Please Don't Change

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INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A bag of popcorn turns slowly in a microwave. PING. A hand opens the door, and grabs the bag.

The hand belongs to ALEX, 18, long hair, well built.

Alex's hand recoils from the bag.

ALEX (under his breath) You motherfucker...

Alex picks up a pair of tongs from the bench, looks menacingly at the bag. He suddenly stabs the bag violently in the microwave with the tongs.

The bag burst, steam hits Alex in the face.

ALEX (CONT'D) Motherfucker!

Alex grabs the bag with the tongs, and throws it to the ground. He furiously stamps on it.

Alex breathes deeply.

TASHA, 19, slender, who wears pajamas, and sits on a nearby couch. She plays with a bracelet in her hands.

Alex turns to Tasha.

ALEX (CONT'D) We're not having popcorn.

Tasha quickly shoves the bracelet in her pocket.

TASHA

What? Why?

ALEX Technical difficulties. But, sausage is still on the menu...

Alex winks at Tasha. Pause.

TASHA I rather hamburgers. And I thought you said you ran out of gas anyways...

Alex sighs.

ALEX Yeah. Yeah I did.

Tasha pats the couch beside her.

TASHA Don't worry about it, just come and watch this movie with me. ALEX Film. TASHA What? ALEX It's a film. A movie is -(beat) Don't worry. TASHA Okay then. Alex turns on the television. ALEX Ice Age? TASHA Yeah! I love animations! So much better than action or horror films. ALEX But animation isn't a genre. Like action or horror. It's a style. So you really can't compare them. Pause. TASHA Compare what? Alex sighs. Pause. ALEX Tash. How long have we been together? TASHA Seven months and three days. Why? ALEX

Well I don't think I can do this anymore. I'm sorry Tash, you are a lovely girl, you really are. But I can't stand it much longer.

TASHA Wha, what do you mean?

ALEX I think we are very different people. Too different to be together. It was fun when it lasted, but those times are over now. (beat) I'm sorry. Tears roll down Tasha's cheeks. TASHA Is it because you think I'm ... I'm dumb? ALEX Umm, well... Tasha suddenly stands up. TASHA I can't help it Alex! You know that, it's a condition! ALEX I'm sorry, okay! I don't mean to hurt you. (beat) But it's over. Tasha cries into her hands. CUE MUSTC: Tasha lifts her head up, stares at Alex. TASHA Why do you have to leave me? Alex stares back at her. ALEX Why can't you just let me run free? TASHA Just because I'm not the girl you thought I would be ... ALEX I'm not attracted to you anymore, can't you see... TASHA ALEX Please, stop this, you make Please, stop this, don't be me sad... so mad... Alex runs to Tasha. He holds her arms.

ALEX (CONT'D) There's someone out there that likes you for you,

TASHA You make me tingle, and I know our love is strong and true,

ALEX

I need a girl that knows the difference between brown and blue,

TASHA Being smart is not all that matters, please don't say we are through...

Tasha and Alex stare at each other. They suddenly hug.

TASHA (CONT'D)	ALEX
Please, stop this, you make	Please, please don't be so
me sad	mad
(beat)	(beat)
Please, don't throw away the	Please, don't make me feel
love we had	bad

Tasha breaks into tears and collapses on the couch.

Alex turns off the television, and walks from the room.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Alex stares at his reflection in the mirror. The reflection speaks.

REFLECTION You're an idiot, you know.

ALEX (to reflection) No. I did the right thing. She's not the right girl for us.

REFLECTION For you, you mean. Don't get me involved in all this mess.

ALEX

Whatever.

Pause.

REFLECTION She bought you a bracelet, you know. ALEX I know, I found the receipt.

Pause.

ALEX (CONT'D) Who cares though... bracelets are gay. (beat) We can get a better girl anyway.

REFLECTION You can get a better girl, you mean. I wear bracelets. I'm gay, remember?! I don't like such creatures as girls.

ALEX

Very funny.

The reflection laughs.

REFLECTION Did you ever think that Tasha would break up with you because of your anger issues?

ALEX No. Because I don't have anger issues.

REFLECTION If you say so -

ALEX - I don't, okay!

REFLECTION I beg to differ -

ALEX - just fuck off!

Alex spits at his reflection in the mirror.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

A bag of popcorn turns slowly in a microwave. PING. Alex grabs the bag.

Alex's hand recoils from the bag.

ALEX Shit! (beat) Right, fuck this. Alex brings out his mobile phone from his pocket.

INT. TASHA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tasha sits at a desk, pencil in hand.

Her phone vibrates on her desk. She picks it up, looks at the screen.

There is a piece of paper on the desk. It is a half drawn drawing of a face.

It is Alex's face.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Tasha walks behind Alex into the kitchen.

ALEX Thanks for coming.

Tasha nods.

ALEX (CONT'D) I've been doing some thinking. Thinking of you.

TASHA

And?

ALEX Well, I bought you something.

INT. BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

Alex wipes the mirror with a cloth.

REFLECTION

What I've learnt from being your reflection for many, many years is that people in this world get over each other's flaws. (beat) They see the flaw, and move on.

ALEX

That's bullshit. If you are with someone and someone better comes along, you get rid of the first person. It's how the world works. Everyone does it you know.

REFLECTION I know. But even that "better person" has flaws... Alex pauses, in thought.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Alex brings out a bracelet from his pocket. He gives it to Tasha. On the bracelet it reads: "Please don't change".

Tasha smiles.

TASHA I bought one for you too.

Alex fakes surprise.

INT. BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

Alex leans on the bench, as he stares at his reflection in the mirror.

ALEX I don't know... I really hate the fact she isn't intelligent.

REFLECTION She's not intelligent because she didn't know that animation isn't actually a genre? Or that she didn't get your lame sexual innuendo?!

ALEX

Yeah, but -

REFLECTION - yeah but nothing! You ask for way to much my friend...

Alex nods.

ALEX When you're right, you're right. You know?

REFLECTION

I know.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tasha passes the bracelet to Alex.

Alex smiles.

ALEX You're the best. I'm sorry about before, I got carried away. (MORE) ALEX (CONT'D) I really do like you... love you maybe. Please, forgive me?

Pause.

TASHA I saw the real you before Alex. And I didn't like him. I'm sorry.

ALEX But, but what about this?!

Alex holds up the bracelet.

TASHA

Read it Alex.

Alex reads the bracelet. "Please don't change".

ALEX I don't understand. That's says the same as the one I gave to you.

TASHA Please don't change. Please don't change for me, Alex. Find someone that likes you for you, because... I don't.

A tear falls down Alex's face.

TASHA (CONT'D) Goodbye Alex.

Tasha walks out of the room.

Alex kicks a nearby chair.

He slams his fist on the table.

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Alex looks at his reflection in the mirror.

ALEX

We gave each other bracelets with the same thing written on them. (beat) But the message with them was very different.

REFLECTION Very insightful there!

Alex smiles.

ALEX

Piss off.

REFLECTION What you going to do now?

Pause.

ALEX Dunno. Wait until someone better comes along I suppose.

REFLECTION

Good plan.

Alex sprays the mirror with a spray bottle. He wipes it with a cloth.

The reflection is gone.

Alex puts down the cloth, and walks out of the room.

FADE OUT.