

Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

By

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INT. NICHOLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ETHAN and NICHOLE, both in their twenties, have just finished having sex. Nichole, attractive in a skanky way, is in bed under the covers, and Ethan, tall and lanky, is sitting on the edge of the bed buttoning up his shirt.

NICHOLE

Have you broken up with Audrey yet?

Ethan puts his shoes and socks on. He studiously avoids eye contact with Nichole and remains silent. Nichole leans forward in anger, clutching the covers against her breasts.

NICHOLE

You haven't, have you!

Ethan holds one hand up in a shrug.

ETHAN

I-- I--

NICHOLE

Ethan, you told me you'd dump her.  
You told me you love me.

Ethan crawls over to her, one shoe still in hand.

ETHAN

I do love you, Nichole.

He tries to kiss her, but she pulls her face away.

NICHOLE

Then why haven't you broken up with her?

ETHAN

I will. I am.

NICHOLE

When?

ETHAN

This weekend.

NICHOLE

Your trip to Wendover. Thanks for reminding me.

ETHAN

You know we've been planning it for months. I couldn't just... I'll break up with her this weekend. I promise.

NICHOLE

I'll believe it when I see it.

ETHAN

I promise.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

A car on the freeway crosses the Utah/Nevada border into Wendover, Nevada.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

The same car pulls into a hotel parking lot.

INT. CASINO - DAY

The sounds of jangling machines and lively CROWDS overwhelms the unheard conversations and laughter of Ethan and AUDREY, a shorter woman in her twenties that presents an appearance of sweetness and innocence.

The couple play the slot machine, the roulette wheel, the craps table, and blackjack. They're clearly enjoying each other's company.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan and Audrey enter the room. Their attitudes appear somber in comparison to earlier. Audrey sits on the edge of the bed, and Ethan on a chair across the room.

AUDREY

Why are you so quiet, Ethan? I thought you were having fun today.

ETHAN

I did. Lots of fun.

AUDREY

Then what's wrong?

ETHAN

(hesitant)

There's... I... um... Audrey, there's something I need to tell you.

AUDREY  
(expectantly)  
What is it?

Ethan jumps up and sits on the bed next to her. He takes her hand and gazes into her eyes, then puts his arms around her and pulls her into a deep kiss.

ETHAN  
I love you. I want to marry you.

AUDREY  
(pulling away)  
What?

ETHAN  
I can't help it. When I'm with you,  
I'm overwhelmed with my feelings  
for you. I don't want to keep  
dragging things... I just want to  
marry you and settle everything  
once and for all.

Audrey gazes at him for a moment, then looks down.

AUDREY  
I... Ethan, I don't know what to  
say.

ETHAN  
Say yes. Please say yes.

Audrey pauses for an uncomfortable moment, looking down.

AUDREY  
I... Ethan, I...

She looks back up at him and sees the yearning expression on his face. She responds meekly, almost inaudibly.

AUDREY (cont'd)  
Yes.

INT. MARRIAGE CHAPEL - DAY

No other sound as music swells. Ethan and Audrey stand before the OFFICIATOR as he speaks the words of the ceremony.

Dressed in casual clothes, Audrey has a wedding veil on her head, and Ethan a black bow tie around the neck of his T-shirt.

The Officiator closes his book, and Ethan and Audrey kiss.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

The same car pulls into Salt Lake City.

EXT. NICHOLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Ethan rings the doorbell, and Nichole opens the door. Ethan stands before her, studying her carefully. She cocks her head as he stares at her.

NICHOLE  
Well? Did you do it?

ETHAN  
Break up with her?

NICHOLE  
Of course, you idiot!

Ethan pauses for an instant.

ETHAN  
She's not my girlfriend anymore.

NICHOLE  
Are you sure?

ETHAN  
Of course I'm sure.

Nichole sighs with relief.

NICHOLE  
Thank God for that! Now make wild  
love to me!

She yanks him by the shirt into the house and shoves the door closed. It stays slightly ajar.

INT. NICHOLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nichole enters, pulling Ethan in by his hand. She closes the door, turns and starts undressing him.

ETHAN  
Nichole?

NICHOLE  
(planting kisses all over him)  
Yes, baby?

ETHAN

I love you.

Nichole starts undressing herself.

NICHOLE

That's sweet, baby.

ETHAN

I can't help it. When I'm with you,  
I'm overwhelmed with my feelings  
for you.

EXT. NICHOLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Audrey steps up to the door, hesitates, reaches for the doorbell. She notices the door is ajar and pulls back. She studies the door, then pushes it open.

INT. NICHOLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The door opens, and Audrey stands there, a grim look on her face. Ethan and Nichole are in the throes of sex, Nichole on top. He sees Audrey and pushes Nichole away in horror.

Audrey steps in and locks gazes with Nichole.

AUDREY

What's going on here?

ETHAN

Baby, I... I'm sorry! I... I...

He looks back and forth between the two women, speechless. Audrey and Nichole continue to stare at each other.

NICHOLE

What are you doing here?

AUDREY

I came to see what's going on.

NICHOLE

What's going on is what we planned.

ETHAN

What?

AUDREY

Then why did he ask me to marry  
him?

NICHOLE

He what?

AUDREY

In Wendover, he asked me to marry him.

NICHOLE

(to Ethan)

You told me you broke up with her.

ETHAN

I...

AUDREY

He proposed to me!

NICHOLE

(suspicious)

And you said no, right?

AUDREY

(meekly)

No.

NICHOLE

You got *engaged*?

AUDREY

(even more meekly)

We got married.

Nichole looks back and forth between Audrey and Ethan, then throws the covers off and jumps out of bed. She gathers her clothes up as she moves around the bed.

NICHOLE

You are such a pussy, Audrey! I'm through doing all the dirty work.

ETHAN

What's going on?

NICHOLE

We're lovers, darling, but she didn't have the nerve to dump you. So I was supposed to make you fall in love with me so you'd dump her. Then I could dump you.

She finally has all her clothes gathered up and pauses next to Audrey.

NICHOLE (cont'd)  
But instead of breaking up with her  
like you *promised*, you *proposed* to  
her.

(staring daggers at Audrey)  
And *she* is such a pussy, she said  
yes!

AUDREY  
He caught me by surprise. I didn't  
know what--

NICHOLE  
It's over, princess.

Nichole glares at both of them, makes a noise of anger and  
frustration, and storms out. Audrey and Ethan gaze at each  
other for an uncomfortable moment.

AUDREY  
Ethan?

ETHAN  
Yes?

AUDREY  
It's over.

Audrey rushes out after Nichole. Ethan stares after her in  
shock.

FADE TO BLACK