duck attacks him.

Nick drops the broom out of fear, putting up his hands.

NICK

(backing away)

Whoa! You know what, keep it. I
think I'd like to keep all my limbs
today.

JESS

He's not scary, you know. We're the
scary ones.

She tosses him the iPod.

NICK

Yeah, I don't know about that.

The duck attacks Nick again, and Nick runs out of the room.

The duck waddles back over to Jess, nuzzling her.

JESS

Good boy.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

INT. CECE & SCHIDT'S HOUSE. KITCHEN . DAY

Cece stands over the counter cutting a sandwich in half and ripping off a paper towel. She grabs a bottled water from the fridge and brings the sandwich toward the back door.

EXT. CECE & SCHIDT'S HOUSE. BACK YARD. CONTINUOUS

Cece comes through the back door with the sandwich and water bottle.

Schmidt stands on the other end of the unfinished deck, holding part of a measuring tape in his mouth, while trying to pull the other end across a plank of wood.

CECE

Hungry?

SCHMIDT

Not now, I have to finish this.

Cece sets down the food and tries to help him with the tape.

CECE

Here, let me --

Schmidt drops the tape.

SCHMIDT

Honey. Look at this... Look what you did, I had it!

CECE

(stunned)

I didn't even touch it!

SCHMIDT

(taking all his work in)

And you shouldn't. I've got it! I have it all... under... control.

The door SLAMS. Schmidt turns around to find himself standing alone on the deck. He kicks the measuring tape.

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. DAY.

Cece bursts through the front door like she's escaping death.

Winston, Aly, and Nick can be seen eating sandwiches in the kitchen. Winston, startled, drops his on the floor.

WINSTON
(picking up his dirty
sandwich)
Damn it, Cece.

Cece plops down on the couch.

CECE
That's it. I'm running away.

NICK
Schmidt try to do butt stuff again?

CECE
What? Ew, no. Schmidt won't let me
out of his sight! He won't let me
do anything.

NICK
So, no butt stuff?

CECE
I can't pick up a damn paperclip
without him asking me if I'm okay.

Aly takes the other half of her sandwich to Cece and sits next to her.

ALY
Men can be so clueless.

CECE
Thanks.

Jess enters with the duck following behind her. She walks into the kitchen, and the duck QUACKS and chases Nick onto out of the kitchen.

Still eating his sandwich, Nick perches on the back end of the couch, all limbs away from the duck.

NICK
Jess, for the love of God! Can we
please take it back to where you
found it?

CECE
What the hell is a duck doing in
your living room?

NICK
Thank you!

JESS
Funny you should ask, Cece --

Winston sets down his dirty sandwich. He walks passed the duck and plops down on the other side of Cece.

WINSTON
Jess took a duck from a Chinese restaurant.

JESS
I didn't take it. I saved him.

CECE
Is no one sane anymore?

Winston takes Cece's sandwich.

WINSTON
(eyeballing Aly)
Right? Women, so irrational.

CECE
I've gotta' get out of here. You guys are driving me nuts.

Cece stands and heads for the door.

JESS
Wait up, Cece. I'll come with you.

Jess follows her out the door, and the duck follows jess. Nick gets up and closes the door.

INT. LOFT. KITCHEN. EVENING.

Nick clears the island with a swift arm sweep. He lays down a large piece of paper with messy writing on it.

Winston comes to examine it with Nick, it reads: "Plan A: Kill the Duck."

Aly appears behind Nick.

ALY
Isn't the word "kill" a bit excessive?

WINSTON
She has a point.

Nick looks at both of them as if they're mad, but scribbles on the paper with a marker anyway.

NICK

Fine.

ALY

(looking over his
shoulder)

That's more humane.

The paper reads: "Plan A: ~~Kill~~ Remove the Duck Permanently."

NICK

Okay, first, can either of you get me some chloroform?

Aly and Winston exchange a look.

NICK (CONT'D)

Fine. No chloroform. We'll just have to find another way to drag the body out.

WINSTON

Hold up. What body?

NICK

What do you mean, Jess, of course?

ALY

We are not killing Jess.

NICK

God, no! We're not monsters... I just meant knock her out!

ALY

There's something seriously wrong with you.

WINSTON

(to Nick)

Ohhh. Okay, I see what you're saying.

ALY

No. No way.

Aly crumples up the paper and throws it.

ALY (CONT'D)

New plan.

Aly looks up something on her phone and shows it to Nick.

