

MIX CD

by

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FADE IN:

INT. APRIL'S APARTMENT - DAY

A modest studio apartment furnished in girly fashion.

APRIL (20s), a pretty girl-next-door type, sits on a couch watching TV. She gently strokes a small white kitten, DR. KITTY, PhD resting in her lap.

A knock at the door.

APRIL

Sorry, Dr. Kitty. Mommy has to answer the door.

Dr. Kitty mews as April picks him up and sets him down on the floor as she heads for the door.

APRIL

I'll be right back.

Dr. Kitty mews again.

APRIL

Oh, shut up already!

April answers the door. JAMIE (30s) stands on the other side. He is tall with long hair and grungy clothes but is mildly charming in a diamond-in-the-rough sorta way.

APRIL

Jamie, I thought I said I didn't want to see you.

JAMIE

It's okay. I just wanted to give you this.

Jamie produces a CD. April reluctantly takes it.

JAMIE

I made you a mix. Sort of a peace offering. I thought about our fight last night and I think you were right about a lotta stuff.

APRIL

Like what?

JAMIE

The CD will explain everything. You'll see. Or hear, rather. Tootles.

Jamie does an effeminate wave as he removes himself from the doorway. April shuts the door and proceeds across the room to a computer desk.

She inserts the CD into the computer. In seconds, relaxing soft rock emits from the speakers.

After a moment, Jamie's voice fills the track. His singing is an epically pathetic attempt at alternative rock vocals. His words are mumbled and slurred while his tone is raspy and occasionally off-key.

JAMIE

You spend my money...

April raises an eyebrow, confused.

JAMIE

But you never put out...

April's jaw drops in shock.

JAMIE

Your friends all hate me...
We're through without a doubt...
April, it's over...
Not gonna take this anymore...
A long time coming...
Now I'm walking out the door...
(British voice)
Seriously man, we're fucking done
professionally.
(laughs)
Christian Bale.

April's face is red with anger. She ejects the CD from the computer and runs across the room. She prepares to hurl it out an open window but stops at the sight of a blue car in the parking lot below.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Jamie sits in the driver's seat of the blue car. He holds a cell phone in his hands. He giggles as he squeezes it in anticipation.

April appears beside the car and bangs angrily on the window. Jamie turns and laughs. He chuckles softly as he rolls down the window.

APRIL

What the fuck are you still doing here?!

JAMIE

I wanted to see the look on your face.

APRIL

The look on my face?! I wouldn't have come down here if I hadn't seen your fucking car in the parking lot! Way to put all your numb-nuts in one basket!

JAMIE

Okay. Maybe I was waiting for a phone call. Either way, I figured you'd try your hand at getting me back.

April chucks the CD through the window and strikes Jamie in the forehead.

JAMIE

Ouchies.

APRIL

Not a chance! I came down here for one reason and one reason only! You're not breaking up with me! I'm breaking up with you!

JAMIE

How's that? I'm pretty sure we're already broken up at this point.

APRIL

No! You're gonna shut your goddamn, ironic t-shirt wearing hipster face

for however long it takes for you to hear me out.

JAMIE

(amused)

Okay. Shoot.

APRIL

I make you pay for things because you're always at my apartment. You eat my food and you put my gas and water bills through the roof. You live with your parents. I have to pay bills and bills ain't cheap. It's not fair.

JAMIE

Fair enough.

APRIL

My friends hate you because you don't let me leave my own house to get a box of fucking tampons, let alone spend time with anyone else but you. I never get to see them!

JAMIE

Whatever.

APRIL

And I don't put out because when I can smell other girl's pussy on your face every time you try and make a move.

JAMIE

Wait. How did you—

APRIL

Haven't you ever heard that "Smell Your Dick" song? You couldn't even take a fucking shower after cheating on me? How big of an asshole are you?

Jamie shrugs.

APRIL

You changed, Jamie. I never used to mind spending every second of every day

with you. Smoking pot, watching movies. It was fun. But you never let me have my own life outside of you and when I tried, you turned into a Grade A fucking douche. I don't know why I stayed with you as long as I did. Maybe I was stupid or I thought things would change or maybe I really was in love with you. But I'm tired of trying, Jamie. You're hopeless.

Jamie claps slowly in a mocking fashion.

JAMIE

You know, for a second there, it actually sounded like you were the one who broke up with me. You know it's not like you ever gave me a reason to try-

APRIL

I'm not finished.

JAMIE

Oh yeah? Let's hear it. One more for the road, eh?

APRIL

Your voice sucks.

Jamie's face sinks. That struck a nerve.

JAMIE

My voice does not suck.

APRIL

You sound like Kurt Cobain giving Citizen Cope a blowjob.

JAMIE

I'm fucking classically trained! You take that back!

APRIL

You should have gone to a studio. Maybe they could've fixed it for you.

Jamie makes a face. April's jaw drops.

APRIL

Oh my God.

Jamie shakes his head. April slaps a hand over her mouth.

APRIL

You did, didn't you?

JAMIE

What? My friend owns the place. It's not like I paid for it.

APRIL

Still. You went to a studio just to make a breakup CD for me.

