

Nobody Likes Nate

By

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Wes Anderson

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INT. GREENROOM

The room is empty. There are six chairs in the middle of the room, forming a circle.

The door opens, and two guys, RONALD and ALEX, enter the room. They sit down in the circle of chairs.

ALEX

Did you come to the football game last night?

RONALD

No. I didn't feel like wasting my afternoon.

ALEX

We won. I made three touchdowns.

RONALD

Wonderful.

Ronald checks his watch.

RONALD

Get me a sparkling water.

ALEX

Sure thing.

Alex gets up and walks over to the fridge. He brings a sparkling water to Ronald.

RONALD

Thank you Alex.

ALEX

Yep.

They sit in silence as Ronald sips his sparkling water.

RONALD

Where are they?

The door opens, and a girl, SARAH, enters the room. She walks over to the chairs and takes a seat.

RONALD

Hello Sarah.

SARAH
Hi there Ronald.

ALEX
Hello Sarah.

SARAH
Hi there Alex.

ALEX
Did you come to the football game last night?

SARAH
No. I was studying for Mr. Kennedy's science exam.

ALEX
Oh, okay. We won. I made three touchdowns.

SARAH
That's cool.

RONALD
Nobody cares about football. We always win.

ALEX
Sorry.

The door opens once again, and two more people, JASON and LILY enter. Lily lights up when she sees Ronald.

LILY
Ronald!!!

She runs over and sits next to Ronald.

LILY
Hi! How are you?!

RONALD
I'm fine.

LILY
Yay!

ALEX
Hello Lily.

LILY
Oh, hi Alex.

SARAH
Hey Lily.

LILY
Hey Sarah.

Jason sits down.

JASON
Hi Sarah.

SARAH
Hey Jason.

ALEX
Hello Jason.

JASON
Hey Alex.

RONALD
Hello Jason.

JASON
Hey Ronald.

They all sit in the circle of chairs, but there's one empty. Lily stares at Ronald, batting her eyes. Everyone else just sits. Ronald sips his sparkling water.

SARAH
What are we going to do today?

RONALD
We can play some games.

LILY
I love games!

ALEX
We could play football.

RONALD
Nobody cares about football.

LILY
Yeah, nobody cares about football.

ALEX
You were at the game last night Lily.

LILY
Well yeah, but nobody cares about
football.

ALEX
Okay.

JASON
What about poker?

SARAH
Poker is fun.

ALEX
We could bet money.

RONALD
That's what you're supposed to do in
poker.

LILY
Yeah, that's what you're supposed to
do in poker.

JASON
So we're going to play poker?

RONALD
No, we are not going to play poker. I
get mad when we play poker and I do
not want to get mad today.

LILY
Leave him alone, he doesn't want to
get mad today.

There is an awkward silence.

SARAH
I brought *Crazy Eight*.

JASON
Crazy Eight is a fun game.

ALEX
I like Crazy Eight.

RONALD

I don't get mad at Crazy Eight. We will play Crazy Eight first.

LILY

Yay! Crazy Eight!

JASON

Lily, you've never even played Crazy Eight before.

LILY

I know, but it's a fun game!

JASON

Okay well what else are we going to play.

RONALD

Volleyball. We can also play volleyball.

SARAH

I don't like volleyball. It hurts my hands.

RONALD

Don't play then. We are going to play volleyball.

LILY

Come on Sarah, stop being a bumner.

SARAH

I'm not being a bumner.

ALEX

I like volleyball.

JASON

I also like volleyball.

They sit in a short silence.

ALEX

Is Nate coming today?

SARAH

I forgot about Nate.

JASON
I don't like Nate.

RONALD
None of us like Nate. I hope he
doesn't show up today.

LILY
Me too. I don't like Nate.

RONALD
I said that. None of us like Nate.

LILY
I'm sorry Ronald.

ALEX
What if Nate does show up.

RONALD
We will still play Crazy Eight and
Volleyball.

JASON
We don't like Nate. Why do we play
with him.

SARAH
We're supposed to hang out with Nate.

LILY
Nate is such a bummer. I don't like to
hang out with bummers.

RONALD
Me too. I don't like Nate.

ALEX
I don't like Nate either.

It's quiet. Ronald finishes his sparkling water.