NICK

(beat)

You're brilliant. I'll just need
some crazy glue and duct tape.

Nick leaves the loft through the front door.

Winston and Aly stand around the island.

WINSTON

Can I see?

ALY

Nope.

Aly walks toward their bedroom.

WINSTON

Why not?

ALY

Because I'm still mad at you.

Aly goes in their bedroom and SLAMS the door.

INT. LOFT. BATHROOM. NIGHT.

Jess brushes her teeth in front of the mirror. The duck
stands at her feet.

Nick enters the bathroom, oddly cheerful, and glitter glue on
his cheek. He grabs his tooth brush and brushes his teeth
next to Jess.

JESS

(with toothpaste in her
mouth)

What are you so happy?

NICK

(also with a mouthful)
I didn't know it was a crime to be
happy, Jess.

Jess spits in the sink.

JESS

It's not.

NICK
 (still with a mouthful)
 You know what is a crime?

Jess rinses her toothbrush and sets it aside. Nick spits.

JESS
 What?

NICK
 Stealing someone's pet duck.

JESS
 I don't know what you're talking
 about, Nick.

NICK
 I think you do and I'm going to
 find out who you stole it from,
 with...
 (fumbling with something
 in his back pocket)
 This!

Nick sticks a homemade crazy glue flyer to the mirror.

INSERT: A horribly done flyer, which reads, "FOUND DUCK -
 CALL 555-909-7873," with a hand drawn picture of a duck in
 crazy glitter glue.

BACK TO SCENE

JESS
 Your art skills have truly
 digressed since I met you.

Nick stabs his toothbrush in Jess's direction and the duck
 attacks him.

NICK
 (pointing his toothbrush
 at the duck)
 Ah! Devil duck! Get that psycho
 away from me!

Jess picks up the duck with ease.

NICK (CONT'D)
 I am not sleeping in the same room
 as that thing.

JESS
 Then I think you know where you're
 sleeping tonight.

Jess rips down the flyer, and leaves the bathroom with the duck. Nick rinses his toothbrush and mimics Jess to himself.

INT. LOFT. LIVING ROOM. MORNING.

Ferguson sits in Winston's lap on the couch, while Aly can be seen making coffee in the kitchen.

WINSTON

Ferguson you are strong and capable
no matter what anyone else tells
you. Never forget that.

ALY

For God's sake! I never said he
wasn't capable.

Winston covers Ferguson's ears.

WINSTON

Don't swear in front of Ferguson!
He has virgin ears.

Aly walks into the living room with her coffee.

ALY

See? He can't even handle a little
foul language! If my Grandma saw a
cat carrying our rings down the
aisle, she'd be cursing like a
sailor!

Ferguson hops off Winston's lap and leaves the room.

WINSTON

Now look what you've done.

ALY

Why can't you just understand that
it's a bad idea?

Nick peeks out from behind the couch.

NICK

I agree with Aly.

ALY

Yeah. Wait --What the hell?

WINSTON

Jess kick you out again?

Nick rolls over the top of the couch and sits up, wrapped in a blanket.

NICK

Look, that's besides the point. The point is, there's only room for two of you. It's her or Fergie.

WINSTON

(gasping at Aly)
Aly, you'd make me choose between family?

Aly slams her coffee down on the table, and stomps over to Winston, pointing her finger at him.

Nick picks up her coffee and takes a sip.

ALY

The cat is *not* carrying the rings. Period.

WINSTON

Ferguson *will* carry the rings at *my* wedding!

ALY

(beat)
Then I guess we don't need to share a wedding!

WINSTON

I guess we don't.

NICK

Whoa.

WINSTON

You know what, I think I've heard enough this morning.

Winston stands, revealing his lack of pants and leaves the loft, SLAMMING the door. Nick and Aly exchange a look. A beat, and then:

Winston comes back in and heads for his room. Aly shakes her head and crosses her arms.

He comes back out with pants over his arms.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Pants.

He stomps out of the loft. Aly takes her coffee back from Nick.

Jess exits her bedroom and can be seen in the kitchen, dressed for work, getting coffee.

ALY
Heading out?

JESS
Yeah, you know, Mondays. The week starts over again.

ALY
Where's your little friend this morning?

JESS
It's really sad, actually. I had to leave him in the room, poor thing follows me everywhere.

NICK
No. No, you can't just leave that thing running around in there.

Jess grabs her keys and coffee and heads for the front door.

