

**SUSAN.**

Nicky, I want you to know I *love* you. You're so perfect. Nicky, Nicky, for the first time I know why I was born and my life has purpose and if anything ever happened to you, I would just die.

**NICK.**

I don't know how to tell you this without hurting you.

**SUSAN.**

You can tell me anything, Nicky. You won't hurt me. I love you too much.

**NICK.**

I don't think I can see you tomorrow. I have to go to a wedding, and on Sunday my aunt's coming over and I...uh...have exams next week...and...uh... what I'm trying to tell you is I'm going to be pretty busy this winter and I think it would be best if we didn't see each other until the weather gets warmer.

*(There's a pause. SHE stares at him.)*

**NICK.**

It's...uh...nothing permanent, Susan, but sometimes people need a rest from each other to go off and replenish themselves in new experiences and then if they decide they are happier with the other person, they come back stronger than ever and if they decide they are much happier without the other person they still will always love that person for what they once had together. *(SHE stares at him with a frozen smile.)* I knew it would hurt you.

**SUSAN.**

It didn't hurt me at all, Nicky.

**NICK.**

That's good, Susan, I really have a lot of strong feelings for you.

**SUSAN.**

It didn't hurt me because I didn't hear it.

**NICK.**

Susan, try to understand. I think you're a terrific girl and I'll always love you...

**SUSAN.**

I heard that.

**NICK.**

I'm not finished yet. I have strong feelings for you but I just don't think you're the girl for me and I want to end it before somebody gets hurt. So it's all over, Susan. It's all over.

*(There's a long pause. SHE sits there with her frozen smile.)*

**SUSAN.**

*(In a painful whisper.)* There's a sharp pain from the center of my brain through my face and into my heart which feels cut up and the blood is gushing into my throat and I'm choking to death.

*(There's a long pause.)*

**NICK.** *(Sheepishly.)* Gee, I'm sorry to hear that, Susan. I wanted to break up with you still thinking I'm a terrific guy, but I guess that's too much to ask. Come on, I'll take you home.

*(HE starts to get up. SHE grabs his arm and starts squeezing.)*

**NICK.**

Susan, please let go of my arm.

*(SHE continues to squeeze.)*

**NICK.**

Susan, you're hurting me.

**SUSAN.**

*(Grabs him.)* Nicky, please don't go. Without you I'm nothing. If you walk out on me I might as well kiss my whole identity goodbye.

**NICK.**

Susan, that's not a good selling point.

**SUSAN.**

You love me, Nicky, you love me. You can't leave me!

**NICK.**

There are just too many things about you that bother me.

**SUSAN.**

What things, Nicky? Just tell me and I'll change them.

**NICK.**

These are things you can't change.

**SUSAN.**

Love moves mountains. I can change anything.

**NICK.**

Your height. Can you change your height?

**SUSAN.**

You don't like my height? I'm too short?

**NICK.**

Too tall. I don't like walking with a girl who's that tall.

**SUSAN.**

I understand, but I'm not really that tall, Nicky. I only give the impression because I feel tall when I hunch over and stoop my shoulders. (*SHE stands in an awkward, unappealing position.*) Do you like me better this way, Nicky? I think you're right. I could look like this all the time. What else, Nicky?

**NICK.**

Susan, please.

**SUSAN.**

What else don't you like?

**NICK.**

All right, your laugh. I don't like the way you laugh..."he-he-he."

**SUSAN.**

I hate it too. He-he-he. I laugh with my mouth closed because I have a large bite. I'll see an orthodontist. I'll have my teeth filed and I'll laugh with my mouth wide open. Picture this with a smaller bite. Ha-ha-ha. See how easy it is to work things out. And we were so worried...Remember?

**NICK.**

Susan, listen to me, there's more than that.

**SUSAN.**

What, Nicky, tell me.

**NICK.**

Susan, don't make me.

**SUSAN.**

Please, Nicky.

**NICK.**

Your personality.

**SUSAN.**

What's wrong with my personality?

**NICK.**

You don't have one.

**SUSAN.**

I don't really think that's a problem, Nicky. I have no personality only because I thought you went for the helpless, wallflower type. I can change my personality...anything you want...moody, bubbly, effervescent, incoherent...

**NICK.**

What about your brain? Can you change your brain? You're not smart enough for me.

**SUSAN.**

Nicky, I've been holding myself back. I didn't want you to feel inferior to me. Ask me questions, Nicky. Go ahead...What's the capitol of North Dakota? Bismark! How much is 17 times 35? (*SHE starts figuring in her head and half aloud.*) Uh...17 times 30, that's...uh...? Carry the 2...that's...uh...5...no, 4. That's...uh...2 hundred and...uh...no, 3 hundred; and 5 and 4 is nine, and 2 and 2, carry the one...that's...uh...5 hundred and something...see, Nicky, you've never seen my brain?

**NICK.**

(*Screaming.*) Have I seen your face and figure?

(*There's a long pause.*)

**SUSAN.**

You don't like my face, or my figure?

(*HE shakes his head.*)

**SUSAN.**

You don't think I'm pretty?

**NICK.**

Sure, just not to me.

(*SHE begins to cry.*)

**NICK.**

See. I wanted to end this amicably. I didn't want to hurt you but you made me say those things. Now I hope you're happy.

**SUSAN.**

Nicky, if you don't like my face, my figure, my personality, my brain, or my height, then how can you love me?

**NICK.**

*(Sighs deeply.)* That's the point, Susan.

**SUSAN.**

*(Totally amazed.)* You don't love me?

**NICK.**

*(Screaming.)* I can't stand you! How can I love you if I don't like you face, your figure, your personality, your brain, your height, your laugh, your bite, your walk, your clothes, your voice, your eyebrows and your watch!!!!

**SUSAN.**

Why did you go out with me all this time if you don't love me?

**NICK.**

I wanted to stop it in the beginning. But you see, I'm not perfect. I have one big flaw. I'm too nice.

*(There's a long pause. SHE rises from her seat.)*

**SUSAN.**

Well then, that's it. Goodbye and farewell. And I mean it. Forever. You are the most despicable person I ever met. So, That's it. It's over. I loathe you and I'm really mad at you. You're a real crumb. So long and I mean so long, Hitler. You're a real meanie. So buenas noches, Mister, and...

**NICK.**

For God's sake, will you get out of here and leave me alone?!!

**SUSAN.**

I'll see you around, crumb! Hasta luego.

*(SHE sticks her tongue out at him and leaves. There's a long pause, as NICK thinks.)*

**NICK.**

*(Remorsefully.)* I've lost her.

**BLACKOUT**