RONALD
Looks like Nate is not showing up
today. Let's play our games now.

Suddenly, the door opens. NATE enters the room. He sits down
at his chair as everyone stares at him.

NATE
Sorry I'm late.

The others respond in disgust.

RONALD

Hello Nate.

NATE

Hi Ronald.

LILY

Hello Nate.

NATE

Hi Lily.

JASON

Hello Nate.

NATE

Hi Jason.

SARAH

Hello Nate.

NATE

Hi Sarah.

ALEX

Hello Nate.

NATE

Hi Alex.

There is an awkward silence.

NATE

What are we going to play today?

JASON

Wouldn't you like to know?

NATE

Yes, I would like to know.

Ronald loudly exhales.

RONALD

We are going to play Crazy Eight and Volleyball.

LILY

Yeah you bummer.

SARAH
I'm not playing volleyball.

ALEX
Why aren't you going to play
volleyball?

SARAH
My hands hurt when I play volleyball.
I am going to read when you guys play
volleyball.

NATE
I like Crazy Eight

RONALD
We aren't going to play Crazy Eight.

JASON
What about poker?

LILY
Ronald doesn't like to play poker. He
gets mad.

RONALD
We will play poker. Nate doesn't like
poker.

NATE
I don't like poker.

They all stare at Nate.

NATE
You guys don't like me.

RONALD
How did you come to find out?

LILY
Yeah, who told you?

NATE
I heard you guys talking about me when
I opened the door.

ALEX
You're such a bummer.

SARAH
You were eavesdropping on us.

NATE
It was an accident.

RONALD
Whatever. It doesn't matter. You have to hang out with us and we have to deal with you.

NATE
I've also been told multiple times that none of you like me.

RONALD
And who told you that?

LILY
Yeah, who told you?

NATE
You guys did. Every time we hangout you all tell me how you don't like me.

ALEX
You're not wrong.

SARAH
Yeah.

RONALD
We do not like you Nate. Let's play poker now

INT. BLUEROOM

There are six chairs surrounding a table. A deck of cards sits in the center.

JASON
Who's going to deal.

LILY
Ronald should deal, shouldn't you Ronald?

RONALD
I don't like to deal. How about Nate deals.

Everybody turns to look at Nate.

ALEX
Nate isn't a good dealer.

SARAH
He always forgets how to shuffle.

JASON
I don't like Nate.

NATE
I will deal the cards.

Nate grabs the deck and begins shuffling. Everyone stares.

RONALD
Hurry up Nate.

As soon as Ronald speaks, Nate drops the cards on the table.

ALEX
I told you he isn't a good dealer.

SARAH
He forgot how to shuffle the cards.

JASON
I will shuffle.

Nate gathers the cards as everyone stares.

He gives the cards to Jason.

RONALD
Nate you will never shuffle the cards
ever again.

LILY
Never ever.

ALEX
What a bummer.

Jason finishes shuffling and deals two cards to everyone. He turns the three cards upright for the players to match. (a ten, a queen, and an eight)

Ronald has an Ace and a King. Nate has two blank cards. Everyone else is random.

JASON
Your turn Sarah.

SARAH
I fold. Your turn Alex.

ALEX
I raise.

Alex slaps his hand on the table. Everyone else takes turns slapping their hands on the table as if they're matching. (except for Sarah because she folded)

ALEX
Your turn Lily.

LILY
Check! Your turn Ronald!

RONALD
I raise by two.

Ronald slaps his hand on the table twice. Everyone else takes turns slapping their hands like previously, but when it gets to Alex he folds.

ALEX
I fold.

RONALD
Okay. Go Nate.

NATE
I check. Your turn Jason.

Everyone exhales. Jason flips the next card, a jack.

JASON
I fold. Your turn Alex.

ALEX
Check. Your turn Lily.

LILY
Three raises!

Lily slaps her hand on the table three times, smiling. Ronald and Nate do the same.

RONALD
Check. Go Nate.

NATE
I check as well. Reveal Jason.

JASON
I know how to play.

Jason reveals the last card, a nine.

LILY
Hot turkey. I fold.

RONALD
That's not hot turkey! I win.

Ronald tosses down his cards. He wins with a straight Eight, Nine, Ten, Ace, Jack, Queen, King.

SARAH
What about the bumner?