JESS
Aly, did you hear something? It sounded an awful lot like a helpless little man-child.

ALY
You know, now that you mention it. There's been a couple of those around here this morning.

NICK
How will I get clean underwear?

JESS
Hmm. Ta-ta, Aly!

ALY
Ta-ta, Jess.

Jess exits the loft.

NICK
You guys are cruel.

Aly laughs and exits to her bedroom with her coffee.

INT. JESS'S ROOM. DAY.

Nick bursts through the door, wearing an apron, rubber boots, and holding a broom out like a sword.

NICK

Ah ha!

The duck stands across the room. He QUACKS.

NICK (CONT'D)

I just want some underwear.

He spots a laundry basket behind the duck. Nick eases his way across the room toward the duck. The duck backs up.

NICK (CONT'D)

That's right. Bend at the will of
Old Saint Nick. ...No, that's not.
No.

Nick stomps his foot and the duck flies to the other side of the room. Nick rushes to grab the laundry basket.

NICK (CONT'D)

Oh, God, no. You can fly.
(to God)
He can fly?

Nick battle cries across the room with the basket and out the of the door. The duck flies after him.

INT. LOFT. LIVING ROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Nick runs for his life, dropping the laundry basket and tripping over it.

The duck flies all over the room.

NICK

Aly! Aly!

Aly rushes into the living room with a wooden baseball bat.

ALY

(in a panic)
What? What's going on?

Nick ducks behind the couch and points to the flying duck.

NICK

The heathen can fly!

ALY
I thought you were going to take
care of it?

NICK
Not without clean underwear!

The duck flies over Aly's head. She drops the bat and ducks
to the floor.

ALY
Damn it, Nick!

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

EXT. PARK BENCH. DAY.

Jess and Cece sit on a park bench. The duck sits beside Jess.

JESS
I don't know, Cece. I mean that's
just a hard one.

CECE
I get that I'm pregnant. Okay?
Noted. But I'm not helpless. I'm
not some damsel in distress.

JESS
Well, yeah.

Jess pulls a bag of cheerios from her purse.

CECE
Those for the duck?

JESS
(stuffing one in her
mouth)
Nope. I just think you should try
and talk to him, ya know?

CECE
(beat)
Maybe you're right.

Cece reaches for a cheerio and the duck QUACKS, nipping at
her hand.

CECE (CONT'D)
Sheesh, fine.

EXT. MR.WONG'S RESTAURANT. DAY.

Jess strolls down the sidewalk, eyeballing the restaurant to her left. She glares at it's open sign, and then comes to a halt.

She spots the photo in the window and gasps.

JESS
(unconvinced)
Ricky? Ricky, my left leg! How cheap! They loose one of their dinner plates and all of a sudden, "oh, no! Beloved Ricky. He's gone!" Yeah, right.

INT. MR.WONG'S RESTAURANT. DAY.

Jess bursts through the door like she's ready to give someone a piece of her mind.

The small restaurant's three tables are filled with eating families. They stop eating and stare at Jess.

JESS
(awkwardly)
Sorry.

She heads toward the front counter, but stops when she see's the wall to her left. Photos of the owner and Jess's duck line the wall.

She faces a photo, revealing: Jess's duck and the owner dressed in matching Elvis costumes.

An old Chinese Man comes up behind Jess, starling her.

JESS (CONT'D)
Ah! You scared the bejeezus out of me.

He chuckles and points to the photo.

CHINESE MAN
Been in my family long time.

Jess looks back at the photo.

JESS

The duck?

CHINESE MAN

Mhm. But she's gone. I turn my back for one minute to stir the noodle, and *bam*, no more Ricky!

JESS

(turning to the man)

Well, maybe he didn't like being fattened up to be the next holiday meal and just... flew away.

The Chinese Man gives her a funny look.

CHINESE MAN

Ricky is fat duck, but I don't eat.

JESS

Uh huh. I've seen your menu.

CHINESE MAN

(whispering and looking around)

Orphan duck.

The Chinese Man hands her a copy of the duck flyer. Jess's eyes go wide.

CHINESE MAN (CONT'D)

Feel so sad for baby duckling. I adopt him, long time ago.

(smiling over a memory)

Anywho, you see him, make sure to give call? Fake duck on the house.

JESS

I've gotta go. I-I left the Easy Bake oven on at school!

Jess rushes out the door as the Chinese Man stands confused behind her.