JAMIE

What? We thought it was...

April bursts into laughter.

JAMIE

(halfheartedly)

...funny.

APRIL

You were probably there all day! Doing multiple takes...

(laughs)

JAMIE

Stop it.

APRIL

You should've got the Neptunes to do a remix... Holy fucking shit...

April doubles over with laughter. Her face turns red. She starts to lose her breath.

Jamie is livid.

JAMIE

You just wait til my band finds a new practice space. You're gonna regret—

APRIL

No.

April regains herself.

APRIL

Not until you do something about those pipes. I'd tell you to stop smoking so much but I don't sound like that when I sing so pot's obviously not the problem. You should probably just stop gargling Nickelback's balls.

JAMIE

Don't talk shit about Nickelback.

APRIL

Goodbye, Jamie. Hopefully, we'll never have to see each other again. Either way, I'm definitely leaving you with something to remember me by.

April produces a set of keys from her pocket and drags them across Jamie's car as she walks back toward the apartment.

Jamie bursts into a screaming fit. His shouts and curses sound the same as his terrible singing.

April calls out to him as she walks away.

APRIL

Oh, go jerk off to Nevermind, loser!

JAMIE

Fuck you—

Jamie's voice cracks. He instantly silences himself and rubs his throat, embarrassed.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. APRIL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

April lies asleep in bed.

A knock at the door. April stirs. The knocking continues. April groans and gets up to answer the door.

INT. HALLWAY

Jamie stands in the hallway in front of April's door waving his arms nervously through the air. April opens the door dressed in pajamas.

JAMIE

Holy shit. I didn't think you were gonna answer so soon—

APRIL

What do you want, Jamie?

JAMIE

I...

Jamie puts forward a hand holding a mix CD. He quickly draws it back from the look on April's face.

APRIL

You don't sing on that one too, do you?

JAMIE

No. This one's the real deal. It's a bunch of songs from times we...

(laughs nervously)

I can't believe you're actually talking to me after...

APRIL

Well, I probably shouldn't have keyed your car. I mean I was in full breakup mode but... You want me to give you my—

JAMIE

It's okay. My parents have some of that Billy Mays shit for cars in the garage. I can fix it. No problem.

Jamie looks down at his feet.

JAMIE

April, I'm sorry. For everything. This isn't how I really am. I'm just a...

Jamie trails off, struggling to find the balls to continue.

APRIL

A what?

JAMIE

A big pussy. I mean look at me. I'm one of those cliché thirty-something failed musician wannabes. My parents are threatening to kick me out. You're still in your twenties and you're completely self-sufficient. When we were together, I woke up everyday thinking you were gonna leave me. What can I say? I got clingy. Scratch that. Possessive.

APRIL

Yeah, that sounds about right.

JAMIE

As for the cheating, there's no excuse. I guess I was just trying to cover my bets because I'm insecure as fuck.

Jamie looks up at April. His eyes are damp.

JAMIE

I can't believe you stayed with me as long as you did. I mean look at you. You're...

APRIL

A passive aggressive bitch?

JAMIE

What?

APRIL

Let's face it, Jamie. It takes two to tango. I'm just as much to blame for what happened to us just for letting you treat me the way I did.

JAMIE

No April. I-

APRIL

No. I got cold. That's not the way you fix things in a relationship. Things don't just go away because you pretend they're not there.

JAMIE

I don't blame you for being cold, April. I think anyone would be.

APRIL

I think maybe if we were just honest with each other, none of this would've happened. I don't understand why people can't just do that. Be honest.

Jamie nods.

APRIL

Easier said than done, I guess.

A meow at their feet. Both look down in unison. Dr. Kitty pokes his head out into the hallway. April laughs softly.

APRIL

Dr. Kitty.

JAMIE

That's Dr. Kitty, PhD.

Both laugh awkwardly. After a moment, a somber silence sets in. April and Jamie stare at each other.

APRIL

I'm sorry, Jamie. I can't believe—

JAMIE

You don't need to apologize for anything, April.

APRIL

Thanks. But I do. I really do.

A brief pause before April sighs.

APRIL

Well, you've succeeded in getting me

wide awake. You wanna come in and give that CD a spin. Looks like Dr. Kitty, PhD, is itching for your company.

JAMIE

Only if you want me to.

APRIL

I think we've had enough serious business for one day. We can talk in the morning. Come on in.

Jamie nods gratefully and steps inside the apartment. Dr. Kitty follows him inside. April shuts the door behind them.

FADE OUT.

JAMIE (V.O.)

By the way, turns out my voice really does suck.

APRIL (V.O.)

What?

JAMIE (V.O.)

(laughs)

Yeah. Turns out my whole band knew and didn't wanna tell me cuz they thought it sounded funny. Turns out they wanna go in a Weird Al sorta direction. Apparently, my vocals fit perfectly.

APRIL (V.O.)

(laughs)

That's good. Or bad? What are you gonna do? You gonna quit?

JAMIE (V.O.)

I probably should. That and get a real job. Besides. What's the use of a God given talent if it's not actually a God given talent.

Awkward but good-natured laughter.

THE END.