Everyone looks at Nate in disgust. He shows his two cards with nothing on them.

NATE
I have nothing.

RONALD
Like I said, I win. You're not good enough Nate.

LILY
Yeah, you're not good enough Nate.

ALEX
You should have folded when you had the chance.

NATE
I didn't want to fold.

JASON
Get better.

RONALD
It doesn't matter. I won. I always win. Now let's play volleyball.

SARAH
I don't want to play volleyball.

ALEX

We know you don't want to play volleyball.

RONALD

Go read your book Sarah.

LILY

Yeah Sarah, go read you book. Bummer.

SARAH

I'm not a bummer, I just don't want to hurt my hands.

JASON

That's what a bummer would say.

SARAH

Whatever.

Sarah stands up and walks away. Lily whispers something into Ronald's ear.

RONALD

I have a better idea. Let's play a little bit of hide and seek. We will play volleyball after.

ALEX

Why are we going to play hide and seek?

JASON

I wanted to play volleyball.

RONALD

We're still going to play volleyball, but I want to play a few games of hide and seek.

LILY

Yay, hide and seek!

JASON

I don't want to count.

NATE

I can count.

RONALD

No, you won't count. Alex will count.

ALEX
Who said I wanted to count?

RONALD
I did. Now count.

ALEX
Fine. One, two, three-

Everyone stands up and leaves the room.

ALEX
Four, five, six, seven, eight, nine,
ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen,
fourteen, fifteen-

All of a sudden, the doors open and everybody except Nate enters the room.

RONALD
Stop counting, we're not playing hide
and seek.

ALEX
Then why am I counting?

JASON
It's a trick. Nate will go hide and we
can go play volleyball.

ALEX
Oh. That's smart.

LILY
It was *my* idea.

RONALD
You're not smart Lily. The idea was
smart, but you are not.

LILY
Okay. I'm sorry Ronald.

ALEX
Let's go play volleyball then.

RONALD
Yep, let's go.

Everyone leaves the room.

INT. STAGE

On the stage, a volleyball net is set up.

Sarah is sitting against the wall, reading her book. Everyone else is playing volleyball. Ronald and Lily are on one team, and Jason and Alex are on the other team.

RONALD

Lily and I will serve first.

Ronald serves the ball. They play a round of volleyball, and Ronald's team scores.

ALEX

Well played. Our serve.

Jason serves the ball. They play another round and Ronald's team scores again.

JASON

That's hot turkey!

RONALD

No it's not!

JASON

Yes it is!

RONALD

I'll prove it.

LILY

He'll prove it!

Ronald stands still for a moment. It's awkward.

ALEX

What's he doing?

JASON

He's proving it.

ALEX

Okay.

After a moment, he moves again.

RONALD

See? Not hot turkey!

JASON
Whatever. Our serve.

They play another round, and Ronald's team scores again.

Alex and Jason are annoyed.

RONALD
There's three.

ALEX
Fine. Our serve.

Alex goes to serve the ball, but, all of a sudden, a figure falls from the ceiling and slams into the ground a few feet away from Alex and Jason.

It is Nate's body.

Everyone turns to look at the corpse including Sarah, as she looks up from her book.

RONALD
Oh shit.

JASON
Hello Nate.

Alex drops the ball and walks over to Nate.

ALEX
Uh oh.

LILY
What's wrong?

Alex puts his hand on Nate's neck, checking his pulse.

ALEX
He's dead.

LILY
He's dead?

RONALD
Nate is- dead?

ALEX
Yes. He's dead.

JASON

Oh.

Everyone just stands and stares.

SARAH

Why was Nate up there.

JASON

We were playing hide and seek.

SARAH

I thought you were playing volleyball?

LILY

We were, but we told Nate we were playing hide and seek.

SARAH

That doesn't make any sense.

RONALD

You don't make any sense.

SARAH

Whatever.

Sarah goes back to reading.

ALEX

What do we do?

RONALD

I don't know.

INT. GREENROOM

The five friends are sitting in their chairs. Nate's chair is empty as his body lies in the center of the circle. It's covered in a sheet.

It is quiet.

SARAH

We could put him in the janitor's closet.

RONALD

No. Too simple.

ALEX
We could put him in the dumpster.

RONALD
No. Too easy.

