

GET IN QUEUE

Written by

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INT. DINER - DAY

JEFF and SAM, both in their 20s, sit at a booth in a diner. They eat food and drink coffee.

JEFF

So, what else is new with you?

SAM

Nothing. I've just been working a lot.

JEFF

Yeah, I hear you.

SAM

I've been too tired to go anywhere after work so I signed myself up for a Netflix account.

JEFF

Oh, that's great. What kind of movies are you going to get?

SAM

Well, I had to go with "First Blood," you know, to start the queue off with a bang.

JEFF

Excellent choice.

Jeff winks at Sam.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sam enters his apartment and discovers the mail on the floor. He picks it up, shuffles through it, and finds the Netflix envelope.

He walks to the couch and sits. He opens the Netflix envelope. He pulls out the DVD sleeve and stares at it. It reads "You've Got Mail."

SAM

What the hell?

LATER

Sam stares blindly at the television as he flips through the channels. He looks at the DVD, which sits on the table.

LATER

Sam now sits on the couch with a blanket over his shoulders. Tears stream down his face as he intently watches the television.

Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks kiss on the screen.

INT. DINER - DAY

Sam and Jeff sit at the same booth in the diner. RYAN sits next to Jeff. They both look like they have a few tricks up their sleeves.

JEFF

Hey, I forgot to ask. How was
"First Blood"?

SAM

What? Oh, well there was some kind
of mix up. I ended up with "You've
Got Mail" instead.

Ryan and Jeff hold back laughter.

RYAN

Well?

SAM

Well what?

RYAN

Did you watch it?

SAM

No, of course I didn't watch it.

JEFF

Take it easy, man. He was just
asking.

SAM

Sorry.

JEFF

So, what do you think the problem
was?

SAM

I don't know. I checked the queue
and put a few action movies on
there. It should be good now.

Jeff and Ryan smirk at each other.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sam sits on his couch. He stares at a DVD on the table. It is "The Notebook."

LATER

Sam shuts off the DVD player. He looks like he's been crying. He sits back on the couch and opens his laptop.

His Netflix queue appears on the screen. It shows "The Notebook" is at home. Next up on the queue reads "Heat," "Out For a Kill," and "Cliffhanger."

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sam sits on his couch. He stares at a DVD sleeve, which reads "Casablanca."

Sam paces around his apartment. He stares at a DVD sleeve, which reads "Ghost."

Sam eats at his kitchen table. He stares at a DVD sleeve, which reads "Titanic."

Sam lays in his bed. He stares at a DVD sleeve, which reads "Shakespeare in Love."

INT. DINER - DAY

Jeff and Ryan sit next to each other in a booth. Sam walks in and sits across from them.

JEFF

Sam. Haven't seen you in awhile.

RYAN

Where have you been?

SAM

Oh, you know. Just watching these awesome movies.

RYAN

Oh yeah? What kinds?

SAM

Well, there's been some De Niro, Pacino, what else, just tons of tough guy movies. Action packed.

JEFF

That's great, man. Real great.

Sam shakes as he talks and appears very jittery. Jeff and Ryan stare at him.

SAM

You know what? I gotta go.

Sam stands up.

JEFF

Wait. You're not eating?

SAM

Can't. I have to check if my movie arrived.

And with that, Sam exits the diner.

JEFF

What the hell was that?

RYAN

I don't know. He seems pretty wired.

JEFF

Yeah he does.

RYAN

Do you think we should stop?

JEFF

Yes. It's gone too far. I think he needs help.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sam furiously rips open a Netflix envelope. He pulls out a DVD sleeve and stares at it. It reads "The Godfather."

SAM

What is this? No, no, no, no, no.

Sam cracks the DVD in half. He picks up the DVD player and smashes it off the wall. He starts to breathe very heavily.

His phone rings. He answers.

SAM

What?

JEFF (V.O.)

Hey, buddy. I'm having a little party at my house tonight. You should stop by.

SAM

No. I can't. I'm busy.

JEFF (V.O.)

Please? Just a couple hours.

Sam contemplates this. He shrugs.