INT. LOFT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Aly and Nick huddle behind a barricade of couch cushions in the corner of the room, hiding from the duck.

Nick rocks back and forth, holding his legs. And Aly peaks through a crack in the cushions.

The PITTER-PATTER of the duck's footsteps can be heard running across the floor. Aly jumps and turns her back to the crack.

ALY
(whispering in fear)
Oh, God, it's coming!

NICK
(whispering back)
Aly, I just want you to know. I sincerely apologize for not being a man in this situation.

Aly looks over at Nick. There's silence for a beat.

ALY
(whispering)
Shhh!

NICK
No, I'm serious.

Aly wacks Nick's arm.

ALY
Shut up. Do you hear that?

NICK
Hear what?

The duck appears behind Nick and QUACKS.

NICK (CONT'D)
Oh, God!

Nick jumps back away from the duck, and hides behind Aly.

ALY
Get away from me!

Aly stands, stumbling over the cushion barricade and heads for the front door. Nick follows on his hands and knees.

EXT. LOFT. FRONT DOOR. DAY

Jess fumbles with her keys, tucking the duck flyer underneath her arm. She jumps, startled, when the door opens suddenly.

Aly stands, looking crazed and holding the door open. Nick fumbles behind Aly to get to his feet.

ALY
Jess! Hey...

JESS
Hey, Aly...
(to Nick)
Nick.

INT. LOFT. LIVING ROOM. MOMENTS LATER.

Jess closes the front door behind her and turns to see the living room in complete turmoil. Aly and Nick stand off to her side, looking guilty.

JESS
Guys? ...Did we get robbed or something?

NICK
Yes! Robbed. Big time. Took everything.
(under his breath)
Except the damn duck.

Jess can be seen setting the flyer and her stuff down on the kitchen island. Then she walks to the coffee table, and looks around the room.

JESS
That's funny, everything seems to be still here?

The duck appears from behind the mess of couch cushions on the floor. It spots Jess and QUACKS, waddling over to her.

JESS (CONT'D)
Hey there, little guy! Come here and give momma a hug.

Jess picks up the duck.

Nick see's the duck flyer on the island and picks it up.

NICK
Yes, finally!

Jess, with the duck in her arms, looks over at Nick.

JESS
What?

Nick brings her the flyer. Aly walks over to look at it.

ALY

Hey, that's Jess's duck!

NICK

No, that's someone's missing duck that Jess stole and is keeping hostage.

JESS

I really don't know what you guys are talking about.

Still holding the duck, Jess starts picking up the couch cushions.

NICK

Yeah? Then why are you nervously organizing?

JESS

(dropping a cushion)
I'm not.

ALY

It sure looks like the same duck, Jess.

JESS

Interesting, coincidence. Who woulda' thought that his identical twin would end up on a wanted sign? Not me, that's for sure.

ALY

Jess...

Jess awkwardly avoids eye contact.

NICK

Jess, give it up. You someone's pet duck. Admit it.

JESS

(cracking under pressure)
Mr. Wong... He said it was orphaned and he adopted it. Yeah, and I really left the Easy Bake oven on at the elementary school... C'mon, guys. Get real.

NICK

You what?

ALY

Actually, Jess... I've had the duck from Mr. Wong's and there is no way that stuff is real.

NICK

You left the Easy Bake on?

The duck squirms in Jess's arms and she sets it down.

JESS

What? No! That was just --
Nevermind.

ALY

Okay, well, I've had enough duck problems today. I'm out.

NICK

Don't leave me alone with her and that demon.

Aly goes to her room. Jess attempts to head to her room.

NICK (CONT'D)

(desperate)

Wait, I have an idea! If the duck comes to the name on the flyer, then Mr. Wong is telling the truth, and the duck goes back to the restaurant.

Jess considers it for a moment.

JESS

Fine. But if he doesn't, he stays with us.

Jess picks up the duck again and leaves the room.

NICK

(to himself)

I have a bad feeling about this.

END OF ACT THREE.

ACT FOUR

INT. WINSTON AND ALY'S ROOM. LATE AFTERNOON.

Aly lays on the bed, reading, with Ferguson curled up next to her. Winston comes into the room.

ALY

Hey.

Winston ignores her and unties his shoes.

ALY (CONT'D)

Winston, I'm sorry.

He sits on the end of the bed but doesn't look at her.

WINTSON

I'm listening.

Aly closes her book and moves to sit next to him.