JASON
We could put him in that box.

Jason points to a cardboard box.

RONALD
No. Stupid idea.

LILY
I have an idea.

RONALD
What's your idea?

LILY
We could leave him here.

RONALD
Why would we leave him here?

LILY
Because he's covered with a blanket.

RONALD
Lily, it's too obvious. Is there anything going on in that fat head of yours?

LILY
No.

RONALD
Exactly.

They're quiet for a moment.

ALEX
What if we called Mr. Kennedy?

RONALD
We could call Mr. Kennedy.

SARAH
Does Mr. Kennedy like Nate?

RONALD
No Sarah, nobody likes Nate.

LILY
Yeah Sarah, nobody.

JASON
Nate's dead.

RONALD
I'm calling Mr. Kennedy.

Ronald stands up and walks over to the counter. He dials a number on a rotary phone.

RONALD
Hello there, let me speak to Mr. Kennedy.

He waits.

RONALD
Hi Mr. Kennedy.
Come help us with something.
See you in a bit.
Okay, bye.

Ronald hangs up the phone and sits back down.

JASON
Is he coming?

RONALD
Of course he is coming.

LILY
It's Mr. Kennedy, of course he is.

ALEX
I hope he doesn't yell at me.

SARAH
Why would he yell at you?

ALEX
I've been skipping his class for the past four weeks.

SARAH
Oh, okay.

JASON
That's a cool thing Alex.

ALEX
Thank you.

They sit in silence for a moment. Suddenly, the door opens and MR. KENNEDY enters the room.

MR. KENNEDY
Hello children.

RONALD
Hi Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Hello Ronald.

LILY
Hi Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Hello Lily.

SARAH
Hi Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Hello Sarah.

JASON
Hi Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Hello Jason.

ALEX
Hi Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Oh, hello Alex.

Mr. Kennedy stares at Nate.

MR. KENNEDY
Who is that?

Jason flips the sheet down, revealing Nate's face.

JASON

It's Nate.

MR. KENNEDY

Oh thank the Lord. I was expecting it to be someone that I cared about.

RONALD

What should we do Mr. Kennedy?

LILY

We don't know what to do with him!

MR. KENNEDY

Hmmm.

Mr. Kennedy sits down in Nate's chair.

MR. KENNEDY

What ideas have you guys came up with so far?

SARAH

Closet.

ALEX

Dumpster.

JASON

Box.

LILY

Blanket.

Mr. Kennedy stares blankly.

MR. KENNEDY

Those are all stupid ideas. Truly terrible ideas.

RONALD

That's what I said.

MR. KENNEDY

Good job Ronald. I'm proud.

Mr. Kennedy stands up and walks over to Ronald. He sticks a gold star sticker on Ronald's shirt.

Mr. Kennedy sits back down.

MR. KENNEDY

Listen children. I have a barrel of acid. Here is a map to find it.

He pulls out a hand-drawn map and gives it to Sarah. She gives it to Jason and Jason gives it to Ronald.

He opens it up and looks at it. It is poorly drawn.

RONALD

Thank you Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY

You're surely welcome. I'm just happy to help.

SARAH

We can use that cart.

She points to a shopping cart in the corner.

MR. KENNEDY

That cart won't fit in my barrel of acid.

SARAH

We can use it to transport Nate so we don't have to carry him.

MR. KENNEDY

Oh. Yes. That should work.

RONALD

Are you coming with us Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY

No. I am not allowed to.

JASON

Why not?

MR. KENNEDY

Because.

It's quiet for a moment.

RONALD

Okay-

MR. KENNEDY

Have a good day children, I have

classes to teach and drugs to consume.

RONALD
Bye Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Bye Ronald.

LILY
Bye Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Bye Lily.

SARAH
Bye Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Bye Sarah.

JASON
Bye Mr. Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY
Bye Jason.

Nate doesn't say anything because he is dead.

MR. KENNEDY
Bye uh- Nate.

Nate doesn't respond because he is dead.

Mr. Kennedy leaves the room.

ALEX
So we have to find a barrel of acid.

RONALD
Yes, Alex. We have a map, so it
shouldn't be too difficult.

JASON
Who's gonna push Nate around?

SARAH
Not me.

ALEX
Not me.

RONALD
Not me, of course.

LILY
Not me either.