SAM

Fine. I'll be there.

He hangs up the phone.

EXT. JEFF'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sam paces back and forth in front of the door. He breathes very heavily. He finally collects himself and opens the door.

INT. JEFF'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sam shuts the door. Sam's brother, DAN, appears from behind the hallway.

SAM

Dan? What are you doing here?

DAN

Relax. Everything's going to be fine.

SAM

What?

DAN

It's going to be fine.

Dan grabs Sam by the shoulders and guides him into the living room. Jeff and Ryan sit on one couch. Sam's MOTHER and FATHER sit on another.

DR. SMITH sits in the corner of the room with his legs crossed. He has a white beard, glasses, and wears a sweater vest.

SAM

What is this? What's going on here?

Dr. Smith stands up and walks towards Sam.

DR. SMITH

Hello, Sam. My name is Dr. Smith. Your family has brought me here tonight because they are worried about you.

SAM

Worried about what?

DR. SMITH

Just relax. Everything is going to be okay. Dad, would you like to begin?

Sam's father clears his throat. He looks at his notebook.

FATHER

Dear Sam. We have always had a great relationship. I remember watching Stallone movies with you ever since you were a little boy. I wish we could go back to that now, but, you have a problem.

Sam's father chokes up. Dr. Smith walks over and pats him on the back.

DR. SMITH

It's okay. You can continue when you're ready.

FATHER

And if you don't get help, then I'm sorry but I can no longer pay for your Netflix account.

DR. SMITH

Very good. Now, Mom?

Sam's mother nods her head, then looks at her notebook.

MOTHER

Sam. I just want you to know that I love you very much. And, and, I'm sorry, I can't do this.

Sam's mother breaks down and cries. Sam's father hugs her tightly.

DR. SMITH

That's all right. Jeff, what would you like to say?

SAM

All right, what's going on here? What is this?

DR. SMITH

Sam, these people love you. You need to know that. They are worried about your problem. Your DVD viewing problem.

Sam appears shocked by this. He tries to play it cool.

SAM

What problem? I don't have a problem. You guys just don't understand.

DR. SMITH

Sam, you're in a safe place. Everything is fine. Just relax.

SAM

No, no. I've been watching "Rocky" and "Dirty Harry" and "Scarface" and "Die Hard" and, and, and...

DR. SMITH

Relax. You don't need to lie here.

SAM

But, but, but.

DR. SMITH

Jeff?

Jeff looks at his notebook. He clears his throat.

JEFF

Sam. It started with a prank but soon escalated. I feel so terrible for feeding your addiction and that is why I'm here to help. I know you have a problem and it goes far beyond multiple viewings of "The Breakfast Club." I am so sorry.

SAM

This, this is crazy. I don't even know what you're talking about.

JEFF

Sam, listen to me. I have your Netflix password. Ryan and I have been changing your queue late at night.

SAM

That's, that's impossible.

JEFF

Didn't you ever wonder why you weren't getting the right movies?

SAM

No. Well, yeah. I just thought, I thought...

Sam starts to cry.

SAM

I'm so scared. I wanted to stop. I wanted to change but I just couldn't. Please help me.

Sam buries his face in his hands. Everyone starts to cry. The mother, father, Jeff, Ryan, and Dan all walk over to Sam. A group hug ensues

Dr. Smith stands in the background. He stares directly into the camera.

DR. SMITH

Addiction is a serious disease. It can come seemingly out of nowhere and latch on like a virus. If you even have the slightest inkling that you or someone you know may be addicted...

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

The marquee reads "Inglourious Basterds."

DR. SMITH (V.O.)

...don't hesitate for even one second to seek help. There is no shame in admitting a problem for you or for a loved one.

Sam exits the theater. He looks happy and healthy. He wears a shirt that says "I Beat Addiction."

DR. SMITH (V.O.)
So, I implore you. If you spot the
slightest sign of addiction, please
seek help immediately.

Sam takes in a huge breathe of fresh air.

DR. SMITH (V.O.)
Because if it can work for him...

Sam walks away.

DR. SMITH (V.O.)
...it can work for you.

THE END