ALY

I shouldn't have just shut your idea down. I should have given you a chance to explain how it could work.

WINSTON

Well, I tried to show you with the laser. He just...

(looking back at Ferguson)

Needs a little more motivation.

ALY

We all do sometimes.

WINSTON

It was a bad idea.

ALY

(chuckling)

Yeah, it really was...

Aly puts her hand on Winston's.

WINSTON

Does this I am still your fiancée?

ALY

This means you can fill out an application, come to an interview, and if dressed appropriately, can maybe qualify for some training.

She lightly pushes his shoulder.

ALY (CONT'D)

Of course.

Winston smiles at Aly and gives her a kiss.

INT. CECE & SCHMIDT'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Cece and Schmidt lay in bed, ignoring each other.

Cece reads, while Schmidt hums an annoying show tune and rubs moisturizer on his hands.

CECE

Could you maybe stop humming?

SCHMIDT

(offended)

Could you maybe not be so grouchy? I feel like I've been playing mine craft with you all day long.

Cece sighs and closes her book.

CECE

Schmidt, we need to talk.

SCHMIDT

Oh, God. What is it, was it the measuring tape thing? Look, honey, I admit it. I didn't really know what I was doing. I know I'm not the manliest man, definitely not like Bob, or maybe anyone you've ever been with, but I --

CECE

Schmidt, It's not that.

SCHMIDT

Oh?

CECE

You're driving me nuts. I'm not a flower petal, I'm not going to wilt when I touch something.

Schmidt plays with a strand of Cece's hair.

SCHMIDT

But you're my flower petal, Cece.

CECE

(in defeat)

I love you.

SCHMIDT

Look, I think I get what you're trying to say. I'll lay off a little, maybe even let you help me with the deck a bit tomorrow, okay?

CECE

Promise?

Schmidt holds out his pinky. Cece locks it with hers.

SCHMIDT

Pinky promise.

EXT. MR.WONG'S RESTAURANT. NIGHT.

Jess and Nick stand outside the restaurant door, with a carrier at their feet. The closed sign is illuminated red.

Nick KNOCKS hard on the door. The duck QUACKS from inside the carrier.

JESS

Nick, maybe this is a bad idea.

NICK

A bet is a bet.

JESS

How do you even know if he even stays the night here?

NICK

It's a hole in the wall chinese restaurant in L.A, Jess. They always stay in the apartment above shop, it's like good luck or something.

Nick KNOCKS on the door again.

An old Chinese Man in a rubber ducky robe can be seen making his way, through the glass door. He squints at Jess and Nick and cracks open the door.

CHINESE MAN
I help you?

NICK
Hi, we'd like to report a found
duck?

The man squints down at the carrier and bends to look inside.

CHINESE MAN
Ricky!

He opens the carrier and the duck QUACKS and waddles straight to him. The Chinese Man picks up the duck.

JESS
Wow, he really does like you.

CHINESE MAN
Thank you, thank you so much! How
could I repay you?

NICK
Well, actually, free food for life
would be --

The Chinese Man recognizes Jess.

CHINESE MAN
Hey! You weird girl from earlier.

JESS
I wouldn't say weird. Cautious and
an activist in the animal rights
community, definitely.

CHINESE MAN
You bring Ricky home to me. Thank
you.

He wraps Jess in a hug, still holding the duck.

JESS
Well, he was a really good little
duck.

NICK
(hidden in a cough)
Speak for yourself.

The Chinese Man lets go of Jess.

CHINESE MAN
Oh no, Ricky is female.

NICK

See, Jess, so many assumptions for
just one little duck.

CHINESE MAN

Here, have this.

He hands Nick a coupon, which reads: "10% off 1 lunch item."

NICK

Gee, thanks.

CHINESE MAN

Sure! Well, I go back to sleep now.
Thanks again so much, hope to see
you back here soon.

The Chinese Man closes the door, locks it and disappears into
the darkness on the other side of the glass.

EXT. STREET SIDEWALK. NIGHT.

Jess and Nick walk down the sidewalk.

JESS

I didn't even get to say goodbye.

NICK

She wasn't really your to say
goodbye to, Jess.

JESS

You're just happy that he's gone!

Nick shrugs.

NICK

She. And yeah, that thing was
psycho.

(beat)

That, and I missed you.

Jess looks up at Nick, while walking. She grabs his hand.

JESS

I missed you too.

END OF ACT SHOW.