JASON
Not-

Jason looks at everyone in annoyance.

JASON
Fine. I'll push Nate.

INT. HALLWAY

The friends are running down the hallway in slow motion.

Jason is pushing the shopping cart with Nate's uncovered body.

Ronald is looking at the map, pointing in the directions they need to go. They make some turns and run down a few different halls.

Eventually, they see a door marked "Secret Room" that matches the door sketch on the map. They come to a stop.

JASON
Somebody knock on the door.

RONALD
Why knock? Just open it.

LILY
Yeah, just open it.

JASON
What if it doesn't open?

Alex opens the door.

ALEX
It opens.

Everyone walks into the room.

INT. SECRET ROOM

The group enters the room and sees a barrel of acid on the other side. There's also a man standing next to the barrel.

They approach the man and the barrel.

RONALD

Hey, we need to use that.

PHILIP

Bonjour, les enfants! Je m'appelle Philip! Qu'est-ce qui vous amène?

JASON

What the hell?

ALEX

That's not English.

RONALD

What are you talking about?

LILY

Yeah, what are you walking about?

PHILIP

Oh, je ne parle pas anglais. Je viens de France.

JASON

What the hell?

SARAH

You guys are useless. He's speaking French.

ALEX

You understand this guy?

SARAH

Yes. I speak French.

RONALD

No way. What did he say then?

LILY

Yeah, what did he say?

SARAH

Basically, he said: "My name is Philip, I am from France, and I don't speak any English."

They blankly stare at Sarah.

PHILIP

Qu'est-ce qui se passe?

SARAH

He said "What is going on?"

RONALD

Say this: We were sent here by Mr. Kennedy to use your barrel of acid. We have a body to dissolve. You can leave the room because it is none of your business.

SARAH

I don't know how to say that.

RONALD

Why not?!

SARAH

That's too much! I can say smaller, shorter sentences.

RONALD

Okay fine.

PHILIP

Est-ce que quelqu'un parle français?

SARAH

Oui, je parle français. Attendez.

PHILIP

Oh, bravo!

JASON

What the hell?

ALEX

Can you stop saying what the hell!
It's french!

JASON

What is french?

RONALD

You're such an idiot Alex.

LILY

Such an idiot.

SARAH

Can we hurry this up? We have a body to dissolve.

RONALD

Yeah for sure. Tell the frenchie that we need to use that acid asap.

SARAH

Okay, fine. Monsieur Philip?

PHILIP

Oui?

SARAH

Nous devons utiliser ce baril.

PHILIP

Pour quoi faire?

SARAH

Pour dissoudre notre ami Nate.

Philip's eyes go wide.

PHILIP

Pour dissoudre votre ami??

SARAH

Oui. C'est bon. Personne n'aime Nate.

PHILIP

Ahh. Oui, oui. Vous pouvez utiliser mon baril d'acide.

SARAH

Merci beaucoup! C'est très important.

RONALD

What's going on?

SARAH

We're good.

RONALD

We're good?

SARAH

Yes, we're good. We can use the acid.

ALEX

Nice!

RONALD

Alright let's do it then.

They walk past Philip and look into the barrel of acid.
Philip walks over and joins them.

PHILIP

Ne pas toucher. Très dangereux.

SARAH

Okay Philip, merci.

RONALD

What was that?

SARAH

Don't touch the acid. It's really dangerous.

RONALD

Well duh. We're not stupid.

Jason retracts his hand from the acid barrel.

JASON

That was close. I'm glad you said something.

RONALD

Goodness. Just grab Nate.

JASON

I need help.

RONALD

What? He's light.

ALEX

I'll help you.

Alex and Jason pick up Nate. They slide him into the barrel.

Nate's body fizzes as the water bubbles.

They all stand around the barrel staring at the acid.

RONALD

Goodbye Nate.

LILY
Goodbye Nate.

ALEX
Goodbye Nate.

JASON
Goodbye Nate.

SARAH
Goodbye Nate.

PHILIP
Au revoir Nate.

It's quiet for a moment except for the acid fizzing.

RONALD
Anyways, should we finish our game of
volleyball?

ALEX
Yeah.

JASON
Let's do it.

LILY
I'd love to.

SARAH
I don't like volleyball.

The end.

Roll credits.